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Do' list | PAGE 8**

**AND MORE...**

# Contact council

Phone

**1300 087 004**

[www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)

[admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)

Barham Office  
15 Murray Street  
Barham NSW 2732

Mathoura Office  
21-25 Conargo Street  
Mathoura NSW 2710

Moama Office  
52 Perricoota Road  
Moama NSW 2731

Moulamein Office  
Tualka Terrace  
Moulamein NSW 2733

Mathoura Visitor & Business Centre  
Cobb Highway  
Mathoura NSW 2710

Moulamein Business Centre  
Morago Street  
Moulamein NSW 2733



## MAYOR

**Councillor Chris BILKEY**

**0439 163 272**

[cbilkey@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cbilkey@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)

Elected September 2017 Moama Ward



## DEPUTY MAYOR

**Councillor Alan MATHERS**

**0427 209 806**

[amathers@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:amathers@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)

Elected September 2017  
Greater Wakool Ward



**Councillor Nikki COHEN**

**0419 573 258**

[ncohen@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ncohen@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)

Elected September 2017 Moama Ward



**Councillor Neil GOREY**

**0428 536 513**

[ngorey@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ngorey@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)

Elected September 2017  
Greater Wakool Ward



**Councillor Tom WEYRICH**

**0429 950 594**

[woody0756@gmail.com](mailto:woody0756@gmail.com)

Elected September 2017  
Greater Murray Ward



**Councillor Tony AQUINO**

**0417 856 199**

[taquino@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:taquino@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)

Elected September 2017  
Greater Murray Ward



**Councillor Ann CROWE**

**0438 331 733**

[acrowe@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:acrowe@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)

Elected September 2017  
Greater Wakool Ward



**Councillor Gen CAMPBELL**

**0458 809 803**

[gcampbell@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gcampbell@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)

Elected September 2017 Moama Ward



**Councillor Geoff WISE**

**0407 801 005**

[wise.geoff1954@gmail.com](mailto:wise.geoff1954@gmail.com)

Elected September 2017  
Greater Murray Ward

# Message from the Mayor

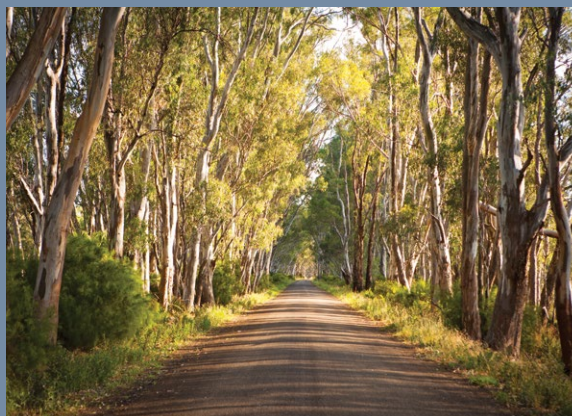
**Your Say Murray River** is Council's new online community where residents can provide real input into the direction of our projects and decisions.

Whether it be parks and playgrounds, redevelopment works or our plans for moving forward, this platform will host all our big-ticket consultation items all in one place. Whilst we will certainly continue to do face-to-face engagement again when we can, Your Say will remain one of our key engagement tools to ensure everyone can connect into the conversations about the things that matter to them.

We are right in the middle of some consultation activities on Your Say to support the development of our new Community Strategic Plan (CSP). Which means now is the perfect time to participate! We want your ideas and feedback to create a CSP "blueprint" for the incoming council to further expand and finalise with you following the elections in 2021.

'Why do it now', you ask?

We're kick starting this process now because we want to provide the community with a longer period to consider the future, anticipate change, develop ideas, and together, create a well-structured plan.



So right now, we want to engage with you to better understand:

- What you value about your local area and what you think our role is?
- Your aspirations for the future of your local area to create a collective / shared vision
- Your ideas for making your local area a better place to live, and
- Your expectations of Council

The Community Strategic Plan will be YOUR plan, and it is our job to focus our service delivery towards its goals. So it's important that you have your say on our future...and recruit a mate or two to do the same.

Register on "Your Say Murray River" to participate: [yoursay.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](https://yoursay.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)

Use this time to shape your future.

