

Attachment # 1 – Item # 1



The Hon Sussan Ley MP Federal Member for Farrer Minister for the Environment

16 April 2021

Media Release

Super-fast digital connectivity announced for 3000 Murrumbidgee residents

Farrer MP Sussan Ley today announced a \$1.2m agreement to super charge telecommunications for communities in and around Jerilderie, Coleambally and Darlington Point.

Under the Federal Government's Regional Connectivity Program (RCP), the project will add new 'true broadband' technology on three existing towers and build two new 45m telco towers along the Newell Highway and Kidman Way.

Ms Ley said this is an exciting joint partnership* between the Commonwealth, private enterprise and local government which will deliver new coverage across 6,400sqkm, boosting internet and mobile data to over 3,000 residents and 430 businesses."

"It will keep our businesses connected, helps local families and visitors stay in touch and delivers improved access to health, education and online services."

"Murrumbidgee Council Mayor Ruth McRae said investment into the connectivity of our LGA will be a game changer. In today's world, high speed internet coverage is as essential as roads and other services, as we depend on it for so many aspects in our personal and business lives.

Cr McRae thanked the Australian Government, Field Services Group, Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation and the many individuals and corporations who contributed to making the project a reality."

The RCP is part of the Coalition Government's ongoing commitment to bring the digital economy to rural Australia, complementing the National Broadband Network and the Mobile Black Spot Program.

The Federal Government is contributing \$90.3 million to the RCP, generating total new investment of more than \$180 million in 81 different locations. The program is a key component of the Government's response to the 2018 Regional Telecommunications Review.

***Murrumbidgee LGA Project partners – \$1,242,800 total project cost**

Federal Government, Field Solutions Group, Murrumbidgee Council, Nokia (technology partner), Altina Wildlife Park, Cavaso Farming, Cotton Australia & Coleambally Irrigation.

Steve Block

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Federal Member for Farrer | Minister for the Environment

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2021 NSW Local Government elections: Political Participants Bulletin

Bulletin No. 5
Issued 15 April 2021

1. Candidate information webinars

A series of online candidate information sessions will be conducted by the NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) in the lead up to the 2021 NSW Local Government elections. The webinars will be held from April to August 2021 and will cover the following topics:

- Election overview
- Election funding and disclosure
- Registration of candidates, groups, and third-party campaigners
- Electoral material (also known as how-to-vote material)
- Nomination process
- Early voting and election day voting
- Candidate workers and scrutineers
- Counting and results

Please see below the details of the first three webinars to be conducted:

- 11am, Tuesday 27 April – Candidate information
- 6pm, Thursday 29 April – Candidate information (repeated)
- 6pm, Tuesday 11 May – Election funding and disclosure

Note the first two webinars are not applicable to prospective candidates in Fairfield City Council and Penrith City Council as the Electoral Commissioner is not conducting elections for these two councils. See below for further information about the election for these areas.

[Register your attendance](#)

Each webinar will be recorded and placed on the NSWEC website for viewing at a later date if you are unable to attend at the scheduled time. The NSWEC will not be conducting face to face candidate information sessions.

2. Registration of candidates, groups, and third-party campaigners

Candidates and groups

Candidates, and groups of candidates, must be registered with the NSW Electoral Commission before accepting political donations or making payments for electoral expenditure.

It is unlawful for an unregistered candidate, or group of candidates, to accept political donations or make payments for electoral expenditure before being nominated for the election. Current councillors and mayors who are seeking re-election do not need to be registered.

To register for the election the candidate or group members must complete and lodge the relevant application for registration form on our [website](#):

- Application to register as a Local Government candidate (EF.729)
- Application to register as a group of Local Government candidates (EF.732)

Forms can be submitted to the NSW Electoral Commission by email, mail or fax. Contact details are on the form. From June, candidates and groups can also apply to be registered online.

Candidate and group registrations close on the same day nominations close which is Wednesday 4 August 2021.

Registration for the election is a separate process to a person being nominated as a candidate or making a claim to form a group on a ballot paper.

