


Richmond
Valley
Council

Richmond Valley Council

Annual Report
2018-2019







Richmond Valley Council recognises the people of the Bundjalung nations as custodians and traditional owners of this land. We value and appreciate the continuing cultural connection to lands, their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region.

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Message from the Mayor and General Manager

Richmond Valley Council is in the midst of an exciting period which will define both the growth and vision of our towns and villages for many years to come.

After extensive community consultation Council successfully applied to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Authority (IPART) for a four-year special variation to increase its general income by 5.5% per annum for each year from 2019-2020 to 2022-2023, and to retain this increase in its rate base permanently.

The special variation rates increase will generate an additional \$3.9 million above the rate peg increase over four years for vital renewal works on Council's infrastructure.

The additional funds will be used exclusively to enhance Council's financial sustainability, maintain existing services, infrastructure and facilities, and renewing infrastructure including roads and public amenities.

Delivering for our community

The \$14 million upgrade of the **Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX)** was completed 21 June 2019. The efficiencies gained through the upgrade provided livestock agents the opportunity to present cattle to a high standard and has ensured better animal welfare and management and better safety for both people and animals.

The first stage of the master plan for the upgrade to the **Woodburn Riverside Precinct** was completed at the end of June 2019. The upgraded park will not only encourage the travelling public to continue to stop at Woodburn but will also assist the town to transition from being reliant on passing trade to one which becomes a gateway to other localities in the region – and a destination in its own right. The estimated total cost of the project to date is \$2.3 million. Funding was provided by the Australian Government (\$810,000), NSW Government (\$653,656) and Richmond Valley Council (\$761,752).

Broadwater shared pathway (\$1,000,000) - Following funding being awarded by the NSW Government under the Active Transport Program, construction of the shared pathway including drain crossings, structures and accesses from Broadwater town to the end of Broadwater Beach Road was completed by local contractor, NRC Group Pty Ltd. Construction was completed in June 2019.

Woodburn-Coraki Road sections two and three (\$2,400,000) - Council has completed \$2.4 million worth of work on the two first sections of road identified as a high priority for renewal in 2018-2019.

In the past 12 months Council has invested \$452,820 in **Coraki's scenic riverside precinct** (with \$122,820 coming from the NSW Government's Boating Now Program) to provide valuable new recreational infrastructure for residents and visitors. New elements of the park include a pontoon and boat ramp for recreational fishers, a 570m long path linking the boat ramp to the Coraki Riverside Caravan Park, an upgraded beach area featuring a sandstone retaining wall, and the installation of outdoor furniture, barbecues, shelters, and Aboriginal art installations. Council has also developed an extensive nature walk to the south of town which connects to the riverside precinct and vastly extends public access to the riverbank.

Flood affected roads (\$4,880,000) - During two separate flood events in early 2017, areas of RVC's road network were severely damaged. Council was successful in obtaining funding to repair 75 roads and four major culverts and bridges. This project was successfully delivered in-house using the skills of staff to provide a quick turnaround and get the roads fully operational again.



Cr Robert Mustow
Richmond Valley Mayor



Vaughan Macdonald
General Manager

Broadwater Memorial Hall community park (\$204,000)

- Elements completed included upgrade of BBQ shelters, youth play space including basketball and skate scooter facility, drainage upgrade and toilet renewal.

Community Financial Assistance Program - During the financial year, 37 local organisations received funding for projects totalling \$85,160 across two rounds of Richmond Valley Council's Community Financial Assistance Program. We look forward to seeing these projects come to fruition throughout the Richmond Valley, and seeing the vast range of benefits the projects will bring to our community. Some of the successful organisations are listed below:

- Broadwater-Rileys Hill Community Centre, \$2950 for a kitchen upgrade
- Casino & District Historical Society, \$3313 for a computer system upgrade
- Casino's Own Wireless (COW FM), \$1939 for a computer system upgrade
- Community Radio Coraki (88.9FM), \$4482 for upgrade of transmitter equipment
- Ellangowan Public Hall, \$2100 for a kitchen upgrade
- Kurrachee Co-operative, \$1360 for an inaugural Christmas party in the Box Ridge-Coraki community
- One Voice Richmond Valley Community Choir Inc, \$750 for theatre costs
- Rileys Hill Community Involvement Centre Committee, \$5000 for a kitchen upgrade
- RSM Community Transport Inc, \$4000 for office equipment
- The Salvation Army - Loaves and Fishes, \$3800 for kitchen equipment
- Woodburn Amateur Boxing Club Inc, \$2500 for minor building upgrades

NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund

- A number of other important projects, which were either finalised or commenced, will provide vital facilities and create economic opportunities thanks to the government support. These include:

Council has been successful in securing a \$309,884 grant for Stan Payne Oval, which will allow for a number of improvements, including a grandstand upgrade, turf wicket, concrete footpath and security bollards.

Evans Head Main Beach received \$185,765 for improved access to the beach, as well as an extended viewing platform, concrete paths and beach matting. This work will be completed by Christmas 2019.

Woodburn Recreational Oval, the home ground of Woodburn Wolves Soccer Club, received \$98,714 for a number of improvements including a canteen upgrade, refurbishment of outdated amenities, improved lighting to its fields and shade cloth over the adjacent playground, which will modernise the facilities, reduce graffiti and foster community pride.

Woodburn's riverside precinct saw further improvements with \$551,776 for stage two developments including an adventure playground as well as covered park furniture and landscaping of the central hub area.

Coraki's Windsor Park received \$95,053 for a much-needed facelift to its hockey/football field and clubrooms.

Council's role is to set the platform for businesses and community to benefit from the Richmond Valley having a reputation as being a great place to live, work and play.

This is being recognised by the Federal and NSW governments, which see plenty of upside in supporting Council to enhance infrastructure projects and support businesses to develop in the Richmond Valley.

In February 2018 NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro chose Casino to host the launch of the **Regional NSW Investment Prospectus**. To complement the prospectus, Council updated its own Guide to Economic Development in the Richmond Valley, showcasing the strengths of our region and the important role Council plays in achieving its potential.

We also produced **Imagine - 2020 and Beyond, Supporting Progress in the Mid Richmond**, to help promote and leverage opportunities for the Mid Richmond villages of Broadwater, Rileys Hill, Woodburn, Evans Head, Coraki and New Italy.

Council is developing and implementing the strategies and infrastructure required to meet its commitments, and will continue to advocate for further investment from both the State and Federal governments.

The entire community is encouraged to continue to become involved in Council's decision-making processes to ensure we continue to progress and grow in line with community expectations.

Thank you to councillors and staff for their leadership, hard work and service during 2018-2019 and to you, the community, for your support.

About the Richmond Valley

The Richmond Valley has a population of approximately 23,000 people. The area has a steady economy but has seen some changes in recent years stemming from a population spike with tree and sea changers beginning to move to the area. Unemployment reduced across the Richmond Valley local government area (LGA) in 2018-2019, sitting lower than its neighbouring councils at 5.5%.

There are some significant opportunities for the economy with existing rail access, proposed rail freight terminals and a medicinal cannabis facility. These projects hold the key for securing future investments by establishing a strong competitive advantage for businesses located in the Richmond Valley, with manufacturing businesses like Northern Cooperative Meat Company (NCMC) having markets beyond the local economy.

The Richmond Valley Council area extends from the coastline at Evans Head to the foothills of the Great Dividing Range to the west, interspersed with State forests, national parks and nature reserves. The largest town is Casino, with other communities including Broadwater, Coraki, Evans Head, New Italy, Woodburn and Rappville, as well as rural areas. The local area has a number of strengths, including clean beaches and a strong-flowing river, our natural and built environment and their uniqueness in attracting people and business, the quality of our lifestyle, our close proximity to

south east Queensland, ample community facilities; and a strong sense of community.

For a number of years, Council has sought to lay the way forward to secure the future prosperity of the LGA while maintaining the sense of place, which is highly valued by residents. It has been providing leadership in developing partnerships between all spheres of government, business and stakeholders to develop strategies in economic planning and development to pursue investment and employment growth opportunities.

Council and the community understand the importance of economic planning and development to offer an environment which is conducive to encouraging new business and supporting existing operators to cultivate future local employment opportunities and growth.

Source: National Economics (NIEIR) - Modelled series via .id demographic resources; 2018 ABS Labour Force Survey & Small Area Labour Markets.

Richmond Valley Councillors



At the Richmond Valley Council Local Government Election held on 10 September 2016, the following Councillors were elected to represent the Richmond Valley for the Council term which will conclude in September 2020.

Standing (L to R): Cr Sam Cornish, Cr Stephen Morrissey (Deputy Mayor), Cr Robert Hayes, Cr Daniel Simpson.
Seated (L to R): Cr Jill Lyons, Cr Robert Mustow (Mayor), Cr Sandra Humphrys

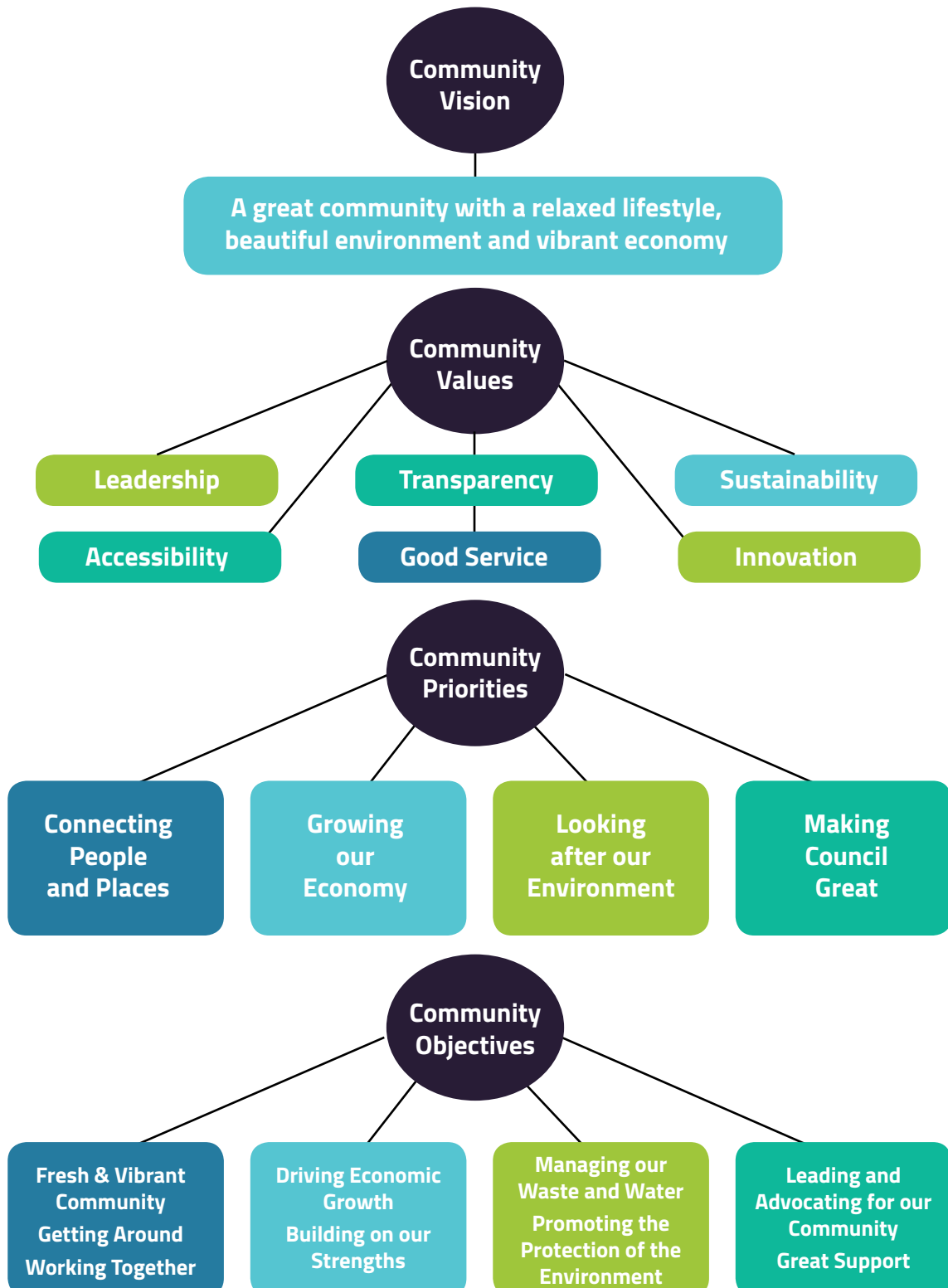
Brief Statistics for 2018/2019

Total population	23,399
Average household size	2.41
Families	5914
Council area (km ²)	3051 km²
Number of Council staff	288
GRP (Gross Regional Product)	\$810 million
Visitors to Richmond Valley	292,000
No. of nights stayed	572,537
Visitor spend in local economy	\$50.3 million
Top industry – Manufacturing	\$711.66 million
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	\$124.15 million
Building and Construction	\$120.5 million

Source: National Economics (NIEIR) - Modelled series via .id demographic resource

Our Vision and Values

To guide in the delivery of the Richmond Valley Made Strategic Plan (CSP) a vision and set of values were identified, through consultation with the community, to provide a clear and complete picture of what the community wanted to achieve in the future. The vision sets the scene to guide Council in planning the future and setting its direction in delivering the communities' priorities and objectives.

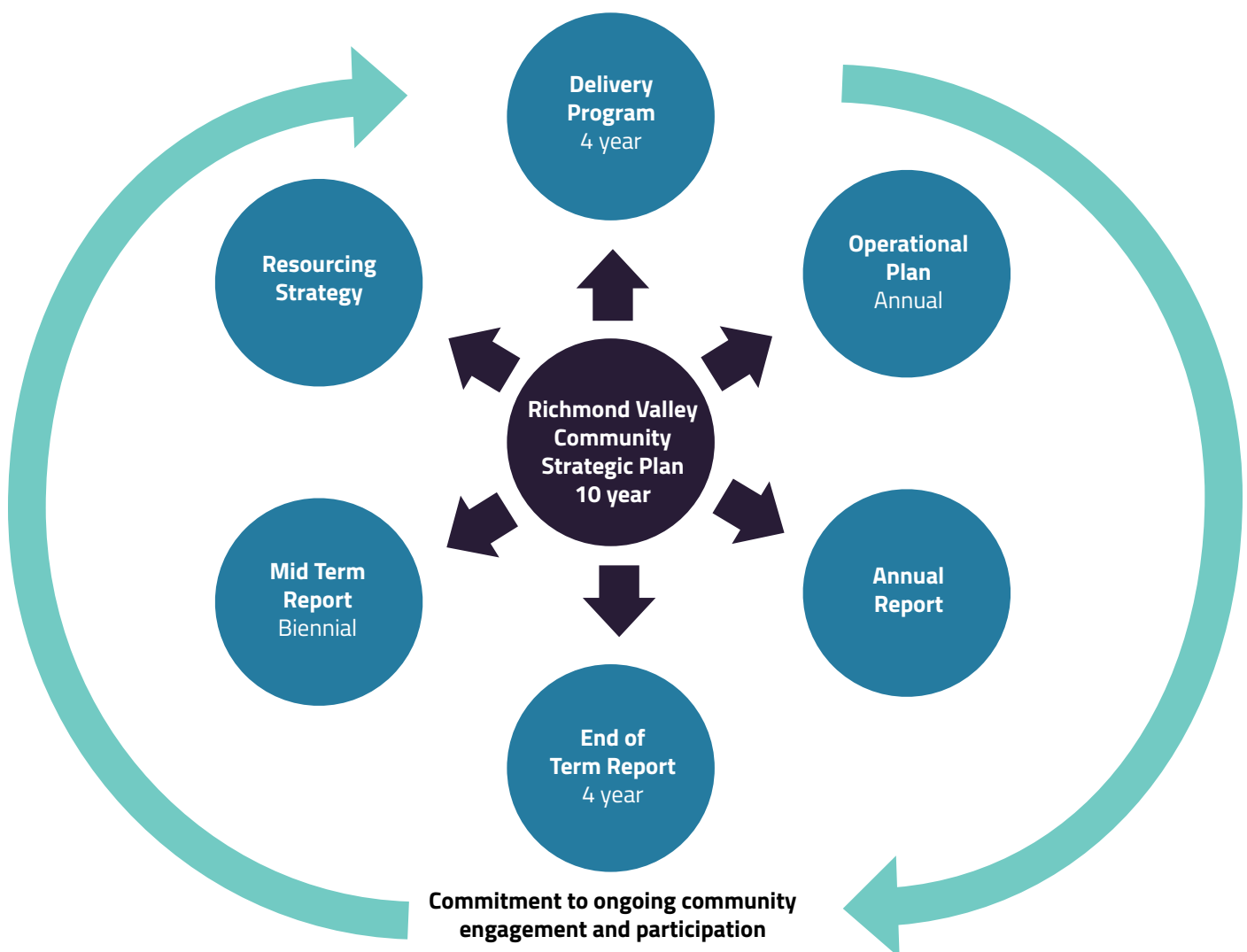


Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

All councils in NSW are required to operate within the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework. The framework encourages councils to draw all their plans together to gain an understanding of how they interact and to get maximum leverage through a holistic approach to planning for the future.

