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planning statement  
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AND MORE...



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## Message from the Mayor

2019 has been marked by a number of significant achievements for Council; achievements which have enabled us to dramatically improve our service planning and delivery. One of our highest priorities was to continue to consolidate council services and processes. This consolidation is a vital element of the merger of the two former councils into one. Most recently we harmonised customer service systems and processes across Council, greatly improving our customer service operations and bringing consistency to how we deliver these services.

Another recent achievement within Council has been the recruitment of a number of new planning and assessment staff. As residential and industrial development continues to grow throughout the council area, the creation of this additional capacity has been timely and ensures that a capable team is now in place to support the future growth of urban and industrial development throughout the council area. Whilst there is still room for improvement, we are confident that things are moving in a positive direction.

And on that note... over the next few months Council will be preparing a major new plan for our future: the 'Local Strategic Planning Statement' (LSPS). This will seek to provide a vision for the Council over the next 20 years, documenting community priorities and aspirations, and suggesting actions to guide

future land use planning decisions for our area.

The LSPS will inform the content for Council's planning controls and shape Council's new Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP). Essentially, the development of the LSPS is an opportunity to think carefully about where we want to be in the long term, and make the preparations in our planning processes to help us get there.

The vision that emerges from the LSPS should inform us on how to make better long term decisions on issues such as strategic land use planning, industrial development, healthcare and education and tourism initiatives. And it's clear that, as a Council comprising a range of diverse communities, a one-size-fits-all approach won't cut the mustard. We need to take account of the differences across the Council footprint.

And we need to make sure that our planning instruments don't provide a barrier to achieving these long term goals.

So, there's work to do. In my view, this type of planning is the most important function that can be undertaken by a Council, the type that can leave a lasting positive legacy. At the end of this newsletter you will find more information about the LSPS process and I'd encourage you to get involved when opportunities arise.

**Cr Chris Bilkey**

## Have you seen our fortnightly update feature yet?

In an effort to provide frequent and equitable updates across Murray River Council, we have been placing a fortnightly update feature in various newspapers and community newsletters across the council area. This is a great way to find out about grant opportunities, meetings, or just general updates...and also includes a message from our Mayor. We have introduced this in an effort to make it easier for our residents to know when and where to look for our updates. And if you don't read the local rag or newsletters...it's also posted on our Facebook page every second Friday!



# The project updates...

Here are some updates on just a few of the 36 community infrastructure projects we're delivering!

## Play equipment upgrades

Funded under NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund.

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

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

Wakool also received fitness equipment at multiple locations around the township and from all accounts it's well utilised.



The outdated swing-set and track-ride structures at the Moama Adventure Playpark have also been replaced with a new multi swing set, basket swing and rope climbing structure.

And Murray Downs is home to new fitness equipment along its new walking and riding track, also delivered by Council.

## Mensforth Park redevelopment

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

The much-anticipated redevelopment at Tooleybuc's Mensforth Park is well underway...and the pontoon is now in full flight...or float!

The 25-metre long structure has been installed at the site with water, electricity and sewage service installations scheduled for completion by February 2020.

The park upgrades are also taking shape, and include:

- upgrades to the existing Bridge Keepers Cottage with the inclusion of outdoor kitchen and deck area
- complete upgrade to the playground area, to include landscaping and fencing
- removal and replacement of public toilets
- improved access from bus stop and car park with new footpaths and landscaping
- new seating and furniture scattered throughout the park.

Both projects will showcase Tooleybuc as a great place to stop; whether you're on the road or water!



## Development of Moama's off leash area

Funded under NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund.

Moama's four-legged residents will be wagging their tails in anticipation of the 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...and the works have now commenced!

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 project remains on track with an anticipated delivery date of March 2020.



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.

The project is expected to be completed by February 2020.



## Timber Heritage Walk

Funded under NSW Government's Heritage Near Me Program.

Picnic Point is now home to a new heritage walk, preserving the story of the local timber industry and celebrating its history.

Ten information panels and new footpath have been installed at Picnic Point as part of the project, along with a new Timber Heritage timeline brochure.

...so next time you're in Mathoura, be sure to check out this new attraction and discover the region's rich and colourful timber heritage.



## Moulamein Pre School: day care facility

Funded under NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund.

Construction of the new facility is now well underway and will be a great new space for our littlest residents once complete!

Stage one construction works include 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.