All candidates and groups that will not accept political donations or make payments for electoral expenditure before being nominated are taken to be registered when the candidate or group is nominated by the Returning Officer, usually the day after the close of nominations. From this time, all nominated candidates and groups can lawfully accept political donations and make payments for electoral expenditure for the election. Refer to our [website](#) for information about being nominated for the election.

Third-party campaigners

Any person or entity that incurs more than \$2,000 in electoral expenditure for an election in an area or ward between 1 July 2021 and Election Day must be registered as a third-party campaigner. Third-party campaigner registrations are now open and close on Friday 27 August 2021. A person or entity that does not register as a third-party campaigner must not pay for more than \$2,000 in electoral expenditure that is incurred in the capped expenditure period for the election. The capped expenditure period starts 1 July 2021 and ends on Election Day.

Third-party campaigners do not include political parties and their associated entities, candidates, groups and elected members. A third-party campaigner must appoint an official agent. The official agent is responsible for managing and disclosing the political donations and electoral expenditure of the campaigner. More information can be found on our [website](#).

A third-party campaigner can apply to be registered and notify us of the appointment of an official agent by completing and lodging the following form available on our website: [Application to register a third-party campaigner and appoint an official agent \(EF.735\)](#)

Public registers

The details of registered candidates, groups, third-party campaigners and official agents are included in publicly available registers that are published on our [website](#).

Candidates, groups, third-party campaigners, and official agents whose registered details change after being registered must notify us within 30 days by completing and lodging the following form available on our website: [Notice of change in registered particulars \(EF.740\)](#)

3. Campaign accounts

All electoral expenditure incurred by a party for a local government election campaign must be paid from the party's local government campaign account.

Candidates and groups must open a campaign account before accepting \$1,000 or more in political donations or making payments of \$1,000 or more in electoral expenditure. All political donations used to make payments for electoral expenditure must be paid into the campaign account and the electoral expenditure must be paid from the campaign account.

The campaign account of a group must be separate to any campaign accounts of the candidates who are members of the group.

If a candidate or group has a campaign account open from the previous election, the account must be cleared before being used for the 2021 election. The balance left in the account from the previous election must be dispersed in accordance with the rules outlined on our [website](#).

Third-party campaigners must open a campaign account before making payments for electoral expenditure during the capped expenditure period (1 July 2021 to Election Day).

4. Centralised operations

The following centralised operations will be established for the 2021 NSW Local Government elections:

- Centralised postal vote count centre
- Sydney Council count centre
- Newcastle count centre

Candidates and registered political parties may appoint scrutineers to observe all scrutiny and counting activities undertaken at these centres.

5. Postal vote applications

Any candidate or registered political party may distribute postal vote applications. However, they must display both pages of the postal vote application in the form and manner approved by the Electoral Commissioner. It is anticipated that the approved postal vote application will be available by May 2021. Please email all requests for a soft copy of the postal vote application form to pva@elections.nsw.gov.au

If you intend to distribute your own version of the postal vote application, it is suggested that you send the draft application to pva@elections.nsw.gov.au for review. This will ensure that it complies with legislative requirements before you incur costs for printing, distribution, etc.

You should be mindful that any postal vote application produced by a candidate or registered political party may also be electoral material, for example, if it contains the name or image of a candidate or the name or logo of a party.

If a postal vote application is also electoral material and is distributed during the regulated election period (Monday, 26 July to 6pm, Saturday 4 September 2021) then it must contain the following:

- the name and address of the person on whose instructions the material was printed, published, distributed or displayed, and
- if the material has been printed, the name of the printer and the street address of the premises at which it was printed.

The address of a person means an address, including a full street address and suburb or locality that is located in Australia at which the person can usually be contacted during the day, but does not include a

post office box. A street address of the premises does not include a post office box number or a DX number.

Postal vote application forms produced and distributed to voters by any political participant must not appear to have been sent by the NSW Electoral Commission. For example, it must not appear that electoral material included with a postal vote application distributed by a candidate or party has been sent or authorised by the NSW Electoral Commission. A replied paid envelope included with a postal vote application distributed by a party or candidate must not appear to be addressed to the NSW Electoral Commission unless the NSW Electoral Commission postal address is used. It is an offence to distribute material that falsely appears to have been authorised by or sent from the NSW Electoral Commission.

