

Richmond
Valley
Council

Richmond Valley Council

Annual Report
2019-2020





Cover image: Jimmy Malecki



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.

Richmond Valley Council

Casino Office:

10 Graham Place
Casino NSW 2470
Phone: (02) 6660 0300
Fax: (02) 6660 1300

Evans Head Office:

Cnr Woodburn Street and School Lane
Evans Head NSW 2473
Phone: (02) 6660 0365
Fax: (02) 6682 4252

Email: council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au

Web: richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au

CONTENTS

Message from the Mayor and General Manager	4
Achievements Snapshot	8
About the Richmond Valley	9
Richmond Valley Councillors	10
Staffing Profile	12
Brief Statistics for 2019/2020	13
Our Vision	14
Our Values and Behaviours	15
Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework	16
Highlights of Signature Projects	17
Collaborations	23
Our Towns and Villages	24
Festivals and Events 2019/2020	28
Section 1: Delivery Program Progress	30
Connecting People and Places	32
Growing our Economy	37
Looking after our Environment	39
Making Council Great	41
Section 2: Financial and Asset Reporting	43
Income Statement	43
Balance Sheet	43
Indicators	44
Assets Held	46
Section 3: Statutory Reporting	47
Overseas Visits by Councillors, Council Staff or other persons representing Council	47
Councillor Fees, Expenses & Facilities	47
Contracts Awarded by Council	48
Legal Proceedings	49
Private Works	50
Financial Assistance	51
External Bodies Exercising Function Delegated by Council	52

Corporations, Partnerships, Trusts, Joint Ventures, Syndicates or Other Bodies in which Council held a Controlling Interest	52
Corporations, Partnerships, Trusts, Joint Ventures, Syndicates or Other Bodies in which Council participated in during the year	52
North East Weight of Loads Group	52
Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library	52
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation	53
North East Waste	53
Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan	53
General Manager and Senior Staff Remuneration	54
Stormwater Management Service Charge	55
Companion Animals	56
Rates and Charges Written Off	57
Special Variations to General Income	57
Swimming Pool Inspections	58
Councillor Induction and Professional Development	59
Environmental Upgrade Agreements	60
Planning Agreements in Force	60
Disability Inclusion Action Plan	60
Section 4 – Appendices	61

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR AND GENERAL MANAGER

The 2019-2020 financial year was one of unprecedented challenges for the Richmond Valley.

At the peak of a persistent and severe drought, the Richmond Valley was one of the first local government areas impacted in what became known as the "Black Summer", with disastrous bushfires in October and November. This was followed by a drought-breaking downpour which culminated in damaging flash flooding across the local government area in early 2020, and then the onset of COVID-19, and with it, restrictions on business and the Queensland border closures.

This historic series of natural disasters had a profound impact on many in our community during the financial year.

However, throughout these deeply challenging times, the Richmond Valley has proved resilient and capable of bouncing back. In the wake of the bushfire disaster, Council took the initiative to consult widely and quickly identify local recovery priorities, and has worked closely with our State and Federal counterparts to support the rebuilding momentum during this critical period.

While managing those key recovery priorities, Council also successfully completed three months of significant road infrastructure repairs following the flash flooding in February 2020. On top of this, Council has been able to successfully manage its bottom line and maintain a business-as-usual approach, as a leading organisation of the Richmond Valley community.

Despite the challenges of 2019-2020, Richmond Valley Council remains in an exciting period which is contributing to the long-term growth and quality of life in our towns and villages.



Robert Mustow



Vaughan Macdonald



DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The 2019-2020 financial year saw the completion of several signature projects on the Richmond Valley agenda, continuing an era of strategic and well planned public infrastructure development in the Richmond Valley.

The \$7 million second stage of the \$14 million upgrade of the **Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange** was officially opened by NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro in September 2019.

The entire holding section of the saleyard complex was redeveloped with a new roof, significant upgrades to holding pens, improved safety and the installation of environmental upgrades, including rainwater recycling and wastewater treatment. Technology across the entire complex was also upgraded to allow for livestock tracking and online selling.

The redeveloped stock exchange, has proved its worth in the bumper second half of 2019-2020, generating the highest throughput of cattle in 21 years, and many new clients from outside its traditional Northern NSW footprint.

Council also completed the new **NRLX administration centre** (\$456,601). Council contributed \$250,000 towards the building, which includes a conference and training room with full audio and visual capabilities, meeting rooms, and office space for NRLX staff and other stakeholders.

The administration centre has improved service, links, and relationships with all stakeholders and transformed the NRLX into a five-day a week customer service-oriented facility.

The \$2.5 million stage one of the **Casino Drill Hall precinct** revitalisation was officially opened in October by Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan and NSW Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis.

Set on the banks of the beautiful Richmond River, the \$2.5 million Drill Hall site includes a new visitor information centre, a contemporary amphitheatre for community events, an RV and caravan capable carpark, extensive footpaths and landscaping, while the original Drill Hall building is now home to the Northern Rivers Military Museum.

This iconic new public space has contributed toward growing the visitor economy and supporting

the local community with a range of event possibilities on the new site. Council is now looking ahead to progressing stage two of the master plan for the site.

Also opening in October 2019 was the first stage of the upgraded **Woodburn Riverside Park** (\$2.29 million).

Jointly funded by the Australian and NSW governments and Richmond Valley Council, the project features a new visitor information centre and function room with elevated views over the Richmond River, an adventure playground with adjoining barbecue and picnic areas, and a new boating pontoon, beach and timber boardwalk.

Woodburn now has a wonderful attraction which will help boost tourism following the 2020 opening of the Pacific Highway upgrade, which bypasses the town, as well as delivering an outstanding facility for the local community.

In Broadwater, Council officially opened a shared pathway (\$1,000,000) in June 2019. The linking of the pathway across the Pacific Highway overpass is expected to be completed in the 2020-2021 financial year, and is being overseen and funded by Pacific Complete. The upgraded Broadwater Memorial Hall community park (opened in February 2019) is also scheduled for completion in the 2020-2021 financial year with a new rope climbing frame and seesaw rocker (\$107,000).

Throughout 2019-2020 Council has been progressing planning and pre-construction works on the **Northern Rivers Rail Trail – Casino to Bentley section** (\$7.5 million).

Council had previously contributed \$15,000 to the **Casino to Eltham – Northern Rivers Rail Trail** business case to look at the economic benefits and sustainability of such a project.

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 preparatory works are ongoing with the aim of the construction stage commencing in the second half of 2020-2021.

The revitalisation of one of Richmond Valley's most popular recreational precincts was completed in December 2019 with the renewal of the **Evans Head**

Main Beach foreshore (\$185,510) in front of the Evans Head-Casino Surf Life Saving Club.

The project was made possible by a successful grant application to the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund and delivered a raft of modern improvements to the busy area including redesigned beach access points and viewing platforms, new showers with raised decks, a new sandstone retaining wall, and wheelchair and pram accessibility.

This enhancement was a key priority for Evans Head in 2019-2020, alongside the opening of the new **Evans Head Visitor Information Centre** and relocation and upgrade of the **Evans Head Living Museum building** (\$486,000).

The Living Museum and former Community Technology Centre buildings were moved from their original site on Woodburn Street to make way for a \$6.3 million HealthOne facility, fully funded by the NSW Government, which was opened in February 2020.

Council undertook an extensive renovation of the refurbished 1920s school buildings which will provide a stable home for the museum and the new visitor information centre on Crown land within the Reflections Holiday Park.

Council also continued upgrades of the Stan Payne Oval playground area (\$80,000) in Evans Head with a new toilet, footpath network, barbecue and picnic shelters, and a disability access ramp to connect the site with the Evans Head Aquatic Centre carpark.

Adding to the growing network of pedestrian infrastructure across the Valley, Council also completed approximately 5km of **shared pathways in Casino** (\$1.35 million) with completed pathways along Johnston Street (Bruxner Highway), West Street, Queensland Road to Colches St North, and along the Summerland Way from Ecles Street to the entrance of the Casino Showground.

Council received two grants (\$940,000 and \$416,000) from the NSW Active Transport Program 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 **Coraki swimming pool** was upgraded with a new concrete deck, chemical dosing system, fencing, shade shelter, and seating (\$155,000).

Following community consultation, the **Woodburn swimming pool** was also upgraded with a new pump, chemical dosing and filtration system, new concrete and composite decking, new ticket booth, improved lighting, renovated fencing and surrounding mesh banner (\$210,000). Council is continuing to progress the master plan for the Casino Memorial Swimming Pool in 2020-2021.

Council also finalised a **master plan for Evans Head's Razorback Lookout**, on Ocean Drive. As a key drawcard for visitors to the Mid Richmond and a major feature of the town, creating a master plan for future improvements to the site was an important priority for Council.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

Following the devastating bushfires in October and November 2019, which impacted much of the Richmond Valley, Council conducted widespread consultation with the community to produce the **Rebuilding the Richmond Valley - Community Revitalisation Plan**, which created a blueprint for recovery following the disaster.

The plan outlined Council's priority to rebuild stronger and more resilient communities and identified a range of actions and opportunities to ensure recovery was timely and effective.

The report has also helped identify priority projects in bushfire-impacted areas, and with the receipt of a \$1.4 million grant from the Federal Government's for bushfire recovery, Council was able to quickly earmark funds for these projects, which are underway into 2020-2021.

FLOOD REPAIR PROGRAM ON RURAL ROADS

After significant flood damage to the Richmond Valley's unsealed roads sustained in February 2020, Council was able to repair more than a third of the 530km rural network, repairing 190km of damaged roads within a three month period.

Council was working under the guidelines of Disaster Funding Recovery Arrangements, which were activated after the Richmond Valley local government area received a natural disaster declaration from the NSW Government in February, with the estimated repair bill approximately \$4 million.

Council mobilised additional road crews to ensure the project was completed in a timely and effective manner.

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (\$75,000)

During the financial year, 30 local organisations received funding to support their ongoing operation and growth. Recipients included a wide range of organisations, from sporting clubs, soup kitchens, and men's sheds, to community centres, halls and charities.

Some of the successful organisations included:

- Casino Sport and Recreation Association, \$3150 to purchase an inflatable obstacle course for Inclusion Games
- Casino Town Tennis Club, \$5000 to upgrade the kitchen facilities in the clubhouse
- Evans Head Men's Shed, \$3828 for the purchase of a laptop, laser photocopier/printer, and shade cloth for open days and events
- Evans Head Wardell Presbyterian Churches, \$4000 for a new outdoor play space for community playgroup at Evans Head
- Greenridge Memorial Hall and Social Activities Club, \$3000 to for new tables and chairs in the hall and weather proof noticeboard
- Casino Art Group, \$4163 to repair floor and walls and install panels on internal walls to facilitate hanging of art
- Casino's Own Wireless Association, \$4626 to purchase IT equipment to establish a second studio with computer music library
- Coraki CWA Preschool, \$5000 to update old kitchen appliances with child friendly appliances in the preschool kitchen
- Evans Head Recreation Hall Committee, \$3500 to purchase block out curtains for the hall for use with new projector
- Fairy Hill Hall Committee, \$4950 to upgrade hall wiring and install new LED lighting, switches and ceiling fans.

