



**AGENDA FOR THE
NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION (NRJO)
ORDINARY BOARD MEETING**

Date: Friday, 17 February 2023

Time: 9.30am to 11.30am (10am start)

Venue: Tweed Shire Council
(10-14 Tumbulgum Road, Murwillumbah)

AGENDA

1. **Opening of the meeting**
2. **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge that this meeting is held upon the land of the Bundjalung people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.
3. **Apologies**
4. **Confirmation of minutes and business arising from meeting**
2 December 2022..... 3-8
5. **Disclosure of Interest**
6. **Address by official visitors (via 'Teams')**
 - 6.1. Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
 - 6.2. Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC)
7. **Notices of Motion**
 - 7.1. CMA 2023 State Election Priorities.....9-31
 - 7.2. Polystyrene building products such as single use "Waffle Pods".....32-33
8. **Reports**
 - 8.1. Executive Officer Report 34-39
 - 8.2. Statement of Revenue 40-44
 - 8.3. Financial Report 45-47
 - 8.4. Clarence Valley Council membership proclamation 48
 - 8.5. Delegate Report - Clarence Valley regional update - Magazine 49-93
 - 8.6. Associate Member Report - Scenic Rim Regional Council 94-100
 - 8.7. Associate Member Report - Office of Local Government101-102
 - 8.8. Associate Member Report - Destination North Coast 103-104
 - 8.9. Associate Member Report - Regional Development Australia Northern Rivers105-106
9. **Urgent business**
10. **Confidential reports - Nil**
11. **Correspondence of significance**.....107-115
12. **Close of business**

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) Minutes of meeting held 2 December 2022 at Richmond Valley Council

The meeting commenced 9:32am

In attendance:

Mayors:

- Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Ballina Shire Council (Chair)
- Cr Kylie Thomas, Kyogle Council (Deputy Chair)
- Cr Chris Cherry, Tweed Shire Council
- Cr Steve Krieg, Lismore City Council
- Cr Michael Lyon, Byron Shire Council
- Cr Robert Mustow, Richmond Valley Council

General Managers:

- Mark Arnold, Byron Shire Council
- Vaughan Macdonald, Richmond Valley Council
- Paul Hickey, Ballina Shire Council
- David Oxenham, on behalf of Troy Green, Tweed Shire Council
- John Walker, Lismore City Council

Other Attendees:

- Cr Ian Tiley, Clarence Valley Council
- Jodie Healey (OLG)
- Alley Dench, (OLG)
- Lisa Almond, on behalf of Alley Dench (OLG)
- Laura Black, (CVC)
- Cr Jeff McConnell, Scenic Rim
- Cameron Arnold (DNC)
- Michael Thurston (DNC)
- Louise McMeeking (Dept. Regional NSW)
- Gareth James, Executive Director Program Delivery (NRRC)
- Phillip Rudd (NRJO)
- Megan Gibbons (minute taker)

Presenters:

- Dr Jai Vaze, Senior Principal Research Scientist (Hydrologist), CSIRO
- Linda Merrin, Land and Water, CSIRO
- Alley Dench, Executive Director (OLG)

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was read by the Chair.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Associate Member, Daryl Buckingham, Tenterfield Shire Council; Anita Gambhir, Office of Local Government; Tim Williamson RDA-Northern Rivers; Graham Kennett, Kyogle Council; Vaughan MacDonald, Richmond Valley Council.

02122022/1 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry SECONDED: K Thomas

THAT the apologies received for the meeting be noted.

CARRIED (For vote: Unanimous)

02122022/2 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry SECONDED: K Thomas

THAT the NRJO Board accept Cr M Lyon joining the NRJO Board meeting online.

CARRIED (For vote: Unanimous)

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

4 MOTIONS

Nil.

5 ADDRESS BY OFFICIAL VISITOR(S)

- Dr Jai Vaze, Senior Principal Research Scientist (Hydrologist), CSIRO and
- Linda Merrin, Land and Water, CSIRO, provided the meeting with an update.
- Alley Dench, OLG, provided the meeting with an update.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES OF NRJO BOARD MEETING HELD 19 AUGUST 2022

02122022/3 RESOLVED

MOVED: S Krieg SECONDED: K Thomas

THAT the minutes of the NRJO Board meeting held 19 August 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings of the meeting.

CARRIED (For vote: Unanimous)

6.2 MINUTES OF NRJO EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD 15 NOVEMBER 2022

02122022/4 RESOLVED

MOVED: R Mustow SECONDED: C Cherry

THAT the minutes of the NRJO Board Extraordinary Meeting held 15 November 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings of the meeting.

CARRIED (For vote: Unanimous)

7 REPORTS

7.1 EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

02122022/5 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry SECONDED: R Mustow

THAT the NRJO Executive Officer Report be received and noted.

CARRIED (For vote: Unanimous)

02122022/6 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry SECONDED: K Thomas

THAT the NRJO write to the Federal Minister in support of an application for extension and continuation for Lismore grant funding; grant round 5 Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF).

CARRIED (For vote: Unanimous)

7.2 CHAIR'S VERBAL REPORT

02122022/7 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry SECONDED: R Mustow

THAT the NRJO Council Meeting receive and note the Chair's update.

CARRIED (For vote: Unanimous)

7.3 NRJO COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

02122022/8 RESOLVED

MOVED: M Lyon SECONDED: S Krieg

THAT the NRJO determine its meeting schedule for 2023 with meetings to be held at 9.30am on 17 February (Tweed Shire), 19 May (Byron Shire), 18 August (Ballina Shire) and 17 November (Lismore City).

CARRIED (For vote: Unanimous)

7.4 NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES

02122022/9 RESOLVED

MOVED: K Thomas SECONDED: R Mustow

-
1. **THAT the NRJO Board receive and note the report.**
 2. **THAT NRJO adopts the Strategic Regional Priorities document, inclusive of an additional principle to seek opportunities to work together to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes for the region, with the Executive Officer authorised to include any additional changes to the document based on feedback received over the next seven days.**

CARRIED (For vote: Unanimous)

7.5 NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT POST-ELECTION COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

02122022/10 RESOLVED

MOVED: R Mustow SECONDED: K Thomas

That the Board:

1. **Revoke the existing '[Expenses and facilities](#)' policy dated 8 November 2019 and adopt the revised 'Payment of expenses and provision of facilities' policy ([Attachment 1](#)).**
2. **Publicly exhibit the revised Code of Meeting Practice ([Attachment 2](#)) for a period of 28 days and invite submissions on the same for a period of 42 days, concurrently, and:**
 - (a) **Should no submissions be received, the existing [Code of Meeting Practice](#) is revoked and the revised Code of Meeting Practice is adopted; or**
 - (b) **Should any submission be received, those submissions be considered by the Board at its next meeting prior to revoking the existing Code of Meeting Practice and adopting the revised Code of Meeting Practice.**
3. **Revoke the existing [Code of Conduct dated 22 June 2018](#) and Code of Conduct Procedures dated 22 June 2018 and adopt the following:**
 - (a) **Revised Code of Conduct ([Attachment 3](#)); and**
 - (b) **Revised Code of Conduct Procedures ([Attachment 4](#)).**
4. **Affirm the organisation structure outlined in the body of this report.**
5. **Circulate the revised NRJO Charter ([Attachment 5](#)) for member council feedback through the General Managers' Advisory Committee and:**
 - (a) **Should no requests for amendments be received, the existing [NRJO Charter](#) is revoked and the revised NRJO Charter is adopted, or**
 - (b) **Should any requests for amendments be received, this be considered by the Board prior to revoking the existing NRJO Charter and adopting the revised NRJO Charter.**

CARRIED (For vote: Unanimous)

7.6 NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

02122022/11 RESOLVED

MOVED: K Thomas SECONDED: R Mustow

THAT:

- 1. The NRJO Board endorse Option 4. of the report and the appointment of Rous County Council General Manager as the Executive Officer for the NRJO.**
- 2. The NRJO Board agree to pay Rous County Council an annual fee of \$135,000 (ex GST) to be indexed annually in consideration of the provision of the Executive Officer and Corporate Services for the period to May 2025.**
- 3. The NRJO Chair and Deputy Chair are authorised to finalise and sign any agreements for the delivery of these services between NRJO and Rous County Council.**

CARRIED (For vote: Unanimous)

7.7 FINANCIAL REPORTS

02122022/12 RESOLVED

MOVED: K Thomas SECONDED: S Krieg

THAT the NRJO Board receive and note the financial reports for period ending 31 October 2022.

CARRIED (For vote: Unanimous)

7.8 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT: DESTINATION NORTH COAST

02122022/13 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry SECONDED: R Mustow

THAT the Destination North Coast report be received and noted.

CARRIED (For vote: Unanimous)

7.9 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT: SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL

02122022/14 RESOLVED

MOVED: K Thomas SECONDED: C Cherry

THAT the Scenic Rim Regional Council report be received and noted.

CARRIED (For vote: Unanimous)

8 URGENT BUSINESS

02122022/15 RESOLVED

MOVED: S Krieg SECONDED: R Mustow

THAT:

- 1. General Managers co-ordinate a meeting with the council events teams and recovery officers to look at opportunities to schedule events and activities to acknowledge the impact of the flood, to coincide with the Premier's visit to Lismore from Saturday 4 March to Sunday 5 March 2023.**

CARRIED (For vote: Unanimous)

9 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

No items of confidential business were raised.

10 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

02122022/16 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry SECONDED: S Krieg

THAT the correspondence be received and noted.

CARRIED FOR VOTE - All voted unanimously.

11 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed 12:36pm.

Next meeting

17 February 2023 at Tweed Shire Council Chambers, Murwillumbah.

7.1 Notice of Motion: CMA 2023 State Election Priorities

(Mayor Kylie Thomas, Kyogle Shire Council) - 31 January 2023

Summary / Purpose

The following report provides information from Councillors on the Country Mayors Association of New South Wales (CMA) – 2023 State Election Priorities.

- On 18 November 2022 a general meeting was held after the AGM, and association members agreed in principal on a list of State Election to be presented to all political parties calling for action.
- With the past challenging year for local government and communities, the attached document identifies a list of priorities requiring action by the State Government, discovered in the November 2022 consensus.
- The below list includes six new funding programs, a recommitment too many existing funding streams and a review of current programs in different ministries like Health, Skills and Training, Roads and Policing.
- The top eight priorities are:-
 - Skills and Training
 - Health Services
 - Roads and Transport
 - Water Security
 - Housing
 - Crime, Law and Order
 - Telecommunications Blackspot Coverage
 - Disaster Preparedness and Funding

RECOMMENDATION

That NRJO Board receive and note the report on the CMA 2023 State Election Priorities



2023

State Election Priorities



"What we want is nothing more than equity"

Contents

Introduction	3
Acknowledgement of Country	3
Executive Summary	4 - 5
Skills and Education	6
Health Services	7 - 9
Roads and Transport	10 - 12
Water Security	13
Housing	14 - 15
Crime, Law and Order	16 - 17
Telecommunications Blackspot Coverage	18
Disaster Preparedness and Funding	19 - 22

Introduction

Brief History of Organisation

NSW Country Mayors Association (CMA) is an incorporated body with a rich history of standing up for the needs of all residents that choose to live, work, and play within a rural local government area covered by our membership. CMA was established prior to 1980 with a handful of members, and has proudly grown to 76 member councils, representing more than three million residents or 37% of the NSW population.

Our mission is to further the interests of rural and regional councils by advocating and lobbying on relevant State and National issues by working with State and Federal governments and other appropriate organisations to further the interests of our members, as well as to act as an information-sharing forum. People should have the same rights and opportunities, regardless of where they live within the State.

2022 has been a challenging year for local government in NSW and our members have experienced extreme financial pressure. Compounding factors include: Rate-pegging determination by Ipart; inflation reaching 7%; an increase in operating expenses; delivery of infrastructure and maintenance projects blowouts; energy price increases; shortage of skilled staff; and the list goes on.

The list of election priorities within this document were resolved by consensus on 18 November 2022 and informed by our annual membership survey of highest priorities.

Acknowledgement to Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging.

We are committed to providing communities in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.



Executive Summary

The NSW Country Mayors Association stands firm in our pursuit of equity of service provision for the residents of our communities that choose to live, work and prosper in country NSW. That is why we are pleased to offer our list of priorities for consideration and implementation to all political parties contesting the 2023 NSW state election.

This document articulates the eight highest priority areas requiring action from the State Government according to our members. Within this document, Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA) have listed real positive solutions that will, if actioned, make meaningful generation change in country NSW.

CMA conduct a survey of our members to identify the issues most affecting their communities. These priority areas are:

- Skills and Training
- Health Services
- Roads and Transport
- Water Security
- Housing
- Crime, Law and Order
- Telecommunications Blackspot Coverage
- Disaster Preparedness and Funding

Throughout the pages to follow, CMA have sprinkled new funding program suggestions such as: Building Country Homes; Fixing Country Pinch Points; Smart Country Water Users; Building Country Trades; and a Country Roads Restoration Program, all directed to improve the liveability of our members' communities.

Existing extremely popular programs that are delivering real benefits for CMA communities, such as Stronger Country Communities, Resources for Regions, Fixing Local Roads and Bridges, Safe and Secure Water and Connecting Country Communities programs should continue for the next four-year term with an annual increase of inflation.

Our members are also requesting reviews be conducted in the Ministries of Health, Skills and Training, Water, Police and Emergency Services.

CMA calls for a review of the Biodiversity Off-sets Scheme in NSW. We are seeking outcomes that will not penalise developments in regional, rural and remote local government areas, but will act as incentives.

CMA requests that our Chairman or representative have a seat at the table in the NSW Minister for Local Government Advisory Panel.

The NSW Country Mayors Association stands united with our members to advocate for residents who choose to call country NSW home. We will continue to work with both State and Commonwealth governments to achieve the best quality of life and provision of services for our residents, and we look forward to a prosperous future.





Skills and Education

Ask - The NSW Skills Board oversee the Department of Skills and Training review of the “Smart and Skilled program” to address the inadequate access to apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship courses in member councils.

Commentary - CMA member councils are experiencing critical skills shortages among many sectors of their communities. Qualified positions in trade are over-represented and the availability to undertake these courses in country communities is extremely low. The requested review must seek out key information to test if equity of service provision through RTOs and the NSW TAFE system is available.

Key information required;

- Availability of apprenticeships courses by LGA
- Course completion rates by LGA
- Courses available that are listed by Infrastructure Australia on their Infrastructure Priority List (IPSL) and the frequency of the course offering
- Time of enquiry to enrolment in five categories - Rural, Regional, Remote, Outer Metro.

Our members are looking for transparency that is not currently available in TAFE NSW annual reports. It is anticipated this data will prove change is needed to provide equity of service provision.

Ask - A commitment to funding a “Building Country Trades Program” to be delivered throughout member councils’ TAFE facilities or RTOs.

Commentary - NSW TAFE is a legitimate tertiary education resource that must be funded and resourced to allow the provision of adequate training to meet the needs of country areas and the tertiary specific courses for those communities without universities. The program guidelines for this new program must ensure local industry input into the apprenticeship courses that will be available to ensure maximum participation. Council and Chamber of Commerce and Industry or other identified business representative bodies should be invited to participate.

Ask - NSW Government agencies commit to funding the training placements to meet 100% of future workforce needs.

Commentary - During a Rural Skills Forum run by CMA in August 2022, member councils expressed disappointment in the number of trained staff that are being poached for State Government positions and therefore adding to the skills shortage in member councils. One of the items on the list of suggestions to see positive change from the forum was to encourage the State Government to train their own trainees and apprentices rather than seeking staff from local government and the private sector.



Health Services

Ask - NSW Regional Health Minister or equivalent commits to a review of the local health districts, including operational performance and boundaries and contractual arrangements of private service providers.

Commentary - CMA held a Rural Health Forum in May 2022, during which many member councils called for a review of the local health districts and their performance.

Ask - That the NSW Government increases the incentives to rural generalists (doctors) to encourage greater numbers providing essential services to our member councils' residents.

Commentary - Country NSW is experiencing critical doctor shortages of all skill sets. Many country hospitals are unable to attract locums to provide care during weekends and holidays and this is adding pressure to facilities in larger regional cities. Increasing the incentive may overcome this critical shortage. Of the 26 councils that contributed to the 2020 Upper House Inquiry, the majority of the submissions reflected the Housing and Accommodation that councils provide to retain medical professionals. This reflects the cost shifting to local government to provide this service in rural and regional councils.

Ask - That NSW Health commits to training and employing sufficient nurse practitioners to ensure every hospital and medical service in Regional, Rural and Remote NSW can provide timely service to residents

Commentary - Country NSW is experiencing critical doctor shortages of all skill sets. Training and/or upskilling local experienced registered nursing staff to become nurse practitioners will help ease the pressure on those doctors serving in country communities.

Ask - NSW State Government recognises that local government in rural and regional NSW has a significant role to play in the provision of aged care, and works with local government to advocate to the Federal Government for appropriate levels of staffing, regulation and legislation to assist councils in the provision of aged care in their community.

Commentary - Provision of aged care in Rural NSW has become an essential service provided by council. There are now 10 councils providing aged care services ranging from in-home care service to full care facilities, including palliative care. This makes local government an important and integral part of aged care services in rural and regional areas. There is a strong community expectation that our senior citizens are able to be cared for in their communities, however the financial implications mean that private providers of aged care see little value in

establishing services in rural NSW and requires local government to take the lead by providing the much-in-demand services needed by their communities.

The complex regulatory environment surrounding aged care facilities and a lack of suitably qualified aged care staff continues to make it increasingly difficult for councils to provide aged care services. If this service fails, aged residents in need of care will be forced into an already overcrowded state health system, and be required to move from their localities and families when full-time care is needed. The recently-announced 15% salary increase to aged care workers related to those on Federal Awards, and does not apply to the State Award. While any pay increase is welcomed to a generally underpaid sector, it is another cost which will need to be absorbed by local government if staff are to be retained or attracted to rural communities.

Impending changes to the Aged Care Act will require providers to employ Registered Nurses (RN) to provide 24 hours coverage for residents. In Coolamon's 33-bed facility, this means that five RNs will be needed to satisfy regulations and cover for leave, training and other absences of the RN. There are currently insufficient trained RNs in the NSW Health System to provide this number of nurses to rural and regional council-owned aged care facilities. In the short to medium-term, overseas-trained nurses provide a viable answer to the problem, however there is an urgent need to review the qualifications needed and to align these with the skills of trained overseas nurses. A similar issue arises regarding aged care service employees who are essential to the operation of aged care facilities in rural areas. It is difficult to attract aged care service employees due to a number of factors, including lack of housing and spouse employment opportunities. In short, we have a staffing and immigration problem.

Both Federal and State governments must recognise the important contribution played by councils in providing aged care in rural NSW, and provide specific funding to councils supporting this vital service.

Ask - That the health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales report recommendations be implemented fully and with speed.

Commentary – In May 2022, the final report was handed down for the Upper House Inquiry into health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales. The report outlined 22 findings that articulated the state of extreme stress of the health system in country communities, and detailed a list of 44 recommendations to improve the situation.

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/inquiries/2615/Report%20no%2057%20-%20PC%202%20-%20Health%20outcomes%20and%20access%20to%20services.pdf>

Ask - The State Government needs to lobby the Federal Government to reinstate the requirement for overseas doctors to work in “rural and remote areas” for a set term, rather than in “regional” areas for a set term.

Commentary – The 2020 Upper House Inquiry into health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales listed 22 findings that clearly show how depleted and under extreme stress the health systems are in regional, rural and remote communities. Finding 9 states: “That there is a critical shortage of health professionals across rural, regional and remote communities resulting in staffing deficiencies in hospitals and health services”. Without swift action as suggested in this “ask”, the current status will not change.





Roads and Transport

Ask - Commit to funding the “Fixing Local Roads Program” from 2023 through to 2027 at the same value plus inflation rate. It is also desirable that this program change to a non-contestable funding stream to allow member councils to plan for future works with certainty.

Commentary - The \$500 million Fixing Local Roads Program has provided a major funding boost to member councils to carry out vital maintenance and repairs on local roads since 2019. Round four opened in September this year.

Ask - The establishment of a \$250 million funding program for Regional, Rural and Remote councils that will allow for recurring failure points in local and regional road networks to be removed – a “Fixing Country Pinch Points Program”. It is also desirable that this program be established as a non-contestable funding stream to allow member councils to plan for future works with certainty.

Commentary - During the past 12 months, 126 out of NSW’s 128 councils have had a natural disaster declaration. The local and regional road networks throughout rural NSW have seen significant damage. Many of these roads have seen extended closure timelines due to isolated locations being affected, such as causeways, creeks, low-lying areas, drains etc. Such a program would enable a targeted approach for swift action.

Ask - The establishment of a “Country Roads Restoration Program”. This new state program should mirror the Commonwealth Government’s Roads to Recovery Program.

Commentary - The Commonwealth “Country Roads Restoration Program” supports the construction and maintenance of the nation’s local road infrastructure assets, which facilitates greater accessibility and improves safety, economic and social outcomes for country Australians. The program provides funding to all local governments and to state and territory governments in unincorporated areas. Flexibility is built into the program, with funding recipients responsible for choosing road projects on which to spend their Roads to Recovery funding, based on their local priorities.

Ask - Acceleration of the Regional Road Reclassification and Transfer Program (15,000km Take Back Program).

Commentary - In February 2019, the NSW Government announced the initiation of a Road Classification Review to ensure the road classification framework was still fit for purpose and that roads across NSW were appropriately classified.

Future Transport 2056 identifies the NSW Road Classification Review (Classification Review) as a key initiative to make adjustments to the classification policy

framework and update the road network to align with the “Hub and Spoke” Transport Network Model and the “Movement and Place” Framework.

Also in February 2019, the NSW Government announced up to 15,000 kilometres of council-owned roads would be returned to state management as part of a broader package of support for local councils to better manage and maintain the rural road network.

Combining the transfer of regional roads with the Classification Review will ensure equity and transparency in all changes and support the development of an integrated road transport network.

An Independent Panel, chaired by Ms Wendy Machin, has been established to make recommendations for consideration by the NSW Government.

The Minister for Regional Transport and Roads has stated the program that was committed during the 2019 election campaign was now scheduled to take up to eight years to deliver.

Ask - Increase regional road funding allocation to the Block, Repair and Supplementary grant programs to member councils by 30%.

Commentary - The current funding allocations are not adequate to maintain the existing network at the Austroads standard for the traffic volumes these roads carry.

Ask - Encouraging greater use of rail for the transporting of grain and thereby reducing the amount of trucks on shire roads with resulting financial, environmental and road safety benefits.

Commentary - The impact on the local road network is exacerbated by the trend towards trialling heavy vehicles to improve the efficiency of road transport as has occurred under the Grain Harvest Scheme. Engineering estimates indicate that a truck carrying an additional 0.5 tonnes does 1.6 times more damage to the road, and a truck carrying an additional 2.13 tonnes is 8.4 times more damaging to the road network.

Ask - Shifting more freight from road to rail improves safety for other users of the road network including school buses and local residents going about their daily activities.

