



Annual Report
2021-2022



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Edward River Council acknowledges and embraces the First Nations Peoples, the Wamba Wamba/Perrepa Perrepa Peoples, as the Traditional Owners of the Lands within the Edward River Council area.

The Edward River Council also recognises the diversity of different cultures within our community and their contribution.



Access to information

The community is encouraged to stay up to date with Council information by:

Visiting our website www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au

Watching our Council meetings online - Edward River Council Live Stream - YouTube

Following us on Facebook - @edwardriver

Reading our weekly Community News in the newspaper

Dropping into our Customer Service centre located at:

180 Cressy Street, Deniliquin, NSW 2710

or our library located at:

55 Napier Street, Deniliquin, NSW 2710

Contact us

Customer Service Centre

180 Cressy Street, Deniliquin, NSW 2710

Phone: 03 5898 3000

Open 8.30am - 4pm Mon - Fri

For after hour emergencies call 03 5898 3000

PO Box 270 DENILIKUIN NSW 2710

Email: council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au



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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I am very pleased to present the Council's first annual report since the election in December 2021, and my first as Mayor of Edward River Council. We have seen significant change over the last year as our wonderful community came out of the Covid-19 pandemic and ramped up significant activity with a brand-new Council.

It has been a financial year of significant highs and lows. I congratulate and thank my fellow councillors for their success in the election and for their tireless work in understanding the strategic landscape very quickly.

We have seven new councillors in our special group of nine, and we have all put significant effort into learning the roles and responsibilities of a Councillor to deliver a new Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, Operational Plan and budget in a very compressed timeframe to meet State Government deadlines.

As a group we have "come out of the blocks" at a sprint, setting a new fresh agenda for the Edward River Community, following the comprehensive community consultation undertaken in the latter part of 2021 with the Seftons Report.

It was with sadness that we acknowledged the passing of the much-respected former councillor and Mayor, Norm Brennan. Shortly afterward, we also mourned the death of Cr Peter Connell, who passed away unexpectedly in March 2022. We continue to wish their families all the very best and the community will continue to regard their contribution with fondness and respect.

I want to thank Council staff who have worked tirelessly over the last 12 months, and I am particularly proud of the work undertaken on maintaining and beautifying our region and particularly in the delivery of services and projects seeing Council delivering \$21.9M of capital works and major projects.

Edward River Council is just five years old, and in that time, we have established an ambitious program to show not only the State, but the whole country what can be achieved when Council and its residents work together for the betterment of the whole community.

I am particularly proud of our advocacy work that has resulted in substantial State and Federal Government funding and has allowed Council to deliver some much-needed new projects and a strong maintenance program.

Council continues its efforts in the support for a Country University Centre in Deniliquin, the review and implementation of the State Clinical (Health) Services Plan for our hospital and is proud of its strongly supported community grants and events program.

I am pleased to present, on behalf of your Council, the 2021-2022 annual report.



**Mayor
Cr Peta Betts**

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

It is my pleasure as General Manager of Edward River Council to present the annual report for 2021-2022. Pleasingly, despite the economic conditions brought on by Covid-19, our Council is reporting an improvement in both the total number of projects undertaken and their timely delivery.

It has not been an easy year for any of us in Edward River, with border closures having a significant impact on business, health and our way of life.

I am particularly grateful to our staff and Councillors who have worked to ensure we, as a Council and leaders in our community, have minimised these impacts for our residents.

I would also like to personally thank the Councillors of the inaugural Edward River Council for their direction and support of the community. I commend those Councillors who did not stand for re-election in the 2021 Local Government election for their service to the community. Most of the councillors who stood down from running in 2021 have served this wonderful community for more than 20 years. I extend my particular thanks to these councillors for their leadership of the Council, and particularly Norm Brennan throughout his inaugural term as Mayor. I express my deepest condolences to his family, following his passing in January 2022.

The new Council, elected in December 2021, has had an equally difficult task with an ambitious program of induction, learning and development of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework as required by the

NSW Government. Pleasingly, the new councillors have worked tirelessly to ensure that these obligations were delivered by June 2022. The new Edward River Council Community Strategic Plan, 2022-2050 sets an ambitious and visionary agenda for the community.

Our capital works program has delivered some fabulous new community assets as well as a program of renewal, maintenance and revitalisation for the region. The extensive work on the sealing of Maude Road has been a highlight of the year.

I'm pleased to report that we have had significant progress on the Town Hall restoration project through the year. Whilst challenged with supply and contractor disruptions as a result of covid, the project is on track for an opening in early 2023.

As part of the overall Civic Precinct upgrade, it has been exciting to see the transformation of the Estates building, the design of which is both sympathetic to its heritage and contemporary to the needs of a modern council. It was particularly rewarding to see our customer service area reopened for business and looking amazing!

Council has remained focused on facilitating community connectedness during and in the wake of the pandemic. The Lights on the Lagoon event in Waring Gardens brought together the community in a unique way and highlighted the important role of social togetherness in times of crisis.

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER (cont.)

This year Council is reporting positive financial results with the financial statements showing a strong financial position, with an increase in cash reserves in 2021-2022. This is a turnaround from our results in the previous year and a marked improvement on our budgeted results.

Edward River Village continues to feature strongly as a key project with the Council making key decisions during the year to progress it, including going to tender for the construction of the first 6 dwellings in Stage 1 and establishing a pricing structure.

I look forward to leading the organisation in the delivery of services and projects that advance the priorities of this elected Council and those outcomes in the Community Strategic Plan for the Edward River Community in 2022-23.

Thank you for helping drive our region, we are pleased to present our annual report to you, our community.



General Manager
Phil Stone

ABOUT THE ANNUAL REPORT



Island Sanctuary Walk

Welcome to Edward River Council's Annual Report for 2021-2022.

This report provides our community with a comprehensive account of Council's achievements for the year, including an overview of our financial position and performance against the commitments detailed in the Delivery Program 2018-2021.

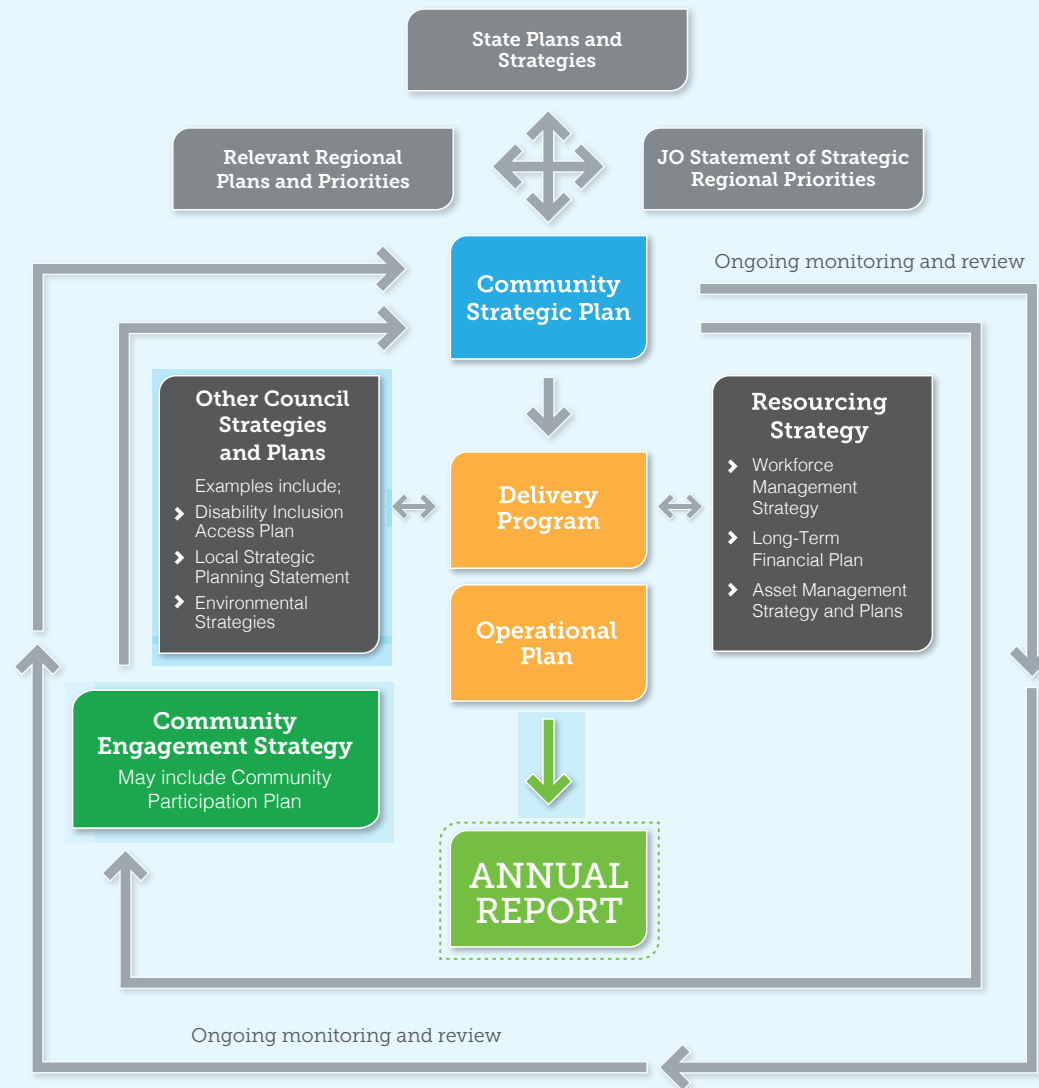
The annual report reflects the five key themes of the Community Strategic Plan:

- A great place to live
- A prosperous and vibrant economy
- A valued and enhanced natural environment
- A region with quality and sustainable infrastructure
- A community working together to achieve its potential

Each of these strategic themes are accompanied by specific objectives as detailed in Council's Delivery Program 2018-2021 for delivery in the Council term (noting the extension of time to 2022 due to the delays in the Council elections).

This Annual Report is a key document for reporting transparently to our community on our progress towards the implementation of the Delivery Program.

This Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 and clause 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

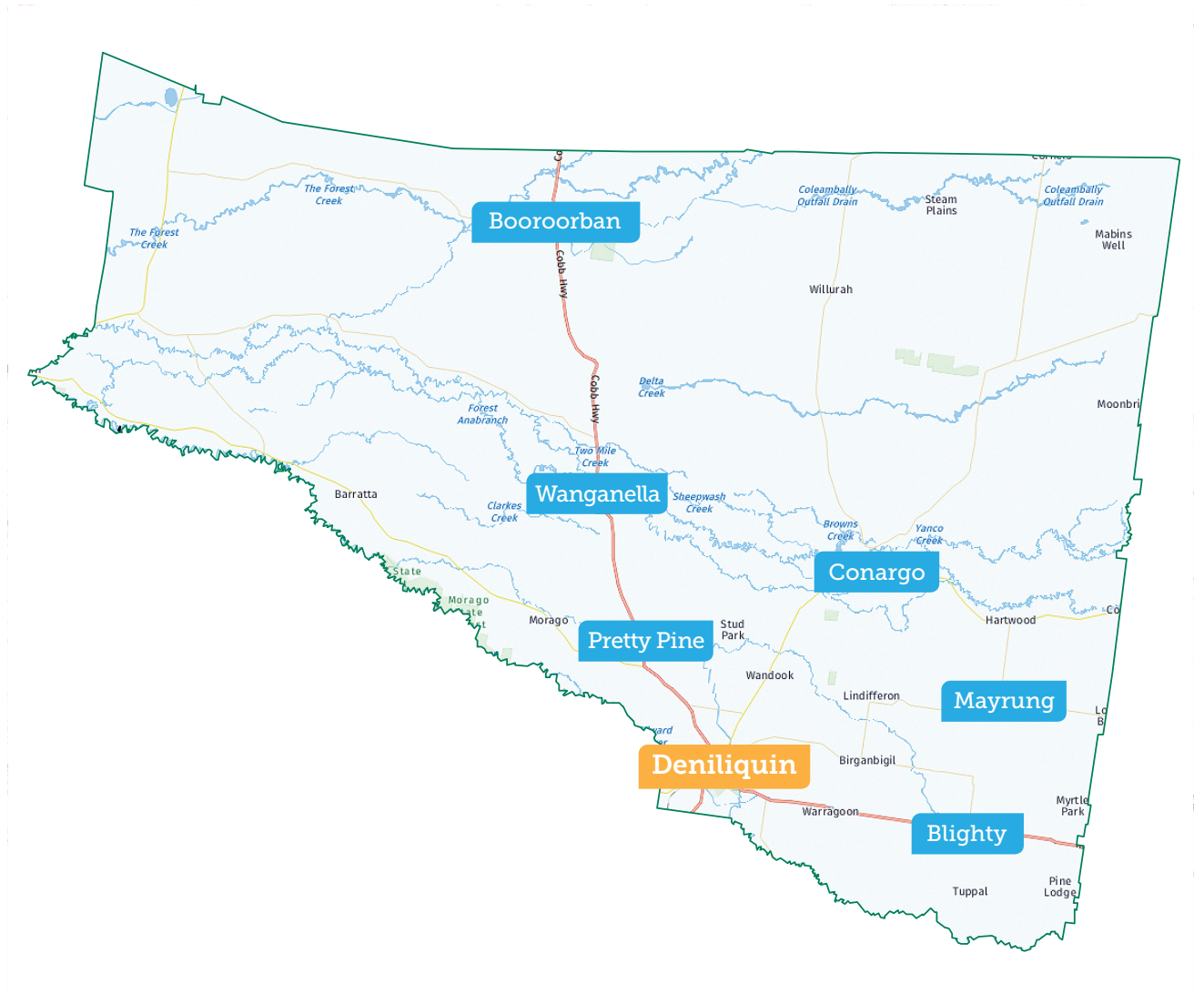


OUR REGION

Edward River Local Government Area (LGA) is located in the south west Riverina of NSW and is approximately 3 hours north of Melbourne, 2 hours west of Albury and 7 hours south west of Sydney.