**Cr Chris  
Bilkey**



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## Got a burning interest in our council meetings?

We are now live streaming all the monthly Council Meetings, ensuring everyone in the community can see how decisions are made.

You can also watch the meeting at a later date, with all recordings filed for access.

If you want to see what happens at council meetings, head to our website and follow the link to our live stream channel.

[www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au/council/about/meetings](https://www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au/council/about/meetings)



# The project updates...

Here are some updates on just a few of the community infrastructure projects we are continuing to deliver!

## Moulamein Pre School: day care facility

*Funded under NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund.*

Construction of the new facility is now complete with a great new space ready in waiting for our littlest residents! The works included the construction of the new building to the east of the existing structure, along with the refurbishment of the existing building.

The site is now a space for both the pre-school program along with an additional room for a day-care service.

A great project brought to life through the partnership between Council and the local community.



## Moama off-leash dog park

*Funded under NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund, Round 2.*

The off-leash dog park in Moama should be at completion at the time of this hitting your mailboxes!

The park will provide owners with a safe place for their dogs to play, have fun and learn new skills.

The space includes creative sensory landscapes, areas for obedience and open areas for exploration.

Once officially opened, individuals and their pooches can utilise this great new space – just remember to appropriately social distance!



**LIKE US ON  
FACEBOOK**

Keep an eye on updates or community information via our Facebook Page: Murray River Council.

## Barham Community Hub

*Funded under NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund, Round 2.*

The Barham community will soon be making use of the new Community Hub building on Noorong St, with a new and larger space to cater for Council's Community Services activities, along with a new large Hospital Auxiliary Op Shop.

The new facility will ensure the services delivered are far more visible and accessible for local residents.

Council will now seek funding to deliver Stage 2 of the project, which includes a new community room and updated public toilets at the site.



## Moama Multipurpose Pavilion

*Funded under NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund.*

Council's Moama Pavilion project is entering its final stages with most of the structural works now complete. The unusual facade has attracted a lot of positive feedback for its difference in the landscape. Council recently decided to extend the contract to include Stage two of the project which is the addition of the teared grandstand. This stage will complete the building and ensure it services the community for many years to come.

When nearing completion over the coming months, Council staff will begin the external landscaping and carpark works.



## Opitz Park Mathoura

*Funded by 2019/20 Capex Budget.*

Exciting times as the Parks staff complete planting of lots of trees and shrubs at Opitz Park in Mathoura!

As the planting puts the final touches on the open space, we now await the playground which will be the centrepiece of the project, due for delivery in June.

The works included a footpath and open lawns with shade trees in surrounding garden beds.

The play space will also feature a swing set, climbing ropes and balance elements.



## Tooleybuc Pontoon

*Funded under NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund, Round 1.*

The Tooleybuc pontoon has had a great summer of use over these last few months!

Installed late last year, the 25-meter long structure has proved to be a useful access point to the town for boaties and it complements the town's central recreation space, Mensforth Park.

This project is a great example of Council and the community working together to bring the community's wish-list-items to life!



# Getting smart with our water usage

Over 6,500 properties are now benefiting from having a smart filtered water meter installed as part of our Water Metre Replacement Program across the Council.

Which means customers will be able to access their water usage information in the coming months when the My H2O customer portal goes live!

A smart water meter is a device that automatically records water use, has the ability to electronically report water usage information at regular intervals and provides instant access to data that can show peak usage and other information.

The transmitted data can assist your household with the management of water consumption and promote the early detection of water leaks or unusual usage amounts.

It is also assisting us in managing our water supplies.

To detect any leaks previously, we had to wait for the regular read intervals so that we could verify the usage from the meter read.

The remote read capabilities of smart meters now offer a faster and more efficient reading

method and as such, allow for more regular read periods.

This type of technology is helping us get even more of a handle on what's happening with the pipes under the ground.

As the saying goes: If you're not monitoring it, you can't manage it!



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## Council term extended

The NSW Government has made the decision to postpone the September local government elections to provide certainty to councils, communities and potential candidates, in the face of the COVID-19 crisis.

