

BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT



2020-2020

Dusty Fox
PHOTOGRAPHY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

Council acknowledges the Custodians of the lands and waters within our Shire and recognises their continuing responsibilities to care for country and of teaching and learning.

We pay respects to Elders past and present, and extend our respects to all Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander First Nations Peoples.



Artwork at Mungo National Park Visitor Centre

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ABOUT OUR ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report has been compiled to outline Council's achievements for the 2020/21 financial year, as well as providing a detailed financial analysis on Council's operations. The annual report not only reports on the work of Council during the financial year, but also takes the opportunity to acknowledge our achievements for the community.

It highlights the diversity of services Council provides to the community and how these services were achieved with the resources available to Council.

The report also presents how Council met its statutory requirements, as required by various Acts.

Annual Report – Summary

Key focuses of the annual report are:

- An overview of who we are
- How the achievements occurred against Council's commitments, as outlined in the Community Strategic Plan
- Measurement against expected results
- How Council met its statutory reporting requirements and
- Council's overall financial performance

Further Information

Hard copies of this annual report are available from the Balranald Shire Council Office, 70 Market Street Balranald, during business hours.

Electronic copies are also available on our website. To request a copy, email or phone our Customer Service Centre using the details below:

Web: www.balranald.nsw.gov.au
Email: council@balranald.nsw.gov.au
Phone: (03) 5020 1300



ADMINISTRATOR'S FOREWORD

Mr Mike Colreavy

Throughout 2020-2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to challenge our local Shire community. Having challenged most of our local businesses, the pandemic also demanded creativity from Council's workforce. We responded tirelessly to emergency management arrangements for the pandemic. Where it was feasible, the lockdowns caused some of us to work from home for lengthy periods, while continuing to deliver the essential services expected from Council. While at times this was frustrating, many of us seized upon the opportunity to acquire new technology skills, and to implement new ways of working.

By February 2021, Council entered the second year under administration (which is scheduled to continue until September 2024). As your Administrator, I would like to acknowledge the earnest interest and support that I receive from many local people across the Shire who regularly provide me with their views and advice on local government matters that affect us all, and to thank you all for that whether you hail from Kyalite, Euston, Balranald, or one of our outlying rural areas. I particularly acknowledge the valued advice of participants in Council's six Advisory Committees, as well as the Youth Council. These Committees make a significant contribution through their thoughtful insight into the six established pillars of community well-being identified in our Community Strategic Plan - our people, our place, our economy, our culture, our infrastructure, and our leadership.

I want to thank Council's workforce for their undying commitment to local service levels. Although generally we have been able to support and retain the workforce, the year ended with yet another General Manager departing Council, after only a short period in the job. The regular churn of people through that crucial executive role tells me that we must look for a more workable approach to recruiting and keeping our senior people, to achieve greater longevity with improved continuity for our strategic planning and service delivery.

A fortunate side-effect of the pandemic has been the unprecedented level of grant funding that Council has received in the form of economic stimulus funding from the State and Commonwealth Governments. We are grateful to both levels of Government for having received our fair share which has contributed to keeping the local economy alive in tough economic times, mostly through infrastructure renewals.

This Annual Report is published in compliance with section 404 of the Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act) and Clause 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. The legislation envisages a report on Council's achievements in implementing its delivery program for the year and other additional information, which you will find throughout this document.

Mike Colreavy
ADMINISTRATOR



ABOUT BALRANALD SHIRE

A Snapshot

Located in Far South West NSW, approximately 850km south west of Sydney, Balranald Shire is often described as as 'a potential geographer's living classroom' (Toohey, 2010). It is the pivotal place of two great Australian landscapes: to the east the Riverine Plain and to the west the Murray Darling Depression. Their respective formation processes have created today's unique vegetation landscape.



Population
2,300
approx



7%
Indigenous



Area
21,699
square km



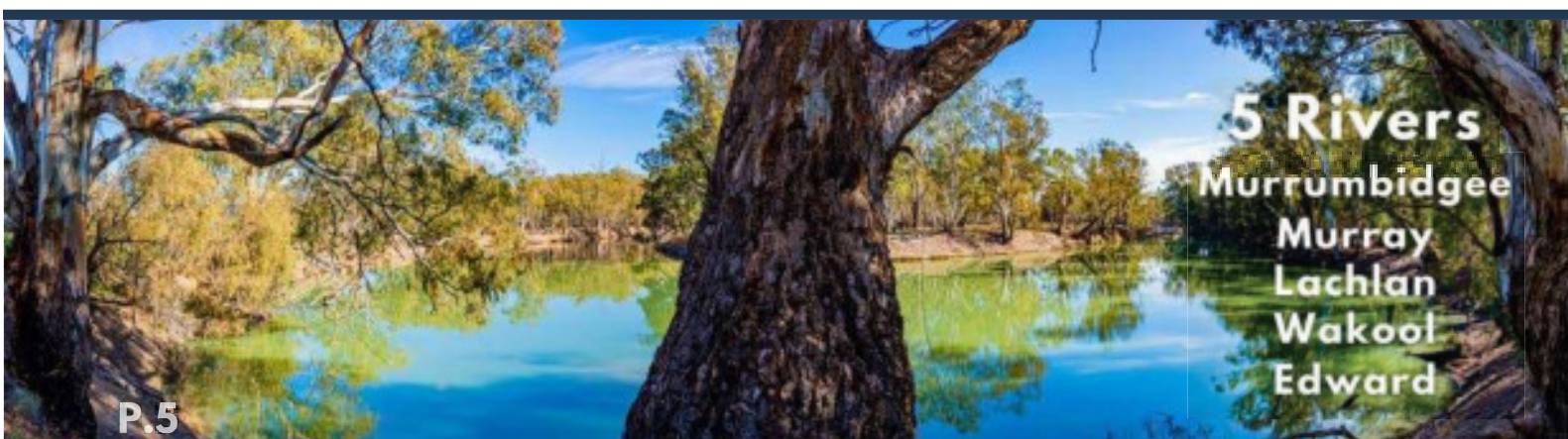
Agriculture
Grains
Sheep
Cattle



Industries
Horticulture & Viticulture
Renewable Energy
Trees - Fruit & Nut
Timber Harvesting
Tourism



National Parks
Mungo NP - World
Heritage Willandra
Lakes Region
Yanga NP



5 Rivers
Murrumbidgee
Murray
Lachlan
Wakool
Edward

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



BALRANALD SHIRE ADMINISTRATOR

On Wednesday 29 January 2020, the Governor of New South Wales appointed Mr Michael Colreavy as the Administrator of the Balranald Shire Council. Mr Colreavy replaced the elected Mayor and Councillors whose offices were declared vacant by the NSW Governor. Mr Colreavy has been appointed for a term of more than four years, which will conclude at the next local government elections in September 2024.

