



Edward
River
COUNCIL

Implementing the Edward River Council

Administrator's Report to the Community
Prepared September 2017



Edward River Council

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Executive Summary

The end of Edward River Council's administration period is an important milestone and provides us with an opportunity to report on our progress and achievements in delivering the 10 key results to September 2017.

There is no statutory requirement for newly created councils to prepare an End of Term Report. However, the Office of Local Government has requested all Administrators of merged councils to prepare a report to their community outlining their council's achievements against the five enduring characteristics of a stronger council.

The purpose of this Report is to:

- communicate key milestones and achievements;
- communicate the way Stronger Communities funding has been expended and allocated;
- inform the community and Councillors about outstanding implementation priorities;
- inform the community and Councillors about the financial position of the council and its assets;
- support a seamless transition to the elected council; and
- demonstrate open and accountable governance.

Message from the Administrator

As Administrator of Edward River Council, I am proud to present this Report to the Community, summarising our organisation's progress and achievements over the past 16 months.

Edward River Council was proclaimed by the NSW Governor on 12 May 2016 following amalgamation of the former Conargo Shire Council and Deniliquin Council.

The provisions for Edward River Council made in the proclamation included my appointment as the Administrator for the interim period until elections for the new Council held on Saturday, 9 September 2017. As Administrator, I have assumed the functions of the former Mayors and Councillors in that I have been able to make formal and binding decisions on the Council as well as represent Council in the community.

Merging two organisations into one was never going to be a simple task. Both former councils were well established organisations that had their own structures, systems and processes and their own unique way of providing services and infrastructure to their communities. This process has brought enormous change for our staff, who had to learn new ways of doing things, help establish new processes, move new offices or change teams, and help play an integral role in implementing the new Edward River Council.

Over the past 16 months, I have been aided by the advice and assistance provided by the former Conargo and Deniliquin Councillors in their capacity as members of Council's Local Advisory Committee (LAC). The LAC was constituted following the merger and, under the committee's terms of reference, ceased operation on 30 June 2017. While, as an advisory committee, the LAC was not a decision-making body; the members of the LAC provided strong representation for their respective communities throughout this interim period and I have relied heavily upon their advice in discharging my responsibilities as Administrator.

This interim period has been a time of extraordinary progress for both Edward River Council and our community. Our achievements to date would not have been possible without the invaluable efforts of Council's staff, and I acknowledge Council's General Manager, Adam McSwain, as well as our Directors, managers and officers, who have all worked tirelessly to ensure the implementation of the Edward River Council has been a success.

The Edward River region has a proud past, and an exciting future. I am just as convinced now as I was when I was appointed Administrator that our best days are ahead of us, and not behind us. I look forward to Council continuing to work cooperatively and collaboratively with our community - as well as State and Federal Governments - to deliver positive results for our region and its residents.

A new era starts with the election of Councillors on 9 September 2017. Nine Councillors will be elected to represent the entire Edward River region, rather than individual wards, and it will be their responsibility to ensure the whole of Edward River Council is considered in their deliberations and decision-making. I look forward to seeing Edward River Council continue to grow, develop and provide for our community.

Ashley Hall
Administrator

About Edward River Council

Edward River Council is an innovative and community-focused local government responsible for delivering a comprehensive range of services to support and improve the lives of our over 8,800 permanent residents.

Edward River Council was established on 12 May 2016 through the merger of the former Conargo Shire Council and Deniliquin Council

The Edward River Council Local Government Area (LGA) encompasses a total land area of 8,881 square kilometres, including the town of Deniliquin and the surrounding rural villages of Blighty, Booroorban, Conargo, Mayrung, Pretty Pine and Wanganella.

Deniliquin is the administrative, commercial and services centre of the Edward River region, with the Cobb Highway and Riverina Highway serving as the region's main transport corridors.

Council's Customer Service Centre, incorporating the Council Chambers, is located at 180 Cressy Street, Deniliquin.