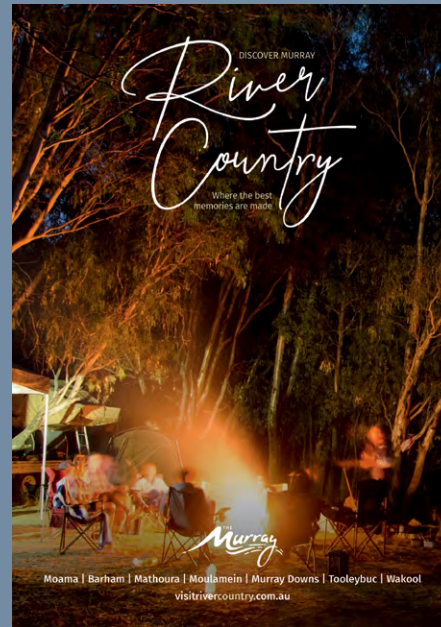
# It's all happening in River Country

*Our new 'River Country' visitors guide is now on its way!*

The guide takes travellers on adventurous journeys across the council area and features highlights from our townships - from Moama right through to Tooleybuc!

It showcases distinctive characteristics of the towns, surprising tales from history, enchanting natural features, cultural experiences, "must-see" attractions and lists many of our amazing local businesses and great places to eat and drink.

Copies of the Visitor Guide will be issued to local tourism outlets after the launch in the coming weeks and will be available from council's Economic Development and Tourism team.



## River Country website

*Another significant step forward in promoting the Council's tourism attraction has been taken with the launch of the River Country website too.*

The site promotes a wide variety of nature-based activities, events and services across our Council area. It aims to tempt visitors to the region, and to go beyond the traditional destinations to enrich their experience in River Country.

While the River Country site is a key platform for us, our web presence is further enhanced by its link to the Murray Regional Tourism Board's website,



Murray Region. This will connect our region's tourism offering with those of other neighbouring areas, making travel planning easier for visitors and locals. It's a win-win.

Have a look at the new River Country website at [www.visitrivercountry.com.au](http://www.visitrivercountry.com.au) ....and share it with your friends and relatives!

## River Country Signage

*As part of the River Country promotion, our Economic Development and Tourism team will soon be undertaking a project to update various information signage across the area.*

Whilst it will be a staged approach, the intent is to deliver consistent, quick reference information -like town maps - for our visitors to access when they visit our townships.

Stay tuned!



## Rates Harmonisation

*The rates harmonisation process is on the agenda, with council on-track to have its rating systems unified by July 1 2020.*

Rates harmonisation requires councils to come up with a new rating formula across previously existing boundaries; in this case the former Wakool and former Murray.

All amalgamated councils were given a three year rate path freeze upon merging, however the equalisation process now needs to commence to come into effect in the next financial year.

Mayor Chris Bilkey said Council has a responsibility to ratepayers to keep things moving.

"There is no doubt that harmonising rates across former Wakool and Murray will be a significant exercise, but we hope it will be a worthwhile one."

"We will look to have the conversation with the community through our normal budget process as its will not only be the equalisation of rates that needs to take place, but also that of our general fees and charges; so we will work with the community on both."

"It's a large piece of work but Council is committed to push on with things and make this process as fair as possible," he said.

Residents will be advised of formalised consultation activities regarding the rates harmonisation process in the near future.

## Volunteering with Community Services

The aim of our Commonwealth Home Support Program is to help older people live as independently as possible. To make this happen all of our programs require staff and volunteer support.

*Are you volunteer material?*

All volunteers are provided with training, ongoing support and mentoring. The amount of time someone may volunteer is completely up to the individual...every little bit counts!

If this sounds like something you'd like to get involved in, contact your local Community Services outlet.

# Youth program kicks into gear

*The Youth Engagement Program has reached an exciting new stage with the appointment of two new Youth Engagement Officers, Kristy Miller and Elisha Stephens.*

They are very keen to engage with young people living in our area; whether it be supporting them to achieve their life goals or connecting them with workshops or social activities.

## About the Team

**Elisha** has completed a Diploma of Community Services, mental health and AOD training and is working towards a Diploma of Counselling. She is passionate about providing local youth with safe and inclusive support networks, where young people are free to express themselves creatively, with support to strive towards their life goals.