Mr Colreavy's appointment provides independent leadership with priorities to:

- Restore good governance in cooperation with the Balranald Shire Council Executive Team
- Restore good relationships with the community
- Ensure that the community's voice is heard and represented

In the 2020/21 financial year, under Administration, Council held 11 ordinary meetings and 5 extraordinary meetings. Meetings are generally held at the Council Chambers every third Tuesday of the month.

Council meetings are open to the public, except in circumstances where matters require confidentiality due to legal or commercial-in-confidence matters. Business papers are made available on Council's website at:

<http://www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/council-documents/council-agenda/>

Payments for the Administrator were as follows:

Expense Category	Amount
Salary	\$ 123,810
Accommodation & Away from Home Allowance	\$ 17,679
Telephone	\$ 1,200
IT Licences	\$ 603
Meeting Expenses	\$ 71
TOTAL	\$ 143,363

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Youth Council Strategic Focus:

- Strengthen the capacity of our young people to participate and thrive in all facets of community life
- Identify training, education and enterprise skill development needs and connect with / advocate for relevant opportunities
- Promote Youth Mental Health awareness and create and support opportunities for the diversity of Shire youth to come together
- Youth Week event organisation
- Provide a welcoming and inclusive platform for young people to provide ideas and voice concerns to Council
- Develop a Term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Assist Council with decisions regarding infrastructure, service and program growth and advocacy within mandate



Achievements

- Launch/Unveiling of "Swampy the Frog"
- Staging 2 events during 2021 Youth Week
 - "The Colour of Sound Youth Music Festival" & "Movie Night Spectacular"
- Staging the Youth Summer Program of activities which included:
 - Day Trip to Mildura as part of the Youth Summer Program
 - Game Nights
 - Pool Party
 - Disco Night
- Staging the Christmas Movie Night



Official launch & unveiling of "Swampy the Frog"

Growing Business, Industry, Tourism

Strategic Focus:

- Represent the Shire community to encourage equitable access to the benefits of economic development and industry growth (includes identifying opportunities for increased local employment and local training needs to ensure improved employment options for residents)
- Maintain a Tourism Asset Portfolio to ensure the preservation and/or development of natural, heritage/cultural and built assets (sites), historic stories and narratives
- Assist with the establishment of new tourism events and the development of existing tourism events.
- Assist Council with investment attraction and tourism promotion
- Organise Business after dark events (as per Business Chamber and BEC topics/initiatives)
- Support infrastructure and event grant funding prioritisation and applications
- Actively seek and develop small business – industry synergy/ partnerships
- Develop a term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Establish and nurture a volunteership of members (both from committee and community) to resource on-the-ground activity for tourism development
- Actively support and collaborate with the Euston Progressive Committee for business and tourism promotion and development



Achievements

- Providing advice & recommendations in the Discovery Centre precinct Integration Project process
- Providing recommendations in reference to the heavy traffic through Balranald township and the safety and social impacts to Transport NSW
- Developing an annual plan for the Committee scheduling guest speakers and visits to other towns to learn how to grow business, encourage industry & attract tourism to the Shire
- Developing the "Project HQ" initiative whereby an otherwise empty space temporarily becomes a hub for recording community ideas that are then threshed out in a public forum aimed at developing master plans for all the Shire's towns and villages, as well as contributing to a Community Strategic Plan



Picture shows the latest concept design for the Discovery Centre precinct

Strengthening Community Access, Inclusion & Well-Being Strategic Focus:

- Map & monitor provision of health, well-being and connection/inclusion services and programs
- Plan and advocate regarding closing service gaps and increasing equitable access
- Support and promote community knowledge of, and access to, all available services
- Provide a platform for increased coordination and collaboration of health, well-being and connection services and programs (both local and visiting)
- Identify and promote inclusion of community diversity and events and programs which celebrate diversity
- Develop a term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Assist Council with decisions regarding infrastructure, service and program growth and advocacy within mandate



Achievements

- Commencing the research and development of a local and visiting health & wellbeing services' directory for the area, identifying service "gaps" to advocate for unmet needs
- Providing visiting services with a "touch-point" in the Shire, to increase their knowledge by starting each SCAIW meeting with a guest speaker from a local or visiting service
- Supporting services with requests for "local knowledge" including on their understanding of service gaps, the recruitment of positions locally and how best to connect with local communities
- Supporting Council with the development of the Balranald Shire Community Health Profile via the Western NSW Primary Health Network
- Advising Council on areas relating to Access, Inclusion & Wellbeing including providing support with the Disability Inclusion Action Plan



Maari Ma Health Balranald is one of the local service providers providing local knowledge to the committee

Ageing Well, Aged Care & Facilities

Strategic Focus:

- Provide a platform to positively promote and support all community members to age well in the setting of their choice
- Identify and advocate for remedy of key service gaps to better support ageing well
- Identify and encourage opportunities which showcase the qualities, assets and skills of our ageing community and provide opportunities for the sharing of these with younger community members
- Reference group to the Hostel Dementia Ward development
- Develop a term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Assist Council with decisions regarding infrastructure, service and program growth and advocacy within mandate



Achievements

- Advising and supporting Council with the Senior Citizen's Week event, including helping with the food preparation and the supply of board games and playing cards for the Games Afternoon
- Providing Council advice and recommendations in reference to Bidgee Haven Retirement Hostel
- Providing advice & recommendations to Council in reference to the Senior Citizens building and facility
- Undertaking a survey and research on the needs of the Shire's senior citizens



Photos are of our Senior Citizens Week Event

Balranald Beautification Strategic Focus:

- Represent Shire communities in a coordinated and considered approach to town beautification
- Collaborate in the planning of larger beautification efforts to ensure consistent focus and branding
- Develop a term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Assist Council with decisions regarding infrastructure, service and program growth and advocacy within mandate



***Proposed toilet for the Balranald Cemetery.
A recommendation made by the Committee***



Achievements

- Facilitating a new Toilet for the Balranald Cemetery, which will be built later in 2021 or early 2022
- Recommending to Council to move the table and seats from the Corner of Mayall and Market Streets to the lawn area at the Senior Citizens Centre, which is now complete
- Working on the next project to improve the outlook of Balranald's main street by filling in the gaps of the Rose Gardens along Market Street and planting more greenery



Table & Seats relocated to the Senior Citizen's Centre

Sport & Recreation Strategic Focus:

- Represent the breadth of community sporting and recreation bodies equitably to ensure the broadest possible access of all community members to all available opportunities
- Partner with Council to catalogue and promote sporting and recreation opportunities across our Shire to encourage active participation for health and wellbeing benefits
- Encourage all sporting and recreation bodies to ensure positive messaging reaches all community members and especially our children and youth (including messages which prevent violence, discourage the use of drugs and alcohol, encourage fair and inclusive participation in sports for all – messaging to reflect State and Federal guidelines)
- Assist or partner with Council in development of projects and applications for infrastructure grant funding or events grant funding
- Assist Council with decisions regarding infrastructure, service and program growth and advocacy within mandate



