



# **ATTACHMENTS**

**Tuesday, 15 December 2020**

**UNDER SEPARATE COVER**

**Ordinary Council Meeting**



## Table of Contents

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6.1	Minutes Ordinary Meeting held on 17 November 2020	
	Attachment 1 Minutes Ordinary Meeting 17 November 2020.....	4
12.1	Delegates' Report Submitted to December 2020 Ordinary Meeting	
	Attachment 1 LGNSW Meeting 23 November 2020 - Record of Decisions.....	23
14.1	Adoption of Rail Trail Master Plan	
	Attachment 1 Final Master Plan Northern Rivers Rail Trail Casino to Bentley .....	61
16.1	Destination Management Plan 2021-2025	
	Attachment 1 Destination Management Plan 2021-2025.....	103



# **MINUTES**

## **Ordinary Council Meeting 17 November 2020**



## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

<b>1</b>	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>PRAYER.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>PUBLIC ACCESS AND QUESTION TIME .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>APOLOGIES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>MAYORAL MINUTES.....</b>	<b>5</b>
5.1	Mayoral Minute - Bushfire Recovery Funding .....	5
<b>6</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES .....</b>	<b>5</b>
6.1	Internal Audit and Risk Committee Minutes 20 October 2020.....	5
6.2	Internal Audit and Risk Committee Minutes 4 November 2020 .....	5
6.3	Minutes Ordinary Meeting held on 20 October 2020 .....	6
<b>7</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>PETITIONS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
	Nil	
<b>10</b>	<b>NOTICE OF MOTION .....</b>	<b>6</b>
	Nil	
<b>11</b>	<b>MAYOR'S REPORT .....</b>	<b>6</b>
11.1	Mayoral Attendances 13 October - 7 November 2020 .....	6
<b>12</b>	<b>DELEGATES' REPORTS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
12.1	Delegates' Report Submitted to November 2020 Ordinary Meeting.....	6
<b>13</b>	<b>MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE .....</b>	<b>7</b>
13.1	Matters to be Determined Without Debate.....	7
<b>14</b>	<b>GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
14.1	Draft Annual Report 2019/2020.....	7
14.2	Richmond Valley Council v JLT Insurance - Insurance Class Action Update .....	8
14.3	LGNSW Annual Report and conference .....	8
14.4	Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Position Paper - QLD/NSW Border Restrictions .....	9
<b>15</b>	<b>FINANCIAL REPORTS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
15.1	Development contributions update: 2019/2020 .....	9
15.2	Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange Statistics and Financial Performance as at 30 September 2020.....	10
15.3	Financial Statements 2019/2020 .....	11
15.4	Financial Analysis Report - October 2020 .....	11
15.5	Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ended 30 September 2020.....	12
<b>16</b>	<b>TENDER REPORTS.....</b>	<b>12</b>
	Nil	

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

<b>17</b>	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
17.1	Amended Community Participation Plan - Post Exhibition Report .....	13
17.2	Draft Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP).....	14
17.3	Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding: Proposed projects.....	14
<b>18</b>	<b>MATTERS FOR INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>15</b>
18.1	Code of Conduct Complaint Statistics .....	15
18.2	Community Financial Assistance Program 2020/2021 Round One.....	15
18.3	Grant Application Information Report - October 2020 .....	15
18.4	Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 October to 31 October 2020 .....	16
18.5	Richmond Valley Community Hall Upgrades Program.....	16
18.6	Correspondence - Bypassed town signage for Evans Head .....	16
<b>19</b>	<b>QUESTIONS ON NOTICE .....</b>	<b>16</b>
	Nil	
<b>20</b>	<b>QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING).....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL .....</b>	<b>17</b>
21.1	Design and Construct NSW RFS Category 2B Standard Fire Brigade Station at Rappville .....	17
21.2	Reynolds Road Industrial Estate (Stage 2) Civil Works (VP205770) .....	17
21.3	Tender RA42122RVC Electricity Reverse Auction - Contestable Sites and Street Lighting (Unmetered) .....	17
21.4	Tender - VP204658 Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX) Feeding Contract .....	17
<b>22</b>	<b>RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL .....</b>	<b>18</b>

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

**MINUTES OF RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 GRAHAM PLACE, CASINO  
ON TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 5.00PM**

*Please note: these minutes are subject to confirmation at the next Council Meeting. Decisions recorded in the draft minutes are subject to the Council's Code of Meeting Practice in relation to rescinding decisions.*

**PRESENT:** Cr Robert Mustow (Mayor), Cr Robert Hayes, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Jill Lyons, Cr Daniel Simpson and Cr Sam Cornish (arrived at 5.52pm).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Vaughan Macdonald (General Manager), Angela Jones (Director Infrastructure & Environment), Ryan Gaiter (Chief Financial Officer/Manager Mid-Richmond), Kate Alder-Conn (Governance Coordinator), Julie Clark (Personal Assistant to the General Manager and Mayor) and Simon Breeze (IT Support Officer).

## **1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Mayor provided an Acknowledgement of Country by reading the following statement on behalf of Council:

*"Richmond Valley Council recognises the people of the Bundjalung Nations as Custodians and Traditional Owners of this land and we value and appreciate the continuing cultural connection to lands, their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region in the past, present and future."*

## **2 PRAYER**

The meeting opened with a prayer by the General Manager.

## **3 PUBLIC ACCESS AND QUESTION TIME**

Nil

## **4 APOLOGIES**

### **RESOLUTION 171120/1**

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Jill Lyons

That the apology received from Cr Stephen Morrissey (Deputy Mayor), be accepted and leave of absence granted.

**CARRIED**

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

**5 MAYORAL MINUTES****5.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - BUSHFIRE RECOVERY FUNDING****RESOLUTION 171120/2**

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Daniel Simpson

That Council:

1. Notes the \$21 million in funding received from the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund for key community projects in the Richmond Valley.
2. Writes to the Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack MP, Member for Page, Kevin Hogan MP, the National Coordinator of the National Bushfire Recovery Agency, Andrew Colvin, the Premier Gladys Berejiklian, the Deputy Premier John Barilaro MP who is the Minister responsible for disaster recovery, and the Member for Clarence, Chris Gulaptis MP, to acknowledge their support to secure the funding.

**CARRIED****6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****6.1 INTERNAL AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES 20 OCTOBER 2020****RESOLUTION 171120/3**

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council receives and notes the Minutes of the Internal Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2020.

**CARRIED****6.2 INTERNAL AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES 4 NOVEMBER 2020****RESOLUTION 171120/4**

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council receives and notes the Minutes of the Internal Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 4 November 2020.

**CARRIED**

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

**6.3 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2020****RESOLUTION 171120/5**

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Seconded: Cr Jill Lyons

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20 October 2020.

**CARRIED****7 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

Nil

**8 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

NIL

**9 PETITIONS**

Nil

**10 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Nil

**11 MAYOR'S REPORT****11.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCES 13 OCTOBER - 7 NOVEMBER 2020****RESOLUTION 171120/6**

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council receives and notes the Mayor's attendance report 13 October – 7 November 2020.

**CARRIED****12 DELEGATES' REPORTS****12.1 DELEGATES' REPORT SUBMITTED TO NOVEMBER 2020 ORDINARY MEETING****RESOLUTION 171120/7**

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Seconded: Cr Robert Mustow

That Council receives and notes the Delegates' Report for the month of October 2020.

**CARRIED**

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

**13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE****13.1 MATTERS TO BE DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE****RESOLUTION 171120/8**

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Seconded: Cr Jill Lyons

That items 15.1, 15.4 and 17.3 be determined without debate.

**CARRIED****14 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS****14.1 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Annual Report is a key point of accountability between Council and its community. It reports on Council's financial performance and its progress in implementing the Delivery Program and achieving Community Strategic Plan outcomes.

The 2019/2020 financial year has been a year of unprecedented challenges for Council, with the impacts of bushfire, flood and the COVID-19 pandemic. The report acknowledges the community's resilience in addressing these challenges and the role that council has played in leading recovery.

**RESOLUTION 171120/9**

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Richmond Valley Council 2019/2020 Annual Report.
2. In accordance with s.428 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, posts the finalised Annual Report on Council's website and provides a link to the Minister and the Office of Local Government.

**CARRIED**

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

**14.2 RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL V JLT INSURANCE - INSURANCE CLASS ACTION UPDATE****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A class action against JLT Risk Solutions Pty Ltd (formerly called Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd) (JLT) is currently underway in the Supreme Court of NSW. Richmond Valley Council is the lead plaintiff. The matter relates to recovery of past losses claimed on the grounds that Richmond Valley Council, together with the other councils who are group members, suffered loss as a result of following the defendant's advice in obtaining property and/or public liability and professional indemnity insurance, through a scheme known as Statewide Mutual.

It is alleged that the defendant (1) breached its general law and contractual duty to exercise reasonable care and skill in the performance of its broking services and in the provision of recommendations and advice; and (2) earned fees and commissions in breach of fiduciary duties that it owed to Council. The action has a litigation funder engaged on a 'no win, no fee' basis. Proceedings commenced in December 2018 and are progressing well with mediation and trial dates now set.

**RESOLUTION 171120/10**

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Jill Lyons

That Council receives and notes the information provided in the Richmond Valley Council v JLT Insurance - Insurance Class Action Update.

**CARRIED****14.3 LGNSW ANNUAL REPORT AND CONFERENCE****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

LGNSW has provided its Annual Report for Council's consideration. RVC is a long-standing member of the association, along with 126 of the State's 128 councils. The Annual Report highlights a number of achievements in service provision and advocacy. It also includes the 2019-20 financial statements for the association, which indicate it has experienced some financial challenges in the past 12 months. These matters will be considered by RVC delegates at the LGNSW annual conference on 23 November 2020.

**RESOLUTION 171120/11**

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council:

1. Notes the key issues raised in the LGNSW Annual Report and further considers these matters at the LGNSW conference on 23 November 2020;
2. Writes to LGNSW seeking clarification of any matters raised in this report that are not addressed at the conference.

**CARRIED**

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

**14.4 NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION POSITION PAPER - QLD/NSW BORDER RESTRICTIONS****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation has finalised its Position Paper on the impacts of the Queensland border restrictions. The Position Paper is a collaborative effort between the six NRJO member councils to raise awareness of local issues and advocate for better management of border controls. Advocacy from stakeholders, including local government, has already seen some border restrictions ease, but the issues raised in the paper remain relevant.

**RESOLUTION 171120/12**

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Seconded: Cr Daniel Simpson

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Position Paper on the Queensland/NSW border restrictions;
2. Acknowledges the work of the NRJO Chief Executive Officer in preparing the document on behalf of member councils.

**CARRIED****15 FINANCIAL REPORTS****15.1 DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS UPDATE: 2019/2020****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council recovers contributions, raises levies and enters into planning agreements on development works that are subject to a development consent issued by Council.

Council collected a total of \$1,957,188 in contributions in the last financial year and expended \$596,781. Current reserves total \$9,517,926 as at 30 June 2020.

Details of the different types of contributions are provided in the report.

**RESOLUTION 171120/13**

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Seconded: Cr Jill Lyons

That Council receives and notes the Section 7.11, Section 7.12 and Section 64 development contributions for the 2019/2020 financial year.

**CARRIED**



**15.2 NORTHERN RIVERS LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE STATISTICS AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2020****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides an update on the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX) financial performance as at 30 September 2020, as well as monthly throughput information from 2012/2013 to 2020/2021 YTD. Comparatives of averages for periods prior to 2019/2020 and the adjusted averages including 2019/2020.

NRLX throughput at 30 September 2020 was 23,356 head, which is equivalent to the 5-year rolling average. The throughput is 4375 below last financial year for the same period which was at the highest levels seen in 21 years. The budget reflects an annual forecast of 125,000 head throughput, with expense and associated on costs to support the increased throughput.

Income from user charges and fees at 30 September was \$456,382 and 28% of the yearly budget. The inclusion of revenue from the bio-solids project increases revenue to \$620,058. Operating expenditure is \$556,951 exclusive of depreciation showing a cash operating result of \$63,107. The depreciation YTD is \$118,029 which delivers an operating loss of \$54,922 as at 30 September 2020 or 27.6% of the forecast operating result.

The Spring edition of the NRLX Newsletter was released in late September recapping the financial year and the record-breaking achievements for NRLX and the Richmond Valley Agricultural community. Highlights include:

- Highest value single sale on record at NRLX at \$4.12 million
- Highest value throughput for any week on record at NRLX with \$8,286,220
- Highest value throughput for any month on record at NRLX with \$22,420,167
- Highest throughput in 21 years exceeding 131,500 head as at 24 June.

After a booming second half of the 2019/2020 year, the NRLX dollar turnover also fell just short of the all-time record of \$113,616,791, coming in at \$113,421,627. The newsletter also highlighted the new NRLX Customer Service Centre and the additional services now available at NRLX.

**RESOLUTION 171120/14**

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council receives and notes the performance of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange as at 30 September 2020.

**CARRIED**

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

**PRESENTATION BY EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

A presentation was provided by Adam Bradfield of Thomas, Noble and Russell in relation to Item 15.3 – Financial Statements 2019/2020.

**15.3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019/2020****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council adopted the audited financial statements for 2019/2020 at its Ordinary Meeting held 20 October 2020. At that Meeting, Council also resolved to present the audited financial statements and auditor's reports to the public at its November Ordinary Meeting. The presentation of these reports to the public is in accordance with section 419 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and is the final step in complying with the legislative requirements regarding annual financial reporting.

The Auditor has expressed an 'unmodified opinion' on the financial statements. This means that it was of the opinion that the financial reports present fairly the financial position of Council as at 30 June 2020 and its financial performance and cash flows were presented in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other legislative requirements.

**RESOLUTION 171120/15**

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That the audited financial statements and auditor's reports for the 2019/2020 financial year be presented to the public in accordance with section 419 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

**CARRIED****15.4 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - OCTOBER 2020****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the status and performance of its investment portfolio in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (Section 625), Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (Clause 212), Australian Accounting Standard (AASB 9) and Council's Investment Policy.

The value of Council's Investment Portfolio as at 31 October 2020 including General Bank Accounts and Trust Funds is shown below.

Investment Portfolio	General Bank Accounts	Trust Funds	Total
\$52,888,689	\$662,265	\$87,050	\$53,638,004

The weighted average rate of return on Council's investments for October 2020 was 0.82% which was above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for October of 0.01%, which is Council's benchmark.

**RESOLUTION 171120/16**

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Seconded: Cr Jill Lyons

That Council adopts the Financial Analysis Report detailing investment performance for the month

Page 11

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

of October 2020.

**CARRIED**

**15.5 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report outlines the proposed adjustments for the 2020/2021 budget for the quarter ended 30 September 2020. These adjustments exclude all previously adopted Monthly Budget Adjustments.

