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Elected September 2017 Moama Ward



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Elected September 2017

Greater Murray Ward

# Message from the Mayor

Amid the chaos that has defined this year, 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.

Our young people showed us a thing or two about resilience when faced with a new form of learning. And our business community has had to pivot in many areas; either boosting their online presence or offering new delivery or collection services. Whatever the circumstance, it's been great to witness our community band together in the ever-changing environment we have found ourselves in.

Here at council we too have kept things ticking where we could. And to much success.

Despite restrictions, we have managed to deliver a number of projects this year, which is a credit to our staff who have kept things rolling.

We delivered our new Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which will inform the content for Council's planning controls and shape council's new Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP). There's plenty about to happen in this strategic planning space over the next 12 months too, so stay tuned.

We've got our new Your Say website which has offered a new way to connect with all our community when other forms of consultation have been restricted. This is also a really great way to stay connected with many of our projects and will remain a key consultation key into the future- so I'd encourage everyone to take a look.

Our smart water meter system has been incredibly successful thus far, proving to be a big help in assisting customers to detect leaks and prevent water wastage. Since the installation of smart filtered water meters



throughout this year, a number of local residents have benefited from the leak detection reports generated by the system.

Our Tourism team have been working hard to deliver promotional and marketing material for River Country, ensuring our area remains top-of-the-list when everyone can move freely again.

And not to forget the delivery of some much-anticipated community infrastructure projects; such as our pavilions in Barham and Moama, upgrades at Tooleybuc's Mensforth Park and many other improvements at reserves and public spaces right across the footprint.

Upon reflection, it is great to see so many achievements this year.

And of course we've still got plenty of other things ticking along- you can find out more about a few of these via our project updates in this edition.

As we start looking to wrap up the year, we should all reflect and be proud of our efforts; we've made it this far under restrictions, imagine how successful we can be when we open back up again.

So here's to a much-less turbulent 2021...and to many more successes here at council and within the community.

**Cr Chris Bilkey**



# Project Updates

## Murray Downs Nature Reserve

The Murray Downs Nature Reserve Masterplan has recently been finalised thanks to input from the local community.

The plan looks to deliver a useable, recreation space for the whole community, whilst also showcasing the natural environment.

From nature lookouts to BBQ areas and playgrounds - the community told us what they would like to see!

A new boat ramp was identified as a key feature in the masterplan and will now progress as stage one of the project thanks to funding under the NSW Government's Boating Now Program. The rest of the developments will be staged as funding becomes available.

## Barham Recreation Reserve

With the pavilion at the Recreation Reserve now complete, we are continuing to focus on the surrounds.

Stage 2 development involves installation and construction of footpaths, park furniture, children's playground, car parking and landscaping around the new pavilion.

This also includes upgrades to the new entrance via Parkman Avenue, which will include internal road upgrades, carparking and solar lighting. Parkman Avenue will also be sealed.

Did you know we're also updating the kitchen facilities and the entrance at Lawson pavilion? This will provide a much more inclusive and accessible working environment for the show committee and patrons.

And with the inclusion of the well-utilised skate park, the Rec Reserve really is the perfect community hub for sport, recreation and community activity.

## Moulamein Tennis Court – pedestrian access

We'll soon be delivering some more upgrades at the Recreation Reserve tennis courts with the installation of new footpaths to improve pedestrian access in the immediate surrounds.

This will complement the upgrades recently completed at the courts which included construction of a new shed, resurfacing of the courts to an asphalt surface along with new lighting to enable evening training, matches and competitions to take place throughout the season.

The new footpath will finish the space off nicely!



■ Moama Recreation Reserve. Pic courtesy Joss and Co Pty Limited.

## Wakool Bowling Club

The Wakool Bowling Club is receiving a facelift thanks to funding under the Federal Government's Drought Communities Programme Extension.

This is supporting current renovations and upgrades of the club room facilities which have fallen into a state of disrepair due to extensive white ant damage.

The Bowling Club is not a registered club and is the only sporting facility in the small rural community.

This project will ensure long term usage of the facility whilst also delivering the opportunity to attract new community groups and more frequent competition.