Achievements

- Presenting ideas for Sporting & Recreation activities in context to easing Covid-19 Restrictions
- Identifying Sporting & Recreation Development priorities for the Shire
- Supporting Council's proposals in the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program under the second round, including:
 - Euston multi-court upgrade
 - Basketball courts for Balranald
 - New lighting on the Balranald Netball Courts
 - New training facilities for the Balranald Cricket Club
 - Balranald Motorcycle Club Canteen
 - Year-round swimming pool for Balranald
- Recommending projects for the Stronger Country Communities Round 4, including construction of new change rooms for the football club, designed to cater for the future introduction of women's football as well as facilities for mixed-gender umpires in response to changing trends in the sport



The committee supports a project for new change rooms at the football club in support of women's football, netball and mixed gender umpires in response to trends

Euston Progressive Strategic Focus:

- Provide the Euston community a platform through which to connect with Council in the absence of elected representatives
- Advocate for the Euston community identified areas of interest and priority
- Develop a term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Collaborate regularly with Business, Industry, Tourism Committee to ensure a whole-of-Shire approach is taken on tourism, beautification and economic development



Achievements

- Identifying a priority listing of works for Euston including town entrances showcasing Euston's key features such as:
 - The Regent Parrot
 - Grapes
 - The Murray River (fishing, skiing)
- Recommending a master plan be developed to document ideas about the town entry signs and use of public spaces to draw passing tourists into the township
- Commencing discussions on the key draw cards in attracting visitors to the area, including The Murray River, Regent Parrot, water skiing, camping, The Euston Club, tours of the vineyards, storyboards, toilet facilities and walking tracks



The Regent Parrot is being highlighted as one Euston's key drawcards by the committee

Executive of Chairs Strategic Focus:

- Opportunity to collaborate on cross-committee interests or challenges
- Guidance/feedback from General Manager and Administrator on Committees' charters and achievements, fostering the Committee-Council relationship
- Share opportunities and challenges

Council Happenings

Regardless of the challenges of Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns throughout the year, Council staff engaged with the community and guests whenever possible.



The GM, Oliver McNulty met with the crew at Balranald Southern Cross with their new emblem



Winner of Council's annual Christmas Lights competition - Merilyn Williams



The GM, Oliver McNulty and Administrator, Michael Colreavy visiting an Almond Farm



The GM, Oliver McNulty with visiting Federal MP Sussan Ley on Balranald's Swing Bridge



Council received a Gratitude Award from the Balranald Central School



Council is thrilled to have been included in the Children's Book Council of Australia Book Week 2020 event, the Curious Creatures, Wild Minds Project. Students' art is on display in Council reception



A community meeting was held at Clare Station and an opportunity to mingle with some of the more remote members of our community

THE INTEGRATED PLANNING & 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. This allows Council to draw their various plans together, understand how they interact and get the maximum leverage from their efforts by planning holistically for the future.



HOW WE DELIVER ON THE VISION

What you want / Vision



Your Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

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 developing and delivering the long-term objectives of the Plan.

How we propose to deliver



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.

What we propose to do



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.

Enabling delivery of the CSP



Resourcing Strategy

The Resourcing Strategy articulates how Council intends to deliver the Community Strategic Plan. The Strategy consists of three components:

- Long Term Financial Plan
- Workforce Management Plan
- Asset Management Plan



Balranald Shire's Community Strategic Plan

Balranald Shire 2027 was adopted by Council in 2017. It maps the ways Council will achieve the 'Six Pillars of Well Being' over a 10 year period, namely:



Each pillar has community strategic objectives that the Council aims to deliver on. The six pillars were developed after listening to the community. Values that were highly appreciated by the community are identified.

Planning for a new draft Community Strategic Plan commenced in the reporting period aimed at keeping pace with a rapidly changing local and regional economy.

The following outlines the strategic objectives from the Community Strategic Plan and a summary of what was achieved in 2020/21 under each strategic pillar.

THE SIX PILLARS - Objectives & Achievements

PILLAR 1. Our People

A community that is proactive, engaged & connected

Key Objectives

- Expand opportunities for social interaction
- Implement a Welcoming Strategy
- Encourage understanding, respect and tolerance between our diverse communities
- Improve communications & information dissemination
- Improve Council Engagement with the Community



Achievements

- Annual budget allocation for minimum of 5 events supported including:
 - Senior's Week
 - Australia Day Event
 - Town TWIG Music Event
 - Christmas Extravaganza
 - Movie Night
 - The Colour of Sound Youth Festival
- Ongoing volunteerism promoted and recognised through Council sponsored events as well as providing in-kind related work
- Ongoing exploration of opportunities with National Parks and Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council (BLALC) for improved collaboration
- Regular updating of the Discover Balranald & Surrounds website
- The Shire's Community Newsletter was distributed on a monthly basis
- Regular Facebook & Twitter posts - a minimum of 5 per week
- Council held a grand opening of the Senior Citizen's Plaza, Swampy the Frog Play Sculpture bringing together a diverse local crowd of people facilitated by Youth Council and in the presence of local school students
- Co-funded a Wetlands Gala for local schools to build environmental awareness on the same day



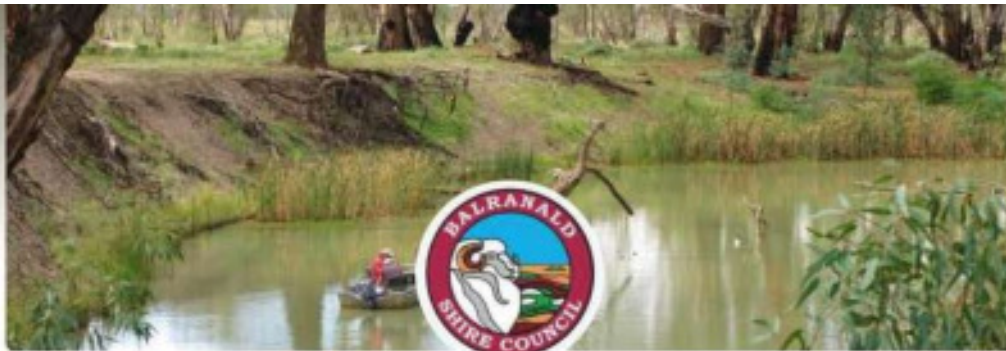
Active Projects

- Review and update of Council's corporate website to improve communication and information dissemination
- Implementation of Council's Community Engagement Strategy including delivery of training to all staff and committees on community engagement



Projects yet to Commence

- Welcome Pack to be developed and provided to new residents
- New Residents to be acknowledged during Australia Day celebrations



Balranald Shire Council
Local Government



Discover Balranald & Surrounds

@DiscoverBalranald - 5 (11 reviews) - Tourist Information Center

Balranald Shire Council's Facebook Pages provide a minimum of 5 posts per week to inform & engage with residents

PILLAR 2. Our Place

A liveable and thriving community that maintains lifestyle opportunities & addresses its disadvantages