Our Region

The Edward River region is located at the heart of the Riverina-Murray, in the centre of the Adelaide-Melbourne-Sydney triangle, and borders the Berrigan, Hay, Murray River and Murrumbidgee council areas.

The Edward River region is recognised as one of the most agriculturally versatile regions in New South Wales. With a Gross Regional Product of around \$566 million, the Edward River region supports a thriving and diverse economy driven by the agriculture, health care, retail, education, tourism and manufacturing sectors.

Our region supports a growing population, with over 2,200 families calling the Edward River home. The region has close to 150 parks, gardens, and public spaces, including the renowned Waring Gardens, and boasts a number of excellent sport and recreation facilities, perfect for getting out and getting active. Our community provides excellent education and training pathways, with seven primary schools, one secondary school and a campus of TAFE NSW all operating in the region.

Home to the iconic Guinness World Record-holding Deni Ute Muster, the Edward River region is the events capital of the Riverina-Murray. Our packed annual events calendar also includes the Deni Fishing Classic, the Easter Rhythm, Blues and Jazz Festival and Cruising Nationals, to name a few.

The Edward River LGA is easily accessible to the major regional centres of Albury-Wodonga, Echuca-Moama, Shepparton and Wagga Wagga.

A Snapshot of the Edward River:

As told by the 2016 Census and Council's REMPLAN Economic Profile.



Population

Approximately 8,851 people live in the Edward River region

Median Age

45

The median age of our population is 45 years



Gross Regional Product

The Edward River region has a GRP of \$0.567 billion



Housing

4,284 private dwellings in the local government area



Families

Our community is home to 2,212 families



Jobs

Our economy supports over 3,300 jobs



Businesses

Over 800 businesses currently operating in the Edward River region



Employment by Industry

The agriculture sector is the region's largest employer

Our Organisation

As a new council, Edward River Council's highest priority is to ensure we continue to deliver the many local services valued by our community, while continuously striving to improve the way we do business.

Council provides a wide range of services to local residents, businesses, developers and investors, and tourists and visitors to our region, including:

- Town planning;
- Construction and maintenance of local roads, streets and bridges;
- Preservation of historic and heritage places;
- Public safety, food and health services;
- Waste management;
- Supervision of building and development control;
- Environment, animal and pest management;
- Maintenance of public spaces, parks and gardens and sporting facilities;
- Provision of library services through the Central Murray Regional Library;
- Tourism and regional promotion; and
- Economic development and investment attraction.

Council currently employs 108 staff to ensure we are able to meet our responsibilities as a local government and deliver the wide range of services and infrastructure our community expects.

Corporate Image

Edward River Council formally adopted its Corporate Logo and Brand at a Council meeting held on 31 August 2016, following an extensive public consultation process.

Inspired by the shared community values and natural attributes of the Edward River region, our Corporate Logo features three intertwining elements:



Orange grain:
Representing the importance of agriculture to the region and its economy.

Blue droplet:
Representing the Edward River, which winds its way through the region.

Green leaf:
Representing the region's unique natural environment and growing community.

Organisational Structure

Edward River Council is organised into three Departments, each with a range of service delivery responsibilities. Together, the General Manager and the three Directors comprise the organisation's Executive Management Team and are responsible for providing the organisation with strong and effective leadership.



Corporate Values

Values form the basis of our culture; they add meaning to work and they provide a basis for consistent planning and decision-making across the organisation. Edward River Council has adopted a set of values which were developed through a consultative process involving staff across the whole organisation.

The desired values and behaviours that every employee of Edward River Council is expected to demonstrate in their daily activities, in the way they conduct themselves, and the way the make decisions are:

Leadership

We seek to provide strong leadership for our community and our customers. We lead with empathy and integrity.

Excellence

We strive for excellence and continuous improvement: In who we are, in how we work, and in how we deliver results for our community.

Accountability

We are open, honest and transparent in how we do business, the decisions we make, and the actions we take.

Delivery

We are committed to delivering results for our community and outstanding service to our customers.