The framework consists of a hierarchy of documents which ultimately aim to provide greater accountability and transparency in local government, by strengthening council's strategic focus, streamlining reporting processes and making it easier for the community to understand and track council's progress on achieving its objectives.

The 2018/2019 Annual Report reports on progress against the third year of Council's Richmond Valley Made 2030 Community Strategic Plan and 2017/2021 Delivery Program, both of which were adopted in June 2017.



Highlights of Signature Projects

With several signature projects across the Richmond Valley coming to fruition over the past 12 months, Council has proven its ability to manage the delivery of major projects for its community.

Three major projects either completed or substantially underway in 2019 including the \$14 million Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange, the Woodburn Riverside Park, and the Casino Drill Hall precinct. Council is also managing the delivery of the Casino to Eltham stage of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail, in particular the Casino to Bentley section which has received \$7.5 million in funding from the Federal Government.

Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX)

The recently completed, two stage \$14m upgrade of the NRLX has marked a new era in livestock sales in Northern NSW. The project has transformed the old Casino saleyards into a truly modern facility which achieves world-class outcomes in animal welfare, comfort, efficiency and environmental sustainability. Key features include a 26,000sqm roof providing both shade and stormwater capture, soft flooring throughout, and water tanks with a 1.14 megalitre collection capacity, realising an 86% reduction in water usage.

The improved standard of animal welfare achieved through the upgrade of the facility has ensured livestock are well presented along with best practice safety measures to ensure separation of people and the animals.

The two stages have delivered:

- Roof area 24,300 square metres 162m X 150m
- 20,200 square metres of industry standard soft floor at 150mm thickness
- Two semi-automatic, four-way pneumatic drafts and eight new drafting pens
- Installation of a veterinary crush adjacent to the pneumatic draft
- 50 new selling pens and 12 new dual-purpose mustering or selling pens
- Rail, gate and trough upgrade
- Stamped concrete in draft area
- New energy efficient LED lighting and spotlights throughout
- IT capabilities for future live sale streaming and full CCTV security coverage
- Dust suppression sprays over soft floor
- Stormwater roof collection of 1,144 kilolitres into two new rainwater tanks
- Perimeter security fence and AVDATA entry gate technology
- Weighbridge and scale area redesign for more efficient flow and processing
- Fully upgraded truck wash facility with B Double capable wash bays
- Specialised bull wash pens



- Full redesign and upgrade of rails and pens in the dip area
- Solar panel technology for energy efficiency
- Extensive steelwork upgrade to rails and gates
- Full upgrade to receival and delivery areas including ramp scanners and cameras
- New 90 space sealed carpark with line marking and traffic stops
- Extensive upgrades to the Canteen and Scale House
- Extension to the canteen building to create a new administration hub and secure Local Land Services as a tenant
- Buyers lounge in the canteen for live sale viewing
- Specialised transit cattle yards with a new B Double ramp
- New maintenance shed
- Public paths and extensive information and safety signage throughout
- Improvements with work on the stormwater channels, effluent ponds and discharge points
- Landscaping and outdoor furniture

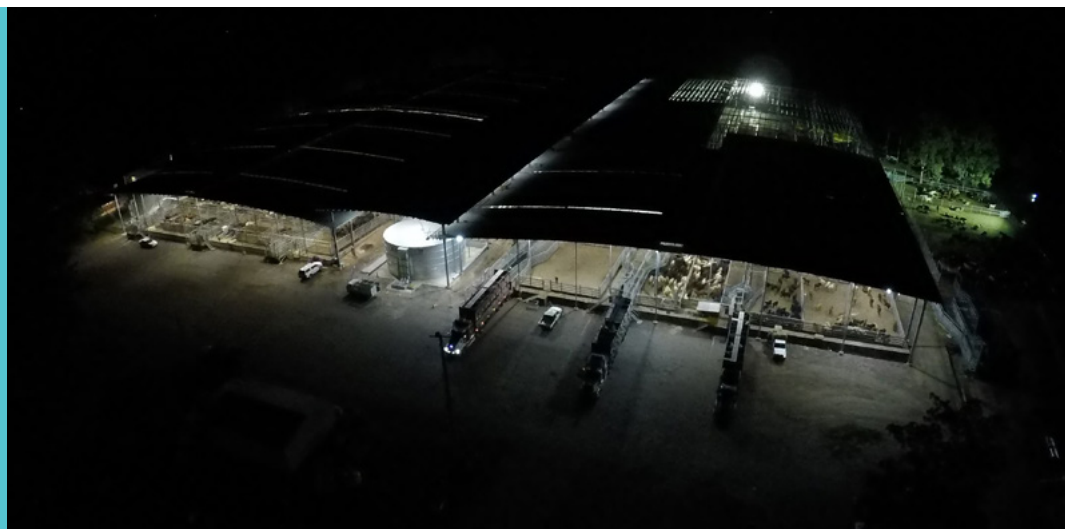
Total cost of project - \$14,000,000

Committed funding:

\$7,000,000 - NSW Government

\$3,500,000 - Australian Government

\$3,500,000 - Richmond Valley Council



Casino Drill Hall Precinct

The redevelopment of Casino Drill Hall site has reached a milestone in 2019 with the completion of stage one. Features include a new visitor information centre next door to the historic Drill Hall which is consistent with the Federation-style of the original building, and an amphitheatre for community events. Council is now looking for further funding to complete stage two of the total \$3.3 million master planned project.

The Drill Hall site has created a focused community space for Casino and an engaging destination for visitors to stop close to the CBD. The fully completed Drill Hall and visitor information centre with surrounding open spaces and parkland will be a local-scale contemporary event and exhibition space with a focus on supporting cultural and community events for Casino and the Northern Rivers. It will also have a key role in supporting the region's tourist industry and as a repository for the military history of Casino. Council will continue to seek further grant opportunities to realise the full scope of the project.

What we have delivered in Stage 1:

- New amphitheatre to enable public performances and community events
- New visitor information centre allowing visitors to stop and obtain information about the Richmond Valley
- Upgrade of the Drill Hall building
- Construction of an RV and caravan capable carpark and associated roadworks
- Extensive landscaping with gardens and turfing
- Pathways connecting the various features of the site
- Upgrade of toilet facilities

Funded works to be completed in 2019/2020:

- Installation of bollards on perimeter of site

Estimated total cost of project - \$3,889,103

Committed funding:

\$1,337,500 - Australian Government

\$252,000 - NSW Government

\$991,079 - Richmond Valley Council

Funding required to complete project - \$1,308,524



Unfunded works (in order of priority):

- The Walk - memorial walk from visitor information centre to Lennox Street featuring trenches and reflection pool. Estimated cost \$567,099.
- Viewing Platform - river viewing platform on the north side of Lennox Street. Estimated cost \$354,625.
- Lennox Street upgrade - earthworks, drainage and reseal. Estimated cost \$112,000.
- Playground - install new playground to replace current playground. Estimated cost \$64,500.
- Shed upgrade - replace roof and other sections of the Drill Hall shed. Estimated cost \$66,530.
- Parade ground green - area on the western boundary of the site designed to accommodate markets and similar events. Estimated cost \$108,770.
- Landscaping - complete all landscaping surrounding site. Estimated cost \$35,000.
- The Master Plan includes a location for the Casino Historical Society to establish a new museum which is subject to a successful grant funding bid.



Woodburn Riverside Precinct

The first stage of a new Woodburn Riverside Park was completed in July 2019, with a new visitor information centre and community function room, modern barbecue and picnic areas, feature playground, boardwalk and boat ramp. Jointly funded by Council and both Federal and NSW governments, the \$3.8 million master planned precinct is a proactive response by Council to the bypass of the town by the Pacific Highway in 2020 and aims to position Woodburn for a positive future. Council will now seek further funding to carry out the second and final stage of the project.

Throughout this project there was an opportunity to not only beautify and refresh the area, but to establish an iconic and unique facility and community space which will continue to draw road and river traffic to the area. A key feature of the upgraded park is the adventure playground that has proven extremely popular with locals and travellers.

A new community building is another feature of the park as it houses a visitor information centre, a modern meeting and function space and an outdoor deck that takes advantage of the views of the Richmond River.

What we have delivered in stage one:

- Community building including new visitor information centre, toilet facilities and function room
- Western lawn area
- Picnic terraces
- New beach construction including retaining walls
- Adventure playground
- Extensive pathways and turfing throughout
- Timber boardwalk and boating pontoon
- BBQ area and shelters

Unfunded works (in order of priority):

- Village green & War Memorial - retaining wall, new furniture, new shelter and landscaping to park area. Estimated cost \$140,000.
- Boardwalk - full completion of the boardwalk. Estimated cost \$240,000.
- Streetscape and entry - streetscape and entry statement. Estimated cost \$392,500.
- Ski club and pontoon - new ski club and pontoon. Estimated cost \$652,000.





Coraki Riverside Precinct

In the past 12 months Council has invested \$452,820 in Coraki's scenic riverside precinct (with \$122,820 coming from the NSW Government's Boating Now Program) to provide valuable new recreational infrastructure for residents and visitors.

New elements of the park include a pontoon and boat ramp for recreational fishers, a 570m long path linking the boat ramp to the Coraki Riverside Caravan Park, an upgraded beach area featuring a sandstone retaining wall, and the installation of outdoor furniture, barbecues, shelters, and Aboriginal art installations. Council has also developed an extensive nature walk to the south of town which connects to the riverside precinct and vastly extends public access to the riverbank.

The next project on the horizon is the construction of a new amenities block for the Coraki Riverside Caravan Park, courtesy of a \$550,000 grant from the Federal Government. This is anticipated to boost visitor numbers to the increasingly popular caravan park and continue to build Coraki's reputation as a go-to precinct for fishing, boating, swimming, sailing and bird watching.

What we have delivered in Stage 1:

- New pontoon and boat ramp
- New pathway adjacent to the Richmond River
- Expansion and upgrade of the beach
- Installation of new outdoor furniture, barbecues and shelters
- Installation of indigenous art features

Funded works to be completed in 2019/2020:

- New amenities block in the caravan park including camp kitchen
- Installation of rural fencing for nature walk to East Coraki
- Installation of fitness stations on Richmond Terrace

Estimated total cost of project - \$482,820

Committed funding:

\$325,000 - Richmond Valley Council

\$122,820 - NSW Government

Note: Richmond Terrace – geotechnical survey to develop solution for Richmond Terrace will be completed in 2019/2020.



Coraki Riverside Precinct



Broadwater Path and Community Park

Two exciting new projects for Broadwater were completed in 2018-2019, helping improve the town's amenities for residents. These projects were both completed thanks to combined \$1.13 million in funding from the NSW Government.

Broadwater Shared Pathway

Following funding being awarded by the NSW Government under the Active Transport Program, construction of a shared pathway including drain crossings, structure and accesses from Broadwater town to the end of Broadwater Beach Road was completed by local contractor, NRC Group Pty Ltd.

Further work is being considered to join the pathway to the Pacific Highway.

Broadwater community park

The Broadwater community park was envisioned as a focal point for the community and included the upgrade of BBQ shelters, a new youth play space featuring a basketball semi-court and skate park, drainage upgrade and toilet renewal.

Looking ahead:

The next planned element of the community park project is the installation of adventure playground equipment.

Council will continue to assess internal and external funding opportunities to complete this stage.

- Adventure playground - install new playground.
Estimated cost \$160,000.

Estimated total cost of project - \$1,320,603

Committed Funding:

\$1,131,785 - NSW Government

\$28,818 - Richmond Valley Council

Funding required to complete project - \$130,000



Casino Shared Pathways

Following funding being awarded by the NSW Government under the Active Transport Program, Council moved ahead in 2018-2019 with the construction of two shared pathways in Casino to encourage cyclists and pedestrians to get around on foot and pedal.

Council received \$940,000 to deliver these projects, which are a core part of Council's ongoing program to connect people and places, and create a sense of civic pride in the community, under the Richmond Valley 2030 Community Strategic Plan.

The two 2.5 metre wide pathways are located on the Summerland Way from Ecles Street to the Casino Showground entrance and on the Bruxner Highway from Clark Street to Walker Street.

Construction of the first two sections commenced in May 2019 with completion expected in September 2019.

Council has since been approved for an additional grant of \$416,000 for a third shared pathway in Casino which will run for 1.9km, from the corner of Johnston Street and Walker Street via West Street to the entrance of Casino High School on Queensland Road.

Construction of the third section is expected to be completed by 30 April 2020. Council will continue to seek funding under the NSW Active Transport Program for similar projects across the Richmond Valley to connect people and places and encourage active living.

Estimated total cost of project - \$1,356,500

Committed funding:

\$1,356,500 - NSW Government



Woodburn Coraki Road

The Woodburn Coraki road is under increasing strain from heavy traffic associated with the construction of the Pacific Highway.

The Council-owned Peterson's Quarry and the adjoining, privately owned, McGearys Quarry at Coraki were identified as the southern-most deposit of high-grade basalt rock to be used on the Woolgoolga-Ballina section of the Pacific Highway upgrade.

Quarry Solutions took possession of the quarries in 2015 and under existing approvals they can extract 1.3 million tonnes of blue metal per year for the duration of the Highway upgrade. With annual extraction limits of 1.3 million tonnes, all transported in 33 tonne loads by truck and dog combinations to the Pacific Highway, the Woodburn Coraki Road is experiencing extraordinary traffic loads far more than what it was originally designed for.

It is a key route for local and regional travellers and it is expected the 19km length will need significant work over the next six years at an estimated cost of \$19 million. Council continues to investigate ways of funding the reconstruction of this road.

