



Murrumbidgee Council
Local Emergency
Management Plan
2023



Part 1 – Administration

Authority

The Murrumbidgee Council Local Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) has been prepared by the Murrumbidgee Council Local Emergency Management Committee in compliance with the State Emergency & Rescue Management Act 1989.

APPROVED

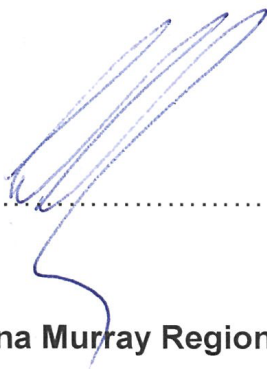


Chair Tom Dimec

Murrumbidgee Council Local Emergency Management Committee

Dated: 08/11/2023

ENDORSED



Chair

Riverina Murray Regional Emergency Management Committee

Dated:

22/11/2023

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Purpose

Details arrangements for, prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies within the Local Government Area(s) covered by this plan.

It encompasses arrangements for:

- emergencies controlled by combat agencies;
- emergencies controlled by combat agencies and supported by the Local Emergency Operations Controller (LEOCON);
- emergency operations for which there is no combat agency; and
- circumstances where a combat agency has passed control to the LEOCON.

Objectives

The objectives of this plan are to:

- define participating organisation and Functional Area roles and responsibilities in preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies;
- set out the control, co-ordination and liaison arrangements at the Local level;
- detail activation and alerting arrangements for involved agencies; and
- detail arrangements for the acquisition and co-ordination of resources.

Scope

The plan describes the arrangements at Local level to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and also provides policy direction for the preparation of Sub Plans and Supporting Plans:

- Arrangements detailed in this plan are based on the assumption that the resources upon which the plan relies are available when required; and
- The effectiveness of arrangements detailed in this plan are dependent upon all involved agencies preparing, testing and maintaining appropriate internal instructions, and/or standing operating procedures.

Principles

The following principles are applied in this plan:

- a) The Emergency Risk Management (ERM) process is to be used as the basis for emergency planning in New South Wales. This methodical approach to the planning process is to be applied by Emergency Management Committees at all levels.
- b) Responsibility for preparation, response and recovery rests initially at Local level. If Local agencies and available resources are not sufficient they are augmented by those at Regional level.
- c) Control of emergency response and recovery operations is conducted at the lowest effective level.
- d) Agencies may deploy their own resources from their own service from outside the affected Local area or Region if they are needed.
- e) The Local Emergency Operations Controller (LEOCON) is responsible, when requested by a combat agency, to co-ordinate the provision of resources support. LEOCONs would not normally assume control from a combat agency unless the situation can no longer be contained. Where necessary, this should only be done after consultation with the Regional Emergency Operations Controller (REOCON) and agreement of the combat agency and the appropriate level of control.
- f) Emergency preparation, response and recovery operations should be conducted with all agencies carrying out their normal functions wherever possible.
- g) Prevention measures remain the responsibility of authorities/agencies charged by statute with the responsibility.

Test and Review Process

The Murrumbidgee Council Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) will review this Plan every three (3) years, or following any:

- activation of the Plan in response to an emergency;
- legislative changes affecting the Plan; and
- exercises conducted to test all or part of the Plan.

Part 2 – Community Context

Annexure A – Community Profile

General

The area covered by this plan is the whole of the Murrumbidgee Council. The Council is bordered in the north by Griffith Council, in the east by Federation Council, in the south by Berrigan Shire and in the west by Edward River Council. The area of the Council is 6879.68km².

The population is distributed as:

Darlington Point Town	1016
approximately	
Coleambally Town	658
approximately	
Jerilderie Town	775
approximately	
Rural area	1316

The Council is mainly rural and is sparsely populated in the rural areas. There is no heavy industry.



Landform and Topography

The Murrumbidgee Council terrain is largely a flat, almost treeless saltbush plain, predominately cleared pasture and cropping lands, with natural vegetation mainly along the Murrumbidgee River and Billabong and Yanko Creek Systems. Darlington Point is 120m above sea level, Coleambally is 118m and Jerilderie is 108 m above sea level.