Works will be finalised in the coming months.

## Moama Recreation Reserve

Have you been keeping up with the improvements at the Moama Recreation Reserve over the past few years?

With the new pavilion now complete the entire space is now looking and functioning better than ever.

Along with the multipurpose pavilion, other recent upgrade works include new lighting at Brick Alley

and Jack Eddy Ovals, along with the Main Oval and netball courts.

The Main Oval is now also home to a new electronic score board, with upgrades to perimeter fencing and seating.

There has also been a significant extension to Jack Eddy Oval with the inclusion of surround fencing.

Velodrome users welcomed the new hot mix seal on the criterion track along with landscaping of the velodrome area.

And let's not forget the new space for our furry friends at the off-leash dog park.

It really is a space for everyone.

## Tooleybuc Mensforth Park – Stage 2

Mensforth Park stage 2 upgrades will soon be underway after consultation with local youth recently commenced.

Future works will include upgrades in the remaining section of Mensforth Park and will capture the ideas of what local youth would like to see. Very exciting!

This will complement the completed Stage 1 redevelopments, including upgrades to the Bridge Keepers Cottage, new playground, new public



toilets, new seating and furniture and improved access from the bus stop and car park with new footpaths and landscaping.

And not to forget the installation of the well-utilised pontoon which directly links the Murray to the park space.

All these improvements will showcase Tooleybuc as a great place to stop; whether you're on the road or water! Stage 2 coming soon!



## Picnic Point Boat Ramp upgrade

Did you know that this year we completed upgrade works at the Picnic Point Boat Ramp?

The old boat ramp was 3.9m wide but no longer complied with the current standard which requires a minimum width of 4.5m for a single lane boat ramp and at least 8m for a double boat ramp. So we made it bigger!

The boat ramp upgrade also included reorientation to minimise tidal and flow impact on boats when launching. The works have delivered improved infrastructure with a safer access to the river for our boaties!

Another great community project delivered by Council, working in collaboration with the Picnic Point Management Committee.

PLUS....we will soon deliver improvements at the beach to the north of the newly upgraded Boat Ramp. Works will improve the amenity of the surrounds by the inclusion of a sand beach. It will be designed to maintain the integrity of the riverbank by minimizing the effects of erosion caused by river traffic.



*Improvements have been made possible thanks to the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund, the NSW Government's Showground Stimulus Funding Program, the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund, the NSW Government's Boating Now Program, and the Federal Government's Drought Communities Programme Extension.*

# Barham Hub doors are open to extra services

The much-anticipated Barham Community Hub (stage 1) is now complete, and we're ready to host agencies from across the region.

The new facility will ensure our community services are far more visible and accessible for local residents and provides an opportunity to encourage a higher presence of human services agencies.

## What we can offer

We are offering an invitation for use of the facility to community agencies who currently deliver services to residents in our area.



The following amenities are available for use:

- a private client consultation room for non-clinical services
- additional support for your staff that work alone, with the presence of our Community Services staff working in the adjacent office rooms
- a medium sized meeting room for up to 10 participants, with VC link technologies, to enable external network meetings.

Bookings for consultation and meeting rooms will be required to ensure their availability.

Fees for both rooms will be offered at no cost for the remainder of the 20/21 financial year and reviewed to consider a nominal charge fee from 1 July 2021.

Queries and expressions of interest can be directed to the Manager of Community Services, Jackie Ingwersen at [jingwersen@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jingwersen@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au) or via 0427 806 398.

## We Are Family

If you are thinking of getting a pet this Christmas, or at any time of the year, The NSW Office of Local Government has produced a guide to nurturing the child and pet relationship from pregnancy to preschool.

The NSW Responsible Pet Ownership Education Program is a great starting point for introducing a new furry friend into your family. For more information visit [www.wearefamily.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wearefamily.nsw.gov.au).

## We Are Family

A guide to nurturing the child and pet relationship from pregnancy to preschool



**Understanding our dogs and cats**  
Dogs, cats and their body language

# What's the plan for 2021?

We are creating attractive spaces for our community, investing in key infrastructure and continuing to deliver some great new initiatives. Here's some of the things planned for 2021...