Commentary - The Riverina and South West Slopes and Plains Containerised Cargo Demand Assessment (June 2014) prepared by PWC for Transport for NSW noted that transport by rail has a lower probability of accidents. For each net tonne kilometre travelled, rail is a third less likely to cause either an injury or fatality. This results in savings in relation to health and vehicle repair costs.

Ask - The benefits of moving grain by rail as opposed to road transport are consistent with the findings of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in its review of access pricing on the NSW grain line network (April 2012) which noted that:

Commentary - *“After considering stakeholder submissions and sensitivity testing of assumptions in our supply chain cost model, we confirm our draft finding that rail has a substantial cost advantage over road for transporting grain to port on each of the grain line routes at current access prices.”*

Ask - Increased use of rail aligns with the State’s strategic plans as follows:

Commentary - NSW Freight and Ports Plan 2018-2023

Objective 3 – Capacity

“Make capacity-boosting investments in the rail freight network by improving the capacity of east-west movements through targeted improvements to the NSW rail network and supporting the Inland Rail Project.”

NSW Transport Long Term Masterplan

The proposal is consistent with the 20 Year Vision outlined in the NSW Transport Long Term Master Plan

Section 6 – Providing Essential Access for Regional NSW

- *Make our regional roads safer*
- *Move regional freight more efficiently.*

Section 7 – Supporting Efficient and Productive Freight

- *Implement rail freight infrastructure enhancements to increase the share of freight carried on the rail network, with new investment in rail pinch points, measures to improve rail competitiveness and the development of a metropolitan, intermodal terminal network.*
- *Develop rail freight capacity projects.*

Ask – The Highway Corridor strategies are reviewed, prioritised, funded and constructed.

Commentary – There are 10 strategic projects in the road network and corridor-planning program which were created a number of years ago. The recent floods have highlighted the vulnerability of our key corridors and our networks. Some of these projects such as the Newell Highway Corridor Strategy have not been revised and updated since 2015.





Water Security

Ask - Establishment of a funding program to assist our member councils to purchase and install smart water meters throughout residential, commercial and industrial users – the “Smart Country Water Users Program”.

Commentary - Water is a precious resource that enables country communities to thrive. The installation of smart meters allows for real-time monitoring of water use or misuse and excess use. Another significant benefit is early warning leak detection that leads to prompt repair and water conservation.

Ask - Simplify the process to enable the reuse of recycled water on the gravel road networks throughout country NSW.

Commentary - Normal weather cycles will soon return to NSW, and pressure will return on many member councils to implement water restrictions on residents, therefore reducing the livability in some member council towns and villages. The use of potable water on the gravel road network throughout country NSW is a waste during extreme times of water shortages. A review of the Section 60 approval by NSW Health could see barriers removed and the safe use of recycled water replacing the need to use precious potable water.

Ask - Increase in funding of the “Safe and Secure Water Program” to allow more availability for member councils to access support to reduce the risks associated with operation of our water and sewer treatment facilities.

Commentary - Funding currently available is not adequate to address all risk rating five facilities across country NSW.

Ask - The government provide new funding options to support regional and rural communities where small numbers of water connections do not generate sufficient revenue to meet the operational cost of providing the service, even with comparatively high water charges. The support should be sufficient to meet the capital cost of future infrastructure upgrades or improvements.

Commentary – CMA member councils have significant financial pressure that inhibits the implementation of infrastructure enabling potential growth, should such financial support be committed by the State Government. It is anticipated our member councils will see significant growth in population and realisation of opportunities.



Housing

Ask - Establishment of a funding program that will support member councils to increase the housing stock available and improve own source revenue. The “Building Country Homes Program” will be a four-year commitment that will deliver \$100 million each year. The program design will allow applications from regional, rural and remote councils only, and should require equal contributions. The purpose of the fund is to encourage the establishment of new residential estates or increase homes (including refurbishing properties from sale of land for overdue rates) in existing estates. Once the homes are sold, both State and local governments must share the proceeds equally.

Commentary - The establishment of the suggested program will assist in closing the gap between the housing that is available and the housing required in country communities. Extra housing will also assist with the under-population concerns in the majority of member council communities and reduce the job vacancy rates. This approach is consistent with priority area 5.1.1, 5.1.2 & 5.1.3 of the NSW Housing Strategy 2041.

Ask - That an adequately funded and suitably qualified taskforce within the Department of Planning and Environment (DPIE) – Housing and Property is created to identify suitable land in Regional, Rural and Remote LGAs to escalate the creation of affordable housing in member councils.

Commentary - NSW Housing Strategy 2041- Priority Area 3 is maximising the impact of NSW Government-owned land, investment or assets and government-led development projects or funding to achieve the housing vision. Priority 3.1.1 states the NSW Government should support the ongoing growth of the affordable housing industry through new supply development partnerships that attract low-cost finance, and a new policy to enable affordable housing provider-led redevelopment of Land and Housing Corporation-owned land through long-term leases.

Ask - Establishment of a fund to provide interest-free loans to enable critical head work infrastructure (sewer, water, storm water, communications and power) to be available to developers in identified regional, rural and remote council areas with critical affordable housing shortages.

Commentary - The housing system is complex, and although the NSW Government can have a significant impact through investment, policy, legislation and regulation, it cannot achieve the Housing 2041 vision alone. Collaboration is at the centre of the strategy and will be key to its successful delivery over the next 20 years. This includes collaboration with local government, community housing providers, the development industry, the finance industry and other private sector partners.

Ask - The Department of Planning and Environment ensures that regional housing initiatives that bring forward new housing opportunities be prioritised for Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) and Special Activation Precinct areas. The Department of Planning and Environment should require all State Significant Development proposals within the Renewable Energy Zones to supply appropriate housing for construction workers unless they have demonstrated adequately that there is sufficient housing supply in the local area, and that such assessment be required to consider the cumulative impact on housing demand of concurrent projects.

Commentary - The imposition of a Renewable Energy Zone on a local government area will have a significant impact, both positive and negative. To date, LGAs have not been sufficiently engaged or consulted by state government bodies (Energy Corporation / Department of Planning) or the renewable energy proponents, yet are the ones who will bear the social and financial burden.

At one end of the spectrum, the nature of how renewables projects come into being sets the scene for social friction in a community. This is initially between host landholders and near neighbours who discover they have been kept in the dark about developments which will fundamentally change their amenity and possibly their livelihood. The social friction will then radiate outwards to the town centres during construction phase as a tight accommodation market is placed under increased stress and the availability of skilled labour is soaked up. The infrastructure of the LGAs hosting the REZ will be placed under considerable strain.

What makes a REZ unique is the cumulative impacts of multiple renewables projects coming into being within a defined area. The old rules and ways of doing business are not appropriate for a REZ and it is the responsibility of the LGAs to determine how a REZ is created for the benefit of all in their communities.

Ask - That the NSW Government relax rules under biodiversity legislation for councils trying to develop on green field residential land.

Commentary - NSW Housing Strategy - Action Plan 2021-22-022 - 5.1.3 states: Support councils to explore potential use of under-utilised operational land for the purposes of housing where this is deemed appropriate by local communities. Relevant guidance will be provided by NSW Government. Without relaxing the biodiversity rules, the costs will significantly inhibit the development of this land.



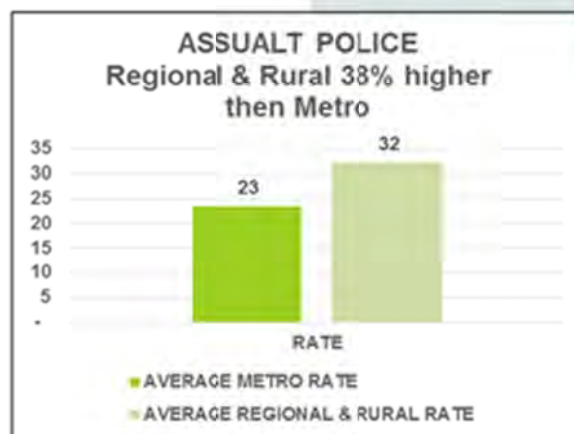
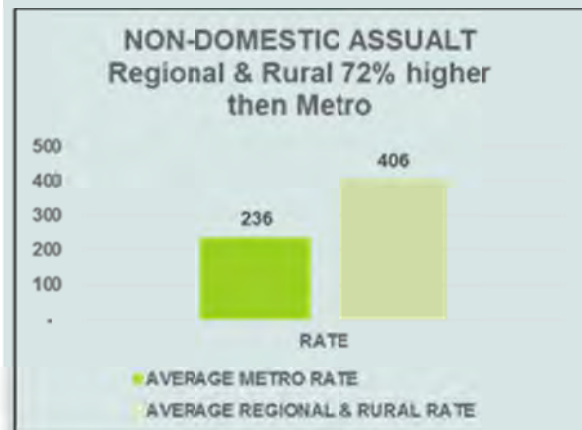
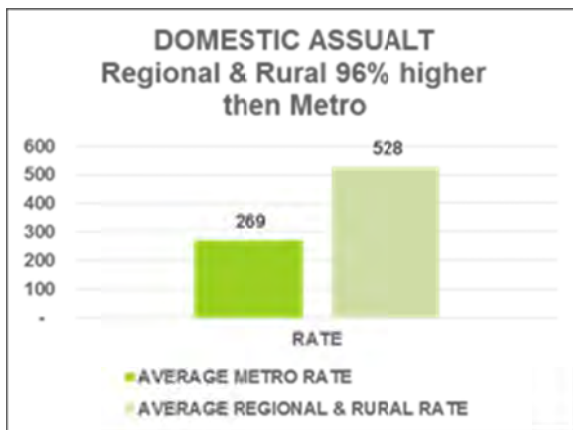


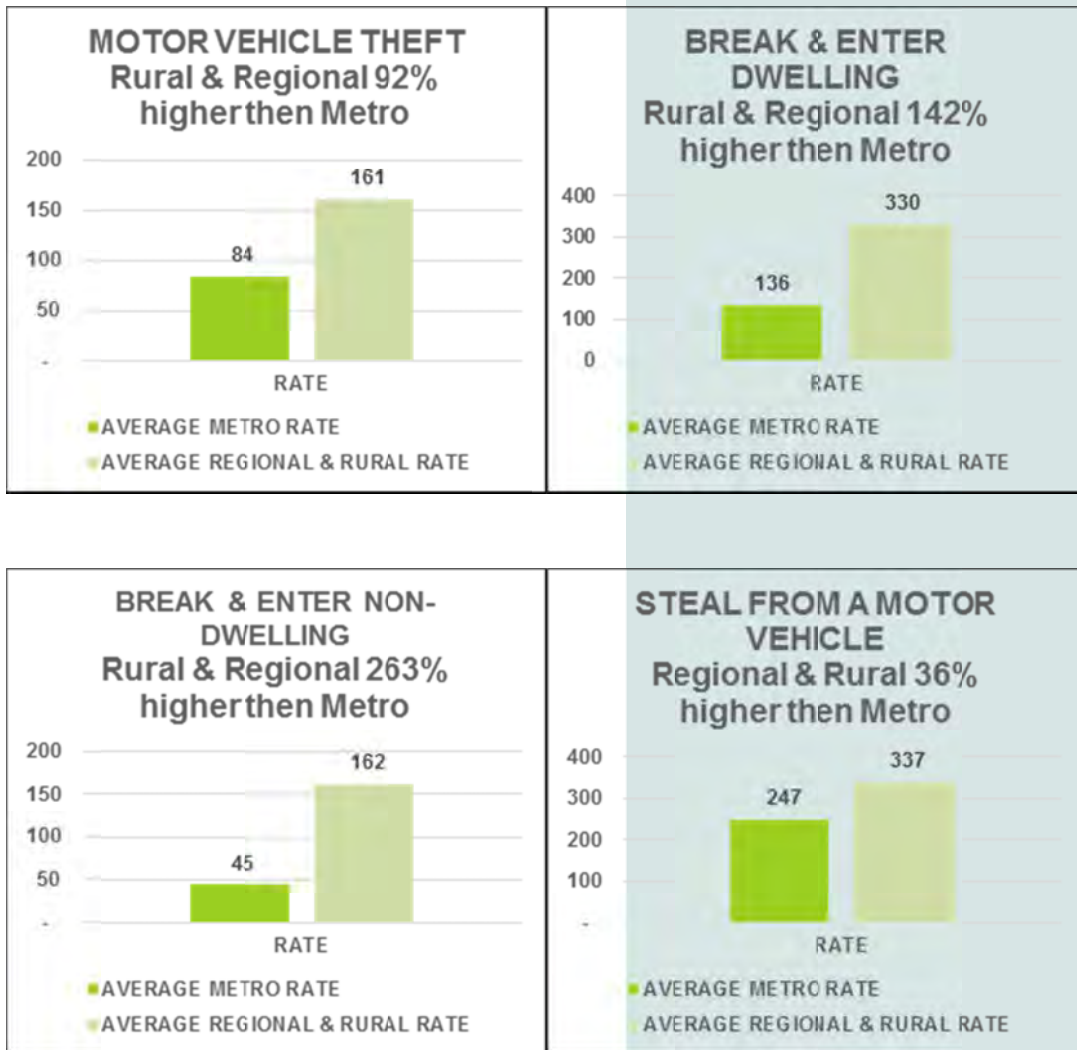
Crime, Law and Order

Ask - NSW Government conduct a review and redistribution of the policing workforce to ensure equity according to the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) crime rates between metropolitan and regional, rural and remote LGAs.

Commentary - According to the data published on the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR), the rates of crime in the majority of reportable categories are substantially higher in regional, rural and remote LGAs than in metropolitan LGAs. It is reasonable to assume that this imbalance or inequity is due to the incorrect distribution of policing resources according to the need. It is not unreasonable that the residents of regional, rural and remote NSW should expect to have crime rates equal to that of metropolitan residents. To achieve this, change is required.

Graphs indicate crime rates year 2021/22 according to BOCSAR data





Ask - The NSW Government increase spending on the NSW police force to increase front-line proactive policing numbers and policing intervention programs in regional, rural and remote LGAs most in need according to the BOCSAR data.

Commentary - According to the 2021 NSW Police Annual Report, NSW had the highest ratio of residents to police officers at 1:466 when compared to Queensland, Victoria and South Australia. Queensland was the next highest at 1:332, followed by Victoria at 1:303 and South Australia at 1:293. NSW also had the lowest spend per resident at \$511, Queensland at \$512, South Australia at \$564 and Victoria at \$622.



Telecommunications Blackspot Coverage

Ask - That the NSW Government commits to funding the “Connecting Country Communities” Mobile Black Spot Program and the “Regional Digital Connectivity Program” at current annual funding levels plus inflation rate until 2027.

Commentary - This major infrastructure investment will help regional, rural and remote residents and businesses stay connected. In particular, the rollout will improve mobile coverage along major transport routes, in small communities and across locations prone to natural disasters. It will make country NSW an even better place to live and do business.

As part of the Federal 2022–23 Budget, the Commonwealth committed \$300 million to boost multi-carrier mobile coverage on regional roads, and improve mobile coverage in under-served remote communities. This commitment forms a key part of the Government's Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia and CMA is seeking a long-term commitment from the NSW Government to boost the funding available to our member councils.





Disaster Preparedness and Funding

Ask - Commitment to increase disaster recovery funding to councils for the task of assessment, clean-up and building back more resilient infrastructure and services following natural disaster events, and to reduce assessment timeline for the category of natural disasters to stop financial uncertainty impeding recovery.

Commentary - Responding to natural disasters, including the provision of relief and recovery assistance to disaster-affected communities, is primarily the responsibility of state and territory governments. However, in recognition of the significant cost of natural disasters, the Australian Government established the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) to alleviate the financial burden on the states and to facilitate the early provision of assistance to disaster-affected communities.

Through the NDRRA, the Australian Government provides financial assistance directly to the states to assist them with costs associated with certain disaster relief and recovery assistance measures. The NDRRA makes provisions for state governments to activate relief and recovery assistance immediately following a disaster without seeking approval from the Australian Government.

Under these arrangements, the state or territory government determines which areas receive NDRRA assistance and what assistance is available to individuals and communities, making available whatever assistance is deemed necessary regardless of whether it is eligible for cost sharing under the NDRRA. This recognises that states are best placed to identify the type and level of assistance to make available following a disaster, in accordance with their responsibility for disaster management.

The current process of declaring a natural disaster in NSW relies on federal approval of the category (A,B,C or D) and this process can take months before approval is granted, delaying the delivery of works.

Ask - Commit to policy reform that will see the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) being removed from local government and funded by other means, and that the Rural Fires Act is amended to remove the provision of Section 119 that fire-fighting assets are vested in council, and any other section which might indicate same.

Commentary - Accounting Assessment of Control of Red Fleet Assets

1. Under Australian Accounting Standard AASB 116 *Property, Plant and Equipment*, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB), an entity recognises items of property, plant and equipment **in its financial statements**. Therefore, who controls an item is important.

2. AASB 15 (Revenue from Contracts with Customers) defines control as: *"the ability to direct the use of, and obtain substantially all of the remaining benefits from, the asset. Control includes the ability to prevent other entities from directing the use of, and obtaining the benefits from, an asset"*.

3. AASB 16 also includes in the right to control *the right to direct the use of the identified asset* (paras B24-B30).

4. *Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements* (para Aus49.1) states that: *"An asset is a resource controlled by the entity as a result of past events and from which future economic benefits are expected to flow to the entity"*, and that *"In respect of not-for-profit entities in the public or private sector ... Future economic benefits is synonymous with the notion of service potential"*.

5. *AASB Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting* in para 4.21 states that: *"An entity has the present ability to direct the use of an economic resource if it has the right to deploy that economic resource in its activities, or to allow another party to deploy the economic resource in that other party's activities"*.

NSW local government bodies LGNSW and NSW Country Mayors Association have been calling for a reversal of the decision that places a huge financial burden on our members and puts a cloud over the long-term viability of some member councils.

Ask - Increase the funding available to councils through the "Floodplain Management Grant Program" to remove the financial burden from local government when flood mitigation studies are conducted.

Commentary - The NSW Floodplain Management Program provides financial support to local councils and eligible public land managers to help them manage flood risk in their communities. The program supports the implementation of the NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy.

Support provided under the programs usually involves \$2 from government for every \$1 provided by the applicant. Increasing the funding available would eliminate the requirement for councils to contribute.

Ask - NSW Government establish a funding program that will lead to an increase in the installation of flood gauges and automated warning systems.

Commentary - Across our member councils, the current amount and condition of flood gauges is unacceptable and swift action is required. Members have raised concerns for the safety of those road users travelling through the network of local and regional roads during flooding events.

Ask - NSW Government provide adequate funding to allow member councils to implement any and all relevant recommendations from the recent “2022 NSW Flood Enquiry” and that the NSW Flood Inquiry Report recommendations by Mick Fuller and Mary O’Kane be implemented fully and with speed.

Commentary - In March 2022, the NSW Flood Inquiry was commissioned to examine and report on the causes of, planning and preparedness for, response to and recovery from the 2022 catastrophic flood events.

The inquiry made 28 recommendations for change. The recommendations are intended to provide practical, proactive and sustained mechanisms to ensure readiness for and resilience to flood (and by extension, other disasters). These mechanisms include enabling governance structures, administrative tools, new or enhanced systems, and better technology and processes to improve the ways in which decision-makers at all levels – state and local government, community and within families and households – plan and prepare for, respond to and recover from flood.

Ask - NSW Government take responsibility for the management and ownership of member councils State Emergency Services buildings, including the deprecation responsibilities.

Commentary - CMA member councils are carrying a huge financial burden with the provision of buildings and the responsibility of depreciation on an annual basis for our amazing volunteers who serve as SES members.

CMA recognises that our communities depend on the services provided by our SES teams to keep us safe during extreme conditions and our member council stand united in full support. However, in many cases, the facilities our volunteers are utilising are inadequate or in need of a major refurbishment. The ongoing costs of these works simply can not be met by our members.

Ask - That the NSW State Government undertakes a comprehensive review of Volunteer Emergency Services in the State with a review to rationalising the structure, financial sustainability and volunteer workforce required for future emergency events.

Commentary - The significant impact of recent natural disasters on rural communities has seen an unprecedented call upon Volunteer Emergency Services. The increasing demand on volunteers is compounded by a growing decrease in numbers of volunteers available to deploy for increasing longer periods of time away from their own locality.

Smaller rural communities are providing volunteers for SES, RFS and other volunteer rescue agencies, however the number of volunteers has reduced the capacity of single purpose agencies such as the SES and RFS to properly fulfil its purpose. In many rural areas, it is simply a case of larger agricultural businesses taking over smaller, more manpower-intensive family farms and in doing so, reducing the number of volunteers readily available to support local RFS brigades. The fire threat does not decrease, but the workforce available to man the brigades has been eroded.

Both the RFS and SES have a large and cumbersome Command and Control structure which in many areas has become disconnected from the brigade or unit at the local level and often does not have a proper understanding of local issues which is compounded by an over-reliance on policies and instructions delivered remotely to local brigades and units' management teams.

A review into the volunteer emergency services would undoubtedly find many cases of duplication within the Command and Control functions of these services and with appropriate action, significant savings could be found to better fund emergency services in rural and regional NSW.



7.2 Notice of Motion: Polystyrene building products such as single use “Waffle Pods”

(Mayor Chris Cherry, Tweed Shire Council) – 6 February 2023

Background

Source: [Waffle pod grant makes mockery of NSW government... \(inkl.com\)](#)

[Polystyrene waffle pods cause pollution headache, calls for regulation of the cheap building material - ABC News](#)

[How Long Does it Take for Styrofoam to Break Down? | Sciencing](#)

Original Resident request:

Dear Mayor Cherry and all the Councillors:

- I live near a new subdivision which is an extension of Castlefield Drive in Hundred Hills.
- Recently, several houses have commenced construction at that site. The method being used in some of the houses is to lay large sheets of polystyrene down before putting the concrete slab on top.
- This is a windy site - it is always windier there than in the surrounding area, because of its location at the top of a ridge. On 3rd and 4th December, we had very powerful gusts of wind here. As a result, pieces of polystyrene were blown about on the site. (See the PDF with photos attached.) I took photos and have summarised them so that the problem is quite clear. Polystyrene in the gutter, on the footpath, scattered all over the not-yet-developed housing sites.
- I contacted TSC about it, and received a prompt, responsible response. My contact person was Melissa Guy.
- I also contacted Coral Homes (the main problem) and received a response but the problem of responsible disposal of polystyrene remains, as you can see in the photos.

WHY am I contacting you? This seems to me an issue that goes beyond the Tweed Shire. It must be a problem across NSW and across Australia.

The local council in the Illawarra made some attempts to deal with the problem in 2019.

ABC NEWS Online 7 Dec 2020. *In July 2019, hundreds of waffle pods were blown off building sites in West Dapto and Wongawilli, Wollongong Council was left to manage the clean up on public land and in local waterways.*

In response to the pollution Greens Councillor, Cath Blakey, won support from Wollongong Council to call on the State Government to introduce a compulsory code of conduct for storage and use of the pods.

It does not seem that the State Government took the Wollongong Council's concerns seriously because very recently, the State Government has decided to subsidise the production of these polystyrene sheets, known as Waffle Pods.

