



COVID 19 VACCINATION POLICY

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Responsible Officer	Sarah Gurciullo	People & Culture Officer		29 March 2022
Authorised By	John Scarce	General Manager		29 March 2022

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March 2022

1. BACKGROUND

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic virus.

COVID-19 is an acute respiratory illness caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARSCoV-2). It may be characterised by fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other symptoms.

Asymptomatic infection is also possible. The risk of severe disease increases with age, however, is not limited to the elderly and is elevated in those with underlying medical conditions.

Variants of the virus have circulated, with varying degrees of transmissibility and disease severity.

Regardless of which SARS-CoV-2 variant is predominant in any area, vaccination, in combination with public health and individual measures, continues to work to reduce disease spread and severe outcomes.

In particular, evidence continues to demonstrate that a complete initial two-dose series, plus boosters, of approved COVID-19 vaccine provides substantial protection. Based on current data, only a fraction of fully vaccinated people became infected, with the majority of recent cases and hospitalisations occurring in unvaccinated or partially vaccinated people.

2. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this policy is to outline Murrumbidgee Council's expectations with regards to COVID-19 immunisation of elected representatives, employees, contractors, consultants, volunteers and work experience.

Unless medically contra-indicated, it is mandatory that all eligible elected representatives, employees, contractors, consultants, volunteers and work experience are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (i.e. against infections caused by SARS-CoV-2).

3. DEFINITIONS

Council - means Murrumbidgee Council

Fully Vaccinated – elected representatives, employees, contractors, volunteers and work experience who are up-to-date with the initial double dose course of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) approved vaccinations and where provided in the ATAGI definition of Fully Vaccinated booster vaccinations, as well as those who are medically contraindicated and cannot have the vaccine

4. APPLICATION

The General Manager, or their delegate, of the Murrumbidgee Council can reasonably enquire as to the vaccination status of its workers, if its workers work in a location with common areas or its workers could have contact with clients, customers or the public.

Regardless of how often or how much time spent in their respective workplace, this policy applies to:

- Elected Representatives
- Employees
- Contractors/Consultants
- Volunteers and Work Experience

5. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

All elected representatives, employees, contractors, consultants, volunteers and work experience will be required to provide one of the following:

1. Proof of COVID-19 vaccine administration as per the following requirements:
 - a. If the individual has only received the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccination series, approved proof that the first dose was administered and, as soon as reasonably possible, proof of administration of the second dose;
or
 - b. Proof of all required doses of a COVID-19 vaccine approved.
2. Written proof of a medical reason, provided by a physician, that sets out:
 - a. that the person cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19; and
 - b. the effective time period for the medical reason (i.e., permanent or time-limited).

Copies will be held in Murrumbidgee Council record management system, periodically requests will be made to ensure documentation is up to date and current.

Contractors and consultants, in tendering and quoting for work, must provide proof of full vaccination for all key personnel working at Murrumbidgee Council sites. The contractor must, prior to any additional contractor, sub-contractor, tradesperson, staff member etc. setting foot on the Murrumbidgee Council worksite, provide proof of full vaccination for each person.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Implications will vary depending on classification:

Elected Representatives - May be subject to actions for breach of Council Policy, inclusive of, but not limited to, breach of Code of Conduct.

Recruiting - Interviews will not be granted or offers of employment provided to candidates whom are not fully vaccinated.

Employee – May be subject to disciplinary procedures for breach of Council Policy, which may result in termination of employment.

Contractors/Consultants – Will not be awarded any contracts with Murrumbidgee Council until proof that 100% of those working at a Murrumbidgee Council worksite or building under contract or agreement are fully vaccinated, and maintain full vaccination. Failure to maintain full vaccination once engaged will be a breach of contract with penalties applicable.

Volunteers and Work Experience – Will not be able to enter any work site or building or carry out any function of the Murrumbidgee Council until proof of full vaccination is provided.

7. EXCEPTIONS

Any elected representative, employee, contractor, consultant, volunteer or work experience who are not fully vaccinated at the time this policy is enacted, must wear a face mask and maintain social distancing where practicable at all times until a determination under this Policy is finalised.

8. LEGISLATION

This policy is aligned with the employer's general duty under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW)* to take every reasonable precaution to protect its workers (broadly defined) and the responsibility to assess the workplace for risks, including that of COVID-19 transmission.

This Policy is applied in accordance with the *Local Government State Award 2020*, *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and any other applicable legislation and/or agreement.

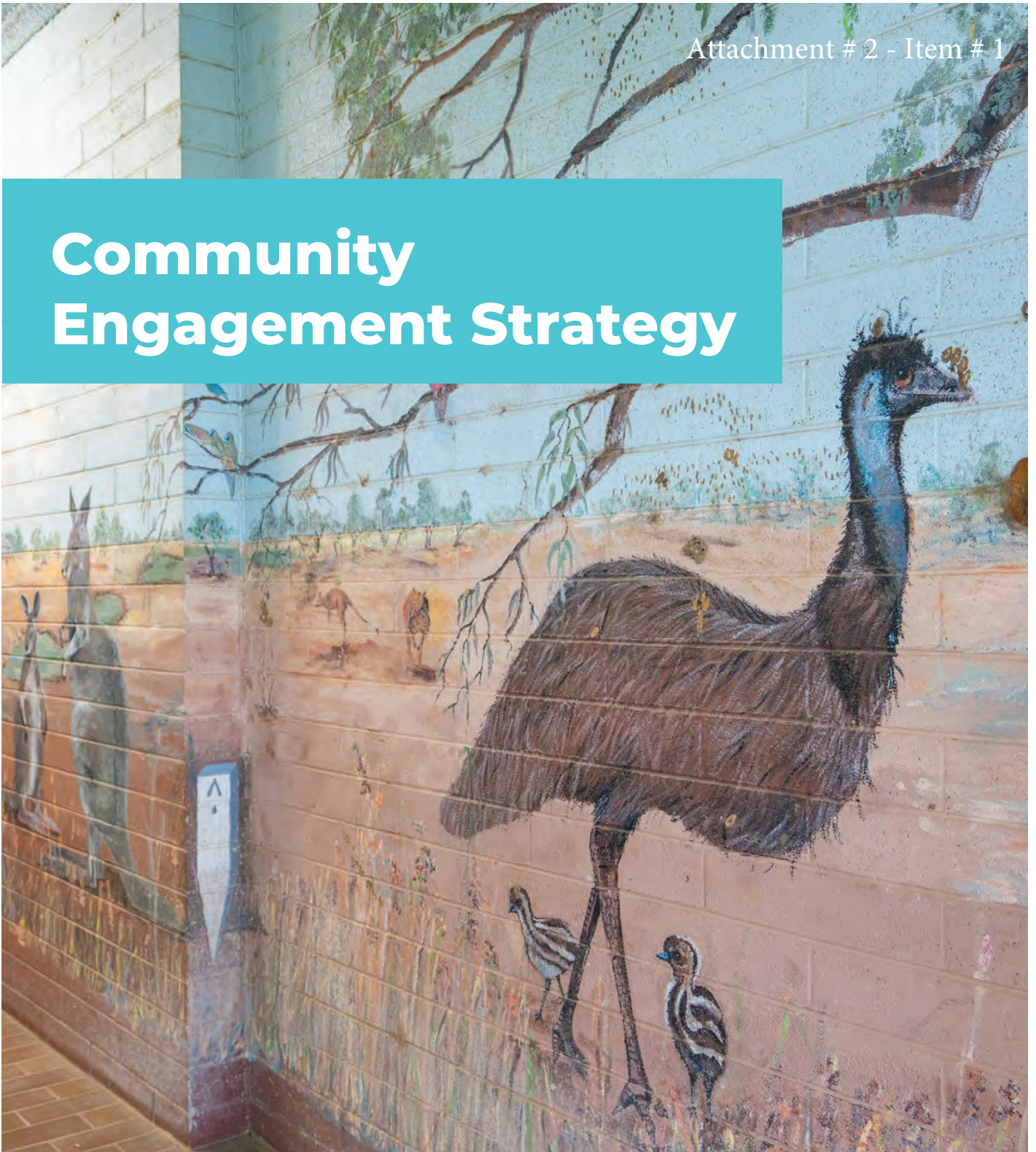
Information collected under this Policy is in compliance with relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW)*

9. REVIEW

This policy:

- To be reviewed within the first year of the new Council term;
- May be reviewed and amended at any time at Council's discretion (or if legislative or State Government Policy changes occur).

Community Engagement Strategy



Murrumbidgee
Local Government Area

2024–2028



Murrumbidgee
COUNCIL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

OF COUNTRY

We would like to show respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Right: The new Waddi Cultural Centre at Darlington Point. The striking exterior of the centre was painted by Allan McKenzie.

Inside, the centre features a display on the Warangesda Aboriginal Mission and an outstanding range of local cultural artworks and stories.

Cover: The mural on the Jenima Arcade in Coleambally.



CONTACTS

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

We welcome feedback on this strategy.

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

THIS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY HAS BEEN PREPARED IN KEEPING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993.

First adopted: August 2017. Revision 1 adopted: May 2022. Revision 2 adopted: November 2024.

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1

ABOUT THIS

STRATEGY

At Murrumbidgee Council, we are committed to engaging in effective and meaningful conversations with our community. Together, we shape the future of our community. Together, we embark on a shared journey to realise these visions. We value the contribution our community makes and the benefits this brings.

This strategy describes how we engage with the community within the Murrumbidgee Council Local Government Area. It is part of a suite of Integrated and Reporting documents.



2

WHAT IS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

Community engagement is a planned, purposeful process. During this process, we work with stakeholders in the community, such as organisations, groups and individuals to shape the decisions, directions or actions that affect, impact or interest them.

3

WHY WE

ENGAGE

We have a strong belief in connecting with our community and working together to make sure activities and initiatives in the area build on the area's qualities as an idyllic place to live, work and play - factors we know are held dearly in the hearts of residents. Engagement is an ongoing, two-way process in all of our strategic planning and operations. Consultation is just one part of the engagement process.

BENEFITS OF ENGAGEMENT

- Informed decision making.
- More awareness in the community.
- Greater commitment and ownership in the community.
- Healthy relationships and partnerships with individuals, organisations and groups in or involved with the community.
- Increased capability in Council and the community.
- Better long term outcomes and a stronger community.



4 | OUR APPROACH

Our community engagement activities are based on eight fundamental principles. These have been guided by feedback from our community.

ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

1

GENUINE AND ONGOING



We want you to know about and contribute to decisions about plans, policies, programs and activities in our community.

2

TIMELY



We shall reach out in the planning stage and before key decisions are made so you have the opportunity to guide plans, policies, services and decisions.

3

SIMPLE AND ACCURATE



We will report information clearly and correctly so you can make an informed and balanced decision. We will use plain English.

4

ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE



We will use a variety of communication tools to reach the different target audiences in the community. Everyone should have the chance to have a say.

5

COLLABORATIVE AND TWO-WAY



We listen to each other and build a collaborative culture.

6

TRANSPARENT



We want you to understand the process and know how your feedback will be used in the decision making process.

7

RESPONSIVE



We will make sure your feedback is used to guide Council's decisions and that you are aware of the outcomes.

8

RESPECTFUL





We will respect your privacy, confidentiality and beliefs at all times in the engagement process.



HOW WE DECIDE ON THE SCALE OF ENGAGEMENT

We decide on the level of engagement required for each project or issue by looking at the size of the project and the impact it will have on the community. Generally speaking, if a project has a high impact on the community or throughout the whole Council area, there will be more complexity in the community engagement. The following matrix describes the three impact categories and provides examples.

		
LOW IMPACT	MEDIUM IMPACT	HIGH IMPACT
<p>Small discrete project with a clear decision path. It is likely that the decision will be widely accepted by the community and seen as having positive outcomes or being required. Only a small change, or enhancement to any Council service or facility.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade of local playground or park – such as new equipment or landscaping. • Extension of operating hours for a service. • Local street upgrade. 	<p>It is likely that the decision will be accepted by the majority of the community impacted, however the decision may be an inconvenience for some people in the community. There is potential for some controversy or conflict within the Council area.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redevelopment of a Council facility, such as sporting, recreational or leisure venue. • Redevelopment of a local playground. 	<p>There is potential for the decision to create controversy and/ or varying levels of acceptance. There is a high level of complexity in the issue being considered. It is likely to impact sections of the community.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term Financial Plan. • Closure of Council service or facility. • Rates harmonisation. • Proposals from State or Federal Government that significantly impact the community.

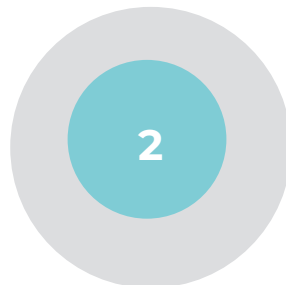


OUR GOALS



INFORM

We will provide balanced and objective information so you can understand the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.



CONSULT

We will seek feedback from you on alternatives, projects and/or decisions.



INVOLVE

We will engage in a two-way conversation by working directly with you throughout the whole process and considering feedback received.



CONSIDER

We give due consideration to the 4 social justice principles (equity, access, participation and rights) and to relevant state and regional plans.



COLLABORATE

We will partner with you and seek advice and innovation to find a balanced solution.



EMPOWER

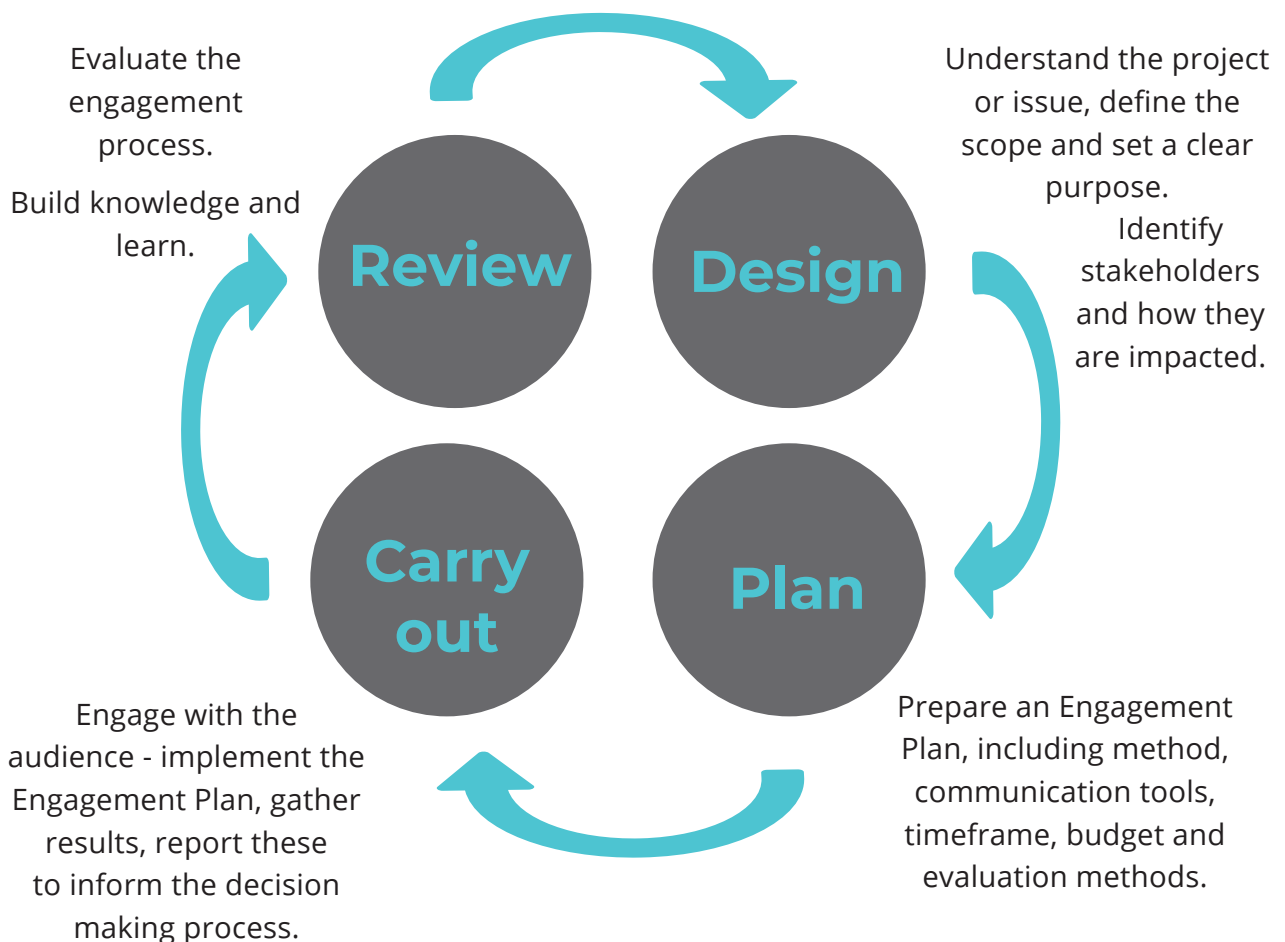
We will place the final decision making in the hands of the community, when possible.

These goals align with the Community Engagement Spectrum defined by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum (iap2.org.au).



The steps involved

Large projects, such as the Community Strategic Plan, require a phased Engagement Plan, with the four steps below included in each phase.



The tools we use to engage

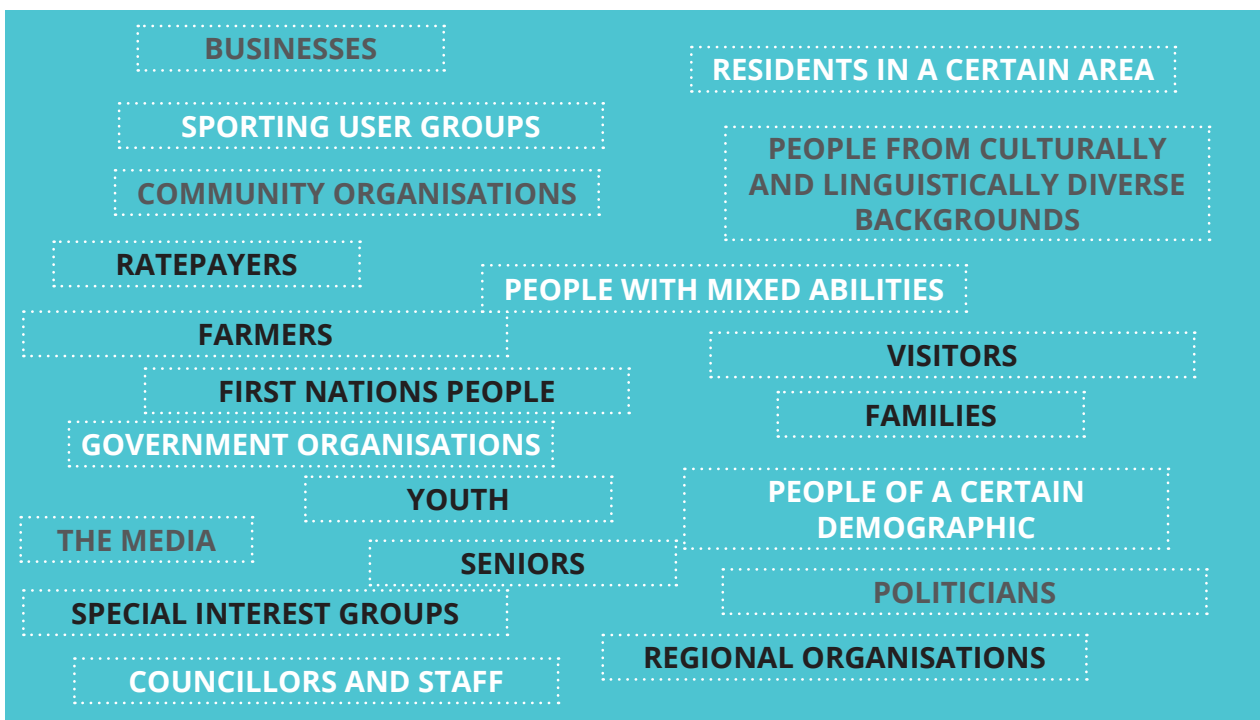
For each engagement activity, we consider carefully how to best reach the target audience/s. This will be usually be a mix of digital, face-to-face and paper based tools.

Appendix A shows the Engagement Matrix in relation to the level of participation and our 5 goals of engagement.

8

WHO WE ENGAGE WITH

Every time we are planning an engagement activity, we identify who we need to reach in the community to achieve the objectives of the engagement activity. We decide on the best approach to reaching these specific target audiences.



When we don't engage

While we value every opportunity to engage with the community, there are times when engagement will be limited or when we will only let the community know about decisions or actions.

Examples of this are:

- In an emergency.
- When an immediate resolution is required.
- When public health and safety is at risk.
- When the information is confidential or there are legal constraints.
- When we are developing internal policies.
- When there are clearly defined legislative responsibilities that we must meet.



9

HOW WE IMPROVE

Every time we engage with the community we review the process and outcomes to analyse how effectively we reached the intended audience and if it achieved results.

We want to make sure we continue to improve our engagement activities and maintain an environment where the community feels valued as having genuine input into Council's decisions, actions and strategies.

We will consider factors such as reach, response level, audience understanding, feedback and budget.

Each time we aim to learn from an engagement activity and continue to improve on all that we do.



10 | USEFUL LINKS

Our other strategic documents can be found on our website at www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au or by calling or emailing our office. Contact details are listed on the inside front cover.

You can read more about the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum at www.iap2.org.au.

APPENDIX A

Engagement Matrix



Level of participation and method/tool	Level of impact on community		
	Level 3 (high)	Level 2 (medium)	Level 1 (low)
INFORM			
Personal telephone contact	Strongly desirable	Desirable	May be appropriate
In person meeting	May be appropriate	May be appropriate	May be appropriate
Written correspondence, mail out	Strongly desirable	Desirable	May be appropriate
Fact sheets, brochure, community newsletter	May be appropriate	May be appropriate	May be appropriate
Notice or advertisement in paper		Desirable	
Media release	Strongly desirable	May be appropriate	
Information sessions/briefings	Strongly desirable	Desirable	May be appropriate
Social media	Desirable	Desirable	May be appropriate
Email – community contacts	Desirable	Desirable	May be appropriate
Website – information/updates	Strongly desirable	Strongly desirable	Strongly desirable
Banners/posters/signs	Desirable	Desirable	May be appropriate
CONSULT			
Telephone survey	Desirable	Desirable	May be appropriate
Written survey (paper based or online)	Desirable	Desirable	May be appropriate
Written submission	Strongly desirable	Desirable	May be appropriate
Public exhibition	Strongly desirable	May be appropriate	
Focus group sessions	Desirable	Desirable	May be appropriate
Public meetings	May be appropriate	May be appropriate	
Feedback form	Desirable		Desirable
Social media	Desirable	Desirable	May be appropriate
Online discussion forum	Desirable	Desirable	
INVOLVE			
Meetings with key stakeholders	Strongly desirable	Strongly desirable	May be appropriate
Meetings with other target community groups, e.g. parents, youth, aged, disabled, various CaLD groups	Desirable	Desirable	May be appropriate
Workshop sessions	Desirable	Desirable	
Site tour/meeting	Desirable	Desirable	
Public Art session	May be appropriate	May be appropriate	
Community forum/debate	May be appropriate	May be appropriate	
Community reference groups	May be appropriate	May be appropriate	
Section 355 Committees	May be appropriate	May be appropriate	
COLLABORATE			
Community summit	May be appropriate		
Expert reference groups	Desirable		
Community reference groups	Desirable	May be appropriate	
Joint Advisory Committees	Desirable	May be appropriate	
EMPOWER			
Citizen's Jury	May be appropriate		
Ballot	May be appropriate		
Legend	Strongly desirable	Desirable	May be appropriate





Submission to the Select committee on PFAS Contamination in Waterways and Drinking Water Supplies throughout New South Wales

Susie Leeds, Environmental Health Officer

Introduction

Murrumbidgee Council is located in the Riverina Region of New South Wales, covers 3 towns, Jerilderie, Coleambally and Darlington point, with a population of 3,607. The township of Jerilderie is situated on the Billabong Creek and sources the township drinking water from the creek. Both Coleambally and Darlington Point source their drinking water from ground water bores. As an Environmental Health Officer for Murrumbidgee Council, I undertake weekly town distribution drinking water tests, presented to NSW Health for microbial analysis and 6 monthly Chemistry Test to Forensic and Science Services (FASS). Community concerns about PFAS (per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are an emerging concern brought about through media attention of late. Most concerning, is communities are becoming increasingly aware and concerned of contaminants and the health impacts of PFAS in their drinking water sources. Some major concerns are the health risks, widespread presence, lack of



community engagement, advice and the need for effective measures to manage and mitigate PFAS contamination in NSW communities.

Terms of Reference Addressed

The terms of reference outlined are quite broad and all will not be addressed in detail in this brief submission. I would like to address the following points.

1. *Consistent Monitoring and screening frequency for PFAS.* Council, along with NSW Health would benefit from a 6 monthly screening of PFAS for surface water sources and a yearly screening of ground water sources to ensure the quality of drinking water is within the regulatory guidelines, irrespectively if the level detected is less than the trigger value. This water monitoring would also benefit natural water courses such as creeks, rivers and high risk sites, along the agricultural boundaries (runoff of Bio-solids and fertilizers) set along the water courses used for providing drinking water. Run off, industrial waste and firefighting activities are typical pathways PFAS may enter water courses and drinking water sources. EPA or NSW Water should be the elected Appropriate Regulatory Authority (ARA) to manage the sampling and monitoring of the natural water courses and other possible PFAS sources within the same catchment, collaborate with NSW Health and Council to ensure accurate and reliable data is transpirable to the community reporting on compliance, decision making and mitigating. The new guidelines proposed by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) with the proposed lower recommended values of PFAS in drinking water may pose further changes in other guidelines such as the PFAS limits in foods, resulting in Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) will need to update their guidelines.

2. *Reporting, disclosure, sharing of data and findings to be made transpirable to the public.* Currently the public aren't appropriately informed or aware of how to find the results of any screening or monitoring taking place in their community. Government agencies should make data sharing readily available, providing clear and transparent information to the public about the findings of PFAS contamination results. These should be provided in layman's terms to ensure the public can easily understand and interpret results. Community engagement and support on the risks and measures being taken to ensure drinking water safety for communities affected by PFAS contamination is paramount.
3. *Identifying communities at risk from PFAS contamination.* The identification of communities at risk of PFAS contamination is potentially a gap identified in the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2022 as the Act mainly refers to firefighting foam and extinguishers with the aim to minimize the release of PFAS into the environment and promote the use of safer alternatives. Other PFAS contamination is typically found in Industrial Sites, Landfill and Waste Sites, Water Treatment Plants and Agricultural Areas. Engaging and encouraging the community to report to NSW Health on unusual odours, tastes, or health trends related to local drinking water would trigger an investigation on contamination which will identify any community at risk. Resources such as sufficient funding made available to Local Councils for investigating these sites to ensure comprehensive and regular testing and contamination clean ups should be provided by the NSW Government. Assistance would be required from the EPA and NSW Water for protocols of management and mitigation of contamination to ensure the effected communities are kept safe from harmful

contaminants, long-term exposure and will pave the way for remediation and preventative action.

4. *The health, environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts of PFAS.*

Many smaller communities are already suffering from social, cultural and economic issues. Vulnerable populations often face greater challenges in accessing clean treated water let alone the resources to monitor, screen and test for PFAS. Contaminated communities are at risk of reduced property values and decreasing populations if Government resources aren't provided to assist with the investigation, testing, monitoring and remediation of PFAS contamination. PFAS found in air, water and soil (microbial communities), animal habitat communities, micro plastics (that can lead to harmful effects on ecosystems) results in a profound effect on human health, environmental health, social impacts and local economies. Exposure to PFAS can have several potential health impacts, particularly for communities near contaminated sites. Stringent laboratory screening when presented with health concerns to a medical practitioner should be compulsory through blood screening. Further health, medical, animal and environmental studies should be undertaken to provide continual scientific evidence of the historical, current and emerging PFAS contaminants that are effecting contaminated communities health, environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts. This highlights the importance of monitoring, screening and mitigating PFAS contamination to protect ecosystems health and biodiversity.

5. *PFAS impacts on livestock domestic animals and wildlife, including water birds, fish and other aquatic life.* PFAS are known to accumulate in animals that are exposed to contamination, whilst it would be difficult to predict how much PFAS

may be in all, and wild, animals', further studies should be conducted on the animals that are available for human consumption with regular screening of fresh fish and farmed, poultry, duck, beef, lamb, pork etc. This also highlights the importance of monitoring, screening and mitigating PFAS contamination in water, soil and food supplies to protect our animals, ecosystems health, biodiversity and endangered species.

This submission is particularly relevant to the following aspects of the terms of reference:

- (a) The adequacy and extent of monitoring and data collection of PFAS levels in waterways and drinking water courses
- (b) The adequacy of the reporting and disclosure requirements to the public of monitoring and findings on PFAS contamination of water
- (c) The identification of Communities at risk from PFAS Contamination
- (d) The health, environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts of PFAS
- (e) The impacts, monitoring and mitigation of contamination on livestock domestic animals and wildlife, including water birds, fish and other aquatic life

Recommendations

- **Enhanced Testing and Monitoring:** Suggest increasing PFAS testing and monitoring in waterways and raw drinking water sources across NSW, especially near high-risk sites. LGA's in non-identified locations to test 6 monthly.
- **Clear Regulatory Standards:** Revise all relatable legislation and guidelines. Recommend setting enforceable regulatory limits for PFAS in drinking water, in line with international guidelines.

- **Remediation and Clean-up Funding:** Propose increased funding for research on PFAS remediation techniques and for clean-up efforts in contaminated areas. Some clean-up treatments are out of financial reach for smaller communities and would require Government guidance and funding.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Suggest implementing educational campaigns to inform the public and local communities about PFAS, potential risks, what to look for and safety measures. Ensure any Government reports are reported in lay terms to ensure the public understand results.
- **Support for Affected Communities:** Recommend financial or health support for communities impacted by PFAS contamination, especially in cases where contamination has affected property values, health or livelihoods.
- **Prevent Further Contamination:** Ban or limit PFAS use and implement regulations to phase out the production and use of high risk PFAS compounds found in consumer products, firefighting foams and water-resistant materials. Encourage industries to source non-PFAS alternatives that will lower the environmental and health risks. Look at enforcing strict controls on industrial dischargers and waste management practices under the POEO Act 1997.

Conclusion

This submission only addresses some of the terms of reference. Addressing PFAS contamination is crucial to protect human, social, cultural, animal and environmental health. Consistent monitoring and screening in drinking water and raw water courses that supply potable drinking water to the public is imperative. The protection of our animals, not only as a food source but for endangered species is just as imperative. Phasing out specific PFAS, improve water treatment and improve regulations are paramount. The widespread use, long-term environmental persistence and impact requires changes in regulatory action to ensure the testing, remediation and mitigation is clear, concise and transparent to all communities. This 'Forever Chemical' is our legacy to our children, as Asbestos was left to us.

I, Susie Leeds, do not wish to give evidence at a hearing.

Susie Leeds

Susie Leeds. BSc.
Environmental Health Officer
Murrumbidgee Council



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PFAS CONTAMINATION IN WATERWAYS AND DRINKING
WATER SUPPLIES THROUGHOUT NEW SOUTH WALES

**Inquiry into PFAS contamination in waterways and drinking water supplies
throughout New South Wales**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. That a select committee be established to inquire into and report on PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination in waterways and drinking water supplies throughout New South Wales, and in particular:
 - (a) the adequacy and extent of monitoring and data collection on PFAS levels in waterways and drinking water sources
 - (b) the adequacy of the reporting and disclosure requirements to the public of monitoring and findings on PFAS contamination of water
 - (c) the identification of communities at risk from PFAS contamination
 - (d) the adequacy and effectiveness of government engagement with and support for communities disproportionately affected by PFAS contamination, including First Nations communities
 - (e) sources of exposure to PFAS, including through historic and current firefighting practices
 - (f) the health, environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts of PFAS
 - (g) the impacts, monitoring and mitigation of contamination on livestock, domestic animals and wildlife, including water birds, fish and other aquatic life
 - (h) the structure, capacity, capability and resourcing of New South Wales Government agencies and water utilities to detect, monitor, report on, respond to and mitigate against PFAS contamination of water supplies, including the adequacy of infrastructure and resources
 - (i) the adequacy and effectiveness of New South Wales's legislative and regulatory framework in testing for, monitoring, mitigating and responding to PFAS contamination, including the adequacy of health-based guidance values, as compared to the standards and practices of other Australian and international jurisdictions
 - (j) public sector resourcing and coordination amongst relevant agencies in preventing, controlling and managing the risks of PFAS to human health and the environment
 - (k) international best practices for water treatment and filtration, and the environmentally sound management and safe disposal of PFAS

- (l) the effectiveness of remediation works on specific sites and international best practices for remediation and management of contaminated sites
 - (m) areas for reform, including legislative, regulatory, public health and other policy measures to prevent, control and manage the risks of PFAS in water supplies
 - (n) the impact of taking contaminated water sources offline on water security, including the effects of diverting water between communities; the social, economic and logistical implications of such diversions, and the challenges posed by PFAS contamination to water availability, drought management and emergency supply planning, and
 - (o) any other related matters.
2. That the committee report by 20 June 2025.

The terms of reference for the inquiry were referred to the committee by the Legislative Council on 25 September 2024.¹

Committee membership

Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC	The Greens	<i>Chair</i>
Hon Taylor Martin MLC	Independent	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Hon Scott Barrett MLC	The Nationals	
Hon Greg Donnelly MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC	Liberal Party	
Hon Cameron Murphy MLC	Australian Labor Party	

¹ *Minutes*, Legislative Council, 25 September 2024, item 36



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PFAS CONTAMINATION IN WATERWAYS AND DRINKING WATER
SUPPLIES THROUGHOUT NEW SOUTH WALES

MEDIA RELEASE

SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN FOR INQUIRY INTO PFAS CONTAMINATION IN WATER IN NSW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 October 2024

An Upper House committee that has been established to inquire into and report on PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination in waterways and drinking water supplies throughout New South Wales is now calling for submissions.

The Chair of the committee, Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC, said: "the detection of PFAS, commonly known 'as forever chemicals' in some of the state's water catchments is extremely concerning. The World Health Organisation has linked forever chemicals to cancer, interference with hormones and the immune system, and developmental effects in children".

Ms Faehrmann continued: "this committee will meet and work with affected communities, experts, regulatory agencies and the whistleblowers who raised the alarm about PFAS in New South Wales".

The inquiry has an extensive terms of reference and will examine issues including:

- the adequacy and extent of monitoring and data collection on PFAS levels in waterways and drinking water sources
- the adequacy of the reporting and disclosure requirements to the public of monitoring and findings on PFAS contamination of water,
- the health, environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts of PFAS,
- public sector resourcing and coordination amongst relevant agencies in preventing, controlling and managing the risks of PFAS to human health and the environment, and
- international best practices for water treatment and filtration, and the environmentally sound management and safe disposal of PFAS.

"The work of the committee will be to bring all the information together and to make recommendations in a report the community can have faith in as the most up-to-date and transparent information and advice on this very important issue" Ms Faehrmann concluded.

The committee welcomes submissions from interested stakeholders. The closing date for submissions is 27 November 2024. The committee will hold hearings in late 2024, and further hearings as well as site visits in early 2025. For further information, including the terms of reference, please visit the committee's [website](#).

For further information please contact Committee Chair, Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC, on (02) 9230 3771

-ENDS-

Murrumbidgee Council

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024



Murrumbidgee Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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Overview

Murrumbidgee Council is constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and has its principal place of business at:

35 Jerilderie Street
Jerilderie NSW 2716

Council's guiding principles are detailed in Chapter 3 of the LGA and include:

- principles applying to the exercise of functions generally by council,
- principles to be applied when making decisions,
- principles of community participation,
- principles of sound financial management, and
- principles for strategic planning relating to the development of an integrated planning and reporting framework.

A description of the nature of Council's operations and its principal activities are provided in Note B1-2.

Through the use of the internet, we have ensured that our reporting is timely, complete and available at minimum cost. All press releases, financial statements and other information are publicly available on our website: www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au.

Murrumbidgee Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Statement by Councillors and Management

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413 (2c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)

The attached general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the *Local Government Act 1993* and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

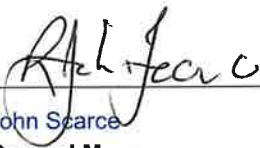
Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 03 October 2024.



Ruth McRae OAM
Mayor
24 October 2024



Robert Black
Councillor
24 October 2024



John Scarce
General Manager
24 October 2024



Kaitlin Salzke
Responsible Accounting Officer
24 October 2024

Murrumbidgee Council

Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Original unaudited budget 2024	\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2024	Actual 2023
Income from continuing operations				
6,184	Rates and annual charges	B2-1	6,591	6,276
1,273	User charges and fees	B2-2	3,338	2,944
2,552	Other revenues	B2-3	285	498
8,024	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	B2-4	10,444	13,570
10,279	Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	B2-4	10,802	3,877
500	Interest and investment income	B2-5	1,595	907
225	Net gain from the disposal of assets	B4-1	–	–
–	Other income	B2-6	203	175
29,037	Total income from continuing operations		33,258	28,247
Expenses from continuing operations				
7,854	Employee benefits and on-costs	B3-1	8,445	7,820
6,602	Materials and services	B3-2	8,237	7,614
101	Borrowing costs		9	–
6,866	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	B3-3	8,107	7,173
–	Net loss from the disposal of assets	B4-1	112	1,075
742	Other expenses	B3-4	665	629
22,165	Total expenses from continuing operations		25,575	24,311
6,872	Operating result from continuing operations		7,683	3,936
6,872	Net operating result for the year attributable to Council		7,683	3,936
(3,408)	Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes		(3,119)	59

The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Murrumbidgee Council

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
Net operating result for the year – from Income Statement		7,683	3,936
Other comprehensive income:			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result			
Gain on revaluation of IPP&E	C1-7	23,393	46,533
Gain on revaluation of intangible assets	C1-8	(172)	21
Total items which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result		23,221	46,554
Total other comprehensive income for the period		23,221	46,554
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to Council		30,904	50,490

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Murrumbidgee Council

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	12,096	3,399
Investments	C1-2	20,036	33,741
Receivables	C1-4	1,816	1,655
Inventories	C1-5	4,052	1,407
Contract assets and contract cost assets	C1-6	3,554	1,372
Other	C1-9	103	53
Total current assets		41,657	41,627
Non-current assets			
Inventories	C1-5	810	882
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)	C1-7	372,878	346,590
Intangible assets	C1-8	1,763	1,935
Total non-current assets		375,451	349,407
Total assets		417,108	391,034
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	C3-1	1,698	2,018
Contract liabilities	C3-2	2,259	6,677
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	3,003	3,082
Provisions	C3-5	124	119
Total current liabilities		7,084	11,896
Non-current liabilities			
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	68	67
Provisions	C3-5	206	225
Total non-current liabilities		274	292
Total liabilities		7,358	12,188
Net assets		409,750	378,846
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		306,260	298,577
IPPE revaluation reserve		103,490	80,269
Total equity		409,750	378,846

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Murrumbidgee Council

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024			2023		
	Accumulated surplus	IPPE revaluation reserve	Total equity	Accumulated surplus	IPPE revaluation reserve	Total equity
Opening balance at 1 July	298,577	80,269	378,846	294,641	33,715	328,356
Restated opening balance	298,577	80,269	378,846	294,641	33,715	328,356
Net operating result for the year	7,683	–	7,683	3,936	–	3,936
Restated net operating result for the period	7,683	–	7,683	3,936	–	3,936
Other comprehensive income						
Gain on revaluation of IPP&E	–	23,393	23,393	–	46,533	46,533
Gain on revaluation of intangible assets	–	(172)	(172)	–	21	21
Restated other comprehensive income	–	23,221	23,221	–	46,554	46,554
Total comprehensive income	7,683	23,221	30,904	3,936	46,554	50,490
Closing balance at 30 June	306,260	103,490	409,750	298,577	80,269	378,846

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Murrumbidgee Council

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Original unaudited budget 2024	\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2024	Actual 2023
Cash flows from operating activities				
<i>Receipts:</i>				
6,184	Rates and annual charges		6,545	6,262
1,272	User charges and fees		3,207	2,883
501	Interest received		1,614	657
11,529	Grants and contributions		14,603	18,083
–	Bonds, deposits and retentions received		–	34
5,900	Other		2,679	1,824
<i>Payments:</i>				
(7,883)	Payments to employees		(8,820)	(7,649)
(9,851)	Payments for materials and services		(8,183)	(7,707)
–	Borrowing costs		(32)	–
–	Bonds, deposits and retentions refunded		(34)	–
(856)	Other		(2,891)	(825)
6,796	Net cash flows from operating activities	G1-1	8,688	13,562
Cash flows from investing activities				
<i>Receipts:</i>				
–	Sale of investments		33,741	16,700
–	Redemption of term deposits		13,705	–
–	Sale of real estate assets		367	300
1,598	Proceeds from sale of IPPE		768	624
–	Sale of intangible assets		–	44
<i>Payments:</i>				
–	Purchase of investments		(33,741)	(16,700)
–	Acquisition of term deposits		–	(17,041)
(18,642)	Payments for IPPE		(12,146)	(7,341)
–	Purchase of real estate assets		(2,685)	(334)
(17,044)	Net cash flows from/(used in) investing activities		9	(23,748)
Cash flows from financing activities				
<i>Payments:</i>				
101	Repayment of borrowings		–	–
101	Net cash flows from financing activities		–	–
(10,147)	Net change in cash and cash equivalents		8,697	(10,186)
–	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		3,399	13,585
(10,147)	Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	C1-1	12,096	3,399
–	plus: Investments on hand at end of year	C1-2	20,036	33,741
(10,147)	Total cash, cash equivalents and investments		32,132	37,140

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Murrumbidgee Council

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Murrumbidgee Council

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A About Council and these financial statements

A1-1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements were authorised for issue by Council on 03 October 2024. Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements in cases where critical information is received from public submissions or where the OLG directs Council to amend the financial statements.

The material accounting policy information related to these consolidated financial statements are set out below. Accounting policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations, the *Local Government Act 1993 (Act)* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (Regulation)*, and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. Council is a not for-profit entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and intangible assets.

Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the Council and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

Council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future.

The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

- i. fair values of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment – refer Note C1-7
- ii. estimated fair values of intangible assets - refer Note C1-8
- iii. employee benefit provisions – refer Note C3-4
- iv. asset remediation provisions – refer Note C3-5

Significant judgements in applying the Council's accounting policies

- i. Impairment of receivables – refer Note C1-4.
- ii. Determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific and whether the contract is within the scope of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and / or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* – refer to Notes B2-2 – B2-4.

Monies and other assets received by Council

The Consolidated Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 409(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*, all money and property received by Council is held in the Council's Consolidated Fund unless it is required to be held in the Council's Trust Fund.

Cash and other assets of the following activities have been included as part of the Consolidated Fund:

- general purpose operations
- water service
- sewerage service
- section 355 committees

The Trust Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 411 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*, a separate and distinct Trust Fund is maintained to account for all money and property received by the Council in trust which must be applied only for the purposes of, or in accordance with, the trusts relating to those monies. Trust monies and property subject to Council's control have been included in these reports.

A1-1 Basis of preparation (continued)

A separate statement of monies held in the Trust Fund is available for inspection at the council office by any person free of charge.

New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations (ie. pronouncements) have been published by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2024 reporting period.

Council has elected not to apply any of these pronouncements in these financial statements before their operative dates.

As at the date of authorisation of these financial statements Council does not consider that any of these new (and still to be applied) standards and interpretations are likely to have a material impact on the Council's future financial statements, financial position, financial performance or cash flows.

New accounting standards adopted during the year

The following new standard is effective for the first time at 30 June 2024:

- **AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates**

The most significant change introduced by this standard is to remove the requirement to disclose significant accounting policies and instead require disclosure of material accounting policy information.

“Accounting policy information is material if, when considered together with other information included in an entity’s financial statements, it can reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements.”

In applying the new requirements, Council has, after taking into account the various specific facts and circumstances, applied professional judgement to ensure it discloses only material accounting policies as opposed to significant accounting policies throughout these financial statements.

B Financial Performance

B1 Functions or activities

B1-1 Functions or activities – income, expenses and assets

Income, expenses and assets have been directly attributed to the following functions or activities. Details of those functions or activities are provided in Note B1-2.

\$ '000	Income		Expenses		Operating result		Grants and contributions		Carrying amount of assets	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Functions or activities										
Governance and Administration	12,528	12,699	6,944	7,277	5,584	5,422	6,351	7,258	43,719	50,583
Public Order and Safety	168	150	804	683	(636)	(533)	160	146	3,779	3,584
Health	9	23	19	33	(10)	(10)	-	10	1,025	986
Environmental Protection	2,242	711	1,566	1,699	676	(988)	1,738	239	23,508	21,868
Community Services and Education	605	327	742	184	(137)	143	358	129	3,892	3,602
Housing and Community Amenities	604	412	452	657	152	(245)	332	191	7,065	6,517
Recreation and Cultural	2,768	1,136	2,726	2,384	42	(1,248)	2,740	1,104	43,606	36,997
Mining, Manufacturing and Construction	39	21	16	-	23	21	-	-	621	632
Transport and Communications	7,847	7,834	7,798	6,704	49	1,130	7,847	7,834	231,920	214,553
Economic Affairs	3,822	2,685	2,262	2,417	1,560	268	1,645	536	7,394	3,526
Water Supply	1,666	1,386	1,307	1,236	359	150	75	-	22,830	21,564
Sewerage Services	960	863	939	1,037	21	(174)	-	-	27,749	26,622
Total functions and activities	33,258	28,247	25,575	24,311	7,683	3,936	21,246	17,447	417,108	391,034

B1-2 Components of functions or activities

Details relating to the Council's functions or activities as reported in B1-1 are as follows:

Governance and Administration

Governance and administration functions of Council, Council depot and general purpose revenue.

Public Order and Safety

Animal control, fire and emergency services.

Health

Health, food control and medical services.

Environmental Protection

Noxious plants, environmental protection, solid waste management, street cleaning, drainage and stormwater management.

Community Services and Education

Community services administration, aged and disabled services and children's services.

Housing and Community Amenities

Public cemeteries, public conveniences, street lighting, town planning and other community amenities.

Recreation and Cultural

Public libraries, museum, community centres and halls, other cultural activities, sports grounds and venues, swimming pools, parks and gardens, other sport and recreation.

Mining, Manufacturing and Construction

Building control, quarries and gravel pits.

Transport and Communications

Roads, bridges, footpaths, car parks, aerodrome, tree maintenance and radio communications.

Economic Affairs

Caravan parks, industrial development and promotion, real estate development, saleyards, tourism and area promotion, share farming, private works including State Road maintenance contracts and other business activities.

Water Supply

Provision of water supply to towns.

Sewerage Services

Provision of sewerage services to towns.

B2 Sources of income

B2-1 Rates and annual charges

\$ '000	2024	2023
Ordinary rates		
Residential	453	434
Farmland	4,071	3,934
Business	246	236
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	(30)	(32)
Rates levied to ratepayers	4,740	4,572
Pensioner rate subsidies received	17	17
Total ordinary rates	4,757	4,589
Annual charges (pursuant to s496, 496A, 496B, 501 & 611)		
Domestic waste management services	387	227
Water supply services	765	716
Waste management services (non-domestic)	2	114
Sewerage services	709	659
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	(65)	(62)
Annual charges levied	1,798	1,654
Pensioner annual charges subsidies received:		
– Water	11	10
– Sewerage	10	10
– Domestic waste management	15	13
Total annual charges	1,834	1,687
Total rates and annual charges	6,591	6,276

Council has used 2022 year valuations provided by the NSW Valuer General in calculating its rates.

Material accounting policy information

Rates and annual charges are recognised as revenue at the beginning of the rating period to which they relate. Prepaid rates are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period.

Pensioner rebates relate to reductions in rates and certain annual charges for eligible pensioners' place of residence in the local government council area.

Pensioner rate subsidies are received from the NSW Government to provide a contribution towards the pensioner rebates and are recognised within the underlying revenue item based on their substance.

B2-2 User charges and fees

\$ '000	Timing	2024	2023
Specific user charges (per s502 - specific 'actual use' charges)			
Water supply services	2	608	457
Sewerage services	2	4	4
Waste management services (non-domestic)	2	88	34
Total specific user charges		700	495
Other user charges and fees			
(i) Fees and charges – statutory and regulatory functions (per s608)			
Building regulation	2	36	20
Building services – other	2	5	3
Planning and building regulation	2	72	89
Private works – section 67	2	248	229
Regulatory/statutory fees	2	8	11
Section 10.7 certificates (EP&A Act)	2	17	13
Section 603 certificates	2	11	9
Total fees and charges – statutory/regulatory		397	374
(ii) Fees and charges – other (incl. general user charges (per s608))			
Child care	2	213	–
Community centres	2	8	10
Leaseback fees – Council vehicles	2	28	24
Library	2	1	1
Park rents	2	4	5
Transport for NSW works (state roads not controlled by Council)	2	1,893	1,891
Saleyards	2	11	9
Waste disposal tipping fees	2	8	4
Cemetery	2	42	74
Community care services	2	1	2
Other	2	32	55
Total fees and charges – other		2,241	2,075
Total other user charges and fees		2,638	2,449
Total user charges and fees		3,338	2,944
Timing of revenue recognition for user charges and fees			
User charges and fees recognised at a point in time		3,338	2,944
Total user charges and fees		3,338	2,944

Material accounting policy information

Revenue arising from user charges and fees is recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers and generally the payment terms are within 30 days of the provision of the service or, in some cases, the customer is required to pay on arrival. There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns.

Licences granted by Council are all either short-term or low value and all revenue from licences is recognised at the time that the licence is granted rather than over the term of the licence.

B2-3 Other revenues

\$ '000	Timing	2024	2023
Commissions and agency fees	2	80	86
Diesel rebate	2	97	56
Recycling income (non-domestic)	2	20	8
Insurance rebates	2	26	24
Miscellaneous sales	2	1	4
Other	2	61	315
Contributions to long service leave	2	-	5
Total other revenue		285	498
Timing of revenue recognition for other revenue			
Other revenue recognised at a point in time (2)		285	498
Total other revenue		285	498

Material accounting policy information for other revenue

Where the revenue is earned for the provision of specified goods / services under an enforceable contract, revenue is recognised when or as the obligations are satisfied.

Statutory fees and fines are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received or when the penalty has been applied, whichever occurs first.

Other revenue is recorded when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever occurs first.

B2-4 Grants and contributions

\$ '000	Timing	Operating 2024	Operating 2023	Capital 2024	Capital 2023
General purpose grants and non-developer contributions (untied)					
Financial Assistance Grant					
– Relating to current year	2	336	1,507	–	–
– Prepayment received in advance for subsequent year	2	5,360	5,846	–	–
Other grants	2	23	10	–	–
Amount recognised as income during current year		5,719	7,363	–	–
Special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)					
Cash contributions					
Water supplies	2	75	27	–	–
Economic development	2	28	195	–	–
Environmental programs	1	14	–	–	–
FOGO Implementation	1	–	–	39	78
Heritage and cultural	2	6	–	–	–
Library	2	72	74	–	–
Noxious weeds	2	90	91	–	–
NSW Rural Fire Service	2	148	145	12	–
Recreation and culture	1	–	28	–	–
Storm/flood damage	1	1,594	148	–	–
Stronger Communities Fund - Round 2	1	–	14	1,617	1,095
Community services	1	222	–	–	–
Stronger Country Communities	1	–	5	1,342	620
Street lighting	2	48	48	–	–
Drought Communities	1	–	–	–	–
Transport (roads to recovery)	2	1,131	885	–	–
Transport (other roads and bridges funding)	1	21	3,558	5,128	1,337
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	1	–	–	1,156	495
Planning Portal	2	33	12	–	–
Other specific grants	2	96	42	124	–
Solar farm contribution	2	40	40	–	–
Recreation and culture	2	–	–	1,232	57
Transport for NSW contributions (regional roads, block grant)	2	1,107	895	–	131
Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)		4,725	6,207	10,650	3,813
Total grants and non-developer contributions		10,444	13,570	10,650	3,813
Comprising:					
– Commonwealth funding		6,827	8,387	1,156	495
– State funding		3,554	5,139	9,315	3,870
– Other funding		63	44	179	(552)
		10,444	13,570	10,650	3,813

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Developer contributions

\$ '000	Operating 2024	Operating 2023	Capital 2024	Capital 2023
Developer contributions: (s7.4 & s7.11 - EP&A Act, s64 of the LGA):				
Cash contributions				
S 7.11 – contributions towards amenities/services	–	–	152	64
Total developer contributions – cash	–	–	152	64
Total developer contributions	–	–	152	64
Total contributions	–	–	152	64
Total grants and contributions	10,444	13,570	10,802	3,877
Timing of revenue recognition for grants and contributions				
Grants and contributions recognised over time	1,851	–	9,282	–
Grants and contributions recognised at a point in time	8,593	13,570	1,520	3,877
Total grants and contributions	10,444	13,570	10,802	3,877

Unspent grants and contributions

Certain grants and contributions are obtained by Council on the condition they be spent in a specified manner or in a future period but which are not yet spent in accordance with those conditions are as follows:

\$ '000	Operating 2024	Operating 2023	Capital 2024	Capital 2023
Unspent grants and contributions				
Unspent funds at 1 July	3,385	125	9,666	10,748
Add: operating grants recognised as income in the current period but not yet spent	4,192	3,327	1,559	87
Add: funds received and not recognised as revenue in the current year	2,989	–	–	2,210
Less: capital grants recognised in a previous reporting period now spent	(1,333)	(67)	(2,989)	(589)
Less: Funds received in prior year but revenue recognised and funds spent in current year	–	–	(5,977)	(2,790)
Unspent funds at 30 June	9,233	3,385	2,259	9,666
Contributions				
Unspent funds at 1 July	490	873	550	486
Add: contributions recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	–	–	152	64
Less: contributions recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	(490)	(383)	(35)	–
Unspent contributions at 30 June	–	490	667	550

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Grants and contributions – enforceable agreement with sufficiently specific performance obligations

Grant and contribution revenue from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised as or when control of each performance obligations is transferred.

The performance obligations vary according to the agreement but include milestones within AASB 15 grants. Payment terms vary depending on the terms of the grant: cash is received upfront for some grants and on the achievement of certain payment milestones for others.

Performance obligations may be satisfied either at a point in time or over time and this is reflected in the revenue recognition pattern. Point in time recognition occurs when the beneficiary obtains control of the goods / services at a single time (e.g. completion of the project when a report / outcome is provided), whereas over time recognition is where the control of the services is ongoing throughout the project (e.g. provision of community health services through the year).

Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods (being either costs or time) incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

Capital grants

Capital grants received by Council under an enforceable contract for the acquisition or construction of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment to identified specifications which will be under Council's control on completion are recognised as revenue as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project.

For acquisitions of assets, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council.

Developer contributions

Council has obligations to provide facilities from contribution revenues levied on developers under the provisions of sections 7.4, 7.11 and 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

While Council generally incorporates these amounts as part of a Development Consents Order, such developer contributions are only recognised as income upon receipt by Council, due to the possibility that individual development consents may not be acted upon by the applicant and, accordingly, would not be payable to Council.

Developer contributions may only be expended for the purposes for which the contributions were required, but Council may apply contributions according to the priorities established in work schedules for the contribution plan.

Other grants and contributions

Assets, including cash, received from other grants and contributions are recognised at fair value when the asset is received. Council considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard.

Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

B2-5 Interest and investment income

\$ '000	2024	2023
Interest on financial assets measured at amortised cost		
– Overdue rates and annual charges (incl. special purpose rates)	60	38
– Cash and investments	<u>1,535</u>	<u>869</u>
Total interest and investment income	<u>1,595</u>	<u>907</u>

B2-6 Other income

Rental income	<u>203</u>	<u>175</u>
Total other income	<u>203</u>	<u>175</u>

B3 Costs of providing services

B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs

\$ '000	2024	2023
Salaries and wages	6,633	6,327
Employee leave entitlements (ELE)	1,120	1,164
Superannuation	893	797
Workers' compensation insurance	116	202
Fringe benefits tax (FBT)	136	105
Other	1	10
Total employee costs	8,899	8,605
Less: capitalised costs	(454)	(785)
Total employee costs expensed	8,445	7,820

Material accounting policy information

Council contributes to various defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans on behalf of its employees.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Council participates in a defined benefit plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, however, sufficient information to account for the plan as a defined benefit is not available and therefore Council accounts for its obligations to defined benefit plans on the same basis as its obligations to defined contribution plans, i.e. as an expense when it becomes payable – refer to Note E3-1 for more information.

B3-2 Materials and services

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
Raw materials and consumables		17,667	11,616
Contractor and consultancy costs:			
– Waste collection		34	117
– Other		3,512	1,852
Audit Fees	F2-1	125	45
Advertising		14	31
Bank charges		18	16
Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses	F1-2	206	197
Electricity and heating		300	324
Fire control expenses		125	87
Printing and stationery		1	–
Insurance		665	597
Street lighting		60	55
Subscriptions – shires association		–	24
Subscriptions and publications – other		129	64
Telephone and communications		71	78
Training costs (other than salaries and wages)		147	57
Travel expenses		–	1
Other		–	1
Legal expenses:			
– Planning and development		10	–
– Other		17	25
Total materials and services		23,101	15,187
Less: capitalised costs		(14,864)	(7,573)
Total materials and services		8,237	7,614

B3-3 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
Depreciation and amortisation			
Plant and equipment		1,416	1,315
Office equipment		63	61
Furniture and fittings		24	15
Land improvements (depreciable)		132	140
Infrastructure:	C1-7		
– Buildings		920	786
– Other structures		184	145
– Roads		3,574	3,180
– Bridges		103	96
– Footpaths		73	79
– Other road assets		271	248
– Stormwater drainage		182	159
– Water supply network		410	379
– Sewerage network		484	498
– Swimming pools		85	78
– Other open space/recreational assets		276	243
– Other infrastructure		27	24
Other assets:			
– Library books		16	17
– Landfill assets		52	48
Total gross depreciation and amortisation costs		8,292	7,511
Less: capitalised costs		(185)	(338)
Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non-financial assets		8,107	7,173

Material accounting policy information

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation and amortisation are calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives.