Works completed - and more to come:

Council has already completed \$2.4 million worth of work on two sections of the road identified as a high priority for renewal.

In 2019-2020, Council will contribute another \$2 million from heavy haulage contributions and has applied for \$3.1 million under NSW Governments Fixing Country Roads Program.

If successful in obtaining this \$3.1 million grant funding, Council will be able to construct the next two sections identified as high priority.

Estimated total cost of project - \$19,000,000

Committed Funding:

\$1,400,000 - Australian Government

\$1,000,000 - Richmond Valley Council

Funding required to complete project - \$16,600,000



Facilitated Signature Projects

After an exciting year of infrastructure achievements in 2018/2019, Richmond Valley Council is continuing its positive momentum into 2020 and beyond.

With a strong portfolio of projects in the pipeline, Council remains focused on addressing the needs, goals and aspirations of the growing Richmond Valley community.

With extensive community consultation, Council has developed master plans for the Casino Swimming Pool and the Casino Showground which have laid out an inspiring vision for upgrading these key public facilities.

With master plans in place, Council is in a position to competitively bid for the State and Federal funding required to proceed for such projects. Indeed, it has already received an initial \$3.2 million in Federal funding to commence essential works on the Casino pool.

In Evans Head, the construction of the new HealthOne facility by the NSW Government has paved the way for Council to begin planning an upgrade of its neighbouring administration centre and library into a modernised facility with an expanded suite of library services.

Meanwhile, an original Council building relocated from the HealthOne site prior to construction is being innovatively repurposed into a new visitor information centre, alongside the local volunteer-run, Evans Head Living Museum.

Another key project in which Council is playing a lead role is the design and construction of the southern end of the proposed Northern Rivers Rail Trail. Council's in-house project management team has the expertise and track record to lead the delivery of this vital regional project, which is modelled to provide a much-needed recreational asset

for the local community alongside a major attraction for recreation-based tourism experiences.

Beyond these exciting projects Council is consistently focused on supporting the growth of the local economy. Council's goal is to support the development of a robust and resilient economy which can cater for future population growth while nurturing liveability and our strong sense of community and sense of place.



Northern Rivers Rail Trail

In May 2013, the not-for-profit community group, Northern Rivers Rail Trail Association Inc, was formed by local philanthropists known as the Sourdough Group, community volunteers, local government councillors and staff, and leaders of the tourist industry. The group came together with a common vision to preserve this very valuable community asset, the 130km of disused rail corridor between Casino and Murwillumbah and converting it to a modern cycle and walking trail through the region's spectacular landscapes.

Since then, momentum towards this vision has been growing steadily. In 2018, Tweed Shire Council secured the funding required to design and construct a 24km section of trail at the northern end of the corridor. Tweed Shire received \$6.5 million each from the Australian and NSW governments with construction of its section of trail set to start in 2020.

At the same time Richmond Valley Council joined with Lismore City Council to help fund a business case for the Casino to Eltham section, a 45km stretch of trail that will wind through some of the most scenic pastoral locations in the country. The business case costed the Casino to Eltham section at \$33.3 million with a positive cost benefit analysis indicating it would deliver a net economic benefit to the region.

Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan has since committed an initial \$7.5 million to build the first section from Casino to Bentley, which runs for 13km. This funding also includes \$450,000 for restoration of the old Casino train station at the southern head of the trail.

The rail trail will be for the local community to use for getting to school, work and sport, shopping and recreation and by visitors seeking either a new way to experience the region's scenery, food and culture or a more adventurous experience. The other significant benefit of a rail trail for any community is the opportunity for healthy activity and exercise.

Council's Project Management Office has begun working on the planning stages of the Casino to Bentley section, while also collaborating with neighbouring councils and the Northern Rivers Rail Trail Group to realise the full potential of the project from Casino to Murwillumbah.

Casino to Eltham section:

Estimated total cost of project - \$33,300,000

Committed Funding:

\$7,500,000 (Casino to Bentley) - Australian Government

Funding required to complete project: \$25,500,000



Evans Head Library and HealthOne

With the first sod turned on construction of the new HealthOne site in Evans Head in April 2019, residents can look forward to improved health services in the town.

With a planned opening in early 2020, the HealthOne facility in Evans Head integrates care provided by general practice and community health aiming to create a stronger and more efficient primary health care system.

Evans Head administration building

Council's Evans Head administration building and Evans Head Library (on the same site) has also been identified as a priority project for Council.

The library will be modernised and expanded with the aim to further develop library services and to provide an up-to-date catalogue and technology ready experience for Evans Head and surrounding communities of the Mid Richmond in Broadwater, Woodburn, and Coraki.

Visitor Information Centre

Meanwhile, one of the Council buildings moved to accommodate the new HealthOne facility is being repurposed into a new visitor information centre on the banks of the Evans River.

This building sits alongside the relocated Evans Head Living Museum, which was moved from the HealthOne site prior to the build commencing.

Evans Head residents can now look forward to better health services, a modernised administration centre and library, and better services for the many visitors to the stunning town which local businesses rely upon each year.



Casino Showgrounds Master Plan

Council has developed an exciting master plan for the Casino showgrounds which identifies a number of key upgrades to complement the existing racing facilities.

Key among these is the establishment of an onsite equestrian centre, which would provide a significant boost for the growing equine sport industry.

The full list of planned upgrades include:

- The construction of an indoor arena for equestrian and other agricultural events
- The upgrade of the racing stable complex to provide 80 to 100 new stables
- Rehabilitation and upgrade of the sand-based training track
- Upgrade of the race track proper
- Establishment of a cross country equestrian course
- New day yards, holding yards and pens to support equestrian events

The establishment of facilities which will support the horse training industry are key to the master plan. Located on high ground, the Casino Racecourse enables training to be undertaken when other tracks in the region are hampered by wet weather and ground conditions.

Attracting regional and interstate trainers would also provide a strong benefit to the Casino economy.

Construction of an indoor equestrian arena will see the site become a true equestrian hub. Show jumping, dressage, camp draft, rodeo, and cross country will all be able to be catered for, along with other agricultural shows which may require space, either undercover or in the open.

Following the adoption of the master plan in June 2018, Council has unsuccessfully applied for funding at both State and Federal level. Council will continue to seek funding for this project.

Casino Showgrounds upgrade:

Estimated total cost of project - \$9,000,000



Casino Swimming Pool

The Casino Memorial Swimming Pool is a key community facility which was built in the 1950's and now needs major upgrades to provide a modern and safe aquatic experience for the users.

Council has engaged industry experts to identify the safe operational requirements of the pool. Council has also turned to the community for their ideas and feedback on what they want the site to provide.

Following the compilation of this information, Council has produced a draft master plan to be adopted by Council.

Key elements of the master plan are:

- The replacement of the filtration systems
- Major works on the 50 m pool to assist in the pool filtration and swimming
- A splash pad / forecourt facility
- An indoor heated pool
- Possible new water slide facilities

Council has secured a \$3.2 million grant from the Federal Government to undertake works, with the filtration system, small pool and the splash pad area being the first priorities.

Council will continue to work towards securing funding to complete further works with the total estimated cost currently \$9.05 million.

Casino Swimming Pool upgrade:

Estimated total cost of project - \$9,050,000

Committed Funding:

\$3.2 million - Australian Government

Funding required to complete project - \$5.85 million



Queen Elizabeth Park

The Queen Elizabeth (QE) oval complex currently caters for several sports with many stakeholder groups taking an interest in the future development of the sporting precinct.

The primary users of the site are senior and junior cricket, senior and junior rugby league, athletics, archery and the greyhound racing club.

After a successful grant application through the NSW Government's Stronger Country Community Fund (SCCF), Council will be making substantial improvements to the Queen Elizabeth Park sporting complex over the next 12 months.

The scope of works required to be delivered under this round of the SCCF are as follows:

- Upgraded water connection to QE2 and QE5 including a mobile irrigator
- Electrical upgrade to QE5 including the installation of new lights at QE3, QE4 and QE5
- Amenities and canteen upgrade of QE2
- Grandstands for use at the QE Park precinct
- Relocation of turf cricket pitch from QE5 to QE7

These initial improvements are the first part of a larger plan to improve facilities at the QE Park precinct.

Council has recently committed funding toward the development of a master plan for the entire precinct which will provide the framework for the future strategic and operational direction of the site.

The master plan will be a strategic future visionary document which identifies proposed future uses, lists priority actions, and provides detail and estimates of possible proposed works.

Queen Elizabeth Park initial improvements:

Total cost of project - \$480,000

Committed funding:

\$480,000 - NSW Government



Other initiatives on the horizon

Medicinal Cannabis Facility

The medicinal cannabis industry presents a significant opportunity for the Richmond Valley, creating jobs and flow-on economic impact whilst maintaining a focus on the core agricultural and manufacturing strengths of the region. Since legislation to enable the cultivation of cannabis for medicinal purposes was passed by Parliament in 2016, there has been a surge in companies looking to establish facilities to cultivate and manufacture medicinal cannabis products.

Australian company Sana Nutraceuticals has lodged an application to the Federal Government's Office of Drug Control to construct a 10ha greenhouse for the cultivation, production and manufacture of medical cannabis and associated products in the Richmond Valley. When the licence is granted, capital of \$13 million will be required for supporting power infrastructure upgrades. An application to the State Government will be made for \$8 million with the company to provide \$5 million. If successful, the project would see the largest medical cannabis facility in the southern hemisphere built on the Northern Rivers, creating around 300 direct new jobs, and 100 indirect jobs.

The facility would have the capacity to support annual production of 100,000 kilograms of high-quality cannabis, equating to an associated annual revenue generation potential of between \$800 million and \$1.1 billion based on current pricing in the Australian medicinal cannabis marketplace.

Energy from Waste and renewable energy

Council is investigating the feasibility of an energy from waste facility to divert thousands of tonnes of waste from landfill, produce a base-load renewable energy supply, and create a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. A pre-feasibility study has been undertaken by Pacific Consultants which included a Council study tour of operational facilities in Japan.

Pacific Consultants has extensive knowledge and experience in the sector, having overseen the construction of almost 500 energy from waste facilities worldwide. The outcome of the pre-feasibility study indicates the project has been deemed suitable for further development.

This project has the potential to create significant economic and environmental benefits for the region. Council is working closely with the NSW Government to ensure this project achieves alignment with regional strategy and environmental policy. With waste management costs becoming an increasing burden on local and state governments, Richmond Valley Council is actively looking for alternative solutions. These also include solar and bio-energy.

Biohub

Brisbane-based Utilitas Group is seeking finance to construct a \$4.3 million, 330kw biohub adjacent to Council's Casino sewage treatment plant to transform organic waste and waste water into energy, clean water and other bio-products.

This is another exciting possibility to turn a municipal waste stream into valuable commodities, with a host of environmental benefits which include reducing waste to landfill and providing a local renewable energy source.

Availability of residential and commercial land in the Richmond Valley

The Richmond Valley has been identified, through the NSW State Government's North Coast Regional Plan, for major population growth with the requirement of up to 1550 new homes by 2036. Council is being proactive by ensuring the availability of commercial and residential land within Casino, the Valley's commercial hub. Two of the key residential opportunities being developed by Council are:

Canning Drive, Casino: Council has purchased 1.74 ha of land on Canning Drive Casino which, together with a portion of closed road, will be developed into 19 residential lots. This development has DA approval and will be released in stages.

Lennox Street, Casino: The application for residential rezoning of 3.8 ha of land on Light Street Casino has progressed through the rezoning application to the gateway stage.

Infrastructure upgrades for industrial precincts

Council has developed a comprehensive business plan which identifies opportunities for expansion of power, water, sewer and transport infrastructure to underpin the growth of industry in the region. This business plan underpins the case for support from the State Government through the Growing Local Economies fund (under the \$1.3 billion Regional Growth Fund).

Infrastructure projects are being developed to provide benefit to multiple businesses, creating considerable positive impact on the regional economy. In Casino, two industrial precincts are a source of significant optimism for the opportunities they could bring. The two precincts are strategically located to make a compelling case for future infrastructure investment.

Nammoona Industrial Precinct, Reynolds Road: On the northern outskirts of Casino, this precinct includes existing industrial activities such as Council's waste and recycling facility, Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange, DTM Timber, Northern Cooperative Meat Company, Riverina Stockfeeds and 59 hectares of vacant industrial land. The precinct is designated as a key industrial expansion zone in the Richmond Valley, generating employment, business activity and revenue for the local community. Council is also actively pursuing new technology investments in the Energy from Waste sector for this precinct.

Casino Industrial Precinct, Cassino Drive: With its close proximity to the Casino CBD and ease of access to the Bruxner Highway and Lismore, the Casino industrial precinct is well placed to attract small to medium light industrial businesses looking to expand or relocate to the region. With a variety of established industries including Council's works depot, Connelly Key Joint and Williams Building Supplies, the Casino industrial precinct is the ideal location for manufacturing industries. A rezoning application is currently underway to double the size of this precinct, from 14ha to 28ha.

Our Towns and Villages

Along with our signature projects, our consultation with the community has identified a number of other projects that you believe are important for the prosperity of the Richmond Valley.

We want to ensure our projects are spread across the Richmond Valley in response to your aspirations and desires for every town to have the benefit of and be able to showcase a project in their community. We outline some of the projects delivered in our towns and villages.