ABC NEWS Online 26 Dec 2022. *Questions are being raised about a \$640,000 grant to make polystyrene waffle pods after the same material was banned under the Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021.*

I am wondering if Tweed Council is able to work with other councils in NSW to address this problem?

RECOMMENDATION

That NRJO Board write to the State Government and advocate for recycled and compostable products to be encouraged and supported in the construction industry to transition away from the use of polystyrene building products such as single use "Waffle Pods".

8.1 Executive Officer report

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

i) Capacity Building Fund II

On 24 June 2021, NRJO Chair, Cr Mulholland, received a letter from the Minister for Local Government outlining that Round II of the Capacity Building Fund for JOs, would result in each organisation receiving an additional \$150,000 in funding.

The purpose of the funding is to assist JOs to further build capacity and demonstrate capability to work with State agencies, whilst delivering their strategic plans and improve each JOs sustainability. Three projects were proposed and approved for this funding:

- Business case into shared services.
- Audit of available industrial and employment land (Goal 12, Strategic Action 12.2).
- Mobile phone black spots (Goal 7).

ii) Business Case – establishment and operation of specialist employee pool within the Northern Rivers’ Councils

Councils in regional NSW are regularly impacted by skill shortages in key positions. Many councils have had vacant roles for which they’ve advertised but have been unsuccessful in finding candidates with the appropriate qualifications, who are based in regional NSW or willing to relocate to regional NSW.

The body of work (subject of this study) is to determine whether the proposal for the NRJO to operate an employee pool of specialist staff to assist member councils is achievable. As well as what structure would be most viable, profitable, and practical for the NRJO as a potential solution to address the regional NSW skills shortage in the short and long term.

The vision for the program is to address the fluctuating workloads of member councils. It is also acknowledged that smaller councils may not need full-time equivalent roles and this body of work will determine potential models whereby the NRJO could recruit staff, which member councils can access when needed. The study will also determine whether this concept will positively impact on professional service delivery and provide a potential long-term stream of income for the NRJO .

A scope for the study was finalised and sent to the market for quotes in late-November 2021. A steering committee of representatives from NRJO member councils was formed to oversee the project and includes representatives from Tweed Shire, Ballina Shire, Richmond Valley and Lismore City councils. Assistance has been received from the Department of Planning and Environment and Office of Local Government (who also form part of the steering committee).

UPDATE: This project has now been completed with the final report attached.

iii) Audit of available industrial and employment land

Goal 12: A strong, diverse regional economy which provides local employment by attracting new enterprises, enabling existing enterprises to innovate and expand, and offering the conditions required for emerging industries to flourish.

Strategic action 12.2: Partner with the Department of Industry delivers key actions in the 'Making it Happen in the Regions: Regional Development Framework' including working with local bodies to develop and publish Regional Investment Prospectuses.

The audit includes development of a database of available industrial and employment land in the region for prospective businesses and industry looking to move to the area, detailed forward projections of industrial or employment zoned land not yet developed, identifying infrastructure or other constraints stifling the land being developed and brought to market, and an analysis of suitable land for consideration as employment lands in the Future North Coast Regional Plan (detailing its strategic merits).

The NRJO and Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers are partnering on this project.

UPDATE:

- Preliminary findings have been presented to working party.
- Funding to undertake additional work for servicing and constraints analysis has been provided by the NRRC.
- Draft report expected in early March.

iv) Mobile phone black spots

Goal 7.1: Advocate for improved telecommunications infrastructure and services across the region with a focus on:

- Comprehensive coverage
- Fast, reliable, affordable services
- Standards and regulations for infrastructure installations which consider community expectations, sensitive sites, visual amenity, and access to third party property.

The development of an independent connectivity and mobile coverage issues and opportunity report covering the six local government areas is required to provide 'user experience' for 3G, 4G and 5G mobile network coverage. This information will be collected into a Geographic Information System mapping environment and shared with all member councils.

UPDATE: Project is on schedule with priorities report expected mid to late February 2023.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

i) Compliance Levy and Funding Review

The NRJO continues to work closely with the NRJO Planners Group and actively advocate for its local councils on this matter. The following is a timeline of actions to date:

April 2021: The EO sent a brief to all other Joint Organisations.

May 2021: The NRJO Chair wrote to local parliamentarians on the issue.

May 2021: The EO and Chair met with the Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister of Planning and Public Spaces to discuss concerns.

June 2021: Continued correspondence the Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister of Planning and Public Spaces.

August 2021: Changes to the Compliance Levy were listed as a priority action at the JO Chair's Forum.

September 2021: The NRJO drafted a letter to the Minister on the issue, which was reviewed by all JOs and signed and sent by the Chair of the JO Chairs'. The NRJO distributed this letter to all parliamentarians in the Northern Rivers.

October 2021: Member for Clarence, Mr Chris Gulaptis MP, forwarded correspondence from Minister Stokes office.

November 2021: The EO joined the Namoi Joint Organisation at a meeting with the Senior Policy Advisor to Minister Stokes to discuss the issue again.

UPDATE: Executive Officer resigned in 2022, no further progress.

ii) Northern Rivers Brand

The **Northern Rivers NSW** Brand has been developed through a collaboration of regional partners including key business, industry and government representatives. The ambition is to represent the whole of the Northern Rivers region, from Tweed in the north to Grafton in the south, Casino and Kyogle in the west and east to the coast through Lismore to Ballina and Byron.

The **Northern Rivers NSW** brand is an exciting opportunity to unite and share the values of the region, its place and its people, and a way to tell our regional story. The NRJO has been involved in this project since its inception and sits on both the steering and finance committees.

The NRJO has also been asked to join the marketing committee on several occasions.

UPDATE: No update.

OTHER

i) Disaster Dashboards

The NRJO successfully applied for a grant through the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund Stream 2 on behalf of four member councils (Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle and Richmond Valley) for the implementation of Disaster Dashboards – Byron and Tweed already had systems in place.

The grant identified two suppliers: QIT and DEMONZ. DEMONZ have been involved in a pilot program with Resilience NSW for the Dashboards. QIT is well established in Queensland. Lismore, Kyogle and Richmond Valley went with Demonz and have all been operational for 12 months. Ballina went with QIT.

Lismore swapped suppliers after the grant was approved, which created a significant financial saving. The NRJO has a grant variation request lodged with Resilience NSW to use the additional money on an education / awareness programme for the dashboards and to extend their funding from two years to three years, which has been approved.

UPDATE: Communications collateral has been developed and with the printers.

ii) Access Roads on Private Lands

Public Works Advisory (PWA) requested administration support to assist with completing the data set around damaged access roads that are on private land. All costs associated with the works will be covered by PWA.

Donna McIntyre has been engaged as a casual project officer to undertake the works, progress is slow and ongoing.

iii) Proposed MoU with the Council of Mayors South East Queensland (CoMSEQ)

Correspondence with CoMSEQ commenced in June 2022 regarding the NRJO's possible involvement with the 2032 Regional Working Group for the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In December 2022 the Executive Officer met with CoMSEQ's Chief Executive Officer, where potential options for the two organisations to partner and work together beyond just the 2032 Regional Working Group were canvassed.

As a result, development of a potential Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was proposed to provide a framework for ongoing collaboration and cooperation that recognises the:

- similar functions of the NRJO and CoMSEQ as the peak local government advocacy organisations for their member councils
- close proximity of the South East Queensland and Northern Rivers regions as well as their interconnectedness and common interests despite the NSW-QLD border
- mutual benefits and other opportunities available to both organisations – along with their regions and communities – from a partnership model that fosters sharing of information, resources, services, experience, and expertise.

At this stage, it is anticipated a draft MoU will be developed through the General Managers' Advisory Committee for the Board to consider at its next ordinary meeting.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

i) Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (Local and Regional Risk Reduction Stream)

Eight joint organisations have been granted funding from the Australian and NSW Governments' Disaster Risk Reduction Fund for a series of projects aimed at preventing, mitigating and better managing natural disaster risks in regional NSW.

The NRJO has secured \$592,550 in funding to complete its project (*Building knowledge and improving practice in disaster risk reduction in the Northern Rivers – a systemic approach*) by 30 June 2024. Each joint organisation is completing a similar project for their region.

The fund's Local and Regional Risk Reduction Stream facilitates establishment of a Regional Resilience Program Advisory Committee comprising the eight joint organisations. This forum will enable the joint organisations to build capacity, share resources and integrate knowledge to develop and embed leading practice in disaster risk reduction across regional NSW.

Each of the eight joint organisation Disaster Risk Reduction Fund projects (including the NRJO's) have similar core objectives, which include:

1. effectively identify the gaps and needs in the region to reduce and mitigate vulnerabilities across built, social, natural and economic environments.
2. build the capacity and shared resources for evidence-based decision making and enable locally led and owned place-based disaster reduction efforts at both local and regional levels.
3. build networks leading to a systems approach to disaster preparedness enabling greater consistency, efficiency, leading practice and lessons learnt.
4. embed disaster risk preparedness in member councils' Integrated Planning and Reporting framework.

UPDATE:

- JO Network working group has been established.
- Kickoff meeting held with all joint organisations involved and NSW Reconstruction Authority (formerly Resilience NSW), who is administering the funding.
- Separate meeting with NRJO and NSW Reconstruction Authority will be held to discuss programs and to minimise overlaps between the NRRC and this grant.

ii) Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund

An application for \$481,250 has been made to the above grant program. The NRJO Rail Trail Project is looking to develop a regional business case for the rail trail and explore funding and governance arrangements. The grant application also includes budget for a dedicated project manager.

UPDATE: The NRJO has been notified that the grant was successful.

iii) Joint Organisations Net Zero Acceleration Grant Program (JONZA)

The JONZA grant program supports JOs and non-metropolitan Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs) by providing up to \$155,000 for an internal staff member dedicated to progressing net zero greenhouse gas emission outcomes for member councils.

This program aims to support JOs and ROCs in delivering net zero outcomes while building net zero capability within the organisations.

The aim of this program is to build on the capability within JOs to assist councils and regions in developing net zero outcomes and to assist emerging JOs and their member Councils to build internal capability.

This grant program will:

- provide an opportunity for JOs to establish or progress a net zero pathway plan for their member councils.
- increase the capacity of JOs to identify and implement projects that directly reduce emissions for councils or progress the region's net zero trajectory.
- strengthen collaboration between State and local governments to improve delivery of net zero outcomes in line with community expectations.

UPDATE: The NRJO has been notified that the grant has been successful.

iv) Northern NSW Flood Commemorative Events Grant

The NRJO has received a grant of \$550,000 from the NSW Premier to hold commemorative events and activities for anniversary of the Northern NSW floods of February and March 2022.

The funding was provided directly to the NRJO to share across councils in the Northern Rivers, with the exception of Lismore City Council as they have been provided direct funding previously. A meeting with available GM's and event staff was held regarding event / activity eligibility with further clarification sort from Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The funding will be equally split across six of the LGA's with each council holding events / activities that are in line with their community expectations. The funds must be spent no later than 30 June 2023.

v) Potential funding opportunity – contaminated lands

The current Contaminated Lands program funding was due to cease on 31 December 2022. Over the past several years the program has been undertaken by Ballina Council staff as the program manager on behalf of the region.

Ballina staff consulted with the other member councils in the region to confirm if there was interest to take the lead if future funding was available. At that time, no other member council was in the position to manage the program on behalf of the region.

In recent meetings with another JO's Executive Officer, the EPA has indicated that they are supportive of the current program and believe there is more to achieve in many regions. Several JOs have engaged project staff on behalf of the region to undertake this work.

As such, it is timely for the Board to consider whether there is interest in the NRJO progressing this further with other JOs and the EPA.

UPDATE: No further progress with the EPA and JO network.

RECOMMENDATION

That the NRJO Board receive and note the Executive Officer report.

8.2 Statement of Revenue

STATEMENT OF REVENUE POLICY:

Background

It is a requirement of the Joint Organisation that it adopts a Statement of Revenue policy for 2023/24. This policy is to be made publicly available on the NRJO website for comment and adopted before 30 June 2023.

As part of presenting the Statement of Revenue Policy for endorsement by the board a copy of the draft Budget for 2023/2024 and draft 10 year Long Term Financial Plan has been included.

Introduction

This document constitutes the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Statement of Revenue Policy and is prepared in accordance with section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993 ("the Act").

The Revenue policy includes the following statements for the year 2023-24 financial year:

- a) an estimate of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation income and expenditure;
- b) each membership and non-voting membership fee;
- c) types of fees to be charged by the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation and the amounts of each such fee;
- d) amounts of external borrowings, the sources from where these are to be borrowed, and the means by which these are to be secured; and
- e) any other such matters as may be prescribed by the regulations.

The statements in the Revenue policy with respect to membership and non-voting membership fee include, as required, the following particulars:

- a) the base amount of the membership and non-voting membership fee;
- b) the ad valorem amount (the amount in the dollar) membership and non-voting membership fee;
- c) in the case of project participant fees the estimated amount and principle behind the application of this fee; and
- d) any expectations agreed by the membership regarding the fees.

- **Factors Influencing Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Revenue and Pricing policy**

The following factors will influence the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation's revenue and pricing policy.

- **Community service obligations**

A community service obligation arises where a council provides a function or service that has general community benefits beyond those received by direct users.

Councils generally provide services that are considered to have community importance but are not viable or practical to be provided on a commercial basis.

Councils review their level of Community Service Obligations as they relate to fees and charges.

Where such a community service obligation may exist across the membership of the Councils, the Councils may consider the community service obligation as a group.

- **Cost recovery**

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation applies the principle of full cost recovery to determine the total cost of services.

- **The user-pays principle**

The User-Pays Principle involves pricing the provision of goods, projects, services and facilities that require the user or the consumer to pay the actual cost of the service provided.

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation may apply this pricing policy for the provision of project works and activities to businesses or members of the community.

- **Corporate overheads**

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation corporate overheads are for governance, employment, administration functions and compliance required to deliver on the Strategic Regional Plan and the annual Business Plan.

- **Competitive neutrality**

Competitive Neutrality is one of the principles of National Competition Policy applied throughout Australia at all levels of Government, including Local Government. Competitive neutrality is based on the concept of a “level playing field” for competitors in a market, be they public or private sector competitors. All Government business organisations should operate without net competitive advantages over businesses as a result of their public ownership.

Where Northern Rivers Joint Organisation competes in the market place with other private businesses, Northern Rivers Joint Organisation will do so on the basis that it does not utilise its public position to gain an unfair advantage over private businesses that may be in competition with Northern Rivers Joint Organisation or the Councils.

- **Goods and services tax**

The Federal Government’s Goods and Services Tax (GST) must be applied to non-exempt fees and charges. The current rate of the GST is 10% and is included in the price paid by the recipient of the service. The GST indicators (GST exempt or not) in the list of fees and charges are subject to change at any time from changes that occur in the GST Act and/or regulations.

- **Ordinary Membership policy**

Each member council is to contribute a monetary payment or equivalent contribution based on the following methodology:

- a) an equal share of 50% of the required annual membership fees, plus
- b) a share of the remaining 50% of the required annual membership fees apportioned by population using the latest census population figures from the ABS by LGA

Member councils will be consulted about proposed contributions by:

- a) Draft budgets for each financial year are to be presented at the February meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation in order for the proposed annual membership fees to be identified before each member Council commences the budget cycle for the upcoming financial year.

Fees for Service

- **Approved fees for service**

Section 608 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation may charge and recover an approved fee for any service it provides, other than a service provided, or proposed to be provided on an annual basis for which it is authorised or required to make an annual charge under Section 496 or 501 of the Act.

Section 609 of the Act provides that when determining the approved fee, the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation must consider the following factors:

- a. the cost of the Council providing the service;
- b. the price suggested for that service by any relevant industry body or in any schedule of charges published, from time to time, by the Division of Local Government;
- c. the importance of the service to the community; and
- d. any factors specified in the regulations under the Act.

- **Credit card surcharge**

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation imposes a Credit Card Surcharge on all payments made via credit card in accordance with Reform of Credit Card Schemes in Australia (iv) and Final Reforms and Regulation Impact Statement August 2002.

- **Private works**

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation may carry out any kind of work that may lawfully be carried out. Private work will be carried out based on a charge representing full cost recovery of the work carried out plus a margin for profit. The profit margin is dependent on and subject to market forces applying at the time.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The NRJO Board endorses the draft 2023/24 Budget and Statement of Revenue policy as provided in the body of the report, for public exhibition.
2. The draft Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy for 2023/24 be published on the website for 28 days.
3. If public submissions are made during the public exhibition period, a report be furnished to the NRJO May 2023 meeting, including Executive Officer comments on how the submissions have been considered, for the Board to determine a position on endorsement of the 2023/24 Budget and Statement of Revenue policy.
4. If no public submissions are made during the public exhibition period, the version of the draft the 2023/24 Budget and Statement of Revenue policy placed on public exhibition, is deemed to be adopted by the Board.

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation
DRAFT Budget Summary
2023 - 2024

	2023-2024	2022-2023
	TOTAL	TOTAL
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Membership Fees	263,900	251,300
MyRoadInfo	0	16,000
LG Procurement Rebate	45,000	30,000
Interest	12,000	1,000
Total Income	320,900	298,300
EXPENSES		
Bank Charges	100	0
Conferences, Events, Travel	12,600	12,250
Professional Development	14,250	14,250
Exec Officer - Salary/Oncosts/Recruit	0	95,650
Exec Officer - Computer	0	0
Exec Officer - Vehicle Allowance	0	8,795
Exec Officer - Support (RDA)	0	44,000
Exec Officer - Financial Mgt (Rous)	0	30,000
Managed Services (Rous)	135,000	0
Committee Support	5,535	5,400
Chair Stipend	10,000	10,000
MyRoadInfo	0	15,000
Professional Fees - Audit	11,300	11,000
ARIC Fees	2,300	3,000
ARIC Superannuation	300	0
Media and Communications	5,300	5,200
Vendor Panel Access	0	65,000
Sundry Expenses	5,300	3,750
Strategic Projects	100,000	0
Total Operational Expenses	301,985	323,295
TOTAL OPERATING RESULT (SURPLUS/(DEFICIT))	18,915	(24,995)
REGIONAL PROJECTS (unspent funds from 30 June 2022 to be carried forward)		
Capacity Building #1 (2020/21 funding)	0	
Capacity Building #2 (2021/22 funding)	140,750	
Disaster Dashboards	30,820	
	<u>171,570</u>	
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	775,564	1,043,966
Current Year Earnings	18,915	(268,402)
TOTAL EQUITY	794,479	775,564

8.3 Financial Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide financial results for the year to date (January 2023) for the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation.

Background

A full copy of the Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet as of January 2023 is included below.

Items to note for this report are:

- 1) NRJO has been approved and invoiced for the following grants:
 - Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (\$20,000)
 - Northern NSW Flood Events (\$550,000)

The Balance Sheet has been presented for members information. No commentary is required.

Completion of the 2022 Audited Financial Statements

It is a requirement of the Office of Local Government (OLG) that lodgement of the Audited Financial Statements and the Auditors Reports be submitted to the OLG by 31 December 2022. This requirement was met with NRJO submitting the Statements on 22 December 2022.

The 2022 Annual Performance Statement was also completed on the 22 December 2022 and made publicly available via the NRJO website.

<https://www.northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au/Documents/AnnualReports/annual-performance-statement-2021-2022.pdf>

Clarence Valley Council membership

As of 16th December, a proclamation has been made amending the *Local Government (Regional Joint Organisations) Proclamation 2018* to include Clarence Valley Council as a voting member of the NRJO.

Membership fees for 2022-2023 financial year have been paid in full by all member councils. Clarence Valley Council will begin being invoiced for membership fees as of the 2023-2024 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

That the NRJO Board receive and note the Financial Report for period ending 31 January 2023.

**Northern Rivers Joint Organisation
Profit and Loss Statement
as at 31 January 2023**

ACTUAL FY 2021/22 \$		BUDGET FY 2022/23 \$	ACTUAL YTD 2022/23 \$	VARIANCE \$	VARIANCE (F/(U))	COMMENT
	Operating Revenue					
201,100	Membership Fees	251,300	251,300	0	F	All membership fees issued
1,341	Interest	1,000	5,141	4,141	F	Year to date position, pro-rated tracking (+\$4,558)
	Grants					
0	Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation	0	20,000	20,000	F	New grant received
0	Northern NSW Flood Events	0	550,000	550,000	F	New grant received
	NRJO Projects/Licences					
33,725	MyRoadInfo Fees	16,000	16,863	863	F	All invoices issued, no further income expected
47,182	LG Procurement Rebate	30,000	44,129	14,129	F	Rebate received in October
283,348	TOTAL REVENUE	298,300	887,432	589,132		
	Operating Expenses					
2,333	Conferences, Events, Travel	12,250	2,202	10,048	F	Year to date position, pro-rated tracking (+\$4,944)
12,000	Prof Dev - Member Council Training	14,250	4,227	10,023	F	Procurement awareness tutorials
71,014	Exec Officer - Salary/Oncosts/Recruit	95,650	5,000	90,650	F	Rous County Council appointed Dec 2022
1,817	Exec Officer - Computer	0	0	0	F	Rous County Council appointed Dec 2022
6,960	Exec Officer - Vehicle Allowance	8,795	0	8,795	F	Rous County Council appointed Dec 2022
51,281	Exec Officer - Support (RDA)	44,000	20,650	23,350	F	Year to date position, pro-rated tracking (+\$5,017)
5,000	Exec Officer - Financial Management (Rous)	30,000	15,000	15,000	F	Finance Mgt
9,048	Chair Stipend	10,000	5,833	4,167	F	Year to date position - paid monthly in arrears
681	Committee Support	5,400	1,161	4,239	F	Year to date position - add admin support (minutes)
12,160	Professional Fees – Audit	11,000	0	11,000	F	Audit services not yet completed
0	Professional Fees – ARIC	3,000	1,359	1,641	F	ARIC fees and super paid Qtrly
0	Media and Communications	5,200	3,840	1,360	F	Year to date position, pro-rated tracking (-\$807)
2,788	Sundry Expenses	3,750	2,380	1,370	F	Mobile phone and MYOB monthly charges
175,082	Sub-Total Operating Expenses	243,295	61,652	181,643		
	NRJO Projects/Licences					
33,683	MyRoadInfo	15,000	16,842	(1,842)	U	6 month ext. completed Dec 2022, LCC to issue final invoice for licence (July to Oct)
22,552	Vendor Panel Access	65,000	24,963	40,037	F	3 year licence payments complete, not all councils implemented Vendor Panel
56,235	Sub-Total NRJO Project/Licenes expenses	80,000	41,805	38,195		
	Regional Projects - Capacity Building I (OLG)					
0	Waste Micro-industry	0	0	0	F	
66,968	Renewable Energy	0	0	0	F	
14,914	Biosphere	0	0	0	F	
81,882		0	0	0		Grant aquittal in progress
	Regional Projects - Capacity Building II (OLG)					
9,250	Shared Services	45,750	27,750	18,000	F	* Astrolabe - Finalisation of Report (Employee Pool Business Case)
0	Audit of Available Industrial and Empl Land	75,000	43,974	31,026	F	* Includes \$75K allocation and RDA contribution of \$25K
0	Energy and Waste Related Projects	0	0	0	F	* Budget transferred to Mobile Phone Black Spot Budget
0	Mobile Phone Black Spots	47,568	36,050	11,518	F	* Includes balance of Capacity Buiing 1 Grant \$18,318 Unspent grant funding - projects in progress (includes balance of Capacity Buiing 1 Grant \$18,318)
9,250		168,318	107,774	60,544		
	Regional Projects - Other					
237,988	Infrastructure (NSW Dept of P&C)	0	0	0	F	* Fully spent grant funding
4,700	Disaster Dashboard (Resilience NSW)	48,100	26,500	21,600	F	* Balance of unspent funding - \$31,100
242,688		48,100	26,500	21,600		
565,137	TOTAL EXPENSES	539,713	237,731	301,982		
(281,789)	TOTAL OPERATING RESULT (SURPLUS/(DEFICIT))	(241,413)	649,701	891,114		

1,043,966	Retained Earnings - 1 July 2022	762,176	775,564
(281,789)	Net cash movement	(241,413)	649,701
762,177	Retained Earnings - 31 January 2023	975,895	1,425,265

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation
Balance Sheet
as at 31 January 2023

	TOTAL	30 June 2022 TOTAL
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Cash	909,131	836,701
Trade Debtors	631,092	1,045
Contract Assets	11,583	0
Total Assets	1,551,806	837,746
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	1,579	38,007
Sundry Creditors	69,964	
Contract Liabilities	0	44,352
GST Liability	54,999	(11,742)
Total Current Liabilities	126,542	70,617
Total Liabilities	126,542	70,617
NET ASSETS	1,425,264	767,129
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	775,564	1,043,966
Current Year Earnings	649,701	(276,837)
TOTAL EQUITY	1,425,265	767,129

8.4 Clarence Valley Council's Joint Organisation Membership Proclamation

Purpose

Inform the Board the *Local Government (Regional Joint Organisations) Proclamation 2018* has now been amended to declare Clarence Valley Council a voting member of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation.