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:

- Queen Elizabeth Park sporting complex enhancement, \$381,807
- Stan Payne Oval sporting facility enhancement with grandstand upgrade and security bollards, \$225,342
- Windsor Park Hockey Club Training Facilities \$44,161
- Casino RSM Cobras Soccer Club, field resurfacing, new goals and coaching box and fencing, \$205,000
- Casino Netball grounds, replacement of 30-year-old flood lighting at the four outdoor courts, with new steel poles and LED lights, \$237,000.

COUNCIL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Council welcomed 16 young recruits to its ranks for another successful year of Council's award-winning Youth Employment Strategy (YES).

The 2020 intake brought to 90 the number of young people given a valuable start to their career throughout the program's seven-year history.

YES was created in response to the priorities of the Richmond Valley Made 2030 Community Strategic Plan, in which the community voiced their desire to see more job opportunities for our youth.

Through YES, Council has been able to offer a range of valuable job opportunities and provide the genuine ability to progress careers.

Council is continuing to develop the strategies and infrastructure required to meet the priorities of its Community Strategic Plan, 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 the Richmond Valley continues to grow and progress in line with community expectations.

Thank you to councillors and staff for their leadership, hard work and service during 2019-2020 and to you, the community, for your support.

Robert Mustow
Vaughan Macdonald

ACHIEVEMENTS SNAPSHOT

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS SNAPSHOT 2019/2020

CATEGORY	THIS YEAR
PAVEMENT REPAIRS	20,674km
ROAD MAINTAINED	1,064km
WATER USAGE – DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION (CASINO)	6.22 ML
WATER TREATED	2,311 ML
SEWERAGE TREATED (ACROSS FOUR TREATMENT PLANTS)	1,598.88 ML
RECYCLED WASTE	6,067 t
E-WASTE	36.57 t
BINS LIFTED ANNUALLY	616,642
RATEABLE PROPERTIES (INCLUDING STRATA)	10,660
RATEABLE INCOME RAISED	\$13,180,700
CALLS RECEIVED	31,462
DA'S ASSESSED	276
DA'S ISSUED	282
CRM'S ISSUED	6,549
NRLX CATTLE TRADED	131,543
NRLX CATTLE SALES VALUE	\$113,421,627
GRASS MOWED	13,785 ha
LIBRARY MEMBERS	16,657
LIBRARY LOANS	129,352
CATS & DOGS REGISTERED	501
STRAY/LOST ANIMALS	283

ABOUT THE RICHMOND VALLEY

With 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.

The 2019/2020 year has been particularly challenging. The impacts of the drought, bushfires and restrictions under the COVID-19 Public Health Order have only just begun to be measured, although it is acknowledged they will be widespread and significant.

Starting from a low unemployment rate of 5.5% in 2018-2019, the final quarters of 2020 saw an increase to 5.9% on the back of COVID-19. It is anticipated that COVID-19 will continue to have a negative impact on the economy broadly, however modelling suggests that with a diverse sector base with less reliance on tourism, impacts in the Richmond Valley will be less than other regional centres.

Even in the face of these challenges, there remain some significant opportunities the Richmond Valley 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 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.

Specific challenges for Richmond Valley Council include:

- Maintaining the current economic base with its strong reliance on processing of primary production whilst simultaneously securing its competitive advantage as an investment location for new businesses;
- Retaining the friendly, relaxed atmosphere in its towns and villages while ensuring adequate amenities and opportunities for new housing are developed;
- Fostering appropriate investment and development to create the jobs needed now and into the future for locals to service the projected population growth whilst retaining the natural assets of the LGA; and
- Meeting competing infrastructure demands generated by increased population and visitation levels.

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.

Data source: .id Economy, National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR)

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 2021 (extended by one-year due to the COVID-19 pandemic). Here we meet the Councillors and outline their Council aspirations.



- To be a conduit between the community and Council to ensure service levels are maintained and improved
- Encourage sustainable economic development which will create jobs growth
- To oversee the ratepayer's dollar is expended to achieve financially responsible outcomes
- Protect the environment our residents have grown accustomed to so generations to come can enjoy well into the future.

robert.mustow@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au



- To be the community's voice in all Council decisions
- To support and encourage existing and new enterprises to stimulate economic and job growth.

stephen.morrissey@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au



- Support small business initiatives across the area
- Support the 'existing' as well as the introduction of 'more' tourism and events across the local government area
- Promote economic development initiatives for lower river
- Further support Casino as the transport hub of the Northern Rivers by road, rail and air and promote all industry
- Be vigilant by asking council to review its NRLX business plan on a regular basis, making sure it runs as a business into the future
- Support incentives for low cost housing in the Mid Richmond.

robert.hayes@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au



Cr Sam Cornish

- To create a link between local youth and Council to involve young people in local authority decision-making; giving them a say in their future.

sam.cornish@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au



Cr Sandra Humphrys

- To make decisions with fellow Councillors, working with Council staff and the community to ensure Richmond Valley's environment, infrastructure and facilities support a lifestyle of wellbeing and opportunity.
- To continue to build partnerships and relationships through involvement and communication with our community.
- To encourage and support organisations, cultural and tourism events which contribute to the strong presence of community pride, and the friendly and welcoming nature of our Richmond Valley community.

sandra.humphrys@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au



Cr Jill Lyons

- To listen and be a fair voice for the community
- To protect our natural environment, and our native fauna and flora
- To work towards a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly council, one which actively promotes this throughout the entire Richmond Valley
- To support and encourage new business, tourism and initiatives in the Richmond Valley
- To work together with the Mayor, Councillors and Council staff in a positive manner to make decisions that work positively for all communities of the Richmond Valley.

jlyons@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au



Cr Daniel Simpson

- Ensure a culture within Council that is community focused and customer service driven
- Strong economic management
- A Council that is small business friendly.

daniel.simpson@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au

STAFFING PROFILE

Council employees 267 staff (full time equivalent) under the leadership of the General Manager, with services delivered under the following structure.



DELIVERING COMMUNITY PRIORITIES GROUP

Property and Economic Projects | Projects and Performance
Regional Library | Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange
Communications, Events and Tourism | Recovery | Strategy

CORPORATE SUPPORT GROUP

Finance and Procurement | Governance and Risk
People and Culture | Information and Technology Services

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Development and Environment (Building, Planning, Environment and Regulatory)
Customer Experience | Asset Planning
Infrastructure Services (Workshops and Fleet, Waste and Resource Recovery, Open Spaces, Facilities and Cemeteries, Water and Sewer, Roads, Drainage and Quarries)

DID YOU KNOW



32.77%

of staff are women



26.89%

of staff are Gen Y
(born between 1981 – 1996)



16.39%

of staff are Gen Z
(born between 1997 - 2010)



8.5%

of staff have worked for
Council for over 25 years

BRIEF STATISTICS

for 2019/2020



CATEGORY	2019/2020
TOTAL POPULATION	23,465
FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS	5,780
COUNCIL AREA (KM ²)	3051 km²
NUMBER OF COUNCIL STAFF (FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT)	267
GRP (GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT)	\$870 MILLION
VISITORS TO RICHMOND VALLEY	348,000
DOMESTIC VISITOR NIGHTS STAYED	574,000
VISITOR SPEND IN LOCAL ECONOMY	\$74 MILLION
LOCAL JOBS	8,091
TOP INDUSTRY OUTPUT - MANUFACTURING	\$679.3 MILLION
INDUSTRY OUTPUT - AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING	\$195.5 MILLION

Data sources: .id Economy -National Economics (NIEIR) - Modelled series & Australian Bureau of Statistics and Tourism Research Australia Local Government Area profiles.

OUR VISION

To guide in the delivery of the Richmond Valley Made Community 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.



OUR VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS

Richmond Valley Council's organisational values are Integrity and Passion.

In 2019/2020, Council adopted the following set of behaviours which aim to reflect how we've handled the challenges Council and the community have faced over the last twelve months, including drought, bushfires, floods and the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 1. We lead by example**
- 2. We take responsibility**
- 3. We do what we say**
- 4. We embrace change**
- 5. We are community focused**
- 6. We are in this together**



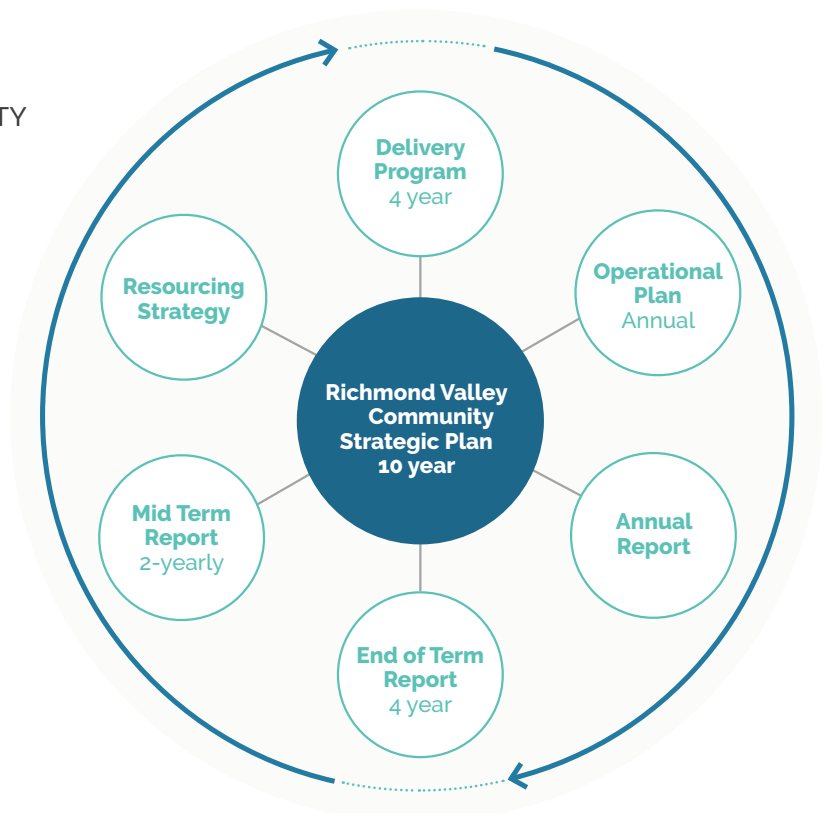
INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

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 2019/2020 Annual Report reports on progress against the fourth year of Council's Richmond Valley Made 2030 Community Strategic Plan, adopted June 2017 and 2017/2021 Delivery Program, adopted in June 2019.

COMMITMENT TO ONGOING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION



HIGHLIGHTS OF SIGNATURE PROJECTS



QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK UPGRADE

The Queen Elizabeth 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 has completed substantial improvements to the Queen Elizabeth Park sporting complex. The scope of works delivered under that 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 QE2
- Grandstands for use at the QE Park precinct
- Relocation of turf cricket pitch from QE5 to QE7
- the relocation of Senior Rugby League from the centre of the greyhound track to QE5
- Upgrade of change room facilities and grandstands at QE5
- Construction of a Cricket Clubroom between QE2 and QE7
- Formalised carparking and access roads.