The proposed changes see Council's projected operating surplus from continuing operations for 2020/2021 decrease to \$2,973,215, from the original budget surplus of \$6,481,767. The operating result before capital grants and contributions has also declined to a projected loss of \$5,226,505.

Income from continuing operations has decreased by \$2,997,248, to a projected total of \$71,339,672. This is largely due to some capital projects being transferred into the 2021/2022 financial year. Expenses from continuing operations have increased by \$365,011, to a projected total of \$68,366,457.

Council's capital works program has been reviewed, resulting in a decrease of \$5,149,890, to a projected total of \$32,452,351. This is one of Council's largest capital works programs, so it will require close monitoring throughout the year. The decrease is mainly due to part of the Rail Trail project being transferred into 2021/2022 along with \$1,500,000 for the construction of Cell 6 at the Nammoona Landfill and \$550,000 from the organics processing facility (FOGO) project which is not expected to commence this year.

A detailed Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the first quarter of the 2020/2021 year has been circulated separately to each Councillor.

**RESOLUTION 171120/17**

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Seconded: Cr Jill Lyons

That Council adopts the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 30 September 2020 and approves the recommended variations.

**CARRIED**

**16 TENDER REPORTS**

Nil

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

**17 GENERAL BUSINESS****17.1 AMENDED COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLAN - POST EXHIBITION REPORT****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council resolved at its 19 May 2020 meeting to prepare the *Draft Richmond Valley Council Community Participation Plan 2020* (Draft CPP). The Draft CPP is based on the foundations of the 2019 CPP and incorporates amendments to:

- Remove mandatory requirements to publish notices in newspapers; and
- Include Manager discretion to waive or reduce advertising/notification of minor applications/modifications.

Furthermore, a general review of the 2019 CPP was undertaken and additional changes include minor wording and format changes, and updates to engagement requirements resulting from legislation changes to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and Regulation. Due to a lack of clarity on how to amend a CPP, it has been decided to repeal the 2019 CPP and replace it with the 2020 CPP.

The Draft CPP was publicly exhibited for 45 days commencing on 27 August 2020 with one submission received.

**RESOLUTION 171120/18**

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council:

1. Adopts the *Richmond Valley Council Community Participation Plan 2020 (Nov 2020)*;
2. Provides a copy of the adopted CPP for publication on the NSW Planning Portal; and
3. Notes the adopted CPP will commence from the date of publication on the Portal.

**.CARRIED**

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

**17.2 DRAFT PEDESTRIAN ACCESS MOBILITY PLAN (PAMP)****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP), documents community engagement and issues relevant to pedestrian access and travel throughout Richmond Valley. The original plan was undertaken by consultants GeoLINK in 2011 and this report presents the revised document which identifies the progress in pedestrian networks, as well as the next phase of plans for facilities to enhance future footpaths and cycleways. The plan has been developed to consider the existing pedestrian and cyclist needs, future projects and plans for access for all ages and abilities within the community. To support the community consultation process, Council engaged GeoLINK to carry out a revision of the 2011 PAMP.

The consultation included online surveys and engagement with special interest groups. The information compiled from these sources has been considered and prioritised as part of the composition of the plan. This revised plan has been placed on display for community comment, and the final draft is now presented to Council for adoption.

**RESOLUTION 171120/19**

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council:

1. Notes the consultation that has been undertaken to inform the updated Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan 2020, and
2. Adopts the Draft Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP) 2020.

**CARRIED****17.3 LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING: PROPOSED PROJECTS****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Richmond Valley Council has been allocated a further \$1.285 million dollars under the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program. It is proposed to direct this funding towards the Razorback Lookout upgrade in Evans Head, and the Drill Hall Memorial Walk project in Casino.

**RESOLUTION 171120/20**

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Seconded: Cr Jill Lyons

That Council allocates the \$1.285 million received from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program towards completion of the Razorback Lookout Upgrade and Casino Drill Hall Memorial Walk projects in line with this report.

**CARRIED**

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

**18 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION****RESOLUTION 171120/21**

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

Recommended that the following reports submitted for information be received and noted.

**CARRIED****18.1 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT STATISTICS****RESOLUTION 171120/22**

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council receives and notes the Code of Conduct Complaint Statistics for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020.

**CARRIED****18.2 COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2020/2021 ROUND ONE****RESOLUTION 171120/23**

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council receives and notes the allocations under the Community Financial Assistance Program 2020/2021 Round One.

**CARRIED****18.3 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - OCTOBER 2020****RESOLUTION 171120/24**

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council receives and notes the Grant Application Information Report for the month of October 2020.

**CARRIED**

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

**18.4 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 OCTOBER 2020****RESOLUTION 171120/25**

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council receives and notes the development application report for the period 1 October to 31 October 2020.

**CARRIED****18.5 RICHMOND VALLEY COMMUNITY HALL UPGRADES PROGRAM****RESOLUTION 171120/26**

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council receives and notes the allocation of Richmond Valley Community Hall Upgrades funding.

**CARRIED****18.6 CORRESPONDENCE - BYPASSED TOWN SIGNAGE FOR EVANS HEAD****RESOLUTION 171120/27**

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council receives and notes the correspondence regarding the bypassed town signage for Evans Head.

**CARRIED****19 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Nil

**20 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)**

Nil

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

**21 MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993:

**21.1 Design and Construct NSW RFS Category 2B Standard Fire Brigade Station at Rappville**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (d)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

**21.2 Reynolds Road Industrial Estate (Stage 2) Civil Works (VP205770)**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (d)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

**21.3 Tender RA42122RVC Electricity Reverse Auction - Contestable Sites and Street Lighting (Unmetered)**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (d)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

**21.4 Tender - VP204658 Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX) Feeding Contract**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (d)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

The General Manager reported that no written representations had been received in respect to the items listed for consideration in Closed Council.

The Chair called for verbal representations from the gallery.

There were no representations from the gallery.

The Chair advised that under section 10A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the media and public are to be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10(2) as outlined above.



## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

**RESOLUTION 171120/28**

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That:

1. Council resolved to enter Closed Council to consider the business identified in Items 21.1, 21.2, 21.3 and 21.4, together with any late reports tabled at the meeting.
2. Pursuant to section 10A(2) – (c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10A(2) as outlined above.
3. The correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

**CARRIED**

Council closed its meeting at 6.15pm. The public left the Chamber.

The Open Council Meeting resumed at 6.26pm.

**22 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL**

The following resolutions of Council, passed while the meeting was closed to the public, were read to the Open Council Meeting by the General Manager and Director Infrastructure and Environment.

**21.1 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT NSW RFS CATEGORY 2B STANDARD FIRE BRIGADE STATION AT RAPPVILLE**

That:

1. AGS Commercial Pty Ltd be approved as the preferred tenderer for the Design and Construct NSW RFS Category 2B Standard Fire Brigade Station at Rappville, valued at \$309,460 (ex GST).
2. The General Manager be authorised to negotiate and finalise the terms and conditions of any contract or agreement, in line with the content of this report and the available budget, including affixing the seal of Council where necessary.

**21.2 REYNOLDS ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE (STAGE 2) CIVIL WORKS (VP205770)**

That:

1. Council accepts the tender from Price Civil Pty Ltd which represents the best value for Council at \$1,150,241.25 (exclusive of GST); and
2. The General Manager be authorised to negotiate and finalise the terms and conditions of any contract or agreement, in line with the content of this report and the available budget, and affixing the seal of Council where necessary.

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2020

**21.3 TENDER RA42122RVC ELECTRICITY REVERSE AUCTION – CONTESTABLE SITES AND STREET LIGHTING (UNMETERED)**

That Council:

1. Notes the reverse auction to be conducted by Regional Procurement on behalf of Richmond Valley Council for the large contestable sites and street lighting, with the contract to run for 24 months commencing on 1 January 2022 ending on 31 December 2023.
2. Authorises the General Manager to sign and approve the contract with the most advantageous outcome for Council and to sign relevant documents including affixing the seal of Council where appropriate, generally in accordance with the details contained within this report.
3. Notes that a report on the outcome will be brought back to a future meeting of Council.

**21.4 TENDER – VP204658 NORTHERN RIVERS LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE (NRLX) FEEDING CONTRACT**

That Council:

1. Declines the submission/s received for Tender VP204658 – NRLX Feeding Contract due to non-conforming submission/s;
2. Determines not to call fresh tenders due to the limited number of parties that may potentially respond;
3. Apply Clause 178 (3)(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 to authorise the General Manager to enter into direct negotiations with any person for the supply of feed to the NRLX and to finalise the terms of the contract or agreement, including affixing the seal of Council where necessary; and
4. Notes that the outcomes of the negotiations will be reported to Council for information.

The Meeting closed at 6.30pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 December 2020.

.....  
**CHAIRPERSON**

## LGNSW Annual Conference 2020

### Record of Decisions

#### FEDERAL CONFERENCE

<b>F1 LGNSW Board</b>	<b>Standing Orders</b>
That the Standing Orders as set out in the preceding pages be adopted.	

**Decision:** Carried

<b>F2 LGNSW Board</b>	<b>Constitution</b>
That Local Government NSW, being a registered organisation under the <i>Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009</i> (Cth) (the " <b>Association</b> "):	
1. Amend the Association's rules in the terms proposed below.	
2. In furtherance of 1 above, make application to the Fair Work Commission to amend the Association's rules.	

**Decision:** Carried

#### STATE CONFERENCE

##### Association business

<b>1 LGNSW Board</b>	<b>Standing Orders</b>
That the Standing Orders as set out in the preceding pages be adopted.	

**Decision:** Carried

<b>2 LGNSW Board</b>	<b>LGNSW Fundamental Principles</b>
That the LGNSW Fundamental Principles, as set out below, be endorsed:	
<b>Economic</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A - Local government must have control of its revenue raising and investment decisions and be fairly funded by the Commonwealth and State/NSW Governments to meet its infrastructure and service responsibilities.</li> <li>B - Local government promotes local and regional economic development and employment growth.</li> </ul>	
<b>Infrastructure</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C - Local government is best placed to plan for, deliver and manage essential local infrastructure.</li> </ul>	
<b>Planning</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D - Local government is best placed to lead and influence local and regional planning processes according to the needs and expectations of local communities</li> <li>E - Our communities' quality of life is a priority of local government planning.</li> </ul>	
<b>Environment</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F - Local government actions reflect Ecologically Sustainable Development. ESD requires the effective integration of economic, environmental and social considerations in decision making processes and is based on the following principles:</li> </ul>	

- Intergenerational equity – today's actions maintain or enhance the environment for future generations
- Precautionary principle – prevent environmental degradation and manage and mitigate risk
- Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity
- Improved valuation and pricing of environmental resources – recognising the value of the environment to the community

### **Social and Community**

- G - Local government is committed to the principles of:
  - Equity – fair distribution of resources
  - Rights – equality for all people
  - Access – to services essential to quality of life
  - Participation – of all people in their community
  - Recognition – of the unique place of Aboriginal people in NSW and the right of Aboriginal people to be involved in all decisions affecting Aboriginal communities
  - Health and Safety – for all in the community

### **Governance**

- H - Local government must be constitutionally recognised and respected as an equal sphere of government
- I - Local government is democratically elected to shape, serve and support communities
- J - Local government is committed to the principles of good governance

### **Accountability**

- K - Local government is responsible and accountable to the citizens and the communities it represents, through consultative processes, legislative accountabilities, efficient delivery of services and effective customer service
- L - Local government is recognised as a responsible and place-based employer

**Decision: Carried**

### **3 Mosman Municipal Council**

### **Local Government State Award**

That Local Government NSW conducts an independent review of the current arrangements and procedures for negotiating and finalising the Local Government State Award, and any interim or variation to that award, by a suitably experienced consultant such as a former tribunal member, to ensure best practice governance and transparency for its members is achieved.

**Decision: Carried**

### **4 Kyogle Council**

### **LGNSW Board reform**

That:

1. Local Government NSW (LGNSW) explores options for amending the LGNSW Rules (State and Federal) with the objective of:
  - a. Ensuring that the composition of the Board includes an approximately equal number of urban based, regionally based and rurally based representatives; and
  - b. motions debated and passed at LGNSW Annual Conferences are pursued by the Board with priority motions being determined by the number of votes received to establish the political agenda of LGNSW.
2. Local Government NSW provides to the 2021 or 2022 LGNSW Annual Conference a report addressing the matters raised in 1 above, and also a motion if the LGNSW Board considers it appropriate.

**Decision: Lost**

### **5 Murray River Council** **Future conferences and training online**

That Local Government NSW gives consideration to:

1. Future conferences being online or having an online component to enable councillors who cannot travel to participate, and
2. Future training offerings for councillors online to enable more councillors to participate in learning and development activities without the inconvenience and cost of travel.

**Decision: Carried**

## **National Cabinet**

### **6 Newcastle City Council** **Local government exclusion from National Cabinet**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Notes with disappointment that local government is not represented on the newly formed National Cabinet and seeks their assistance in requesting that First Ministers review the decision to exclude local government;
2. Seeks meetings with the Prime Minister and the Premier to discuss in more detail the importance of having local government representation on National Cabinet and the value of partnerships with councils in achieving the objectives of the National Cabinet and the national reform agenda; and
3. Notes that the Australian Local Government Association, Local Government NSW and other state/territory local government associations will continue to advocate for local government representation on the National Cabinet and for local government's interests in all relevant forums.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

#### **City of Canterbury-Bankstown** **Local government representation on the National Cabinet**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW and Australian Governments to highlight the critical necessity for local government representation on the newly formed National Cabinet, and request that First Ministers review the decision to exclude local government.

#### **Wollondilly Shire Council** **Local government representation at the National Cabinet table**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the Prime Minister's Office and advocates strongly for the inclusion of a local government representative in the National Cabinet: a representative whose first and foremost consideration is the impact of decisions on councils and the communities they represent.

**Decision: Carried**

## **Disaster management, recovery and resilience**

### **7 Blayney Shire Council** **Emergency management reform**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government, specifically Resilience NSW to transfer responsibility for emergency management to the NSW Government to deliver the following outcomes:

- Decentralisation of emergency management roles to regional NSW providing stronger local knowledge and employment in the regions.
- Improved capacity for resilience and recovery planning with that resource capable to transition directly into leading recovery (instead of local government).
- Significant efficiency gains in the emergency management space with a greater capacity for more on-ground professional emergency management personnel in each local government area or agreed combined areas.
- More consistent emergency management outcomes regardless of the size or capacity of the council (which itself is highly variable).
- Improved strategy and delivery of emergency services infrastructure through integration.
- Improved alignment by allowing local councils and the NSW Police to focus on their core roles.
- Improved facilities, support and training for emergency service volunteers.
- A significant boost to the financial sustainability of all councils in NSW.