**Kristy** has a Diploma of early childhood services and over the last 2 years has successfully run a business of her own. She has also recently started a course in Youth Work to expand her career path. Kristy is passionate about youth work and is excited to have the opportunity to support young people and research innovative ideas within the community.

If you are young and have ideas on community social activities, want to join a group and feel you need extra assistance or would like to be in a leadership program please feel free to contact Elisha or Kristy - 1300 087 004.



■ **Our new Youth Engagement Officers, Kristy and Elisha will be supporting Youth within the Council area.**



# Waste - Did you knows?

If you drop waste in the wrong location within the landfill, transfer station or bin station you are technically illegally dumping rubbish and can be fined? This is why it is very important to follow the instructions provided to you by the operators on the site.



■ Recent site of illegal dumping in Murray Downs.

If the lid on your bin does not close, you run the risk of your bin not being emptied? The arms on the trucks that lift the bins are only able to lift so much and if your bin is heavier than the truck can lift, it may end up with your bin not being emptied.



■ Good and bad bin lid management.

If you put a rubbish bin liner in your recycling or green waste bin, it becomes classified as contaminated, and we are unable to process your materials causing them to be sent to landfill? It is for this reason we ask you to please keep liners out of recycling and green waste bins.

# Secure your load

*It is important that you transport your waste to your local waste facility responsibly. Not only is it illegal to transport unrestrained loads on public roads, covering your load also prevents dust, soil and litter escaping and polluting our environment.*

Heavier items such as construction waste or furniture may dislodge if not secured properly which, apart from degrading our environment, can cause an accident or damage other vehicles on the road.

If you're planning on visiting one of our waste facilities, here's a few tips to make sure your load is secure:

- Tie it down with rope or straps
- Consider covering the entire load with a sturdy tarp or netting
- Tie large objects directly to your trailer
- Don't overload your vehicle or trailer

Make sure you always secure your load before travelling.

# Snakes are on the move

As the weather warms up snakes and other wildlife are becoming more active.

Below are some handy hints to reduce your chances of them hanging around your house:

- Make your house and property less attractive to snakes by cutting back long grass and shrubbery
- Remove any debris or woodpiles
- Keep pests like rats and mice under control as they are a good food source for snakes
- Ensure your bird aviaries and chook pens have fine mesh or shade cloth around the outside
- Keep your pets safe and away from areas where snakes may be hiding.

Local snake catcher, Gary Coote can be contacted on 0438 041 502 for advice or snake removal. Alternatively you can contact Wildlife Rescue on 1300 094 737.

# Fire Hazard Reduction

*With summer just around the corner, Council Officers are currently undertaking property inspections across the region with the aim of reducing fire fuel loads. Council Officers will provide written notice to property owners where fuel reduction is required.*

The initial notice will require property owners to reduce fuel loads within 14 days after which time Council Officers will reinspect to confirm compliance has been achieved.

Failure to comply will result in Council issuing Fire Hazard Reduction Orders in accordance with NSW Local Government Act 1993. Penalties may also apply.



# CRC – Community Recycling Centre at Moama Landfill

*Did you know you can drop off certain domestic items at the Moama Community Recycling Centre for free?*

Domestic Items such as left over Paint, Motor Oils, Household Batteries, Gas Bottles, Other Oils, Smoke Detectors, Fire extinguishers and Car Batteries can all be dropped off at the Moama Landfill CRC shed between the hours of 8.00am-3.00pm weekdays, 9.00am-3.00pm on weekends.

- Only household quantities of these materials will be accepted. As a guide, this is a maximum container of 20 litres or 20 kilograms for each waste type.
- 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.

More information can be found at <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/recycling-and-reuse/household-recycling-overview/community-recycling-centres>.

# Pets can't add. But they can multiply.

Many cats and dogs are bred by accident, because owners don't get around to desexing them. In our local area, failure to desex cats in particular is a very big problem. It is possible for cats to breed from as young as four months old! Desexing goes a long way to help stop this oversupply.

To find out more about desexing your animal, head to our website or have a chat to your local vet.

# THERE'S HOW MANY IN A LITTER??







# Our Local Strategic Planning Statement

Delivering new opportunities for land use planning in Murray River Council.

**The Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) is Murray River Council's plan for our community's social, environmental and economic land use needs over the next 20 years.**

## Why do we need a Local Strategic Planning Statement?

In March 2018, amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the EP&A Act) introduced a new requirement for local councils to prepare and make an LSPS.