Edward River LGA is known for its incredible natural beauty punctuated by the Edward River Kolety, a bountiful agricultural industry and its vibrant community. These characteristics make our LGA an ideal tourist and retirement destination as well as a great place to live, work, invest and play.

Major centre:	Deniliquin
Rural Villages:	Blighty, Booroobin, Mayrung, Conargo, Pretty Pine & Wanganella
Region:	Riverina Murray
Population:	8456 (source ABS 2021 Census data)
Population density:	1 persons/km ²
Area:	8,883km ²



Map image / .id Informed Decisions

ABOUT EDWARD RIVER

› Our Community



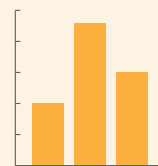
Population
8456



Males
49.3%
Females
50.7%



Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
population
4.8%



Median
Age
46



Families
2160



20.7%
of community did
voluntary work through
an organisation or group
(last 12 months) 7.7%
higher than NSW average

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2021

› Our Economy



3918
people aged over 15
years are employed
59% work
full-time



Unemployment
3.6%



Median
household
weekly income
\$1240



Gross Regional
Product as of the
30th June 2021
\$523M
(National Institute of Economic
and Industry Research)



In 2020/21
Agriculture,
Forestry &
Fishing had the
largest output by
industry, generating
\$252M
(National Economics (NIEIR) -
Modelled series)



Registered
business in ERC
930
Agriculture is the
largest with 36%
(ABC Counts of Australian
Businesses 2021)

OUR COUNCIL

Our Vision

(Community Strategic Plan 2018-2030)

We are the centre of the Southern Riverina. Home to a connected and engaged community, driven by a diverse economy. We work together to lead our community, achieve our potential and embrace our future.

Our Values

	Leadership We seek to provide strong leadership for our community and customer. 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.

Our Elected Council

Edward River Council has 9 councillors including the Mayor. The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are elected by the councillors.

Councillors are elected to represent the interests of the entire community. Councillors are responsible for making decisions and developing policies that guide the activities of the Council. Councillors provide community leadership and are the conduit for communication between the community and Council. This role is performed at the Council and Committee meetings, where the decision-making takes place. Councillors consider the issues facing the Edward River community and region and collectively make decisions that balance the needs of the community with the needs of individuals, as well as both short term and long term outcomes.

In response to the COVID pandemic, the NSW Government made the decision to postpone the local government elections to December 2021. This resulted in an extended term for the outgoing councillors of 1 year and 3 months, and a shortened term for the incoming council.



COUNCIL 2017-2021

We acknowledge the contributions of the outgoing Councillors during their term of office 2017-2021.



Councillor
Norm Brennan Mayor



Councillor Pat Fogarty
Deputy Mayor



Councillor Peta Betts



Councillor Marg Bull



Councillor Ashley Hall

Emergency Service Committees			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Safety & Crime Prevention Advisory Committee 		
Natural Resource Management Committees					
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edward River Council Airport Advisory Committee 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edward River Council Airport Advisory Committee
Social/Cultural/Heritage		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal Advisory Committee Community Grant Assessment Panel Deniliquin Retirement Village Committee Werkitya Kalpal & District Indigenous Working Party 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal Advisory Committee Community Grant Assessment Panel Deniliquin Retirement Village Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Murray Regional Library Recreation and Community Facilities Recommendation Committee South West Music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deniliquin Retirement Village Committee Local Heritage Funding Committee
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Park Users Advancement Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edward River Council Community Garden 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edward River Concert Band Edward River Country Education Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Park Users Advancement Committee
Hall Committees		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi Arts Centre 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conargo Hall and Recreation Ground 	
Regional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Mayors Association Murray Darling Association Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Murray Darling Association

COUNCIL 2017-2021



Councillor
Norm McCallister



Councillor Peter McCrabb



Councillor Nick Metcalfe



Councillor Mac Wallace

Emergency Service Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee (Mid Murray Zone) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee (Mid Murray Zone) Zone Bushfire Management Committee
Natural Resource Management Committees				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Billabong Yanco Creek System Project
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit Risk and Improvement Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Edward River Council Airport Advisory Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Traffic Committee 	
Social/Cultural/Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation and Community Facilities Recommendation Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Long Paddock Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation and Community Facilities Recommendation Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Heritage Funding Committee
Community Engagement				
Hall Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pretty Pine Hall Committee with Advancement Committee running parallel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Booroorban Hall Committee with Advancement Committee running parallel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blighty Hall Committee with Advancement Committee running parallel Mayrung Hall Committee with Advancement Committee running parallel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wanganella Hall Committee with Advancement Committee running parallel
Regional Development		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deniliquin Business Chamber 		

Mayoral Election September 2021 – December 2021

At the September 2021 Ordinary council meeting, Councillors re-elected Cr Norm Brennan as Mayor along with Deputy Mayor, Cr Pat Fogarty to hold office until the council election in December 2021.



COUNCIL 2022-2024

The following councillors were elected in December 2021 to represent the community of Edward River until September 2024. A countback election was undertaken on 17 May 2022 to elect Cr Shannon Sampson.



Councillor Peta Betts
Mayor



Councillor Paul Fellows
Deputy Mayor



Councillor Shirlee Burge



Councillor Harold Clapham



Councillor Linda Fawns

peta.betts@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au	paul.fellows@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au	shirlee.burge@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au	harold.clapham@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au	linda.fawns@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety and Crime Prevention Advisory Committee • ERC Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee • Billabong Yanco Creek System Project • Town Hall Revitalisation Reference Users Group • General Manager's Performance Management Committee • Health Advocacy Committee • Seniors Living Precinct • Australia Day Committee • Country Mayors Association • Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee (Mid Murray Zone) • Zone Bushfire Management Committee • Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) • General Manager's Performance Management Committee • Seniors Living Precinct • Australia Day Committee • Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Traffic Committee • Rotary Park Users Group • Saleyards User Group • General Manager's Performance Management Committee • Health Advocacy Committee • The Long Paddock Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saleyards User Group • Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) • General Manager's Performance Management Committee • Aboriginal Advisory Committee • Conargo Hall and Rec s355 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deniliquin Regional Airport Users Group • General Manager's Performance Management Committee • Aboriginal Advisory Committee • Seniors Living Precinct • Blighty Hall and Rec s355 • Boorooban Hall and Rec s355

Mayoral Election 2022-2024

At the first Council meeting held in January 2022, Councillors elected Cr Peta Betts as the first female Mayor of Edward River, who, along with Deputy Mayor, Cr Paul Fellows, will hold office until September 2023. Cr Shannon Sampson was elected on countback on 17 May 2022 following the passing of Cr Peter Connell.



Councillor Pat Fogarty



Councillor Tarria Moore



Councillor Marc Petersen



Councillor Shannon Sampson

pat.fogarty@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au	tarria.moore@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au	marc.petersen@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au	shannon.sampson@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee (Mid Murray Zone) • Rotary Park Users Group • Multi Arts Centre Users Group (to be established) • Town Hall Revitalisation Reference Users Group • General Manager's Performance Management Committee • Health Advocacy Committee • Pretty Pine Hall and Rec s355 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Manager's Performance Management Committee • Mayrung Hall and Rec s355 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Park Users Group • Town Hall Revitalisation Reference Users Group • General Manager's Performance Management Committee • Seniors Living Precinct • Wanganella Hall and Rec s355 • Deniliquin Business Advisory Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deniliquin Regional Airport Users Group • General Manager's Performance Management Committee • Seniors Living Precinct

Councillor Allowances and Expenses

Allowances

The NSW Local Government Remuneration Tribunal is responsible for determining the allowances (fees) to be paid to Councillors and the Mayor each year. The current Council did not adopt the recommended 2% pay increase proposed by the tribunal in April 2022, and the fees remain at:

- Councillor fee \$12,400 pa
- Mayoral fee \$27,060 pa (paid in addition to the ordinary councillor fee)

Expenses

In addition to the annual allowance, expenses incurred by Councillors in performing their civic duties are paid by Council. The policy for the provision of facilities and payment of expenses to Councillors is available on Council's website.

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217(1)(a1)

Council's Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy allows for the payment of expenses incurred by, and the provision of facilities to, Councillors in relation to their roles as elected representatives and members of the governing body of Council. The total amount of fees received by the elected Councillors was \$3,233 and \$45,729 for the new Council reflecting the significant induction and training costs of the new Council.

Section 252 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires all Councils to adopt a policy concerning the payment of expenses incurred or to be incurred by, and the provision of facilities to, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors in relation to discharging the functions of civic office.

Edward River Council (Council) adopted its current Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy at its Ordinary Meeting in January 2022. This policy enables the reasonable and appropriate reimbursement of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors to help them undertake their civic duties. It ensures accountability and transparency and seeks to align Councillor expenses and facilities with community expectations.

Clause 15 of Council's Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy provides:

- 15.1 Council will report on the provision of expenses and facilities to councillors as required in the Local Government Act 1993 and Regulations.
- 15.2 Detailed reports on the provision of expenses and facilities to Councillors will be publicly tabled at a council meeting every six months and published in full on Council's website. These reports will include expenditure summarised by individual Councillor and as a total for all Councillors.

Councillor Allowances and Expenses table July - December 2021

Councillor	General travel expenses (use of private motor vehicle)	Interstate, overseas and long distance intrastate travel expenses	Accommodation	Professional development	Conferences and seminars	ICT expenses	Carer expenses	Totals
Cr Norm Brennan Mayor	\$593.08	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$47.40	\$0	\$640.48
Cr Pat Fogarty Deputy Mayor	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$47.40	\$0	\$47.40
Cr Peta Betts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$47.40	\$0	\$47.40
Cr Marg Bull	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$47.40	\$0	\$47.40
Cr Ashley Hall	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$47.40	\$0	\$47.40
Cr Norm McCallister	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$127.28	\$0	\$127.28
Cr Peter McCrabb	\$1,134.55	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$47.40	\$0	\$1181.95
Cr Nick Metcalfe	\$479.91	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$47.40	\$0	\$527.31
Cr Mac Wallace	\$439.64	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$127.28	\$0	\$566.92

Councillor Allowances and Expenses table January 2022 – June 2022 by Councillor

Councillor	General travel expenses (use of private motor vehicle)	Interstate, overseas and long distance intrastate travel expenses	Accommodation	Professional development	Conferences and seminars	ICT expenses	Carer expenses	Totals
Cr Peta Betts Mayor	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,236.25	\$0	\$1,030.00	\$0	\$8,896.87
Cr Paul Fellows Deputy Mayor	\$409.69	\$0	\$0	\$3,553.75	\$1,543.21	\$850.00	\$0	\$6,356.65
Cr Shirlee Burge	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,553.75	\$0	\$850.00	\$0	\$4,403.75
Cr Harold Clapham	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,553.75	\$0	\$850.00	\$0	\$4,403.75
Cr Linda Fawns	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,553.75	\$1,831.72	\$850.00	\$0	\$6,235.47
Cr Pat Fogarty	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,553.75	\$0	\$850.00	\$0	\$4,403.75
Cr Tarria Moore	\$1,446.56	\$0	\$0	\$3,553.75	\$0	\$850.00	\$0	\$5,850.31
Cr Marc Petersen	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,553.75	\$0	\$850.00	\$0	\$4,403.75
Cr Shannon Sampson	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$775.00	\$0	\$775.00

Council Meetings

The Edward River Council is required to meet at least 10 times each year, each time in a different month (Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) section 365). These meetings are known as Ordinary Meetings and are presided over by the Mayor or in their absence, the Deputy Mayor.

Ordinary Council Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month (except January) at the council chambers in Deniliquin. Meetings are livestreamed to the public online and the community is welcome to attend in person.

Councillor briefing sessions are informal meetings held between the councillors, the General Manager and invited staff. Councillors receive information on key subjects of interest. Councillor briefings form part of a councillor's ongoing professional development program.

The previous Council held 5 ordinary and 2 special meetings. The current Council has held 6 ordinary and 3 special meetings in the reporting period.

July-December 2021		
Councillor	Ordinary meetings	Extraordinary meetings
	Total held = 5	Total held = 2
Cr Peta Betts	5/5	2/2
Cr Norm Brennan (Mayor)	5/5	2/2
Cr Marg Bull	4/5	2/2
Cr Pat Fogarty (Deputy Mayor)	5/5	2/2
Cr Ashley Hall	5/5	2/2
Cr Norm McAllister	4/5	1/2
Cr Peter McCrabb	5/5	2/2
Cr Nick Metcalfe	5/5	1/2
Cr Mac Wallace	4/5	0/2

January-June 2022		
Councillor	Ordinary meetings	Extraordinary meetings
	Total held = 6	Total held = 3
Cr Peta Betts (Mayor)	6/6	3/3
Cr Shirlee Burge	6/6	3/3
Cr Harold Clapham	5/6	3/3
Cr Linda Fawns	6/6	3/3
Cr Paul Fellows (Deputy Mayor)	6/6	3/3
Cr Pat Fogarty	6/6	2/3
Cr Tarria Moore	5/6	3/3
Cr Marc Petersen	5/6	3/3
Cr Shannon Sampson*	1/1	1/1
Cr Peter* Connell	3/3	1/1

*Cr Shannon Sampson was elected on countback on 17 May 2022 following the passing of Cr Connell.