- A greater capacity within local councils to develop and implement permanent resilience improvements (e.g. on critical infrastructure).
- Local councils still have a critical role to play in emergency management planning and response through a 'seat at the table', and,
- That the transfer of responsibility includes removal of the \$120 million local government annual contribution to emergency services and the transfer of ownership of Rural Fire Services and State Emergency Services infrastructure from local government to the NSW Government.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

**Coolamon Shire Council**

**Emergency Management Reform**

That Local Government NSW advocates for, and lobbies the NSW Government for a full review of the way emergency management is conducted in NSW. This review must address the way emergency management is to be co-ordinated and funded in a sustainable way.

**Weddin Shire Council**

**New Resilience NSW agency**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to:

1. Clearly outline the role and funding structure for Resilience NSW, and
2. Confirm that councils will not be required to contribute towards the funding requirements of Resilience NSW.

**Greater Hume Council**

**Introduction of a Fire and Emergency Services Levy**

That Local Government NSW makes a case with NSW Government for the introduction of a broad based property levy to fund the Emergency Services Levy as previously proposed.

**Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council**

**Emergency Services Levy**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to:

1. Work with NSW councils to redesign the funding mechanism and implement a broad base property tax to replace the Emergency Services Levy on both local government and insurance policies.
2. Until such time as such a mechanism is introduced any proposed increases to the Emergency Services Levy shall be limited to the annual rate peg percentage increase to local government. Further, any increase greater than the rate peg percentage increase be paid by the NSW Government.

**Weddin Shire Council**

**Emergency Services Levy**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to:

1. Limit yearly increases in the Emergency Services Levy to sustainable levels, and
2. Scrutinise the expenditure of the Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Services and Fire and Rescue NSW to ensure any costs passed onto councils are sustainable and justified.

**Kempsey Shire Council**

**Review of the Fire and Emergency Services Levy**

That Local Government NSW seeks a review of the Fire and Emergency Services Levy due to the disproportionate impact on local government to reduce the impost on local government and local communities with a view to establishing a fairer system in consultation with local councils and Local Government NSW.

**Bellingen Shire Council**

**Fire and Emergency Services Levy**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government regarding the disproportionate effect of the Fire and Emergency Services Levy on regional councils, and seeks an urgent review to reduce the impost on local communities to establish a fairer and more equitable system.

**Carrathool Shire Council**

**RFS Emergency Services Levy**

That Local Government NSW continues to lobby the NSW Government to reduce and curtail the excessive increases in the bush fire levy that are impacting on the capacity of council to fund. The levy increases are out of all proportion with NSW Government constraints on councils ability to raise rate income and should only be increased in line with rate peg percentage increases.

**Fairfield City Council**

**Cost shifting of Emergency Services Levy to local government**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to introduce a fairer and more transparent broad based property levy to landowners to cease cost shifting to the Emergency Services Levy to local government.

**Decision: Carried**



**8 Bega Valley Shire Council NSW Bushfire Inquiry endorsement**

That Local Government NSW endorses the NSW Government's Bushfire Inquiry Report and urges Resilience NSW to proceed with implementation of the Inquiry's recommendations as a matter of urgency.

(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)

**Snowy Valleys Council****NSW Bushfire Inquiry**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to ensure that local government is appropriately funded and well placed to implement prevention, response and recovery initiatives resulting from the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Natural Disaster Arrangements and the NSW Bushfire Inquiry.

**Snowy Valleys Council****Local and State Government bushfire management of Crown Lands**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to partner with councils and commit funding to better plan for bushfire management of Crown Lands, with a particular emphasis on the control of vegetation and weeds (in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 2015) to help mitigate the bushfire risk to community.

**Decision: Carried**

**9 Tenterfield Shire Council Cultural burning to facilitate fire management**

That Local Government NSW calls upon the NSW Government to support cultural burning on Crown Lands, National Parks and State Forest held lands in every State of Australia, and the training and employment of indigenous people to carry out this important task.

**Decision: Carried**

**10 Shoalhaven City Council Coast and estuary grants funding**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to release the additional unallocated funding from the Coastal and Estuary Grants Program to flood affected local government areas.

**Decision: Carried**

**11 The Hills Shire Council Review of the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Scheme**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to review the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Scheme to ensure landowners in high-risk areas are able to take steps to prepare themselves for bushfire events.

**Procedural motion – That motion 11 be put.**

**Carried**

**Decision: Lost**

**12 Tenterfield Shire Council Funding increase to drought proof Australia**

That Local Government NSW advocates for the State and Federal Governments to increase funding for pasture research to assist in drought proofing Australia.

**Amendment from Leeton:**

That Local Government NSW advocates for the State and Federal Governments to increase funding for agricultural research, including pasture research to assist in drought proofing Australia.

**Amendment becomes the motion**

**Decision: Carried**

**13 Warren Shire Council Equality of drought and COVID-19 pandemic support**

That Local Government NSW petitions the Federal Government to ensure equality of financial support for drought impacted individuals, families, producers and service providers on the same basis as that

being provided to employees, families, the unemployed and business during the Covid-19 pandemic and that the government:

1. Immediately address the inequity that exists between the drought response and that to the COVID-19 crisis.
2. Develop strategies for future droughts that reflect the importance of the regions and that values them accordingly.
3. Focus on primary criteria and actions that relate to loss of income and protecting people in drought when they are most vulnerable.
4. Safeguard and protect our human resources and vital Australian food and fibre production capacity and its security.

**Decision: Carried**

#### **14 Shoalhaven City Council**

#### **Asset Protection Zones**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to carry out the following actions to local government areas in NSW with respect to Asset Protection Zones (APZ):

1. To exempt hazard reduction burns and the construction of asset protection zones, required as a result of a duly adopted standard, from the provisions of the EPCB Act and the NSW Environmental Legislation, internal Government Agency Policies, or any other limitations within other Acts or Regulations which restrict any authorised authority from constructing and maintaining APZs or undertaking hazard reduction burns.
2. Adopt as a general policy that Urban settlements requiring the provision of an APZ at the interface with natural areas, such APZ be at least 200m and to have such APZs managed as Park Lands.
3. To either repeal or create an easement over any section of a National Park where part of the Park falls within a 200m APZ and vest the management of that land in the local council.
4. To enact Legislation to require a private land holder (including Aboriginal Land) to create and maintain a parkland like cleared area of generally 200m to act as an APZ between the subject land and the interface with any urban development requiring the provision of an APZ, where a property owner fails to comply with this requirement an authorised authority may carry out the work and charge the land holder for the works, with the exception of Aboriginal Land where the clearing will remain a cost on the authority.
5. To require any Government Authority who manages forested areas to properly maintain and improve the construction of fire trails, this is to include the removal of any obstructions other than locked gates.
6. To consider the construction of strategic fire breaks through forested areas including National Parks of a similar width to a major electricity easement.

#### **Amendment from Kempsey:**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to carry out the following actions to local government areas in NSW with respect to Asset Protection Zones (APZ):

1. To exempt hazard reduction burns and the construction of asset protection zones, required as a result of a duly adopted standard, from the provisions of the EPCB Act and the NSW Environmental Legislation, internal Government Agency Policies, or any other limitations within other Acts or Regulations which restrict any authorised authority from constructing and maintaining APZs or undertaking hazard reduction burns.
2. Adopt as a general policy that Urban settlements requiring the provision of an APZ at the interface with natural areas, such APZ be at least 200m and to have such APZs managed as Park Lands.
3. To enact Legislation to require a private land holder (including Aboriginal Land) to create and maintain a parkland like cleared area of generally 200m to act as an APZ between the subject land and the interface with any urban development requiring the provision of an APZ, where a property owner fails to comply with this requirement an authorised authority may carry out the work and charge the land holder for the works, with the exception of Aboriginal Land where the clearing will remain a cost on the authority.
4. To require any Government Authority who manages forested areas to properly maintain and improve the construction of fire trails, this is to include the removal of any obstructions other than locked gates.



5. To consider the construction of strategic fire breaks through forested areas including National Parks of a similar width to a major electricity easement.

**Amendment becomes the motion**

**Decision: Carried**

#### **15 Wollondilly Shire Council Service Award for Individual First Responders**

That Local Government NSW advocates for the establishment of a Local Government Service Award for Individual First Responders in the form of a medal or ribbon to be worn on their uniform recognising their conduct or action to protect their community. There is currently no appropriate acknowledgement of first responders at a local government level.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

#### **Blacktown City Council**

#### **First responders medal**

That Local Government NSW consults relevant Ministers and authorities as appropriate to create a local government medal to be awarded by a local council to Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Services volunteers and first responders, to recognise their service, their sacrifice and their contribution to NSW during natural disasters and other emergencies.

**Procedural motion – That motion 15 be put  
Carried**

**Decision: Carried**

### **Local government elections**

#### **16 Georges River Council Protecting democracy at the 2021 local government elections**

That Local Government NSW:

- (a) Calls for the NSW Government to protect local democracy by ensuring councils and communities retain choice in their method of voting to encourage more people to participate in the electoral process.
- (b) Calls for the NSW Government to ensure local government elections are conducted in a manner as similar as possible to State elections to make democratic participation simple for voters and support voter turnout.
- (c) Opposes the introduction of universal postal voting which risks disenfranchising voters through discouraging voter participation and diminishing the status of local government.
- (d) Calls for the NSW Government to fund any increase in the costs of local government elections beyond the rate peg imposed on councils.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

#### **Broken Hill City Council**

#### **Universal postal voting for local government elections**

That Local Government NSW strongly oppose the introduction of universal postal voting for future NSW local government elections.

#### **Lithgow City Council**

#### **Universal postal voting**

That Local Government NSW writes to the NSW Minister for Local Government expressing strong opposition to the concept of universal postal voting for NSW local government elections.

**Procedural motion – That motion 16 be put.  
Carried**

**Decision: Carried**

**17 Kempsey Shire Council****COVID-19 action utilising universal postal voting**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to permit the usage of universal postal voting for local government elections by the State Electoral Commission and councils, if the safety of electors is at risk due to the possible ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

**Decision:** Lost as a result of carried motion 16

**Point of Order** – quorum check – 253 voting delegates confirmed.

**18 Georges River Council****Electronic signatures on Electoral Commission documents**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Electoral Commission and the NSW Government to:

- (a) improve compliance outcomes and ensure accessibility for all members of the community, all existing processes (including forms) for candidates and public office holders be reviewed to ensure that they are simple and easy to understand
- (b) reduce the administrative burden on citizens seeking to be involved in Local Government by amending all relevant legislation and regulations to permit electoral documents, including periodic disclosures, to be signed and lodged electronically.

**Decision:** Carried

**19 Wingecarribee Shire Council****Removal of preference voting**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to amend local government electoral legislation, so that councillors are elected on a first past the post basis to remove preference deals.

**Procedural motion** – That motion 19 be put.

**Carried**

**Decision:** Lost

**20 Narrandera Shire Council****NSW electorate districts redistribution process**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to undertake a formal review of the redistribution process in NSW, seeking to ensure that regional/rural areas west of the Great Dividing Range are represented adequately into the future.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Leeton Shire Council****Review of NSW electoral district boundaries**

That Local Government NSW advocates for rural and regional state electoral districts to more accurately reflect local government area 'communities of interest' and for larger districts to be reduced in area.

**Decision:** Carried

**Waste and recycling****21 City of Canterbury-Bankstown****Improving recycling systems in NSW**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to increase the proportion of the waste levy reinvested in recycling and waste management.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

**City of Canterbury-Bankstown****Permanent Fund to Address Illegal Dumping**

That Local Government NSW make representations to the NSW Government requesting a permanent and secure funding stream, to be funded from the Waste Levy, for councils to address the growing issue of illegal dumping through ongoing targeted programs of deterrence, enforcement and clean up.

**Blacktown City Council****Resourcing for the NSW Circular Economy Policy**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to urgently develop and implement an action plan and funding strategy to support the implementation of its NSW Circular Economy Policy.

#### **Bourke Shire Council**

#### **Recycling Services**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to consider the allocation of a subsidy to rural and remote councils to assist them in the establishing and maintaining recycling services within their local government areas.

#### **Central Coast Council**

#### **Waste Levy**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to allow councils to retain the full Waste Levy during the current COVID-19 crisis.

#### **Lismore City Council**

#### **Waste Levy reinvestment**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to demonstrate how it has invested in recycling industries and ensure a greater share of the S88 POEO Act 1997 NSW Waste Levy is reinvested back into recycling technologies and;

1. Mandates the reduction in front end waste from food packaging;
2. Provides equitable distribution of waste levy funds back to councils in a non-competitive environment
3. Establishes a policy that ensures that monies collected from one or more councils is not used to subsidise revenue positive investments in other councils
4. Mandates closed loop requirements for food manufacturers to manage waste.

#### **Cessnock City Council**

#### **Waste Levy to fund landfill rehabilitation costs**

That Local Government NSW calls upon the NSW Government to fund local government investigation, evaluation, the formulation of Remedial Action Plans and the remediation of historic orphan waste management sites through funding allocations from the NSW Waste Levy.

#### **Blacktown City Council**

#### **Protecting our ratepayers from the impact of the waste export ban**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to urgently develop and implement a waste and resource recovery infrastructure plan to minimise the impact of the waste export ban on local government.

**Procedural motion** – That covered motion from Federation Council not be considered with motion 21.  
**Carried**

#### **Amendment from Canterbury-Bankstown**

To support existing LGNSW Policy that 100% NSW Waste Levy should be returned to councils, Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to increase the proportion of the waste levy reinvested in recycling and waste management.

**Amendment becomes the motion**

#### **Amendment from Cessnock**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW government to increase the proportion of the waste levy re-invested in recycling and waste management. This funding would include but not limited to illegal dumping, the circular economy and the rehabilitation of historic orphan dump sites.

**Amendment becomes the motion**

#### **Amendment from Canterbury-Bankstown**

To support existing LGNSW Policy that 100% NSW Waste Levy should be returned to councils, Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to increase the proportion of the waste levy reinvested in recycling and waste management. This funding would include but not limited to illegal dumping, the circular economy and the rehabilitation of historic orphan dump sites.

**Amendment becomes the motion**

**Decision: Carried**

#### **21a Federation Council**

#### **Waste to Energy**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to more urgently progress concrete actions and strategy to enable projects to develop including a strategic pathway towards funding regional waste management solutions also involving Joint Organisations, and the Federal Government.

**Decision: Carried**

**22 The Hills Shire Council****Energy from waste**

That Local Government NSW urges the NSW Government to encourage and facilitate private sector investment in Waste to Energy facilities as both a more sustainable alternative to landfill and recognition that the waste stream is too diverse and contaminated to make all but a few products recyclable.

