

**Aged Care - Quality  
Services Review |  
PAGE 3**

**Budget | PAGES 4-5**

**The project updates  
| PAGES 6-12**

**AND MORE...**





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# Message from the Mayor

Welcome to a new financial year...the time of tax returns and stocktakes, and in Local Government, the time for a renewed focus on what we will deliver over the next 12 months.

In this edition of Murray Matters we're giving a snapshot of some of the great community infrastructure projects that are happening right across the council area. From playground upgrades to multimillion dollar sporting pavilions; in the 2019/20 year, Murray River Council is certainly the place to be!

Many of these projects would not even be in the pipeline had it not been for the tireless work of our local community groups. And of course some welcome funding from our State and Federal Governments.

As we start to see the delivery of more and more of these projects, I am reminded of the great things that can be achieved when communities on the ground and governments work together.

The simultaneous delivery of these projects right across the council area will certainly make a positive difference and a lasting impact.

We've also given you a quick overview of our projected budget spend this year to give you an idea of where the money is allocated. Our 2019/20 budget includes one of the most extensive capital works programs attempted to date, so we are excited to see what has been achieved this time next year!

Fun times ahead...

**Cr Chris Bilkey**



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## Aged Care - Quality Services Review

Last month Murray River Council participated in an Aged Care Quality Services Review, forming part of the accreditation process for the delivery of community-based aged care services.

Council's Community Services department provides direct services to eligible frail-aged clients under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme and is required to participate in an external quality review every three years.

The department successfully met all Commonwealth standards enabling Council to continue to deliver best quality and best practice service.

We are proud of our work in this area and look forward to the ongoing delivery of support services to our local community members.



**LIKE US ON  
FACEBOOK**

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



# Budget breakdown



Our 19/20 budget shows operating revenue of \$46.94 million and **operating expenses of \$43.51 million**. Operating expenses include all the items we need to meet, such as employee costs, depreciation on assets and general service delivery.



The operating income includes \$0.45 million in capital grants and contributions, \$2.44 million Stronger Communities Fund and Stronger Country Communities projects, \$0.94 million in Regional Growth Fund projects.



Council has increased ordinary rates by the rate peg limit of 2.70% and increased water supply, waste management and sewerage service annual charges by 2.70% for 2019/2020. The ordinary rating structures, categories and sub categories for the former two councils have been maintained as part of the government's committed four-year rate path freeze for merged councils.



Council has allocated \$43.98 million for capital projects. A quick breakdown of the Nett (less capital revenue) **capital expenditure of \$42.76** is shown below:



**\$2.88 million**  
for infrastructure  
works



**\$6.72 million**  
for purchase of  
operational assets



**\$11.34 million**  
for roads, bridges,  
footpaths, storm-  
water and traffic



**\$3.62 million**  
for water supply  
renewal and  
upgrades



**\$17.37 million**  
for Stronger  
Communities,  
Stronger Country  
Communities and  
Regional Growth  
Fund Projects



**\$0.83 million**  
for wastewater  
renewal and  
upgrades

For a full overview of the 2019/20 Operational Plan & Budget, head to our website:  
[www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)

# Making Murray magic

We are committed to maintaining and improving the wonderful lifestyle enjoyed by our community.

Here's a snapshot of just some of the things we'll be up to this financial year.



**35.2 km's**

of regional and rural  
road resal work



**19.2 km's**

of regional, rural and  
urban road reconstruction



**1.0 km's**

of footpath renewal



**3000 mtrs**

of filtered water renewal  
works



**\$149,503**

of hall and community  
centre improvements



**\$141,000**

worth of community  
grant program and event  
support allocations



**1**

Local Strategic Planning  
Statement and one  
Residential Strategy



**over 100**

park, reserves and open  
spaces mowed, watered  
and maintained



**5 year**

Tourism and Economic  
Development Strategy

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## Plus....

...thanks to **NSW Government funding** under both the Stronger Communities and Stronger Country Communities funding streams, we've got a number of amazing **community infrastructure projects** delivered and on their way too. You can find out about these initiatives over the next few pages!





## The project updates...

### Mathoura Recreation Reserve Pavilion renovation and extension works

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



The Mathoura Recreation Reserve Pavilion recently underwent renovation and extension works, breathing new life into this much-loved local reserve.

The recent renovations have delivered quality facilities that are suitable for all users and will encourage increased utilisation of the reserve overall.