Mayor and Councillor Professional Development

For the purposes of section 428(4)(b) of the Act (cf. *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Clause 217(1)(a1)(iii), (iiia) and (iv)*), an annual report of a council must include the following information -

- (a) all initially elected Councillors attended a program of courses in the first three months of 2022,
- (b) the names of any Mayors or councillors who participated in any ongoing professional development program under this Part during the year,
- (c) the number of seminars, circulars and other activities delivered as part of the ongoing professional development program in accordance with this Part during the year.

The total cost of councillor professional development for the financial year was \$30,112.50.

Ongoing Professional Development

Councillors are offered opportunities to participate in ongoing professional development during their council term.

July – December 2021

During Covid (and in light of experience, length of term and pending resignations and the need for new council provision) no professional training was undertaken in the first half of the financial year.

January – June 2022

Induction training, detailed below, was undertaken and individual professional development programs will be arranged for the rest of the Council term.

Councillor Induction

A councillor induction program was delivered in January 2022 and included:

- Presentation of the Community Strategic Plan Consultation report by Robbie Sefton and “Working Together” (2 half day workshops)
- Staff briefing ‘Council Financial Planning and Management’ and IT training
- 2 Day LGNSW “Elected Life” Councillor training course
- Mayoral Induction Training and New Councillor and Returning Councillor support programs
- ‘Local Government Planning’ training day

OLG ‘Hitting the Ground’ and other online resources promoted.

Committees

Council committees provide a vital link between the operation of Council and the community. Committee members of council committees are volunteers who work alongside council to deliver services and provide advice on matters of importance to the community.

Statutory Council committees are established under section 355 of the Local Government Act. Council committees are either advisory or support the operations of council owned facilities.

Audit Risk and Improvement Committee

Council’s Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) is a State Government mandated committee that provides independent oversight, review and advice on our governance, risk, service review and control and compliance framework. Council’s ARIC Charter states membership to be:

- a) Two Councillors (who are able to rotate through the committee by agreement and no more frequently than bi-annually).
- b) Up to four independent external members (not a member of the Council), one of whom will act as chairperson.

The ARIC has generally been comprised of at least 1 Councillor and 3 independent external committee members. The previous Council ARIC had Cr Peter McCrabb as a Councillor member and one independent member vacancy. Current membership of the ARIC is Mr Peter Rae (Chairman), Cr Harold Clapham, Cr Paul Fellows, Mr John Tushuizen, Mr Graham Bradley, and Ms Justine Keech.

Advisory Committees

Advisory committees provide valuable advice from a community perspective to inform Council decision making.

Council has the following advisory committees:

- Cemetery Advisory Committee
- Local Traffic Committee
- Health Advocacy Committee (established in 2022)
- Aboriginal Liaison Committee (established in 2022)

Working Groups

Working groups assist with the fair and equitable access to Council's sports fields and facilities on behalf of Council.

Council supports the following working groups:

- Airport Users Group

- Memorial Park Users Group
- Rotary Park Users Group
- Saleyards Users Group

External Committees

During the reporting period, Council was represented on a range of external advisory committees, community groups, industry bodies and advocacy organisations, including:

- Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation
- Central Murray County Council
- Country Mayors Association
- Edward River Local Emergency Management Committee
- Long Paddock Committee
- NSW Rural Fire Service Zone Bushfire Management Committee

Council has since withdrawn from the Murray Darling Association.

OUR ORGANISATION

Council is one of the region's larger Government sector employers, with 112.3 full time equivalent staff (headcount of 122). The commitment of Council staff has been the driver for many of Council's achievements over the last year.

The Edward River Council team is led by the General Manager who is supported by the Director of Corporate Services and the Director of Infrastructure, who together comprise the organisation's Executive team and

are responsible for providing the organisation with strong effective leadership in delivering a diverse range of Council services to the community.

The Executive team are in turn supported by a team of Managers and key staff who are responsible for the delivery of Council's broad range of services for our community.



STAFF PROFILE

› Staff numbers

Staff numbers
FTE + headcount

FTE
112.03

Headcount
112



Permanent
93%

Casual
7%



Apprentices
0

Graduate placements
0

Trainees
14

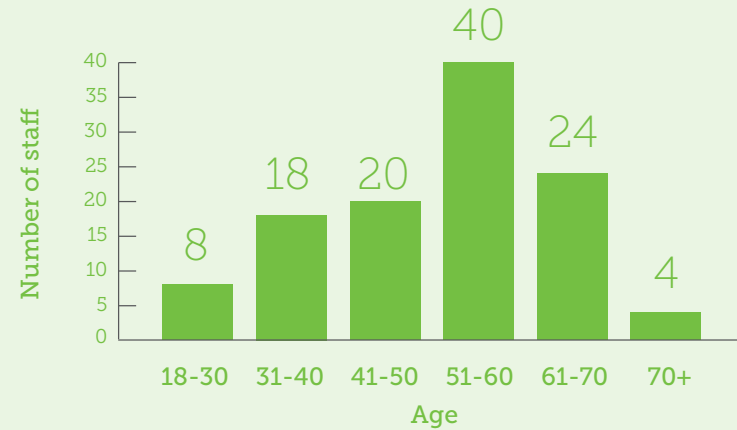
Staff turnover
14%



which is an increase from the previous year's figure of

4%

› Age profile



› Staff profiles



Males
68%



Females
32%

2%

Employees identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people

Equal Employment Opportunity

Council aims to provide a working environment where all employees are welcomed, valued and differences are respected.

Our Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Plan (Plan) provides the framework for building a workplace culture that increases diversity and embeds values of fairness and equality in all aspects of the Edward River Council's business. Through the implementation of this plan Council endeavours to ensure that in the application of Council policies, practices and procedures, no discrimination takes place, diversity is encouraged, and employees enjoy equal access to opportunities within the Council. Staff receive information on their rights and responsibilities for promoting equal employment opportunity through the employee induction program and the plan's aim is to build further understanding of these rights and responsibilities.

In June this year Council launched its "You're the Voice" program, aimed at giving all staff a say and empowering our staff Voice Teams to build solutions to issues identified in the cultural survey. Over the next twelve months we will be undertaking further work to build on the initial results.

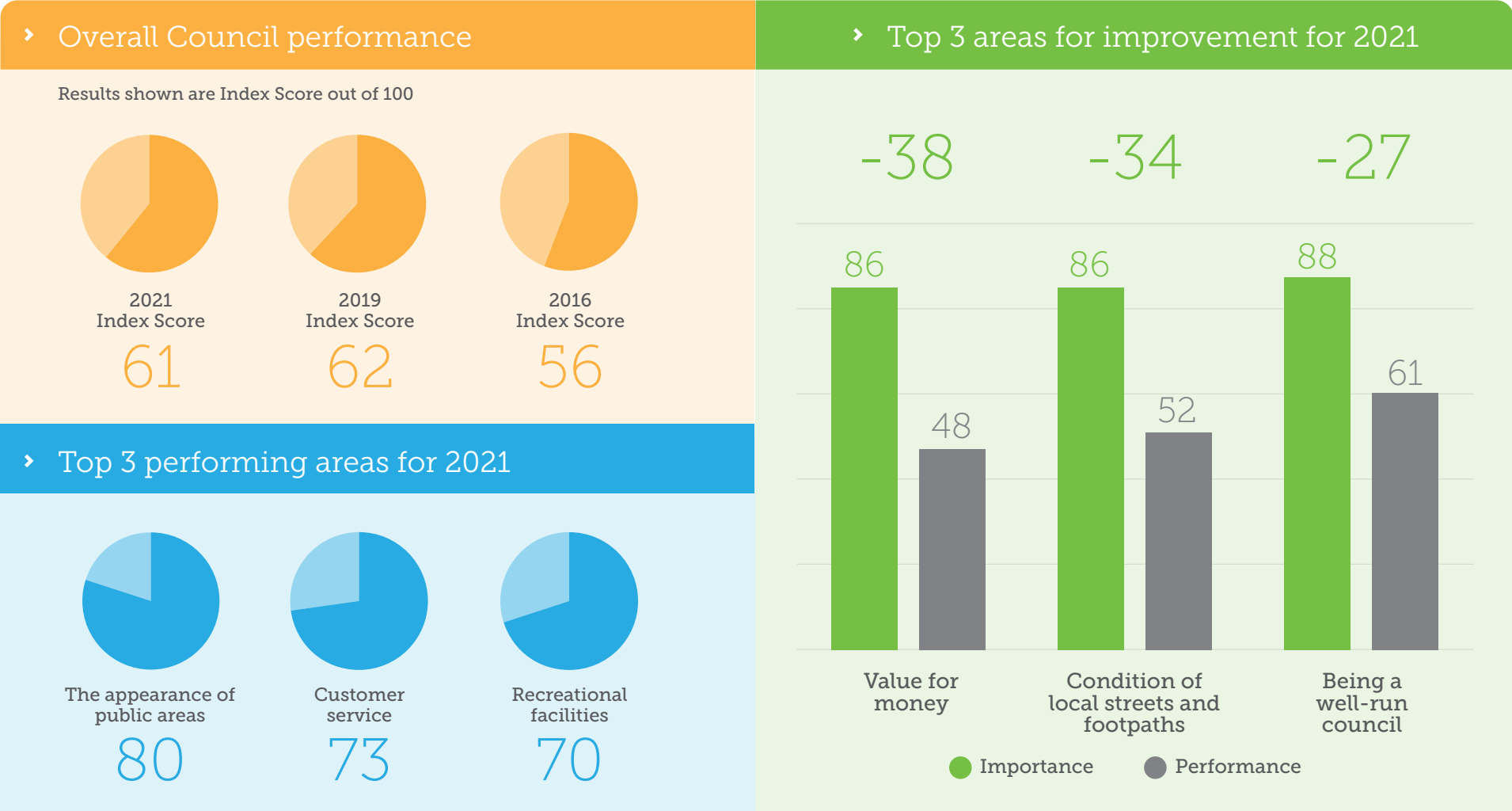
We have a diverse workforce with staff having varying personal circumstances. By offering a flexible work program including flexible work arrangements, transition to retirement, rostered days off, variable working hours and working from home opportunities we support the ability of staff to maintain a work / life balance.

Council provides each staff member with training that will enable them to be successful in their own role or to assist them in progressing their careers through annual staff review and planning sessions. In June, twelve of our existing workers took on a traineeship in either Civil Construction Supervision, Project Management or Work Health and Safety. These participants ranged in age from young workers to mature age workers.

Council provides an Employee Assistance Program, providing staff and their immediate family members access to a free professional counselling service.

2021 CUSTOMER SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

Council undertakes a periodic phone survey of local residents and businesses to gauge its performance over a number of service delivery areas and seeks to address those areas identified as needing improvement



OUR FINANCIAL RESULTS

Council is responsible for managing finances on behalf our community. We are committed to responsible fiscal management and responsible financial decision making for the benefit of the community now and into the future.

The following information presents a summary of council’s consolidated financial results for 2021-2022. Detailed information can be found in Council’s financial statements which will be available on Council’s website in December 2022*.

Budget = \$5.945m

Actual Result = \$14.470m

(Net operating result before capital grant revenue)

Budget = \$0.005m

Actual Result = \$8.703m

(Net operating result after capital grant revenue)

Significant contributors to this result:

- An increase in the fair value of Council’s infrastructure, plant and equipment reflected through the income statement
- Increase in capital grants received
- Increase operating grant income received

*Council experienced delays associated with a new external audit team being sent later than originally scheduled and also required NSW Audit Office concurrence to modify earlier years and the current statements to account for a significant bequest received.”

How does this compare to previous years?

Year	Net result before capital grants	Net result after capital grants
2021	\$0.564m	\$4.878m
2020	(\$19.254m)	(\$11.033m)

Council’s Financial statements show a strong financial position with assets exceeding liabilities and an increase in cash reserves.

