

Murrumbidgee Council

Local Strategic Planning Statement



Murrumbidgee
COUNCIL

Acknowledgement

Murrumbidgee Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and pays respect to Elders past, present and future. This Plan acknowledges a strong belief amongst Aboriginal people that if we care for country, it will care for us. This is supported by the knowledge that the health of a people and their community is reliant on a strong physical and emotional connection to place.

Conserving Aboriginal heritage and respecting the Aboriginal community's right to determine how it is identified and managed will preserve some of the world's longest standing spiritual, historical, social and educational values.

The Murrumbidgee Local Strategic Planning Statement is an important and significant step in planning for the future in the new local government area resulting from the amalgamation of the former Jerilderie and Murrumbidgee Shires.

It will, in conjunction with other planning strategies, inform and guide Council's decision-making on planning matters.

The statement recognises that the new Murrumbidgee Council area is a great place to live and work, and that the future is promising. It outlines a vision for a thriving and prosperous region over the next 20 years and identifies what needs to be done to maximise opportunities for jobs and development. Most importantly, the document acknowledges the unique natural and built character of our local area and protects what makes it a special place for residents and visitors alike.

Ruth McRae Mayor

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In March 2018, amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) introduced requirements for councils in NSW to prepare Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPS).

This document is the first LSPS for the Murrumbidgee Council area.

The statements are intended to shift the NSW planning system into a strategic-led planning framework that provides a connection between the key strategic priorities identified at a regional spatial scale and those at the local level.

The legal requirements for an LSPS are outlined in section 3.9 of the EP&A Act and include –

- a. Context** the basis for strategic planning in the area, having regard to economic, social and environmental matters

- b. Planning priorities** the planning priorities for the area that are consistent with any strategic plan applying to the area and (subject to any such strategic plan) any applicable community strategic plan under section 402 of the Local Government Act

- c. Actions** the actions required for achieving those planning priorities (d) Implementation - the basis on which the council is to monitor and report on the implementation of those actions.

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The LSPS relates principally to strategic land use planning and should be read in conjunction with other related strategies, including the *Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027 (CSP)* that Council is required to prepare under the NSW *Local Government Act 1993*. The relationship between the LSPS and other plans is expressed diagrammatically in Figure 1.

1.0 Introduction

The LSPS will show how council's vision for the future gives effect to the *Riverina Murray Strategic Plan 2036* and other strategies based on local characteristics and opportunities, and the council's own priorities in the CSP. The LSPS will be the key reference to understand how strategic and statutory plans in the Murrumbidgee Council area will be prepared and implemented at the local level.

The LSPS has to be endorsed by Councillors in each ward because Murrumbidgee is an amalgamated council (see Ministerial Direction and s3.9(3) of EP&A Act).

Section 3.9(5) of the EP&A Act requires the LSPS to be published on the NSW planning portal.

In addition, section 3.9(1) requires council to review the LSPS at least every seven years.

More information on local strategic planning statements can be obtained at — planningportal.nsw.gov.au/publications/local-strategic-planning-statements

Figure 1 Relationship between LSPS and other planning influences



2.0 Purpose of the statement

The purpose of the LSPS is for council to establish —



A 20-year vision for land use planning in the local area.



The special characteristics which contribute to local identity.



The shared community values to be maintained & enhanced.



How growth and change will be managed into the future.

The LSPS is intended as a unifying document that draws together planning priorities identified through other State, regional and local strategic plans. It will provide the local context and local-scale expression of actions and priorities from these broader plans.

2.1 Purpose of the statement

Other examples of when an LSPS could be used include —

To explain changes and the rationale for zoning, development standards and other controls of an Local Environmental Plan or Development Control Plan

To support delivery of strategies for economic growth in the council area where council has clearly defined its employment centres and the nature of uses appropriate for these locations, or identifying areas where a council is seeking to encourage new or innovative employment generating uses

To show future amenity outcomes, such as green corridors and areas of environmental significance

To assist in identifying sites or areas of local importance for further investigation and potential future protection.

Councils, in consultation with their communities, will determine the future planning agenda for their local area, informed by and consistent with other strategic plans. The agenda will include actions that respond to the immediate and ongoing planning needs of the local community.

As a recently amalgamated council, the LSPS will inform the structure and content of the new consolidated local environmental plan and development control plan for the new Murrumbidgee Council area. These plans are to be prepared immediately following the initial LSPS.



The Murrumbidgee Council area

The new Murrumbidgee Council area was proclaimed on 12 May 2016, following the amalgamation of the former Jerilderie and Murrumbidgee Council areas (see Figure 2, page 9).