Stronger Councils Framework

The NSW Government has worked collaboratively with new councils to prepare the Stronger Councils Framework, which is founded on five key characteristics of a council that is better able to deliver results for its community, build successful partnerships, and has the leadership, culture, people and capabilities to make this happen. This section describes our progress against each of these characteristics.



Strategic Capacity

Edward River Council is a strong partner in the system of government, with a strategic outlook, confidently representing and progressing matters of local and regional significance.



Outstanding Service Provision

Residents and businesses have an efficient, convenient and satisfying experience when using Edward River Council services, information and infrastructure.



Robust Community Relationships

Residents and businesses have a voice in the vision for their community and there is meaningful, open dialogue between Edward River Council and community on solving local issues.



Strong Performance

Edward River Council is a robust, flexible and capable organisation that delivers on the needs of the community.



Sound Organisational Health

Edward River Council staff, leadership and culture directly contribute to the council's success and to positive, customer-centric culture and delivery.



Strategic Capacity

Edward River Council is a strong partner in the system of government, with a strategic outlook, confidently representing and progressing matters of local and regional significance.

Snapshot of Progress

Industry partnerships to advance regional interests

- ✓ Edward River Council has partnered with the Deniliquin Business Chamber and Murray Irrigation Limited to develop a region-wide Economic Development Strategy, which will identify opportunities and gaps to address the future growth and development of the Edward River region, including industry growth, business support, employment-generating projects and innovation and export opportunities.

Advocacy to State and Federal Governments

- ✓ After signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport to pursue air freight services between Deniliquin Airport and Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport at Toowoomba; Edward River Council has progressed preliminary planning for the Deniliquin Airport Runway Upgrade Project through deputations with Ministers and Government Departments at both State and Federal levels. We also hosted Wagner Group Director John Wagner at a business forum at Deniliquin, allowing local residents and business and industry stakeholders to hear first-hand our shared vision for the Deniliquin Airport.

Strategic direction for open and public spaces

- ✓ The development of both an Edward River Region Open Space Strategy and Deniliquin Public Space Strategy has commenced, with significant community consultation being undertaken to support the preparation of both strategies. Our Open Space Strategy will provide a holistic direction for the future planning, provision, design and management of open space - including sporting recreations and reserves - in the Edward River region, while our Public Space Strategy will serve as a long-term strategic plan to guide the delivery of improvements to the local streetscape and our town entrances.

Outstanding Service Provision

Residents and businesses have an efficient, convenient and satisfying experience when using Edward River Council services, information and infrastructure.

Snapshot of Progress

High levels of community satisfaction during transition



An independent survey undertaken by the Department of Premier and Cabinet in September 2016 revealed strong community satisfaction with Edward River Council's performance during the transition period, identifying the quality of recreational facilities, ease of access to Council services, and communication between Council and our community, as our top three performing areas. The survey revealed that one third of residents rate our performance as 'good' or 'very good'.

Putting the customer at the centre of our business



The customer is at the centre of the way Edward River Council does business. Through centralising our customer service operations at our Customer Service Centre at 180 Cressy Street, Deniliquin, residents and ratepayers have been provided a one-stop shop for doing business with Council. Funds have been allocated for the development of a new Customer Relationship Management System which, once implemented, will allow Council to respond to customer requests more efficiently.

A new digital front door for Council



With customers increasingly preferring doing business with Council online, Edward River Council has delivered a new, accessible and customer-friendly website at www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au. Predictive search enables customers to easily locate information, forms and publications, and our new homepage design allows customers to quickly access key services and information.



Robust Community Relationships

Residents and businesses have a voice in the vision for their community and there is meaningful, open dialogue between Edward River Council and community on solving local issues.

Snapshot of Progress

Engaged residents having their say on our future

- ✓ The 2016 Community Satisfaction Survey commissioned by the Department of Premier and Cabinet revealed that Edward River Council is performing at a statistically significantly higher level than rural, regional and metropolitan local governments in consulting and engaging with our community, and informing our community on the decisions we take and actions we take. We have actively sought to engage our community on important decisions facing our local government area, including our 8.6 million Major Projects Program, and have launched a new online community and stakeholder engagement hub, OurSay Edward River, providing residents with an easy way to have their say on Council's decisions, projects, programs and events.