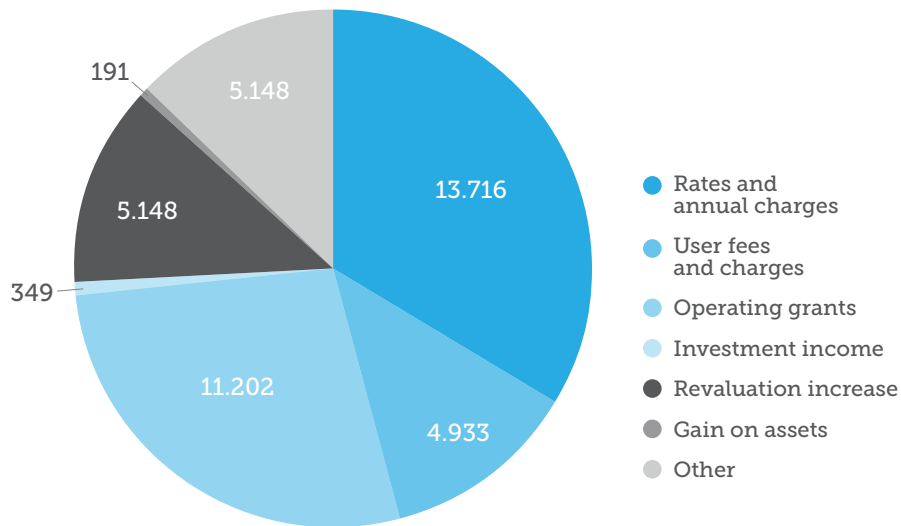
Our Income

Budgeted Income = \$31.946m

Actual Income = \$44.926m

The resulting difference of \$12.980m is primarily due to:

- Capital grants being \$2.826m more than expected
- Operating grants being \$3.234m
- Increase in the fair value of Councils assets of \$5.148m



Income \$000's

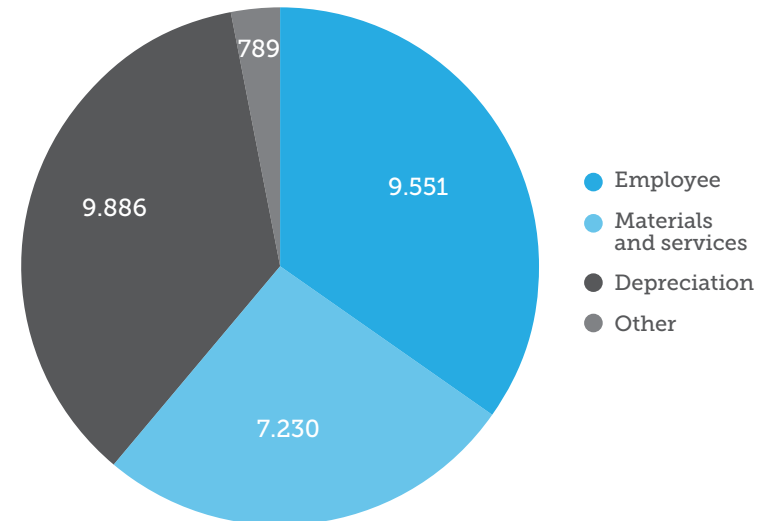
Our Expenditure

Budgeted Expenditure = \$26.001m

Actual Expenditure = \$27.827m

The resulting difference of \$1.445m materials is primarily due to:

- Materials and services such as raw materials and consumables, consultancies and insurances \$1.121m



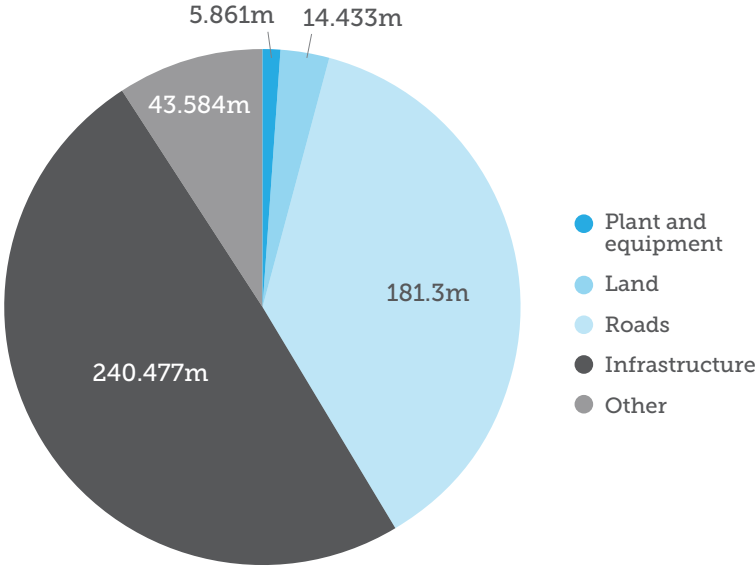
Expenditure \$000's

OUR ASSETS

Our infrastructure, property, plant and equipment were valued at \$485.655m as of 30 June 2022.

By Category:

- Plant and equipment \$5.861m
- Land \$14.433m
- Roads \$181.3m
- Infrastructure \$240.477m
- Other \$43.584m



Our Assets \$



Financial Performance Indicators

Financial performance indicators are set by the NSW Office of Local Government (OLG) and are applied to each council in NSW. These indicators are used to monitor Council financial performance from year to year against industry benchmarks.

Council has improved in all but one of the ratios for the 2021-2022 reporting period.

Unrestricted Current Ratio 2021 - 2022

This ratio measures Council's ability to meet its obligations (current liabilities) using current assets

Benchmark	>1.x5
ERC Result	9.23x



Council's operating performance ratio (10.96%), unrestricted current ratio (9.23%), rates and annual charges outstanding percentage (6.20%) and cash expense cover ratio (26.41 months) all improved over prior years as well as against industry benchmarks. The exception was the own source operating revenue ratio which measures Council's fiscal flexibility and reliance on external funding. The decline from 58.47% in 2021 to 49.56% in 2022 reflects the increase in capital and operating grants received for the year.

Debt Service Cover Ratio

This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including principal interest and lease payments

Benchmark	>2.0x
ERC Result	N/A



Operating Performance Ratio 2021 - 2022

This ratio measures Council's achievement of containing operation expenditure within operating revenue

Benchmark	>0
ERC Result	10.96



Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage

This ratio measures the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts

Benchmark	<10%
ERC Result	6.20%



Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio

This ratio measures the reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions

Benchmark	>60
ERC Result	49.56%



Cash Expenses Ratio

This ratio indicates the number of months a Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow

Benchmark	>3 months
ERC Result	26.41 months



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



Smoking Ceremony

This section provides a detailed report on the status of actions committed to in our Delivery Program 2018-2021 and the Operational Plan 2021-2022. These actions contribute to the achievement of the objectives contained in the Community Strategic Plan 2030.

The Local Government Act requires Council to report on the effectiveness of the principal activities in implementing the Delivery Program and Operational Plan in its Annual Report.

In the 2021-2022 Operational Plan, council committed to delivering 122 actions. Of the 122 actions 103 (84.4%) were delivered on time and within budget.

In some circumstances, such as where funding or approvals from other levels of government or workforce and supply constraints occur, Council has not been able to commence projects (6.6%) or they have been delayed in their delivery (5.7%).

Table A: Performance Status Summary - Completed Actions			
	Edward River 2030 Strategic Outcome	2021/2022	
	#Projects planned / % completed	No.	%
1	A great place to live	21	87.5
2	A prosperous and vibrant economy	12	75.0
3	A valued and enhanced natural environment	11	77.0
4	A region with quality and sustainable infrastructure	10	71.4
5	A community working together to achieve its potential	49	89.0
Total		103	84.4

Rising to the challenge of COVID

The COVID pandemic continued to impact our community, our economy, our teams, our services and our resources. We've felt its effects across almost every aspect of our operations including libraries, recreation facilities, tourism, customer service and more.

Our focus has been on continuing to provide leadership and support to our community and businesses with information, practical support and advice, social inclusion programs and ensuring our outdoor spaces remained cared for and vibrant for people to reconnect safely.

Some of these initiatives included:

- A click and collect library service
- The launch of an online store for virtual visitors to purchase local products
- Hand delivery of Council's Edward River Newsletter due to mail delays
- Sharing daily information updates from NSW Health on our Facebook page
- Promoting the local vaccination program

Despite the lockdowns the Edward River team demonstrated resilience and adaptability in service provision. The elected council

continued to participate in cross border forums and advocated to government to ensure that community issues impacting on our important cross border relationships, both social and economic, were highlighted and resolved where possible.



Library services were provided to the community in a covid safe way through a 'click and collect' service. Pictured is team member Peter Pap working on click and collect orders during covid.



Team member Jane Frazer preparing products for the Visitor Centre online store.

OUR VISION FOR EDWARD RIVER 2030

1 A great place to live	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1.1 Our community has access to essential services1.2 Our community is safe, happy and healthy, both physically and mentally1.3 Our community and public spaces are accessible and inclusive and reflect our history, heritage and culture
2 A prosperous and vibrant economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2.1 Our economy is strong and diverse2.2 We develop our key assets to enhance agriculture, boost tourism and support existing business2.3 Our region provides strong education, employment and training opportunities
3 A valued and enhanced natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3.1 We are committed to resource recovery and waste management3.2 Our natural environment is protected and enhanced3.3 We plan for the future to accommodate and facilitate sustainable growth and development
4 A region with quality and sustainable infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">4.1 Our built environment is managed, maintained and improved4.2 Our road network is a source of pride4.3 Our water and sewer infrastructure is efficient and fit for purpose
5 A community working together to achieve its potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5.1 Our community is informed and engaged5.2 We collaborate and pursue partnerships that achieve great outcomes for our community5.3 Our local government is efficient, innovative and financially sustainable

Outcome 1 A great place to live

- 1.1 Our community has access to essential services
- 1.2 Our community is safe, happy and healthy, both physically and mentally
- 1.3 Our community and public spaces are accessible and inclusive and reflect our history, heritage and culture

Total Initiatives:

Planned

21

Complete

87.5%



Council lights up lagoon

The Deniliquin Waring Gardens was brought to life for the Lights on the Lagoon Festival Friday 11 & Saturday 12 February 2022. Following a series of lantern making workshops in the lead up to the event.

The free event activated Deniliquin's CBD and will celebrated the beauty of the natural lagoon system that runs through the centre of town.

Friday Night kicked off with a bang with live music from local musicians, food trucks outdoor games for the children and a community lantern installation to light up the Lagoon.

The Saturday night was also a knockout show with an Outdoor movie screening of Baby Done where community members were encouraged to bring a chair or picnic rug and enjoy wood fire pizza.

Over 2500 community members attended across the two-night event to light up the Waring Gardens.

This event was proudly coordinated by Edward River Council and Deniliquin Business Chamber and Funded by the NSW Government Festival of Place Summer Night Fund Edward River Council was able to secure \$15,000 to deliver this event to the community.



Community Grants Program

Council provided \$50,000 through the annual Community Grants Program to fund 14 projects that contribute positively to the Edward River community.

Organisation	Project	Amount of Funding Granted
Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council	Support for men and women's groups to continue their involvement in community knowledge and social engagement	\$5,000
Deniliquin Genealogy Society	Publication of Deniliquin & District Pioneers Pre 1900 (second edition)	\$3,000
Boobook Deniliquin CWA	Food hampers for community members experiencing hardship from COVID, including farmers, domestic violence and mental health	\$1,500
Navorina Nursing Home	Purchase of a wheelchair and cushion	\$2,663
Deniliquin Ram Football Netball Club	AFL X – club to run modified games to reinvigorate interest and ensure young people are engaged in these trying times	\$1,706
Care South	Art with Heart – after school weekly art program to engage the youth in our community	\$1,800
Deniliquin Historical Society	Purchase new museum quality display cabinet to replace existing deteriorating cabinet	\$4,478
Deniliquin Business Chamber	Replace dated and faded Deni Ute Muster artwork on car park side of Deniliquin Club building with up to date imagery	\$4,500
Deniliquin South Public School P&C	Gilchrist Oval Obstacle Course – installation of 11 different pieces of equipment around the oval for students	\$5,000

Deniliquin Golf Club	Installation of additional concrete paths for all year round use of golf carts	\$5,000
Deniliquin Sports Park	Replace well-worn gymnastics floor tumbling run and install padding around netball goal posts for safety	\$2,000
Naponda Hospital Auxiliary	Garden Expo with Sophie Thomson	\$4,282
Deniliquin Community Garden	Supply and erect a gazebo in the community garden	\$5,000
Deniliquin Lawn Tennis Croquet Club	Hoop upgrade	\$2,000

In addition to the cash grant funding provided, council also committed in-kind support to the Deniliquin Little Athletics Club to support the athletics carnival.

Council Signs Up to Support for Deni Play on the Plains Festival

Council has renewed its commitment to support the Deni Play on the Plains Festival Ltd. by signing a new 3 year Memorandum of Understanding. That agreement commits council to an annual cash contribution to support the marketing of the Deni Ute Muster of \$25,000 and up to \$60,000 of in-kind support, which includes traffic control, road and access maintenance, food inspections and sewerage waste management.

Council Funds \$16,250 for Local Heritage Projects

The Local Heritage Fund (LHF) has been established by Council with the assistance of the NSW Heritage Grants Community Heritage (Small Heritage Grants) Program with the aim of encouraging positive work on heritage. The funding supports “listed” heritage items and buildings within the villages and/or Deniliquin town centre, a Heritage Conservation area or a building supported by Councils Heritage Advisor as being of heritage significance.

The following projects received Heritage funding in 2021-2022:

Project	Amount of Funding Granted
Restoration of the façade of the Historic Conargo Hotel	\$10,000
Replacement of roof and 3 windows 46 Napier St	\$3,000
Painting of exterior 252 Harfleur St	\$1,750
Replacement of front fence with heritage style 337 Henry St	\$1,500

Key Decisions and Progress for ‘Edward River Village’

Council in October 2021 formally adopted the name ‘Edward River Village’ for its senior living precinct project, along with the naming of the different floorplan designs after the Edward River township and villages.

In January 2022, Council resolved to commence construction on Stage 1 of the village for 6 dwellings and formally set the entry price for residency of the dwellings at cost, based on an industry-wide escalation of construction costs, at an average of \$428,000 per unit.