The new council area has an area of 688,502 hectares (6,885km²) and is located in the Riverina Region of south-western New South Wales, about 640 kilometres west of the Sydney, and 420 kilometres north of the Melbourne.

3.1 The Murrumbidgee Council Area

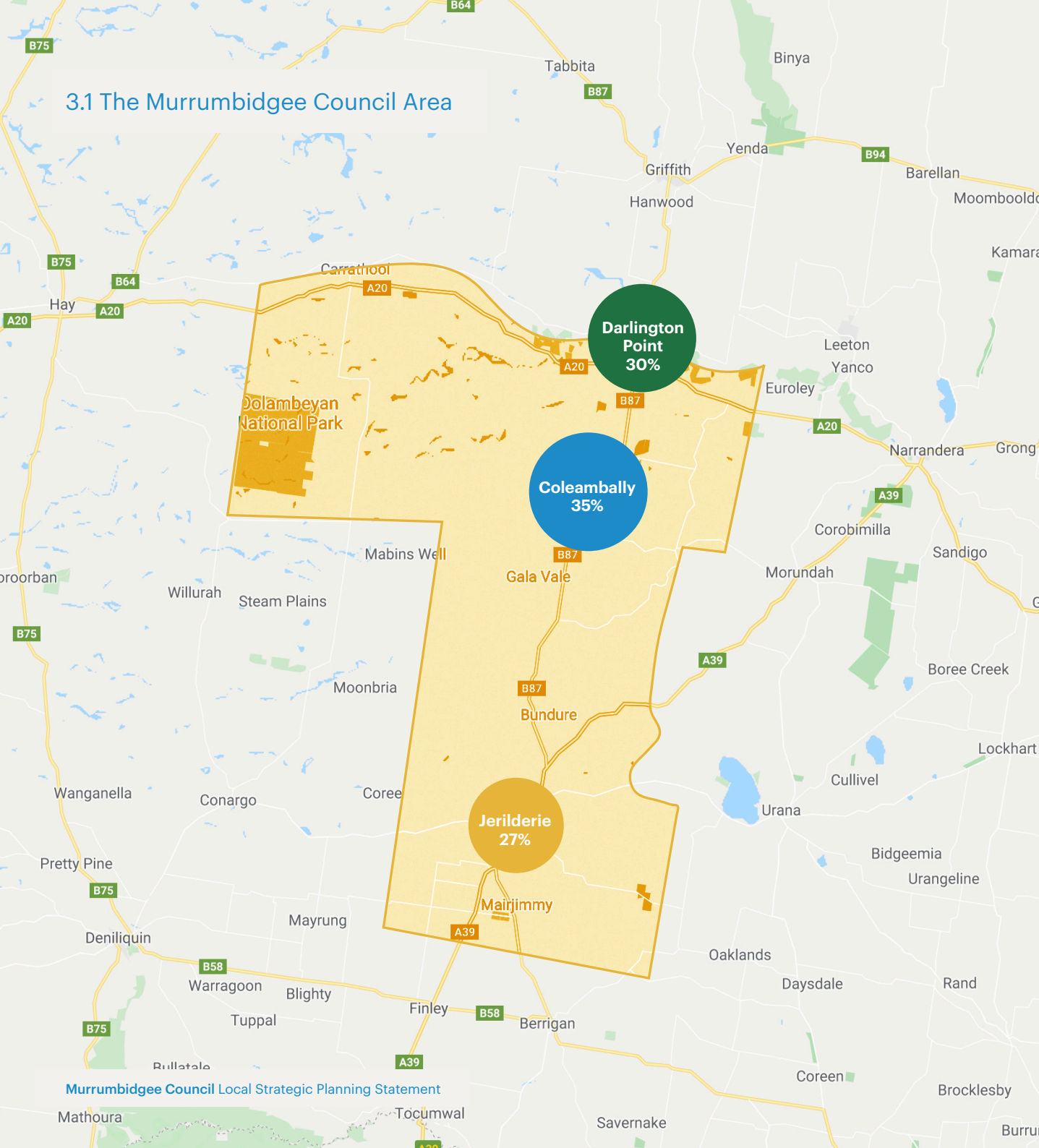


Figure 2 The Murrumbidgee Council area proclaimed in 2016

The official population of council area as of the 30th June 2018 is 3,961. In 2016 the median age of residents was 41 years compared to 43 for regional NSW as a whole indicating a slightly younger age profile.