Impairment of non-financial assets

Council assets held at fair value that are not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash flow, and that are deemed to be specialised, are not tested for impairment since these assets are assessed on an annual basis to ensure that the carrying amount is not materially different from fair value and therefore an impairment loss would be captured during this assessment.

Intangible assets not yet available for use, are tested annually for impairment, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they might be impaired.

Other non-financial assets that do not meet the criteria above are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units).

Impairment losses for revalued assets are firstly offset against the amount in the revaluation surplus for the class of asset, with only the excess to be recognised in the Income Statement.

B3-4 Other expenses

\$ '000	2024	2023
Contributions/levies to other levels of government		
– Emergency Services Levy: State Emergency Service	18	10
– Emergency Services Levy: Fire & Rescue NSW	29	24
– Emergency Services Levy: Rural Fire Service	455	444
Mobile book library contribution	105	104
Donations, contributions and assistance to other organisations (Section 356)	58	47
Total other expenses	665	629

B4 Gains or losses

B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
Gain (or loss) on disposal of plant and equipment	C1-7		
Proceeds from disposal – plant and equipment		768	495
Less: carrying amount of plant and equipment assets sold/written off		(367)	(232)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		401	263
Gain (or loss) on disposal of infrastructure	C1-7		
Proceeds from disposal – infrastructure		–	129
Less: carrying amount of infrastructure assets sold/written off		(777)	(1,210)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		(777)	(1,081)
Gain (or loss) on disposal of real estate assets held for sale	C1-5		
Proceeds from disposal – real estate assets		367	300
Less: carrying amount of real estate assets sold/written off		(103)	(85)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		264	215
Gain (or loss) on disposal of investments	C1-2		
Proceeds from disposal/redemptions/maturities – investments		33,741	16,700
Less: carrying amount of investments sold/redeemed/matured		(33,741)	(16,700)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		–	–
Gain (or loss) on disposal of intangible assets	C1-8		
Proceeds from disposal – intangible assets		–	44
Less: carrying amount of intangible assets sold/written off		–	(360)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		–	(316)
Gain (or loss) on disposal of land improvements	C1-7		
Proceeds from disposal – land improvements		–	–
Less: carrying amount of land improvement assets sold/written off		–	(154)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		–	(154)
Gain (or loss) on disposal of office equipment	C1-7		
Proceeds from disposal – office equipment		–	–
Less: carrying amount of office equipment assets sold/written off		–	(2)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		–	(2)
Net gain (or loss) from disposal of assets		(112)	(1,075)

B5 Performance against budget

B5-1 Material budget variations

Council's original budget was adopted by the Council on 27 June 2023 and is not required to be audited. The original projections on which the budget was based have been affected by a number of factors. These include state and federal government decisions, including new grant programs, changing economic activity, environmental factors, and by decisions made by Council.

While these General Purpose Financial Statements include the original budget adopted by Council, the Act requires Council to review its financial budget on a quarterly basis, so it is able to manage the variation between actuals and budget that invariably occur during the year.

Material variations of more than 10% between original budget and actual results or where the variance is considered material by nature are explained below.

Variation Key: **F** = Favourable budget variation, **U** = Unfavourable budget variation.

\$ '000	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2024 ----- Variance -----	
Revenues				
User charges and fees	1,273	3,338	2,065	162% F
The 2024 budget as originally adopted included approximately \$2.3m at 'other revenues' which should have been included at 'user charges and fees', most significantly RMCC income and private works income. This was identified as part of the September 2024 Quarterly Budget Review and an adjustment made at that time.				
Other revenues	2,552	285	(2,267)	(89)% U
The 2024 budget as originally adopted included approximately \$2.3m at 'other revenues' which should have been included at 'user charges and fees', most significantly RMCC income and private works income. It also included approximately \$185,000 at 'other revenues' which should have been included at 'other income', predominantly relating to lease income. These amounts were identified as part of the September 2024 Quarterly Budget Review and an adjustment made at that time.				
Operating grants and contributions	8,024	10,444	2,420	30% F
Disaster Recovery Grant Funding amounts were not reflected in the original budget as the quantum of works was unknown at the time of preparation. A portion of these works were added in the September 2024 Quarterly Budget Review, and have been recognised as works are completed. During the year other grant funds were also received, and some amounts recognised over time were carried forward to the 2025 financial year where works remained incomplete at 30 June 2024.				
Interest and investment revenue	500	1,595	1,095	219% F
A conservative budget for interest and investment revenue was originally set, and as interest rates have remained favourable Council's income has exceeded the budgeted amount.				
Net gains from disposal of assets	225	-	(225)	(100)% U
Gains on the disposal of two of Councils previously-rented properties were contemplated in the originally-prepared 2024 budget. The sale of these properties did not eventuate in this financial year. All other asset disposals are assumed to be at the fair value recognised in Council's financial statements during budget preparations. While some assets, particularly plant and equipment items, were disposed with a gain, these amounts were offset by losses on disposal below.				
Other income	-	203	203	∞ F
The 2024 budget as originally adopted included approximately \$185,000 at 'other revenues' which should have been included at 'other income', predominantly relating to lease income. This was identified as part of the September 2024 Quarterly Budget Review and an adjustment made at that time				

B5-1 Material budget variations (continued)

\$ '000	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2024 ----- Variance -----	
Expenses				
Materials and services	6,602	8,237	(1,635)	(25)% U
Variances at this line relate to expenditure on prior year operating grants carried forward subsequent to preparation of the 2024 budget, and additional funds allocated to projects during the year. Notably, Disaster Recovery Grant Funding amounts were not reflected in the original budget as the quantum of works was unknown at the time of preparation. A portion of these works were added in the September 2024 Quarterly Budget Review, and have been recognised as works are completed.				
Borrowing costs	101	9	92	91% F
Council's budget as originally adopted included borrowing costs in relation to Stronger Communities Fund Round 2 funds. All of the Round 2 funds have now been expended and as such no interest expenditure was recognised in relation to these. The amount of \$9,000 included at borrowing costs relates to the unwinding of the discount for the provision for asset remediation which was not originally reflected in the budget figures.				
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	6,866	8,107	(1,241)	(18)% U
Revaluations and indexations of assets were undertaken as part of the preparation of the 2023 financial statements, which were finalised subsequent to the preparation of Council's 2024 budget. As such, the increased depreciation amounts were not reflected in the budgeted figure.				
Net losses from disposal of assets	-	112	(112)	∞ U
Council assumes that asset disposals will be at the fair value recognised in Council's financial statements during budget preparations. The loss ultimately recognised includes the previously-recognised fair value of road and infrastructure assets renewed during the financial year.				
Statement of cash flows				
Cash flows from operating activities	6,796	8,688	1,892	28% F
Variances at this line substantially relate to items already identified above at 'Revenue' and 'Expenses'.				
Cash flows from investing activities	(17,044)	9	17,053	(100)% F
This variance largely stems from the treatment of Council's term deposit holdings, which is considered as cash during Council's annual budgeting process and is hence not reflected in the budget statement of cash flows. It also reflects timing differences in relation to payments for IPPE which related to projects not completed during the 2023 or 2024 year as originally budgeted, and instead carried forward to the following year.				
Cash flows from financing activities	101	-	(101)	(100)% U
Council's budget as originally adopted included borrowing costs in relation to Stronger Communities Fund Round 2 funds. All of the Round 2 funds have now been expended and as such no interest expenditure was recognised in relation to these.				

C Financial position

C1 Assets we manage

C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents

\$ '000	2024	2023
Cash on hand and at bank	6,930	1,296
Short-term deposits	5,166	2,103
Total cash and cash equivalents	12,096	3,399

C1-2 Financial investments

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-current	2023 Current	2023 Non-current
Debt securities at amortised cost				
Long-term deposits	20,036	-	33,741	-
Total cash assets, cash equivalents and investments	32,132	-	37,140	-

Material accounting policy information

Amortised cost

Council's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables, term deposits and cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position. Term deposits with an initial term of more than 3 months are classified as investments rather than cash and cash equivalents.

Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less provision for impairment.

Interest income, impairment and gains or loss on de-recognition are recognised in profit or loss.

C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments

\$ '000	2024	2023
(a) Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments		
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	32,132	37,140
Less: Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	(19,135)	(22,820)
Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions	12,997	14,320
External restrictions		
External restrictions – included in liabilities		
External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:		
Specific-Purpose Unexpended Grants Reserve - component recognised as liability	2,259	6,677
External restrictions – included in liabilities	2,259	6,677
External restrictions – other		
External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:		
Water Fund	4,188	3,509
Sewer Fund	2,209	4,665

C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments (continued)

\$ '000	2024	2023
Developer Contributions Reserve	667	550
Coleambally Town Development Reserve	505	481
Domestic Waste Management Reserve	74	74
Specific-Purpose Unexpended Grants Reserve - component recognised as revenue	9,233	6,374
Transport for NSW contributions	-	490
External restrictions – other	16,876	16,143
Total external restrictions	19,135	22,820

Cash, cash equivalents and investments subject to external restrictions are those which are only available for specific use by Council due to a restriction placed by legislation or third-party contractual agreement.

\$ '000	2024	2023
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(b) Internal allocations**Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions**

	12,997	14,320
Less: Internally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	(12,852)	(12,197)
Unrestricted and unallocated cash, cash equivalents and investments	145	2,123

Internal allocations

At 30 June, Council has internally allocated funds to the following:

Infrastructure Replacement Reserve	2,051	1,934
Employee Leave Entitlement Reserve	1,096	1,096
Carry Over Works Reserve	2,119	750
Plant Replacement Reserve	958	1,615
Financial Assistance Grant Advance Payment	5,360	5,846
Jerilderie Real Estate Development Reserve	610	335
Caravan Park Reserve	64	190
Risk Management Reserve	109	-
Energy Saving Initiatives Reserve	118	-
Jerilderie Monash Committee Reserve	163	158
Deposits, Retentions & Bonds Reserve	24	60
Local Environmental Plan	-	20
Section 355 Committee Funds Reserve	165	178
State Emergency Service	15	15
Total internal allocations	12,852	12,197

Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions may be internally allocated by resolution or policy of the elected Council.

\$ '000	2024	2023
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(c) Unrestricted and unallocated

Unrestricted and unallocated cash, cash equivalents and investments	145	2,123
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C1-4 Receivables

\$ '000	2024	2024	2023	2023
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Rates and annual charges	597	–	541	–
Interest and extra charges	83	–	53	–
User charges and fees	668	–	537	–
Accrued revenues				
– Interest on investments	209	–	258	–
– Other income accruals	1	–	–	–
Government grants and subsidies	148	–	105	–
Net GST receivable	80	–	161	–
Other debtors	61	–	31	–
Total	1,847	–	1,686	–
Less: provision for impairment				
User charges and fees	(31)	–	(31)	–
Total provision for impairment – receivables	(31)	–	(31)	–
Total net receivables	1,816	–	1,655	–

Material accounting policy information

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

Impairment

Impairment of financial assets measured at amortised cost is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis.

When estimating ECL, Council considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on Council's historical experience and informed credit assessment, and including forward-looking information.

Council uses the simplified approach for trade receivables where the expected lifetime credit losses are recognised on day 1.

When considering the ECL for rates and annual charges debtors, Council takes into account that unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold.

Credit losses are measured at the present value of the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract, and the cash flows expected to be received. This is applied using a probability weighted approach.

Council writes off a receivable when there is information indicating that the debtor is in severe financial difficulty and there is no realistic prospect of recovery, e.g. when the debtor has been placed under liquidation or has entered into bankruptcy proceedings.

None of the receivables that have been written off are subject to enforcement activity.

Where Council renegotiates the terms of receivables due from certain customers, the new expected cash flows are discounted at the original effective interest rate and any resulting difference to the carrying value is recognised in profit or loss.

C1-5 Inventories

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-current	2023 Current	2023 Non-current
(i) Inventories at cost				
Real estate for resale (refer below)	3,604	810	950	882
Stores and materials	448	–	457	–
Total inventories	4,052	810	1,407	882

Material accounting policy information

Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods

Costs are assigned to individual items of inventory on the basis of weighted average costs.

Land held for resale

Cost is assigned by specific identification and includes the cost of acquisition, and development and borrowing costs during development.

C1-6 Contract assets and Contract cost assets

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-current	2023 Current	2023 Non-current
Contract assets	3,554	–	1,372	–

C1-7 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

By aggregated asset class	Asset movements during the reporting period										At 30 June 2024				
	At 1 July 2023														
\$ '000	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals ¹	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	WIP transfers	Adjustments and transfers	Gross carrying amount (adj) ²	Accumulated depreciation and impairment (adj) ²	Revaluation increments to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
Capital work in progress	4,269	-	4,269	1,009	2,109	-	-	(3,463)	-	-	-	-	3,924	-	3,924
Plant and equipment	15,716	(9,608)	6,108	2,435	507	(367)	(1,416)	13	-	-	-	-	16,776	(9,496)	7,280
Office equipment	1,033	(888)	145	42	45	-	(63)	-	-	-	-	-	882	(713)	169
Furniture and fittings	360	(221)	139	31	23	-	(24)	-	-	-	-	-	427	(258)	169
Land:															
- Crown land	2,253	-	2,253	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,253	-	2,253
- Operational land	5,684	-	5,684	124	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,808	-	5,808
- Community land	2,490	-	2,490	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,490	-	2,490
Land improvements – depreciable	8,868	(405)	8,463	-	-	-	(132)	-	-	-	-	701	9,438	(406)	9,032
Infrastructure:															
- Buildings	57,915	(16,894)	41,021	582	159	-	(920)	510	-	-	-	4,796	64,388	(18,240)	46,148
- Other structures	7,525	(2,350)	5,175	-	922	(9)	(184)	688	-	-	-	148	9,463	(2,723)	6,740
- Roads	209,623	(88,854)	120,769	2,707	957	(625)	(3,574)	2,231	-	4,643	(4,643)	8,704	229,652	(98,483)	131,169
- Bridges	8,302	(5,383)	2,919	-	-	-	(103)	-	-	285	(285)	161	9,077	(6,100)	2,977
- Footpaths	4,822	(1,694)	3,128	369	30	(28)	(73)	-	-	90	(90)	173	5,531	(1,932)	3,599
- Other road assets	16,081	(6,413)	9,668	94	-	(47)	(271)	-	-	365	(365)	533	17,425	(7,448)	9,977
- Bulk earthworks (non-depreciable)	72,928	-	72,928	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,157	77,085	-	77,085
- Stormwater drainage	18,254	(6,979)	11,275	45	30	(9)	(182)	-	-	-	-	949	19,865	(7,757)	12,108
- Water supply network	31,488	(15,950)	15,538	74	-	(37)	(410)	-	-	-	-	765	33,086	(17,156)	15,930
- Sewerage network	42,127	(20,664)	21,463	-	4	(1)	(484)	7	-	-	-	1,064	44,265	(22,212)	22,053
- Swimming pools	5,067	(1,754)	3,313	-	-	-	(85)	-	-	-	-	228	5,389	(1,933)	3,456
- Other open space/recreational assets	8,733	(2,215)	6,518	8	35	(20)	(276)	14	-	-	-	769	9,749	(2,701)	7,048
- Other infrastructure	2,041	(495)	1,546	-	-	-	(27)	-	-	-	-	129	2,212	(564)	1,648
Other assets:															
- Library books	78	(48)	30	11	-	-	(16)	-	-	-	-	-	80	(55)	25
- Landfill and quarry assets	2,374	(626)	1,748	-	-	-	(52)	-	(22)	-	-	116	2,524	(734)	1,790
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	528,031	(181,441)	346,590	7,531	4,821	(1,143)	(8,292)	-	(22)	5,383	(5,383)	23,393	571,789	(198,911)	372,878

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

(2) Subsequent to the finalisation of the financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2023, it was identified that the allocation of the net carrying amount of transport assets between the 'gross carrying amount' and 'accumulated depreciation and impairment' was incorrect. The net effect of this error was nil, and it has been corrected in the note above.

C1-7 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

By aggregated asset class	Asset movements during the reporting period							At 30 June 2023						
	At 1 July 2022							At 30 June 2023						
\$ '000	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	WIP transfers	Adjustments and transfers	Reclassification on equity (ARR)	Revaluation increments to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
Capital work in progress	6,108	-	6,108	2,478	240	-	-	(4,557)	-	-	-	4,269	-	4,269
Plant and equipment	15,230	(8,753)	6,477	1,086	103	(232)	(1,315)	-	-	(11)	-	15,716	(9,608)	6,108
Office equipment	949	(852)	97	39	72	(2)	(61)	-	-	-	-	1,033	(888)	145
Furniture and fittings	440	(315)	125	7	27	-	(15)	-	-	(5)	-	360	(221)	139
Land:														
- Operational land	3,142	-	3,142	-	-	-	-	-	14	(40)	2,568	5,684	-	5,684
- Community land	2,174	-	2,174	-	-	-	-	-	-	(552)	868	2,490	-	2,490
- Crown land	778	-	778	-	-	-	-	-	-	592	883	2,253	-	2,253
Land improvements – depreciable	16,707	(3,258)	13,449	-	-	(154)	(140)	-	-	(5,253)	561	8,868	(405)	8,463
Infrastructure:														
- Buildings	-	-	-	378	440	(98)	(786)	1,358	108	26,890	12,731	57,915	(16,894)	41,021
- Buildings – non-specialised	9,773	(3,630)	6,143	-	-	(3)	-	-	-	(6,140)	-	-	-	-
- Buildings – specialised	37,917	(15,299)	22,618	-	-	(21)	-	-	-	(22,597)	-	-	-	-
- Other structures	2,649	(199)	2,450	-	44	-	(145)	10	14	2,287	515	7,525	(2,350)	5,175
- Roads	199,284	(78,095)	121,189	1,062	66	(571)	(3,180)	1,862	-	341	186	209,623	(88,854)	120,769
- Bridges	8,041	(5,212)	2,829	-	-	-	(96)	-	-	-	191	8,302	(5,383)	2,919
- Footpaths	4,608	(1,597)	3,011	-	5	-	(79)	-	-	-	191	4,822	(1,694)	3,128
- Other road assets (including bulk earthworks)	14,835	(6,118)	8,717	-	372	(5)	(248)	-	-	-	832	16,081	(6,413)	9,668
- Bulk earthworks (non-depreciable)	67,734	-	67,734	551	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,643	72,928	-	72,928
- Stormwater drainage	13,821	(5,769)	8,052	-	9	(473)	(159)	1,093	-	442	2,311	18,254	(6,979)	11,275
- Water supply network	20,550	(11,953)	8,597	25	4	(15)	(379)	-	-	(409)	7,715	31,488	(15,950)	15,538
- Sewerage network	29,185	(14,958)	14,227	-	-	-	(498)	-	-	60	7,674	42,127	(20,664)	21,463
- Swimming pools	2,326	(161)	2,165	-	-	-	(78)	-	-	(222)	1,448	5,067	(1,754)	3,313
- Other open space/recreational assets	1,835	(468)	1,367	-	204	(24)	(243)	234	-	3,965	1,015	8,733	(2,215)	6,518
- Other infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-	-	(24)	-	-	782	788	2,041	(495)	1,546
Other assets:														
- Library books	68	(31)	37	10	-	-	(17)	-	-	-	-	78	(48)	30
- Landfill and quarry assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	(48)	-	322	211	1,263	2,374	(626)	1,748
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	458,154	(156,668)	301,486	5,636	1,586	(1,598)	(7,511)	-	458	-	46,533	528,031	(181,441)	346,590

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

C1-7 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Useful lives of IPPE

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Asset class	Useful Life (years)	Asset class	Useful Life (years)
Plant and equipment	3-20	Bulk earthworks	∞
Office equipment	3-20	Stormwater drainage	15-200
Furniture and fittings	5-20	Water supply network	15-120
Land improvements - depreciable	28-130	Sewerage network	15-200
Buildings	6-143	Swimming pools	45-80
Other structures	10-143	Other open space / recreational assets	10-143
Roads	15-360	Other infrastructure	25-150
Bridges	80-150	Library books	4
Footpaths	10-80	Landfill and quarry assets	40
Other road assets	10-120		

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

Revaluation model

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are held at fair value. Comprehensive valuations are performed at least every 5 years, however the carrying amount of assets is assessed by Council at each reporting date to confirm that it is not materially different from current fair value.

Water and sewerage network assets are indexed at each reporting period in accordance with the Rates Reference Manual issued by Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Water.

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation are credited to the IPPE Revaluation Surplus. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognising profit or loss relating to that asset class, the increase is first recognised as profit or loss. Decreases that reverse previous increases of assets in the same class are first charged against IPPE Revaluation Surplus to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the class; all other decreases are charged to the Income Statement.

Land under roads

Land under roads is land under roadways and road reserves including land under footpaths, nature strips and median strips.

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired before 1 July 2008. Land under roads acquired after 1 July 2008 is recognised in accordance with the IPPE accounting policy.

Crown reserves

Crown reserves under Council's care and control are recognised as assets of the Council. While ownership of the reserves remains with the Crown, Council retains operational control of the reserves and is responsible for their maintenance and use in accordance with the specific purposes to which the reserves are dedicated.

Improvements on Crown reserves are also recorded as assets, while maintenance costs incurred by Council and revenues relating to the reserves are recognised within Council's Income Statement.

Rural Fire Service assets

Council recognises the land and buildings used by the Rural Fire Service situated within the Local Government area, however, it does not account for Rural Fire Service plant or other equipment.

C1-8 Intangible assets

Intangible assets are as follows:

\$ '000	2024	2023
Water licenses		
Opening values at 1 July		
Gross book value	1,935	2,274
Net book value – opening balance	1,935	2,274
Movements for the year		
Revaluation	(172)	21
Gross book value written off	–	(360)
Closing values at 30 June		
Gross book value	1,763	1,935
Total water licenses – net book value	1,763	1,935
Total intangible assets – net book value	1,763	1,935

Material accounting policy information

Council holds a number of high security water licences, which it recognises as an intangible asset.

The water licences are individually tradeable on the open water licence sales market.

Water licences are individually separated from the land and can be sold on a permanent or temporary transfer basis.

At present, Council only trades the water entitlement associated with the water licences on a temporary basis, with income received from the sales of water entitlements disclosed as other revenue.

No amortisation costs are applicable as high and general security water licences have an indefinite life.

Water licences purchased are initially recorded at cost and are valued at least every 5 years based on market evidence. Water licences are tested for impairment annually based on market sales evidence. If the recoverable amount is less than carrying amount, the carrying amount is reduced to recoverable amount and the reduction is recovered against the revaluation reserve.

Licences have been revalued at 30 June 2024 at the water exchange market cost.

C1-9 Other

Other assets

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-current	2023 Current	2023 Non-current
Prepayments	98	–	48	–
Work in progress	5	–	5	–
Total other assets	103	–	53	–

C2 Leasing activities

C2-1 Council as a lessee

Material accounting policy information

Council has elected not to separate non-lease components from lease components for any class of asset and has accounted for payments as a single component.

Exceptions to lease accounting

Council has applied the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. Council recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

C2-2 Council as a lessor

Operating leases

Council leases out a number of housing properties to staff and other properties to community groups; these leases have been classified as operating leases for financial reporting purposes and the assets are included in IPP&E (refer in this note below) in the Statement of Financial Position.

The amounts recognised in the Income Statement relating to operating leases where Council is a lessor are shown below:

\$ '000	2024	2023
---------	------	------

Assets held as property, plant and equipment

Council provides operating leases on Council houses and for community groups, the table below relates to operating leases on assets disclosed in C1-7.

Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)	203	175
Total income relating to operating leases for Council assets	203	175

Amount of IPPE leased out by Council under operating leases

Land	1,203	1,357
Buildings	4,307	3,374
Total amount of IPPE leased out by Council under operating leases	5,510	4,731

Maturity analysis of undiscounted lease payments to be received after reporting date for all operating leases:

Maturity analysis of future lease income receivable showing the undiscounted lease payments to be received after reporting date for operating leases:

< 1 year	153	164
1–2 years	128	139
2–3 years	89	129
3–4 years	82	97
4–5 years	67	97
> 5 years	–	89
Total undiscounted lease payments to be received	519	715

C3 Liabilities of Council

C3-1 Payables

\$ '000	2024		2023	
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Goods and services	1,282	–	1,237	–
Accrued salaries and wages	91	–	388	–
Security bonds, deposits and retentions	26	–	60	–
Prepaid rates	105	–	95	–
Jerilderie Monash Committee funds	163	–	158	–
Other payables	31	–	80	–
Total payables	1,698	–	2,018	–

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to Council prior to the end of financial year that are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

C3-2 Contract Liabilities

\$ '000	Notes	2024		2023	
		Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Grants and contributions received in advance:					
Funds to construct Council-controlled assets	(i)	2,259	–	6,677	–
Total contract liabilities		2,259	–	6,677	–

Notes

(i) Council has received funding to construct assets including sporting facilities and other infrastructure. The funds received are under an enforceable contract which require Council to construct an identified asset which will be under Council's control on completion. The revenue is recognised as Council constructs the asset and the contract liability reflects the funding received which cannot yet be recognised as revenue. The revenue is expected to be recognised in the next 12 months.

Revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period

\$ '000	2024	2023
Grants and contributions received in advance:		
Funds to construct Council controlled assets	4,783	3,380
Total revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period	4,783	3,380

Significant changes in contract liabilities

Council spent \$4.783m from previously held grants including approximately \$775,000 for Local Roads & Community Infrastructure programs, \$401,000 from Fixing Local Roads, \$698,000 from Stronger Country Communities programs, \$1,617,000 of Stronger Communities Fund programs, \$1,178,000 of Public Spaces Legacy Program funding together with other small various grants.

An additional \$365,000 was transferred to contract liabilities for grants received but remaining unspent. The majority of these funds relate to the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Phase 4 funding.

C3-3 Borrowings

Financing arrangements

\$ '000	2024	2023
Total facilities		
Total financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:		
- Credit cards/purchase cards	20	20
Total financing arrangements	20	20
Drawn facilities		
Financing facilities drawn down at the reporting date are:		
Undrawn facilities		
Undrawn financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:		
- Credit cards/purchase cards	15	11
Total undrawn financing arrangements	15	11

C3-4 Employee benefit provisions

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-current	2023 Current	2023 Non-current
Annual leave	745	–	806	–
Long service leave	2,061	64	2,041	63
On-costs	197	4	235	4
Total employee benefit provisions	3,003	68	3,082	67

Current employee benefit provisions not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

\$ '000	2024	2023
The following provisions, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.		
Provisions – employee benefits	2,015	2,200
	2,015	2,200

Material accounting policy information

Long-term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long-service leave and annual leave that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

C3-5 Provisions

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-Current	2023 Current	2023 Non-Current
Asset remediation/restoration (future works)	124	206	119	225
Total provisions	124	206	119	225

C3-5 Provisions (continued)

Description of and movements in provisions

\$ '000	Other provisions	
	Asset remediation	Total
2024		
At beginning of year	344	344
Changes to provision:		
– Revised costs	9	9
– Revised discount rate	(32)	(32)
Unwinding of discount	9	9
Total other provisions at end of year	330	330
2023		
Changes to provision:		
– Revised costs	–	–
– Revised discount rate	–	–
Additional provisions	344	344
Unwinding of discount	–	–
Total other provisions at end of year	344	344

Nature and purpose of provisions

Asset remediation

The asset remediation provision represents the present value estimate of future costs Council will incur to restore, rehabilitate and reinstate its tips and quarries as a result of past operations.

Material accounting policy information

Provisions are recognised when Council has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount has been reliably estimated.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. The discount rate used to determine the present value reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as a borrowing cost.

Asset remediation – tips and quarries

Close-down and restoration costs include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure, and the removal of residual materials and remediation of disturbed areas. Estimated close-down and restoration costs are provided for in the accounting period when the obligation arising from the related disturbance occurs, whether this occurs during the development or during the operation phase, based on the net present value of estimated future costs. Provisions for close-down and restoration costs do not include any additional obligations which are expected to arise from future disturbance. The cost estimates are calculated annually during the life of the operation to reflect known developments, e.g. updated cost estimates and revisions to the estimated lives of operations, and are subject to formal review at regular intervals.

The ultimate cost of environmental remediation is uncertain and cost estimates can vary in response to many factors, including changes to the relevant legal requirements, the emergence of new restoration techniques, or experience at other locations. The expected timing of expenditure can also change, for example in response to changes in quarry reserves or production rates. As a result, there could be significant adjustments to the provision for close down and restoration and environmental clean-up, which would affect future financial results.

Other movements in the provisions for close-down and restoration costs, including those resulting from new disturbance, updated cost estimates, changes to the estimated lives of operations, and revisions to discount rates, are capitalised within infrastructure, property, plant and equipment. These costs are then depreciated over the lives of the assets to which they relate.

C4 Reserves

C4-1 Nature and purpose of reserves

IPPE Revaluation reserve

The infrastructure, property, plant and equipment revaluation reserve is used to record increments / decrements of non-current asset values due to their revaluation, including intangible assets.

D Council structure

D1 Results by fund

General fund refers to all Council activities other than water and sewer. All amounts disclosed in this note are gross i.e. inclusive of internal charges and recoveries made between the funds. Assets and liabilities shown in the water and sewer columns are restricted for use for these activities.

D1-1 Income Statement by fund

\$ '000	General 2024	Water 2024	Sewer 2024
Income from continuing operations			
Rates and annual charges	5,353	498	740
User charges and fees	2,341	986	11
Interest and investment revenue	1,119	221	255
Other revenues	284	1	–
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	10,369	75	–
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	10,802	–	–
Other income	203	–	–
Total income from continuing operations	30,471	1,781	1,006
Expenses from continuing operations			
Employee benefits and on-costs	7,884	323	238
Materials and services	7,490	526	221
Borrowing costs	9	–	–
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	7,193	428	486
Other expenses	665	–	–
Net losses from the disposal of assets	74	37	1
Total expenses from continuing operations	23,315	1,314	946
Operating result from continuing operations	7,156	467	60
Net operating result for the year	7,156	467	60
Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	(3,646)	467	60

D1-2 Statement of Financial Position by fund

\$ '000	General 2024	Water 2024	Sewer 2024
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7,332	3,691	1,073
Investments	18,403	497	1,136
Receivables	1,251	400	165
Inventories	4,026	26	–
Contract assets and contract cost assets	3,457	97	–
Other (including internal loan)	103	–	300
Total current assets	34,572	4,711	2,674
Non-current assets			
Inventories	810	–	–
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	333,327	17,176	22,375
Intangible assets	820	943	–
Other	–	–	2,700
Total non-current assets	334,957	18,119	25,075
Total assets	369,529	22,830	27,749
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	1,698	–	–
Contract liabilities	2,209	50	–
Borrowings - internal	300	–	–
Employee benefit provision	3,003	–	–
Other provisions	124	–	–
Total current liabilities	7,334	50	–
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings - internal	2,700	–	–
Employee benefit provision	68	–	–
Other provisions	206	–	–
Total non-current liabilities	2,974	–	–
Total liabilities	10,308	50	–
Net assets	359,221	22,780	27,749
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus	276,213	12,511	17,536
Revaluation reserves	83,008	10,269	10,213
Total equity	359,221	22,780	27,749

D1-3 Details of internal loans

(in accordance with s410(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*)

Details of individual internal loans	Wunnamurra Estate Stage 2	Young Street Subdivision
Borrower (by purpose)	General Fund - Real Estate Development	General Fund - Real Estate Development
Lender (by purpose)	Sewer Fund	Sewer Fund
Date of Minister's approval	4 Sept 2013	27 Jun 2024
Date raised	1 April 2014	27 Jun 2024
Term years	10	10
Dates of maturity	1 Apr 2024	27 Jun 2034
Rate of interest (%)	variable	4.90%
Amount originally raised (\$'000)	250	3,000

D2 Interests in other entities

D2-1 Interests in associates

On 12 September 2023, Council passed a resolution to take over all assets, liabilities and staff of the Jerilderie Early Learning Centre. At the time of preparing the financial statements, Council is awaiting licencing requirements before taking over operations of the centre in their entirety.

In the intervening time, Council has had significant influence over, but not sole control of, the centre. At such time as control of the centre passes fully to Council, it will cease to have significant influence and instead will directly operate the centre.

The assets and liabilities of the centre, excluding the committee's fundraising account (which will not pass to Council), have been recognised at fair value as at 12 September 2023 as 'Other income'.

Subsequent income and expenditure relating to the centre by both entities has been consolidated into Council's operating income and expenditure, given its immaterial amount and its future accounting treatment.

D2-2 Subsidiaries, joint arrangements and associates not recognised

Name of entity/operation	Principal activity/type of entity	2024 (\$'000) Net profit	2024 (\$'000) Net assets
Western Riverina Libraries	Provision of library services to member local government areas	26	962

Reasons for non-recognition

Council holds an 15% share of equity in Western Riverina Libraries, and has assessed this as not material, hence not recognised.

E Risks and accounting uncertainties

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held

Council's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Council.

Council's objective is to maximise its return on cash and investments whilst maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and preserving capital. The finance team manages the cash and investments portfolio. Council has an investment policy which complies with the s 625 of the Act and the Ministerial Investment Order. The policy is regularly reviewed by Council and a monthly investment report is provided to Council setting out the make-up performance of the portfolio as required by local government regulations.

Council does not engage in transactions expressed in foreign currencies and is therefore not subject to foreign currency risk.

Financial risk management is carried out by the finance team under policies approved by the Councillors.

The fair value of Council's financial assets and financial liabilities approximates their carrying amount.

The risks associated with the financial instruments held are:

- market risk - interest rate risk – the risk that movements in interest rates could affect returns
- liquidity risk – the risk that Council will not be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- credit risk – the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument, resulting in a financial loss to the Council.

Council manages these risks by diversifying its portfolio and only purchasing investments with high credit ratings or capital guarantees.

(a) Market risk – interest rate risk

\$ '000	2024	2023
The impact on result for the year and equity of a reasonably possible movement in the price of investments held and interest rates is shown below. The reasonably possible movements were determined based on historical movements and economic conditions in place at the reporting date.		
Impact of a 1% movement in interest rates		
– Equity / Income Statement	320	371

(b) Credit risk

Council's major receivables comprise (i) rates and annual charges and (ii) user charges and fees.

Council manages the credit risk associated with these receivables by monitoring outstanding debt and employing stringent debt recovery procedures.

The credit risk for liquid funds and other short-term financial assets is considered negligible, since the counterparties are reputable banks with high quality external credit ratings.

There are no significant concentrations of credit risk other than Council having significant risk exposures in its local area given the nature of Council activities.

Council makes suitable provision for doubtful receivables as required.

There are no material receivables that have been subjected to a re-negotiation of repayment terms.

Credit risk profile

Receivables – rates and annual charges

Credit risk on rates and annual charges is minimised by the ability of Council to recover these debts as a secured charge over the land; that is, the land can be sold to recover the debt. Council is also able to charge interest on overdue rates and annual charges at higher than market rates which further encourages payment.

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

\$ '000	Not yet overdue	overdue rates and annual charges		Total
		< 5 years	≥ 5 years	
2024				
Gross carrying amount	–	510	87	597
2023				
Gross carrying amount	–	472	69	541

Receivables - non-rates and annual charges and contract assets

Council applies the simplified approach for non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets to provide for expected credit losses, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision at inception. To measure the expected credit losses, non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

The loss allowance provision is determined as follows. The expected credit losses incorporate forward-looking information.

\$ '000	Not yet overdue	Overdue debts				Total
		0 - 30 days	31 - 60 days	61 - 90 days	> 91 days	
2024						
Gross carrying amount	3,814	209	61	75	645	4,804
Expected loss rate (%)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.80%	0.64%
ECL provision	–	–	–	–	31	31
2023						
Gross carrying amount	2,211	23	25	17	239	2,515
Expected loss rate (%)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.00%	1.24%
ECL provision	–	–	–	–	31	31

(c) Liquidity risk

Payables, lease liabilities and borrowings are both subject to liquidity risk; that is, the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due.

Council manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels, and by maintaining an adequate cash buffer. Payment terms can be extended, and overdraft facilities drawn upon in extenuating circumstances.

The timing of cash flows presented in the table below to settle financial liabilities reflects the earliest contractual settlement dates. The timing of expected outflows is not expected to be materially different from contracted cashflows.

The amounts disclosed in the table are the undiscounted contracted cash flows and therefore the balances in the table may not equal the balances in the Statement of Financial Position due to the effect of discounting.

\$ '000	Subject to no maturity	payable in:			Contractual cash flows	Actual carrying values
		≤ 1 Year	1 - 5 Years	> 5 Years		
2024						
Payables	26	1,664	–	–	1,690	1,698
Total financial liabilities	26	1,664	–	–	1,690	1,698
2023						
Payables	60	1,960	–	–	2,020	2,018
Total financial liabilities	60	1,960	–	–	2,020	2,018

E2-1 Fair value measurement

The Council measures the following asset and liability classes at fair value on a recurring basis:

- Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment
- Intangible assets

Fair value hierarchy

All assets and liabilities measured at fair value are assigned to a level in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that Council can access at the measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability

The table below shows the assigned level for each asset and liability held at fair value by Council:

\$ '000	Notes	Fair value measurement hierarchy					
		Level 2 Significant observable inputs		Level 3 Significant unobservable inputs		Total	
		2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Recurring fair value measurements							
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment							
	C1-7						
Plant and equipment		7,280	6,108	–	–	7,280	6,108
Office equipment		169	145	–	–	169	145
Furniture & fittings		169	139	–	–	169	139
Crown land		–	–	2,253	2,253	2,253	2,253
Operational land		–	–	5,808	5,684	5,808	5,684
Community land		–	–	2,490	2,490	2,490	2,490
Land improvements – depreciable		–	–	9,032	8,463	9,032	8,463
Buildings		2,687	2,788	43,461	38,233	46,148	41,021
Other structures		–	–	6,740	5,175	6,740	5,175
Roads		–	–	131,169	120,769	131,169	120,769
Bridges		–	–	2,977	2,919	2,977	2,919
Footpaths		–	–	3,599	3,128	3,599	3,128
Other road assets		–	–	9,977	9,668	9,977	9,668
Bulk earthworks (non depreciable)		–	–	77,085	72,928	77,085	72,928
Stormwater drainage		–	–	12,108	11,275	12,108	11,275
Water supply network		–	–	15,930	15,538	15,930	15,538
Sewerage network		–	–	22,053	21,463	22,053	21,463
Swimming pools		–	–	3,456	3,313	3,456	3,313
Other open space/recreational		–	–	7,048	6,518	7,048	6,518
Other infrastructure		–	–	1,648	1,546	1,648	1,546
Library books		25	30	–	–	25	30
Landfill and quarry assets		–	–	1,790	1,748	1,790	1,748
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		10,330	9,210	358,624	333,111	368,954	342,321
Intangible assets							
Water licences		1,763	1,935	–	–	1,763	1,935
Total intangible assets		1,763	1,935	–	–	1,763	1,935

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Valuation techniques

Where Council is unable to derive fair valuations using quoted market prices of identical assets (ie. level 1 inputs) Council instead utilises a spread of both observable inputs (level 2 inputs) and unobservable inputs (level 3 inputs).

The fair valuation techniques Council has employed while utilising level 2 and level 3 inputs are as follows:

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

Level 2 measurements

Plant and equipment, office equipment, furniture and fittings, and library books

Council officers undertook a re-valuation for these assets as at 30 June 2017. Subsequently, these assets have been held at depreciated historical cost, which is expected to provide a reasonable approximation of fair value.

Examples of assets within these classes are as follows:

- Plant and equipment – graders, trucks, rollers, tractors & motor vehicles
- Office equipment – computers, photocopiers, phone systems etc.
- Furniture and fittings – chairs, desks, cabinets etc.

Buildings (residential)

Building values are based on desktop valuations provided by APV Valuers dated 31 March 2024, following a comprehensive valuation dated 1 July 2022 and subsequent indexation to 30 June 2023. A market approach was used to determine the value of residential properties where the relevant inputs were able to be observed from current market evidence. The fair value of residential properties has been derived from sales prices of comparable properties after adjusting for differences in key attributes such as property size.

Level 3 measurements

Operational, community, and crown land

Land values are based on the values provided by the NSW Valuer General for rating purposes. The latest valuations were applied based on 1 July 2022 valuations.

Land improvements, buildings, other structures, swimming pools, other open space/recreational assets, landfill and quarry assets, and other infrastructure

Values for these assets are based on desktop valuations provided by APV Valuers dated 31 March 2024, following a comprehensive valuation dated 1 July 2022 and subsequent indexation to 30 June 2023. A cost approach was used to determine the value of these assets where there was no evidence to support a market approach.

Under this approach the cost to replace the asset is calculated and then adjusted to take account of any obsolescence. The valuer disaggregated the building into different components to aid with asset management planning. The components were further split into the short-life and long-life parts representing the estimated cost of renewal and the balance of the component. The value of each part was determined based on the inter-relationship between a range of factors. These include asset condition, legal and commercial obsolescence and the determination of key depreciation related assumptions such as residual value and useful life.

Roads, bridges, footpaths, bulk earthworks, and other road assets

Council's roads, footpaths, and other road assets were inspected and valued by Tonkin Consulting as at 1 July 2021, who also carried out a desktop valuation for earthworks and bridges.

A cost approach was used to determine the value of these assets where there was no evidence to support a market approach and no market for Council to use to determine the fair value of its road assets.

A componentisation methodology was developed as part of this valuation.

To reflect increases to fair value as a result of higher input costs subsequent to the valuation date, indexation was applied to these assets to 30 June 2024. The index factor used was ABS series 3101 (road and bridge construction NSW).

During the 2022-23 financial year, Council's roads were impacted by AGRN 1030 (Southern and Central West NSW Flooding from 4 August 2022 onwards) and AGRN 1034 (NSW Flooding from 14 September 2022 onwards). Hence, in the previous

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

financial year Council conducted an assessment to determine whether recent natural disasters materially affected the assets' fair value.

To inform this assessment, consideration was given to the outcomes of the condition survey of Council's road network which was carried out by Shephard Services. Based on the data collected by Shephard Services and review by Transport for NSW, estimated reconstruction costs (to restore the roads to the currently accepted technical standards appropriate to their pre-disaster function) totalled \$7.696m. This included costs for grading, re-sheeting, insitu stabilisation, patch repair, resealing, and reconstruction. It was considered that this was a reasonable approximation of the reduction in fair value applicable to Council's roads.

To reflect this, the fair value of the roads asset class in Council's 2023 financial statements was adjusted by this amount.

For the current financial year, the fair value decrement has been reversed by the amount of works undertaken prior to 30 June 2024.

Stormwater drainage, water supply network, and sewerage network

Values for these assets are based on valuations provided by Tonkin Consulting as at 1 July 2022.

A cost approach was used to determine the value of these assets where there was no evidence to support a market approach and no market for Council to use to determine the fair value of its road assets.

To reflect increases to fair value as a result of higher input costs subsequent to the valuation date, indexation was applied to these assets to 30 June 2024.

Water supply network and sewerage network rates are indexed each year in line with the NSW Reference Rates Manual. To reflect increases to fair value as a result of higher input costs subsequent to the valuation date, indexation was also applied to the stormwater drainage asset class to 30 June 2024; the index factor used was ABS series 3109 (other heavy and civil engineering construction Australia).

Intangible assets

Water access licences

Council values water access licences based on prices recognised in a water trading market. These were revalued at 30 June 2024.

Significant unobservable valuation inputs used (for level 3 asset classes) and their relationship to fair value.

The following table summarises the quantitative information relating to the significant unobservable inputs used in deriving the various level 3 asset class fair values.

	Valuation technique/s	Unobservable inputs
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		
Crown land, operational land, and community land	Market approach. Land values obtained from the NSW Valuer-General.	Land value, land area, level of restriction.
Buildings, land improvements, other structures, swimming pools, other open space/recreational assets, and other infrastructure	Cost approach [Note: Level 2 buildings were valued using a market approach.]	Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset using componentisation, asset condition, remaining lives, split between short-life and long-life parts.
Roads, bridges, footpaths, bulk earthworks, and other road assets	Cost approach	Asset condition, remaining lives using componentisation.
Stormwater drainage, water supply network, and sewerage network	Cost approach	Asset condition, remaining lives using componentisation
Landfill and quarry assets	Cost approach	Asset condition, remaining lives, timing of expected cash outflows for remediation

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

A reconciliation of the movements in recurring fair value measurements allocated to Level 3 of the hierarchy is provided below:

\$ '000	2024	2023
Opening balance	333,111	282,499
Total gains or losses for the period		
Recognised in other comprehensive income – revaluation surplus	23,449	46,002
Other movements		
Transfers from/(to) level 2 FV hierarchy	–	3,863
Purchases	6,140	3,167
Disposals	(776)	(1,361)
Depreciation and impairment	(6,728)	(6,061)
Transfers from/(to) WIP	3,450	4,557
Remediation provision	(22)	322
Other adjustments	–	123
Closing balance	358,624	333,111

Information relating to the transfers into and out of the level 3 fair valuation hierarchy includes:

Buildings previously recognised as non-specialised now valued on a cost approach basis (e.g. office and depot buildings)	–	3,847
Plant and equipment and furniture and fitting assets reclassified and now belonging to classes measured using the level 3 fair valuation hierarchy	–	16
Total	–	3,863

Highest and best use

All of Council's non-financial assets are considered as being utilised for their highest and best use.

E3-1 Contingencies

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but their knowledge and disclosure is considered relevant to the users of Council's financial report.

LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED

1. Guarantees

(i) Defined benefit superannuation contribution plans

Council is party to an Industry Defined Benefit Plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, named The Local Government Superannuation Scheme – Pool B (the Scheme) which is a defined benefit plan that has been deemed to be a 'multi-employer fund' for purposes of AASB119 Employee Benefits for the following reasons:

- Assets are not segregated within the sub-group according to the employees of each sponsoring employer.
- The contribution rates have been the same for all sponsoring employers. That is, contribution rates have not varied for each sponsoring employer according to the experience relating to the employees of that sponsoring employer.
- Benefits for employees of all sponsoring employers are determined according to the same formulae and without regard to the sponsoring employer.
- The same actuarial assumptions are currently used in respect of the employees of each sponsoring employer.

Given the factors above, each sponsoring employer is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers, and hence shares in the associated gains and losses (to the extent that they are not borne by members). As such, there is not sufficient reliable information to allow each sponsoring employer to account for its proportionate share of the defined benefit obligation, sub-group assets and costs associated with the sub-group in the same way as it would for a single employer-sponsored defined benefit plan.

Description of the funding arrangements.

Pooled Employers are required to pay future service employer contributions and past service employer contributions to the Fund.

The future service employer contributions were determined using the new entrant rate method under which a contribution rate sufficient to fund the total benefits over the working life-time of a typical new entrant is calculated. The current future service employer contribution rates are:

Division B	1.9 times member contributions for non-180 Point Members; Nil for 180 Point Members*
Division C	2.5% salaries
Division D	1.64 times member contributions

* For 180 Point Members, Employers are required to contribute 8.5% of salaries for the year ending 30 June 2024 (increasing to 9.0% in line with the increase in the Superannuation Guarantee) to these members' accumulation accounts, which are paid in addition to members' defined benefits.

The past service contribution for each Pooled Employer is a share of the total past service contributions of \$20.0 million per annum for 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024, apportioned according to each employer's share of the accrued liabilities as at 30 June 2023. These past service contributions are used to maintain the adequacy of the funding position for the accrued liabilities.

The adequacy of contributions is assessed at each triennial actuarial investigation, the next of which is due effective 30 June 2024, and monitored annually between triennials.

Description of the extent to which Council can be liable to the plan for other Council's obligations under the terms and conditions of the multi-employer plan

As stated above, each sponsoring employer (Council) is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers and hence shares in the associated gains and losses.

However, there is no relief under the Fund's trust deed for employers to walk away from their defined benefit obligations. Under limited circumstances, an employer may withdraw from the plan when there are no active members, on full payment of outstanding additional contributions. There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of the Council.

E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

There are no specific provisions under the Fund's trust deed dealing with deficits or surplus on wind-up.

There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of an employer.

Council's expected contribution to the plan for the next annual reporting period is \$45,384.93.

The estimated employer reserves financial position for the Pooled Employers at 30 June 2024 is:

Defined Benefit reserves only *	\$millions	Asset Coverage
Assets	2,237.5	
Past Service Liabilities	2,141.9	104.5%
Vested Benefits	2,159.8	103.6%

* excluding other accumulation accounts and reserves in both assets and liabilities.

The key economic assumptions used to calculate the present value of accrued benefits are:

Investment return	6.0% per annum
Salary inflation	3.5% per annum
Increase in CPI	6.0% for FY 22/23 2.5% per annum thereafter

The contribution requirements may vary from the current rates if the overall sub-group experience is not in line with the actuarial assumptions in determining the funding program; however, any adjustment to the funding program would be the same for all sponsoring employers in the Pooled Employers group.

Please note that the estimated employer reserves financial position above is a preliminary calculation, and once all the relevant information has been received by the Funds Actuary, the final end of year review will be completed by December 2024.

Based on a Past Services Liabilities methodology, the share of any funding surplus or deficit that can be attributed to Council is 0.24%.

An employer's past service contribution per annum as a percentage of the total past service contributions for all Pooled Employers (\$20m for each year from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024) provides an indication of the level of participation of that employer compared with other employers in the Pooled Employer sub-group.

It is estimated that there are \$23,931.57 past service contributions remaining.

The amount of employer contributions to the defined benefit section of the Fund and recognised as an expense for the year ending 30 June 2024 was \$69,960.23. The last formal valuation of the Fund was undertaken by the Fund Actuary, Richard Boyfield FIAA as at 30 June 2023.

(ii) Statewide Limited

Council is a member of Statewide Mutual, a mutual pool scheme providing liability insurance to local government.

Membership includes the potential to share in either the net assets or liabilities of the fund depending on its past performance. Council's share of the net assets or liabilities reflects Council's contributions to the pool and the result of insurance claims within each of the fund years.

The future realisation and finalisation of claims incurred but not reported to 30 June this year may result in future liabilities or benefits as a result of past events that Council will be required to fund or share in respectively.

(iii) StateCover Limited

Council is a member of StateCover Mutual Limited and holds a partly paid share in the entity.

StateCover is a company providing workers compensation insurance cover to the NSW local government industry and specifically Council.

E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

Council has a contingent liability to contribute further equity in the event of the erosion of the company's capital base as a result of the company's past performance and/or claims experience or as a result of any increased prudential requirements from APRA.

These future equity contributions would be required to maintain the company's minimum level of net assets in accordance with its licence requirements.

2. Other

(i) Third party claims

The Council is involved from time to time in various claims incidental to the ordinary course of business including claims for damages relating to its services.

Council believes that it is appropriately covered for all claims through its insurance coverage and does not expect any material liabilities to eventuate.

ASSETS NOT RECOGNISED

(i) Land under roads

As permitted under AASB 1051, Council has elected not to bring to account land under roads that it owned or controlled up to and including 30 June 2008.

(ii) Infringement notices/fines

Fines and penalty income, the result of Council issuing infringement notices is followed up and collected by the Infringement Processing Bureau.

Council's revenue recognition policy for such income is to account for it as revenue on receipt.

Accordingly, at year end, there is a potential asset due to Council representing issued but unpaid infringement notices.

Due to the limited information available on the status, value and duration of outstanding notices, Council is unable to determine the value of outstanding income.

(iii) Western Riverina Libraries

Council is a member of the Western Riverina Libraries and has a 1/5th proportion of voting power of the organisation. Council's share in the assets, liabilities and outputs of the organisation is based on the proportional population share and is considered immaterial in amount.

(iv) Rural Fire Service assets

Consistent with prior reporting periods, Council has recognised only the land and buildings used by the Rural Fire Service, situated within the Local Government area, however, it does not account for Rural Fire Service plant or other equipment.

Refer to note C1-7.

F People and relationships

F1 Related party disclosures

F1-1 Key management personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel (KMP) of the council are those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the council, directly or indirectly.

The aggregate amount of KMP compensation included in the Income Statement is:

	2024	2023
Compensation:		
Short-term benefits	1,019	1,092
Post-employment benefits	99	104
Other long-term benefits	67	17
Total	1,185	1,213

Other transactions with KMP and their related parties

Council has determined that transactions at arm's length between KMP and Council as part of Council delivering a public service objective (e.g. access to library or Council swimming pool by KMP) will not be disclosed.

Council also incurs a number of employee expenses in respect of close family members of KMP. These employees are recruited in the same manner, and their employment is subject to the same terms and conditions, as other employees performing similar roles.

Nature of the transaction	Transactions during the year	Outstanding balances including commitments	Terms and conditions	Impairment provision on outstanding balances	Impairment expense
2024					
Related Parties, which are Suppliers of Council, supplying goods and services, such as plumbing works and veterinary services, procured utilising Council's procedures & plans for procurement.	77	-	30 days payment	-	-
2023					
Related Parties, which are Suppliers of Council, supplying goods and services, such as plumbing works and veterinary services, procured utilising Council's procedures & plans for procurement.	220	-	30 days payment	-	-

F1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses

\$ '000	2024	2023
The aggregate amount of Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses included in materials and services expenses in the Income Statement are:		
Mayoral fee	28	28
Councillors' fees	128	122
Other Councillors' expenses (including Mayor)	50	47
Total	206	197

F2 Other relationships

F2-1 Audit fees

\$ '000	2024	2023
Audit and other assurance services: Auditors of Council - NSW Auditor-General		
Audit of financial statements	125	45
Total audit fees	125	45

G Other matters

G1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information

Reconciliation of Operating Result

\$ '000	2024	2023
Net operating result from Income Statement	7,683	3,936
Add / (less) non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	8,107	7,173
(Gain) / loss on disposal of assets	112	1,075
Unwinding of discount rates on reinstatement provisions	(23)	–
Movements in operating assets and liabilities and other cash items:		
(Increase) / decrease of receivables	(161)	648
Increase / (decrease) in provision for impairment of receivables	–	1
(Increase) / decrease of inventories	9	406
(Increase) / decrease of other current assets	(50)	(8)
(Increase) / decrease of contract asset	(2,182)	182
Increase / (decrease) in payables	45	258
Increase / (decrease) in other accrued expenses payable	(297)	88
Increase / (decrease) in other liabilities	(68)	(43)
Increase / (decrease) in contract liabilities	(4,418)	(581)
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefit provision	(78)	83
Increase / (decrease) in other provisions	9	344
Net cash flows from operating activities	8,688	13,562

G2-1 Commitments

Capital commitments (exclusive of GST)

\$ '000	2024	2023
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Property, plant and equipment		
Plant and equipment	317	1,275
Buildings - Residential Housing	390	-
Buildings - Recreational Facilities	649	-
Other structures - Brolga Place redevelopment	-	1,141
Other	-	334
Total commitments	1,356	2,750
These expenditures are payable as follows:		
Within the next year	1,356	2,750
Total payable	1,356	2,750
Sources for funding of capital commitments:		
Unrestricted general funds	390	468
Future grants and contributions	-	1,474
Unexpended grants	649	-
Internally restricted reserves	317	808
Total sources of funding	1,356	2,750

G3 Statement of developer contributions

G3-1 Summary of developer contributions

\$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2023	Contributions received during the year		Non-cash Other	Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2024	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
		Cash	Non-cash Land						
S7.12 levies – under a plan	239	152	-	-	-	-	-	391	-
Total S7.11 and S7.12 revenue under plans	239	152	-	-	-	-	-	391	-
S7.4 planning agreements	311	-	-	-	-	(35)	-	276	-
Total contributions	550	152	-	-	-	(35)	-	667	-

Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, Council has significant obligations to provide Section 7.11 (contributions towards provision or improvement of amenities or services) infrastructure in new release areas. It is possible that the funds contributed may be less than the cost of this infrastructure, requiring Council to borrow or use general revenue to fund the difference.

S7.12 Levies – under a plan

\$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2023	Contributions received during the year		Non-cash Other	Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2024	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
		Cash	Non-cash Land						
MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTION PLAN	239	152	-	-	-	-	-	391	-
Community facilities	239	152	-	-	-	-	-	391	-
Total	239	152	-	-	-	-	-	391	-

G4 Statement of performance measures

G4-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results

\$ '000	Amounts 2024	Indicator 2024	Indicator 2023	Benchmark
1. Operating performance ratio				
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses ^{1,2}	(3,007)	(13.39)%	4.65%	> 0.00%
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions ¹	22,456			
2. Own source operating revenue ratio *				
Total continuing operating revenue excluding all grants and contributions ¹	12,012	36.12%	38.23%	> 60.00%
Total continuing operating revenue ¹	33,258			
3. Unrestricted current ratio				
Current assets less all external restrictions	18,257	6.50x	5.80x	> 1.50x
Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities	2,810			
4. Debt service cover ratio				
Operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation ¹	5,109	∞	∞	> 2.00x
Principal repayments (Statement of Cash Flows) plus borrowing costs (Income Statement) ³	-			
5. Rates, annual charges, interest and extra charges outstanding percentage *				
Rates and annual charges outstanding	680	9.39%	8.61%	< 10.00%
Rates and annual charges collectable	7,245			
6. Cash expense cover ratio				
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits	32,132	19.32 months	27.54 months	> 3.00 months
Monthly payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	1,663			

(1) Excludes fair value increments on investment properties, reversal of revaluation decrements, reversal of impairment losses on receivables, net gain on sale of assets and net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method and includes pensioner rate subsidies

(2) Excludes impairment/revaluation decrements of IPPE, fair value decrements on investment properties, net loss on disposal of assets and net loss on share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method

(3) Borrowing costs of \$9,000 relating to the unwinding of Council's asset remediation provision have been excluded from this calculation to present a more realistic representation of Council's debt service cover ratio.

