

Strategic Regional Priorities

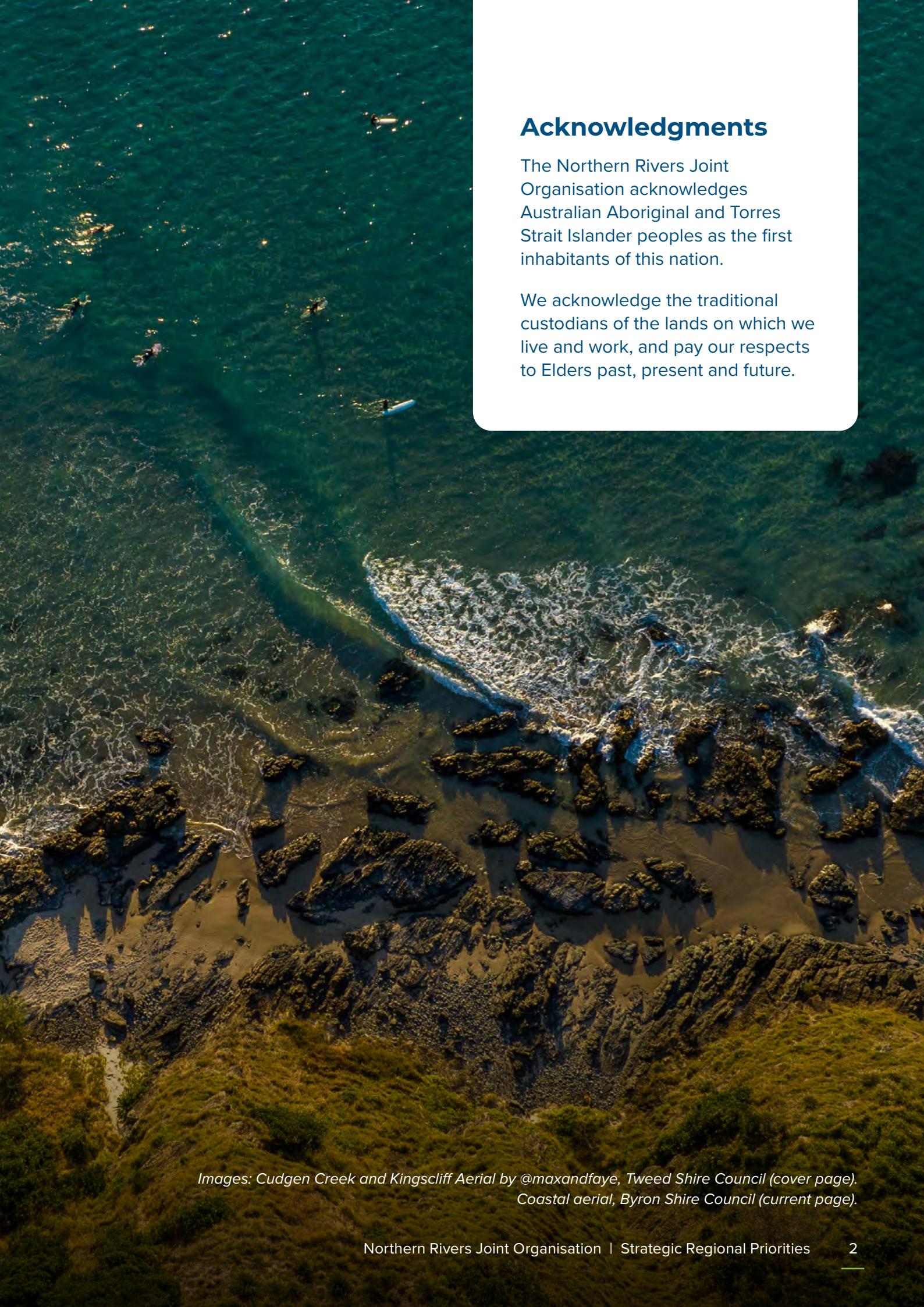


2025 - 2029

Sustainable. Resilient. Prosperous.



**NORTHERN
RIVERS**
JOINT ORGANISATION



Acknowledgments

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation acknowledges Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of this nation.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we live and work, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

*Images: Cudgen Creek and Kingscliff Aerial by @maxandfaye, Tweed Shire Council (cover page).
Coastal aerial, Byron Shire Council (current page).*



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Image: Mara Global Foods, Kyogle Council.



Foreword

This statement of Strategic Regional Priorities continues the work of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) over the previous council term. The NRJO has very limited resources, and so while we describe in Part 2 those issues that will be important for our regional communities in the coming years, Part 1 will be our focus for this Board's term to 2029.

As well as supporting the NRJO to speak with a strong, united voice when advocating for local priorities to State and Commonwealth governments, this document will help us to better collaborate across local government boundaries to improve community outcomes. By working together, our member councils are able to support one another, share solutions to common local issues, and be innovative in addressing shared local government concerns.

The NRJO looks forward to a continuing constructive working relationship with other key players in

the region, including government agencies and corporations, Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers, community service providers, CSIRO, tertiary education institutions, business and industry.