Background

Clarence Valley Council (CVC) has been a valued associate (non-voting) member of the NRJO since its establishment.

At its extraordinary meeting in November 2022, the Board resolved [at insert reference] to accept and welcome CVC as a voting member of the NRJO. As a result, CVC applied to the Minister for Local Government requesting a NSW Government Proclamation be made to expand the NRJO's voting membership.

NSW Government Joint Organisation Membership Proclamation

By way of letter dated 16 December 2022 (Attachment X), the Minister for Local Government advised the NRJO that a Proclamation had been made amending the *Local Government (Regional Joint Organisations) Proclamation 2018*.

This amending Proclamation declared the area of CVC to be included within the area of the NRJO – thus officially making it the NRJO's seventh member. The Proclamation, as amended, can be found on the [NSW Legislation website](#).

CVC's addition as the NRJO's newest member is undoubtedly a significant milestone for both organisations. For the NRJO especially, bolstering the voting member ranks to enable better regional decision-making and collaboration is a key part of its efforts to evolve, mature and improve its effectiveness since being established in 2018.

Ensuring potential voting member councils have a seat on the Board improves the NRJO's ability to successfully fulfill its core functions and deliver better state–regional consultation and planning.

CVC's elevation to a fully-fledged, voting member of the NRJO is timely, well-suited and of mutual benefit to both organisations - especially given shared state planning boundaries and similar recovery ahead from the February/March 2022 flood disaster.

Conclusion

Ensuring the NRJO has a suitable regional voting membership composition is crucial to improving its maturity and effectiveness. As such, the Minister for Local Government's advice that the *Local Government (Regional Joint Organisations) Proclamation 2018* has now been amended to declare CVC a member of the NRJO is indeed welcome news.

RECOMMENDATION

That the NRJO Board:

1. Receive and note the report.
2. Officially welcome Clarence Valley Council as a voting member of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation; and
3. Thank the Minister for Local Government for facilitating the making of the NSW Government proclamation required to declare Clarence Valley Council a voting member of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation.

8.5 Delegate Report - Clarence Valley regional update - Magazine Vol. 2

(Please refer to attachment)

RECOMMENDATION

That the NRJO Board receive and note the Delegate Report - Clarence Valley regional update – Magazine Vol. 2.

CLARENCE

MAGAZINE

JAN - MAR 2023 / VOLUME 2



SPECIAL FEATURE

PARKS, PATHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

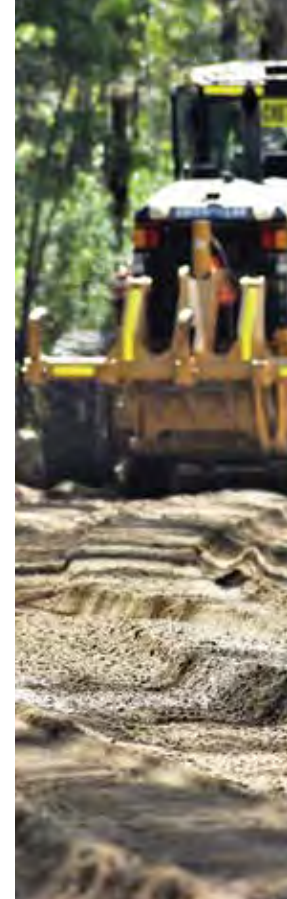
FIXING OUR ROADS

LATEST PROGRESS
AND WHAT'S NEXT



FROM THE MAYOR

It is now almost one full year since I was again elected to Clarence Valley Council as part of a new team of elected councillors. Throughout 2022 we have witnessed the weather present significant challenges to our road network and infrastructure. Major progress in addressing this backlog is being achieved with many examples highlighted within these pages.



There is still much more to be done. However, Clarence Valley is not alone on this issue, with 126 of the 128 local government areas in NSW experiencing natural disaster declarations in the past 12 months. In response, Local Government NSW and the Country Mayors Association of NSW declared a Statewide Road Emergency and, at the Ordinary Council Meeting in November, Clarence Valley Council followed suit.

It is hoped the declaration will achieve an acceleration and significant increase in funding for NSW and Federal government road programs, including a new funding stream to provide councils with plant, machinery and skilled workers to expedite road repairs. We can expect unprecedented natural disasters to continue to put a strain on road maintenance resources, so I acknowledge this is an area of critical importance.

Over the past three months Council has continued to position itself for the future. We are now seeking full membership of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO), which is one of 13 across the state that enables council to collaborate at a regional level to achieve better outcomes for you.

As the NSW election looms, we are lobbying all candidates for the seat of Clarence to commit funding for major Council projects. This includes reconstructing the Grafton pool, which Council has moved to number one priority, and has managed to direct funds towards so works can soon commence. I'm pleased to advise that Grafton will have a new aquatic centre by the end of 2024. While outside funding was not forthcoming for the previous Council, now the project is up and running we are quietly confident support will arrive to fund the remainder of the project.

Other wins include approval of the onsite construction of 250 manufactured homes at Gulmarrad, which will result in a boost for jobs and the economy, completion of the solar upgrade and battery storage at the South Grafton depot which improves Council's natural disaster response capacity, and a continuation of our improved communications with the community including via this magazine.

Ian Tiley
Cr Ian Tiley, Mayor

We acknowledge the Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work. We honour the First Nations peoples culture and connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.





Front cover image:
The Clarence River at the Clarence Gorge.

Welcome to the CLARENCE Magazine. This edition is packed full of stories from the Clarence Valley, showcasing the five pillars of our Community Strategic Plan: **Society, Infrastructure, Economy, Environment and Leadership**

From the General Manager	4
Customer Satisfaction Survey	5
Our Roads - Maintenance, Emergencies and Potholes	6
Riverbank Restoration	10
Coastal Management	11
Disability Inclusion Action Plan	12
Active Transport Strategy	13
Connecting Communities: Pathways and Parks	14
Glenreagh Upgrades	18
Corcoran Park Pontoon Project	19
Grafton Waterfront Precinct	20
Ulmarra Upgrade	21
Rediscover Grafton	22
Netball and Basketball Court Upgrades	23
Renewable Energy and Emissions	24
Jacaranda Festival Visitor Survey	25
Summer Splash	26
Grafton Aquatic Centre Funding Update	27
School Holiday Program	28
Aboriginal Engagement Framework	30
Development and Building Update	32
West Yamba Development Update	33
Asbestos in Buildings	34
Water Infrastructure to Improve Resilience	35
Community Engagement Sessions	36
Be Prepared for Bush Fire Season	37
Black Summer Project	38
Resilient Clarence	39
Controlling Weeds	40
National Children's Week	41
Grafton Regional Gallery	42
Clarence Valley Events	43

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Welcome to Volume Two of the Clarence. Overwhelmingly the response to Volume One was extremely positive. It's clear our goal to highlight community outcomes through a magazine has hit the mark. 5000 copies of Volume One have left the distribution shelves and the online version was downloaded 746 times. Of course, we'd like to grow circulation so that more people are aware of what is being delivered and what plans exist in order to participate and have your say.



But we also received some constructive criticism too about the things that were not covered.

The Clarence is not about everything that happens in the Valley. It is very focused on the outcomes Council delivers using its various streams of income within a set period of time.

Newly available State and Federal disaster funds have this year greatly improved our ability to go beyond quick and temporary pothole patching following the disaster. However this has naturally caused some delay in getting to all corners of the local government area, and managing community expectations has not been an easy task on the back of the biggest storm and flood event to have hit the Lower Clarence in recorded history. The good news is, we are well on our way to delivering an improved and more resilient road network as a result.

With over 2,000 road infrastructure defects identified following the 2022 storm and flood events, it will come as no surprise that much of the focus of this magazine highlights where our time has been spent. Of particular interest is the betterment piece, like the new culverts on Woolli Road and Shipmans Road, which will ease water flow and protect the road from the same level of damage in future events. Assisting us has been more than 20 contractor crews working daily to deliver among other activities approximately 175,000m² of pavement failures and 115,000 tonnes of gravel re-sheet on unsealed roads - almost five times our normal annual program delivered in a few months.



Assisting us has been more than 20 contractor crews working daily to deliver among other activities approximately 175,000m² of pavement failures and 115,000 tonnes of gravel re-sheet on unsealed roads - more than five times our normal annual program delivered in a few months.

While roads have been a significant focus for the whole organisation this year, we have also delivered other community benefit outcomes too. Take for example the footpaths and our particular focus on filling the missing links between footpaths. We are preparing an Active Transport Strategy for the local government area and would like your involvement to get the best outcome. Consultation sessions will be held in February 2023.

And don't miss the section on bush fire season preparedness. If there is one thing we have learned in the Clarence Valley over recent years, the weather events are changing and becoming more unpredictable. Preparedness is key.

Laura Black

Laura Black, General Manager

BUILDING CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Every two years a customer satisfaction survey is completed where a random group of residents are surveyed by phone. This year the survey was conducted in the last two weeks of August. The survey was conducted by Taverner Research Group. The responses improve important services and facilities. In February 2023 a presentation by Taverner Research Group will be added to the Clarence Valley Council website.

Scan the QR code for a direct link to the survey or go to the CVC website and search 'Customer Satisfaction Survey'



Manager Civil Service, Devin Simpson. Scan the QR code to see a video from Devin on the Natural Disaster Recovery Works



SERVICES THAT ARE OF HIGH IMPORTANCE AND HIGH SATISFACTION:



SEWERAGE



WASTE AND RECYCLING



WATER SUPPLY



SPORTING FACILITIES



PARKS, RESERVES AND PLAYGROUNDS



CLEANLINESS OF STREETS

SERVICES THAT ARE OF HIGH IMPORTANT AND LOW SATISFACTION:

1. **Maintenance of unsealed roads**
2. **Maintenance of sealed roads**
3. **Maintenance of bridges**
4. **Protection of the natural environment and biodiversity**
5. **Footpaths and cycleways**
6. **Flood plain and coastline management**
7. **Maintenance of public toilets**
8. **Economic development**

ACTIONS WE ARE DOING TO IMPROVE THIS:

- Review of the Roads Policy, which includes scheduling and maintenance.
- Increased the budget to road maintenance.
- Secured additional contractors to deliver an increased maintenance program.
- A service review on local roads is being conducted this financial year.
- Planned road projects in the capital works program.
- Pothole repair grant awarded for just under \$850,000 from the State Government.

WHAT ELSE WE ARE DOING TO REVIEW AND IMPROVE OUR SERVICES?

We provide a broad range of services to the community by balancing community needs and expectations and working within the resources available to meet those needs and expectations.

An annual program of service reviews for 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 has been approved by Council. During this four-year period, all services will be reviewed. The Delivery Program contains the Service Review Plan and can be found on Council's website, see the link at the bottom of this page.

Outcomes of Services Reviews are considered by the independent Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) and the Council.

Service reviews assess service delivery against volume, cost, and quality, and provide recommendations and insights to develop an improvement plan for the future. The Operational Plan 2022/2023 also outlines the service reviews for this financial year.



Scan the QR code for a direct link to the Delivery Program or visit the CVC website and search 'Delivery Program'



PICTURED: Funding has been approved and a tender accepted for Wilcox Bridge on Four Mile Lane at Swan Creek which was destroyed in the 2022 floods.

OUR ROADS – MAINTENANCE, EMERGENCIES, AND POTHOLES

Fixing and maintaining the road network is of high importance to the community. 126 of 128 local government areas in NSW experienced one or more natural disaster declarations in the past 12 months, causing an estimated \$2.5 billion in road damages

The importance of a coordinated effort to fix damaged roads in the wake of a disaster has been highlighted in the progress of reconstruction works under the joint Commonwealth and State Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

DRFA provides urgent financial assistance to disaster affected communities for the recovery of eligible essential public assets under

three categories - Emergency Works, Immediate Works and Essential Public Asset Restoration (EPAR) - with the latter involving reconstruction works to return assets to pre-disaster condition.

After back-to-back floods in 2021 and 2022, Transport for NSW has approved numerous EPAR projects to design and fully reconstruct impacted Clarence Valley roads and bridges to current engineering standards at no cost to the ratepayer.

The first EPAR project completed as a result of the 2022 flood event was 5.25km of reconstruction works on Armidale Road at Nymboida and Clouds Creek in October. Many more projects have since been completed, including at Palmers Channel, Palmers Island and Kangaroo Creek.

Wilcox Bridge Restoration at Swan Creek has funding approved by Transport for NSW with work set to commence in early 2023.

EMERGENCY AND IMMEDIATE RECOVERY WORKS FIGURES

\$15M SPENDING TO DATE ON RESTORATION



20 ADDITIONAL CONTRACTOR CREWS

115K TONNES OF RE-SHEET MATERIAL USED IN SIX MONTHS. ANNUAL AVG. RE-SHEET PROGRAM IS 20,000TN

35K TONNES OF FLOOD MUD REMOVED

BEFORE & AFTER

EPAR projects to bring assets to current engineering standard following damage from the 2021 flood pays off

Culvert reconstructions at Shipmans Road, Glenreagh and Wooli Road, Wooli are examples of EPAR projects to repair assets damaged in the 2021 flood event. Completed in late 2021 to current engineering standards, both upgrades subsequently survived the disaster resilience test by withstanding the record 2022 flood event.



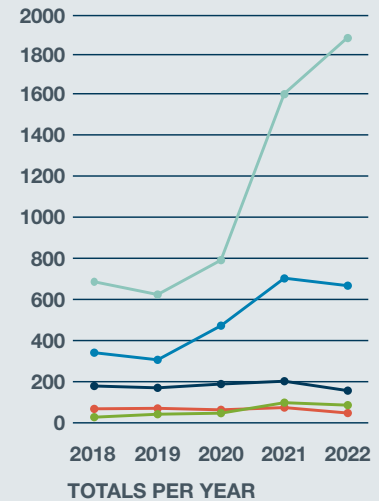
WOOLI ROAD



SHIPMANS ROAD

REQUESTS FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE ON SEALED AND UNSEALED ROADS HAVE BEEN INCREASING SINCE 2019

NUMBER OF REQUESTS



- Roads - Maintenance - Sealed
- Roads - Maintenance - Unsealed
- Footpaths/Cycleways/Walkways
- Roads - Kerb and Gutter
- Roads - Rural - Slashing/Mowing

PROJECT FUNDING AND DELIVERY:

Projects being designed	Value	Delivery	Projects being investigated	Value	Delivery
6 Mile Lane bridge approach	\$600K	2022/2023	Lawrence Rd Alumny Crk	\$1M	2022/2023
Armidale Rd drainage	\$3.6M	2022/2023	Sandy Crossing Wooli	\$750K	2023/2024
Wilcox bridge	\$3.7M	2022/2023	Great Marlow Rd	\$500K	2023/2024
Sealed Roads Package	\$5M	2022/2023	Marine Parade Yamba	\$1M	2023/2024
Project Development	\$1.8M	2022/2023	Landslips Package	\$11.5M	2023/2024
Pateman's Rd drainage	\$600K	2023/2024	Tallawudjah Crk waterway	\$4M	2023/2024
Armidale Rd headwall ext.	\$468K	2023/2024	Sandy Swamp causeway	\$1.5M	2024/2025
Frames bridge	\$1.2M	2023/2024	Lionsville Rd approaches	\$1M	2024/2025
Gorge Rd causeway	\$750K	2023/2024	Culvert Repair Package	\$1M	2024/2025
Tallawudjah Crk culverts	\$1M	2023/2024	Causeway Package	\$2M	2024/2025
TOTAL STRATEGIC ESTIMATE: \$42,968,000.00					



CLARENCE WAY UPGRADE - KEYBARBIN

A 3.7km stretch of newly sealed road is nearing completion at Keybarbin, north of Baryulgil in the upper Clarence Valley.

The Kungurrabar Creek to Flagstone Creek Upgrade is completely transforming the previous section of dirt road on the Clarence Way, 86km northwest of Grafton. The \$5 million reconstruction project has involved earthworks, new culverts and swale drains, guard rail, road widening and sealing.

Wet weather and floods had a

significant impact on the rollout of the project, with a total of seven weeks of work lost between February and May. However, formation and drains are now completed across the entire project. 1.2km is fully sealed and the remainder is due to be completed by early 2023.

Co-funded by the NSW and Federal Governments, it is a key access road for local agricultural industries and an important connection for regional freight between Grafton and the Bruxner Highway.



\$5M
ROAD SEAL NEARS
COMPLETION IN THE
CLARENCE VALLEY

PICTURED: Top and opposite; heavy patching works on Jackybulbin Road north of Mororo. Featured is Chris Kelly guiding the alignment of the Asphalt Zipper and spotting safety hazards. He has worked for Clarence Valley Council for 41 years.

STAY INFORMED

A **Schedule of Works** is included in Council's weekly email newsletter **Noticeboard** to update residents on where and when road maintenance activities are taking place across the Valley. Scan the QR code or visit www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/Noticeboard to subscribe.



COUNCIL CREWS MANAGING THE ROAD MAINTENANCE BACKLOG SINCE THE FEBRUARY/MARCH DISASTER

THERE are four heavy patching crews and four pothole patching crews working to maintain the Clarence Valley road network.

One example is Jackybulbin Road at Mororo, where extensive heavy patching (resealing) and drainage works was recently completed on a section of road that experiences heavy usage from trucks.

For two months this Grafton-based heavy patching crew met at the South Grafton depot every Monday to Friday at 6am, were on site by 7am, and left at 4pm to return to the depot by 5pm. Throughout the project they averaged 800 square metres of heavy patching per day.

Q&A

WITH SENIOR FIELD OPERATOR (GRADER) FOR HEAVY PATCHING, CLINT GAUCI



Clint is a member of the heavy patching crew who worked on the Jackybulbin Road, just outside Newmans Quarry completed in November.

Q: How many in your crew?

CG: Three Council blokes including myself, plus one contractor and three traffic controllers.

Q: How far are you into the works?

CG: We're on our last two of 35 patches now, then we'll move onto Iluka. This section is 63m by 9m and one of our smaller patches out here.

Q: What were road conditions like when you arrived?

CG: Pretty ordinary. A lot of silt, high vegetation, potholes and shoving. Motorists were almost having to drive into the drains to get around the holes.

Q: What part do you play in fixing the roads?

CG: We use the Zipper to profile the road, brush it over, build a shoulder and open up all the drains. Then we put stabilised material on top, re-profile it and put it all down. We give it two or three days on the ground before a final trim and seal.

HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY FOR RIVERBANK RESTORATION

Results indicate positive signs for Maclean levee integrity



PICTURED: This image shows the comparison of the pre-flood (October 2021) and post-flood (May 2022) riverbank depth profile between Hogues Lane and Goddards Lane at Maclean. Red indicates areas that have become more shallow, increasing levee stability. The absence of blue in the hydrographic survey comparison indicates minimal scouring of the riverbank occurred during the March 2022 flood event.

The 2022 flood event saw the Clarence River levels at Maclean rise to 3.36m and remained above the levee height for 20 hours. The levee was built in 1976 to protect the township for a 3.30m flood.

After unprecedented levels in 2022 a hydrographic survey was completed to assess the integrity of the levee between MacNaughton Place and Goddards Lane to determine any underwater damage and slippage risk post flood. The survey showed no significant issues with the levee.

Part of the 2022 underwater riverbank survey was also compared

with a pre-flood survey between Hogues Lane and Goddards Lane undertaken late 2021, with no significant detrimental changes to the riverbank identified.

The 2021 survey did show a deep channel very close to a section of Yamba Road adjacent to a watermain. To address the risk of a future riverbank slip causing damage to infrastructure, the watermain closest to the river was taken out of service and reliance is now on the watermain on the other side of Yamba Road to supply the Lower Clarence.



PICTURED: Manager Water Cycle, Greg Mashiah.

NSW LEGEND OF WATER – GREG MASHIAH

Clarence Valley Council Manager Water Cycle Greg Mashiah was presented with a 2022 NSW Legends of Water award in December.

The award was recognition from the Australian Water Association who honours those committed to creating a sustainable water future and strive every day to solve the water issues of today and tomorrow.

Greg is a civil/environmental engineer who joined Maclean Shire Council as a Design Engineer in 2001.

He was appointed Manager Water and Wastewater of the amalgamated Clarence Valley Council in 2004 (now titled Manager Water Cycle) and is responsible for drinking water, sewerage, floodplain and coastal management.



COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

CLARENCE VALLEY COASTLINE COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

- Scoping study completed
- Consultants engaged to develop coastal hazard lines for future weather events under higher sea levels. This will help identify risks and guide future management decisions.
- Finalised hazard assessment (Stage 2) to be presented to Clarence Coast and Estuary Advisory Committee on 02 February 2023.

CLARENCE RIVER ESTUARY COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

- Completed scoping study adopted by Council in September
- Funding for Stages 2, 3 and 4 being sought to commence in 2023.
- The Clarence Estuary is one of the largest in Australia. Its overall health has been impacted by a range of management actions. This program will help identify and evaluate management options.