G4-2 Statement of performance measures by fund

\$ '000	General Indicators ¹		Water Indicators		Sewer Indicators		Benchmark
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	
1. Operating performance ratio							
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses ^{2,3}	(17.97)%	5.24%	26.22%	10.71%	5.96%	(20.14)%	> 0.00%
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions ²							
2. Own source operating revenue ratio *							
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions ²	30.52%	32.95%	95.79%	98.07%	100.00%	100.00%	> 60.00%
Total continuing operating revenue ²							
3. Unrestricted current ratio							
Current assets less all external restrictions	6.50x	5.80x	94.22x	∞	∞	∞	> 1.50x
Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities							
4. Debt service cover ratio							
Operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation ²	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	> 2.00x
Principal repayments (Statement of Cash Flows) plus borrowing costs (Income Statement) ⁴							
5. Rates, annual charges, interest and extra charges outstanding percentage *							
Rates and annual charges outstanding	11.32%	10.36%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	< 10.00%
Rates and annual charges collectable							
6. Cash expense cover ratio							
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits	16.45	22.69	∞	∞	∞	∞	> 3.00
Monthly payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	months	months					months

(1) General fund refers to all of Council's activities except for its water and sewer activities which are listed separately.

(2) Excludes fair value increments on investment properties, reversal of impairment losses on receivables, net gain on sale of assets and net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method and includes pensioner rate subsidies

(3) Excludes impairment/valuation decrements of IPPE, fair value decrements on investment properties, net loss on disposal of assets and net loss on share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method

(4) Borrowing costs of \$9,000 have been excluded from this calculation to present a more realistic representation of Council's debt service cover ratio.

End of the audited financial statements



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the general purpose financial statements

Murrumbidgee Council

To the Councillors of Murrumbidgee Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Murrumbidgee Council (the Council), which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement and Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2024, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2024, the Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

In my opinion:

- the Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 (the Division)
- the financial statements:
 - have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of this Division
 - are consistent with the Council's accounting records
 - present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2024, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards
- all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained
- no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial statements have come to light during the audit.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Other Information

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedules (the Schedules).

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993* and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- on the Original Budget information included in the Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flows, and Note B5-1 'Material budget variations
- on the Special Schedules. A separate opinion has been provided on Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Aubrey Perez
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2024
SYDNEY



Cr Ruth McRae
 Mayor
 Murrumbidgee Council
 PO Box 96
 Jerilderie NSW 2716

Contact: Aubrey Perez
 Phone no: 02 9275 7251
 Our ref: R008-2124742775-7437

30 October 2024

Dear Mayor

Report on the Conduct of the Audit for the year ended 30 June 2024 Murrumbidgee Council

I have audited the general purpose financial statements (GPFS) of the Murrumbidgee Council (the Council) for the year ended 30 June 2024 as required by section 415 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

I expressed an unmodified opinion on the Council's GPFS.

This Report on the Conduct of the Audit (the Report) for the Council for the year ended 30 June 2024 is issued in accordance with section 417 of the Act. This Report should be read in conjunction with my audit opinion on the GPFS issued under section 417(2) of the Act.

INCOME STATEMENT

Operating result

	2024 \$m	2023 \$m	Variance %
Rates and annual charges revenue	6.6	6.3	↑ 4.8
Grants and contributions revenue	21.2	17.4	↑ 21.8
Operating result from continuing operations	7.7	3.9	↑ 97.4
Net operating result before capital grants and contributions	(3.1)	0.1	↓ 100

Rates and annual charges revenue (\$6.6 million) increased by \$0.3 million (4.8 per cent) in 2023–24 due to the rate peg increase of 3.7 per cent.

Grants and contributions revenue (\$21.2 million) increased by \$3.8 million (21.8 per cent) in 2023–24 mainly due to increase of \$5.4 million in state funding capital grants recognised during the year.

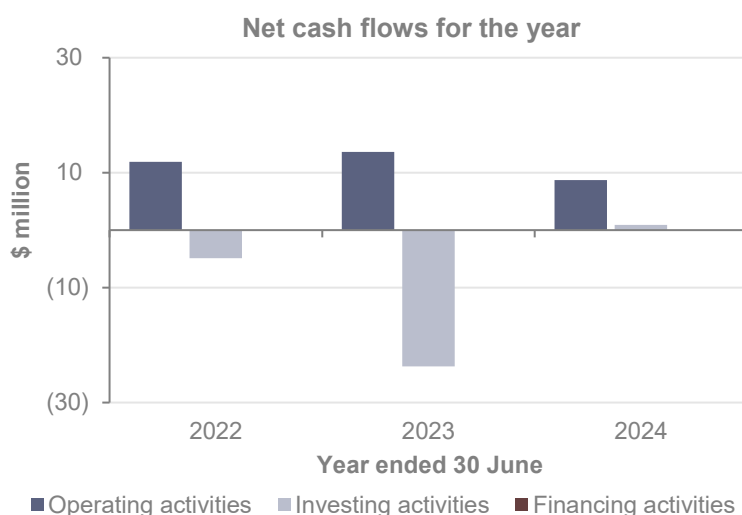
Council’s operating result from continuing operations was \$7.7 million (including depreciation, amortisation and impairment expense of \$8.1 million) was \$3.8 million higher than the 2022–23 result. This was mainly due to an increase in grants and contributions.

The net operating result before capital grants and contributions (-\$3.1 million) was \$3.1 million lower than the 2022–23 result. This is mainly due to the increase in employee benefits and on-costs and materials and services.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Cash flows from operating activities decreased by \$4.9 million mainly due to a reduction in grants and contributions cash received.

Cash flows from/(used in) investing activities increased by \$23.7 million mainly due to sale of investments.



FINANCIAL POSITION

Cash and investments

Cash and investments	2024	2023	Commentary
	\$m	\$m	
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	32.1	37.1	Externally restricted balances comprise mainly of specific purpose unexpended grants, developer contributions, water and sewer funds, Coleambally town development reserve and domestic waste management. Externally restricted funds have decreased due to a reduction in specific purpose unexpended grants.
Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments:			
• External restrictions	19.1	22.8	
• Internal allocations	12.9	12.2	Internal allocations are determined by council policies or decisions, which are subject to change. Internal allocations have remained steady when compared to the prior year.

PERFORMANCE

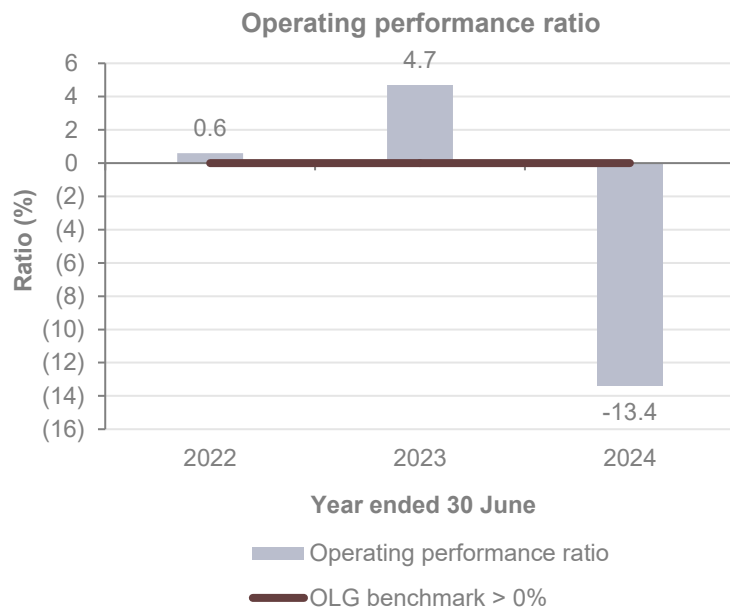
Performance measures

The following section provides an overview of the Council's performance against the performance measures and performance benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government (OLG) within the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

Operating performance ratio

Council did not meet the benchmark for the current reporting period.

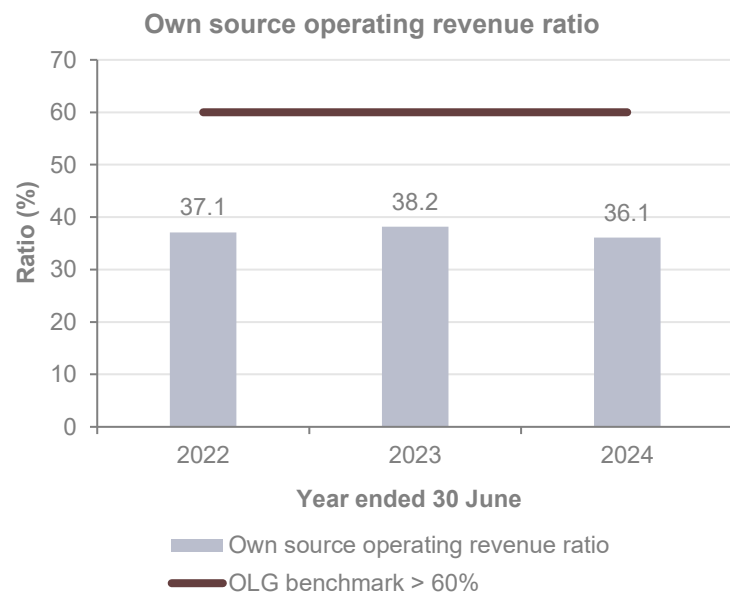
The 'operating performance ratio' measures how well council contained operating expenditure within operating revenue (excluding capital grants and contributions, fair value adjustments, and reversal of revaluation decrements). The benchmark set by OLG is greater than zero per cent.



Own source operating revenue ratio

Council did not meet the benchmark for the current reporting period.

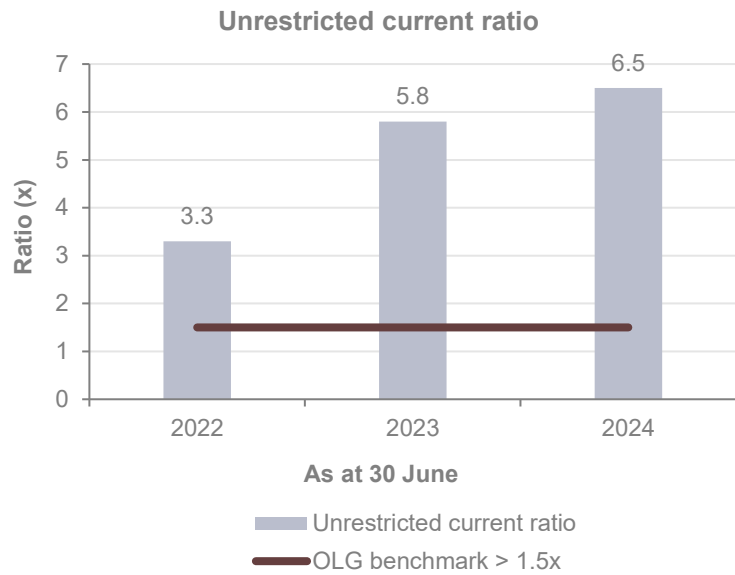
The 'own source operating revenue ratio' measures council's fiscal flexibility and the degree to which it relies on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 60 per cent.



Unrestricted current ratio

Council exceeded the benchmark for the current reporting period.

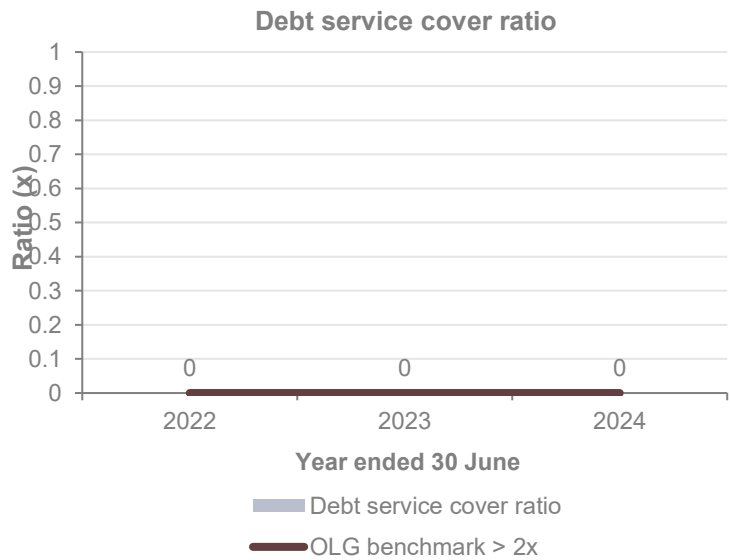
The 'unrestricted current ratio' is specific to local government and represents council's ability to meet its short-term obligations as they fall due. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 1.5 times.



Debt service cover ratio

The 'debt service cover ratio' measures the operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than two times.

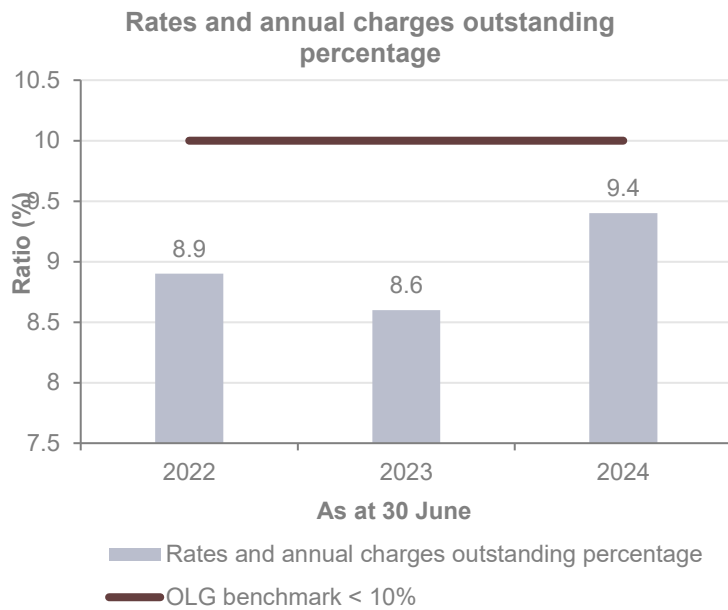
Council does not have external borrowings. Therefore, the debt service cover ratio is not relevant to Council for the 2024 year.



Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage

Council exceeded the benchmark for the current reporting period.

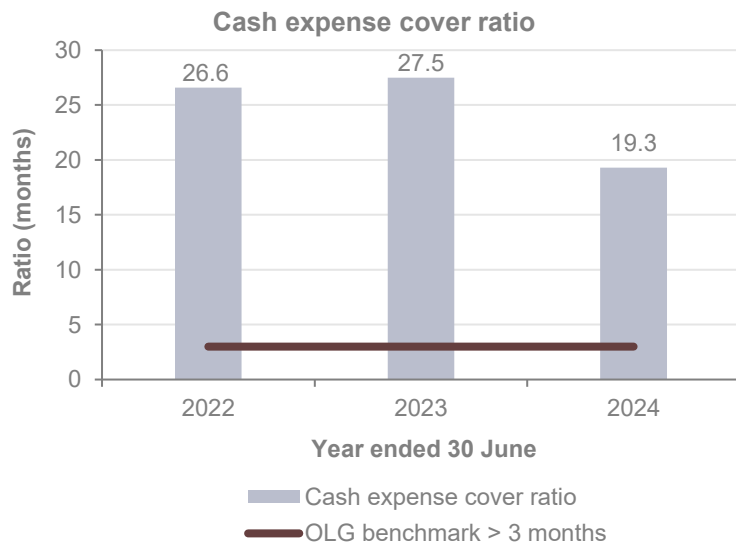
The 'rates and annual charges outstanding percentage' assesses the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on council's liquidity and the adequacy of debt recovery efforts. The benchmark set by OLG is less than 10 per cent for regional and rural councils.



Cash expense cover ratio

Council exceeded the benchmark for the current reporting period.

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months the council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than three months.



Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment renewals

Council renewed \$7.5 million of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment during the 2023–24 financial year (\$5.6 million in 2022–23). This was mainly spent on roads and repairing assets damaged by natural disasters. A further \$4.8 million was spent on new assets (\$1.6 million in 2022–23), including \$957,000 of finished roads and an additional \$2.1 million on capital work in progress.

OTHER MATTERS

Legislative compliance

My audit procedures did not identify any instances of material non-compliance with the financial reporting requirements in Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 of the LG Act and the associated regulation or a material deficiency in the Council's accounting records or financial statements. The Council's:

- accounting records were maintained in a manner and form to allow the GPFS to be prepared and effectively audited
- staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.



Aubrey Perez
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

Murrumbidgee Council

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024



Murrumbidgee Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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Background

- i. These Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared for the use by both Council and the Office of Local Government in fulfilling their requirements under National Competition Policy.
- ii. The principle of competitive neutrality is based on the concept of a 'level playing field' between persons/entities competing in a market place, particularly between private and public sector competitors.

Essentially, the principle is that government businesses, whether Commonwealth, state or local, should operate without net competitive advantages over other businesses as a result of their public ownership.

- iii. For Council, the principle of competitive neutrality and public reporting applies only to declared business activities.

These include **(a)** those activities classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as business activities being water supply, sewerage services, abattoirs, gas production and reticulation, and **(b)** those activities with a turnover of more than \$2 million that Council has formally declared as a business activity (defined as Category 1 activities).

- iv. In preparing these financial statements for Council's self-classified Category 1 businesses and ABS-defined activities, councils must **(a)** adopt a corporatisation model and **(b)** apply full cost attribution including tax-equivalent regime payments and debt guarantee fees (where the business benefits from Council's borrowing position by comparison with commercial rates).

Murrumbidgee Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Statement by Councillors and Management

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- NSW Government Policy Statement, *Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government*
- Division of Local Government Guidelines, *Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality*
- The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting
- Sections 3 and 4 of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's (DCCEE) *Regulatory and assurance framework for local water utilities, July 2022*

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the operating result and financial position for each of Council's declared business activities for the year,
- accord with Council's accounting and other records; and
- present overhead reallocation charges to the water and sewerage businesses as fair and reasonable.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 03 October 2024.



Ruth McRae OAM
Mayor
24 October 2024



Robert Black
Councillor
24 October 2024



John Scarce
General Manager
24 October 2024



Kaitlin Salzke
Responsible Accounting Officer
24 October 2024

Murrumbidgee Council

Income Statement of water supply business activity

for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	2024	2023
Income from continuing operations		
Access charges	498	470
User charges	658	472
Fees	328	304
Interest and investment income	221	128
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	75	27
Other income	1	–
Total income from continuing operations	1,781	1,401
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	323	297
Materials and services	526	543
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	428	396
Net loss from the disposal of assets	37	15
Total expenses from continuing operations	1,314	1,251
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	467	150
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	467	150
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	467	150
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	(116)	(38)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	351	112
Opening accumulated surplus	12,043	11,893
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Corporate taxation equivalent	117	38
Less:		
Closing accumulated surplus	12,511	12,043
Return on capital %	2.7%	0.9%
Subsidy from Council	272	521
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	351	112
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	351	112
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	176	56

Murrumbidgee Council

Income Statement of sewerage business activity

for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	2024	2023
Income from continuing operations		
Access charges	740	690
User charges	4	4
Liquid trade waste charges	7	6
Interest and investment income	255	164
Total income from continuing operations	1,006	864
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	238	266
Materials and services	221	271
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	486	501
Net loss from the disposal of assets	1	–
Total expenses from continuing operations	946	1,038
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	60	(174)
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	60	(174)
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	60	(174)
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	(15)	–
Surplus (deficit) after tax	45	(174)
Opening accumulated surplus	17,476	17,650
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Corporate taxation equivalent	15	–
Less:		
Closing accumulated surplus	17,536	17,476
Return on capital %	0.3%	(0.8)%
Subsidy from Council	902	1,050
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	45	(174)
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	45	–
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	23	–

Murrumbidgee Council

Statement of Financial Position of water supply business activity

as at 30 June 2024

\$ '000	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,691	3,012
Investments	497	497
Receivables	400	288
Contract assets and contract cost assets	97	23
Inventories	26	28
Total current assets	4,711	3,848
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	17,176	16,681
Intangible assets	943	1,035
Total non-current assets	18,119	17,716
Total assets	22,830	21,564
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Contract liabilities	50	–
Total current liabilities	50	–
Total liabilities	50	–
Net assets	22,780	21,564
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	12,511	12,043
Revaluation reserves	10,269	9,521
Total equity	22,780	21,564

Murrumbidgee Council

Statement of Financial Position of sewerage business activity

as at 30 June 2024

\$ '000	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,073	3,529
Investments	1,136	1,136
Receivables	165	147
Internal loan receivable	300	19
Total current assets	2,674	4,831
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	22,375	21,792
Internal loan receivable	2,700	–
Total non-current assets	25,075	21,792
Total assets	27,749	26,623
Net assets	27,749	26,623
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	17,536	17,476
Revaluation reserves	10,213	9,147
Total equity	27,749	26,623

Note – Material accounting policy information

A statement summarising the supplemental accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the special purpose financial statements (SPFS) for National Competition Policy (NCP) reporting purposes follows.

These financial statements are SPFS prepared for use by Council and the Office of Local Government. For the purposes of these statements, the Council is a non-reporting not-for-profit entity.

The figures presented in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria of relevant Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and Australian Accounting Interpretations.

The disclosures in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993 (Act)*, the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (Regulation)* and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

The statements are prepared on an accruals basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, fair value of non-current assets. Certain taxes and other costs, appropriately described, have been imputed for the purposes of the National Competition Policy.

The Statement of Financial Position includes notional assets/liabilities receivable from/payable to Council's general fund. These balances reflect a notional intra-entity funding arrangement with the declared business activities.

National Competition Policy

Council has adopted the principle of 'competitive neutrality' in its business activities as part of the National Competition Policy which is being applied throughout Australia at all levels of government. The framework for its application is set out in the June 1996 NSW Government Policy statement titled 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government'. *The Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality* issued by the Office of Local Government in July 1997 has also been adopted.

The pricing and costing guidelines outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard for disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, and returns on investments (rate of return and dividends paid).

Declared business activities

In accordance with *Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality*, Council has declared that the following are to be considered as business activities:

Category 1

(where gross operating turnover is over \$2 million)

Nil

Category 2

(where gross operating turnover is less than \$2 million)

a. Murrumbidgee Council Water Funds

Comprising the whole of the water supply operations and net assets servicing the Council area.

b. Murrumbidgee Council Sewerage Funds

Comprising the whole of the sewerage reticulation and treatment operations and net assets servicing the Council area.

Monetary amounts

Amounts shown in the financial statements are in Australian dollars and rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars.

Taxation equivalent charges

Council is liable to pay various taxes and financial duties. Where this is the case, they are disclosed as a cost of operations just like all other costs. However, where Council does not pay some taxes, which are generally paid by private sector businesses, such as income tax, these equivalent tax payments have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities and are reflected in special purpose financial statements. For the purposes of disclosing comparative information relevant to the private sector equivalent, the following taxation equivalents have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities (this does not include Council's non-business activities):

Notional rate applied (%)

Note – Material accounting policy information (continued)

Corporate income tax rate – **25%** (LY 25%)

Land tax – the first \$1,075,000 of combined land values attracts **0%**. For the combined land values in excess of \$1,075,000 up to \$6,571,000 the rate is **\$100 + 1.6%**. For the remaining combined land value that exceeds \$6,571,000 a premium marginal rate of **2.0%** applies.

Payroll tax – **5.45%** on the value of taxable salaries and wages in excess of \$1,200,000.

In accordance with section 4 of Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) – Water's regulatory and assurance framework, a payment for the amount calculated as the annual tax equivalent charges (excluding income tax) must be paid from water supply and sewerage business activities.

The payment of taxation equivalent charges, referred to in the regulatory and assurance framework as a 'dividend for taxation equivalent', may be applied for any purpose allowed under the Act.

Achievement of substantial compliance to sections 3 and 4 of DPE – Water's regulatory and assurance framework is not a prerequisite for the payment of the tax equivalent charges; however the payment must not exceed \$3 per assessment.

Income tax

An income tax equivalent has been applied on the profits of the business activities. Whilst income tax is not a specific cost for the purpose of pricing a good or service, it needs to be taken into account in terms of assessing the rate of return required on capital invested. Accordingly, the return on capital invested is set at a pre-tax level – gain/(loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts, as would be applied by a private sector competitor. That is, it should include a provision equivalent to the relevant corporate income tax rate, currently 25% (LY 25%).

Income tax is only applied where a gain from ordinary activities before capital amounts has been achieved. Since the taxation equivalent is notional – that is, it is payable to the 'Council' as the owner of business operations – it represents an internal payment and has no effect on the operations of the Council.

Accordingly, there is no need for disclosure of internal charges in the SPFS. The rate applied of 25% is the equivalent company tax rate prevalent at reporting date. No adjustments have been made for variations that have occurred during the year.

Loan and debt guarantee fees

The debt guarantee fee is designed to ensure that Council business activities face 'true' commercial borrowing costs in line with private sector competitors. In order to calculate a debt guarantee fee, Council has determined what the differential borrowing rate would have been between the commercial rate and Council's borrowing rate for its business activities.

(i) Subsidies

Government policy requires that subsidies provided to customers, and the funding of those subsidies, must be explicitly disclosed. Subsidies occur where Council provides services on a less than cost recovery basis. This option is exercised on a range of services in order for Council to meet its community service obligations. The overall effect of subsidies is contained within the Income Statements of business activities.

(ii) Return on investments (rate of return)

The NCP policy statement requires that councils with Category 1 businesses 'would be expected to generate a return on capital funds employed that is comparable to rates of return for private businesses operating in a similar field'.

Funds are subsequently available for meeting commitments or financing future investment strategies. The rate of return is disclosed for each of Council's business activities on the Income Statement.

The rate of return is calculated as follows:

Operating result before capital income + interest expense

Written down value of I,PP&E as at 30 June

As a minimum, business activities should generate a return equal to the Commonwealth 10 year bond rate which is 4.30% at 30/6/24.

Note – Material accounting policy information (continued)

(iii) Dividends

Council is not required to pay dividends to either itself as owner of a range of businesses, or to any external entities.

A local government water supply and sewerage business is permitted to pay annual dividends from their water supply or sewerage business surpluses. Each dividend must be calculated and approved in accordance with section 4 of DPE – Water's regulatory and assurance framework and must not exceed 50% of the relevant surplus in any one year, or the number of water supply or sewerage assessments at 30 June 2024 multiplied by \$30 (less the payment for tax equivalent charges, not exceeding \$3 per assessment).

In accordance with section 4 of DPE – Water's regulatory and assurance framework, statement of compliance and statement of dividend payment, dividend payment form and unqualified independent financial audit report are submitted to DPE – Water.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the special purpose financial statements

Murrumbidgee Council

To the Councillors of Murrumbidgee Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying special purpose financial statements (the financial statements) of Murrumbidgee Council's (the Council) Declared Business Activities, which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement of each Declared Business Activity for the year ended 30 June 2024, the Statement of Financial Position of each Declared Business Activity as at 30 June 2024 and the Material accounting policy information note.

The Declared Business Activities of the Council are:

- Water supply
- Sewerage.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council's declared Business Activities as at 30 June 2024, and their financial performance for the year then ended, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards described in the Material accounting policy information note and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2023–24 (LG Code).

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as the auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the Material accounting policy information note to the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's financial reporting responsibilities under the LG Code. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Information

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the general purpose financial statements and Special Schedules (the Schedules).

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the general purpose financial statements and Special Schedule 'Permissible income for general rates.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and for determining that the accounting policies, described in the Material accounting policy information note to the financial statements, are appropriate to meet the requirements in the LG Code. The Councillors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Aubrey Perez
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2024
SYDNEY

Murrumbidgee Council

SPECIAL SCHEDULES
for the year ended 30 June 2024



Murrumbidgee Council

Special Schedules

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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Murrumbidgee Council

Permissible income for general rates

\$ '000	Notes	Calculation 2023/24	Calculation 2024/25
Notional general income calculation ¹			
Last year notional general income yield	a	4,655	4,816
Plus or minus adjustments ²	b	(12)	(1)
Notional general income	c = a + b	4,643	4,815
Permissible income calculation			
Percentage increase	d	3.70%	4.50%
Plus percentage increase amount ³	f = d x (c + e)	172	217
Sub-total	g = (c + e + f)	4,815	5,032
Plus (or minus) last year's carry forward total	h	2	1
Sub-total	j = (h + i)	2	1
Total permissible income	k = g + j	4,817	5,033
Less notional general income yield	l	4,816	5,032
Catch-up or (excess) result	m = k - l	-	-
Carry forward to next year ⁶	p = m + n + o	-	-

Notes

- (1) The notional general income will not reconcile with rate income in the financial statements in the corresponding year. The statements are reported on an accrual accounting basis which include amounts that relate to prior years' rates income.
- (2) Adjustments account for changes in the number of assessments and any increase or decrease in land value occurring during the year. The adjustments are called 'supplementary valuations' as defined in the *Valuation of Land Act 1916 (NSW)*.
- (3) The 'percentage increase' is inclusive of the rate-peg percentage, and/or special variation and/or Crown land adjustment (where applicable).
- (6) Carry-forward amounts which are in excess (an amount that exceeds the permissible income) require Ministerial approval by order published in the *NSW Government Gazette* in accordance with section 512 of the Act. The OLG will extract these amounts from Council's Permissible income for general rates Statement in the financial data return (FDR) to administer this process.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Special Schedule – Permissible income for general rates

Murrumbidgee Council

To the Councillors of Murrumbidgee Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying Special Schedule – Permissible income for general rates (the Schedule) of Murrumbidgee Council (the Council) for the year ending 30 June 2025.

In my opinion, the Schedule is prepared, in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2023–24 (LG Code) and is in accordance with the books and records of the Council.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the special purpose framework used to prepare the Schedule. The Schedule has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's reporting obligations under the LG Code. As a result, the Schedule may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Information

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the Schedule and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the general purpose financial statements, special purpose financial statements and Special Schedule 'Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024'.

My opinion on the Schedule does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the general purpose financial statements and the special purpose financial statements.

In connection with my audit of the Schedule, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the Schedule or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Schedule

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation of the Schedule in accordance with the LG Code. The Councillors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the Schedule that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the Schedule, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance whether the Schedule as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the Schedule.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the Schedule is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar8.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited Schedule on any website where it may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the Schedule.



Aubrey Perez
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2024
SYDNEY

Murrumbidgee Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

Asset Class	Asset Category	Estimated cost to bring assets agreed level of to satisfactory service set by Council maintenance ^a		2023/24 Actual maintenance \$ '000	2023/24 Net carrying amount \$ '000	Gross replacement cost (GRC) \$ '000	Assets in condition as a percentage of gross replacement cost				
		Estimated cost to bring assets agreed level of to satisfactory standard \$ '000	2023/24 Required maintenance ^a \$ '000				1	2	3	4	5
Buildings	Buildings	-	323	238	46,148	64,388	26.5%	29.9%	37.6%	5.3%	0.7%
	Sub-total	-	323	238	46,148	64,388	26.5%	29.9%	37.6%	5.3%	0.7%
Other structures	Other structures	-	3	3	6,740	9,463	36.0%	24.5%	37.8%	1.5%	0.2%
	Sub-total	-	3	3	6,740	9,463	36.0%	24.5%	37.8%	1.5%	0.2%
Roads	Roads	-	1,644	3,963	131,169	229,652	6.2%	15.3%	55.8%	15.7%	7.1%
	Bulk earthworks	-	-	-	77,085	77,085	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Bridges	-	15	-	2,977	9,077	0.0%	2.9%	27.2%	69.9%	0.0%
	Footpaths	-	15	-	3,599	5,531	23.3%	18.7%	37.1%	12.2%	8.7%
	Other road assets	-	2	-	9,977	17,425	12.7%	14.4%	43.1%	26.5%	3.4%
	Sub-total	-	6,069	1,676	3,963	224,807	338,770	5.3%	11.5%	64.1%	14.0%
Water supply network	Water supply network	-	273	434	15,930	33,086	0.2%	5.5%	71.1%	20.1%	3.1%
	Sub-total	-	273	434	15,930	33,086	0.2%	5.5%	71.1%	20.1%	3.1%
Sewerage network	Sewerage network	-	229	306	22,053	44,265	0.0%	6.3%	67.6%	16.8%	9.2%
	Sub-total	-	229	306	22,053	44,265	0.0%	6.3%	67.6%	16.8%	9.3%
Stormwater drainage	Stormwater drainage	-	31	72	12,108	19,865	9.7%	13.4%	48.5%	28.5%	0.0%
	Sub-total	-	31	72	12,108	19,865	9.7%	13.4%	48.5%	28.5%	0.0%
Open space / recreational assets	Swimming pools	-	-	-	3,456	5,389	9.3%	56.4%	34.3%	0.0%	0.0%
	Open space/recreational assets	-	-	-	7,048	9,749	39.8%	44.2%	10.8%	5.1%	0.0%
	Sub-total	-	-	-	10,504	15,138	29.0%	48.5%	19.2%	3.3%	0.0%

Murrumbidgee Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024 (continued)

Asset Class	Asset Category	Estimated cost to bring assets agreed level of to satisfactory service set by standard		2023/24 Required maintenance ^a	2023/24 Actual maintenance	Net carrying amount	Gross replacement cost (GRC)	Assets in condition as a percentage of gross replacement cost				
		\$ '000	\$ '000					1	2	3	4	5
Other infrastructure assets	Other infrastructure	-	-	9	-	1,648	2,212	21.6%	73.4%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Sub-total	-	-	9	-	1,648	2,212	21.6%	73.4%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Total – all assets	-	6,069	2,544	5,016	339,938	527,187	8.6%	14.5%	59.0%	13.5%	4.4%

(a) Required maintenance is the amount identified in Council's asset management plans.

Infrastructure asset condition assessment 'key'

#	Condition	Integrated planning and reporting (IP&R) description
1	Excellent/very good	No work required (normal maintenance)
2	Good	Only minor maintenance work required
3	Satisfactory	Maintenance work required
4	Poor	Renewal required
5	Very poor	Urgent renewal/upgrading required

Murrumbidgee Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

Infrastructure asset performance indicators (consolidated) *

\$ '000	Amounts 2024	Indicator 2024	Indicator 2023	Benchmark
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio				
Asset renewals ¹	5,023	76.23%	75.98%	> 100.00%
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	6,589			
Infrastructure backlog ratio				
Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard	-	0.00%	0.00%	< 2.00%
Net carrying amount of infrastructure assets	343,862			
Asset maintenance ratio				
Actual asset maintenance	5,016	197.17%	115.72%	> 100.00%
Required asset maintenance	2,544			
Cost to bring assets to agreed service level				
Estimated cost to bring assets to an agreed service level set by Council	6,069	1.15%	1.59%	
Gross replacement cost	527,187			

(*) All asset performance indicators are calculated using classes identified in the previous table.

(1) Asset renewals represent the replacement and/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

Murrumbidgee Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

Infrastructure asset performance indicators (by fund)














\$ '000	General fund		Water fund		Sewer fund		Benchmark
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio							
Asset renewals ¹	88.20%	89.20%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	> 100.00%
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment							
Infrastructure backlog ratio							
Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	< 2.00%
Net carrying amount of infrastructure assets							
Asset maintenance ratio							
Actual asset maintenance	209.40%	120.86%	158.97%	80.49%	133.62%	122.39%	> 100.00%
Required asset maintenance							
Cost to bring assets to agreed service level							
Estimated cost to bring assets to an agreed service level set by Council	1.35%	1.87%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Gross replacement cost							

(1) Asset renewals represent the replacement and/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

September 2024 Quarterly Budget Review Proposed Changes

	Details of Change	2025			2026			2027			2028			
		Income	Costs	Net	Income	Costs	Net	Income	Costs	Net	Income	Costs	Net	
New Activities														
★	NSW Emergency Services Funding Reform - Preliminary Land Classifications Undertake preliminary land classification activities to provide Revenue NSW with land classification and property identification data for all properties.	0	+22,000=	22,000	0	+22,000=	22,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
★	Construction of SES Shed in Darlington Point Add construction of SES shed in Darlington Point pursuant to request from SES. Proposed to be funded \$15,000 from the State Emergency Service reserve established by the former Murrumbidgee Shire Council, with the balance to come from unrestricted cash.	-	-60,000=	(60,000)	0	-60,000=	(60,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
★	Construction of SES Shed in Jerilderie Add construction of SES shed in Darlington Point pursuant to request from SES. Proposed to be funded from unrestricted cash.	-	-60,000=	(60,000)	0	-60,000=	(60,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
★	CCTV Installation at Coleambally Swimming Pool Install CCTV cameras at the Coleambally Swimming Pool.	-	-6,000=	(6,000)	0	-6,000=	(6,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
★	Road Closure & Sale of Horneman Lane, Logie Brae Sell Horneman Lane pursuant to Council resolution 129/10/24, with the purchaser to bear all costs associated with the road closure.	0	+23,520=	23,520	0	+23,520=	23,520	0	0	0	0	0	0	
★	Saleyards Electronic Identification (eID) Tagging System Purchase and install of eligible items as part of the implementation of mandatory individual electronic identification (eID) tagging for sheep and farmed goats within NSW.	0	+34,981=	34,981	0	-34,981=	(34,981)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
★	Councillor Laptops Add new activity.	-	-30,000=	(30,000)	0	-30,000=	(30,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
★	Bus Shelter Construction Add new activity.	-	-	-	0	+20,000=	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Advanced Operational Support Program Add new activity.	0	+150,000=	150,000	0	-150,000=	(150,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Activities With Changes														
	Financial Statements Prepare annual financial statements and lodge on time with the Office of Local Government.	-	(10,018)	-282=	(10,300)	(10,018)	-282=	(10,300)	(10,269)	-289=	(10,557)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)
★	Retrospective Fuel Tax Credit Review Work with telematics installers to complete retrospective fuel tax credit review.	0	+120,000=	120,000	0	+120,000=	120,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Financial Assistance Grant Financial Assistance Grant prepayment received. Reflect actual anticipated Financial Assistance Grant to be received.	6,050,843	-5,075,539=	975,304	6,050,843	-5,075,539=	975,304	6,217,241	+276,593=	6,493,834	6,217,241	+276,593=	6,493,834	
	Fees & Charges Developing, managing, and overseeing the implementation of Council's fees and charges, including their integration into the annual Operational Plan.	-	(4,521)	-1,979=	(6,500)	(4,521)	-1,979=	(6,500)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,750)	-2,079=	(6,829)
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	(10,525)	-296=	(10,821)	
		6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,531,989	+290,596=	6,822,585	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	6,372,672	+283,508=	6,656,180	
		(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,869)	-2,131=	(7,000)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	(4,634)	-2,028=	(6,662)	
		(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,788)	-304=	(11,092)	(10,525)	-					




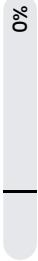

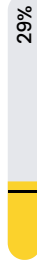
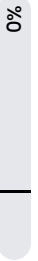


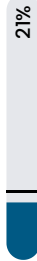

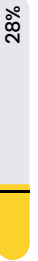

Civica Authority Upgrade	Re-vote Council funds for Authority upgrade as part of Planning Portal Introduction Grant expended on Planning Portal integration costs.	56,047 -32,769= 23,278	(66,294) (66,294)	(10,247) -32,769= (43,016)									
Microsoft 365 Implementation	Implement Microsoft 365. Note: additional ongoing costs have been included at Information Technology overheads.	-	-7,839= (7,839)	0 -7,839= (7,839)									
Upgrade Backup Server	Reallocate funds no longer required for backup server following M365 upgrade to potential server upgrades in 2026 FY. Note: additional ongoing costs of \$600/month have been included at Information Technology overheads.	-	(12,000) +12,000= -	(12,000) +12,000= -									
Upgrade Council Servers	Reallocate funds no longer required for backup server following M365 upgrade to potential server upgrades in 2026 FY. Add additional funds required for potential Council server upgrades required in 2026 financial year.			0 -225,000= (225,000)	0 -225,000= (225,000)								
Open Streets Program	Aid the expansion of opportunities available at the Darlington Point Spring Festival and the Marrambidya River Festival, providing the local community and visitor economy a unique experience.	0 +21,000= 21,000	0 -21,000= (21,000)	-									
Youth Holiday Break Programs	Participate in the Office for Regional Youth Holiday Break Program, providing young people opportunities to connect, socialise, learn new skills, and have fun at free activities during the school holidays.	7,000 +1,747= 8,747	(7,000) -1,747= (8,747)	(0)									
Coleambally Lease Conversions	Convert Coleambally leasehold land to freehold as provided by the Coleambally Lease Conversion Policy.	0 +27,700= 27,700	-	0 +27,700= 27,700									
Sale of 1 Koongara Crescent, Jerilderie	Sell 1 Koongara Crescent, Jerilderie residence as part of Housing Replacement Strategy.	360,000 -360,000= -	-	360,000 -360,000= -	0 +360,000= 360,000	0 - -							
Sale of 49 Barwidgee Boulevard, Darlington Point	Sell 49 Barwidgee Boulevard, Darlington Point as part of Council's housing replacement strategy, following its refurbishment.	0 +320,000= 320,000	-	0 +320,000= 320,000									
Sale of 9 Goolgumbia Avenue, Jerilderie	Sell 9 Goolgumbia Avenue, Jerilderie as part of Council's housing replacement strategy.	0 +430,000= 430,000	-	0 +430,000= 430,000									
Wunnamurra Subdivision Sales	Complete the sale of the Wunnamurra subdivision in Jerilderie.	0 +50,943= 50,943	-	0 +50,943= 50,943									
Yanco Creek & Tributaries Advisory Council (YACTAC)	Maintain membership and involvement in YACTAC.	-	-909= (909)	0 -909= (909)									
Development Contributions	Collect development contributions in accordance with Council's Development Contributions Plan.	61,650 +32,073= 93,723	-	61,650 +32,073= 93,723	63,191 63,191	-	63,191 63,191	64,771 64,771	-	64,771 64,771	66,390 66,390	-	66,390 66,390
Local Government NSW (LGNNSW) Membership	Maintain membership of LGNSW (an independent organisation that exists to serve the interests of New South Wales general and special purpose councils).	-	(31,078) +340= (30,738)	(31,078) +340= (30,738)	(31,855) +349= (31,506)	(31,855) +349= (31,506)	(32,652) +358= (32,294)	(32,652) +358= (32,294)	(33,468) +367= (33,101)	(33,468) +367= (33,101)	-	(33,468) +367= (33,101)	(33,468) +367= (33,101)
Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO)	Maintain membership of, and active involvement in, RAMJO (Council's joint organisation which brings together 11 regional councils to provide a united and local voice for our communities on key issues).	-	(10,275) -981= (11,256)	(10,275) -981= (11,256)	(10,532) -1,006= (11,537)	(10,532) -1,006= (11,537)	(10,795) -1,031= (11,826)	(10,795) -1,031= (11,826)	(11,065) -1,056= (12,121)	(11,065) -1,056= (12,121)	-	(11,065) -1,056= (12,121)	(11,065) -1,056= (12,121)




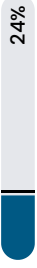







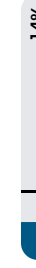
Medical Services Support				(3,106) -7,000= (10,106)	(3,106) -7,000= (10,106)			(3,159) -7,000= (10,159)		(3,213) -7,000= (10,213)		(3,268) -7,000= (10,268)	(3,268) -7,000= (10,268)
CCTV Installation at Darlington Point Swimming Pool 	Install 6 CCTV cameras at the Darlington Point Swimming Pool (vertical pole with 4G network camera).	0 +8,480= 8,480	Carry forward uncompleted works.	0 -8,480= (8,480)	0	Carry forward uncompleted works.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Heritage Assistance Fund	Provide a local heritage assistance fund to support the conservation of local heritage items.	12,500 +11,150= 23,650	Carry forward uncompleted works.	(25,000) -23,650= (48,650)	(12,500) -12,500= (25,000)	Carry forward uncompleted works.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sale of 21 Barwidgee Boulevard, Darlington Point 	Sell 21 Barwidgee Boulevard, Darlington Point as part of Council's housing replacement strategy.	0 +380,000= 380,000	Carry forward uncompleted works.	-	0 +380,000= 380,000	Carry forward uncompleted works.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan 	Develop and adopt a <i>Local Environmental Plan</i> and <i>Development Control Plan</i> , ensuring areas of high biodiversity value are mapped and protected.	0 +2,911= 2,911	Carry forward uncompleted works.	-22,911= (22,911)	0 -20,000= (20,000)	Carry forward uncompleted works.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
iAuditor Software Implementation		-	Move ongoing iAuditor software expenses to WHS overheads from separate line item.	(5,651) +5,651= -	(5,651) +5,651= -		(5,793) +5,793= -	(5,793) +5,793= -	(5,937) +5,937= -	(5,937) +5,937= -	(6,086) +6,086= -	(6,086) +6,086= -	(6,086) +6,086= -
Work Health & Safety		-	Move ongoing iAuditor software expenses to WHS overheads from separate line item.	(378,883) -5,651= (384,534)	(378,883) -5,651= (384,534)		(388,356) -5,792= (394,148)	(388,356) -5,792= (394,148)	(398,064) -5,937= (404,001)	(398,064) -5,937= (404,001)	(408,016) -6,086= (414,102)	(408,016) -6,086= (414,102)	(408,016) -6,086= (414,102)
Workshop Hoist 	Install a workshop hoist at the Jerilderie workshop.	-	Work completed prior to the end of previous financial year and funds no longer required to be carried forward.	(127,500) +127,500= -	(127,500) +127,500= -								
Final Levee Upgrade Activities 	Install a pump station to keep water levels below capacity in the stormwater retention basin at Ross Street, Darlington Point. This will mitigate flooding inside the upgraded levee structure during a flood event.	539,648 +2,852= 542,500	Carry forward uncompleted works.	(629,590) -3,327= (632,917)	(89,942) -475= (90,417)								
Four Corners Road Reconstruction 	Reconstruction and sealing of Four Corners Road, Coleambally (from chainage 20 to 25)	0 +246,348= 246,348	Carry forward uncompleted works.	-246,348= (246,348)	0	Carry forward uncompleted works.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Post-Flood Road Repair 		5,879,966 +492,610= 6,372,576	Split DRFA expenditure between roads. Carry forward uncompleted works.	(5,879,966) -492,610= (6,372,576)	-		6,713,665 (6,713,665)	6,713,665 (6,713,665)	314,670 (314,670)	314,670 (314,670)	-	-	-
Shoulder/Kerb & Gutter Rehabilitation Program 	Rehabilitate kerb, gutter, and shoulder at Nowramie Road, Southey Street, Jerilderie Street, Campbell Street at Carrington Street	581,449 -51,850= 529,599	Correct carried forward amounts based on actual works completed to the end of prior year.	(581,449) +51,850= (529,599)	-								
Coleambally Sports Precinct Upgrade 	Extend club room, construct new changerooms and netball change and gym facility.	0 +6,767= 6,767	Carry forward uncompleted works.	-6,767= (6,767)	0	Carry forward uncompleted works.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jerilderie Lift & Change 	Construct a lift and change public toilet at Luke Park in Jerilderie	437,721 -7,574= 430,147	Correct carried forward amounts based on actual works completed to the end of prior year.	(437,721) +7,574= (430,147)	-								
Refurbishment of 49 Barwidgee Boulevard, Darlington Point 	Refurbish 49 Barwidgee Boulevard property in preparation for sale.	-	Carry forward uncompleted works.	-4,091= (4,091)	0 -4,091= (4,091)								
Broiga Place Streetscape Upgrade 		380,000 +1,915= 381,915	Carry forward uncompleted works.	(380,000) -1,915= (381,915)	(0)								
Carrington Street Off-Street Parking Works 	Provide drainage, kerb and gutter, and off-street parking areas adjacent to Carrington Street, Darlington Point.	651,606 -10,230= 641,376	Correct carried forward amounts based on actual works completed to the end of prior year.	(651,606) +10,230= (641,376)	-								

<p>★ Coleambally Cemetery Fencing & Irrigation Install 440m long 1.8m high wire exclusion fencing around the cemetery boundary, and install automatic watering system.</p>	<p>Correct carried forward amounts based on actual works completed to the end of prior year.</p>	<p>80,000 -264= 79,736</p>	<p>(80,000) +264= (79,736)</p>	<p>-</p>			
<p>★ Coleambally Sports Precinct Civil Works Upgrade Falcon Road, Coleambally car park; drainage, kerb & gutter, bitumen sealing, line marking and landscaping.</p>	<p>Carry forward uncompleted works.</p>	<p>0 +207,948= 207,948</p>	<p>0 -207,948= (207,948)</p>	<p>-</p>			
<p>★ Darlington Point Oval Sporting Facility Upgrades</p>	<p>Correct carried forward amounts based on actual works completed to the end of prior year.</p>	<p>135,562 -89,953= 45,609</p>	<p>(135,562) +89,953= (45,609)</p>	<p>-</p>			
<p>★ Monash Park Electrical Upgrade Design and construct power upgrade for emergency management, including an electrical feed upgrade to a 300KW transformer and power feed to the buildings.</p>	<p>Correct carried forward amounts based on actual works completed to the end of prior year.</p>	<p>0 -50,610= (50,610)</p>	<p>0 +50,610= 50,610</p>	<p>-</p>			
<p>★ Towards A Vibrant & Connected Community Through Open Space (Luke Park Jerilderie) Upgrade Luke Park in Jerilderie including improved connections, new deck extension to connect with community hall, public art, signage, walking trail resurfacing and embellishments to the bush tucker trail.</p>	<p>Carry forward uncompleted works.</p>	<p>0 +752,875= 752,875</p>	<p>0 -752,875= (752,875)</p>	<p>-</p>			
<p>★ Young St subdivision Complete the Young Street subdivision at Darlington Point.</p>	<p>Correct carried forward amounts based on actual works completed to the end of prior year.</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>(2,159,048) +757,611= (1,401,437)</p>	<p>(2,159,048) +757,611= (1,401,437)</p>			
<p>★ Darlington Point Swimming Pool Dosing Plant & Solar Heating Replace the current aged pool dosing plant and solar heating systems at the Darlington Point Swimmin gPool with modern energy efficient systems.</p>	<p>Correct carried forward amounts based on actual works completed to the end of prior year.</p>	<p>0 +25,693= 25,693</p>	<p>0 -25,693= (25,693)</p>	<p>-</p>			
<p>★ Jerilderie Swimming Pool Solar Blankets Purchase one solar blanket for 25m x 13m swimming pool to increase water temperature and allow for improved conditions for school swimming lessons, club training, and public use during cooler temperate months.</p>	<p>Correct carried forward amounts based on actual works completed to the end of prior year.</p>	<p>0 +25,977= 25,977</p>	<p>0 -25,977= (25,977)</p>	<p>-</p>			



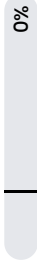
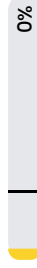








September 2024 Quarterly Budget Review Budget Review

ACTIVITY	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	REMAINING
Finance			
Finance – General: Finance – General			
Finance Directorate Overheads	(640,404)	(163,336)	(477,068)
Audit & Assurance: External Audit			
External Audit	(67,800)	-	(67,800)
Audit & Assurance: Internal Audit			
Internal Audit	(60,825)	(13,138)	(47,687)
Financial Management: Financial Reporting, Compliance & Tax			
Financial Statements	(10,300)	(10,300)	-
Fringe Benefits Tax	20,550	(1,185)	21,735
Fuel Tax Credits	(122,438)	-	(122,438)
Fuel Tax Credits	63,191	7,855	55,336
Retrospective Fuel Tax Credit Review	120,000	-	120,000
Financial Management: Treasury Management			
Financial Assistance Grant	975,304	243,826	731,478
Investments	1,120,996	369,919	751,077
Investments	(104,163)	-	(104,163)

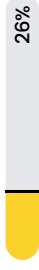

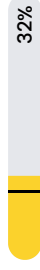
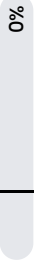


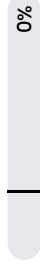




ACTIVITY	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	REMAINING	
Sewerage Fund Loan - Young St Subdivision	383,067	-	383,067	
	(383,067)	1,208	(384,275)	
Water & Sewer Fund Administration & Management Charges	385,544	-	385,544	
	(385,544)	-	(385,544)	
Treasury Management	(18,492)	(6,967)	(11,525)	
Financial Operations: Creditors				
Creditors	(104,960)	(30,557)	(74,404)	
Financial Operations: Debt Recovery				
Debt Recovery	(3,293)	-	(3,293)	
Financial Operations: Payroll				
elementTIME Implementation	(4,725)	(1,050)	(3,675)	
Payroll	(102,448)	(24,795)	(77,652)	
Financial Operations: Procurement & Stores				
Procurement & Stores	(181,307)	(38,903)	(142,404)	
Financial Operations: Revenue				
Fees & Charges	(6,500)	(6,500)	-	
Revenue	(80,327)	(22,819)	(57,508)	
Property Rating: Property Rating				
NSW Emergency Services Funding Reform - Preliminary Land Classifications	22,000	-	22,000	








ACTIVITY	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	REMAINING	
Rates	5,015,882	5,006,176	9,706	
	(292,343)	(188,609)	(103,734)	
Property Rating: Section 603 Certificates				
Section 603 Certificates	8,636	2,551	6,085	
Planning, Community & Development				
Planning, Community & Development – General: Planning, Community & Development – General				
Planning, Community & Development	(452,593)	(108,989)	(343,604)	
Community Services: Arts Support & Museums				
Western Riverina Arts Membership	(5,006)	(3,980)	(1,026)	
Community Services: Bank Agency Services				
Bank Agency Services	82,200	19,567	62,633	
Community Services: Community Grants				
Coleambally Solar Farm Community Fund	20,000	-	20,000	
	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	
Lions Club of Darlington Point Community Grant	(2,000)	-	(2,000)	
Murrumbidgee Council Community Grants Program	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	
Community Services: Community Group Support				
Community Regional Event Management Training	3,863	-	3,863	
	(3,863)	(540)	(3,323)	

ACTIVITY	BUDGET		YTD ACTUAL		REMAINING	
FRRR Community Garden	3,175	-	3,175	-	3,175	0%
	(3,175)	-	(3,175)	-	(3,175)	0%
Jerilderie Monash Committee	(163,342)	(104,049)	(163,342)	(104,049)	(59,293)	64%
	3,083	-	3,083	-	3,083	0%
Section 355 Committee Support	(5,533)	-	(5,533)	-	(5,533)	0%
Community Services: Customer Service						
Customer Service	4,320	8,193	4,320	8,193	(3,873)	190%
	(160,654)	(44,407)	(160,654)	(44,407)	(116,248)	28%
Community Services: Emergency Services Support						
Construction of SES Shed in Darlington Point	(60,000)	-	(60,000)	-	(60,000)	0%
	(60,000)	-	(60,000)	-	(60,000)	0%
Emergency Services Levy	(515,574)	(122,357)	(515,574)	(122,357)	(393,216)	24%
	155,423	-	155,423	-	155,423	0%
Rural Fire Service (RFS) Financial Support	(238,110)	(14,269)	(238,110)	(14,269)	(223,842)	6%
Community Services: Facility Hire						
Facility Hire	14,512	4,522	14,512	4,522	9,991	31%
Community Services: Gym Access						
Gym Equipment Maintenance & Renewal	(7,476)	-	(7,476)	-	(7,476)	0%















ACTIVITY	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	REMAINING	
Gym Memberships	10,275	3,663	6,612	 36%
Community Services: Library Services				
Mobile Library Service	(88,591)	-	(88,591)	 0%
Western Riverina Libraries	(19,956)	-	(19,956)	 0%
Library Operations	84,999	192	84,807	 0%
	(136,079)	(27,272)	(108,807)	 20%
Community Services: Medical Services Support				
Medical Services Support	(10,106)	-	(10,106)	 0%
Community Services: Printing & Copying Services				
Printing & Copying Services	1,234	246	988	 20%
Community Services: Recreational Facility Management				
Swimming Pool Contractor Management	(184,950)	(352)	(184,598)	 0%
Community Services: Scholarships & Donations				
Charles Sturt University Foundation Scholarship	(4,000)	-	(4,000)	 0%
Donations	(4,700)	(600)	(4,100)	 13%
Murrumbidgee Council Education Scholarship Program	(3,000)	-	(3,000)	 0%
Sir John Monash Bursary	(2,000)	-	(2,000)	 0%
Community Services: Senior Citizen Accommodation				




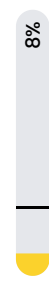


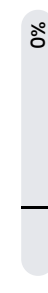





ACTIVITY	BUDGET		YTD ACTUAL		REMAINING	
Balmiranga Senior Citizens Units	24,146	-	24,146	-	0%	
	(15,661)	-	(15,661)	-	0%	
Corporate Services: Corporate Services – General						
Corporate Services Overheads	(211,675)	(35,381)	(176,294)		17%	
Corporate Services: Catering & Meeting Support						
Catering & Meeting support	(3,205)	(1,249)	(1,956)		39%	
Corporate Services: Cleaning						
Cleaning	(228,627)	(69,130)	(159,497)		30%	
Corporate Services: Cyber Security						
Cyber Security Training	(2,000)	-	(2,000)		0%	
Internal Penetration Testing	(11,400)	-	(11,400)		0%	
Password Manager & Multi-Factor Authentication	(7,000)	-	(7,000)		0%	
Corporate Services: Electricity & Gas Procurement						
Electricity & Gas Usage	49,320	-	49,320	-	0%	
	(470,233)	(80,588)	(389,645)		17%	
Corporate Services: Enterprise Management System Management						
Civica Authority Upgrade	23,278	-	23,278	-	0%	
	(66,294)	-	(66,294)	-	0%	
Enterprise Management System	(67,688)	-	(67,688)	-	0%	