Broadwater/Rileys Hill



- Broadwater shared cycleway
- Footpath Little Pitt Street, Broadwater
- Broadwater Hall kitchen upgrade
- Outdoor youth space and park upgrade, Broadwater

Coraki



- Coraki riverfront upgrade and playground replacement
- Coraki pontoon
- Bungawalbin Creek Bridge guardrail replacement
- Woodburn-Coraki Road bus shelter
- Coraki Youth Hall accessible toilet
- Painting of Coraki Library
- Coraki Pool pump and filtration replacement

Evans Head



- Relocation of Evans Head Living Museum
- New visitor information centre
- Sale of land to enable commencement of construction of the HealthOne
- Ocean Drive revegetation
- Shark Bay hand guardrail
- Main Beach viewing platform upgrade
- Stan Payne Oval Tennis Clubhouse fit out and playground replacement
- Outdoor gym equipment at Evans Head Riverside and Stan Payne Oval
- Weighbridge at Evans Head landfill
- Beach access steps at Kalimna Park
- Completion of Kalimna Park toilet block facilities

Woodburn



- Bus Shelter at Woodburn Street benefiting school students, together with the general public
- Lighting upgrade at Woodburn Oval
- Woodburn Riverside precinct
- Uralba Street, Woodburn toilet facility refurbishment
- Woodburn Pool pump and filtration replacement

Casino



- Bus shelters on Johnston, Hickey and Canterbury streets, and Casino High School
- Carparking at Casino Indoor Sports Stadium
- Footpath improvements
- Security improvements at Casino Aerodrome
- Revitalisation of Casino Civic Hall
- Woodview Hall roof
- QE1 Fencing stage two improvements
- McAuliffe Park picnic settings
- Showground Casino BBQ upgrade

Rappville



- Construction of accessible toilet for Rappville Public Hall
- Maintenance works of Rappville Road

Festivals and Events – 2018/2019

July 2018

- Evans Head Fishing Classic
- NAIDOC Week Celebrations
- Heritage Weekend, Casino
- Quota Craft Fair, Casino
- Casino Travel Shoppe Jazz & Shiraz
- Northern Rivers Drag Racing, Casino
- Richmond Valley Business Awards

August 2018

- Bentley Art Prize
- Casino Truck Show
- Horse Races, Casino Racecourse
- Casino Campdraft
- Trash & Treasure, Woodburn
- Y.E.S. Careers Expo, Casino

September 2018

- Father's Day Pig Races, Casino
- Spring Orchid Shows, Woodburn & Casino
- Northern Rivers Drag Racing, Casino
- Casino Fun Run
- Evans Head Malibu Classic
- Woodburn Riverside Waterski Competition
- Casino Bos Indicus Youth Round Up
- Quota Spring Fashion Parade, Casino

October 2018

- Casino Show
- Woodburn Riverside Festival
- Northern Rivers Auto Spectacular, Casino
- Stars of Casino
- St Mary's Cup, Casino Racecourse
- Coraki Art Prize
- Heartland Rock & Roll Arvo, Casino
- Golden Oldies Gala Day, Evans Head
- Richmond Valley Health & Fitness Expo, Casino

November 2018

- Remembrance Day
- Northern Rivers Craft Beer & Cider Festival, Casino
- Casino Wedding & Events Expo
- Evans Head Seaside Classic Men's Triples

December 2018

- Richmond Valley Christmas Street Party, Casino
- Evans Head Community Carols
- Christmas Carols, Casino, Coraki & Woodburn
- Windara Carols by Fireworks, Casino

January 2019

- Speak Up Tour, Casino
- Great Eastern Fly In, Evans Head
- Australia Day celebrations, Rappville

February 2019

- Build It Lego Fun, Casino
- Seniors Week Celebrations

March 2019

- Casino Horse Races
- Woodburn Hall Ball
- Northern Rivers Drag Racing, Casino
- Ski Race, Coraki
- International Women's Day Celebrations
- Windara Music Muster

April 2019

- Youth Week Celebrations
- Anzac Day Services
- Crankfest Youth Festival, Evans Head

May 2019

- Casino Veterans Golf Week
- Woodburn Mother's Day Orchid Show
- Norco Primex Field Days
- NCMC Casino Beef Week
- Horse Cutting Show, Casino
- Reconciliation Week Celebrations

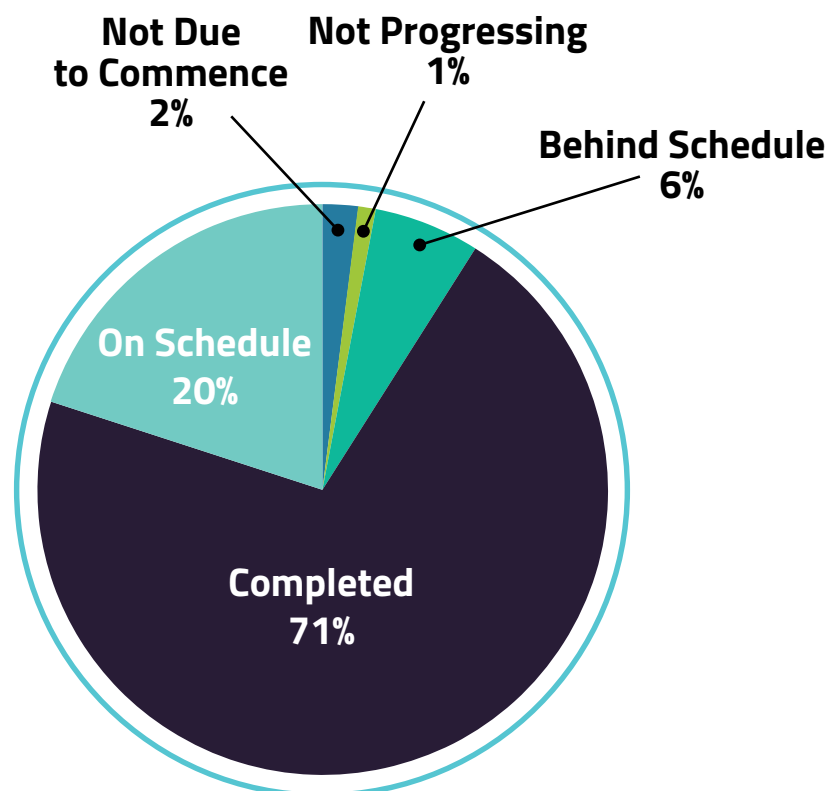
June 2019

- Makers Market Woodburn



Section 1: Delivery Program Progress

Annual reporting for all local government organisations requires a progress report of activities and projects identified in the Delivery Program. The 2018/2019 financial year is the third year in a four-year reporting cycle (2017 to 2021), as planned in the Delivery Program. The chart below is a dashboard of Council's overall performance in achieving the outcomes identified in the Delivery Program following the completion of year three of the 2017/2021 Delivery Program period.



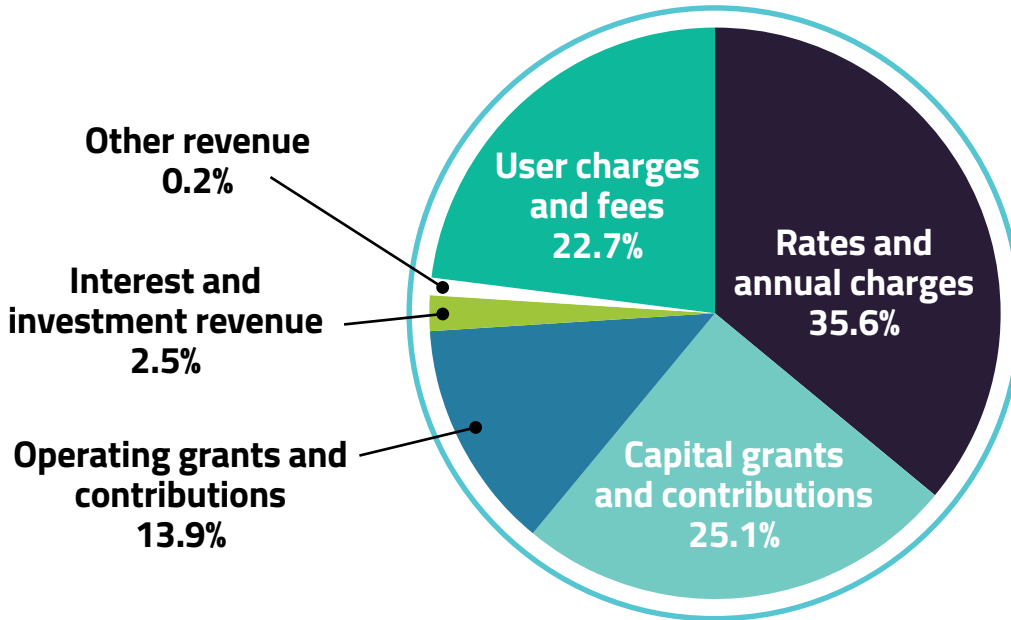
The highlight pages which follow provide a summary of Council's achievements in delivering on the agreed outcomes in the Richmond Valley Made 2030 Community Strategic Plan. The highlights are broken down into the four community priority areas, 'Connecting People and Places', 'Growing our Economy', 'Looking after our Environment' and 'Making Council Great' and respond to the community objectives for each of the priority areas.

The full progress report is detailed in the [Delivery Plan Progress Report](#) (period ending 30 June 2019).

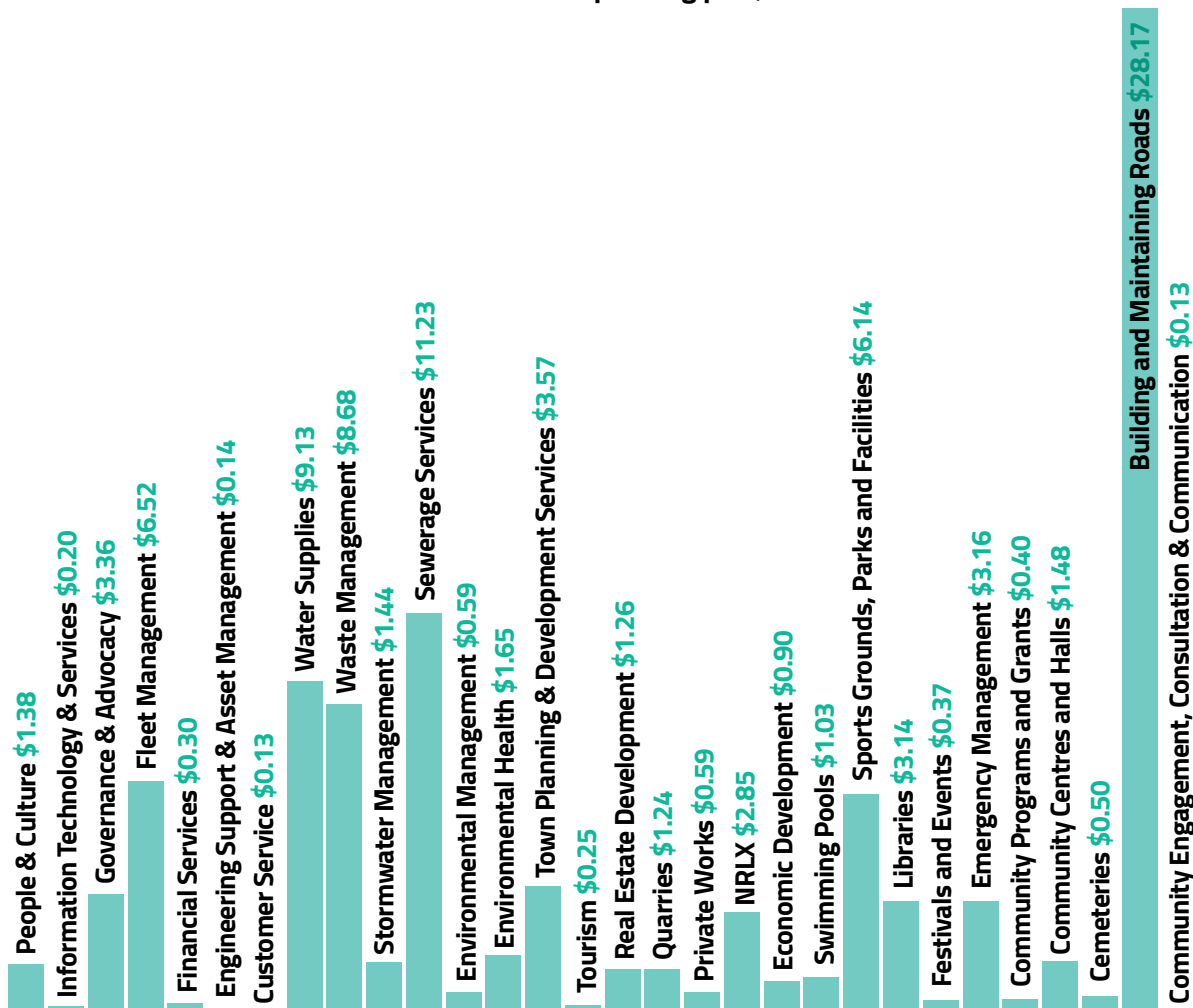
To view the full four-year Delivery Program, the one-year Operational Plan and the Community Strategic Plan, visit the Integrated Planning and Reporting pages on the [Richmond Valley Council website](#).

Funding Snapshot

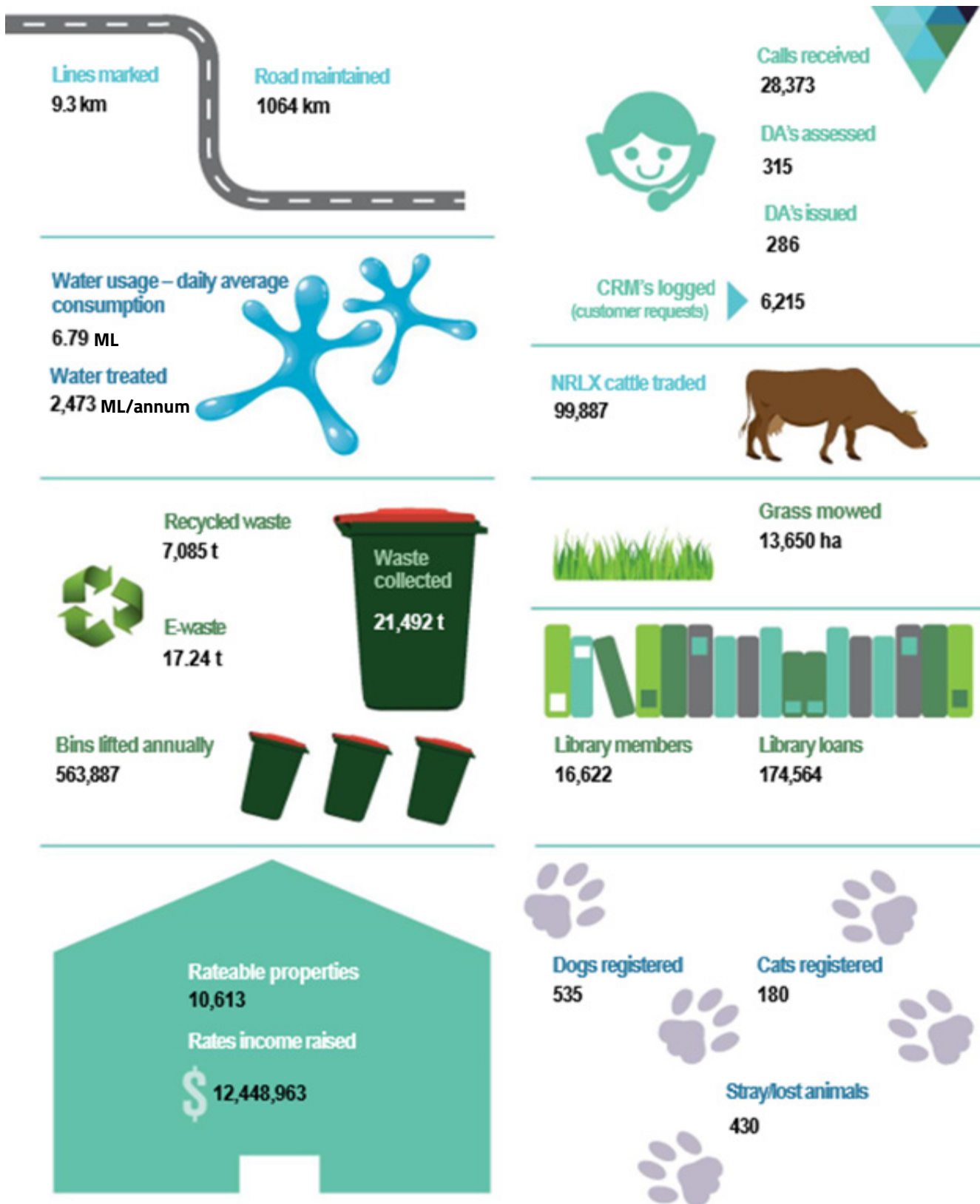
Source of Council funds



Council spending per \$100



Our Achievements Snapshot 2018/2019



Please note that water usage figures relate to Casino only, as the other townships within our LGA are supplied by Rous Water.