Climate

The climate of the Riverina Murray region has a strong seasonal cycle, with cool to cold winters and warm to hot summers. It is considered likely to be one of the regions of New South Wales most severely impacted by climate change because of increasing temperatures, changes in the volume and distribution of rainfall, and decreases in river flows. Rainfall throughout the Murrumbidgee area is winter-spring dominated, with average annual falls of 427MM. The average temperature in summer is 31.5 degrees with the average overnight temperature 14.75 degrees. The average temperature in winter is 14.5 degrees with an overnight average of 3.15 degrees.

The *Impacts of Climate Change on Natural Hazards Profile-State Overview 2010* report identifies that:

Daily maximum temperatures are projected to rise across all seasons by an average of 1.5- 3.0C, with the greatest increase in winter and spring (2-3°C). Nights are also projected to be warmer by an average 0.5-2°C, with the greatest increase in spring (1-2°C). Rainfall is projected to shift from winter to summer dominance with overall total falls declining, especially in the winter growing season. This decline is projected to be 20-50%, with

the greatest reduction in southern parts of the region. Spring and autumn are projected to be similar to winter with rainfall decreasing by up to 50%, and the largest decreases occurring in the south and west. Evaporation is projected to increase in these seasons, exacerbating the dry conditions. Projected increases in the severity of short, medium and longer term droughts are likely to lead to a decrease of up to 15% in total runoff. El Nino years experienced in the region are likely to continue to result in an increased probability of lower than average rainfall and become hotter. La Nina years experienced in the region are likely to continue to result in an increased probability of higher than average rainfall and become warmer, with storms producing heavy downpours likely to become more frequent. Projections indicate that despite water stress overall becoming more intense, there is a risk that flood-producing rainfall events are likely to become more frequent and more intense with increased summer rainfall in La Nina years in the Riverina Murray region which includes extensive floodplains and wetlands.

Land Use

The main form of land use in the LGA is agriculture. Murrumbidgee Council contains Environmental Heritage properties; refer to Clause 5.10 and Schedule 5 of the Murrumbidgee LEP 2012 and Jerilderie LEP 2012.

Land Use Zone / Type / Classification	Area	% of LGA
RU1 Primary Production	6318.0741	91.83674
RU3 Forestry	61.13625	0.88864
RU5 Villages	19.93	0.28969
R5 Large Lot Residential	6.714	0.09759
IN1 General Industrial	9.87	0.14346
SP2 Infrastructure	145.466	2.11442
RE1 Public Recreation	2.23	0.03241
RE2 Private Recreation	0.09	0.0013
E1 National Parks and Nature Reserves	288.36915	4.1916
E3 Environmental Management	1.588	0.02308
W2 Recreational Waterways	1.148	0.01668
W1 Natural Waterways	25.0645	0.36432

Population and People

Gender Diversity				
Total Persons (excluding overseas visitors)				
	Murrumbidgee	Jerilderie	Coleambally	Darlington Point
TOTAL	3836	1102	1348	1162
Males	52.8%	575 – 52%	704 - 52.3%	550 – 52.6%
Females	47.2%	531 – 48%	641 - 47.7%	611 – 47.4%
Median age (years)	41	47	39	41
Age				
0-4 Years	218	49	86	59
5-14 Years	569	141	207	182
15-24 Years	425	108	172	125
25-54 Years	1425	368	503	448
55-64 Years	531	199	166	151
65 Years and over	664	240	215	192
Household Type				
Family Household	952	279	324	314
Average Household size	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.5
Language				
People who speak a language other than English at home -				Total 73

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census.

https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA15560?opendocument

The median age of people in Murrumbidgee LGA was 41 years. Children aged 0 - 14 years made up 18.7% of the population and people aged 65 years and over made up 15.8% of the total population.

For the 2016 Census in Murrumbidgee LGA, there were 289 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Dwellings

In Murrumbidgee LGA of all households, 952 were family households, 2710 people made up the total number within different family demographics.

Language

In Murrumbidgee LGA 86.7% of people only spoke English at home.

