

2017-2027 Draft

Community Strategic Plan







Murrumbidgee Council Community Strategic Plan:

The Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027 is about preparing a shared vision for our community and communities which shapes Council's planning and operations over the next ten years. The plan is a blue print detailing the things that the residences of Coleambally, Darlington Point and Jerilderie love and want to retain as well as those new things that Community and Council need to work together to create a sustainable, positive future for Murrumbidgee Council.

The Murrumbidgee Council utilized an extended community consultation and engagement process to develop its Murrumbidgee Strategic Council Community Plan 2017-2027. Community feedback was then incorporated back into the Plan and will also be used to inform the ongoing development and implementation of Council's Operational and Delivery Plans.

As part of the extensive community engagement strategy, Council held a series of activities including meetings in each of our towns and with key communities in the local government area. Council also distributed online and hard copy community and youth surveys (posted to every household in the Murrumbidgee Council area), to capture information from the community about their long term vision for the future for the whole Council area and differentiate town specific priorities.

The Community Strategic Plan Survey can be accessed on the Murrumbidgee Council website: www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au. Council welcomes ongoing feedback which can be provided via email to: mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au or in writing to:

Feedback on Community Strategic Plan Murrumbidgee Council PO Box 5 DARLINGTON POINT NSW 2706





The Murrumbidgee Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is an important document. The development of a new Community Strategic Plan is a statutory requirement of all Councils in New South Wales, but it's also an exciting opportunity to create a new roadmap for the Council area that will guide decision-making and community participation over the next decade.

It gives us a long-term vision for our Council to work towards, but also allows us to recognise the individual characteristics and priorities of our three towns and their surrounding residents. The CSP also provides an alignment with, and references relevant State, Federal and Regional plans and policies.

This will be the first integrated CSP prepared since the creation of Murrumbidgee Council following the merger of the former Murrumbidgee Shire and Jerilderie Shire Councils. It incorporates feedback from the community provided during previous consultation across both former Councils, as well as more recent input gained from online surveys and community meetings.

A particular focus of Council's engagement process was to reach out to youth and other key groups within our communities to ensure our planning over the longer term appropriately reflects their perceived needs and priorities. This feedback will ensure that Council develops specific, meaningful and measurable performance indicators in its Operational and Delivery Plans that will reported against moving forward.

The CSP contains broad community strategies reflecting the priorities and issues identified and communicated by our respective communities. These community strategies fall under the five strategic themes of – Community, Infrastructure, Leadership, Environment and the Economy.

Council received significant feedback on the CSP and the enthusiasm driving that feedback is a credit to all of our residents. Thank you for your participation and passion.

Ruth McRae Mayor



What this document will show

The strategies that Council will implement to achieve the aspirations, objectives and needs identified through the consultation process. The actions and activities specific to each strategy are detailed. Some activities by their nature will have inputs from more than one area of Council.

How Council will demonstrate that it meets the targets of the Community Strategic Plan

Introduced in June 2012, Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) each local government area is required to have a community strategic plan under section 402 of the Local Government Act. The legislation requires each council in NSW to prepare:

- 1. A 10-year Community Strategic Plan
- 2. A 10-year Asset Management Policy, Strategy and Plan
- 3. A 10-year Long Term Financial Plan
- 4. A 4-year Workforce Plan
- 5. A 4-year Delivery Program
- 6. A 1-year Operational Plan
- 7. Regular reports will be prepared to measure performance against these.

This integrated planning and reporting framework (IPR) is designed to:

- 1. Strengthen the strategic focus of councils
- 2. Ensure that council services, programs and actions are aligned to high level strategy
- 3. Improve the integration of planning and reporting processes (in particular, across the
- 4. 'Quadruple bottom line' of society/community, environment, economy and governance)
- 5. Streamline reporting processes and thus reduce duplication

Murrumbidgee Council's Strategic Vision

Murrumbidgee Council values creativity and innovation to reliably deliver quality service and facilities to its communities. It does this through traditional principles and forward thinking that provide strong, positive leadership to nurture who we are, where we live and what we have built.