Connecting People and Places

PP1: FRESH AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY

Create happy and healthy communities where community members enjoy living and working together

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wheelchair accessible carousel on soft fall surface installed at Crawford Square, Casino
- Revitalised Coraki riverfront featuring new jetty, pontoon and boat ramp
- Gym stations located at Casino's Crawford Square and along the Evans Head riverside
- Casino Civil Hall upgrades encompassing restumping, reflooring, storage, fans and LED lights
- Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library acknowledgement of 40th birthday with community celebration at Casino Library
- Construction of new Casino and Woodburn visitor centres
- New toilet block for Broadwater Memorial Park
- New Broadwater youth space featuring modern skate park, basketball court and amenities
- Overhaul of the Casino Playgroup including recladding the exterior, levelling of the floor and new flooring, repainting and various electrical and appliance upgrades
- Stan Payne Oval playground upgrade featuring a pirate themed climbing frame and slide
- Woodburn Riverside Park stage one development
- Healthy Town Challenge 2018 win awarded to Coraki
- Installation of an accessible toilet and extended access ramp at the Rappville Public Hall

Library initiatives



A new seed library was launched in April 2019 at the Casino Library by Mayor Robert Mustow. The seed library is a partnership with Richmond Valley Council and is now available at all library branches. The new service has proven to be popular with 1454 seed loans in the first three months.

In 2018/19 the Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library had 128,634 people visit its branches; with 174,564 items lent to 16,622 members. Attendance of 10,563 people was recorded at 907 hosted events. With 1098 Facebook followers the Library continues to provide a valuable service to the community.

Coraki – the healthy town



Coraki was awarded the winner of the 2018 Healthy Town Challenge, an initiative of the NSW Office of Preventative Health and the Heart Foundation, which encourages regional and rural communities to get active and adopt a healthy diet.

A total of 32 people in Coraki signed up to the free, personalised telephone coaching 'Get Healthy Service' as part of the Challenge, with participants succeeding in reducing their body weight.

Coraki was awarded a \$15,000 grant to implement healthy initiatives such as establishment of a walking group, introduction of healthy food options at local takeaway shops, the local supermarket adopting a healthy catering policy, investment in lights for the local tennis court to allow night usage and sponsoring a local youth to complete a Certificate III in Fitness.

Broadwater youth space

Outdoor Gym stations have been installed at two sites in Evans Head adjacent to the river, and at four sites in Crawford Square Casino. The funding was from the Stronger Country Communities Fund and the projects have proven popular with the local communities. Council will look at expanding the gyms to other areas within Richmond Valley in the future.



PP2: GETTING AROUND

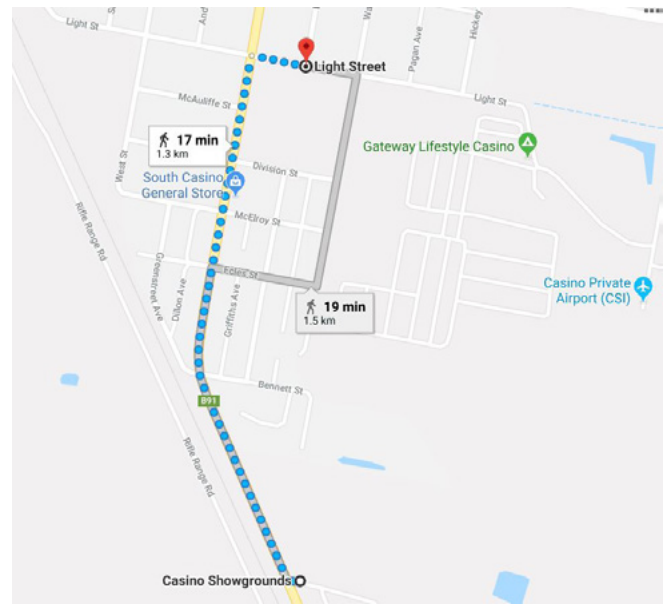
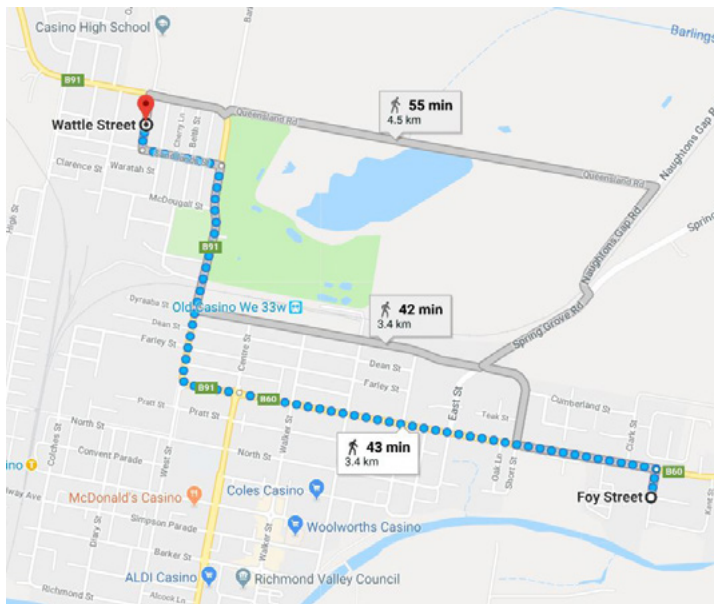
Provide safe and accessible transport network

HIGHLIGHTS

- New footpath for Cedar Street, Woodburn
- Completion of second section of works on Woodburn Coraki Road
- Completion of new railway bridge and realignment of Naughtons Gap Road, in conjunction with John Holland Rail
- Award of tender for the construction of a new concrete bridge over Neileys Creek Lagoon Road at Bungawalbyn
- Construction of two shared pathways in Casino (Bruxner Highway and Summerland Way)

Pathway projects

In September 2018 Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis announced that Richmond Valley Council would receive \$599,500 to construct a shared pathway along the Bruxner Highway from Foy to Wattle streets Casino (3.5km), and \$341,000 for a pathway from the Casino Showgrounds to Light Street (1.3km). Mr Gulaptis highlighted that the new footpaths would provide a healthy, environmentally-friendly mode of transportation for all.



PP3: WORKING TOGETHER

Good communication and engagement between Council and the community

HIGHLIGHTS

- Provision of Santa photos at the Casino Community and Cultural Centre for a gold coin donation, with proceeds going to a not-for-profit organisation in the Richmond Valley
- Community Financial Assistance Program
- Free community CPR and first aid sessions held covering 'What to do until the ambulance arrives'
- Restoration of Evans Head's iconic model of WW2 Fairey Battle bomber
- Woodburn Pool community consultation
- Online community engagement through active use of social media
- Special rate variation community meetings

Restoration of Evans Head icon

Evans Head's iconic model of a WW2 Fairey Battle bomber which greets visitors as they enter the town from Woodburn had a makeover thanks to the dedicated volunteers at the Evans Head Heritage Museum. The plane was removed from its position overlooking Woodburn Road and carefully repainted.

Museum volunteers thoroughly researched the correct colour scheme of the bomber and the serial number of the plane that related to a Fairey Battle that served at Evans Head. The model now again sits proudly as a talking point for visitors to the area.



Santa photos a highlight for kids

Richmond Valley Council again hosted Santa photos in 2018, with six sessions being held in late November and early December in Casino. For a gold coin donation, many local families took the opportunity to have their photo taken with Santa.

A total of \$640 was raised and donated to local not-for-profit organisation, Casino Men's Shed. In order to offer this service to the community, council staff generously volunteer their time.



Local projects receive Council support

Fourteen local organisations received funding for projects totalling over \$35,000 under round one of Richmond Valley Council's bi-annual Community Financial Assistance Program. Some of the successful projects included:

- Broadwater-Rileys Hill Community Centre – kitchen upgrade
- Casino Community Soup Kitchen – new oven
- Community Radio Coraki (88.9FM) – upgrade of transmitter equipment
- One Voice Richmond Valley Community Choir – theatre costs
- RSM Community Transport – office equipment

A further 23 community organisations received funding totalling over \$49,000 under round two. Recipients included:

- Bentley Community Preschool – purchase of defibrillator
- Casino RSM Youth Club – purchase of training equipment
- Keeping our Freedom Youth – transform art gallery space
- Our Two Hands – homeless and crisis support
- 2nd Casino Scout Group – purchase laptop, printer and tents

SRV community consultation

Council sought community feedback on its special rate variation proposal in February 2019, with meetings held in both Casino and Evans Head.

In addition to community meetings, Council also conducted a community telephone survey, managed by Micromex Research. The survey involved calls being placed to approximately 400 residents, representative of the population.

An SRV-specific newsletter was also sent to 9500 private and business addresses via Australia Post.

Growing Our Economy

EC1: DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Significantly grow the
Richmond Valley's economy

HIGHLIGHTS

- Assistance to new businesses with the 'Easy to do Business' online portal in conjunction with Service NSW and the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner
- Acquisition of the former Roads and Maritime Services building at 148 Barker Street Casino, to be leased to Casino Art Group for the establishment of an art gallery
- Council support for rezoning proposal to expand the Casino Industrial Estate
- Memorandum of Understanding for medicinal cannabis facility in Casino

SANA expects to create at least 300 direct and indirect jobs in the Northern Rivers region from its medicinal cannabis greenhouse project, providing a boost to the local economy.

General Manager Vaughan Macdonald said the proposed medicinal cannabis project would go a long way to meeting Council's commitment to reduce unemployment through economic development and improve the prosperity of our community.

SANA is currently in the assessment stage for three licenses with the Federal Government's Office of Drug Control in Canberra.

Medicinal cannabis facility still in the picture

Richmond Valley Council and Australian-owned SANA Nutraceuticals are working hard to establish a medicinal cannabis facility in the area, with Council now having a memorandum of understanding with SANA.

Following an amicable split from Canadian companies Agraflora Organics International (formerly PUF Ventures Inc) and MYM Nutraceuticals last year, SANA is ready to move forward with the project.

The project has the potential to be the largest medical cannabis facility in the southern hemisphere. At full scale it will have 11 hectares under greenhouse conditions with the capacity to support annual production of more than 100,000 kilograms of high-quality cannabis, which equates to an associated annual revenue generation potential of between \$800 million and \$1.1 billion, based on current pricing metrics in the global cannabis marketplace.



Development approvals over \$50 million

Richmond Valley Council's long-term commitment to stimulating economic growth is producing stellar results, with the dollar value of development approvals hitting almost \$50 million in the last financial year.

In 2018-2019, development approvals increased by 11% to \$49.4 million, from \$44.4 million in 2017-2018. It was the third straight year of increases in the value of development approvals in the Richmond Valley Council local government area.

The total number of development applications is also showing a strong long-term pattern of growth, with 286 issued in 2018-2019.

Significant development applications approved included the \$4.9 million construction of the new Evans Head HealthOne, \$10 million renovations and enhancements of the Richmond Lodge aged care facility in Casino, stage two upgrades to the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange totalling \$6.5 million, and the \$3.5 million redevelopment of the Casino Drill Hall site.



Small Business Month workshops

NSW Small Business Month, held in October each year, saw Richmond Valley Council host two small business workshops, one in Casino and one in Evans Head. These workshops, hosted by Council's Economic Development team, were aimed at providing both existing and new businesses with innovative ideas to grow their business, build their brand and develop a support network. The workshops were well attended with more than 60 people attending across the two locations aimed at providing both existing and new businesses with innovative ideas to grow their business, build their brand and develop a support network. The workshops were well attended with more than 60 people attending across the two locations.



EC2: BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS

Maximise income for the community through our commercial activities

HIGHLIGHTS

- Commencement of work on the \$7 million second stage of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange, Casino

NRLX Stage Two

Works commenced on Stage 2 of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange at Casino, with works wholly funded by the NSW Government. Redevelopment of the NRLX will ensure Casino's beef industry continues to thrive. Richmond Valley Council is managing the project, with stage two including a new roof and soft floor, together with the renovation of holding pens.



Real Estate Development

Council owns and manages a significant number of community and operational land holdings within the LGA and in every transaction, endeavours to leverage its commercial assets to maximise income and benefit for the community through its commercial activities.

Canning Drive, Casino: Council has purchased 1.74 ha of land on Canning Drive Casino which, together with a portion of closed road, will be developed into 19 residential lots. This development has DA approval and will be released in stages. This development is progressing with an application for construction certificate on stage 1 having been lodged.

148 Barker Street Casino (former RMS building): Following a community campaign for the establishment of an Art Gallery in Casino, an opportunity arose for Council to acquire the former RMS building from the NSW Government for just \$1 with its rebranding from RMS to Service NSW and relocation to a new site on Walker Street. Terms for the utilisation of the facility by the Casino Art Group are currently being finalised.

Industrial land activation: Activation of Casino's industrial land and the creation of jobs and prosperity is a top priority for Council and this moves closer with the sale of one of Council's industrial zoned parcels on Irving Drive in the Casino Industrial Estate.

Evans Head Health One: Subdivision of the land at Council's Evans Head administration office has allowed for the sale and development by NSW Health of a HealthOne facility in the Evans Head township which integrates care provided by general practice and community health aiming to create a stronger and more efficient primary health care system.

Looking after our Environment

EH1: MANAGING OUR WASTE AND WATER

Provide sustainable, reliable and safe water, sewer, waste and recycling services

HIGHLIGHTS

- Weekly food and garden organics collection service now available for all businesses in the Richmond Valley
- Educational garden at Casino Library designed to create awareness and highlight the problems associated with contamination from collection through to processing
- Installation of anti-tamper seals on water meters across the Richmond Valley
- Investigation into alternative solution to waste management challenges; including working with Japanese company, Pacific Consultants, which is finalising a pre-feasibility study for an energy-from-waste facility
- Installation of weighbridge at Evans Head Waste Transfer Station

Solar Installation at the Water Treatment Plant

A 100kWpk solar PV system is now operational at the Casino Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The system consists of:

- 306 ground-rack mounted solar PV modules
- 4 x 25kW three phase inverters

The system will reduce electricity consumption (of the WTP) by up to 45%, reduce CO2 emissions by around 140t per year and produce an expected average daily energy output of 390kWh.

The net cost of the project is approximately \$170,000 (taking into account the savings from small scale technology certificates (STCs)). Currently the Casino WTP electricity cost is approximately \$120,000 per year. Expected payback on the project is four years.

Weighbridge at Evans Head Waste Transfer Station

Richmond Valley Council constructed a weighbridge at the Evans Head Transfer Station throughout May and June 2019. The weighbridge will allow waste disposal charges to be calculated based on an accurate weight reading of the waste offloaded at the site, instead of an estimate based on volume of waste.



EH2: PROMOTING THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Protect and enhance the Richmond Valley's beautiful environment

HIGHLIGHTS

- Launch by the Casino branch of the Richmond-Upper Clarence Library of a seed library (a bank of seeds held in trust for the community can be borrowed, planted and then harvested and returned) in a joint initiative with Council's FOGO (food and organics) project.
- Joint campaign with North East Waste aimed at stopping illegal dumping across the Richmond Valley
- Council matched a \$15,000 grant for tree planting

Blue-Green Algae

The Richmond River experienced a blue-green algae event due to drought, heightened water restrictions and a hot summer. Photos taken at the boat ramp at McDonald Park show the river in bloom in early February 2019, together with two weeks later showing the difference to the water body after decent rain.

Collaboration between Council's water treatment plant and environmental health staff ensured this event was closely monitored and processes were continually adjusted to ensure safe water delivery. This event required on-going communication with various stakeholders including NSW Public Health Unit, Water NSW (North Coast Regional Algal Coordinating Committee) and the general public whose concerns were for recreational water use and the aesthetics of the drinking water.



