

MURRAY Matters

JUNE 2022



Your Council news & updates

GREEN BINS ARE COMING



FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) is getting added to our kerbside waste collection program across the Council!

Residents in Barham, Moulamein, Mathoura, Murray Downs, Moama, Wakool and Tooleybuc who live within the collection boundaries will start to see this service in operation from July 1.

Residents in Moama and Mathoura who already have green waste collection will now have their service expanded to food organics too!

By then end of June, all residential kerbside waste collection customers in the areas listed will have the following bins located at their property:

- 140 litre general waste bin (red lid bin)
- 240 litre recycling bin (yellow lid bin)
- 240 litre organics bin (green lid bin)
- 7 litre kitchen caddy

Our FOGO collection service will significantly reduce the amount of food and garden organics that end up in landfill. This is not only good for the environment, but also helps to extend the life of the landfill site itself. We are also required to implement the 3-bin system in response to the NSW Landfill Diversion Targets implemented via the NSW EPA: 80% of organic waste to be removed from landfill by 2030!

Find out more about the program at our website.

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From the Mayor's desk...



Amid the chaos that has defined 2020 and 2021, what resonates the most is the stories of success in our community – those of innovation, creativity and resilience as people and businesses have just done what they can to adapt.

So, it's pleasing that we have been able to launch the Campaspe Murray Business Awards again this year, offering a platform to recognise and reward the efforts of businesses across our region.

Nominations for the awards are now open and close this month. I would encourage our local businesses to nominate, as it a wonderful opportunity to showcase the vital services, goods and jobs that are provided to, and within our local communities.

I particularly want to extend an invitation for businesses in the West of our Council to nominate. It is not only an Echuca Moama awards event; this is open to all registered businesses in both Campaspe Shire and Murray River Council.

So as our local economic recovery gathers pace, I look forward to joining with our hardworking businesses to celebrate how far they've come through this awards process. Nominate your business today - or give a local business owner a gentle nudge of encouragement to do so! There's more information about categories and how to nominate in this edition.

In April, we also adopted our new Community Strategic Plan. I'm very proud of what Council and the community have been able to achieve together in developing this plan over the past few months. Recent engagement saw over 200 people attend community workshop sessions across the council, along with over 1600 ideas and suggestions submitted during the consultation period. It was a mighty effort!

This new plan will shape Council's strategic planning, budgeting, service delivery and advocacy over the next 10 years and will drive effective working partnerships with government agencies, non-government organisations, business, and of course, our local community.

We also now have a new draft 4-year Delivery Program, which is the document that translates all the goals listed in the Community Strategic Plan into actions. This is also supported by our yearly Operational Plan and Budget, and both will be up for final adoption at our June Council meeting ready for July 1!

Last month we also held Deputy Mayor elections. Cr Frank Crawley was elected to the role after the position was vacated by former Deputy, Cr Nikki Cohen. Cr Cohen has showed great commitment to her role as Deputy and will continue to hold an important role in the chambers. I also welcome Cr Crawley into his new position and welcome his valued and important input. Murray River Council is progressing with positive momentum in many areas, so it's a great time to be a member of Council.


Cr Chris Bilkey
MAYOR



NSW container deposit scheme: Automated Depot

The reverse vending machine installed at the Woolworths complex in Moama has been in place for some years now as part of the NSW container deposit scheme.

However, the volume of containers being processed through this particular machine is far exceeding it's intended 'small-volume' purpose.... as we are sure many of you are aware of!

Reverse vending machines (like the one located at the Moama Woolworths shopping centre) are designed for small volumes of material and are located at shopping centres so users can drop containers off when shopping.

The Moama reverse vending machine is processing trailer loads of material and is being emptied twice a day. In fact, it is processing approximately 180,000 containers per week!

So what's the plan?

As part of our Long-Term Waste Management Strategy, we are investigating the installation of an 'Automated Depot' at our Waste Management Facility in Moama. Automated Depots house machines that process large volumes of containers, sort them, count them and provide refunds to users.

This would provide a more suitable option for people with large volumes of material and allow the reverse vending machine to be used for its intended purpose.

To get this off the ground, Council will need to enter into a contract with the scheme operator, Tomra Cleanaway, and develop a design for the construction of a purpose-built facility to house the infrastructure required to serve the community and sort containers.

Currently, we're in the process of developing site and shed designs, with the aim of releasing the tender for construction later this year. All going well, we may see the facility in 12-18 month's time!

We know our community are enthusiastic recyclers... so we look forward to providing more updates on this project as it progresses.

Budget updates

Council adopted its draft 2022/23 Operational Plan and Budget last month, which includes a \$28.13 million capital works program.

Following public exhibition, this will now go to the Council meeting at the end of June to be considered for final adoption.

The 22/23 draft budget estimates an operating revenue of \$57.4 million and operating expenses of \$57.6 million for the coming year.