We look forward to progressing our region's priorities and supporting our member councils in their efforts to raise shared concerns with other levels of government.



Cr Chris Cherry
Chair, NRJO Board

Image: Bonalbo Area, Kyogle Council.

About NRJO

A network of Joint Organisations was established in 2017 by the NSW Government to strengthen collaboration between local councils and other levels of government with the goal of driving better planning, economic development and service delivery in regional NSW.

Joint Organisations are tasked with three key functions:

- ✓ Establish strategic regional priorities and develop strategies and plan for delivering those priorities
- ✓ Provide regional leadership and advocate for strategic regional priorities
- ✓ Identify and take up opportunities for inter-governmental cooperation on regional matters.

In 2025, Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) comprises seven member councils:



Image: Ballina Break Wall, Ballina.



NRJO's Vision

As part of the development of this statement of Strategic Regional Priorities, the NRJO reviewed and refreshed its Vision:

The Northern Rivers region: resilient, connected and thriving communities, cultures and ecosystems.

Image: Nimbin Rainbow Walk, Lismore.

Our Principles

To provide a focus for our efforts, NRJO is committed to the following principles:

- ✓ To provide a forum and vehicle for cooperative action on issues of regional significance and concern to Local Government that require advocacy and/or political representation.
- ✓ To act as an advocate for the region to the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments to advance the interests of the region.
- ✓ To seek from governments, financial assistance, legislative and/ or policy changes and additional resources required by the region.
- ✓ To proactively facilitate delivery of projects and services that benefit our region and our member councils.
- ✓ To only pursue cost-neutral services or services that do not come at an additional cost to our member councils.
- ✓ To foster collaboration and break down barriers across LGAs to work efficiently on shared issues for better community outcomes in the Northern Rivers region.