Drought Convoy

Richmond Valley Council partnered with Kyogle and Lismore councils to transport hay and make water deliveries to drought-stricken farmers in and around Narrabri in August 2018. Council decided to be part of the convoy after staff came forward wanting to help farmers in the west of the State, which led to talks with local business and community groups to facilitate the best approach. Richmond Valley Council Mayor Robert Mustow was proud of Council staff's involvement and stated it was the perfect example of mates helping mates.

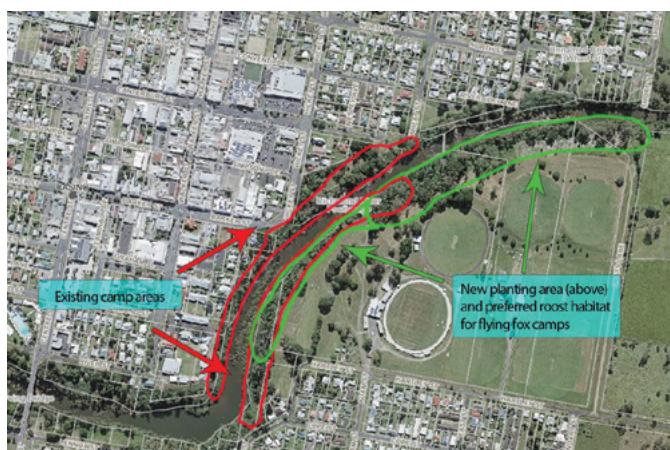


New plantation for flying foxes

Local Government NSW opened up various streams of grant funding to councils across the State to implement projects relating to each Council's Flying-Fox Management Plan. The grants were prioritised depending on the urgency to deliver works to minimise the human impact on flying foxes. Richmond Valley Council applied for funding to carry out rehabilitation of 'future' flying fox camp roost sites. This follows on from work in 2008 whereby Council carried out tree plantings next to the Bunya Pines/Flag Pole at Queen Elizabeth Park of which a good number are now established and have had flying fox activity.

The intent of the more than 1000 new plantings is to continue the established plantings on the southern bank down-stream to generate new habitat for flying foxes – away from the human population on the northern side of the river. Richmond Valley Council matched the \$15,000 grant through funds and in-kind support.

The first round of plantings was carried out by Year 6 students from St Mary's Catholic College Casino on National Tree Day.



Making Council Great

CS1: LEADING AND ADVOCATING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

A highly efficient and effective Council

HIGHLIGHTS

- Get That Grant! Workshops held to assist members of the community obtain grants
- Regular media releases on Council activities and issues
- Monthly community newsletter delivered to households
- Small Business Month workshops
- Monthly budget adjustments reported to Council
- Project Management Office reporting regularly on signature projects
- Participation in the Australian Red Cross Blood Service's 2018 Council Challenge
- Richmond Upper Clarence Regional Library celebrates International Chocolate Day by raising funds for 'Buy a Bale' drought relief
- Pink Tradie Tuesday
- Drone operation training offered to staff
- Preparation of bi-annual reports to the community on progress against the 2017/2021 Delivery Program
- Mid-Term Report presented to Council and the Community
- New meeting management system called "InfoCouncil" went live streamlining the process of preparing and running Council meetings

Council staff donate blood

Council staff participated in The Australian Red Cross Blood Service's 2018 Council Challenge. The Lismore Donor Centre team attend Council's Casino office for quarterly visits, with staff dropping in to donate. Blood donation is a positive step to supporting the community's need for donors and in raising awareness.



Drone operation training

Staff are undertaking a valuable qualification through TAFE NSW to operate drones, and to help supplement existing regulatory resources. The Certificate III in Aviation (Remote Pilot – Visual Line of Sight) qualification has been offered to 11 team members from the Assets and Operations teams. Once completed, staff will receive their Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Remote Pilot License (RePL), as well as their Aeronautical Radio Operator Certificate (AROC). They will be certified and licensed to fly drones commercially. As part of the training, staff will learn about the rules and regulations governing use of the aircraft, safety of operations in Australian airspace, manual flight, flight planning and programming to operate the drones.

General Manager Vaughan Macdonald said this was a fantastic opportunity for staff to broaden their skillset. "This is industry leading edge stuff and I'm proud that Council is moving with the times and undergoing this qualification and using technology to assist in our everyday duties," he said.



CS2: GREAT SUPPORT

Council's corporate support services provide professional and effective service delivery

HIGHLIGHTS

- Approval of a 5.5% p.a. Special Rate Variation over a four-year period
- YES program continues with many local students attending employment sessions and subsequently gaining employment
- Introduction of VendorPanel; a secure web-based service widely used to reduce risk and increase value in procurement
- 100 Days for Change campaign supporting diversity in the workplace
- Implementation of Family and Domestic Violence Procedure and associated training
- Women in the Workplace workshops
- Try-a-Trade program for school aged girls to work with Council's crews in the field
- Implementation of Single Touch Payroll
- Successful application for \$10,000 voucher in support of staff health and wellbeing awareness (sponsored by StateCover) and subsequent staff health and wellbeing day.
- Employee Self Service (ESS) implementation
- New phone system SKYPE for Business rolled out
- Mobile technology rolled out to staff to enable better efficiencies in delivering to the community
- Online "Bookable" system implemented to make it easy for the community to book and use council facilities
- New cemeteries database implemented
- Microsoft Office rolled out to all staff improving productivity
- New web based employee self service system for staff to manage their personal information and leave requirements reducing paper usage and streamlining complex processes
- Photocopying agreement extended with significant savings for Council
- Implementation of new policies to reduce cyber security risks

We say YES to youth employment

Council's award-winning Youth Employment Strategy (YES) goes from strength to strength with another 14 local high school students joining Council in 2019. This brings the total to 74 local youth who have been given the opportunity to live and work in their community, since the program began in 2014.

Positions are created based on the interests of the youth who participate and cover areas such as business administration, civil construction, electro technology, engineering, fabrication, sport and recreation, finance, horticulture and welding.

General Manager Vaughan Macdonald has said that "employment remains the top priority for our community, particularly youth employment to retain our talent and future leaders in the region".



100 Days for Change

Council participated in the 100 Days for Change initiative that was started by Women and Leadership Australia. Council implemented several initiatives to support the program, including:

- Try-a-Trade program;
- Implementation of a Family and Domestic Violence Procedure (and associated training); and
- Women in the Workplace workshops.

The Try-a-Trade program enables high school girls to work with the council's crews in the field. A wide range of vocations are on offer, including road construction, engineering, water and sewerage work and mechanics. Several participants have since applied for trainee roles with Council in these fields.

Council's Women in the Workplace workshops were open to all female employees and offered development of essential skills such as emotional intelligence, assertiveness, communication, resilience and accountability.

Section 2 Financial and Asset Reporting

During 2018/2019 Richmond Valley Council continued to provide services and facilities to the community in accordance with the adopted estimates (as amended each quarter).

The expenses incurred, and revenue raised by Council during 2018/2019 in respect of its principal activities, are summarised below.

It should be noted the expenditure indicated has generally been carried out within the approved allocation and the revenue indicated raised in accordance with the adopted rates, fees and charges.

The audited financial statements for Richmond Valley Council for 2018/2019 are available as a separate document under the Annual Report or Financial Statements section of Council's website: www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au

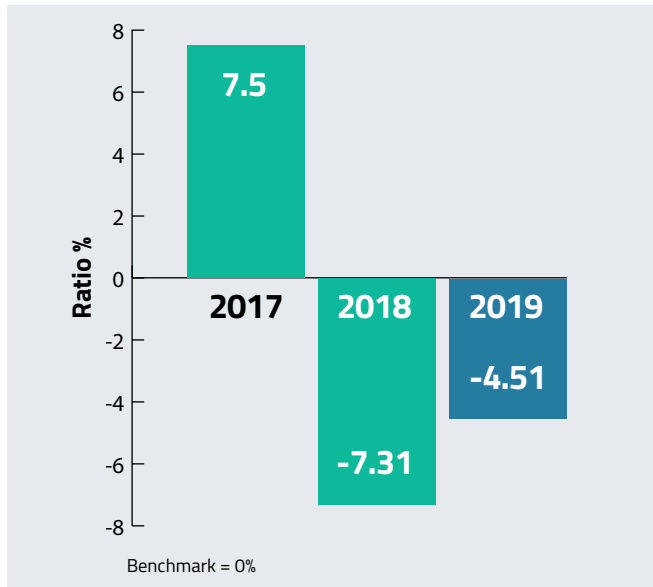
Income Statement

	Income	Expenditure	Net Cost
Function/Activities	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Connecting People and Places	15,680	28,074	-12,394
Growing our Economy	12,854	6,856	5,998
Looking after our Environment	22,519	21,643	876
Making Council Great	19,091	3,259	15,832
Total Functions and Activities	70,144	59,832	10,312
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	70,144	59,832	10,312

Indicators

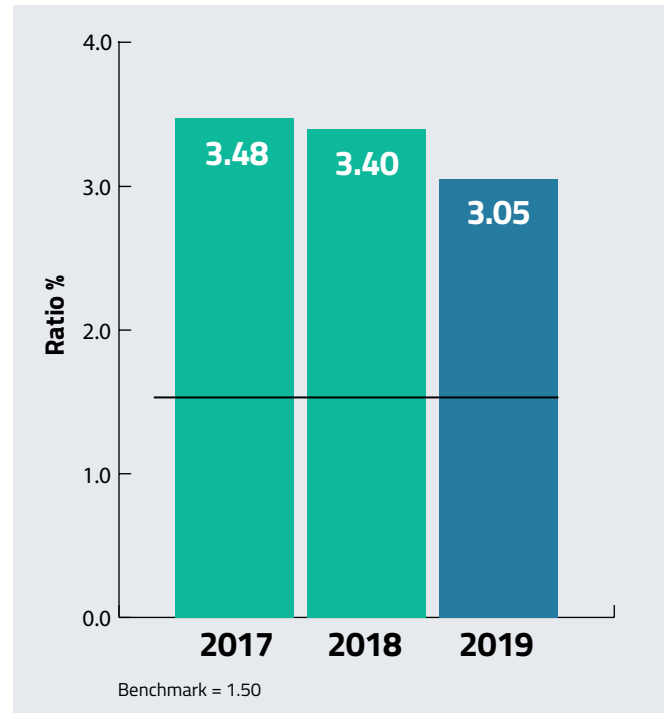
Operating Performance Ratio

Council's operating performance ratio has improved to -4.51%. The approval of a further special rate variation of 5.5% per annum for the four year period 2019/2020 to 2022/2023 will help Council move this ratio closer to the benchmark of > 0.00%.



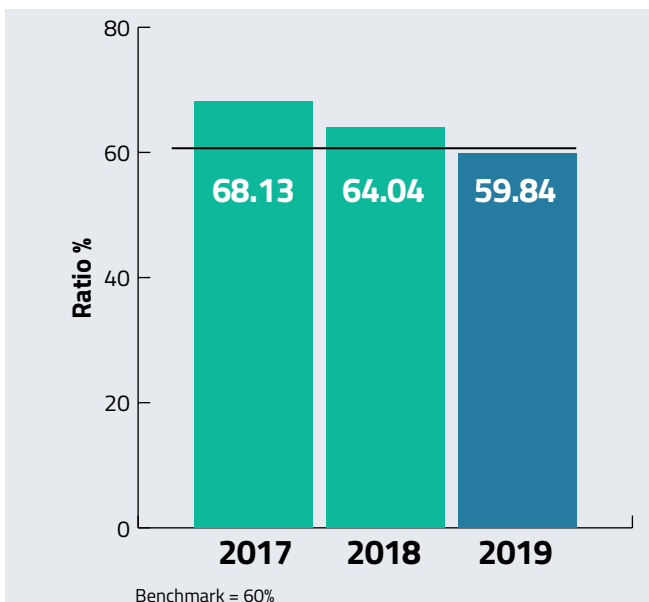
Unrestricted Current Ratio

Council's unrestricted current ratio has decreased slightly to 3.05, which is well above the benchmark of 1.50. This ratio remains relatively consistent.



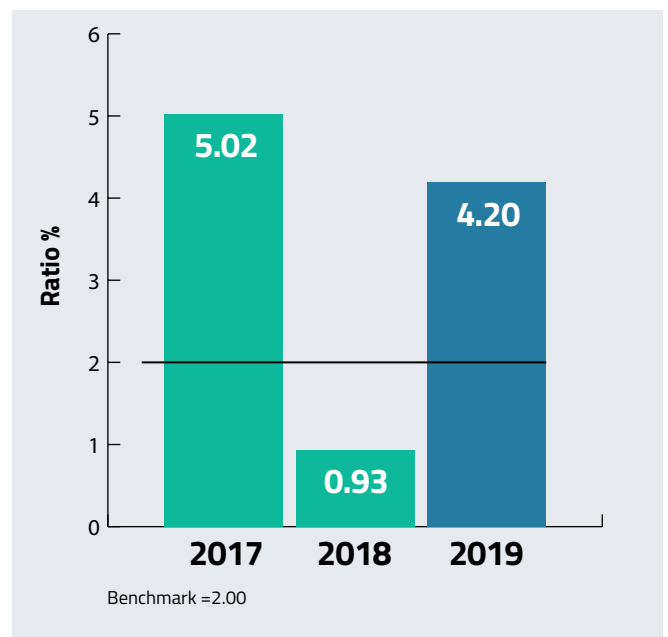
Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio

Council's own source operating revenue ratio is just below the benchmark of 60.00%. Council received a significant level of grant funding during 2018/2019, including funding for a number of one-off projects benefiting the community and local economy. Grant funding is expected to reduce in 2019/2020 and as a result, this ratio is expected to move back above the benchmark in 2019/2020.



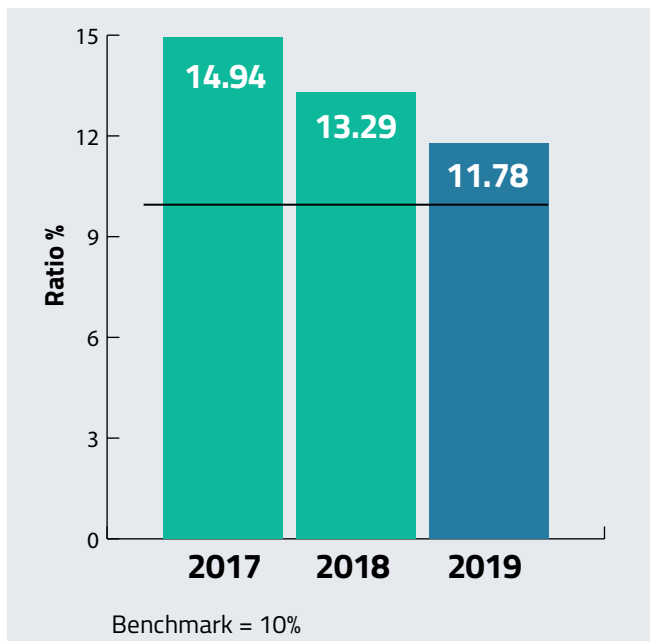
Debt Service Cover Ratio

Council's debt service cover ratio for 2019 has improved to 4.20, above the benchmark of > 2.00. In 2018, this ratio was affected by the refinancing of three loans, which led to savings of over \$536,000.



Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges Outstanding Ratio

There has been a further improvement in Council's rates, annual charges, interest and extra charges outstanding ratio, reducing 13.29% to 11.78%. In comparing this ratio to the benchmark, it is impacted by the fact that Council levies its water and sewerage annual charges in arrears. Council actively monitors and pursues outstanding balances through its debt recovery practices which is leading to the improvement in this ratio.