A more inclusive community

- ✓ The first Disability Inclusion Action Plan for the Edward River region has been delivered. The plan outlines 14 actions Edward River Council will undertake across all functions of our organisation to improve accessibility and inclusivity within our community.

Collaboration with community, business and industry

- ✓ Edward River Council has partnered and collaborated with a range of local community, business and industry groups to sponsor and deliver major community events across the region, including the annual Deni Ute Muster, Elders Riverina Sheep Expo, Cruising Nationals, Deniliquin Fishing Classic, and Deniliquin Truck Show & Industry Expo. We have also hosted or supported important local civic events, such as Australia Day celebrations, Anzac Day services, and Citizenship ceremonies.

Our Region, Your Say

- ✓ Through Edward River Council's Our Region, Your Say consultation, our community will be given the opportunity to have its say on the future of the Edward River local government area. This consultation will be aimed at identifying the community's vision for our region and will lay the foundations for our Community Strategic Plan and our community Vision Statement.

Strong Performance

Edward River Council is a robust, flexible and capable organisation that delivers on the needs of the community.

Snapshot of Progress

Improved Asset Management

- ✓ Edward River Council has commenced the consolidation and integration of the former Conargo Shire and Deniliquin councils' asset management strategies and plans. We have also made progress in mapping all of our assets across the Edward River local government area.

System improvement and efficiency

- ✓ Internal systems and processes that are critical to the effective and efficient operation of Edward River Council have either been implemented, are being rolled out, or are scheduled to be rolled out. These include corporate records, finance, and asset management systems as well as internal plans and processes. By improving our systems, we are improving our performance and supporting well-informed decision-making across all levels of our organisation.

Commitment to excellent customer service

- ✓ Edward River Council has commenced the development of a Customer Service Charter which, once delivered, will establish clear standards for the level of customer service our community can expect from us. The charter will include key performance indicators that will be measured and reported on regularly.

Responsive to community needs

- ✓ Following the 2016 flood event, Edward River Council delivered an Edward River at Deniliquin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan, which contains 12 recommendations to mitigate the risks of flooding in Deniliquin. Over the coming years, we will implement these recommendations to ensure community preparedness and resilience to future flood events.



Sound Organisational Health

Edward River Council staff, leadership and culture directly contribute to the council's success and to positive, customer-centric culture and delivery.

Snapshot of Progress

Effective, Efficient Organisational Structure

- ✓ Edward River Council has adopted its new organisational structure following extensive consultation with our staff. Our structure is focused on effectiveness and efficiency and reflects our commitment to holistic planning, outstanding service delivery and excellent customer service.

Strong Leadership

- ✓ Following the adoption of Edward River Council's new organisational structure, our Executive Leadership Team - comprising the General Manager, Director Corporate Services, Director Economic Development and Business and Director Infrastructure - was selected following an extensive recruitment process.

Positive Workplace Culture

- ✓ Supporting a positive and cohesive workplace culture which resonates with staff is essential to achieving real organisational reform. Following the establishment of Edward River Council, all staff were invited to participate in a cultural assessment and given the opportunity to help build a successful, sustainable organisation. This cultural assessment informed the development of our organisational structure, and we will continue to conduct staff surveys and pulse tests to ensure we are successfully meeting our goal of achieving a positive and cohesive culture.

Shared Values

- ✓ Through ongoing internal consultation with staff, Edward River Council has developed our new corporate values - LEAD: Leadership, Excellence, Accountability and Delivery - which underpin our workplace culture and to which all staff are committed to upholding. These shared values will be an integral part of how our organisation operates, including the way we deliver services to our community. Our values will also be incorporated into our recruitment and staff performance appraisal processes, making sure all staff are continually embodying the values of Leadership, Excellence, Accountability and Delivery.