Key Objectives

- Prepare a population retention and attraction strategy
- Promote opportunities from potential mining, horticultural and energy investments
- Towns are safe and inviting for locals and visitors
- Identify groups within our community facing hardship and disadvantage
- Plan for an ageing population
- Develop a Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- Plan, construct, operate and maintain recreational facilities
- Create and/or promote events



Achievements

- Maintenance to parks, public areas and facilities maintained to agreed standards
- Meetings with Police and other agencies held bi-monthly to ensure the towns are safe & inviting to locals and visitors
- The Strengthening Access, Inclusion and Wellbeing Advisory Committee identified and advised on groups within our community facing hardship and disadvantage with minutes reported to Council
- The Ageing Well, Aged Care and Facilities Advisory Committee meets and provides recommendations to Council on needs and options for an ageing population
- Agreed events have been promoted through Council networks including social media
- Youth Council has staged a number of events throughout the year including:
 - Launch of Swampy the Frog
 - Christmas Extravaganza
 - Movie Night
 - The Colour of Sound Youth Festival
- Free song writing workshop held in the Shire utilising South West Arts
- Regardless of COVID-19 restrictions throughout the year, Council was able to stage or support a number of community events including Senior's Week, Australia Day and the Town TWIG music event



Active Projects

- Development of an Investment Attraction Strategy
- Regular dialogue with Companies and Government Agencies



Projects yet to Commence

- Review and Update of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- Incorporation of Asset Management Plan into the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP)
- Bring building condition ratings up to date and implement into future asset management plans and budgets



ANZAC Park fencing upgrade in keeping with our commitment to maintain our parks and public areas

PILLAR 3. Our Economy

A community that ensures a strong and resilient economy

Key Objectives

- Implement regular business networking and training initiatives
- Promote use of enterprise creation and expansion schemes and funding sources
- Formulate and implement a Balranald Shire Tourism and Marketing Strategy
- Improve Heritage Park (Discovery Centre Precinct)
- Improve links between Balranald communities and Mungo and Yanga National Parks
- Develop and improve Shire signage
- Implement physical improvements to Market Street
- Maximise regional development opportunities



Achievements

- The Growing Business, Industry & Tourism Advisory Committee has been active with recommendations and reporting to Council
- Promoting the availability of government business support programs to local businesses via social media platforms, the website and emails
- Collaboration with tourist operators, agencies and other LGAs in joint marketing programs & initiatives
- Balranald Discovery Centre funded and operated within budget
- Discovery Centre Integration Project Masterplan has been developed
- Council has engaged with and promoted to our business community the Business Connect, Business Enterprise Centre and Easy to do Business programs
- Under the Building Better Regions Program (Round Three funding), Council successfully partnered with three other shires to execute a Connect 2 Business project for business start-ups and career development
- Council has been working collaboratively with government agencies, regional organisations and neighbouring Councils to improve the environmental outcomes for the Murrumbidgee River and Yanga Lake



Active Projects

- Ongoing lobbying to State agencies and National Parks & Wildlife Services Management regarding road upgrade (sealing Mungo National Park access and loop roads)
- Upgrade works to improve access to Mungo National Park have been scheduled and completed through Council's ongoing capital works program for roads
- Ongoing engagement with business operators to expand and strengthen business and tourism activities



Projects yet to Commence

- Reactivate the "Balranald Business Online" project with local operators
- Undertake a tourism signage audit and present a report with recommendations
- Research other Shires experiencing new mining-related business activity through contact over phone, internet and in-person visits
- Implement a formal Land Release Strategy for Euston and Balranald
- Develop a Tourism Strategy & Destination Management Plan
- Lobby for improved directional and information signage leading to, from and within National Parks



Projects such as the development of Balranald's Riverfront Walking Trail support Council's strategies to grow the visitor economy

PILLAR 4. Our Culture

A community that respects and celebrates its diverse cultures, heritage & arts

Key Objectives

- Identify, protect and interpret our significant heritage sites
- Support promotions



Active Projects

- Construction of the large workshop area and climate controlled storage for permanent artworks collection at the Balranald Cultural and Learning Centre



Projects yet to Commence

- Review Shire heritage assets and recommendations for heritage listing
- Develop report cataloguing the Shire's heritage sites



Achievements

- Council was active in supporting and promoting a number of cultural events during the year regardless of COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions, events included the Town TWIG music event, The Colour of Sound Youth Music Festival and a Song Writing Workshop
- Through grants, Council has enhanced the following cultural sites and infrastructure:
 - The Balranald Theatre Royal
 - Balranald Cultural Learning Centre
- Through the "Drought Community" grant, Council funded the banner to promote the Gallery's "Bal-Archies" exhibition, which is displayed on the side wall of the Theatre Royal



Photo is of the Town TWIG cultural event at Yanga NP supported by Council as part of the Acre Project in with South West Arts, Swan Hill Rural City Council, Murray River Council and Gunawarra Shire Council

PILLAR 5. Our Infrastructure

A community that maintains and strengthens its natural and built environment

Key Objectives

- Continual focus on reducing our environmental footprint and being environmentally sustainable
- Extend mobile coverage especially in the Hatfield/Clare area and National Parks
- Prepare strategic plans for water and sewer supply
- Prepare and implement Plans and strategies in support of maintaining health standards in the Shire
- Identify and lobby for key transport and road infrastructure improvements
- Provide for more and improved footpaths and mobility scooter paved concrete paths
- Identify potential access to new energy technologies & infrastructure
- Provide community infrastructure



Achievements

- Drummuster collection program undertaken in Balranald & Euston
- Collection of domestic and business waste as per service agreement
- Noxious weeds procedures implemented to meet requirements of the Biosecurity Act 2015
- Implementation of the Companion Animals Act 1998 and encouragement of compliance with legislation and community education through the community newsletter and social media
- Advocated for the successfully funded Hatfield small-cell mobile tower
- Food premise inspections conducted twice per year
- Private swimming pool inspections implemented in accordance with regulations, once in every three year period, with Compliance Certificates and fees/charges in place
- Water sampling compliant with NSW Health allocated sample program
- Council expended grant funding assigned to it under the Roads to Recovery program on a 4 year program
- Road funding achieved and programs delivered with the agreed time frame & budget
- Successful lobbying for increased road funding with funding at an all time high



Achievements

- Completion of allocated funding for footpath works in Euston & Balranald
- Energy Audit on Council buildings completed
- Cemeteries operated effectively and efficiently and meets acceptable community service levels
- Aerodrome operated in accordance with acceptable community service levels and within CASA guidelines
- Water and sewerage data collection done in a timely manner and reported within deadlines to State authorities and reports to Council
- Potable water quality maintained in all town water supplies
- Infrastructure renewal works completed as per approved capital works program
- Euston/Robinvale Eco-Trail Walking Track completed in line with grant funding
- Under Drought Communities Fund, facilitated funding for 32 community organisations for infrastructure improvements totalling in excess of \$300,000
- Council successfully extended the Frog theme throughout the Market Street CBD with stainless steel inlays and a giant frog Play Sculpture under the Market Streetscape Revitalisation