## Smart

water meter installation project finalised



## \$60,000

worth of community grant allocations



## New signs

installed at town entrances across the council



## Strategic

planning to facilitate appropriate development across the Council area



## Community

Strategic Plan finalised



## Asset

assessment of buildings, facilities, land and fleet to guide future management



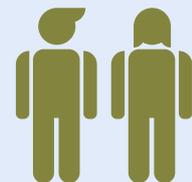
## FOGO

Expansion of Food and Garden Organics waste service (greenwaste) within Council



## Biosecurity

initiatives across the Council area to prevent and control priority weeds



## Expanding

our Youth Engagement Program (YEP) with our Youth Representatives Group to identify and work through issues affecting young people



## Draft

interim Local Environment Plan (LEP)



## Timber

bridge replacement works at several locations. Not many left to go after that!



## Exciting

improvements for our library services

# The small business conversation series

Last month, Council partnered with local podcast 'Spreading the Good Stuff' to present a four-part conversation series for this year's NSW Small Business Month Festival.

The series featured inspiring stories from local small businesses in our region.

We heard how they started, how they've grown, and how they've pivoted during COVID to safeguard what they built.

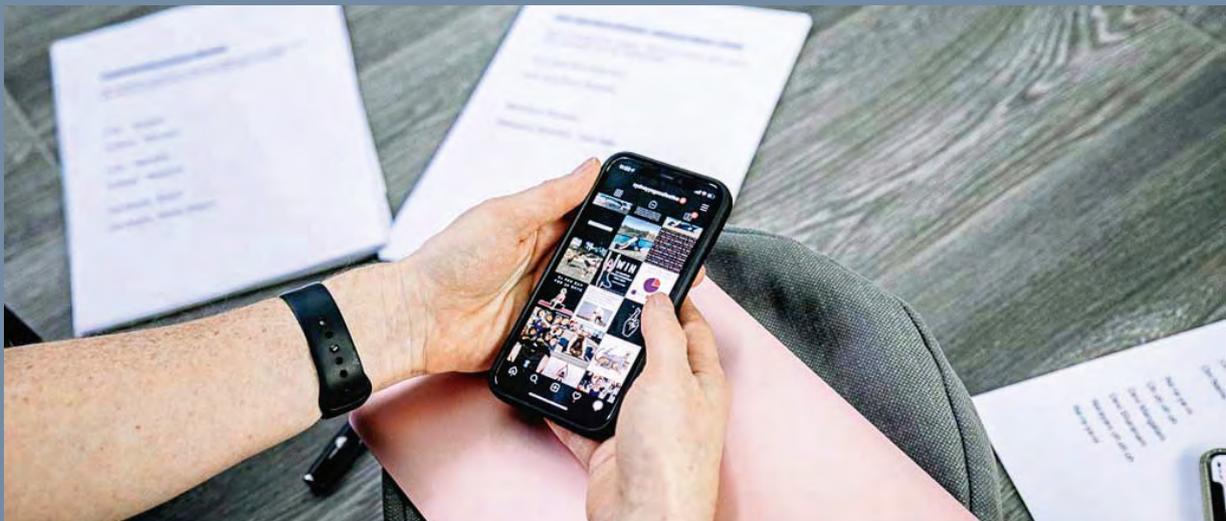
Episode 1 was about building your brand online. Episode 2 was an interview with Zowie Crump from the Art of Zowie Photography

and Julianne Daly from Moama's Border Inn Hotel.

Episode 3 was a chat with Kate Redfern of 12 Good Eggs at Barham and episode 4 was a focus on financial foundations.

All podcast recordings are still available via [yoursay.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](https://yoursay.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au). You can also watch the recording of each ep too!

We'd love suggestions of other initiatives that may connect the local small business community at this time, so if you do visit the site to catch up on episodes, be sure to leave us some comments.



■ Hear how local businesses have built there business online and how they've adapted during the global pandemic.

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## Fire Prevention

The first round of Council's fire hazard reduction inspections has been completed with around 400 properties across the region being identified as requiring action to reduce fire fuel loads.