In April 2022, Council called for tenders for the second time for the construction of the 6 dwellings in Stage 1.



Council team raises \$1,164 for homelessness

In July 2021, Councillors and Council team members participated in the Vinnies Community Sleepout Deniliquin and in doing so, contributed \$1,164 towards the \$17,244.65 total monies raised in Deniliquin for this cause. All money raised locally is donated to the St Vincent de Paul Society Deniliquin to be used to support individuals and families in the Edward River region experiencing hardship.



General Manager Phil Stone was a participant in the 2021 Vinnies Community Sleepout

Council volunteers celebrated

Did you know that more than 12 volunteers provide essential support to our Council run Peppin Heritage Centre and Library services? These wonderful volunteers were celebrated as part of the 2022 Volunteer Week activities and we thank them for their continued commitment to their community.



Peppin volunteers

Blighty hosts International Womens Day Luncheon for 2022

Held on 9 March 2022 in the Blighty Hall, Council partnered with the Blighty Advancement Committee, the Deniliquin Business Chamber and the Naponda Store to present a panel discussion with three extraordinary local women:

- Lauren Mathers, Bundarra Berkshires
- Gabrielle Cusack, Murray Irrigation Limited
- Sivonne Banks, Sivonne Creative

More than 180 local women attended the event.



Blighty International Womens Day Luncheon

Norm Purtill named 2022 Edward River Citizen of the Year

A long-term Edward River local dedicated to giving back, Norm has made an extraordinary contribution to our community over many years. A true community servant, Norm has been heavily involved in various community groups and service clubs, from the voluntary secretary at the Deniliquin Golf Club to a strong contributor at the Lions Club. He was very involved in the development of the Four Post Youth Camp and even the building of the amenities block at the Waring Gardens.

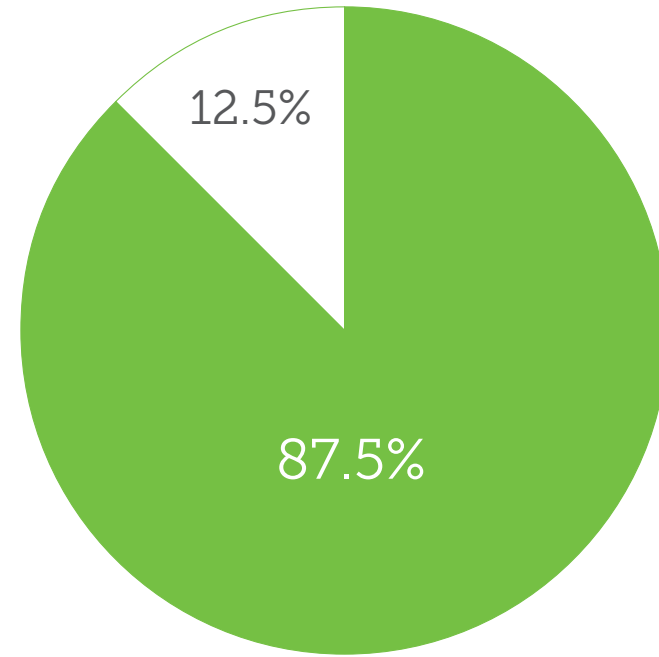
Other award recipients included:

- Cheryl Fuller – Arts and Culture Award
- Deni Play on the Plains Festival – Community Event or Initiative of the Year
- Philip Maher – Environmental Citizen of the Year

5 new citizens officially welcomed in citizenship ceremony

Former Mayor Norm Brennan presided over a livestreamed and socially distanced citizenship ceremony in August 2021 for 5 new Australian residents. The ceremony was held in the Multi Arts Centre in Deniliquin and was livestreamed through councils Facebook page for family and friends.

Strategic Outcome 1 - A great place to live



Total projects: 24

- Complete 21
- On Track 3

Outcome 1 – A great place to live

Status: Complete ● On Track ○ Not Commenced ● Behind ●

1.1 Our Community has access to essential services				
Delivery Program 2018- 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
1.1.1 Communicate and engage with stakeholders to understand community need and undertake advocacy on important issues	1.1.1.1 Engage with Australian and New South Wales Government, seeking financial and political support for Council's Advocacy Strategy	GM	At least two public delegations to Canberra and Sydney to engage with Federal and State politicians undertaken	●
	1.1.1.2 Improve Council's website to be a key platform for Council's Community engagement activities	GM	Council's website reviewed and key changes implemented to integrate with community engagement activities	●
	1.1.1.3 Facilitate the development of a retirement living facility to support our ageing population	GM	Seniors Living Precinct project developed with options for an operating model presented to Council for decision	●
1.1.2 Council is committed to advocating, facilitating and where appropriate providing lifelong learning and education opportunities	1.1.2.1 Operate the Edward River Library and provide quality library services to the Edward River Community	MCED	Regional service levels / Met State Library NSW baseline benchmark / Met	●








1.2 Our community is safe, happy and healthy, both physically and mentally

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
1.2.1 Develop and maintain Council's sporting facilities, pool, playgrounds and walking and cycling paths	1.2.1.1 Finalise masterplan for Rotary Park	MDS	Masterplan / Completed	●
	1.2.1.2 Implement adopted management model for the Deniliquin Swim Centre	MEA	Management model / Implemented	○
1.2.2 Provide community halls and facilities	1.2.2.1 Inspections and maintenance undertaken on Community Halls and facilities	MOP	Inspections of Halls and Playgrounds / 100% completed	○
1.2.3 Deliver services to enhance community safety in the built and natural environment	1.2.3.1 Deliver a companion animal desexing program	MDS	Program / Delivered	●
	1.2.3.2 Deliver four free microchipping weeks	MDS	Program / Completed	●
	1.2.3.3 Undertake food premises inspections to ensure compliance with NSW Food Act	MDS	Food premises inspected annually 100%	●

1.2 Our community is safe, happy and healthy, both physically and mentally (cont.)

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
	1.2.3.4 Undertake water sampling of Councils water supply	MDS	Water sampling schedule completed / 100%	●
	1.2.3.5 Participate in NSW Health arbovirus monitoring program	MDS	Program / completed	●
1.2.3 Deliver services to enhance community safety in the built and natural environment	1.2.3.6 Undertake swimming pool barrier inspections	MDS	Program / completed	●
	1.2.3.7 Finalise detailed designs and costings for a new companion animal shelter	MDS	Design / costings finalised	●
	1.2.3.8 Prepare framework for Underground Petroleum storage systems (UPSS) program implementation	MDS	Program / implementation completed	●
	1.2.3.9 Implement adopted liquid trade waste policy	MEA	Increase in non-compliant properties / 0%	●
	1.2.3.10 Promote COVID-19 policies and restrictions	DIN	LEMC COVID-19 subcommittees / Implement signage at Council facilities 100%	●

1.3 Our community and public space are accessible and inclusive and reflect our history, heritage and culture

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
1.3.1 Council aims to develop Edward River Council as a vibrant and progressive community by supporting and partnering with community groups and assisting in developing cultural spaces	1.3.1.1 Deliver the Town Hall Revitalisation Project	DIN	Project milestones / Met	
	1.3.1.2 Support Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre in delivering NAIDOC Week Celebrations	MCED	NAIDOC Week Celebration / Delivered	
	1.3.1.3 Submit grant application to enable NSW Seniors Festival Celebrations	MCED	Application / Lodged	
	1.3.1.4 Submit grant application to enable NSW Youth Week Festival Celebrations	MCED	Application / Lodged	
1.3.2 Deliver and support events, activities and programs that promote engaged citizenship and foster civic pride	1.3.2.1 Facilitate Australian Citizenship Ceremonies	GM	Citizenship Ceremonies / Held	
	1.3.2.2 Support the delivery of 2022 Anzac Day Commemoration services at Deniliquin and Wanganella	GM	Commemoration services / Held	
	1.3.2.3 Deliver 2022 Australia Day celebrations and coordinate the annual Edward River Council Australia Day Awards	GM	Event / Held Awards / Conferred	

Outcome 2 A prosperous and vibrant economy

- 2.1 Our economy is strong and diverse
- 2.2 We develop our key assets to enhance agriculture, boost tourism and support existing business
- 2.3 Our region provides strong education, employment and training opportunities

Total Initiatives:

Planned

12

Complete

75%



Council advocates for improved telecommunication infrastructure

Council lodged a detailed submission to the 2021 Regional Telecommunications Review on the adequacy of telecommunication services in the Edward River region, recognising that the ever expanding requirement of technology enabled agricultural production and the criticality of access to reliable and fast mobile and broadband network.

Council advocates for a Country University Centre in Deniliquin

The Country University Centre (CUC) concept began in Cooma, NSW in response to a need for local students to be supported to access tertiary educational opportunities without relocating. The CUC model has been successful in a number of locations throughout the state, with funding for an additional two centres being approved. Deniliquin has been identified as a potential site for a CUC to be established to service the Southern Riverina region. Councillors have resolved to support the proposal and has expressed this support to the Minister for Skills and Training and a number of other key NSW politicians.

Council invests \$300,000 in Growth for Edward River

In response to the outcomes of the community engagement initiative 'Our Region Your Say', Council committed significant funding to prepare a Growth Management Strategy for the Edward River region. The Growth Management Strategy will provide a clear blueprint for growth and will underpin and support the community's aspirations for growth and new investment in housing, industry, recreation and arts and culture by providing a coordinated, strategic, and planned approach to encourage and manage growth in the local government area to 2050.

Strategic Plan for the Deniliquin Saleyards Adopted

Council commissioned the development of a strategic plan for the Deniliquin Saleyards informed by community engagement to investigate future potential use of the facility, including the feasibility of any potential upgrade works to the existing infrastructure.



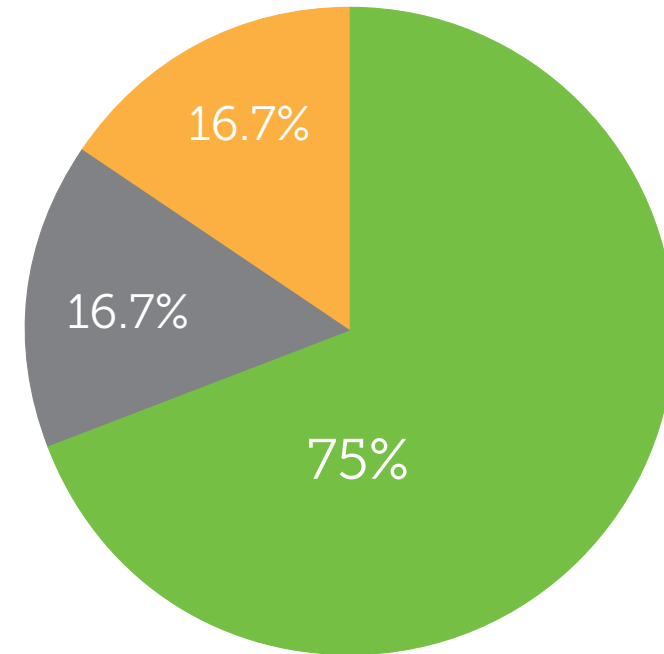
Council hosts Small Business Month workshop program

Council partnered with the NSW Government and The Deniliquin Business Chamber to deliver a series of free workshops to support small business owners in the Edward River LGA. As part of the 2022 program, small business owners could participate either a DIY Video for Small Business workshop or a Collaboration Marketing Basics workshop. Participants could also book in a one-on-one session after the workshop with the presenters to work on social media or video content production. This year, 90 small business owners participated in the program.