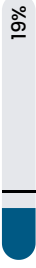







ACTIVITY	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	REMAINING	
Corporate Services: Grant Writing & Management				
Grant Writing & Management	(41,207)	(10,818)	(30,389)	 26%
Corporate Services: Information Technology				
Microsoft 365 Implementation	(7,839)	(7,838)	(1)	 100%
Information Technology	(232,502)	(73,296)	(159,206)	 32%
Corporate Services: Integrated Planning & Reporting				
Delivery Program Reporting	(6,667)	-	(6,667)	 0%
Corporate Services: Lease Management				
Lease Management	200,727	35,054	165,673	 17%
Corporate Services: Office Administration				
Office Administration	(101,631)	(14,178)	(87,453)	 14%
Corporate Services: Pest Control				
Pest Control	(90,230)	-	(90,230)	 0%
Corporate Services: Record Management				
Content Manager 10.1 Upgrade	16,460	-	16,460	 0%
	(16,460)	-	(16,460)	 0%
Record Management	(80,351)	(19,576)	(60,775)	 24%
Corporate Services: Security, Keys & Access				
CCTV Installation at Coleambally Swimming Pool	(6,000)	-	(6,000)	 0%




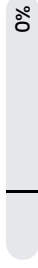
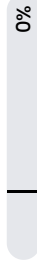
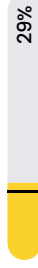
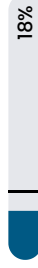
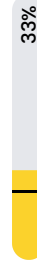





ACTIVITY	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	REMAINING	
CCTV Installation at Darlington Point Swimming Pool	8,480	-	8,480	
	(8,480)	(2,007)	(6,473)	
	(6,176)	(588)	(5,588)	
Corporate Services: Telecommunications				
Telephone System Upgrade	(25,000)	-	(25,000)	
Telecommunications	(97,476)	(26,071)	(71,405)	
Economic & Tourism Development: Economic & Tourism Development - General				
Waddi Housing Partnership	(75,000)	-	(75,000)	
Economic & Tourism Development	(138,304)	(26,766)	(111,538)	
Economic & Tourism Development: Business Support				
Business Committee & Business Chamber Participation	(1,028)	-	(1,028)	
Skill-Building Workshops for Local Businesses	(1,028)	(36)	(992)	
Economic & Tourism Development: Economic Development				
Investment Attraction Dinners	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	
Investment Attraction Prospectus	(10,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	
Road Closure & Sale of Horneman Lane, Logie Brae	23,520	-	23,520	
	-	(723)	723	
Economic & Tourism Development: Events & Tourism				















ACTIVITY	BUDGET		YTD ACTUAL		REMAINING	
Australia Day Celebrations	10,000	-	10,000	-	0%	
	(14,858)	-	(14,858)		0%	
Citizenship Ceremonies	(790)	(84)	(706)		11%	
	1,000	-	1,000		0%	
International Women's Day Event	(1,000)	-	(1,000)		0%	
	21,000	-	21,000		0%	
Open Streets Program	(21,000)	(13,598)	(7,402)		65%	
	(17,468)	(10,000)	(7,468)		57%	
Seniors Week Events	1,000	-	1,000		0%	
	(4,624)	-	(4,624)		0%	
Town Information & Maps	47,800	-	47,800		0%	
	(47,800)	-	(47,800)		0%	
Youth Holiday Break Programs	8,747	-	8,747		0%	
	(8,747)	-	(8,747)		0%	
Youth Week Events	3,506	-	3,506		0%	
	(6,165)	-	(6,165)		0%	
Tourism & Events	(105,113)	(24,604)	(80,509)		23%	

ACTIVITY	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	REMAINING	
Economic & Tourism Development: Heritage Protection				
Local Heritage Assistance Fund	23,650	-	23,650	
	(48,650)	-	(48,650)	
Tracks To The Future - Jerilderie Railway Station Management Plan	-	(7,445)	7,445	
Economic & Tourism Development: Property Sales				
Coleambally Lease Conversions	27,700	-	27,700	
Sale of 21 Barwidgee Boulevard, Darlington Point	380,000	-	380,000	
Sale of 49 Barwidgee Boulevard, Darlington Point	320,000	-	320,000	
Sale of 9 Goolgumbra Avenue, Jerilderie	430,000	-	430,000	
Sale of Young Street Subdivision	550,000	-	550,000	
	(29,250)	-	(29,250)	
Wunnamurra Subdivision Sales	50,943	50,943	0	
Environmental Protection: Environmental Protection - General				
Environmental Health	(103,014)	(25,586)	(77,428)	
Environmental Protection: Biosecurity & Landcare				
Weeds Action Programs	83,545	-	83,545	
	(166,314)	(23,342)	(142,972)	
Yanco Creek & Tributaries Advisory Council (YACTAC)	(909)	(909)	0	

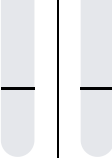

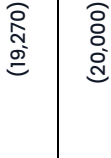

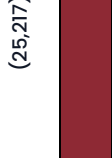



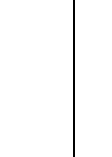

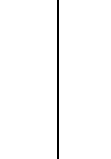
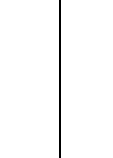

ACTIVITY	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	REMAINING	
Biosecurity	514	64	450	
	(82,475)	(25,165)	(57,310)	
Planning Negotiations: Planning Negotiations - General				
Planning Negotiations	7,000,000	-	7,000,000	
Public Health & Food Safety: Public Health & Food Safety				
	8,017	659	7,357	
Public Health & Food Safety - General	(2,071)	-	(2,071)	
Regulatory Control: Animal Control				
Companion Animal Registration & Reporting	1,642	-	1,642	
Impounding	2,106	-	2,106	
	(43,062)	(9,137)	(33,925)	
Regulatory Control: Building Certification & Compliance				
Building Certification & Compliance	28,312	16,544	11,767	
Saleyards & Truckwash: Saleyards & Truckwash				
	34,981	34,981	(0)	
Saleyards Electronic Identification (eID) Tagging System	(34,981)	(34,981)	0	
Saleyards & Truckwash	12,215	424	11,791	
Solid Waste Management: Landfill Management & Operations				

ACTIVITY	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	REMAINING	
Landfill Operations	177,381	65,280	112,101	 37%
	(239,823)	(50,513)	(189,311)	 21%
Solid Waste Management: Waste Collection				
Annual Bulky Waste & Green Waste Kerbside Collection	(9,248)	(517)	(8,731)	 6%
	509,792	465,611	44,181	 91%
Waste Collection	(516,437)	(100,277)	(416,160)	 19%
	Town Planning: Town Planning			
Town Planning	(72,168)	(32,604)	(39,564)	 45%
Town Planning: Development Assessment				
Development Assessment & Approval	49,233	22,457	26,776	 46%
	(66,782)	-	(66,782)	 0%
Development Contributions	93,723	93,723	1	 100%
Town Planning: Land Use Planning				
Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan	2,911	-	2,911	 0%
	(22,911)	(420)	(22,491)	 2%
Town Planning: Planning Certificates				
Planning Certificates	25,264	4,516	20,749	 18%
General Manager's Department				
General Manager's Department: General Manager's Department				



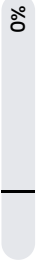
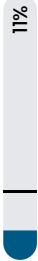

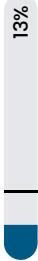
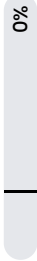
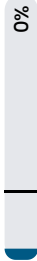


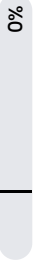
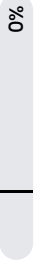
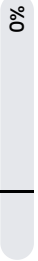


ACTIVITY	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	REMAINING	
General Manager's Department	(481,287)	(109,127)	(372,160)	 23%
Collaboration: Collaboration				
Local Government NSW (LGNsw) Membership	(30,738)	(30,738)	0	 100%
Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO)	(11,256)	(11,256)	(0)	 100%
Community Engagement: Community Engagement				
Community Newsletter	(4,048)	-	(4,048)	 0%
FOGO Information & Education	(4,213)	-	(4,213)	 0%
Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)	(2,625)	(750)	(1,875)	 29%
Community Engagement	(149,400)	(27,409)	(121,991)	 18%
Community Engagement: Website Management				
Website Upgrade	(30,000)	(10,000)	(20,000)	 33%
Website Management - Ongoing	(37,275)	(798)	(36,477)	 2%
Governance & Legal Affairs: Corporate Governance				
Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC)	(25,102)	-	(25,102)	 0%
Governance & Legal Affairs: Councillor Support				
Councillor Induction	(5,000)	-	(5,000)	 0%
Councillor Laptops	(30,000)	-	(30,000)	 0%
Councillor Support	(201,224)	(36,372)	(164,852)	 18%
Governance & Legal Affairs: Legal Affairs				

ACTIVITY	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	REMAINING	
Legal Affairs	(19,077)	(2,344)	(16,733)	
Governance & Legal Affairs: Local Government Election Facilitation				
Local Government Election	(60,000)	-	(60,000)	
Opportunities & Innovation: Opportunities & Innovation				
Business Feasibility Studies	(30,000)	-	(30,000)	
People & Culture: People & Culture				
People & Culture Overheads	(103,338)	(25,246)	(78,092)	
Wage On-Cost Collection	2,915,945	685,137	2,230,808	
People & Culture: Employee Engagement & Support				
Additional Award Payment	(106,611)	(106,611)	(1)	
Consultative Committee	(1,650)	(296)	(1,354)	
Employee Health & Wellbeing	(4,224)	(2,204)	(2,021)	
Leave Obligations	(1,278,306)	(398,940)	(879,366)	
Staff Functions	(10,901)	-	(10,901)	
Staff Recognition	(5,000)	(277)	(4,723)	
Staff Uniforms	(5,451)	(3,091)	(2,360)	
Superannuation Obligations	(928,958)	(231,746)	(697,212)	
People & Culture: Training & Development				
Traineeships	(120,000)	-	(120,000)	

ACTIVITY	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	REMAINING	
Training & Development	3,000	-	3,000	0%
	(296,750)	(129,517)	(167,233)	44%
WHS & Risk: WHS & Risk				
WHS & Risk	(108,354)	(24,706)	(83,648)	23%
WHS & Risk: Fire Protection				
Fire Equipment Replacement	(5,000)	-	(5,000)	0%
Fire Protection	(14,802)	-	(14,802)	0%
WHS & Risk: Insurance				
Insurance Costs	(834,083)	(694,881)	(139,201)	83%
WHS & Risk: Work Health & Safety Management				
StateCover Mutual Safety & Wellbeing Incentive	26,248	-	26,248	0%
Work Health & Safety	(384,534)	(42,705)	(341,830)	11%
Infrastructure				
Infrastructure - General: Infrastructure				
Infrastructure	(786,396)	(123,232)	(663,164)	16%
Asset Management & Maintenance: Other Asset Maintenance				
Other Asset Maintenance	(50,935)	(12,951)	(37,985)	25%
Asset Management & Maintenance: Asset Management				
Asset Management Framework	(15,000)	(3,120)	(11,880)	21%

ACTIVITY	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	REMAINING	
Asset Management Plan (AMP): Sewer	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	 0%
Asset Management Plan (AMP): Stormwater	(19,750)	-	(19,750)	 0%
Asset Management Plan (AMP): Transport	(19,750)	(480)	(19,270)	 2%
Asset Management Plan (AMP): Water	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	 0%
Asset Management	(182,871)	(25,217)	(157,655)	 14%
Asset Management & Maintenance: Asset Revaluation				
Asset Revaluation: Buildings & Other Assets	(3,550)	(3,550)	-	 100%
Asset Revaluations - General	(15,000)	-	(15,000)	 0%
Asset Management & Maintenance: Building & Facility Maintenance				
Building & Facility Maintenance	(315,964)	(122,316)	(193,647)	 39%
Asset Management & Maintenance: Fleet & Plant Maintenance & Management				
Cover Over Washdown Bay	(40,000)	-	(40,000)	 0%
Fleet & Plant Renewal	668,000	54,672	613,328	 8%
Fleet & Plant Maintenance	(1,988,000)	(330,603)	(1,657,397)	 17%
Internal Plant Hire	(2,236,277)	(688,850)	(1,547,427)	 31%
Internal Plant Hire	3,338,094	793,468	2,544,626	 24%
Asset Management & Maintenance: Levee Bank Maintenance				





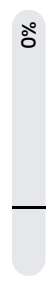










ACTIVITY	BUDGET		YTD ACTUAL		REMAINING	
Final Levee Upgrade Activities	542,500	-	542,500	-	542,500	0%
	(632,917)	(2,874)	(630,043)	(2,874)	(630,043)	0%
Levee Bank Maintenance	(10,805)	(170)	(10,636)	(170)	(10,636)	2%
Asset Management & Maintenance: Parks & Gardens Maintenance						
Parks & Gardens Maintenance	(879,980)	(193,124)	(686,856)	(193,124)	(686,856)	22%
Asset Management & Maintenance: Quarry & Pit Maintenance & Remediation						
Quarry & Pit Maintenance	25,688	-	25,688	-	25,688	0%
	(82,480)	(5,807)	(76,673)	(5,807)	(76,673)	7%
Quarry & Pit Remediation	(124,854)	-	(124,854)	-	(124,854)	0%
Asset Management & Maintenance: Road Maintenance & Renewal						
Bridge Maintenance	(13,006)	-	(13,006)	-	(13,006)	0%
Bus Shelter Construction	-	10,000	(10,000)	10,000	(10,000)	∞
Calrose Avenue Reconstruction	-	169,898	(169,898)	169,898	(169,898)	∞
Car Parking Areas Maintenance	(2,320)	(4,709)	2,389	(4,709)	2,389	203%
Footpath Maintenance	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	0%
	(56,007)	(6,195)	(49,812)	(6,195)	(49,812)	11%
Four Corners Road Reconstruction	246,348	469,800	(223,452)	469,800	(223,452)	191%
	(246,348)	(257)	(246,091)	(257)	(246,091)	0%



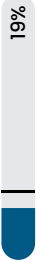
ACTIVITY	BUDGET		YTD ACTUAL		REMAINING	
Post-Flood Road Repair	6,372,576	(835,667)	7,208,243			(13)%
	(6,372,576)	(680,192)	(5,692,384)			11%
Routine Road Maintenance - Local Roads	1,310,432	-	1,310,432			0%
	(3,095,180)	(331,525)	(2,763,655)			11%
Routine Road Maintenance - Regional Roads	745,000	464,500	280,500			62%
	(745,000)	(94,915)	(650,085)			13%
Shoulder/Kerb & Gutter Rehabilitation Program	529,599	-	529,599			0%
	(529,599)	(258)	(529,341)			0%
Asset Management & Maintenance: Town Maintenance						
Christmas Lights	(3,083)	-	(3,083)			0%
Routine Town Maintenance	(341,247)	(49,580)	(291,668)			15%
Capital Works: Building Construction & Renovation						
5 Brolga Place Refurbishment	(30,000)	-	(30,000)			0%
Coleambally Sports Precinct Upgrade	6,767	-	6,767			0%
	(6,767)	-	(6,767)			0%
Construction of 12 Argoon Avenue, Jerilderie	(510,094)	(260,943)	(249,151)			51%
Construction of Housing, Darlington Point	(700,000)	-	(700,000)			0%

ACTIVITY	BUDGET		YTD ACTUAL		REMAINING	
Construction of Housing, Jerilderie	(1,000,000)	-	(1,000,000)	-	(1,000,000)	0%
Darlington Point Caravan Park Cabin Replacement	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	0%
Darlington Point Office Extension	(150,000)	-	(150,000)	-	(150,000)	0%
Jerilderie Lift & Change	430,147	-	430,147	-	430,147	0%
Jerilderie Office Modifications	(430,147)	-	(430,147)	-	(430,147)	0%
Refurbishment of 49 Barwidgee Boulevard, Darlington Point	(100,000)	(87,482)	(100,000)	(87,482)	(12,518)	87%
Refurbishment of 49 Barwidgee Boulevard, Darlington Point	(4,091)	-	(4,091)	-	(4,091)	0%
Capital Works: Other Capital Works						
Brolga Place Streetscape Upgrade	381,915	-	381,915	-	381,915	0%
Carrington Street Off-Street Parking Works	(381,915)	(2,071)	(381,915)	(2,071)	(379,844)	1%
Coleambally Cemetery Fencing & Irrigation	641,376	-	641,376	-	641,376	0%
Coleambally Depot Redevelopment	(641,376)	(111)	(641,376)	(111)	(641,265)	0%
Coleambally Pool Amenities & Shade Shelters	79,736	-	79,736	-	79,736	0%
Coleambally Cemetery Fencing & Irrigation	(79,736)	-	(79,736)	-	(79,736)	0%
Coleambally Depot Redevelopment	(260,000)	-	(260,000)	-	(260,000)	0%
Coleambally Pool Amenities & Shade Shelters	(73,552)	(73,552)	(73,552)	(73,552)	-	100%

ACTIVITY	BUDGET		YTD ACTUAL		REMAINING	
Coleambally Sports Precinct Civil Works	207,948	-	207,948	-	207,948	
	(207,948)	(8,223)	(199,725)		(199,725)	
Darlington Point Oval Sporting Facility Upgrades	45,609	-	45,609	-	45,609	
	(45,609)	-	(45,609)	-	(45,609)	
Darlington Point Water Reservoir	691,787	-	691,787	-	691,787	
	(700,000)	-	(700,000)	-	(700,000)	
Installation of Irrigation System at <i>The Willows</i>	(16,000)	-	(16,000)	-	(16,000)	
	(50,610)	-	(50,610)	-	(50,610)	
Monash Park Electrical Upgrade	50,610	-	50,610	-	50,610	
	-	(3,753)	-	(3,753)	3,753	
Monash Park Netball Precinct Upgrade	-	225,000	-	225,000	(225,000)	
	-	(121,180)	-	(121,180)	121,180	
Solar Lighting Installation at Darlington Point Boat Ramp & Carpark	(73,000)	-	(73,000)	-	(73,000)	
	752,875	-	752,875	-	752,875	
Towards A Vibrant & Connected Community Through Open Space (Luke Park Jerilderie)	(752,875)	(196,027)	(556,847)		(556,847)	
	(75,000)	-	(75,000)	-	(75,000)	

ACTIVITY	BUDGET		YTD ACTUAL		REMAINING	
Turf Wicket & Practice Nets No. 1 Oval Coleambally	175,000	-	175,000	-	175,000	0%
	(175,000)	-	(175,000)	-	(175,000)	0%
Capital Works: Subdivision Construction						
Young St Subdivision	(1,401,437)	(470,548)	(930,889)			34%
Design Engineering: Design Engineering Service						
Design Engineering	(142,464)	(42,031)	(100,432)			30%
Other Operations: Bush Fire Risk Mitigation Works						
Bush Fire Risk Mitigation Works	15,000	-	15,000			0%
	(15,000)	(7,898)	(7,102)			53%
Other Operations: Interment						
Interment	94,462	8,314	86,149			9%
	(99,600)	1,797	(101,397)			(2)%
Other Operations: Swimming Pool Operations						
Darlington Point Swimming Pool Dosing Plant & Solar Heating	25,693	-	25,693			0%
	(25,693)	(38,949)	13,256			152%
Jerilderie Swimming Pool Solar Blankets	25,977	-	25,977			0%
	(25,977)	-	(25,977)			0%
Swimming Pool Operations	(144,546)	(18,725)	(125,821)			13%
Private Works: Private Works						

ACTIVITY	BUDGET		YTD ACTUAL		REMAINING	
Private Works	359,625	324,403	35,222	324,403		10%
	(307,449)	(263,416)	(44,033)	(263,416)		14%
State Roads Contract: State Roads Contract						
Routine Maintenance Annual Plan (RMAP)	528,650	528,650	-	528,650		0%
	(528,650)	(386,450)	(142,200)	(386,450)		27%
TFNSW Works Orders	1,702,852	1,702,852	-	1,702,852		0%
	(1,702,852)	(1,605,916)	(96,936)	(1,605,916)		6%
State Road Maintenance & Capital Works (RMCC Contract)	(22,540)	(29,633)	7,093	(29,633)		(31)%
Water & Sewer Operations: Sewer Operations						
Sewerage System Renewals & Replacements - Pump Stations	(100,546)	(100,546)	-	(100,546)		0%
	(107,957)	(107,957)	-	(107,957)		0%
Sewer Operations	778,908	12,900	766,008	12,900		98%
	(339,390)	(250,573)	(88,818)	(250,573)		26%
Water & Sewer Operations: Water Supply Operations						
Advanced Operational support Program	150,000	100,000	50,000	100,000		33%
	(150,000)	(63,000)	(87,000)	(63,000)		58%
Darlington Point Water Main - Dead End Link-Ups	(30,000)	(30,000)	-	(30,000)		0%
Water Supply System Renewals & Replacements - Extraction & Treatment	(57,506)	(57,506)	-	(57,506)		0%

ACTIVITY	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	REMAINING	
Water Supply System Renewals & Replacements - Reticulation System	(173,337)	-	(173,337)	
Water Supply	1,381,602	869,464	512,138	
	(618,111)	(119,928)	(498,183)	
Unmapped Income		11,960		
Unmapped Costs		(13,790)		

September 2024 Quarterly Budget Review

Projected Income Statement (Consolidated)

	ADOPTED BUDGET	SEPT QBR (PROPOSED)	SEPT 2024 REVISED
Income from continuing operations			
Rates and annual charges	6,924,832	-	6,924,832
User charges and fees	3,449,739	-	3,449,739
Other revenues	741,299	147,700	888,999
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	12,335,751	(4,156,853)	8,178,899
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	11,792,223	1,135,429	12,927,652
Interest and investment income	1,136,333	-	1,136,333
Other income	212,030	-	212,030
Net gain/(loss) from the disposal of assets	-	23,520	23,520
Total Income from continuing operations	36,592,208	(2,850,204)	33,742,004
Expenses from continuing operations			
Employee benefits and on-costs	(7,835,818)	(6,611)	(7,842,429)
Materials and services	(12,293,543)	(721,699)	(13,015,242)
Borrowing costs	(104,163)	-	(104,163)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	(8,174,789)	-	(8,174,789)
Other expenses	(846,470)	(23,650)	(870,120)
Total Expenses from continuing operations	(29,254,782)	(751,960)	(30,006,742)
Net profit from continuing operations	7,337,426	(3,602,164)	3,735,262

September 2024 Quarterly Budget Review

Projected Cashflow Statement (Consolidated)

	ADOPTED BUDGET	SEPT QBR (PROPOSED)	SEPT 2024 REVISED
Cash flows from operating activities - receipts			
Rates and annual charges	6,924,832	-	6,924,832
User charges and fees	3,449,739	-	3,449,739
Interest received	1,136,333	-	1,136,333
Grants and contributions	20,708,267	(3,041,546)	17,666,721
Other operating receipts	4,722,422	198,643	4,921,065
Total Cash flows from operating activities - receipts	36,941,594	(2,842,903)	34,098,691
Cash flows from operating activities - payments			
Payments to employees	(7,979,770)	(6,611)	(7,986,381)
Payments for materials and services	(15,631,636)	(721,699)	(16,353,336)
Other operating payments	(851,607)	(23,650)	(875,257)
Total Cash flows from operating activities - payments	(24,463,013)	(751,960)	(25,214,973)
Cash flows from investing activities - receipts			
Proceeds from sale of IPPE	360,000	1,461,520	1,821,520
Total Cash flows from investing activities - receipts	360,000	1,461,520	1,821,520
Cash flows from investing activities - payments			
Payments for IPPE	(14,357,292)	(2,683,543)	(17,040,835)
Total Cash flows from investing activities - payments	(14,357,292)	(2,683,543)	(17,040,835)
Cash flows from financing activities - receipts			
Total Cash flows from financing activities - receipts	-	-	-
Cash flows from financing activities - payments			
Repayment of borrowings	(104,163)	-	(104,163)
Total Cash flows from financing activities - payments	(104,163)	-	(104,163)
Net cashflow	(1,622,874)	(4,816,886)	(6,439,760)

September 2024 Quarterly Budget Review

Projected Cash & Investments

	Adopted Budget	Sept QBR (Proposed)	Sept 2024 (Revised)
Unrestricted Cash	1,730,232	(1,135,936)	594,296
Externally Restricted			
Coleambally Town Development	532,480	(73)	532,407
Development Contributions Reserve	7,671,119	9,520	7,680,639
Domestic Waste Management Reserve	67,203	6,931	74,134
Sewerage Funds Reserve	2,278,003	349,545	2,627,548
Water Supply Funds	3,940,435	423,242	4,363,677
Total Externally Restricted	14,489,240	789,165	15,278,405
Internally Restricted			
Caravan Park Reserve	190,000	(125,793)	64,207
Employee Entitlements Reserve	1,463,174	(181,205)	1,281,969
Energy Saving Initiatives Reserve		117,579	117,579
Infrastructure Replacement Reserve	359,856	92,973	452,829
Jerilderie Real Estate Development Reserve	416,152	244,791	660,943
Plant Replacement Reserve	2,311,116	(1,521,327)	789,789
Risk Management Reserve	99,589	35,263	134,852
Uncompleted Works Reserve	8,939	(4,123)	4,816
Financial Assistance Grant Advance Payment	0	0	0
Darlington Point Real Estate Development Reserve	137,683	0	137,683
Jerilderie Monash Committee Reserve	0	0	0
Deposits, Retentions and Bonds	60,296	(36,296)	24,000
Section 355 Committee Funds	195,332	(24,152)	171,180
State Emergency Service	15,000	(15,000)	0
Other Trust Funds	179,492	(12,520)	166,972
Specific-Purposes Unexpended Grants Reserve (part externally restricted included here)	6,086,878	43,310	6,130,188
Total Internally Restricted	11,523,507	(1,386,500)	10,137,007
Total Cash and Investments	27,742,979	(1,733,271)	26,009,708



Sydney District & Regional Planning Panels Operational Procedures

November 2022

These procedures are provided for general guidance and information only and are made available on the understanding that the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (Department) is not providing legal advice.

The Department has compiled the procedures in good faith, exercising all due care and attention.

The procedures do not affect or replace relevant statutory requirements.

Where an inconsistency arises between the provisions of the procedures and relevant statutory provisions, the statutory requirements prevail.

While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that this document is correct at the time of printing, the State of New South Wales, its agents and employees, disclaim any and all liability to any person in respect of anything or the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon the whole or any part of this document.

The procedures are not intended to give rise to any rights, claims, benefits, privileges, liabilities, or obligations with respect to matters the subject of the procedures.

It should be noted that the procedures may be affected by changes to legislation at any time and/or be subject to revision without notice.

It is recommended that independent advice be sought in respect of the operation of the procedures and the statutory requirements applying to Sydney District and Regional Planning Panels under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Sydney District and Regional Planning Panels Operational Procedures
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Definitions

Capital Investment Value or *CIV* has the same meaning as 'capital investment value' defined in the Dictionary in Schedule 7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*.

Commission means the Greater Cities Commission.

Council means the council for the local government area in which the land the subject of a panel matter is located.

Days means calendar days unless otherwise stated.

Department means the Department of Planning and Environment.

Development Application or *DA* means an application for consent under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* to carry out development but does not include an application for a complying development certificate.

District means any part of the Greater Cities Region, or other region of the State, declared to be a district by the Minister.

EP&A Act means the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

EP&A Regulation means the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2021*.

Greater Sydney Region means the region comprising the local government areas as described in Schedule 1 of the *Greater Cities Commission Act 2022*.

GCC Act means the *Greater Cities Commission Act 2022*.

LALC means Local Aboriginal Land Council.

LEP means local environmental plan.

LGA means local government area.

LGNSW means Local Government NSW.

LG Act means the *Local Government Act 1993*.

LPP means local planning panel.

Minister means the Minister for Planning.

Panel or *Planning Panel* means a Sydney District Planning Panel or Regional Planning Panel constituted under Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

Planning Panel meeting means a public briefing meeting or a public determination meeting.

Planning proposal has the same meaning as a 'planning proposal' under section 3.33 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

Planning Systems SEPP or *PS SEPP* means the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021*.

Regional Planning Panel means a regional planning panel constituted under clause 10 of Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

Regionally significant development means development that meets criteria set out under Part 2.4, Part 3.3 and Schedule 6 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021*.

Planning proposal authority or *PPA* means the public authorities identified under section 3.32 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

SCC means a Site Compatibility Certificate issued under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021*.

Secretariat means the Planning Panels Secretariat of the Department which provides technical and administrative support to Planning Panels.

Secretary means the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment.

Strategic Planning Panel means a Sydney District or Regional Planning Panel convened for the specific function of considering a strategic or Aboriginal land planning matter.

Sydney District Planning Panel means a Sydney district planning panel constituted under clause 9 of Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

Transport and Infrastructure SEPP means the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021*

Unique submission means a submission which is in substance unique, distinctive or unlike any other submission. It does not mean a petition or any submission that contains the same or substantially the same text. Separate unique submissions may be made in relation to the same issue. One individual, or one household, could potentially submit multiple unique submissions.

1. Introduction

The Planning Panels were introduced in NSW on 1 July 2009 to strengthen decision making for regionally significant development and certain other planning functions under the EP&A Act.

These procedures relate to the operation of the Sydney District Planning Panels and Regional Planning Panels.

The Planning Panels are independent bodies representing the Crown and are not subject to the direction of the Minister, except on matters relating to Planning Panel procedures or where the Minister issues a formal direction under the EP&A Act.

These procedures are the Planning Panels charter and have been developed to explain the objectives, powers, and authorities of the Planning Panels. They also detail the means of operating the Planning Panels and clarify the roles of various parties in the work of the Planning Panels.

The procedures should be read in conjunction with the Local Environmental Plan Making Guidelines, relevant Planning Circulars and the Planning Panels Code of Conduct which explains the standard of conduct expected of Planning Panel members.

These procedures will be kept under review and may be amended periodically.

2. Defining the regions and districts

Planning Panels are constituted for each region of the State (other than the Greater Sydney Region), and each district of the Greater Sydney Region (see sections 2.12, 3.2 and Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the EP&A Act).

The nine Planning Panels are the:

- Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel,
- Northern Regional Planning Panel,
- Southern Regional Planning Panel,
- Western Regional Planning Panel,
- Sydney Eastern City Planning Panel,
- Sydney North Planning Panel,
- Sydney South Planning Panel,
- Sydney Central City Planning Panel, and
- Sydney Western City Planning Panel.

3. Functions of Planning Panels

3.1 Functions

The principal functions of Planning Panels are to determine regionally significant DAs and undertake rezoning reviews of planning proposals. Other functions of Planning Panels include:

- determining Crown DAs,
- determining modification applications for regionally significant development,
- determining DA reviews,
- determining SCCs,
- undertaking independent reviews for specific Local Aboriginal Land Council lands,
- advising the Minister or the Secretary upon request, and
- preparing planning proposals if they are directed to be a planning proposal authority.

Note: Section 2.15 of the EP&A Act contains the functions that may be exercised by Planning Panels.

Note: In relation to preparing planning proposals, see Chapter 14 of this Operational Procedures.

3.2 Legislation

Legislation governing Planning Panels includes:

- the EP&A Act for the constitution and functions of Planning Panels and obligations in respect to councils, with the following key provisions:
 - Division 2.4 and Schedule 2 provides for the constitution of Planning Panels, member appointments, functions and general procedures,
 - Division 3.4 allows for a Planning Panel to act as the planning proposal authority and undertake planning proposal reviews,
 - Section 4.5 specifies that a Planning Panel is the consent authority for regionally significant development, and
 - Section 4.7 sets out the consent functions of a Planning Panel which are to be exercised by the relevant council.
- the EP&A Regulation contains provisions for where a Planning Panel is exercising consent authority functions,
- the Planning System SEPP sets out in Parts 2.4, 3.3 and Schedule 6 development declared to be regionally significant,
- the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP sets out the process for consideration and determination of relevant applications for Site Compatibility Certificates.

3.3 Classes of regionally significant development

The Planning System SEPP identifies the types of development classified as regionally significant (see Parts 2.4, 3.3 and Schedule 6 of the SEPP). The relevant Planning Panel will be the consent authority for regionally significant development.

Note State significant development or development within the City of Sydney cannot be declared as regionally significant development (see section 4.7 of the EP&A Act).

On lodgement of a DA, the council will decide if a DA is regionally significant development.

The capital investment value (CIV) is relevant for some regionally significant development and should be calculated at the time of lodgement. Councils should request a quantity surveyor's certificate or another relevant expert assessment to confirm the CIV from the applicant. The CIV is to be calculated in accordance the Planning Circular PS 21-020 (or as updated).

The Planning Panels determine applications to modify consent for regionally significant development under section 4.55(2) of the EP&A Act which seek to modify:

- new or amended conditions of consent imposed by the Panel;
- development for which the applicant or landowner is:

- the council,
- a councillor,
- a member of council staff who is principally involved in the exercise of council's functions under the Act,
- a member of the NSW or Commonwealth Parliament, or
- a relative (within the meaning of the *Local Government Act 1993*) of a person referred to above;
- development that is subject to 10 or more unique submissions by way of an objection; or
- development that contravenes a development standard imposed by an environmental planning instrument by more than 10% or non-numerical development standards.

All other modification applications under sections 4.55(2), 4.55(1) or 4.55(1A) to development consents granted by a Panel are to be determined by the relevant council. A court granted consent may be modified by a Panel under section 4.56 if it is in relation to regionally significant development.

4. Membership of Planning Panels

(Part 4, Schedule 2 of the EP&A Act)

4.1 Chairs and Members

Each Panel consists of 5 members:

- 3 members, including the chair, appointed by the Minister (State members), and
- 2 members appointed by the relevant council (council members).

Property developers and real estate agents are not eligible to be members of a Panel.

The agenda of a Panel meeting may include consideration of multiple matters, each located in different council areas. The council members may change from time to time, depending on the LGA in which the matter under consideration is located.

Panel members can be appointed to more than one Panel, either as a Panel member and/or as an alternate member.

When there is a vacancy on a Panel, the Minister in the case of a State member, and the relevant council in the case of a council member, will appoint another member to that vacancy.

Terms of appointment for Panel members (both State and council members), must not exceed 3 years. Members are eligible for re-appointment. A State member of a Sydney District Planning Panel must not be a member for more than 9 years in total.

The Secretariat is responsible for maintaining a register of all Panel members.

The chair (or, in the absence of the chair, a deputy chair, or a person elected by the members) presides at Panel meetings. The presiding member has a deliberative vote and, in the event of an equality of votes, has a second or casting vote.

Note: In relation to the membership of a Planning Panel responsible for preparing planning proposals, see further Chapter 14 of this Operational Procedures.

4.3 Expertise requirements for members appointed by the Minister

All Panel members appointed by the Minister, including alternates, must have expertise in one or more of the following areas: planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering, tourism or government and public administration.

4.4 Council members

Two council members are appointed by each council. At least one council member must have expertise in one or more of the following areas: planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering, or tourism.

To reduce the opportunity to improperly influence panel members councils should consider appointing a minimum of 4 alternate members to enable regular rotation.

4.5 Selection of council members

Each council determines how their members are selected. In selecting members, councils should have regard to any conflict of duties that would be created for a person nominated to the Panel if they are in any way responsible or involved in the assessment of matters to be determined by the Panel or involved in voting or deliberating on matters that come before the Panel.

When appointing its nominees to a panel, council should require a statutory declaration to be signed by proposed nominees stating that they are not property developers or real estate agents, as required by section 2.13 of the Act. Council should also arrange probity checks. These checks should include, at a minimum:

- a. public register of real estate agents check
- b. bankruptcy record check
- c. National Police check (ACIC).

This is in line with the checks and declarations required for State members.

Councils are not restricted to nominating people from the council's local area. They can appoint, terminate, and reappoint members at any time, and can determine the duration of each appointment. Generally, so as to ensure the greatest degree of continuity for the Panels, councils should consider appointing members for the maximum term of 3 years. However, councils should reconsider if the nominations to the Panels are appropriate within 12 months following a council election.

Following a change to its nominees, council is to forward the new member's contact details to the Secretariat as soon as possible and this must be a minimum of 14 days before any meeting at which they will act as a Panel member.

If a council fails to nominate 1 or more council members, a Panel may still exercise its functions in relation to the area of the council concerned.

4.6 Payment of council members

Councils determine the fees they pay their Panel members. The Minister has provided guidance to all councils on appropriate rates of remuneration for travel and subsistence allowances for their members.

Each council is responsible for making any payments to its Panel members when they attend Panel meetings.

4.7 Alternate members

The Minister may at any time appoint a person to be the alternate of another member appointed by the Minister and may revoke any such appointment.

A council may also at any time appoint a person to be the alternate of a member nominated by the council and may revoke any such appointment.

Any changes are to be notified in writing to the Secretariat as soon as possible and at least 14 days before undertaking any Panel business.

The alternate will act in the place of the member with all the powers of the member. Although a member may be appointed as an alternate for two or more members, they will only have one vote on any Panel decision.

4.8 Rotation of members

To ensure there is a level of randomisation involved in which panel members and alternates hear a matter, all members are required to regularly rotate with alternate members. This will reduce opportunities for panel members to be improperly influenced. The chair is to determine the frequency of rotation in consultation with the Planning Panel secretariat.

Following a matter being deferred, where possible the same members should reconvene to finalise the determination.

5. Code of Conduct considerations

5.1 Planning Panels Code of Conduct

All Panel members must comply with the Planning Panels Code of Conduct when exercising their functions as a Panel member and make impartial merit-based decisions in accordance with their statutory obligations. The latest version of the Planning Panels Code of Conduct is available online at www.planningpanels.nsw.gov.au. On appointment each Panel member must acknowledge in writing that they will abide by the Planning Panels Code of Conduct.

5.2 Declaration of interests

On being informed of a matter to come before the Panel members should consider if they have an actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict and, if so, declare the conflict and take any appropriate action, such as allowing an alternate member to take their place.

Panel members are required to complete and sign a declaration of interest form in relation to each matter which is considered by the Panel, either before, or at the commencement of, the Panel's determination proceedings. Any verbal declarations are to be recorded in writing.

To avoid any perceptions of bias, and to meet requirements of the Code of Conduct, councillors who have previously deliberated or voted on a matter that is to come before the Panel (such as a submission from the council on a DA for regionally significant development, a related voluntary planning agreement or a planning proposal) must stand aside from their place on the Panel and allow council's nominated alternative member to take their place. Alternatively, the member may choose to not participate in the deliberations or voting on the matter at the council (or council committee) meeting. They should also not remain in the council chamber during the council's deliberations.

5.3 Representations to Planning Panel members

If a Panel member is approached by any person about a matter to come before the Panel, the Panel member must not discuss the matter.

Any person that approaches a Panel member should be encouraged to make a written submission to the council planning staff for DAs during the exhibition period, or if the matter relates to a planning proposal for which the Panel is the PPA, to the Secretariat. Issues raised in submissions will be addressed in the assessment report to be provided to the Panel.

5.4 Interactions with third parties about matters before the Planning Panel

Panel members are not to discuss any matter that is to be considered by the Panel with councillors, the applicant, their consultants, parties who have made a submission, or any other person with an interest in the matter outside of a Panel briefing, meeting or site visit.

5.5 Public meetings organised by the council or community about the proposed development

To avoid any perception of bias, Panel members should avoid attending public meetings about a proposed development organised by members of the community or council, unless the meeting has been organised at the request of the Panel.

6. Administration

Administration and support for the Panels is provided by the Planning Panels Secretariat. Support includes:

- scheduling of meetings, briefings, and site visits,
- preparing and issuing agendas,
- notification of meetings,
- arranging for travel and accommodation for State appointed Panel members,
- preparing records of decision (with assistance from council),
- arranging for the audio recording of public Panel meetings,
- record keeping for the Panels, and
- being the first point of contact for councils to notify a Panel of any decision made by the Panel which is the subject of a merit appeal in the Land and Environment Court.

The Secretariat is the first point of contact for all Panel matters and publishes a wide range of information on its website:

www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/planningpanels

The contact details for the Secretariat are:

phone: (02) 8217 2060

email: enquiry@planningpanels.nsw.gov.au

7. Government information, privacy and complaints

7.1 Right to information and privacy management

The Department assists Planning Panels in managing applications made under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* and the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*.

For applications of this nature visit the Department's website at:

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/About-Us/Right-to-Information/How-Can-I-Access-Information>

7.2 Complaints

The Department assists Planning Panels in managing complaints. Complaints are investigated and managed in accordance with the Department's Management of Complaints Policy.

Dissatisfaction with determinations of the Planning Panels will not be regarded as a complaint.

If you wish to make a complaint visit the Department's website at: telephone, write or email the Department at:

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Contact-Us?>

Complaints made in this way will be recorded in the Department's Complaints Register and will be allocated to the appropriate level for investigation and response.

If you are not satisfied with a response, you can ask for the issue to be considered by a more senior officer.

Code of conduct complaints will be dealt with under the Planning Panels Code of Conduct.

At any time, a person can complain to external bodies such as the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), the Ombudsman, or the Audit Office of NSW. Allegations of corrupt conduct, misconduct, or serious waste of resources are encouraged to be made directly to these organisations.

Complaints about council, councillors, council staff or local planning panels should be directed to the relevant council.

8. Monitoring, review, and reporting

The Secretariat monitors the progress of DAs referred to the Panels. It is expected that council will complete its assessment report within 60 days after the close of the public exhibition period.

The performance of the Panels is monitored and reported in the Department's Annual Report.

Once a planning assessment is completed by the council and referred to the Panel, the Panel will be expected to:

- d. determine the matter within 2 weeks (14 calendar days) for development and modification of consent applications; and
- e. provide its advice within 2 weeks (14 calendar days) on planning proposals.

To ensure assessment and determination times are not subject to delay:

- a. Panel chairs are obliged to work with senior council staff to ensure that key issues are addressed during assessment, in order to minimise the number of deferrals by the panel at determination stage.
- b. Should an application experience unreasonable delays in excess of 180 calendar days from lodgement the Panel chair may require the council to report the matter to the Panel within 4 weeks for determination.

Note: The requirements relating to the timeframes for assessing development applications under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* must be considered by Panels.

8.1 Availability of information

The Secretariat makes a range of information publicly available on its website, including:

- Panel notices with dates, locations, meeting format and times (at least 7 days before the Planning Panel meeting),
- the relevant council's assessment report and recommendation (at least 7 days before the Panel meeting),
- records of briefings and Panel meetings, Determinations and Statements of Reasons, decisions on rezoning reviews and Site Compatibility Certificates, resolutions of the Planning Panels and any advice provided by the Panels to the Minister, Secretary or GCC, as relevant,
- audio recordings of Panel meetings, and
- a schedule of meeting dates reserved for Panel business.

Councils remain responsible for receiving, notifying and exhibiting DAs and supporting documents in accordance with statutory provisions and council's own notification and exhibition requirements set out in its community participation plan and for issuing the notice of determination.

9. Liability and indemnification

Panel members are excluded from personal liability as long as the act or omission was done in good faith for the purpose of carrying out their duties under the EP&A Act (see s 2.28 of the EP&A Act).

The NSW Government extends insurance indemnity cover to Panel members. For indemnification provisions to apply Panel members must act honestly and in accordance with the Panel Code of Conduct in the performance of their responsibilities.

For further information please contact the NSW Self Insurance Corporation (icare) at:

<https://www.icare.nsw.gov.au>

10. Roles of councils and other panels

10.1 Role of councillors and council staff

The elected council and council staff have different roles in the assessment of DAs. Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, the independence of council staff is protected in the preparation of advice and recommendations. Staff members are not subject to direction by the council or by a councillor as to the content of any advice or recommendation made by the staff member. Equally, a council or councillor is not bound by the advice or recommendation made by a member of staff.

10.2 Assessment role

Council staff undertake the assessment of a DA. The assessment of a DA includes accepting the DA, consultation, concurrence and obtaining general terms of approval from an agency if required, carrying out community participation requirements and assessment of the matters set out in 4.15 of the EP&A Act. The assessment is documented in a report with recommendations. The report is then considered by the person or body that is the consent authority.

Council is responsible for carrying out community participation requirements on behalf of the Panels (see section 4.7(2)(d) and Division 2.6 of the EP&A Act).

The Department undertakes the assessment of planning proposals and applications for site compatibility certificates referred to the Panels.

10.3 Determination role

Historically, one of the roles of an elected council has been to determine or make decisions on DAs in their capacity as a consent authority. There are occasions, however, where the determination role is performed by other people or bodies, either because the council has delegated that function, or because it has been conferred upon another person or body. For example, where local planning panels have been introduced, elected councils no longer determine DAs (see section 2.17 of the EP&A Act).

The Panel for the area in which the development is to be carried out is the consent authority for regionally significant development (see section 4.5 of the EP&A Act).

10.4 Post-determination role

Council staff are responsible for post-determination functions including:

- notifying Panel determinations on DAs (see sections 4.7(2)(e), 4.18 and 4.59 of the EP&A Act),
- registering Panel development consents on the NSW Planning Portal (see sections 4.7(2)(e) and 4.20 of the EP&A Act), and
- monitoring and enforcing compliance with conditions of the development consent.

The notice of determination should be issued once council receives a copy of the endorsed and final determination from the Panel. The notice of determination must include all conditions imposed by the Panel, including any additional or amended conditions.

The council has no power to amend conditions or include additional conditions following the Panel's determination.

Council will advise any person who made a submission on the DA of the determination.

The council continues to be responsible for the monitoring of, and enforcing compliance with, any conditions of the development consent.

Where an application has been approved subject to a 'deferred commencement' condition council is responsible for determining whether the requirements of the condition have been met (see section 4.16(3) of the EP&A Act). Council advises the chair of the Panel in writing when the matter specified in the condition has been satisfied (see section 277(2) of the EP&A Regulation).

10.5 Support provided to Planning Panels by councils

Planning Panels are entitled on request to the general manager of a council, to use the staff and facilities of the relevant council, have access to council records, and any other assistance or action for the purpose of carrying out their functions (see section 2.27 of the EP&A Act).

It is expected that use of council facilities such as meeting rooms would be arranged prior to Panel meetings.

Support, such as recording the written decisions of the Panel, audio recording of Panel meetings, copying of documents and the provision of professional advice, may also be required.

Generally, the relevant council bears the administrative and council staffing costs associated with Panel meetings. Administrative costs may include those associated with the meeting venue and set up, the attendance of council staff, as well as administrative support.

The chair and members of a Panel will need to be mindful of the regular duties and responsibilities of council staff when requests for assistance are made. Requests by members of Panels for support and assistance from councils should be made through the chair to the general manager (or other person nominated by the general manager) of the council concerned.

10.6 Role of design review panels

Design review panels are established by councils either formally under *State Environmental Planning Policy No. 65 – Design Quality of Residential Apartment Development* with the approval of the Minister, or informally to bring special design expertise to the assessment of certain types of DAs.

Design review panels that are properly integrated in the assessment process are an effective tool which helps to improve the quality of design outcomes. The quality of design has a bearing on many, but not all, of the matters considered in the assessment of a DA.

The role of design review panels in the assessment of applications is not changed by the fact that the application is to be determined by a Panel. However, it is generally more effective in terms of design quality outcomes and timeliness if the design review panel is convened at the pre-DA stage or early in the assessment phase.

Council assessment officers and the Panels should consider the advice of the design review report in their assessment reports and in making a determination. The design review report may be used in the following ways:

- to support the application of relevant planning controls in a flexible manner where the design review panel has identified this will achieve better outcomes
- to establish if the reasonable recommendations of the design review panel have been followed
- as evidence for refusing development consent where the advice of the design review panel has not been adopted

In some instances, the Panel may require additional design quality advice or clarification of design quality matters to finalise their recommendations or to make a determination. In this instance, they may refer the project back to the design review panel. The following criteria can be used to establish when to re-engage with the design review panel:

- The application is poor and has not considered the advice of the design review panel – refusal.
No return to design review panel
- Application will require minor modifications – to be managed via conditions of consent.
No return to design review panel
- The application will require significant modification, the extent and nature of which requires advice from the design review panel.
Return to design review panel

10.7 Role of local planning panels

Although similar in operation, the roles of local planning panels and the Sydney district and Regional Planning Panels do not overlap. Local planning panels determine all DAs that meet criteria set by the Minister.

11. Development application and assessment

11.1 Pre-development application meetings

Pre-DA meetings between applicants and assessment officers are commonly used to inform lodgement requirements and likely assessment pathways before applications are submitted to the consent authority.

Applicants are encouraged to meet with council before lodging a DA, and to respond to the advice of council when preparing the DA.

Applicants should consider the Local Government Design Review Panel manual in relation to pre-application design reviews and the requirements to be met in that process.

11.2 Making of development applications

DAs for regionally significant development are made to the relevant local council.

In the case of development located in two or more LGAs, a separate DA must be lodged with the councils of each LGA. Additionally:

- each DA should only address that part of the development located on land in the relevant LGA,
- neighbouring councils may wish to consider setting up joint assessment procedures, if appropriate, and
- the Panel will determine each DA separately (although the determinations may be made concurrently).

11.3 Notification to the Secretariat

Within 7 days of receiving a DA for regionally significant development, the council registers the DA with the Secretariat.

The registration is made via the NSW Planning Portal. Documents can be automatically linked via the NSW Planning Portal meaning that DA documents and any updated information are electronically transmitted to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat advises relevant Panel members of the DA once the registration is accepted. The DA documents, including the application form are made available to Panel members electronically via the NSW Planning Portal.

These documents allow Panel members to become familiar with the development and to identify if they have any potential conflicts of interest prior to their review of the assessment report and before determining the application.

11.4 Kick-off briefing and timing for determination

Generally within 28 days of the lodgement of a DA, the Secretariat will arrange a Kick-off briefing between the Panel, relevant council staff and the applicant. At this meeting, the applicant will be invited to outline the DA to the Panel, and the Panel chair will identify key issues including areas where further information is required. Importantly, for larger matters, the Panel chair will outline a timeframe for a subsequent briefing between all parties (generally around day 128 since lodgement), and an estimated date for determination (generally no more than 250 days since lodgement).

11.5 Public exhibition of development applications by council

Public exhibition of the DA is undertaken by council staff in accordance with the requirements of the EP&A Act, EP&A Regulation and Council's Community Participation Plan or any relevant development control plan or policy of council. Public exhibition can commence or occur after the Kick-off briefing.

Notification of exhibition, including letters and advertisements, should contain appropriate statements to advise:

- that the {name of relevant} Panel is the consent authority for the application,

- that submissions made in respect of the application should be made to {name of relevant} Council, but will be provided to the Panel and may be viewed by other persons with an interest in the application,
- names and addresses of submitters will be provided to the Panel for notification purposes, and
- other information required by the EP&A Act or EP&A Regulation.

11.6 Requests for additional information

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide adequate information and technical reports on potential impacts of the proposed development.

Holding a pre-DA meeting with council staff will often clarify council requirements for the lodgement of an application. However, the applicant may be requested by council staff to provide further information or reports to properly address all relevant aspects of the development, or to enable an assessment report to be completed.

During the assessment process the Panel may identify issues at a briefing that must be addressed or clarified in council's assessment report, and for which council may request further information.

Amended plans or additional information for a DA must be lodged with council.

11.7 Status reports

Councils must advise the Secretariat if it is evident that there are difficulties in assessing the DA or the assessment report will not be completed within the timeframe indicated in the referral notification.

The Secretariat tracks the progress of DAs registered with it and requests status updates from council for DAs lodged for 70 days or more.

Where a response or concurrence from public agencies delays the assessment of a DA, a council can ask the Secretariat for assistance to ensure the agency responds to council in a timely manner.

Where there is an ongoing and unreasonable delay in the processing of a DA, council may be requested by the Panel to complete its assessment without further delay.

11.8 Assessment of the development application

The council that received the DA is responsible, through its staff, for the assessment of the application.

It is council's responsibility to prepare an assessment report addressing all statutory requirements and properly considering all issues. Usually councils will rely on their own professional staff, however where they do not have the technical expertise required in-house, they may engage external expertise. All costs associated with the preparation of the assessment report are to be covered from application fees, which are retained by council.

The assessment report must clearly identify how the proposal meets the relevant requirements for regionally significant development, and that the Panel is responsible for determining the application.

The assessment report must include a recommendation on the proposed development:

- if the recommendation is for approval of the application, the report must include recommended conditions of consent, and
- if the recommendation is for refusal, the report must include reasons for refusal based on the assessment in the report.

The chair of the Panel may request without prejudice draft conditions of consent where council's report recommends refusal.

In considering an application, a Panel may request additional information to assist in its determination of the application.

Council assessment officers (and the Panels) should consider the advice of any design review report in their assessment reports and in making a determination. The design review report may be used in the following ways:

- to support the application of relevant planning controls in a flexible manner where the design review panel has identified this will achieve better outcomes
- to establish if the reasonable recommendations of the design review panel have been followed
- as evidence for refusing development consent where the advice of the design review panel has not been adopted

In some instances, the Panel may require additional design quality advice or clarification of design quality matters to finalise their recommendations or to make a determination. In this instance, they may refer the project back to the design review panel. The following criteria can be used to establish when to re-engage with the design review panel:

- The application is poor and has not considered the advice of the design review panel – refusal.
No return to design review panel
- Application will require minor modifications – to be managed via conditions of consent.
No return to design review panel
- The application will require significant modification, the extent and nature of which requires advice from the design review panel.

Return to design review panel

11.9 Varying development standards

Where a DA includes a variation to a development standard, an application under clause 4.6 of the relevant LEP is required. Council's assessment report includes an assessment of the application against the relevant statutory provisions.

The function of obtaining concurrence from the Secretary under clause 4.6 is a matter for the council. However, where concurrence is assumed, the council does not need to obtain concurrence. The Panel will determine whether a clause 4.6 application is well founded on the basis of the applicant's justification.

11.10 Local infrastructure contributions

The assessment report should address contributions required in accordance with the council's relevant contributions plan (see section 7.11 and 7.12 of the EP&A Act). The Panel is able to impose additional or different contributions than those set out in the contributions plan. For Crown developments, councils should address contributions in accordance with the relevant planning circular (Circular No. D6, issued September 1995 or as updated).

11.11 Special infrastructure contributions and certification requirements

If the development falls within a special contributions area the council should address the relevant requirements in its assessment report and recommend appropriate conditions in accordance with the Ministerial direction (see section 7.24 of the EP&A Act).

The council must address any "Satisfactory Arrangements" clause in the applicable LEP in its assessment report. These clauses usually state that development consent must not be granted by a consent authority until arrangements to the satisfaction of the Secretary have been made to contribute to regional or State infrastructure. A Panel cannot provide consent to the DA until the Secretary (or delegate) of the Department has certified in writing that satisfactory arrangements have been made.

11.12 Development subject to delays in determination

An applicant with a DA that has a CIV between \$10 million and \$30 million can refer the DA to the relevant Panel for determination if it remains undetermined for 120 days after being lodged with council (see Schedule 6 of the Planning Systems SEPP). The referral process is outlined below:

- when making a referral, applicants must use the Regional Development Request form available on the Panels website,

- the applicant is to complete the relevant part of the form and submit it to **both** the relevant council and the Secretariat,
- once the council receives the referral form it cannot determine the DA until a decision has been made regarding whether the Panel will have the function of determining the DA, however council can continue to assess the DA,
- the council sends the completed referral form and copies of all DA documents, to the Secretariat within seven days. Council should also send its explanation for the delay in completing its assessment,
- the chair will consider the information in the referral form and advise the Secretariat if the referral is accepted (i.e. the applicant is not responsible for a delay in the application), generally within 14 days of the applicant making the referral. The chair will consider a number of matters in making this decision, including:
 - permissibility and zoning, including whether the determination is dependent on a rezoning,
 - whether the determination is dependent on a voluntary planning agreement or the approval of a masterplan or DCP,
 - whether the landowner's consent has been provided,
 - whether the required referrals and concurrences have been obtained,
 - whether there have been requests for further information, and what the responses were to those requests, and
 - if council has considered the DA and the outcome of that consideration,
- once the chair decides, the Secretariat will notify the council and the applicant as to whether the development is regionally significant development,
- if the referral is not accepted the chair must advise the reason(s) for not accepting the referral,
- if the referral is accepted, council completes the assessment of the application and prepares an assessment report for submission to the Secretariat, and
- a briefing with council may be held prior to determination.

11.13 Council representation to the Planning Panel

An elected council may make a submission on a DA within their LGA that is to be determined by a Panel up to seven days before the Panel meeting.

After the assessment report is sent to the Secretariat, it may be given to the elected council to assist in its decision as to whether it will be making a submission to the Panel. The elected council's submission should not be prepared by persons involved in the assessment of the application but could be prepared by another council officer, or a consultant.

A council submission should not be specifically referenced in the assessment report or recommendations prepared by the council staff. If council makes a submission, a staff representative or individual Councillors may register to address the Panel at the meeting to express the views of council.

Councillors who are also Panel members have an independent role because they have been nominated by their council as its nominee to the Panel.

11.14 Submission of assessment report to the Secretariat

The completed assessment report and recommendation is to be immediately uploaded to the NSW Planning Portal such that it is sent via electronic means to the Secretariat.

The assessment report is not to be endorsed or presented to the elected council before being sent to the Secretariat.

The following items are to be uploaded to the NSW Planning Portal:

- assessment report and any attachments and recommendations (including conditions),
- the Council Assessment Report cover sheet (available on the Planning Panels website),

- final architectural drawings and plans and other reports that the assessing officer considers that the Panel may require in order to make an informed decision,
- copies of each submission received in respect of the DA
- a completed List of Submitters (available on the Planning Panels website) containing the names, postal addresses and email addresses (if provided) of every person or body who made a submission to allow the Secretariat to notify submitters of the details of the Panel meeting,
- in the case of petitions, only the name and address of the head petitioner should be provided, if that person can be identified, and
- the final number of unique submissions received.

Note: Council's assessment report must include a summary and assessment of all submissions so that the Planning Panel can consider the submissions as part of the assessment of the DA. Based on the details provided by council, the Secretariat will notify persons who made submissions of the time, date and venue of the Panel meeting at which the relevant application will be considered. Councils should also upload copies of any late submissions to the NSW Planning Portal and, where necessary, provide further assessment if the issues are not already covered in council's assessment report.