Active Projects

- Development of a long term gravel pit access strategy
- Lobbying State agencies and National Parks & Wildlife Services Management regarding road upgrade (sealing Mungo National Park access & loop roads)
- Upgrade works scheduled and completed through Council's ongoing capital works program for roads
- Review of assets and community infrastructure
- Management of onsite sewerage management systems



Projects yet to Commence

- Review and Update of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- Undertake review of Council's Asset Management Plan
- Upgrades to the Janelle Masters Memorial Pool have been completed, however, initial enquiries on the splash play area revealed a high financial risk in terms of maintenance and operation, so not investigated further in the reporting period



PILLAR 6. Our Leadership

A community that values and fosters leadership, lifelong learning, innovation and good governance

Key Objectives

- Establish a Leadership Development Network and Strategy
- Seek approaches in both planning and delivery of community services
- Encourage community member participation in decision making
- Ensure that Council is efficiently managed to provide civic leadership and good governance to meet all future needs of the Balranald Shire area



In January 2021 long-time Council staff member Carol Holmes received the Norma Male Award recognising an employee considered to have made an outstanding contribution during the year.



Achievements

- Staff encouraged and assisted in completing further studies
- Council actively participated in regional meetings (under Covid-19 rules) with regional organisations, Councils and other government agencies
- Service NSW outlet operated in accordance with agreed service contract
- Strengthened relations with Cross Border Commissioner through shared pandemic border control management
- Advisory Committees were launched within the financial year with monthly meetings and minuted reporting to Council underway
- Local Emergency Management Committee and Local Rescue Committee meetings held to manage the pandemic response
- Annual support to NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire & Rescue NSW and State Emergency Services



Active Projects

- Review of Bidgee Haven Hostel operations to ensure financial sustainability
- Encourage clubs, associations and organisations to seek partnerships in service delivery providing active and strong Council relationships with clubs, associations and organisations in Shire
- Audit and gap analysis undertaken to determine levels of service and leadership development of Council staff



Projects yet to Commence

- Lobbying to State and Commonwealth governments to increase revenue allocation for regional councils
- Implement Council's adopted Business Improvement Plan



In September 2020 Council's Advisory Committees were officially launched and committees inducted at sessions held in Balranald & Euston. The picture shows Euston Progressive Advisory Committee members' induction held in Euston.

SUMMARY OF GRANTS & PROJECTS

Completed ✓



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources

DROUGHT COMMUNITY FUND - ROUND 2

PROJECT	Budget/Expenditure @30/06/2021	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
MR431 Arumpo Road	Bugt: \$10,350 Exp: \$10,350			✓		✓	
Grid Replacements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mildura Ivanhoe Grid Replacement Oxley Claire Grid Replacement Nandum Corrong Grid Replacement 	Bugt: \$278, 252 Exp: \$138, 707		✓			✓	
Ben Scott Bird Walk	Bugt: \$50,000 Exp: \$50,008		✓	✓			
Drought Community Infrastructure Round 2 - See the list of community projects below ★	Bugt: \$250,000 Exp: \$248,634		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Engineering Admin Consultant	Bugt: \$15,000 Exp: \$15,000					✓	
New Bore - Duckshot Station for Nandum Corrong Road	Bugt: \$0 Exp: \$53,936		✓			✓	
Rural Local Roads - Major patrol grading of local roads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tilara Road: Tammit Road Prungle Mail Road Euston Pringle Road Guthul Road Prungle Marma Road Magenta D Block Turlee Leaghur Road Mildura Ivanhoe Road Melton Grove Dockerty Carinya Road Redbank Weir Oxley Clare Road Nandum Corrong Road Wooranbara Corrong Road Tarwong Freshwater Road Clare Freshwater Road Clare Mossgiel Road 	Bugt: \$396,397 Exp: \$486,188		✓	✓		✓	

DROUGHT COMMUNITY FUND - ROUND 2 (cont.)

★ List of projects under the Drought Community Infrastructure Round 2

Organisation	Project Description	Budget/Invoiced @30/06/2021	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
			P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
Balranald 5 Rivers Outback Festival	Family Fun Day at Kyalite Pub	Bugt: \$10,000 Inv: \$10,032	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Balranald Art Gallery	Bal-Archies Banner at Theatre Royal	Bugt: \$10,000 Inv: \$10,977			✓	✓		
Balranald Central School	BCS Wellbeing Program	Bugt: \$ 7,000 Inv: \$ 7,000	✓	✓				
Balranald Early Learning Centre	Softfall and playground equipment	Bugt: \$10,000 Inv: \$10,000	✓	✓				
Balranald Art Gallery	Bal-Archies Banner at Theatre Royal	Bugt: \$10,000 Inv: \$10,977	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Balranald Golf Club	Replacement of old irrigation hoses and sprinklers	Bugt: \$ 8,438 Inv: \$ 8,438	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Balranald Inc	Murray Bidgee Family fun Day	Bugt: \$ 5,000 Inv: \$ 4,926	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Balranald Men's Shed	Installation of Verandah	Bugt: \$ 8,000 Inv: \$ 8,360	✓	✓				
Balranald 's Men's Shed	Security Cameras	Bugt: \$ 1,000 Inv: \$ 911		✓			✓	
Balranald's Men's Shed	Power Upgrade	Bugt: \$ 2,485 Inv: \$ 2,485		✓			✓	
Balranald's New Year's Eve Committee	Fireworks, band amusement rides, glow products, food, drinks	Bugt: \$ 9,200 Inv: \$ 9,443	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Balranald's Pony Club Inc.	Balranald Pony Club Shelter	Bugt: \$10,000 Inv: \$10,000	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Balranald Presbyterian Church	Fencing and grave stabilisation	Bugt: \$10,000 Inv: \$ 9,999		✓		✓	✓	
Balranald RSL Club Sub Branch	Anzac Park fence installation	Bugt: \$10,000 Inv: \$10,000		✓		✓	✓	
Balranald Southern Cross	Balranald Early Aviation History Signage, excess funds for roof repairs	Bugt: \$10,000 Inv: \$10,615	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Euston Preschool	New tables & chairs for the classroom	Bugt: \$ 1,340 Inv: \$ 1,606	✓	✓		✓		
Hatfield Recreation Reserve	Generator, Fridge, Freezer, Rainwater tank, hot water service	Bugt: \$ 9,363 Inv: \$ 8,429	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Homebush Recreation Reserve	Community Hall upgrade, purchase of storage container	Bugt: \$10,000 Inv: \$ 9,998	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Robinvale Euston Ski Race	Public Liability Cost, Soft drinks for race & purchase of a generator	Bugt: \$ 2,000 Inv: \$ 2,000	✓		✓	✓		

DROUGHT COMMUNITY FUND - ROUND 2 (cont.)