**Procedural motion** – That motion 22 be put.

**Carried**

**Decision:** Lost

**23 Randwick City Council****Proposals for incineration of waste in urban Sydney**

That the Conference opposes partnerships between the waste disposal industry and other industries for cogeneration plants (or "Energy Recovery Plants") similar to the Matraville proposal between Opal Paper Mill and the waste company Suez Group on the grounds that they are essentially repackaged waste incineration plants. In doing so the association notes that emissions from such plants are a health danger to local communities and an obstacle to achieving the infrastructure and circular economy solutions advocated for under clause 12.1.a) of the Waste and Recycling Position Statement of our adopted Local Government NSW Platform Policy.

**Decision:** Carried as a result of lost motion 22.

**Economic stimulus****24 Federation Council****COVID-19 recovery**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to develop a comprehensive COVID-19 recovery package to assist communities and businesses recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Federation Council****COVID-19 costs**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to develop, in consultation with Local Government NSW, a reimbursement package for councils who are incurring additional costs as a result of COVID-19 risk measures, including assistance to NSW Police for Border Closures.

**Decision:** Carried

**25 Liverpool City Council****Covid-19 impacts and Fit for the Future guidelines**

That the LGNSW Conference:

- i. Notes the collapse in revenues and seek a rates guarantee to ensure financial liquidity, financial assistance to maintain existing employment levels and explicit inclusion of local government in any future stimulus packages;
- ii. Support Local Government NSW's campaign to suspend Fit for the Future (FFF) guidelines given current circumstances, including writing to the Minister for Local Government as appropriate; and
- iii. Note that councils believe FFF targets and benchmarks are now outdated and should be abandoned as councils will be increasingly unable to meet targets and benchmarks during the pandemic.

**Amendment from Liverpool:**

That the LGNSW Conference:

- i. Notes the collapse in revenues and seek a rates guarantee to ensure financial liquidity, financial assistance to maintain existing employment levels and explicit inclusion of local government in any future stimulus packages;
- ii. Support Local Government NSW's campaign to suspend Fit for the Future (FFF) guidelines given current circumstances, including writing to the Minister for Local Government as appropriate; and



- ### Amendment becomes the motion

26 Blue Mountains City Council

Active Transport Infrastructure

- Decision: Carried**

That Local Government NSW advocates on behalf of Water County Councils to be included in, and receive an equitable share of grant funding provided by Federal and NSW Governments.

The Local Government NSW lobbies the Federal and NSW Governments to request a specific and significant funding stream be made available for regenerative landscape management as an economic stimulus to be administered at local government level.

That Local Government NSW pursue designated funding from the NSW Government for the urgent replacement of first generation dying swimming pools in regional NSW.

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to amend the eligibility criteria for the Job Retention Allowance funds to allow a fairer distribution to impacted councils who have not had to 'stand down' staff as a result of the pandemic.

## Lost

1. Thanks the NSW Government for providing \$400 million towards local infrastructure projects across regional NSW via the Stronger Country Communities fund.
2. Acknowledges that the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities fund has enhanced regional communities and stimulated regional economies that have been hit hard by drought and bushfires.

3. Lobbies the NSW Government to commit to an additional round of Stronger Country Communities funding, due to the economic impacts of COVID-19. This would allow the previous 93 eligible regional councils as well as incorporated and not-for-profit organisations in those local government areas to access \$1 million in funding for community infrastructure projects.
4. Calls on the NSW Government to include in the criteria that infrastructure projects must stimulate regional economies by employing local tradespeople and buying local supplies.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

#### **Bourke Shire Council**

#### **Stronger Country Communities**

That Local Government lobbies the NSW Government to continue the Stronger Country Communities Program to ensure that the benefits that have been able to flow to rural communities since its inception continue to do so.

#### **Amendment from Inner West**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Thanks the NSW Government for providing \$400 million towards local infrastructure projects across regional NSW via the Stronger Country Communities fund.
2. Acknowledges that the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities fund has enhanced regional communities and stimulated regional economies that have been hit hard by drought and bushfires.
3. Lobbies the NSW Government to commit to an additional round of Stronger Country Communities funding, due to the economic impacts of COVID-19. This would allow the previous 93 eligible regional councils as well as incorporated and not-for-profit organisations in those local government areas to access \$1 million in funding for community infrastructure projects.
4. Calls on the NSW Government to include in the criteria that infrastructure projects must stimulate regional economies by employing local tradespeople and buying local supplies.
5. Notes that all state Government funding should be administered in a fair, transparent and competent manner. In the last round some Councils who meet the guidelines to qualified for a grant from the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund were excluded from applying. We also note the decision making process for the allocation of funds in now a matter before the NSW Auditor General.

**Amendment becomes the motion**

**Procedural motion** – That motion 31 be put.

**Carried**

**Decision: Carried**

#### **32 Newcastle City Council**

#### **Gateway City classification**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Calls on the NSW Government to establish a consistent geography and classification across all NSW Government funding sources that enables equitable access for all local government areas (LGAs). This would provide more integrity to the process and enable new opportunities for LGAs like Newcastle and Wollongong, who have been effectively shut out from a range of funding sources; and
2. Asks the NSW Government to create a Gateway City classification to recognise that LGAs like Newcastle and Wollongong are major regional economic centres that sit between a metropolitan and regional classification. Gateway Cities will play a critical role in the future economic resilience and competitive opportunities of the state, particularly with the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. This would improve the efficiency and value for money of NSW Government grants;

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

#### **Wollongong City Council**

#### **Gateway Cities classification**

That Local Government NSW writes to the Premier of NSW to request the NSW Government:

1. Consider creating a Gateway City classification for LGA's like Wollongong and Newcastle to recognise the contribution they make to their respective regions and the nation.

2. Include a Gateway City classification in the Restart NSW program to provide LGA's like Wollongong and Newcastle with access to funds that support regionally significant projects.

**Procedural motion** – That motion 32 be put.

**Carried**

**Decision:** Carried

### **33 Lane Cove Council** **Post-COVID stimulus funding to promote the arts**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government for post-COVID stimulus funding to promote the arts (art galleries, performances, exhibitions, festivals) in our communities.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

#### **Bega Valley Shire Council**

#### **Regional Arts NSW support**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to support Regional Arts NSW to continue as an effective model representing the network of Regional Arts Development Organisations (RADOs).

#### **Wagga Wagga City Council**

#### **Arts and entertainment sector support**

That Local Government NSW advocates to State and Federal Governments to support the arts and entertainment sector throughout NSW, especially in regional areas due to COVID-19.

#### **Lismore City Council**

#### **Regional arts recovery from COVID-19**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Recognises the unique role regional arts organisations play in supporting the arts and cultural sector and providing community access to arts and cultural activity across NSW. And, that while the COVID-19 crisis has had an immediate and devastating impact on the arts and creative industries across the country, acknowledges regional artists and arts organisations have experienced particular challenges impacting their access to audiences, markets and income generation.
2. Strongly advocates for increased funding and support for the recovery initiatives of regional arts organisations and individuals as they emerge from this crisis.

**Decision:** Carried

## **Economic policy affecting local government**

### **34 Georges River Council** **Inquiry into the Local Government Rating System in NSW**

That Local Government NSW calls on members of the NSW Legislative Council to immediately establish an Inquiry into the NSW Local Government Rating and Revenue System to ensure that the long term financial sustainability of councils can be guaranteed and to address:

1. The response of the NSW Government to the IPART Review of the NSW Rating System (2016) that found 'the current system undermines council incentives to pursue growth and urban renewal, because they do not receive a commensurate increase in rates revenue to service new developments';
2. The findings of the August 2020 NSW Productivity Commission Green Paper that found 'the rate peg system does not currently compensate councils for having to service a larger pool of ratepayers, this leaves local governments with insufficient revenue to meet demand and an incentive to avoid housing growth';
3. The lack of action arising from the findings of the Henry Review of Taxation, the NSW Treasury Corporation's assessment of the financial sustainability of NSW councils and the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel's Final Report;
4. The financial impact on the 2016 amalgamated councils and their communities, of the 'rates path protection freeze' that prevented the introduction of fair and equitable rating systems within 20 amalgamated local government areas until 2020;
5. The intergenerational inequity arising from the lack of rating reform in NSW;
6. Whether the century-old rating system and the NSW Local Government Act 1993 remains fit for purpose;

7. The demand from communities that councils take on the increasing financial responsibilities of population growth, infrastructure requirements and provide an increasingly large and diverse range of services, and the impact that the rate peg has on those responsibilities; and
8. The impact of cost shifting from Federal and NSW Governments onto NSW councils without financial compensation.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Lake Macquarie City Council**

**Changes to Local Government Act from IPART Rating Review**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to expedite the changes required to the Local Government Act 1993 to deliver the reforms supported in the NSW Government's response to the IPART Review of the Local Government Rating System.

**Decision: Carried**

**35 Blue Mountains City Council**

**Fixing the Unfair Rating Systems in NSW**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Notes:
  - a. annual increases in overall rates charged by local councils are set each year by the NSW Government's Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) through the rate peg system. In 2020-2021 the rate peg increase was 2.6% to take account of costing of living/CPI increases;
  - b. at the same time, the NSW Valuer General's three yearly cycle of reassessment of land valuations to determine individual household rates means that individual rate payers may experience wildly different variations in their rates when compared to anticipated and published IPART rate peg increase. For example, in the Blue Mountains LGA, the NSW Valuer General's wholesale reassessment of land values meant that some individual households experienced rate increases of up to 40% (15 times more than the rate peg), while other households' ratings charges stayed the same and some households rates went down. Meanwhile, the overall ratings amount levied by the Council did not increase beyond the IPART rate peg of 2.6%;
  - c. the NSW Government directed IPART to undertake a review of the NSW Ratings System in 2016 and it has taken four years for the NSW Government to respond and the Government is yet to implement any changes to improve the ratings system across NSW.
2. Calls on the NSW Government to fix the broken and unfair ratings system in NSW to make the ratings system fairer and predictable for all property owners across NSW.
3. Calls on the NSW Government to fully fund the excessive rate increases caused by the NSW Valuer General's reassessment of land values in local government areas, due to the economic impacts of the Black Summer bushfires, February floods and the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Decision: Carried**

**Procedural motion – move forward motion 122.**

**Carried**

**122 Wingecarribee Shire Council**

**Political party candidates at local government elections**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to amend electoral requirements so that:

- a. no political parties/groups run on the ballots; and
- b. all candidates are listed below the line as individual candidates.

**Procedural motion – That motion 122 be put.**

**Carried**

**Decision: Lost**

**Procedural motion – move forward motion 114.**

**Lost**



**Procedural motion** – move forward motion 108.

**Lost**

**Procedural motion** – proceed with motions in business paper order.

**Carried**

### **36 Bland Shire Council** **IPART Review of the Local Government Rating System**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government, in the strongest possible terms, to ensure that Recommendation 34 of the 2016 IPART Review of the NSW Local Government Rating System does not become legislation because of the severe and adverse financial impact this will have on all mining affected communities in NSW.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

#### **Broken Hill City Council** **2016 IPART Review of the NSW Local Government Rating System**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government, in the strongest possible terms, to ensure that Recommendation 34 of the 2016 IPART Review of the NSW Local Government Rating System does not become legislation because of the severe and adverse financial impact this will have on all mining affected communities in NSW.

#### **Lachlan Shire Council** **IPART Review of NSW Local Government Rating**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to not adopt Recommendation 34 of the 2016 IPART Review of the NSW Local Government Rating System, due to the severe financial impact of the recommendation on mining affected communities in NSW.

#### **Blayney Shire Council** **IPART Review into the Local Government Rating system**

That, in relation to Recommendation 34 of the IPART Review into the Local Government Rating system, Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW government to either:

- a. not implement the recommendation; or if it is to be adopted
- b. meaningfully engage with all affected councils before doing so, including a careful consideration of the rationale for and impacts of the recommendation and solutions for any adverse impacts on the financial viability of affected councils.

**Decision: Carried**

### **37 Lachlan Shire Council** **Re-ascertainment of mining land**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government and the NSW Valuer General to limit or prohibit the retrospective revaluation or re-ascertainment of land values, for mining properties, beyond the current base valuation year.

**Decision: Carried**

### **38 Forbes Shire Council** **Consideration of land value by the Valuer General**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the Valuer General to not take into account the approvals for water use and water supply works when determining rural land values.

**Decision: Carried**

### **39 Blue Mountains City Council** **Crown Lands and Plans of Management**

That councils at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference:

1. Seek the NSW Government fully fund the costs associated with transfer of management of Crown Lands to local councils, including the costs of developing and implementing Plans of Management for Crown Land Reserves;
2. Seek the NSW Government recognise the difficulties being encountered by local government of NSW in meeting the requirements of the Crown Lands Management Act 2016 and extend the timeframe for adoption of Plans of Management for public reserves for which councils are appointed as Crown Land Manager; and
3. Seek the NSW Government improve training and support provided for appointed Native Title Managers within local government of NSW.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

**Greater Hume Council**

**Management of Crown Lands**

That Local Government NSW urgently requests the NSW Government to adequately resource the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment so that Crown Land matters can be dealt with so as to reduce the large backlog of applications.

**Shoalhaven City Council**

**Support for the completion of Crown Land Management Plans**

That Local Government calls on the NSW Government to provide greater funding to councils to complete Crown Land Management Plans.

**Decision: Carried**

**40 Kyogle Council**

**Local government Financial Assistance Grants**

That Local Government NSW calls on the Federal Government to remove Part 1 Sec 6 2b of the Local Government Financial Assistance Act 1995 to remove the minimum per capita amount grant.

**Procedural motion – That motion 40 be put.**

**Carried**

**Decision: Lost**

**41 Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council**

**Financial Assistance Grants**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to reconsider the factors that determine the allocation of Financial Assistance Grants, being road distance and other terrain issues, so that local government areas with difficult terrain receive a fairer distribution of Financial Assistance Grants. This is for the reason that the cost to build a kilometre of road in undulating and mountainous country is substantially more expensive than in the tablelands.

**Amendment from Broken Hill**

That, if the Federal Government commits significant additional funding to Federal Assistance Grants to ensure no council is worse off, Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to reconsider the factors that determine the allocation of Financial Assistance Grants, being road distance and other terrain issues, so that local government areas with difficult terrain receive a fairer distribution of Financial Assistance Grants. This is for the reason that the cost to build a kilometre of road in undulating and mountainous country is substantially more expensive than in the tablelands.

**Amendment becomes the motion**

**Decision: Carried**

**42 Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council**

**Capital Improved Value**

The NSW Government introduce a Capital Improved Value (CIV) to the NSW rating system as an option available to all councils. This is so that growth and rates and revenue outside the rate peg percentage be calculated on changes to the CIV as this would enable growth in the rate base to keep pace with real growth and associated increases in demand for council infrastructure and services. In light of such support increasing the income of city councils, then a redistribution of Financial Assistance Grants to rural councils be considered at the same time, to enhance financial sustainability for the sector.