11.15 Written submissions to the Planning Panel

All written submissions must be sent directly to council to be considered as part of the assessment of the DA.

Submissions sent to the Panel will be given to council for assessment. If additional late information is received from the applicant it will be published on the NSW Planning Portal for transparency. Panels will not normally accept information "in confidence" that is not also given to council. However, if confidentiality is requested, the reason must be clearly stated as to why it is confidential and relevant to the assessment matter before the Panel and the chair will consider the request.

11.16 Rezoning, development control plans and planning agreements

Where a DA is lodged concurrently with a planning proposal seeking the rezoning of land under the LEP Council's assessment report must address the DA against the proposed zoning. Council is responsible for progressing the planning proposal. The Panel cannot determine a DA to approve such development until the land is rezoned to permit that development.

Where the provisions of an environmental planning instrument require a development control plan (DCP), (previously known as a master plan) to be adopted by the council before granting development consent, it is the responsibility of council to prepare and adopt the DCP prior to sending the assessment report to the Panel. In such circumstances, the Panel will not determine the application until the DCP is adopted by the council.

If a planning agreement is proposed, it should be negotiated by council staff. Council's assessment report for the Panel would normally make reference to any planning agreement and its relationship to the DA. The planning agreement would normally be exhibited by the council before the assessment report is provided to the Panel, and the planning agreement would be provided to the Panel as part of the supporting documentation for the DA.

The Panel may only impose a condition of consent requiring a planning agreement be entered into if the condition reflects the terms of any offer made by the applicant to enter into a planning agreement (see section 7.4 of the EP&A Act).

11.17 Referral of Crown development applications with a CIV less than \$5 million

Crown DAs with a CIV greater than \$5 million are regionally significant development. Crown DAs with a CIV under \$5 million can be referred to the relevant Panel (see section 4.33 of the EP&A Act) by either:

- the applicant where council (or LPP, if relevant) has not determined in the prescribed period, or
- the council at any time including before the end of the prescribed period.

Before the end of the prescribed period, only a council (not the applicant) can refer an application to the Panel.

For Crown DAs with a CIV of less than \$5 million where a council or LPP seeks to refuse consent or impose a condition to which the applicant has not provided their agreement, the application is also to be referred by council to the relevant Panel (see section 4.33(2) of the EP&A Act).

The referral to the Panel must be in writing. Additional procedures for the referral, including the requirement to notify the other party in writing of the referral are set out at sections 4.33(6) and section 4.33(7) of the EP&A Act.

Once the application is referred to a Panel, the council registers the DA on the NSW Planning Portal and uploads its assessment report to the NSW Planning Portal for the Planning Panel to consider.

12. Determination of development applications

12.1 Determining regionally significant development applications

Planning Panels determine regionally significant development as the consent authority.

For contentious matters, where the DA has attracted 10 or more unique submissions by way of objection, the Panels will generally hold a public determination meeting to consider the DA. Refer to **Schedule 1** for more information on the detailed procedures for Panel meetings.

The purpose of the public determination meeting is for the Panel to hear views of the community and other interested parties, such as the applicant and the council, on the DA before the Panel makes a decision.

Public determination meetings may be held wholly or partly by audio link, audio visual link or other electronic means (EP&A Act Schedule 2 clause 25(4)). Such meetings must be recorded with the recording made publicly available on the Planning Panel website.

After reviewing written submissions on a DA, considering the recommendation in council's assessment report and hearing from those wishing to address the Panel, the Panel may determine the application or defer its decision for reasons that will be stated in the meeting record.

In circumstances where the DA is the subject of less than 10 unique submissions by way of objection a Panel is able to determine the application by an electronic circulation of papers.

In some instances, the Panel may require additional design quality advice or clarification of design quality matters to finalise their recommendations or to make a determination. In this instance, they may refer the project back to the design review panel. The following criteria can be used to establish when to re-engage with the design review panel:

- The application is poor and has not considered the advice of the design review panel – refusal.
No return to design review panel
- Application will require minor modifications – to be managed via conditions of consent.
No return to design review panel
- The application will require significant modification, the extent and nature of which requires advice from the design review panel.
Return to design review panel

12.2 Obligation to consult council – if adverse financial impacts

A Panel must not make a decision that will have, or that might reasonably be expected to have, a significantly adverse financial impact on a council without first consulting the council (see section 2.26 of the EP&A Act).

The consultation must be in writing, with the council being given a specified time to respond in writing. Where a briefing with the general manager (or nominee) is to be held to discuss the matter, all relevant Panel members should be present, and a meeting record and outcomes should be sent to the Secretariat.

12.3 Determining Crown development applications

A consent authority for Crown development cannot refuse consent to a Crown DA except with the approval of the Minister, nor can it impose a condition on a development consent for Crown development except with the approval of the applicant or the Minister.

This requirement applies to Crown development that is to be considered by a Panel, where the application is for regionally significant development, or where the DA is referred to the Panel under Division 4.6 of the EP&A Act.

Where the Panel wishes to either refuse an application or impose conditions not agreed by the applicant, or where a Panel fails to determine the DA within the prescribed period, the applicant or the

Panel may refer the DA to the Minister. The Minister may then direct the Panel to approve or refuse the Crown DA within a specified time.

12.4 Determining DAs for coastal protection works

Certain coastal protection works are classified as regionally significant development. Where a Panel is to determine a DA for coastal protection works the chair and the council nominated members will remain on the panel, however the State members will be replaced by members appointed by the Minister who have expertise in coastal engineering or coastal geomorphology (see EP&A Act Schedule 2 clause 20(2) and clause 8A, Schedule 6 of the Planning System SEPP).

12.5 Delegation to council to determine applications

If the Minister agrees, Panels may delegate the determination of applications to councils, a local planning panel of a council or the general manager or other staff of council (see section 2.16(2) of the EP&A Act). Delegation may be for development in a specified area, for a class of application, or be made on a case-by-case basis.

In situations where the determination is delegated, councils must:

- register the application on the NSW Planning Portal,
- inform and update the Secretariat on the processing of the application as requested, and
- provide a copy to the Secretariat of all determination documents, including the assessment report and Notice of Determination.

The chair of the relevant Planning Panel may request the council to not exercise the delegated function in certain circumstances.

Any determination made by council under delegation is a decision of the Panel.

13. Reviews and appeals

13.1 Decision reviews

Planning Panels also review decisions made on DAs by the Panels (see Division 8.2 of the EP&A Act). The Council notifies the Panel when a request to review a decision has been lodged through lodging it on the NSW Planning Portal. The Panel reviewing the decision will be comprised of different members to those members that made the original decision and will be called the Decision Review Panel of the [relevant] Planning Panel.

Note that decision reviews cannot be requested where the following applies:

- the time to lodge a legal appeal has passed,
- a merit appeal has been determined regarding the DA, or
- it is an application for complying development, a Crown DA or a designated development DA.

The Decision Review Panel may ask to be briefed on the decision review request, either by the applicant, Council staff undertaking the assessment, or other experts engaged to assess the application.

The circumstances where this may be needed include where the applicant for the DA has amended the development the subject of the original DA since the original determination.

If needed, the Decision Review Panel may also hold a site visit or public briefing meeting.

Council must prepare an additional assessment report to the Decision Review Panel if the DA or application to modify a development consent has been amended after its initial determination, or if submissions have been made following any further notification.

A Decision Review Panel will only need to hold a public determination meeting if the application was exhibited and 10 or more unique submissions by way of objection were received.

Council must give written notice to the applicant of the result of the review within 7 days of the completion of the review.

13.2 Appeals against a Planning Panel determination

Merit appeals

An applicant who is dissatisfied with a determination or deemed refusal of an application may lodge a merit appeal to the Land and Environment Court within six months against the decision as provided for in the EP&A Act.

Note: An application is deemed to have been refused if it is not determined within 40 days, or 60 days if the application is for designated or integrated development, requires concurrence of a concurrence authority or is accompanied by a biodiversity development assessment report and that proposes a discount in the biodiversity credits required under the report to be retired.

If the development is designated development, then an objector to the development who is dissatisfied with a determination may also lodge a merit appeal in the Land and Environment Court within 28 days as provided for in the EP&A Act.

The council for the area will be the respondent for any merit appeal against a determination made by a Panel on a development application. The council is subject to the control and direction of the Panel in connection with the conduct of the appeal.

The council is to give notice of the appeal to the Planning Panel. It must do this by notifying the Secretariat. Notification to the Panel must be made no more than seven days after the council receives notice of the appeal and must advise whether the council will be actively defending the appeal.

Note: Each Planning Panel chair has delegated authority to act as the Planning Panel's representative to provide instructions and seek legal advice in relation to appeals. Planning Panel delegations are published on the Planning Panels website.

The Panel will determine its level of involvement in an appeal, and what directions (if any) it wishes to issue to the council, on a case-by-case basis. While a Panel has the power to direct and control the council, it may choose not to exercise the power. If a Panel wishes to take a more active role in a council's conduct of the appeal, the Panel can exercise its powers to control and direct council. In some circumstances the Panel may seek to join proceedings and act as the respondent in the place of the council.

Council is to:

- 1) provide the Panel with a copy of the application commencing the appeal within 7 days of the council being served with it,
- 2) provide the council's proposed statement of facts and contentions to the Panel at least 7 days before the earlier of:
 - a) the day of the first directions hearing for the appeal or
 - b) the day the statement is proposed to be filed,
- 3) identify in the council's statement of facts and contentions the steps taken by the council to notify the Panel of the appeal, and any response received by the council, and
- 4) provide the Panel, within 3 days, with:
 - a) a copy of any directions or orders made by the Court in relation to the appeal,
 - b) the dates on which the Court has arranged a conciliation conference under section 34 or section 34AA of the *Land and Environment Court Act 1979*,
 - c) the dates on which the appeal will be heard,
 - d) a copy of any judgment of the Court in relation to the appeal.
- 5) Request instructions if a conciliation conference has been arranged:
 - a) as to any agreement that might be reached between the parties as to the terms of a decision in the proceedings that would be acceptable to the parties, at least 14 days before the conciliation conference is held, and
 - b) as to any proposed in principle agreement that is reached between the parties at or after the conciliation conference, at the time of or no later than 2 days after an in-principle agreement is reached and before any written agreement is executed.

The Panel is to respond to requests from council for instructions within 7 days of the request.

Deemed Refusals

A Panel may determine a DA even though it is subject to a deemed refusal appeal. When a deemed refusal appeal has been filed with the Court, the usual practice is for council's assessment officer to complete their assessment report.

Applications may be deemed to have been refused before a Panel has been briefed on the application. Where a Panel has not been briefed on an application that is subject to an appeal, the Panel may request a briefing from the council.

Judicial review and civil enforcement proceedings

Any person may commence judicial review or civil enforcement proceedings in the Land and Environment Court against a Panel determination. Unlike merit appeals, in these types of proceedings the Panel will be named as a respondent.

A submitting appearance may be filed by the Panel if the grounds of challenge are not related to the powers or procedures of the Panel in determining the application.

Appeals against determinations where council is the applicant

The Panel will be the respondent in merit appeal and judicial review proceedings in the Land & Environment Court where council is the applicant.

14. Planning proposals - Strategic Planning Panels

Planning Panels also undertake LEP making functions, including:

- acting as the planning proposal authority in relation to LEP making if directed by the Minister and in certain circumstances,
- undertaking administrative reviews in relation to LEP making,
- overseeing Aboriginal land planning proposals, and
- providing advice to the Minister or the Secretary on matters relevant to LEP making.

Note: The Independent Planning Commission undertakes these functions if directed by the Minister in relation to LEP making for the City of Sydney LGA.

14.1 Strategic Planning Panels

When convened for specific strategic and Aboriginal land planning functions a Planning Panel will be known as the Strategic Planning Panel of the [relevant] Planning Panel.

14.2 Strategic Planning Panel members

The constitution of a Strategic Planning Panel is to comply with the EP&A Act and this Chapter 14 of the Operational Procedures.

A Strategic Planning Panel will consist of 5 members:

- 3 members, including the chair, appointed by the Minister (State members), and
- 2 members appointed by the relevant council (council members).

At least 2 of the State members appointed by the Minister must have expertise in strategic planning (district or regional strategic planning). The State members may be members or alternate members, so long as they have relevant strategic or Aboriginal land planning expertise.

For matters relating to Aboriginal land planning, specifically land in a development delivery plan made under the Planning Systems SEPP, at least 1 of the State members with strategic planning expertise should also identify as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or have expertise in Aboriginal land planning.

Note: This Chapter should be read together with Chapter 4 of this Operational Procedures.

14.3 Reviews

A Strategic Planning Panel may conduct certain LEP related reviews, including:

- Rezoning reviews — that may be requested by a proponent before a planning proposal has been submitted to the Department for a Gateway determination,
- Independent reviews — that may be requested by a LALC before a planning proposal for land subject to a development delivery plan made under the Planning Systems SEPP has been submitted to the Department for a Gateway determination.

The Department's LEP Making Guidelines sets out how to apply for a rezoning review, fees and costs, eligibility requirements and information the council or proponent must provide for reviews to be undertaken.

14.4 Rezoning reviews

The Department will provide the Strategic Planning Panel with the rezoning planning proposal, council's comments on the proposal and a summary briefing report for review.

The Strategic Planning Panel will be briefed by the proponent and council and may request a site visit to assist in its consideration of any matter relevant to the planning proposal. All briefings or site visits should follow the procedures set out in Schedule 1 of this Operational Procedures.

Assessment and Determination

The Strategic Planning Panel's review and determination are to be in accordance with the LEP Making Guidelines.

The Strategic Planning Panel will assess the rezoning planning proposal, having regard to the matters outlined in the LEP Making Guidelines and determine whether the planning proposal has:

- strategic merit, and
- site-specific merit.

Planning proposals that do not reasonably meet the strategic and site-specific merit tests are unlikely to proceed to a Gateway determination.

The Department will monitor the progress of the rezoning review to achieve an outcome within a target of 100 days of receiving the initial rezoning review request.

Recommendation

If the Strategic Planning Panel recommends that the planning proposal should proceed to a Gateway determination, it will:

- notify the relevant council that the Strategic Planning Panel will assume the PPA role, if the council has refused to support the planning proposal, or
- identify the PPA (either council or itself) where council has not made a determination on a planning proposal but has informed the panel in writing prior to the Strategic Planning Panel meeting of its nomination.

Planning Proposal Authority

The Strategic Planning Panel may be directed to be the PPA for a planning proposal by the Minister.

The Strategic Planning Panel has delegated authority to direct itself to be the PPA in the following cases:

- a. in a case where the recommendation relates to a proposed instrument relating to land owned by a Local Aboriginal Land Council and to which Chapter 3 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021 applies:
 - i. before the recommendation was made, a written request to prepare a planning proposal has been submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment by the Local Aboriginal Land Council, or
- b. in any other case:
 - i. before the recommendation was made, a written request to prepare a planning proposal has been submitted to the council, and
 - ii. after the recommendation was made, the council has been given an opportunity to be the planning proposal authority, unless the council has previously refused to support the request to prepare a planning proposal.

Note: The appointment function under s 3.32(2)(c) of the EP&A Act has been delegated by the Minister to the Planning Panels and the Independent Planning Commission under an instrument of delegation.

14.5 Independent reviews

An independent review is an administrative review process closely aligned with rezoning reviews. Independent proposal reviews give LALCs an opportunity for an independent body to give advice on planning proposals for land subject to a development delivery plan made under the Planning Systems SEPP.

Assessment and Determination

When a Strategic Planning Panel is undertaking an independent review, it must consider the:

- strategic merit - consideration must be given to the consistency of the planning proposal with the relevant development delivery plan for the land, and
- site-specific merit - consideration must be given to the social and economic benefit to the Aboriginal community facilitated by the proposal.

The Strategic Planning Panel must determine whether or not to recommend that a planning proposal be submitted for a Gateway determination under section 3.34 of the EP&A Act.

Further detail on the independent review process can be found in Planning Circular PS 22-001 Independent review of planning proposals for identified Aboriginal land, or as updated.

14.6 Planning Proposal Authority

As the PPA, the Strategic Planning Panel performs functions that a council normally would in preparing a LEP. This includes:

- submitting a planning proposal that satisfies the requirements of section 3.33 of the EP&A Act including any requirements issued by the Secretary for a Gateway determination,
- undertaking any necessary agency consultation prior to public exhibition of the planning proposal,
- exhibiting the planning proposal in accordance with the terms of the Gateway determination (if all relevant Gateway conditions have been met Panel endorsement to proceed to exhibition is not necessary),
- considering a recommendation report, addressing submissions received during public exhibition,
- holding a public meeting if the planning proposal is the subject of 10 or more unique submissions by way of objection following public exhibition,
- if required by the Minister, conducting a review of the planning proposal if there has been any delay in the matter being finalised, or if for any other reason the Minister considers it appropriate to do so,
- providing a revised planning proposal to the Minister following consideration of any submission or report during community consultation or for any other reason,
- submitting a request to the Department, as delegate of the Minister, that the LEP be legally drafted and made.

The Minister (or delegate) remains responsible for determining the planning proposal.

The Secretary is responsible for making arrangements for the drafting of any required LEP to give effect to the final proposals of the PPA.

14.7 Support provided to the Planning Panel in its role as PPA

The Secretariat are to provide any necessary support for agency and community consultation (public exhibition) and can facilitate the provision of technical support from other parts of the Department and briefings to the Strategic Planning Panel.

14.8 Strategic Planning Panel decisions and advice to be made publicly available

A Strategic Planning Panel will need to make decisions throughout the LEP making process when undertaking reviews or acting as PPA. Decisions of the Strategic Planning Panel must be made publicly available on the relevant Planning Panels website within 7 business days of any decision.

14.9 Community consultation

There is no requirement for a Strategic Planning Panel meeting to be held prior to determining a rezoning review. The Gateway determination details requirements, if any, for community consultation on planning proposals. The Strategic Planning Panel may hold Panel meetings at any time, at the discretion of the chair, and request briefings from relevant parties at any time.

Submissions received as part of the public exhibition of a planning proposal for which the Strategic Planning Panel is the PPA must be made publicly available on the Panels' website.

15. Site compatibility certificates

Panels determine applications for SCCs made under section 3.14 of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP.

Written applications are to be lodged with the Department. The Department prepares an assessment of the application and a recommendation for the relevant Panel. The Panel considers the application and the Department's assessment report and those matters set out at section 3.14(6) of the SEPP. The Panel may determine an application by issuing a SCC or refusing to do so.

The Panel may request a briefing and/or a site visit to assist in its considerations.

A briefing or site visit will be attended by the Panel and Department staff and follow the procedures set out in Schedule 1.

Decisions on SCCs will generally be made by a resolution following a circulation of papers in accordance with the procedures set out in Schedule 1.

Schedule 1: Procedures for briefings, meetings and decisions.

1 Briefings and site visits

The chair may agree to a site visit or a briefing prior to a Planning Panel making a decision or providing advice on a matter.

A site visit or briefing is solely to identify and clarify issues with the proposal. Panel members will not offer opinions on the merits of the proposal or ask those involved with the assessment of the proposal for their opinion or recommendations at site visits or briefings.

However, the Panel may identify issues that it expects to be addressed or clarified in any assessment report.

A site visit or briefing will be attended by the Panel and relevant council or Department assessment staff or other persons engaged in the assessment of the DA or matter to be determined by the Panel. Secretariat staff may also attend site visits and briefings. In some circumstances, other parties, including the applicant or people who made submissions on an application or matter may also be invited to attend a site visit or briefing. The invitation of parties is at the discretion of the chair.

Briefings on DAs may include a presentation by council assessment staff on key elements of the proposal and the planning controls that affect it (such as zoning), and an overview of issues of concern arising through the Council's assessment or raised in submissions. The timing of the submission of the assessment report and tentative date for a determination may also be discussed.

The assessment officer briefing the Panel during a site visit should have available a set of large-scale plans and be able to point out relevant features of the site and the proposed development.

Only Panel members who will sit on the Panel to determine the matter should attend the briefing.

Briefings and site visits on planning proposals and site compatibility certificates follow the same format, with Departmental staff briefing the Panel.

It is not mandatory that the Panel be briefed prior to considering a matter. However, the Panel will typically hold a Kick-off briefing within 28 days of the DA being lodged. At this Kick-off briefing, the Panel chair will identify key issues, any areas where further information is to be requested and set out a timetable for the next phases of the assessment process, including the estimated timing for determination. Where there is an additional assessment briefing, it should take place no later than 128 days after the lodgement of the DA. The assessment of a DA should not be delayed for a briefing to occur.

Panel members may identify further issues where they need clarification or more information. A Panel may request briefings with council or Department staff or the applicant at any time to clarify any element of the proposal and the assessment report prior to the Panel making its decision.

Briefings are not determination meetings and Panel members should not make any comment that would indicate pre-determination of the matter.

The chair should take into consideration the availability of all members of the Panel and any other necessary persons when deciding to conduct a site visit.

Entry to any private land may only take place with the express permission of the owner of the land, and it is the responsibility of council staff, in relation to a DA, or Department staff in relation to a planning proposal, to seek owner's consent when required.

A written record of the briefing or site visit is made including time, date, attendees, any declarations and key issues discussed and is published on the Planning Panels website within 7 days. Site visits or briefings are not recorded by audio/ video record, an audio record or a transcription record.

It may be appropriate to invite the applicant or proponent to attend a briefing or site visit when:

- it would be beneficial to gain a joint understanding between the Panel, council and applicant of the key issues and timing for resolution relating to a DA or planning proposal,
- the Panel could benefit from additional technical explanation on a complex matter,

- the development or other options are still being considered (e.g. if a major re-design has been requested by the council), or if
- material to be presented may be commercially sensitive or confidential.

Site inspections and briefings are not public meetings of the Panel.

2 Meetings

The Panel may meet on-line, in-person or a combination of both. The Panel will generally conduct its business on-line.

Public briefing meetings

If the matter before the Panel attracts significant community interest, the Panel may consider calling a public briefing meeting.

Public briefing meetings are held to hear submissions in a public forum and to meet with key stakeholders to discuss unresolved issues. Community groups and individuals may register to speak to the Panel at the public briefing meeting. Public briefing meetings are held at the discretion of the Panel. A recording will be made of public briefing meetings and made available on the Planning Panel website.

Panel members should not make any comment that would indicate pre-determination of the application at a public meeting.

Determination meetings

For contentious matters, where a DA has attracted 10 or more unique submissions by way of objection, the Panels will generally hold a public determination meeting to consider the DA.

Notice of a public determination meeting is given at least 7 days before the meeting. Notice of the meeting (including the time, date, meeting format and if relevant, venue for the meeting) are:

- notified on the Panels website, and
- given to every person who made a submission to the council (in the case of petitions, only the head petitioner).

The meeting agenda, any business papers, assessment reports and attachments (including any representations made by council) are distributed to members of the Panel and uploaded on the Planning Panels website in advance of the meeting.

People wishing to address the Panel must register prior to the meeting.

The chair determines the order of presentations to the Panel and the amount of time given to each speaker. At the meeting, it is acceptable to provide the Panel with written material which summarises the matters to be presented to the panel by the speaker. However, written material must be kept to a minimum. Any written material provided may be made available on the Planning Panel website.

3 Procedures for public meetings

Planning Panel meetings are to be conducted in public.

Meeting dates and agendas

Expected determination timeframes for DAs are estimated soon after the DA is lodged and referred to the Planning Panels. Regular status updates on DAs ensure that DAs are determined in a timely manner. Briefings and meetings are scheduled on an as-needs basis. Generally, Panels will have a regular schedule of proposed meeting dates that is determined at the beginning of each year by the Secretariat in consultation with the chair. Meeting dates can be utilised for any Panel related business including public briefing meetings, Panel briefings including Kick-off briefings and site visits, meetings with relevant Government agencies (eg concurrence authority) or Panel meetings. Panel public determination meetings are generally arranged within 14 days of receiving council's assessment report.

Additional meetings or briefings of a Panel may be organised at the discretion of the chair and via the Secretariat.

The council notifies the Secretariat of any revised date for completion of the assessment report as soon as it is aware of any delay and advises of the reasons for the delay.

The meeting time and venue

The meeting time, meeting format and if relevant, venue is determined by the chair in consultation with relevant councils, and taking into account:

- the location of the proposed developments to be considered at the Panel meeting,
- the number of persons who have expressed an interest in the different matters to be considered at the Panel meeting,
- if the meeting is being held on site, the availability of a suitable venue and the accessibility of the proposed venue for those persons, and
- local considerations and logistics.

The meeting time, meeting format and if relevant, venue should:

- maximise accessibility to people who have expressed an interest in the matters to be considered at the meeting, and
- facilitate the open exchange of information between the Panel members and other parties.

Notice of meeting

Notice of a Panel meeting is to be given by the Secretariat at least 7 days before the meeting. Notice is given to Panel members, the general managers (or their nominee) of the councils in that region or district, every person who made a submission to the council (in the case of petitions, only the head petitioner) in respect of an item to be considered at the meeting and the applicants for those items. A notice is placed on the Panels website and may be placed in the local newspaper.

The notice is to include details of:

- the time, date and format of the meeting,
- if relevant, the venue for the meeting,
- the matter under consideration (DA/s or planning proposal),
- the availability of the assessment report, supporting documentation and recommendations, and
- other matters to be considered at the meeting.

Distribution of meeting papers

The meeting papers including assessment reports and attachments, including any representations made by councils, are to be distributed to members of the Panel and uploaded on the Panels website by the Secretariat no less than 7 days prior to the meeting.

Opening and closing meetings

The chair will open the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country followed by introducing the Panel and its members, state the purpose of the meeting, read out any apologies and call for declarations of interest following the declarations of interest procedures.

The chair will note any site visits or briefings the panel has had the benefit of and describe the order of proceedings and time limits for speakers.

The chair may also request council staff to briefly summarise the key issues that have arisen in the assessment report.

The panel will then listen to those wishing to address the panel. After the presentations the panel will make its determination and the chair will read out the decision of the panel before closing the meeting.

Declarations of interest procedures

The declarations of interest procedures set out below follow the requirements of the Panels Code of Conduct (Code):

1. The chair calls on Panel members to complete and sign written declarations of interest forms prior to the meeting for each panel matter (under clause 4.1 of the Code). Any verbal declarations must be recorded in writing.

Note: Under the Code, a panel member should declare the following interests:

- a. an actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest (see clause 3.1 of the Code),
 - b. a pecuniary interest listed under clauses 3.10 – 3.12 of the Code,
 - c. a non-pecuniary interest (see clause 3.14 of the Code),
 - d. a conflict of duties listed under clauses 3.18 – 3.25 of the Code,
 - e. a pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest arising from a political contribution or donation (see clause 3.26 of the Code),
 - f. a position and pecuniary interest in corporations, partnerships or other businesses that may be relevant to the activities of the Panel in accordance with the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Guidelines 'Conduct Guidelines for Members of NSW Government Boards and Committees' (see clause 4.3 of the Code),
 - g. a personal dealing with council (see clause 5.1 of the Code), and
 - h. a gift or benefit listed under clauses 5.2 – 5.6 of the Code.
2. The chair reviews the written and signed declarations and the management measures put in place for any declared interests.
 3. If the chair is satisfied that reasonable and appropriate management measures are consistent with those set out in the Code, then a note to this effect is to be made on the meeting record.
 4. Should the chair have concerns, the chair is to raise these concerns with the member and suggest additional reasonable and appropriate management measures including, if warranted, that the member not take part in the determination for the matter (see clause 3.8 of the Code).
 5. The chair is to provide the member an opportunity to respond.
 6. The chair is to consider any response prior to making a final decision on the reasonable and appropriate management measures and note the response, the decision, and the chair's reasons for the decision in the meeting record.

Presentations at a Panel meeting

The chair determines the order of presentations to the Panel. Panel members may ask questions of those making presentations. The amount of time given to each speaker is at the discretion of the chair.

At the Panel meeting, it is at the chair's discretion whether to accept written material which summarises the matters to be presented to the Panel by the speaker. Any allowed written material must be kept to a minimum.

By registering to speak at a meeting, speakers agree to being audio recorded and to the publication of that recording on the Panels website.

- a) Presentation by the assessment officer

The chair may request that the assessing officer responsible for preparing the assessment report (or a representative) presents a summary of the DA or planning proposal, as the case may be, and outline any relevant assessment issues at the start of the presentations. For meeting being held in person, the assessment officer should have available at the Panel meeting a set of large-scale plans (including any amended plans).

Generally, it is council's professional planning and assessment staff that prepare DA assessment reports for the Panel's consideration.

Where a Panel is acting in the role of the PPA for a planning proposal matter the Department provides technical assistance, which may include the provision of an assessment report for the Panel.

The assessment officer (or representative) should inform the chair of any late submissions received, and of any issues raised which may not have been addressed in the assessment report.

The assessment officer (or representative) should be present throughout the Panel meeting, so that the chair can seek clarification where necessary of assessment issues that may arise during the course of the meeting. Other technical experts from the council/Department may also be present (such as traffic engineers) and the chair may ask for clarification of specific issues. Any questions to council/Department staff can only be made by Panel members and are to be directed through the chair.

b) Presentation by the applicant or proponent

The applicant, in the case of a DA, or the proponent, in the case of a planning proposal, will be given the opportunity to outline the proposal and respond to the assessment report. The applicant/proponent may also be required to respond to submissions made at the meeting. The time allocated to the applicant/proponent, including their consultant(s), is at the discretion of the chair, but is generally 15 minutes. Additional time may be allocated where professional consultants have been engaged by the applicant/proponent to present at the meeting.

c) Presentation by people or groups who made submissions

Panel meetings enable people or groups to make a presentation to the Panel meeting. People who wish to address the Panel must register with the Secretariat prior to the meeting by contacting the Secretariat by telephone or email within the timeframe specified in the notification letter (generally two days before the Panel meeting).

For those people who are of the view that they would not be appropriately or adequately represented by any groups, they may register to speak to the Panel as individuals.

The chair will advise on the time allocated for verbal submissions which will vary from meeting to meeting depending on a number of considerations such as the number of registered speakers.

As a guide:

- individual submitters will have 3 minutes to speak,
- a speaker for a community organisation/group will have 10 minutes to present. Additional time may be allocated where professional consultants have been engaged by community groups to present at the meeting.

In addition, where a large group of people have common issues to raise at the meeting, the chair may ask that a spokesperson be appointed to speak on behalf of the group. In such cases, the spokesperson will generally be allocated more time than individual speakers.

The chair seeks to ensure that all groups or individuals who request to address the Panel are heard. Any requests for extending time limits should be made to the Panel at the meeting and may be granted at the discretion of the chair.

Speakers should focus their oral presentations on the assessment report and its recommendation rather than re-stating information outlined in their earlier written submissions. The Panel has been provided with all submissions and associated documents before the Panel meeting.

d) Presentation by people or groups that have not made a submission

The chair has the discretion to allow any member of the public to address the Panel, even if they have not made a submission or registered to speak by the relevant deadline. Considerations may include the number of persons that made submissions and have requested to address the meeting and the available time.

e) Presentation by an expert engaged by the Panel

For the purpose of making a decision on a matter, such as a DA or a planning proposal, a Panel may obtain independent assessment reports, advice and assistance that the Panel may require, particularly in relation to complex technical matters. This would be in addition to any assessment report or other information provided by the relevant council/Department in assessing the application.

Selection of such experts is to be determined by the chair in consultation with the other Panel members.

Depending on the circumstances, the expert may submit a report with recommendations directly to the Panel. In addition, the expert may be invited to present the outcomes of their report at the Panel meeting.

The independent assessment report should be made available on the Planning Panels website prior to the meeting, except where this information includes legal advice provided to the Panel and is subject to legal professional privilege.

Adjourning during a Planning Panel meeting

A Panel may adjourn a meeting where:

- a briefing is required to hear confidential or sensitive information, and/or
- the panel wishes to confer amongst itself before reconvening the meeting for voting and determination.

Before the adjournment the panel chair publicly states the reasons for the adjournment which are recorded in the audio and written record of the meeting.

If the meeting is adjourned so that the panel may confer amongst themselves prior to making a decision, the chair briefly summarises the matters discussed in the adjournment after reconvening the meeting. The panel may discuss the matter further in the meeting and/or make its determination.

Panel discussions during adjournments are not recorded.

4 Decisions and determinations

The Panel will strive to make its decisions unanimously. Where a decision cannot be made by unanimously, the decision will be made by majority vote. The chair will have a second or casting vote if required because of an equality of votes.

Quorum for a Planning Panel decisions

A quorum is a majority of the Panel's members, including the chair, i.e. a total of three members. The decision of the Panel will be deferred if a quorum is not present.

Where conflicts of interest are known before a decision is to be made, alternate members will be used to make a quorum.

The Planning Panel's consideration

In addition to the assessment report, the Panel is to take into account all written submissions, as well as the views expressed by those addressing the Panel should a public meeting be required.

Deferring the decision

A decision may be deferred for any reason including to obtain additional information or advice.

Should the Panel determine to defer a decision on an application, it must provide a written record of the reasons for deferral.

Where the determination of a proposal is deferred pending the provision of additional information, the panel must specify the timeframe in which the information is to be provided to the council for assessment.

It is the council's responsibility to follow up on any requests for additional information or amendments from the applicant, to determine whether re-exhibition is required, and to provide a supplementary assessment report to the Panel.

The Panel's reasons

The Panel must provide reasons for its decisions, which are to be recorded in the 'Determination and Statement of Reasons' template provided by the Secretariat.

The Panel may rely on the conclusions and recommendations within the assessment report, however, the Panel must identify where it has its own reasons for making the decision and where it adopts the reasons from any assessment report of Council or the Department. As part of setting out its reasons the Panel is to:

- provide a summary of the main issues raised in submissions,
- demonstrate how the Panel considered the community's concerns, and
- demonstrate how the Panel dealt with the issues raised, should they have been found to have merit i.e. requested further studies, applied appropriate conditions or, agreed with council recommendation that the applicant had satisfactorily addressed the concerns.

Determinations on DAs

The determination must clearly state whether a DA is unconditionally approved, approved with conditions, has a deferred commencement or refused.

Any new conditions of consent or changes to the recommended conditions of consent must be recorded.

If the Panel resolves to approve an application that is recommended for refusal, the Panel may seek a further report from the council's planning officer providing recommended conditions of consent. The Panel may request without prejudice conditions of consent before a Panel meeting if council's report recommends refusal.

The determination and statement of reasons must include the following:

- the decision of the Panel,
- the date of the decision,
- the reasons for the decision (having regard to any statutory requirements applying to the decision), and
- how community views were considered in making the decision.

DA determinations must be publicly notified in accordance with clause 20 Schedule 1 of the EP&A Act. The date that the determination has effect is the date that it is registered (by the Panel secretariat) on the NSW Planning Portal (EP&A Act s.4.20(1)). The council will provide the Notice of Determination after this date.

The decision of the Panel is not subject to a 'Rescission Motion' as in local government.

Decisions of Decision Review Panels are called a 'Review of Decision' Determination and Statement of Reasons.

Determinations on matters other than DAs

Decisions made by the Panels on SCCs, Rezoning Reviews and where the Panel is the PPA will include the following:

- the decision of the Panel,
- the date of the decision, and
- the reasons for the decision (having regard to any statutory requirements applying to the decision).

Resolutions of the Panels

The Panels may from time to time make resolutions on certain matters, e.g. to authorise the chair to provide instruction in relation to legal appeals on behalf of the Panel.

Resolutions of the Panel will be published on the Panels website.

Dissenting views

If the decision (and reasons for the decision) is not unanimous, all members of the Panel (i.e. including the minority) still need to give reasons.

Timing of Determination and Statement of Reasons

It is preferable that the Panel record both its decision and its reasons at the time of the determination.

Signatures

All members of the Panel must sign the Determination and Statement of Reasons. Where one or two members are in dissent, they must still sign, as the reasons will set out their dissenting views.

5 Transactions of business outside meetings

A Panel can transact its business by the circulation of papers, (including the electronic transmission of the information in the papers) (known as an electronic determination) (see Schedule 2, Clause 26 of the EP&A Act). The chair and each Panel member have the same voting rights as they have at a public meeting.

The chair may decide that the Panel can complete its business through an electronic determination. These circumstances may arise when:

- there are less than 10 unique submissions by way of objection,
- the Panel has held a public meeting and deferred its decision to request specific additional information from an applicant or council (such as amended drawings) and if council, after having accepted the amended drawings, has decided that re-exhibition of is not required,
- the Panel is voting on a procedural matter, or
- the Panel is voting on a decision following a briefing in relation to a Rezoning Review, Planning Proposal or site compatibility certificate.

Prior to an electronic determination the council report and recommendation is made available on the Planning Panels website for 7 days.

Following consideration of the assessment report, the Panel advises the Secretariat of its decision and a record of decision is completed and endorsed by all members.

Resolutions approved by circulation of papers are recorded in writing and made publicly available on the Panels website within 7 days. The circulation of papers is generally done electronically and are not recorded by audio/ video record, an audio record or a transcription record.

6 Records of proceedings

The chair is responsible for ensuring that full and accurate records are kept of the proceedings of Panel meetings, briefings and other business.

An audio recording will be made for all public briefing meetings and determination meetings and will be published on the Panels website. By registering to speak at a meeting, speakers agree to being recorded and to the publication of that recording. Where a speaker has not registered to speak but wants to make a submission at the meeting it is at the chair's discretion and the speaker is asked to agree to being recorded and that recording being published.

Document templates for written records of proceedings are provided by the Secretariat.

Secretariat or council staff will assist in the preparation of draft written records. A copy of the unconfirmed written record is provided to all Panel members who participated in the proceedings. Panel members may submit any proposed corrections to the unconfirmed record to the Secretariat for confirmation by the chair.

Alternatively, a Panel may choose to complete and endorse the final record immediately after completing the meeting or briefing. In this case, draft records are not circulated.

When the written records have been confirmed and endorsed by the chair the written record is placed on the Panels website.

The confirmed written record is available within 7 days of the Panel meeting or briefing.

Record details are to include:

- the opening and closing times of the meeting,
- the details of the matter considered by the Panel,
- the names of all members of the Panel, including the chair, and any other attendees at the meeting,
- any disclosure of interest made by a member, the reason for that disclosure of interest and whether the member making the disclosure participated in the discussion or determination of the matter,
- any adjournments and reasons for the adjournment,
- the names of each person heard by the Panel in respect of a matter,
- any decision of the Panel,
- reasons for the decision,
- the names of each member who voted for or against the decision, and reasons for dissent, where the decision is not unanimous, and
- the signatures of all the members making the decision.

A written record of briefings or site visits are made including time, date, attendees, any declarations and key issues discussed and are published on the Panels website within 7 days. Site visits or briefings are not recorded by audio/ video record, an audio record or a transcription record.

The Secretariat, with assistance from the relevant council, is responsible for recording decisions for Panel meetings.

Panel members are required to provide any notes made during a meeting, briefing or site inspection to the Secretariat for registration as a record. This includes handwritten or electronic notations.

Department of Planning and Environment

Frequently Asked Questions



Planning Panel Changes

This document answers frequently asked questions about recent changes to rules and operating procedures for Local Planning Panels and Sydney District and Regional Planning Panels

What changes are you making to the Planning Panels?

Changes to the way Sydney District and Regional Planning Panels operate come into effect immediately, while changes to Local Planning Panels come into effect on 24 April 2023 to give councils time to recruit additional panelists.

Changes to the operation of Sydney District and Regional Planning Panels include:

- requiring RPP members to be rotated regularly so that there is randomisation of panel membership
- requiring probity checks, including police checks, for community representatives in RPPs, and a statutory declaration that representatives are not property developers or real estate agents
- encouraging councils to appoint a minimum of 4 alternate council members that can sit on their relevant RPP.
- Appointing a minimum number of 60 experts in the pool Sydney District and Regional Planning Panels choose from, which is underway.

Changes to the operation of Local Planning Panels include:

- mandating a minimum number of experts in pools for LPPs (15)
- mandating a minimum number of community representatives in LPP pools (4)
- requiring LPP members to be rotated regularly so that there is randomisation of panel membership
- requiring probity checks, including police checks, for community representatives in LPPs, and a statutory declaration that representatives are not property developers or real estate agents
- clarifying that applicants can request to formally meet with LPPs to brief them on any project
- implementing a framework for the Department to induct LPP members.

What prompted the changes? Is there evidence to suggest lobbying is going on?

We are not aware of any inappropriate lobbying or undue influence of panels. However, we need to be alert to the risk of corruption in the planning system and move to proactively address any risks.

How many experts are currently in a pool?

On average, eight experts are appointed by individual councils to their LPP's pool. This ranges from three experts to 20 experts. Most councils have six experts appointed to their pool.

There is currently one pool of approximately 55 State-appointed members and alternate members for Sydney District and Regional Planning Panels.

Who chooses who sits on a local planning panel from existing pools?

The chair on each panel selects the panel members based on availability, usually two weeks before a panel meeting.

What do you have to say to some councils who say this will be an administrative and financial burden, adding they are already stretched to select and appoint additional experts?

We make no apology for ensuring independent panels can operate free from influence. There is no change to council's assessment process, and this will not take up much more time. Councils have until 24 April 2023 to make sure they have enough time to appoint additional members.

Why haven't you put these changes on public exhibition for community consultation?

The changes aren't major. They're about improving the integrity of the panels by adding to the pool of panellists rather than overhauling the system.

These measures will enable us to reduce predictability and improve decision-making, while ensuring the panellists with the most relevant skills and experience can be selected to determine a project.

Isn't a panel chair already required to rotate members? And doesn't the department already formally induct them?

Data suggests that panel members are not rotating as frequently as they should be in some council areas. We are updating the rules and guidelines to support more frequent rotation of members and recommending that panels be monitored to ensure they are adequately rotating their panel members.

We currently require councils to report LPP data every quarter, which will be used to monitor rotations. If a council is not meeting expectations, we can step in to provide additional guidance and management.

We formally inducted panel members and council staff when the panels were first introduced,

however this training has since been left with councils to manage.

We are going to develop consistent procedures and induction materials for newly appointed panellists, to ensure they are aware of their responsibility to report lobbying. We are also going to provide ongoing training and remind existing panel members of their obligations to manage conflicts of interests and their relationships with proponents.

What experience do these experts have?

These pools of experts include people with expertise in an array of fields, including planning, architecture, heritage, environment, urban design, economics, traffic and transport, law and government, and public administration.

What happens to the new specialists with strategic and Aboriginal land planning expertise? What is their role?

These strategic and Aboriginal land planning specialists will be included in the pool for Sydney District and Regional Planning Panels of at least 60 experts to bolster strategic planning and improve Aboriginal land planning outcomes.

How long have the panels being operating for?

Sydney and Regional Planning Panels have been operating since 2009, with Local Planning Panels introduced in 2018.

What type of applications go to the Sydney and Regional Planning Panels?

The Sydney and Regional Planning Panels make decisions on Regionally Significant Development and provide advice on planning proposals. They consider some of the most important developments in metropolitan and regional areas, to ensure the best outcomes for communities.

Generally, these projects have a capital investment value greater than \$30 million. Other categories of Regionally Significant Development include council or Crown development applications, with a capital investment value greater than \$5 million.

What type of applications go to the Local Planning Panels?

Local Planning Panels are made up of independent experts that determine development applications on behalf of council, and provide advice on planning matters, including planning proposals.

LPPs make decisions on sensitive and contentious development applications that come before councils. Council staff still determine the more straightforward DAs.

What did the panels achieve last financial year?

Local Planning Panels assessed 1,282 applications last financial year and approved 1,025 development applications worth \$3.45 billion, paving the way for 4,433 new homes and an estimated 6,898 jobs across NSW.

Sydney District and Regional Planning Panels assessed 301 applications last financial year and approved 260 development applications worth \$9.96 billion, paving the way for 12,511 new homes and 47,765 jobs across NSW

Together, these panels assessed 1,583 applications last financial year and approved 1,285 development applications worth \$13.41 billion, paving the way for 16,944 new homes and 54,663 jobs across NSW.

What's the breakdown of the Sydney District and Regional Planning Panels? How are they chosen?

There are nine Sydney District and Regional Planning Panels in operation:

- Four regional: Southern, Northern, Western and Hunter and Central Coast; and
- Five Sydney districts; Sydney North, Sydney Eastern City, Sydney South, Sydney Central City and Sydney Western City.

Each Panel is made up of five members:

- Three State expert members, including the chair, appointed by the Minister for Planning; and
- Two members appointed by the relevant council.

DPE oversees the recruitment process and members cannot be real estate agents or property developers (or a close associate). They are in the role for up to three years (the term of current members expires on 31 December 2022).

What about the Local Planning Panels? How are members chosen?

There are 36 Local Planning Panels throughout NSW. One for each of the 33 Sydney councils, and one each for the Central Coast, Wollongong and Wingecarribee.

The panels consist of a chair and two independent experts appointed by the relevant council from a Minister-endorsed pool of independent, qualified people, plus a community representative.

The panels are not state appointed. Councils appoint all the chairs and members to the panel from a pool of experts that have gone through a rigorous recruitment process and have been approved by the Minister as being appropriately qualified and experienced.

Over 60 experienced and independent persons have been approved for councils to appoint as chairs or alternate chairs, and a pool of more than 200 independent qualified experts from which councils can choose to appoint to their local planning panels.

A community representative is also chosen by the relevant council.

This approach strikes a balance between experts making decisions in relation to planning issues, with the ability to incorporate legitimate and relevant local knowledge through the inclusion of community members.

Where can I find out more?

Visit the Department of Planning and Environment's website for more information:

Frequently Asked Questions



- [Local Planning Panels](#)
- [Sydney District and Regional Planning Panels](#)

For enquiries relating to the Planning Panels please contact the Planning Panels Secretariat on:

Phone: (02) 8217 2060 Or email: enquiry@planningpanels.nsw.gov.au



Planning Agreement

Yanco Delta WF Project Pty Ltd as trustee for
the Yanco Delta WF Project Trust

and

Murrumbidgee Council

and

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

Ref KMG:918033

Level 14, Australia Square, 264-278 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
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Planning Agreement

Date

Parties	<p>Yanco Delta WF Project Pty Ltd ABN 42 676 356 915 as trustee for the Yanco Delta WF Project Trust</p> <p>ABN 83 782 956 302 of Level 32, Tower 1, 100 Barangaroo Avenue, Barangaroo NSW 2000</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Developer)</p>
	<hr/> <p>Murrumbidgee Council</p> <p>ABN 53 573 617 925 of 39 Brolga Place, Coleambally NSW 2707</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Council)</p>
	<hr/> <p>Minister for Planning and Public Spaces</p> <p>ABN 20 770 707 468 of level 15, 52 Martin Place, Sydney NSW 2000</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Minister)</p>

Recitals	<p>A. The Developer wishes to carry out the Development on the Land which is situated in the local government areas of the Council.</p> <p>B. The Developer has agreed to make the Development Contributions in connection with the Development for the benefit of the local communities in which the Development is to be carried out in.</p> <p>C. The Council agrees to accept the Development Contributions on the terms set out in this agreement.</p> <p>D. The Minister is a party to this deed solely for the purpose of clause 7 of this Agreement and section 7.4(3A) of the Act.</p>
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1. Definitions and interpretation clauses

1.1 Definitions

Act means the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW).

Approval includes approval, consent, licence, permission or the like.

Authority means the Commonwealth or New South Wales government, a Minister of the Crown, a government department, a public authority established by or under any Act, a council or county council constituted under the Local Government Act 1993, a

a person or body exercising functions under any Act including a commission, panel, court, tribunal and the like.

Bank Guarantee means an irrevocable and unconditional undertaking without any expiry or end date in favour of the Council to pay an amount or amounts of money to the Council on demand issued by:

- (a) one of the following trading banks:
 - (i) Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited,
 - (ii) Commonwealth Bank of Australia,
 - (iii) Macquarie Bank Limited,
 - (iv) National Australia Bank Limited,
 - (v) St George Bank Limited,
 - (vi) Westpac Banking Corporation, or
- (b) any other financial institution approved by the Council in its absolute discretion.

Claim includes a claim, demand, remedy, suit, injury, damage, loss, Cost, liability, action, proceeding or right of action.

Construction Commencement Date means the date on which excavation of the first wind turbine foundation commences in connection with the Development.

Contribution Item means an item of the Development Contributions specified in Column 1 of Schedule 3.

Cost means a cost, charge, expense, outgoing, payment, fee and other expenditure of any nature.

Council means Murrumbidgee Council.

Deed means this Deed and includes any schedules, annexures and appendices to this Deed.

Department means the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Development means the construction and operation of a wind farm, referred to as the 'Yanco Delta Wind Farm' as described in the Environmental Impact Statement lodged in support of State Significant Development Application SSD-41743746.

Development Application has the same meaning as in the Act.

Development Consent has the same meaning as in the Act and where relevant for the purposes of this Deed, refers to the development consent granted to the

Development Application for the Development, including any modifications of that Development Consent in accordance with the Act.

Development Contribution means a monetary contribution, the dedication of land free of cost, the carrying out of work, or the provision of any other material public benefit, or any combination of them, to be used for, or applied towards a public purpose, but does not include any security or other benefit provided by a Party to the Council to secure the enforcement of that Party's obligations under this Deed for the purposes of s7.4(3)(g) of the Act.

Dispute means a dispute or difference between the Parties under or in relation to this Deed.

End Date means the date that the Developer has met its obligations under this deed.

Explanatory Note means the note exhibited with this deed when the deed is made available for inspection by the public pursuant to the Act, as required by the Regulation.

GST has the same meaning as in the GST Law.

GST Law has the same meaning as in A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999 (Cth) and any other Act or regulation relating to the imposition or administration of the GST.

Item means an item specified in Column 1 of Schedule 3.

Land means land which the Development will be carried out including but not limited to the Land described in Schedule 2.

Monetary Contribution means the total \$ amount specified in Column 1, Item 1 of Schedule 3.

Party means a party to this Deed.

Regulation means the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.

Term means the term of this agreement pursuant to clause 3

1.2 Interpretation

In this deed unless a contrary intention is expressed:

- (a) headings and italicised, highlighted or bold type do not affect the interpretation of this deed;
- (b) the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular;
- (c) a gender includes all other genders;
- (d) other parts of speech and grammatical forms of a word or phrase defined in this deed have a corresponding meaning;
- (e) a reference to a 'person' includes any individual, firm, company, partnership, joint venture, an unincorporated body or association, trust, corporation or other

body corporate and any Government Agency (whether or not having a separate legal personality);

- (f) a reference to any thing (including any right) includes a part of that thing, but nothing in this clause 1.2(f) implies that performance of part of an obligation constitutes performance of the obligation;
- (g) a reference to a clause, party, annexure, exhibit or schedule is a reference to a clause of, and a party, annexure, exhibit and schedule to, this deed and a reference to this deed includes any clause, annexure, exhibit and schedule;
- (h) any schedules, appendices and attachments form part of this agreement;
- (i) a reference to a document (including this deed) includes all amendments or supplements to, or replacements or novations of, that document;
- (j) a reference to a party to any document includes that party's successors and permitted assigns;
- (k) A reference in this agreement to any law, legislation or legislative provision includes any statutory modification, amendment or re-enactment, and any subordinate legislation or regulations issued under that legislation or legislative provision.
- (l) a provision of this deed may not be construed adversely to a party solely on the ground that the party (or that party's representative) was responsible for the preparation of this deed or the preparation or proposal of that provision;
- (m) a reference to a body, other than a party to this deed (including an institute, association or authority), whether statutory or not, which ceases to exist or whose powers or functions are transferred to another body, is a reference to the body which replaces it or which substantially succeeds to its powers or functions;
- (n) a reference to 'dedicate' or 'dedication' in relation to land is a reference to dedicate or dedication free of cost;
- (o) A reference to this deed includes the agreement recorded in this Deed.
- (p) the words 'include', 'including', 'for example', 'such as' or any form of those words or similar expressions in this deed do not limit what else is included and must be construed as if they are followed by the words 'without limitation', unless there is express wording to the contrary;
- (q) a reference to a day is to the period of time commencing at midnight and ending 24 hours later;
- (r) if a period of time is specified and dates from a day or the day of an act, event or circumstance, that period is to be determined exclusive of that day;

- (s) if an act or event must occur or be performed on or by a specified day and occurs or is performed after 5.00 pm on that day, it is taken to have occurred or been done on the next day; and
- (t) a reference to '\$', 'A\$', 'AUD', 'dollars' or 'Dollars' is a reference to the lawful currency of the Commonwealth of Australia.

1.3 Business Day

If anything under this deed is required to be done by or on a day that is not a Business Day that thing must be done by or on the next Business Day.

2. Status of this deed

This deed is a planning agreement within the meaning of s7.4(1) of the Act.

3. Term

- (a) This Deed commences and has force and effect on and from the date when the Parties have:
 - (i) executed the same copy of this Deed; or
 - (ii) each executed separate counterparts of this Deed and exchanged the counterparts,
 to the End Date.
- (b) The parties are to insert the date when this Deed commences on the front page and on the execution page.
- (c) The Developer is to notify the Council of:
 - (i) The Developer securing access, by way of contractual arrangement, to the access rights network described in Schedule 1 of the draft Renewable Energy Zone (South West) Access Scheme Orders as may be amended from time to time or as finally declared within 21 business days of entering into the contractual arrangement; and
 - (ii) the Construction Commencement Date, 21 business days prior to that date.

4. Application of this Deed

4.1 This Deed applies to the Land and the Development.

5. Warranties

The Parties warrant to each other that they:

- (a) have full capacity to enter into this Deed; and
- (b) are able to fully comply with their obligations under this Deed.

6. Further agreements

The Parties may, at any time and from time to time, enter into agreements relating to the subject matter of this Deed that are not inconsistent with this Deed for the purpose of implementing this Deed.

7. Application of s7.11, s7.12 and s7.24 of the Act to the Development

- (a) This Deed excludes the application of s7.11 and 7.12 of the Act to the Development.
- (b) This Deed excludes the application of s7.24 of the Act to the Development.

8. Development Contributions

8.1 Making of Development Contributions

- (a) The Developer is to make Development Contributions to the Council in accordance with Schedule 3, any other provision of this Deed relating to the making of the Development Contributions and otherwise to the satisfaction of the Council.
- (b) The Council is to apply each Development Contribution made by the Developer under this Deed towards the public purpose for which it is made and otherwise in accordance with this Deed.

8.2 Application of Monetary Contributions by Council

- (a) Council is to apply the Monetary Contribution received by it under Item 1 of Schedule 3 of this agreement, towards the public purpose of providing community infrastructure being a new medical centre in Jerilderie to provide a range of medical services to the local community and at least 25% of the contributions received by Council to be applied towards infrastructure or services within an indigenous health facility.

- (b) Council grants the exclusive right to the Developer to designate the name of the medical centre referred to in clause 8.2(a).
- (c) Council may only withhold its consent to the name designated under clause 8.2(b) if:
 - (i) in the opinion of Council the name is offensive, detracts from or is inconsistent with the location, status or purpose of the medical centre; or
 - (ii) the name that infringes any copyright laws.
- (d) Council must not change the name designated by the Developer under clause 8.2(b) and the name must remain effective during the Term of this agreement, unless otherwise agreed by the Developer.

8.3 Public Recognition

- (a) The relevant Council must publicly acknowledge and positively acknowledge the payment of the Monetary Contribution and the public purpose for which they are to be applied towards.
- (b) The form of public acknowledgment and required by clause 8.3(a) is to be agreed by the Council and the Developer (acting reasonably).

9. No Registration

The parties agree that this Deed will not be registered on the titles to the Land.

10. Dispute resolution

10.1 Expert determination

- (a) This clause applies to a Dispute between any of the Parties to this Deed concerning a matter arising in connection with this Deed that can be determined by an appropriately qualified expert if:
 - (i) the Parties to the Dispute agree that it can be so determined, or
 - (ii) the general manager or chief executive officer of the professional body that represents persons who appear to have the relevant expertise to determine the Dispute gives a written opinion that the Dispute can be determined by a member of that body.
- (b) A Dispute to which this clause applies is taken to arise if one Party gives another Party a notice in writing specifying particulars of the Dispute.

- (c) If a notice is given under clause 10.1(b) the Parties are to meet within 14 days of the notice in an attempt to resolve the Dispute.
- (d) If the Dispute is not resolved within a further 28 days, the Dispute is to be referred to the President of the NSW Law Society to appoint an expert for expert determination.
- (e) The expert determination is binding on the Parties except in the case of fraud or misfeasance by the expert.
- (f) Each Party is to bear its own costs arising from or in connection with the appointment of the expert and the expert determination.
- (g) The Parties are to share equally the costs of the President, the expert, and the expert determination.

10.2 Dispute Resolution - mediation

- (a) This clause applies to any Dispute arising in connection with this Deed other than a Dispute to which clause 10.1 applies.
- (b) Such a Dispute is taken to arise if one Party gives another Party a notice in writing specifying particulars of the Dispute.
- (c) If a notice is given under clause 10.2(b), the Parties are to meet within 14 days of the notice in an attempt to resolve the Dispute.
- (d) If the Dispute is not resolved within a further 28 days, the Parties are to mediate the Dispute in accordance with the Mediation Rules of the Law Society of New South Wales published from time to time and are to request the President of the Law Society to select a mediator.
- (e) If the Dispute is not resolved by mediation within a further 28 days, or such longer period as may be necessary to allow any mediation process which has been commenced to be completed, then the Parties may exercise their legal rights in relation to the Dispute, including by the commencement of legal proceedings in a court of competent jurisdiction in New South Wales.
 - 1.1 Each Party is to bear its own costs arising from or in connection with the appointment of a mediator and the mediation.
 - 1.2 The Parties are to share equally the costs of the President, the mediator, and the mediation.