★ List of projects under the Drought Community Infrastructure Round 2 (cont.)

Organisation	Project Description	Budget/Invoiced @30/06/2021	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
			P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
St Barnabas Anglican Church	Repair roof and base course brickwork	Bugt: \$ 9,362 Inv: \$10,092		✓		✓	✓	
St Joseph's P & F	Annual Christmas Fete, rides, catering, rides, show-bags	Bugt: \$ 1,000 Inv: \$ 1,531	✓	✓	✓	✓		
St Joseph's P & F	Creative Hub, Demountable building	Bugt: \$10,000 Inv: \$10,000	✓	✓		✓		
Oxley Angling Club	Fish Release	Bugt: \$ 2,000 Inv: \$ 4,000		✓	✓		✓	
Balranald Inc.	Outdoor Christmas Tree	Bugt: \$10,000 Inv: \$12,617	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Balranald Community Arts & Crafts	Repair the Gallery's damaged roof	Bugt: \$10,000 Inv: \$ 7,403		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Homebush Landcare Group	Homebush Landcare Christmas Fete, rides, catering, prizes, showbags	Bugt: \$ 1,000 Inv: \$ 450	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Clare Sports Club	Repair & refurbish public toilet at Clare Recreation Reserve	Bugt: \$10,000 Inv: \$ 4,589	✓	✓		✓	✓	



Grid Replacements



Bal-Archies Banner at the Theatre Royal



New verandah at the Men's Shed



New fencing at Balranald Presbyterian Church

LOCAL ROADS & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT



PROJECT		Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
MR67 Traffic Signs & Road Furniture	Bugt: \$180,000 Exp: \$197,899		✓			✓	
Bertram, Taylor traffic calming - Euston	Bugt: \$120,000 Exp: \$164,424		✓			✓	
Euston Forest, Eco-Trail & River Pathway	Bugt: \$ 60,000 Exp: \$ 18,974		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Balranald Theatre Royal Heating	Bugt: \$100,000 Exp: \$ 86,738		✓		✓	✓	
Footpath construction - Euston & Balranald	Bugt: \$ 75,000 Exp: \$134,676		✓			✓	
Anzac Park Fencing & Toilet	Bugt: \$ 55,000 Exp: \$ 50,023		✓	✓		✓	
Purton Lane Drain & Sealing	Bugt: \$ 84,921 Exp: \$ 50,396		✓			✓	
Wampo Corner Upgrade	Bugt: \$ 80,000 Exp: \$ 73,589		✓			✓	
Greenham Park Hall Furniture & Storage Shed	Bugt: \$ 50,000 Exp: \$ 16,644	✓	✓			✓	
Murrumbidgee Bridge Path Upgrade	Bugt: \$ 28,000 Exp: \$ 16,686		✓	✓		✓	



Traffic Calming at Euston



Traffic Calming at Euston



Footpath Construction at Euston

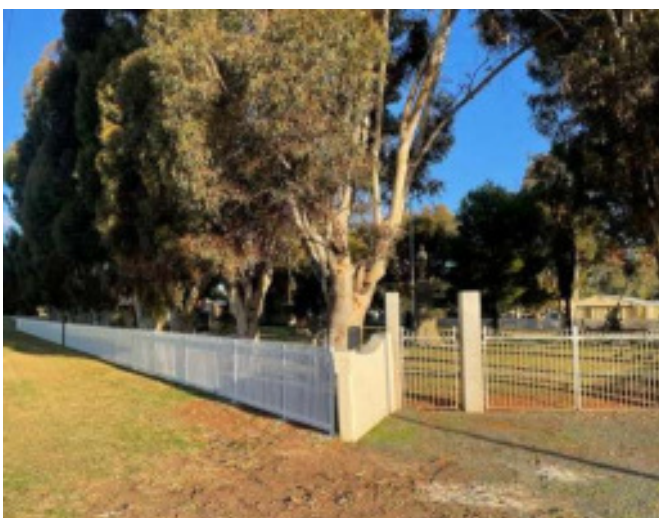


Storage Shed at Greenham Park



Wampo Corner Upgrade

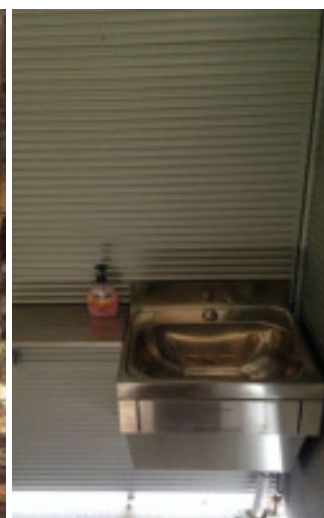
LOCAL ROADS & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT (cont.)



New Fencing at Anzac Park



New Toilet at Anzac Park



New heating at Balranald's Theatre Royal



Purton Lane Drain & Sealing, Balranald



Murrumbidgee Bridge Path Upgrade

SUMMARY OF GRANTS & PROJECTS

In Progress

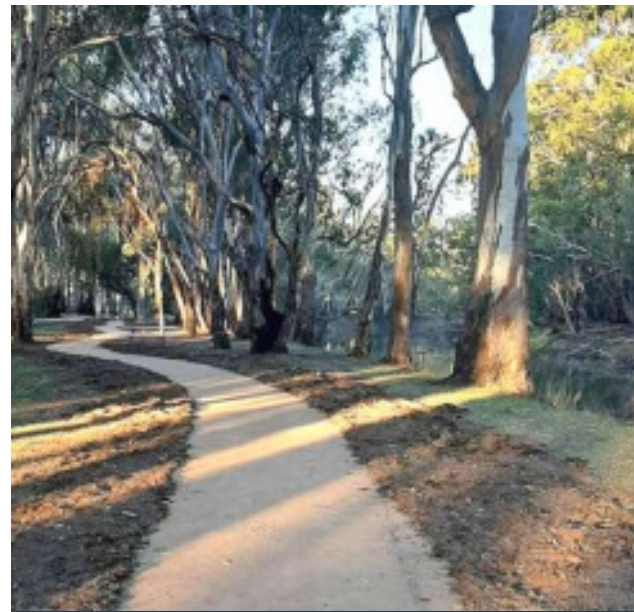
OUR RIVERS OUR REGION FUNDING

Balranald Riverfront Walking Trail

- Footpath Completed
- BBQ, gym equipment drinking fountain, furniture, toilet and story-board signage to be installed at River Bend

Balranald Swing Bridge

- Designs completed and contract given to widen the swing bridge to 2m wide (wheelchair accessible) and change the walking surface to make it dog friendly
- Bridge approaches also to be upgraded



Balranald Riverfront Walking Trail

STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITY FUND ROUND 3

Balranald Cultural and Learning Centre

- Construction commenced on large workshop area
- Project to also include a climate controlled storage for permanent artworks collection