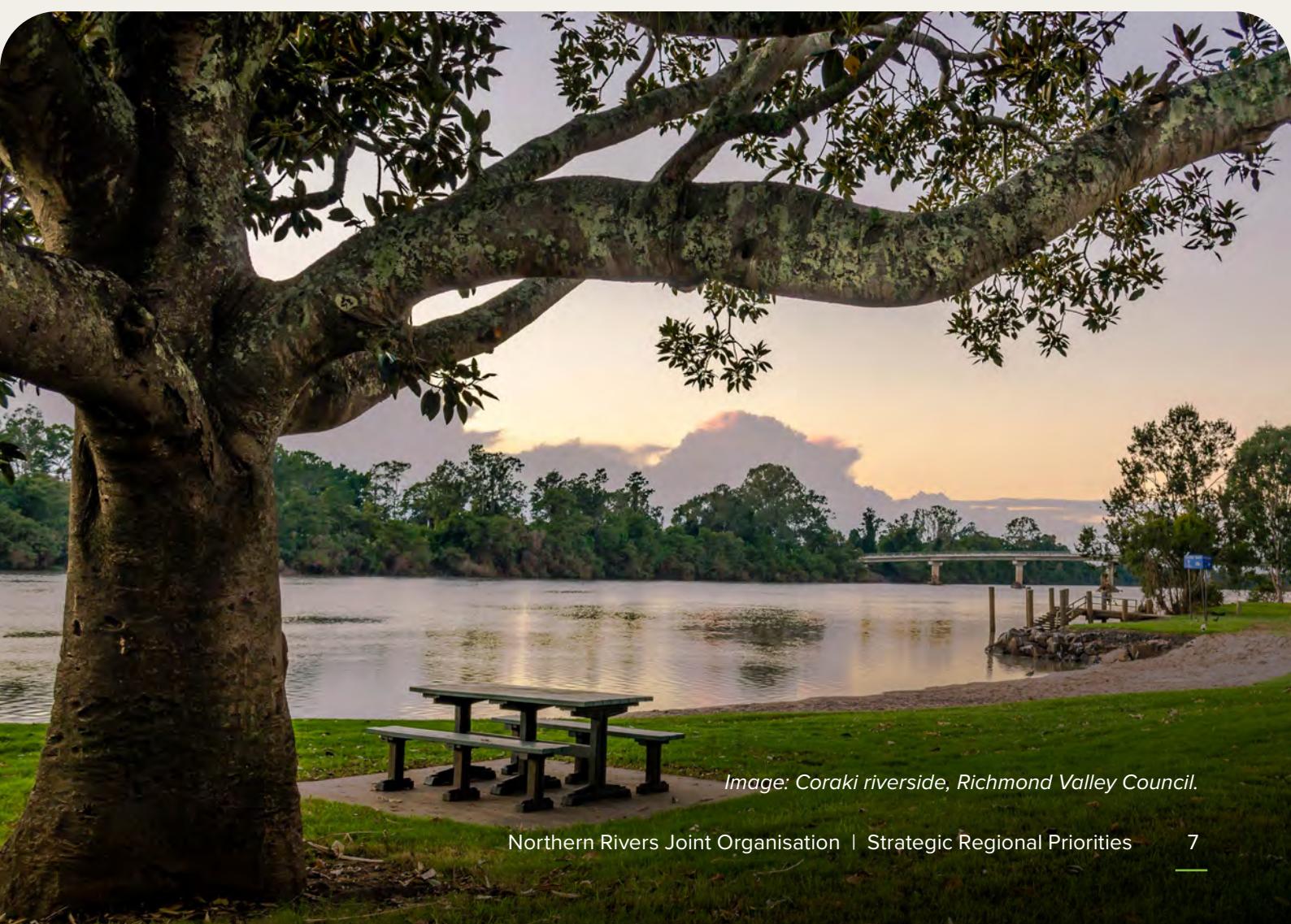
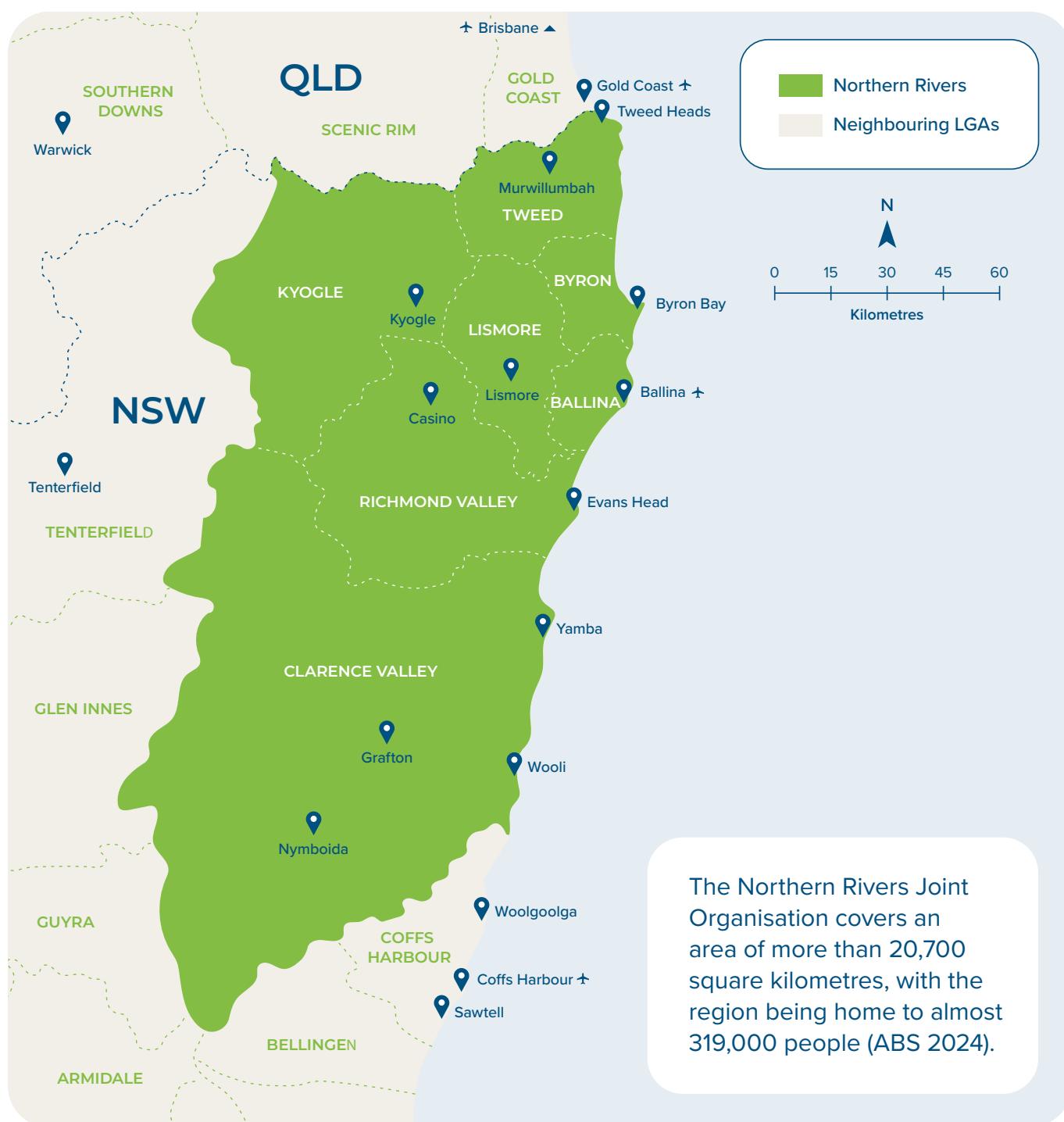


Image: Coraki riverside, Richmond Valley Council.