The cost of these improvements funded by the NSW Government totalled \$480,000 and provided initial improvements to the first part of a larger plan to improve facilities at the QE Park precinct.

Council has since gone out to community consultation for a master plan of 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.

Key elements identified from the consultation of the masterplan include:



NORTHERN RIVERS LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE (NRLX) STAGE 2

The recently completed, two stage \$14 million upgrade of the NRLX has marked a new era in livestock sales in Northern NSW.

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 from 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
- 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
- Significant environmental improvements with work on the stormwater channels, effluent ponds and discharge points
- Landscaping and outdoor furniture.



CASINO DRILL HALL

With Stage 1 of the project completed in July 2019, 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 park-land 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
- Installation of bollards on perimeter of site.



WOODBURN RIVERSIDE PARK

Council has completed the first stage of the master plan for the upgrade to the Woodburn Riverside Precinct. This project is a key deliverable for the Woodburn community with a vision for it to be a main attraction point for travellers, particularly after the diversion of the Pacific Highway.

Council is actively pursuing future grant funding opportunities to complete the vision outlined in the masterplan.

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.



EVANS HEAD FORESHORE

Evans Head's Main Beach has benefited from a renewal of the foreshore area. The works have included redesigned beach access points and viewing platforms, new showers with raised decks and the construction of a sandstone retaining wall.



CANNING DRIVE STAGE 1

Council's vision for urban land release is to provide for the sustainable, planned growth of Casino's built environment whilst maintaining and capitalising on the natural attributes of the area, and to provide affordable country living and a robust local economy for present and future generations.

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.

To assist prospective developers, Richmond Valley Council has identified existing zoned land with further development potential which is detailed in the Local Land Planning Statement.

There are a number of exciting land activation opportunities currently under development including Canning Grove Estate. 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. Stage one of the development (10 lots) has been completed and released for sale in June 2020.



CASINO SHARED PATHWAYS

Adding to the growing network of pedestrian infrastructure across the Richmond Valley, Council constructed 5km of shared pathways in Casino, with completed pathways along Johnston Street (Bruxner Highway), West Street, Queensland Road to Colches St North, and along the Summerland Way from Ecles Street to the entrance of the Casino Showground.

Council received \$1,356,000 in grant funding from the NSW Active Transport Program 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.



STAN PAYNE OVAL

Upgrades were carried out to the Stan Payne Oval playground in Evans Head. The works included approximately 60m of replacement footpath linking the nearby sealed carpark with the playground, three new picnic tables, a bench, barbecue area and a new disability access ramp from the carpark. There were also drainage improvements across the area and an additional footpath from the grandstand to cafeteria.



HEALTH ONE

The Health One facility in Evans Head (on the same site as the Evans Head administration building) opened in early 2020. Residents are experiencing improved health services in the town by the integrated care provided by general practice and community health aiming to create a stronger and more efficient primary health care system.



COLLABORATIONS

NORTHERN RIVERS NSW REGIONAL BRANDING PROJECT

Northern Rivers Together - a collaborative partnership of regional businesses, industry bodies and government representatives - is driving the new Northern Rivers NSW Brand. The goal is to harness the power of the region's 250,000 plus population to promote the new brand, both within and beyond the region. Underpinning the brand is a strategy and implementation plan based on four key pillars: visitation; provenance; liveability; and investment.

The Richmond Valley sits in the centre of the Northern Rivers region and is the agricultural and manufacturing heartland of this beautiful region. By aligning with the Northern Rivers NSW brand, Richmond Valley Council will be on the front foot when it comes to promoting the local area both nationally and internationally.

NORTH COAST WASTE INVESTMENT REPORT

Recent developments in waste disposal and recycling and the growing logistical, environmental and financial challenges in the treatment of municipal solid waste for Councils, have escalated the need to investigate other approaches to waste management. In collaboration with the NSW Government, North Coast councils, led by Richmond Valley Council, have engaged Arcadis to investigate waste investment options for the North Coast region.

The project highlights investment opportunities in the 13 North Coast local government areas from Tweed to Taree producing the North Coast Region Waste Investment Report. The report compares existing waste management practices within the LGAs and identifies opportunities that present from a regional collaborative response to waste management.

NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION (NRJO)

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) represents the Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed NSW local government areas. Joint Organisations (JOs) provide a way for local councils and the NSW Government to work together to deliver things that matter the most to regional communities. They represent a commitment to collaborate in the long term to develop and support a shared vision for the region.

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. Richmond Valley Council is an active participant in NRJO projects.

The NRJO vision is a unified region of well connected, integrated communities affording its people a unique balance of place, lifestyle and opportunity which is known to the nation and the world for its outstanding environmental and scenic values, commitment to sustainability, respect for Aboriginal culture, openness to visitors, entrepreneurial drive, creative and collective spirit and culture, and support for our primary producers.

To learn more about NRJO, visit <https://www.northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au/>.



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.



BROADWATER/RILEYS HILL

- Council approval of a proposed 69-lot residential development in Broadwater. The subdivision will involve earthworks and construction of stormwater, sewer, water supply and road infrastructure to cater for future housing construction on the site.
- In partnership with Pacific Complete, project managers of the Pacific Highway upgrade, Council undertook an important private works project in Broadwater. The works played a significant part in maintaining the functionality and smooth transition of continuous access to the Broadwater Co-Generation power plant. Works involved the widening and upgrade of Broadwater Quarry Road to enable the access to stockpile areas for the plant's suppliers.

CORAKI

- Council has planted more than 1600 plants and trees around the Coraki Riverside Park thanks to a Habitat Action Grant from the NSW Department of Primary Industries, together with the planting of an additional 35 semi-mature plants being fully funded by Council.
- New filtration system, shade sail and oxide-tinted concrete decking for Coraki pool.
- Coraki Library refurbishments carried out under Council's capital works program, including internal painting, new security screens and new carpet.
- Updates to 1km section of Casino-Coraki Road, including drainage works, shoulder widening, improvements to the sub-base layer and double coat seal.
- Repair of pavement surface opposite Coraki Riverside Park by overlaying the existing pavement with new road base, stabilising and resealing the surface.



EVANS HEAD

- Renewal of Evans Head's Main Beach foreshore including redesigned beach access points and viewing platforms, new showers with raised decks and the construction of a sandstone retaining wall.
- Increased patrols on Airforce Beach, Evans Head as part of a broader strategy to address anti-social behaviour and traffic offences along the beach.
- Upgrades were carried out to the Stan Payne Oval playground in Evans Head, including approximately 60m of replacement footpath linking the nearby sealed carpark with the playground, three new picnic tables, a bench, barbecue area, a new disability access ramp from the carpark, drainage improvements across the area and an additional footpath from the grandstand to cafeteria.
- A new playground for Lilly Pilly Park, Evans Head featuring a bird's nest swing, spinner bowl and new takura bark softfall.
- The new HealthOne community medical facility in the centre of Evans Head was opened in early 2020. The state-of-the-art facility includes clinical rooms, gymnasium and treatment spaces. Co-operation between Council and the Evans Head Living Museum enabled Health NSW to acquire the land and provide the facility to the community.



WOODBURN

- Official opening of Woodburn Riverside Park (Stage One) attended by Federal Member for Page, Kevin Hogan and Member for Clarence, Chris Gulaptis.
- New filtration systems installed at Woodburn pools, together with oxide-tinted concrete decking.
- Council joins 'Shoctober' initiative by equipping Council's Woodburn and Casino Visitor Information Centres with automated external defibrillators.



CASINO

- Casino's revitalised Drill Hall precinct opening
- Council received a \$1 million Federal Government grant to assist with drought relief. Following community input on how to allocate the grant funding, one of the selected projects was \$420,000 for Casino Showground Upgrades - including building a day stall, equestrian warm up area and installing camping power heads.
- Crucial infrastructure works to develop 46 hectares of new industrial land in Casino was given the green light in June. Council will provide power, water, sewerage and a road network to the two key sites on Reynolds Road and Cassino Drive. The project will allow major businesses to commence operations in the area, bringing employment opportunities.
- Council has completed the first stage of the residential housing estate, Canning Grove, creating 10 new residential building lots.
- As part of the 2019/2020 capital works program, the Casino Library had the interior brick walls rendered, with the work being carried out during the COVID-19 shut down to minimise disruption to patrons.



RAPPVILLE

- New town signs were installed at key points across the Rappville village. The signs were designed and donated by Lismore City Council, through its sign shop, as a goodwill gesture following the devastating 2019 bushfires. The signs feature a specially-commissioned painting by local Aboriginal artist Lenny Hickling, and the word Birihn, the Aboriginal word for village.
- Bushfire vegetation clean up in response to the October/November bushfires saw Council's Open Spaces team (together with contractors) clear damaged trees and vegetation from roadsides, with the team focussing on approximately 40km of road around Rappville.
- Following the devastating bushfires which saw the Rappville Hall destroyed, Council has worked with the community to plan a new and improved public space for the village.
- Library coordination of Stig Wemyss' visit to Rappville Public School following the bushfires - Stig is the well-known narrator of Andy Griffith's hugely popular Treehouse series.



FESTIVALS AND EVENTS 2019/2020

The 2019/2020 year was set to be an exciting and fun filled twelve months for our community with a calendar that had an event planned for almost every weekend. Unfortunately, due to bushfire and the global pandemic, many events were impacted by cancellations or postponements. Many of these events are planning to run in the 2020/2021 year.

Some of the events that took place in 2019/2020 include:



NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS (CASINO, CORAKI, EVANS HEAD)

CASINO QUOTA CRAFT FAIR

HARNESSING HERITAGE HORSEPOWER

RAPPVILLE DOG TRIALS

RAPPVILLE RODEO

CASINO DRAG RACES

YES CAREERS EXPO

BENTLEY ART PRIZE

CASINO TRUCK SHOW

CASINO CAMPDRAFT

CASINO OUTDOORS BASS ELECTRIC
GRANDFINAL

WOODBURN SPRING ORCHID SHOW

WOODBURN BAREFOOT 8'S

CASINO CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

SUPER CHEAP AUTO SHOW AND SHINE

WINDARA FATHER'S DAY PIG RACES

CASINO BOS INDICUS YOUTH ROUND UP

CASINO FUN RUN

EVANS HEAD MALIBU CLASSIC

ST MARY'S CUP

BULLS ON THE GREEN

COW TOWN CHOW DOWN, CASINO

MAKER'S MARKET



CHRISTMAS STREET PARTY, CASINO

EVANS HEAD LIGHT UP

CHRISTMAS CAROLS (EVANS HEAD, WOODBURN, RAPPVILLE, CORAKI)

CASINO GOLF CLUB NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS

GREAT EASTERN FLY IN

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS, CASINO DRILL HALL PRECINCT

EVANS HEAD CARNIVAL

CASINO GOLF CLUB MARKETS

NSW SENIORS FESTIVAL CELEBRATED ACROSS THE REGION WITH EVENTS HELD AT CASINO, EVANS HEAD AND WOODBURN

MARCH AGAINST VIOLENCE

AERO MODELLERS

FOODIES MARKETS

COMEDY AT THE CLUB

CASINO STOCKMAN'S CHALLENGE

THE DRIVE TEAM EVENT, EVANS HEAD

WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

CASINO POP CULTURE FESTIVAL, HOSTED BY CASINO INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM

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 2019/2020 financial year is the third year in a four-year reporting cycle (July 2017 to June 2021), as planned in the Delivery Program. The local government election scheduled to occur in September 2020, has been delayed until September 2021 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the current reporting cycle will be extended until June 2022. 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.