The works included building extensions, installation of commercial kitchen appliances, new kitchen/servery, additional function room space, toilet

facilities, flooring, cabinetry, stores, as well as new access park, paths and a viewing area.

Mathoura Recreation Reserve is the central recreation facility for the town that is utilised by the football, cricket, netball and tennis clubs, as well as for community functions.

### Murray Downs paths

*Funded under NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund, Round 1 and 2.*



Stage one of this project has already been delivered, with a new path installed from the Murray Downs Resort to Sandpiper Drive!

Stage two of the path is currently being installed between Sandpiper Drive and Kidman Reid Drive and includes the installation of fitness equipment at multiple locations along that section of path. This is expected to be completed by the end of October 2019.

The new equipment will provide better access to modern fitness units from the residential estates for community members and promote healthy living through exercise. A great edition for Murray Downs!





## Court resurfacing works

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

Five Murray River Council sports courts have received a facelift, with recent resurfacing works now complete.

The Mathoura and Bunnaloo tennis courts have had surface repair and repainting works to extend the life of the current courts and maintain safety for user groups.

The Koraleigh Tennis courts have also undergone major resurfacing works to remove the existing synthetic surface and replace with new material.

The Barham basketball courts have had a facelift with all 3 courts being repaired and remarked and the netball court in Wakool also had the current infrastructure removed and was completely rebuilt with a new asphalt layer and repainting.

## Barham Community Hub

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

The Barham community can look forward to upgrades at the Noorong St site that currently houses the rest centre, home support services and public toilets.

The Barham Community Centre Hub project involves the development of new building on the site to provide more suitable facilities for Council's Community Services Home Support operations and the Op Shop facility that currently operates next door.

Developed over a number of stages, the full project will require demolition of all current buildings on the site.

This area will then house new, larger buildings to cater for MRC Community Services operations - including consulting rooms and



activity space - a new large Hospital Auxiliary Op Shop with separate sorting/storage facility, youth services area, meeting space to be used for various community activities and meetings, as well as new, accessible public toilets.

Stage 1 of the project - MRC Community Services and Opportunity Shop - is anticipated to commence in September 2019 and expected to be completed by May 2020.

## Tooleybuc Pontoon

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

The contract for the design and construction of the Tooleybuc Pontoon project has now been signed! This follows work behind the scenes involving a series of approvals by government agencies for the project. Council is now issuing the Development Approval paving the way for project delivery!

The next couple of months will see the contractor prepare fabrication and construction drawings. This will be followed by manufacturing of the pontoon and gangways offsite and subsequent installation works in a couple of months. Watch this space.

Once complete, the pontoon area will have the capacity to serve boats and steam boats and will be a great asset for the local community as well as for tourists in the town of Tooleybuc.



■ Tooleybuc pontoon concept drawing.





## Barham Skate Park redevelopment

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

The Barham Skate Park is an amazing new community asset that is here today because of a group of passionate community champions working in partnership with Murray River Council.

Located at the Barham Recreation Reserve, the area now has a skate bowl, ramps and other various accessories, in addition to a passive area with seating, landscaping and natural shelter.

The facility is constructed from concrete and designed in such a way that will encourage and challenge new and experienced skaters alike.

The skate park continues to be utilised by masses of young locals since opening in April this year and is a shining example of how local government can work closely with youth to achieve positive outcomes.



## Moama Recreation Reserve Zone 2 upgrades

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

Moama Recreation Reserve's Zone 2 is getting a facelift with new car parking, landscaping and lighting.



The Zone 2 area covers the existing sporting fields used for soccer, little athletics, touch football, AFL and community events.

The project includes the construction of formal car parking areas and landscaping- with both these elements already nearing completion!

The improvements to car parking in particular will now increase safety at the reserve by segregating vehicles and pedestrians.

Lighting is expected to be completed by the end of October 2019, with installation commencing early August. The lighting will provide 200 Lux levels variable to 50 Lux for minimum training standard requirements.

## Merran Creek Bridge redevelopment

*Funded under the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund and Murray River Council Capital Works Program.*

Motorists are now enjoying the newly restored Merran Creek Bridge on the Moulamein-Swan Hill Road in Dilpurra.

The extensive restoration work means the bridge can continue to meet high mass limit loading, safe passage of high productivity freight vehicles and preserve its original 100-year design life.

The project included casting of new deck units which were manufactured offsite at the contractor's casting yard, and construction





of a temporary bridge which allowed passage of traffic while the bridge repairs were being delivered.