	Language Spoken						
	English	Arabic	Spanish	Italian	Tagalog	Mandarin	Other
Murrumbidgee	86.7%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	

Mobility, Vehicles per Dwelling/Travel to Work

Day of Census method of travel to work for employed people						
LGA	Car – as driver	Walked only	Car – as passenger	Truck	Bicycle	TOTAL by Car
Murrumbidgee	1051	140	66	30	6	1117

Transport Routes and Facilities

The main transport routes through the local area are: Road

Darlington Point is located approximately halfway between Sydney and Adelaide at 612 km and 770kms respectively and is intersected by the Sturt Highway and Kidman Way.

Jerilderie is located 325km from Melbourne and is intersected by the Newell Highway and Kidman Way.

The airstrips located in the local area are:

Coleambally Airstrip

The Coleambally airstrip is located west of the town area off Burke Lane.

Lat Long: S34 Deg 48.118' E145 Deg 50.789'

Jerilderie Airstrip

The Jerilderie airport is located south of the town area off rifle Range Road

Lat -35.37108 Long: 145.72399

Jerilderie RFS Airstrip

Is located on the Conargo Road, Deniliquin road.

Lat -35.352201679 Long: 145.704222291

Economy and Industry

As part of the NSW South-West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), Murrumbidgee Council has a significant renewable Energy industry. Major industries in the area include sheep, cattle, cotton, rice and grains.

There were 1421 people who reported being in the labour force in the week before Census night in Murrumbidgee LGA. Of these 59.95% were employed full time, 27.15% were employed part-time and 4.45% were unemployed.

Major Employment Industries						
LGA	Sheep, Beef Cattle and Grain Farming	Local Government Administration	Poultry Farming	Sheep Grazing (Specialised)	Other Grain Growing	Sales Workers
Murrumbidgee	64 – 3.9%	61 – 3.7%	68 – 4.1%	47 – 2.8%	184 – 11.1%	87 – 5.1%
Jerilderie	12.3%	33 – 7.5%	No Data	18 - 4.1%	39 – 8.8%	40 – 8.4%
Coleambally	23 – 3.9%	No Data	20 – 3.4%	No Data	112- 19.1%	19 – 2.9%
Darlington Point	No Data	21 – 5.1%	47 – 11.5%	No Data	Cotton 3.2%	27 – 5.6%

Common Occupations						
LGA	Technicians and Trade Workers	Managers	Labourers	Clerical and Administrative Workers	Community and Personal Service Workers	Machinery Operators & Drivers
Murrumbidgee	177 – 10.3%	508 - 29.6%	276 – 16.1%	182 – 10.6%	143 - 8.3%	155 - 9%
Jerilderie	70 – 14.7%	132 – 27.8%	55 – 11.6%	56 – 11.8%	35 – 7.4%	35 – 7.4%
Coleambally	56 – 8.6%	242 – 37%	86 – 13.1%	67 – 10.2%	49 – 7.5%	53 – 8.1%
Darlington Point	51 – 10.5%	79 – 16.3%	118 – 24.4%	50 – 10.3%	52 – 10.7%	56 – 11.6%

Waterways, Water storages and Lakes

The main bodies of water in the local area are Rivers/Creeks/Coleambally channels and Tombullen off river storage.

The Murrumbidgee River effectively divides the town of Darlington Point.

The Billabong Creek effectively divides the town of Jerilderie; Council also contains the following creeks, which may impact on urban flooding should the flows in the creeks converge; The Yanko, Wangamong and the Columbo.

Water storages for the townships of Darlington Point, Coleambally and Jerilderie consist of steel reservoirs stand pipes.

Town water for Darlington Point and Coleambally is accessed from the Lower Murrumbidgee Aquifer via bores and Jerilderie township water is accessed from the Billabong Creek.

Annexure B – Hazards and Risks Summary

A Local Emergency Risk Management (ERM) Study has been undertaken by the Murrumbidgee Council Local Emergency Management Committee identifying the following hazards as having risk of causing loss of life, property, utilities, services and/or the community's ability to function within its normal capacity. These hazards have been identified as having the potential to create an emergency. The Name Emergency Risk Management Study should be referenced to identify the complete list of consequences and risk descriptions.