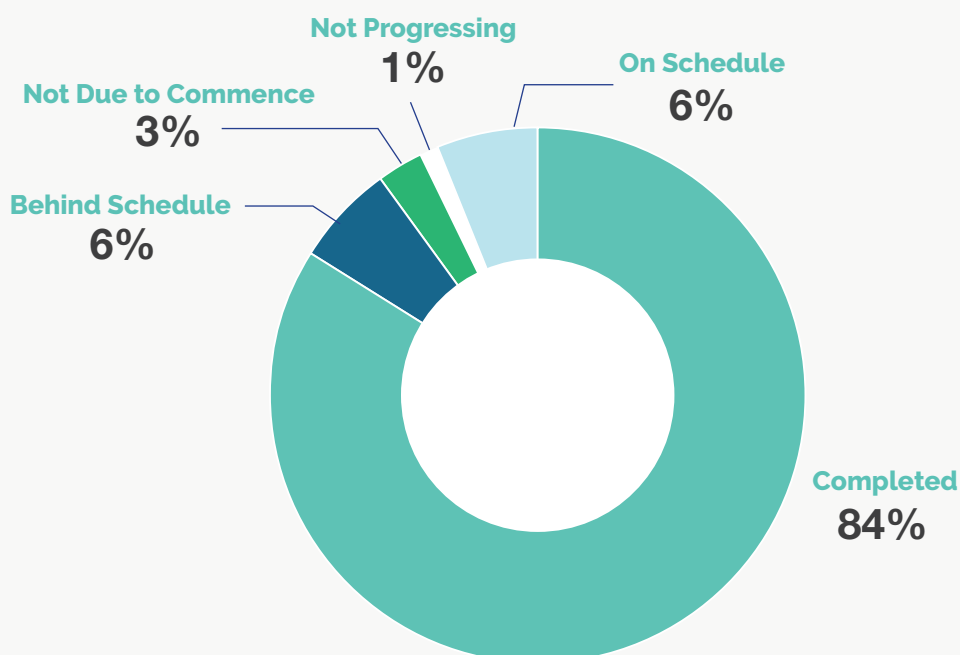
The full progress report is detailed in the Delivery Plan Progress Report (period ending 30 June 2020).

<https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/integrated-planning-and-reporting/>

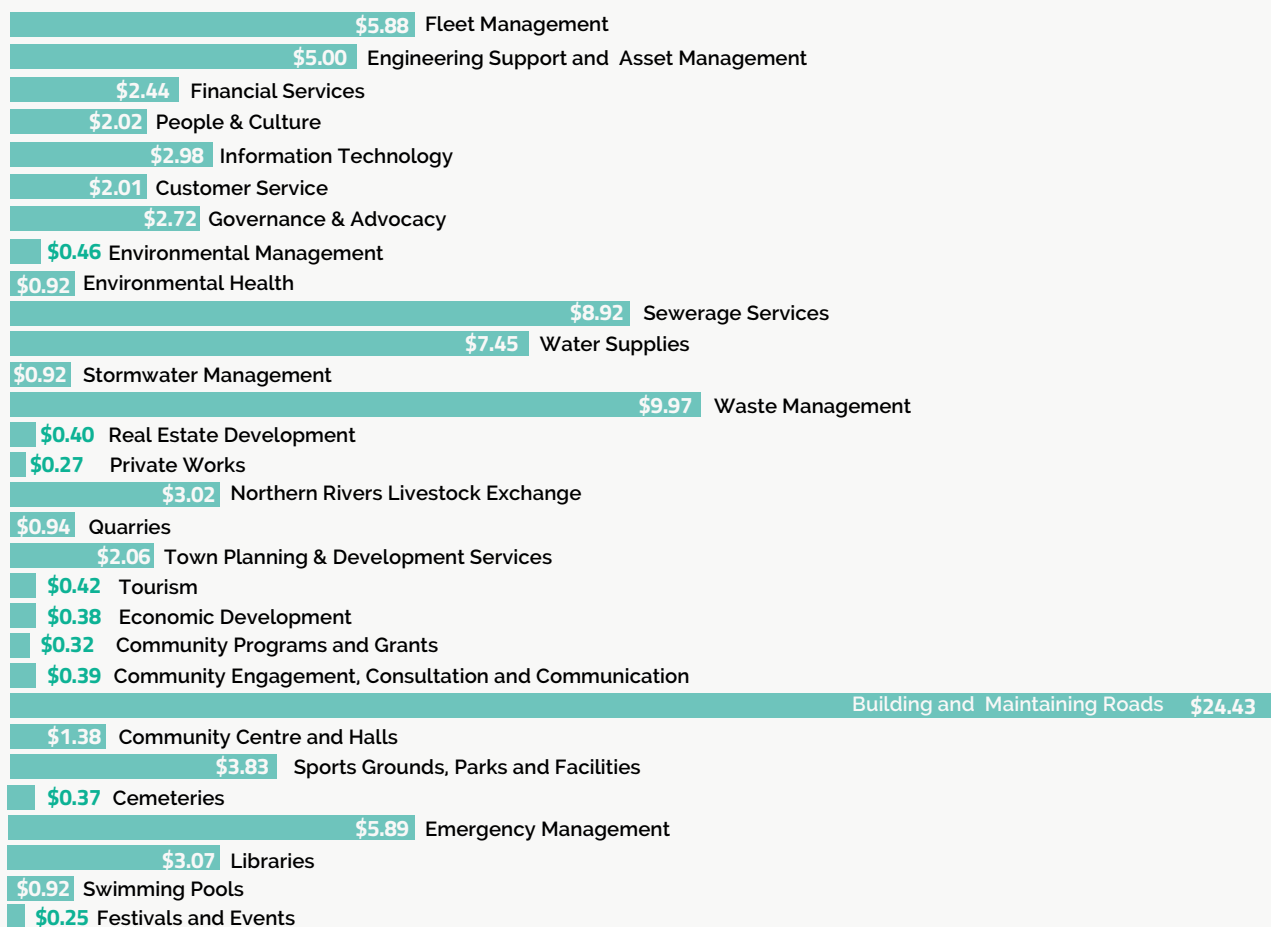
To view the full four-year Delivery Program, the one-year Operational Plan and the Community Strategic Plan, visit the Integrated Planning and Reporting pages on the Richmond Valley Council website.

<https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/integrated-planning-and-reporting/>

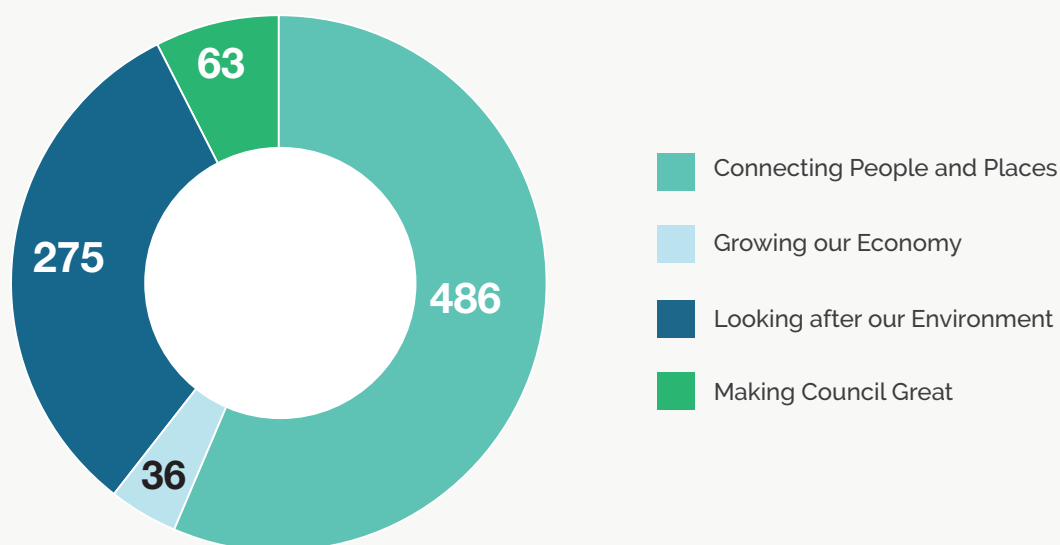
COUNCIL'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE



COUNCIL SPENDING PER \$100 (BEFORE OVERHEAD ALLOCATIONS AND PRE-CONSOLIDATION)



TOTAL ASSETS BY FUNCTION \$m



CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES

PP1: FRESH AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY

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

- Casino Indoor Sports Stadium hosted the inaugural Casino Pop Culture Festival
- The inaugural council-led youth festival Cow Town Chow Down was held in Casino with major highlights being the Koori Cook Off Challenge and a cooking demonstration by celebrity indigenous chef Mark Olive
- Australia Day celebrations held at the Casino Drill Hall precinct, with eleven Richmond Valley residents recognised for their contributions while sixteen new Australian citizens took their formal citizenship pledge
- The NSW Seniors Festival was celebrated across the region with the Casino Indoor Sports Stadium hosting free come-and-try walking netball, open days hosted by the Evans Head Men's Shed and seniors' concert and lunches held at Woodburn, Casino and Evans Head
- New filtration systems installed at Woodburn and Coraki pools, together with oxide-tinted concrete decking and a new shade sail for Coraki pool
- Funding boost of \$91,000 for Richmond Upper Clarence Regional Library in 2019/2020
- Library initiatives including school holiday workshops, launch of cake tin, knitting needle and jigsaw puzzle collections and pet therapy for pre-schoolers
- Installation of new public computers at Casino and Evans Head libraries
- Richmond Upper Clarence Regional Library awarded 2019 Winner of the Innovation in Outreach Services Award; the win celebrates the library's outreach program with Jumbunna Community Preschool and Early Intervention Centre and the Jumbunna Mobile Playgroup at Stratheden
- The launch of the Art Van Go vehicle provided the library with an increased ability to reach community members isolated by social distancing rules, amid the COVID-19 crisis
- The Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library launch of new app, combining the latest technology with traditional library services
- Increased patrols on Airforce Beach, Evans Head as part of a broader strategy to address anti-social behaviour and traffic offences along the beach