Our Financial Position

Financial benefits have been delivered for residents and ratepayers through duplication reduction and greater efficiency which come from increased scale. With the merger savings, and the NSW Government's funding of \$15 million, the new Council will be better able to provide the services and infrastructure that are important to our community.

Financial Position 2017-2021

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Income	\$28,269,840	\$25,680,035	\$26,161,295	\$26,791,235
Operational Expenditure	\$27,591,200	\$25,505,455	\$25,791,260	\$26,618,940
Capital Expenditure	\$17,492,325	\$12,635,785	\$9,113,830	\$7,680,640

Stronger Communities Funding

Capital Works Program	16/17 Actual	17/18	18/19
Deniliquin Ute Muster	\$200,000	-	-
Council s355 Committees	\$200,000	-	-
Major Projects Program	-	\$4,948,825	\$3,651,175
Stronger Communities Grants Program	\$1,000,000	-	-
Total	\$1,400,000	\$4,948,825	\$3,651,175



Stronger Communities Fund

The Stronger Communities Fund was established by the NSW Government to provide all newly merged councils, including Edward River Council, with funding to kick start the delivery of projects that improve community infrastructure and services.

Edward River Council received \$10 million through the Stronger Communities Fund, which was allocated as follows:

- \$8,600,000 for the Edward River Council Major Projects Program;
- \$1,000,000 for the Edward River Council Stronger Community Grants Program;
- \$200,000 for projects identifies by council committees; and
- \$200,000 contribution to the 2016 Deniliquin Ute Muster.

In determining which projects should be funded through the Stronger Communities Fund, Council was required to follow an open and transparent process and apply high governance standards set by the NSW Government. This included the appointment of a Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel to oversee the funding process.



Stronger Communities Grants

Through the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund, Council has directed \$1 million in funding to a series of projects across the Edward River community. Projects funded include:

- Blighty School P&C - Playscape development, \$40,000
- Blighty Football Club - Timekeepers' box upgrade, \$6,900
- Bush Poets - Mobile stage, sound and light, \$7,500
- Boat Club - Riverbank Redevelopment, \$30,000
- Deniliquin Aero Club - Redesign/ rebuild outdoor roof area, \$15,000
- Deniliquin & District Cricket Association - Replace and upgrade facilities, \$30,000
- Deniliquin & District Historical Society - Rejuvenation of museum, \$13,000
- Deniliquin Bowling Club - Installation of disabled toilets, \$20,000
- Bridge Club - Chairs, \$6,000
- Clay Target Club - Amenity block upgrade, \$16,225
- Deniliquin CWA - Maintenance and renovations, \$12,000
- Deniliquin Drovers - Lighting, \$44,000
- Deniliquin Field and Game - Relocation shooting range, \$35,000
- Genealogy Group - Updating outdated equipment, \$8,000
- Deniliquin Girl Guides - Hall maintenance, \$20,000
- Golf Club - Fairway mower, \$40,000
- Gymnastics Club - Equipment for safety and development, \$20,000
- Deniliquin High School P&C - Kitchen appliance upgrade, \$6,740
- Deniliquin Lawn Tennis Club - Court lighting, \$30,000
- Little Athletics - Timing equipment, \$7,500
- Deniliquin Men's Shed - Upgrade facilities, \$25,000
- Deniliquin Netball Committee - Shelter shed, \$5,000
- Deniliquin North Public School P&C - Irrigation system, \$32,250
- Deniliquin Outdoor Pools Inc. - Pool ladder and lane ropes, \$10,456
- Pistol Club - Clubhouse/air pistol range, \$10,000
- Deniliquin Pony Club - Shed, \$35,650
- Deniliquin Racing Club - Machinery and equipment storage shed, \$25,000
- Rams Football and Netball Club - Storage shed/ seating, \$44,000
- Deniliquin Rhinos - Equipment upgrade, \$7,571
- Deniliquin Sports Park - Storage building, \$30,000
- Deniliquin Truck Show & Industry Expo - Wall of Fame, \$10,000
- Deniliquin Ute Muster - Purpose-built event sales facility, \$40,000
- Edward School P&C - Shade shelter, \$40,000
- Kurrajong Waratah - Yallamee: Cool room/ freezer, \$35,000
- Mayrung Public School P&C - Safety development and enhancement, \$18,921
- Navorina Ladies Auxiliary - Equipment upgrade, \$10,000
- Navorina Nursing Home - Flood beds, \$17,000
- Outback Theatre for Young People - While You Were Sleeping, \$50,000
- Pastoral & Agricultural Society - Public Announcement (PA) system, \$5,855
- Riding for the Disabled - Concreting and uniforms, \$22,730
- Rotary Club, Lions Club, Soroptomist International, Deniliquin RSL Joint Project - Liberty Swing, \$20,000
- Rovers Football Club - Construction of change rooms, \$44,000
- South West Music - Instruments for kids, \$30,055
- Deniliquin South Public School - Deniliquin South Public School project completion, \$10,000

