

# Edward River News



Edward  
River  
COUNCIL

Issue 4 : May 2017

## Page 3

Draft Council budget on exhibition

## Page 5

**Second round of major projects consultation**

## Lead the way – Become an Edward River councillor!

Can you 'lead the way' for the Edward River community?

Edward River Council is looking for capable people with passion and commitment to nominate as candidates in the upcoming local council elections and help lead and continue the work already started by our council.

At Edward River Council, we've already accomplished a lot, and we're proud of what we've achieved, but there's still a way to go to meet the challenges of our new community and steer it in the direction our residents want to go.

Holding elections is the next big milestone for Council and our community. Elections will be held on Saturday 9 September 2017, with nine councillors being elected for a three year term.

Energy and a 'can do' desire to get things done and make a difference are important qualities for councillors. You will be inclusive, approachable and willing to work across

communities to create a prosperous future for the whole Edward River region.

Councils may be local in focus, but we're strategic in outlook. As a councillor, you'll also be able to balance good local outcomes with sound decision making to bring about long-lasting community benefits for current and future generations.

Council is at the heart of our community, and plays a vital role in providing the direction and planning that the Edward River community needs to grow and succeed.

Today's councils face many financial, social and technological challenges. It will be important for us to work together and meet these from a position of strength if we are to continue to deliver the services, infrastructure and facilities that our community needs.

***Nominations for candidates open on Monday 31 July and close at 12noon on Wednesday 9 August 2017.***

# Message from the Administrator

The past two months have been busy ones for Edward River Council.

May 12 marked one year since the proclamation of Edward River Council following the merger of the former Conargo Shire and Deniliquin Council.

As Administrator, I am proud of what our team has been able to accomplish over the past 12 months, and I am very grateful for the support we have received from the

Edward River community as we work hard to deliver better services and infrastructure to our residents and ratepayers.

Our new General Manager, Adam McSwain, has come on board and hit the ground running. There is great energy within the organisation, and our staff are genuinely excited about the opportunities ahead. Adam brings considerable leadership experience to his role as General Manager, and I am confident that under his leadership, Council will continue to be a strong, cohesive and customer-focussed organisation.

The NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund has already seen close \$1 million invested into local projects which are helping to build a more vibrant, sustainable and inclusive local community, and Council is now finalising the second period of consultation for our Major Projects Program, which will see a further \$8.6 million invested into local infrastructure and facilities. Consultation closes on Friday, 9 June and I encourage all residents to visit Council's website at [www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au](http://www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au) and have their say on this terrific program.

The countdown is now on to the inaugural Edward River Council elections, which are scheduled to take place on Saturday, 9 September. The community will elect nine Councillors to represent the region on Council, and this edition of the Edward River News includes plenty of information for prospective councillor candidates, as well as voter registration and enrolment information. If you want to learn more about standing for Council or making sure you're enrolled to vote, visit Council's website or the NSW Electoral Commission website at [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info).

Until next time,

Ashley Hall  
Administrator



# Deniliquin students to participate in China exchange

Two students from the Edward River Council area will have a unique opportunity to participate in an educational and cultural experience in China.

They will be part of an Australian Education Society (AES) program and participate thanks to financial support from Edward River Council.

The AES is a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing a professional platform to connect educational providers and practitioners in order to engage underprivileged Australian and international students in a broader range of educational and cultural experiences.

It is committed to supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve their educational goals in order to best equip them with relevant skills and knowledge for the 21st Century.

The opportunity for Deniliquin students to participate in the program is an additional benefit of Edward River Council's arrangement to have a leading research facility operated by Ausway College based at Murray Valley Industry Park.

Representatives from Ausway College, Guizhou Province's Front Work Department in China and AES were recently in Deniliquin to sign a memorandum of understanding.

Edward River Council looks forward to providing financial support so two local students can participate in the program.

The 2017 AES China to China Program will be take place in July.

## New operating hours for Blighty waste depot

The Blighty Waste Disposal Depot will now be open from 1.00pm to 5.00pm each Thursday and Sunday.

Council has revised the depot's operating hours due to daylight savings having ended. The operating hours will be reviewed once daylight savings recommences on Sunday, 1 October 2017.

# Draft Council Budget on exhibition

Edward River Council's draft 2017/18 Operational Plan and Budget is now on public exhibition.