With just 6 percent of the population born overseas the council area is less multi-cultural than most in regional NSW where the overall average is 11 percent. An unemployment rate of 4.5 percent in 2016 compared to 6.6 percent for regional NSW indicates the council area is closer to full employment than many other non-metropolitan areas.

The population of the council area in 2016 was housed in 1,902 dwellings located in the townships of Coleambally, Darlington Point and Jerilderie as well as in rural areas. Nearly all dwellings (91 percent) are single detached housing compared to 65% in NSW as a whole.

Coleambally accounts for 35 percent of the Council area population with Darlington Point having 30 percent and Jerilderie 27 percent.

3.2 The Murrumbidgee Council Area



The council area is a thriving agricultural region that has over 100 kilometres of natural river frontage to the Murrumbidgee River. The longest creek in Australia, the Billabong Creek, also runs through the Council.

The region is home to a variety of agricultural industries including sheep, cattle, wheat, corn, winter cereal, rice, horticulture, poultry and egg production, and timber milling and food processing, with a growing interest in solar farm and biomass projects. In 2017/18, the total value of agricultural output in the council area was \$237 million whereas for construction it was \$522 million.

In 2016 nearly half of employment in the council area was in agriculture, forestry and fishing with other significant sectors being manufacturing, retail trade, education and training, and health care. Murrumbidgee Council's Gross Regional Product for 2018 was estimated at \$0.41 billion contributed to by 603 local businesses and 1,970 jobs. The main retail areas in the council area are the three townships.

Community and infrastructure assets include health, aged care support, access to modern library services, swimming pools and a range of quality educational facilities.

The 2016 SEIFA index of disadvantage measures the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of Census characteristics. The index is derived from attributes that reflect disadvantage such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations. A lower score on the index means a higher level of disadvantage. The SEIFA index for the council area is 961 which is higher than 53 other local government areas in NSW.

More detailed information community and economy of the Murrumbidgee Council area can be accessed at — economy.id.com.au/murrumbidgee

The strategic planning vision for the Murrumbidgee Council area can be expressed as —

“To experience land use and development outcomes in the future that both benefit the community and minimise environmental impacts.”

The LSPS conveys the long-term vision and priorities for land use planning in the Murrumbidgee Council area. This future direction is framed as a 20-year vision that builds on the broader 10-year vision in Council’s Community Strategic Plan.



The concept of strategic planning is based on having an understanding of trends in economic, social and environmental matters, so they can be planned for in the future.

Placed in a planning context, strategic planning is therefore a proactive process rather than reactive.

Strategic planning is undertaken on a number of levels from nationally and down through states, regions, local government areas to specific localities or sites. The level of detail in strategic planning under this hierarchy generally increases as the area to which it is applied decreases.

This section of the LSPS sets out the strategic planning framework within which some of the 'big picture' content of the LSPS is derived. The local specific content is driven by the community of the Murrumbidgee Council area itself.

Regional

Those regional strategies that specifically reference the Murrumbidgee Council area include the following.

Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2036 (RMRP)

The RMRP covers a large area extending from Gundagai in the east, the Murray River in the south, Moulamein to the west and Rankin Springs to the north. It encompasses a diverse range of built and natural environments as well as types of agriculture.

The RMRP describes itself as *“a framework to grow the region’s cities and local centres, supports the protection of high-value environmental assets and makes developing a strong, diverse and competitive economy central to building prosperity and resilience in the region.”* In addition, it is intended to *“guide the NSW Government’s land use planning priorities and decisions over the next 20 years.”*

The RMRP identifies the specific “priorities” for Murrumbidgee Council area as —

- Attract businesses and industry to the shire – in particular those industries that support or value-add to the agricultural sector and will provide local employment opportunities.
- Develop a strong tourism industry that leverages the area’s strong high environmental values.
- Create a resilient agricultural sector by securing long-term water supply and developing strong partnerships within the agricultural sector.
- Protect local heritage and the environment, and promote the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Provide infrastructure that supports business and industry growth and productivity, and responds to community needs.

These priorities are carried through into the LSPS.

5.2 Strategic planning context

A 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW

This 2018 regional vision focusses on economics and acknowledges that regional NSW is divided into a number of “functional economic regions”.

The Murrumbidgee Council area, along with Carrathool Griffith, Leeton and Narrandera Councils, is nominated as part of the Western Riverina economic region, which itself is part of a type of regional group defined as “inland”.