**Decision: Carried**

**43 Lismore City Council**

**Australian made workwear**

That Local Government NSW encourages councils to purchase Australian made workwear (and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to bolster the national manufacturing industry.

**Decision: Carried**

**44 North Sydney Council Rates paid by educational institutions**

That Local Government NSW calls for the NSW Government to ensure educational institutions acquiring additional land pay council rates on new acquisitions

**Decision:** Carried

**45 Lismore City Council Maintenance payments in funding for construction projects**

That Local Government NSW strongly advocates for:

1. A change to State and Federal Government funding regimes to include acceptance of a strong case for part funding of maintenance on construction projects over \$100 million for city councils and \$20 million for rural and regional councils.
2. The establishment of a 'means test' or equivalent to apply maintenance funding.

**Decision:** Carried

**46 Lismore City Council Insurance for residents undertaking roadside maintenance**

That Local Government NSW make representations to StateCover to offer an option for councils to provide insurance coverage for residents who undertake maintenance on roadside verges.

**Procedural motion** – That motion 46 be put.  
**Carried**

**Decision:** Carried

**47 Blacktown City Council Change how a council's borrowing limit is calculated**

That Local Government NSW urgently calls on the NSW Government to amend how the Debt Coverage Ratio for local government is calculated, so external borrowings to forward fund Section 7.11 infrastructure do not limit other borrowings funded from general funds.

**Decision:** Carried

**48 Blacktown City Council Removing restrictions on power purchase agreements**

That Local Government NSW requests the Minister for Local Government to make a formal determination that entry into a renewable energy power purchase agreement structured as a contract for difference does not constitute an "investment" for the purposes of Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and the Ministerial Investment Order 2011, and to take the steps required to clarify this for NSW councils and enable their ability to enter such agreements.

**Decision:** Carried

**Water and utilities****49 Narromine Shire Council Statewide water security**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government and Federal Government to expediate the lifting of flood mitigation zones to ensure statewide water security, including at Burrendong Dam.

**Decision:** Carried

**Procedural motion** – extend conference proceedings to 5pm.  
**Lost**

**Procedural motion** – That motions 50 to 58 are put together.  
**Carried**

**50 Federation Council Funding for critical water and sewer infrastructure**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to provide improved funding pathways for councils to be able to gain 60% + funding for replacement of critical water and sewer plants/major enabling infrastructure.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion).

**51 Bourke Shire Council Murray Darling Basin Plan**

That Local Government lobbies the Federal Government to expedite the finalisation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan to allow individuals and communities to plan for the future with an increased level of certainty.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion).

**52 City of Sydney Woronora reservoir**

1. That Local Government NSW notes:

- (i) the NSW Government has recently granted planning approvals for an expansion of coal mining operations under Woronora reservoir, one of Sydney's key drinking water catchments;
- (ii) the new expansion will see new coal faces established under the Woronora Dam, which supplies drinking water to Sydney. Up to three new underground coal faces will be established at the mine, with two of them running below the dam's water storage;
- (iii) this decision to allow coal mining under the Woronora reservoir poses a direct threat to the drinking water of hundreds of thousands of Sydneysiders;
- (iv) mining activities under the reservoir could compromise the integrity of the water storages, potentially leading to leakages, and flow on environmental damage to the surrounding water table and the quality of drinking water supplies; and
- (v) the full impacts of the underground mining operations will not be known for several decades, and changes in the geological structures below the dam could continue well after the final coal has been extracted from the site; and

2. That Local Government NSW:

- (i) opposes the approval of long-wall coal mines under Sydney's drinking catchments;
- (ii) lobbies the NSW Government against the issue of long-wall mining approvals under Woronora reservoir, and other mines which have the potential to risk contaminating Sydney's drinking water supply; and
- (iii) opposes the approval of any mines which have the potential to contaminate drinking water supply of any community in NSW.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion).

**53 Bourke Shire Council Water security**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to provide the required resources to expedite the planning and consultation period for the proposed Western Weirs Program.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion).

**54 Tamworth Regional Council Water recycling opportunities**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to review the approval process to allow more rapid delivery of recycled water options; fund research into how water is recycled and treatment processes available for handling by-products from those processes and to commence a community education campaign across the State in relation to direct and in direct potable reuse.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion).



**55 Murray River Council** **Mandatory monitoring of sewerage/waste water**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to:

1. provide financial support to local government in meeting the requirements of sewerage/waste water monitoring for the detection of pandemic related disease and illegal drugs; and
2. lobby the Federal Government for a national adoption of the scheme.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion.

**56 Tamworth Regional Council** **Independent Water Commission**

That Local Government NSW petition the NSW Government to reinstate the role of Water Commissioner and establish an Independent Water Commission in order to provide an open and transparent process for the negotiation of water sharing plans that will deliver sustainable water security solutions for local communities.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion.

**57 Lachlan Shire Council** **Community water allocations**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government, WaterNSW and DPIE Water to review existing water allocation rules, for the purpose of providing community water allocations for regional and rural communities, where local economies and community wellness are adversely impacted by reduced water allocations.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion.

## Planning

**58 Randwick City Council** **Overreach of NSW Government planning powers**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Calls on the NSW Government to:
  - a. implement policies that ensure that planning decisions are community led and which recognise that local councils are best placed to make decisions about planning that is appropriate for their local area and constituents; and
  - b. review the Accelerated Planning Program, the Planning Reform Action Plan, and 2020 changes to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, the Independent Planning Commission, and Local and Regional Planning Panels and take immediate steps to ensure that even in times of crisis, planning approvals consider the impact of development on the environment, local communities and neighbouring residents.
2. Expresses its opposition to:
  - a. the 2020 changes to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act which grant the Minister unprecedented powers to override planning decisions made by local councils, Planning Panels and the Independent Planning Commission;
  - b. the increase in the referral threshold of the Independent Planning Commission which significantly reduces the ability of communities to object to contentious developments;
  - c. reforms that will allow a new class of appeals for rezoning applications making it easier for developers to significantly change the character of local areas;
  - d. the NSW Government's Planning Acceleration Program which may deprive communities of the opportunity to have reasonable input into major developments; and
  - e. changes to Local Planning Panels that require panels to hold meetings in public only where a development application has attracted 10 or more unique submissions.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

**Wollongong City Council** **Planning proposal appeal rights to Land and Environment Court**

That Local Government NSW writes to the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Places with the request to:

1. Not proceed with the introduction\* of appeal rights to the Land and Environment Court for planning proposals;
2. Investigate other system improvements to streamline the review process for planning proposals, including Parliamentary Counsel Office processes, agency referrals and higher benchmarks for planning proposals; and
3. Ensure that the cost of those proceedings be met by the NSW Government as the primary advocate for the planning proposal, should a new classification of planning appeal be introduced.

**Wingecarribee Shire Council****Review of Planning Policies that threaten residential amenity**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to urgently review various planning policies that threaten the amenity and heritage significance of the State's rural and regional towns and villages from developments such as seniors housing, aged care facilities, health service facilities, boarding houses and the new 2020 Low Rise Housing Diversity Code.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion.

**59 Penrith City Council****Review the diminishing powers of Councillors**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government addressing the issue of diminishing powers of Councillors in local government specifically through the introduction of several new bodies created by the NSW Government to replace the functions of council.

That Local Government NSW also specifically advocates the return of the power of determination of development applications with a dollar value of less than \$5 million, to local councils in the Sydney and Wollongong areas.

**Note from Board**

The second part of this motion may conflict with existing LGNSW policy, which calls for the return of power of all determination of development applications to councils regardless of the value of development.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**60 Mosman Municipal Council****Changes to Local Planning Assessment Panels**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to support existing well-functioning Local Assessment Panels and allow Panel Chairs, in conjunction with councils, to establish their own thresholds for matters to be referred to the Panel, and processes for public determination of matters and remove the expectation that Panel Chairs can direct council on development application timing.

**Note from Board**

This motion may conflict with existing LGNSW policy which opposes the role of Local Planning Panels unless they are established by a decision of the council.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**61 Central Coast Council****Local Planning Panels**

That Local Government NSW:

- a. Reaffirms its position that "the establishment and role of Local Planning Panels (LPPs) to remain a decision of the council – adoption of such independent panels by councils should be voluntary not mandatory".
- b. Makes representation to the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and the Premier of NSW, to express its concern in relation to the change to the operations of NSW Planning Panels for the reasons noted below:
  - i. Requiring Panels to make determinations within 2 weeks of being provided an assessment report
  - ii. Provides no flexibility in scheduling were a Panel has a significant number of proposals for determination
  - iii. This could reduce the Panel's ability to apply proper due diligence to each case or obtain expert opinion.
  - iv. Changes to the system of referrals of matters to LPPs may increase the risk of corruption

- v. Allowing, at the Chair's discretion, applicants to attend a briefing, along with council staff, could remove the Panel's independence. The Panels were set up to be independent of the internal workings of councils, not working with them and applicants.
- vi. The setting of timeframes to finalise determinations may impose undue pressure on councils.
- vii. Removing the requirement for modification to go back to the Panel will encourage ongoing modification instead of the community getting what is exhibited in the first place.
- viii. The inclusions of "targets" will put an emphasis on pushing approvals through rather than due diligence in assessment.
- ix. The changes impose unreasonable and unrealistic demands on councils that require additional resourcing that is not funded.
- x. The changes weaken planning processes, the integrity of the planning system and community confidence in planning.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

### **62 Randwick City Council**

### **Review of housing supply targets**

That Local Government NSW makes an urgent request to the NSW Planning Minister to consider the findings of the Federal Government's National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation (NHFIC) report and consider the projected decreases in population growth and housing demand brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic when planning for housing growth in NSW.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

### **63 Bayside Council**

### **Proposed State Environmental Planning Policy - Housing Diversity**

That Local Government NSW:

1. welcomes the proposed State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) - Housing Diversity that is being considered by NSW Government as set out in the Explanation of Intended Effects (EIE); and
2. advocates for the following:
  - a. Support be provided for the introduction of new definitions as set out in the EIE for build to-rent, co-living and student housing.
  - b. Support be provided to remove the requirement for boarding houses to be mandated within the R2 Low Density Residential Zone, to amend the floor space ratio (FSR) bonus for boarding house development to a standard 20% and to include a requirement that boarding house developments are affordable.
  - c. That build-to-rent not be permissible in the B3 Business Core and that strata subdivision of build-to-rent be prohibited in perpetuity in all zones.
  - d. That the development standards in a Local Environmental Plan prevail to the extent of any inconsistency with the SEPP.
  - e. That the Apartment Design Guide (ADG) apply to build-to-rent, co-living, boarding houses and student housing.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

### **City of Parramatta**

### **Proposed Housing Diversity SEPP**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to remove the provisions from the proposed Housing Diversity SEPP, as outlined in the Explanation of Intended Effect (EIE), that seek to increase the Land and Housing Corporation's powers to self-assess their development applications, and those that seek to amend the current requirements for designating a Land and Housing Corporation major project as state significant development (SSD).

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

### **64 Mosman Municipal Council**

### **Payments to council Contribution Plans by developers**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to urgently review the decision to allow the deferral of payments for local council Contributions Plans by developers.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**



**Lane Cove Council****Environmental Planning and Assessment (Local Infrastructure Contributions – Timing of Payments) Direction 2020**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to re-examine the Ministerial Direction that defers payment of section 7.11 contributions and consider introducing a pathway for councils to apply for an exemption in certain circumstances to support the timely collection of funds and delivery of infrastructure. This would involve considering a process where a council that is collecting monetary contributions for infrastructure that directly relates to an individual development (e.g. funds to acquire land for a park in the immediate neighbourhood) can apply to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for an exemption that allows it to continue to collect payments at the Construction Certificate stage rather than upon the issuing of an occupation certificate.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**65 Willoughby City Council****Developer contributions**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to:

1. Support the use of 'value capture' as a means of allowing councils to apply a proportion of the value uplift gained from changes in planning controls to the provision of public infrastructure for the benefit the wider local community.
2. Establish a new threshold for Section 7.11 contributions under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act to be set at \$45,000 before the IPART review process comes into play.

**Note from Board**

Part 2 of this motion seeks to establish a new \$45,000 threshold for s7.11 contributions before the IPART review process comes into play. Therefore, if carried this motion may negate existing position 6.8 in the LGNSW Policy Platform which calls for the removal of the cap on development contributions.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**66 Blacktown City Council****Time taken to review Section 7.11 contribution plans**

That Local Government NSW urgently calls on the NSW Government to reduce the process time taken to review Section 7.11 contributions plans.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**67 Lismore City Council****Local Activation Precincts**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Supports the establishment of:
  - a. a \$10 million (minimum) to be allocated to a 'Business Ready Fund' to support the development of the Local Activation Precincts (LAP) initiative across regional cities;
  - b. strong planning agency involvement through undertaking detailed land use, master and infrastructure planning within an LGA, with the possibility of joint procurement of studies in collocated sites; and
  - c. an LAP Project Control Group that must include local government representatives to ensure collective decision-making.
2. Requests the NSW Government to:
  - i. commit to 2 rounds of the LAP program (total of 8 LAPs);
  - ii. commit to the establishment of LAPs in regional cities only for the first 2 rounds;
  - iii. Round One being an ongoing transparent assessment, at key milestones suggest communiqué (for every part of the implementation process);
  - iv. Round Two being initiated again at implementation Stage 7 (approvals stage of the Government's process) of first round;
  - v. establish LAPs based on a local government area's endowments to attract major employers, drive local economies and create a diverse range of local jobs by working with local council;
  - vi. ensure any LAP sites selected have a process to identify if the connecting road will need reclassification (as per regional roads panel); and
  - vii. ensure that adequate engagement is undertaken across agencies to facilitate delivery of outcomes as quickly as possible.