This bridge provides a vital connection between the Moulamein district and Swan Hill, which is a critical link for the regional transport network.

## Moama Recreation Reserve Zone 4 upgrades

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



The Moama Recreation Reserve's Brick Alley Oval is now shining brighter following the installation of new lighting.

The works included the replacement of the redundant metal halide fittings with LED floodlighting, providing a white light which is perceived as daylight, illuminating to 50 Lux to be compliant to Australian Standards for training.

The new fittings are designed to provide up to 60,000 hours of operation (25 years) and deliver an eighty percent efficiency on the operational costs.

These great new additions to the oval will encourage increased usage through better lighting at night for the soccer club and touch football in the summer months.

The other element of the Zone 4 project included placement of a hot mix seal on the criterion track along with landscaping of the velodrome area.

The track improvements will assist the Cycling Club in improving safety for its members by encouraging use of the criterion track itself and not a public road. It will also give them the ability to now hold regional events in a controlled environment.

## Play equipment upgrades

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



Several Murray River Council recreation areas will receive new playgrounds or fitness equipment to ensure our local communities continue to have access to well-maintained and inviting recreation areas.

Both the Moulamein Recreation Reserve and the Wakool township will soon house new playgrounds through the installation of play equipment, fencing, shade and soft fall.

Wakool will also receive fitness equipment at multiple locations around the township as part of the community's ongoing plan to encourage exercise and promote healthy living.

Equipment will also be arranged ready for Tooleybuc's Mensforth Park redevelopment and the outdated swing-set and track-ride structures at the Moama Adventure Playpark will be replaced with a new multi swing set, basket swing and rope climbing structure.

Barham's Riverside Park is also set to have the 'skyclimber' installed; a large pyramid-shaped structure that will offer more challenging play opportunities for older children by providing height, balance and strength activities.

All equipment has been ordered and communities should expect to see these exciting new additions between mid-September and the end of October, with site preparations to start in August.





## Tooleybuc Recreation Reserve amenities upgrade

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



Works are now complete at the Tooleybuc Recreation Reserve's new amenities building, which include a new accessible toilet along with female/male toilet facilities that can be accessed from both inside the hall and externally.

Works also include compliant trade waste, access ramps, accessible parking and pavements, external lighting and electrical supply board upgrades.

The existing amenities were old and quite a distance from where all the main facilities are, so the works will deliver safer, more convenient access for all users. A great addition to this well-utilised reserve!

## Moama Recreation Reserve Multipurpose Pavilion

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



Designed by local design firm Brandrick Architects, the pavilion will feature a function area, club rooms, change rooms, a kiosk, viewing areas, public amenities, storage, car parking and landscape works.

Whilst not budgeted in the initial project scope, a grandstand element has also been included in the plans to enable the structure to be added at a future date.

The Reserve Committee including the Moama Football/Netball Club and the Cricket Club have been working with council staff right throughout this process to ensure the pavilion delivers maximum benefits and usage for the whole community.

With the inclusion of this spectacular piece of community infrastructure at the Rec Reserve,



the location is certainly positioning itself to be a first-class regional sporting precinct.

Construction is expected to start later this year and be complete around July 2020.

## Relining of Moulamein Swimming Pool

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



Moulamein is ready to make a splash this summer after works to replace the existing swimming pool shell and associated infrastructure were completed.

These much needed works will ensure the swimming pool is fresh and ready-to-go for the 19/20 season, delivering a fun community space for gatherings and a local facility to run learn-to-swim programs.

The pool is located on Crown Land and managed by Moulamein Swimming Pool Committee, on behalf of the Moulamein Township.

Another great project for Moulamein!



## Development of Moama's off leash area

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

Moama residents and their four-legged companions will soon have access to a new off-leash area at the Moama Recreation Reserve.

The project will see the staged development of a fully fenced, landscaped dog park adjacent to the old trotting track section of the reserve.

The new off-leash area will provide pet owners with a space where their dogs can run freely and exercise without being on a lead- which was a priority identified by the community in the Rec Reserve Master Plan.

The concept designs – which include creative sensory landscapes, areas for obedience and open areas for exploration - are now in final draft stages, with construction works to begin in September 2019 and an anticipated delivery date of March 2020.