Letters were sent to property owners requesting removal of vegetation and when follow up inspections were conducted in late October it was great to see many properties had been slashed and cleared.

Failure to comply with Fire Hazard Reduction Notices issued under Section 124 (21) of the Local Government Act 1993 could incur penalties.

# Smart Meters

Council's water staff are embracing the new smart meter system which is proving to be a big help in assisting customers to detect leaks and prevent water wastage.

Since the installation of smart filtered water meters throughout this year, a number of local residents have benefited from the leak detection reports generated by the system.

Smart meters record water usage every hour and in the instance where a property shows continuous usage our staff head out on site and check if there is any reason behind the large activity.

In many cases, it has been a leak that a customer would have otherwise been unaware of.



Leaks have previously been slow and difficult for customers to find, resulting in a bill shock and increased demand on staff to get to the bottom of it.

The new real-time reads make it much easier for us to address potential issues.

And there's more good news for Council, with the Smart Meter Project announced as the winner in the Local Government NSW's Excellence in the Environment Awards in the Water Management category.

The award recognises excellence in practical solutions for sustainable water management and is a great nod to the hard work of our water services team!

## What's next?

Council's smart meter installation program now moves into stage two with raw water meters recently installed in Mathoura, Moama and surrounds.

Raw water meters in Barham, Moulamein, Tooleybuc and Murray Downs will occur in 2021.

Council will also launch a customer portal next year to enable customers to monitor and review their water usage.

This will allow customers to check how efficiently water is being consumed within their home and property.



LIKE US ON  
FACEBOOK

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

# 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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# YEP, it's all happening...

Our Youth Engagement Program (YEP) has moved forward in true 2020 style, launching regular Zoom meetings to connect young leaders from across the area.

Young people from Moama all the way to Tooleybuc have been meeting to discuss youth activities, future events and issues within our council area.

The meetings will also feature guest speakers at various times to provide more information about services that people might not even know about!

If you live in the council area and want to have your say, you're welcome to join in on the discussion and have some fun.

Get in touch with our Youth Engagement Officer on 0427 736 094 or [YEP@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:YEP@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au).

# Who is River Country?

Did you know we have a team here at Council that deliver tourism initiatives for the local area? They are the voice behind River Country!

They are always working hard behind the scenes or partnering with local businesses and groups to showcase the great things on offer.

Despite that annoying thing called COVID, they've still ticked off some great things this year to make sure we are top of the list when places are back open to visit!

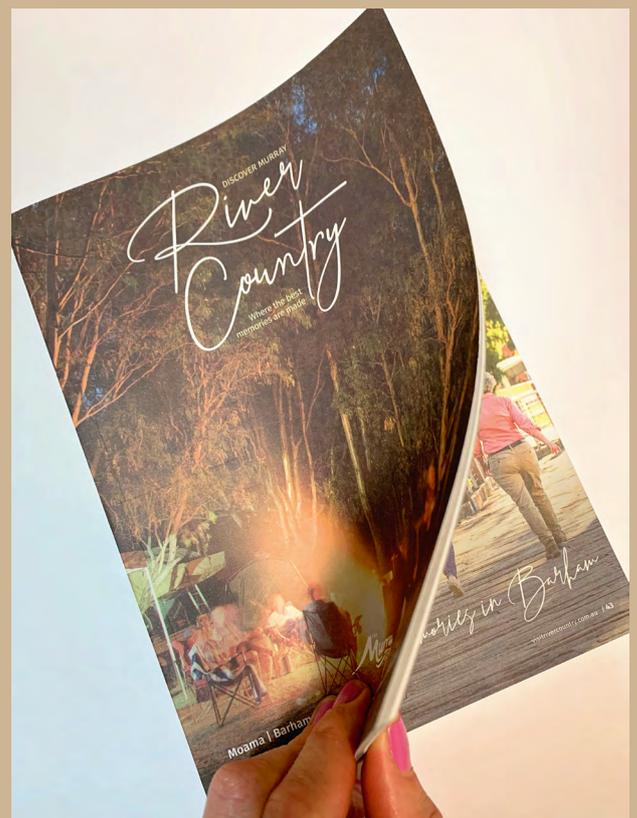
They've been busy organising photography, running social media campaigns, representing the area at the virtual Victorian Caravan and Camping Show, distributing visitor guides across the region, developing new maps for towns and creating new town entry and tourism signage... among other things!