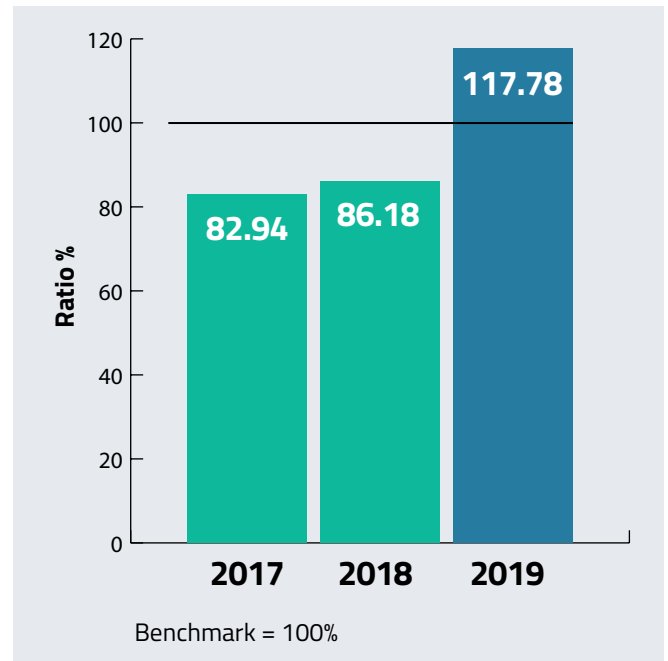
Cash Expense Cover Ratio

Council's cash expense cover ratio is well above the benchmark of 3.0. This ratio was affected by the refinancing of three loans in 2018, leading to a significant improvement in 2019.



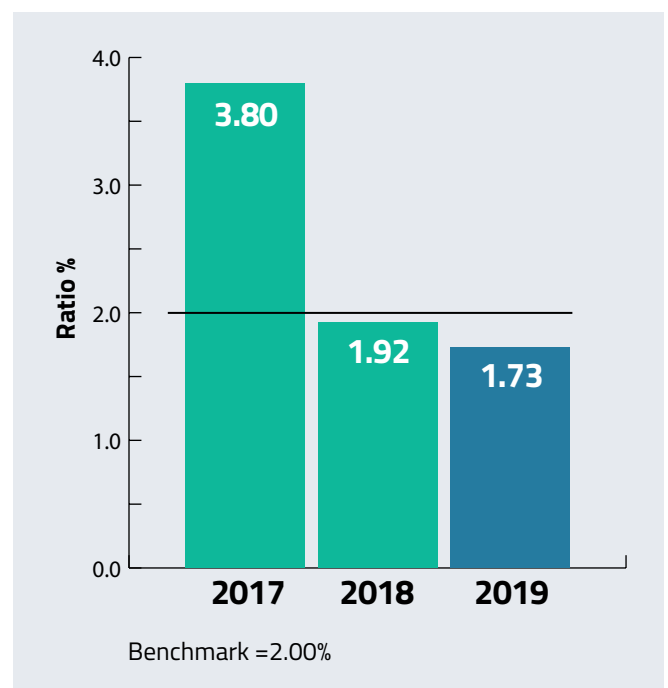
Building, Infrastructure & Other Structures Renewals Ratio

Council's Buildings and Infrastructure renewals ratio has improved to 117.78%. Council's special rate variation, along with increased grant funding has led to a significant improvement in this ratio for the 2018/2019 financial year.



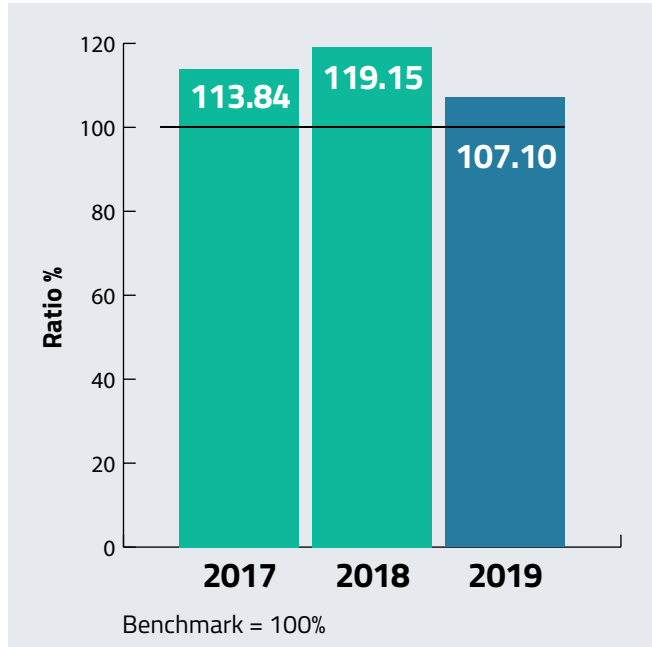
Infrastructure Backlog Ratio

Council's Infrastructure backlog ratio of 1.73% remains below the benchmark of < 2.0%. Improvements to the Buildings and Infrastructure renewals ratio has contributed to this improvement.



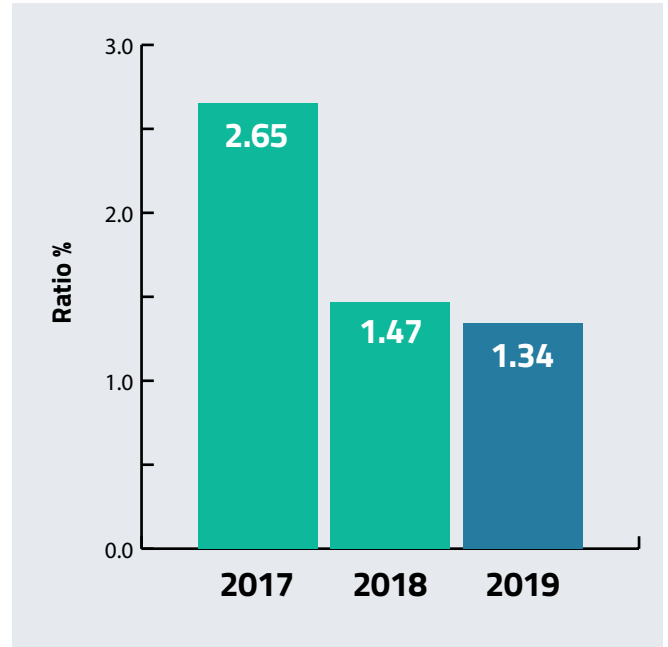
Asset Maintenance Ratio

Council's Asset maintenance ratio continues to be above the benchmark of 100% or higher



Cost to bring assets to agreed service level

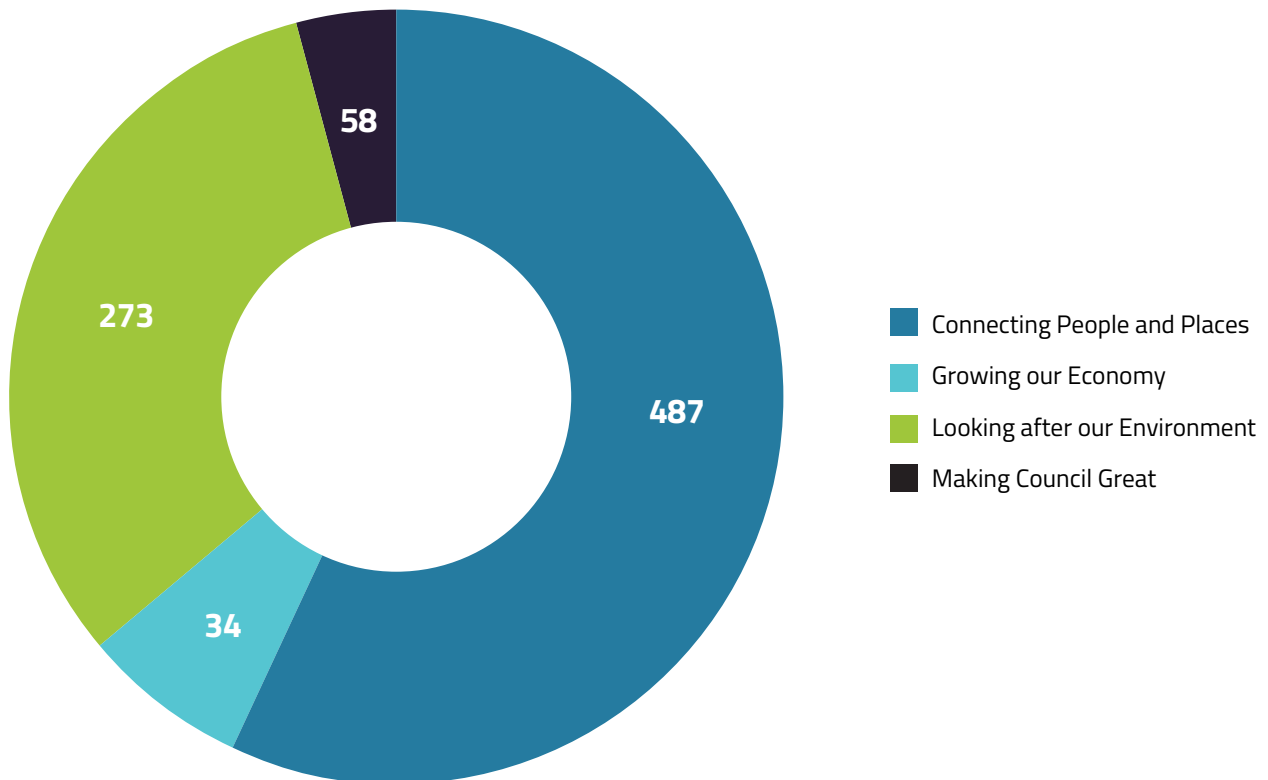
Council's outstanding renewals remain relatively low at 1.34% of the total replacement cost of its infrastructure assets.



Balance sheet

\$'000	Actual 2019	Actual 2018
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	8,172	5,988
Investments	37,528	35,028
Receivables	11,971	9,066
Inventories	1,249	1,422
Other	331	248
Non-current assets classified as "held for sale"	0	0
Total Current Assets	59,251	51,752
Non-Current Assets		
Investments	1,000	4,000
Receivables	2,170	2,098
Inventories	1,679	1,679
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	787,250	746,993
Investments accounted for using the equity method	0	0
Investment property	0	0
Intangible assets	0	0
Total Non-Current Assets	792,099	754,770
TOTAL ASSETS	851,350	806,522

Total Assets by Functions \$m



Section 3 – Statutory Reporting

Overseas Visits by Councillors, Council Staff or other persons representing Council

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

A delegation made up of The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, General Manager, Director Infrastructure and Environment, Manager Economic Development, Coordinator Economic Development and Manager Infrastructure Services visited Japan for a technical tour of Pacific Consultants facilities in Tokyo and Nagano. The tour ran from 24 February to 1 March 2019. The tour was funded in full by Pacific Consultants via a grant it received from the Japanese Government to pursue foreign investment opportunities.

Legal Proceedings

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1)(a3)

During 2018/2019, Council was involved in a number of legal proceedings, a summary of which is shown below:

	\$ Amount (Excl. GST)
Planning & Development	
- Development assessment	0.00
- Development prosecutions	0.00
Debt Recovery	
- Rates, charges and other debtors	84,556.01
Health & Regulatory Control	
- Health administration ongoing	24,688.26
Infrastructure & Environment	
- Contract works	0.00
- Lease preparation	0.00
Real Estate Development	
- Property Matters	30,970.27
Corporate Services	
- Litigation	0.00
- Public Liability	0.00
- Other	44,603.11
Water Supplies	
- Litigation	0.00
- Property Matters	273.33
Total	199,178.89

Councillor Fees, Expenses & Facilities

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1)(a1)

Council's Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy sets out acceptable expenses to be paid for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors in the carriage of their civic office duties. The policy allows for the provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to Councillors on a personal basis such as laptop computers, mobile phones, iPads, telephones and facsimile machines and internet installed in the Councillors' homes. In addition, the policy makes provision for payment of travelling costs and costs relating to seminar, conference and training attendance.

A copy of the policy is available on Council's website. The table below is a summary of the expenses incurred by Councillors during the financial year.

Richmond Valley Council Annual Report Data 2018/2019 Councillor Fees, Expenses and Facilities	
Expense Type	\$ (exc GST)
Mayoral Fee	43,170.00
Councillor Fees	138,529.44
Mayoral Expenses	
Communication expenses	1,371.65
Conferences, seminars and training attendance	950.81
Interstate Travel	0.00
Intrastate Travel	0.00
Mayoral vehicle expenses	8,734.42
Other expenses	1,549.82
Councillor Expenses	
Communication expenses	3,660.36
Conferences, seminars and training attendance	1,242.59
Interstate Travel	0.00
Intrastate Travel	2,878.00
Other expenses	7,247.76
Total Expenses	209,334.85

Private Works

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1)(a4)

Council did not subsidise any private works during 2018/2019 in accordance with Section 67 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Councillor Induction and Professional Development

*Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy
CPOL 1.14 and Office Local Government Guidelines 2018*

Council's Councillor and Professional Development Policy was adopted in June 2019. The Policy allows for the provision of an Induction Program and Ongoing professional development program to be implemented in the 2019/2020 financial year in accordance with the Office of Local Government Councillor Induction and Professional Development Guidelines. Council adopted a dedicated budget in 2019/2020 for Councillor Induction and Professional Development.

Whilst a dedicated program for Councillors had not been developed in 2018/2019 the 2019/2020 budget has allocated funds for ongoing training and development.

Councillor Induction and Professional Development	
Expense Type	\$ (exc GST)
Induction	0.00
Professional Development program	0.00
Training Activities	
Technical Tour of Pacific Consultants facilities in Tokyo and Nagano – Robert Mustow, Mayor; Stephen Morrissey, Deputy Mayor	0.00
Note: A report detailing this overseas trip was presented to Council at the March 2019 Ordinary Meeting.	
Saleyards Conference – Robert Mustow, Mayor; Sandra Humphrys, Councillor; Jill Lyons, Councillor	1,613.63

Contracts Awarded by Council

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

During 2018/2019 the following contracts for amounts greater than \$150,000 were awarded by Council, as defined by the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993.

