



Murrumbidgee  
COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

ATTACHMENT B:  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
REQUIREMENTS



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*Altina Wildlife Park at Darlington Point.*



# STATUTORY REPORTING

The following information provides details on Council's activities and is a specific requirement of the Office of Local Government. Murrumbidgee Council's general reporting requirements are set out in section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Local Government Act) and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. Copies of the Act and Regulation can be accessed from [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).

## Council's audited financial reports

Regulation: Act s 428(4)(a)

The audited financial reports can be found at Appendix A.

## Council's achievements in implementing the Delivery Program

Regulation: Act s 428(1)

Council's achievements in implementing the delivery program can be found at Appendix C.

## Environmental upgrades agreements entered into by Council

Regulation: Act s 54P(1)

Council did not enter into any environmental upgrades agreements.

## Special rate variations of general income

Regulation: Special Rate Variation Guidelines 7.1

No special rate variations were applied.

## Amount of rates and charges written off during the year

Regulation: Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (Reg), cl 132

An amount of \$105,173 was written off as rates during the year.

## Information about induction training and ongoing professional development

Regulation: cl 186

The following Councillors participated in a Strategic Planning Workshop, which included a presentation from Council's solicitors: Cr Ruth McRae, Cr Faith Bryce, Cr Gaila Smith, Cr Robert Black, Cr Christine Chirgwin, Cr Pat Brown and Cr Robert Curphey.

## Purpose of overseas visits by Councillors, Council staff or other persons representing Council

Regulation: cl 217(1)(a)

There were no overseas visits by Councillors, Council staff or other persons representing Council.

## Total cost during the year of the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors in relation to their civic functions

Regulation: cl 217(1)(a1) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) (v), (vi), (vii), (viii)

The Mayor and Councillors are paid an annual fee that is within the limit set by Section 248(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

At the June 2020 Council meeting, Council determined the annual fee levels for the 2020-2021 financial year

would be \$2,160 for Councillors, with an additional fee of \$26,530 for the Mayor.

The total cost of expenses and provision of facilities for the Mayor and Councillors for the 2020-2021 financial year was \$30,556.

Specific costs as required by Clause 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 are as follows:

- Provision of facilities \$420
- Telephone calls Nil

- Conferences and seminars \$2,334
- Training and skills development \$2,500
- Interstate travel Nil
- Overseas travel Nil
- Partner, spouse or accompanying person \$200
- Care of child or immediate family member Nil

## Contracts awarded for amounts greater than \$250,000

Regulation: *cl 217(1)(a2) (i), (ii)*

Name of contractor	Nature of goods or services supplied	Total amount payable
Adaptive Trust T/A Dezin	Construction of Jerilderie Early Learning Centre	\$1,496,000

## Summary of amounts incurred by Council for legal proceedings

Regulation: *cl 217(1)(a3)*

Council did not incur any expenses in relation to legal proceedings taken by or against Murrumbidgee Council. However, \$6,602 was incurred for legal costs relating to various contracts, agreements and orders.

## Resolutions made concerning work carried out on private land

Regulation: *cl 217(1)(a4) and Act s 67, 67(2)(b)*

No resolutions were made concerning work carried out on private land.

## Grants to financially assist others

Regulation: *cl 217(1)a5 and Act s 356*

Council made grants to the following people local community groups and organisations.

Recipient	Value (\$)
Local schools	700
Student scholarships	6,300
Hilltop Accommodation Centre, Albury	3,000
CSU Foundation Scholarship	4,000
Grants to community groups	39,310
Grants under Stronger Communities Fund	178,480
<b>Total</b>	<b>231,790</b>



## External bodies who exercised functions delegated by Council

Regulation: *cl 217(1)(a6)*

### Standing and Special Committees of Council

Internal Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee

General Manager's Review Committee

Darlington Point Caravan Park Committee

Darlington Point Floodplain Risk Management Committee (formerly DP Levee Committee)

Traffic Committee

Local Emergency Management Committee

### Section 355 Committees of Council

Coleambally Australia Day Committee

Jerilderie Australia Day Committee

Coleambally Townlife Committee

Darlington Point Townlife/Australia Day Committee

Heritage Darlington Point

Balmeringa Management Committee

Central Coree Sports Complex Management Committee

Yamma Recreation Reserve Management Committee

Jerilderie Tidy Towns Committee

### Advisory Committees

Monash Park Users

Coleambally Sports Precinct Advisory Committee

Boat Ramp Darlington Point-Advisory Committee

Darlington Point Master Landuse Plan Advisory Committee

### External Committees with Council Representation

CICL/Coleambally Environmental and Reference Committee (CERC)