And there's plenty more to come...

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

📌 @visitrivercountry

📷 @visitrivercountry



# Waste update

Our new kerbside waste collection contractor, JR Richards and Sons, began operating across the region on Monday 3 August. Since this time we have noticed a significant improvement to our communities kerbside waste collection services across the entire Local Government Area.

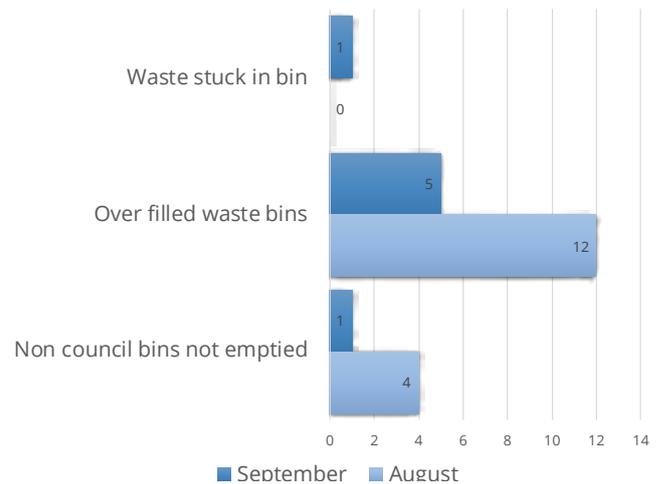
Over the following pages you'll find some graphs with data we have obtained during the first two months of operation. This data covers the types of issues identified and areas we can continue to improve.

We are now able to track what wastes are being disposed of in each bin and identify, in real time, which households are contaminating their waste streams. A waste stream is identified as either general waste (red lid bins), recycling (yellow lid bins) or garden organics (green lid bins). It can be seen from the information in the graphs there are several cases of contamination across the three waste streams. It is vitally important for our community to ensure they put 'the RIGHT things in the RIGHT bins' to stop cases of contamination from occurring. Contamination not only causes issues with processing wastes but can be harmful to the environment and in some cases, it may also mean

recycling and organics will be sent to landfill instead of being processed into new products.

Together we can continue to make improvements to our waste management – with the aim of reducing the waste we put in the ground!

## Waste (red lid) bin issues



■ This graph indicated the types of issues identified by JR Richards truck drivers in relation to waste or red lid bins across the region. It can be seen the major issue with waste bins in the past two months has been identified as bins that have been overfilled.

## When is it best to put your bins out?

It is important to have your bins out prior to 6am on the day of your waste service collection but if you like to sleep in, it's ok to put them out the night before.

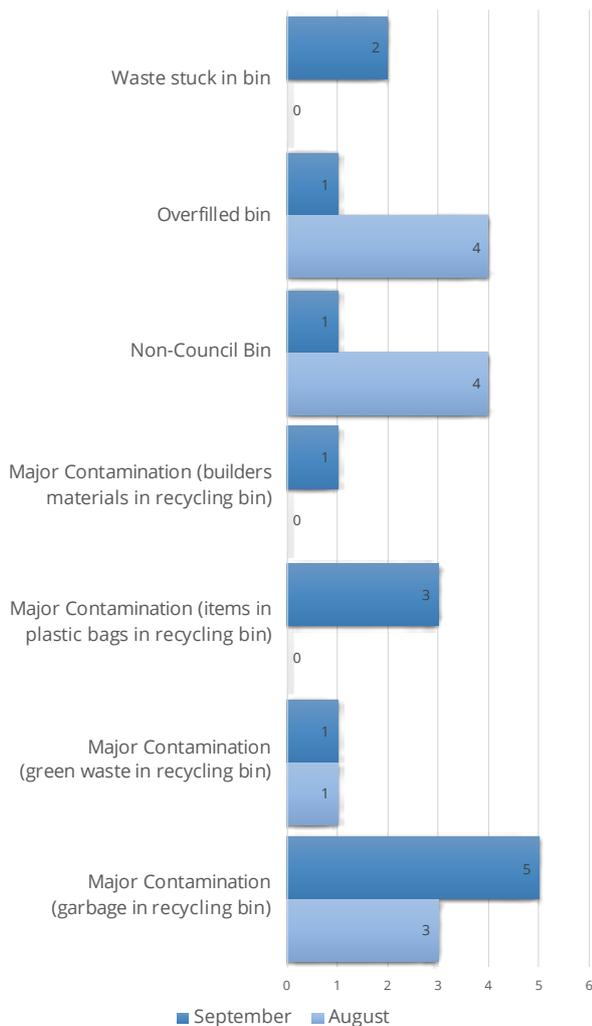
The garbage trucks begin their residential waste collections at 6am and if your bin is not out when the truck goes past, your service will be missed that week.