The draft Operational Plan and Budget sets out Council's priorities and allocates funding for Council's functions over the forthcoming financial year.

Administrator Ashley Hall said it was important that Council put forward a robust plan for the coming 12 months to deliver on priorities established in the Conargo 2022 and Deniliquin 2025 Community Strategic Plans.

"This is the first consolidated Operational Plan and Budget for Edward River Council and it sets out the priorities, projects and funding commitments which are essential to continue to improve the

region's infrastructure and deliver better services to our residents and ratepayers," Mr Hall said.

"With a projected operational expenditure budget of just over \$27 million and capital expenditure of \$17 million, Council is continuing to direct funding into community assets, roads, projects and services, while ensuring that our organisation operates efficiently and effectively to meet our community's needs and expectations."

Mr Hall encouraged members of the Edward River community to read the draft Operational Plan and Budget and participate in the consultation process.

"I encourage all residents, business owners and everyone with a stake in the future of the Edward River region to review the plan and provide

feedback on the allocation of funding and project priorities," he said.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the draft 2017/18 Operational Plan and Budget has been placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, and all public submissions received during this period will be considered before the final plan is adopted.

***The draft Operational Plan and Budget can be accessed on Council's website at [www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au/budget](http://www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au/budget).***

***Copies of the budget can be inspected at Council's Customer Service Centre at 180 Cressy Street, Deniliquin or at the Central Murray Regional Library at 55 Napier Street, Deniliquin.***

## Council to collect NSW Government Fire and Emergency Services Levy

From 1 July 2017, the NSW Government will abolish the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) on insurance policies and replace it with a Fire and Emergency Services Levy (FESL), which will be collected by Edward River Council and paid by property owners alongside their council rates.

The reform will be a fairer way of raising the money that supports our fire and emergency services and volunteers.

Currently, individuals and businesses that buy property insurance contribute most of the funding for NSW Fire and Rescue, NSW Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service to protect the community from fire, floods and other natural disasters.

This means that NSW property owners who insure their properties are subsidising households who don't purchase home and contents insurance.

Council's General Manager, Adam McSwain, said the levy will be clearly identified as a separate item on residents' rates notices.

"The amount of the Fire and Emergency Service Levy for each property will be set by the NSW Government and determined by land classifications and unimproved land values," Mr McSwain said.

"The NSW Valuer General is responsible for determining unimproved land values, while councils identify which land classification properties fall into."

If you disagree with your property's classification, you can request a review by Edward River Council

To introduce the FESL, the NSW Valuer General has recently completed a review of all land values in NSW, including the Edward River region. This aligns all NSW properties with a single valuation base date so the FESL can be applied more equitably.

Mr McSwain said the levy, whilst billed and collected by Council, will be passed straight to the NSW Government to fund fire and emergency services.

"Only late last year, the Edward River region was significantly impacted by flooding and our community relied heavily upon the much-needed assistance provided by our emergency services, before, during and after the flood event," he said.

Residents are able to visit the NSW Government's Fire and Emergency Services Levy website at [www.fesl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fesl.nsw.gov.au) and use an online calculator to compare the new levy with the amount they currently pay through their insurance. On average the NSW government predicts an average saving of \$47 per year for fully insured residential properties.

***For further information on the NSW Government's Fire and Emergency Services Levy, visit [www.fesl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fesl.nsw.gov.au) or call 1300 78 78 72.***

# Peppin Heritage Centre hosts Bald Archy

Deniliquin's Peppin Heritage Centre was host to 44 works from the Bald Archy Prize throughout late April and early May, with locals and visitors alike enjoying the exhibition.

Created in 1994 as a spoof of the more serious Archibald Prize, the Bald Archy Prize has grown in popularity over the years and is currently touring rural and regional Australia.

The 2017 winner of the Bald Archy will be announced in Sydney on Friday, 21 July 2017.



## New GM hits ground running

Growing the region's economy, renewal of existing Council assets, facilitating local job growth and leading a contemporary, customer-focussed local government organisation all rank highly on new Edward River Council General Manager Adam McSwain's list of priorities.

Mr McSwain, formerly the Director of Planning and Development at Swan Hill Rural City Council, commenced in his new role last month and says economic development is at the forefront of his agenda.