11. Enforcement

11.1 Breach of obligations

- (a) If the Council reasonably considers that the Developer is in breach of any obligation under this Deed, it may give a written notice to the Developer:

- (i) specifying the nature and extent of the breach,
 - (ii) requiring the Developer to:
 - (A) rectify the breach if it reasonably considers it is capable of rectification, or
 - (B) pay compensation to the reasonable satisfaction of the Council in lieu of rectifying the breach if it reasonably considers the breach is not capable of rectification,
 - (iii) specifying the period within which the breach is to be rectified or compensation paid, being a period that is reasonable in the circumstances.
- (b) Any costs incurred by the Council in remedying a breach in accordance with clause 11.1 may be recovered by the Council as a debt due in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (c) For the purpose of clause 11.1(c), the Council's costs of remedying a breach the subject of a notice given under clause 11.1 include, but are not limited to:
- (i) the costs of the Council's employees, agents and contractors reasonably incurred for that purpose,
 - (ii) all fees and charges necessarily or reasonably incurred by the Council in remedying the breach, and
 - (iii) all legal costs and expenses reasonably incurred by the Council, by reason of the breach.
- (d) Nothing in this clause 11.1 prevents the Council from exercising any rights it may have at law or in equity in relation to a breach of this Deed by the Developer, including but not limited to seeking relief in an appropriate court.

11.2 Enforcement in a court of competent jurisdiction

- (a) Without limiting any other provision of this Deed, the Parties may enforce this Deed in any court of competent jurisdiction.
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Deed prevents:
 - (i) a Party from bringing proceedings in the Land and Environment Court to enforce any aspect of this Deed or any matter to which this Deed relates, or
 - (ii) the Council from exercising any function under the Act or any other Act or law relating to the enforcement of any aspect of this Deed or any matter to which this Deed relates.

12. Assignment

- (a) The Developer may assign or novate its rights or obligations under this Agreement to a third party, provided that:
 - (i) the Council is satisfied (acting reasonably and without delay) that the incoming third party is solvent and capable of performing the Developer's obligations under this deed insofar as those obligations are to be assigned or novated to the third party; and
 - (ii) procure the execution of an agreement by the third party with the Council (acting reasonably and without delay) under which the third party agrees to comply with the terms and conditions of this agreement as though the third party were the Developer.

13. GST

- (a) In this clause:
 - (i) **Adjustment Note, Consideration, GST, GST Group, Margin Scheme, Money, Supply and Tax Invoice** have the meaning given by the GST Law.
 - (ii) GST Amount means in relation to a Taxable Supply the amount of GST payable in respect of the Taxable Supply.
 - (iii) GST Law has the meaning given by the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999 (Cth).
 - (iv) Input Tax Credit has the meaning given by the GST Law and a reference to an Input Tax Credit entitlement of a party includes an Input Tax Credit for an acquisition made by that party but to which another member of the same GST Group is entitled under the GST Law.
 - (v) Taxable Supply has the meaning given by the GST Law excluding (except where expressly agreed otherwise) a supply in respect of which the supplier chooses to apply the Margin Scheme in working out the amount of GST on that supply.
- (b) Subject to clause 13(d), if GST is payable on a Taxable Supply made under, by reference to or in connection with this Deed, the Party providing the Consideration for that Taxable Supply must also pay the GST Amount as additional Consideration.
- (c) Clause 13(b) does not apply to the extent that the Consideration for the Taxable Supply is expressly stated in this Deed to be GST inclusive.
- (d) No additional amount shall be payable by the Council under clause 13(b) unless, and only to the extent that, the Council (acting reasonably and in accordance with the GST Law) determines that it is entitled to an Input Tax

Credit for its acquisition of the Taxable Supply giving rise to the liability to pay GST.

- (e) If there are Supplies for Consideration which is not Consideration expressed as an amount of Money under this Deed by one Party to the other Party that are not subject to Division 82 of the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999*, the Parties agree:
 - (i) to negotiate in good faith to agree the GST inclusive market value of those Supplies prior to issuing Tax Invoices in respect of those Supplies;
 - (ii) that any amounts payable by the Parties in accordance with clause 13(b) (as limited by clause 13(d)) to each other in respect of those Supplies will be set off against each other to the extent that they are equivalent in amount.
- (f) No payment of any amount pursuant to this clause 12, and no payment of the GST Amount where the Consideration for the Taxable Supply is expressly agreed to be GST inclusive, is required until the supplier has provided a Tax Invoice or Adjustment Note as the case may be to the recipient.
- (g) Any reference in the calculation of Consideration or of any indemnity, reimbursement or similar amount to a cost, expense or other liability incurred by a party, must exclude the amount of any Input Tax Credit entitlement of that party in relation to the relevant cost, expense or other liability.
- (h) This clause continues to apply after expiration or termination of this Deed.

14. General

14.1 Review of deed

- (a) The Parties agree to review this Deed every year, and otherwise if either party is of the opinion that any change of circumstance has occurred, or is imminent, that materially affects the operation of this Deed.
- (b) For the purposes of clause 14.1, the relevant changes include (but are not limited to) any change to a law that restricts or prohibits or enables the Council or any other planning Authority to restrict or prohibit any aspect of the Development.
- (c) For the purposes of addressing any matter arising from a review of this Deed referred to in clause 14.1, the Parties are to use all reasonable endeavours to agree on and implement appropriate amendments to this Deed.
- (d) If this Deed becomes illegal, unenforceable or invalid as a result of any change to a law, the Parties agree to do all things necessary to ensure that an enforceable agreement of the same or similar effect to this Deed is entered into.

- (e) A failure by a Party to agree to take action requested by the other Party as a consequence of a review referred to in clause 14.1 (but not (d)) is not a Dispute for the purposes of this Deed and is not a breach of this Deed.

14.2 Variation

This deed can only be varied by a later written document executed by or on behalf of all Parties in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

If any clause or part of any clause is in any way unenforceable, invalid or illegal, it is to be read down so as to be enforceable, valid and legal. If this is not possible, the clause (or where possible, the offending part) is to be severed from this Agreement without affecting the enforceability, validity or legality of the remaining clauses (or parts of those clauses) which will continue in full force and effect.

14.3 Notice

- (a) Any notice, consent, information, application or request that is to or may be given or made to a Party under this Deed is only given or made if it is in writing and sent in one of the following ways:
 - (i) delivered or posted to that Party at its address set out in Schedule 4 Sheet, or
 - (ii) emailed to that Party at its email address set out in Schedule 4.
- (b) If a Party gives the other Party 3 business days' notice of a change of its address or email, any notice, consent, information, application or request is only given or made by that other Party if it is delivered, posted or emailed to the latest address.
- (c) Any notice, consent, information, application or request is to be treated as given or made if it is:
 - (i) delivered, when it is left at the relevant address,
 - (ii) sent by post, 2 business days after it is posted, or
 - (iii) sent by email and the sender does not receive a delivery failure message from the sender's internet service provider within a period of 24 hours of the email being sent.
- (d) If any notice, consent, information, application or request is delivered, or an error free transmission report in relation to it is received, on a day that is not a business day, or if on a business day, after 5pm on that day in the place of the Party to whom it is sent, it is to be treated as having been given or made at the beginning of the next business day.

14.4 No Fetter

Nothing in this Deed shall be construed as requiring Council to do anything that would cause it to be in breach of any of its obligations at law, and without limitation, nothing shall be construed as limiting or fettering in any way the exercise of any statutory discretion or duty.

14.5 **Approvals and Consent**

- (a) Except as otherwise set out in this Deed, and subject to any statutory obligations, a Party may give or withhold an approval or consent to be given under this Deed in that Party's absolute discretion and subject to any conditions determined by the Party.
- (b) A Party is not obliged to give its reasons for giving or withholding consent or for giving consent subject to conditions.

14.6 Entire Deed

- (a) This Deed contains everything to which the Parties have agreed in relation to the matters it deals with.
- (b) No Party can rely on an earlier document, or anything said or done by another Party, or by a director, officer, agent or employee of that Party, before this Deed was executed, except as permitted by law.

14.7 Waiver

- (a) The fact that a Party fails to do, or delays in doing, something the Party is entitled to do under this Deed, does not amount to a waiver of any obligation of, or breach of obligation by, another Party.
- (b) A waiver by a Party is only effective if it:
 - (i) is in writing,
 - (ii) is addressed to the Party whose obligation or breach of obligation is the subject of the waiver,
 - (iii) specifies the obligation or breach of obligation the subject of the waiver and the conditions, if any, of the waiver,
 - (iv) is signed and dated by the Party giving the waiver.
- (c) Without limitation, a waiver may be expressed to be conditional on the happening of an event, including the doing of a thing by the Party to whom the waiver is given.
- (d) A waiver by a Party is only effective in relation to the particular obligation or breach in respect of which it is given, and is not to be taken as an implied

waiver of any other obligation or breach or as an implied waiver of that obligation or breach in relation to any other occasion.

- (e) For the purposes of this Deed, an obligation or breach of obligation the subject of a waiver is taken not to have been imposed on, or required to be complied with by, the Party to whom the waiver is given.

14.8 Further Acts

Each Party must promptly execute all documents and do all things that another Party from time to time reasonably requests to effect, perfect or complete this Deed and all transactions incidental to it.

14.9 Governing Law and Jurisdiction

- (a) This Deed is governed by the law of New South Wales.
- (b) The Parties submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of its courts and courts of appeal from them.
- (c) The Parties are not to object to the exercise of jurisdiction by those courts on any basis.

14.10 Relationship of Parties

Unless otherwise stated:

- (a) nothing in this Agreement creates a joint venture, partnership, or the relationship of principal and agent, or employee and employer between the parties; and
- (b) no party has the authority to bind any other party by any representation, declaration or admission, or to make any contract or commitment on behalf of any other party or to pledge any other party's credit.

14.11 Explanatory Note

The Explanatory Note must not be used to assist in construing this Agreement.

14.12 Counterparts

- (a) This deed may be executed in any number of counterparts, each signed by one or more parties. Each counterpart when so executed is deemed to be an original and all such counterparts taken together constitute one document.
- (b) A party that has executed a counterpart of this deed may exchange that counterpart with another party by faxing or emailing it, by way of PDF, to the other party or the other party's legal representative and it is intended that such exchange is to take effect as delivery of this deed.

Schedule 1 Requirements under section 7.4 of the Act

Subject and subsection of the Act	Planning Agreement
<p>Planning instrument and/or Development Application – Section 7.4(1)</p> <p>The Landowners have:</p> <p>(a) Sought a change to an environmental planning instrument</p> <p>(b) Made, or propose to make a Development Application</p> <p>(c) Entered into an agreement with, or are otherwise associated with, a person to whom paragraph (a) or (b) applies</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Description of the land to which the planning Agreement applies – Section 7.4(3)(a)</p>	<p>See schedule 2</p>
<p>Description of the change to the environmental planning instrument or development to which the Planning Agreement applies - Section 7.4(3)(b)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>The scope, timing and manner of delivery of contributions required by the Planning Agreement – Section 7.4(3)(c)</p>	<p>See Schedule 3.</p>
<p>Applicability of section 7.11 of the Act – Section 7.4(3)(d)</p>	<p>Excluded</p>
<p>Applicability of section 7.12 of the Act – Section 7.4(3)(d)</p>	<p>Excluded</p>
<p>Applicability of section 7.24 of the Act – Section 7.4(3)(d)</p>	<p>Excluded</p>
<p>Whether the benefits are or are not to be taken into consideration in determining a development contribution under section 7.11 – Section 7.4(3)(e)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Mechanism for dispute resolution – Section 7.4(3)(f)</p>	<p>Yes, see section 10.</p>
<p>Enforcement of the Planning Agreement by a suitable means – Section 7.4(3)(g)</p>	<p>Yes, see section 11.</p>
<p>Registration of the Planning Agreement – Section 7.6</p>	<p>Planning Agreement not required to be registered, see section 9.</p>

No obligation to grant consent or exercise functions – Section 7.4(9)	Yes, see section 14.4.
------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------

Schedule 2 Land

Property	Project – freehold lots	
	Plan Number	Lot Number
Wells-Yanko	252520	7, 8
	576960	2
	581776	4, 5
	585343	1
	756425	30, 31, 32, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 131, 143
	756454	2,4, 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 36, 37, 38, 39, 92, 93, 95, 97, 99
Woodside North	756304	63, 64, 85, 86, 87, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 103, 104, 113, 114
West Park	229367	1
Bowmanville	756304	1, 2,4, 16, 17, 20, 71, 72, 73
	756455	39, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94
Dunraven	756455	47, 120
	756455	10, 11, 12, 13, 42, 43
East park	1127723	1
	229367	2
Moonbria	111772	1, 7
	116085	1, 2
	455037	82
	455038	1, 2, 8
	756304	7, 8, 9, 18, 19, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 116
	756455	38, 40, 41, 86, 87, 185
	1026614	7001
Waringah	48568	1
	756291	12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25
	756311	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13
Oakville	23356	A, B
	377237	1
	378053	1, 2
	756304	15, 21, 22, 23, 88, 89, 90, 92, 93, 94, 96, 102, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112
	1115053	1,2
	1180553	1
Delta	541494	2
	756334	5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75,

Project – freehold lots		
Property	Plan Number	Lot Number
	756418	50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 98, 99, 251, 252
Wood Park	134583	1
	252520	2
	581776	3
	756454	17, 58
	756455	6, 83, 85, 123
	1096136	1
Project – Crown land		
	Plan Number	Lot Number
Crown Land	541494	1
	1026614	7001
	1026617	7001
	1052588	7004
	1142010	7300
Transmission line		
Transgrid	593483	4
Proposed road upgrades		
Murrumbidgee Council	839749	141

Schedule 3 Contributions Table

Part 1

	Development Contribution	Value	When	Public Purpose
1	Monetary Contribution	\$5,000,000 to Murrumbidgee Council.	<p>Initial Amount payable within 21 days from the Applicant securing access, by way of contractual arrangement, to the access rights network described in Schedule 1 of the draft Renewable Energy Zone (South West) Access Scheme Orders as may be amended from time to time or as finally declared.</p> <p>Final Amount payable prior to the Construction Commencement Date.</p> <p>Where:</p> <p>Initial Amount is determined as follows:</p> <p><i>Megawatt in access rights secured by contractual arrangement</i> ----- x \$5m 1500MW</p>	Community infrastructure in accordance with clauses 8.2.

			<i>Final Amount means \$5million minus the Initial Amount.</i>	
--	--	--	----------------------------------------------------------------	--

Schedule 4 Notice details

1. Developer details

Name:	Yanco Delta WF Project Pty Ltd as trustee for the Yanco Delta WF Project Trust
ABN/ACN:	83 782 956 302
Address:	Level 32, Tower 1, 100 Barangaroo Avenue, Barangaroo NSW 2000
Contact name:	Lauren Barnaby
Telephone:	0472 879 898
Email:	lauren.barnaby@originenergy.com.au

2. Murrumbidgee Council details

Name:	Murrumbidgee Council
ABN/ACN:	53 573 617 925
Address:	35 Jerilderie Street Jerilderie NSW 2716
Contact name:	General Manager - John Scarce
Telephone:	1300 676 243
Email:	mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

Signing page

Executed as a deed

Executed by **Yanco Delta WF Project Pty Ltd ABN 42 676 356 915 as trustee for the Yanco Delta WF Project Trust ABN 83 782 956 302** in accordance with section 127 of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) by

Signature of Director

Signature of Director / Company Secretary

Full name (print)

Full name (print)

Date

Executed by **Murrumbidgee Council ABN 53 573 617 925** by its duly authorized officer in the presence of:

Signature of Witness

Signature of Authorised Officer

Full name (print)

Full name (print)

Date

Date

Executed by the **Minister for Planning and Public Spaces** in the presence of:

Signature of Witness

Signature of Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

Full name (print)

Full name (print)

Date

Date

**EXPLANATORY NOTE FOR PROPOSED PLANNING AGREEMENT
(ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT REGULATION 2021 (NSW), s 205)**

The purpose of this Explanatory Note is to provide a plain English summary to support the notification of a proposed planning agreement (**VPA**) under section 7.4(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (**EP&A Act**).

The Parties to the VPA are:

1. Murrumbidgee Council ABN 53 573 617 925 (**Council**)
2. Yanco Delta WF Project Pty Ltd ABN 42 676 356 915 as trustee for Yanco Delta WF Project Trust (**Yanco Delta**)
3. Minister for Planning and Public Spaces ABN 20 770 707 468 (**Minister**)

Council and Yanco Delta are the principal Parties to the VPA. The Minister is a Party to the VPA as the consequence of a statutory procedural requirement.

Objectives, Nature, and Effect of Proposed Agreement (*Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (NSW), s 205(1)(a))

In summary, the nature and effect of the VPA will be as follows:

1. Yanco Delta will make a contribution of \$5,000,000.00 to Council payable in two amounts:
 - a. An Initial Amount payable upon the Yanco Delta Wind Farm (**Wind Farm**) securing access rights to the access rights network in South West Renewable Energy Zone where the contribution amount payable upon securing access rights will be proportional to the Megawatt access rights secured (where 1500MW is equivalent to the maximum of \$5,000,000.00) and
 - b. A Final Amount being \$5,000,000.00 less the Initial Amount payable prior to the Commencement of Construction of the Wind Farm.
2. Sections 7.11, 7.12, and 7.24 of the EP&A Act will be excluded from applying to the Wind Farm, approved under State Significant Development Application SSD-41743746; and
3. The monetary contributions made by Yanco Delta are to be applied by Council to the construction of a new medical centre in Jerilderie to provide a range of medical services to the local community, with at least 25% of the contributions received by Council to be applied towards infrastructure or services within an Indigenous health facility.

The objectives of the VPA are:

1. To contribute to the delivery of a new medical centre in Jerilderie, identified as a high priority by Council's Section 7.12 Contributions Plan, in a timely and efficient manner; and
2. The leveraging of the Wind Farm towards the material benefit of the Murrumbidgee community and the public interest at large; and
3. The provision of additional funds towards community infrastructure which benefits the Indigenous community, specifically in relation to health outcomes.

Assessment of Merits of Proposed Agreement (*Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (NSW), s 205(1)(b)*)

- The VPA will provide a significant material benefit to the public by providing a new item of community infrastructure in Jerilderie, one of the major population centres under Council's jurisdiction.
- The new facility will provide a range of medical services to the local community and will make a positive contribution towards the improvement of local health outcomes.
- Of the monetary contributions made by Yanco Delta to Council, 25% is to be dedicated towards infrastructure or services within an Indigenous health facility.
- The VPA does not have any negative impacts on any sections of the public.

Matters Arising from Relevant Practice Notes (*Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (NSW), s 205(2)*)

This Explanatory Note has considered the "*Planning agreements - Practice note - February 2021*" practice note (**Practice Note**) issued by the Planning Secretary under section 203(6) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (NSW)* (**EP&A Regulation**).

In addition to the matters in sections 205(1) and 205(2) of the EP&A Regulation, section 4.6 of the Practice Note prescribes three requirements for explanatory notes:

1. *Identify how the agreement promotes the public interest* - The VPA will promote the public interest by contributing to the funding of a new item of community infrastructure in Council's most significant population centre, which will contribute positively towards the improvement of local health outcomes. In addition, 25% of the contributions received by Council are to be dedicated towards infrastructure or services within an Indigenous health facility.
2. *Identify whether the agreement conforms with the planning authority's capital works program, if any* - The VPA will exclude the operation of Council's Section 7.12

Developer Contributions Plan, but will collect a single monetary contribution which is to fund a new medical centre in Jerilderie, which the Section 7.12 Contributions Plan identifies as a high priority for the Murrumbidgee Council LGA.

3. *State whether the agreement specifies that certain requirements of the agreement must be complied with before a construction certificate, occupation certificate or subdivision certificate is issued* - The VPA requires the complete payment of Yanco Delta's monetary contribution prior to the commencement of excavation of the first wind turbine foundation associated with the Wind Farm.

This Explanatory Note has otherwise considered, and accords with, the guidance for explanatory notes provided by section 4.6 of the Practice Note.

Office of Local Government

Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics

Reporting Period: 1 September 2023 - 31 August 2024

Date Due: **31 December 2024**

Survey return email address: codeofconduct@olg.nsw.gov.au

Council Name:	Murrumbidgee Council
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Contact Name:	Sue Mitchell
Contact Phone:	0269 605504
Contact Position:	Manager Corporate & Community Services
Contact Email:	suem@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

All responses to be numeric.

Where there is a zero value, please enter 0.

Enquiries: Performance Team
Office of Local Government
Phone: (02) 4428 4100
Enquiry email: olg@olg.nsw.gov.au

Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics 2023-24 Murrumbidgee Council

Number of Complaints

1	The total number of complaints received in the reporting period about councillors and the General Manager (GM) under the code of conduct from the following sources:	
i	Community	0
ii	Other Councillors	0
iii	General Manager	0
iv	Other Council Staff	0
2	The total number of complaints finalised about councillors and the GM under the code of conduct in the following periods:	
i	3 Months	0
ii	6 Months	0
iii	9 Months	0
iv	12 Months	0
v	Over 12 months	0

Overview of Complaints and Cost

3 a	The number of complaints finalised at the outset by alternative means by the GM or Mayor	0
b	The number of complaints referred to the Office of Local Government (OLG) under a special complaints management arrangement	0
c	The number of code of conduct complaints referred to a conduct reviewer	0
d	The number of code of conduct complaints finalised at preliminary assessment by conduct reviewer	0
e	The number of code of conduct complaints referred back to GM or Mayor for resolution after preliminary assessment by conduct reviewer	0
f	The number of finalised code of conduct complaints investigated by a conduct reviewer	0
g	Cost of dealing with code of conduct complaints via preliminary assesment	0
h	Progressed to full investigation by a conduct reviewer	0
i	The number of finalised complaints investigated where there was found to be no breach	0
j	The number of finalised complaints investigated where there was found to be a breach	0
k	The number of complaints referred by the GM or Mayor to another agency or body such as the ICAC, the NSW Ombudsman, OLG or the Police	
i	ICAC	0
ii	NSW Ombudsman	0
iii	OLG	0
iv	Police	0
v	Other Agency (please specify)	0
	<input type="text"/>	
l	The number of complaints being investigated that are not yet finalised	0
m	The total cost of dealing with code of conduct complaints within the period made about councillors and the GM including staff costs	0

Preliminary Assessment Statistics

4 The number of complaints determined by the conduct reviewer at the preliminary assessment stage by each of the following actions:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| a | To take no action (clause 6.13(a) of the 2020 Procedures) | 0 |
| b | To resolve the complaint by alternative and appropriate strategies (clause 6.13(b) of the 2020 Procedures) | 0 |
| c | To refer the matter back to the GM or the Mayor, for resolution by alternative and appropriate strategies (clause 6.13(c) of the 2020 Procedures) | 0 |
| d | To refer the matter to another agency or body such as the ICAC, the NSW Ombudsman, OLG or the Police (clause 6.13(d) of the 2020 Procedures) | 0 |
| e | To investigate the matter (clause 6.13(e) of the 2020 Procedures) | 0 |
| f | Other action (please specify) | 0 |

Investigation Statistics

5 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was **no breach**, in which the following recommendations were made:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| a | That the council revise its policies or procedures | 0 |
| b | That a person or persons undertake training or other education (clause 7.40 of the 2020 Procedures) | 0 |

6 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there **was a breach** in which the following recommendations were made:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| a | That the council revise any of its policies or procedures (clause 7.39 of the 2020 Procedures) | 0 |
| b | In the case of a breach by the GM, that action be taken under the GM's contract for the breach (clause 7.37(a) of the 2020 Procedures) | 0 |
| c | In the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the Local Government Act 1993 (clause 7.37(b) of the 2020 Procedures) | 0 |
| d | In the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the Local Government Act 1993 and that the matter be referred to OLG for further action (clause 7.37(c) of the 2020 Procedures) | 0 |

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 7 | Matter referred or resolved after commencement of an investigation (clause 7.20 of the 2020 Procedures) | 0 |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|

Categories of misconduct

8 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach with respect to each of the following categories of conduct:

a	General conduct (Part 3)	0
b	Non-pecuniary conflict of interest (Part 5)	0
c	Personal benefit (Part 6)	0
d	Relationship between council officials (Part 7)	0
e	Access to information and resources (Part 8)	0

Outcome of determinations

9 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach in which the council:

a	Adopted the independent conduct reviewers recommendation	0
b	Failed to adopt the independent conduct reviewers recommendation	0

10 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination where:

a	The external conduct reviewers decision was overturned by OLG	0
b	Council's response to the external conduct reviewers recommendation was overturned by OLG	0

11 Date Code of Conduct data was presented to council

26-Nov-24

Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan



Acknowledgement of Country

Griffith City Council, Leeton Shire Council, Murrumbidgee Council, and Narrandera Shire Council acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the region's lands and waters, and pay our respect to Elders past and present.

We value the vital involvement of members of the primary production and broader communities of each council area to the formulation of this plan and extend our thanks to those who contributed.



This document was prepared for Griffith City, Leeton Shire, Murrumbidgee, and Narrandera Shire Councils by Meridian Urban.



This project is supported by Griffith City, Leeton Shire, Murrumbidgee, and Narrandera Shire Councils, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and NSW Government.

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Glossary

Key terms used throughout this plan are defined below.

ADAPTATION	Adjustment or modification in natural and/or human systems in response to actual or expected shocks and stresses to moderate harm, reduce vulnerability and/or exploit beneficial opportunities.
ADAPTIVE CAPACITY	The ability of individuals and groups to adjust and respond to environmental and socio-economic changes.
ADAPTIVE GOVERNANCE	Coordinating iterative, flexible, and responsive interactions between systems when designing interventions and for their implementation and evaluation.
COPING CAPACITY	Communities that may be constrained in their capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and to prepare for, absorb and recover.
DROUGHT	Drought means acute water shortage. Drought is a prolonged, abnormally dry period when the amount of available water is insufficient to meet our normal use.
ECONOMIC RESILIENCE	The ability of the economy to absorb the economic impact of shocks and stressors without changing the economic status or outcomes.
ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE	The ability of the natural environment to cope with a diverse range of shocks and stressors while maintaining natural processes and ecosystem services.
GOVERNANCE	Governance is the structures and processes by which individuals, groups and agencies in a society share power and make decisions. It can be formally institutionalised, or informal.
INTERVENTION OPTIONS	Alternative or complementary actions, projects, programs, policies, initiatives, and investments that are planned to bring about change in the system.
LOCAL KNOWLEDGE	Local knowledge and First Nations knowledge incorporates elements of lived experience within a landscape, bearing witness to the operation of systems. It includes aspects of people, landscape, culture – how people interact with surroundings and as part of communities and processes.
RESILIENCE	The ability of a system to absorb a disturbance and reorganise to maintain the existing functions, structure, and feedback. Also see general resilience, specified resilience, economic resilience, environmental resilience, and social resilience.
RISK	The potential for adverse consequences for human or ecological systems, recognising the diversity of values and objectives associated with such systems.
SHOCK	Sudden, short-term events that threaten a city (or region). Examples include major storms, floods, bush fires, heatwaves, disease outbreaks, terrorism, and cyber-attacks.
SOCIAL RESILIENCE	The ability of the human society to cope with a diverse range of shocks and stressors while maintaining existing social and community functions.
STRESSOR	An event that occurs gradually over a timeframe that causes an adverse effect, e.g. drought.
SYSTEMS	The interaction of processes, networks, and inter-dependencies across a complex 'whole'.
THEORY OF CHANGE	Refers to theories, causal mechanisms and assumptions that explain how and why outcomes and impacts will be achieved through use, implementation and production of proposed inputs, activities, and outputs.
TRENDS	Major global or regional influences that have driven change in the past and are expected to shape change into the future.
THRESHOLD	The point at which a change in a level or amount a controlling variable causes a system to shift to a qualitatively different regime. Also referred to as a tipping point.
TRANSFORM	The process of radically changing or building a new system with different structure, functions, feedback, and identity.
TRIGGER POINT	A pre-agreed situation or event, that when met, activates a management intervention. Trigger points are usually defined in the planning phase.

Introduction

This Regional Drought Resilience Plan is a collaboration between Griffith City, Leeton Shire, Murrumbidgee, and Narrandera Shire Councils, and their communities, working together to advance the region's resilience to the impacts of drought.

Drought is a recurring feature of the Australian landscape. While common experiences exist, the impacts and major pressures through drought varies across geographies, and across communities.

The Western Riverina region is dependent on the land, water and climatic conditions for prosperity. This highlights a need enhance drought resilience opportunities to position the region to respond to and recover from dry times. Sustainable and diverse economies, and connected communities that are responsive to drought signals, are the foundation to reduce vulnerability and mitigate potential impacts.

The Western Riverina is unique in its drought context. Whilst susceptible to periods of drought, the irrigation schemes of the region and regulation of the Murrumbidgee River set it apart from other parts of NSW. Water uncertainty in the region, as opposed to climatic events leading to drought, is a consequence of an interplay of factors. These factors, broadly grouped by climate, policy and operational infrastructure requirements, each have their own challenges but interact in combination across the drought cycle.

Within the region, vulnerabilities from drought are indicated by downward trends in rainfall and soil moisture. Changes in the Snowy Mountains catchment area would also have effect given the flows received from the Alpine region. Across the community, challenges are voiced in the evolution of the complex water policy landscape which places its own pressures on the community. Under this broader context, the region retains a self-driven focus on harnessing co-operative community and economic opportunities. This plans seeks to build on the collective strengths and regional identity of the Western Riverina as a premier food bowl for Australia to take steps now to stem the impacts of future drought on our region.

The Regional Drought Resilience Plan program is one of five focus areas¹ of the Commonwealth Government's Future Drought Fund. The NSW Regional Drought Resilience Plan program is jointly funded through the Commonwealth Government's Future Drought Fund and the NSW Government, supporting local governments to work together regionally to plan for drought resilience proactively and pragmatically.

¹ Other focus areas under the Future Drought Fund include farm business resilience, roll-out of the Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool, and better land management practices that support landscape resilience.

Drought resilience

'will ensure regional Australia can endure deeper, longer droughts, and recover from them sooner. This will help Australia's agricultural industries maintain national farm income, increase food security, and protect the regional jobs that rely on agriculture during the toughest years. Importantly, it will also increase the resilience of rural and regional communities and improve environmental outcomes'.

(CSIRO, 2022)

Image: Fivebough Wetlands

Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan Framework

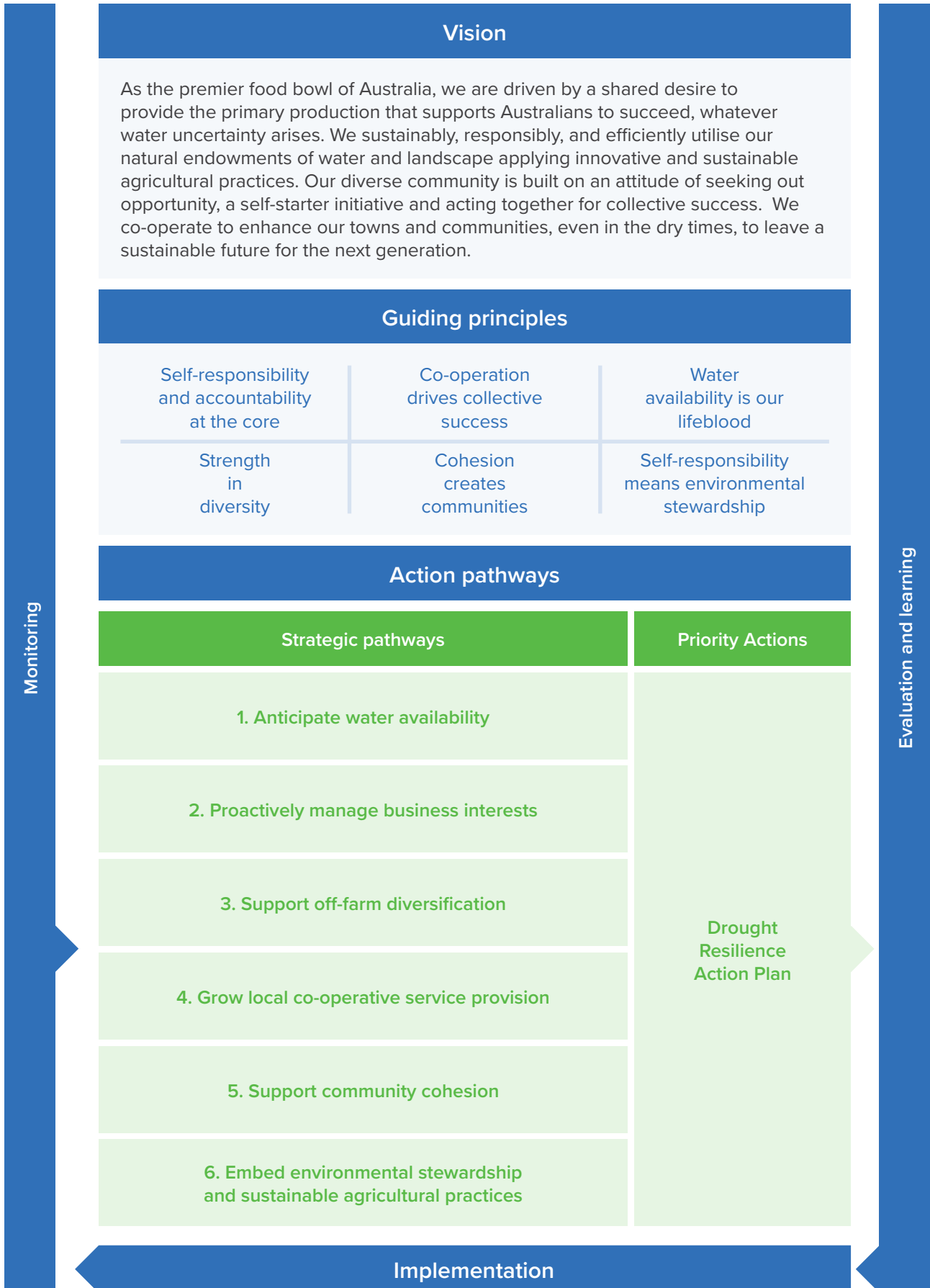


Figure 1 — Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan Framework

Purpose

The Western Riverina RDRP provides direction and options for how the community, business, industry networks, and local governments can adapt to strengthen drought resilience and transform for new opportunities.

The purpose of this plan is to:

- › Increase understanding of the region's current and future drought resilience, considering the region's unique economic, environmental and social characteristics
- › Recognise the interdependent nature of the local economy, community wellbeing, and environmental sustainability through the drought cycle and across business types
- › Understand local signals and drought priorities in the community's voice and create stronger connectedness and greater social capital within communities
- › Inform decisions based on a combination of local knowledge, and risk and resilience information
- › Identify pathways and opportunities to improve regional drought resilience, mitigate risks and adapt to change
- › Help Councils and regional organisations be in a stronger position to implement strategic actions and support partnerships that drive enhanced drought resilience
- › Develop concrete actions to address and mitigate short-term and long-term drought impacts.

For the purposes of this plan, references to regional businesses include farms and agricultural business, contractors, suppliers, industry, retail and commercial services and references to community includes all townships, irrespective of size.

How does the plan help

The Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan combines drought history, climate analysis and local input to form a comprehensive understanding of the impacts of drought and to anticipate and prepare for the next drought cycle.

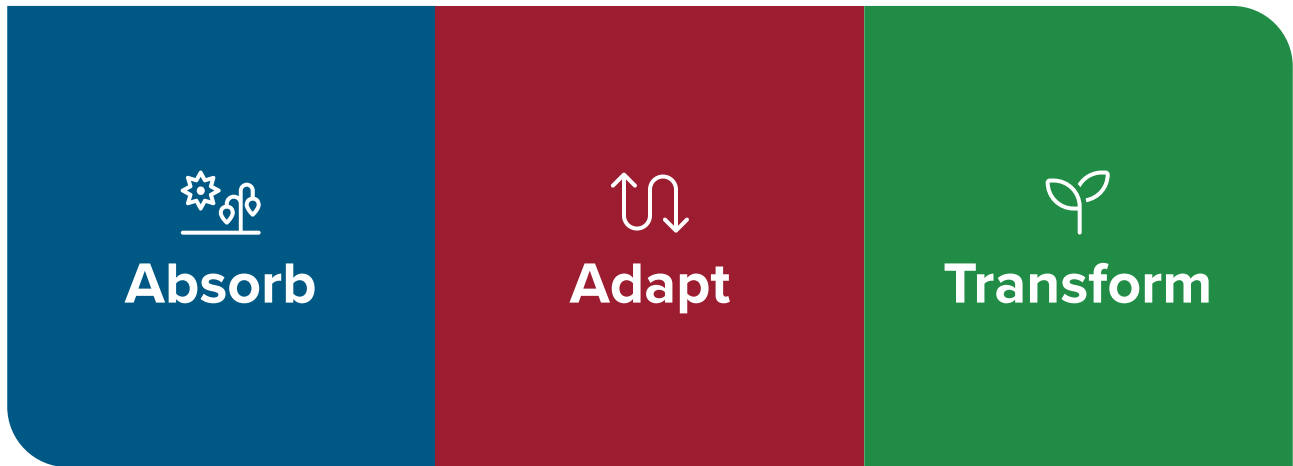
Whilst the future cannot necessarily be predicted, this plan addresses drought resilience by building in actions across the system where impacts are felt and across the drought cycles where interventions can be most effective. The plan consolidates on the range of existing programs and initiatives. It supports the ongoing collaboration between key actors who support the community through drought cycles.

The impacts of drought can be insidious with a slow onset but prolonged effects that reach across the community. It is important we understand the warning signals of drought and retain a focus on continuous preparedness.

How previous impacts of drought have manifested across community networks, local business and the natural environment provides a guidepost for where actions are needed. This plan supports a focus on outcomes through:

- › Prevention of potential impacts
- › Increased preparedness and resilience through recognition of signals
- › What is needed in response
- › What is needed for recovery.

This Regional Drought Resilience Plan supports collective and cooperative measures to prepare for drought in the face of changing and uncertain futures. This is done through several intervention approaches:



These areas of absorptive capacity, adaptive capacity and transformational capacity provide a view of the priorities identified by this plan relative to different components of the drought cycle, effort and/or costs associated. Some opportunities are short-term and more immediate, whilst others are more transformative in nature and require long-term effort to generate change.

This concept forms part of a resilience 'theory of change' model² which helps us to break down and consider the complex elements of drought resilience and the links across issues. This makes clear both how and why its impacts run so deep. This approach also helps to inform decision-making for enhanced resilience and adaptation as conditions and circumstances change over time.

This plan supports drought resilience in the Western Riverina through approach that will:

-  **Understand and recognise the triggers and impacts**
-  **Build capacity to meet challenges**
-  **Unite in community**
-  **Use regional voices to advance strengths and opportunities**

This Regional Drought Resilience Plan provides the framework for implementation and identifies practical ways the community and businesses of the region can prepare for and respond to drought impacts. Implementation funding is available from longer-term investment under the Commonwealth Government's Future Drought Fund, as well as other funding and grant assistance opportunities.

Implementation of actions contained in this plan is dependent on funding availability.

² The drought resilience plan integrates the 'Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Approach' (RAPTA) developed by CSIRO which provides a framework to map resilience interventions. For more information on RAPTA, visit <https://research.csiro.au/eap/rapta/>

Vision and principles

Vision

As the premier food bowl of Australia, we are driven by a shared desire to provide the primary production that supports Australians to succeed, whatever water uncertainty arises. We sustainably, responsibly, and efficiently utilise our natural endowments of water and landscape applying innovative and sustainable agricultural practices. Our diverse community is built on an attitude of seeking out opportunity, a self-starter initiative and acting together for collective success. We co-operate to enhance our towns and communities, even in the dry times, to leave a sustainable future for the next generation.

Guiding principles



Self-responsibility and accountability at the core

People in this region are frank and honest. We are very good at what we do – whether running the local café or managing a multi-million dollar diversified agri-business portfolio. The sense of responsibility and personal accountability is strong – people need practical and realistic support to keep doing what they do well.



Co-operation drives collective success

Not many parts of Australia work under such successful co-operative approaches like this region. From the irrigation schemes to the mills and even local pubs, the co-operative business structure provides a trust-based way to transform communities by growing services and prosperity in other critical sectors – like aged care, housing, and even retail – so that local services can be retained in-community, owned by community.



Strength in diversity

Farmers in this region know how to build, manage and grow diversified on-farm operations – they have been doing it efficiently for generations. Transferring this culture of diversification into off-farm economic growth that supports manufacturing and value-added employment and prosperity is a clear opportunity.



Water availability is our lifeblood

The region is unique in the way it receives its natural endowment of water – receiving both in-region rainfall and irrigation waters from Australia's snow country via the Snowy Hydro scheme. This combination of water sources supports arguably Australia's most critical and diversified irrigated and dryland country. However, uncertainty exists for both sources of water, which create similar drought-like conditions through different causes.



Cohesion creates communities

The region embodies the Australian ideals of mateship. There are tight-knit communities in towns and districts across the region that band together in a crisis to help each other through. It's a clear and common foundation of what it takes to live successfully and sustainably.






Self-responsibility means environmental stewardship















There is an awareness of the precious nature of resources with which the community is entrusted. There is increasing recognition and practice in environmental restoration, regenerative agriculture, and care for Country that will pay great dividends as efforts increase.








Region snapshot

Information sourced from: ABS 2021 Census data, Regional Development Australia, and AgTrack - Agricultural and Land Use Dashboard

 <p>Population 47,589</p>	 <p>Population aged 65+ 20.6% (17.7% NSW average)</p>	 <p>First Nations population 8.5% (3.4% NSW average)</p>
<p>REGIONAL ECONOMY* 23,752 jobs (2021) Economy \$3.5b (2020) Local businesses 5,608 (2022)</p>	<p>UNEMPLOYMENT Griffith: 3.0% Leeton: 3.8% Murrumbidgee: 2.9% Narrandera: 5.2%</p>	<p>VOLUNTARY WORK (organisations) 13.2% — 23.2% (13.0% NSW Average)</p>

Largest industries (by employment)

<p>GRIFFITH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Poultry Processing  Wine / Alcoholic Beverage  Manufacturing  Hospitals 	<p>LEETON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Secondary Education  Meat Processing  Grain Mill Product Manufacturing
<p>MURRUMBIDGEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Other Grain Growing  Grain-Sheep or Grain-Beef Cattle Farming  Local Government Administration 	<p>NARRANDERA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Grain growing, and Grain-Sheep or Grain-Beef Cattle farming  Local Government Administration  Meat Processing  Aged Care Residential Services

<p>LARGEST INDUSTRIES (gross value add)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Agriculture  Manufacturing  Health and education  Electricity and water supply 	<p>PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Broadacre cropping  Fruit and nuts  Livestock
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<p>ASSETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Western Riverina Intermodal Freight Terminal ✓ Griffith Medical Health Precinct ✓ Griffith Regional Airport ✓ Country Universities Centre ✓ Yanco Agricultural institute ✓ TAFE NSW campuses ✓ Narrandera Fisheries Centres 	<p>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Murrumbidgee River and tributaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Billabong Creek ✓ Murrumbidgee Valley and Oolambeyan National Parks ✓ Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recreational lakes
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*Values include Carrathool Shire LGA

About the Western Riverina Region

The Western Riverina, as part of the broader Riverina Murray region, is known as Australia's 'food bowl'. It is built around premium agricultural areas, and long-standing agricultural industry strengths linked to secure water and complemented by beneficial climate conditions and versatile soils. The Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan covers the local government areas (LGA) of Griffith City, Murrumbidgee, Leeton Shire and Narrandera Shire.

Griffith is the largest regional city in the Western Riverina and is one of the three regional cities in the broader Riverina Murray region alongside Wagga Wagga and Albury. A number of smaller centres support Griffith in surrounding rural communities. Leeton is the second largest centre in the Western Riverina and Leeton Shire includes the towns of Whitton and Yanco. The shire is a strong driver of the broader regional strengths, in particular through the role it plays in value-add agriculture, including agricultural education and research.

Murrumbidgee Council contains the three townships of Coleambally, Darlington Point and Jerilderie. These centres account for over 90 percent of the LGA's population, and reflect strengths through food and fibre production, benefiting from the Murrumbidgee River, Billabong Creek and water supplied from the Murray River.

Narrandera Shire is located at the juncture of the Newell and Sturt Highways, representing a transition from the broad acre agricultural areas to the east to the highly productive Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. Narrandera forms the main town and provides a concentration of services, supported by smaller communities in Barellan, Binya, Grong Grong, and a number of rural localities.

Across each LGA the strength in agriculture is linked through connection to water, a highly evolved local industry with value-add processing, and connection

to major markets and major transport infrastructure. Key assets include the Murrumbidgee River, and flows received from the Alpine Region. The Western Riverina is home to the major irrigation schemes of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, Coleambally Irrigation Area, and Murray Irrigation area, alongside other private irrigators. This irrigation network supports many farms and provides some of the nation's most important irrigation areas.

Building on agricultural strengths, educational and research institutes form key assets in the region. This includes the Country Universities Centre, Yanco Agricultural Institute, and TAFE campuses across LGAs, with the largest TAFE campus in the Riverina located at Griffith. These educational facilities and major health facilities anchor services in the region and provide for a mixture of employment options.

The position of the region has influenced its economic development and agricultural strengths, capturing major freight corridors between capital cities, and evolving its own manufacturing and transport hubs. These form the basis of future growth ambitions, with further links to emerging activation precincts across the state.

The northern part of the region (north of Jerilderie) is within the Wiradjuri Nation, the largest territory at the time of European settlement. The Nation encompasses the Central West slopes and plains and extends from Coonabarabran to the north, hugging the Great Dividing Range south towards the Murray River in the south and out to western NSW. The Nation encompasses approximately one fifth of NSW. Wiradjuri people are known as 'people of three rivers', acknowledging the three rivers that are associated with their Country: the Wambuuil (Macquarie River), Kalari (Lachlan River) and Murrumbidgee (Murrumbidgee River).

Figure 2 — Map of the Western Riverina Region and local centres

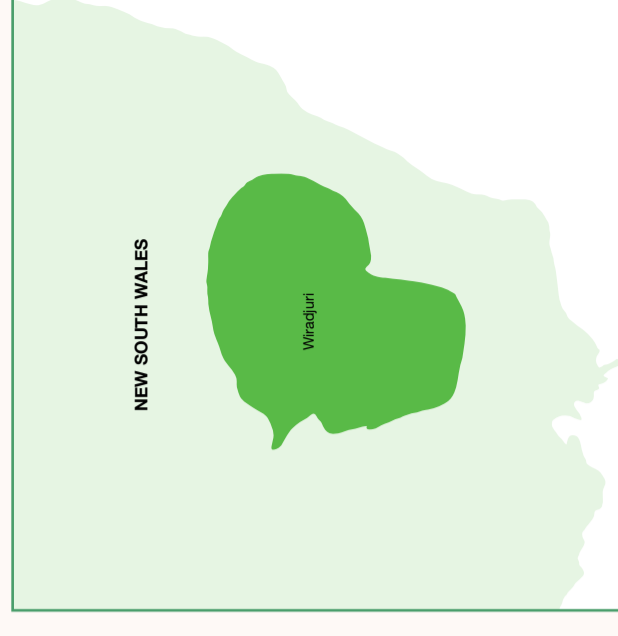
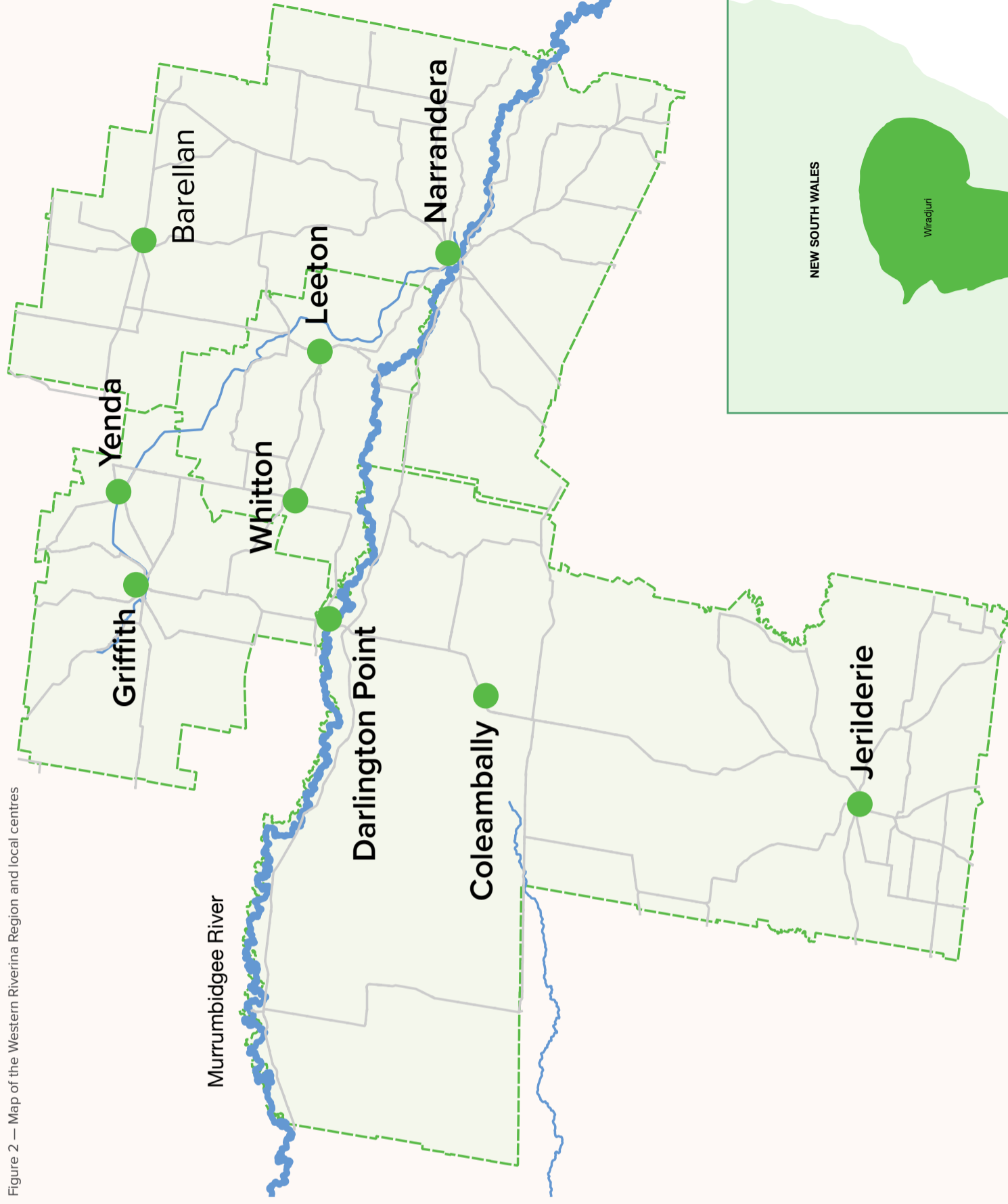


Figure 3 — Approximate extent of the Wiradjuri Nation³

³ Griffith City Council, 2019, Griffith City Council Reconciliation Action Plan December 2019/December 2021, Available at <https://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-GWK-21-15-76>.

Wiradjuri Nation

The Wiradjuri Nation is the largest traditional owner group in NSW known to have cared for the lands in the regions for at least 60,000 years. Colonisation drastically changed their way of life, leading to dispossession and cultural suppression.

The culture of the Wiradjuri people is closely linked to the land and waterways, and retains a strong belief that if we care for Country, it will care for us. There are several sites of significance to the Wiradjuri people in the area, including the Koonadan Aboriginal Place and the Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands. Conservation practices are key to ensuring these sites continue to maintain an ecological balance.

Water has played a critical role in the lives of Aboriginal people, for survival in arid environments and for culture, spiritual connection to land and waters and identity. Water helped in defining language boundaries and ceremonial places, and also underpins many land management practices. Traditional Aboriginal water collection and storage practices have evolved for many centuries and continue into the present.

In collaboration with First Nations/ Aboriginal people, a state-wide Aboriginal Water Strategy is currently under development, building upon consultation over recent year. The plan will identify ways of increasing water rights and ensuring that First Nations people are empowered to contribute to water management and planning decisions.

People and community

The Western Riverina is attracting new agricultural ventures and business operators who are keen to trial innovative approaches. Across the region, the vibrancy of agricultural industry is shining.

At heart of this is a strong community co-operative style of approach to not only business, but community development. A drive to work together, and to share knowledge and benefits, is a key attribute behind some of the region's most successful economic and community ventures. Strong community identity and a sense of civic duty is foundational in this regard. It also informs the community's dedication to volunteering activities and organisations. Whilst volunteerism rates are in decline nationally, community dedication at the local-scale across the Western Riverina remains relatively strong.

Sport and recreation plays a major role in the wellbeing of people and communities in the region, displayed through the diverse range of sporting teams and sporting calendar. This goes beyond those that play, but to the broader community as avid spectators and volunteers who contribute to the local teams and the running, maintenance and administration of local venues and facilities. Other social interest groups also add to the vibrant tapestry of community spirit and provide important creative and social connections.

Green spaces, recreational and natural assets are therefore critical to community wellbeing. While maintaining water to these spaces during drought is challenging, it is also essential to underpin community cohesion and mental wellness at a broader scale. There are also significant visitor economy dividends associated with these assets, as well as the region's colonial heritage and lively arts and culture scene.

Image: Jerilderie Plains

Environment

The Western Riverina is part of the wider Riverina Bioregion which has high soil fertility and a generally abundant water supply. These aspects underly its primacy as a premier food-growing region.

The climate of the Riverina Bioregion is dry and semi-arid with hot summers and cool winters, and most rainfall occurring in winter months. Vegetation ranges from river red gums along river channels, to saltbush on the plains. National parks in the region include Murrumbidgee Valley and Oolambeyan National Parks. The region's natural assets include significant wetlands and swamps such as the Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands. These areas provide important habitat for native fish, amphibians, birds, mammals and many other water dependent fauna. These areas are also of cultural heritage significance to the region's First Nations people.

Since European colonisation there has been substantial modification of the vegetation and landscape through pastoral activities, the use of ground and surface water resources, and the introduction of feral animals to the region including Carp in the river systems.

One of the most profound changes at a landscape scale was the construction and commencement of the Snowy Mountain Scheme (Snowy Scheme). The Snowy Scheme was designed to produce electrical energy. However, one of the key objectives of the Scheme was to mitigate the effects of drought on irrigated agriculture in NSW and Victoria by improving the security of water supply to farmers along the fertile Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers.

Economy

Collectively, the Western Riverina economy supports approximately 23,752 jobs and its economic value is an estimated \$3.5 billion⁴ per year. The four key strengths of the region are in agriculture, manufacturing, utilities, and health and education

The high-quality agricultural lands support a long-held sector strength with significant value-add opportunities. The sector retains strong links to manufacturing, which also benefits from the linkages to large cities, distribution points of ports and airports, and links to freight and logistics hubs.

Economic assets exist through the major freight routes, freight railway lines, and links to the neighbouring regional city precincts in Albury and Wagga Wagga. The region's Western Riverina Intermodal Freight Terminal and urban industrial areas also provide economic enablers.

Investment in the region continues with major projects planned and underway. Strengths which support the key industries are its access to water and irrigation systems, proximity to metropolitan markets, extensive road and rail infrastructure and emerging population-serving employment clusters.

Industry	Employment (2021)	Gross Value Add (2020)
Agriculture	3,926 jobs (16.5% share)	\$583m
Manufacturing	3,827 jobs (16.3% share)	\$526m
Health and education	4,405 jobs (18.5% share)	\$390m
Electricity and water supply (including renewables)	382 jobs (1.6% share)	\$144m

⁴ This includes Carrathool Shire in addition to Griffith City, Leeton Shire, Murrumbidgee, and Narrandera Shire

How this plan was prepared

The Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan was prepared through the valued contribution of a broad cross section of community members, stakeholders, local government, government services, community organisations, businesses and local producers. This engagement was supported by an evidence-based resilience assessment for the region.



Resilience Assessment

- > research and literature
- > strategy and policy reviews
- > regional characteristics
- > trends and projections for drought impacts; and
- > drought resilience indicators assessment.



Stakeholder engagement

- > online community and business surveys
- > community, industry and government workshops
- > community drop-in sessions
- > targeted consultations, interviews and discussions with community, industry and services representatives.

The narrative, theme and actions within the plan are directed by the conversations across community engagement. The plan builds on existing strategies through the lens of drought resilience which supports development on the identified strategic pathways.



Image: Leeton Chill & Grill Festival

Strategic alignment – state, regional and local

Looking upwards, the regional drought resilience program provides strategic alignment with international scale goals including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, alongside national-scale strategies and frameworks and state-level strategic instruments. This alignment demonstrates how working locally contributes to broader sustainability and resilience outcomes for NSW and Australia.

Key plans and strategies contributing to this alignment and the preparation of the Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan has included (but is not limited to):

- › Murray-Darling Basin Plan
- › Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041
- › Western Riverina Regional Economic Development Strategy (2023 update)
- › Draft Murrumbidgee Regional Water Strategy
- › Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) strategies, plans and papers
- › NSW Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
- › NSW Government Department of Primary Industries Drought Hub
- › Department of Regional NSW Drought Signals Dashboard
- › Commonwealth Government's Drought Resilience Self-Assessment tool
- › Council Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework documents.

A stakeholder-driven approach

The resilience assessment which underpins the RDRP built an understanding of local context and drought impacts around the economic, natural environment and social characteristics of the region. However, impacts are not felt in isolation but rather can compound and cascade. Community consultation was key to understanding how these interactions occur and build.

The engagement process centred on community workshops, drop-in sessions, targeted meetings and discussions, and an online survey to collate experiences, insights and views from a broad cross section of community members. We spoke with growers, livestock graziers, industry and community group representatives, business operators, First

Nations organisations, subject matter specialists, service providers, local and state government agencies, elected representatives and more.

Discussion was had on what was needed into the future to better position the region collectively when the next time a dry period is upon us. This discussion focussed on actions and initiatives that were required in preparation for drought, the needs during drought and then into recovery.