Council hosts Small Business Month workshop program

Strategic Outcome 2 - A prosperous and vibrant economy



Total projects: 16

- Complete 12
- Not commenced 2
- Behind 2

Outcome 2 – A prosperous and vibrant economy

Status: Complete ● On Track ○ Not Commenced ● Behind ●

2.1 Our economy is strong and diverse

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
2.1.1 Support and grow local business and agriculture	2.1.1.1 Seek funding to implement the Agribusiness Masterplan	MCED	Application / Lodged Strategy / Commenced	●
	2.1.1.2 Leverage Council's Major Project Pipeline to attract funding	MCED	Initiatives /1	●
	2.1.1.3 Support Deniliquin Business Chamber Business Excellence Awards	MCED	Business Excellence Awards / Delivered	●
2.1.2 Develop and promote investment opportunities within Edward River region	2.1.2.1 Host a series of Developer's Forums to uncover business and residential development opportunities	MCED	Forums held / 3	●
	2.1.2.2 Actively support development within Edward River to foster increased housing stock whilst maintaining integrity of the regulatory environment	MDS	Demonstration of facilitation of new or modified residential subdivision Development Applications through monthly Environmental Services report to Council	●



2.1 Our economy is strong and diverse (cont.)

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
2.1.3 Streamline processes and identify efficiencies to assist investors, developers, builders and event organisers	2.1.3.1 Determine applications for development and local activities	MDS	DA 80% within statutory timeframes CDC 80% within statutory timeframes CC 80% within 30 days of registration S68 80% within 14 days of registration	●
	2.1.3.2 Determine planning Certificates and sewer drainage diagrams on application	MDS	Planning certificates issued within five days of receipt / – >90% Sewer drainage diagrams issued within five days of receipt /->90%	●
	2.1.3.3 Planning proposal for Deniliquin LEP completed. LEP prepared and finalised	MDS	LEP prepared / Completed	●

2.2 We develop our key assets to enhance agriculture, boost tourism and support existing business

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
2.2.1 Promote and develop Edward River region as a place to live, learn, work, play and visit	2.2.1.1 Provide a heritage advisory service to the community	MDS	Heritage service provided / completed	●
	2.2.2.1 Provide funding for heritage projects through the Local Heritage Fund	MDS	Local Heritage projects funded / => budgeted amount	●
	2.2.1.3 Operate the Deniliquin Visitor Information Centre	MCED	Service levels / Met	●
	2.2.1.4 Deliver an updated four-year Economic Development Strategy to develop Edward River region as a place to live, learn, work, play and visit	MCED	Strategy / Adopted	●
	2.2.1.5 Develop and update promotional collateral and information on the Visit Deni website and social media platforms	MCED	Marketing collateral / Developed	●
	2.2.1.6 Support existing events including the Deni Ute Muster and attract new events	MCED	Events supported or attracted / 3	●

2.2 We develop our key assets to enhance agriculture, boost tourism and support existing business (cont.)

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
2.2.2 Invest in our rivers, creeks, billabongs and main streets to support existing business and attract tourism	2.2.2.1 Deliver projects funded through the NSW Government Funded Programs	DIN	Projects with acquittal dates in 2021 / 22 / 100% Completed	
2.3.1 Work in partnership with business to identify skill and employment gaps that can attract new residents and support economic growth	2.3.1.1 Engage with employers and training to providers to align needs	MCED	Meetings held / 2 Report Outcomes / 1	

Outcome 3 A valued and enhanced natural environment

- 3.1 We are committed to resource recovery and waste management
- 3.2 Our natural environment is protected and enhanced
- 3.3 We plan for the future to accommodate and facilitate sustainable growth and development

Total Initiatives:

Planned

11

Complete

77%



New off-leash area for Edward River pooches

Community members, visitors and their faithful canine companions can enjoy the new \$80,000 off-leash area in Deniliquin located at Edward River Oval. Funded through the Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program (round 1), the off-leash park boasts waste bag dispenser, seating and water fountains have been placed in both the large and small dog areas and a sand pit has been installed in the large dog section.



New pontoons enhance riverfront

New pontoons were installed as part of Council's riverfront revitalisation project. The \$228k pontoons were funded through the *Our River Our Region* funding program.



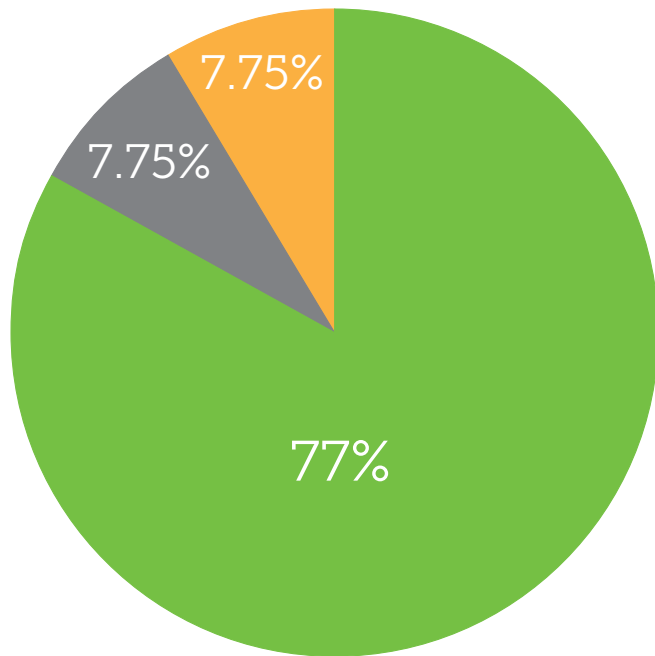
Free waste weekends a hit with community

Council hosted three free waste weekends allowing residents to dispose of larger household waste items such as mattresses, refrigerators, whitegoods and furniture free of charge. During 2021-2022, 3 free waste weekends were held in October 2021, January 2022, April 2022 and June 2022.

5895 trees subsidised through Council's Rural Tree Scheme

Each year Council makes available indigenous tree tube seedlings at a subsidised cost to those eligible rural ratepayers in the Edward River local government area (LGA) through the Rural Tree Scheme. In 2021, more than 5800 trees were purchased to be planted on properties in the Edward River region.

Strategic Outcome 3 - A valued and enhanced natural environment



Total projects: 13

- Complete 11
- On Track 1
- Behind 1

Outcome 3 – A valued and enhanced natural environment



Status: Complete ● On Track ○ Not Commenced ● Behind ●

3.1 We are committed to resource recovery and waste management				
Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
3.1.1 Minimise waste to landfill and investigate options for recycling	3.1.1.1 Looking into options to provide kerbside recycling	MEA	Project Plan / Completed	●
	3.3.1.2 Commence a review of the Deniliquin Development Control Plan	MDS	DCP Review / Commenced	●
	3.1.1.3 Consolidate Pretty Pine and Conargo Landfill areas	MEA	Community education program / Implemented	●
3.1.2 Provide sustainable waste services and infrastructure	3.1.2.1 Operate the Deniliquin Landfill Depot and Blighty, Boorooban, Conargo, Pretty Pine and Wanganella Waste Disposal Depots	MOP	EPA Licence conditions / met	●
	3.1.2.2 Provide DrumMUSTER collection services at Deniliquin Landfill Depot	MOP	DrumMUSTER services provided	●

3.2 Our natural environment is protected and enhanced

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
3.2.1 Sustainably manage Council owned and managed natural areas	3.2.1.1 Maintain the Deniliquin public cemeteries	MOP	Complete maintenance of Cemeteries / 100% Interments in accordance with Cemetery Operational Plan / 100%	●
	3.2.1.2 Maintain Pioneer Cemeteries	MOP	Complete maintenance of Cemeteries / 100%	●
3.2.2 Proactively manage the impacts associated with invasive species	3.2.2.1 Integrate and deliver weed control across Edward River Region	MOP	Implement new Weed Action Plan (WAP)	●
3.2.3 Collaborate with emergency services and other agencies to provide cohesive emergency management services	3.2.3.1 Convene the Local Emergency Management Committee	DIN	LEMC meetings per year / 3	●
3.2.4 Provide great Parks and Open Space by greening our streets, managing tree safety and improving our town entrances, sporting ovals, gardens and passive recreation spaces	3.2.4.1 Deliver the Rural Tree Scheme	MOP	Deliver Rural Tree Scheme	●
	3.2.4.2 Service Level Agreements for Council's Parks and Open Space services	MOP	Service Level Agreements / Completed	○

3.3 We plan for the future to accommodate and facilitate sustainable growth and development

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 –2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
3.3.1 Manage the built environment in line with the LEP and relevant legislation	3.3.1.2 Commence a review of the Deniliquin Development Control Plan	MDS	DCP Review / Commenced	
3.3.2 Undertake strategic planning to ensure our community is well planned and there is adequate land available to support residential, business, industrial and agricultural growth	3.3.2.1 Prepare Implementation Plan for Industrial Land Strategy	MCED / MDS	Completed	

Outcome 4 A region with quality and sustainable infrastructure

- 4.1 Our built environment is managed, maintained and improved
- 4.2 Our road network is a source of pride
- 4.3 Our water and sewer infrastructure is efficient and fit for purpose

Total Initiatives:

Planned

10

Complete

71.4%



Civic Precinct Refurbishment

Edward River Council has delivered a revitalisation of Deniliquin's Civic Place precinct, having allocating \$2 million in its 2019/20 Budget to restore the former Australian Estates Building as a new customer service centre which was opened in June 2022.



Waring Gardens upgrade works

Significant work has been undertaken in the Waring Gardens precinct this financial year. Work has included:

- Refurbishment of the Cressy Street and Harrison Street amenities blocks, including DDA compliance for accessible toilet area and re-painting
- Repairs to the rotunda include replacement of damaged timber and re-painting
- Replacement of the concrete footpath and timber fence along Napier Street side of the gardens and the pram crossing



Maude Road sealing works underway

Funding was received from the Regional Roads REPAIR and BLOCK grants programs along with Fixing Country Roads and HVSP. This project is to seal the remaining 7.5km section of unsealed road on Maude Road and is well underway, however wet weather has delayed the work.

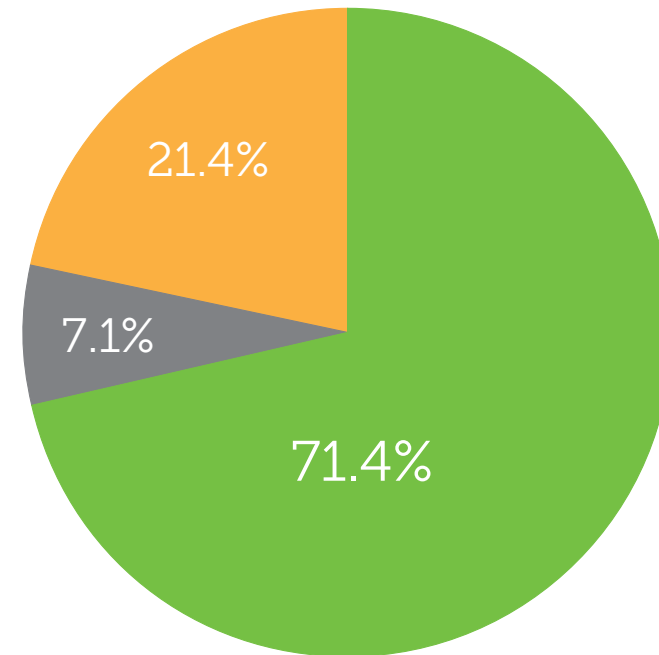


\$400,000 Upgrade for North Deniliquin Rest Stop

Funded through the NSW Stronger Country Communities program (round 3) and Drought Communities Program (round 2), the North Deniliquin Rest Stop has received an upgrade that includes new amenities, a BBQ and shelter and new power supply. Planting of the new garden beds is planned for spring.



Strategic Outcome 4 - A region with quality and sustainable infrastructure







Total projects: 14







● Complete	10
● Not commenced	1
● Behind	3

Outcome 4 – A region with quality and sustainable infrastructure


Status: Complete  On Track  Not Commenced  Behind 

4.1 Our built environment is managed, maintained and improved				
Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
4.1.1 Responsibly manage our assets including roads, buildings, footpaths, airport, cemetery, recreation and sporting facilities and public toilets by inspecting and monitoring maintenance and renewal needs	4.1.1.1 Deliver Buildings Maintenance Program	MOP	Maintenance Program / Delivered	
	4.1.1.2 Deliver Roads Maintenance Program	MOP	Maintenance Program / Delivered	
	4.1.1.3 Deliver Capital Works Program	DIN	Capital Works Program delivered / 90%	
	4.1.1.4 Prepare planning proposal for rezoning and reclassification of surplus open space	MDS	Planning proposal / commenced	




4.1 Our built environment is managed, maintained and improved (cont.)

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
4.1.2 Understand and plan for Council's asset renewal requirements	4.1.2.1 Undertake a review of Council's existing Plant and Fleet register	MOP	Review / Completed	
	4.1.2.2 Develop a 10-year plant replacement program	MOP	Year one of current 10-year program / Implemented	
	4.1.2.3 Refine draft Service Level Agreements including inspection, maintenance and intervention criteria	MOP	Service Level Agreements set-up in Tech One / Implemented	
	4.1.2.4 Invest in Council assets at a level equal to depreciation	MEA	Capital expenditure compared to depreciation / => 90%	
	4.1.2.5 Undertake asset valuations for asset classes in accordance with Asset Management Strategy	MEA	Asset valuation for one asset class / Completed	
	4.1.2.6 Convene the Asset Management Steering Committee	MEA	Meetings per year / 4	

4.2 Our road network is a source of pride

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
4.2.1 Close Councils asset renewal gap with the road network as the priority area of focus	4.2.1.1 Implement current year's program of works to renew Council's road network in line with condition assessments	MOP	Works delivered / 90%	

4.3 Our water and sewer infrastructure is efficient and fit for purpose

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
4.3.1 Provide for safe, reliable and sustainable water and sewerage services	4.3.1.1 Deliver Council's Water and Sewer Capital Works Program	MEA	Capital Works Program delivered / 90%	
	4.3.1.2 Deliver Council's Water and Sewer Infrastructure Maintenance Program	MOP	Maintenance Program / Delivered	
4.3.2 Plan for the replacement of the Deniliquin Sewerage Treatment plant	4.3.2.1 Plan the replacement of the Deniliquin Sewerage Treatment Plant in consultation with NSW Government	MEA	Funding application to NSW Government / Submitted	

Outcome 5

A community working together to achieve its potential

- 5.1 Our community is informed and engaged
- 5.2 We collaborate and pursue partnerships that achieve great outcomes for our community
- 5.3 Our local government is efficient, innovative and financially sustainable

Total Initiatives:

Planned

49

Complete

89%



'Our Region Your Say' Community Engagement Project

To support the review process for the Community Strategic Plan, Council engaged Seftons to conduct a comprehensive community consultation program across the Edward River community to better understand what is valued about the Edward River region and what their vision of a successful community would look like.

450 community members (approximately 5.3% of population) contributed their time to this process, the result being a comprehensive community engagement outcomes report that serves to guide the council and community in its review of the Community Strategic Plan and subsequent development of the updated Delivery Program for the incoming council.