It follows Parliament passing amendments to the Local Government Act 1993 (the 'Act') on 24 March 2020 to provide the Minister with the power to postpone the elections for 12 months with a possible further extension to 31 December 2021 should the need arise.

At this stage it is the Government's intention that these council elections will be held in September 2021.

Current councillors will continue to hold their civic offices until the rescheduled local government elections are held.

Mayor Chris Bilkey will continue to hold office until the new election date.

The postponement of the next elections will not change the future schedule of council elections, and the subsequent elections will still proceed in September 2024.

# Tim's Tips



## ■ A word from our Biosecurity Coordinator, Tim!

Whilst tearing up little garden intruders can prove very satisfying, make sure you don't unknowingly spread them again through the disposal process!

A lot of our noxious weeds are garden escapees from illegal dumping in the bushland and open spaces, like over the back fence.

It is important that you dispose of your weeds in the correct way, either through putting them in the green bin or taking them to the local tip.

Farmers need to be practice good machinery hygiene at the moment too, as it is easy to spread weeds from one paddock to another paddock/farm.

For all things weeds, please speak to our biosecurity team on 1300 087 004.

# Libraries aren't just for the book lovers...

Loving your local library doesn't have to be about the books.

Did you know our library services are affiliated with the Swan Hill library? This means our members get access to some of the great resources available on their website and Facebook page.

If you head to their website, you'll find a range of resources under their Latest News tab, with heaps of great suggestions for online activities, learning tools and reading.

Keep an eye on their Facebook page too for any upcoming, live interactive sessions for the kids!

 <https://library.swanhill.vic.gov.au/>

 <https://www.facebook.com/swanhilllibrary/>



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## Looking for development applications? Head to our web.

If you're looking for information on a current Development Application, we encourage residents to check our website in the first instance for all applications on display.

Here, you will always find current applications along with details of the proposed activities.

The website ensures everyone can access this information, at a time that best suits them.

➔ [www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au/council/news/public-exhibition](http://www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au/council/news/public-exhibition)

# 'Bin' in isolation and ticking off the 'To Do' list

We've noticed a lot of bin isolation jokes getting about on social media and we are wondering if you've 'bin' spending a lot of time at home over the last couple of months, or if you've 'bin' working on that horribly long 'to do' list?

If you have, then why not pop out to one of Councils landfills or transfer stations and drop off all of those unwanted, broken or beyond repairable items.

The Community Recycling Centre (CRC) at Moama is available to drop off household\* quantities of items such as old paint cans, motor oils, household batteries, gas bottles, old smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, car batteries and fluoro globes and tubes.

\*As a guide a household volume is determined as a maximum container of 20 litres or 20 kilograms for each waste type.

Remember to handle and transport your items carefully. Protect your vehicle by placing items on a protective sheet or tray in the boot to capture any leakages or breakages.

Councils waste management facilities and the Moama CRC remain open however this may

change if directed by Authorities. All staff on site have been provided with the appropriate personal protective equipment to safely carry out daily operations.

While our sites remain open, the following rules must be adhered to at all times, once again these may change if directed by Authorities.

- Maintain a distance of 1.5m from anyone around you.
- Keep interactions to a minimum.
- Avoid cash handling, where possible use correct change or EFTPOS.
- Always respect our staff.
- If staff ask you to wait until the customer before you has left the site, please do so.
- If you are unwell or are showing any flu-like symptoms, please do not come to any of our facilities and remain in isolation. If your symptoms get worse, please consult a doctor.

For information about opening times and waste management facility locations please visit <https://www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au/living/waste-recycling/recycling-waste-services>

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## Waste – Handy hints

How to ensure your bins are emptied each week:

- Place you bins on the kerb as late as possible the night before collection is due
- Make sure there is a gap of at least 50cm between bins and nearby objects such as poles or parked cars
- Make sure there is a gap pf at least 50cm between each bin
- Make sure your bin is not too heavy (Max 60kg)- the truck will not be able to lift your bin
- Extra bags of waste next to the bin will not be collected
- Make sure the wheels of the bin are facing your property



■ Don't overfill bins!