"The Edward River region is one the most productive irrigation areas in New South Wales and supports a strong, diverse economy, and there are so many exciting opportunities ahead for our agriculture and tourism sectors and the industries they support," Mr McSwain said.

"Council's role is to be an enabler of growth, to be open to new and innovative ideas, and to work with business and industry, as well as our community, to deliver meaningful outcomes," he said.

"Projects such as the Deniliquin Runway Extension Project and the proposed Deniliquin ethanol plant may seem ambitious, but Council is well placed to push these projects along and make them a reality."

Mr McSwain said one of his key goals would be to ensure the continued financial viability of Edward River Council and to maintain a high standard of service delivery.

"We've now brought two former councils together to form one organisation, we've got a professional, effective team in place, and so now our focus turns to getting the right systems and processes in place to make sure we can keep delivering the services and infrastructure our community expects," he said.

"Central to that will be partnership, cooperation and collaboration; with other levels of government, with neighbouring councils, with our business community, and with our residents, ratepayers and community groups.

"Already, Council is working with local business and industry to help facilitate economic growth, and our partnership with Murray Irrigation and the Deniliquin Business Chamber to prepare a region-wide Economic Development Strategy is a terrific example of that."

Mr McSwain was selected as General Manager from a strong pool of potential candidates from South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

# Second round of major projects consultation

Edward River Council is currently carrying out the second – and final – round of community consultation for its Major Projects Program, which will invest \$8.6 million in to delivering better services, infrastructure and facilities throughout the Edward River region.

Council's General Manager, Adam McSwain, said the next stage of consultation would allow members of the public to have their say on prioritising projects for the Major Projects Program.

"The Major Projects Program is a terrific initiative which provides Council with the opportunity to work collaboratively with residents and community groups to deliver infrastructure and services required to make a real and lasting difference to the Edward River community," Mr McSwain said.

"We have had an extraordinary response from the community so far, with over 60 proposals, or about \$20 million worth of projects, submitted by members of our local community," he said.

"While the funds provided to Council under this program are generous; unfortunately, not all projects can be successful in gaining funding, which is why we need as many residents as possible to have their say on which submissions they believe will deliver best value for money for our community.

"All members of the public are encouraged to view the Major Projects

Program submissions on Council's website and send us their feedback, and I invite anyone who wants to learn more about the program to contact our Project Merger Office team on 02 5898 3000 or via email at [council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au)."

Mr McSwain said all submissions, along with the feedback received from residents and community groups during the consultation period, would be provided to the Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel for its consideration.

"Every proposal and every piece of feedback Council receives will be passed onto the assessment panel, allowing the panelists to make the most informed decision possible," he said.

Projects that are prioritised for funding must meet a set of criteria set by the NSW Government.

The Major Projects Program is funded through the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund and aimed at kick starting the delivery of local projects that improve community infrastructure and services and lead to long-term economic and social benefits for the Edward River community.

**Feedback is being accepted via Council's website at [www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au](http://www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au), by email to [council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au), or in-person at Council's Customer Service Centre at 180 Cressy Street, Deniliquin until 5.00pm Friday, 09 June 2017.**

## Wanganella shared path completed

On Thursday, 13 April 2017, contractors engaged by Edward River Council completed a shared path in Wanganella, connecting the Peppin Merino statue and the caravan park to the Wanganella Store.

This project commenced in March 2017 and cost \$36,400 to complete, which was part funded by a \$15,000 grant from Murray Local Land Services.



## Business forum a success

Over 200 people attended Edward River Council's first Business Forum, held on Monday, 10 April, at the Deniliquin RSL, which featured prominent Queensland businessman John Wagner as keynote speaker.

Mr Wagner is a director of Wagner Group, which has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Council to create a freight link between Deniliquin Airport and Wagner Group's Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport in Toowoomba.

The event was coordinated by Council in partnership with the Deniliquin Business Chamber, and included a Q&A session with panellists including Mr Wagner and NSW Minister for Main Roads, Maritime and Freight, Melinda Pavey MP, as well as local federal representative for Farrer, Sussan Ley MP.

# Edward River elections around the corner

## 2017 Local Government Elections

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

#### Elections for Edward River Council

##### When will elections for new councils be held?

Elections for the 20 new councils created in 2016, including Edward River Council, will be held on Saturday, 9 September 2017.