The NSW Electoral Commission will liaise with candidates and registered political parties regarding the timely return of postal vote applications to the NSW Electoral Commission head office. Please note that local returning officers will not be processing postal vote applications.

Public access to the postal vote application will be available from the NSW Electoral Commission website from Tuesday 27 July 2021. Postal vote applications must be received by the NSW Electoral Commission by 5.00pm Monday, 30 August 2021.

6. Non-client councils

Fairfield City Council and Penrith City Council have engaged an electoral services provider to administer their 2021 elections.

Information provided by the NSW Electoral Commission about the registration of candidates, groups and third-party campaigners, political donations and electoral expenditure still applies to the elections for these two councils.

You should contact these two councils directly, however, about the administration of candidate nominations, registration of electoral material, polling places, voting and election results in those areas.

7. Councils under administration

The following two councils are currently under administration and are not having an election:

- Balranald Shire Council
- Central Darling Shire Council

8. More information

Political parties, candidates and councillors are strongly encouraged to refer to the NSW Electoral Commission's website for information about the key dates, processes and rules that must be followed. Visit the NSW Electoral Commission's website at elections.nsw.gov.au

Our call centres are open to take enquiries: for political participants (registered political parties, candidates and third party campaigners) enquiries call 1300 022 011 and for general public enquiries call 1300 135 736.

If you would prefer to contact us in writing, direct your electoral funding, registration and disclosure enquires to fdc@elections.nsw.gov.au.

For all election-related enquiries, visit the [Contact Us](#) page on our website and send us your enquiry via the online form. We will respond as soon as we can.

If you have any questions about the content of this bulletin please email fdc@elections.nsw.gov.au



John Schmidt
Electoral Commissioner

231 Elizabeth Street | Sydney NSW 2000 | GPO Box 832 | Sydney NSW 2001
ENQUIRIES: 1300 135 736 | elections.nsw.gov.au



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You are receiving this email because you have indicated you would like to receive updates from the NSW Electoral Commission.

Stronger Communities Fund		W/O Number	Jerilderie		Coleambally		Darlington Pt		Still to be Expended
			Budget	Expend to date	Budget	Expend to date	Budget	Expend to date	
Jerilderie Community Gym	Purchase of gym equipment	555.4960	43,358.97	43,358.97					Complete
Jerilderie Tennis Club	Construct shed/disabled toilet	555.5050	45,454.55	45,454.55					Complete
Jerilderie Tennis Club	Re-roof Jerilderie Sports Club building	555.5040	44,708.69	44,708.69					Complete
Jerilderie CWA	Upgrade toilet facility	555.5000	18,003.61	18,003.61					Complete
Jerilderie Cricket Club	Install seating, shade & access	555.4990	21,500.00	21,500.00					0.00 Complete
Jerilderie Football Club	Replace boundary fencing & interchange facility	471	39,674.00	39,674.00					Complete
Jerilderie Pre School	Refurbish indoor areas		44,098.40						On hold until construction of Long Day Care Centre has been completed
Jerilderie Swimming Club	Upgrade lane ropes & storage box	555.5030	5,859.73	5,859.73					
Jerilderie Public School P & C	Soft fall rubber in playground	555.5080	49,280.00	49,280.00					Complete
Jerilderie Arts & Talent Society	Purchase sound equipment & etc	555.4970	9,868.22	9,868.22					Complete
Jerilderie Tennis Club	Disabled toilet within the Jerilderie Sports Club	555.5060	27,272.73	27,272.73					Complete
Jerilderie Tennis Club	Upgrade golf green flags & putting cups		1,340.00	1,340.00					Complete
Jerilderie Public School P & C	Development of computer & musical skills	555.4980	7,946.36	7,946.36					Complete
Jerilderie Men's Shed	Purchase of property	555.5010	50,000.00	50,000.00					Complete
Jerilderie RSL Sub Branch	2 Honour Boards and glass display cabinet	555.5020	4,577.27	4,577.27					Complete
St Joseph's Parent's and Friends Inc	Play area soft fall and shade sail	555.5100	35,374.74	35,374.74					Complete
Sweatbox Community Gym	Purchase gym equipment, rubber flooring etc	555.5130			30,340.00	30,340.00			Complete
Coleambally Pistol Club	Build a clubhouse, range & water tank	555.4850			46,538.00	41,463.60			Some minor works to be undertaken
Coleambally Clay Target Club	Construct new trap houses	555.5340			45,260.00	45,260.00			
Coleambally Pre School	Install solar panels	555.4870			7,233.44	7,233.44			Complete
Coleambally Pre School	Resurface floor & install storage shed	555.4720			11,412.73	11,412.73			Complete
Coleambally Lions Club	Purchase of ride on lawn mower	555.4700			7,520.00	7,520.00			Complete
Coleambally Lions Club	Painting of Bucyrus Dragline	555.4690			4,632.65	4,632.65			Complete