About the Northern Rivers region

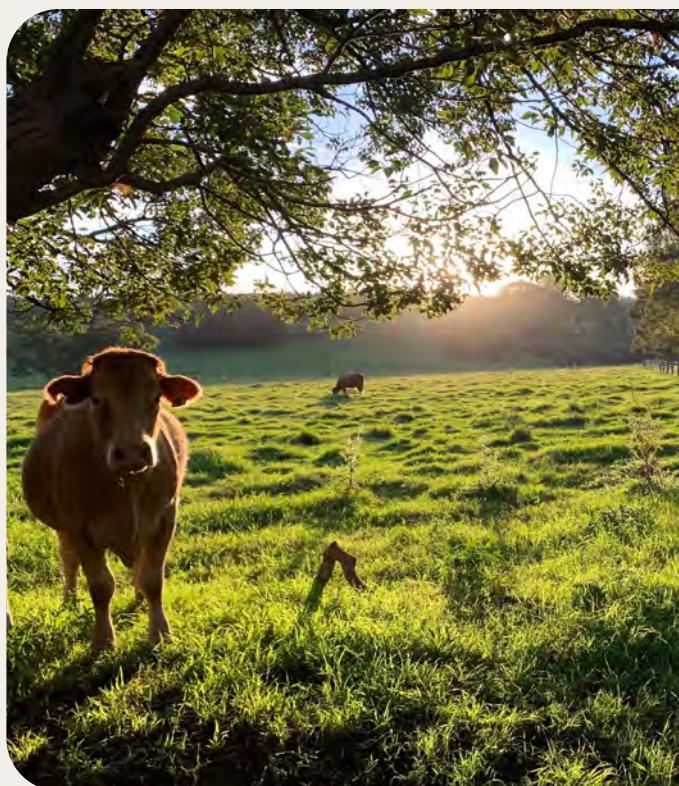
The Northern Rivers region stretches from Wooli in the south to the Scenic Rim on the Queensland border, and is bordered to the west by the Tenterfield, Glen Innes and Armidale Regional local government areas.



For thousands of years, this land has been cared for by the Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr, Githabul and Yaegl people, whose ongoing connection to Country remains central to the region. Today, the Northern Rivers is known for its diversity, strong sense of place and vibrant communities.



The Northern Rivers is a region of contrasts. From world-famous surfing beaches and coastal towns to fertile agricultural land, rainforests, mountains and rural villages, it offers a unique mix of natural environments and lifestyles. Communities range from small country hamlets to major regional centres and thriving tourist destinations.



Images: Fingal Head by @maxandfaye (top right), Nymboida River, Clarence Valley (top left), Cows in Byron Bay hinterland (bottom left), Northern Rivers Rail Trail, Richmond Valley Council (bottom right)



Strong connections shape the region's role and opportunity. To the north, links with South East Queensland connect us to major markets. To the south, ties to the Coffs Coast and Mid North Coast strengthen regional collaboration. Across the region, population centres support transport, education, health and employment.

Despite its diversity, the Northern Rivers is united by a shared love of its environment, way of life and community. These shared values have been especially evident during recent natural disasters and continue to provide a strong foundation for working together to build a more resilient and connected region.

Images: Mullumbimby streetscape, Byron Shire Council (top), Hinterland Wollumbin by @maxandfaye, Tweed Shire Council (middle), Byron Bay lighthouse (bottom).



Regional Priorities

This statement of Strategic Regional Priorities describes the focus for NRJO's work over the four-year period from 2025 to 2029. It also identifies areas that NRJO will pursue should additional resources become available.

Each local government area in the Northern Rivers region undertakes its own Community Strategic Planning process, and this has helped to identify where priorities are shared by communities across the Northern Rivers.

Other informants to this planning process have included:

- ✓ NSW Government's priorities, and its Budget focus
- ✓ North Coast Regional Plan 2041
- ✓ Northern Rivers Resilient Lands Strategy (Aug 2024)
- ✓ Northern Rivers Regional Economic Development Strategy (2023 update)
- ✓ Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative (CSIRO)
- ✓ Regional Development Australia's Regional Recovery Plan 2025
- ✓ Healthy North Coast Strategic Plan 2023-2030
- ✓ Healthy Ageing Strategy 2023-2027
- ✓ North Coast Destination Management Plan 2022-2030
- ✓ Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy (2023)
- ✓ North-East Waste Regional Waste Strategy 2022-2027

Image: Nimbin Rocks landscapes.

To progress the achievement of agreed regional priorities, the NRJO will focus its activities over the next few years through a lens which considers the following key themes:



Resilience

Emphasising preparedness and adaptability in the face of climate change, natural disasters, and economic shifts.



Connection

Strengthening regional collaboration among member councils, First Nations communities, and other regional stakeholders; and promoting our physical connection through fit-for-purpose transport infrastructure, private and public transport provision, and our digital connection through reliable telecommunications.



Thriving Communities

Supporting vibrant local economies, inclusive social development, and cultural vitality.



Sustainability

Prioritising environmental stewardship, renewable energy, and regenerative land and water management.



Innovation

Flows through each of the other four themes by encouraging smart regional planning, digital transformation, and creative industries.

Part 1

Our Term Commitments

Image: Hinterland Fig by Sam Brincat, Tweed Tourism Co.