Figure 4 — Engagement workshops held in-region



9 workshops across weeks in July and September 2024

Coleambally / Narrandera
Barellan / Leeton / Griffith

4 drop in sessions

Darlington Point / Jerilderie
Whitton / Griffith

Online survey

Community / Business owners
and operators

72 survey responses

45+ workshop attendees

Engagement observations and insights

Key insights communicated through the stakeholder consultation process and informing the preparation of this plan include:

-  Co-operative community approaches are strong and working well. This sets the region apart from other areas. There is a strong desire to work together for mutual benefit.
-  Irrigation has stabilised the local economy over the past 50 years which has limited the impacts of drought on the region to an extent, though it is still felt.
-  Mental health and wellbeing ahead of the next drought should be a key area of focus. Mental health support once drought has set in is welcomed, but it can be too late. Tools to support producers ahead of drought is a clear opportunity, as well as building broader community mental health literacy.
-  Primary producers in the region benefit from opportunities to showcase their property management and production processes. People come from around the world to learn from Western Riverina producers.
-  The Western Riverina plays a key role in broader food security matters, and as a key exporter for the nation. As key players in this system we want to see what is being planned at higher policy levels.
-  State and Commonwealth Government services that support drought preparedness should be more actively promoted and marketed.
-  An improved and shared understanding of how the water market operates is needed.
-  To deal with reduced water availability, economic development needs to focus on non-water dependent jobs / industries. Government assistance is needed in diversifying the economy to reduce reliance on contribution from agricultural.
-  The key is to act early when making decisions in the face of drought, which applies to on and off-farm businesses.
-  The efficiency of government processes and systems places unnecessary stress on people. For example, registration of trucks (of which properties / businesses usually have many) which must be done in-person. Issues were also present with previous grant application process and timelines of such availability.
-  Townships have good water allocations that provide opportunities for new businesses.
-  Resilience is driven by efficiencies and strong self-accountability based upon business acumen, efficient management, innovation and sustainability.
-  Business and property succession planning is critical.

Messages from the Community

Community views are strong on how the region builds its own resilience and how it contributes to the resilience of Australians more broadly. Key messages from the community, which are central to this plan include:

 <p>Our region was developed purposefully to provide food for Australians – and we take that legacy seriously by developing and innovating world class food production processes</p>	 <p>We are a critical driver of the success of cities and towns of everyday lives of people all over Australia – our resilience drives Australia’s resilience</p>	 <p>Trust us to manage our own future, and help us to keep being as efficient as we can be</p>
 <p>One size fits all approaches don’t work – specialised and targeted support is critical</p>	 <p>We need greater water certainty and availability</p>	 <p>Centralisation of services doesn’t meet community need – we need core services in community to support our prosperity</p>

Regional enablers

To bolster the resilience to the effects of drought, the region’s ability to capitalise on its community and economic development opportunities is reliant upon key enabling attributes. Beyond water, these include access to reliable energy networks, digital connectivity and transport infrastructure.

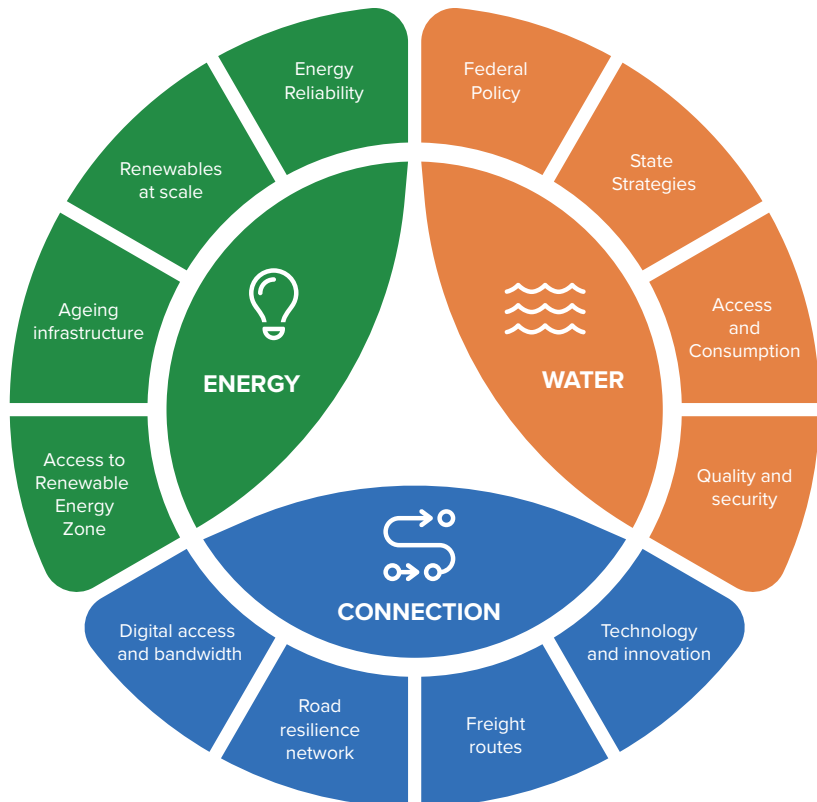


Figure 5 — Regional enabling priorities of the Western Riverina

How our region is impacted by drought

How the Western Riverina region is impacted by drought is closely aligned to its connection with water, which is the ‘lifeblood’ of the region.

Natural river systems

This is a unique part of Australia. The region derives the benefit of relatively modest in-region rainfall, but also the bounty of surface water from rain and snow precipitation from far away. The Murrumbidgee is sourced from high in the Australian Alps, winding its way across the south-west slopes of NSW and across the riverine plains to where it meets the Murray River. The Snowy Scheme was originally conceived as an irrigation scheme to draw the snowmelt from the Snowy Mountains west into the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers, before it also diversified into hydro-electric power generation.

The Murrumbidgee River connects centres and communities across the region and is the basis for productive agricultural lands, nationally important wetlands, and hydroelectricity further beyond the Western Riverina.

The Murrumbidgee catchment is part of the southern Basin of the Murray-Darling Basin, with this basin flowing into the Murray River. The Murray River system also influences the region, supplying water to south of Billabong Creek. This supports production in and around Jerilderie and the broader Murrumbidgee Council area.

Land uses are diverse across the Murrumbidgee Valley. A high proportion of land is used for dryland grazing and cereal-based cropping. The region supports the production of over 40 percent of NSW grapes and 50 percent of Australia’s rice. Given the diversity of users, and the context to which it sits as part of the broader Murray-Darling Basin system, there are competing interests which provide the backdrop for a range of issues related to regional water planning and policy in the region.

The Snowy Scheme water makes its way through the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA) via Blowering Dam and Burrinjuck Dam on the Murrumbidgee River. Blowering Dam stores water that has been released from storages further upstream in the Snowy-Tumut Development Section of the Snowy Scheme. Water releases from Blowering and Burrinjuck Dams are managed by NSW State Water, to provide for town water supply, irrigation and environmental use requirements. On the Murrumbidgee River, as at Gundagai, the Snowy Scheme contributes inflows of around 25 percent during average inflow years, but 60 percent during drought years. Water from the two storage dams flows down to Berembed Weir, a journey taking five days and a further two days to Gogeldrie Weir. From Berembed Weir, water moves into Bundidgerry storage and onto the Narrandera Regulator, which is the start of the system owned and maintained by Murrumbidgee Irrigation.

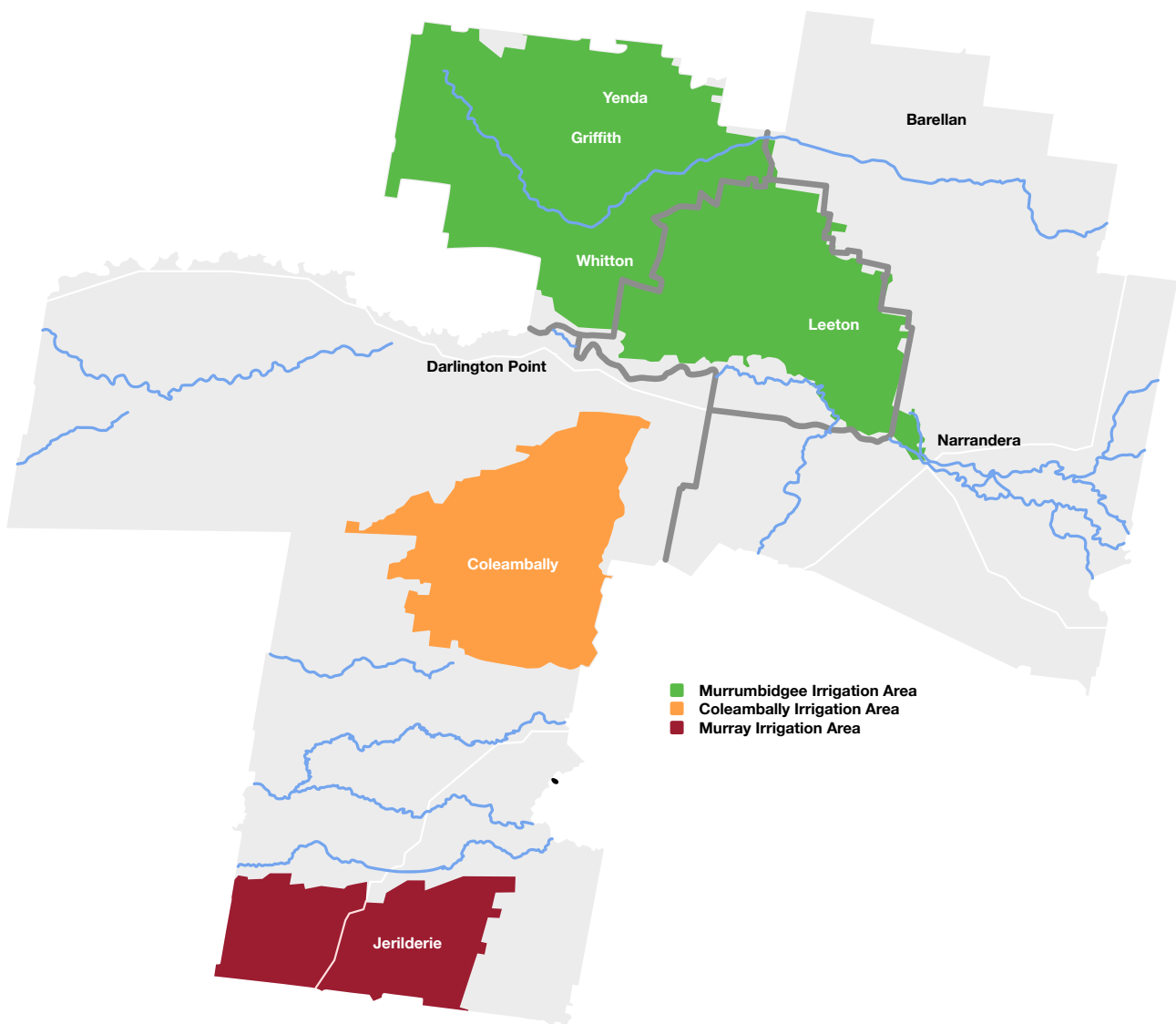
Image: Griffith Main Canal

Irrigation areas

The Murrumbidgee River acts as the natural delivery course for the major food producing areas of the MIA and the Coleambally Irrigation Area (CIA) via Blowering Dam (on the Tumut River, a tributary to the Murrumbidgee) and Burrinjuck Dams. These irrigation areas provide over one-quarter of all the fruit and vegetable production in NSW and are also one of Australia's largest exporters of bulk wine. The southern part of the region, south of Jerilderie and Billabong Creek, is serviced by Murray Irrigation which supplies to more than 740,000 hectares of farmland.

This access to water through the establishment of irrigation schemes, and other water sources, has supported the growth and scale of operations in the region both in agribusiness and associated manufacturing. Economic activity in the region, both historically and at present is strongly linked to the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme, and the water infrastructure investment that support the modern-day irrigation network.

Figure 6 — Major irrigation areas in the Western Riverina



The region's different types of 'drought'

The Bureau of Meteorology notes that drought is a prolonged, abnormally dry period when the amount of available water is insufficient to meet our normal use. We typically think of drought as the absence of rainfall in a region given most other regions in Australia are predominantly dryland in nature.

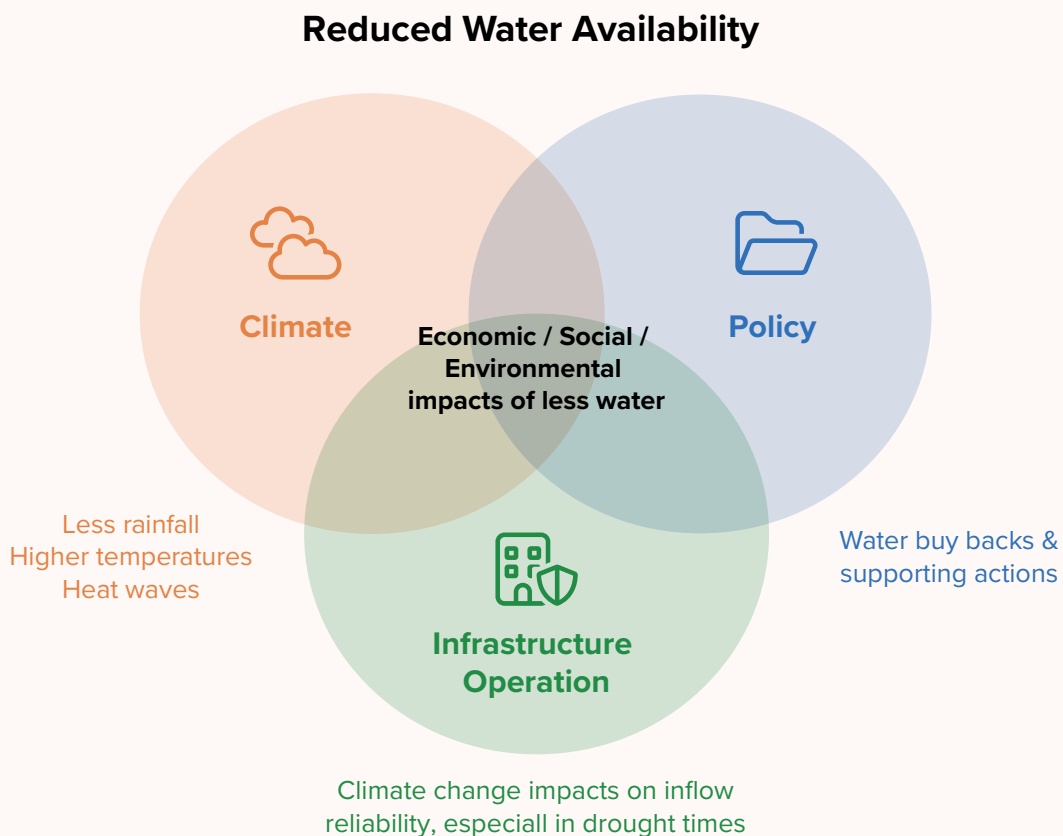
'Water uncertainty' is a preferred term in the region rather than this traditional rainfall and climate-led view of drought. This uncertainty can come from a range of different mechanisms in this region which may occur singularly or in combination. Engagement highlighted three kinds of 'water uncertainty' for the region:

- 'Natural' drought – which is the climate-related drought experienced across Australia, and involves a deficit in the level of rainfall occurring in region.
- 'Human-made' drought – which is the lack of irrigation water due to government policy or out-of-region water availability.

- Operational constraints influences – which involves the asset-based constraints of scheme maintenance and operation, an more significantly, reliability of supply.

The effects of drought and any resilience initiative need to be aligned with responses to the broader context, including policy drivers and operational implications of changing rainfall patterns in the Snowy Mountains. These may result in less water availability or a reduction in the reliability of water supplies in the region. The interplay of these factors creates uncertainty in the water landscape for this region.

Whilst the irrigation schemes have stabilised local and regional economic activity, water shortage and drought impacts can still be felt across the community. Into the future, the impact of climate change on the Snowy Mountain region is also important to the Western Riverina given the reliance on elevated inflows in drier periods from the Snowy Scheme. This emphasises a need to plan ahead to alleviate potential future impacts.



Policies / Programs / Actions in response to the various drivers need to be aligned to avoid unintended consequences and implementation gaps.

Figure 7 — Drivers of loss of water availability in the Western Riverina

Drought impacts

Regardless of how drought manifests, whether it is climatic, policy or operationally-related, the impacts are largely still the same. The impacts below were identified through consultation to inform the plan.



Environmental Impacts

- › Loss of topsoil through groundcover loss and wind erosion
- › Increased demand on alluvial ground water
- › Reduced root zone soil moisture
- › Water turbidity
- › Pressure on the wetlands to support a wider variety and quantity of wildlife
- › Low inflows into the water courses and higher evaporation rates impacting the health of flora and fauna
- › Biosecurity and pest and weed outbreaks
- › Vegetation dieback
- › Increased potential for bushfire and grassfire, and dust storms
- › Water and food availability for wildlife



People and Social Impacts

- › Social isolation
- › Increased mental and physical health issues
- › Increased demand on community services
- › Challenges in attracting and retaining workers
- › Youth retention
- › Maintenance of sports and recreational facilities
- › Reduced ability to partake in sporting and recreation activities
- › Household financial distress, and capacity to access local services
- › Population decline and loss of skills
- › Increased need for community group activity with less volunteers available
- › Increased potential for conflict and reduced community cohesion
- › Impacts on culture and cultural practices
- › Infections and illness from water quality



Economic Impacts

- › Reduction in water allocations
- › Limited fodder and water availability for livestock
- › Reduced discretionary spending in townships
- › Water uncertainty creates loss of confidence in both commercial & residential property market
- › Reduction in agricultural production, reduced yields
- › Loss of or reduced farm income, balance sheet impacts and reduced borrowing capacity
- › Maintaining cash flow and debt servicing
- › Loss or reduction in on and off farm employment
- › Increased fodder and water prices
- › Changes in farm ownership models
- › Halting of investment and capital projects on farms and directly associated businesses
- › Research and innovation can stall
- › Compounding effects of other natural events such as frosts

Impacts from external trends

-  Changing water policy environments including water buy backs and allocation changes
-  Housing pressure and availability of land in and around towns impacting housing supply for workers
-  Costs of living and rising costs of farming inputs
-  Demand from overseas markets is driving the need for sustainability and accreditation
-  Changes to government service delivery models which centralise employment to larger centres and results in consequences for awareness of programs and support, and access to services
-  Changes to farm structures, with an increase of corporate farm and the resultant impacts to local community service provision, population and local spend
-  Limited telecommunications and electricity network reliability and coverage.

Cascading impacts of drought

The effects of drought are not isolated, they are interconnected across the social and economic systems in the region and broader pressures on the landscape. Given the significance of agriculture within the regional economy, impacts to the sector have broader flow on effects to downstream industries, supply chains, and the local businesses in town that rely on discretionary spending.

Many existing challenges within a regional area are made harder. Workforce attraction and retention can be an issue through drought. Where workers leave during drought, it can be difficult attracting these workers back which can be both timely and costly to business operations and can impede productivity in the recovery cycle.

As part of the development of this plan, it is essential to consider the relationship between drought impacts and their underlying causes, with a focus on addressing the root causes rather than merely responding to the resulting chain of symptoms. In this regard, the design and implementation of actions can address multiple challenges across the system.



Image: Banna Lane Festival Griffith - Artwork by Reubszz

Drought history

The impacts of drought can vary based on community, weather conditions, and the prevailing macro influences and trends of the time. Additionally, personal circumstances can vary significantly. Major droughts in Australian history have affected the Western Riverina region, characterised by periods of low rainfall.

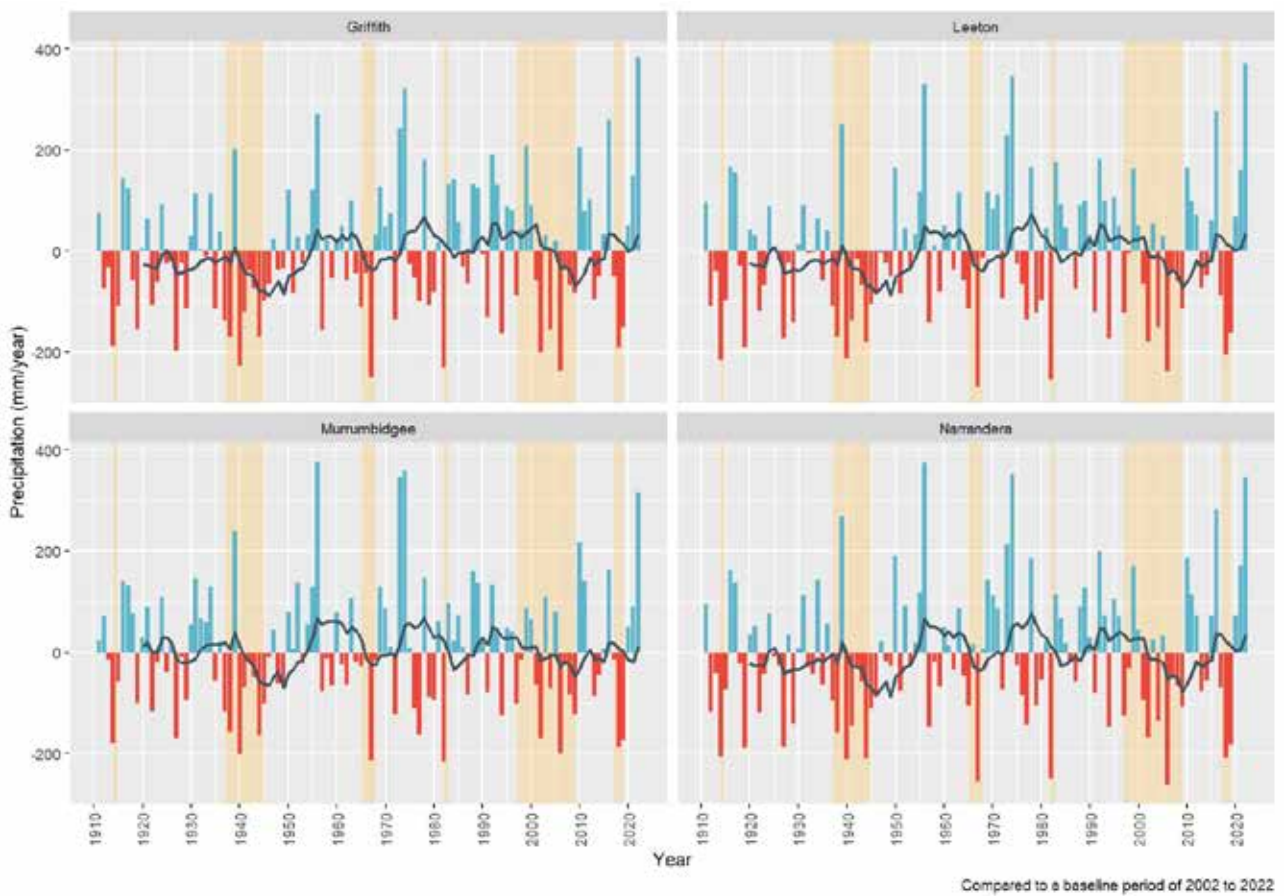
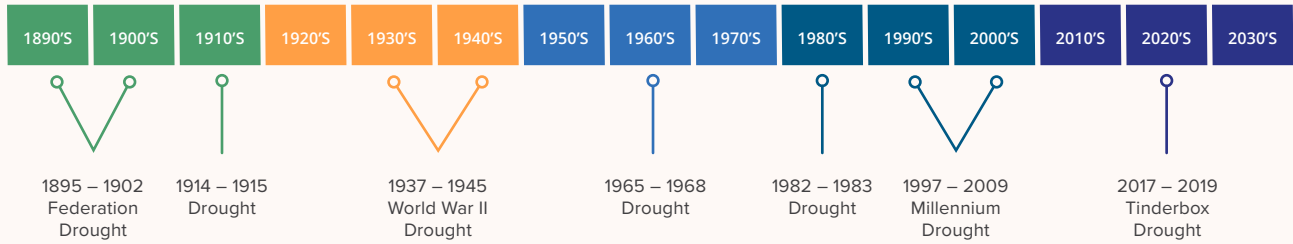


Figure 8 — Yearly mean precipitation anomaly by LGA

*Note that the data does not extend back to the Federation drought of 1890-1902

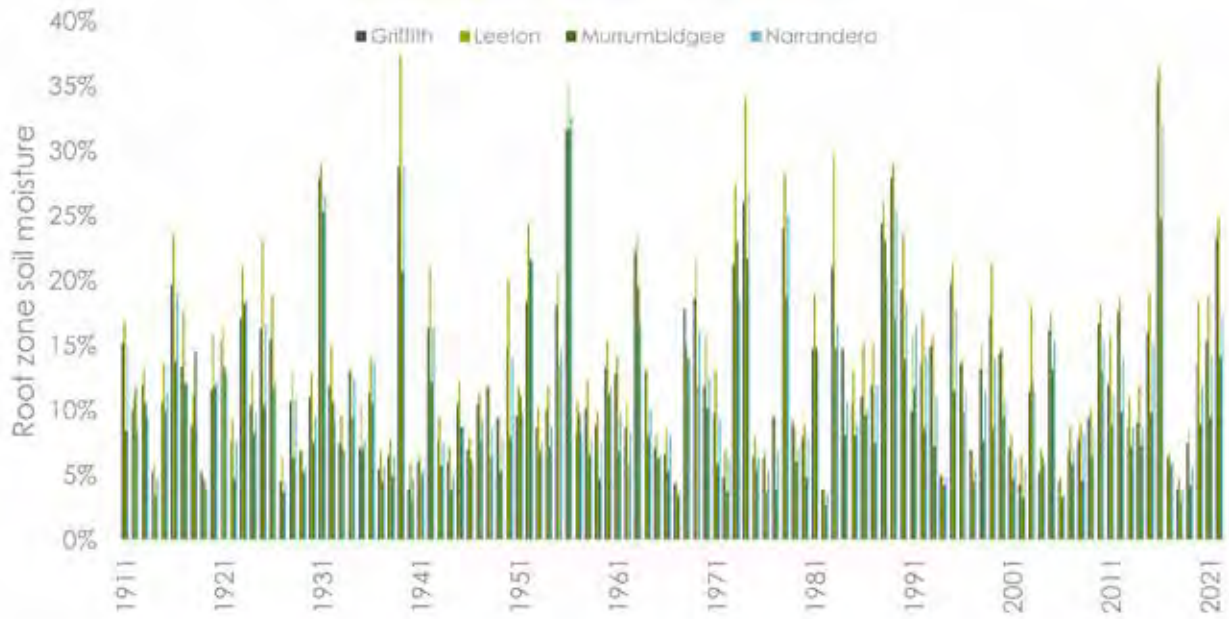


Figure 9 — Soil moisture across LGAs. Major historical droughts align with lower soil moisture levels

The region experiences some years of consistent rainfall, scattered with year-to-year fluctuations. The WWII Drought and Millennium Drought display some of the more protracted periods with notable impacts to soil moisture levels.

A comprehensive synthesis of historic drought climate data specific to the region is included at Appendix A. An analysis of this was undertaken as part of the Resilience Assessment reporting that informs this plan.

A focus on the 2017-2019 drought

During the 2017-2019 period, rainfall for much of Australia, in particular most of the Murray–Darling Basin, was substantially below average. The three years from January 2017 to December 2019 was the driest on record for any 36-month period starting January, when averaged across the Murray-Darling Basin and NSW. Average rainfall for the basin was over 100 millimetres lower than the second driest period (January 1965 to December 1967), and NSW received around 170 millimetres less rainfall than the next driest period, the Federation Drought (1900-1902).

A notable feature of the rainfall deficiencies of these three years is that they were concentrated in the cooler seasons. Both 2018 and 2019 were especially dry. The period was the driest and hottest on record for the basin as a whole. These record warm temperatures exacerbated dry conditions, at times rapidly drying soils in a matter of months. This led to periods in 2017 and 2019 that researchers have termed ‘flash drought’.

Image: Grain storage, Jerilderie

Future drought

The agricultural industry is a significant economic driver for the region. The high-quality agricultural lands support a long-held sector strength with significant value-add in industries of education and manufacturing. Because of this, it is important to consider the projected impact of future climate changes to better plan for potential increased rainfall uncertainty and its impacts of associated water policy.

The further in advance we plan, build awareness and put in place redundancy measures, the more options we will likely have available to address issues down the track.

Future climate scenarios





According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reporting, under all emissions scenarios considered global surface temperature will continue to increase until at least the mid-century. Increasing temperatures and energy within the climate system are projected to result in widespread changes to weather and climate patterns, including drought and all elements of the water cycle.

The below section presents projections of drought and associated climate conditions which are assessed over two possible future climate scenarios using regional climate model ensembles. Projections are shown across the region using the reference period (1976-2005) and then two timescales 2050 (2036-2065) and 2070 (2056-2085). The IPCC's Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) 4.5 and 8.5 are used. RCP 4.5 models mean global warming of between two to three degrees Celsius and is the most likely future scenario based on current climate commitments. RCP 8.5 is a mean global warming of four degrees Celsius or more. This is considered a worst-case scenario.

Current climate models do not account for global climate tipping points. This means that the effects of tipping points are typically not included in climate projections and impact assessments. Breaching global climate tipping points represents significant risks on top of the changes typically described in climate assessments. The effects of breaching certain tipping points may include abrupt changes to the El Niño Southern Oscillation, rainfall patterns, and rainfall variability that are not represented in climate model projections, on top of the main consequences of more rapid warming and sea-level rise.

While days above 35°C and Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) are not direct indicators of drought, they describe weather conditions that often occur alongside drought or are exacerbated by drought.

Regional drought climate indicators:

-  Generally decreasing trends in annual precipitation across the region, worsening into the far term
-  Reduction in soil moisture levels across all scenarios modelled
-  Increasing temperatures are likely to be the primary driver of increased frequency and severity of evapotranspiration and drought conditions
-  Other climate and weather-driven events like heatwaves and bushfires / grass fire may compound broader impacts from drought events.

Below projections of these indices use an ensemble of CSIRO's Electricity Sector Climate Information (ESCI) datasets (days above 35°C and days above an FFDI of 25).⁵

Griffith City		2050		2070	
Variable	Climate model reference period	RCP4.5	RCP8.5	RCP4.5	RCP8.5
Root soil moisture	15% [#]	↓ 0.019 mm [^]	↓ 0.019 mm [^]	↓ 0.013 mm [^]	↓ 0.026 mm [^]
Annual total precipitation	414 mm	↑ 1 mm	↓ 7 mm	0 mm	↓ 15 mm
Days above 35°C	31	49 ↑ ¹⁸	55 ↑ ²⁴	Data unavailable	
Days with FFDI above 25	53	67 ↑ ¹⁴	74 ↑ ²¹		

Leeton		2050		2070	
Variable	Climate model reference period	RCP4.5	RCP8.5	RCP4.5	RCP8.5
Root soil moisture	16% [#]	↓ 0.023 mm [^]	↓ 0.025 mm [^]	↓ 0.015 mm [^]	↓ 0.031 mm [^]
Annual total precipitation	422 mm	↓ 3 mm	↓ 10 mm	↓ 9 mm	↓ 19 mm
Days above 35°C	30	47 ↑ ¹⁷	53 ↑ ²³	Data unavailable	
Days with FFDI above 25	51	64 ↑ ¹³	71 ↑ ²⁰		

Murrumbidgee		2050		2070	
Variable	Climate model reference period	RCP4.5	RCP8.5	RCP4.5	RCP8.5
Root soil moisture	12% [#]	↓ 0.015 mm [^]	↓ 0.013 mm [^]	↓ 0.007 mm [^]	↓ 0.021 mm [^]
Annual total precipitation	385 mm	↓ 6 mm	↓ 3 mm	↓ 4 mm	↓ 17 mm
Days above 35°C	30	47 ↑ ¹⁷	53 ↑ ²³	Data unavailable	
Days with FFDI above 25	54	68 ↑ ¹⁴	74 ↑ ²⁰		

Narrandera		2050		2070	
Variable	Climate model reference period	RCP4.5	RCP8.5	RCP4.5	RCP8.5
Root soil moisture	14% [#]	↓ 0.019 mm [^]	↓ 0.018 mm [^]	↓ 0.009 mm [^]	↓ 0.023 mm [^]
Annual total precipitation	436 mm	↓ 3 mm	↓ 9 mm	↓ 7 mm	↓ 18 mm
Days above 35°C	30	47 ↑ ¹⁷	53 ↑ ²³	Data unavailable	
Days with FFDI above 25	48	62 ↑ ¹⁴	68 ↑ ²⁰		

[#] Mean water content as a percentage of capacity.

[^] Change (mm/yr) in relative soil water content of the 1976-2005 reference period's relative soil water holding capacity.

5 CSIRO n.d., ESCI Climate Data, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. Available at: <https://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/en/projects/esci/esci-climate-data/>

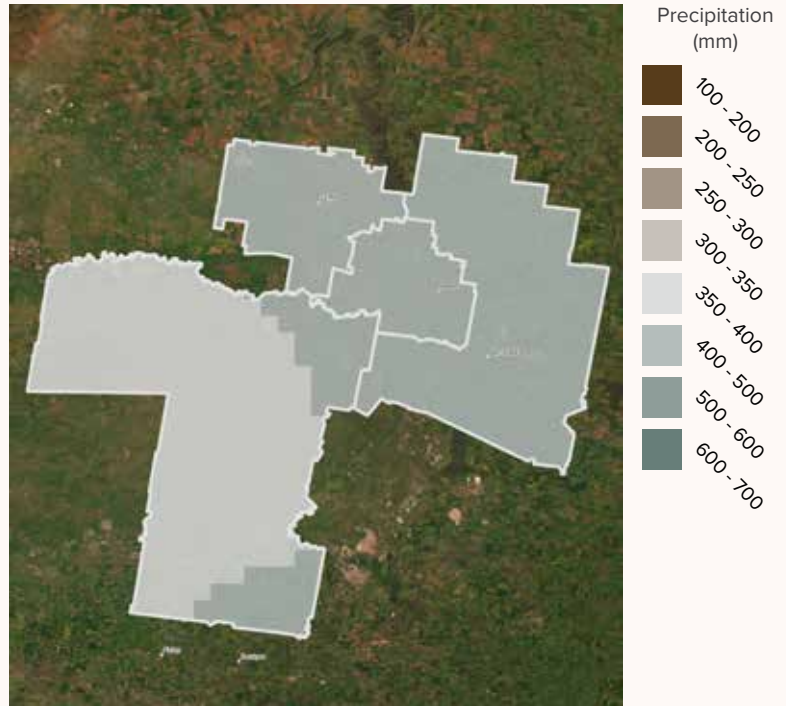
Annual precipitation

Considering the modelled scenarios for precipitation, all see either a minimal change or a reduction in annual total rainfall by 2050. Under the RCP4.5 scenario, this annual reduction lessens in severity in Murrumbidgee and Narrandera by 2070; but, grows in Griffith and Leeton.

Under the RCP8.5 scenario by 2070, the reduction in annual rainfall grows significantly across each LGA over the course of the two decades. This is notable for Murrumbidgee, as it has the lowest rainfall rate in the climate reference period and the most significant reduction from 2050 (-3mm) to 2070 (-17mm) under this scenario (Figure 12).

Figure 12 — Annual precipitation changes across the region.

Climate model reference period



2050 (RCP4.5)



2070 (RCP4.5)



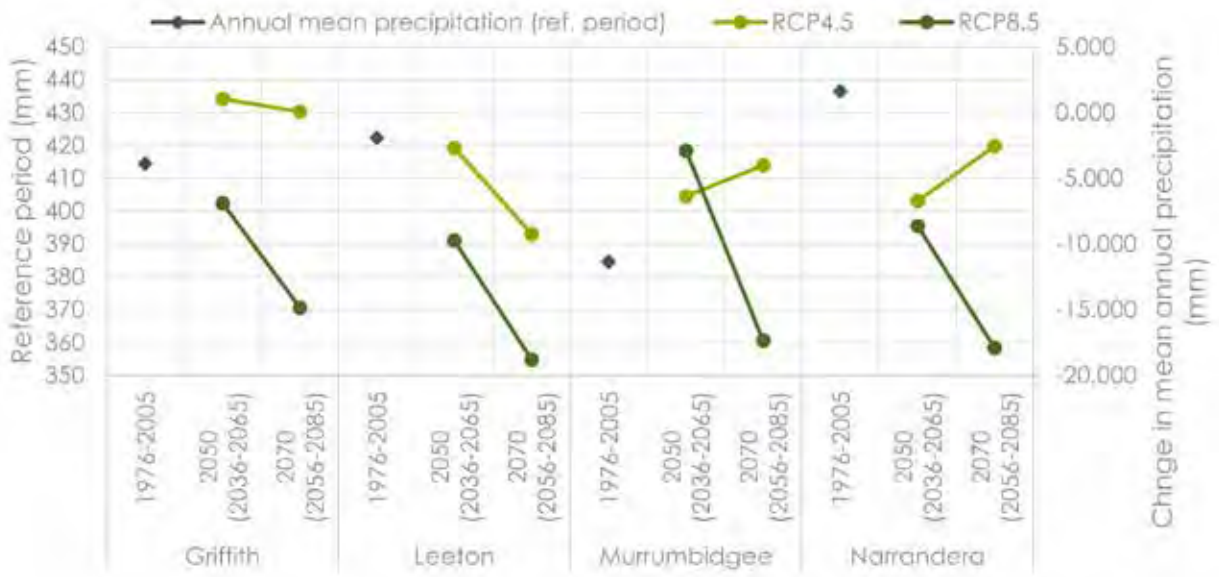
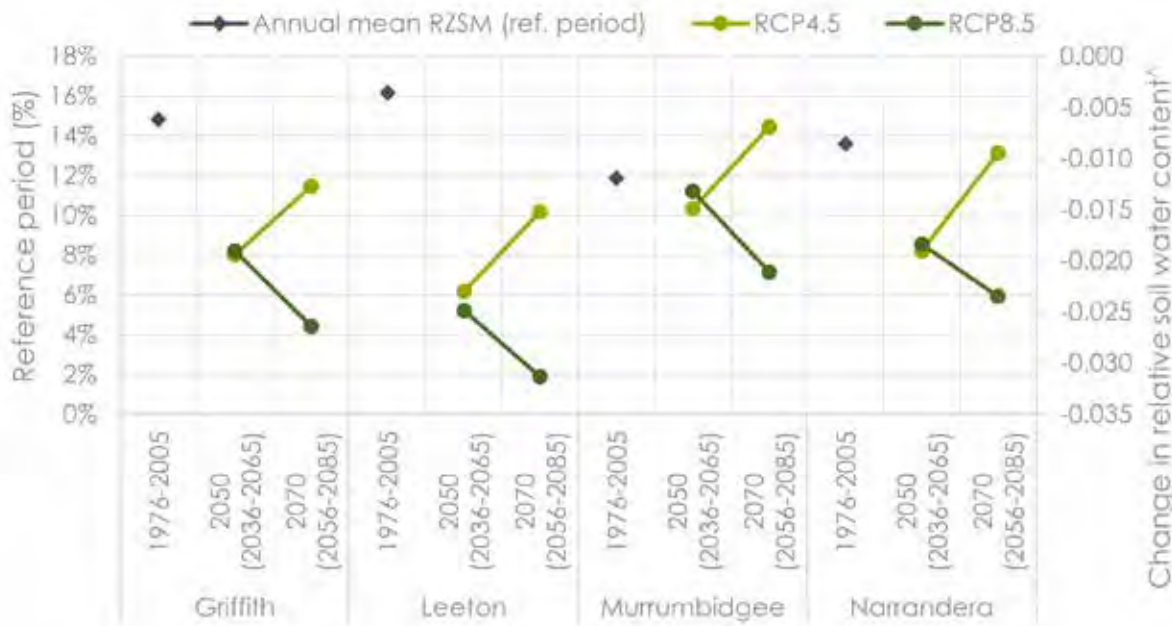


Figure 13 — Annual mean precipitation future climate projections, by LGA

Root zone soil moisture

Root zone soil moisture (RZSM) is presented as a percentage of total capacity during the baseline reference period and as a change of millimetres per year of the climate adjusted scenarios.

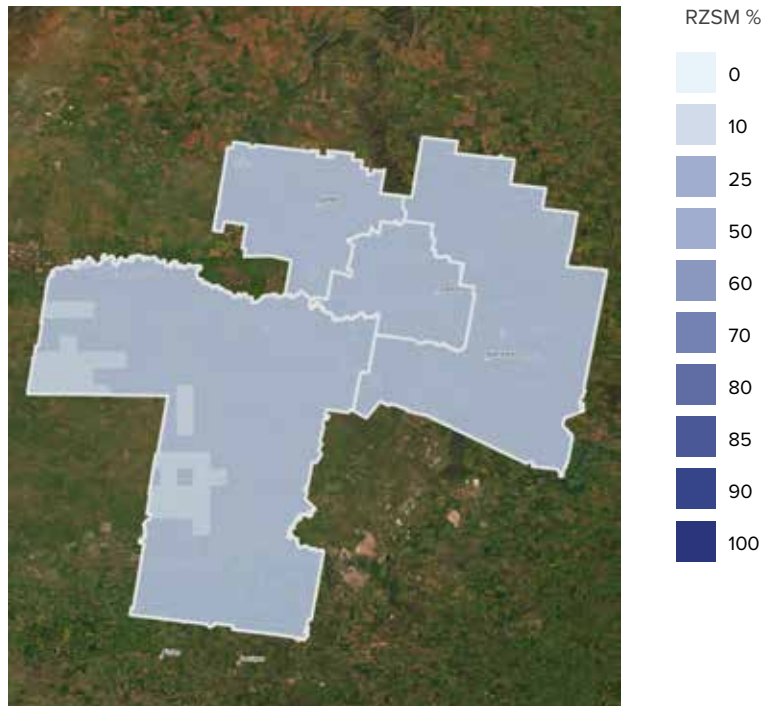


Root zone soil moisture

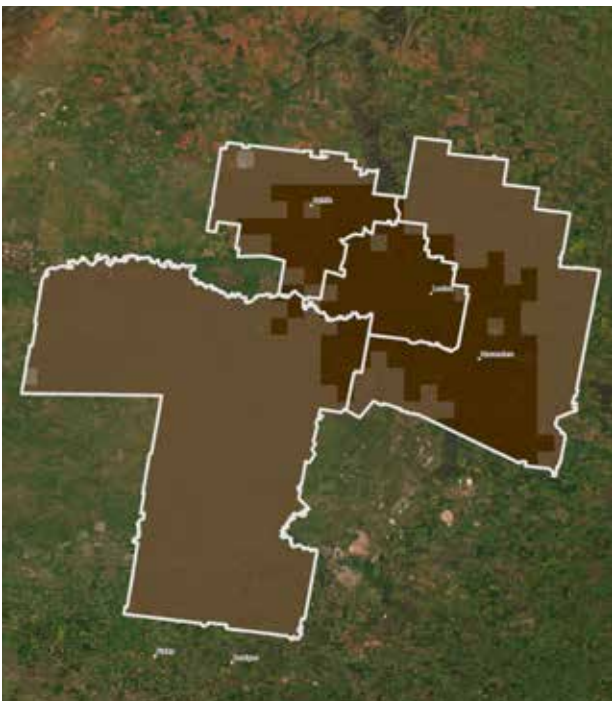
Under all four future scenarios modelled, each is set to see an annual reduction in root zone soil moisture. However, under the RCP4.5 scenarios, the reduction does lessen from 2050 to 2070. Under the RCP8.5 scenarios, the annual reduction increases to 2070 (Figure 14 — Root zone soil moisture future climate projections, by LGA). The reduction, both in 2050 and 2070, is most intense in Griffith and Leeton.

Figure 14 — Root zone soil moisture future climate projections, by LGA

Climate model reference period



2050 (RCP4.5)



2070 (RCP4.5)

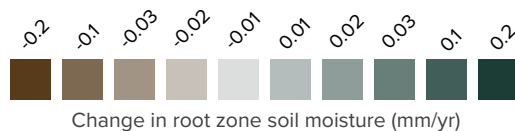
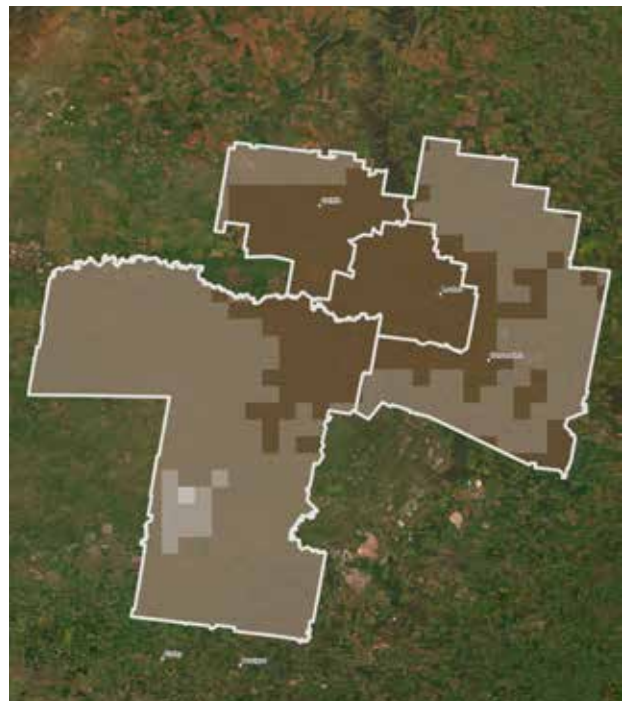


Figure 15 — Annual change in root zone soil moisture

What does the climate data tell us?

The region will continue to be susceptible to the impact of drought which can be protracted events, such as the Millennial drought, or relatively shorter time periods of high intensity.

Climate projections indicate an increase in drought risk, which worsens in the far-term under a higher emissions scenario.

Potential increases in frequency and severity of drought conditions will be largely driven by temperature, evapotranspiration and reduced soil moisture in the Western Riverina region.

Relevance of climate change in the neighbouring Alpine region

In addition to the climate projections for the Western Riverina region, climate change impacts in the Snowy Mountains (Alpine region) must also be considered given the reliance of inflows directed from the Snowy Scheme into the Murrumbidgee catchment. Over time, reduced snowpack, rainfall, changes to landform, erosion and runoff, and increased temperatures in the Snowy Mountains region is likely to have an impact on the Western Riverina.

The water from the Alps which flows through to the Basin and the irrigation schemes is of high significance, supporting ecosystem services of national economic, social and environmental importance. With the water held in high regard now, every gigalitre flowing from the Alps catchment to the Basin is likely to be more important in the future.

Climate projections for the NSW Alpine region indicate continued warming and drying – with winter temperatures increasing by more than 2°C in the far future and spring rainfall projected to decrease by 20 percent in the far future.

Through an increase in temperatures and changes to rainfall patterns, there are subsequent impacts to the quantity of both surface water and groundwater, with some projections showing that, across the Alpine region, there is likely to be a reduction in surface-water run-off in the future.

Climate change threats to the natural condition of the catchments may also impact high quality water delivery from the Alps. This includes water yield, water flow regimes and water quality.

Further investigation is needed to understand how the projected reduction in surface water run-off in the Alpine region, and other influencing processes on water yield and delivery within the Alps, interacts with the run-off generally received through the Murrumbidgee catchment. With the Murrumbidgee and Murray water catchments receiving inflows from the Snowy Scheme under the Snowy Water Licence, future reviews based on building a climate-based understanding will need to be considered.

Clear reliance is evident on the water quantity and quality from the Alpine region to other catchments, importantly the Murrumbidgee catchment, and broader considerations to the contribution it makes to agricultural production and other industries in the Basin.



Image: 'A Country Life' (Brett Collins)

Trends, stressors and shocks

To support preparedness and planning for drought we must also consider other trends, stressors and acute shocks, beyond the climate, that may amplify drought impacts into the future. These can influence our resilience to different conditions, circumstances and scenarios. It is also important in terms of governance arrangements and strategic priorities to ensure broader actions are cognisant of interaction with drought in our communities.



Economic

- › Water policy and water allocation changes
- › Cost of farming with rising inputs
- › The state of the national economy, commodity prices, market volatility and interest rates
- › Fuel prices and transport costs
- › Positive impacts of strategic road connectivity on market access
- › Major project investment decisions, both private and public
- › Changing farm enterprise ownership models and their scale
- › Energy access
- › Transition to renewable energy sources



People and community

- › Service availability, particularly health and community services
- › Workforce shortages, and worker attraction and retention to regions
- › Demographic shifts in population (ageing population and youth retention)
- › Housing availability and new dwelling supply
- › Costs of living pressures and local discretionary spending
- › Urbanisation and population mobility trends



Environmental

- › Widespread invasive species
- › Feral animal numbers
- › Land use conflicts, particularly on primary production areas
- › Loss of riparian habitat
- › Water management within the Murray-Darling Basin
- › Water infrastructure projects and funding decisions
- › Soil erosion
- › Water licensing arrangements to improve environmental flows
- › Climate change

Western Riverina in Australia's future drought context

At the national level, a consequence of the most recent drought (2017-2019) was increased pressure on Australia's food security. Grain was imported to feed stock and the nation. Similar imports in 2006-7, 2003-4, and 1994-5 correlate to the worst drought related cropping years in recent decades. Since this event in 2019, Australia's population has grown from 25.5 million to 27.2 million, with continued growth projected. This growth adds to the demand on available water and increases the pressures on food insecurity into the future. Any response to drought, particularly within the productive area of the Western Riverina, fits within the context of a strategic view of national food and water security. This would consider the potential scenarios of water availability, as well as the related potential biosecurity risks. Subsequent revisions of the Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan will monitor the development of a national policy response to this trend, and reflect community views to advocate more on this significant issue.

Our drought resilience

Drought resilience can be considered against three macro indicators, each with their own influencing factors. Considering how this plan can address all these factors ensures we can address all aspects of the system.



Economic resilience

Continuity
Employment
Diversity



Environmental resilience

Infrastructure and built assets
Natural processes
Land management



Social resilience

Personal wellbeing
Decision making capacity
Community wellbeing

A snapshot of vulnerability and resilience to drought

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences' (ABARES) has developed an index that ranks remote, rural or regional agriculturally dependent communities (at the LGA level) according to their potential to be adversely affected by drought.

The result is a snapshot based on drought exposure and drought sensitivity at the farm level (farm sensitivity), the reliance on employment in agricultural production industries (community sensitivity), the adaptive capacity of a LGA to drought based on economic diversity, and a final combination of the potential drought impact.

The data comprises data variables and indicators which have been combined and ranked. Scores are not necessarily representative of the magnitude of impact, rather it positions the sensitivity with respect to other LGAs assessed. There is a strong link to employment in agricultural production, particularly for community sensitivity which may not be representative of broader community sensitivity detailed throughout this plan.

Community Vulnerability and Resilience to Drought Index (measured from 0 [lowest] to 1 [highest])				
LGA	Farm sensitivity	Community sensitivity	Economic diversity	Potential drought impact
Griffith City	N/A*	0.30	0.53	0.20
Leeton Shire	N/A*	0.27	0.59	0.18
Murrumbidgee	0.76	0.58	0.16	0.90
Narrandera Shire	N/A*	0.32	0.47	0.22

* Insufficient data for broadacre farm samples in the region

The ABARES CVRDI scores indicate for the region:

- Some evidence of farm-based exposure, which is linked to both exposure to climate variability, and the effects that has on farm outcomes
- A low to moderate level of community dependence on agricultural activity in terms of employment
- Some demonstrated economic diversity highlighted by a strong regional centre offer, service industry and economic output
- A low to higher level of overall potential drought impact, particularly in Murrumbidgee noting it has a particularly strong agriculture sector with high value agriculture commodity output (while potential drought impact measures farm sensitivity and community sensitivity, whether there is lasting loss or harm depends on a community's adaptive capacity).

While the region is susceptible to future drought impacts, and this is more apparent for Murrumbidgee compared with other LGAs, its economic diversity supports a level of adaptive capacity in some areas of the region. Levels of community connection and social capital, along with diversified economic development opportunities, offer key opportunities to aid immediate as well as long-term drought resilience. Murrumbidgee's proximity to the regional centres of both Griffith and Albury potentially moderate drought vulnerability scoring through access to employment and services in relative proximity.

The above provides a snapshot of community vulnerability to drought, though a number of limitations are noted. As this plan details, impacts in the Western Riverina extend to broader pressures on water availability, and subsequent impacts to community and economic outputs.

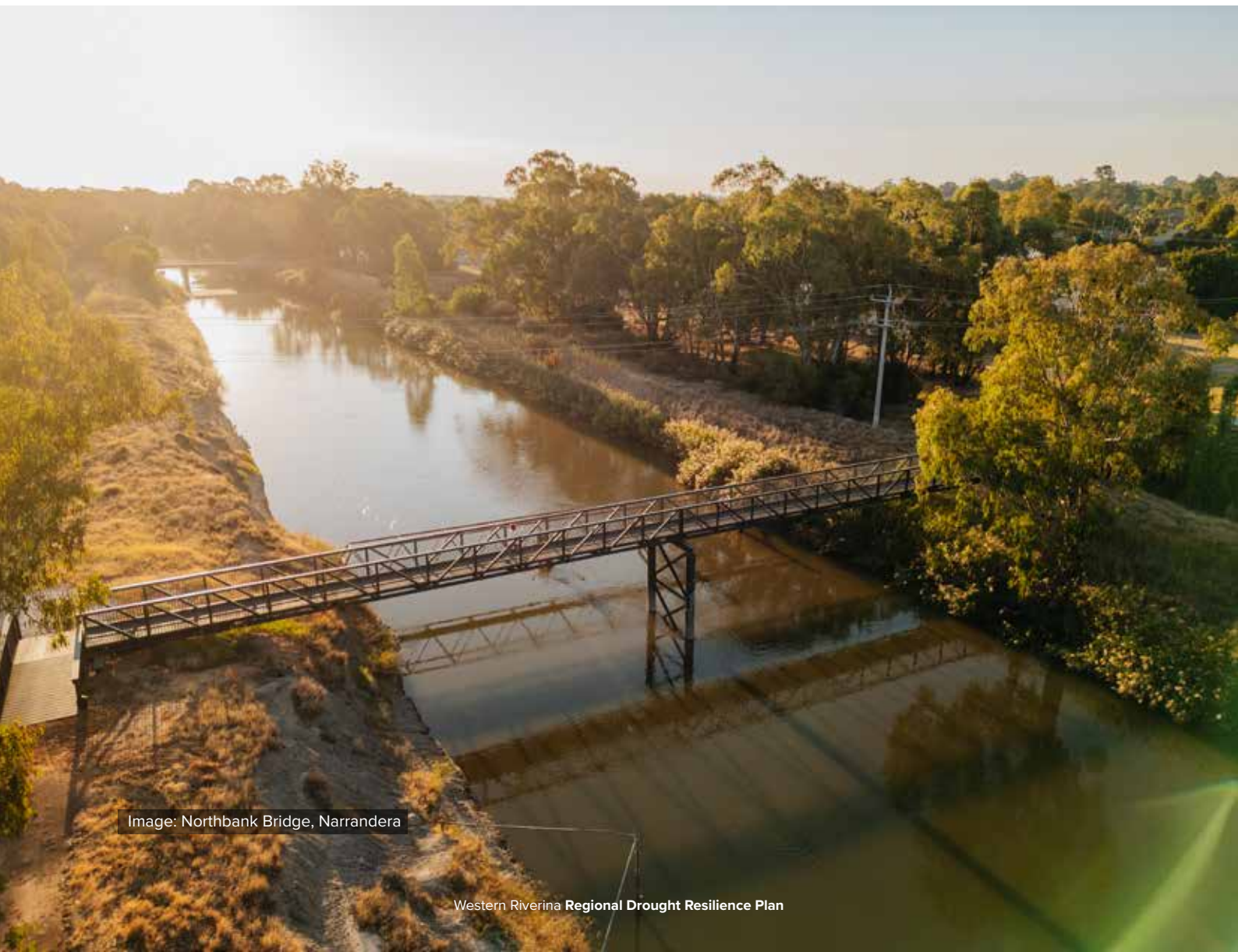


Image: Northbank Bridge, Narrandera

Drought action plan

The drought action plan for Western Riverina incorporates priorities for drought resilience across strategic pathways for action. The action plan provides:

- › Details of specific actions against each pathway
- › The alignment of the action to an implementation pathway
- › Anticipated stakeholders

Timeframes are indicative and are dependent upon opportunities and timing for funding and other variables.

While Council is listed next to a number of actions, this is generally in anticipation of advocating and leading next steps of the action rather than sole responsibility in delivery. Many of these actions are of a scale or fall outside council operations and require funding and resourcing from other levels of government or input from industry.

A program logic approach was used to match the drought resilience needs illuminated by the engagement feedback with pragmatic actions. The degree to which the actions contribute to our movement along the resilience 'theory of change' journey is also detailed. This is about whether the actions 'absorb, adapt or transform' how we collectively prepare for and grow our resilience to drought effects. This scale also helps us to understand the level of effort and the timeframes associated with each action.

Pathways for change

This drought action plan establishes a framework to guide focus and efforts in response to community needs and community strengths highlighted through engagement. The action plan spans six strategic pathways, reflecting the three systems of drought resilience of community, economic, and environmental characteristics. These strategic pathways are:

-  Anticipate water availability
-  Proactively manage business interests
-  Support off-farm diversification
-  Grow local co-operative service provision
-  Support community cohesion
-  Embed environmental stewardship and sustainable agricultural practices

These pathways can be approached at different scales. This can be by different actors and through a range of mechanisms over time from transformative resilience actions at a large scale to proactive resilience actions by individuals and the more formal or common pathways.