Integrated Planning and Reporting

Integrated Planning and Reporting is the framework for planning and reporting by Local Governments across New South Wales. The aim is to integrate the various plans of Council with the strategic objectives or aspirations of the community. The key element in the framework is the involvement of the whole of the community in the formulation of the Community Strategic Plan.

The principal components of the integrated planning and reporting model are:

<u>Community Strategic Plan</u> – Sets out the long term aspirations of the community of the Murrumbidgee Council area for the next 10 years. It is the key reference to guide Council decision-making during this period.

The plan will be prepared by Council after extensive consultation with residents, land owners, visitors, Councillors, Council staff, businesses, community groups and youth.

<u>Delivery Program</u> – Under the Delivery Program, Council is accounting for its management of the community's long- term goals, outlining what it intends to do towards achieving these goals during its term in office (four years) and what its priorities will be.

Operational Plan - Annual plan detailing Council's activities and budget for each year of the Delivery Program

<u>Resourcing Strategy</u> - Bring together Council's key planning strategies for utilizing the resources available to Council to fulfill the community strategic objectives.

Reporting On Progress

Council is required to report periodically to the Murrumbidgee Council community on the progress of the activities undertaken by Council in achieving the strategic objectives of the Community Strategic Plan. Key accountability reporting points are:

- 1. Council's Annual Report which is prepared after the end of the financial year and reports the results and achievements for the year against the Operational Plan and Delivery Program, and
- 2. Every four years tied to the Council election cycle, the Community Strategic Plan must be reported upon by the outgoing Council and the incoming Council must undertake a review of the Plan. At this time the Community Strategic Plan has to be rolled forward four years to maintain a minimum long term 10-year strategic focus.





Underlying Principles

The Community Strategic Plan has been developed and based on two sets of guiding principles, those of social justice and sustainability.

Social justice principles underpinned the Murrumbidgee Council community engagement strategy in the formulation of the community strategic plan. The four social justice principles are:

- Equity there should be fairness in decision making, prioritizing and allocation of resources, particularly for
 those in need. Everyone should have a fair opportunity to participate in the future of the community. The
 planning process should take particular care to involve and protect the interests of people in vulnerable
 circumstances.
- 2. **Access** all people should have fair access to services, resources and opportunities to improve their quality of life.
- 3. **Participation** everyone should have the maximum opportunity to genuinely participate in decisions which affect their lives
- 4. *Rights* equal rights should be established and promoted, with opportunities provided for people from diverse linguistic, cultural and religious backgrounds to participate in community life.

Quadruple Bottom Line

The Community Strategic Plan and all Council plans and reports under the integrated planning and reporting framework consider the four key areas under what is known as the quadruple bottom line: Social (or Community), Environment, Economic and Leadership. These four areas have a strong alignment with the five strategic themes that the Community Strategic Plan is structured along.



STRATEGIES

The identified key strategies have been grouped into the following five strategic themes that reflect the main themes identified during Community Engagement and consultation process held by Council. They reflect Council's broad governance, reporting and operational structure.

STRATEGIC THEME 1: OUR COMMUNITY - Who we are

We support all members of our Council community. We strive to ensure they feel safe and are actively and passionately involved in establishing and promoting a connected, respected Council Area by facilitating equitable access to community infrastructure and services – healthcare, education and transport. The diversity of our three towns serves to create a stronger, everevolving Murrumbidgee Community, which values it rural lifestyle as the place to work and live sustainably into the future.

STRATEGIES:

- 1.1 Building and Supporting a Diverse Community
- 1.2 Protecting and Embracing Cultural Identity and Heritage
- 1.3 Creating Community Opportunities and Equitable Access to Council and Community Services and Programs
- 1.4 Enhancing Health and Wellbeing
- 1.5 Creating a Safe Community

STRATEGIC THEME 2: OUR ENVIRONMENT - Where we live

We live in a unique natural environment that we value highly. We undertake a guardianship role to ensure and enhance its long term sustainability through appropriate practices and management.

