



Edward
River
COUNCIL

Annual Report
2017-18



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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR AND GENERAL MANAGER

We are pleased to present Edward River Council's Annual Report 2017-18. This Annual Report is the first following the Council election in September 2017, and outlines Council's performance and achievements over the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

This past year has seen a significant focus on continuing to establish the base for a financially sustainable and future focused Council. With the newly elected Council now in place for almost 12 months and the merged organisation in place for over two years, we are well positioned to continue to enhance and improve our service delivery to the community.

A key focus and achievement over the last 12 months was the completion of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. This Framework saw Council engage with the community to develop a ten-year Community Strategic Plan, Asset Management Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Workforce Development Strategy. Additionally, we completed our three-year Council Delivery Program and our annual 2018-19 budget and Operational Plan. The work by both staff and Councillors to get these documents completed and the focus placed on community consultation and engagement was great to see. We look forward to continuing to partner and work with our community to deliver these documents and the exciting vision they create.

Outstanding service provision

Council commenced a program to improve customer service including a review of the customer service system and processes to close the loop and keep customers informed. Council confirmed its commitment to the Technology One system which will provide us with a sophisticated way of

tracking and reporting customer enquiries. We collaborated with Hepburn Shire Council to provide a web-based Frequently Asked Questions platform for customer service which is expected to be fully rolled out in the 2018-19 financial year. The development of customer service standards commenced and will be completed in the near future.

Robust community relationships

Improving communication and facilitating conversations with our community continued to define Council's approach to decision-making during 2017-18. Significant consultation was undertaken to develop a number of key strategies including the Economic Development Strategy, Open Space Strategy, Public Space Strategy and Disability Inclusion Action Plan

The establishment of Project HQ in Napier Street saw over three hundred ideas and comments being received for the Deniliquin Public Space Strategy and the Edward River Open Space Strategy. This proved to be an effective way to engage with our community on significant strategic projects for our Council. Project HQ was utilised again for the development of our key corporate strategies. It provides a central place for people to drop in and meet with staff and is one method we use to engage with our community.

Strong performance

Council is working hard to deliver on the needs of our diverse community and provide exceptional services and infrastructure for all residents. As demonstrated in our Capital Works Report, we have continued to deliver outstanding infrastructure maintenance and renewal works throughout the region over the past year.

Key projects included reconstruction of Eastman's Road, gravel road re-sheeting at a cost of \$1.1m, kerb and gutter works in Hardinge, Sloane and Poitiers Streets and new footpath works in Sloane Street. The Waring Gardens historic fountain was restored to its original condition and is a key focal point of this popular tourist destination. A significant project was the rollout of Council's new electronic water meters, which gives Council accurate, automatic water readings and provides residents with the power to monitor their own usage.

Over \$19 million worth of development was approved in the Edward River region by 30 June 2018, by way of the development- approvals process undertaken by Council's Environmental Services Team. Significant infrastructure projects were approved during this time including the redevelopment of the child care facility at the Deniliquin Children's Centre, redevelopment of land in Hardinge Street to partly house a museum, a significant multi-unit development, a new emergency service building and depot and extensions to the Navorina Nursing Home. These developments alone made up \$8.78 million of the development approved.

Sound organisational health

Council's staff play a vital role in contributing to Council's success and our organisation's leadership team is committed to supporting a positive and cohesive workplace culture centred on our new corporate values of Leadership, Excellence, Accountability and Delivery. These values have been integrated into our recruitment and staff appraisal systems and underpins everything we do. Council was recognised by the Deniliquin Business Chamber at the 2018 Deniliquin Business Excellence Awards when we received the Excellence in Work, Health and Safety Culture award, reflecting our commitment to health and safety.

In closing, we would like to thank all of the Councillors, for their strong leadership and commitment during the period covered by this Annual Report.

We commend this Annual Report to you.



Mayor, Cr Norm Brennan



General Manager, Adam McSwain

ABOUT OUR ANNUAL REPORT



Under the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act), all Councils in NSW are required to report on their progress in implementing their Delivery Program and the effectiveness of the principal activities undertaken in achieving the objectives in their Community Strategic Plan at which those activities are directed.

The Annual Report must be prepared in accordance with the Act and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and include a copy of the Council's audited Financial Statements. Once adopted, the Annual Report must also be posted on the Council's website.

As a new Council, Edward River Council is exempted from the statutory requirements under sections 428 and 428A of the Act to include the following in its Annual Report 2017-18:

- A State of the Environment Report; and
- An outline of our progress in implementing the Community Strategic Plan.

In the reporting year Council developed and adopted our 10-year Community Strategic Plan, which informed our four-year Delivery Program and Resourcing Strategy, as well as our future annual Operational Plan. We will report on our achievements in implementing our Community Strategic Plan in future Annual Reports.

Financial Statements

Council's financial statements are provided as an Appendix to this Annual Report. The Appendix contains the general purpose financial statements, special purpose financial statements and the special schedules.

Our Values

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

All Council employees are expected to demonstrate our corporate values when undertaking their roles and making decisions that impact our customers and community:

	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.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Following the departure of one of Edward River Council's three directors, the organisational structure now comprises two Directorates and the Office of the General Manager. Together, the General Manager and two Directors comprise the organisation's Executive Management Team and are responsible for providing the organisation with strong and effective leadership in delivering a diverse range of Council services to the community.

The structure is represented in the graphic below:



OUR COUNCIL

Edward River Council's governing body comprises nine Councillors, all of whom were elected at the inaugural elections held on 9 September 2017. Councillors are elected to represent the entire region, rather than individual wards, with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor being elected by the Councillors.

Councillors are responsible for making decisions and developing policies that guide the activities of the Council. This role is performed at Council and Committee meetings, where the decision-making takes place. Our Councillors also provide leadership and guidance to the General Manager and facilitate communication between the Council as a governing body and the community.

Mayoral Election

The Council elected Cr Norm Brennan as Mayor and Cr Pat Fogarty as Deputy Mayor at its Ordinary Meeting in September 2017. Both Cr Brennan and Cr Fogarty were elected to their respective positions for a two-year term until September 2019.

Council Meetings

Council's Ordinary Meetings are held at 9.00am on the third Thursday of each month, from February to December. Meetings are usually held in the Council Chambers at 180 Cressy Street, Deniliquin, however, across the 2017-18 year every third Ordinary Meeting was held at a venue in one of the Edward River region's rural villages. Further information on Council meetings, including meeting venues and business papers, can be accessed from Council's website.