Balranald Tennis Courts

- Work progressing on four new sand filled artificial grass courts
- Tennis club members assisted with removing old fencing
- New fencing to be installed
- Hoping to install light to the new artificial courts in the future to allow for night time play



Plans for the proposed workshop

FIXING LOCAL ROADS TO RECOVERY

Weimby Kyalite Road

- 2km sealed in 2020/21 further 10km to be sealed in 2021/22

Kyalite Moulamein Road

- Improved drainage, extended culverts, minor realignment and road widening of 1.2km

MR 514 Oxley Road

- Improved drainage, extended culverts, minor realignment and road widening of 2km

Marma Box Creek Road

- Works began this reporting year, continuing next year



Works on the Kyalite Moulamein Road

SUMMARY OF GRANTS & PROJECTS



Water & Sewer



Water Mains Replacement

- Market Street Balranald
- Selwyn Street & Cowper Street Euston
- \$45,000 cost for each town
- This is an ongoing project with some mains being replaced each year



Sewer Relining

- Various streets around Balranald
- \$300,000 spent
- This is an ongoing project with sections being relined each year



Euston Water Tower

- Corrosion protection installed for Euston filtered water tower



Other Projects

Balranald Discovery Centre

- Plans have been drawn up and presented to enclose the separate buildings at the precinct to form one whole building with a central foyer



Latest plans for the Balranald Discovery Centre precinct

Euston Cemetery

- The Local Land Services (LLS) sought to provide financial assistance towards a Council project to replace the fence and gates such that the Cemetery would be inaccessible to rabbits and other wildlife seeking food and shelter in the Cemetery grounds
- The installation of a new toilet was completed in this reporting period, tree planting and irrigation will proceed when resources permit



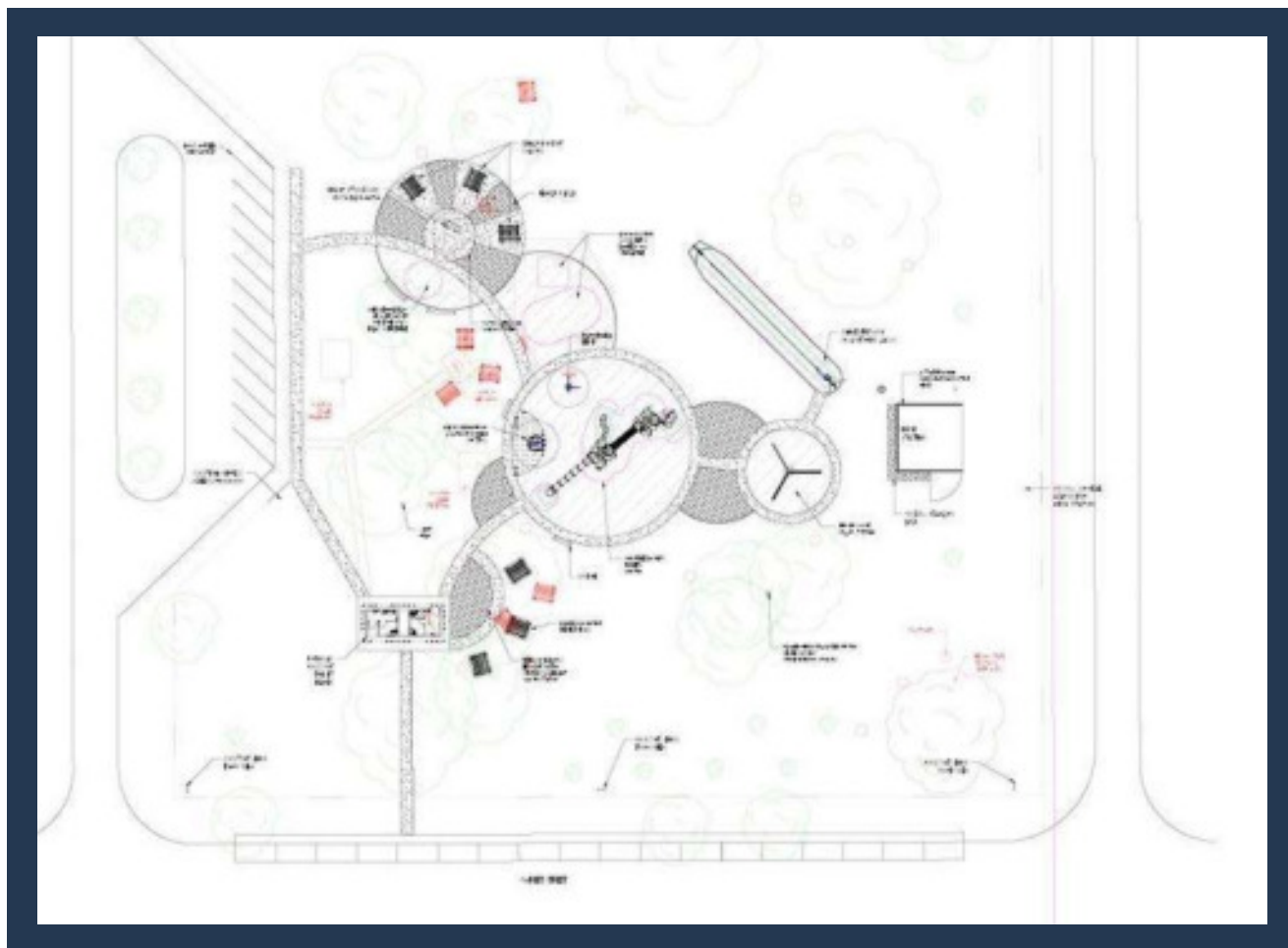
Euston Cemetery new toilets and fence



Other Projects

Lions Park

- Council received funding of \$534,000 for the construction of Stage 1 of the proposed development of an adventure playground, together with improvements to toilet and other facilities at Lions Park
- Additional funding has been sought for a further stage of this exciting project



Greenham Park - Football Change Rooms

- A contract has been awarded for construction of new football change rooms at Greenham Park, designed to cater for the future introduction of women's football as well as facilities for mixed-gender umpires in response to changing trends in the sport
- Construction of new change rooms for the football club will commence late September 2021

DONATIONS BY COUNCIL

One way Council supports and actively participates in the community is through its donations and contributions program. Each year, Council makes available to community groups the opportunity to apply for grants that can be used in programs that provide community benefit.

Total donations made by Council to support our local community across different funding streams is **\$6,848**. Donations and contributions can be either in the form of a cash donation, a waiver of fees or in-kind. For the 2020/21 year, Council approved the following donations and contributions:

Contract Description	Amount
Balranald Lodge No 214	\$ 500.00
Balranald Football Netball Club	\$ 500.00
Ryan Bruton	\$ 500.00
VRA	\$ 158.00
St Vinnies	\$ 300.00
Shaun Parker & Company	\$ 336.00
Balranald Central School	\$ 100.00
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	\$ 60.00
Euston Public School	\$ 60.00
Balranald Central School - Year 12 Formal	\$ 336.00
Swimming Pool - St Josephs School & Euston	\$2,700.00
NSW Police Force (Greenham Park Hall Hire)	\$ 158.00
Yesterdays Stories (CWA Hall)	\$ 110.00
Balranald Art/Crafts Kid Korner	\$ 480.00
DADFA's Team	\$ 550.00
TOTAL	\$6,848

STATUTORY INFORMATION



Contracts Awarded Greater than \$150,000

Details of each contract awarded by Council during the 2020/21 financial year are presented in the table below.