- 2.1 Protecting Existing Regional Natural Environment for future generations
- 2.2 Exploring and Promoting Alternate, Sustainable Energy Sources and Practices
- 2.3 Maintaining a Balance Between Growth, Development and Environmental Protection
- 2.4 Protecting and Managing Waterways and Catchments
- 2.5 Valuing and Conserving our Native Flora and Fauna

STRATEGIC THEME 3: OUR INFRASTRUCTURE - What we have built

Our Community is well serviced and connected to well-planned built, social and community infrastructure developed and maintained according to community and public safety needs and priorities and partnerships.

STRATEGIES:

- 3.1 Responsible, Sustainable Asset Management
- 3.2 Infrastructure (Council buildings and facilities) which Meet Community and Public Safety Needs
- 3.3 Providing the Community with Open Spaces to be Active
- 3.4 Maintaining and improving Transport Infrastructure
- 3.5 Ensuring local utilities and communications infrastructure and connectivity meets future needs

STRATEGIC THEME 4: OUR ECONOMY - Creating our own opportunities

Creating our own opportunities, we work with new and existing business and industries to proactively provide regional economic opportunity, development and tourism creating stability and future growth.

STRATEGIES:

- 4.1 Welcoming and Supporting our Business and Industries Growth, Diversity and Productivity
- 4.2 | Promoting and Supporting a Regional Economy and Growth
- 4.3 Promoting and Developing Tourism Strategies and Opportunities
- 4.4 Supporting Community Access to Education, Training and Future Opportunities
- 4.5 Fostering and Developing a Resilient, Vibrant Agricultural Sector



STRATEGIC THEME 5: OUR LEADERSHIP – Looking to our Future Council's leadership role encompasses sound, future-focused outcomes for the whole of Murrumbidgee Council. The leadership challenge is in developing a holistic approach that operates ethically, implements good governance to develop and ensure a positive future for the Community. 5.1 Demonstrating Transparent Leadership Through Accountability and Community Representation 5.2 Engaging with Future Community Leaders 5.3 Investigating Funding, Services and Programs Strengthening Communities in the Region







COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

- 1. Building and supporting a diverse community
- 2. Protecting and embracing cultural identity and heritage
- **3.** Creating community opportunities and equitable access to council and community services and programs
- 4. Enhancing health and wellbeing
- **5.** Creating a safe Community



COMMUNITY

1.1 Building and Supporting a Diverse Community:

- 1.1.1 Improve and increase the availability of community and public transport options throughout the Council area so that we have access to nearby services outside our Local Government Area
- 1.1.3 Engage and encourage the disadvantaged members of Murrumbidgee communities by supporting the work of regional government agencies and NGOs
- 1.1.4 Foster and provide community opportunity and build a culture of respect for diversity and differences through the performing and visual arts
- 1.1.5 Build a culture of respect for diversity and differences
- 1.2 Protecting and Embracing Cultural Identity and Heritage:
- 1.2.1 Provide opportunities for our community to showcase their heritage and diversity
- 1.2.2 Value-add to our historic places and spaces
- 1.2.3 Unique historic stories from across the Council area are celebrated and protected
- 1.3 Creating Community Opportunities and Equitable Access to Council and C

ommunity Services and Programs:

- 1.3.1 Foster current sporting, social, recreational and cultural events and activities to increase participation and inclusion.
- 1.3.2 Encourage the development of a range of sporting options, particularly for young people, and enhance the capacity of community organizations and sporting groups to access external grants and funding opportunities.
- 1.3.3 Provide opportunities for the towns to interact more to ensure a greater sense of connectedness and create closer bonds including fostering and supporting and recognizing volunteers and their organizations within the community
- 1.3.4 Provide a range of community entertainment activities including activities for youth, seniors and people with disabilities
- 1.3.5 Strengthen community pride through honours and awards nominations and ensure Council-provided grants and in kind support is efficiently and equitably distributed to support community and sporting groups efforts and activities
- 1.3.6 Ensure Murrumbidgee libraries are a cultural, recreational and learning centres of the communities of Murrumbidgee

1.4 Enhancing Health and Wellbeing:

- 1.4.1 Manage and maintain the amenity of parks, garden and the environs of all Council communities
- 1.4.2 Ensure that we have access to a broad range of mental health services
- 1.4.3 Promote and support health services