355 Committees

Under section 355 of the Local Government Act, Council may delegate some of its functions to a Committee of Council. Council uses this delegation to appoint community members to manage its facilities or functions through a committee or board of management.

During the reporting period, Council had constituted the following committees under section 355 of the Act:

- Australia Day Committee;
- Blighty Hall Committee;
- Boorooban Hall Committee;
- Conargo Hall Committee;
- Deniliquin Multi-Arts Centre Committee;
- Deniliquin Promotional Advisory Group;
- Edward River Community Garden Committee;
- Edward River Heritage Committee;
- Edward River Concert Band Committee;
- Edward River Tidy Towns Committee;
- Long Paddock Committee;
- Mayrung Hall Committee;
- Memorial Park Users Advancement Committee;
- Pretty Pine Hall Committee;
- Rotary Park Advancement Committee; and
- Wanganella Hall Committee.

External Committees

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

- Central Murray County Council;
- Central Murray Regional Library;
- Country Mayors Association;
- Deniliquin/ Conargo Area Local Emergency Management Committee;
- Edward River Users Group;
- Edward River Country Education Fund;
- Murray Darling Association;
- Murray Valley Industry Park;
- NSW Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee (Mid Murray Zone);
- NSW Rural Fire Service Zone Bushfire Management Committee;
- Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils;
- South West Music Regional Conservatorium; and
- Werkitya Kalpal Deniliquin and District Indigenous Working Party.

Advisory Committees and Working Groups

A number of advisory committees and working groups have been established or are in the process of being established to enable Council to develop a greater strategic planning capability, including:

- Disability Advisory Committee
- Edward River Council Airport Advisory Committee;
- Edward River Council Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee;
- Edward River Council Open Space and Public Space Strategic Working Group; and
- Local Traffic Committee.

OUR COUNCILLORS 2017-20

Elections for Edward River Council were held on 9 September 2017, at which nine Councillors were elected for a three-year term. Following the local government election and the swearing in of the Councillors, Cr Norm Brennan and Cr Pat Fogarty were elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor, respectively.



Cr Norm Brennan
Mayor



Cr Pat Fogarty
Deputy Mayor



Cr Peta Betts



Cr Marg Bull



Cr Ashley Hall



Cr Norm McAllister



Cr Peter McCrabb



Cr Nick Metcalfe



Cr Mac Wallace

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK



The Local Government Act 1993 (the Local Government Act) requires all councils in NSW to operate within the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, which allows councils to draw their various plans together, understand how they interact and get the maximum leverage from their efforts by planning holistically for the future.

Community Strategic Plan

Sitting above all other council plans and policies in the planning hierarchy, the Community Strategic Plan identifies the main priorities and aspirations of the community and provides a clear set of strategies to achieve this vision. While Council has a custodial role in preparing and maintaining the Community Strategic Plan, other stakeholders, including NSW Government agencies and community groups, may also be engaged in delivering the long-term objectives of the Plan.

Resourcing Strategy

The Resourcing Strategy articulates how Council intends on delivering the Community Strategic Plan. The Strategy consists of three components: Long Term Financial Planning, Workforce Management Planning, and Asset Management Planning.

Delivery Program

The Delivery Program translates the goals of the community, as contained in the Community Strategic Plan, into actions. The Program sets out the principal activities to be undertaken by Council in implementing the Plan within the resources available under the Resourcing Strategy.

Operational Plan

Spelling out the details of the Delivery Program, the Operational Plan lists the individual projects and activities that will be undertaken for the year to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program.

Achieving our Operational Plan 2017-18

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.

Council's 2017-18 Operational Plan, which was adopted on 29 June 2017, sought to deliver on the priorities set out in the Community Strategic Plans and Delivery Programs of our predecessor councils, Conargo Shire Council and Deniliquin Council. The development of a new Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program was completed in June 2018 and will guide Council from the 1st July 2018.



OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

The Office of the General Manager provides executive support to the Mayor and Councillors and is responsible for managing Council's relationships with Federal, State and local governments, as well as residents and ratepayers of the Edward River region. Its functions and services include:

- Advocacy, regional partnerships and government relations;
- Civic events and Citizenship ceremonies;
- Community engagement and development;
- Council Business and meeting support;
- Corporate communications and media relations;
- Mayor and Councillor secretarial support.

Key Achievements 2017-18

- Council commenced discussions with key stakeholders and government funders to enable Council to plan for the development of the Deniliquin Airport Expansion project. The Airport project will deliver significant economic benefit for Edward River LGA and the wider region in the future.
- Significant work was undertaken to develop the Edward River Council's Economic Development Strategy which provides a framework to enhance the prosperity of Edward River through a distinct focus on business growth. The Strategy was placed on public exhibition in June 2018 following extensive consultation during the drafting phase.
- The Advocacy Strategy was put on public exhibition in June 2018 seeking community feedback prior to adoption by Council. The Advocacy Strategy identifies six areas of importance to the community and outlines how key projects will deliver outcomes against each of the

key areas. These are

- Economic Development – Deniliquin Airport Expansion;
- Health – Investment in Deniliquin Hospital;
- Education – Upgrading the Deniliquin High School;
- Water – Murray Darling Basin Plan;
- Road Safety – Truck Stop;
- Mobile Telecoms – Blackspot Improvement Program.

The Advocacy Strategy sets out what Council is requesting and provides focus for action in the lead up to the 2019 state election.

- Council's Community Engagement Policy was adopted by Council in April 2018. It outlines council's approach to engaging with the community and key stakeholders to better inform its decision-making. The Policy is based on the IAP2 model and is available on Council's website.
- Key Integrated Planning and Reporting suite of documents were developed and adopted by Council in June 2018. These strategic documents provide the framework for Council's strategic and operational planning into the future. The key documents are the ten-year Community Strategic Plan, four-year Delivery Program, annual Operational Plan, Resource Strategy which incorporates the Asset Management Strategy, Workforce Management Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan.
- Council implemented a LEAN continuous improvement methodology across all Council teams. All staff received training in LEAN thinking and implemented a variety of improvements to enhance the way we work.
- Developed and implemented a new Edward River Council Staff Recognition program. This program includes staff recognition for years of service, quarterly staff awards aligned with Council's values, three all-staff meetings per year and opportunities for informal acknowledgements of excellent work.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Corporate Services is responsible for providing corporate support and financial services to the organisation's internal and external customers, including managing the systems and processes required to enable outstanding service delivery to our customers. Its functions and services include:

- Customer service;
- Finance, rates and revenue;
- Governance, compliance and integrated planning and reporting;
- Human resources;
- Information communications technology;
- Corporate records management;
- Internal audit; and
- Workplace health and safety.