Kidman Way Promotional Committee

Newell Highway Promotional Committee

Mid Murray Zone Bushfire Management Committee

Berrigan Jerilderie Community Network

MIA Zone Bushfire Management Committee

MIA Zone Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee

Murray Darling Association

Western Riverina Libraries Committee

South West Zone Library Committee

Western Riverina Arts

Thrive Riverina

Roads and Maritime Services Consultative Committee

Riverina & Murray Joint Organisation

Western Region Joint Planning Panel

Regulation: *cl 217(1)(a3)*

Council is involved in a joint venture for the provision of library services. Western Riverina Libraries is a co-operative of five Councils. These are Murrumbidgee Council, Griffith City Council, Narrandera Shire Council, Carrathool Shire Council and Hay Shire Council. The joint venture provides up-to-date library services to all areas, and particularly to people in remote locations.

The mobile library service, jointly owned by Murrumbidgee and Griffith City Council, visits the townships of Coleambally on Wednesday and Darlington Point on Thursday each week.

## Corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which Council held a controlling interest

Regulation: *cl 217(1)(a7)*

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any companies during the financial year.

## Corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which Council participated

Council expenditure on Library Services amounted to a total of \$294,929.

Council also has an interest or membership of the following organisations, facilities and arrangements:

- Riverina & Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) – to explore local government resource sharing, strategic alliances, lobbying and promotion opportunities.
- Statewide Mutual – a mutual pool scheme providing liability and general insurance cover to NSW Councils.
- StateCover Mutual – a company providing workers compensation insurance cover to NSW Councils.
- Joint Regional Planning Panel - which provides merit-based decision making on regional development within the framework of the NSW planning system.
- Thrive Riverina (formerly known as Riverina Regional Tourism) - is the local tourism organisation for the Riverina. Working in collaboration with Destination Riverina Murray, Thrive Riverina's purpose is to be a marketing collective for the visitor economy in the Riverina aimed at 'experience enthusiasts'.
- Kidman Way Promotional Committee – Member Councils are Murrumbidgee, Griffith City, Carrathool, Cobar and Bourke.

## Activities to implement the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) management plan

Regulation: *cl 217(l)(a3)*

Our EEO plan identifies key actions to be undertaken to address the organisation's EEO responsibilities. The plan aims to eliminate and ensure the absence of discrimination in employment, promotion, training and transfers on the grounds of race, sex, age, pregnancy, sexual preference, disability, marital status, political opinion, social origin or religion, past convictions and carers' responsibility.

Council has continued to work towards ensuring its human resources and training policies and procedures conform to EEO principles and demonstrate fair practice.

## Total remuneration package of the General Manager

Regulation: *cl 217(l)(b)(i), (ii), (iii) (iv), (v)*

The General Manager's total remuneration cost was \$302,770, including salary, fringe benefits, on costs and undertaken employee leave entitlements.

Fringe benefits include private use of a Council vehicle by way of a lease. On cost includes employer's superannuation contribution.

### General Manager's remuneration package:

Total value of the salary component of the package was \$252,740.

Total amount of any bonus was nil.

Total amount payable by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the General Manager may be a contributor was \$24,010.

Total value of any non-cash benefits for which the General Manager may elect under the package was nil.

Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits \$26,020.

## Total remuneration packages of all senior staff members

Regulation: *cl 217(l)(c)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v)*

Council employed one Director of Infrastructure at a total remuneration cost of \$102,905, including salary, fringe benefits and on costs. Fringe benefits include private use of a Council vehicle by way of a lease. On cost includes employer's superannuation contribution.

### Director of Infrastructure Remuneration Package:

Total value of the salary component of the package was \$88,510.

Total amount of any bonus was Nil.

Total amount payable by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the employee may be a contributor was \$10,842.

Total value of any non-cash benefits for which the Assistant General Manager Infrastructure & Environment may elect under the package was nil.

Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits \$3,553.