**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**68 Federation Council** **Funding for strategic land use planning**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to develop a strategy that would create a smaller scale version of the Special Activation Precincts to enable smaller towns to attract infrastructure funding to enable larger scale industrial subdivisions to occur to generate further employment/business.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**69 City of Canterbury-Bankstown** **Liveable Housing Design Guidelines**

That Local Government NSW advocates for the NSW Government and Federal Government to:

- a. Support the inclusion of the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines in planning and building rules.
- b. Develop a search engine for dwellings certified as complying with the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines, and to make this information available at the point of sale.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**70 Nambucca Valley Council** **Unlawful Development**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to amend:

- 1 Part 15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 to include a provision which enables a fee to be charged for a development application which seeks approval for the use of an unauthorised development that is at least the combined development application and certification work fees that would be payable for the same development if it had been commenced lawfully.
- 2 Section 7.12 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to enable a condition to be imposed within a development consent that requires the applicant to pay a levy of the percentage of the value of the unauthorised development which the consent permits the continued use of.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**71 Wollongong City Council** **Reclassifications of council owned land**

Local Government NSW writes to the NSW Minister for Local Government to request that the reclassification of council owned land be delegated to council for determination and finalisation except when seven or more objections have been received during the exhibition of the proposed reclassification.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**72 Shoalhaven City Council** **Public housing redevelopment as economic stimulus**

That Local Government calls upon the NSW Government to redevelop old existing public housing stock to address current housing shortages and to act as economic stimulus for the regions.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**73 Liverpool City Council** **Sustainable housing development**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to amend the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) to limit housing developments to cover no more than 40% of block size in urban developments excluding secondary dwellings.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**74 Wollondilly Shire Council** **SEPP amendments to address farm shed loophole**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to amend the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 to ensure that large scale

earthworks on rural properties cannot be undertaken without a full development assessment process to properly consider and condition potential environmental, social and traffic impacts.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**75 City of Parramatta**

**Statewide Planning Portal**

That Local Government NSW advocates for the NSW Government to consider and implement new options for NSW councils to notify the public, enhancing efficiency and ensuring consistency across councils.

Further, that this include advocating for the introduction of a state-wide notification website to ensure all information that is required to be advertised by councils, local and state planning panels, including information formerly required to be advertised in print media, can be found in one centralised location.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**76 Lake Macquarie City Council**

**Integration platform for Planning Portal**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to fund the development and implementation of integration platforms between the NSW Government Planning Portal and local government document management and application systems.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**77 Hornsby Shire Council**

**Amendment to Clause 263 of the EP&A Regulation 2000**

That clause 263 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 be amended to include the following additional clause (7) - A council may impose a compliance levy of 0.2% of the Capital Investment Value of a proposed development with a minimum levy of \$75 payable on all development and complying development applications upon lodgement of an application in the NSW planning portal.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**78 MidCoast Council**

**Manufactured Homes Estate definition**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to add the definition of a "Manufactured Home Estate" in the Standard Instrument – Principal Local Environmental Plan.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**79 Singleton Council**

**SSD and/or SSI assessment process**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to support local councils in the provision of advice into the State Significant Development (SSD) and/or State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) assessment process through the:

- a. Inclusion of fees for the reasonable costs incurred by a council for the review of SSD and SSI in the schedule of fees listed in Part 15, Division 1AA and/or Division 2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000; and
- b. Establishment of a council inter-agency committee to assist and support local councils in the provision of advice into the assessment process.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**80 Federation Council**

**Essential Energy and Origin Energy**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to intervene and ensure more effective mechanisms exist to achieve more timely approvals and works from both Origin and Essential Energy to support developments.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**81 Shellharbour City Council** **Ability for councils to mandate BASIX provisions**

That Local Government NSW asks for the NSW Government to enact changes to BASIX which would allow councils to mandate certain BASIX provisions, determined by the council, in new developments. Such provisions may include shading over west-facing windows, solar panels and full in-wall and ceiling insulation.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Rous County Council**

**Increase water conservation requirements of BASIX**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to increase the water conservation requirements of BASIX to have a minimum rainwater tank size of 10,000 litres and connected to all toilets, outdoor taps and clothes washing machines (except where approved alternative water supplies are available, such as a connection to recycled water supply scheme).

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**82 City of Parramatta** **Inclusive community engagement for development applications**

1. That Local Government NSW calls upon the NSW Government to take an inclusive consultation and engagement approach with the community, particularly when seeking submissions on Development Applications which currently requires a written submission be made.
2. Further, that Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to encourage councils to investigate technological options to receive submissions to proposals and plans placed on public exhibition from people with disability by way of audio recording or transcription recording.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**Social and community**

**83 Leeton Shire Council** **Health services in rural, regional and remote NSW**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Advocates for the Local Health Advisory Committee (LHAC) model to be revised to give local residents a far greater say in the scope and delivery of health services in their local communities.
2. Pursues a formal MOU with NSW Health and Primary Health Networks which provides the basis for collaboration between councils and NSW Health and Primary Health Networks.
3. Makes a submission to the Inquiry into health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote NSW.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Gilgandra Shire Council**

**MOU to ensure access to health services in regional NSW**

That Local Government NSW actively pursues a formal MOU with NSW Health and Primary Health Networks which provides the basis for collaboration between councils and NSW Health and Primary Health Networks on planning for regional GP, dental and other priority allied health services including designated funding to councils to support these services in regional areas of NSW.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**84 Leeton Shire Council** **NSW Health to retain public ownership of aged care facilities**

That Local Government NSW calls for NSW Health to retain ownership of its National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and State owned aged care facilities.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**85 Lake Macquarie City Council** **COVID-19 recovery: investing in night-time economy**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to:



- a. accelerate the delivery of the Greater Sydney 24-hour Strategy,
- b. develop a Regional NSW Night-Time Economy Strategy, including toolkits and resources to support councils,
- c. establish a new role of Parliamentary Secretary for the night-time economy, and
- d. create a Night-Time Economy Advisory Panel with membership from local government and industries to support the work of the Parliamentary Secretary.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **86 Wagga Wagga City Council**

#### **Accessible athletics fields**

That Local Government NSW advocates to State and Federal Governments to improve athletics facilities to increase accessibility and involvement for participants with a disability.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **87 Willoughby City Council**

#### **Disabled parking permits**

That Local Government NSW advocates to NSW Government seeking a reform of the eligibility criteria used by medical professionals to issue disabled parking permits.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **88 Gwydir Shire Council**

#### **Amendment to Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to amend the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 to:

1. Permit land vested in an Aboriginal Land Council (ALC) to be appropriated or resumed with the approval of the ALC and where the Chief Executive Officer of the NSW ALC has issued a dealing approval certificate.
2. Lower the voting threshold in section 42G (5) for Local Aboriginal Land Councils to approve a land dealing for public projects proposed by the NSW Government or a local council, from "not less than 80%" to "not less than 50%" of the voting members of the ALC present at the meeting.
3. Consider alternatives to Native Title restrictions on certificates of title on land granted under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 where there is evidence that native title over the land has been extinguished.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **89 Tenterfield Shire Council**

#### **Increased migration to regional areas**

That Local Government NSW supports Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees in lobbying the NSW Government and others to develop a funded business case for measures to increase migration from metropolitan and overseas locations to regional communities, where latent infrastructure capacities, employment opportunities, quality of life and reduced costs of living remain undervalued in target markets.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **90 Shoalhaven City Council**

#### **Long walking tourism in NSW National Parks**

That Local Government NSW encourages the NSW Department of Primary Industries to consider a business model around establishing and investing in long walks as tourist attractions in our NSW National Parks.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **91 Liverpool City Council**

#### **Gaming and liquor licence applications**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Advocates to the NSW Government for increased local government decision making in gaming machine provisions, including the changed Local Impact Assessment Band that allows moving of or increase of poker machines within the respective local government areas;
2. Advocates to the NSW Government for local government's Social Impact Assessments to be prioritised in considerations relating to gaming machine provisions and determination of the band assessment's allocations; and
3. Considers a policy position, where public interest is in the forefront of all such decisions, including investigating measures of non-association with alcohol and gaming industries.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

## **92 Hawkesbury City Council**

## **Coercive control**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Notes the alarming increase in the prevalence of domestic abuse in NSW, including as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the devastating impact this has on individuals and communities.
2. Recognises that coercive control is a form of domestic abuse but that it is not currently a criminal offence under NSW law.
3. Contacts the NSW Premier and NSW Attorney General calling for the criminalisation of coercive control in NSW, in line with The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act, currently considered the best-practice example of criminalising psychological, emotional and financial abuse as forms of domestic abuse.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

## **93 City of Parramatta**

## **Family and domestic violence prevention resources**

That Local Government NSW supports the current advocacy of the Australian Local Government Association and Domestic Violence NSW by seeking:

- a. a State or Federal funded Domestic Violence Officer, a role which currently exists in the local government associations in Victoria and Queensland; and
- b. funding and resources to assist councils with prevention of violence initiatives and the implementation of the newly released national Local Government Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Toolkit.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

## **Cumberland City Council**

## **Support for Domestic Violence NSW**

That Local Government NSW supports the current advocacy of the Australian Local Government Association and Domestic Violence NSW by seeking:

- a. A State or Federal funded Domestic Violence Officer, a role which currently exists in the local government associations in Victoria and Queensland, and
- b. Funding and resources to assist councils with prevention of violence initiatives and the implementation of the newly released national Local Government Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Toolkit.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

## **94 Hawkesbury City Council**

## **Sex work**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Notes that NSW decriminalised sex work 25 years ago. Decriminalisation in 1995 resulted in improved work safety, extremely low rates of HIV/STIs, increased transparency and better access to justice, health and services for sex workers.
2. Notes that sex workers still face discrimination and harassment on the basis of their occupation.
3. Acknowledges that the 2015 NSW Select Committee on the Regulation of Brothels recommended that NSW Health consult with Local Government NSW about any additional assistance, such as educational briefings, that it could give councils to assist them to make sound development assessment decisions around sex services premises from a public health perspective, and that the NSW Government supported that recommendation. Local Government NSW therefore requests

that NSW Health provides these education briefings to Councillors in both the current and each subsequent council term.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **95 Snowy Valleys Council** **Local government's role in children's & youth services**

Following the much-welcomed April funding package from the NSW Government of \$82 million for 260 council-run early childhood education and care (ECED) services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; that Local Government NSW:

1. Advocates to the NSW Government to continue to recognise the essential role of local government in early childhood education and care, and fund it accordingly, particularly as council-run services often cater to vulnerable, low-income families, regional and rural communities and children with disability; and
2. Enhances Local Government NSW's Strong and Inclusive Communities Position Statement, and the Services in Rural Communities Position Statement, by including the recognition that local government is an essential provider of services to young people 0–24 years old.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

#### **Fairfield City Council**

#### **Early childhood education and care services**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to continue to recognise the essential role of local government in early childhood education and care services and continue to provide funding beyond COVID-19, particularly as council-run services often cater to vulnerable, low-income families and children with disability.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **96 Lake Macquarie City Council** **Partnership with Headspace**

That Local Government NSW calls on the State and Federal Governments to investigate and explore a partnership between local government and Headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation to ensure young people in rural, remote, isolated and public transport-deprived areas gain access to appropriate and relevant youth mental health services.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **97 Tamworth Regional Council**

#### **Medicare provider numbers**

That Local Government NSW makes appropriate representations to the State and Federal Government Health Ministers to ensure the current review of the National Medical Workforce Strategy, and in particular how a "District of Workforce Shortage" is determined when allocating Medicare provider numbers, provides flexibility and opportunities for medical practitioners and specialists to relocate to regional and rural communities so that they are not disadvantaged in the delivery of adequate and essential medical services.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

### **Transport and roads**

#### **98 Liverpool City Council**

#### **Fast track major rail projects**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the State Government to provide funding and fast track major rail projects to support job creation, economic growth and stimulate urban renewal in key areas across the State.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.



**99 Liverpool City Council****Tolls in NSW**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the State Government for a toll-free period on all new toll roads, and the removal of tolls, or a cash back scheme or other measures on other key toll roads such as the M5 East, to alleviate the financial burden on residents and other road users that use these roads.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**100 Blacktown City Council****Public road dedication free of cost**

That Local Government NSW urgently calls on the NSW Government to amend the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to allow for the requirement of public road dedication free of cost as a condition of consent.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**101 Willoughby City Council****Electric scooters, skateboards and unicycles**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to legalise the use of electric scooters, electric skateboards and electric unicycles so that its usage can be safely expanded beyond the current restrictions where their non-motorised equivalents are permitted.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**102 Willoughby City Council****Motorcycle parking on footpaths**

That Local Government NSW advocates to NSW Government to allow motorcycle or scooter parking on footpaths (unless otherwise signed) provided individuals do not obstruct pedestrian, public transport users, doorways, delivery vehicles or access to street infrastructure (such as parking meters and public bins) and parked cars.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**103 Bayside Council****Cashless metered parking schemes**

That Local Government NSW advocates for the NSW Government to enable councils to establish and operate metered parking schemes for any road within its area of operations without the need to facilitate the payment of fees for parking in cash (notes or coins, or both).

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**104 Tenterfield Shire Council****Funding to correct historical errors in road mapping**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the State and Federal Governments for grant funding to assist councils deal with the costs incurred in correcting historical errors in mapping of actual roads so that ratepayers do not have to meet these costs.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**105 Blue Mountains City Council****Road safety: use of speed zones**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government and Transport for NSW to review the criteria for speed zones of less than 50km to include a category for local roads that are shared by pedestrians and other vulnerable road users due to design and topography of these roads.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Liverpool City Council****Standardisation of speed limits for schools, towns and CBDs**

That Local Government NSW lobbies for universal standardisation of speed limits in school areas, and shopping areas in CBDs in towns and suburbs throughout NSW.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**106 Willoughby City Council                      Speed limits on dual lane highways & main regional roads**

That Local Government NSW seeks endorsement from Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) to amend the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines to increase speed limits on dual lane and high quality highways to an upper limit from the current maximum 110km/h with the ability to have more variable speed limit zones to accommodate weather and other factors.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

## Industrial relations and employment

**107 City of Parramatta    Payment of Councillor legal expenses**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government for a review of the legal expenses, public liability and professional liability provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Office of Local Government's guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW to:

- a. allow for the payment of legal expenses as they occur to enable Councillors to adequately respond to legal proceedings being taken against a Councillor in defending an action arising from their performance in good faith of a function under the Local Government Act or defending an action in defamation; and
- b. ensure adequate processes are in place to reimburse the council should the outcome of legal proceedings not be favourable to the Councillor.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**108 Albury City Council    Personal accident insurance cover for elected representatives**

That:

1. Local Government NSW lobbies the Minister for Local Government to amend the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) to require all councils, county councils and joint organisations to have personal accident insurance cover for their elected representatives whilst performing their functions and responsibilities as a councillor in good faith and in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW); and
2. The insurance cover referred to in 1 above be equivalent to the level of insurance cover that employees receive under the NSW workers' compensation legislation.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Lismore City Council**

**Workers compensation for Councillors**

That Local Government NSW advocates for all councils to have workers compensation insurance for councillors and for multiple providers to provide this to councils to ensure market competition.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**109 Gunnedah Shire Council    Rural apprenticeships**

That Local Government NSW calls upon the Federal Government to mandate that:

- a. a percentage no less than 20% of funds committed to NSW TAFE support rural Institutes to allow apprenticeship courses to be run with no minimum student requirements; and
- b. NSW TAFE allows composite classes within apprenticeship courses to be run in rural institutes.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Waverley Council**

**Support for TAFE NSW**

That Local Government NSW:

1. recognises the importance of TAFE as an institution which provides a suitably skilled workforce for council operations and the wider community, including most trades.