NRJO delivery priorities for this term

This document seeks to identify and collate the regional priorities for the Northern Rivers as a whole and provides a point of reference for all stakeholders across the region for those issues, helping to identify where investment will best respond to community goals.

The NRJO has limited financial and human resources to pursue regional projects and initiatives, unless additional funding is provided from other levels of government. Therefore, the Board has identified in Part 1 of this document the focus for this term and the specific outcomes it seeks to achieve within the resources available to it.

These are complemented in Part 2 of this document with a summary of other regional priorities (and actions in response to these) which can only be pursued if additional resources become available.

Image: Grafton Streetscape, Clarence Valley.

Strategic pillars

Delivery goals for this term

Indicators of success



Resilience

- Advocacy efforts achieve funding for the implementation of short- and medium-term actions of the CSIRO Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative
- Participation in the Community Recovery Officers Program builds community recovery, resilience, preparedness and leadership to and from natural disasters.

Funding achieved and implementation of actions commenced

Funding secured and Community Recovery Officer engaged.



Connection

- Finalise delivery of the Northern Rivers rail trail corridor
- Findings of the Freight and Logistics Study are revisited and implemented.

Linkages with Ballina and Kyogle included in the regional rail corridor network; Uniform plan of management for Rail Trail agreed;

Priority freight and logistics study recommendations are implemented.



Thriving Communities

- With funding from the NSW Reconstruction Authority, deliver a Northern Rivers Masterplan.

Published document informs ongoing advocacy efforts for investment, including for more housing product across the region.



Sustainability

- Deliver regionally agreed approach to waste management
- Support councils and the region to build capacity to develop and pursue net zero outcomes.

A regionally agreed approach is documented and endorsed

Funding secured under the Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) Program and Net Zero Program Officer engaged.

NRJO advocacy focus for this term

A primary function of Joint Organisations is to advocate to other levels of government, industry and other key stakeholders on issues that are priorities across the region. The NRJO's advocacy efforts seek to raise awareness of issues, influence Government policy, encourage action and service delivery, and secure funding for priority regional projects.

The NRJO's priority advocacy focus for the 2025-29 term will be for:

- ✓ Funding to complete the development of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail
- ✓ Better, faster, appropriate funding flow to support disaster recovery responses, including appropriately addressing coastal repair and related infrastructure
- ✓ Enhanced telecommunication and digital connectivity across the region
- ✓ Housing that meets the region's needs, including action from State and Federal.



Image: Northern Rivers Rail Trail, Richmond Valley Council.



Priority 1: Resilience

Resilience means an emphasis on preparedness, responsiveness and adaptability in the face of climate change, natural disasters, and economic shifts.



Resilience	Key stakeholders
1.1	
Continue collaboration with the CSIRO for the development of the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative to ensure that:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It delivers a holistic report on flood modelling, catchment management and community resilience• It identifies actions that reflect achievable priorities for our region• Provides the evidence to secure enhanced funding to implement its actions.	CSIRO NSW Government Australian Government NRJO member councils
1.2	
Advocate for better, faster funding flow to support action to address disaster recovery responses.	NSW Government Australian Government
1.3	
Contribute to community recovery, resilience and future preparedness to and from natural disasters through participation in the Community Recovery Officers Program initiated by the NSW Reconstruction Authority following ex Tropical Cyclone Alfred.	NSW Government

Image: Lismore 'In the Heart' sculpture - Holly Ahern and Eden Crawford-Harriman.



Priority 2: Connection

Connection includes strengthening regional collaboration among member councils, First Nations communities, and other regional stakeholders. It also refers to our physical connection through fit for purpose transport infrastructure, private and public transport provision, and our digital connection through reliable telecommunications.

Connection	Key stakeholders
<p>2.1</p> <p>Through an enhanced regional approach to the development and expansion of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail corridor across the Northern Rivers region, finalise its delivery through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Securing funding for its completion• Determining a funding model for its promotion for tourism, economic and recreational activities.	NRJO member councils RDA Northern Rivers
<p>2.2</p> <p>Continue to pursue better connection between southern Queensland and northern NSW through addressing freight and supply chain networks and needs through the implementation of the recommendations of the Freight and Logistics Study.</p>	Local producers Freight companies NRJO member councils NSW Government
<p>2.3</p> <p>Advocate for improved telecommunication and digital infrastructure across the regions, with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comprehensive coverage• Fast, reliable and affordable service provision <p>Establishing standards and regulations for infrastructure installations considerate of community need, environmental sensitivity, visual amenity and property access.</p>	NRJO member councils Telcos NBN Co Australian Government

Image: Northern Rivers Rail Trail, Richmond Valley Council.



Priority 3: Thriving Communities

Thriving communities are ones that support vibrant local economies including promotion of a strong, diverse circular economy and opportunities for expanded business and industry development. Also inclusive social development, and cultural vitality, with access to quality and appropriate housing, health, education and employment opportunities which contribute to community wellbeing.