The community engagement outcomes report can be found on council's website here: [Our Region, Your Say - Edward River \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au/our-region-your-say)

Edward River goes to the polls

Elections were held on 4 December 2021 with 11 candidates contesting the 9 available positions. 4559 valid first preference votes were cast.

Council hits the road in community roadshow

Councillors and key council staff took the draft 2022-2023 budget and draft Community Strategic Plan on the road in June 2022 before the documents were adopted in June 2022. The presentation on these key documents was delivered to community members at Conargo (6 June), Deniliquin (8 June), Pretty Pine (8 June), Wanganella (9 June) and Blighty (9 June). Approximately 70 people participated in the discussions and 20 provided feedback on the draft documents.



Health advocacy high on council agenda

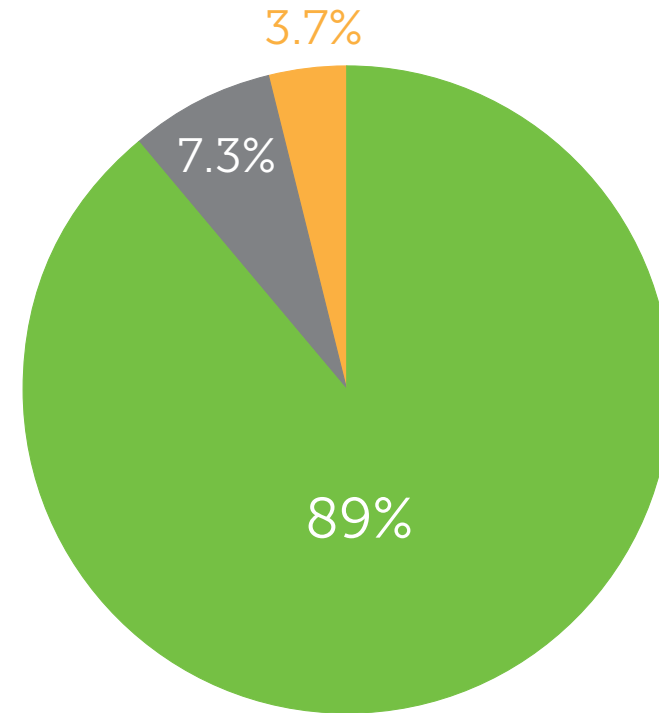
In June 2021, Council welcomed the announcement from Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) that clinical services planning would be undertaken in Deniliquin.

Council has long lobbied for a review into our health services, with the outgoing Council prioritising a review in its Advocacy Strategy. The Clinical Services Plan will outline the health services required for the Deniliquin region and how those services will be delivered.

Led by former Mayor, the late Norm Brennan, an Edward River Council submission for better health services, starting with a clinical services plan, was provided to the NSW Government's senate inquiry into rural and regional health in 2021.

In response to ongoing concerns relating to health and health related service provision for the community of Edward River, Council also resolved to establish a Health Advocacy Committee. The purpose of the committee is to bring together the many local health interest groups to focus efforts for advocating to government for improved service provision.

Strategic Outcome 5 - A community working together to achieve its potential



Total projects: 55

- Complete 49
- Not commenced 4
- Behind 2



Outcome 5 – A community working together to achieve its potential

Status: Complete ● On Track ○ Not Commenced ● Behind ●



5.1 Our community is informed and engaged				
Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
5.1.1 Proactively communicate information on Council services, activities and events	5.1.1.1 Communicate information on Council services, activities and events	GM	Community News page / 30 Engagement with Council social media accounts / Increasing Media releases produced / 24 Newsletter published / 2	●
5.1.2 Provide opportunities for the community to be involved in key strategies, policies and decisions of Council	5.1.1.2 Review Council's website to ensure it remains accessible and provides an engaging customer experience	GM	Website structure / Reviewed	●

5.2 We collaborate and pursue partnerships that achieve great outcomes for our community				
Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
5.2.1 Work in partnership with the community on key projects	5.2.1.1 Support community projects with financial assistance through the Community Grants Program	MCED	Community Grants Program / Delivered	●

5.2 We collaborate and pursue partnerships that achieve great outcomes for our community (cont.)

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
	5.2.1.2 Conduct ordinary and extraordinary meetings open to the public	GM	Adopted schedule of meetings / implemented Ordinary meeting business papers Published to Council's website three days prior to meeting	
	5.2.1.3 Collaborate with the community to review and update the Community Strategic Plan – Edward River 2030	GM	Plan adopted / 30 June	

5.3 Our local government is efficient, innovative and financially sustainable

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
5.3.1 Deliver sustainable financial management	5.3.1.1 Develop annual Operational Plan budget and review Long Term Financial Plan	MFIN	Annual budget adopted and long-term financial plan reviewed in line with annual budget / 30 June	
	5.3.1.2 Monitor and accurately report on Council's financial position in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 requirements	MFIN	Quarter budget reviews completed / September, December and March Audited financial statements lodged 31 October	






5.3 Our local government is efficient, innovative and financially sustainable (cont.)

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
5.3.1 Deliver sustainable financial management	5.3.1.3 Manage Council’s investment portfolio to optimise investment returns within the constraints of the Local Government Act Guidelines and Council’s adopted policies	MFIN	Report to Council / Monthly Bank Bill Swap Rate Benchmark / Exceeded	●
	5.3.1.4 Review Investment Policy within the constraints of the Local Government Act Guidelines and Council’s adopted policies	MFIN	Review Investment Policy / Complete Review External / Internal Reserve / Complete	●
	5.3.1.5 Review land categories for rating purposes and implement changes required under the Local Government Act and in accordance with the new harmonized rating structure	MFIN	Review rating categories and subcategories / Complete Implement procedure for required category changes / Complete	●
	5.3.1.6 Coordinate the 30 June external audit function and implement agreed management actions	MFIN	Audit Engagement Plan Activities / Completed Management Actions implemented / = Agreed timeframes	●
	5.3.1.7 Review Financial Sustainability Policy within the constraints of the Local Government Act Guidelines and Australian Accounting Standard Board	MFIN	Review Financial Sustainability Policy / Commenced Deliver Action Plan based on the updated Financial Sustainability Policy / Commenced	●

5.3 Our local government is efficient, innovative and financially sustainable (cont.)

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
5.3.2 Deliver excellent customer service	5.3.2.1 Monitor customer service requests and complaints	MPCS	Report customer request management statistics to Executive / Quarterly	●
5.3.3 Deliver good governance and take steps to improve management of risk and safety	5.3.3.1 Coordinate the ongoing implementation the Council's Risk Management Framework	MPCS	Strategic risks and controls reviewed as per the Risk Management Plan	●
	5.3.3.2 Coordinate the implementation of Council's Statewide Mutual Continuous Improvement workbooks and distribute action plans to responsible officers	MPCS	Workbooks – Submitted by due date Report Action Plans to EMT	●
	5.3.3.3 Co-ordinate WHS steering committee development of the annual Corporate WHS Management Plan	MPCS	Plan developed Reports delivered as per the plan.	●
	5.3.3.4 Convene the Work Health and Safety Committee meetings	MPCS	Meetings held =>4 Minutes provided to the Executive / Quarterly	●
	5.3.3.5 Co-ordinate external audit of WHS Management System	MPCS	Audit completed Report to WHS Steering Committee	●

5.3 Our local government is efficient, innovative and financially sustainable (cont.)

Delivery Program 2018 -2022	Operational Plan 2021 –2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
5.3.3 Deliver good governance and take steps to improve management of risk and safety	5.3.3.6 Provide progress reports on implementation of the 2018-2022 Delivery Program in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993	DCS	Progress reported to Council / Quarterly	
	5.3.3.7 Produce and publish Council's Annual Report in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993	DCS	Report adopted / 30 November	
	5.3.3.8 Coordinate implementation of the Business Continuity Plan, including final Disaster Recovery Plan	DCS / MPCs	Implementation / Complete	
	5.3.3.9 Produce and submit the annual Code of Conduct complaints report in accordance with the Office of Local Government requirements	DCS	Reported to Council and the Office of Local Government / 30 September	
	5.3.3.10 Manage the Councillor Professional Development Program	DCS	Program / Delivered	






5.3 Our local government is efficient, innovative and financially sustainable (cont.)

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
5.3.3 Deliver good governance and take steps to improve management of risk and safety	5.3.3.11 Produce and submit reports of disclosures made under the Public Interest Disclosures Act	DCS	NSW Ombudsman / July and February	●
	5.3.3.12 Coordinate lodgement of the annual Disclosures of Interest Returns in accordance with the Office of Local Government requirements	DCS	Annual lodgement process completed / 30 September	●
	5.3.3.13 Facilitate Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meetings	DCS	Meetings held / =>4	●
	5.3.3.14 Coordinate delivery and reporting of the Internal Audit Program	DCS	Program / Completed Implementation status reported to Executive and Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee / Quarterly	●
	5.3.3.15 Review and improve Council's corporate documents framework	DCS	Corporate documents review dates / Established Program review dates program / Established	●






5.3 Our local government is efficient, innovative and financially sustainable (cont.)

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
5.3.3 Deliver good governance and take steps to improve management of risk and safety	5.3.3.16 Coordinate activities and events for the delivery of the NSW Local Government Elections	DCS	Election / Completed Councillor induction program / Implemented Post-election legislative program of actions / Completed	●
	5.3.3.17 Coordinate the implementation of the strategic plan for committees of Council	DCS	Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Committees / Completed June 30	●
	5.3.3.18 Coordinate implementation of the Business Continuity Plan, including final Disaster Recovery Plan	DCS / MPCS	Implementation / Complete	●
	5.3.3.19 Review the Privacy Management Plan	MIM	Review / Complete	●
	5.3.3.20 Review and publish the Council Information Guide	MIM	Guide adopted	●
	5.3.3.21 Produce and submit the annual government Information Public Access Report in accordance with the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009	MIM	Annual report provided to the Information and Privacy Commissioner /	●







5.3 Our local government is efficient, innovative and financially sustainable (cont)

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
5.3.3 Deliver good governance and take steps to improve management of risk and safety	5.3.3.22 Coordinate the publication of Open Access Information to the website in accordance with the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009	MIM	Open Access Information available on the website / Increasing	
	5.3.3.23 Develop a new suite of IP&R Documents in line with LG Requirements	DCS	Documents developed and adopted	
	5.3.3.24 Coordinate 2020 / 2021 Community Survey	DCS	Survey complete and results published on the website	
	5.3.3.25 Establish and publish to the website a Formal Access to Information Disclosure Log in accordance with the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009	MIM	Published to website / =< every 45 days	
	5.3.3.26 Review and renew Council's insurance portfolio	MEA	Annual renewal / Completed Incident reports to Executive / 4 per year	







5.3 Our local government is efficient, innovative and financially sustainable (cont.)

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
5.3.4 Identify and deliver innovative projects to improve Councils performance	5.3.4.1 Deliver the Information Technology Strategy, including reimplementation of Technology One, in accordance with approved Project	DCS	Project milestones met	
	5.3.4.2 Deliver Council's civic and administration accommodation project in accordance with the project plan	DIN	Project milestones met	
	5.3.4.3 Develop and commence the implementation of an Edward River Council continuous improvement program	GM	Continuous Improvement Program developed, and implementation commenced	
	5.3.4.4 Implement an organisational project to improve efficiencies and source revenue opportunities	GM	Project plan developed / 30 December Milestones achieved as per project plan / 30 June	
5.3.5 Be an employer of choice	5.3.5.1 Encourage two-way communication with the workforce	MPCS	Initiatives implemented in accordance with Staff Survey Action Plan / Complete	

5.3 Our local government is efficient, innovative and financially sustainable (cont.)

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
5.3.5 Be an employer of choice	5.3.5.2 Coordinate and fund annual staff training programs	MPCS	Training Plan and budget / Prepared	
	5.3.5.3 Implement the annual employee health and wellbeing program	MPCS	Program Implementation / Meets timelines set in the plan	
	5.3.5.4 Undertake annual staff satisfaction survey to identify areas of improvement	MPCS	Survey / Completed	
	5.3.5.5 Deliver the Staff Recognition and Service Awards Program	GM	Program / Delivered	
	5.3.5.6 Implement Employee Self Service for leave for Outdoor Staff	MPCS	Implementation commenced	
	5.3.5.7 Coordinate annual staff performance review program	MPCS	Annual program / Completed	

5.3 Our local government is efficient, innovative and financially sustainable (cont.)

Delivery Program 2018 - 2022	Operational Plan 2021 – 2022 Action	Responsible Officer	Measure/Target	Status
5.3.5 Be an employer of choice	5.3.5.8 Facilitate regular meetings of the Staff Consultative Committee (WMP 2.9)	MPCS	Meetings held =>2	
	5.3.5.9 Coordinate the development and implementation of salary system progression rules and skill step framework	MPCS	Salary skill step framework for operational roles	
	5.3.5.10 Implement EEO & Diversity Plan	MPCS	Meets timelines set in the plan	
	5.3.5.11 Implement Workforce plan	MPCS	Succession planning commenced and ongoing	
	5.3.5.12 Develop workforce cultural plan	MPCS	Cultural Plan Commenced	
	5.3.5.13 Develop 3-year Corporate Services Plan	DCS	Plan developed and adopted Plan commenced as per milestones set	