HAVE YOUR SAY

We welcome community feedback and thank everyone who has already contributed feedback on these projects. To continue to contribute and follow progress of both Coastal Management Programs (CMP) scan the QR codes for direct links to the programs or visit Clarence Conversations webpage www.clarenceconversations.com.au



CLARENCE VALLEY COASTLINE CMP



CLARENCE RIVER ESTUARY CMP

Securing the future of region's estuaries and coastline

Coastal Management Programs are essential legislative documents that detail how the coastline and estuaries will be managed by local government and what activities the State Government will fund. Examples of common projects in the Clarence Valley include beach nourishment and revetment structures.

PICTURED: Beach nourishment at Wooli.

FIVE STAGES TO DEVELOP OUR COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

STAGE 1

IDENTIFY THE SCOPE OF A PROGRAM

STAGE 2

DETERMINE RISKS, VULNERABILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

STAGE 3

IDENTIFY AND EVALUATE OPTIONS

STAGE 4

PREPARE, EXHIBIT, FINALISE, CERTIFY AND ADOPT THE PROGRAM

STAGE 5

IMPLEMENT, MONITOR, EVALUATE AND REPORT

DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

Help us build an inclusive community



Members of the Clarence Valley Access Committee who are overseeing the creation of the DIAP (l-r): Justin Putze (CVC Manager Cultural, Community and Industry), Karli Anshaw (CVC Coordinator Facilities), Erin Brady (CVC Projects Officer), Cr Karen Toms, Jason Kingsley, Bevan Sommerlad, Karen Metcalfe (Social Futures Local Area Coordinator), Amanda Brodie (Social Futures Local Area Coordinator), Jennifer O'Brien and Cr Steve Pickering. Members not pictured; Laura Smith-Khan, Zoe Goodsell, Kate Begbie, Jody O'Brien, Vanette McLennan and David Moran.

Over the next six months a new Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) will be created with four key focus areas:

- Positive Community Attitudes and Behaviours
- Creating Liveable Communities
- Access to Meaningful Employment
- Improve Access to Council's Systems and Processes

HAVE YOUR SAY

Your feedback and consultation will be vital in ensuring the DIAP reflects, recognises and responds to the diverse needs of people with disability in the Clarence Valley.



Scan the code or check out CVC website for more information



Disability is not just about impairment.

The onus to break down barriers rests with the whole community.

QUICK FACTS:

Access does not only affect people with disability. It also impacts seniors and people with prams, bikes, trolleys etc.

IN THE CLARENCE VALLEY:

4,580

NUMBER OF PEOPLE (8.5% OF THE POPULATION) REPORTED NEEDING HELP IN THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES DUE TO DISABILITY

48%

OVER THE AGE OF 70 REPORTED NEEDING HELP IN THEIR DAY TO DAY LIVES DUE TO DISABILITY

KEY DATES FOR NEW DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

DECEMBER 2022

Identify key internal stakeholders

JAN - MARCH

Consultation and co-design with people with disability, CV staff, CV Access Committee and community.

APRIL

Disability Inclusion Action planning

MAY

Design inclusive formats of draft DIAP

JUNE

Draft DIAP to working groups for feedback

JULY

Draft DIAP to Council

AUGUST

On Public Exhibition

SEPTEMBER

Updated DIAP to Council for adoption

OCTOBER

Plan for continual engagement and improvement of DIAP

NOVEMBER

DIAP to be delivered to Disability Council NSW.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE ACCESS AT A GLANCE STICKERS YOU'LL SEE ON OUR PUBLIC BUILDINGS:





HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE ACTIVE TRANSPORT STRATEGY

WHAT IS ACTIVE TRANSPORT AND WHO DOES IT AFFECT?

Active transport includes walking, cycling and other physical ways of travelling.

Active transport targets all pedestrians - people who walk, run, push a pram, use a mobility aid/wheelchair, mobility scooter or skateboard/roller-skate.

It also covers cyclists of all levels of experience and considers micromobility devices, such as electric bicycles and shared bicycle fleets, and the potential for electric scooters.

WHAT DOES THE STRATEGY DO?

The Active Transport Strategy aims to encourage more people to choose walking and cycling to get around. It also aims to make our active transport network safer, easier and accessible for all. The active transport network includes all footpaths, shared user paths, cycle lanes and crossing points.

LONG TERM VISION FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORT

The strategy will have a 20-year horizon to provide an opportunity to be ambitious and enable long term planning, and for large projects to be broken up into stages. The strategy will be reviewed every five years to ensure it adapts to change.

WHAT'S IN THE STRATEGY?

The Active Transport Strategy will include a prioritised action plan for upgrading existing pathways and crossing points and building new ones. It will also:



- ALLOW US TO PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY WE WANT TO BECOME



- IDENTIFY BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS TO GREATER LEVELS OF WALKING AND CYCLING



- PROVIDE A TOOL KIT TO FUTURE PROOF THE COMMUNITY BY MAKING STREETS VIBRANT, SAFER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE,



- PROVIDE MEASURABLE TARGETS AND ENABLE COUNCIL TO MONITOR PROGRESS

HAVE YOUR SAY

We're holding community consultation sessions at the following locations:

Yamba Farmers Market: Wed 8 Feb, 8-11am

Grafton Twilight Markets: Thurs 9 Feb, 1-6pm

Iluka, Charles Street: Fri 10 Feb, 9-11am

Maclean Markets: Sat 11 Feb, 8-10am

South Grafton, Skinner Street: Mon, 13 Feb, 9-11am

To stay up to date scan the QR code above for a direct link to the Active Transport Strategy or visit Clarence Conversations webpage www.clarenceconversations.com.au





BUILDING PATHWAYS, CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

New footpaths and shared user paths improve accessibility and safety

Walking and cycling in the Clarence Valley is now easier with 2.1km of connecting footpaths and shared user paths laid in 2022 making walking and cycling safer and more accessible for all. Additionally 4.5km of existing pathways have been repaired or resurfaced.

A \$500,000 INVESTMENT OF RATEPAYER FUNDS, \$190,000 IN GRANT FUNDS, ALONG WITH DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTION FUNDS HAS ALLOWED US TO COMPLETE MISSING LINKS IN:

- River Street, Yamba between Queen Street and Beach Street;

- River Street, Yamba between Wooli Street and Harbour Street;

- Hoof Street, Grafton connecting pedestrians and cyclists from Queen Street to the newly upgraded Jacaranda Park;

- Duke Street, Grafton between Victoria Street and the riverfront;

- Queen Street, Grafton between Crown Street and Cowper Close;

- Iluka connecting Denne Street, Spencer Street and Owen Street;

- Orion Drive, Yamba, between Palm Lake Resort and Yamba Road (in progress);

- Big River Way, South Grafton, 150m section from McAuley Catholic College;

- Repair and reseal of Junction Hill pathway and Gwydir Highway shared user path linking South Grafton and Waterview Heights.

AND THERE IS 2.5KM MORE ON THE WAY

- Claude Street, Yamba between Wooli Street and Coldstream Street;

- Bacon Street, Grafton between Turf Street and Garden Street;

- Cameron Street, Maclean between the M1 Interchange and Jubilee Street;

- Cameron Street, Maclean between Woombah Street and Maclean Showground;

- Design for the full length of Gumnut Drive, Yamba will commence in 2023/2024.



PICTURED: Clarence Valley Council has secured a grant of \$953,700 from the NSW Government's Active Transport initiative for a two-metre wide footpath along Gumnut Drive, Yamba. Survey, design and community consultation will commence in 2023 and construction in 2024.

PICTURED: Previous page; Clarence Valley Council is working in partnership with Transport for NSW to install a shared user path between Bunnings in South Grafton and McAuley Catholic College at Clarenza.

Top; Betterment of shared user path underway in Barnier Park, Junction Hill.

Above; the before and after progress at different sections of the new footpath along River Street, Yamba.



MORE ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES FOR GRAFTON BASE HOSPITAL

Access Committee consultation ensures best outcome

Two new accessible parking spaces have been installed at the entrance to Grafton Base Hospital in Arthur Street in response to community and hospital concerns about limited parking for people with disability. It brings the total of accessible parking spaces outside the hospital to five. The existing accessible parking spaces have also been upgraded to the current standard.

THE DESIGN INCLUDES:

- Shared zones with kerb ramps installed between the parking spaces to provide more space for people to get in and out of vehicles;
- Grassed area behind kerb infilled with concrete to allow rear loading/unloading.

PICTURED: Above; the new accessible parking spaces in Arthur Street were installed in December.

MASTERPLAN VISION FOR FUTURE OF HAWTHORNE RODEO PARK

Upgrades to benefit several equestrian sporting groups



PICTURED: Top; Hawthorne Park is the largest purpose-built equestrian facility in the Clarence Valley. Left; artist impressions of the Hawthorne Park Rodeo Masterplan.

Hawthorne Park in South Grafton is home to ten different equestrian user groups and is the largest purpose-built equestrian facility in the Clarence Valley, hosting numerous equestrian events each year as well as supporting individual and group training activities.

Completion of the Hawthorne Rodeo Park Masterplan cements its future as a premier sporting venue with improved accessibility for all users and visitors.

The masterplan was adopted by Council in November 2022, and upgrades including new lighting and arena seating are already underway,

following receipt of a \$493,798 NSW Government grant under the Sports Infrastructure Recovery Fund.

The masterplan recognises the great condition and functionality of the existing primary infrastructure, and does not change the layout to the main arena, polocrosse and multi-function fields, arenas one and three, and the eastern stables.

We will continue to work with community and stakeholders throughout the staged delivery of the masterplan, including sourcing more grant funding to complete the installations.

THE MASTERPLAN WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING ENHANCEMENTS:

- Undercover arenas;
- Upgraded storage facilities, spectator seating areas, arena and park lighting, additional stables and amenities;
- Formalised parking and camping areas;
- Improved links between the various arenas and yards with food and beverage facilities, amenities and parking;
- Disability access.



WILLIAM AGER PARK WALKWAY

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WILLIAM AGER PARK WALKWAY:

- Boardwalk and viewing platform constructed of Composite Fibre Technologies
- Concrete footpaths
- Improved pedestrian access
- Accessible coastal viewing platforms
- Inclusive, safer and more comfortable walking experience
- Linked pathways
- Bush regeneration work

Important coastal pedestrian link in Yamba nears completion

The new William Ager Park Walkway improves connectivity while providing magnificent views along Yamba’s coastline.

The walkway is an important pedestrian link between Pippi Beach and Convent Beach. It consists of about 85m of concrete footpath and 200m of composite fibre (CFT) elevated boardwalk including a viewing platform over Pippi Beach.

The work is part of the staged plan to

deliver the Yamba to Angourie Coastal Walk, and follows the completion of the Zig Zag Path at Main Beach earlier in 2021.

Rehabilitation of the area includes the removal of exotic species, planting of native species and re-establishment of the parkland. Parts of the park will be closed during construction.

Connected pathways will be completed early in 2023.

FUNDING BREAKDOWN

NAME: WILLIAM AGER PARK WALKWAY
PROJECT VALUE: \$849,000
FUNDING: LOCAL ROADS & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND AND CVC

PICTURED: The 200m of CFT elevated boardwalk includes a viewing platform with magnificent coastal views.



GLENREAGH AMENITIES UPGRADE

Critical new public facilities for village

Newly upgraded public amenities in Glenreagh include much-needed improvements to accessibility. The planned upgrade was the result of consultation with the Glenreagh Progress Association in response to their request for the public amenities to be upgraded.

The amenities block is linked to the Glenreagh Community Pool and conveniently positioned close to the village’s playground and tennis court.

Local contractors were used in the construction of the project which promotes positive local, social and economic outcomes.



AMENITIES INCLUDE:

- Two accessible unisex public toilets including baby change units;
- Two parking spaces including a disabled parking space;
- One accessible toilet/shower/change room with direct, safe access to the pool.

GLENREAGH SPEED MANAGEMENT

Trial to slow motorists down at town entrances

To encourage motorists to slow down, Town Entry Gateway (TEG) treatments will be installed at the entrances to Glenreagh in early 2023.

Speeds will be monitored with the aim to install more treatments at other locations if the trial is successful. Transport for NSW is funding the TEGs.



PICTURED: Example of Town Entry Gateway treatment.

CHANGES TO ROAD ENTRANCES AT GLENREAGH WILL INCLUDE:

- Signs;
- Pavement marking;
- Lane narrowing;
- Start of 50kph zone at the northern approach on Orara Way moved to northern side of bridge, plus some widening to accommodate line marking;
- Vehicle activated sign installed within 50kph zone on southern side of Tallawudjah Creek Bridge. The sign will flash 50 and SLOW DOWN if motorists exceed speed limit.



CORCORAN PARK PONTON PROJECT

The completion of the pontoon project at Corcoran Park in Grafton benefits many and showcases the advantages of community engagement to delivering core infrastructure. The pontoon is located at the northern end of the park and is an accessible area to enjoy the Clarence River.

The inclusion of the pontoon is the result of community feedback from various river users who recommended river access at the northern end of Corcoran Park. The project includes an accessible pathway linking the carpark to the new pontoon, allowing people with mobility issues, including wheelchairs, walkers and prams, a chance to get right down to the water safely.

The Corcoran Park Pontoon Project is part of the Corcoran Park Masterplan and reflects Council's commitment to one of the focus areas in our Disability Inclusion Action Plan - Creating Livable Communities.

PICTURED: Top; Grafton Dragon Boat Club is one of the many community groups who will benefit from the new pontoon at Corcoran Park.





GRAFTON WATERFRONT PRECINCT – CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Grafton Waterfront Precinct project is taking shape with the construction of a 3m wide shared concrete path for pedestrians and cyclists along the foreshore from Prince Street to Clarence Street with seats and picnic spots along the path’s 700m length.

Construction of the path alongside the Clarence River is well advanced, with nearby landscaping activities underway. Works are now focused on Memorial Park near Prince St with demolition of existing concrete footpaths in readiness for the installation of new footpaths, feature gardens and structures.

Completion scheduled for 2023.



PICTURED: The Grafton Waterfront Precinct project is funded through an Australian Government Community Development Grant of \$6.5 million.

PLAN TO REDEVELOP GRAFTON ROWING CLUB

Proposal includes new waterfront venue

Tying nicely into the Grafton Waterfront Precinct project is Grafton Rowing Club’s plans to upgrade its clubhouse building. Proposed plans include an additional top floor to provide a hireable function and meeting space, a lift and accessible facilities.



Grafton Rowing Club and their consultants have been in consultation with the Open Spaces and Facilities team, Cultural Heritage Officer and development planners over the upgrade. Works and the impact on the Grafton Waterfront Precinct have also been considered in development of the plans.

PICTURED: Proposed plans to upgrade Grafton Rowing Club were endorsed by Council in November.



ULMARRA CBD UPGRADE – CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Beautification of Coldstream and River streets and redevelopment of Bailey Park

The heart of Ulmarra village is undergoing a makeover to create a safe destination for the community and visitors to spend time enjoying the relaxed atmosphere beside the Clarence River. The upgrade of Ulmarra CBD is funded by the Federal Government, NSW Government and Council.

PROJECT BREAKDOWN

NAME: ULMARRA CBD & BAILEY PARK UPGRADE

PROJECT VALUE: \$2.9 MILLION

FUNDING: \$2.3 MILLION OPEN SPACES LEGACY GRANT, \$602,732 LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM, AND COUNCIL RESERVES.

DATE COMMENCED: SEPT 2022

PROJECTED COMPLETION: MID 2023 (WEATHER PERMITTING)



PICTURED: Top; new concrete footpath at Bailey Park. Above; a new wastewater treatment system will service Bailey Park; watermain replacement was completed trenchless technology.

CURRENT PROGRESS OF THE ULMARRA CBD UPGRADE INCLUDES:

ULMARRA CBD

- Watermain replacement works completed;
- Installation of a new stormwater drainage system in River Street has commenced;
- Temporary toilets installed in Coldstream Street near the intersection with Big River Way;
- Temporary carpark installed in Coldstream Street near the intersection with Big River Way, adjacent the RFS building;
- Bus stops in Coldstream Street temporarily relocated to Big River Way, adjacent the school.

BAILEY PARK

- Existing amenities facility and the septic system have been demolished, ready for the installation of a new facility and wastewater treatment system to service the park;
- Wastewater treatment system tanks installed;
- Existing playground equipment removed;
- Earthworks and the installation of concrete footpaths has commenced.



ENJOY GRAFTON BY NIGHT AND DAY

The clocktower is illuminated and Prince Street is alive with projected artwork and spot-lit trees. By day, discover fun and colour in the main street with a new gnome trail, a story trail, street performance and public artwork.

This gnome of Aunty Robyne Bancroft – Australia’s first Indigenous female archaeologist – was painted by her daughter Dani Gorogo. Have you found her yet?



REDISCOVER GRAFTON

Grafton CBD project kicks into top gear for summer with a bunch of exciting experiences for the whole family to enjoy

The NSW Government funded Streets as Shared Spaces program is adding vibrancy to cities and towns across NSW. Over summer Prince Street, Grafton will provide a shining example of how to reinvigorate main streets and attract more people to build community and support local business.

To install the changes it will take up to one week on each side of Prince Street. The temporary disturbance is timed for the traditionally quieter part of the new year to minimise disruption, with Prince Street remaining open to traffic during this period.

The Rediscover Grafton project is a collaboration with several community partners including Transport for NSW, Serco, Grafton Regional Gallery and others.

PICTURED: Top; Grafton will have its own superorganism. Like this tree in Brisbane Botanic Gardens, trees in Market Square will be transformed into artworks with a sound installation in late January.

WOMBAT CROSSING TRIAL

In December the two existing pedestrian crossings in Prince Street between Fitzroy and Pound streets were upgraded to become raised platform pedestrian crossings (wombat crossings). The new crossings are funded by Transport for NSW and will slow speeds and create a safer environment.

NEW ADDITIONS IN JANUARY

Temporary interventions will be placed in Prince Street between 9-20 January to trial widened footpaths, front-to-kerb parking, and installation of new planter boxes made by inmates at Clarence Correctional Centre to display plants and artwork.



For more information scan the QR code or visit www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/Projects/Rediscover-Grafton

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



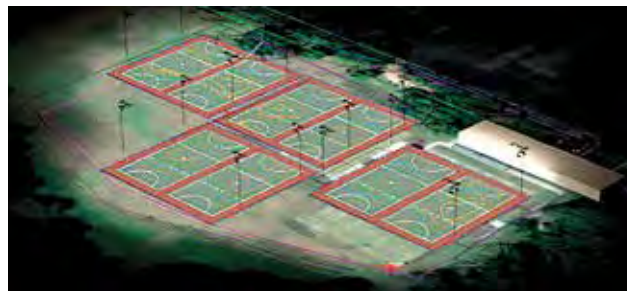
GRAFTON NETBALL COURT REDEVELOPMENT

Grafton will soon be home to new netball courts after the tender was awarded to Sports Build for the Grafton Netball Court Redevelopment at Westward Park.

The project includes the design and construction of eight outdoor hard courts and lighting, with provisions for up to five additional courts.

Funding has been received to support this project from the NSW Government’s Regional Sports Facilities Fund and the Grafton Netball Association.

The project is due for completion for the commencement of the 2023 Netball season.



PICTURED: Above; works are underway at Westward Park to upgrade the Grafton Netball Courts in time for the 2023 season; the master plan.

BASKETBALL COURT REPLACEMENTS



The two basketball courts at JJ Lawrence Fields in South Grafton are being replaced with a new basketball court, a multi-purpose court and supporting infrastructure. The courts, which were in poor condition, are heavily used by the community for basketball, toddlers riding bikes, and other ball sports.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND EMISSIONS REDUCTION INITIATIVES



Council's ability to respond is significantly increased by the addition of the rooftop solar and battery storage installation at the Rushforth Road Works Depot. The project enables the depot to remain fully operational in emergency conditions enabling the response to natural disasters even if the power grid is down.

During normal times the renewable energy generated at the site along with the battery storage will be capable of meeting the site's electricity needs and will significantly reduce the site's emissions footprint. The project provides undercover parking for Council's vehicle fleet to protect from weather damage and reduce insurance claims.

Looking to the future, it also has four electric vehicle (EV) charging stations installed.

Funding through the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund enabled Council to install an additional 110kw photovoltaic (PV) rooftop solar system, a 200kWh battery storage system and a 250kVa generator. The funding enabled the construction of the vehicle parking roof structure to house the rooftop solar and the provision of EV charging stations.

The new PV solar installation effectively doubles power generated from solar panels at the depot, with 100kW of existing solar panels on the administration building also feeding power into the new battery.

STREET LIGHT CONVERSION TO LED



THE CONVERSION ACROSS THE CLARENCE VALLEY IS NOW COMPLETE. REDUCES EMISSIONS BY APPROX. 40% WITH ESTIMATED COST SAVINGS OF \$357,000 PER YEAR

COUNCIL ADOPTED TARGETS AS OUTLINED IN OUR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND EMISSIONS REDUCTION STRATEGIES:



50%
OF COUNCIL'S ELECTRICITY DEMAND TO BE MET FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY BEFORE

2030
WITH LONG TERM GOAL TO BE 100%



0% BY 2050
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TO BE AT LEAST 40% LOWER THAN 2017 LEVELS BEFORE 2030 WITH LONG TERM GOALS TO REACH NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2050

PICTURED: Top left; The new vehicle parking roof structure at the Rushforth Road Works Depot protects fleet vehicles from hail damage and includes a 110kw photovoltaic rooftop solar system. Top right; CVC Coordinator Waste and Sustainability Ken Wilson, Mayor Ian Tiley, Kim Potter from Department of Regional NSW, Deputy Mayor Greg Clancy, CVC General Manager Laura Black and contracted solar power specialist Jamie Harrison.



JACARANDA FESTIVAL VISITOR SURVEY

Visitor Information Centre assists more than one thousand visitors during season

Flowers were blooming and business booming in Grafton for Jacaranda Season. Our Purple City buzzed with activity as thousands of visitors came to enjoy more than 1,700 jacaranda trees in full bloom.

OUR TOURISM TEAM SURVEYED 557 VISITORS. HERE'S WHAT WE DISCOVERED:



THE TOP THREE CITIES VISITORS TRAVELLED FROM WERE SYDNEY, BRISBANE AND GOLD COAST

1,000

JACARANDA GOODIE BAGS WERE HANDED OUT



59.6%

OF VISITORS STAYED FOR ONE NIGHT OR MORE



1,137

VISITORS CAME THROUGH THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE DURING JACARANDA SEASON



INTERNATIONAL VISITORS CAME FROM:

- TAIWAN
- GERMANY
- NEW ZEALAND
- ISRAEL
- FRANCE
- HONG KONG
- PHILIPPINES
- ENGLAND
- DENMARK
- NETHERLANDS

85.2%

OF VISITORS CAME WITH ONE OR MORE OTHER PEOPLE

64.6%

OF VISITORS WERE AGED 55 AND ABOVE

20.1%

WERE AGED 35-54

THE PURPLE CITY GOES VIRAL

167,000

GRAFTON'S FAMOUS JACARANDAS WERE FEATURED ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES OF VISITNSW AND TOURISM AUSTRALIA REACHING MORE THAN 167,000 PEOPLE.



OVERNIGHT VISITORS INJECT ON AVERAGE \$180 PER PERSON INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY, ACCORDING TO TOURISM RESEARCH AUSTRALIA.