Key Achievements 2017-18

- Completed the organisation review and restructure to ensure alignment of human resources with Council's strategic and operational plans.
- Developed a new performance appraisal system to provide a formal process for staff learning and development, alignment of individual objectives to organisational goals, and opportunity for personal growth and development.
- Commenced phase one of the Technology One systems reimplementation project involving health checks of each modules, project plans to update configuration, staff training and maximising the power of the system to deliver efficiencies. This project is phased and

expected to be completed in three years.

- Developed new budget processes, templates and management reporting to upskill managers. This provided for increased input into setting budgets and the ability to report and track variations in a timely way. Rigorous monthly processes were put in place enabling more timely budget data to be available allowing for variations and better reporting.
- Policy review and development – this project will be ongoing as each policy from both former Councils is reviewed, updated and brought to Council for consideration and adoption. Management Practices were introduced for policies that are internally focused. All Council adopted policies are uploaded onto the Council's website following adoption.
- Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Charter was completed, and the recruitment process commenced. The inaugural meeting of the ARIC was scheduled for the 2018-19 financial year. Detailed reporting on the activities of the ARIC will be included in the 2019 Annual Report.
- Conargo rates data migration into the Technology One system was achieved. This means that all ratepayer property details are now contained within the one rating system, allowing for consistent issuing of rates notices, information management, debtor management, reporting and collection.
- Implementation of the new Work, Health and Safety system commenced, and this project is ongoing.
- Significant IT upgrades including server, hardware, software and communications to enable the Technology One reimplementation project and support improvements in customer service.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Community and Economic Development; and Environmental Services departments are responsible for attracting new investment in the Edward River region, promoting the region as a tourism destination and centre for business development, and facilitating a regulatory environment conducive to economic, community and cultural growth. Its functions and services include:

- Business and industry development;
- Central Murray Regional Library;
- Disability inclusion and accessibility;
- Environment health and building;
- Local laws, ranger and animal services;
- Planning and development assessment; and
- Tourism, heritage and visitor information services.

Key Achievements 2017/18

- Processed a significant number of development applications and construction certificates, complying development certificates and section 68 works applications, worth a combined value of just over \$19 million.
- The Central Murray Regional Library continued to provide regular programs including children's story time, Genealogy, Baby Bounce, Chess Club, Lego at the Library group, Monday meeting place and online tutorials. During the year, key events included May Gibbs – Celebrating 100 years; Pakatya-Kata - An Adult Learners Week event in partnership with Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre to deliver cultural activities for both NAIDOC Week 2017 and Adult Learner's Week.; Basket Making

Workshop; and Bird Talk.

- Continued Council's membership of Murray Regional Tourism, the peak regional tourism organisation responsible for coordinating tourism activities and growing the visitor economy in the greater Murray region.
- Welcomed over 17,500 visitors to the Deniliquin Visitor Information Centre & Peppin Heritage Centre during 2017/18.
- Delivered phase two of the Deniliquin Promotions Advisory Group's Visit Deni campaign, promoting Deniliquin as a tourism destination and centre for business development.
- Conducted 93 inspections of local food premises (including temporary and mobile food premises) during 2017/18 to ensure compliance with NSW Food Authority requirements and promote food safety.
- Hosted 10 exhibitions at the Peppin Heritage Centre, including the annual Bald Archy Prize Exhibition. The Peppin Heritage Centre also hosted a concert by playwright Moira Finucane – The Exotic Lives of Lola Montez which was enjoyed by a sell-out audience. Moira is a Deniliquin resident who now lives and travels all over the world with her shows.
- Council adopted the Edward River Open Space Strategy providing direction to the provision and management of open space across the local government area. The document addresses open space needs for the next 20 years.
- Council adopted the Deniliquin Public Space Strategy focusing primarily on public spaces in Deniliquin and identifies 4 key themes – Welcome to Deni, River Front and Centre, Deni Central and Living Lagoons. This document provides the basis for the preparation of the masterplans and detailed designs for improvements in Deniliquin public spaces.

- Completion of the Kyalite Planning Proposal (Deniliquin Local Environmental Plan 2013) making an additional 12.1 ha of riverfront rural residential land available in Deniliquin.
- Completion of a planning proposal delivering an additional 40ha of industrially zoned land on Barham Road, Deniliquin.
- Council adopted the Disability Inclusion Action Plan defining strategy and a planning framework to promote inclusion and equity for people with a disability, so they may fully participate in, and contribute to, social, business and community life. The plan will enhance and complement the existing service provision within this area.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure is responsible for the operation, maintenance and renewal of Council's asset infrastructure and open spaces, including parks and gardens and recreational reserves. Its functions and services include:

- Asset management;
- Engineering and technical services;
- Footpaths, kerb and gutter;
- Open space, parks and gardens, and recreation facilities;
- Roads and transport infrastructure;
- Stormwater drainage; and
- Water and sewerage services.

Key Achievements 2017-18

- Completed the installation of new water meters and electronic meter readers for approximately 3,600 properties in Deniliquin. The electronic meters enable readings to be taken automatically, saving time and money when compared to the previous manual reading process that Council utilised. The system also allows for property owners to obtain up to date information regarding their water usage and possible leaks through the MiWater Public Portal.

- The newly completed 4ML water reservoir in the Deniliquin Industrial Area near the Rice Mill was commissioned. The reservoir provides additional water pressure and flow for the industrial area and parts of south Deniliquin.
- Commencement of the Asset Management Project, which supports Council's newly adopted Asset Management Strategy. This project will see all of Council's assets recorded, assessed and valued. It will ensure that we have the best data possible when making decisions about what assets to improve, renew or dispose of.
- Consolidation of the works crews into a single depot and planning for upgrading the 'North Depot'. Council also resolved to sell the 'South Depot' through an expression of interest process'.
- Completion of recruitment for vacancies in the engineering team.
- Council's mechanic Ricky Hayes was recognised by the Deniliquin Business Chamber at the 2018 Deniliquin Business Excellence Awards with the Employee of the Year Award.
- Edward River Council formally adopted its new signage following an extensive community consultation process. Work began during the year which will continue into the 2018-19 year to replace a range of former Conargo Shire and Deniliquin Council signage, including entrance way signs and wayfinding.



STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND

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

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

- \$8.6 million for Council's Major Projects Program;
- \$1 million for Council's Stronger Communities Grants Program;
- \$200,000 for projects identified by Council committees; and a
- \$200,000 contribution to the 2016 Deniliquin Ute Muster.

In determining which projects were funded through the Stronger Communities Fund, Council was required to follow an open and transparent process and apply high governance standards set by the NSW Government. This included the appointment of a Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel to oversee the funding process. Regular progress reports are provided to Council and the Office of Local Government. A final report on all completed projects will be provided to the Office of Local Government and reported in next year's Annual Report.

Major Projects Program

Council announced in June 2017 that 12 projects would be funded through our \$8.6 million Major Projects Program. These projects were selected by the Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel following an extensive community consultation process. Council must commit to all projects funded through the Major Projects Program by 30 June 2019 and return any uncommitted funds at that date to the Office of Local Government by 30 March 2020.

Projects funded include:

Deniliquin Swim Centre Revitalisation \$880,000

The Deniliquin Swim Centre will be revitalised through an \$880,000 investment, including the addition of an all-abilities Water Play Facility, creating a fun family-friendly aquatic environment for locals and visitors alike. Other improvements will include the re-lining of the main pool and the installation of solar heating to the medium pool. By the end of June 2018, tenders were out for the water play facility and project scoping for the re-lining, solar heating and amenities improvements had been undertaken.

Deniliquin Regional Sports and Entertainment Stadium Extension \$540,000

An allocation of \$540,000 will go towards extending the Deniliquin Regional Sports and Entertainment Stadium and ensuring that it remains fit for use.

This project will allow more sport and recreation programs to be facilitated at the Stadium through the installation of new flooring and additional court space.

Preliminary plans and budget are completed, and tenders are expected to be invited in October 2018.

Community Masterplans and Initial Works \$2,105,000

Over \$2 million will be invested into developing and delivering on the first stage of works on long-term strategic plans for:

- The Deniliquin River Front - \$750,000;
- The Deniliquin Town Centre Streetscape - \$750,000;
- An Arts and Culture Precinct - \$475,000; and
- A Recreation Strategy and Memorial Park Masterplan - \$130,000.

By the end of June 2018, tender specifications and project briefs had been developed for the Riverfront master plan, CBD Streetscape, Recreation Strategy and Memorial Park master plan.

Blighty Community Netball and Tennis Facility \$550,000

Council will construct a new purpose-built community Netball and Tennis Clubhouse at the Blighty Sport and Recreation Reserve. With the addition of

the new Clubhouse, the Blighty Reserve will cement its place as one of the region's premier sporting facilities.

Plans for the facility are finalised and the project will be tendered in October 2018 for construction in the first half of 2019.

Deniliquin Children's Centre Extension \$500,000

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

This project is well underway and expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

Deniliquin Netball Facility Improvement Works \$320,000

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

Specification and design works have been completed and construction expected to commence in 2018-19.

Rural Villages Beautification Project \$300,000

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

A limited amount of consultation completed this year. Initial planning has been completed and the project will be completed in the 2018-19 year.

Beach to Beach Walk Connectivity Improvements \$300,000

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

Scope of works and preparation of tender documentation completed. Construction is planned for the new financial year.

Deniliquin Community Facility Refurbishments \$165,000

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

The Scout Hall project is expected to commence construction in September 2018 and will be completed by December.

The Boat Club project was well underway by the end of the reporting period and expected to be completed by the end of August 2018.

Urban Road Infrastructure Program \$2,390,000

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

Detailed scoping of works has commenced, and the program will be developed with the preferred contractor. The contractor is expected to be appointed in July 2018.

Deniliquin Airport Heritage Centre Development \$50,000

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

Unallocated Funding for New Council \$500,000

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

Stronger Communities Grants Program

Under the \$1m community grants program, a total of 33 projects were completed to the end of June 2018. The remainder are expected to be fully completed during the 2018/19 financial year.

Tables A and B (overleaf) detail the projects, including recipients and allocated amounts, funded through this program.



Table A: Stronger Communities Grants Program

Project	Purpose	Amount
Blighty School P&C	Playscape development	\$40,000
Blighty Football Club	Timekeepers' box upgrade	\$6,900
Bush Poets	Mobile stage, sound and light	\$7,500
Deniliquin & District Cricket Association	Replace and upgrade facilities	\$30,000
Deniliquin & District Historical Society	Rejuvenation of museum	\$13,000
Deniliquin Aero Club	Redesign/rebuild outdoor roof area	\$15,000
Deniliquin Boat Club	Riverbank Redevelopment	\$30,000
Deniliquin Bowling Club	Installation of disabled toilets	\$20,000
Deniliquin Bridge Club	Chairs	\$6,000
Clay Target Club	Amenity block upgrade	\$16,225
Deniliquin CWA	Maintenance and renovations	\$12,000
Deniliquin Drovers	Lighting	\$44,000
Deniliquin Field and Game	Shooting range relocation	\$35,000
Genealogy Group	Updating outdated equipment	\$8,000
Deniliquin Girl Guides	Hall maintenance	\$20,000
Golf Club	Fairway mower	\$40,000
Gymnastics Club	Equipment for safety and development	\$20,000
High School P&C	Kitchen appliance upgrade	\$6,740
Deniliquin Lawn Tennis Club	Court lighting	\$30,000
Little Athletics	Timing equipment	\$25,000
Deniliquin Men's Shed	Upgrade facilities	\$25,000
Deniliquin Netball Committee	Shelter Shed	\$5,000

Table B: Stronger Communities Grants Program (continued)