Of the \$28.1 million capital works program, \$14.1 million will come from Council operations and reserves, \$11.7 million from capital grants and contributions and \$2.3 million from loan borrowings.

Council will also see an overall draft deficit of \$1.38 million for the 2022/23 financial year.

The draft deficit is largely the result of one-off projects for the 2022/23 year budget that are funded by Council's own source.

Mayor Chris Bilkey said the Council was delivering a carefully considered budget with a view to extra planning over the next 12 months.

"We are still finalising a service review program which is looking at asset management plans, service delivery and resourcing."

"Once complete we will be able to more accurately plan where we are going with services, assets and maintenance in the longer term."

"Until then, we are confident this budget strikes a balance between fulfilling existing levels of service, continuing delivery of community projects and remaining flexible enough to consider outcomes of our service review," he said.

The Operational Plan and Budget supports the new 4-year Delivery Program; with both documents directly responding to goals listed in the new Community Strategic Plan.

To view any of these documents, head to our website.

Cemetery records online

We recently launched a new digital platform for cemetery records covering all 6 operational cemeteries; including Barham, Mathoura Lawn, Mathoura Pioneer, Moama, Moulamein and Tooleybuc.

Families and friends can now conduct historical enquiries in our live database to access cemetery records and information.

The new system will assist with faster processing for new sites, burial bookings, cremated remains interments and monumental works.

You can search the platform via our website.

Water pressure works in Barham



Our Water Management Team have been busy undertaking maintenance works aimed at improving the filtered water pressure in Barham.

Pipework was recently modified at Barham's Punt Road reservoir to allow for temporary pumps to be connected; allowing maintenance works to be undertaken on the distribution network without affecting pressure or supply.

This maintenance work involved flushing the mains and should now further improve the filtered water taste and offer some moderate improvements to flows.

The team are now completing additional detailed modelling on flows to help inform a permanent solution to the pressure issues; which have resulted from gradual population increases and additional development in the area.

This is also particularly intensified during periods of hot weather when there is increased demand on the network, despite having access to raw water too.

Our recent works are a positive starting point to improve the water pressure locally, before our team installs a more permanent booster pump solution to improve pressure reliability.

Following a long period of raw water metering, an analysis will also be completed for the raw water network before looking to improve the pressure issues there as well.



Team Spotlight: Compliance



We are introducing a Team Spotlight series to highlight all the great work happening across the organisation. We also want to help you get to know 'who-does-what' at Murray River Council.

In this edition, we are featuring our Compliance Team. This team has grown over the last 18 months as we continue to resource our areas of growth and demand. They are also one of our customer-focused groups that link in with many residents and community members across the council area.

Interested in what they do?
Read on to hear from Mark, Tim, Mandie and Shane....

What areas of service do you deliver?

"Our Compliance and Ranger services assist with complaints, education initiatives and requests for service relating to cats and dogs, abandoned vehicles, animals, stock in public places, unsafe or unhealthy private properties and noise complaints, just to name a few! Our team is here to help ensure a safe and healthy environment for our residents by reducing potential risks in the community.

Who are the customers that you generally deal with?

"We operate throughout all areas and towns within Murray River Council and provide a 24/7 afterhours service responding to emergencies. These are generally issues relating to stock on road and dog attacks. All other general requests or complaints that come through to us get actioned during business hours.

What things do you sometimes get requests for that aren't your area of service?

"Whilst we may all be qualified Compliance Officers, we do not enforce complaints and requests that are functions of other government agencies, such as Police, Transport for NSW, RFS etc. However, we do have the knowledge and ability to provide advice and assist in guiding residents to the appropriate authority.

What are some current projects/initiatives you are working on?

"We are excited about the implementation of some new systems and software within the organisation: Intra Maps and TechOne. These internal tools will help the organisation manage day-to-day business activities and will provide our team with more efficient tools to action requests and tasks whilst we are out-and-about. That will allow us to spend more time in the field and less time in the office. Win Win!

It's not too late to nominate for the 2022 Business Awards!

Nominations are now open for the Campaspe Murray Business Awards.

Head to campaspe-murray-business-awards.com to fill in the online form.

Applications are open to businesses operating within the Campaspe Shire and Murray River Council areas in the following award categories:

- Campaspe Murray Business of the Year
- Greenhams Best Agri-business
- Moama Bowling Club Best Home-based Business
- Mawsons Best New Business
- McPherson Media Best Retail Business
- Rich River Golf Club Resort Excellence in Hospitality
- Foodmach Excellence in Manufacturing and Trade
- Discovery Parks Group Excellence in Tourism
- Edge FM Young Entrepreneur of the Year
- Melville & Hicks Lawyers Employee of the Year
- Best Professional Service
- Best Professional Service – Community

Nominations close 27 June.



Got any old blankets or towels?