Stronger Communities Fund		W/O Number	Jerilderie		Coleambally		Darlington Pt		Still to be
			Budget	Expend to date	Budget	Expend to date	Budget	Expend to date	Expend
Coleambally Chamber of Commerce	Equipment for community events	555.4760			10,116.20	10,116.20			
Coleambally Chamber of Commerce	Quilting workshops	555.4780			4,250.00	4,250.00			Complete
Coleambally Chamber of Commerce	Purchase of sewing machines, overlockers & tables	555.4770			21,122.73	21,122.73			Complete
Riverina Vintage Machinery Club	Purchase of portable building with disabled access	555.5090			41,000.00	41,000.00			Complete
Coleambally Community Club	Installation of playground & outdoor family area	555.4800			45,454.55	45,454.55			Complete
Coleambally Central School P & C	Build sandpit & resurface basketball court	555.4750			50,000.00	50,000.00			Complete
Coleambally Water Ski Club	Construct new Shade Shelter				0.00				
Coleambally Golf Club Inc	Automatic watering for fairways 3 & 9	555.4810			44,600.00	44,600.00			Complete
Coleambally Golf Club Inc	Automatic watering for fairways 1 & 6	555.4820			25,450.00	25,450.00			Complete
St Peters Primary School	Replace school quadrangle	555.5120			28,172.73	28,172.73			Complete
Coleambally Mens Shed	Construct storage facility	555.4840			44,463.19	44,463.19			Complete
Murrumbidgee Experimental Farm	Develop 22ha for farming	555.5070			45,454.55	45,454.55			Complete
Coleambally Pre School	Floor resurfacing	555.4730			13,594.55	13,594.55			Complete
Coleambally Pre School	Shade sails & shed storage	555.4710			12,272.73	12,272.73			Complete
Coleambally Lions Club	Jumping castle & trailer project	555.4830			5,835.00	5,835.00			Complete
Coleambally Community Club	Level Bowling Greens, Upgrade Main Bar & Toilet area	555.4790			21,909.09	21,909.09			Complete
Coleambally Central School P & C	Outdoor Settings	555.4670			18,840.00	18,840.00			Complete
St Peters Primary School	Multi purpose court	555.5480			5,000.00	5,000.00			Complete
Coleambally Darlington Point Country Education Fund	Oral History Book Production	555.4680			3,000.00	3,000.00			Complete
Coleambally Motorcycle Club Inc	Construct club house & install watering system to track	568			50,000.00	50,000.00			Complete
Coleambally Pony Club	Grounds upgrade & revamp	567/555.4860			6,642.86	6,642.86			Complete
Fusion Drop in Centre	Coleambally youth development	555.4740			4,545.45	4,545.45			Complete
St Peters Catholic Church	Replacement of chairs	555.5110			6,363.64	6,363.64			Complete
Coleambally Tennis Club	Replacement of synthetic courts	555.4890			50,000.00	50,000.00			Complete
Anglican Parish of Coly/Darlington Point	Install air conditioning to Darlington Point Hall	555.4650					17,423.59	17,423.59	Complete