Project	Purpose	Amount
Deniliquin North Public School P&C	Irrigation system	\$32,250
Deniliquin Outdoor Pools Inc.	Pool ladder and lane ropes	\$10,456
Pistol Club	Clubhouse/air pistol range	\$10,000
Deniliquin Pony Club	Shed	\$35,650
Deniliquin Racing Club	Machinery and equipment storage shed	\$25,000
Rams Football and Netball Club	Storage shed/ seating	\$44,000
Deniliquin Rhinos	Equipment upgrade	\$7,571
Deniliquin Sports Park	Storage building	\$30,000
Deniliquin Truck Show & Industry Expo	Wall of Fame	\$10,000
Deniliquin Ute Muster	Purpose-built event sales facility	\$40,000
Edward School P&C	Shade shelter	\$40,000
Kurrajong Waratah	Yallambee: Cool room/ freezer	\$35,000
Mayrung Public School P&C	Safety development and enhancement	\$18,921
Navorina Ladies Auxiliary	Equipment upgrade	\$10,000
Navorina Nursing Home	Floor beds	\$17,000
Outback Theatre for Young People	While You Were Sleeping	\$50,000
Pastoral & Agricultural Society	PA system	\$5,855
Riding for the Disabled	Concreting and uniforms	\$22,730
Rotary/Lions/Soroptimist/RSL Joint Project	Liberty swing	\$20,000
Rovers Football Club	Construction of change rooms	\$44,000
South West Music	Instruments for kids	\$30,055
Deniliquin South Public School	Deniliquin South Public School project completion	\$10,000

CAPITAL WORKS



This section is Edward River Council's Capital Works Report as required under the Capital Expenditure Guidelines, issued by the Department of Premier and Cabinet pursuant to section 23A of the Local Government Act 1993. Council had a successful year in the delivery of Council's Capital Works Program. The highlights include:

Roads and Transport Infrastructure

Eastman's Road Construction

Under the Federal Roads to Recovery program, Council completed the reconstruction of Eastman's Road at a cost of \$829,000. Eastman's Road is located near Pretty Pine and is an important link for residents, as well as the agricultural and tourism sectors. This section of road was approximately 4.3km long and the work included:

- Strengthening the existing road pavement including lime stabilization and widening the pavement to eight metres;
- Widening the seal to six metres (previously the seal was an average of 3.6 metres);
- Providing additional drainage to enable surface water to get away quicker.
- MR296 Pretty Pine Road Reconstruction and Resealing

Pretty Pine Road Reconstruction

Under the NSW Government's Regional Roads Repair Program, Council reconstructed approximately 2km of Pretty Pine Road. Works included:

- Strengthening the pavement and widening the pavement to 10.5 metres;
- Widening the seal to 8 metres.

Woodbury Road Reconstruction – Stage 2

Council completed Stage 2 of the reconstruction of Woodbury Road. Woodbury Road is located near Blighty and is an important link for the community. The section of road reconstructed was approximately 1.5km long and the work included:

- Strengthening of the existing road pavement and widening the pavement to eight metres;
- Widening the seal to eight metres (previously the seal was six to seven metres wide);
- Providing additional drainage to allow run-off to get away quicker.

Rural Road Reconstruction

Council reconstructed 4km of Wanganella-Moulamein Road. This was identified as a road that required reconstruction as it had deteriorated to a condition that required ongoing maintenance to keep the road open for vehicular access. The work included stabilisation of the road pavement and widening of the seal.

Gravel Road Re-sheeting

Council completed the programmed gravel resheeting works, regraveling approximately 60km of gravel roads at a cost of \$1.1m.

Roads included Old Racecourse Road, Cosgroves Road, Coree Road, Flanagans Road, Hoads Road, Jones Road, Marshalls Road, McLaurins Road, Mills Road, Wanganella-Conargo Road, Yanco road and Lang Street.

Sealed Road – Resealing Program

This year's resealing program totalled \$1.25m of works, incorporating 40km of roads being treated. The works were carried out on various roads including Maude Road, Lakers Road, Mayrung Road, Tocumwal Road, Sloane Street, Wirraway Drive, Henry Street and Moonee Swamp Road.

Kerb & Gutter

Hardinge Street and George Street Intersection

Council worked closely with RMS through 2017-18 to design and enable the delivery of work at this intersection. Hardinge Street is part of the state road network and this intersection had been one that was a concern for pedestrian and vehicular interaction.

Working with RMS, a solution was developed to introduce out-stands and central road medians. This solution would resolve and assist with safety concerns at this location.

This work included the stabilisation of the road pavement as well as the resurfacing of the road, new out-stands and central medians were constructed at the intersection with George Street as well as the renewal of some kerb and gutter.

This work commenced in late May 2018 and will carry through into the 2018-19 financial year.

Sloane Street and Poictiers Street

Council completed the renewal of kerb and gutter at Sloane Street between Crispe Street and Junction Street and Poictiers Street between Hardinge Street and Macauley.

Both blocks required the kerb and gutter to be renewed as the existing had deteriorated to a condition where water was gathering and causing issues for the local road pavement.

The works completed at both sites included some stabilisation works to repair road shoulders as well as the reconstruction of the kerb and gutter to ensure water can flow freely away from the road.

Council recognises that a considerable number of streets will require kerb and gutter work over the coming years.

Footpath

As part of the works to reconstruct the kerb and gutter at Sloane Street, the footpath located directly behind the old kerb and gutter was removed, and new footpath constructed nearer the property fence line.

Community Amenity

The parks and gardens teams continued to maintain a high standard through the town and villages. Plans were developed for the Waring Gardens which will be rolled out in the 2018-19 financial year.

Waring Gardens Fountain

Council allocated funding to refurbish the historic fountain in the Waring Gardens. The project involved restoring the fountain to its original condition. The fountain is a key feature of the gardens which is popular with locals and tourists to Deniliquin.

Retirement Living Site – Enabling Works

Council received funding from the Murray Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Program to commence enabling works for the future development of a Retirement Living development at the block of land between Poictiers Street, Harfleur Street, Napier Street and Hardinge Street.

Part of this land was previously owned by VicTrack and in February work commenced to remove the train platforms and turning circle and connect a water main to the site.

Additional work will continue through into 2018-19.

Waste Management

Council commenced works to develop a Waste Strategy that will result in major capital works in future years for Council's waste services and landfill.

Water Supply System

Electronic Water Meters Project

Council commenced the replacement of its old water meter infrastructure with new electronic meters. By the end of June 2018, the project was well underway with approximately 3,600 properties fitted with the new meters. The project will be fully completed in the 2018-19 financial year.

The new meters transmit water readings electronically. By automatically uploading water readings, the manual reading process previously used by Council is no longer required. This means Council can redirect its resources to other key projects and generate significant savings and increased productivity.