The vision identifies the following global forces or ‘megatrends’ as shaping our regional economies —

- the rise of Asia (by 2030 four of the five largest economies in the world will be in Asia)
- rapid urbanisation (the relocation to people not only to Sydney but other urban centres)
- demographic and social change (the over 65 year old group will soon become the fastest growing segment of the population)
- digital disruption (the exponential growth of digital technology)

It is claimed “regional NSW is well positioned to take advantage of the opportunities presented by these megatrends. It has the quality goods and services demanded by the Asian middle class, and an advanced agriculture and manufacturing base supported by some of the best research and development organisations in the world.”

The vision estimates that between 3,900 and 8,100 additional jobs will be created between 2018 and 2038 in the Western Riverina economic region.

Other regional strategies

Other regional strategies for NSW that are non-specific to the Murrumbidgee Council area include —

- NSW Making it Happen in the Regions: Regional Development Framework
- NSW Future Transport Strategy 2056
- NSW State Infrastructure Strategy (2018)
- Economic Development Strategy for Regional NSW (2015)

Local

At the local level, the following planning references are relevant to the LSPS.

Murrumbidgee Council Statement of Vision & Priorities 2017

It was a requirement for all recently merged Councils to prepare a statement of vision and priorities to act as a guide in the preparation of the first Community Strategic Plan for the new Murrumbidgee Council. The document was prepared following an extensive community consultation process where residents were asked to describe their community and expectations as to how the new Council would serve their future needs.

Darlington Point Structure Plan 2017

The Darlington Point Structure Plan was prepared to provide direction for the future use and development of land in the township for the next 20 years. The Plan provides a vision for the township and a framework to guide land use planning, as well as the provision of infrastructure and community facilities. It also contains detailed investigations of the projected development capacity of the area and confirms land use suitability and infrastructure requirements for future development. Extensive consultation with the town's community was undertaken in preparing the Plan.

The Plan identifies issues surrounding a number of planning themes and recommended actions to address those issues going forward.

5.4 Strategic planning context

Murrumbidgee Council Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027

The CSP has a broader focus than the LSPS and works to a shorter planning horizon of 10 years. The purpose of the CSP is to set out the long-term aspirations of the community within the Murrumbidgee Council area based on the guiding principles of social justice and sustainability.

It is intended to influence and guide Council's decision in everything it does. Extensive community consultation was undertaken in preparing the CSP.

The CSP establishes five strategic themes in —

1. **Our community** who we are
2. **Our environment** where we live
3. **Our infrastructure** what we have built
4. **Our economy** creating our own opportunities
5. **Our leadership** looking to our future

Within each theme are listed a number of broader strategies under which there are a number of specific strategies.

The first four strategic themes are relevant to planning and form the basis of the planning priorities in the LSPS.



6.0 Strategic planning ambitions

This section of the LSPS sets out the ambitions of the Murrumbidgee Council area community for its local strategic planning agenda for the next 20 years.

The specific agenda items are nominated under one of four broad categories in the **built environment**, the **natural environment**, **infrastructure** and **economic growth**.

These categories are based on the structure of other strategies, including the CSP (see Section 5 above) to enable cross referencing and avoid contradiction.

Each agenda item is supported by a specific ambition to be achieved over the projected 20-year time frame. An overview is then provided as to how the ambition is to be achieved and implemented by Council. A time frame and responsibility for implementing the ambition is then indicated.

Built Environment

Strategic agenda	Ambition	Achieving the ambition	Implementing the ambition	Priority	Responsibility
BE1 Supply of land.	To ensure there is 15-20 year supply of zoned land and choice of sites for urban development.	Calculation of land supply through a strategic land use planning process. Nomination of areas in a strategic land use plan to provide additional supply (if required).	Environmental assessment of land proposed in the strategic land use plan for up-zoning. Inclusion of proposed up-zoned land in the proposed consolidated Murrumbidgee Local Environmental Plan.	Now	Council and NSW government department responsible for planning.
BE2 Town centres.	To maintain cohesive, interesting, welcoming and activated precincts for the provision of goods and services to residents and visitors.	Defining town centres through a strategic land use planning process. Preparation of township structure plans.	Inclusion of township structure plans in the proposed consolidated Murrumbidgee Development Control Plan.	Now	Council.
BE3 Location of industrial development.	To prevent land use conflicts with adjoining non-industrial land.	Defining industrial areas through a strategic land use planning process. Preparation of township structure plans.	Inclusion of township structure plans in the proposed consolidated Murrumbidgee Development Control Plan.	Now	Council.
BE4 Township mainstreets.	To make the town centres of Darlington Point, Coleambally and Jerilderie attractive to visit for both residents and visitors.	Review and prioritise the need for main street studies in the towns. Encourage property owners to enhance building facades. Investigate funding opportunities for property owners to enhance buildings.	Implement the recommendations of Main Street Studies for townships. Exerting influence through assessment of development applications.	Ongoing	Council and property owners.