## Stormwater management services provided to the community

Regulation: *cl 217(l)(e)*

We levied a storm water management charge on all applicable assessments within the former Jerilderie Shire Council area. The aim of the levy was to raise additional funds to complete future storm water upgrades of the CBD and surrounding areas of the Jerilderie township.

A total of \$11,100 was levied, with levies contributing to the costs of drainage works on Southey Street, Jerilderie.

## Coastal protection services provided to the community

Regulation: *cl 217(l)(e1)*

Council does not levy an annual charge for coastal protection services.

## Enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act

Regulation: *cl 217(l)(f)*

Council spent \$30,105 on managing and controlling companion animals within the Council area. Local staff

were utilised to follow up complaints and to ensure compliance with the Companion Animals Act.

The Survey of Council seizures of cats and dogs 2020-21 was lodged with the Office of Local Government.

One dog attack was recorded on the Companion Animals Register.

Council communicated the importance of desexing of dogs and cats through community education campaigns, including promotional material.

Council complies with the requirement under s 64 of the CA Act to seek other options to euthanasia for unclaimed animals by working with rehoming organisations and also training staff to pursue alternatives to euthanasia.

Off-leash areas are provided at:

- Coleambally - reserve at the end of Kookaburra Avenue - forest area.
- Darlington Point - the second oval at the Recreation Reserve, King Street.
- Jerilderie - around the Lake Jerilderie from Bundoora Avenue to the Playground area - as signposted.



## Proposed capital works projects where a capital expenditure review has been submitted

Regulation: *OLG Capital Expenditure Guidelines*

No capital works projects were undertaken that required a capital expenditure review.

## Compliance with the Carers Recognition Act

Regulation: *Carers Recognition Act 2010 (CR Act), S 8(2)*

Council does not provide services that fall under the Carers Recognition Act.

## Implementation of Council's Disability Inclusion Plan

Regulation: *Disability Inclusion Act 2014, s 13(1) Disability Inclusion Act 2014, s13(1)*

Murrumbidgee Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan was developed following community consultation across the entire Local Government Area.

The plan outlines Council's commitment to improving accessibility and inclusion activities for people of all ages who live with a disability. This ensures access to the full range of services and activities available in the community.

During 2020-2021 actions implemented to support the needs of people with a disability including:

- Additional footpaths and shared pathways
- PAMP crossings
- Upgrading of toilet facilities to include disabled access
- Developing a Master Plan for lift and change accessible facilities in each town.

## Compliance with and effect of planning agreements

Regulation: *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, s 7.5(5)*

Council does not have any planning agreements in place.

## Recovery and threat abatement plans

Regulation: *Fisheries Management Act 1994, s220ZT (2)*

Council does not have recovery and threat abatement plans in place.

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## Inspections of private swimming pools

Regulation: *Swimming Pools Act (SP Act) 1992, s 22F(2) Swimming Pools Regulation 2018 (SP Reg) cl 23*

Number of inspections of tourist and visitor accommodation: 0

Number of inspections of premises with more than 2 dwellings: 2 (farm)

Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of compliance under s22D of the SP Act: 12

Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of non-compliance under cl 21 of the SP Reg: 9

## Government information public access activity

Regulation: *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, s 125(1), Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018, cl 8, Schedule 2*

Council did not receive any requests for Public Interest Disclosures.

## Information included on public interest disclosure activity

Regulation: *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994, s 31 and Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011, cl 4*

The following information specifies the number of formal access applications lodged under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 received. Statutory processing times were complied with in all cases.

### Reviews

- Reviews carried out by Murrumbidgee Council: Yes
- Information made publicly available by Murrumbidgee Council: Yes

### Applications

- Total number of access applications received: 5
- The applications were all from members of the public (by legal representative).
- Total number of access applications received during the reporting year that were refused: 0
- No requests for information were received from the media, Members of Parliament, private sector business, not for profit organisations or



community groups, and members of the public (other).

- The applications were all access applications (other than personal information applications). There were no requests for personal information or for information that was partly personal and partly other.
- There were no applications received that were invalid.
- There were no applications received where consideration of conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure (matters listed in Schedule I of the Act) was exercised.

- All applications were decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus extensions).
- No applications were reviewed under Part 5 of the Act.
- No applications were transferred to other agencies.

Any person who wishes to obtain access to information held by Council is encouraged to contact our public officer for assistance.

There are a number of documents available which are easily accessed via Council's website.