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# Responsible pet ownership

The NSW Office of Local Government's 'We are Family' program, aims to prepare families for the introduction of pets and children. The program takes you from preparing your pet for the arrival of your baby right through to preschool age and provides information on how they will interact together as they grow.

This program provides a timely reminder to our community about the importance of pet ownership and how they too may be affected by the change in our daily circumstances.

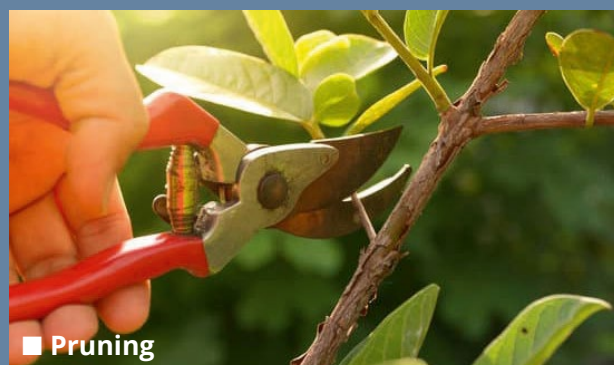
Your pets will not be used to having you home all the time, they will not be used to you leaving different items around the house or you being home all day.

For their mental health as much as ours, it is important to keep to a routine as much as possible, although the temptation is to get out and exercise as much as you can. Make sure if you do decide to get some exercise, you maintain social distancing rules and keep your dog under effective control at all times. How do I keep my dog under effective control? It is as simple as keeping them secured on a lead.

If you are working from home and finding your pets a little challenging, try some games of hide and seek with their favourite toys and make sure when you take a break you spend some time with them. A puzzle or food dispensing toy that rewards them with treats or something tasty to chew like a new bone, may help settle them if they are encroaching on your work space.



## Don't forget to drop your waste items at our facilities...



## Hints for pet proofing your home

### Garage

Store chemicals and sharp tools in a locked cupboard.

### Living Room

Keep electrical cords and toxic plants out of reach.

### Bedroom

Don't leave medications on bedside tables.

### Kitchen

Make sure the bin is covered and food is in sealed containers.

### Bathroom

Always keep the toilet seat down and the bathroom and ensuite doors closed.



# Community Services update:

## *Your wellbeing is our priority*

Like the rest of Australia and all around the world, life in Murray River Council has seen some big changes as a result of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

We know it has been a difficult time for our community these past months and we're particularly mindful of people who have been vulnerable and socially isolated.

Our Community Services Team pulled together to ensure our community stays connected and gets the services they need. As such, some additions to services were put in place; which will now stay into the future.

These include:

### **A scheduled phone well-being check, via our Social Support service.**

It's understandable that some people may have feelings of stress, fear or loneliness. So our friendly community services staff are available to make a phone call just to "check-in".

### **Help with setting-up online shopping, ordering and deliveries for our older residents**

This is a new dedicated option where we can not only help you start the process of online shopping, but also connect you with local businesses that are more than happy to deliver the essentials to your door- like butchers.

### **Updates**

We're developing some client-based newsletters/updates that can be delivered to your doors with some quick information about the latest Community Services news.

If you or someone you know would like to opt-in to any of these additional services, please touch base with Babs if you live in the Moama/Mathoura/Bunnaloo area or Karen in the Barham/Moulamein/Tooleybuc area from our Community Service Team on 1300 087 004.

Don't forget we are also here to help with access to My Aged Care and facilitate other services, such as meals on wheels, so get in touch with your local Community Services Outlet.

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## Need help with rates and charges?

To support our community during these times, we have a Rates and Charges Hardship Policy. The policy aims to provide rates support to individuals and businesses who are experiencing financial difficulties.

We encourage you to get in touch with us to discuss the various options available to you.

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Did you also know you can receive your notices electronically to help you better manage your files?

eNotices allows you to self-manage all your properties, send notices to multiple email addresses and print off additional copies.

To register, simply find the eNotices logo and your individual reference number on your rates notice, then head to [murrayriver.enotices.com.au](http://murrayriver.enotices.com.au)

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# The 2020/21 budget is on display, let us know what you think

Our 2020-21 Draft Operational Plan and Budget is now on display, including the Draft Revenue Strategy for the Council, which details how Council is proposing the rates will be shared among all ratepayer categories for the coming year.