6.2 Built Environment

Strategic agenda	Ambition	Achieving the ambition	Implementing the ambition	Priority	Responsibility
BE5 Post-European settlement heritage.	To ensure the rich heritage of the Murrumbidgee Council area is evident.	Undertake a heritage study.	Inclusion of heritage items and conservation areas in proposed consolidated Murrumbidgee Local Environmental Plan. Include guidelines for works affecting heritage in the consolidated Murrumbidgee Development Control Plan.	Before next LSPS review	Council and property owners.
BE6 Streetscapes.	To ensure streetscapes make a positive contribution to amenity.	Prepare guidelines for street frontages for commercial, industrial and residential developments.	Include development guidelines for street frontages in the consolidated Murrumbidgee Development Control Plan.	Now	Council and developers.
BE7 Energy efficiency.	To reduce the impact on the environment caused by demand for energy.	Applying guidelines for the development of energy efficient buildings.	Administer the requirements of the <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004</i> for development.	Ongoing	Council and developers.
BE8 Community facilities.	To ensure residents are provided with access to essential community facilities.	By addressing residents needs for community services in Council's <i>Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027</i> .	Providing community services in accordance with Council's <i>Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027</i> .	Ongoing	Council and government agencies.
BE9 Township presentation.	To increase population in the Murrumbidgee Council area. To leverage natural assets such as the Murrumbidgee River. To have attractive and welcoming entrances to townships.	Nomination of areas having attributes attractive to new residents in a strategic land use plan. Assessing township entrances for welcoming 'value'.	Environmental assessment of land proposed in the strategic land use plan for up-zoning. Inclusion of proposed up-zoned land in the proposed consolidated Murrumbidgee Local Environmental Plan. Prepare and implement plans where appropriate for enhancement of township entrances.	Now	Council and NSW government department responsible for planning.

6.3 Built Environment

Strategic agenda	Ambition	Achieving the ambition	Implementing the ambition	Priority	Responsibility
BE10 Building design.	To create environments within which residents feel safe and comfortable.	Prepare guidelines for residential development. Encourage project home builders to have a presence in the townships.	Include development guidelines for residential development in the consolidated Murrumbidgee Development Control Plan.	Now	Council and developers.
BE11 Housing needs.	To ensure all residents are provided with the opportunity for the type of housing that meets their needs.	In preparing guidelines for residential development, ensure that no type is unfairly prejudiced. Encourage the provision of affordable housing. Encourage the use of State Environmental Planning Policies <i>Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability 2004</i> , <i>No 36—Manufactured Home Estates</i> , <i>No 21—Caravan Parks and Affordable Rental Housing 2009</i> .	Include encouraging and flexible development guidelines for all types of residential development in the consolidated Murrumbidgee Development Control Plan.	Ongoing	Council and developers.
BE12 A healthy community.	To improve the general health of the community and reduce the demands on local health services.	Make provision in controls for all types of development in the consolidated Murrumbidgee Development Control Plan that promote good health.	Include provisions that promote good health in the consolidated Murrumbidgee Development Control Plan.	Now	Council and developers
BE13 Contaminated land.	To ensure the community is not put at risk from contaminated land.	Being aware of provisions and processes relating to contaminated land. Identify areas of potentially contaminated land. Liaise with the Environment Protection Authority on matters relating to land contamination.	In assessing development applications, apply the requirements and processes required under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy No. 55 – Remediation of Land</i> to land considered to be potentially contaminated. Create and maintain a register of contaminated land.	Ongoing	Council and developers