CAPITAL WORKS



Riverfront enhancement project

\$24M of capital works were undertaken by Council in the 2021-2022 year as part of our ongoing program of upgrades and improvement for our roads, bridges, footpaths, water supply network, sewerage supply network and community recreational facilities. The 2021-2022 highlights include the following completed projects:

Roads and Road Related Infrastructure

Gravel Road Resheeting

(Funded internally - Council Capital Works – Complete)

• Kerri East Road	\$28K
• Cosgroves Road	\$95K
• Hannas Road	\$11K
• Carrathool Road	\$514K
• Wanganella-Moulamein Road	\$75K
• Boooroban-Tchelery Road	\$22K
• Hunter Street	\$1K

Resealing – Local Road Resealing

(Funded internally - Council Capital Works – Complete)

• Napier Street	\$12K
• Burton Street	\$7K
• Edwardes Street	\$20K
• Dick Street	\$5K
• Golf Club Road	\$18K

• Fowler Street	\$7K
• Harfleur Street	\$24K
• Cooina Lane	\$23K
• Aratula South Road	\$88K
• Mayrung Road	\$36K
• Wanganella-Moulamein Road	\$45K
• Millears Road	\$24K
• Logie Brae Road	\$110K
• Sloane Street	\$11K
• Junction Street	\$4K
• Boooroban Truck Lay-By	\$10K
• Poitiers Street	\$107K
• Russell Street	\$59K
• Wellington Street	\$6K
• George Street	\$38K

Road Renewals

(Funded internally - Council Capital Works)

- Wellington Street – Shoulder Reconstruction - \$158K - Complete
- Harfleur Street – Shoulder Reconstruction - \$157K - Complete
- Decimus Street – Shoulder Reconstruction - \$158K - Complete
- George Street – Full Road Reconstruction - \$190K – Complete
- South Deniliquin Industrial Area – Completion of Kelly, Jane and Stewart Streets – Full Road Reconstruction - \$109M - Complete

Kerb & Gutter

(Funded internally - Council Capital Works – completed with Local Road Reconstruction program)

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| • Wellington Street | \$33K |
| • Harfleur Street | \$70K |
| • Decimus Street | \$42K |
| • George Street | \$57K |

Footpaths

(Funded internally - Council Capital Works – complete)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------|
| • Wellington Street | \$125K |
|---------------------|--------|

Footpaths

External funding - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funding) - \$350K

- Poitiers Street PAMPS and Footpath
- Napier Street PAMPS
- George Street PAMPS
- Cressy Street
- George Street
- Crispe Street
- Harrison Street
- Macauley Street

Local Road Bridges major maintenance

(Internal Funding - Council Capital Works - complete) - \$183K

- Balpool Road over Edward River
- Carrathool Road over Box Creek
- Murgaha-Windouran Road over Forest Anabranh
- Pretty Pine Road over Clarkes Creek
- Aratula Road over Tuppal Creek
- Memorial Drive over Tarangle Creek
- Carrathool Road over Billabong Creek
- Old Morago Road over Edward River
- Tuppal Road over Tuppal Creek
- Conargo Road over Forrest Creek – South of Conargo
- Lawson Syphon Road over Aljoes Creek

Plant Replacement

Plant Replacement (Council Capital budget) – \$87K

Purchase of vehicles (utes) impacted by Covid-19.

Sewerage Network

(Funded internally - Council Capital Budget) - \$840K

- Sewer Reticulation CCTV
- Sewer Treatment Plant refurbishment
- Sewer Pump Station refurbishment
- Sewer Treatment Plant minor upgrades
- Sewer Telemetry Upgrades
- Sewer Relining

Water Network

(Funded internally Council Capital Budget) - \$559K

- Watermain Rehabilitation
- Water Storage robotic cleaning
- Water Treatment Plant refurbishment

Buildings

(Funded internally - Council Capital Budget) - \$80k

- Refurbishment of Belman Hangers at the Aerodrome

STATUTORY REPORTING



Overview

Edward River Council's general reporting requirements are set out in section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Local Government Act) and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (Part 9, Division 7) (the Regulation). This section also meets Council's reporting requirements under the Companion Animals Act 1998 and Companion Animals Regulation 2008 and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act).

Rates and Charges Written Off

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Clause 132

Table B details the Rates written off by Council in the reporting period:

Table B: Rates and Charges Written Off	
Category	Amount
Pensioner Rebates – Mandatory	\$138,043.65
Pensioner Rebates – Voluntary	\$0
Rates – Other	\$0
Interest	\$0
Total	\$138,043.65
Council receives a State Government subsidy equivalent to 55 per cent of the amount of Pension Rebates.	

Overseas Visits

Local Government Act 1993 – Section 428(4)(b), Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217(1)(a).

No Councillors nor Council staff nor any other person representing Council travelled overseas during the reporting period.

Delegated External Bodies

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217(1)(a6)

During the reporting period, the following external bodies exercised functions delegated by Council:

- Blighty Hall Committee (Hall Management)
- Booroorban Hall Committee (Hall Management)
- Conargo Hall and Recreation Ground Committee (Hall Management)
- Deniliquin Multi-Arts Centre Committee (Hall Management) – administration since returned directly to Council
- Mayrung Hall Committee (Hall Management)
- Pretty Pine Hall Committee (Hall Management)
- Wanganella Hall (Hall Management)

Controlling Interest in Companies

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217(1)(a7)

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any companies during the reporting period.

Participation in Corporations, Partnerships, Joint Ventures or Other Bodies

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

During the reporting period, Council participated in the following corporations, partnerships and other organisations:

- Country Mayors Association;
- Local Government NSW;
- Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation of Councils;
- Statecover Mutual Limited; and
- Statewide Mutual Limited.

In addition to the above, Council employs a Road Safety Officer under a Memorandum of Understanding between Edward River Council, Murray River Council and Transport for NSW.

Contracts

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217(1)(a2)

Council is required to disclose the details of each contract awarded for amounts greater than \$250,000, including the name of the contractor, the nature of goods or services supplied, and the total amount payable under the contract.

The following major contracts for works and services were awarded during the reporting period:

- Deni Civil & Construction - Seniors Living Precinct Civil Works 2021-22 – \$1,034,687.26 (ex GST)
- Recivil Pty Ltd - Saleyards Road Reconstruction 2021-22 – \$1,187,096.90 (GST incl)

Legal Proceedings

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217(1)(a3)

Council is required to provide a summary of the amounts incurred in relation to legal proceedings, including amounts, costs and expenses paid or received, and a summary of the state of progress of each legal proceeding. During the reporting period, Council incurred a total of \$46,615.38 in legal proceedings expenditure.

These costs were in relation to:

- General legal advice \$13,055.38
- Property sale and transfer matters \$20,900.30
- Leases \$12,659.70

Subsidised Private Works

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217(1)(a4)

During the reporting period, Council did not undertake any subsidised works on private land.

Financial Assistance to Others

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217(1)(a5)

Council provided contributions under section 356 of the Local Government Act during the reporting period through its approved community grants program (\$50k) and by resolution, totalling \$25k for the Ute muster. These included cash donations, sponsorships and reductions in charges. (NB: The annual \$25k sponsorship to the Ute Muster was resolved to be expended in the next financial year.)

General Manager and Senior Staff Remuneration

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217(1) (b-c)(i-v)

Council is to report the total expenditure for the reporting period in respect of employment for senior staff, including salary, motor vehicle expenses package benefits, fringe benefits tax, and superannuation.

Council had one General Manager position in the reporting period and two Director positions. Following the resignation of the Director Corporate Services in March 2022, the role was filled by an interim contracted officer.

The annual remuneration paid to senior staff for the reporting period was as follows:

- General Manager \$275,450
- Senior Officers \$400,299

Community Care

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Disability Inclusion Act 2014 – Clause 13(1)

In July 2017, the Disability Inclusion Plan (DIAP) was adopted by Council. This plan defines strategies and provides a planning framework to promote inclusion and equity for people with a disability. It addresses areas within the council workforce where inclusion can be enhanced and issues with accessing community infrastructure and assets for the Edward River residents and visitors to the municipality.

Services to Carers

Carers Recognition Act 2010 (CR Act), s 8(2)

Council is not considered to be a 'human service agency' under the CR Act.

Environmental Planning Reporting

Inspections of Private Swimming Pools

Swimming Pools Act (SP Act) 1992, s22F(2), Swimming Pools Regulation 2018 (SPReg) Clause 23.

Council undertakes a regime of inspections of private swimming pools. In the reporting period, Council undertook the following inspections:

Table C: Inspections of Private Swimming Pools	
Type	Number
Inspections of tourist and visitor accommodation	1
Inspections of premises with more than 2 dwellings	0
Inspections that resulted in issuance a certificate of compliance under section 22D of the SP Act (This figure includes the inspections of tourist and visitor accommodation)	15
Inspections that resulted in issuance a certificate of non-compliance under clause 21 of the SP Regulation	15

Stormwater Management Services

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217(1)(e)

Council applied a Stormwater Management Charge of \$12.50 per annum for each residential strata property and \$25.00 per annum for each residential,

business and business strata property during the reporting period for the purpose of raising revenue to implement its Stormwater Management Plan.

Coastal Protection Services

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217(1)(e1)

Council does not apply an annual charge for coastal protection services.

Planning Agreements

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 – Section 93G(5)

Council did not have any Planning agreements in place during the reporting period.

Environmental Upgrade Agreements

Council did not have any Environmental Upgrade agreements in place during the reporting period.

Companion Animal Management

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217(1)(f)

This statement requires Council to report its activities in enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act 1998 (Companion Animals Act) and Companion Animals Regulation 2018.

Lodgement of pound data collections returns

The pound collection data for the 2020-21 reporting period was lodged with the Office of Local Government (OLG). Table E summarises the data disclosed to the OLG:

Lodgement of data relating to dog attacks with the Office of Local Government

It is mandatory for all dog attack data to be lodged with the OLG in accordance with the Companion Animals Act. This legislation requires a dog attack to be reported within 72 hours of the incident.

In the 2021-2022 reporting period, 10 dog attack incidents involving people or animals were recorded.

Animal control expenditure

Council employs one full-time Ranger whose role includes local laws compliance and Companion Animals functions. Council has been focused on improvements to ensure compliance with the Companion Animals Act.

The total expense for animal control services during the reporting period was \$175,000.00

Community education programs

Council completed the free microchipping program during the reporting period and 23 animals were microchipped. Council also offered a subsidised desexing program and 20 companion animals were desexed through this program. Information relating to Companion Animal Management and responsible pet ownership is also available from Council's website at www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au.

Euthanasia alternatives for unclaimed animals

The Companion Animals Act provides that microchipped animals be held for a period of 14 days and unidentified animals for 7 days. Council releases animals to shelters where those animals are considered to be suitable for rehoming.

Off leash areas

Under the Companion Animals Act, each council must provide at least one off-leash area where dogs can be exercised off-leash during certain hours. An off-leash area has been established at the Edward River Oval. The facility that has been welcomed and well utilised by the community.

Government Information (Public Access) Act B1

Overview

This section is Edward River Council's Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act) Annual Report for the 2020-2021 reporting period. Section 125 of the GIPA Act states:

- (1) Each agency (other than a Minister) must, within 4 months after the end of each reporting year, prepare an annual report on the agency's obligations under this Act for submission to the Minister responsible for the agency. A copy of the report is to be provided to the Information Commissioner after the report has been tabled in each House of Parliament.

Council is considered 'an agency' and has completed that report within the required timeframe.

Review of Proactive Release Program

Council continually reviews its proactive release program to identify information that is made publicly available.

Council undertakes the following initiatives as part of continuous improvement reviews:

- Reviewing the information published on Council’s website to ensure information featured is up-to-date, informative and relevant;
- Continuing a review of Council’s Policy Register;
- Monitoring matters of public interest to determine whether Council can proactively release further information about those matters; and
- Continued to offer an online community consultation platform to better engage residents in the decision-making process and regularly seek community feedback on Council decisions, projects, programs and activities.

Number of Access Applications Received

During the reporting period Council received two (2) valid formal access to information applications from a member of the public. Both applications became deemed refusals due to not meeting statutory processing time. The applicant was subsequently refunded the application fee as required by the GIPA Act.

Public Interest Disclosures Act

Overview

Edward River Council is required to report annually on its obligations under section 31 of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 (PID Act)* and clause 4 of the *Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011*.

Statistical Information on Public Interest Disclosures

Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011 cl 4 (2) (a)-(c) –

Nil were lodged and no outstanding matters apply.

Staff Awareness of Public Interest Disclosures Internal Reporting Policy

Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011 cl 4 (2) (e) -

During the reporting period, Council undertook the following actions to meet its staff awareness obligations:

- Making Council’s Public Interest Disclosure Policy available on both our website and staff intranet;
- Incorporating information on public interest disclosures into Council’s Employee Manual which is provided to all new staff on commencement;
- Placing information about Public Interest Disclosure on staff bulletin boards.

Public Interest Disclosures Internal Reporting Policy

Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011 cl 4 (2) (d)

In accordance with the requirements of the PID Act, Council adopted a Public Interest Disclosure Policy on 17 May 2017. The policy, which provides a mechanism for Council Officials to make disclosures about serious wrongdoing, is based on the NSW Ombudsman’s model internal reporting policy for Local Government.

Council’s Public Interest Disclosure Policy is available on Council’s website.

APPENDIX A: AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS





EDWARD RIVER COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

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