- Official opening of Woodburn Riverside Park (Stage One) attended by Federal Member for Page, Kevin Hogan and Member for Clarence, Chris Gulaptis
- Renewal of Evans Head's Main Beach foreshore including redesigned beach access points and viewing platforms, new showers with raised decks and the construction of a sandstone retaining wall
- Upgrades were carried out to the Stan Payne Oval playground in Evans Head, including approximately 60m of replacement footpath linking the nearby sealed carpark with the playground, three new picnic tables, a bench, barbecue area, a new disability access ramp from the carpark, drainage improvements across the area, and an additional footpath from the grandstand to cafeteria
- A new playground for Lilly Pilly Park, Evans Head featuring a bird's nest swing, spinner bowl and new takura bark softfall
- Council joins 'Shoctober' initiative by equipping Council's Woodburn and Casino Visitor Information Centres with automated external defibrillators
- The new HealthOne community medical facility in the centre of Evans Head was opened in early 2020 with state-of-the-art facility including clinical rooms, gymnasium and treatment spaces
- Richmond Valley Council received a \$1 million Federal Government grant to assist with drought relief with projects selected to boost local employment and procurement, as well as addressing social and community needs
- Council staff recognised for their contribution to the Emergency Operations Centre during the bushfire disasters and praised for reinvigorating a state-wide database, Emergency Management Operations System (EMOS)



PP2: GETTING AROUND

Provide safe and accessible transport

- Shared pathway on the Bruxner Highway between Clark Street and Walker Street, Casino
- Council received \$416,000 to construct an extension to the upgraded Bruxner Highway pathway, connecting it with the entrance of Casino High School on Queensland Road, via West Street
- Sixty meters of new footpath constructed providing a link from the Casino library carpark to Walker Street and the Police Station and Court House precinct
- Updates to 1km section of Casino-Coraki Road, including: drainage works, shoulder widening, improvements to the sub-base layer and double coat seal
- Installation of 420m of Ramshield guardrail on Naughtons Gap Road, funded by NSW Government's Safer Roads Program
- Upgrades to Terminal Parade (between Graham Place and Barker Street) Casino, including stormwater upgrades, kerb and gutter improvements, modified pits and stormwater inlets
- Restoration of a 450m section of Bungawalbyn-Whiporie Road, 10km south of Casino (including widening, reconstruction and resealing)
- Rehabilitation of a 1.1km stretch of Tomki-Tatham Road, including shoulder widening and resurfacing to improve the safety of the road



- Reconstruction of a 700m section of Bentley Road, north of Manifold Road and adjoining the boundary with Kyogle local government area
- Bushfire vegetation clean up in response to the October/November bushfires saw Council's Open Spaces team (together with contractors) clear damaged trees and vegetation from roadsides, encompassing approximately 40km of road around Rappville
- Construction of new footpath along Booyong Street, Evans Head running 230m linking to existing footpath on Park Street
- Completion of the reconstruction and reseal of Emu Park Road at Ellangowan
- Council received a natural disaster declaration from the NSW Government following the damaging flash floods of 12-13 February,

paving the way for extensive repair works on the Valley's 530km unsealed road network. Road crews began a program of works on the roads which required the most urgent repairs, including the Pikapene section of Busbys Flat Road, Old Dyraaba Road and Coraki-Ellangowan Road.

- Council's unsealed road grading crew trialled a new product, TERRA 3000, as an alternative to resheeting. The liquid product binds clay in the roadbase to create a rock-hard layer similar to concrete which prevents water from penetrating. The trial was carried out on sections of Old Dybraaba Road, Crawfords Road and Elliots Road; roads that have been resheeted in the past with limited success.
- Repair of more than a third of Council's 530km unsealed road network



PP3: WORKING TOGETHER

Good communication and engagement between Council and the community

- Renovation of the old school building to host Evans Head Living Museum
- New Evans Head Visitor Information Centre sign and map
- Development of the Richmond Valley Small Business Digital Readiness Program - whereby free training is offered to small businesses operating in the Richmond Valley
- Richmond Upper Clarence Regional Library operates as a collection point for two organisations that provide prosthetic hands and wheelchairs for disadvantaged children using plastic lids and bread tags
- Release of draft master plan for Evans Head's Razorback Lookout calling for community feedback
- Release of "Rebuilding the Richmond Valley: Community Revitalisation Plan from 2019 Bushfires", which is a comprehensive bushfire recovery plan developed in conjunction with community input
- Australian Defence Force personnel arrived in November 2019 to assist in the bushfire recovery efforts; around 20 ADF personnel were stationed in the Richmond Valley on a rotating basis, comprised of reservists from the Lismore-based 41st Battalion and also the 1st/15th Royal NSW Lancers. The ADF proved to be a vital extra workforce for BlazeAid and the RFS, handling crucial tasks such as the clearing of strategic and essential fire trails which became inaccessible during the fires.
- Council consulted with the community in the development of a long-term financial framework for new footpaths, pedestrian crossings and related infrastructure, known as the PAMP (Pedestrian Access Management Plan)
- New town signs were installed at key points across the Rappville village. The signs were designed and donated by Lismore City Council, through its sign shop, as a goodwill gesture following the devastating 2019 bushfires. The signs feature a specially-commissioned painting by local Aboriginal artist Lenny Hickling, and the word Birihn, the Aboriginal word for village. Investigations are underway to look at the possibility of extending this to other towns within the Richmond Valley.

GROWING OUR ECONOMY

EC1: DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Significantly grow the Richmond Valley's economy

- Council approval of a proposed 69-lot residential development in Broadwater. The subdivision will involve earthworks and construction of stormwater, sewer, water supply and road infrastructure to cater for future housing construction on the site.
- In partnership with Pacific Complete, project managers of the Pacific Highway upgrade, Council recently undertook an important private works project in Broadwater in the second half of 2019. The works played a significant part in maintaining the functionality and smooth transition of continuous access to the Broadwater Co-Generation power plant. Works involved the widening and upgrade of Broadwater Quarry Road to enable the access to stockpile areas for the plant's suppliers.
- Crucial infrastructure works to develop 46 hectares of new industrial land in Casino was given the green light in June. Council will provide power, water, sewerage and a road network to the two key sites on Reynolds Road and Cassino Drive. The project will allow major businesses to commence operations in the area, bringing employment opportunities.
- Council has completed the first stage of the residential housing estate, Canning Grove, creating 10 new residential building lots.

The project was worth over \$100,000 and is one of several already completed by Council staff during the highway upgrade.



EC2: BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS



Maximise income for the community through our commercial activities

- A new administration centre completed at the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange featuring a conference and training room with full audio and visual capabilities, meeting rooms and office space for NRLX staff and other stakeholders
- The NRLX opened up an entirely new income stream by securing a long-term tenant for its new administration centre, with North Coast Local Land Services taking up a lease
- The sale of the Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome to Evans Head Airpark is hoped to bring economic growth and employment to the Evans Head area, through future development initiatives. The outcome is consistent with Council's 'Imagine – 2020 and beyond – supporting progress in the Mid Richmond' plan.
- The first half of 2020 saw sustained high prices at the NRLX. March was a record-breaking month with the highest sales value in a single week, at \$8.29 million. It was the highest value month on record at \$22.42, eclipsing the previous record by \$6 million.
- The NRLX recorded the highest value sale day in its history, at \$4.12 million and finished the 2019/2020 year with gross sales revenue of over \$113 million.



LOOKING AFTER OUR ENVIRONMENT

EH1:

MANAGING OUR WASTE AND WATER

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

- Replacement of a section of stormwater piping on the corner of Hickey and Dean streets, Casino
- Comprehensive stormwater upgrades at Yarran Lane, Evans Head
- Operation overseen by Council's Water and Sewer team to pump a large volume of sand from the bottom of Casino water pump station, caused by a faulty pump



- Major upgrade to Pump Station 10 in the Casino urban sewerage network; including resurfacing of the 8m deep well, new electrical mains box and providing modern access to the work site
- Landfill capping at Bora Ridge Waste Facility to seal the site from rain in an environmentally acceptable manner
- Replacement of water main in Stapleton Avenue, Casino
- Swift action by Council staff in identifying and reporting a mass fish kill in January 2020 garnered praise from the Department of Primary Industries. When thousands of dead fish appeared around the Jabour Weir, Casino, staff acted quickly to investigate and clean up the site
- Provided temporary waste transfer stations and engaged an occupational hygienist to assist bushfire affected residents dispose of waste
- Upgrade of the weighbridge at Evans Head Waste Transfer Station to provide weather protection for patrons and staff.



EH2:

PROMOTING THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Protect and enhance the Richmond Valley's beautiful environment

- Construction of small stock impound paddock to allow rangers to safely hold impounded animals such as sheep and goats until owners are located
- Council staff volunteer their time to assist with local bushfires, including fire-fighting duties together with the provision of administrative assistance
- Open Spaces staff lead groups of local primary school students around Jabiru wetlands, providing information about environmental matters such as sorting of rubbish
- Council workshops provided to staff to encourage awareness of the damage to the environment caused by single-use plastic; held in conjunction with Plastic Free July
- Council has planted more than 1600 plants and trees around the Coraki Riverside Park thanks to a Habitat Action Grant from the NSW Department of Primary Industries, together with the planting of an additional 35 semi-mature plants being fully funded by Council
- Preschool waste education day held at Casino Public School, including beeswax workshop, waste story time and recycle relays
- Works undertaken to reinvigorate the platypus sculpture on the rocks of the Richmond River bed, Casino
- Native trees were planted on the southern side of the Richmond River at Casino. The 1250 native plants were planted with the aim of attracting roosting flying foxes away from residential homes. The trees were planted by Environmental Health staff, together with assistance from EnviTE.

MAKING COUNCIL GREAT

CS1:

LEADING AND ADVOCATING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

A highly efficient and effective Council

- Richmond Valley Council's own Theo Scholl was awarded School-Based Trainee of the Year in the 2020 NSW Training Awards for the North Coast and Mid North Coast Region. Theo is in his final year of a two-year school-based traineeship studying a Certificate II in Warehousing Operations, under Council's award-winning Youth Employment Strategy (YES).
- Council hosted a Careers Expo featuring council staff together with large employers from the region including NCMC, Mountain Blue and the Casino RSM Club. The event was a success with more than 100 local youth in attendance.
- Staff Health and Wellbeing Day
- Attendance by Council staff at a workshop presented by Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries
- Height risk demonstration presented to relevant Council staff who showed high engagement with the session
- During winter when mowing is less frequent Council's Open Spaces team undertake a variety of alternate projects such as restoration of timber slat bench seats in CBD areas
- Provision of multi-compartment reflective day-night vests to council rangers, allowing rangers to carry a full set of ranger tools, personal protective equipment (PPE) and first aid equipment
- Council approved a Financial Hardship - Natural Disaster Policy to ease the financial burden on residents impacted by the bushfire disasters experienced in the region
- The 2020 intake of youth employed under the YES (Youth Employment Strategy) saw sixteen recruits commence employment in 2020
- Council's People & Culture team implemented a new WHS Management System that incorporates the Vault reporting platform; together with the update of policies and procedures
- Council's People & Culture team have rolled out the use of Samsung tablets in the field, together with offering on-site flu shots for staff



2020 NSW Training Awards

North Coast & Mid North Coast Region

School-Based
Apprentice/Trainee of the Year



Theodore Scholl

CS2: GREAT SUPPORT

Councils corporate support services provide professional and effective service delivery

- Richmond Valley Council awarded the Outstanding Employer of Choice in the 2019 Northern Rivers Regional Business Awards
- Justice of the Peace services available at Council offices and local library branches
- A new Komatsu excavator was obtained for Nammoona Landfill. A low hour second-hand unit was sourced and subsequently upgraded with a pressurised cabin HEPA air filtration unit and an automatic lubrication system to supply grease to high-wearing areas of the machine to extend the operational life. Fleet staff maximised the available budget by staying with the Komatsu brand, allowing the buckets and attachments from the original machine to be recycled
- Council hosted a remote training session by the ICAC – Corruption Prevention for Managers.