The electronic system also allows property owners to obtain up to date information regarding their water usage, including identifying potential leaks. Access is provided via the MiWater Public Portal.

This is a new and exciting project for Edward River Council that is at the cutting edge of technology.

Deniliquin Industrial Area Reservoir

The newly completed 4ML water reservoir in the Deniliquin Industrial Area near the Rice Mill was commissioned. The reservoir provides additional water pressure and flow for the industrial area and parts of south Deniliquin.

Emergency Sewer Repairs

As part of the requirement to manage the sewer network, Council periodically needs to work to resolve sewer failures and emergency works as they occur.

Council undertook major sewer repairs in sections along Harfleur Street between Hardinge Street and Macauley Street and at the rear of properties along Cressy Street between Russell and Butler Streets. In both locations the depth of sewer was over five metres, requiring significant excavation to replace the existing broken sewer pipe with new pipe.

In both locations the areas were fully restored to the pre-work conditions, including the Harfleur Street roadway.

This work was completed in 2017-18.

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 2005 (Part 9, Division 7) (the Regulation). Copies of the Act and Regulation can be accessed from www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

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.

Rates and Charges Written Off

Local Government (General) Regulation - Clause 132

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

Table C: Rates and Charges Written Off	
Category	Amount
Pensioner Rebates - Mandatory	\$143,872.07
Pensioner Rebates - Voluntary	Nil
Rates – Other	\$5,063.88
Interest	Nil
Caltex Australia Petroleum	Fuel
Total	\$148,935.95
* Council receives a 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 2005 – Clause 217(1)(a)

The Act and Regulation require Council to report on overseas visits undertaken by Councillors, Council staff or other persons representing Council during the reporting period.

The former Administrator, Ashley Hall, led an educational and cultural exchange of students from the Deniliquin High School to Ghizhou Province in China in early July 2017. The Council provided the school with a donation of \$5,000 to support the students' visit. The cost to Council of Mr Hall's trip was \$1,077.

Councillor Expenses and Provision of Facilities

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – 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.

During the reporting period, the governing body of Council comprised an Administrator, and elected Councillors. The total amount of remuneration paid to the Administrator during this period was \$1,854.

The total amount of allowances received by the elected Councillors was \$111,542.

During the reporting period, Council also paid NIL remuneration to members of Council's Committees.

Table D details the amount spent on providing facilities and expenses for the Administrator and elected Councillors during the reporting period.

Table D: Administrator and Councillor Expenses and Provision of Facilities	
Category	Amount
Office Equipment	\$806
Telephone Calls	\$4,173
Conference and Seminar Attendance	\$4,604
Training and Skill Development	\$30,682
Interstate Visits	\$4,779
Overseas Visits	\$1,077
Spouse Expenses	Nil
Childcare Provision	Nil
Total	\$46,121

Contracts

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217(1)(a2)

Council is required to disclose the details of each contract awarded for amounts greater than \$150,000, 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:

Table E: Contracts		
Contractor Name	Contract Description	Contract Value
International Plumbing Solutions	Replacement of water meters	\$190,000
Taggle Systems Pty Ltd	Supply of water meters, electronic reading, transmission and receiving equipment	\$630,000
Primal Surfacing Pty Ltd	Sealing and enrichment works	\$1,000,000
allaboutxperts Technologies Pty Ltd	Reimplementation of Technology One systems Phase 1	\$510,630
Decentralised Demountables	Construction of NSW Rural Fire Service Control Centre at the Deniliquin Airport	\$4,400,000
Group GSA	Renewal and upgrade of the Deniliquin CBD, Riverfront, Lagoon Network and Town Entrances	\$213,000
Deni Sand and Soil	Construction of the Lagoon to River walk	\$297,425
Total		\$7,241,055

Legal Proceedings

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – 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 \$12,142 in costs in relation to the selling of land as mortgagee. The costs will be fully recovered from the proceeds of the sale of the asset. This matter is not fully resolved and expected to be in the 2018-19 financial year.

Subsidised Private Works

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – 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 2005 – Clause 217(1)(a5)

Council provided contributions under section 356 of the Local Government Act during the reporting period, totalling \$113,658. These included cash donations, sponsorships and reductions in charges.

Delegated External Bodies

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - 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);
- Central Murray County Council (Noxious Weeds Control);
- Central Murray Regional Library (Library Services);
- Conargo Hall and Recreation Ground Committee (Hall Management);
- Deniliquin Multi-Arts Centre Committee (Hall Management);
- Mayrunga Hall Committee (Hall Management);
- Pretty Pine Hall Committee (Hall Management); and
- Wanganella Hall (Hall Management).

Controlling Interest in Companies

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - 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 2005 – Clause 217(1)(a8)

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

- Central Murray Regional Library;
- Country Mayors Association;

- Deniliquin Business Chamber;
- Destination NSW;
- Edward River Country Education Fund;
- Local Government NSW;
- Murray Darling Association;
- Murray Irrigation Limited;
- Murray Regional Tourism Board;
- Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils;
- Statecover Mutual Limited; and
- Statewide Mutual Limited.

In addition to the above, Council employed a Road Safety Officer under a Memorandum of Understanding between Edward River Council, Murray River Council and Roads and Maritime Services NSW.

Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1)(a9)

Council has adopted a Workforce Management Plan which covers the next three years. The plan addresses the human resourcing requirements of the Community Strategic Plan. Included in this strategy are provisions for the development of equal employment opportunity and workforce diversity planning for Edward River Council. This year Council undertook a staff satisfaction survey and started to review its HR policies.

Staff receive information on their rights and responsibilities for promoting equal employment opportunity and harassment prevention through the

employee induction program.

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

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Disability Inclusion Act 2014 – Clause 13(1)

In July 2017 The Disability Inclusion Action 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 as well as the general community.

General Manager and Senior Staff Remuneration

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1)(b-c)(i-v)

Council employed one General Manager in the reporting period.

For the period 1st July 2017 to the 30th June 2018, Council had five senior officers. One position ended through resignation on 20th April 2018 and was not refilled. The total expenditure for the reporting period in respect of employment for these senior staff, including salary, motor vehicle expenses, package benefits, fringe benefits tax, superannuation was \$1,001,738.