- 1.4.4 Maintain public health inspection and licensing programs and compliance
- 1.4.5 Diversify engagement to increase awareness and participation in education including investigating opportunities for developing partnerships with TAFE and regional universities
- 1.4.6 Support the continuity of health services form public and private sector across Murrumbidgee
- 1.4.7 Support a community health facility where allied and specialist health service providers can operate an MPS service model
- 1.4.8 Support our community services programs and encourage collaboration and communication linkages between service providers across the region
- 1.4.9 Provide support to community funded cultural and wellbeing activities and events for example, investigate the possibility of opportunities other than Australia Day when our community can celebrate together

1.5 Creating a Safe Community:

- 1.5.1 Working with relevant agencies (including police and schools), to maintain and develop existing road safety initiatives within the Council area to keep our children safe
- 1.5.2 Liaise with local policy and State government to increase policy presence and visibility in our area
- 1.5.3 Provide adequate street and security lighting in our towns
- 1.5.4 Council supports, and where appropriate, seeks funding for community safety programs and initiatives
- 1.5.5 Provide adequate activities for young people and facilities they can use to keep them entertained in a safe environment







COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

- 1. Protecting existing regional natural environments for future generations
- 2. Exploring and promoting alternate, sustainable energy sources and practices
- 3. Maintaining a balance between growth, development and environmental protection
- 4. Protecting and Managing waterways and catchments
- **5.** Valuing and conserving native flower and fauna



ENVIRONMENT

- **2.1 Protecting Existing Natural Environments for Future Generations:**
- 2.1.1 Ensure the conservation of the Council's natural beauty and ecology for future generation and visitor attractions
- 2.1.2 Expand our network bush land walking trails to encourage active experiences of our river side location and protect the surrounding bush
- 2.1.3 Foster learning about and celebrate the Council's natural resources
- 2.1.4 Manage environmental opportunities and challenges exploring native fish stocking and carp elimination opportunities
- 2.2 Exploring and Promoting Alternate, Sustainable Energy Sources and Practices:
- 2.2.1 Engage with RAMROC and support sustainable energy initiatives (including funding opportunities), including green waste, bio waste and sustainable street lighting
- 2.2.2 Continue to encourage investment into solar power and other sustainable energies
- 2.2.3 Rationalize waste management and recycling priorities in accordance with relevant legislation
- 2.2.4 Conduct principal certifying authority functions in the local government area
- 2.3 Maintaining a Balance between Growth, Development and Environmental Protection:
- 2.3.1 Stimulate the conservation of important heritage assets of Murrumbidgee Council
- 2.3.2 Encourage and support sustainable land use, planning and development
- 2.3.3 Consider plans for the improvement, beautification and revitalization of Murrumbidgee towns including town entries
- 2.5.3 Ensure best practice public and environmental health controls
- 2.5.4 Maintain a responsible animal management program and service ensuring stray and illegally kept animals are not allowed to become a nuisance to community
- **2.5 Protecting and Managing Waterways and Catchments:**
- 2.5.1 Promote responsible water usage particularly in town areas
- 2.6 Valuing and Conserving Native Flora and Fauna:
- 2.6.1 Continue to promote flora and fauna conservation through Councils road network maintenance program
- 2.6.2 Educate and inform the community on weed management







COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

- 1. Responsible, sustainable asset management
- 2. Infrastructure (Council buildings and facilities) which meets community and public safety needs
- **3.** Providing the Community with open space to be active
- **4.** Maintaining and improving transport infrastructure
- **5.** Ensuring local utilities and communications infrastructure and connectivity meets future needs



INFRASTRUCTURE:

- 3.1 Responsible, Sustainable Asset Management:
- 3.1.1 Maintain a comprehensive asset management capability framework
- 3.1.2 Continue to engage with the community and stakeholders in relation to acceptable service levels for all public assets
- 3.2 Infrastructure (Council Building & Facilities) which meets community and public safety needs:
- 3.2.1 Manage and maintain community and sporting build facilities for the benefit of the community
- 3.2.2 Efficiently manage and maintain Council's building and specific purpose facilities
- 3.2.3 Efficiently manage and maintain Council's plant and equipment
- 3.2.4 Manage public (safety) liability and risk associated with public infrastructure
- 3.2.5 Manage and maintain Murrumbidgee's cemeteries
- 3.3 Providing the Community With Open Space to be Active:
- 3.3.1 Develop riverside locations for the enjoyment of all and to promote tourism
- 3.3.2. Enhance and expand sporting opportunities
- 3.3.3 Provide and maintain a range of community recreation facilities
- 3.3.4 Ensure public places are clean and well maintained
- 3.3.5 Maintain our Crown Land resources responsibilities responsibly
- 3.4 Maintaining and Improving Transport Infrastructure:
- 3.4.1 Maintain roads to agreed standards and ensure that school bus routes are our highest priority
- 3.4.2 Provide and maintain footpaths, cycle ways, kerb and guttering
- 3.4.3 Maintain partnerships to ensure the Newell and Sturt Highways and the Kidman Way remains open at all times
- 3.4.4 Maintain local, regional and state roads and bridges in accordance with Councils' asset management plan
- 3.4.5 Improve street and building accessibility for the disability and mobility impaired
- 3.5 Local Utilities and Communications Infrastructure and Connectivity:
- 3.5.1 Manage water assets in line with best practice standards and agreed priorities
- 3.5.2 Manage sewer assets in line with best practice standards and agreed priorities
- 3.5.3 Manage Storm water in line with the agreed priorities
- 3.5.4 Advocate and improve mobile information and communications technology and infrastructure across the Murrumbidgee Local Government Area







COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

- 1. Promoting business and industries growth, diversity and productivity
- 2. Promoting a regional economy and growth
- 3. Promoting tourism strategies and opportunities
- 4. Supporting access to education, training and future opportunities
- 5. Fostering a resilient, vibrant agricultural sector



ECONOMY:

- 4.1 Promoting Businesses and Industries Growth, Diversity and Productivity:
- 4.1.1 Partner with local business to create market opportunity for local product through high technology, improved freight and logistics pathways and cooperation with other local government areas
- 4.1.2 Promote Murrumbidgee and its towns and potential light manufacturing wholesale and retail business opportunities to diversify industry and stimulate employment growth
- 4.1.3 Progress the sale and development of blocks of industrial land in Murrumbidgee's industrial areas
- **4.2 Promoting a Regional Economy and Growth:**
- 4.2.1 Work with other levels of government and private industry to build the Murrumbidgee Council profile and maximize cooperative opportunities
- 4.2.2 Work collaboratively with regional stakeholders to build Murrumbidgee Council profile
- 4.2.3 Contribute to regional tourism initiatives and major events in the region
- 4.2.4 Ensure there is adequate supply of residential and industrial land to stimulate business and population growth
- 4.2.5 Support local business with access to available training, workforce skills and technology
- 4.2.6 Build data and analysis of business and industry in the Murumbidgee Local Government Area
- **4.3 Promoting Tourism Strategies and Opportunities:**
- 4.3.1 Provide professional information services promoting tourism, visitor ventures and activities in our towns
- 4.3.2 Provide promotion and resources for tourism service providers
- 4.3.3 Provide promotion and support for major events within our Destination Management Plan
- 4.3.4 Develop and implement a Murrumbidgee tourism strategic plan aligned with regional, state and federal priorities including outcomes of relevant evaluation reports and reviews
- 4.3.5 Encourage opportunities for further recreation activities on or around the rivers and lakes
- 4.4: Supporting Access to Education and Training and Future Opportunities:
- 4.4.1 Raise community awareness of TAFE, university and other regional education providers
- 4.4.2 Identify opportunities to enhance community and business's access to internet, broadband and mobile services through the Local Government Area
- **4.5: Fostering a Resilient, Vibrant Agricultural Sector:**
- 4.5.1 Actively support development which is congruent with our lifestyle
- 4.5.2 Enhance and maintain key economic drivers to the agricultural supply chain including our road networks

Murrumbidgee Council Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027



4.5.3 Link	Council's	Economic	Development	Plan within t	he Regional	Plan to dev	elop regional	initiatives
stimulatin	interest	in Murrum	bidgee as an a	gribusiness h	ub for the Ri	verina and/	or upper Mur	ray regions