SECTION 2: FINANCIAL AND ASSET REPORTING

During 2019/2020 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 2019/2020 in respect of its principal activities, are summarised below.

It should be noted that 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 2019/2020 are available as a separate document under the 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	20,322	28,376	-8,054
Growing our Economy	6,603	6,891	-288
Looking after our Environment	23,157	24,758	-1,601
Making Council Great	19,140	2,891	16,249
Total Functions and Activities	69,222	62,916	6,306
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	69,222	62,916	6,306

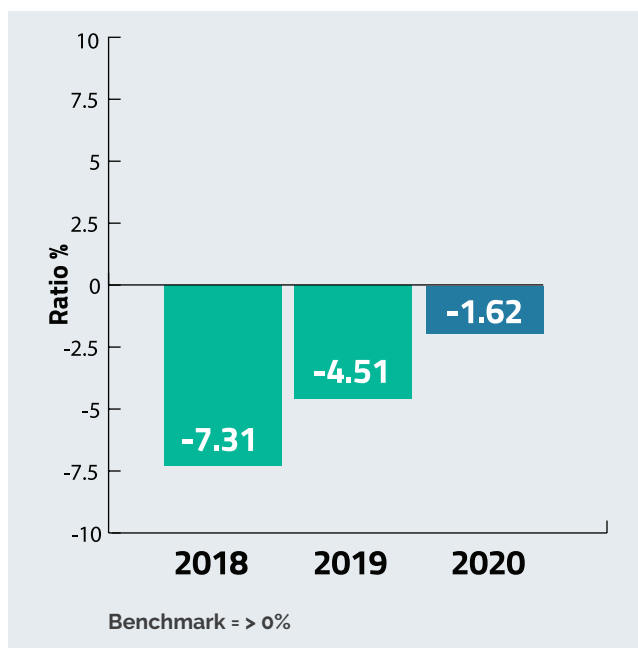
BALANCE SHEET

\$'000	ACTUAL 2020	ACTUAL 2019
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	6,686	8,172
Investments	44,670	37,528
Receivables	8,987	11,971
Inventories	2,324	1,249
Contract assets	3,640	0
Other	295	331
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	66,602	59,251
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investments	2,000	1,000
Receivables	1,439	2,170
Inventories	1,153	1,679
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	787,770	787,250
Right of use assets	292	0
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	792,654	792,099
TOTAL ASSETS	859,256	851,350

INDICATORS

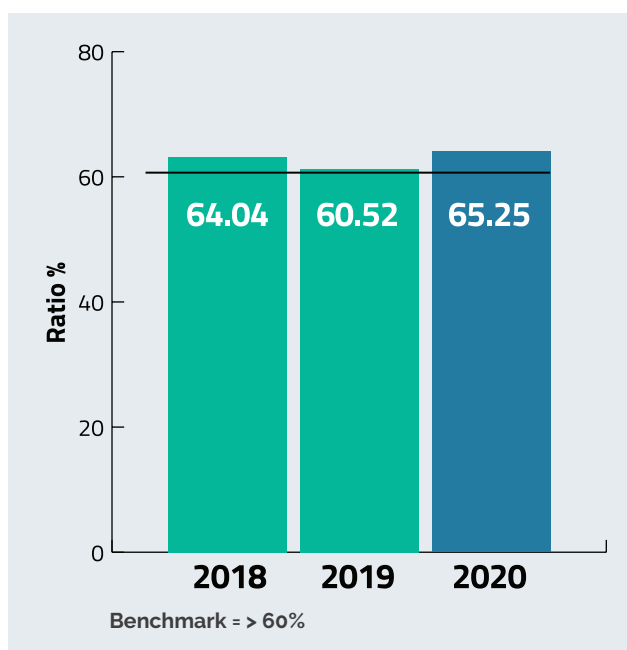
OPERATING PERFORMANCE RATIO

Council's operating performance ratio has improved to -1.62%. The approval of a special rate variation of 5.5% per annum for the four year period 2019/2020 to 2022/2023 will assist Council in moving this ratio closer to the benchmark of 0.00%.



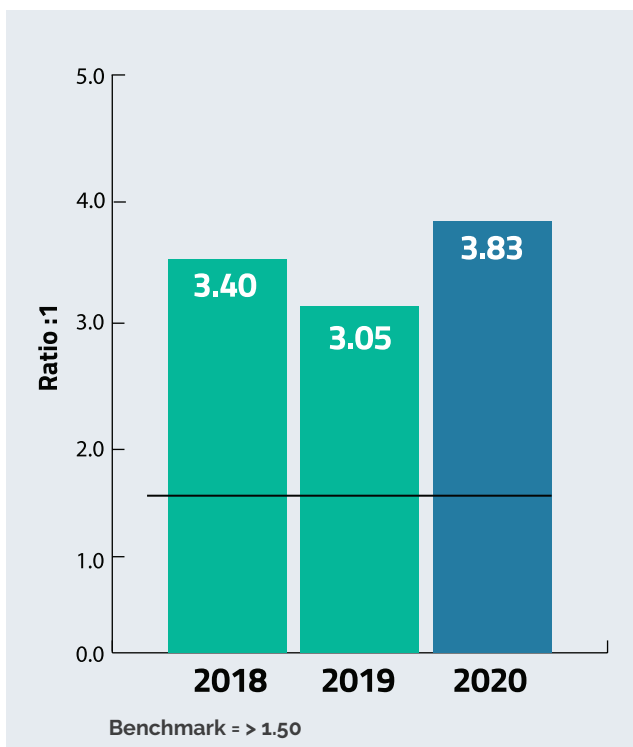
OWN SOURCE OPERATING REVENUE RATIO

Council's own source operating revenue ratio has improved to 65.25% above the benchmark of 60%.



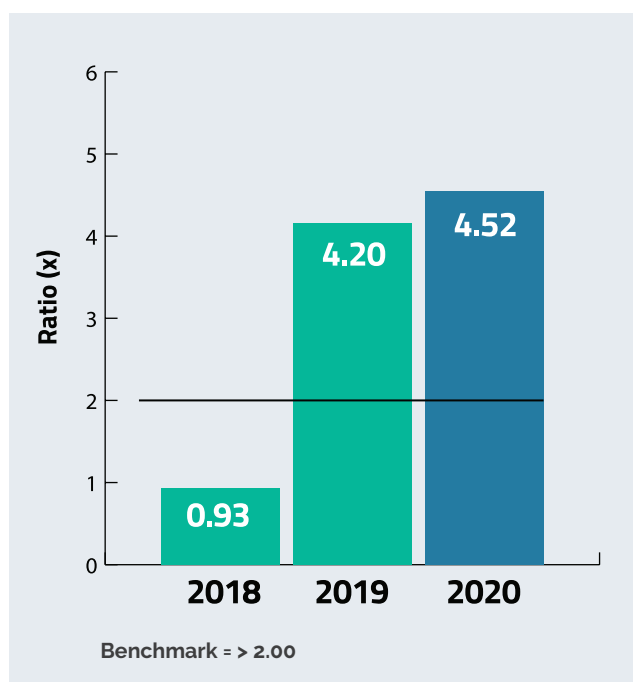
UNRESTRICTED CURRENT RATIO

Council's unrestricted current ratio has improved to 3.83, which is well above the benchmark of 1.50. This ratio remains relatively consistent.



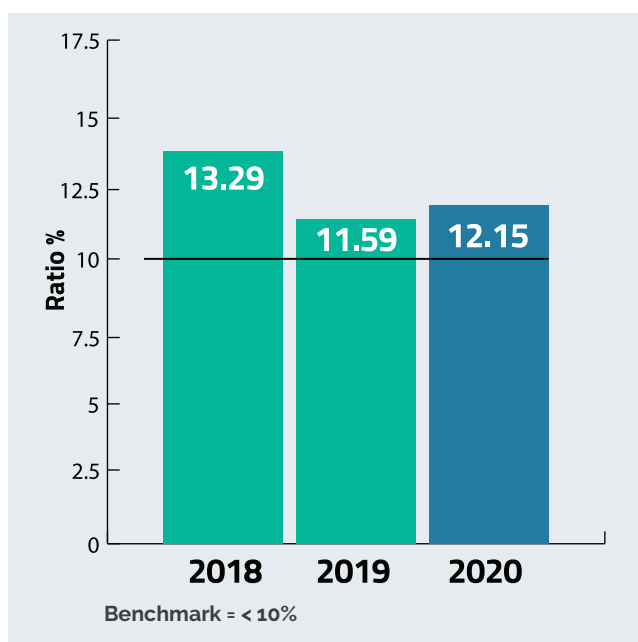
DEBT SERVICE COVER RATIO

The debt service cover ratio has improved to 4.52, above the benchmark of > 2.00. The 2018 ratio was affected by the refinancing of three loans, which led to savings of over \$536,000.



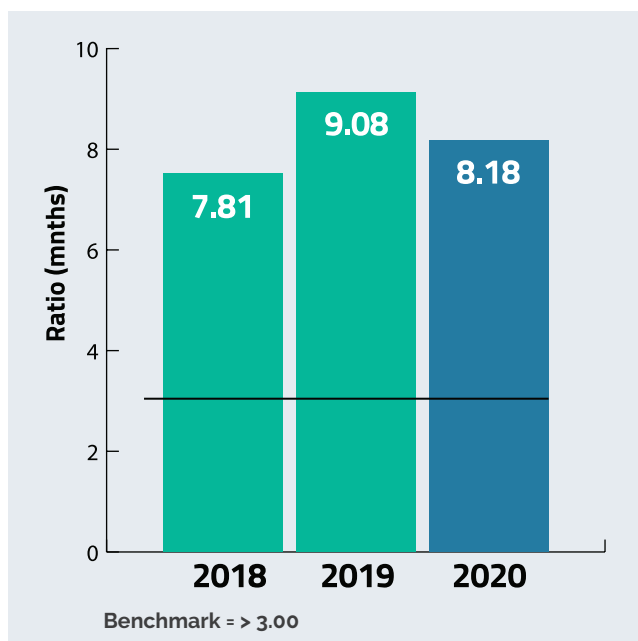
RATES, ANNUAL CHARGES, INTEREST AND EXTRA CHARGES OUTSTANDING PERCENTAGE

Council's rates, annual charges, interest and extra charges outstanding percentage has increased to 12.15%. This ratio has been impacted by a change in accounting standards, whereby the prepayment of rates are treated as a liability and are excluded for the purposes of calculating this ratio. In addition, this ratio 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.