CVC Tourism Officers Carrie Riessen, Joana Olah and Industry Engagement Officer Katee Blizzard.

SUMMER EVENTS

Make a splash with our ‘Summer Splash’ sponsored activities in Grafton this summer. With the closure of the Grafton Olympic Pool, we’ve come up with some fun activities to beat the heat and stay cool over summer in Grafton



GRAFTON SHOWGROUND SUMMER SPLASH FUN PARK



SUMMER SPLASH FUN PARK

A pop-up Summer Splash Fun Park is coming to Grafton Showground for five days in January. Northern Rivers Jumping Castles is setting up six incredible inflatable waterslides.

SESSIONS TIMES

WHEN: Tuesday 10 January – Saturday 14 January.

SESSION ONE: 9-11am

SESSION TWO: 11.30am-1.30pm

SESSION THREE: 2.30-4.30pm



Book your Fun Park session online. Scan the QR code or go to the Summer Splash Fun Park event page at www.eventbrite.com

GRAFTON REGIONAL GALLERY



ARCHIBALD PRIZE*

Visit Grafton Regional Gallery from 17 December 2022 – 29 January 2023 to see Australia’s favourite and most significant art award, the Archibald Prize 2022. There are 800 vouchers available for a subsidised price of \$5. Plus while you’re there you can cool off in the chilled air-conditioning of the gallery.

PICTURED: Archibald Prize 2022 finalist, Laura Jones *Brooke and Jimmy* (detail) © the artist.

SUMMER SPLASH ART CLASSES*

Grafton Regional Gallery is hosting three weeks of Summer Splash-themed art classes in January, fully funded by Clarence Valley Council. Join artist, curator and creative producer Chloe Waters for a summer of fun at Grafton Regional Gallery, learn new skills, and create a splash!

Participants use polymer clay to create bright colourful miniature sculptures. Suitable for ages 6 -15 years.

*Collect Summer Splash Archibald and Art Class vouchers from CVC Customer Service Centre, 2 Prince Street, Grafton. To book an Art Class, scan the QR code on the voucher. Proof of a Clarence Valley address is required.

WATERSLIDE



THE WATERSLIDE AT THE GRAFTON POOL IS OPEN

The waterslide and picnic area at the Grafton Olympic Pool will remain open this summer, until 28 February, with a subsidised entry of \$2.

FUNDING FOR AQUATIC CENTRE

New Grafton pool on track for December 2024

The process of engaging contractors to redevelop the Grafton Olympic Pool has commenced, with plans to deliver a new aquatic centre to the community by December 2024.

The Grafton Pool redevelopment has been identified as our number one priority and we will continue to source additional funds to complete the project.

Pool users continue to have access to other pool facilities in South Grafton, Maclean, Yamba and Glenreagh.

A total of \$24 million has now been allocated to the project.

\$24 MILLION FUNDING BREAKDOWN:



3,830,545

IN COUNCIL FUNDS

\$882,000

FROM STRATEGIC BUILDING RESERVE (PROCEEDS FROM SALE OF SOUTH GRAFTON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE)

\$11,107,882

IN BUSH FIRE LOCAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY (BLER) FUNDS ORIGINALLY ALLOCATED TO TREELANDS DRIVE COMMUNITY CENTRE (TDCC) TRANSFERRED AS REQUESTED

\$1,453,00

IN STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES GRANTS FUNDING

\$7M

LOAN OVER 25-YEARS AT 5% INTEREST

DISCOVER GRAFTON'S GNOME-TOWN HEROES

Grafton's gnome hunt has been popular for all ages. The gnomes have been painted by local artists and connect to culturally and historically significant stories, places, events, and people of the Clarence Valley.

The research for this project was completed by the Clarence River Historical Society and local community members.

PICTURED: The gnome of Grafton's first female mayor Shirley Adams. The gnome is located outside the Council Chambers. The road crossing the new Grafton bridge was officially named Shirley Way in her honour in November.



Did you catch the gnomes at Schaeffer House Museum, the home of the Clarence River Historical Society? Gnomes FWC Schaeffer and Louise Lambert, now call the museum home.



CLARENCE VALLEY MUSEUMS:

- Schaeffer House
- Alamy Creek School Museum
- Glenreagh Memorial Museum
- Lawrence Museum
- Iluka Museum
- Yamba Museum
- Maclean Bicentennial Museum and Stone Cottage



Scan the QR code for a full list of Clarence Valley museums



Scan the QR code to see all the gnomes and where to find them

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

For more information check out our Facebook pages 'Clarence Valley Youth' or 'Clarence Valley Youth Hubs'. The current COVID-19 situation has limited our capacity for numbers, so these activities will have restrictions. Please call 0428 420 908 if more details are required. Outdoor activities will be postponed in the case of wet weather.



CLARENCE YOUTH SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

January school holidays

See what's happening in your area these school holidays





FUN AT THE LIBRARY

Our library teams across the Clarence Valley have put together a school holidays program that is guaranteed to keep the kids entertained. Activities will run from 9 - 20 January 2023.

ages
5+

school holidays

at your library

january 2022

all events at
your library
are FREE

book now

for more
info visit the
website!

<p>grafton</p> <p>packaging portraits 11th january</p> <p>yarn turtles 13th january</p> <p>sand art 17th january</p> <p>moveable mummy in a box 20th january</p> <p>storytime 12th & 19th january</p>	<p>mobile</p> <p>moveable mummy in a box 10th january</p> <p>wooli & minnie water 10th january</p> <p>halfway creek & glenreagh 11th january</p> <p>brushgrove & tucabia 12th january</p> <p>baryulgil & copmanhurst 17th january</p> <p>nymboida & couatts crossing 18th january</p> <p>lawrence & brooms head 19th january</p>	<p>yamba</p> <p>calico library bags 11th january</p> <p>sand art 18th january</p> <p>iluka</p> <p>sand art 13th january</p> <p>calico library bags 20th january</p> <p>maclean</p> <p>packaging portraits 12th january</p> <p>library LEGO legends 19th january</p>
--	---	--

Clarence Valley Libraries | libraryevents@clarence.nsw.gov.au | www.crl.nsw.gov.au | (02) 6641 0111

ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

A crucial part of our community's success is ensuring the voices of all people of the Clarence Valley are heard equally.

In October 2022 a new Aboriginal Engagement Framework was adopted, outlining how the Council will seek to strengthen relationships with our First Nations communities and provide direct access to discuss issues of concern.

THE NEW FRAMEWORK INVOLVES:

- Establishment of annual Aboriginal community round table meetings in Yamba, Maclean and Grafton;
- The four Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC) and the Traditional Owners Corporations in our LGA will be

invited to meet with the Mayor and Councillors twice a year;

- Twice-yearly meetings with the Baryulgil/Malabugilmah (Jana Ngalee) LALC.

This new framework is a change from the former structure of the Clarence Valley Aboriginal Consultative Committee (CVACC). It reflects feedback received by the Mayor and the organisation during community engagement sessions held with our First Nations communities earlier in the year.

The engagement will also provide feedback for the final development of Clarence Valley Council's draft Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).



PICTURED: Cultural designs have been incorporated into CVC's new staff uniforms.

ACTIONS ACHIEVED IN 2022

- Recognition of significant dates
- Observing cultural protocols
- Celebrating National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week
- Creating the Three Mobs, One River design that features in our email sign off and on staff uniforms

CELEBRATING KAHLUA'S SUCCESS

Kahlua Charlton, a proud Yaegl woman, is celebrating ten years working at Clarence Valley libraries with a new job – head of the Home Library Service.

In her new role, Kahlua is working with a dedicated team of Home Library volunteers to select, process and deliver library items to isolated library members in the community who can't make it into a library.

"I like working with our great bunch of volunteers and helping the elderly to match up their preferences with the wide collection from our libraries," Kahlua said.

Kahlua's promotion opens up her previous identified Library Support Assistant position to another First Nations person; something Kahlua is excited about.

"It will be good to work with and mentor a First Nations person," Kahlua said. "Plus, it's good for our community.

"When a First Nations person comes into the library, it makes them feel more comfortable, seeing another First Nations face, and gives them more confidence to be able to approach staff and ask for help."

We asked Kahlua what she loves most about working at the library.

"It's rewarding knowing you're helping people get the information they're after. The library is not just about books. We are an information service. You have to be in the know about everything and willing to learn more and stay



PICTURED: Kahlua Charlton.

It's rewarding knowing you're helping people get the information they're after. The library is not just about books. We are an information service. You have to be in the know about everything and willing to learn more and stay up to date with technological advances

KAHLUA CHARLTON

up to date with technological advances."

Kahlua has always lived on Yaegl Country. She loves sports including touch football and netball. She's a prolific artist, creating cultural art, craft and jewellery pieces.



Kahlua Charlton was one of five local First Nations artists whose artworks were projected onto the Sunshine Sugar building in South Grafton during the Jacaranda Festival as part of the Building Bridges project

DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING UPDATE

Above average development application activity set to continue

The Clarence Valley is expected to continue experiencing high levels of development and construction activity. In the 2021/2022 financial year 1055 development applications were determined (approved or refused) with an associated estimated capital investment value of \$241,276,290. So far about 440 have been determined in the first two quarters of 2022/2023.

This amount of development application activity is the highest amount we've seen in recent times. Growth is attributed to the pandemic-induced changes in migration patterns and economic conditions that has seen more people relocate to the Clarence Valley. Another reason for higher DA activity was the dwelling eligibility sunset timeframe for some rural properties that required development applications to be made by the end of 2021.

Construction Certificates issued have increased recently, with the associated total estimated capital investment value peaking in 2021/22 at \$242,613,815

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION TIMEFRAMES:

47%

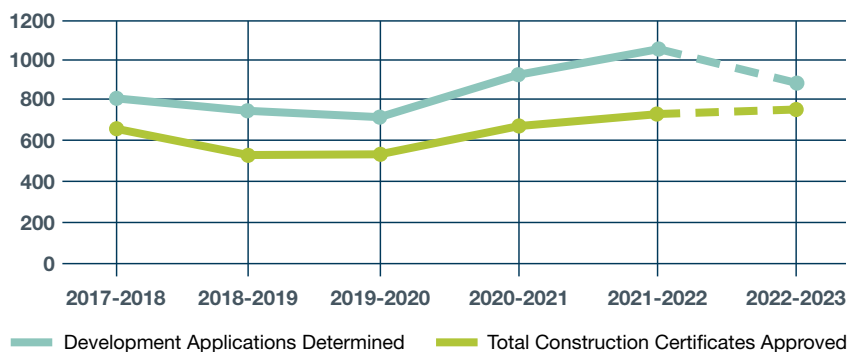
OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS ARE DETERMINED IN 40 DAYS OR LESS. THIS INCLUDES MOST SIMPLE APPLICATIONS, SUCH AS NEW DWELLINGS OR EXTENSIONS THAT COMPLY WITH OUR DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS.

- Council staff actively assess about 300-400 development applications and 200-300 building, construction or subdivision certificates at any one time.

PREDICTIONS FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS:

- Continued above-average amount of development applications lodged.
- Capital investment for new development applications to remain high and well above average.
- Current construction activity and capital investment value trends indicate above average levels are possible.

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY: APPROVALS AND CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATES



PLANNING MATTERS

We're here to help

The building and planning process can be daunting. Customer Service Planning Officer, Peta Elks, is on hand to provide personalised help during the planning process.

Peta is available for basic planning enquiries such as explanation of land zonings, the Clarence Valley Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LEP), Clarence Valley Development Control Plan (DCP), dwelling eligibilities, and mapped information.

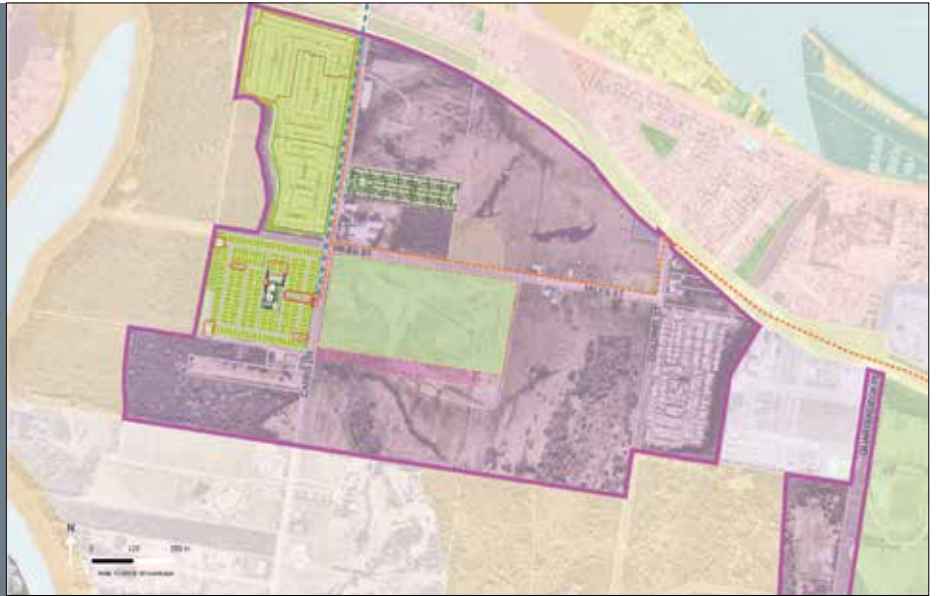
Peta plays a key role in assisting customers to lodge development applications through the NSW Planning Portal, following changes to legislation in 2021.

To contact our Customer Service Planning Officer, please call the Customer Service Centre on 02 6643 0200 and press 2.

WEST YAMBA URBAN RELEASE AREA

Quarterly update of ongoing development

A quarterly Development Update for West Yamba is released to keep community and stakeholders up to date about development applications, construction and other information relevant to ongoing development in the West Yamba Urban Release Area. Here's the latest:



KEY - - - - Water - - - - Sewer General residential West Yamba urban release area

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

1 EARTHWORKS AND FILLING

- Haulage of material is complete for the manufactured homes site on Carrs Drive;
- Developers required to repair damage to Carrs Drive caused by construction, including haulage of fill;
- Council holds bonds from the developers to ensure Carrs Drive is repaired.

2 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICING

- The West Yamba pressure sewer rising main construction works is complete and the main is operational;
- Extensions to water reticulation network and pressure sewer rising main along Carrs Drive are complete and operational.

3 ROAD AND PEDESTRIAN NETWORK

- Working with current active developers to provide a safe level of service for vehicles using Carrs Drive;
- Investigations into developing an integrated Pedestrian Access and Management Plan/s to support future developments in West Yamba;
- A collective Traffic Impact and Management Plan is being prepared for future development sites to the east of Carrs Drive.

4 FLOODING AND HYDROLOGY

- Thorough assessment of flooding and hydrology impacts across West Yamba;
- Updating the Clarence Flood Model to include the most up-to-date information about floods, rainfall, climate change and infrastructure;
- As part of all future development applications, undertake detailed assessment of stormwater management, both internal and external, to development sites.



Scan the QR code for a direct link to the West Yamba Development Update or visit www.clarence.nsw.gov.au and search 'West Yamba'.

ASBESTOS RISKS IN BUILDINGS

Health and safety information: what you need to know



As the first city on the North Coast, it makes sense that Grafton and surrounding villages and towns in the Clarence Valley have a lot of older buildings. It's also quite common for asbestos containing materials (ACM) to be present in these buildings as asbestos wasn't prohibited in buildings until December 2003.

Over the past three years we have had all our community buildings re-inspected for asbestos by an occupational hygienist. Recommendations in the report are being addressed to ensure the safety of staff and the community.

WHAT IS BEING DONE ABOUT ASBESTOS IN COMMUNITY BUILDINGS:

- Council has asbestos registers and management plans for all Council-owned community buildings;
- Our building and facilities team maintains the buildings and are working to ensure that any ACM is undamaged;
- Licensed asbestos removalists are contracted for buildings found to have damaged ACM that cannot be made safe.

HOUSEHOLD ASBESTOS TESTING AND DISPOSAL KITS



Household Asbestos Testing and Disposal Kits funded by Clarence Valley Council and North East Waste are available from the Council offices in Grafton and Maclean. Asbestos waste should always and only be disposed of at a landfill that is licensed to accept it. The Grafton Regional Landfill is the only licensed facility in the Clarence Valley that will accept asbestos.



Don't be alarmed if you see this advisory label on some of our community buildings. The presence of asbestos-containing materials does not automatically introduce a health risk. Asbestos fibres are what pose the risk to your health. When the fibres are intact and undisturbed they do not pose a risk. Asbestos sheeting (fibro) and corrugated asbestos (walls, fencing and roofing) can be sealed with paint which prevents the release of fibres.

If you notice labels that are deteriorating or have been removed, please contact Council on 6643 0200



PUMPS TO IMPROVE FLOOD RESILIENCE

Infrastructure will reduce ponding during high rainfall events

New pumps will be installed at **Wherrett Park in Maclean, Bacon Street in Grafton, and Ardent Street in South Grafton** to reduce ponding during high rainfall events.

The Wherrett Park pump under construction is part of the \$677,805 Wherrett Park Flood Damage Renewal and Future Flood Resilience project. The increased pumping capacity will improve flood resilience for the multi-use recreational facility which caters for football, cricket, netball, children's playgrounds, a skate park and community fitness equipment.

PICTURED: Top; after the 2022 flood staff devised an innovative solution which included a temporary 900mm pipeline to accelerate pumping of stormwater ponded behind the Maclean levee. The new pump at Wherrett Park will reduce ponding during high rainfall events.

This project is funded by the 2021 Community Local Infrastructure Recovery Program (CLIRP).

Preparatory work has started for the Bacon Street (\$100,000) and Ardent Street (\$200,000) pumps, which will be installed during the first half of 2023.

The two projects are funded under Category D of the Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, along with flood immunity investigations of Iluka Road in the vicinity of the Esk River (\$300,000), and Yamba Road (\$150,000).

AUTOMATING WATER METER READING

Adopting technology to enhance efficiency and accuracy

AUTOMATIC meter reading will be rolled out over the next few years, which will allow water meters to transmit daily water consumption data over a radio network to Council. This will enhance efficiency and accuracy through the use of technology and will remove the need for manual readings that are completed every four months.

AUTOMATIC METERS WILL:

- Provide reliable data to assist in better management of the water network and future planning
- Allow customers to monitor their own water consumption
- Set alarms for high consumption to instantly track property leakages
- Significantly save staff time



PICTURED: Water meters are currently either physically read or scanned by staff driving by with remote transmitter devices.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

The senior management team was out and about in Brooms Head, Ewingar and Harwood this past quarter, meeting with community members about what matters most to them.

The vastly different communities with vastly different concerns demonstrate the size, scale and diversity of the local government area. In each case, the desired outcome is the same - a stronger relationship with the organisation.

Key issues discussed in Brooms Head included the power of language and how it can affect the relationship and accessibility to community areas, and the conflict with Holiday Park designated facilities and management of.

There are some easy wins in terms of signage that makes clear what

is available for community access. But for more sustainable outcomes, community involvement in the review of the plan of management is required for the reserve on which the Brooms Head Holiday Park is situated. Concern was also heard about roads and drainage, beach erosion, Holiday Park site tenures and compliance, and policing matters.

It was a somewhat smaller crowd at Ewingar, with the main concern being isolation limiting access to services, and a strong desire for support to build and sustain volunteer networks to better manage community and public assets. Ewingar Hall was recently on the receiving end of a makeover and is in the midst of a Pizza Oven project, which will create quite the drawcard for events planned by the community in the future.

The visit to Harwood included a site visit of the former Harwood Literary Institute and potential site for a community hub. The community will soon be engaged in the detailed design for the Harwood Community Precinct, implementation of which will fall to community and Council through grant funding opportunities. It was also the opportunity for individuals to discuss matters of concern with senior staff.

PICTURED: Clockwise from left; senior management met with Ewingar residents in November 2022. Completed in September, the \$46,014 Brooms Head Hall Roofing Project was funded through Council's capital budget allocation for renewal of community assets after leaks were identified. Brooms Head beach.



BE PREPARED FOR BUSH FIRE SEASON

It's not the time for complacency

WITH WARMER WEATHER UPON US, THERE ARE SOME SIMPLE ACTIONS YOU CAN DO TO PREPARE FOR BUSHFIRES:

1. Know your risk
2. Prepare your home
3. Discuss your Bush Fire Survival Plan
4. Know the bush fire alert levels
5. Keep all bush fire information numbers, websites and the Fires Near Me app handy.

WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT FIRE DANGER WHEN THERE'S STILL A LOT OF MOISTURE IN THE GROUND?

Despite soil moisture remaining high following above-average rainfall this year, it only takes a few days of hot, dry and windy conditions for vegetation to dry out. It pays to be prepared.

GETTING READY FOR BUSH FIRE IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK

THE 4 SIMPLE STEPS ARE:



DISCUSS



PREPARE



KNOW



KEEP

By taking 20 minutes with your family to discuss what you'll do during a fire, you could save their lives, as well as your home. **Get the Guide at www.MyFirePlan.com.au**



For more information on bush fire risk and how to prepare yourself and your property, scan the QR code or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare

THE NEW NATIONAL FIRE DANGER RATINGS INDICATE THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF A FIRE, SHOULD ONE START. THE UPDATED DESIGN HAS SOME IMPORTANT NEW FEATURES:

NEW FEATURES

1. Now four ratings and colour levels instead of six;
2. The rating names in a white font on a black ribbon;
3. The size, location and shade of colour used for the wedges;
4. The white bar at the bottom left is used on days when there is no fire danger rating.

OPTIONAL ELEMENTS

5. Community messaging on the sign is considered best practice;
6. A timestamp has been recommended.



BLACK SUMMER BUSH FIRE RECOVERY GRANTS FUNDED PROJECT

Almost \$5 million in funding has helped rural communities bounce back



Calliope Hall has undergone painting and other external improvements.

FUNDING BREAKDOWN

NAME: BLACK SUMMER BUSHFIRE RECOVERY GRANT PROJECTS

FUNDING: SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS FOR THREE CATEGORIES OF PROJECTS IN THE PROGRAM:

- REVITALISING PUBLIC FACILITIES FOR COMMUNITY RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE \$711,499
- REVITALISING DISASTER RESILIENCE FACILITIES FOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT \$1,818,627
- REVITALISING RURAL COMMUNITY HALLS FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE \$2,397,388

DATE COMMENCED: MAY 2022

Funding received in early 2021 from the Federal Government’s Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants program is being used to improve 21 community facilities and buildings throughout the Clarence Valley. The program aims to address community recovery and resilience needs, and projects include rural community halls, disaster resilience facilities and public facilities for community recovery.

We’re working with bushfire affected communities to ensure the funding meets community needs and that works carried out are beneficial to the function and longevity of each individual facility. We thank all community groups and stakeholders who have provided us with valuable information. Your input will maximise the quality of the outcome of the proposed upgrades and renewals.



A pizza oven and external gathering area has been installed at Dundurrabin Hall to improve its function as a public facility for community recovery.