4.5.4 Influence the protection and enhancement of Murrumbidgee's agricultural supply chain's ec	onomic
output, investment and employment	







LEADERSHIP

- 1. Demonstrating transparent leadership through accountability and Community representation
- 2. Engaging with future community leaders
- 3. Investigating funding, services and programs strengthening communities in the region
- 4. Promoting Council as an 'Employer of Choice' through relationships
- 5. Cooperating and collaborating with other Councils to achieve a strong voice in regional arenas



LEADERSHIP:

- 5.1 Transparent Leadership Through Sustainability, Accountability and Community Representation:
- 5.1.1 Provide leadership through ethical accountable and legislative decision making processes
- 5.1.2 Optimize council's revenue streams and assets in its Long Term Financial Plan
- 5.1.3 Ensure community participation in the Community Strategic Plan is reflected in Council's budget
- 5.1.4 Fully integrate Council's asset management, strategy, system and program in the Councils Long Term Financial Plan
- 5.1.5 Review and implement an appropriate procurement, risk and project management frameworks and cultures
- 5.1.6 Actively source external grants and funds for identifies projects and initiatives
- **5.2. Engaging with Future Leaders**:
- 5.2.1 Promote opportunities for leadership development for our community groups
- 5.2.2 Link and promote programs for young people to improve their leadership skills
- 5.3 Investigating Funding, Services and Programs Strengthening Communities in the Region:
- 5.3.1 Continue to engage equally with residents of smaller communities within the Murrumbidgee LGA
- **5.3.2** Partner with providers of emergency services to ensure appropriate response levels to community emergencies
- 5.3.3 Ensure a coordinated and multi-faceted approach to all of Council communications with the community
- **5.4 Council is 'Employer of Choice':**
- 5.4.1 Maintain a positive safety and risk culture supported by quality assurance, audit and training programs
- **5.4.2 Develop our people**
- 5.4.3 Leverage new technology to monitor and innovate in-our people and service development
- 5.5 Cooperating and Collaborating with Other Councils to Achieve a Strong Voice in the Region:
- 5.5.1 Build strong, effective and productive alliance and partnerships with community organizations, state and federal governments



Demographic Profile

Murrumbidgee Council was proclaimed on 12 May 2016, following the amalgamation of the former Jerilderie Shire Council and Murrumbidgee Shire Council.

Murrumbidgee Council is an agricultural community that is in the Riverina-Murray region, the home of NSW's 'food-bowl'.

Murrumbidgee Council offers locals and visitors a peaceful country atmosphere, culture, heritage, and recreational opportunities and affordable housing.

In 2016, Murrumbidgee Council was home to:

3,836 people*

1,858 jobs

458 businesses

Median age 41 years*









Coleambally: 1331 Darlington Point: 1162 Jerilderie: 1029 Rural Balance: 314

* ABS Census 2016

- ❖ Murrumbidgee is the second fastest growing LGA in the Riverina-Murray region
- ❖ Working age residents account for 62.1% of the population, which is higher than Regional NSW
- 20.6% of the population are under 20 years of age
- Jobs Growth over the past 5 years has been the <u>fastest</u> in the Murray-Riverina area
- ❖ Murrumbidgee's economy grew by 4.2% in 2015-16 higher than Regional NSW
- ❖ At 4.5% (ABS Census 2016) the general Unemployment rate is significantly lower than Regional NSW
- ❖ 28.7% of the population volunteer which is higher than the 20.8% regional NSW rate



Economic Profile:

Top Five Industries by Employment- 2011-2016 % year change



+42%





107 Health Care and Social Assistance





6%

Agricultural Commodities (2011)

55,075ha FARM AREA WATERED



10% if farming land is irrigated. This has allowed a

diversification of agricultural

commodities

\$143.8m CEREAL CROPS



Grows 30% of maize and 26% of rice production in NSW

\$27.5m BROADACRE CROPS



Cotton has emerged as an important commodity, producing \$12 million in 2011.

\$14.6 FRUIT AND VEGETABLES



Grows 15.9% of onions and 33.9% of olive production in NSW. Grape (wine) production has also emerged as an important commodity.