If you are still confused about your collection day or what week your recycling or garden organics (Moama and Mathoura residential properties only) bin is collected please call Council's Customer Service Team on

1300 087 004 during business hours or visit the collection days and bin page on Council's website.



### Recycling (yellow lid) bin issues



■ This graph indicated the types of issues identified by JR Richards truck drivers in relation to recycling or yellow lid bins across the region. It can be seen the major issue with recycling bins in the past two months has been identified as garbage being placed in the recycling bin, closely followed by bins that have been overfilled or are not identified as Murray River Council bins. Note - bins with the former Wakool Shire or Murray Shire logos are currently accepted by the contractor.



## Christmas day kerbside bin pick-ups – change of times

Even though it's Christmas Day, bins still need to be emptied. We are working with JR Richards and Sons to firm-up a start time for waste collection on Christmas Day (Friday 25 December 2020) which will allow for staff to spend some of the day with their families.

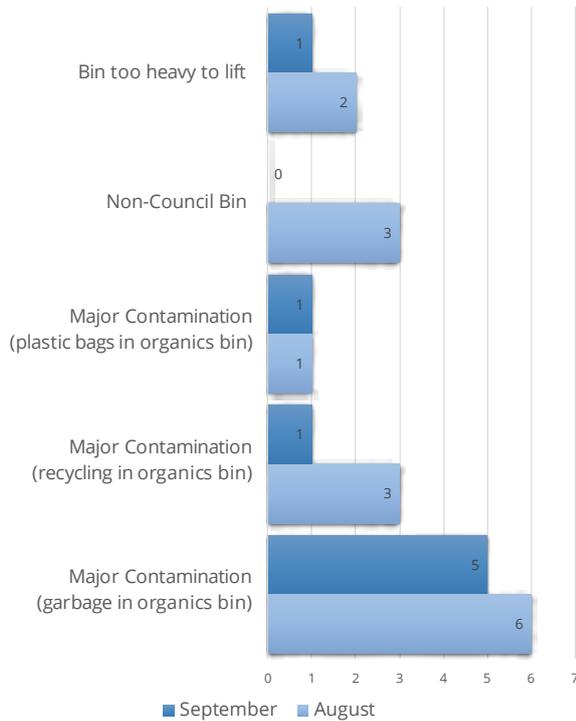
For those customers in Moama, who's normal bin day is a Friday, this may mean an earlier collection time. It will be important for you to put out your bins in their normal collection location the night before and to be aware that there may be some increase in noise earlier in the morning.

Keep an eye on our website and our Facebook page in the coming weeks for further information. No other kerbside waste collection services will be affected over the Christmas New Years period.

## Closures of waste management facilities over the Christmas – New Year's period

This year Council's Waste Management Facility at Moama will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. All other landfill's and transfer stations will be open to the public as per their normal schedule on all days other than the public holidays outlined above.