COMPLETED IN Q2 (OCT-DEC 2022):

- **CALLIOPE HALL:** External painting of entire facility, including gutters and external building improvements.
- **DUNDURRABIN HALL:** Installation of pizza oven and external gathering area.
- **GRAFTON HOCKEY CLUB:** External rectification works following sinkhole and stormwater renewal works. Projected completion in Q3 (Jan-Mar 2023)
- **SCHAEFFER HOUSE:** Design and project planning for Schaeffer House Museum roof renewal.
- **KUNGALA/LANITZA RFS:** Stormwater drainage improvements scheduled for completion.



The Resilient Clarence Project was a year-long program to share examples of local resilience after the unprecedented 2019/20 bushfires through community-led workshops to help build capacity, reconnect with nature and share knowledge.

RESILIENT CLARENCE – LESSONS LEARNT

Interactive map of bushfire stories from the community

An interactive digital map capturing stories from Clarence Valley communities impacted by the 2019-2020 bushfires has been created as the final component of the Resilient Clarence Project.

The stories were collated during an art roadshow that travelled to bushfire-affected communities including Glenreagh, Ewingar, Nymboida, Dundurrabin, Baryulgil, Malabugilmah, Woombah, Iluka, Ashby and Wooloweyah. The artwork is a collaborative map that connects these communities and involved more than 100 contributors.

The digital map will tell personal stories of loss and survival, strength and resilience from our small towns and villages. There will be a range of videos and audio pods documenting the impacts on our environment, threatened species and damage from invasive species as the landscape

continues to regenerate. This wonderful resource will be available in our community libraries.

An event at Grafton Regional Gallery in November celebrated the conclusion of the project and allowed community leaders involved with the project to network and fortify relationships between neighbouring communities, where previously they may not have known one another. The event showcased some of the videos that have been created and gave community members an opportunity to connect with Council staff and other partners who will continue to support them moving forward.

Amidst the stress and chaos of the fires one important thing happened - deep and meaningful connections were formed. Clarence Valley communities proved to themselves they are strong and resilient. People pull together in times of need to help and support each other.

Keep an eye on the CVC Facebook page to find out when the digital map goes live.



PICTURED: From top; Resilient Clarence supported community connection events, such as this one at Iluka, where people could have a hand in creating the imagery and share the stories that formed the digital map.

Community member Hayley Talbot was the Cultural Knowledge and Creative Director of the Resilient Clarence Project.

The collaborative artwork Regrowth was unveiled at Resilient Clarence Project event at Grafton Regional Gallery on 24 November where Ryan Martin was a guest performer.

1

2

WEEDS OF SUMMER

Keep an eye out for these invasive species that have recently been found in adjoining LGA's. Due to recent flooding events, the Clarence Valley area is at an increased risk of infestation.

1

FROGBIT

(*Limnobium laevigatum*)

- A floating water weed with small, round glossy leaves. Plants grow very quickly, forming dense mats over water bodies. It can tolerate slightly saline water.
- It can spread via daughter plants and seed dispersal by water currents, birds or by attaching to watercraft or equipment.
- Illegal dumping of aquarium plants in waterways has been the main cause of infestations.

2

KIDNEY-LEAF MUD PLANTAIN

(*Heteranthera reniformis*)

- A sprawling aquatic weed with a kidney shaped leaf that can form dense mats in freshwater less than 15cm deep and in damp soil at the edge of water bodies.
- Spreads through seed dispersal and stem fragmentation in mud or debris stuck to animals, people or vehicles.
- Very hard to manage and eradicate once established.

If you think you have seen either of these plants in the Clarence, please contact your local weeds officer through our Customer Service Centre on 02 6643 0200, or check the NSW Weedwise site <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

CONTROLLING WEEDS – OUR ROLE

Council is your local weed control authority under the Biosecurity Act 2015

We work with NSW Local Land Services and State Government land managers, guided by the framework and direction of the North Coast Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan.

OUR MAIN ROLES INCLUDE:

- Inspections of private and public lands
- Priority weed control programs
- Weed control of high priority weeds and widespread weeds on roadsides and reserves
- Support community to prevent establishment of new weeds
- Work with landholders to control weeds based on level of risk to broader community

WE ALSO OFFER A RANGE OF SERVICES TO LANDHOLDERS:

- **ADVICE:** Provide information to the public covering all facets of targeted weed control.
- **WEED IDENTIFICATION:** Samples can be dropped into the office at 2 Prince Street, Grafton for positive identification.
- **WEED INFORMATION:** Large range of informative posters, brochures and best practice manuals publicly available.
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Through regular field days, information stalls, weed identification and information workshops, weed expos, school talks and advertising.

PRICKLY PEAR

It's a crime to sell or swap prickly pear cacti. To protect people, pets and parks, penalties of up to \$220,000 apply. For more information call the NSW Biosecurity Helpline 1800 680 244 or go to weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au



PICTURE ABOVE: Some species of prickly pear, from left; drooping/smooth tree pear, bunny ears, blind cactus and Eve's needle cactus. There are more than 27 different species in Australia.

CREDITS: Kidney-leaf mud plantain image by J Hosking, NSW DPI © State of New South Wales. Frogbit image by Phil Price, Hawkesbury River County Council.



300

MORE THAN 300 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CAME ALONG TO THE CARNIVAL

50

MORE THAN 50 FREE CLARENCE VALLEY KIDS GOODIE BAGS DISTR

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S WEEK

A collaboration between multiple sections of Council and community stakeholders

The inaugural National Children's Week carnival held at the Clarence River Jockey Club was a big highlight for families in October. More than a dozen local children and family services and organisations threw a party for Clarence Valley kids. They loved it and so did we.

Clarence Valley libraries, Grafton Regional Gallery and our Community Engagement team joined forces to offer a marquee of fun activities for kids including crafts, storytime, colouring in, and community surveys. Even the gnomes from Grafton Regional Gallery, who are notoriously shy and like to stay hidden, popped along to enjoy the fun.

Other highlights from the carnival included hands-on tours of a police car and fire truck, jumping castle, kids colour run, badge making, hair spray, giant Jenga, balloon animals, Westlawn Public School band, cricket, and live broadcasts with Loving Life FM. Students from the local TAFE also supported the carnival and gave Senior Constable Jessica Stamper (Coffs/Clarence LAC Youth and Crime Prevention Officer) a colour run to remember.

The Children's Week carnival was planned and delivered by Clarence Valley's Children and Family Network (CFN), which Clarence Valley Council is a member of.

The CFN brings services together to collectively share information, promote programs and resources, collaborate on projects that encourage children, family and community participation, and raise awareness and work together to support families across the Clarence Valley.

Overwhelming feedback from community and CFN members will see the Children's Week Carnival back in 2023.

PICTURED ABOVE: Clarence Valley Council Youth Officer Allira Newton with Coffs/Clarence LAC Youth and Crime Prevention Officer Jessica Stamper.

Clarence Valley Council has an endorsed Child Protection Policy and as such we are committed to fulfilling our duty of care by endeavouring to ensure that all Council staff, councillors, contractors and subcontractors, work experience participants, volunteers, and students on placement all act in the best interest of children and take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children across the Clarence Valley.



JACARANDA AQUISITION DRAWING AWARD

Highest attendance to
JADA exhibition in a
decade

The 2022 Jacaranda Drawing Award (JADA) had a record attendance, with visitation of more than 13,500 people during the exhibition at the Grafton Regional Gallery. The judge of this JADA was Suzanne Cotter, Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney who awarded the prize of \$35,000 to Catherine O'Donnell for the artwork *Glenbrook Window #1*.

The biennial JADA celebrates the diversity of Australian contemporary drawing at its finest. This year 56 artists were selected from 641 entries for the exhibition, which will tour six regional East Coast communities throughout 2023 and 2024.

The exhibition encapsulates the extraordinary spectrum of current drawing practice, from the expressive and abstract, to hyper-realism, and works that evoke a poetic and emotional response to our environment, the human condition, and current global events.

The gallery's flagship art prize is generously sponsored by the Friends of Grafton Gallery and through entry fees.

PICTURED ABOVE: 2022 JADA Winner Catherine O'Donnell and 2022 JADA Judge Suzanne Cotter, Director Museum of Contemporary Art, with the winning artwork.

ARCHIBALD PRIZE 2022 ON EXHIBITION AT THE GRAFTON REGIONAL GALLERY



PICTURED: Archibald Prize 2022 finalist, Claus Stangl *Taika Waititi* (detail)
© the artist

● On exhibition 18 December 2022 to 29 January 2023



● Tickets available via Eventbrite.
Scan the QR code or go to
<https://graffonregionalgallery.eventbrite.com>

Prestigious and often controversial, the Archibald Prize is Australia's foremost portraiture prize. The trustees of the Art Gallery of NSW judge entries and the winner receives \$100,000, courtesy of ANZ.

Awarded annually since 1921, the Archibald Prize was established following a bequest from former gallery trustee and founder of *The Bulletin* magazine, JF Archibald (1856–1919), whose aim was to foster portraiture, support artists and perpetuate the memory of great Australians.

It is awarded to the best portrait

painted in the past year by any artist resident in Australasia from at least one live sitting, 'preferentially of some man or woman distinguished in arts, letters, science or politics'.

Archibald Prize finalists are also eligible for the Packing Room Prize and the ANZ People's Choice award. Finalists are displayed in an exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW, and many previous entries are now part of the gallery's collection.

The Archibald Prize 2022 touring exhibition offers audiences outside Sydney the opportunity to see the finalists' works.



HOW DID THESE EVENTS RECEIVE FUNDING?

- Early in 2022 we put the call out to community groups to submit their events via a competitive SmartyGrants round.
- We submitted six eligible applications to the Reconnecting Regional NSW – Community Events Program.
- All six events were successful.

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!

GET YOUR GROOVE ON ...

At our Reconnecting Regional NSW Community Events

One of the silver linings of the extended COVID-19 restrictions would have to be the joy of reconnecting! We've received funding from the NSW Government's Reconnecting Regional NSW program to support six exciting community events in the Clarence Valley. The aim of the funding is to bring people together and promote social and economic recovery following the pandemic. Two events have already happened - **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT** in Grafton's Market Square and **NYMBOIDA MUSIC NIGHT #1**, with more good times to come in 2023. PICTURED: Carols by Candlelight.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS COMING UP IN 2023

**28
01** GROOVE ON THE GRASS

WHEN: 28 January
WHO: Featuring Jessica Mauboy, Jem Cassar-Daley and Dami Im.
WHERE: Market Square, Grafton
DELIVERED BY: Clarence Valley Council

**18
02** COPMANHURST CALLING

WHEN: 18 February
WHO: Featuring Morphonics and The Sunburnt Celts
WHERE: Copmanhurst Hall
DELIVERED BY: Events Delivered

**10
04** VALLEYFEST COUNTRY FOLK FESTIVAL

WHEN: 10-14 March
WHERE: Glenreagh Hall
DELIVERED BY: Glenreagh Progress Association

**13
02** NYMBOIDA MUSIC NIGHT #2

WHEN: 13 February
WHERE: Nymboida Hall
DELIVERED BY: Nymboida community groups



**19
04** ULMARRA PICNIC IN THE PARK

WHAT: 19 March
WHERE: Small Park, Ulmarra
DELIVERED BY: Ulmarra Village Inc.

KEEP AN EYE ON OUR FACEBOOK, NOTICEBOARD EMAIL AND WEBSITE FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO GET YOUR FREE TICKETS!

Groove on The Grass

SATURDAY 28 JANUARY 2023

JESSICA MAUBOY

DAMI IM

JEM CASSAR-DALEY

MARKET SQUARE, GRAFTON
ON BUNDJALUNG COUNTRY

FREE EVENT - TICKETS ONLINE NOW
ALL AGES, ALL INCLUSIVE

BOOKED



www.GrooveontheGrass.eventbrite.com.au

Proudly funded by



8.6 Associate Member Report - Scenic Rim Regional Council



ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT - SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING DATE: 17 FEBRUARY 2023

- **Eat Local Month Dishes up an Even Larger Serving of Paddock-To-Plate Experiences**

The stellar success of Scenic Rim Eat Local Week will see the region's annual event mushroom to become a month-long celebration of paddock-to-plate experiences throughout June 2023.

From its inception in 2011, when 10 events attracted just 900 people, the Scenic Rim's celebration of its farmers, growers, producers, artisans, chefs and quality food and beverages had grown to 125 events regionwide attended by almost 35,000 visitors in 2022, adding almost \$2 million to the local economy.

The full program of events for Eat Local Month 2023 is to be announced in April, and will include long lunches showcasing local produce, flavour-filled dinners, farm gate experiences, food walks, tastings, tours, talks, masterclasses and workshops for all ages culminating in the signature event, the Winter Harvest Festival, on 1 July.

Eat Local Month will place Scenic Rim farmers, growers and producers at centre stage and shine a spotlight on the region's outstanding local and seasonal produce against the backdrop of the spectacular region.

The evolution of Eat Local Week to Eat Local Month reflects the success flowing from the hard work by many in the community during the past 12 years as well as the support of visitors from around Australia who appreciate authentic food experiences.

With authentic food experiences contributing to the Scenic Rim's inclusion in The Lonely Planet's list of top 10 regions in the world to visit in 2022, the Scenic Rim was also named by delicious magazine as one of the top five places to visit in 2023.

The Scenic Rim is rapidly building its reputation as a foodie's paradise and the expansion of Eat Local Week to a month-long event brings huge benefits to local accommodation providers, retailers and of course restaurants, cafes and other food experiences in the region.

- **Music Event's Success Sets the Stage for an Encore**

Co-presented by the Queensland Music Festival (QMF) together with Scenic Rim Regional Council on 20 April 2022, The Long Sunset music and camping event attracted more than 5,000 people to the Aquis Elysian Fields at Boyland outside Canungra.

Independent economic analysis by the AEC Group found that the event generated total visitor expenditure of \$1.16 million and \$4.82 million in business output with an additional \$862,000 in estimated public relations value generated through reaching an audience of more than 5.2 million people.

The event cost a little more than \$924,000 to deliver and earned revenue of just over \$767,000.

The success of the 2022 The Long Sunset had set the stage for the event to be held again on 29 April 2023.

Council has secured grant funding of \$200,000 for the 2023 event from the Australian Government's Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Program.

- **Tourism Strategy's Five-Year Journey Reaches its Destination**

Scenic Rim Regional Council's achievements in supporting the sustainable growth and long-term viability of the region's tourism sector as a key driver of the local economy were detailed in a report tabled at the Ordinary Meeting held on 24 January 2023.

The final report of the Scenic Rim Tourism Strategy 2017-2021, which was adopted in January 2017, outlined Council's progress in realising the five-year vision to double the value of the region's tourism industry from \$150 million in 2016 to \$300 million by 2021 and its effectiveness as a catalyst for growth within the sector.

Despite the impacts of bushfires, flooding and COVID-19, the strategy had achieved its objectives through the resilience of the region's tourism industry and Council's determination to forge ahead with some bold initiatives assisted by grant funding. Throughout its five-year lifespan, the strategy has provided the framework for the region's tourism development and destination management that have seen significant growth in visitor awareness of the Scenic Rim, enhanced synergies within the sector and an increase in both the capacity and capability of local tourism operators.

While Queensland overall experienced a 48 per cent reduction in overnight visitor expenditure due to the pandemic, the Scenic Rim exceeded its forecasts.

Delivery of the strategy saw spending by domestic day trippers increased from \$64 in 2016 to \$79 by the end of 2021 while spending by domestic overnight visitors increased from \$146 to \$286, exceeding the forecast of \$76 for domestic day trippers and \$166 a night for overnight visitors to the region.

One particularly outstanding outcome was the development of the award-winning destination marketing campaign - 'Welcome to the Scenic Rim, the Richest Place on Earth in Australia', which drove growth in visitation, 'off the charts' growth in awareness, the development of best-in-class creative assets, tremendous growth in leads to operators from campaign activity and a vastly improved online presence through Visit Scenic Rim website.

Council's adoption in March 2020 of the Scenic Rim Regional Prosperity Strategy 2020-2025 has provided a detailed growth plan for all business and industry sectors in the region, including tourism, which will continue to progress through the new Scenic Rim Agri-tourism and Agribusiness 10-Year Roadmap 2022- 2032 and the proposed Scenic Rim Nature-based Tourism Strategy.

- **Binna Burra Marks Milestone on Road to Recovery**

Scenic Rim Mayor Greg Christensen was joined by federal Minister for Emergency Management Senator Murray Watt on 19 November 2022 at the official opening of the new facilities which were co-funded by the Australian and Queensland governments through the Local Economic Recovery Program, with a grant of \$500,000 auspiced by Scenic Rim Regional Council.

As the bushfire destroyed the main lodge, kitchen, dining room, library, reception and retail areas as well as 42 cabins, this project has provided the infrastructure enabling Binna Burra to rebuild on its foundation as a leading visitor destination, restoring and expanding job opportunities in the Scenic Rim.

The \$607,000 project included the extension of Binna Burra's Tea House deck and the construction of showers, toilets, a first aid room and storage areas under the Tea House, the addition of four safari tents to the camping ground and new amenities blocks - at the safari tents and at the base of Mount Roberts.

The project recognises the importance of Lamington National Park reserve for the protection of native birds and animals and the role of Binna Burra Lodge in fostering environmental awareness through eco- tourism.

- **Council Welcomes the appointment of an Advisor to the Scenic Rim**

Mr Gary Stevenson has been appointed as the Governance Advisor for Scenic Rim Regional Council and commenced his appointment on 9 January 2023.

Council has regularly sought guidance from the Department to improve proceedings in the Chamber. Council welcomes the appointment of Mr Stevenson and looks forward to the implementation of reforms that will ensure best practice in local government are achieved.

Mr Stevenson is a highly experienced executive with a proven track record in leading and developing the full spectrum of large and complex local government organisations with diverse ranges of significant business activities.

- **Road upgrades for identified Black Spots to commence**

Council has appointed Naric Civil to deliver \$3 million of projects fully funded by the Australian Government under the 2021–2022 Black Spot Program designed to build safer, more efficient roads, and improve visibility at locations where serious crashes have occurred.

Works will vary between the five projects, but motorists can expect to see new audio line markings, guideposts with reflectors, more guardrails, the installation of alignment markers, construction of a single- lane roundabout, warning signs, and pedestrian refuges.

Works are expected to be completed by May 2023.

The following five projects are fully funded under the Black Spot Program:

- Beechmont Road, east of Rhoades Rd, Witheren
- Beechmont Road, 500m section north of Farm Grove Road, Beechmont
- Munbilla Road and Ellis and Jackson Road intersection, Milora
- Birnam Street and James Street intersection, Beaudesert; and
- Birnam Street and Alice Street intersection, Beaudesert.

This is a large package of works that will assist Council with improving the condition of some high traffic areas for the safety of motorists and pedestrians. Works are expected to be completed by May 2023.

- **Funding Assistance Helps Drive the Road to Recovery**

Scenic Rim Regional Council's flood recovery program is set to hit the ground running in this year, following successful funding applications to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).

With the Scenic Rim region seeing some of the worst widespread rainfall and flooding in generations since late 2020, nine floodways and 22 landslips will require repair or total replacement as a result of multiple declared disaster events.

Council will delay the delivery of some projects under the 2022-2023 Capital Works Program to allow current crews to provide additional support to the restoration works required as a result of the declared disaster events.

The total cost of damage to more than half the region's road network, including 75 per cent of its unsealed roads from a series of declared disaster events, has been estimated at \$50 million. The QRA has now approved \$18.1 million in grant funding, which will go towards this total damage bill, and Council have applied for a further \$13.6 million currently pending approval.

2023 is shaping up as a big year for Council to successfully deliver its flood recovery program against a backdrop of limited resources and ongoing wet weather combined with the need for regular maintenance of key infrastructure and assets to support the Scenic Rim's growing population and economic growth.

- **Tanks Ensure Water's Always on Tap for Firefighters**

The installation of a series of bores and tanks at strategic locations across the Scenic Rim will ensure water is always on tap. Funded through the Bushfire Recovery Exceptional Assistance Program, the bores at Boyland, Kerry, Christmas Creek, Frazerview, and Rathdowney will each feed four 20,000-litre water tanks that will automatically be topped up, ensuring a ready supply of water to meet firefighters' needs.

The bores and water tanks represent a significant investment in the resilience of the region and the ability to respond to the threat of bushfires. A secondary benefit is that Council now has water available at various points for road repair and construction, which reduces the cost of trucking in water from a depot.

- **Statement of Intent Provides Starting Point for Ongoing Climate Change Dialogue**

On 23 November 2023, Council endorsed the Scenic Rim Climate Change Statement of Intent. This will provide a framework for Council to play its part in ensuring the region's environmental and primary production precincts and local communities remain valuable, liveable and productive, not only for the region but also Queensland and Australia.

The Statement of Intent will be integral to the development of the Scenic Rim Climate Change Strategy, to be actioned as part of Council's 2022-2023 Operational Plan.

Council recognises the significant impacts that climate change presents for the region, along with the direct and indirect impacts of severe weather and disaster events including flood, fire and drought – all of which, sadly, the Scenic Rim has experienced in recent years.

The future presents many challenges and Council is committed to working with the local community, businesses, industries and other levels of government to mitigate and adapt to the particular challenge of climate change. The Statement of Intent not only addresses community concerns raised since the 2019 bushfires but also provides a starting point for ongoing dialogue over climate change issues.

- **Report Card Lists Sound Achievements in Waste Management despite impacts of Floods and Covid-19**

In line with the Queensland Government's 2050 target to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill by 25 per cent, the *Scenic Rim Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-2026* helps to drive a fundamental shift in waste management to support the transition to a zero-waste society.

Council's priority is maintaining the region's pristine beauty and natural environment, which includes sustainable waste management practices to reduce Council's carbon footprint, transitioning to a circular economy and creating economic opportunities, all of which are key priorities outlined in the strategy.

Actions identified for implementation within year one of the strategy include: the investigation of circular economy programs; expanded waste audits with a review of current services, facilities, standards and their development; an anti-litter program and the identification of waste from public places.

The report card reveals that 50 percent of early learning centres across the Scenic Rim have signed up to the children's waste education program, Get Grubby, an online, interactive waste education campaign highlighting the importance of reducing waste at home or at school and the impact of waste on the environment.

The commitment of Scenic Rim residents to reducing waste can be seen in the results of the recent Garage Sale Trail, with the region rating the second highest per capita in Queensland in participation in this festival of pre-loved items.

- **Scenic Rim's Growth Management Strategy Endorsed at Ordinary Meeting**

Recently recognised for its vision and innovation in the Strategic Planning Project category of the Planning Institute of Australia's 2022 Awards for Planning Excellence Queensland, the Growth Management Strategy dovetails with the timeframes and benchmarks of the current South East Queensland Regional Plan, ShapingSEQ.

The Growth Management Strategy provides for greater diversity in housing in a range of locations, with additional land zoned for residential development to meet dwelling supply benchmarks as well as the changing needs and lifestyles of the Scenic Rim community.

It provides direction for the planning and prioritisation of growth to 2041, through tailored strategies for particular areas.