## Moulamein Recreation Reserve Tennis Club upgrades

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

The Moulamein South Recreation Reserve will receive further upgrades with the tennis court area set to receive a facelift

The project will involve demolition of an existing shed, construction of a new shed and the resurfacing of two tennis courts from grass to a synthetic hard surface.

Once complete, the shed will form a new clubroom space to be used by the Tennis Club to run competitions and matches, as well as various social events.

The lighting will also enable evening training, matches and competitions to take place throughout the season. Preliminary designs have started with works due to commence early September 2019.



## Menforth Park upgrades, Tooleybuc

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

The much anticipated redevelopment of Mensforth Park is now starting to take shape!

The works will include upgrades to the existing Bridge Keepers Cottage, upgrade to the playground area, public toilets, bus stop and car park, and the development of a walking and bike track that will include seating, exercise stations, signage and sculptures.



■ Menforth Park upgrades, Tooleybuc concept drawing.



There will also be a flag pole and punt area, focussing on improving the landscaping and connectivity of the southern section of the park.

The design work has been completed through an extensive consultation process with the Tooleybuc community and will enhance the existing attributes of Mensforth Park's settings, delivering recreational infrastructure that is of value to both the local community and visitors alike.

This project is on track for construction from August through to December 2019!

## **Barham Recreation Reserve Multipurpose Pavilion**

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

Construction works are now beginning on the development of Barham Recreation Reserve's new multipurpose pavilion which will be located between the two main AFL and cricket ovals within the Reserve.

This exciting project - designed by McKnight and Bray Building Designers and constructed by O T McLoughlan Builders - will deliver up-to-date facilities for local sporting and community groups, including sporting area facilities (football change rooms, trainer's facilities, netball change rooms, amenities, time keepers office and covered areas) and function area facilities (function room, meeting room, kitchen, stores, amenities, bar, covered areas and paved ramps).

The Barham Recreation Reserve Committee have been working with council staff right

throughout this process to ensure the pavilion delivers maximum benefits and usage for the whole community.

Construction will be completed over a nine month period...so it will be here very soon!

## **Barham Pontoon**

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

The Barham Pontoon Project is steaming ahead! Government agency approvals have been completed and Council is now issuing the Development Approval, paving the way for project delivery. When the project is completed, the Barham Boardwalk at Riverside Park will become the home of a brand new pontoon, fully transforming the park area into an accessible and active location that connects the community directly to the Murray River.

The next couple of months will see the contractor prepare fabrication and construction drawings. This will be followed by manufacturing of the pontoon and gangways offsite and subsequent installation works in a couple of months. Watch this space!



■ Barham pontoon concept drawing.



■ Barham Recreation Reserve Multipurpose Pavilion concept drawing.





This will be a great asset for Barham and a welcome addition to the towns' facilities for the locals and the many tourists who visit year round. The project is being delivered by Council in collaboration with the Barham Boardwalk Committee.

## Moulamein Pre School: day care facility

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

This exciting community-driven initiative will not only see updates to the existing pre-school facilities but will allow for the provision of day care services to operate from the centre.

Stage one construction works will begin in the coming months, including the construction of the new building to the east of the existing structure. Stage two works will see the refurbishment of the existing building.

Once it is completed the site will house a space for both the pre-school program along with additional space for a day-care service.

As well as the two program rooms, the site will include an office and store facilities, kitchen, toilets, a sleep room, change room, external deck and ramps and landscaping of the building surrounds.

Quality childcare services and facilities are a priority for locals and even potential new

residents, so council is pleased to help deliver this important community-led initiative.

The project is expected to be completed by February 2020.

## Tooleybuc Recreation Reserve Irrigation Upgrade

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

This projects includes the design and installation of a fully automatic irrigation system on the number one oval and automation of the existing sprinkler system on the number two oval.

It will also see the installation of a new pump system connected to the town raw water supply to give the Reserve a fully independent water supply. This will reduce the impact on water demand during extreme periods of heat and separate the demand placed on current irrigation infrastructure shared with the Tooleybuc Sporting Club.

It will also deliver improved turf surfaces through a modern irrigation system that delivers water savings through more even coverage and ability to water during night time hours to reduce evaporation losses.

Final installation will be timed to fit between the current Football and Cricket seasons to reduce impacts on the user groups.



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# Welcome to River Country

Council is pleased to reveal its new tourism brand, designed to reinforce the area's status as a major river-based tourism destination.

"River Country" will soon be used as Council's primary tourism identity name as new collateral and digital information tools are rolled out this year.