Major Projects Program

Over the next two years, Council will be investing \$8.6 million into delivering larger-scale priority infrastructure and services projects that deliver long-term economic and social benefits to our community.

Edward River Council's Major Projects Program was adopted at an extraordinary Council meeting held on Thursday, 20 July 2017.

Council undertook significant consultation with our community in determining which projects were funded through the Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program. Funding allocated under the Major Projects Program must be spent or committed by 30 June 2019 and acquitted by 31 December 2019.

Over three consultation phases, members of the community were asked to provide submissions on projects they believed should be funded through the Major Projects Program, and to have their say on which proposals would provide greatest community benefit and should be funded. The consultation program comprised:

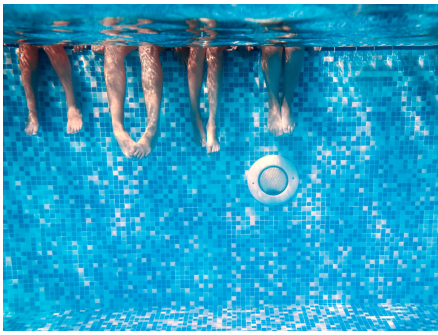
- Targeted meetings with stakeholders and project proponents;
- Public forums; and a
- Community survey

This community consultation informed the Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel's decision-making process, with the data collected by Council playing a key role in determining the composition of our Major Projects Program.

The Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel comprised Administrator Ashley Hall, Member for Murray Adrian Piccoli MP and former mayors Norm Brennan and Pat Fogarty, along with a representative of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and an independent probity adviser.

PROGRAM LAUNCH: Council's Major Projects Program was officially launched at a reception held on Thursday, 20 July 2017





Deniliquin Swim Centre Revitalisation

\$880,000

The Deniliquin Swim Centre will be revitalised through an \$880,000 investment, including the addition of an all-abilities Water Play Facility, creating a fun family-friendly aquatic environment for locals and visitors alike. Other improvements will include the re-lining of the main pool, the construction of a wet-deck and the installation of solar heating to the medium pool.



Community Masterplans and Initial Works

\$2,105,000

Over \$2 million will be invested into developing and delivering on the first stage of works on long-term strategic plans for the Deniliquin River Front (\$750,000), the Deniliquin Town Centre Streetscape (\$750,000), an Arts and Culture Precinct (\$475,000) and a multi-use Deniliquin Sports Precinct (\$130,000).



Deniliquin Sports and Entertainment Stadium Extension

\$540,000

An allocation of \$540,000 will go towards extending the Deniliquin Regional Sports and Entertainment Stadium and ensuring that it remains fit for use. This project will allow more sport and recreation programs to be facilitated at the Stadium through the installation of new flooring and additional court space.



Blighty Community Netball and Tennis Facility

\$550,000

Council will construct a new purpose-built community Netball and Tennis Clubhouse at the Blighty Sport and Recreation Reserve. With the addition of the new Clubhouse, the Blighty Reserve will cement its place as one of the region's premier sporting facilities.