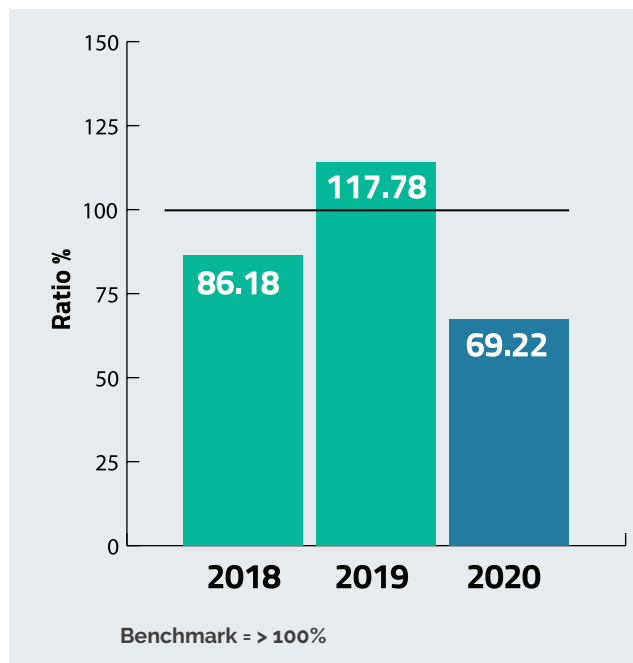
CASH EXPENSE COVER RATIO

Council's cash expense cover ratio is 8.18, well above the benchmark of > 3 months



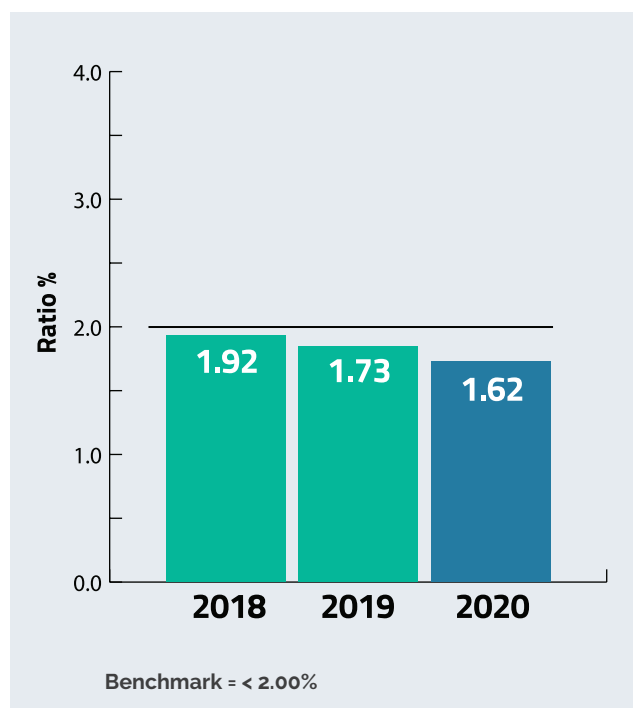
BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWALS RATIO

Council's building and infrastructure renewals ratio decreased to 69.22%. The 2019 ratio was impacted by Council receiving a significantly higher level of capital grants, resulting in a much higher renewals ratio for that year.



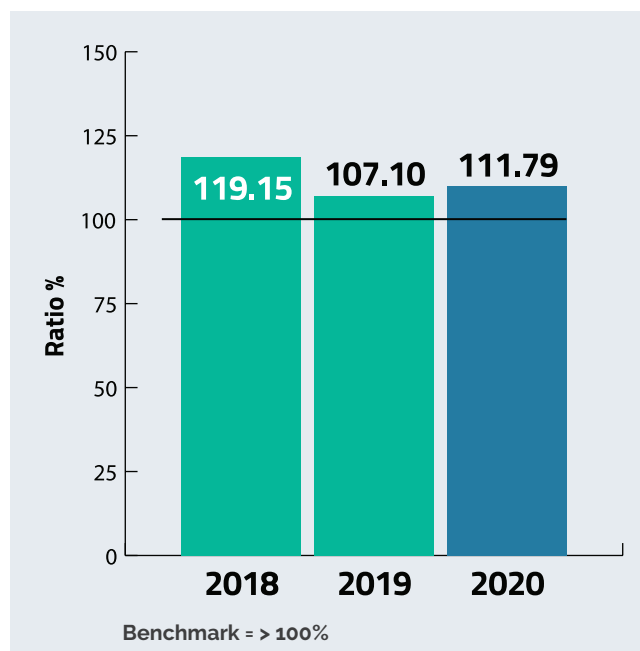
INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG RATIO

Council's infrastructure backlog ratio has fallen to 1.62%, which remains below the benchmark of < 2.0%



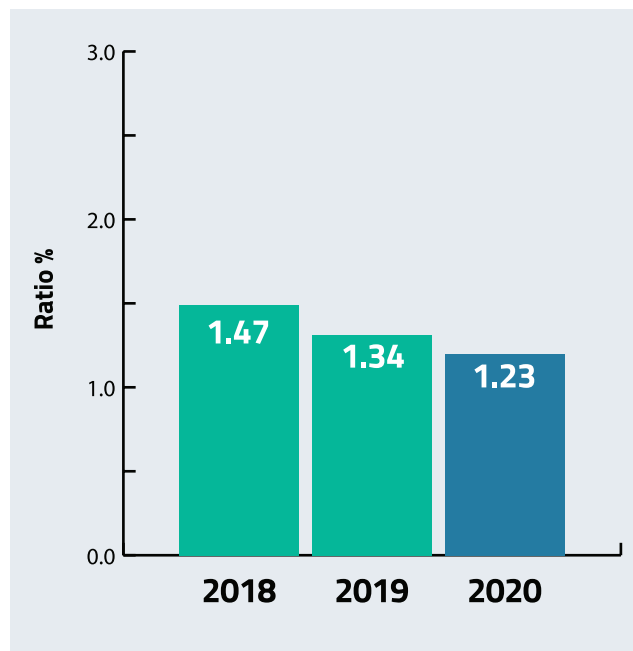
ASSET MAINTENANCE RATIO

Council's asset maintenance ratio has improved to 111.79%, which is above the benchmark of 100%.

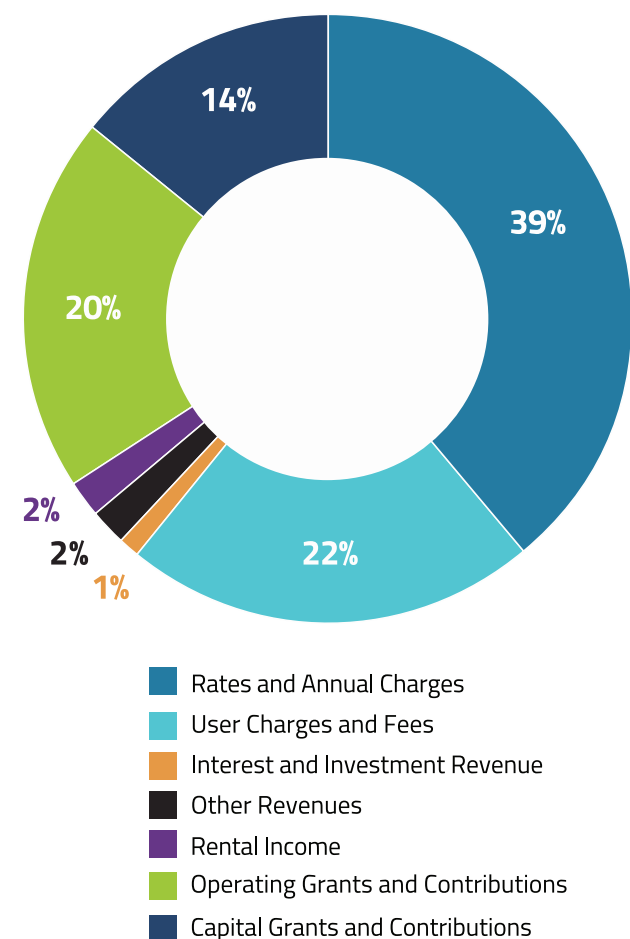


COST TO BRING ASSETS TO AGREED SERVICE LEVEL

Council's outstanding renewals remain relatively low as 1.23% of the total replacement cost of its infrastructure assets.



SOURCE OF COUNCIL FUNDS



SECTION 3: STATUTORY REPORTING

OVERSEAS VISITS BY COUNCILLORS, COUNCIL STAFF OR OTHER PERSONS REPRESENTING COUNCIL

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

No overseas travel was undertaken by Councillors, Council staff or other persons representing Council during the 2019/2020 financial year.

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 - COUNCILLOR FEES, EXPENSES AND FACILITIES 2019/2020

Expense Type	\$ (exc GST)
Mayoral Fee	44,250.00
Councillor Fees	141,960.00
Mayoral Expenses:	
Communication expenses	1,124.44
Conferences, seminars, training & civic function attendance	2,318.37
Interstate Travel	1,391.92
Intrastate Travel	3,344.29
Mayoral vehicle expenses	11,610.01
Other expenses	1,537.06
Councillor Expenses	
Communication expenses	2,241.87
Conferences, seminars, training & civic function attendance	2,864.66
Interstate Travel	0.00
Intrastate Travel	3,183.23
Other expenses	5,012.78
Total Expenses	220,838.63

CONTRACTS AWARDED BY COUNCIL



LOCAL GOVERNMENT (GENERAL) REGULATION 2005 – CLAUSE 217 (1)(A2)

During 2019/2020 the following contracts for amounts greater than \$150,000 were awarded by Council, as defined by the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993.

Contractor	Nature of Project	\$ Contract Amount (inc GST)
RVC Panel Contract	Bitumen Surfacing Services for Richmond Valley Council (VP150834)	500,000.00
Price Civil Pty Ltd	Canning Drive Subdivision Stage 1 Response (VP165363)	545,410.25
Cleaning Neways	Cleaning of Council Offices and Buildings	154,768.00
AGS Commercial	Coraki Caravan Park Amenities	642,012.26
Richmond Valley Aquatics Pty Ltd	Swimming Pool Contract 2020/2021	548,900.00
Ron Bakker Contracting	Evans Head Reservoir Relining	177,000.00
SAF Australia	Backbone and Telemetry Network Proposal	184,317.10
Komatsu Australia Pty Ltd	Excavator PC200LC-8MO	187,000.00
Northern Rivers Concreting	Shared Pathway Bruxner Highway to Queensland Road	353,252.90

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (GENERAL) REGULATION 2005 – CLAUSE 217 (1)(A3)

During 2019/2020, Council was involved in a number of legal proceedings, a summary of which is shown below:

Matter	\$ Amount (Excl GST)
Planning & Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Development assessment	8,048.00
Debt Recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rates, charges and other debtors	51,923.56
Health & Regulatory Control <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Health administration	17,623.41
Infrastructure & Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lease preparation	9,769.92
Real Estate Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Property matters	24,964.20
Corporate Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Litigation- Public Liability- Other	135,435.35 3,994.64 24,885.23
TOTAL	276,644.31



Following is further information pertaining to some of the matters included in the table (pg49)

Rates and Charges

Council retains a debt recovery service for the recovery of outstanding rates and charges. All charges incurred to Council through the use of this service is recovered against the ratepayer. Cost for 2019/2020 of \$51,923.56.