Council is required to finalise its LSPS by July 1 2020.

## What is the role of a Local Strategic Planning Statement?

The LSPS provides a platform to document community priorities and aspirations, and suggest actions to guide future land use planning decisions for local areas, communities and townships.

As such, the LSPS will inform the content for Council's planning controls and shape Council's new Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP).

The content of the LSPS will address regional and district planning initiatives and what our community has told us is important for the future of our area.

Its purpose is to:

- provide a 20-year land use and development vision for the entire Murray River Council area; including guidance on where future housing, jobs and services will go and the type of development that will occur
- outline the characteristics that contribute to our identity and make our area special
- identify shared community assets and values to be enhanced or maintained
- direct how future growth and diversity/change will be managed
- identify and prioritise changes to planning rules in the Local Environmental Plan (Murray Local Environmental Plan 2011 and Wakool Local Environment Plan 2013) and Council's Development Control Plans that provide balanced decisions and community outcomes.

Whilst initially the LSPS will help guide and shape the development of the new Murray River Council LEP, it will also be a top-level document to guide future planning decisions.

Examples of when an LSPS could be used include:

- to explain changes and the rationale for zoning, development standards and other controls of an LEP or DCP
- 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

- identifying areas where a council is seeking to encourage new or innovative employment generating uses.

## How will Council be preparing the Local Strategic Planning Statement?

Council will be developing the LSPS over the next 12 months. Community consultation will be conducted throughout this process to inform and refine the Statement as it is developed.

A review of Councils existing plans - including the recently developed Local Profile - along with visions captured in our Community Strategic Plan engagement process will also inform the development of a draft LSPS.

## How can I get involved?

At different stages in the preparation of the LSPS Council will be consulting the community and other stakeholders.

When opportunities arise, Council is encouraging community members to share their thoughts about:

- What they value about MRC into the future (2040 outlook)
- Things they'd like to see improved or planned better in the local area (acknowledging a balanced community outcome is a desired outcome)
- Things that should be preserved or enhanced (or even innovative).

Your input will be used to develop the community's vision, priorities, and actions for how we plan to use land in the local area. This will be refined with the community's help in further consultation to be conducted in the near future.



**This is about setting a 20 year vision and plan in place so that our communities can sustainably reach their maximum social, economic and environmental potential into the future.**

## The timetable

### LSPS process:

**LEP Review and Health Check**  
currently underway to end of October 2019

**Draft LSPS**  
completed by mid-December 2019

**Exhibition Draft LSPS**  
Draft LSPS placed on public exhibition to obtain community feedback - January 2020

**Post exhibition review**  
Council review of Draft LSPS submissions start to end of February 2020

**Finalise LSPS**  
end of March 2020

**Endorsement by DPIE**  
submission of Final LSPS document to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for endorsement - start of April 2020

**Adoption of Final LSPS document**  
aim by end of April however must be completed by end of June 2020.

### New LEP/DCP:

**Planning Proposal Preparation**  
the outcome of the LSPS will then allow us to prepare a Planning Proposal to prepare a new LEP and DCP to achieve the actions and planning priorities in the LSPS - May to July 2020

**Planning Proposal submitted for Gateway Determination**  
Planning Proposal for Draft LEP submitted to NSW Department of Planning and Environment for Gateway Determination July 2020

**Draft LEP on Exhibition**  
Planning Proposal to amend the LEP will be placed on public exhibition to get community and State Agency feedback - to be determined based on Gateway issued by Department of Planning, Environment and Industry.

Council will endeavour to stick as closely as possible to these timelines, however given the nature of the project, there may be some changes throughout the process.

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## Getting social in our social program!

40 people from Barham, Moulamein and Tooleybuc joined together for a combined social lunch as part of our Social Support Program last month. Everyone enjoyed a relaxing day out and were thoroughly entertained by some local talent who delighted the crowd with some old time classics and well known sing-a-longs. It was great to see people from all three centres out together and Council looks forward to delivering some more combined functions in the near future.

Another great initiative brought to you via our Community Services Home Support Program.

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## Looking for local Christmas events?

Keep an eye out locally for your community's festive fun...like the Moama Lions Club Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 15 December 2019, or Barham's Xmas Mardi Gras on the 24th.

Are you hosting a local community Christmas event?  
Get in touch with us and we can include details on our website: [cdean@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cdean@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)



**To the Householder**