Contract Description	Awarded To	Cost Including GST
Football Club Change Rooms Upgrade	PJ & SG Murphy	\$491,700
Balranald Tennis Courts Upgrade	Equipment Solutions Plus	\$227,614
Creative Arts Learning Centre & Balranald Art Gallery	PJ & SG Murphy	\$255,000



Disability Inclusion Act 2014

In accordance with the Disability Inclusion Act 2014, Council made a resolution at its 17th November 2020 Ordinary Meeting to review the current Disability Action Plan. While this is yet to happen, Council will be seeking recommendations and input via its Strengthening Community Access, Inclusion & Well-Being Advisory Committee and the Ageing Well, Aged Care & Facilities Advisory Committee during 2021/22 into the new plan.

Council embraces the inclusion of people with a disability in all aspects of community life. Some activities that evidence Council's commitment to disability inclusion are:

- Disabled friendly toilet facilities installed at Euston Cemetery & Anzac Park in Balranald
- Improved disabled access to the Swing Bridge
- Consideration of inclusion for all in the design and construction of the Balranald Riverfront project
- Large print and audio books purchased at the Library for vision impaired
- Strengthening Community Access, Inclusion and Well-being and Ageing Well and Aged Care Facilities Advisory Committee's established to provide input into all major projects



Equal Employment Opportunities

Code of Conduct training is delivered to all staff across the organisation. Council has the appropriate policies and procedures in place to govern the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) management Plan. Council actively supports the principles and practices of EEO.

The induction process and job advertisements adhere with EEO policies.



Functions Delegated to Other Organisations

Council did not delegate any functions to other organisations for the 2020/21 financial year.



Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and Regulation sl 25(1)

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and Regulation sl 25(1) Part 7 Section 125 (1) of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, known as the GIPA Act, states that each agency (of which Balranald Shire Council is one) 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.

Council fulfilled its responsibilities in regard to reporting for the 2020/21 year. During 2020/21 there was one (1) formal information access application received and completed.



Public Interest Disclosure Act 1994 and Regulation s31 c14

Public Interest Disclosure Act 1994 and Regulation s31 c14, similar to the reporting requirement under the GIPA Act and Regulations, Councils are required to submit a Public Interest Disclosures Annual Report to the Minister and a copy is also provided to the NSW Ombudsman. Council submitted their Public Interest Disclosure (PID) Annual Report with the required time frame, which is within 4 months after the end of the financial year. Council received zero (0) submissions for the 2020/21 year.

Council's policy conforms to its Code of Conduct, Equal Employment Opportunity Policy, Workplace Harassment Policy and Workplace Grievance Procedure Policy.

The policy is accessible to all staff and the public via Council's website and is required to be reviewed every two years (the current version was adopted in February 2017).

Description	Number
Number of Public Officials who made PIDs	0
Number of PIDs Received	0
Number of PIDs Finalised	0



Legal Proceedings

A summary of legal proceedings either commenced by, or commenced against, Council are summarised as follows. The figures show the total cost to council.

Description	Status at 30 June 2021	Cost to Council
<i>Employment Matter</i> Employment Dispute	Completed	\$ 1,000



Planning Agreements

Council did not enter into any planning agreements for the 2020/21 financial year.



Rates and Charges Written Off

Council did not write off any general rates in the 2020/21 financial year.



Special Rate Variation

In 2019 Council applied for a multi-year special variation to:

- increase its general income by 10% for each year from 2019/20 to 2024/25, a cumulative
- increase of 94.87% over seven years, and retain this increase in its rate base permanently

The SRV only applies to the General rate component of the annual rates notices – the increases under this SRV do not apply to the waste, water and sewer access charges.

The IPART decision highlighted the fact that even with the SRV, Council's forecast average rate in 2024/25 of \$555 is lower than neighbouring council's current rates and significantly below the NSW state average. **The additional funding generated for 2020/21 year from the SRV was \$253,095.**

The additional funding raised through the SRV was allowed to be spent for the purposes of funding operating and capital expenditure for its key assets – buildings, roads, bridges and drainage networks, and improving its financial sustainability.



General Managers Remuneration

The total remuneration packages for the General Manager function during the year was **\$530,095**.



Senior Staff Remuneration

The total remuneration package for Council's two senior staff for the year (excluding the General Manager position) is broken down in the following components:

Description	Total Remuneration
(i) The total of the values of the components of their packages	\$ 410,000
ii) the total amount of any bonus payments, performance payments or other payments made to them that do not form part of the salary components of their packages	\$ 0
(iii) the total amount payable by the council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which any of them may be a contributor	\$ 34,681
(iv) the total value of any non-cash benefits for which any of them may elect under the package	\$ 41,594
(v) the total amount payable by the council by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits	\$ 16,407



Work Carried Out on Private Land

Council undertakes private works. For the 2020/21 financial year, the revenue generated from private works was **\$176,579**. Council is, under Section 67 of the Local Government Act 1993, able to perform private works by agreement with the owner or occupier of any private land.

Examples of works done during 2020/21 under Section 67 included:

- Water and sewer connections
- Water and sewer maintenance
- Driveway access construction
- Supply of Materials, Plant, Equipment & Labor hire
- Water from Council's standpipe



Swimming Pool Inspections

Under the Swimming Pools Act 1992, Council is required to make provision for the inspection, at least once every 3 years, of any swimming pool situated on premises on which there is tourist and visitor accommodation or more than 2 dwellings.

For the 2020/21 financial year, Council undertook **one (1)** inspection which was compliant.



Companion Animals Management, Companion Animals Act (1998)

Only dogs are kept at the Council pound. For the 2020/21 financial year, pound statistics were:

Description	Number
Placed into the Pound by seize by Council ranger or owner surrender	20
Stolen from Council Pound	1
Return to Owners	14
Euthanised Dogs	0
Sold/Re-homed	0
Released to re-homing organisations	5

There **were no dog attacks** reported to Council for the 2020/21 financial year.

Funding spent by Council in 2020/21 totalled **\$11,284** compared with 2019/20 **\$11,019**. Expenditure includes animal upkeep, repairs to the pound and ranger costs.

There are no designated off-leash areas within the Balranald Shire Council local government area.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Due to a changeover of key staff at the end of financial year, Council has not been able to present their Audited Annual Financial Statements at this time. The Office of Local Government has provided an extension for the completion of these statements. Once available, these documents will be added to the Annual Report and published on Council's website.