



Murrumbidgee COUNCIL

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MEDIA RELEASE

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STRONGER COMMUNITY FUND UPDATE

As Murrumbidgee Council prepares to earmark funds in the third and final stage of the Stronger Community Fund (SCF), an update of projects already financed is being provided.

The Stronger Community Fund (SCF) comprises three funding streams.

The first stream is \$5 million available to the Council to fund the work required to merge the two former Councils. Any unspent funds within this component of the SCF will be transferred to either of the other streams, the Community Grants Program (CGP) or the Major Project Fund (MPF).

The second stream, the CGP, comprises \$1.5m in funding for not-for-profit community organisations for grants of up to \$50,000. This stream was run via two rounds of funding.

In November 2016 Council announced the recipients of Round One grants totalling \$1.014m to 33 organisations within the Council area. In May 2017 Council announced the recipients of Round Two grants totalling \$518,995 to 24 organisations.

Projects funded in Rounds One and Two of the CGP are at various stages ranging from projects which have been completed to projects that are yet to commence.

Since the Round One and Two grants were announced staff and Councillors have been working in conjunction with those organisations to deliver the projects that received the funding.

Council's General Manager Craig Moffitt said that while the workload associated with managing the grants is significant, some good progress was being made.

"This was always going to be a big job for everyone concerned," he said.
"It's good to see the projects which have been completed and that so many are ready to proceed.
"Staff are engaging local tradesmen wherever possible to help get these projects completed."

The third and final stream is the Major Projects Fund (MPF).

The MPF process has commenced with Council adopting a Priority Projects Register at its July Council meeting.

In November 2016 Council also endorsed the recommendation of the Assessment Panel to fund 11 projects from the MPF in the amount of \$521,364.

Approximately \$8.3m remains available for projects in the SCF and this amount includes approximately \$300,000 in interest that has been earned on the original grant of \$10m since June 2016.

The Assessment Panel will meet at the end of November to consider the (Council nominated) projects, with community engagement to follow.

Results of the Assessment Panel will be presented to the December Council Meeting.

Round One completed projects include:

Jerilderie Community Gym (New gym equipment)
Coleambally Sweatbox Community Gym (New gym equipment, rubber flooring, commercial fans, TV's and DVD)
Coleambally Preschool (Solar panels)
Coleambally Lions Club (New ride-on lawn mower)
Coleambally Preschool (Storage shed and resurfacing of preschool floor)
Jerilderie Tennis Club (Reroofing of Jerilderie Sports Club building)
Coleambally Lions Club (Bucyrus Dragline painted)
Coleambally Chamber of Commerce (Equipment for community events for organisations across the Council area)
Coleambally Squash Club (Squash Court Refurbishment)
Riverina Vintage Machinery Club, Coleambally (Purchase of portable building with disabled access ramp to landing)
Coleambally Chamber of Commerce (Artist workshops)
Anglican Parish of Coleambally Darlington Point (Installation air conditioning at Darlington Point Hall)
Coleambally Golf Club Inc (Automatic watering systems for fairways 3, 9, 1 and 6),
Jerilderie Public School P & C (Changing the bark in the playground to soft fall rubber)
Jerilderie Arts and Talent Society (Sound equipment, smoke machine and headsets)

Jerilderie CWA (Upgrade CWA facilities to provide disabled facilities)
Coleambally Chamber of Commerce (Sewing machines, overlockers and tables)
Murrumbidgee Shire Experiment Farm, Coleambally (Developing land for farming)
Darlington Point Lions Club (BBQ and bench at Darlington Point Lions Club Park)
Heritage Darlington Point (Addition of solar panels on shed)

Round Two completed projects include:

Coleambally Preschool (Shade Sails & Floor Resurfacing)
Fusion Drop-in Centre (Coleambally youth development)
Jerilderie Tennis Club (Upgrade greens, flags and putting cups)
Jerilderie Men's Shed (Purchase of property)
St Joseph's Parent's and Friends Inc (Play area soft fall and shade sail)

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