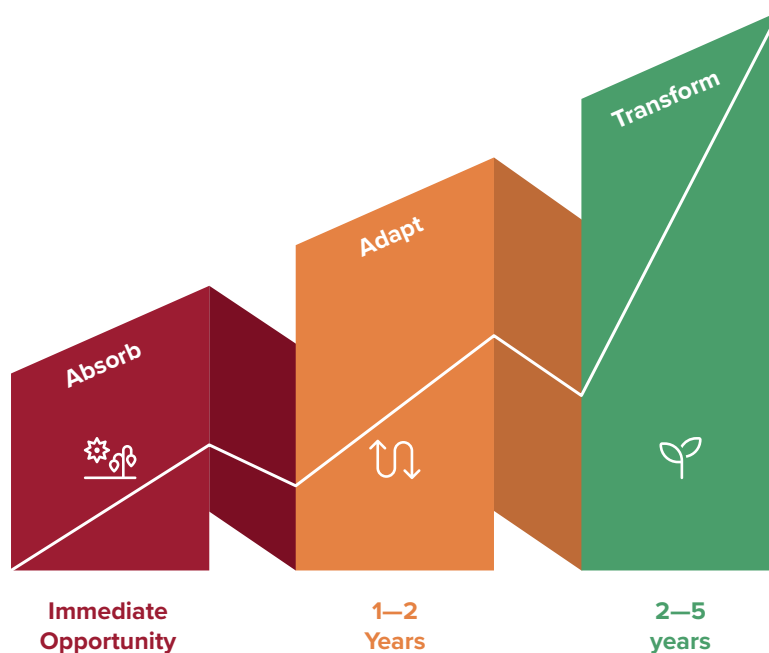


Figure 16 — Resilience theory of change



Pathway 1 – Anticipate water availability

The region's social and economic resilience is inextricably linked to water availability. Reducing the inherent uncertainties of water availability is critical to the ongoing sustainability of the region.

This is particularly the case with the evolution of the water market in NSW, whereby water allocations have been decoupled from land ownership. The ability to trade water unlocks an additional revenue stream for those farmers who hold those allocations, but it also creates challenges for those farmers who have to purchase both land and water allocations. In times of drought, they could be left with a farm (and its associated debt obligation) and having to purchase water temporarily at a high price due to reduced availability.

Key actions under this pathway to build resilience include:

- > Increasing collective understanding of water market dynamics – including communicating the risks of temporary allocation purchases
- > Improving water allocation forecasting
- > Improving access to and awareness of climate forecasts for dryland farmers
- > Considered and well-informed planning for water infrastructure programs and management

ID	SPECIFIC ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY	STAKEHOLDER(S)
1.1	Develop an agreed approach for drought fodder management/distribution with improved governance arrangements overseen by a local independent authority (e.g. using Stock Saleyard operations as a model)	Adapt to strengthen preparedness and ensure coordination of processes	Council
1.2	Councils to review town water supply restrictions policies and approaches to providing emergency water supplies, recognising the wellbeing benefits of towns being “green” even during dry times, and include water use efficiency approaches.	Adapt to strengthen preparedness and support common good outcomes	Council
1.3	Undertake an independent assessment of the Lake Coolah development proposal with consideration to multiple objectives including flood mitigation, wetland enhancement and water delivery system efficiency	Transform the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects	Council
1.4	Councils to review stormwater management and town sewerage discharge strategies and approaches to maximise opportunities for reuse of water resources	Adapt to strengthen preparedness through continuous improvements	Council
1.5	Work with International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage Australia and Irrigation Australia to promote the benchmarking of irrigation scheme delivery efficiencies, and explore a “5 Star” approach – that will support regional marketing of agricultural products	Adapt to leverage existing strengths	Industry groups
1.6	Deliver continuing education / training program on the operation of water markets, with irrigators as the target audience	Adapt through increased local understanding of the system	Industry groups Irrigators
1.7	Work with the NSW Government to introduce training and programs for primary producers to further develop rainfall and weather intelligence using drought signals / indicators for use in conjunction with soil moisture and other weather data.	Adapt through improved processes to complement planning	Council State Government
1.8	Promote engagement with the One Basin CRC projects delivered through the Griffith Hub, and explore the possibility of a Centre of Irrigation Excellence building upon the existing Irrigation Research and Extension Committee model.	Transform through increased capacity and recognition of local strengths	Council



Pathway 2 – Proactively manage business interests

Strength of small business is a feature of the region whether it's fuel, cafes, hairdressers, mechanical or the local accountant. While drought generally impacts farmers first, the flow-on effects are felt across towns and communities through business impacts and in-turn, employment and expenditure.

Resilient, diverse and prepared businesses are better positioned to ride the peaks and troughs when they are planned for and anticipated. A range of pressures exist outside of drought times which requires strategic long term planning to address, while more agile initiatives provide interventions during drought, and are effective where planned for in advance. Priority action areas include:

- > Support for businesses to adapt and prepare
- > Ensuring the region has the right skills, and attracts new skills for confident business growth
- > Ensure business has the information they need to operate effectively.

ID	SPECIFIC ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY	STAKEHOLDER(S)
2.1	Investigate the reintroduction of previous Services Australia farm exit program	Adapt to facilitate business transition	Council Services Australia (Federal Government)
2.2	Investigate potential to fund local application (using a co-operative approach) of the NSW Farmers' Federation "Ag Career Start" program	Adapt to strengthen preparedness and build local capacity	Council
2.3	Undertake a more detailed analysis of economic flows / benefits done by ABARES prior to the next drought (taking milling and downstream activities into account)	Adapt to strengthen preparedness through understanding of the system	Council
2.4	Undertake a review across all the local education service provider course and curriculum offerings to meet local agricultural industry and supply chain needs including opportunities for rural cadetships, apprenticeship advisors, and how to increase housing with a link to trade apprenticeships	Transform the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects	Council TAFE NSW Local education providers
2.5	Support small businesses with computer and internet training	Absorb immediate action to support community capacity	Council State Government
2.6	Promote the benefits of "lifestyle" driving the purpose of business / financial / succession planning, and promote the benefits and delivery of business plans e.g. for improved access to capital	Adapt to strengthen preparedness	Council
2.7	Promote drought assistance programs or financial subsidy programs to "supply chain" businesses when they are impacted by agricultural clients who are impacted by drought	Adapt to support endurance during drought	Council Business owners and operators
2.8	Engage a project officer to help local businesses (small to large) develop their own drought resilience plan - and facilitate access to grant funding from various agencies	Adapt to strengthen preparedness	Business owners and operators Council
2.9	Provide training to local providers on responding to tenders	Absorb immediate action to support local capacity	Council
2.10	Provide local support to Services NSW / Concierge service to provide opportunities for workers displaced by drought to get other local short-term work	Adapt to strengthen preparedness and mobilise workforce supply	Council State Government
2.11	Promote the need to broaden the rules for "backpacker" workers to attract more workers for agricultural related industries	Transform the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects and ensure workforce supply	Federal Government
2.12	Promote opportunities in alternate industries that suit available soils, water and climatic conditions.	Transform the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects	Council State Government
2.13	Review / update regional economic development strategies to include promotion of non-water based industries, agricultural industries that align with available soils and water, and others that take advantage of available products	Transform the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects and diversification of economy	Council State Government
2.14	Undertake regional internet/phone service audit for digital access, along with an energy access audit and advocate for improved connectivity	Absorb immediate action to inform advocacy of key barriers	Council
2.15	Advocate for improved consistency in funding for the Rural Financial Counselling Service to support local business operators to take proactive steps toward enhanced drought resilience	Absorb immediate action to provide continuity of services	Council
2.16	Develop a "Generation Ag Link" program modelled on the CSIRO program "Generation STEM Link"	Adapt to strengthen preparedness by building capacity and local industry understanding	Industry groups



Pathway 3 – Support off-farm diversification

The region boasts many economic development opportunities which over time will offer varied income and productivity opportunities. Some of these opportunities are truly transformative and offer long term prospects for change, growth and stability. As an agriculturally based economy, there is benefit in:

- > Leveraging existing tourism assets as a major economic pillar
- > Building the financial strength of all businesses regardless of sector or scale
- > Diversifying the regional economy through manufacturing and value adding agriculture
- > Keeping our towns active and attractive.

ID	SPECIFIC ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY	STAKEHOLDER(S)
3.1	Councils to have a strategy for future land release and development, potentially adopting a “cooperative model” approach	Absorb immediate action to identify site potential	Council
3.2	Build on the Regional Arts Development Program - Regional Cultural Tourism report	Absorb immediate action to build existing work foundations	Regional Arts Network Council
3.3	Advocate for public service remote area benefits to attract and retain critical services and workforce	Transform the long-term economic stability through continuity of services	Council
3.4	Develop an Ag Industry focussed “Job Keeper” type program (taking principles from the Farm Household Allowance program delivered by Services Australia) for application during drought.	Transform the long-term economic stability through continuity of operations	Industry groups State Government
3.5	Promote agritourism and a viable diversification strategy	Adapt to strengthen preparedness through economic diversification	Council Tourism organisations
3.6	Promote value added manufacturing for existing and emerging agricultural commodities, such as almonds, grapes, citrus, sugar plum etc	Adapt to strengthen preparedness through economic diversification	Industry groups
3.7	Investigate a Geographic Indicator designation that would support sustainability accreditation for the Western Riverina agricultural industries	Adapt to leverage existing strengths	Industry groups
3.8	Develop public works / maintenance program of works e.g. town revitalisation, roadside clean-up / maintenance, farm clean outs to be done during drought	Adapt to inform preparedness through ready made actions with impact	Council
3.9	Schedule training during “down time” to upskill people in the agricultural industry	Adapt to strengthen preparedness	Farm business owners and operators
3.10	Outside of drought, promote availability of water in towns as an opportunity for new businesses – include in Economic Development strategies	Adapt to strengthen preparedness through economic diversification	Council
3.11	Promote National and State support for regionalisation strategies such as the Regional Development Australia “Country Change Riverina and Murray” strategy (to encourage movement from cities to regional areas)	Transform the long-term economic stability through continuity of services	Federal Government State Government
3.12	Facilitate affordable housing, fast track land development, explore community cooperative approach and private / public partnerships with Council	Transform the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects	Council State Government
3.13	Upskill and build capability of local providers in diverse business areas to allow them to compete in the tender and procurement process during drought that support broader business offers.	Adapt to strengthen preparedness through economic diversification	Council



Pathway 4 – Grow local co-operative service provision

The co-operative model of business and service provision in this region is truly unique. It is not found in many other parts of Australia at such a significant scale and could support the region's long-term resilience and prosperity. It is borne from a generational legacy of the collaboration needed to operate and maintain the complex irrigation schemes that thread through the landscape. Without co-operation, in this landscape, water availability would not exist.

Expanding this co-operative model beyond its irrigation roots is already evident, with pubs and rice mills already emerging to trade using this model of ownership and operation. Extending this model further into retail, grocery, aged care, and possibly even housing is arguably not too much of a stretch to achieve.

This pathway seeks to focus on this demonstrated strength of collaboration and cooperation in Western Riverina communities. This builds on these existing tangible and non-tangible cultural assets to maintain baseline service provision for key sectors, and support social and community fabric and morale during drought times through enabling mechanisms that drive locally cooperative outcomes.

ID	SPECIFIC ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY	STAKEHOLDER(S)
4.1	Establish ongoing “Wellbeing Hubs” connecting community organisations to landholders, business and the community and develop action plans for priorities of each hub	Transform into the long term supporting continuity of services and community network capacity	Community organisations Council
4.2	Develop cooperative structure models for a range of situations along with guidelines to encourage people and corporations to co-invest in community services	Transform into the long-term supporting continuity of services and community network capacity	Community organisations
4.3	Promote programs, financial planning advice and funding available from providers including Services Australia	Adapt to broaden clarity and uptake of programs	Services Australia Council
4.4	Councils to consider the provision of more ‘drop in’ style community services to support locals especially in drought when costs can prohibit travel	Absorb to strengthen local access to support	Council
4.5	Link community-based investment in local infrastructure (e.g. ongoing social activities) with LGA programs including for social connectivity and for places of refuge linked to floods / bushfires etc.	Adapt immediate actions to support ongoing preparedness	Council
4.6	Undertake an audit of Council roads to identify priorities for an “Infrastructure Betterment” program to make access to farms more resilient to droughts, floods and other events	Adapt to direct future funding and support movement networks	Council Landowners



Pathway 5 – Support community cohesion

Cohesive and connected communities are a key ingredient to support drought resilience. Drought, as opposed to other hazards, can divide communities through isolation. Strong community connections are therefore critical in ensuring community care and wellbeing, looking out for mates and providing mutual relief.

This was a clear priority identified by the community through the plan engagement process. Community connection, participation and identity are already strengths of the Western Riverina and need to be maintained and bolstered.

This pathway seeks to build on the existing community strength of the Western Riverina region to support cohesiveness of the social fabric and morale during drought times by:

- > Supporting strong social cohesion
- > Attracting and retaining social and cultural events
- > Maintaining an inclusive community.

ID	SPECIFIC ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY	STAKEHOLDER(S)
5.1	Include delivery of hard copy documents to households in communications strategies (where requested)	Absorb immediate action support accessibility	Council State Government
5.2	Advocate for additional subsidies during drought for youth sport and support similar initiatives such as “Active Farmers”	Adapt to utilise existing initiatives and programs	Council
5.3	Councils and community groups to drive / facilitate / promote volunteerism and develop a steering committee (or similar) to direct volunteer deployment in times of drought	Adapt to strengthen preparedness and capability to respond	Council Community groups
5.4	Develop written and visual history of the region (providing a way for intergenerational involvement and connection)	Transform into the long term through retaining regional identity	Council
5.5	Develop a list of groups and associations seeking volunteers, based on examples such as SES community actions teams – link to “Community Hub” Actions	Adapt to strengthen preparedness and capability to respond	Community groups
5.6	Council to promote and deliver free “Big Social” events	Adapt to strengthen preparedness and support role of community networks	Council Community organisation
5.7	Support existing and promote new “Food Festival” programs to show case locally grown products – invite celebrity chefs	Adapt the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects	Council Destination groups
5.8	Develop a local “Drought Self Help” kit (similar to Red Cross kit)	Adapt to strengthen preparedness	Council
5.9	Build on and expand the “Teach the Teachers” program relating to agricultural production and experiences of living in rural communities	Adapt to strengthen preparedness and connection to the region	Council Industry groups Schools
5.10	Support excursions from city schools to the region and continue to support “Boys to the Bush” program	Adapt to strengthen preparedness build understanding across region to urban areas	Council Community organisations Department of Education
5.11	Explore opportunities for mentor programs for both men and women, and promote existing programs focused on rural leadership and change makers	Adapt through capacity building of locals	Council Community organisations
5.12	Support delivery of drought resilience programs within schools	Absorb immediate action to strengthen preparedness	Schools
5.13	Continue to invest in the maintenance and enhancement of community facilities to support community cohesion during times of drought	Absorb immediate action to strengthen preparedness	Council
5.14	Work with Indigenous groups to “co-solve” water issues	Transform the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects	Council First Nations groups



Pathway 6 – Embed environmental stewardship and sustainable agricultural practices

The health of the landscape is integral to our economic and community wellbeing. Retaining soil moisture in the landscape and topsoil retention are clear drought impact reduction pursuits. Pest and weed management offer further opportunities to stem landscape degradation.

Areas for action include supporting land management and maintaining and enhancing biosecurity.

ID	SPECIFIC ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY	STAKEHOLDER(S)
6.1	Promote and support Landcare in providing opportunities for landholders to demonstrate the benefits derived from their business and land practices (including use of photo diaries)	Adapt to support resilient landscapes	Landcare
6.2	Support Landcare and associated programs and advocate for continuity of funding on programs that focus on climate ready revegetation and improving native seed supply	Adapt to support resilient landscapes	Landcare
6.3	Promote a policy for fixed riparian zone / corridors for reconstruction and restoration	Adapt the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects	Council
6.4	Support actions for on-going carp management within the region's waterways	Absorb immediate actions to support ongoing efforts	State government agencies
6.5	Advocate for and ensure understanding of the impacts of future reviews of the Snowy Water Licence	Adapt into long-term to maintain economic stability	Council Industry groups
6.6	Link Landcare with Regional Services Australia to identify funding opportunities for involvement in farm management professional development opportunities	Adapt the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects	Landcare
6.7	Promote the landscape and production benefits of sustainable and restorative agricultural practices and focus on driving buy-in through initiatives such as mapping of land use capability.	Adapt to support resilient landscapes	Industry groups Landcare
6.8	Work with First Nations peoples to bring First Nations ecological practice back to Country	Transform through actions building partnerships and resilient landscapes	First Nations groups
6.9	Support the establishment of Landcare groups across each of the council areas	Adapt to support resilient landscapes	Council Landcare
6.10	Develop a program to focus on improvements to road side revegetation for connected corridors	Adapt to support resilient landscapes	Council

Implementation


The Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan relies on collaborative implementation approaches involving a range of stakeholders.


The action plan for drought resilience spans the drought cycle and its interaction with the community, that is before, during and recovery from drought. The actions to implement cover levels of government, community and industry groups, service providers, not-for-profits, landowners, and local communities with actions that have effect at different points of the drought cycle. This includes short, medium and long term opportunities, and interventions that are strategic by strengthening preparedness or are agile and ready to be implemented when enduring drought.


Pathways implementation


The purpose of the action plan is to inform future drought funding and ongoing preparedness across the region. Stakeholders work together regionally to build drought resilience in the economy, environment and our communities, proactively and pragmatically.


The action plan has been drawn together through community expression, existing initiatives and background data. In developing this action plan, it is noted that:

 actions are purposefully listed with multiple stakeholders, and unspecified timeframes or funding to acknowledge that delivery is dependent on a range of variables

 roles and responsibilities are flexible, including for local governments. The plan is owned by the region. Any stakeholder can start an action that is within their capacity

 implementation will occur through participation of all stakeholders over time as priorities, resources and funding arise

 some actions are indeed underway by various stakeholders, the purpose of maintaining them in the action plan, is that the community has advised that the action is integral to drought resilience.

 as a regional plan, the actions are collective and collaborative

Stakeholder roles in implementation

DESCRIPTION

An **advocate** actively supports a position, action or policy. The task is outside the advocate's jurisdiction, capacity or resourcing and advocacy is required to engage with those parties with capacity to deliver. For example, telecommunications advocacy.

A **partner** joins others in a common cause or action where roles and responsibilities are shared across areas of expertise. Each partner brings an element to the action for joint delivery. For example, region-wide strategic initiatives.

A **lead** is in control of an action. The action may still involve partners or other roles, but the action is reliant upon a lead party due to their technical or other expertise. E.g. Health or counselling matters

An **owner** is the only party that can undertake or permit the action. E.g. local government as public asset owners

A **supporter** is united with others in the need or benefits of the action but potentially does not have a major role. The action is led or owned by others. E.g. A supporter may provide assistance in kind, technical advice or donations to action leaders

A **stakeholder** is anyone who has an interest in the project, program or action. Stakeholders will have varying degrees of involvement from owner to advocate and all points between.

A **deliverer** is responsible for implementation and outcomes of an action or funded program. e.g. Community agency delivering social aid programs.

A **funder** provides the funding arrangements. The party is not involved with scoping, executing or delivering the program but may require some outcome reporting or evidence. e.g. the government grant funding for a pest control program delivered by others.

Governance structure

Implementation of the regional drought resilience plan is to be driven by a collaborative and multi-disciplined drought resilience project control group (PCG). Membership will be broadened to provide an integrated and coordinated approach to drought resilience efforts.

This will enable the PCG to adopt agile approaches and shift priorities as needed depending on changing circumstances, and as opportunities arise. Despite this, all actions remain relevant in terms of maximising funding opportunities. This also allows expertise across the strategic pathways, and for partnerships to evolve as funding and priorities arise

A Chair of the PCG will be selected.

A PCG Terms of Reference is to be prepared for its membership to guide its function. The Terms of Reference could include:

- Role and purpose and connection to the RDRP
- Stakeholder and membership lists
- Meeting arrangements, (potentially quarterly) and responsibilities of attendees
- The circumstances of a quorum and decision making protocols
- The election or rotation of a chair person
- An action plan for the first 60 days or 12 months including delivery of the priority actions with the implementation funding; and
- A process for reflection and nominating next priority actions.

A Memorandum of Understanding may also be required.

PCG meetings should be held in different localities across the region over time.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning framework

The drought action plan incorporates a large suite of projects and actions, some offer immediate opportunity, some are medium-term items and others are longer-term transformational opportunities. Not all actions can be focused on or delivered at once. The 'absorb, adapt, transform' framework will guide the PCG in terms of its implementation and coordination of activities and funding pursuits, and will enable a flexible and agile approach as drought conditions change, guiding the focus.

Other stakeholders are able to use the plan to support funding and grant applications at any time, as desired. Opportunities for collaborative delivery partnerships, where two stakeholders may wish to provide similar projects, should be explored

This system will:

- Provide regular opportunities to define when conditions are changing locally; and
- Catalyse a change in focus to respond to the needs of the changing conditions.

This ensures a level of agility is adopted with regard to the implementation approach. Local governments may wish to apply more objective targets for immediate actions or further incorporate the outcomes of this plan into the local government reporting framework to ensure delivery.

As immediate efforts in response to the action plan are delivered, broader efforts across collaborators is guided in its approach, underpinned by this plan which enables stakeholders to work towards and contribute to regional drought resilience outcomes, including those at the local and property level.

The drought resilience action plan also requires that a 'lessons learned' posture is adopted, ensuring new information, knowledge, approaches and science is rolled into implementation delivery as a guiding principle. This will mean that over time, the drought resilience action plan may be adapted to reflect new learnings and the adjustment of intervention pathways as required. The PCG is responsible to conduct an annual lessons learned review, with changes to inform action moving forward.

The drought resilience action plan has been thoughtfully designed to not only guide collective effort and action but to enable adaptation through ongoing monitoring, evaluation and learning.

The Regional Drought Resilience Plan is a 10-year plan, to be reviewed after five years.

An annual monitoring program to inform adaptive learning is outlined below. Addendums to this plan can be made, to reflect these learnings over time and ensure the document maintains pace with changing circumstances and maturation of drought preparedness activities.

Tracking progress and reporting

Action-based project tracking against the drought resilience action plan, the principles and objectives of the plan should be undertaken on an annual basis. This tracking and reporting shall be the responsibility of the implementation PCG chair, unless otherwise delegated. Likewise, an annual evaluation process will be conducted by the PCG, guided by the evaluation questions that follow.



Image: Jerilderie Grain Storage and Handling

Key evaluation questions

These key evaluation questions are high level questions designed to frame the analysis of progress and performance of the Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan against the above framework. These key evaluation questions may help to structure annual tracking and reporting.

PROPERTY	EVALUATION
Effectiveness and Outcomes	What have been the outcomes (intended, unintended, positive and negative) of the plan implementation process and progress?
	To what extent has progress contributed to or furthered the principles and objectives of the regional drought resilience plan?
	Has the plan been used for or otherwise supported successful funding and grant applications?
	To what extent have stakeholders outside the PCG responded to the plan's content?
	Have any barriers or challenges been identified throughout the implementation of plan, and what solutions to address these have been identified?
Drought resilience maturation	To what extent has efforts in implementing the plan contributed to:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Creating stronger connectedness and greater social capital within communities, contributing to well-being and security? › Empowering communities and businesses to implement activities that improve their resilience to drought? › Supporting more primary producers and land managers to adopt whole-of-system approaches to natural resource management to improve the natural resource base, for long-term productivity and landscape health?
	In what ways are the PCG and other stakeholders collaborating and collectively contributing to efforts outlined by the action plan?
	In what ways has the plan provided inclusive involvement across sectors, disciplines and communities?
Stakeholder engagement	In what ways has the plan been able to support individual stakeholder goals, objectives and aspirations with regard to drought resilience?

The reporting may be undertaken using a range of tools to capture experiences and perspectives from across the PCG, allied stakeholders as well as the communities of Griffith City, Leeton Shire, Murrumbidgee and Narrandera Shire more broadly. These tools may include:

- › Meetings and event data capture
- › Targeted meeting / interviews with stakeholders
- › Survey data
- › Case studies and data from the PCG
- › Media, including social media; and
- › Funding and grant applications.

Achieving the plan's outcomes

A further opportunity for the PCG to measure the contribution to or achievement of the plan's outcomes is by using local data to assess specific outcomes. The data sources or indicators will need to be selected by the PCG and can provide insights as to how the plan is tracking against the resilience theory of change. Outcomes include (but are not limited to):

STRATEGIC PATHWAYS	OUTCOMES
Anticipate water availability	1 Community infrastructure is resilient and helps to reduce disruptions
	2 Capacity to make informed decisions through local knowledge, access to data, intelligence and innovate tools is increased
Proactively manage business interests	3 Agricultural productivity in the region is sustained
	4 Increased capacity to meet local procurement demands and local employment
Support off-farm diversification	5 Employment loss is avoided or minimised, ensuring livelihood are maintained
	6 Reduced decline of gross regional product relative to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Non-drought periods > Previous drought periods > Other regions in NSW, Victoria and South Australia
Grow local co-operative service provision	7 Community partnerships are strengthened through program delivery
	8 Services are retained in the region, and offered in local centres
Support community cohesion	9 Capacity and capability of community groups is strengthened
	10 Mental health services are available and are accessible
Embed environmental stewardship and sustainable agricultural practices	11 Environmental degradation of landscapes and waterways is reduced throughout and emerging from drought
	12 Increase in activities relating to environmental restoration

Learning

Regular (annual) monitoring provides the ability for reflection and learning. The progress tracking and reporting methodology, using key evaluation questions, will present specific insights in terms of those opportunities to build in 'lessons learned' through engagement across stakeholders with a role in drought resilience. These lessons should, on an annual basis, be contemplated with regard to the drought action plan to determine any relevant updates, new insights, intelligence and technologies that can be integrated to ensure the action plan keeps pace with a growing drought resilience maturation across systems and sectors.

This process will ensure the action plan remains a 'live document' that appropriately supports and services the needs of all stakeholders and importantly, those of the Western Riverina communities in preparation for, endurance of, and recovery from drought.

Concepts to guide adaptive learning as part of plan implementation are included at Appendix B. These items will help navigate maturation of this plan over time.

Appendix A — Drought history

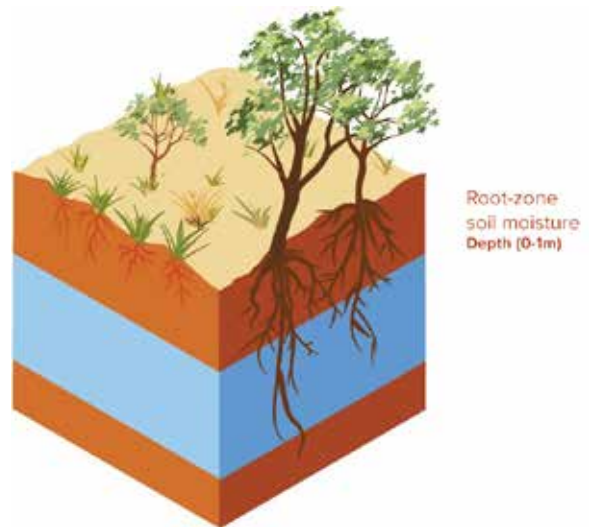
Precipitation and root zone soil moisture are considered as indicators of drought according to the Bureau of Meteorology's Australian Water Resources Assessment Landscape (AWRA-L) service. Root zone soil moisture is a calculation of the upper and lower soil layers in the AWRA-L, which represents the water-holding capacity of the top one metre of soil. Root zone soil moisture and precipitation rates are each useful indicators of future drought potential.

Locally, some of the most impactful periods of drought include the late 1910s, the World War II drought, 1967, 1982 to 1983, 2006 and the 2017-2019 drought.

Some of the continent's most impactful droughts in recent recorded history have affected the region. Here, we consider the significant drought periods identified by the Bureau of Meteorology:

- > 1914 to 1915
- > 1937 to 1945 (World War II drought)
- > 1965 to 1968
- > 1982 to 1983
- > 1997 to 2009 (Millennium drought)
- > 2017 to 2019

Below, we consider these droughts and the changes in conditions against a present-day baseline of 2002 to 2022*.



(Source BoM, 2024)

Image: Irrigation channel Leeton Shire (David Single)

1914-1915

Nationally, this drought was short but notable, primarily due to the failure of national wheat crop. This drought was driven by a strong El Nino, with drought conditions first becoming evident in 1914. Rains improved in 1916 but began to decrease again over the subsequent years (1918 and 1919).

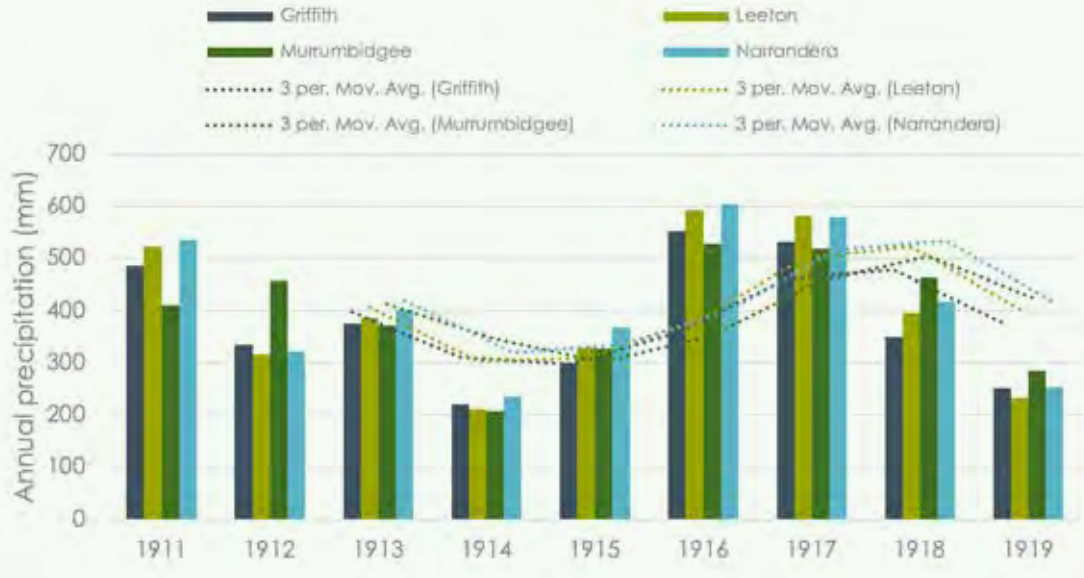


Figure 17 — Yearly precipitation (absolute), by LGA (1910 to 1918)

Precipitation (mm)



Precipitation, change during drought period (mm)

Soil moisture (mm/yr)



Historical change, root zone soil moisture (mm/year)

Figure 18 — Changes in conditions during drought against a present-day baseline of 2002 to 2022

1937 to 1945 (World War II drought)

This drought period was characterised by several breaks (1939 and 1942-1943), but significant periods of dryness. Rainfall rates were lower in 1937-1938 and 1940-1941. For the Western Riverina, 1940 was the most notable year, with extremely low rainfall totals across the entire region.



Figure 19 — Yearly precipitation (absolute), by LGA (1934 to 1948)

Precipitation (mm)



Precipitation, change during drought period (mm)

Soil moisture (mm/yr)



Historical change, root zone soil moisture (mm/year)

Figure 20 — Changes in conditions during drought against a present-day baseline of 2002 to 2022

1965 to 1968

The 1960s was generally dry across the continent. Drought developed in 1964 in northern New South Wales and had extended across most of the country by the following year. This was evident across the region, with lower rates of rainfall and soil moisture across much of the region. 1967 was the most severe year, with annual rainfall rates across each LGA below 200 mm.

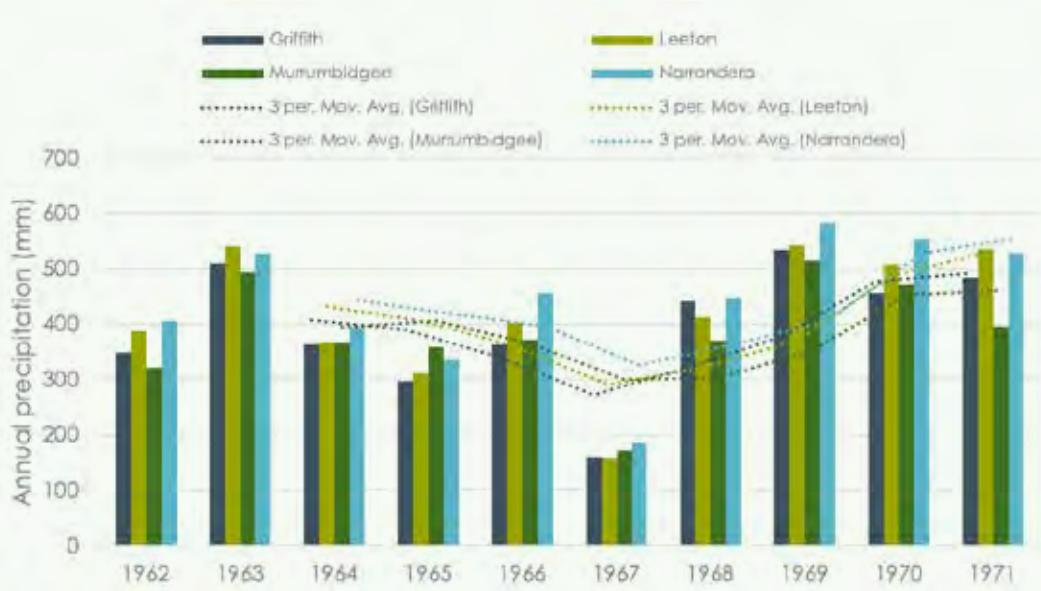
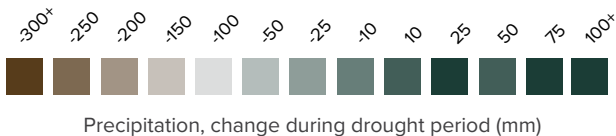
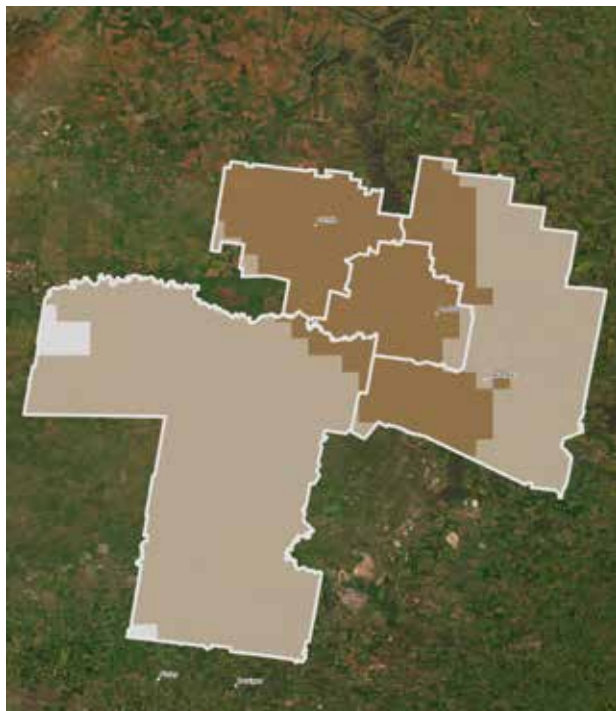


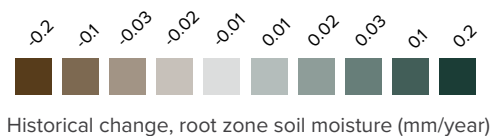
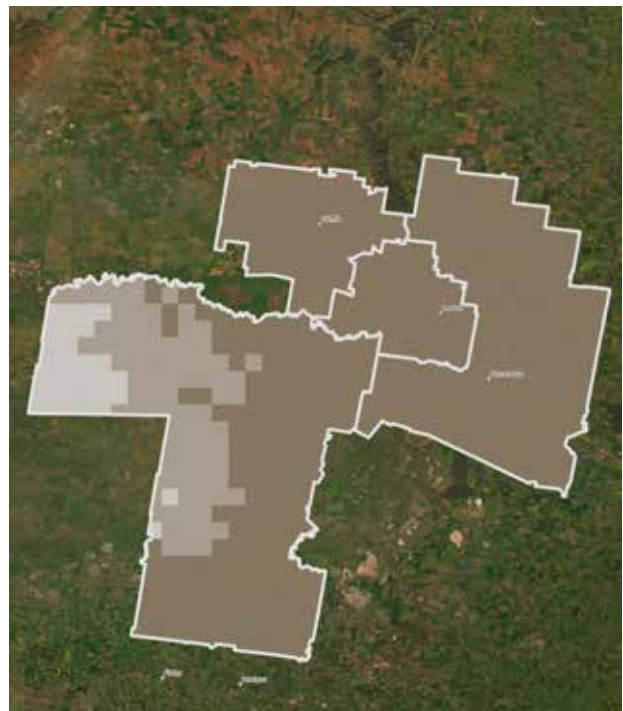
Figure 21: Yearly precipitation (absolute), by LGA (1962 to 1971)

Precipitation (mm)



Precipitation, change during drought period (mm)

Soil moisture (mm/yr)



Historical change, root zone soil moisture (mm/year)

Figure 22: Changes in conditions during drought against a present-day baseline of 2002 to 2022

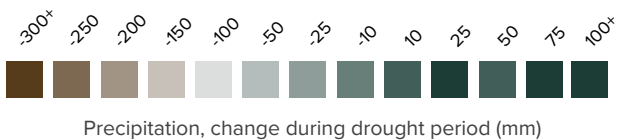
1982-1983

Despite being only one year long this was one of Australia’s most severe droughts in the 20th century. A very strong El Nino led to these drought conditions. The region experienced widespread dryness.



Figure 23: Yearly precipitation (absolute), by LGA (1979 to 1986)

Precipitation (mm)



Precipitation, change during drought period (mm)

Soil moisture (mm/yr)



Historical change, root zone soil moisture (mm/year)

Figure 24 — Changes in conditions during drought against a present-day baseline of 2002 to 2022

1997 – 2009 (Millennium drought)

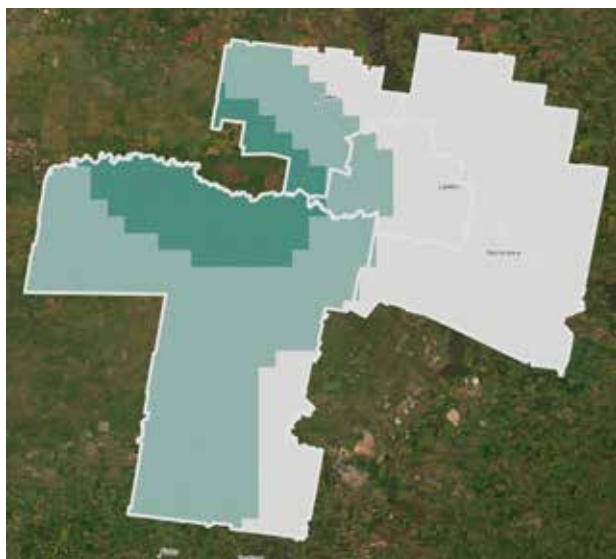
The Millennium drought was a long-lasting period of dryness, most severe in densely populated areas of the south-east and south-west of the country. For the Western Riverina region, the beginning of this period was relatively unimpactful, as from lower levels in 1997, based on rainfall and soil moisture figures. It is not until 2001 when there is a dry spell into 2005, and then a severe dry year in 2006.

Editor's note: The maps below show significant rainfall and higher soil moisture over this period, despite it being identified as a drought. This discrepancy is likely due to the reference period used to produce these maps (2002 – 2022) and that there was significant dryness in the latter half of that period. This result is then compounded by the short-lasting periods of rainfall decline during this long drought period (1997 – 2009). Therefore, leading to the appearance of increased rainfall and soil moisture compared to the reference period.



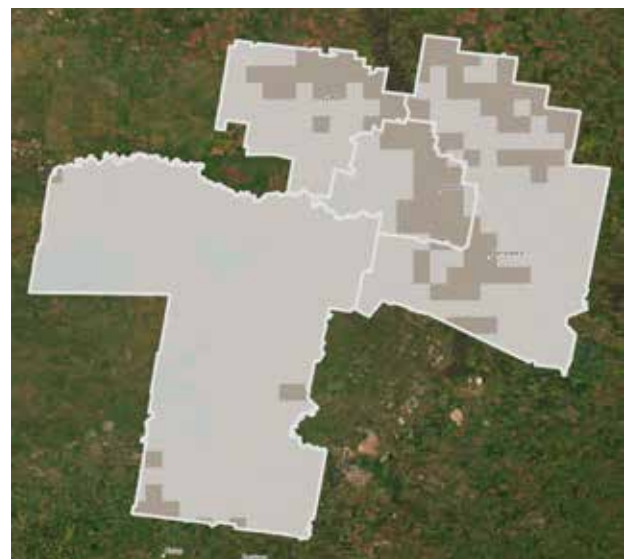
Figure 25: Yearly precipitation (absolute), by LGA (1994 to 2012)

Precipitation (mm)



Precipitation, change during drought period (mm)

Soil moisture (mm/yr)



Historical change, root zone soil moisture (mm/year)

Figure 26: Changes in conditions during drought against a present-day baseline of 2002 to 2022

2017-2019

Following a wet 2016, dry conditions returned in 2017 across south and eastern Australia. This was a sustained multi-year period of dryness, unprecedented in recorded history. A strong Indian Ocean Dipole was a significant contributor to dry conditions the second half of 2019, leading into significant 2019/2020 bushfire season. The region was similar affected during this period, with widespread low rainfall and low soil moisture.

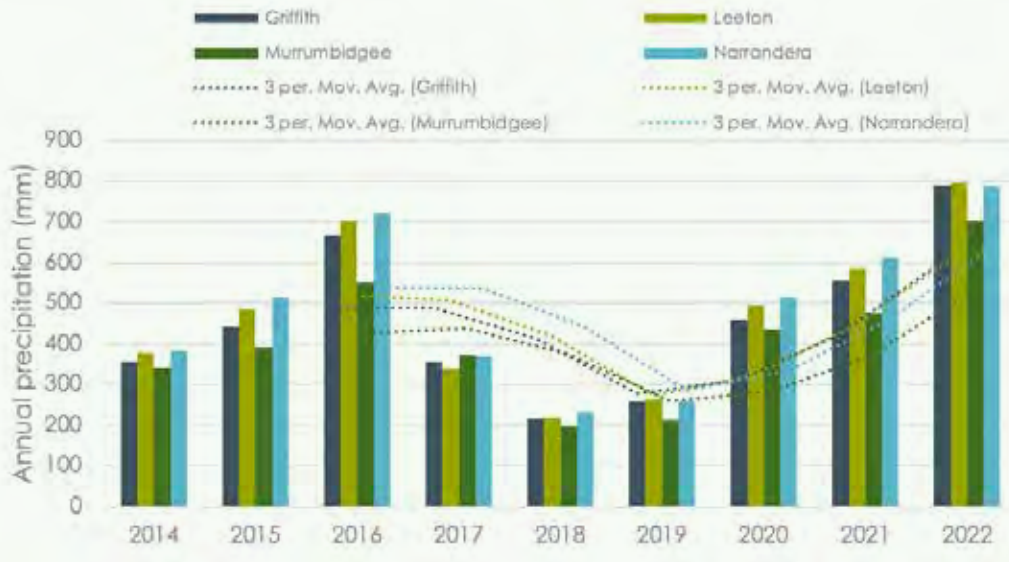
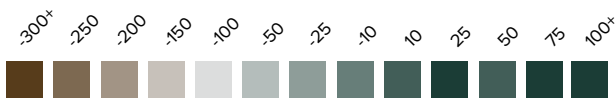


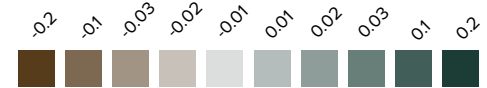
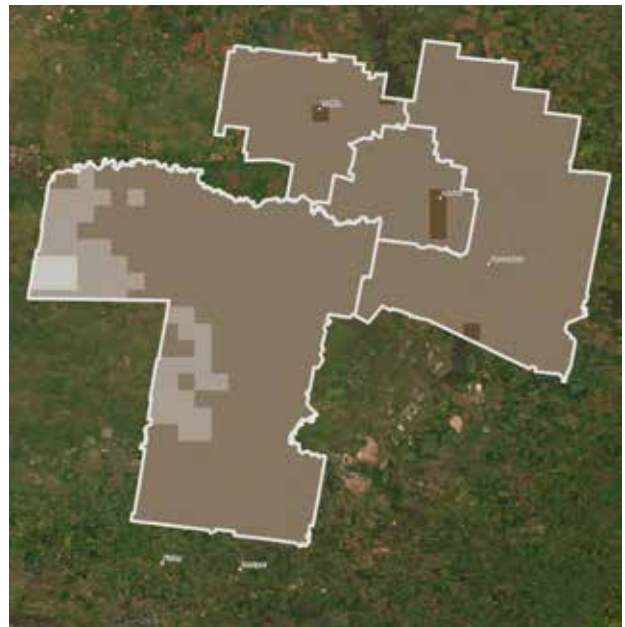
Figure 27 — Yearly precipitation (absolute), by LGA (2014 to 2022)

Precipitation (mm)



Precipitation, change during drought period (mm)

Soil moisture (mm/yr)



Historical change, root zone soil moisture (mm/year)

Figure 28 — Changes in conditions during drought against a present-day baseline of 2002 to 2022

Appendix B – Concepts to guide adaptive learning

As part of learning processes through the implementation, this appendix provides key considerations to guide further iterations and amendments to this RDRP. As drought resilience processes mature, the ability for further robust adaptation pathways to be implemented will emerge.

The table below captures specific items identified for integration as part of future plan iterations.

NO.	ASPECT OF CONSIDERATION
Expansion of drought resilience relative to diverse stakeholder groups	
1	<p>Expand on what drought means to different segments of the region’s community and industries, and adaptation pathways to ‘maintain, modify or transform’ to grow drought resilience.</p> <p>As implementation of this foundational RDRP occurs, and monitoring, evaluation and learning processes are undertaken, opportunity will arise to advance the concepts of resilience theory, and make more clear how the adaptation pathways are continuously improving and escalating to underpin drought resilience maturation.</p>
2	<p>Continue to engage with diverse community and industry groups to advance implementation of the plan.</p> <p>Future plan updates could capitalise on the community’s desire to be engaged and involved in the plan’s delivery by acknowledging the role that key knowledge holders could play. Stakeholder engagement could be expanded to include direct participation of different drought vulnerable groups including gauging their capacity to participate and how best to engage with them moving forward. This information could be used to better target vulnerable residents and ensure adequate supports are in place to involve different community segments.</p>
Expansion of resilience adaptation pathways	
3	<p>Use diverse quantitative and empirical evidence on the potential impact of the interaction of historical and projected drought with key economic and social variables over time, such as demographic changes, shifts in the diversity of businesses, and livelihoods and employment opportunities for different community segments, in emergent versus declining types of industries, and in labour mobility among different industry and sectors.</p>
4	<p>Further develop the theory of change to aligns the plan’s objectives and actions towards reaching its intended outcomes, including the degree to which the proposed actions contribute to adaptation and transformation.</p>
5	<p>Expand on the interrelationships between economic, social and environmental factors across existing and updated documents, plans and strategies, and describe how these relationships influence potential cascading impacts of drought.</p>

NO.	ASPECT OF CONSIDERATION
Expansion of resilience adaptation pathways (cont)	
6	Future plan updates could profile drought impacts for those non-agricultural sectors identified as key sectors in the community, such as mining, renewable energy, health care and social assistance and tourism sectors. Such a profile could include an exploration of how these sectors can build resilience or drive transformation through learning, preparedness and planning.
7	Future plan updates could develop a suite of plausible future scenarios through a participatory process and based on climate, drought and other drivers of change. The development of future scenarios could consider how trends, shocks or stresses (including drought) will interact with and likely affect the region's economic, social and environmental characteristics, and the implications for diverse stakeholder groups. This exercise will also assist these stakeholders to explore and identify actions and pathways that assist with building resilience under different plausible future scenarios.
Resilience action planning	
8	Establish resilience indicators for each of the plan's 'priority areas', using baseline observations drawn from the MEL process within the initial years of plan implementation.
9	Future updates could provide more information to substantiate the assumed mechanisms by which its actions can be achieved, and to what extent they align with the broader objectives and outcomes of the plan.
Implementation	
10	As implementation advances, expand the implementation content of the plan with respect to its governance arrangements and the function / operation of the PCG.
11	<p>As partnership arrangements and relationships are built through this foundational plan, more information could be built on the main purpose of each collaboration setting clear intent and requirements, alongside specific measures. This can provide greater structure to partnerships, which may be a focus under each pathway.</p> <p>The types of partnerships and activities sought may influence these reporting arrangements. Review of partnership may be ongoing to ensure appropriate representation of groups, including First Nations communities and non-farming populations.</p>
12	Future plan updates could provide more explicit descriptions of what external support is required for successful implementation.
13	Future updates to the plan may provide further detail on the sequencing of actions, as these are prioritised and refined and as funding becomes clearer.

NO.	ASPECT OF CONSIDERATION
Monitoring, evaluation and learning framework	
14	<p>Further develop structured approaches to capturing lessons from performance measures, linked with monitoring in addition to lessons from annual evaluations currently identified in the MEL. Integrate lessons learned from the plan's existing evaluation questions back into the plan's actions.</p> <p>Continue to enhance and mature the plan's MEL processes over time as the plan transitions from foundational into a performance posture.</p>
15	<p>Further develop performance indicators tied to actions in the plan's MEL plan. This will improve accountability by showing the degree to which proposed priorities and actions contribute to the plan's articulated vision and outcomes. This could include using quantitative and empirical evidence for key economic and social variables over time. This could include evidence that helps to track demographic shifts, changes in the diversity of businesses, livelihoods and employment opportunities for different community segments in emergent versus declining types of industries. It could further include evidence of labour mobility among different industry and sectors in order to assess actions focused on economic diversification.</p>
Resilience assessment	
16	<p>Ensure future iterations of the plan are qualified by a review of the Resilience Assessment components to identify key circumstantial changes which have occurred.</p>
17	<p>Continue to build upon and refine the program logic approach embedded within the Resilience Assessment that supported the development of the current plan, into a well-developed theory of change that provides a detailed and explicit causal mechanisms and valid assumptions by which the plan, through its implementation, will deliver the desired outcomes and impact.</p>



LEETON
SHIRE COUNCIL



Narrandera
SHIRE COUNCIL



Murrumbidgee
COUNCIL







SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS - 31 OCTOBER 2024**External investments**

In accordance with Regulation 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, details of Murrumbidgee Council's external investments are set out below.

Institution	Balance (\$)	Yield (p.a.)	Maturity	Term (months)	No.
IMB Ltd	500,000.00	4.95%	4/11/2024	4	42
Bendigo	1,040,735.34	4.71%	18/11/2024	3	45
NAB	1,500,000.00	5.10%	20/11/2024	6	28
Westpac	790,680.28	4.89%	29/11/2024	3	25
IMB Ltd	1,058,091.33	4.95%	29/11/2024	4	38
IMB Ltd	800,000.00	4.95%	29/11/2024	4	29
Bendigo	500,000.00	4.97%	29/11/2024	4	35
Suncorp - METWAY	1,029,327.35	4.85%	2/12/2024	3	34
Bendigo	1,553,311.71	4.75%	4/12/2024	3	26
Westpac	512,439.71	4.93%	11/12/2024	3	24
Westpac	836,988.28	4.88%	23/12/2024	4	32
Bendigo	2,954,000.00	5.15%	23/12/2024	6	46
St George	546,417.56	4.27%	3/01/2025	5	27
Westpac	1,500,000.00	4.91%	6/01/2025	4	30
Bendigo	1,000,000.00	5.20%	6/01/2025	6	41
NAB	1,000,000.00	5.00%	21/01/2025	4	47
Bendigo	1,032,651.01	4.83%	22/01/2025	5	44
Bendigo	1,000,000.00	4.72%	28/01/2025	3	33
Suncorp - METWAY	508,136.99	4.95%	5/02/2025	4	31
Suncorp - METWAY	500,000.00	4.98%	20/02/2025	5	20
Bendigo	1,012,174.25	4.80%	26/02/2025	4	40
Bendigo	1,304,592.25	4.50%	16/03/2025	6	21
Westpac	1,087,298.26	4.99%	21/03/2025	5	43
Westpac	1,000,000.00	5.00%	31/03/2025	5	23
Suncorp - METWAY	1,016,723.90	4.99%	31/03/2025	5	36
Bendigo	2,500,000.00	5.25%	2/07/2025	12	37
	28,083,568				

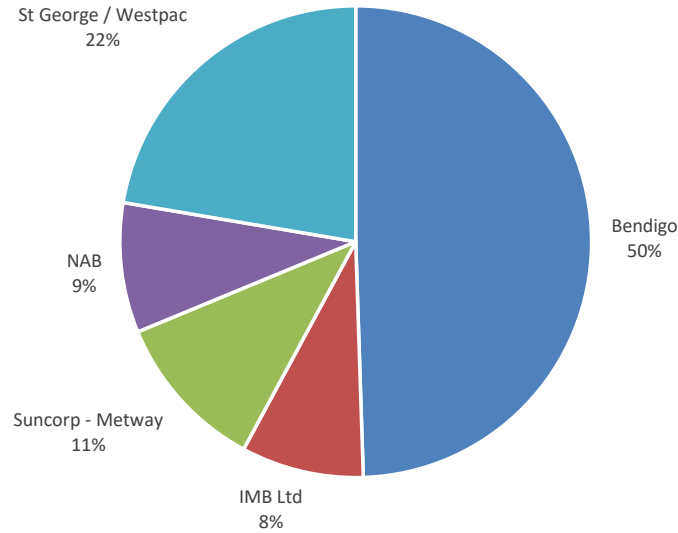
Maturity

All investments comply with the maximum duration set out for each rating category in the *Investment Policy*.

Month	\$ Funds Maturing	
November 2024	\$ 6,189,507	
December 2024	\$ 6,886,067	
January 2025	\$ 6,079,069	
February 2025	\$ 2,020,311	
March 2025	\$ 4,408,614	
July 2025	\$ 2,500,000	
	\$ 28,083,568	

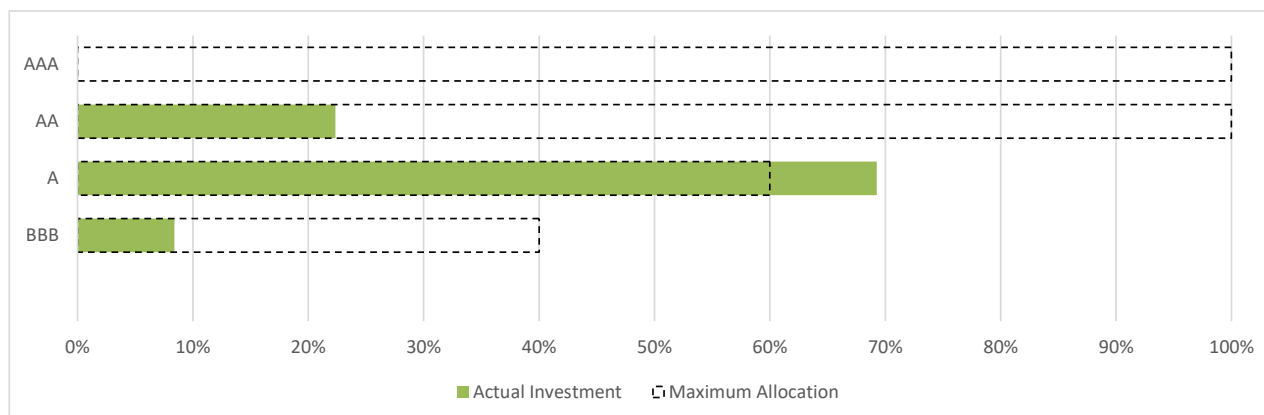
Counterparties to Investments

Institution	Balance	S&P / Moody's / Fitch	Highest	Limit	% Invested	Compliant
Bendigo	13,897,465	A- / Baa1 / A-	A	14%	49.49%	●
IMB Ltd	2,358,091	- / Baa1 / BBB+	BBB	10%	8.40%	●
Suncorp - Metway	3,054,188	A+ / A1 / A	A	14%	10.88%	●
NAB	2,500,000	AA- / Aa2 / A+	A	14%	8.90%	●
St George / Westpac	6,273,824	AA- / Aa2 / AA-	AA	30%	22.34%	●
	<u>28,083,568</u>				<u>100%</u>	



Overall Credit Quality Limits

Credit Rating	Maximum	Balance	% Invested	Compliant
AAA	100%	\$ -	0.00%	●
AA	100%	\$ 6,273,824	22.34%	●
A	60%	\$ 19,451,653	69.26%	●
BBB	40%	\$ 2,358,091	8.40%	●
Total		\$ 28,083,568	100%	



Monthly investment movements

Redemptions

Institution - No.	Balance (\$)	Comments
Bendigo - Inv 23	530,465	Redeemed for cash flow purposes
Bendigo - Inv 33	616,494	Redeemed part for cash flow purposes
Bendigo - Inv 22	1,051,945	Redeemed for investment with alternative institution
	<u>2,198,904</u>	

New Investments

Institution - No.	Balance (\$)	Yield (p.a.)	Term (months)	Comments
Westpac - Inv 23	1,000,000	5.00%	5	Investment with funds from alternative redemption
	<u>1,000,000</u>			

Rollovers

Institution - No.	Balance (\$)	Yield (p.a.)	Term (months)	Comments
Suncorp - Inv 31	508,137	4.95%	4	As per cash flow requirement
Westpac - Inv 43	1,087,298	4.99%	5	As per cash flow requirement
Bendigo - Inv 33	1,000,000	4.72%	3	As per cash flow requirement
Bendigo - Inv 40	1,012,174	4.80%	5	As per cash flow requirement
Suncorp - Inv 36	1,016,724	4.99%	5	As per cash flow requirement
	<u>4,624,333</u>			

Investment performance

	Oct-24	FYTD
Total investment income, including accrued interest	\$110,651	\$463,355
Money-weighted rate of return (% p.a.)	4.51%	4.79%
90 Day Bank Accepted Bill (BAB) Rate	4.41%	4.42%
Over performance/(under performance)	0.10%	0.37%