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

General Manager	\$252,380
Senior Officers	\$749,358

Stormwater Management Services

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1)(e)

Council applied a Stormwater Management Charge of \$76,688.22 to 3,070 residential and industrial properties during the reporting period for the purpose of raising revenue to implement its Stormwater Management Plan.

Coastal Protection Services

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – 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.

Companion Animal Management

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – 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 2008.

Lodgement of pound data collections returns

The pound collection data for the 2017-18 reporting period was lodged with the Office of Local Government (OLG). Table F summarises the data disclosed to the OLG:

	Cats	Dogs	Total
Seized	25	139	164
Returned to owner	0	56	56
Taken to pound	25	83	108
Rehomed via rehoming shelters	11	22	33
Euthanised	11	19	30

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 2017-18 reporting period, fourteen 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. Minimal improvements were undertaken on the pound during the reporting period with shade sails being erected over the outdoor pens, the erection of clothes lines and other minor improvements such as numbering of pens, purchasing of collars, identification tags etc. Council has been focussed on making improvements to policy and procedure to ensure compliance with the Companion Animals Act. The total expense for this service during the reporting period was \$97,807.73.

Community education programs

Council regularly advertises in the Pastoral Times throughout the year and Council did one free microchipping week where 59 animals were microchipped. 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 seven 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. While Council does not currently have an off-leash area, a location has been identified in the Edward River Open Space Strategy. Planning for the off-leash park will commence in 2018-19 with a view to providing the park in the 2019-20 budget.

Inspections of Private Swimming Pools

Swimming Pools Regulation 2018 - Clause 23

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

- Number of inspections of tourist and visitor accommodation: 7
- Number of inspections of premises with more than 2 dwellings: 0
- Number of inspections that resulted in issuance a certificate of compliance under section 22D of the Act: 28 (This figure includes the inspections of tourist and visitor accommodation)
- Number of inspections that resulted in issuance a certificate of non-compliance under clause 18BA of the Regulation: 3

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION



Overview

Edward River Council is required under sections 508(2) and 508A of the Local Government Act 1993 to report on special variation expenditure during the reporting period.

Background

The former Deniliquin Council resolved in June 2015 to implement the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART) determination under section 508(2) of the Local Government Act to approve the Council's application for a special variation to its rates. This Special Rate Variation, which applies the increase above the rate peg in the Business category of rates, continues with Edward River Council.

IPART determined that the former Deniliquin Council could increase its general income in 2015-16 by 4.49 per cent, including the rate peg of 2.4 per cent available to all councils. The former Deniliquin Council was permitted to retain the special variation in its general income base for three years, with it being removed from the council's rate base after 2017-18.

As stipulated in its submission to IPART, Special Rate Variation expenditure has been used to develop and deliver a strategic promotion and marketing campaign aimed at stimulating the local economy through promoting Deniliquin as a tourism destination and centre for business development. The campaign, titled Visit Deni, was implemented over two phases: the first phase was delivered between December 2016 to May 2017, during the prior reporting period. The second phase was delivered in this reporting period.

Deniliquin Promotions Advisory Group

In July 2015, the former Deniliquin Council constituted the Deniliquin Promotions Advisory Group (DPAG) to advise Council on the development

and delivery of the promotions strategy and recommend expenditure of funds. The DPAG has been continued under the current Edward River Council.

The DPAG reports to levy payers and local businesses on the implementation of the promotional strategy including promotional activities undertaken and activity budget, and on its success in achieving the strategy's performance measures and results. During the reporting period, the DPAG met on October 5th 2017 to brief the community on the implementation of phase one and launch the second phase of the promotional strategy. Feedback was sought from community and business about funding the campaign into the future. The DPAG provides advice to Council about campaign elements and proposed expenditure.

Destination NSW Funding

During the reporting period, Council leveraged the Special Rate Variation income to \$120,000 in additional funding through the NSW Government's Regional Visitor Economy Fund (RVEF), administered by Destination NSW.

The RVEF, which has now been superseded by the Regional Tourism Fund, was aimed at addressing a range of issues affecting tourism to regional NSW identified in the NSW Government's Visitor Economic Industry Action Plan.

As with the Special Rate Variation income, the RVEF income has been expended on the Visit Deni campaign.

Annual Reporting Requirements

IPART's approval of the former Deniliquin Council's application for a Special Rate Variation was made subject to four conditions, including the requirement that Council reports in its Annual Report for each year from 2015-16 to 2017-18 on:

1. Expenditure consistent with the former Deniliquin Council's application, and the reasons for any significant differences from the proposed expenditure; and
2. The outcomes achieved as a result of the actual program of expenditure.

Table G: Total SRL Available

		Amount
2015-16	Reserve Balance	\$79,496.24
2016-17	Actual SRL Received	\$79,167.33
2016-17	NSW Destination Funding	\$90,500.00
2016-17	Moomba Partnership Contribution	\$6,000.00
2017-18	Actual SRL Received	\$80,190.98
Total		\$335,354.55

Table H: SRL Expenditure

	Amount
2015-16	Nil
2016-17	\$225,311.95
2017-18	\$119,256.56
Total	\$344,568.51
Net SRL Balance Remaining	Nil

Expenditure and Outcomes

Table I details expenditure on the Destination Deniliquin campaign for the reporting period, as well as the outcomes of each expenditure item:

Table I:
Visit Deni Campaign Expenditure and Outcomes, 2017-18

Project	Outcomes	Expenditure
Creative Development	Phase 2 of the Visit Deni campaign rolled out.	\$92,577
Media/Marketing	Promotion Visit Deni; Advertising Moomba; TV Advertising; Banners; Promotional Material;	\$10,450
Social Media/Website	Campaign; Adwords	\$8,049
Moomba Partnership	Partnership with Moomba Festival, March 2018.	\$10,000
Credited expenses		-\$1,820
Total		\$119,256

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS) ACT



Overview

This section is Edward River Council's Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act) Annual Report for the 2017-18 reporting period.

Background

The GIPA Act became operational on 1 July 2010 when it replaced the Freedom of Information Act 1989 and it creates new rights to information that are designed to meet the community's expectation of more open and transparent government. It encourages the routine and proactive release of government information, including information held by providers of goods and services contracted by government agencies.

Council is required to prepare an annual report in accordance with the requirements of section 125 of the GIPA Act and clause 7 of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation (GIPA Regulation). In the annual report we are required to include statistical information on formal access applications in the form required by Schedule 2 of the GIPA Regulation.