Name of Contractor	Nature of Project	\$ Contract Amount (inc GST)
Rosmech Sales & Service Pty Ltd	Supply and delivery of one (1) Truck Mounted Street Sweeper (VP122864)	358,307.40
Isuzu Australia Limited	Supply and delivery of steel body truck with aluminium tool boxes and crane approximate GVM of 8500KG (VP130659)	150,359.00
JCB Construction Equipment Australia	Supply, delivery and commissioning of three (3) 350KVA Diesel Generators (VP96789)	194,304.90
Northern Rivers Concreting	Construct Shared Pathway - Bruxner Highway and Summerland Way Casino (RVC374.19)	587,875.00
AGS Commercial Pty Ltd	Casino Drill Hall (RVC364.18)	2,249,582.50
AGS Commercial Pty Ltd	NRLX Upgrade Stage 2 (RVC806650)	6,571,070.00
Ozwide Bridge Rail & Civil Pty Ltd	Design and Construct Bridge over Neileys Creek (RVC373.19)	371,538.20
AGS Commercial Pty Ltd	Woodburn Visitor Information Centre (RVC368.18)	827,453.00
AGS Commercial	Design and Construct Roof over Stan Payne Oval Grandstand (VP140128)	197,329.00
AGS Commercial	Construct Canteen and Toilet Block, Casino Showgrounds, Summerland Way, Casino (RVC372.19)	303,779.00
Total		11,811,598.00

Financial Assistance

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

During the year, Council resolved to make contributions/grants totalling \$86,459.64. These were allocated to the following organisations:

Community Group	\$ amount (exc GST)
2nd Casino Scout Group	1,571.00
Bentley Community Preschool	2653.24
Broadwater Koala Reserve Trust	765.00
Broadwater Rileys Hill Community Tennis	3,307.96
Casino & District Historical Society	3,313.34
Casino BMX Club	1,300.00
Casino Community Soup Kitchen	1,555.00
Casino District Cricket Association	4,248.00
Casino Food Basket	5,000.00
Casino On Road Remote Control Car Association	560.00
Casino Vision Impaired Local Client Support Group	1,620.00
Casino RSM Youth Club	2,000.00
Casino Poultry Club	860.00
Casino's Own Wireless Association Inc	1,939.00
Community Radio Coraki	4,482.91
Ellangowan Public Hall	5,298.00
Evans Head & District Senior Citizens Club	2,000.00
Evans Head District Cricket Club	1,000.00

Community Group	\$ amount (exc GST)
Evans River and Coastal Landcare Inc	948.00
Evans River Rugby Club	4,000.00
Keeping Our Freedom Youth	1,909.42
Kurrachee Co-Operative	1,360.00
Northern Rivers Dirty Wheels Mountain Bike Club Inc	4,120.00
One Voice Richmond Valley Community Choir	750.00
Our Two Hands	2,300.00
Pacific Coast Railway Society (Casino Miniature Railway and Museum)	1,450.00
Richmond Valley Physie	300.00
Rileys Hill Community Involvement Centre Committee	5,000.00
RSM Community Transport Incorporated	4,000.00
New Italy Museum Inc.	2,160.00
The Salvation Army - Loaves and Fishes	6,286.77
Village Hall Players Inc	660.00
Woodburn Amateur Boxing Club Incorporated	2,500.00
Woodburn Pony Club	4,666.00
TOTAL	86,459.64

External Bodies Exercising Functions Delegated by Council

Local Government (General) Regulation 2006 – Section 217 Clause 1 (a6)

Richmond Valley Council has not given any delegation to external organisations during 2018 /2019.

Corporations, Partnerships, Trusts, Joint Ventures, Syndicates or Other Bodies in which Council held a Controlling Interest

Local Government (General) Regulation 2006 – Section 217 Clause 1 (a7)

Council has not given any delegation to any corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which council held a controlling interest during 2018-2019.

Corporations, Partnerships, Trusts, Joint Ventures, Syndicates or Other Bodies in which Council participated in during the year

Local Government (General) Regulation 2006 – Section 217 Clause 1 (a8)

Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library

Richmond Valley Council has an agreement with Kyogle Council to operate a regional library service known as the Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library.

Richmond Valley Council is the Executive Council for the Regional Library service and all financial reporting for Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library is consolidated into Council's financial statements.

In the event Council withdrew from the Regional Library service, its share of regional library assets and liabilities would be determined by the NSW State Library.

Both councils signed a new library agreement in June 2017 for a further five-year term so that the business model to operate the Regional Library is contemporary and meets the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and Library Act 1939.

View the [Regional Library Annual Report](#).

North East Weight of Loads Group

Richmond Valley Council, in conjunction with Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Tenterfield and Tweed councils, is a member of the North East Weight of Loads Group (NEWLOG).

NEWLOG operates to advance the aims of reducing damage to classified roads and the promotion of road safety by policing vehicle weights as prescribed in the pertinent Act and Regulations.

NEWLOG's equity as at 30 June 2019 was \$107,104.

View the [NEWLOG Annual Report](#).

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) represents the Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed NSW local government areas. With representation by the mayors and general managers of each council, NRJO's role is to facilitate and lead advocacy, political representation and cooperative action on matters of regional significance.

Details on projects and priorities, meeting minutes and news and media releases can on the [Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Website](#).

North East Waste

Richmond Valley Council, in conjunction with Ballina Shire, Byron Shire, Clarence Valley, Lismore City, Kyogle and Tweed Shire councils, is a member of North East Waste, a group of councils working together towards cost-effective waste management solutions.

View the [North East Waste Report](#).

Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan

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

Council's recruitment processes now include a variety of equal employment opportunity questions in its initial job application form, these include:

- Do you identify as male / female / other?
- Do you identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
- Are there cultural requirements that Council may need to be aware of? Please provide brief details.
- Are you from a non-English speaking background? If yes, what is the primary language spoken at home?
- Do you have a disability?

Council has applied for five Elsa Dixon student spaces this financial year to further encourage school aged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to consider gaining work experience at Council. The roles will vary between administrative and field staff.

Council also works with ON-Q which is a not for profit organisation, providing Disability Employment Support to enable people to realise their full potential through meaningful employment.

General Manager and Senior Staff Remuneration

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

The General Manager's remuneration package consists of:

1. Salary component
2. Employer's contribution and/or salary sacrifice to a superannuation scheme
3. Non-cash benefits (motor vehicle), and
4. Amount payable by Council by way of Fringe Benefit Tax for non-cash benefits.

The total remuneration paid to the General Manager in 2018/2019 was \$297,647.

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

Council had one senior staff position (as defined by the Local Government Act 1993) during 2018/2019. This position was held by the Director Infrastructure and Environment.

The remuneration package of senior staff consists of:

1. Salary component
2. Employer's contribution and/or salary sacrifice to a superannuation scheme
3. Non-cash benefits (motor vehicle), and
4. Amount payable by Council by way of Fringe Benefit Tax for non-cash benefits.

The total remuneration paid to senior staff in 2018/2019 was \$217,573.58.

Stormwater Management Service Charge

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

Contained in the Operational Plan applicable for 2018/2019 was provision for Council to undertake various urban stormwater drainage works and services estimated to cost \$433,000. These works included the following items:

Works	Cost planned in Operational Plan	Actual Works	Actual Expenditure
Casino		Casino	
Casino Drainage Improvements	\$10,000	Casino Drainage Improvements	\$3,003
Johnston Street	\$50,000	Johnston Street	\$45,218
Evans Head		Evans Head	
Drainage Unallocated	\$293,000	Drainage Unallocated	\$0
Yarran Lane Drainage Improvements	\$65,000	Yarran Lane Drainage Improvements	\$21,012
Poplar Lane Dish Drain	\$0	Poplar Lane Dish Drain	\$43,940
Total	\$433,000	Total	\$113,173

Unspent funds of \$319,827 were carried forward to the 2019/2020 financial year to provide for works to be undertaken in Illawong Lane, Yarran Lane and Myall Street in Evans Head.

Companion Animals

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

The following statistics are reported to the Office of Local Government (OLG) in accordance with the Companion Animals Guidelines.

Pound Statistics	Number
Impounds (Total)	283
Dogs Euthanised	7
Cats Euthanised	41
Dog Attacks	59

Note: In relation to the dogs impounded at Council's Animal Shelter 3.5% were euthanised. This included five that were dangerous dogs, one dog that was injured and one dog that was unsuitable to rehouse.

In relation to the cats impounded at Council's Animal Shelter 49% were euthanised. This included 34 feral cats which could not be rehoused and seven injured or unwell cats.

Off Leash Areas

Richmond Valley Council has four off-leash areas in Casino, two in Coraki and two in Evans Head. In Evans Head one off-leash area consists of 1.25 kms of beach and the second off-leash area is to be fenced with a budget of \$25,000. In Casino, Council intends to move its small off-leash area in Crawford Square to another area of the park and enlarge it when it implements the Crawford Square Master Plan.

Community Education

Managing companion animals in our Local Government Area is an important component of Council's business and generates the biggest workload of all duties carried out by Council's Rangers and highest number of enquiries/complaints to Council from the community.

Two full-time Rangers are employed by Council whose duties largely involve administering the requirements of the Companion Animals Act 1998 and Impounding Act 1993. However, Rangers also carry out a number of other duties such as investigating garbage dumping, littering and minor pollution incidents, abandoned vehicles, parking enforcement, straying stock and illegal camping.

In addition to the two Rangers, Council employs a Companion Animals Education Officer with the role of managing Council's animal shelter and providing education to the community.

There are 11,787 dogs and 2,068 cats registered and/or micro-chipped in the Local Government Area (LGA). There are a large number of dogs and cats estimated to be housed in the LGA that are not registered, being 20% of dogs and as many as 60% of cats, so the number of dogs and cats in our LGA is likely to be much higher.

In 2018/2019 Council received 1,071 complaints about companion animals, the majority of which were for dogs. These varied from issues relating to barking dogs, straying dogs, nuisance dogs, dog attacks and injured dogs. Our Rangers' primary focus when dealing with people while investigating a complaint is to educate them to get a positive outcome. Taking the time to stop and engage people and discuss their issue and the legal requirements often results in a better outcome than enforcement. Rangers also utilise a variety of educational pamphlets and handouts covering issues from registration through to barking problems.

The animal shelter run by Council focuses on re-housing companion animals that come into our care. The Companion Animals Education Officer liaises regularly with a number of animal welfare groups and other contacts on the Northern Rivers in an attempt to re-house the dogs and cats that come into our care.

The majority of animals from Council's impounding facility that have not been claimed by owners and/or rehoused by Council are taken by these groups for re-housing. Council euthanises some animals, however this is generally due to animals being completely unsuitable for re-housing due to previous poor treatment, being aggressive or the animals being of poor health or injured.

RVC prioritise the wellbeing of the animals in care. Dogs receive regular walks, thanks to the combined efforts of a volunteer and our Education Officer.

Council continues to promote and offer its "Companion Animals Vet Desex Pack", with the co-operation of local veterinary clinics. This is for dogs released from Council's impounding facility ensuring the animals are microchipped, registered and de-sexed at a discounted rate for people wishing to rehouse animals from the impounding facility. Animals are both registered and micro-chipped in accordance with the requirements of the Impounding Act and also de-sexed which will ensure that problems such as unwanted breeding and litters do not continue to present in the area.

Rates and Charges Written Off

In accordance with Section 132 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Council reports that the following general rates and water/sewer charges have been written off during 2018/2019:

Write-off type	\$
General Rates	21,354.28
Water/Sewer Rates	11,546.80
Total	\$32,901.08

Swimming Pool Inspections

Legislation in relation to swimming pool fencing requirements has been strengthened in recent years in response to concerns about children drowning in swimming pools. Inadequate pool fencing is a major contributing factor in the rate of drowning among children less than five years of age. Part of the legislation introduced to protect children under the age of five around backyard swimming pools included a requirement that from 29 April 2016 anyone who is selling, buying or leasing a property with a pool must have a certificate of compliance, a relevant occupation certificate or a certificate of non-compliance.

Councils are responsible for implementing requirements of the legislation. In addition to the above, Councils must also have a swimming pool fence audit program and properties with swimming pools categorised as being high risk (such as properties with more than two occupancies and a shared pool i.e. units in strata complexes or community schemes, motels, etc.) are required to be inspected every three years.

There are over 1,000 swimming pools in the Richmond Valley LGA. Council has a Compliance Officer whose role includes administering the Swimming Pools Act 1992 and Swimming Pools Regulation 2018 and ensuring swimming pool fencing complies with the legislation.

In 2018/2019 the following were carried out as part of the program:

- 37 compliance certificate applications received, four subsequently cancelled,
- 33 compliance certificates issued,
- 2 non-compliance certificates issued,
- 2 compliance certificate applications cancelled,
- 0 high risk premises audited. These were inspected in the 2016/17 financial year.

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Richmond Valley Council has had a strong year of actions against the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021.

Council's goals for 2018/2019 were:

Focus Area 1

- Changing attitudes and behaviours towards people with disabilities in the community
- To ensure public events are accessible

Focus Area 2

- Making our community liveable and accessible for all
- Providing continuous accessible paths of travel between facilities and services in town centres and public areas

Focus Area 3

- Improving employment opportunities for people with disabilities
- Changing people's attitudes

Focus Area 4

- Improving accessibility of systems and processes
- Ensuring all information is available in different formats for all abilities

Highlights have included:

- Accessible elements included in all playground upgrades, including delivery of significant works such as the Woodburn Riverside and Stan Payne Oval playgrounds
- Analysis of key events to improve accessibility
- Continuous accessible paths of travel included in new master planning exercises and continue to increase in regular maintenance of current paths
- Further improvements to Council's website to standardise access

New playground equipment and increased pathway access have proven particularly popular with community members. Council looks forward to building on these measures across our services, operation and infrastructure in the coming year.

Special Variations to General Income

RVC has one reportable special variation of general income approved by the Minister for Local Government under Section 508A of the Local Government Act 1993. Part of the approval process by Ministerial Order is a requirement of Council to report each year in its Annual Report on outcomes associated with the Special Variation to General Income. Specific details on the Special Variations to General Income follows:

Year of approval 2014/2015	
Purpose	\$3.4m of extra operating expenditure, \$9.1m of capital expenditure, \$15.9m for reduction of operating deficits and \$6.9m for reserve transfers, loan repayments and further deficit reductions
Amount of approval as a % of income (inclusive of rate peg of 2.3%)	5.50%
Amount of approval in monetary terms (2018/2019)	\$2,307,832
Amount unexpended as at 30 June 2018	\$1,476,280
Total for 2018/2019 to expend from the special variation of general income	\$3,784,112
	\$1,255,866 being as follows:
	Renewals:
	Gravel Road Resheeting \$151,342
	Sealed Road Rehabilitation \$159,996
	Playground Replacement \$21,675
	Council Parks & Facilities \$146,977
	Additional Service:
	Casino Riverbank Presentation \$48,952
	Sealing of Unsealed Roads \$26,501
	Cultural and Art Facilities \$20,000
	Capital Improvements:
Expenditure during 2018/2019	Woodburn Riverside Precinct \$287,840
	Casino Riverfront Amphitheatre and Drill Hall Revitalisation \$695,873
	Coraki Riverfront Upgrade \$308,597
	Stan Payne Oval Playground Replacement \$209,321
	Public Toilet Renewals \$115,392
	Other capital improvements \$156,627
	Improved Maintenance:
	Playground Maintenance \$16,556
	Additional Building Maintenance \$6,336
	Toilet Cleaning Maintenance \$17,375
	Rural Road Drain Maintenance \$28,474
	Increased Capacity:
	IT Upgrades \$40,000
	Public Wi-Fi in Casino CBD, Woodburn & Evans Head \$50,000
	Economic Development Initiatives \$4,142
	Loan Borrowing Program Funding:
	Principal & Interest Repayments \$630,394
Amount unexpended as at 30 June 2019	\$641,742

Section 4 – Appendices

The following reports support the activities of Richmond Valley Council and are required by legislation to be made available as appendices to this annual report. The names and locations of these reports on Council's website are listed below:

[Appendix 1: Delivery Program Progress Report](#)

[Appendix 2: Audited Financial Statements](#)

[Appendix 3: Government Information \(Public Access Act 2009\) Annual Report](#)

[Appendix 4: Public Disclosure Annual Report](#)

[Appendix 5: Library Annual Report](#)

[Appendix 6: Mid Term Report](#)

[Appendix 7: State of the Environment Report](#)