Natural Environment

Strategic agenda	Ambition	Achieving the ambition	Implementing the ambition	Priority	Responsibility
NE1 Environmentally sensitive land.	To ensure environmentally sensitive areas are identified and provided with the appropriate level of safeguards against detrimental environmental impacts.	<p>Research and review existing resources to identify environmentally sensitive areas within the Murrumbidgee Council area.</p> <p>Being aware of provisions and processes in legislation in addition to the EP&A Act relating to consideration of environmental impacts.</p>	<p>Map environmentally sensitive areas and include associated provisions in the proposed consolidated Murrumbidgee Local Environmental Plan.</p> <p>Where relevant, give consideration to companion environmental legislation when assessing development applications.</p>	Now	Council and government agencies.
NE2 Aboriginal cultural heritage.	To ensure the required consideration is given to the impact of development on Aboriginal cultural heritage.	<p>Being aware of provisions and processes in legislation in addition to the EP&A Act relating to consideration of impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage (e.g. <i>National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974</i>).</p> <p>Engaging with the Aboriginal community on matters of cultural significance such as sandhills.</p>	<p>Utilising the AHIMS tool to identify known locations of items of Aboriginal cultural heritage.</p> <p>Require the appropriate level of 'due diligence' as part of development applications in locations with a higher likelihood of items being present (e.g. near watercourses).</p>	Ongoing	Council and developers
NE3 Threatened species of flora and fauna.	To ensure the required consideration is given to the impact of development on threatened species of flora and fauna.	Being aware of provisions and processes in legislation in addition to the EP&A Act relating to consideration of impacts on threatened flora and fauna species, including the <i>NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and <i>Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .	In assessing development applications, apply the requirements and processes required under relevant legislation.	Ongoing	Council

6.5 Natural Environment

Strategic agenda	Ambition	Achieving the ambition	Implementing the ambition	Priority	Responsibility
NE4 Harmful development.	To ensure due consideration is given to the environmental impacts of development.	Being aware of the provisions and processes for considering the environmental impacts development proposals under the EP&A Act.	Ensuring the appropriate level of interrogation is undertaken for development applications (i.e. Statement of Environmental Effects, Environmental Impact Statement, etc). Ensuring that sufficient information is provided with development applications to make an assessment of development proposals.	Ongoing	Council and developers
NE5 Public open space.	To ensure all residents and visitors have access to passive and active open space.	Identifying existing and future open space through a strategic land use planning process. Preparation of township structure plans to show key areas of open space.	Inclusion of township structure plans in the proposed consolidated Murrumbidgee Development Control Plan. Use development contributions to provide and embellish open space.	Ongoing	Council
NE6 Climate change.	To ensure land use and development is prepared for the consequences of climate change.	Be more vigilant of climate related planning matters such as energy use, efficient water use and bush fire protection. Monitor shifts in government policy relating to climate change.	Ensure regulations relating to climate change issues (e.g. bush fire protection) are administered as part of the planning process.	Ongoing	Governments and Council
NE7 Murrumbidgee River and floodplain.	To ensure the floodplain environment is not detrimentally affected by incompatible development.	Putting in place development guidance and controls for proposals on the floodplain.	Identifying and incorporating a Flood Planning Area (land below the 1 in 100 year flood event) in planning instruments. Inclusion of a clause in the consolidated Murrumbidgee Local Environmental Plan setting out matters to be considered for proposals in and adjacent to the Murrumbidgee River.	Now	Council

6.6 Natural Environment

Strategic agenda	Ambition	Achieving the ambition	Implementing the ambition	Priority	Responsibility
NE8 Waste management.	<p>Seek to reduce the amount of waste generated.</p> <p>To identify and take up opportunities for the processing and recycling of all forms of waste.</p>	<p>Continuing to educate the community on waste minimisation and recycling.</p> <p>Investigate commercial opportunities for recycling.</p> <p>Facilitate proposals for waste processing such as power generation.</p>	<p>Ensuring planning controls do not unnecessarily hinder developments involving waste recycling and processing.</p>	Ongoing	Council
NE9 Natural hazards (principally flooding and bush fire).	<p>To take account of the risks presented by natural hazards to development proposals.</p>	<p>Identifying areas that are bush fire and flood prone.</p> <p>Maintaining awareness of State government guidelines for development requiring consideration of the bush fire and flooding hazard.</p>	<p>Continue to administer the requirements of the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> in the planning process.</p> <p>Apply the required buffers between development and bush fire hazard.</p> <p>Review and maintain a current bush fire prone land map.</p> <p>Incorporating a Flood Planning Area (land below the 1 in 100 year flood event) in planning instruments.</p> <p>Inclusion of a clause in the consolidated Murrumbidgee Local Environmental Plan setting out matters to be considered for proposals on flood prone land.</p> <p>Inclusion of guidance and controls in the consolidated Murrumbidgee Development Control Plan to address development on land that is bush fire or flood prone.</p>	Now	Council