Stronger Communities Fund		W/O Number	Jerilderie Budget	Expend to date	Coleambally Budget	Expend to date	Darlington Pt Budget	Expend to date	Still to be Expended
Jerilderie Independent Living Inc	Independent Living Units	555.4805	550,000.00	550,000.00					Complete
Jerilderie Civic Hall	Kitchen Upgrade	590	182,309.00	135,963.60					Further works to be undertaken
Jerilderie Town Water Supply	Purchase of water entitlement	555.4815	686,470.63	686,470.63					Complete
Jerilderie Swimming Pool	Swimming Pool Restoration	555.4825	568,306.02	544,898.39					Works finalised.
Jerilderie Racecourse	Showground Amenities Upgrade	670.2150	70,332.17	70,332.17					Complete
Jerilderie Pre School & Long Day Care	Long Day Care Centre		300,000.00						Tender for construction to be determined
Coleambally									
Coleambally Squash Club	Resurface existing walls	555.4880			54,057.39	54,057.39			Complete
Coleambally Sports Ground Upgrade	Coleambally Netball Court Upgrade	411			282,318.57	282,318.57			Complete
Coleambally Sports Ground Upgrade	Coly Sports Precinct Upgrade	643/555.4855			600,000.00	246,968.52			Construction substantially complete
Brolga Place									Delay in proposed project
Streetscape/Masterplan Upgrade	Streetscape Upgrade	555.4865			1,500,000.00	3,998.36			
Coleambally Water Treatment	Treatment Works Upgrade	555.4875			600,000.00				Design finalised and procurement progressing. Service location under way
Bencubbin Avenue	Rehabilitation	11.2160			750,000.00	130,061.46			619,938.54
Coleambally Sports Ground Upgrade	Multipurpose indoor gym/sports centre	555.5785			500,000.00	87,244.83			Construction substantially complete
Coleambally Community Hall	Community Hall Upgrade				565,000.00				Draft plans to be finalised

Stronger Communities Fund		W/O Number	Jerilderie		Coleambally		Darlington Pt		Still to be Expended
			Budget	Expend to date	Budget	Expend to date	Budget	Expend to date	
Darlington Point									Complete
Heritage Darlington Point	Purchase & install solar panelling	555.3520					6,544.41	6,544.41	
Heritage Darlington Point Anglican Parish of Coleambally & Darlington Point	Police Residence Conservation Upgrade to Op Shop Community Hub	555.4895					400,000.00	116,946.02	Works commenced To be incorporated with SaSS program
Darlington Point Townlife Committee	Town information boards & tourism maps	555.4925					58,000.00	1,875.00	
Darlington Point Townlife Committee	Entrance Signs to Darlington Point	555.4935							
Apex Boat Ramp	Boat Ramp Installation	421							
Lions Park Facilities & Display	Lions Park Facilities Upgrade & Display	555.5360					858,212.62	858,212.62	0.00 Complete
							547,012.21	547,012.21	0.00 Complete
Town Water Treatment	Update Water Treatment Facilities	555.4945					691,787.38		Partial funding for IWCM to be sourced from this grant
Waddi Community Centre	Demolition/Cultural Garden	555.4955					80,000.00	64,926.75	Works ongoing undertaken. Masterplan prepared. Application for grant funds submitted
Darlington Point Caravan Park	Management Plan	555.4965					350,000.00	200,285.31	Upgrade to amenities block completed. Further works ongoing
Darlington Point Sports Precinct	Upgrade to Facilities	555.4975					367,750.00	174,099.84	
Waddi Community Centre	Stage 1 & 2 Education Arts & Cultural Centre	555.4957					300,000.00	285,485.32	Works ongoing

Stronger Communities Fund

W/O Number

Young Street Subdivision Young Street Subdivision

555.5775

Announced to date
Expended to date

15,118,352.22
7,108,653.72

Announced projects
Unexpended

8,009,698.50

Stronger Communities
Funding

Interest Received to 31/3/21

Less expenditure to date

Balance unexpended for
calc purposes

Available to date
Interest to date

Less announced to date
Available/(Oversubscribed)

14,365,000.00

844,880.00

15,209,880.00

7,108,653.72

8,101,226.28

7,256,346.28

14,365,000.00

844,880.00

15,209,880.00

15,118,352.22

91,527.78

Jerilderie Budget	Expend to date	Coleambally Budget	Expend to date	Darlington Pt Budget	Expend to date	Still to be Expended
3,692,847.40	2,652,324.49	4,851,375.96	804,649.13	1,500,000.00	30,643.18	1,469,356.82
4,141,164.67	3,056,543.36	5,562,400.05	1,510,598.82	5,159,306.62	2,286,030.66	7,960,525.70
				5,414,787.50	2,541,511.54	8,009,698.50