2. calls on the NSW Government to restore investment levels in TAFE, re-directing funding away from private providers into the public TAFE system and that student fees are re-set at realistic levels for affordable access to courses and that staff levels are increased to teach courses relevant to demands for services across the economy.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**110 Bourke Shire Council****Continuing Professional Development**

That Local Government NSW make representations to the various professional bodies relating to local government employees who are required to obtain Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points, to consider the difficulties encountered by rural and remote council employees in attending accreditation courses and make provision for an allowance for travelling when allocating points.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**Governance and accountability****111 Bourke Shire Council****Risk and Internal Audit Committees for councils**

That Local Government NSW calls on the Office of Local Government to review the guidelines to reduce the period of exclusion for both former elected members and staff from participating in Risk and Internal Audit Committees for councils.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**112 City of Ryde****LGNSW - Armidale Council**

- a. That this Local Government NSW Conference calls on the Minister to:
  - i. reinstate the elected Councillors of Armidale Regional Council (ARC) at the end of their six month suspension and let the community decide at the September 2021 elections who should represent them;
  - ii. recognise that, as happens in Ryde, Councillors must have access to information to enable them to perform their functions as elected members of the governing body, and calls on the Minister to strengthen the requirement in the Act for General Managers to provide information to Councillors and so avoid the problems that allegedly happened in Armidale; and
  - iii. to ensure that the Office of Local Government has adequate resources to assist local councils if they encounter serious problems and respond to complaints in a timely manner.
- b. That the Conference gives leave for a representative of the suspended ARC Councillors to address this Conference for five minutes.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**113 Central Coast Council****NSW ICAC and Federal anti-corruption body**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Campaigns for the NSW Government to restore funding and ensure the independence of the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). The campaign would include, but not be limited to:
  - a) building alliances with key stakeholders and peak bodies to develop a position statement and build a public campaign
  - b) providing resources to local councils to build grassroots support for the campaign.
2. Advocates through the Australian Local Government Association for the Federal Government to establish an independent anti corruption body with powers similar to those of the NSW ICAC.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**114 The Hills Shire Council****Privacy protection of Councillors**

That Local Government NSW makes representations to the Local Government Minister and Office of Local Government on behalf of Councillors concerning protection in Councillors' employment, businesses and private lives. Disclosure requirements need to be re-assessed. The minister and department should defend the reputation of Councillors' profession, and stand for the interests of councillors, rather than against them.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**115 Kyogle Council****Rural Ministerial Advisory Committee**

That Local Government lobbies the NSW Government to establish a rural Ministerial Advisory Committee to provide policy advice on, and make representations on behalf of, rural communities and the impacts of government decision making on those communities and that the committee be made up of representatives from rural regions across the State.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**116 Wagga Wagga City Council****Code of Conducts complaints**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the Minister for Local Government and the Office of Local Government to conduct a review into the operation of investigation of Code of Conduct complaints including allocation of more resources from the NSW Government to address code of conduct complaints.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**117 Shoalhaven City Council****Local government improvement summit**

That the NSW Government holds a summit on local government to discuss and formulate solutions to issues which stakeholders see as a hindrance to good functions of local government.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**118 Central Coast Council****Legislative Reform**

That Local Government NSW actively campaigns for legislative reform that would:

- a. Make it an offence for a person to intentionally or recklessly threaten or incite violence towards any persons listed in (b) (i) below, in the exercise of any function under the Local Government Act or any other Act or any regulation conferring functions on a council.
- b. Make it an offence for a person to publish content that reasonable persons would regard as being, in all the circumstances, intimidating, menacing, harassing or offensive towards any of the following in the exercise of any function under the Local Government Act or any other Act or any regulation conferring functions on a council:
  - (i)
    - the Minister
    - the Departmental Chief Executive
    - a person authorised under section 746
    - an auditor appointed under Part 3 of Chapter 13
    - a council
    - a councillor
    - an administrator of a council appointed under this Act
    - an employee of a council
    - a police officer
    - a person duly authorised to perform the function for the purposes of the Act or regulation concerned.
- c. Impose, in addition to maximum penalties as provided in similar legislation eg Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007, a further penalty to the effect that anyone convicted of such an offence be disqualified from holding public office as per s 275 of the Local Government Act 1993.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**119 Georges River Council****Council meeting minutes**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Office of Local Government and the Minister for Local Government to amend the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW to require councils to publish unconfirmed minutes of council and committee meetings to provide suitable legal protection to councils to act on decisions

without breaching other legislation and to allow the public to view the decisions of council in writing in a timely manner.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**120 Orange City Council                      Working With Children and Police checks for elected members**

1. That Local Government NSW advocates for the NSW Government to introduce Working with Children and Police checks for elected members.
2. That reference is made to the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations developed by the Australian Human Rights Commission which provide a nationally consistent approach to embedding child safe cultures within organisations that engage with children.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**121 Albury City Council                      Attendance at Council meetings by audio-visual link**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to amend the Model Code of Meeting practice for Local Councils in NSW to permit attendance and participation of councillors at council meetings and at meetings of committees of council by audio-visual link.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

**Wagga Wagga City Council                      Remote Council and Committee meetings**

That Local Government NSW advocates for continuing to allow Councillors and staff to attend and participate in Council and Committee meetings by audio video links where it is reasonably practicable to do so and that the Office of Local Government NSW issue corresponding detailed practical guidance on managing remote meetings, which take into account the use of mobile technology.

**Waverley Council                      Attending Council meetings online in exceptional circumstances**

That Local Government NSW writes to the Minister for Local Government requesting that the Local Government Act be amended to allow for a Councillor, in exceptional circumstances, to attend ordinary Council and Committee meetings, with the approval of the Mayor and General Manager, via an online platform such as Zoom or Teams.

**Orange City Council                      Voting protocols during COVID-19 and beyond**

1. That Local Government NSW undertakes a review of temporary changes to Council governance arrangements as a result of COVID-19, including online meeting attendance, with a view to identifying positive impacts and any issues such as a limited options for voting in Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral elections.
2. That subject to the outcome of this review, Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to implement permanent changes such as to allow for the option of online meeting attendance in specific circumstances and additional options for voting in Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral elections.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

## Environment

**123 Lane Cove Council                      Noise complaints generated from park activities**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government for the inclusion of specific provisions in the Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2008 which stipulates that general activities within a park cannot be deemed 'intrusive' or 'offensive' during certain hours of the day.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**124 Bellingen Shire Council                      Local Land Services Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2020**

That Local Government NSW expresses its concerns to the NSW Government regarding;

- the lack of transparency and prior consultation that has characterised the introduction of the Local Land Services Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2020;
- the removal of the legal ability of councils to make considered local policy decisions regarding certain land uses within rural and environmental protection zones; and



- the adverse environmental impacts of the proposed legislation, in view of the findings of three recent reviews undertaken by the NSW Auditor General, the Natural Resources Commission and the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into koalas.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **125 Bellingen Shire Council**

#### **Koala conservation**

That Local Government NSW supports the findings and recommendations of the NSW Koala population and habitat in NSW report and urges urgent action by the NSW Government particularly given finding 2 which indicates that given the scale of loss to koala populations across NSW as a result of the 2019-20 bushfires and without urgent government intervention to protect habitat and address all other threats, the koala will become extinct in NSW before 2050.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

#### **Liverpool City Council**

#### **Koala sanctuary and wildlife hospital**

That Local Government NSW advocates for the creation of a Georges River Koala National Park and establishment of a well-resourced wildlife hospital in South West Sydney.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **126 Strathfield Council**

#### **Ausgrid – tree matters**

That Local Government NSW requests Ausgrid establishes a new liaison program between councils and Ausgrid where tree matters (in proximity to electrical assets) can be raised and dealt with properly and information on upcoming pruning activities conveyed.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **127 City of Canterbury-Bankstown**

#### **Funding for waterway maintenance on private land**

That Local Government NSW makes representations to the NSW Government requesting it identifies, or if absent, establishes a fund for residents to apply to for the purpose of improving or maintaining water quality in waterways that run through privately owned land then into public waterways in urban areas.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **128 Gilgandra Shire Council**

#### **Impacts of the Biodiversity Offset Scheme**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to provide designated funding to support councils' offset costs associated with the Biodiversity Offset Scheme that may be prohibitive to new midsize development which can demonstrate a direct positive impact on population and job growth as well as diversification of regional economies.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **129 Lachlan Shire Council**

#### **Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to include exemptions in the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 for events and other minor development from requiring a test for determining whether proposed development or activities are likely to significantly affect threatened species or ecological communities, or their habitats.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **130 Narrabri Shire Council**

#### **Impacts of Biodiversity Legislation**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Expresses concerns regarding the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act and other land management legislation and all associated regulations and their impacts on farmers and economic development in NSW;
2. Calls for the immediate review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act and associated Regulations;
3. Calls for the involvement of local councils and farmers in any review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act and associated Regulations;
4. Calls for the immediate halt of retrospective prosecutions and all compliance actions under the now repealed Native Vegetation Act;
5. Calls for the end of so called "Restorative Justice" which unfairly requires farmers to lock up land under either Remediation Orders and/or Conservation Agreements;
6. Expresses its support for the protection of basic and fundamental property rights and its support for the basic notion that Government should not acquire or restrict the use of private agricultural land without compensation.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **131 Cabonne Council**

#### **Flood mitigation**

That Local Government NSW advocates for the inclusion of a division within the Fisheries Management Act, providing flexibility and cooperation between local authorities and the Minister when considering flood mitigation and prevention works within townships and their localities.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **132 Inner West Council**

#### **Uranium mining ban in NSW must stay**

That:

- a. NSW councils oppose any move to lift the ban on uranium mining in NSW.
- b. Local Government NSW, on behalf of councils, writes to the NSW Premier and all MPs urging them to support sustainable and clean energy and jobs solutions.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **133 Hawkesbury City Council**

#### **IPART Terms of Reference**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to include climate change considerations in approved terms of reference for investigations and reviews by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal pursuant to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **134 Lismore City Council**

#### **Landscape hydration**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to:

1. Recognise the importance of landscape hydration techniques in improving the hydration of our rural lands which lowers the impact of drought, reduces water loss from run off, and improves the ecology and environment of previously degraded rural lands.
2. Recognise the role that local government can play in improving the environmental outcomes for our regions by partnering with farming bodies and land care groups to educate farmers and residents on methods of land regeneration including landscape hydration.
3. Provide grants to local government which enables councils to offer landscape hydration technique training opportunities for farmers and land care groups in our community.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **135 Hawkesbury River County Council**

#### **NSW Weeds Action Program administration**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Minister for Agriculture to urgently review the double handling of the NSW Weeds Action Program being undertaken by two NSW Government departments;

NSW Primary Industries and Local Land Services, with a particular focus on the over burdensome reporting and auditing requirements applied to councils and County Councils.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**136 Yass Valley Council**

**Weed management funding**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to increase the level of funding to local government to manage roadside weeds.

(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)

**Snowy Valleys Council**

**Weed management following 2019/20 bushfires**

That, in the wake of the 2019-2020 bushfires, Local Government NSW lobbies the Federal and State Governments to commit funding to take advantage of the unique opportunity to undertake effective and pre-emptive weed eradication initiatives to control the weed population, in particular blackberry, and reduce the potential fuel load for future fire seasons.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**137 Randwick City Council**

**Global ban on the trade of wildlife**

That Local Government NSW:

1. recognises that the demand for wild animals and wild animal products is a primary cause of the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19 and represents a severe risk to global health, and
2. Calls on the Federal Government to advocate for a global ban on the trade of wild animals and wild animal products.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**138 Lachlan Shire Council**

**Review of the new punitive measures for dangerous dogs**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to overturn the new punitive measures that have been introduced requiring an annual permit for owners of restricted dog breeds and dogs declared to be dangerous.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association's Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

**139 Hawkesbury City Council**

**Ban puppy farms**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Notes that:
  - a) animal welfare and the care and control of companion animals are state responsibilities in NSW but that these responsibilities are largely met by local councils,
  - b) unscrupulous breeding in puppy farms financially impacts on councils due to increased compliance costs and shelter, rehabilitation and rehoming costs, and
  - c) puppy farms are cruel and inhumane.
2. Notes that:
  - a) the Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Act 2017 (Vic) prohibited the sale of breeders' puppies in pet shops and restricts the number of fertile female dogs kept by breeders in Victoria,
  - b) Victoria's tougher regulations resulted in large-scale breeders indicating they are seeking sites in NSW to continue their activities, and
  - c) there is significant community concern that puppy farms have moved their operations to NSW to avoid regulation and scrutiny.
3. Urges the NSW Government to strengthen NSW Legislation to:
  - a) transition pet shops to registered not-for-profit adoption centres to rehome dogs and puppies from approved rescue organisations and shelters,

- b) limit animals kept by breeders and owners, including by limiting numbers of fertile female dogs on premises,
  - c) ensure breeder identifications numbers are required for all litters, including the removal of loopholes for “one-off litters”, and
  - d) instigate a common database and better co-ordination between enforcement agencies across jurisdictions.
4. Notes that euthanasia is a significant concern to councils and residents across NSW and is an animal welfare issue, and urges the NSW Government to act to reduce the rates of unwanted and abandoned animals by:
- a) funding free desexing programs and education programs for pet owners, especially in areas with high dumping rates, and
  - b) supporting more “pet-friendly” rental accommodation.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association’s Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.

#### **140 Hornsby Shire Council**

#### **Amendment to The Companion Animal Act 1998**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to amend the Companion Animal Act 1998 to prohibit cats from roaming onto public places and private property.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

#### **Central Coast Council**

#### **Companion Animals Act change**

That Local Government NSW requests the Office of Local Government to amend section 29 of the Companion Animals Act 1998 to include:

- The owner of a cat must take all reasonable precautions to prevent the cat from escaping from the property on which it is being kept.

Maximum penalty— 8 penalty units.

(1A) The regulations may, for the purposes of this section, specify what constitutes or does not constitute reasonable precautions to prevent a cat from escaping.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), owner of a cat includes the person who is for the time being in charge of the cat.

#### **Liverpool City Council**

#### **Stray cats in urban areas**

That Local Government NSW advocates for:

- i. Tighter restrictions on cat owners (including that all cats to be microchipped and desexed) to be included in the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998;
- ii. Council to be funded to provide services that identify stray cats that are not microchipped, nor desexed and found on the streets, to be microchipped, desexed and housed until rehomed; and
- iii. Changes to be made to Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (NSW) to permit the release of cats under a Trap Neuter Return Program.