Infrastructure

Strategic agenda	Ambition	Achieving the ambition	Implementing the ambition	Priority	Responsibility
IP1 Newell and Sturt Highways and Kidman Way.	To ensure the key transport routes are maintained.	Support the NSW government in its responsibilities for the function and maintenance of State highways.	Continue to liaise with NSW Roads & Maritime Services on the form and function of State highways.	Ongoing	Council and NSW Roads & Maritime Services
IP2 Development contributions.	To have developments contribute to the cost of local infrastructure provision.	<p>Levy contributions in accordance with plans prepared under the EP&A Act and the <i>NSW Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Having major development make an appropriate contribution to the community to offset impacts.</p>	<p>Prepare and administer a Development Contributions Plan under Section 7.12 of the EP&A Act.</p> <p>Prepare and administer a levy on development for water and sewer works under Section 64 of the Local Government Act 1993.</p> <p>Negotiate a contribution via a Voluntary Planning Agreement from proposals for State Significant Development.</p>	Ongoing	Council
IP3 Funding for infrastructure.	To ensure opportunities for grant monies to fund infrastructure are maximised.	<p>Participating in the allocation of grants by governments.</p> <p>Monitor opportunities to apply for grants.</p>	Apply for grants as the opportunities arise.	Ongoing	Council

6.8 Infrastructure

Strategic agenda	Ambition	Achieving the ambition	Implementing the ambition	Priority	Responsibility
IP4 Civil infrastructure in urban and rural areas.	To ensure local infrastructure adequately performs its intended purpose.	<p>Understand the capacity of existing infrastructure to service existing and future development.</p> <p>Adopt a Works Program for the provision and maintenance of infrastructure.</p> <p>Establish minimum standards for infrastructure provision.</p>	Carry out construction and maintenance of infrastructure in accordance with Council's Works Program.	Ongoing	Council
IP5 Local telecommunications infrastructure.	To ensure residents and businesses are provided with the best possible telecommunication service.	Keeping abreast of advances telecommunications technology and the opportunities this presents for the community.	Lobby telecommunications sector to provide the appropriate level of infrastructure for the local community.	Ongoing	Council & telecommunications providers
IP6 Council assets.	To ensure Council's assets are adequately maintained to provide the necessary level of service to the community.	<p>Prepare and adopt a Works Program for the provision and maintenance of Council's assets.</p> <p>Respond to the need for additional assets as required.</p>	<p>Carry out maintenance of assets in accordance with Council's Works Program.</p> <p>Provide for new assets as the need arises.</p>	Ongoing	Council

Economic Growth

Strategic agenda	Ambition	Achieving the ambition	Implementing the ambition	Priority	Responsibility
EG1 A diversified economy.	<p>To 'future proof' the local economy.</p> <p>To minimise the impacts of a downturn in one economic sector.</p> <p>To generate economic growth and employment in the local community.</p>	<p>Ensuring that new planning instruments do not unreasonably constrain new development opportunities.</p> <p>Anticipate as much as possible unconventional developments so that it can be accommodated from a planning perspective.</p>	<p>Draft new planning instruments that are as much as possible flexible in their provisions and application.</p> <p>Draft new planning instruments that are a help and not a hindrance for new development.</p> <p>As much as is possible under the Standard Instrument, draft the new Local Environmental Plan so that development proposals can be considered on their merits rather than exclusion by prohibition.</p>	Now	Council
EG2 Supply and choice in commercial development sites.	<p>To ensure there is always choice of sites for new commercial development.</p>	<p>Prepare township structure plans that identify a range of potential commercial development sites.</p>	<p>Include township structure plans in the new Development Control Plan to identify sites preferred for commercial development.</p>	Now	Council
EG3 Ecotourism.	<p>To create opportunities for eco-tourism in areas featuring natural assets.</p>	<p>Ensure eco-tourism is permissible in areas of natural significance.</p>	<p>In areas with natural features, make eco-tourism permissible with consent in the new consolidated Local Environmental Plan.</p> <p>Include a section in the new consolidated Development Control Plan that provides guidance and controls for tourist development.</p>	Now	Council