Hazard	Risk Description	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Risk Priority	Combat / Responsible Agency
Agricultural Disease (Animal/Animal)	An agriculture/horticulture incident that results, or has potential to result, in the spread of a communicable disease or infestation.	Likely	Major	High	Department of Primary Industries
Bridge Collapse	Failure of a major bridge structure with or without warning owing to structural failure or as a result of external/ internal events or other hazards/ incidents.	Rare	Moderate	Medium	LEOCON
Building Collapse	Collapse of building owing to structural failure or impact from external/internal event of other hazards /incidents.	Rare	Minor	Low	FRNSW (USAR) LEOCON
Communicable Disease (Human/Animal)	Pandemic illness that affects, or has potential to affect, large portions of the human or animal population	Possible	Major	High	Department of Health

Hazard	Risk Description	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Risk Priority	Combat / Responsible Agency
Dam Failure	A dam is compromised that results in localised or widespread flooding.	Rare	Catastrophic	Medium	Dam Owners NSW SES
Fire (Bush or Grass)	Major fires in areas of bush or grasslands.	Possible	Major	High	NSW RFS FRNSW (within fire district)
Fire (Industrial)	Serious industrial fire in office complexes and/or warehouses within industrial estates.	Possible	Moderate	High	FRNSW (within fire district) NSW RFS
Fire (Commercial)	Serious commercial fires in shopping centres, aged persons units, nursing homes and hospitals.	Possible	Catastrophic	High	FRNSW (within fire district) NSW RFS
Flood (Flash)	Heavy rainfall causes excessive localised flooding with minimal warning time	Possible	Minor	Medium	NSW SES
Flood (Riverine)	River flows exceed the capacity of normal river systems resulting in flood waters escaping and inundating river plains	Possible	Moderate	High	NSW SES
Hazardous Release	Hazardous material released as a result of an incident or accident.	Possible	Moderate	High	FRNSW

Hazard	Risk Description	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Risk Priority	Combat / Responsible Agency
Heatwave	A sequence of abnormally hot conditions having the potential to affect a community adversely.	Possible	Major	High	SEOCN
Storm	Severe storm with accompanying lightning, hail, wind, and/or rain that causes severe damage and/or localised flooding.(includes tornado)	Possible	Major	High	NSW SES
Transport Emergency (Air)	Aircraft crashes in LGA resulting in large number of fatalities, injuries and/or damage to property.	Rare	Major	High	LEOCN
Transport Emergency (Road)	A major vehicle accident that disrupts one or more major transport routes that can result in risk to people trapped in traffic jams, restrict supply routes and/or protracted loss of access to or from the area.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	LEOCN
Utilities Failure	Major failure of essential utility for unreasonable periods of time as a result of a natural or man-made occurrence.	Possible	Major	High	LEOCN

Annexure C – Local Sub Plans, Supporting Plans and Policies

Responsibility for the preparation and maintenance of appropriate sub and supporting plans rest with the relevant Combat Agency Controller or the relevant Functional Area Coordinator.

The sub/supporting plans are developed in consultation with the Murrumbidgee LEMC and the community.

The plans listed below are supplementary to this EMPLAN. The sub/supporting plans have been endorsed by the LEMC and are determined as compliant and complimentary to the arrangements listed in this EMPLAN.

These plans are retained by the LEMO on behalf of the LEMC and public release versions are available on the Council Website.

Plan/Policy	Purpose	Combat / Responsible Agency
Murrumbidgee Flood Emergency Sub Plan	Protect community from major flood threat	NSW State Emergency Service
Murrumbidgee Bush Fire Risk Management Plan	Protect community from major bush fire threat	NSW Rural Fire Service
Murrumbidgee Sewage Treatment Plant: Pollution Incident Response Management Plan	Protect community from pollution incidents	Murrumbidgee Council
Murrumbidgee Water Treatment Plant: Pollution Incident Response Management Plan	Protect community from pollution incidents	Murrumbidgee Council
Murrumbidgee Sewer Treatment Plant Emergency Response Plan (Major Plant Failure)	Provide guidance to emergency operations in the event of a major failure of the Murrumbidgee STP	Murrumbidgee Council