Legal Action Against Council

Following is further information pertaining to some of the matters including in the preceding table.

1. Young v Richmond Valley Council & Ors

This matter was heard in the District Court (Proceeding Number:2019/00224988). The matter related to a defamation claim with Council's General Manager named as the third defendant. The matter cost Council \$77,317.46 to defend in 2019/2020. As at the time of printing, the matter has been dismissed with costs being pursued.

2. Young v Richmond Valley Council

This matter was heard in the Supreme Court (Proceeding Number: 2019/368414). Council defended a possessory title claim of a parcel of land within Council's local government area, at a cost of \$57,463.89. As at the time of printing, the matter has been dismissed with costs being pursued.

3. Lachlan Bell t/as Maitreya Promotions P/L v Richmond Valley Council

This matter is currently underway in the Land and Environment Court (Proceeding Number: 2019/15144). Cost for 2019/2020 \$13,473.41.

4. Rabbits Eat Lettuce v Richmond Valley Council

This matter was finalised in the Land and Environment Court (Proceeding Number: 2018/216259). The cost to Council was \$1,656.00.

Legal Action by Council

1. Richmond Valley Council vrs Jardine Lloyd Thompson

A class action against Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd is currently underway in the Supreme Court of NSW (Proceeding Number: 2018/00371447). Richmond Valley Council is the lead plaintiff. The matter relates to relief claimed on the grounds stated in the Commercial List Statement submitted to the Court on 3 December 2018. The action has a Litigation Funder engaged on a 'no win, no fee basis'.

PRIVATE WORKS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (GENERAL) REGULATION 2005 – CLAUSE 217 (1)(A4)

Council did not subsidise any private works during 2019/2020 in accordance with Section 67 of the Local Government Act 1993.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (GENERAL) REGULATION 2005 – CLAUSE 217 (1)(A5)

During the year, Council resolved to make contributions/grants totalling \$74,730.13. These were allocated to the following organisations:

Community Group	\$ amount (exc GST)
Bentley Community Preschool	2,840.00
Broadwater Koala Reserve Trust	1,000.00
Broadwater Rileys Hill Community Centre	249.00
Casino Art Group	4,163.00
Casino Community Soup Kitchen	500.00
Casino Croquet Club	1,480.00
Casino District Cricket Association Inc	4,217.00
Casino Netball Association Incorporated	3,210.50
Casino RSM Club Ltd t/a Casino Open Edible Garden	1,250.00
Casino RSM Youth Club	1,833.68
Casino Sport and Recreation Association Inc	3,150.00
Casino Town Tennis Club Inc	5,000.00
Casino Vision Impaired Local Client Support Group	780.40
Casino's Own Wireless Association Incorporated	4,626.00
Country Women's Association NSW t/a Coraki CWA Preschool	5,000.00
Evans Head District Cricket Club Inc	1,000.00
Evans Head Mens Shed	3,828.60
Evans Head Recreation Hall Committee	5,500.00
Evans Head Wardell Presbyterian Churches	4,000.00
Fairy Hill Hall Committee	4,950.00
Greenridge Memorial Hall and Social Activities Club Inc	3,000.00
Mid Richmond Neighbourhood Centre	2,500.00
Rileys Hill Community Hall	2,004.44
Rotary Club of Casino Inc	1,250.00
Scouts Australia NSW Branch 2 nd Casino Scouts Group	2,628.00
St Marks Anglican Church Parish of Casino	3,999.51
Woodburn Amateur Boxing Club Inc	770.00
TOTAL	74,730.13

EXTERNAL BODIES EXERCISING FUNCTION 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 2019/2020.

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 2019/2020.

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)

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 2020 was \$147,651.

View the NEWLOG Annual Report.

<https://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au>

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. <https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/annual-reports/>

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 <https://www.northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au>

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. <https://www.newaste.org.au/>

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 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, with one candidate achieving permanent employment in 2019/2020.





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 2019/2020 was \$313,090.88.

Component	\$
Salary	285,927.74
Other payments	0.00
Superannuation	27,163.14
Non-cash benefits	0.00
Total Remuneration	313,090.88

Note: In addition, fringe benefits tax payable by Council amounted to \$7,060.15.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (GENERAL) REGULATION 2005 – CLAUSE 217 (1)(C)

Council had one senior staff position (as defined by the Local Government Act 1993) during 2019/2020. 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 2019/2020 was \$255,443.54.

Component	\$
Salary	215,753.42
Other payments	17,528.35
Superannuation	22,161.77
Non-cash benefits	0.00
Total Remuneration	255,443.54

Note: In addition, fringe benefits tax payable by Council amounted to \$6,412.97.



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICE CHARGE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (GENERAL) REGULATION 2005 – CLAUSE 217 (1)(E)

Contained in the Operational Plan applicable for 2019/2020 was provision for Council to undertake various urban stormwater drainage works and services estimated to cost \$438,435. These works included the following items:



Works	Cost planned in Operational Plan
Casino	
Casino Drainage Improvements	\$10,000
117 Dyraaba Street replace pipes	\$20,000
Dyraaba Street/ Walker Street	\$20,000
Dyraaba Street/ Walker Street	\$20,000
94 Hickey Street	\$20,000
96 Hickey Street	\$15,000
Network Investigation	\$0
Lennox Street Culvert replacement	\$0
Evans Head	
Drainage Unallocated	\$213,435
Yarran Lane drainage improvements	\$30,000
Myall Street	\$90,000
Illawong Lane Drainage improvements	\$0
Total	\$438,435

Actual Works	Actual Expenditure
Casino	
Casino Drainage Improvements	\$0
117 Dyraaba Street replace pipes	\$25,748
Dyraaba Street/ Walker Street	\$22,801
Dyraaba Street/ Walker Street	\$0
94 Hickey Street	\$18,601
96 Hickey Street	\$812
Network Investigation	\$1,161
Lennox Street Culvert replacement	\$35,443
Evans Head	
Drainage Unallocated	\$0
Yarran Lane drainage improvements	\$59,822
Myall Street	\$4,416
Illawong Lane Drainage improvements	\$1,042
Total	\$169,846

Note: Unspent funds of \$299,019 were transferred to the 2020/2021 operational plan as at 31 March 2020 due to the impacts of COVID and high potential of lack of supply or inability to source contractors.

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.

Companion Animals Statistics	Number
Impounds	283
Dogs Euthanised	13
Cats Euthanised	14
Dog Attacks	120

Note: In relation to the dogs impounded at Council's Animal Shelter 7.1% were euthanised. This included 10 that were dangerous dogs.

In relation to the cats impounded at Council's Animal Shelter 14% were euthanised. This included 13 feral cats which could not be rehoused.

Off Leash Areas

Richmond Valley Council has four off-leash areas in Casino, two in Coraki and two in Evans Head.

At Council's September 2020 Ordinary Meeting, resolution was made to retain the unfenced off-leash area at Coast Guard Park, Evan Head whilst upgrading and extending the off-leash area at Airforce Beach.

In Casino, Council intends to move its small off-leash area in Crawford Square to another area of the park and enlarge it, in line with 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 one of the biggest workloads of all duties carried out by Council's Rangers and garnered the second 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.

There are 614 dogs and 147 cats microchipped within Council's LGA. There are estimated to be a large number of dogs and cats that are not registered.

In 2019/2020 Council received 1,021 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 Pound 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 Councils' 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 Pound 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 clause 132 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Council reports that the following general rates and water/sewer charges have been written off during 2019/2020:

Write off-type	\$
General Rates	696
Water/Sewer Rates	14,663
Total	15,359

SPECIAL VARIATIONS TO GENERAL INCOME

Richmond Valley Council has 1 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 is as follows:

YEAR OF APPROVAL 2019/2020

Purpose	Council intends to use the proposed Special Variation funds to enhance its financial sustainability, maintain existing services, and maintain and renew infrastructure.	
Amount of approval as a % of income (inclusive of rate peg of 2.7%)		5.50%
Amount of approval in monetary terms (2019/2020)		\$348,571
Expenditure during 2019/2020	Funding existing service levels:	
	Maintain annual riverbank maintenance budget	\$50,000
	Maintain additional annual budget for road maintenance	\$50,000
	Maintain additional annual budget for maintenance of public toilets	\$15,000
	Funding of depreciation and improvements to Operating Performance Ratio	\$8,571
	Capital Renewals:	
	Maintain current annual renewal budget for community amenities	\$120,830
Total expenditure		\$244,401
Amount unexpended as at 30 June 2020		\$104,170



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 2019/2020 the following were carried out as part of the program:



Category	Number of inspections
Number of inspections of tourist and visitor accommodation	5
Number of inspections of premises with more than 2 dwellings	17
Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of compliance under s22D of the Swimming Pools Act	159
Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of non-compliance under Clause 21 of the Swimming Pools Regulation 2018	27
Total	208

COUNCILLOR INDUCTION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy CPOL1.14 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 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.



Date	Description	Attendees
26 August 2019	Financial Issues in Local Government Training session presented by LGNSW (held at Kyogle Council)	Cr Mustow (Mayor) Cr Hayes Cr Humphrys Cr Lyons
13 October 2019 – 16 October 2019	Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Conference	Cr Mustow (Mayor) Cr Humphrys
6 November 2019	"Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW "At a Glance" Guide for Elected Representatives Document presented to Councillor Workshop	Cr Mustow (Mayor) Cr Morrissey Cr Cornish Cr Hayes Cr Humphrys Cr Lyons Cr Simpson



ENVIRONMENTAL UPGRADE AGREEMENTS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993 – S 54P(1)

Council has not entered into any Environmental Upgrade Agreements in 2019/2020.

PLANNING AGREEMENTS IN FORCE

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979 – S 7.5(5)

Council has no Planning Agreements in Force under this section.



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:

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 playground upgrades
- 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

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 Q4 to 30 June 2020

<https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/integrated-planning-and-reporting/>

Appendix 2: Audited Financial Statements

<https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/budgets-and-financial-reports/>

Appendix 3: 2019-2020 Government Information (Public Access) Act Annual Report

<https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/annual-reports/>

Appendix 4: 2019-2020 Public Interest Disclosure Annual Report

<https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/annual-reports/>

Appendix 5: 2019-2020 Richmond Upper Clarence Regional Library Annual Report

<https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/annual-reports/>

Appendix 6: Mid Term Report 2016-2018

<https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/integrated-planning-and-reporting/>

Appendix 7: State of the Environment Report

<https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/services/environmental-health/>



RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020