Mayor Cr Chris Bilkey said the new brand accurately reflects the tourism offering of the region.

"The brand name of 'River Country' clearly explains the tourism offering."

"The word River recognises the mighty Murray, but importantly also recognises the other rivers across the council that give life to the communities and are assets for the local tourism industry."

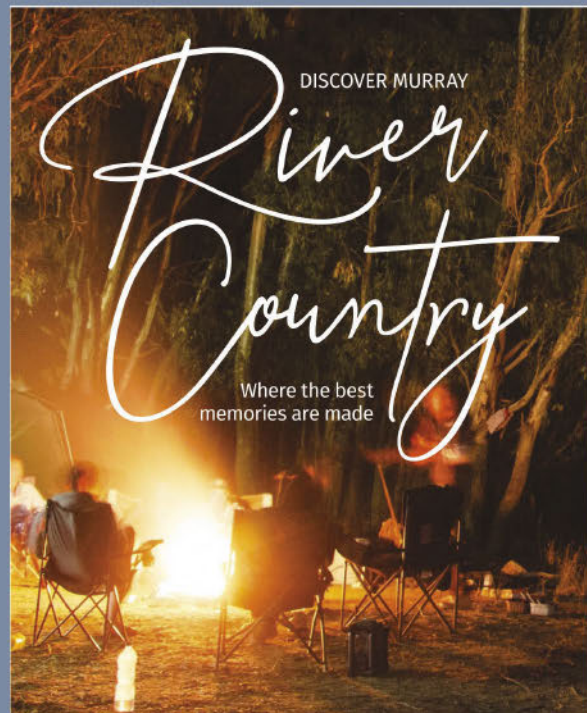
"By including the word Country the assets that are not on the Murray, or necessarily on other rivers, are also recognised, creating the image of welcoming communities, open space and nature," he said.

The identity also allows for a variety of regional assets to fit easily under the brand; including the red gum forests, the Aboriginal heritage, the farming villages, the food trail, the river experiences and many more.

The brand also delivers a tag line - "Where the best memories are made" - providing a visual depiction of what holidaying in the region is all about.

The new brand was developed by Council's Economic Development and Tourism Team, supported by robust research and sensible rationale.

Council's Economic Development and Tourism Manager, John Harvie said the



brand not only emphasises the area's offering, but will also deliver a unified tourism identity through strong imagery and visual style.

"The new brand is a clear and appealing representation of what the area is famous for."

"The use of earth tones will harmonise with the colours found within the region and compliments the simple yet effective brand name."

"'River Country' ensures that the whole Council is accurately represented and is now the catalyst to tie everything together in regards to destination marketing for this area," he said.

Residents will start to see Murray River Council's new tourism brand in action when a new visitors guide and website is unveiled in spring 2019.

It will also continue to be rolled out across a number of mediums in consultation with local groups and operators.



## Kerbside bin placement: tips for residents



*Our contracted garbage trucks have a fixed mechanical lifting arm, so to make it easier for drivers to access your bins please remember to:*

- Place your bin close to and facing the kerb, with the bin's wheels nearest to the house
- Ensure that there is minimum 300mm of clearance between each bin
- Ensure your bin is not placed under a tree or other overhead obstructions and is at least one metre away from power poles, street signs or other objects that may hinder pick up
- Allow at least one metre between your bin and any parked cars as the mechanical arm will not be able to pick up bins from behind parked cars
- Ensure your bin lid is closed and that the bin is not overfull
- Do not place extra items next to the bin as these cannot be collected.



MENTAL  
HEALTH  
DIARY



GRAB YOURS TODAY!

## Mental health support diaries now available

*Via the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation, Murray River Council is a proud supporter of Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network's (MPHN) mental health diary that is being made free to people in the Murrumbidgee impacted by drought.*

The new undated financial year diary has been developed to support the mental health and wellbeing of our drought affected communities.

Scattered throughout the diary are tips for managing stress, practicing self-care, how to identify if someone might need support, dos and don'ts of Christmas, when you should seek help for depression, and most importantly where to go to seek help.

Get your free copy today from the Mathoura Visitor and Business Centre, Barham office, Moulamein Business Centre or Moama Office.



# ANIMAL WELFARE



## SELLING OR GIVING AWAY A CAT OR DOG IN NSW?

**FROM 1 JULY 2019, NEW RULES WILL APPLY**

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**To the Householder**