Engineering
plans and
costings to
be
undertaken

MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL

2020/2021 COMMUNITY SERVICES BUDGET AS AT 31/03/2021

	BUDGET INCOME	BUDGET EXP	INCOME 31/03/2021	%	EXP 31/03/2021	%
HOME MODIFICATIONS						
CHSP Grant Funding	\$80,901.58		\$80,901.58	100.0%		
Client Contributions - Maintenance	\$7,956.64		\$5,112.27	64.3%		
Client Contributions - Modifications	\$45,000.00		\$40,211.06	89.4%		
Wages		\$37,735.20			\$23,434.70	62.1%
Wages Oncosts		\$15,094.08			\$9,373.89	62.1%
Contractors - Maintenance		\$11,028.94			\$10,430.00	94.6%
Contractors - Modifications		\$70,000.00			\$57,554.50	82.2%
	\$133,858.22	\$133,858.22	\$126,224.91	94.3%	\$100,793.09	75.3%
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT						
CHSP Grant Funding	\$51,803.30		\$51,803.30	100.0%		
Client Contributions	\$20,800.00		\$5,956.00	28.6%		
DVA Client Contributions	\$2,200.00		\$866.13	39.4%		
Transport for Health	\$15,000.00		\$8,984.82	59.9%		
Transport for NSW	\$10,000.00		\$3,203.20	32.0%		
Full Cost Recovery Transport(Packages)	\$3,634.11		\$3,724.60	102.5%		
Wages		\$31,026.72			\$24,772.49	79.8%
Wages Oncosts		\$12,410.69			\$9,289.40	74.9%
Bus Hire		\$0.00			\$0.00	0.0%
Volunteer Support - CHSP		\$30,707.60			\$22,395.15	72.9%
Provision of Service - DVA		\$2,090.00			\$1,448.60	69.3%
Provision of Service - Transport fHealth		\$14,250.00			\$8,569.60	60.1%
Provision of Service - Transport fNSW		\$9,500.00			\$5,839.85	61.5%
Provision of Service - Packages		\$3,452.40			\$3,841.10	111.3%
	\$103,437.41	\$103,437.41	\$74,538.05	72.1%	\$76,156.19	73.6%
RESPIRE						
CHSP Grant Funding	\$30,300.20		\$30,300.20	100.0%		
Client Contributions	\$3,800.00		\$0.00	0.0%		
Wages - Darlington Point		\$10,901.28			\$5,236.38	48.0%
Wages Oncosts - Darlington Point		\$4,360.51			\$2,094.55	48.0%
Wages - Coleambally		\$12,578.40			\$9,974.60	79.3%
Wages Oncosts - Coleambally		\$5,031.36			\$3,567.14	70.9%
Morning Tea/Craft Supplies		\$1,228.65			\$302.26	24.6%
	\$34,100.20	\$34,100.20	\$30,300.20	88.9%	\$21,174.93	62.1%
MEALS ON WHEELS						
CHSP Grant Funding	\$24,108.35		\$26,483.57	109.9%		
Client Contributions - Respite Meals	\$3,371.33		\$0.00	0.0%		
Client Contributions - Frozen Meals	\$3,840.00		\$2,002.00	52.1%		
Wages - Darlington Point		\$4,192.80			\$2,065.59	49.3%
Wages Oncosts - Darlington Point		\$1,677.12			\$626.24	37.3%
Wages - Coleambally		\$12,578.40			\$10,730.60	85.3%
Wages Oncosts - Coleambally		\$5,031.36			\$3,387.06	67.3%
Frozen Meals - NMOW		\$3,840.00			\$4,199.15	109.4%
Respite Meals		\$4,000.00			\$0.00	0.0%
	\$31,319.68	\$31,319.68	\$28,485.57	91.0%	\$21,008.64	67.1%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$302,715.51	\$302,715.51	\$259,548.73	85.7%	\$219,132.85	72.4%