6.10 Economic growth

Strategic agenda	Ambition	Achieving the ambition	Implementing the ambition	Priority	Responsibility
EG4 Unique 'sense of place'.	To create opportunities for development associated with unique features in the towns such as the Ned Kelly legacy in Jerilderie.	<p>Identifying unique features that can be capitalised upon for tourism.</p> <p>Acknowledging unique features in township structure plans.</p>	<p>Ensure the provisions of the new consolidated Local Environmental Plan don't preclude development around unique features.</p> <p>Include a section in the new consolidated Development Control Plan that provides guidance and controls for tourist development.</p>	Now	Council
EG5 Long-distance travellers on State highways to stop in towns.	To entice travellers through towns to stop at least briefly.	Identify and investigate ways and means of encouraging travellers to stop.	Put in place the ways and means.	Ongoing	Council
EG6 Water supply for agriculture.	<p>To provide as much water as is needed to sustain farms reliant on irrigation.</p> <p>To prevent any further loss of water allocation to farms in the district.</p>	<p>Continue to lobby authorities responsible for water allocation.</p> <p>Acknowledge the importance of irrigation in strategic planning documents.</p>	Ensure the provisions of the new consolidated Local Environmental Plan don't preclude innovation in agriculture.	Ongoing	Council and government agencies
EG7 Productive agricultural land.	<p>To prevent development that reduces the amount of land available for agriculture.</p> <p>To prevent development that creates conflict with agriculture.</p>	<p>Identify and map agricultural land capability in the Murrumbidgee Council area.</p> <p>Prepare planning controls that give effect to the objectives.</p> <p>Acknowledge the importance of agriculture in strategic planning documents.</p>	<p>Ensure provisions of the new consolidated Local Environmental Plan provide the necessary protection for agriculture.</p> <p><i>Administer State Environmental Planning Policy (Primary Production and Rural Development) 2019 when required.</i></p>	Now	Council

6.11 Economic growth

Strategic agenda	Ambition	Achieving the ambition	Implementing the ambition	Priority	Responsibility
EG8 Major agribusiness projects.	<p>To encourage and facilitate large agribusiness developments that benefit the community.</p> <p>To have large agribusiness make a positive contribution to local communities.</p>	<p>Promote Murrumbidgee Council to large agribusiness developers as 'open for business'.</p>	<p>Be responsive and receptive to enquiries for agribusiness.</p> <p>Facilitate the planning process for large agribusiness developments such as community consultation etc.</p>	Ongoing	Council
EG9 Innovation and resilience in agriculture.	<p>To encourage innovation in agriculture that is less reliant on irrigation.</p> <p>To support farmers in a planning context as much as is possible.</p>	<p>Identify opportunities for unconventional agriculture and where possible assist farmers in implementing it.</p>	<p>Ensure provisions of the new consolidated Local Environmental Plan does not impede innovation in agriculture.</p>	Ongoing	Council and landowners
EG10 Intensive agriculture.	<p>To encourage intensive agriculture in appropriate locations within the Murrumbidgee Council area.</p> <p>To ensure intensive agriculture does not have a detrimental impact on the environment.</p>	<p>Work with proponents of intensive agriculture to site developments.</p> <p>Be aware of industry specific guidelines and the like for intensive agriculture that apply to development.</p>	<p>Carry over clause 5.18 for intensive livestock agriculture from both the current Jerilderie and Murrumbidgee Local Environmental Plans into the new consolidated plan.</p> <p>Apply the relevant guidelines and controls for various types of intensive agriculture.</p> <p>Ensure that the environmental impacts of intensive agriculture are addressed in sufficient detail in applications.</p>	Now	Council
EG11 The planning process.	<p>To make the planning process as straightforward as possible for development.</p>	<p>Review existing planning provisions for opportunities to simplify.</p>	<p>Approach preparation of the new consolidated Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan with a view to implementing effective but uncomplicated provisions.</p>	Now	Council and NSW government department responsible for planning

6.12 Economic growth

Strategic agenda	Ambition	Achieving the ambition	Implementing the ambition	Priority	Responsibility
EG12 Major freight routes.	Continue to leverage the accessibility to interstate transport routes through the Murrumbidgee Council area for local business.	Identifying development opportunities that can benefit from access to transport corridors.	<p>Liaise with the RMS on access to State highways.</p> <p>Advocate on behalf of developers for access to State highways.</p> <p>Promote the locational advantage of access to transport corridors when espousing the economic virtues of the Murrumbidgee Council area.</p> <p>Ensure planning provisions in the new consolidated Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan do not impede access to the transport corridor.</p>	Ongoing	Council and RMS
EG13 Renewable energy projects.	To support projects for renewable energy and in particular solar farms.	Actively engage with proponents for renewable energy projects.	Assist proponents of renewable energy projects through the planning process.	Ongoing	Council
EG14 Retention of population	To grow and retain the number of residents within the Shire.	<p>Favour the concept of the 'family farm' over 'corporate farming'.</p> <p>Encourage and support the creation of employment in the Shire.</p>	Assist as much as possible the establishment of new businesses that create additional jobs.	Ongoing	Council