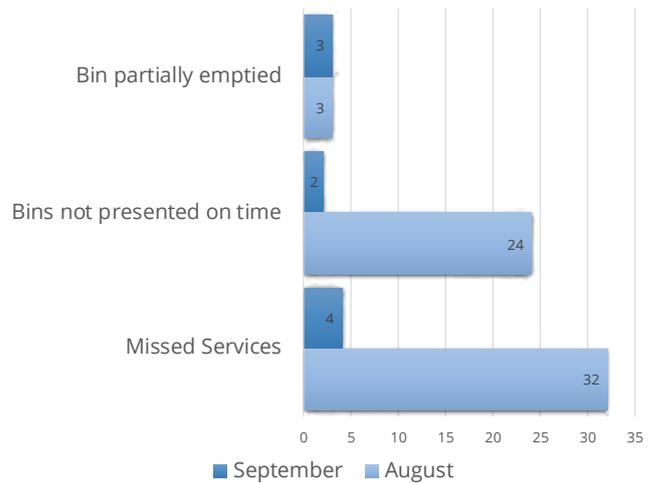
### Organics (green lid) bin issues



■ This graph indicated the types of issues identified by JR Richards truck drivers in relation to garden organics or green lid bins across Moama and Mathoura. It can be seen the major issue with the organic’s bins in the past two months has been identified as garbage being placed in the green bin.

Contamination in the recycling and organics bins is a key issue Council will be focusing on during 2021.

### Kerbside Waste Services



■ This graph indicated the issues identified by JR Richards truck drivers in relation to bin collections across the region. There was a large amount of missed services and bins not being presented on time during August. This was likely due to the changeover in collection service as these numbers decreased significantly during September.



## Off-leash areas – pick up dog poo!

In the past couple of months, it has been brought to Council’s attention that people are not picking up after their dogs in public places or at the Moama Dog Park.

It’s unfortunate that a few people are spoiling it for everyone.

Council’s Rangers have increased patrols across the region and will be issuing fines of \$275 under the Companion Animals Act 1998, for people who do not pick up their dog’s poo.



# Asbestos lurks in more places than you think

Last month we promoted Asbestos Awareness Month, which provides timely reminders to us all about the dangers.

But it's something we need to be mindful of all year round... don't play renovation roulette!

If you are thinking about renovating, you must be aware of asbestos and how to safely manage it in and around the home.

Importantly, if you suspect you have asbestos in your home... Don't cut it! Don't drill it! Don't drop it! Don't sand it! Don't saw it! Don't scrape it! Don't scrub it! Don't dismantle it! Don't tip it! Don't waterblast it! Don't demolish it! And whatever you do... Don't dump it!

Most people can't tell whether building materials contain asbestos just by looking at them. Asbestos can be under floor coverings such as carpets, linoleum and vinyl tiles, behind wall and floor tiles, in cement floors, internal and external walls, ceilings, eaves, garages, around hot water pipes, fences, extensions to homes, outdoor toilets and backyard sheds – it could be anywhere.

Many wrongly believe that ONLY fibro homes contain asbestos. Asbestos products can most likely be found in ANY Australian home built or renovated before 1987 even brick, weatherboard, fibro and clad homes.

Think smart, think safe, think [www.asbestos.nsw.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.nsw.gov.au) – it's not worth the risk!



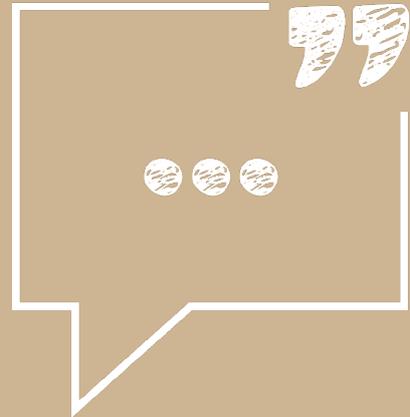
■ If you are thinking about renovating, you must be aware of asbestos and how to safely manage it in and around the home.

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

Have you registered to participate in our online engagement platform yet?

You can sign up, stay engaged and help shape the future of Murray River Council.

Interested? Head to [yoursay.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](http://yoursay.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)



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## Is your pic front cover worthy?

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Each edition, we want to feature some of the amazing gems that make our towns and communities such beautiful places to live.

If you have a high resolution snap that showcases your favourite part of the Council please send it in... it might just make the cover!

Email Courtney at [cdean@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cdean@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)



POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA

**To the Householder**