Are you able to donate any secondhand blankets or towels to our Pound Services located in Moama and Barham?

It's nearing winter, it's getting cold and stocks are getting low. While our beautiful dogs and cats are safe and happy while waiting to be rehomed, they would still love to have an extra blanket or towel to keep them cozy and snug!

If you have any suitable items to donate, please contact Council and ask to speak to a member of our Compliance Team: 1300 087 004.

What is a Section 355 Committee?

Have you ever seen or heard us refer to Section 355 committees and wonder what this means? Well, here's a little explainer of the important job these committees do!

Section 355 (b) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* allows Council to delegate certain functions to **volunteer** committees to deliver on its behalf. Generally, Council will utilise this authority by appointing a Section 355 Committee to manage certain facilities.

Take our Recreation Reserves for example, these are all Council facilities that are managed by Section 355 committees. We also have committees that might manage other types of facilities or infrastructure on behalf of Council, like a hall.

Due to the varied functions that each Committee carries out – and across many different areas and assets – different terms of references will exist between Council and each individual Section 355 outlining the roles and duties of each Committee. These volunteers are also regularly in contact with Council staff to access services or support when needed.

The efforts of volunteers from the local community to form these Section 355 committees is highly valued by Council. It is also essential to the day-to-day management of the large number of facilities across the Council area.

To our Section 355's: THANK YOU!



Don't miss out on Moama Lights!

We're lighting up the Murray again this year when the award winning Moama Lights event makes a dazzling return.

Set to once again illuminate Horseshoe Lagoon, the event will be back from 31 July – 21 August 2022.

Moama Lights is an immersive sound and light trail sharing stories from across the region through state of the art installations, projections and cutting edge moving light technology. The 2022 event is set to be bigger and better than ever with an enticing new show with brand new stories.

Some dates are proving very popular....so if you wish to get the tickets on the date and time of your choice you should get in early!

Weed Warrior updates

Our Biosecurity Team have been out and about undertaking contract work for Murray Local Lands Services controlling African Boxthorns and Sweet Briar at their RAMSAR sites near Moama, Barham and in Weria Forest. The Team completed 289 hours of control work at these locations, using the telehandler 'puller' and hand spraying!



And in other great news, Biosecurity also received a \$34k grant to spend on priority weed control in the Council over the next 12 months. The team will be using it on cape broom, boneseed, khaki weed and spiny burr grass.



If you need assistance with weed management, give our team a call. And if you see them out and about...be sure to say hi!

Home Energy Action Program



A program to help people save power and money is now available for loan at Mathoura Library as part of the NSW Government's Home Energy Action Program.

The 'Save Power Kit' contains a range of practical tools

including a power monitor to work out how much power your appliances are using, an infrared thermometer to check for drafts and a thermometer to test heating and cooling as well as a stopwatch and compass. Kits are available to adult library members for 1 week and must be returned in person.

Call into the Mathoura Library to find out more or call our customer service centre on 1300 087 004.

Join our Youth Zoom sessions

Are you or someone you know interested in youth issues? Would you like the opportunity to plan youth events? Or maybe you just want to chat to other young people in your area?

Our Youth Engagement Program hosts weekly Youth Zoom sessions online where people can connect, share ideas and get things happening.

Join in each Wednesday evening. Find out more via our Youth Engagement Facebook page.



Murray River Council YEP

**YOUTH
ENGAGEMENT
PROGRAM**

Timber Bridge Spotlight

Our timber bridge replacement program is nearing the end as we gradually tick off the last remaining bridges!

One of the recently completed projects is the bridge at Drysdale Lane / Merran creek. The works involved replacing the old timber bridge with a new concrete structure with Higher Mass Limit Capacity.

There is still a small amount of remaining work around the bridge site, but the replacement works will once again improve heavy vehicle movement across the local transport network.

This project has been made possible thanks to funding under the NSW Government's Fixing Country Bridges Program.



MAYOR
Councillor Chris Bilkey
0439 163 272
cbilkey@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au
Represents Moama Ward



DEPUTY MAYOR
Councillor Frank Crawley
0417 883 521
fcrawley@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au
Represents Moama Ward



Councillor Ann Crowe
0438 331 733
acrowe@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au
Represents Greater Wakool Ward



Councillor Kron Nicholas
0408 987 011
knicholas@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au
Represents Greater Murray Ward



Councillor Dennis Gleeson
0428 629 347
dgleeson@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au
Represents Greater Wakool Ward



Councillor Geoff Wise
0407 801 005
gwise@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au
Represents Greater Murray Ward



Councillor Nikki Cohen
0419 573 258
ncohen@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au
Represents Moama Ward



Councillor Neil Gorey
0428 536 513
ngorey@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au
Represents Greater Wakool Ward



Councillor Tom Weyrich
0429 950 594
tweyrich@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au
Represents Greater Murray Ward