Deniliquin Children's Centre Extension

\$500,000

Through a \$500,000 contribution to the Deniliquin Children's Centre expansion project, Council will assist local families to enjoy improved access to local childhood education services. Once delivered, this project will increase the number of childcare places in region by 11 per cent.



Deniliquin Netball Facility Improvement Works

\$320,000

Upgrades to the Deniliquin Oval and Memorial Park netball facilities will be achieved through a \$320,000 investment. Both facilities' courts will be resurfaced, improving players' safety, with additional fence realignment works and the construction of a spectator shelter at the Deniliquin Oval courts.



Rural Villages Beautification Project

\$300,000

Council will invest \$300,000 into achieving positive economic and social outcomes for our rural residents through our Rural Villages Beautification Project. Over the coming months, Council will engage in targeted consultation with rural residents to identify suitable projects from the Rural Village Masterplans prepared by the former Conargo Shire Council which can be funded through this allocation.



Beach to Beach Walk Connectivity Improvements

\$300,000

Connectivity to the Beach to Beach Walk and Island Sanctuary – two of our local tourism drawcards – will be improved through a \$300,000 investment. These funds will provide for the construction of additional footpath connections to the Beach to Beach Walk, as well as the refurbishment of both bridges into the Island Sanctuary.



Deniliquin Community Facility Refurbishments

\$165,000

Creating accessible and inclusive community spaces is a priority for Council, as demonstrated by our \$165,000 improvement works to two local community facilities: the Edward River Boat Club, which will gain an accessible toilet, and the Deniliquin Scout Hall, which will be refurbished for use as an Army Cadet Parade Hall.



Urban Road Infrastructure Program

\$2,390,000

Through our \$2.39 million Urban Road Infrastructure Program, Council will deliver much-needed upgrades to more than two kilometres of streets and over 500 metres of footpaths throughout the Deniliquin town area, going a long way to improving our urban road network.



Deniliquin Airport Heritage Centre Development

\$50,000

The second and third stages of the Deniliquin Heritage Centre Development Project, which celebrates the rich history of the local airport as a Royal Australian Air Force station during World War II, will be delivered through Council's \$50,000 contribution.



Unallocated Funding for New Council

\$500,000

Half a million dollars has been set aside for the new Edward River Council to allocate to an eligible project following the election taking place on Saturday, 9 September 2017. As with all other funded projects, the project selected by our new Councillors will need to be delivered by 30 June 2019.



Moving Forward

Following the conclusion of the interim administration period and the election of a new Council, the principal priority for Edward River Council will be delivering a full suite of Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IP&R) documentation, including our first Edward River Council Community Strategic Plan.

Council must adopt its suite of IP&R documentation (the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Resourcing Strategic) by 30 June 2018. These documents are statutory requirements and, once adopted, will set a vision and long-term strategic direction and budget for Council.

Maintaining Momentum

The IP&R Framework legislation is embedded in the Local Government Act 1993 and requires all councils to prepare and implement a Community Strategic Plan, which is the highest level strategic plan that Council prepares.

During the transition period, Edward River Council – along with all merged councils – has continued to implement and operate in accordance with our predecessor councils' Community Strategic Plans.

The development of our Community Strategic Plan must be guided by significant community consultation. As such, a comprehensive consultation process, entitled Our Region, Your Say, has been planned and is scheduled to commence following the September election.

Welcoming Elected Councillors

Nine (9) Councillors will be elected in September to represent the entire Edward River region, rather than individual wards, on Council.

Following the elections, the Councillors will vote to elect a Mayor for a two-year term. The New South Wales Government has extended the length of the Mayor's term from one year to two years in order to offer the new Council extra stability and encourage a focus on long-term strategic planning.

Council's General Manager and Executive Leadership Team has planned a comprehensive induction and training programme for new Councillors to ensure that they are able to effectively discharge their responsibilities under the Local Government Act.

Continuing to Report Progress

This Report details Edward River Council's progress against the Stronger Councils Framework over the past 14 months. We will continue to report against the Stronger Councils Framework measures, as well as our Community Strategic Plan and other IP&R documentation, in our Annual Reports.