As the principal rural activity centre of the Scenic Rim, Beaudesert is a priority area for the majority of housing and employment growth due to its current and planned infrastructure. This is supported by the major rural activity centre of Boonah and townships, each with their own unique character, including Kalbar, Aratula, Peak Crossing and Harrisville, Tamborine Mountain, Tamborine, Canungra and Kooralbyn.

While the Bromelton State Development Area has the potential to be a significant generator of industrial employment for the region, its development depends on key infrastructure including upgrades to the Mount Lindesay Highway freight route and the delivery of the Kagaru to Acacia Ridge and Bromelton section of the Inland Rail project.

While the development of the Scenic Rim Growth Management Strategy 2041 was a condition for Queensland Government approval of the Scenic Rim Planning Scheme, it now provides a strong basis for further planning, including considerations such as infrastructure needs and timing, as well as ensuring we maintain the diverse and unique character of the many communities across the Scenic Rim.

- **Amendment to Scenic Rim Planning Scheme 2020 to be presented for Ministerial Review**

A draft major amendment to the Scenic Rim Planning Scheme 2020 has been submitted for approval for adoption by the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

The Draft Major Amendment Number 3, covering a range of planning issues across the region, received 28 submissions during the community consultation between 18 May and 3 July 2022.

Consideration of the submissions resulted in a number of improvements to the amendment items. Key amendments include:

- facilitation of small-scale craft breweries and distilleries in the Minor Tourism Zone, Township and Centres Zones;
- enabling groundwater extraction in the Tamborine Mountain Rural Precinct to support opportunities for the provision of bulk water strictly for domestic purposes only;
- amendments to Dual Occupancy provisions in the Low and Low-medium Density Residential Zones to enhance amenity and neighbourhood character;
- enabling sub-division of land in the Rural Zone where it is dissected by a State-controlled Road in limited circumstances, and
- inclusion of an administrative map and definition for the existing Mountain Community area defined in the Planning Scheme to more clearly define the land where the special outcomes that seek to protect the unique qualities of Tamborine Mountain in the Planning Scheme apply.

Council also moved to amend the Mountain Community definition to Tamborine Mountain Community to better represent the mapped area in the Scheme.

The amendments aligned with Council's commitment to the community to ensure the Planning Scheme remains current and reflects the changing region.

- **Community Helps Shape Planning for Mountain's Popular Precinct**

Feedback from the Scenic Rim community has helped to finalise concept designs for a range of improvements proposed for Tamborine Mountain's popular Gallery Walk precinct.

Scenic Rim Regional Council's final round of community engagement for the development of a business case for a pedestrian boulevard at Gallery Walk focused on designs for a car park to alleviate current traffic issues and improve pedestrian safety.

Concluding in October 2022, the community consultation received a total of 75 responses following more than 1,500 visits to Council's Let's Talk Scenic Rim website, the downloading of more than 700 concept design documents and 49 visits to Council's Open House session where residents could view the concept designs in person and talk to members of the design team.

Key components of the final concept design, which have been shaped by community feedback, are the:

- off-street car park entry and exit, which will include a median island to separate incoming and outgoing traffic to provide enhanced safety for pedestrians and motorists

- relocation of a pedestrian crossing in the middle of Gallery Walk, from the southern to the northern side of the car park, also improving pedestrian safety
- construction of a fence around the car park in the first stages of construction, to increase privacy, reduce noise impacts to residents, and the potential for trespassing
- inclusion of space within the footprint of the off-street car park to provide for gatherings and pop-up exhibitions by local artists and craftspeople, and
- management of overland water flows within the proposed car park, as well as the consideration of water re-use within the existing landscaping and public amenities facilities.

In 2020, Council was allocated \$150,100 under the Queensland Government's Building our Regions program to develop its Tamborine Mountain Gallery Walk Pedestrian Boulevard Business Case and Council is also contributing \$75,100 towards the project.

- **Investment in Scenic Rim Creatives to pay dividends for the region**

Projects ranging from a feature film to a coffee table book showcasing the Scenic Rim, the composition and performance of an original piece of music and collaboration by artists leading to a touring exhibition will share in grants totalling \$25,000 from the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF).

In the first round of RADF funding for 2022-2023, local artists and cultural workers were invited to apply for grants for projects which explored a reimaging of arts and culture after years of COVID and local disaster impacts on the community.

For 31 years RADF has provided a legacy of creating new art and cultural experiences for Queensland audiences and communities, and a platform for professional development and growth across the regional arts sector.”

The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Scenic Rim Regional Council to support local arts and culture in Regional Queensland.

RECOMMENDATION

That the NRJO Board receive and note the Associate Member Report - Scenic Rim Regional Council.

8.7 Associate Member Report - Office of Local Government

Ally Dench, Executive Director, Local Government, finished her role with the Office of Local Government before Christmas.

The OLG was split out from the Crown Lands Group to be a stand-alone Division within DPE.

Brett Whitworth is the new Dep Sec. He was Dep Sec of Planning Policy Group.

Local Government Elections 2024

- By **13 March 2023**, councils are required to decide on how their Sept 2024 ordinary elections are to be administered (s296AA).
- If a council is proposing to engage the NSWEC to administer its elections, it should resolve to do so as soon as possible and notify the NSWEC. Model resolution is available on OLG's website. Contract with the NSWEC must be finalised by **13 June 2023**.
- If a council does not resolve to engage the NSWEC to administer its elections by **13 March 2023**, it must engage another electoral services provider. (Circular 22-35)

State Elections March 2023

- Just a reminder that in the lead up to the 25 March 2023 State election - councillors, council staff and other council officials need to be aware of their obligations under the Model Code of Conduct regarding the use of council resources.
- Caretaker period will start on 3 March 2023 (Circular no 22-33)

Review of councillor misconduct review

- Mr Gary Kellar PSM has completed his review of the councillor misconduct framework. The NSW Government sought views of the local govt sector and others on Mr Kellar's findings and 49 recommendations. submissions closed on 3 February.

Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit

- The Office of Local Government has issued draft *Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit* to assist councils and joint organisations to commence the steps necessary to implement them. The Guidelines will be reissued in a final form when the supporting regulations are made.
- Councils and joint organisations will be required to comply with these requirements from **1 July 2024** (Circular no 22-41)

New procurement guidelines

- OLG is consulting on the development of new procurement guidelines to complement the new regulation. Submissions are closing on 24 Feb 2023.
- After considering submissions, draft guidelines will be issued for second round of consultation (Circular no 22-40)

Child Safe compliance commenced on 1 Feb 2023

This will allow the Children's Guardian to take action to ensure organisations comply with the Child Safe Standards. Their focus is on education and building capacity.

Community Assets Program

\$70 million funding is now available to help repair social and community infrastructure damaged by floods. Councils can apply between \$100,000 - \$7.5 million for projects that support the repair of parks, playgrounds, walkways, places of cultural heritage and other community assets like libraries, pedestrian bridges and community-based pre-schools.

Applications opened on 20 Jan 2023 and closes on 27 March 2023. More info available <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/community-assets-program>

Skill shortage

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment, in partnership with Training Services NSW and the water utility and training sectors, is implementing 2-year water operations skills and training action plan to address skill shortage in that area.

RECOMMENDATION

That the NRJO Board receive and note the Associate Member report – Office of Local Government.

8.8 Associate Member Report - Destination North Coast



Destination North Coast - Mid North Coast Joint Organisation of Councils update

- **Market conditions**

Operator and LGA feedback indicate that the peak holiday season has delivered strong results overall for destinations and operators. The good weather experienced has offset the increase in competition with consumers now being able to select and travel to a wider range of destinations. Obtaining staffing continues to be an ongoing issue. The return of working holiday maker international travelers is starting to assist with this issue but numbers of these visitors still have a long way to recover (currently WHM visa holders circa 30% of pre-Covid levels)

All Mid North Coast destinations surveyed have indicated that they were at least as busy as last year with some experiencing high levels of visitation compared to last year. Unfortunately, ongoing staffing issues led to a host of operators and venues not be able to open across all days and there tended to be a shortage of open venues on public holidays. Positively attractions and experiences appear to have generated significant increases in operation as travel patterns and visitor types start to return to traditional cycles.

- **DNC North Coast, Destination Management Plan Renewal**

The updated North Coast, Destination Management Plan was launched in Sydney by the Minister for Tourism, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Regional Youth, Ben Franklin on 14 February. The event incorporated the collective launch of all regional Destination Network, Destination Management Plans, to bring increased exposure of regional tourism which accounted for 48% of the expenditure in the State's visitor economy in 2019.

We have not been able to provide a link directly to the updated Destination Management Plan as it was under embargo when the report was submitted. You will be able to find a copy in the DNC website Tool & Resources: <https://dncnsw.com/dnc-tools-and-resources>

Key themes identified for development and growth within the plan are:

- Nature based tourism
- Food, drink & agritourism
- Lifestyle, health and wellbeing
- Caravan & camping
- Business & leisure events
- Cultural tourism

Ensuring the North Coast, visitor economy grows sustainably remains a key goal of the plan. Increased emphasis has also been placed on growing the wellness sector and activating waterways.

- **Business Case and Strategy Development Funding**

DNC were successful in securing funding through the Regional NSW, Business Case and Strategy Development Fund. The funding has been awarded for the following projects:

Evaluate the Viability of a North Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre (\$86k)

This project will review the feasibility, preferred location(s) and potential return on investment that the development of a permanent regionally significant Convention and Exhibition Centre would deliver. The feasibility plan would review current demand, capacity of convention/exhibition space and hotel rooms, market gaps and opportunities and the economic impact that the potential development of a permanent Convention and Exhibition Centre on the North Coast would deliver.

Evaluate the Viability of Development of a Great North Coast Trail (\$124k)

The objective of this project is to assess the feasibility of developing a regionally significant Great North Coast Trail (GNCT) including a detailed cost benefit analysis which will be aimed at ascertaining the return on investment for the project. The GNCT would link existing well-known and developed walking tracks like Yuraygir Coastal Walk and the Solitary Islands Coastal Walk with lesser-known, under-developed stretches of the coastline to become a true long-distance walking track and stand-out nature-based experience with broad appeal.

Other successful Mid North Coast, visitor economy related applications for the Business Case and Strategy Development Fund were:

- Bellingen Shire Council (\$265k) - Precinct Master Plan and infrastructure investments analysis
- Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (\$240k) - Feasibility Study and Business Case for a Circular Economy Centre of Excellence
- MidCoast Council (\$754k) - Feasibility Study and Master Plan for the Northern Gateway Airport / Transport Hub – Taree
- MidCoast Council (\$288k) - Feasibility Study and Master Plan for the development of the Gathang Cultural Centre and new Regional Gallery
- MidCoast Council (\$94k) - Business Case to Establish the Taree Regional Sports Facility of Excellence
- Gloucester Worimi First Peoples Aboriginal Corporation (\$650k) - Business Case for the Mara Wakulda (Come Together) Project
- Unkya Local Aboriginal Land Council (\$106k) - Business Case for Gumbaynggirr Aboriginal Keeping Place

RECOMMENDATION

That the NRJO Board receive and note the Associate Member report - Destination North Coast NSW.

8.9 Associate Member Report - Regional Development Australia Northern Rivers



RDANR Director report to NRJO Board Meeting Feb 2023

Key Activities against RDANR Recovery Priorities:

Accommodation and housing

- Given the complex problems associated with the housing and accommodation issues, RDAs across NSW have agreed a statewide focus will be primarily on worker accommodation, rather than housing and accommodation in general.

Business and Industry Recovery

- Assisted Sugar Cane growers with concerns over infrastructure (drainage) and the impact this has on building resilience in their operations.
- The levels of businesses seeking advice and assistance one on one appear to be coming back to pre-flood levels indicating the region's overall economic activity is coming back to business as usual (outside of the worst hit communities still at recovery stage).

Industrial Land Audit

- Employment lands audit is currently being finalised.

Employment and Workforce Development

- The RDANR established Northern Rivers Displaced Workforce Recovery Steering Committee held a strategy meeting to clarify and progress the outcomes and objectives for the committee. The Committee's original purpose is being reviewed due to being overtaken by "business as usual" economic activity. The Committee has recognised the importance of continuing a cross agency, cross industry Committee and will continue on as the Northern Rivers Workforce Development Committee.
- My Future Workforce platform continues to be promoted. Development of the platform is being considered to enhance its application to support workforce development across the region.
- RDANR continue to work with Training Service NSW to move forward with the Marine/Manufacturing Training initiative with Harwood Marine. Currently define the courses to deliver, available funding, and target groups to build an employment pipeline.
- Business continue to be impacted by the lack of available labour. There have been business closures due to the inability to employ suitable staff numbers. Alternative labour pool opportunities continue to be explored to access a pipeline of labour, e.g. Visa's, SERCO

Flood Mitigation

- Maintaining ongoing dialog with lead agencies and councils.
- Provided input to North Coast Regional Plan.

Other Key Activities

- Will be meeting with Minister Kristy McBain (Minister for Regional Development) at Februarys RDAC meeting in Dubbo.
- RDANR Regional Economic Recovery has been completed.
- Presented RDANR Priorities to Cross Border Commissioner staff.
- Have partnered with Sourdough to host another “Consulting from the Country” on the back of the success of the previous event. This continues to target bringing intellectual capital together. Gareth Spencer (NAB senior economist) has been secured as guest speaker.

RECOMMENDATION

That the NRJO Board receive and note the Associate Member report – Regional Development Australia Northern Rivers.

11. Correspondence of significance – Incoming / Outgoing

Incoming:

1. Hon. Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government
2. Economic Activation Team - application to the Regional NSW - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund
3. Premier of NSW - approval of grant for \$550,000

Outgoing:

1. Congratulations Cr Russell Fitzpatrick - Mayor, Bega Valley Shire - Chair of the NSW JO Chairs' Forum
2. Congratulations Cr Jamie Chaffey - Mayor, Gunnedah Shire - Chair of the NSW CMA
3. Congratulations Cr Rick Firman - Mayor, Temora Shire - Deputy Chair of the NSW CMA
4. Welcome Cr Michael Lyon - Mayor, Byron Shire Council - NSW CMA member
5. Welcome Cr Steve Krieg - Mayor, Lismore City Council - NSW CMA member

(Copies of correspondence attached)

RECOMMENDATION

That the NRJO Board receive and note the correspondence of significance - Incoming and Outgoing.



The Hon. Wendy Tuckerman MP
Minister for Local Government

Our Ref: A843005

Clr Sharon Cadwallader
Chairperson
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation
PO Box 146
LISMORE NSW 2480

Via email: sharon.cadwallader@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Dear Clr Cadwallader

I am writing about Clarence Valley Council's application to become a member of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation. I note that Clarence Valley Council's application was considered by a resolution at an extraordinary meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation held in November 2022. I understand the resolution was voted in favour.

I am pleased to advise that a proclamation was made which has amended the Local Government (Regional Joint Organisations) Proclamation 2018 by declaring that the area of Clarence Valley Council is included within the area of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation. Consequently, Clarence Valley Council is now a member of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation.

The proclamation, as amended, will be found on the NSW Legislation website at <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2018-0192>. I am advised that it may take several days before the necessary editorial changes are made on the website to incorporate the amendment in the proclamation.

I thank the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation for agreeing to allow Clarence Valley Council to become a member. I am confident that Clarence Valley Council's membership will be of considerable benefit to both parties.

Yours sincerely

The Hon. Wendy Tuckerman MP
Minister for Local Government

16 DEC 2022

CC: Mr Phillip Rudd, Executive Officer, Northern Rivers Joint Organisation – via email:
admin@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au



The Hon. Paul Toole MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Police

OFFICIAL

22/51#58

Mr Phillip Rudd
A/Executive Officer
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation of Councils
218 Molesworth Street
LISMORE NSW 2480

Dear Mr Rudd,

Letter of Offer – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund

Thank you for your support of the Regional NSW - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund.

I appreciate the time and effort it takes to prepare applications and I thank you for applying to this program. I am excited about the great potential of these projects to enhance our regional communities.

It is my pleasure to confirm the following project submitted by your organisation has been successful:

Application ID	Project Title	Grant Value
BCSD1 - 0168	Northern Rivers Rail Trail	\$481,115.00 excl. GST

The NSW Government may make a public announcement about the funding of your project and you are encouraged to contact the media unit at the Department of Regional NSW via media@regional.nsw.gov.au with any planned media opportunities regarding your project.

I ask that the funding offer is kept confidential until it has been announced by the NSW Government. **Please sign the attached Confidentiality Undertaking and email back to economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au within 5 business days of receipt of this letter.**

Please note that the NSW Government is under no obligation to pay Northern Rivers Joint Organisation of Councils any funding unless, and until, both parties execute an agreed Funding Deed.

It should also be noted as part of receiving NSW Government funding, you will be required to participate in monitoring and evaluation activities and processes.

Should you wish to discuss this offer further, please contact Fin McDonough, Manager Programs on 02 6650 3154 or economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au.

We look forward to working closely with you to facilitate this important project in regional NSW.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Paul Toole MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Police

OFFICIAL



New South Wales

Dominic Perrottet MP

Premier of New South Wales

Ref: A5621810

Councillor Sharon Cadwallader
Chair
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation
PO BOX 146
Lismore NSW 2480

Dear Sharon,

Thank you for your continued advocacy for the Northern Rivers, following the floods earlier this year.

The NSW Government would like to support the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation to commemorate one year since the devastating flood events.

On behalf of the New South Wales Government, I am pleased to provide a grant of \$550,000 for this purpose. Please note – the NSW Government is providing funding directly to the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation.

To accept this grant, your office will need to provide additional information and enter into a funding agreement with the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Please ask your team to follow the instructions in the enclosed information sheet and reply to the Community Programs and Recognition team, Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Perrottet'.

Dominic Perrottet MP
Premier

5/1/23

30 January 2023

Councillor Russell Fitzpatrick
Mayor, Bega Valley Shire
Zingel Place
PO Box 492
BEGA NSW 2550

Dear Russell,

Congratulations on your election as Chair of the NSW Joint Organisation Chairs' Forum

On behalf of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO), it is a pleasure to offer you our warmest congratulations following your election as the Chair of the NSW Joint Organisation Chairs' Forum.

To be entrusted by your fellow Mayors to lead such an important strategic collaboration forum for all of NSW's joint organisations is a remarkable honour.

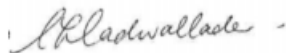
Under your stewardship we're confident the forum will continue to amplify our collective regional voices, increase cooperation with other levels of government and assist the joint organisation model on its development to maturity.

The NRJO stands ready to support your efforts to advocate strongly in relation to the many issues affecting rural and regional communities, as well as the unique challenges facing local government.

Should there ever be anything the NRJO may be able to assist you with, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

We wish you all the best as you strive to deliver positive outcomes for rural and regional NSW and their many joint organisations.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Sharon Cadwallader
Chair
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION

Phone 0409 558 758
Email admin@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au
Web www.northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au
Post PO Box 146, Lismore, NSW 2480
ABN 68 587 813 167

30 January 2023

Councillor Jamie Chaffey
Mayor, Gunnedah Shire
PO Box 63
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Dear Jamie,

Congratulations on your election as Chair of the NSW Country Mayors Association

On behalf of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO), it is a pleasure to offer you our warmest congratulations following your recent election as the Chair of the Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA).

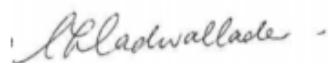
To be entrusted by your fellow Mayors to lead one of NSW's largest local government associations, is a remarkable honour.

Along with several of our member councils who also form part of the CMA's extensive membership, the NRJO stands ready to assist your efforts to advocate strongly in relation to the many issues affecting rural and regional communities, as well as the unique challenges facing local government.

Should there ever be anything the NRJO may be able to support you and the CMA with, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

We wish you all the best over the next 2 years as you strive to deliver positive outcomes for rural and regional NSW and their many local councils.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Sharon Cadwallader
Chair
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

30 January 2023

Councillor Rick Firman
Mayor, Temora Shire
PO Box 262
TEMORA NSW 2666

Dear Rick,

Congratulations on your election as Deputy Chair of the NSW Country Mayors Association

On behalf of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO), it is a pleasure to offer you our warmest congratulations following your recent election as the Deputy Chair of the Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA).

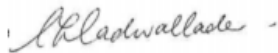
To be entrusted by your fellow Mayors to help lead one of NSW's largest local government associations is a remarkable honour.

Along with several of our member councils who also form part of the CMA's extensive membership, the NRJO stands ready to assist your efforts to advocate strongly in relation to the many issues affecting rural and regional communities, as well as the unique challenges facing local government.

Should there ever be anything the NRJO may be able to support you and the CMA with, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

We wish you all the best over the next 2 years as you strive to deliver positive outcomes for rural and regional NSW and their many local councils.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Sharon Cadwallader
Chair
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

30 January 2023

Councillor Michael Lyon,
Mayor
Byron Shire Council
PO Box 219
MULLUMBIMBY NSW 2482

michael.lyon@byron.nsw.gov.au

Dear Michael,

Addition of Byron Shire and Lismore City councils as NSW Country Mayors Association members

I am pleased to write on behalf of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) following the acceptance of Byron Shire and Lismore City councils as new members of the Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA).

The CMA Executive's decision at its 18 November 2022 meeting to admit 2 more of the NRJO's member councils is indeed welcome news.

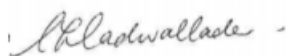
As the recognised voice for local government in the Northern Rivers region, the NRJO appreciates that its strength comes from our members.

Adding Byron Shire and Lismore City councils to the CMA's already extensive membership will undoubtedly strengthen its position as one of NSW's peak representative bodies for local government in rural and regional areas.

It also ensures more of the NRJO's member councils are at the forefront of helping drive the reform needed to address challenges that transcend local government boundaries and are shared across rural and regional communities and their local councils.

Should there ever be anything the NRJO may be able to assist the CMA with, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Sharon Cadwallader
Chair
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION

Phone 0409 558 758
Email admin@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au
Web www.northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au
Post PO Box 146, Lismore, NSW 2480
ABN 68 587 813 167

30 January 2023

Councillor Steve Krieg,
Mayor
Lismore Shire Council
PO Box 23A
LISMORE NSW 2480

steve.krieg@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Dear Steve,

Addition of Byron Shire and Lismore City councils as NSW Country Mayors Association members

I am pleased to write on behalf of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) following the acceptance of Byron Shire and Lismore City councils as new members of the Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA).

The CMA Executive's decision at its 18 November 2022 meeting to admit 2 more of the NRJO's member councils is indeed welcome news.

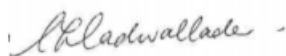
As the recognised voice for local government in the Northern Rivers region, the NRJO appreciates that its strength comes from our members.

Adding Byron Shire and Lismore City councils to the CMA's already extensive membership will undoubtedly strengthen its position as one of NSW's peak representative bodies for local government in rural and regional areas.

It also ensures more of the NRJO's member councils are at the forefront of helping drive the reform needed to address challenges that transcend local government boundaries and are shared across rural and regional communities and their local councils.

Should there ever be anything the NRJO may be able to assist the CMA with, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Sharon Cadwallader
Chair
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION

Phone 0409 558 758
Email admin@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au
Web www.northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au
Post PO Box 146, Lismore, NSW 2480
ABN 68 587 813 167