##### How long will councillors for new councils be elected for?

Successful candidates at this year's local council elections will be elected for three years. The next local council elections for all new and existing councils will be held in 2020.

##### Who will administer these elections for new councils?

The NSW Electoral Commission will conduct these elections for new councils. It ensures elections are conducted in an independent, fair and impartial way.

##### Where can I get more information about local council elections?

For more information about registration, nomination, voting and other election processes go to the NSW Electoral Commission website at [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) or [www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au).

#### Leading the way – Becoming a councillor

##### How do I know if I'm eligible to be a councillor?

If you're entitled to vote at elections for councils in NSW, then the chances are you will be able to nominate as a candidate. However, before nominating, you must check that you are on the electoral roll for the council area you are nominating for and make

sure you are not disqualified from standing for office.

You can check this by visiting [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) or [www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au).

Some of the reasons that may disqualify you from standing for office include if you are currently serving a prison sentence, have been convicted of certain election-related criminal offences, or are prohibited from managing companies.

##### How do I nominate as a candidate?

Nomination forms and candidate information kits are available at [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) or [www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au).

Nomination forms must be formally lodged with the Returning Officer, who is an official appointed by the NSW Electoral Commissioner to conduct elections for one or more council areas.

##### What is the deadline for nominating as a candidate?

Nominations for candidates for councils open on Monday 31 July and close at 12noon on Wednesday 9 August 2017.

##### Do you need special qualifications to become a councillor?

Although you must meet certain eligibility requirements to nominate as a candidate, there are no special qualifications other than a desire to serve your community and contribute to local decision making in a supportive, positive and inclusive way.

##### What are important qualities for councillors to have?

Energy and a 'can do' desire to make a difference are important qualities for councillors. You will be inclusive, approachable and willing to work across communities and make

decisions that benefit and provide opportunity for the whole local government area.

Councils may be local in focus, but they're strategic in outlook. As a councillor, you'll also be willing to balance good local outcomes with sound decision making to bring about long-lasting community benefits for current and future generations.

Important qualities of a successful councillor are:

- **Team player** who enjoys working with others to make a difference.
- **Problem solver** who is willing to make courageous decisions in the interests of the community.
- **Organised** and able to keep track of different meetings, events, information and timelines.
- **Good listener** who is interested in understanding the views of all community members.
- **Ethical**, open and accountable.
- **Respectful** of community members, council staff and other councillors.

##### What are the benefits of being a councillor?

Local councils are at the heart of many cities, regions and towns. They help shape places and provide the direction and planning that communities need to succeed and grow.

Being a councillor is rewarding and gives everyday people the opportunity to guide and influence the long term vision and direction of the local community. The benefits include:

- Making decisions that benefit and provide opportunity for people in your community;

- Supporting the long-term vision and direction for your community; and
- Learning new skills and being supported by personalised professional development and leadership programs.

### What challenges might a councillor face?

While the benefits of being a councillor are many, it is also a role that requires time, commitment and energy. Some of the challenges councillors may face include:

- Continuing the journey started by councils, and making courageous decisions that may be unpopular with some people but bring benefits to the whole community;
- Balancing good local governance with strategic decision making to bring about lasting benefits for the whole community and not just the area you live in or represent; and
- Working respectfully and constructively as a team with people who may have differing views, experiences and motivations to you.

### Where can I find more information about the 2017 elections for new local councils and becoming a councillor?

You can find information about becoming a councillor by visiting Edward River Council's website at [www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au/election](http://www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au/election) or by contacting any of the organisations listed below:

#### Office of Local Government

General enquiries about being a councillor

Phone: 02 4428 4100

Email: [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au)

[www.olg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au)

#### Local Government NSW

Peak body for local councils

Phone: 02 9242 4000

Email: [lgnsw@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:lgnsw@lgnsw.org.au)

[www.lgnsw.org.au](http://www.lgnsw.org.au)

#### NSW Electoral Commission

General enquiries about nominating and voting at local council elections

Phone: 02 9290 5999 / 1300 135 736

Email: [enquiries@elections.nsw.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@elections.nsw.gov.au)

[www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au)

[www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info)

## Voting at local council elections

### Is it compulsory to vote at local council elections?

Yes, it is compulsory for Australian citizens aged 18 years and over to be on the electoral roll for the address at which they live and to vote at local council elections.