Under the GIPA Act, there are four ways in which government information can be released:

1. **Open Access Information** - This information is made available on Council's website and is available free of charge, for example Council policies, meeting agendas and minutes, media releases and annual reports
2. **Proactive Release** - Council is encouraged to make as much information of public interest as possible publicly available, free of charge or at minimal cost. Examples include frequently requested information or information of public interest.
3. **Informal Release of Information** - Council is encouraged to make as much information of public interest as possible publicly available, free of charge or at minimal cost. Examples include frequently requested information or information of public interest.
4. **Formal Release of Information (Formal Access Information)** - The release of all other information not made available by either mandatory, proactive or informal release can be made by way of submitting an Application for Information (Formal Application). Standard fees and charges and time frames are applicable for such applications. Examples include personal information relating to a third party where consultation is required or where information is of a confidential nature.

Review of Proactive Release Program

Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009 Reg (7) (a)

Under section 7 of the GIPA Act, Council is required to review its program for the release of government information to identify the kinds of government information held by Council that should, in the public interest, be made publicly available and that can be made publicly available without imposing unreasonable additional costs on Council. This review must be undertaken at least once every 12 months.

Council undertook the following initiatives as part of our review of our proactive release program for the reporting period:

- Reviewing the information published on Council's website to ensure that information featured is up-to-date, informative and relevant;
- Continuing a review of Council's Policy Register, which resulted in additional policies being developed and adopted by Council during the reporting period.

- 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.

During 2017-18, Council continued to proactively release information, in addition to the statutory release of open access information, by:

- Publishing a monthly Central Murray Regional Library newsletter, featuring content promoting library projects, programs and activities and distributed to library members via email;
- Seeking community feedback on draft strategies and policies through public exhibition notices published in the Deniliquin Pastoral Times;
- Promoting Council decisions, projects, programs and activities through paid advertisements in both print and radio media and via Council's corporate Facebook account;
- Publishing a fortnightly full-page advertisement in the Deniliquin Pastoral Times, promoting Council decisions, projects, programs and activities;
- Distributing regular media releases on Council decisions, projects, programs and activities.
- Publishing Council Agenda and Minutes on Council's website, and
- Publishing Council Policies on website

Number of Access Applications Received

Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009 Reg (7) (b)

During the reporting period, Council received a total of three (3) formal access to information application under the GIPA Act. However, one of these applications carries over into the 2018-19 reporting period because it was received late June 2018. This is the reason that 3 applications were received but two finalised within the statutory timeframe.

Number of Refused Applications for Schedule 1 Information

Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009 Reg (7) (c)

During the reporting period, Council refused 0 access applications in part because the information requested was information referred to in Schedule 1 of the GIPA Act.

Statistical Information about Access Applications

Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009 Reg (7) (d) and Schedule 2

Information, in the form required by Schedule 2 of the GIPA Regulation, relating to the access applications made to Council during the reporting period is shown in the following Tables J to R.

The data demonstrates Council's commitment to openness and accountability and a willingness to meet the needs of our customers.

Table J: Number of applications by type of application and outcome								
	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private sector business	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (other)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
% of total	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

More than one decision can be made in respect of a particular access application. If so, a recording must be made in relation to each such decision. This also applies to Table K.

Table K: Number of applications by type of application and outcome

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Personal information applications*	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
% of total	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

* A personal information application is an access application for personal information (as defined in clause 4 of Schedule 4 to the Act) about the applicant (the applicant being an individual).

Table L: Invalid applications		
Reason for Invalidity	Number of Applications	% of Total
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)	0	0%
Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)	0	0%
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)	0	0%
Total number of invalid applications received	0	0%
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications	0	0%

Table M: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure: matters listed in Schedule 1 of the Act		
	Number of times consideration used	% of Total
Overriding secrecy laws	0	0%
Cabinet information	0	0%
Executive Council information	0	0%
Contempt	0	0%
Legal professional privilege	0	0%
Excluded information	0	0%
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety	0	0%
Transport safety	0	0%
Adoption	0	0%
Care and protection of children	0	0%
Ministerial code of conduct	0	0%
Aboriginal and environmental heritage	0	0%
* More than one public interest consideration may apply in relation to a particular access application and, if so, each such consideration is recorded (but only once per application). This also applies in relation to Table N.		

Table N: Other public interest considerations against disclosure: matters listed in table to section 14 of the Act

	Number of times consideration used	% of Total
Responsible and effective government	0	0%
Law enforcement and security	1	33%
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	1	33%
Business interests of agencies and other persons	1	33%
Environmental, culture, economy and general matters	0	0%
Secrecy provisions	0	0%
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information legislation	0	0%
Total	3	

Table O: Timeliness

	Number of applications	% of Total
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	2	100%
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	0	0%
Not decided within time (deemed refusal)	0	0%
Total	2	

Table P: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome)				
	Decision varied	Decision upheld	Total	% of Total
Internal review	0	0	0	0%
Review by Information Commissioner*	0	0	0	0%
Internal review following recommendation under section 93 of Act	0	0	0	0%
Review by NCAT	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	
% of total	0%	0%		

*The Information Commissioner does not have the authority to vary decisions but can make recommendations to the original decision-maker. The data in this case indicates that a recommendation to vary or uphold the original decision has been made by the Information Commissioner.

Table Q: Applications for review under Part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant)		
	Number of applications for review	% of Total
Applications by access applicants	0	0%
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access applications relates (see section 54 of the Act)	0	0%
Total	0	

Table R: Applications transferred to other agencies		
	Number of applications transferred	% of Total
Agency-Initiated Transfers	0	0%
Applicant-Initiated Transfers	0	0%
Total	0	

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)

As detailed in Table R, no disclosures were made during the reporting period.

Table S: Statistical Information on Public Interest Disclosures	
July 2017 - June 2018	
Number of public officials who made PIDs	0
Total number of PIDS received by Edward River Council	0
Of the total received, the number in each of the following categories:	0
• Corrupt conduct	0
• Maladministration	0
• Serious and substantial waste	0
• Government intervention contravention	0
• Local government pecuniary interest contravention	0
Number of PIDs finalised in this reporting period	0

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; and
- 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.



EDWARD RIVER COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

180 Cressy Street (PO Box 270)
Deniliquin NSW 2710
T 03 5898 3000 F 03 5898 3029
council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au