



Murrumbidgee COUNCIL

Darlington Point Office
21 Carrington Street
PO Box 5
DARLINGTON POINT NSW 2706
Telephone: 02 6960 5500

Coleambally Office
39 Brolga Place
COLEAMBALLY NSW 2707
Telephone: 02 6954 4060

Jerilderie Office
35 Jerilderie Street
PO Box 96
JERILDERIE NSW 2716
Telephone 03 5886 1200

MEDIA RELEASE

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STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND

Murrumbidgee Council continues to build the region, with funding for more local projects in its sights.

This time Council is working to secure funding under the NSW Government's recently announced Stronger Country Communities grant program.

The Stronger Country Communities grant program is part of the NSW Government's larger \$1.3 billion Regional Growth Fund. This broader Regional Growth Fund is split into several streams, with more funding opportunities expected to open later this year.

Council is being guided by previous community consultation following the allocation of the Stronger Communities Fund, which has helped establish a priority list.

Currently under consideration are a range of projects from that list to submit to various grant programs. Each program has specific eligibility criteria aimed at different areas of need from sporting, community and business-related projects, to water and transport infrastructure.

A number of projects from the priority list that may meet the criteria for the Stronger Country Communities Fund are being investigated including:

- Junior Change Rooms, Coleambally Sportsground
- Construct Toilet Facilities at Coleambally Cemetery
- Refurbish Toilet Facilities, Lions Park Coleambally
- Female Change Rooms, Darlington Point Sportsground
- Refurbish Toilet Facilities, Lions Park Darlington Point

- Provide Community Notice Boards and Town Information Bays (both Darlington Point and Coleambally)
- Refurbish and add interpretive signage to Goanna Track Darlington Point
- Jerilderie Swimming Pool Upgrade
- Toilet Facilities, Jerilderie Racecourse
- Yamma Hall Upgrade

Council has until 13 September to prepare and submit detailed submissions for projects to be funded from the Stronger Country Communities Fund. A first round offer of \$1.52m is available for the Murrumbidgee Local Government Area. Council has been advised that to be considered under the current round, projects need to be well-developed, fully planned and costed.

Council's Economic, Tourism and Community Development Manager Gerrie Carr-MacFie said the Stronger Country Communities Fund has been established to build infrastructure such as new parks, playgrounds, pathways and refurbish local schools, health facilities, community centres, libraries and local parks for rural and regional communities.

"There is only a short window for submissions in the first round of this funding," she said.

"However a further round of funding under the program is expected next year.

"We are doing our very best to make sure we get the biggest return on our dollars so that our Council area benefits from all of these different funding opportunities that are available."

Following the submissions, the NSW Government will consult further with the community as part of the assessment process. A sample of 100 residents will be randomly selected to participate in a phone survey to determine what projects are the most important to the community.

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