To exercise the right to have your say, you need to be registered to vote and ensure that you vote on Saturday 9 September 2017 for your preferred local council candidate.

To find out if you're on the NSW electoral roll, and where you can go to vote, visit the NSW Election Commission website at [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) or [www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au).

### Why is it important that I vote?

As a resident or property owner in the Edward River region, you are entitled to vote and have your say about the future of the Edward River community.

Edward River Council helps connect people to flexible local services, provides everyday infrastructure like parks, roads, bridges and playgrounds, and uncovers the issues that communities really care about. Council elections also give you the opportunity to show how much you care about the area you live in and who you should think should lead it!

### Where can I vote?

Council elections for our council will be held on Saturday 9 September 2017. Polling places will be open from 8am to 6pm. For a list of all polling places in the Edward River Council area, visit Council's website at [www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au/election](http://www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au/election) or [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) or [www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au).

### What if I can't get to a polling place on Saturday 9 September 2017?

People that are unable to reach or vote at a polling place in their local council area or ward on 9 September 2017 may be eligible to vote by other ways, such as postal or pre-poll voting.

For more election information—and to access relevant postal and pre-polling application forms, key dates and lodgement portals—visit [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) or [www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au), or call the NSW Electoral Commission on 1300 135 736.

# Important Dates – 2017 Elections

## Sunday, 1 July:

- Start of Local Government Expenditure period.

## Monday, 31 July:

- Nominations open.
- 6.00pm, close of rolls (for nominations and roll printing).

## Wednesday, 9 August:

- 12.00 noon, close of nominations.
- 12.00 noon, close of registration for candidates and groups.
- Registration of Electoral Material commences.

## Monday, 28 August:

- Pre-poll voting opens.

## Friday, 1 September:

- 5.00pm, registration of Electoral Material closes.
- Close of registration for third-party campaigners.

## Monday, 4 September:

- 5.00pm, postal vote applications close.
- Declared Institution voting commences.

## Friday, 8 September:

- 6.00pm, pre-poll voting closes.
- Declared Institution voting closes.

## Saturday, 9 September:

- Election Day, polling stations open 8.00am to 6.00pm.
- End of Local Government Expenditure Review Period.

## Monday, 11 September:

- 6.00pm, return of postal votes closes.

# Edward River commemorates ANZAC Day

Observed on 25 April each year, ANZAC Day is one of Australia's most important national commemorative occasions, marking the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War.

As Australia continues to commemorate 100 years of ANZAC, this year we reflect on the significant Western Front battles of the Flanders Offensive and the Sinai-Palestine Campaign, both of which took place in 1917.

Locally, Edward River Council proudly supported the ANZAC Day services held in Deniliquin and Wanganella.



## DrumMuster Service

Council's drumMuster service has been relocated from Augustus Street, Deniliquin to the Deniliquin Waste Disposal Depot on Tip Road, off the Cobb Highway 4.9 kilometres from the North Deniliquin roundabout.

This change will extend the hours that residents can access the service.

DrumMuster provides an easy, environmentally friendly way of disposing of empty farming chemical containers. Farmers are encouraged to use drumMuster for disposal of appropriate containers.

The Deniliquin Waste Disposal Depot is open from 8.30am to 3.45pm, seven days a week except for Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday and ANZAC Day.

An alternative drumMuster collection site is at Mayrunga. Farmers in the Mayrunga district should contact Bergette Schultz at Mayrunga School on 03 5882 4243 during school hours to arrange drop-off. The money from returned drums goes back to the Mayrunga School.



### Customer Service Centre

Civic Place, Deniliquin  
Post: PO Box 270, Deniliquin NSW 2710  
Phone: 03 5898 3000  
Fax: 03 5898 3029  
Email: [council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au](http://www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au)

### Central Murray Regional Library

Gorman Park, 55 Napier Street, Deniliquin  
Post: PO Box 206, Deniliquin NSW 2710  
Phone: 03 5898 3100  
Fax: 03 5881 4833  
Email: [library@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:library@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.cmrl.deniliquin.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cmrl.deniliquin.nsw.gov.au)



Do you want to get up-to-date information from Council regarding projects, initiatives, meetings and events? Visit [www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au](http://www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au) and sign up to receive Council's e-newsletter.



Keep in touch - Follow Edward River Council and the Central Murray Regional Library on Facebook.