Thriving Communities	Key stakeholders
<p>3.1</p> <p>Deliver a Northern Rivers Masterplan, as part of the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative, which informs ongoing advocacy efforts for investment, including for more housing product across the region.</p>	<p>NSW Reconstruction Authority Australian Government CSIRO NRJO member councils</p>
<p>3.2</p> <p>Contribute to the development of a regional housing strategy that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Identifies key locations for a diverse range of housing developmentsConsiders access to transport, services, public facilities and amenities, education, employment and recreationCreates greater access for key workersPromotes an enhanced mix of diverse housing types, including in rural and urban areas and for the region's ageing populationStrategically plans for and funds enabling infrastructure across the regionAddresses barriers in the flow of housing supplyBorrows from better practice examples across the region and beyondProvides incentives for strategic location of housing near transport hubs <p>Identifies potential demonstration projects for attracting government or private investment.</p>	<p>NSW Dept of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure Community housing providers Aged care providers</p>
<p>3.3</p> <p>Lobby relevant government and non-government organisations with data driven evidence to support increased access to social housing and homelessness and crisis accommodation services across the region.</p>	<p>NSW DCJ – Housing Community housing providers</p>

Image: Byron Streetscapes, Byron Shire Council.



Priority 4: Sustainability

Prioritising environmental stewardship and biodiversity, renewable energy, and regenerative land, coastal and river system management. Sustainability considers water security for our region, and sustainable waste management. Together, these deliver enhanced environmental, economic and recreational benefits for current and future generations: residents and visitors.

Sustainability	Key stakeholders
4.1 <p>A clear path forward for regional collaboration on waste management is documented, including consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative recycling solutions• Promotion of the circular economy• Reuse of glass, fabric and plastics for regeneration into tiles, filament for 3D printing, and road and footpath construction• Reduction of waste to landfill including through education and procurement choices• Innovations such as diverting green waste to bioenergy.	NRJO Waste Management Steering Committee NRJO member councils RDA Northern Rivers
4.2 <p>Advocate to the NSW Government for a review of waste management regulation, with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alignment with global best practice• Review of the EPA and agency requirements to implement regional strategies• Enhancing viability of innovative waste management approaches• Waste-to-energy policy and guidelines• Review of the waste levy to redirect investment into local government for local waste initiatives <p>Streamlining the regulatory framework.</p>	NSW Government Local MPs
4.3 <p>Funding is sought and secured to build on the internal capacity within the NRJO to continue progressing the establishment of a net zero pathway for member councils.</p>	NSW Government

Image: Waste and Resource Recovery Facility, Richmond Valley.

Part 2

Other Regional Priorities

To be pursued if additional resources become available



Image: Federal village, Byron Shire Council.



Priority 1: Resilience

If additional resources become available, we will promote resilience in the Northern Rivers region by:

1.1 Preparedness		Key stakeholders
1.1.1	As natural disasters impact across borders, the NRJO will provide a forum for regional collaboration on disaster mitigation activities, and will actively contribute to the development of the Northern Rivers Disaster Adaptation Plan.	NRJO member council NSW Reconstruction Authority
1.1.2	Provide a forum for regional collaboration on regenerative landscape management, taking action to rehydrate landscapes in drought periods and slow flood waters.	NRJO member councils National Parks and Wildlife Service Rural landholders
1.2 Disaster recovery and response		Key stakeholders
1.2.1	Work with the NSW Government to ensure that projects and programs for rebuilding flood-impacted communities are implemented quickly and are sustainable in the long term.	NSW Reconstruction Authority
1.2.2	Advocate for natural disaster funding to address coastal repair and related infrastructure rehabilitation or replacement.	NSW Government Australian Government
1.3 Adaptability		Key stakeholders
1.3.1	Promote inter-governmental collaboration to ensure that the 2022 Independent Flood Inquiry and the 2022 Parliamentary Inquiry into the Northern Rivers Floods recommendations are implemented across the Northern Rivers region.	NSW Reconstruction Authority
1.3.2	Facilitate regional conversations that inform actions and approaches in adapting to climate change impacts across the region.	NRJO member councils

Informing our actions:

- NSW Government's priorities and Budget focus
- North Coast Regional Plan 2041
- Northern Rivers Resilient Lands Strategy (August 2024)
- Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative (CSIRO)
- Community Strategic Plans from the region's local government areas



Priority 2: Connection

If additional resources become available, we will promote connection in the Northern Rivers region by:

2.1	Leadership and collaboration	Key stakeholders
2.1.1	Continue to enhance connections with relevant State ministers and agencies to advocate for regional projects with benefits across our local government areas.	Relevant NSW Government agencies Australian Government LG NSW Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers
2.1.2	Pursue funding opportunities to deliver member services that support partnerships, shared service provision and collaboration across the NRJO's member councils, including opportunities to bring council practitioners together for knowledge sharing, skill sharing and collaboration.	NRJO member councils
2.1.3	Add the Northern Rivers' voice to local government sector advocacy efforts addressing issues such as State government cost shifting and State agency service mapping to inform future investment.	NRJO member councils National Parks and Wildlife Service Rural landholders
2.2	Digital connection	Key stakeholders
2.2.1	Continue advocacy efforts to telecommunications providers to expand, address black spots and make more reliable mobile phone coverage across the Northern Rivers region.	Telcos Aust Communications & Media Authority
2.2.2	Continue advocacy efforts to NBN Co to expand the reach and quality of the Northern Rivers regions broadband network, and communicate service enhancements.	NBN Co Aust Communications & Media Autho

