

MURRUMBIDGEE

A peaceful country atmosphere and tranquil lifestyle underpin the thriving agricultural communities that make up the Murrumbidgee LGA. The LGA has access to the services of a major regional centre which provides hospital, medical and technical services as well as recreational and educational facilities to complement those services available in the Shire. The district is a safe, friendly, ambient locality where community spirit is evidenced by the achievements of volunteers from the many active clubs and associations.

Serviced by water from deep bores and the river which gives the LGA its name, the district has developed around large scale irrigation farms. The introduction of the Coleambally Irrigation Scheme has led to the district being recognised as a leader in agricultural production techniques.

Coleambally, the newest town in NSW, in the south of the LGA plays a pivotal role as the administration, service and social centre of the Coleambally Irrigation Area. The town of Darlington Point was established in 1864 on a bend in the Murrumbidgee River where road and river traffic converged and serves as the administrative centre of the Shire.

Key Industries

Agriculture and the processing of agricultural products are key industries in Murrumbidgee LGA. Row cropping using the raised bed furrow irrigation system to produce crops such as maize, sweet corn, faba and soybeans, also makes up a prominent part of the local agricultural industry. Substantial quantities of fruit, such as sugarplums, apricots and peaches are also grown, and in some cases processed in the LGA.

Growing and processing rice is a major industry – the Ricegrowers' Cooperative operates a mill in Coleambally and is a major employer in the LGA. Other industries include poultry breeding and egg production (Bartter Enterprises), a red gum saw mill and a tomato processing plant.



AT A GLANCE

Population

Whole Shire 2,636
Darlington Point 997
Coleambally 701

DISTANCE:

To Sydney

620 km

To Melbourne

420 km

To Canberra

400 km



Employment Opportunities

Agriculture is the most prominent employment sector in the Murrumbidgee LGA and employment opportunities exist in this industry and associated support businesses. Skill shortages also vary from the various trades through to the service and hospitality sectors.

Health & Education

Good quality health services are available locally with ready access to the nearby base hospital in the city of Griffith. Medical centres and Community Health Centres are available in both towns. A resident doctor is based in Coleambally and services Darlington Point four half-days per week. Excellent facilities are provided for aged care and the disabled (community members run a local café providing employment for people with disabilities).

Educational facilities ranging from kindergarten to Year 12 are available in the LGA. Darlington Point Public School caters for children from Kindergarten to Year 6 and bus services are available to both Coleambally and Griffith secondary schools. St Peter's Primary School and Coleambally Central School (K-Year 12) service the district. Pre-school, play groups and family day care services are also well established.

Housing

Fully serviced, reasonably priced housing blocks are readily available in both Coleambally and Darlington Point. Rental properties are also available at very reasonable rates.

Leisure and Lifestyle

Both towns have access to modern recreational facilities including swimming pools, sporting grounds, bowling greens and golf courses. Darlington Point, alongside the Murrumbidgee River, is an ideal location for walking, camping, fishing and other water based activities.

Other sports, such as football (both Australian Rules and Rugby League), touch football, squash, cricket, tennis, basketball and netball, are played throughout the district. Service clubs and hotels are present in both towns in the LGA, offering quality meals and entertainment.

Wetlands and nature reserves can be found throughout the Shire. Heritage Darlington Point maintain a museum, made up of the original Police Station and Council Chambers, holding many interesting exhibits. Altina Wildlife Park is situated close to Darlington Point on 207 hectares of natural bushland on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. A Redgum furniture factory operates in Darlington Point using local materials. Coleambally Arts Council run the "Brolga Studio" where local arts and crafts are displayed and are for sale.

Transport

A daily bus/train service to Melbourne runs through the Shire as well as the CountryLink service between Sydney and Adelaide. Air, rail and coach services to interstate capitals are also available on a regular basis from the nearby city of Griffith.

Communications

Murrumbidgee LGA receives two commercial television networks in addition to the ABC national service and SBS. A selection of commercial and national AM and FM radio services can be received in various parts of the LGA, Austar provide pay television services via satellite. Broadband internet access is available in the Coleambally and Darlington Point townships.

The Observer is a locally produced newspaper that covers issues of interest to both communities.

Contact

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Australian Government
Department of Transport
and Regional Services

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government under its Regional Partnerships Programme



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