**This is an important year for our residents as there are new property valuations (undertaken in 2019) that come into effect on 1 July 2020, along with the introduction of rates harmonisation across the Council.**

Property values have increased across the whole of the council area by an average of 26%. Farmland has increased by an average of 41%, residential land has increased by an average of 12% and business land values have increased by an average of 9.5%.

Rates harmonisation also means Council will now have one general rating structure, instead of the two structures across previously existing boundaries of the former Wakool and former Murray Shires.

The combination of the new property values and rates harmonisation may mean there are some larger changes than normal, some increases and some decreases, in the individual rates amounts for some properties.

Residents are encouraged to view the information provided and estimate changes to previous rates bills.

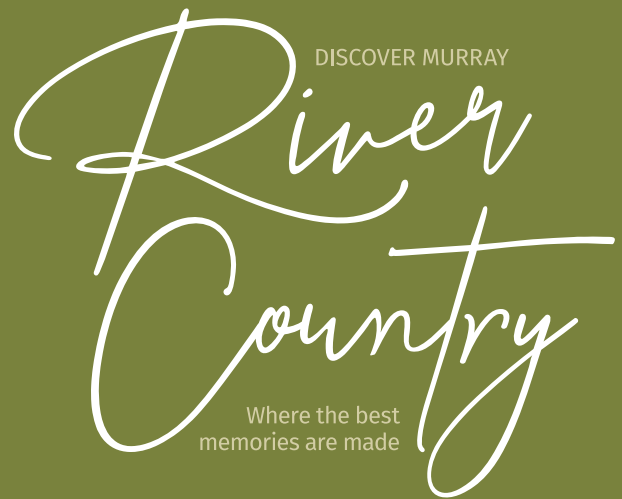
The NSW Government has limited the total rates revenue increase to 2.6% this year.

You can visit our Your Say Murray River site to view the Draft Budget and Operational Plan, along with information on the rates harmonisation process and an explanation of the rates modelling.

Visit: [yoursay.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](https://yoursay.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)

**Submission are welcome until Wednesday 17 June, via:**

- Online submission via the Your Say platform
- Email: [admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)
- Post: PO Box 906 Moama 2731



Have you paid a visit to our *Visit River Country* website yet?

This is one of the key sources of information on all-things-tourism... and it's not just for the visitors!

When you're able to get out-and-about again, why not be a tourist in your own backyard and discover some of the great things on offer in your neighbouring towns?

By heading to our *Visit River Country* site you'll find a wide variety of events, nature-based activities, cultural experiences and "must-see" attractions right across our Council area.

You can also keep up-to-date on new events, facilities or destination information via our River Country Facebook and Instagram pages.

Go on, check it out ....and share it with your friends and relatives!

 [www.visitrivercountry.com.au](http://www.visitrivercountry.com.au)

 [@visitrivercountry](https://www.facebook.com/visitrivercountry)

 [@visitrivercountry](https://www.instagram.com/visitrivercountry)

If you're a local business owner be sure to get in touch with our Tourism Team to let us know if there is anything we should add to the website, or to update us on any service changes you may have recently made in response to COVID-19 so that we can promote them on our social platforms.

# We've got plans and projects awaiting your influence....

Have you registered on our new online engagement platform yet?

Your Say Murray River is Council's new online community where you can participate in the future of your neighbourhood, local community and our area.

Why engage with council online?

There's heaps of benefits of connecting with us via Your Say, and it's a chance to bring a more diverse range of people into the conversation. And...

- You don't have to attend community meetings at a set place and time, you can contribute at a time and place that suits you.
- It's a quick, safe and convenient way to have your say on a range of issues and topics.
- It's a great way to keep up to date and contribute your views on issues affecting your community.



You can see what other community members think about an issue or topic, respond with your own views and engage in a discussion.

- It allows for a range of different people, with different views to discuss matters that impact on their community.

Sign up, stay engaged and help shape the future of Murray River Council.

➔ [yoursay.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](https://yoursay.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)



POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA

**To the Householder**