2.3	Transport networks	Key stakeholders
2.3.1	Pursue agreement of the State government to protect Northern Rivers rail corridors for the long-term (30+ years), to enable future transport infrastructure initiatives such a light rail service.	Transport for NSW Aust Rail Track Corporation (ARTC)
2.3.2	Facilitate agreement of regional priorities and represent the region's interests in State government transport planning for the region, with a focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving connectivity between Northern Rivers regional centres (including east-west and north-south connections, the Bruxner and MI corridors) Improving connectivity from elsewhere into the region enabling infrastructure to support economic development use of innovative technology and materials in transport promotion and enabling of low-emissions transport options. 	Transport for NSW
2.3.3	Facilitate regional strategic planning discussions to inform local road network enhancements to complement investment from other levels of government and enable community access to housing, health services, economic and education opportunities, and cultural events and activities.	NRJO member councils NSW Government agencies, including Transport for NSW, Regional NSW and Planning
2.3.4	Collaborate regionally with public and private transport providers to enhance public transport access that enables integrated public, community and active transport options across the region.	Transport for NSW Community Transport providers Private transport companies

Informing our actions:

- NSW Government's priorities and Budget focus
- North Coast Regional Plan 2041
- Regional Telecommunications Review (2024)
- Regional Broadband Scheme
- Australian Government's Mobile Black Spot Program
- Community Strategic Plans from the region's local government areas



Priority 3: Thriving Communities

If additional resources become available, we will promote thriving communities in the Northern Rivers Region by:

3.1	Economic development	Key stakeholders
3.1.1	Proactively contribute to Regional Development NSW's initiatives to promote diversification of employment generating business and industry across the region, including identifying and establishing employment and industrial land availability.	Regional Development NSW
3.1.2	Further develop NRJO's relationship with Destination North Coast to facilitate regional input into tourism planning and development, and regional branding and promotion that delivers dispersed and sustainable tourism across the region.	Destination North Coast Destination NSW
3.1.3	Contribute to the development of a regional economic investment prospectus which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">identification of suitably zoned land for business and industry expansion and diversificationrecognises opportunities for inter-connection and value adding across the regionsupports a strong and sustainable agricultural industry into the future.	Regional Development NSW RDA Northern Rivers Local business chambers
3.1.4	Identify opportunities to participate in the Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) program to support the region respond to economic and market labour conditions by facilitating access to more overseas workers.	Commonwealth Government NSW Government
3.2	Housing	Key stakeholders
3.2.1	Advocate to the NSW Government for housing policy that address the region's needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Investment in social housingControls for short-term holiday letsReview coastal zone restrictions to find a balance between environmental protection and smart growth opportunities for housing and economic development.	NSW Government Local MPs

3.3	Health and wellbeing	Key stakeholders
3.3.1	<p>Contribute to NSW Government and Local Health District health service planning, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping services across the region, and comparing availability to current and projected demand in order to identify service gaps • Consideration of strategies to attract and retain public and private health providers and staff across the region • Reinstatement of health services lost to the region (including sexual health services) • Identifying innovative ways to deliver specialist services in the region • Being innovative in how and where health services are delivered. 	<p>NSW Health</p> <p>Northern NSW Local Health District</p> <p>North Coast Primary Health Network</p>
3.3.2	<p>In conjunction with member councils' public space and recreation staff, develop and publish a directory of sporting facilities across the region and promote opportunities for hosting and attracting sporting events.</p>	<p>Member council staff</p> <p>NSW Office of Sport</p>
3.4	Cultural development	Key stakeholders
3.4.1	<p>Promote the establishment and promotion of a Northern Rivers regional art trail through collaboration between local government cultural development officers, local galleries and landowners who host murals, sculpture and other publicly accessible art.</p>	Create NSW
3.5	Community safety	Key stakeholders
3.5.1	<p>Investigate options for a regional approach to CCTV/security camera system for CBDs across the Northern Rivers.</p>	<p>NSW Police and regional Police Districts</p>
3.5.2	<p>Lobby to increase policing in the region commensurate with community needs.</p>	NSW Government
3.5.3	<p>Contribute to advocacy for bail laws reforms that enhance community safety.</p>	NSW Government

Informing our actions:

- NSW Government's priorities and Budget focus
- North Coast Regional Plan 2041
- Northern Rivers Resilient Lands Strategy (August 2024)
- Closing the Gap (national targets)
- RDA's Regional Economic Recovery Plan 2025
- Northern Rivers Regional Economic Development Strategy (2023 update)
- Healthy North Coast Strategic Plan 2023-2030
- Healthy Ageing Strategy 2023-2027
- North Coast Destination Management Plan 2022-2030
- NSW Regional Health Strategic Plan 2022-2030
- NSW Homelessness Strategy 2025-2035
- Ageing Well in NSW: Seniors Strategy 2021-2031
- NSW Housing SEPP
- Australian Government's Regional Investment Framework (2023)
- NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2030
- Community Strategic Plans from the region's local government areas



Priority 4: Sustainability

If additional resources become available, we will promote sustainability in the Northern Rivers region by:

4.1	Biodiversity and environmental health	Key stakeholders
4.1.1	Investigate and report on the feasibility of establishing a regional biodiversity offset/ biobanking program in the Northern Rivers.	NSW DEECCW
4.1.2	Develop a Northern Rivers regional biodiversity strategy which addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pest and weed control• Biosecurity• Threatened species rehabilitation and protection (eg Saving our Species program)• Habitat protection and rehabilitation (including coastal and aquatic habitats)• Connecting up wildlife corridors across the region• Community engagement and education to support biodiversity conservation.	Rous County Council Local Land Services National Parks and Wildlife NSW DEECCW NSW Marine Estate Management Authority Forestry Corporation NSW
4.2	Coastal management	Key stakeholders
4.2.1	Support the protection and enhancement of the region's coastal environments through the coordination of a regional approach to the development and implementation of coastal management programs and plans, required under the Coastal Management Act 867 ² , ensuring coastal adaptation actions are included.	NSW Marine Estate Management Authority Landcare/Dunecare groups Local Aboriginal Land Councils
4.2.2	Advocate for funding to procure a regional Beach watch program to monitor swim sites and provide high quality data and information about water quality for local communities and visitors.	NSW DEECCW

4.3	Renewable energy	Key stakeholders
4.3.1	<p>Develop a regional energy strategy that considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy generation opportunities and options for joining them up to contribute to the region's supply • Increasing the proportion of renewables in the total energy generated for the region • Promotes renewable energy use for residential, public and commercial purposes • Land use planning for renewable energy production • Reducing energy costs • Ensuring a reliable energy supply • Considers joint power purchasing agreements. 	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) NSW Dept of Planning, Industry & Environment Energy generators and retailers
4.4	Land management	Key stakeholders
4.4.1	<p>In collaboration with the NSW Government, plan for sustainable growth across the region, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying growth needs and opportunities • Directing growth to identified urban growth areas • Ensuring sustainable development within the coastal strip • Determine required infrastructure for future development and plan for it • Encourage locally responsive sustainable design. 	NSW Dept of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
4.5	Healthy waterways	Key stakeholders
4.5.1	<p>Develop a healthy waterways action plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbying for funding to support regional initiatives that address and promote river and estuarine health • Identifying opportunities for local government partnerships with community groups, other levels of government and river/estuary users for implementation of funded projects • Establishing standard measures for river and estuarine health, and coordinating monitoring and reporting regionally • Identifying blackwater hotspots and opportunities for rehabilitation of riparian zones • Restricting access of stock to river and estuary banks to support improved bank vegetation and prevent bank erosion. 	NSW DCCEEW Local Land Services
4.5.2	<p>Continue to facilitate regional action in response to the Watershed Initiative, addressing ecosystem health, water security and flood risk issues across the Tweed, Brunswick, Richmond, Evans and Clarence River systems.</p>	Rous County Council Local Land Services

4.6 Water security		Key stakeholders		
4.6.1	Review and progress recommendations of regional Bulk Water Supply and Demand Management Strategies.	Rous County Council NRJO member councils		
4.6.2	<p>Inform a regionally coordinated approach for member councils' water security planning, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying current and future water consumption needs for residential, business and industry use Identify gaps in water storage capacity and consider options for addressing gaps Engagement with relevant stakeholders to promote the region's interests in relation to scientific justification, engagement and regulation associated with commercial water extraction arrangements Identify options for diversifying water supply to ensure sustainability Consider regional development and delivery of sustainable, responsible water use promotional activities. 	NSW DCCEEW NRJO member councils Rous County Council		
4.7 Waste management		Key stakeholders		
4.7.1	Regional waste management actions are described in Part 1.			
Informing our actions:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Government's priorities and Budget focus North Coast Regional Plan 2041 RDA Regional Development Economic Recovery Plan (2025) Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy (2023) North-East Waste's Regional Waste Strategy 2022-2027 Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030 NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme NSW Marine Estate Management Scheme 2018-2028 Australian Renewable Energy Agency's Innovating Energy Investment Plan (2022) National Waste Policy Action Plan (2024) NSW Energy from Waste policy and related information NSW Renewable Energy Planning Framework Water Sharing Plan (Far North Coast region) North Coast Regional State of the Environment Report (2020) Community Strategic Plans from the region's local government areas 				



*Image: Tweed Coast by Cape
Productions, Tweed Tourism Co.*

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