**Decision:** Referred to the Association’s Board for consideration, as per Standing Order No. 33.



# NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL

## CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN



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NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL:  
CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

CONTENTS

1.0	PROJECT OVERVIEW	4
2.0	KEY GOALS AND OUTCOMES	6
3.0	SCOPE OF WORKS	8
3.1	OLD CASINO STATION	10
3.1.1	WAYFINDING AND SIGNAGE	14
3.2	PRIMEX PRECINCT PLAN	16
3.3	TUNNEL PRECINCT PLAN	20
3.4	BENTLEY SECTION PRECINCT PLAN	24
3.5	NATURE PLAY AREA	26
4.0	INDICATIVE CROSSINGS	30
5.0	INDICATIVE MATERIALS	34
6.0	INDICATIVE PLANTING PALETTE	37



NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

Prepared for Richmond Valley Council by Planit Consulting

Project No: J6805  
File Location: I:\J6805 - Northern Rivers Rail Trail\2 - Project Correspondence\2.1 Incoming

Revision	Status	Date	by	Checked
A	Draft Masterplan	30/09/20	EW/MJP	MP
B	Final Draft	01/10/20	EW/MJP	MP
C	Final	03/12/20	MJP	MJP/MP

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NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

1.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

*A 13.5km eco recreational experience through natural farming regions of the Northern Rivers of NSW.*

In the current climate people are looking to how outdoor spaces really provide for our communities.

The Northern Rivers Rail Trail (NRRT) provides a vast open space to exercise, see rural areas at a slower pace and journey to new destinations with educational experiences all while taking in the beautiful fresh country air.

Studies have been completed that confirm the feasibility of the rail being used again for train was not cost effective.

Therefore the idea of converting this disused railway line into a public use space was investigated with numerous positive benefits.

Internationally there are inspirational examples of converted railway corridors for public use; the very nature of their physical arrangement lends itself to a recreational corridor for cycling, running, walking and horse riding; a connecting corridor to local towns and adding value through adjacent activities and destinations. Not to mention the inherent historic and educational opportunities.

The Baana in Helsinki and the New York High Line are significant examples however the cycling culture in Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands to name a few demonstrate strong examples of bike use for everyday transport. The NRRT will be a draw card for local and international tourism with the expectation for its use to become a significant part of local life by connecting rural towns, schools and shops to encourage a healthier lifestyle is a major benefit for the Northern Rivers Region.

The existing rail corridor will require complete resurfacing to meet safety and access requirements. A number of different surface treatments will be applied to suit the relevant locations, and their constraints.

There will also be destination and entry points along the corridor at logical locations to activate the trail and offer diverse experiences.

**DISTANCE**

The Casino to Bentley trail is approximately 13.5km of the full potential of the 130km NRRT. Casino is the beginning of the trail and is located at the southern end. For an average leisure ride with the family, this leg of the trail would take approximately 60 minutes depending on the pace of all family members.

The longest length between destinations (rest points with shade, seating and some with water and amenities) is from the Primex site to the 'Bat' tunnel at Naughton's Gap. This sections is approximately 7.8km.



NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN



Trail through farmland  
Evocative render.  
Artists impression only.



NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

2.0 KEY GOALS AND OUTCOMES

*The Northern Rivers Rail Trail offers an exciting opportunity to advance this region into the future, through the reuse and preservation of it's greatest unused resource, its former rail network*  
- Connecting communities and stimulating growth.



WAYFINDING

The huge expanse of this network further emphasizes the importance of wayfinding to the scheme. By establishing a coherent and holistically understood system for wayfinding through the means of signage, planting and paving solutions, visitors to the Rail Trail will be able to seamlessly navigate the site, as well as allow Casino businesses and tourist operators to capitalise on the new foot traffic being directed into the town centre.

Wayfinding will be established in collaboration with the extended NRRT schemes (in-particular Tweed Shire Council) to ensure an overall identity for the full extent of the recreational trail is adopted. A hierarchy of elements that can be site specific and connect to the overall theme will be developed.

HERITAGE/ADAPTIVE RE-USE

The site boasts a number of significant heritage structures and infrastructure. The dis-used rail-line serves as a tangible connection to the regions agricultural and industrious past and it's conservation will serve as an education tool. The NRRT will serve to protect the cultural heritage of the rail line and enable improved interpretation and understanding of its significance to future generations.

Opportunities exist for the conservation of the notable Old Casino Station building which would improve the existing interpretive elements provided by the Museum and Mini Railway. Adaptive re-use of area around the Station would enhance its potential as a central hub and principle entrance to the southern end of the NRRT and could feature an information and interpretation centre with visitor amenities and kiosk.

CONNECTIONS

**CONNECTIONS TO THE LAND**  
A strategy will be considered to incorporate the local Galibal dialogue; how the local stories can be told and logical locations for local Aboriginal art to be integrated/displayed.

**CONNECTIONS TO SITES**  
We are excited at the opportunity to connect with the existing Mini rail line; a potential link from Old Casino Station. The integration of both this new network into the existing shared path and cycle network within Casino will allow for the seamless direction of visitors to the trail into the heart of the town, supporting local businesses. To accommodate public use, parking and a bus pick up/drop off area will be constructed, allowing for the opportunity for larger tour groups.



NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN



ENVIRONMENT

The environmental design strategy will consider the existing local flora an fauna habitats and seek to enhance and bolster these environments. Endemic and native species will be selected for their locally identifiable character for their robust nature and their proven performance in this site specific climate.

The implementation of strategic planting will be located to help denote specific areas and provide shade amenity along sections of the Trail, as well as screen fencing, frame views, enhance aesthetics and provide spatial definition. The use of both native and endemic species will be utilised across the site, with specific planting palettes that establish character 'zones' whilst maintaining a common thread as a means of passive wayfinding. Existing vegetation will be maintained where possible and enhanced through new planting.



ESTABLISHING CHARACTER

The agricultural and light-industrial past have established a wider character for the region. By drawing on the key character and nature of the rail infrastructure combined with character cues from localised points along the trail, the proposed design would assist in consolidating the micro-regional identity at distinctive points.

These character cues can be subtle or bold and reinforced through planting, colour and material use, including reuse of salvaged railway items. This design implementation strategy can support a range of passive wayfinding as well as providing a historic layer that enriches the cultural experience of the journey.



NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The new network hopes to allow new exciting business opportunities for the region, with the potential for guided tours, heritage/educational groups and self-guided exploration.

Art and historic trail: ongoing consultation will occur with the local Aboriginal Community and Council are looking at options of how to represent the Aboriginal Community on the rail trail.

The connection of the trail into the newly established hub for the southern end of the trail at Old Casino Station will guide visitors into the towns centre, guiding them to the towns accommodation, eateries and boutique shopping.



NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

3.0 SCOPE OF WORKS

*Planit Consulting acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung Nation, as the traditional custodians of the land; Our project mission will incorporate, through collaboration with the local community, their cultural connections to the land.*

The aim of this masterplanning document is to create a clear strategy for implementing detailed design and documentation. The following items have been addressed:

**SURFACE FINISHES**

Different surface treatments to suit the use and demand, for example the beginning of the trail from Old Casino Station will have a sealed asphalt finish to provide an easy take off and on area. Once people are clear of the hubs like the information center / kiosk at Old Casino Station and the nearby parking / drop off area at the Primex site the trail could transition into a compacted gravel surface.

Rail track-work could be incorporated into various stretches of the NRRT to reinforce the historical connection to the original rail line.

Re-use of removed sleepers and rail track-work elements could be incorporated into various landscape features of the trail, and the destination points.

**CROSSINGS**

Consistent treatments at crossing will be made clear to ensure safety for users, as well as informative for passers by. These are opportunities to integrate local character into the trail that is specific to the crossing; whether it be farming, creek or nearby towns.

**VIEWS AND REST POINTS**

The masterplan identifies a number of vantage points that will encourage people to stop, learn and enjoy the local environment through interpretive elements. These areas could integrate local artist installations with opportunities for Aboriginal and European cultural heritage overlays identifying local characteristics and stories.

Rest spots will be provided with varying amenities at logical locations and at suitable distances apart. Amenities to be provided can include shade, seating, toilets, drinking water and

bins. Further investigations will determine these locations with the following considerations: potable water supply, accessibility, maintenance and emergency access, rubbish removal, safety, proximity to external infrastructure and time / distance between rest and amenity spots.

**CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Consultation with the local Aboriginal Community will enable significant cultural input into the transition of this site. Council are looking at options of how to represent the Aboriginal Community on the rail trail. Investigation into how the local Galibal dialogue can incorporate and local stories can be told through possible wayfinding and the use of works by local Aboriginal artists.

**DESTINATIONS**







Four (4) key destination points are illustrated in this document.




1. The state heritage listed Old Casino Station acts as an important landmark at the starting point to this stage of the NRRT. Conservation of the building and adaptive re-use of the site is proposed, this could include an information centre, kiosk, amenities, parking and meeting areas.
2. The Primex site that provides another parking / drop off node.
3. The 'Bat' tunnel is a point of interest with many opportunities to explore; potential for tunnel access, views from on top, quiet nature sounds from below, and mini train cycle experience. Further bat studies are currently being undertaken to help inform a management plan for the tunnel.
4. Bentley Road area is an easily accessible, open rail corridor expanse with some existing service infrastructure providing opportunity for potential amenities, a camping ground, playground and bridge experience over Back Creek Bridge. This northern end of the Richmond Valley Council area terminates this stage of the NRRT and serves as the future link to the Lismore Council area of the Trail.



**SITE AREA PLAN**  
13.4km of the Stage 2 NRRT



- KEY:**  
*Points of Interest*
-  **Level Crossings**  
Site Total: 13
  -  **Under Bridges**  
Site Total: 12
  -  **Over Bridges**  
Site Total: 1
  -  **Tunnels**  
Site Total: 1
  -  **NRRT Path**
  -  **Possible Amenity locations**  
Old Casino Station  
Powell Road (crossing)  
Bentely Road / camp site

- Key Sites*
-  **1. Old Casino Station**
  -  **2. Primex Site**
  -  **3. Tunnel Site**
  -  **4. Bentley Camp & Playground**



NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

3.1 OLD CASINO STATION

*The Old Casino Station precinct has been designed to direct visitors of the NRRT into the town of Casino, allowing the small businesses to reap the benefits of this development.*

The town of Casino is set to be one of the greatest beneficiaries of the NRRT. The town acts as the ‘Rail Trail Head’ and marks one end of the wider rail trail network. To capitalise on the expected influx of tourists to the region following the development of the NRRT, the Old Casino Station precinct has been designed to cater to visitors needs, with amenities, storage areas, tourist bus drop-off and ample parking. Alongside this, the trail’s end will direct and guide visitors to the restored Old Casino Railway Station.

Opening in 1903, the station served as the town’s primary station until 1930 and remained in operation until 1974. Following several years of sitting abandoned, the stations main building was reimagined as the Old Casino Station’s Museum. Entered in the New South Wales heritage register as a place of state significance in 1999, the building survives as an important Federation style weatherboard station designed following a non-standard Public Works Department floor plan.

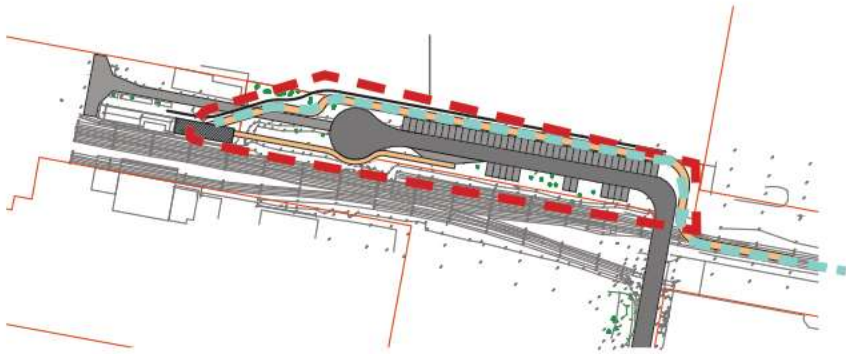
An opportunity now awaits for the Station to once again be reimagined and restored to its former glory. The restoration of the station and proposed modern extensions may house amenities, a new eatery and a reinvigorated museum.

The existing Mini Rail pays homage to the rail history of the precinct. A new stop at the Old Casino Station may be arranged (relocated ‘platform’ to the northern side) returning it to its original function as a train terminal.

The Old Casino Station provides a landmark entrance to the Casino to Bentley Rail Trail and the opportunity for seating and shade trees and pergolas to be dotted throughout the forecourt with dense low-level planting to soften hardscape elements.

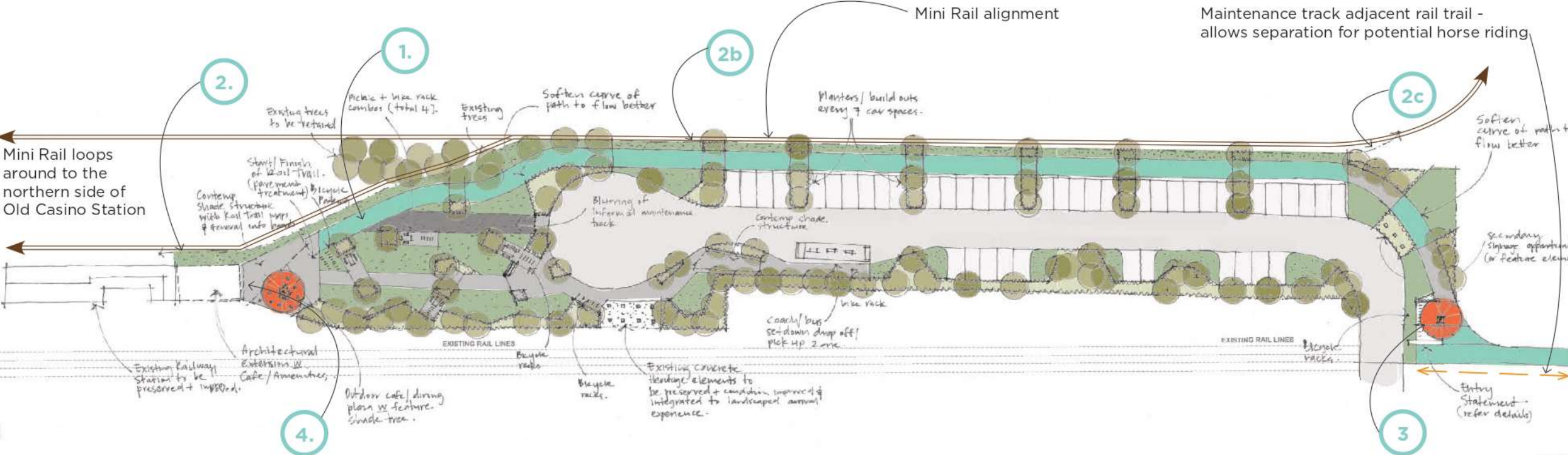


LOCALITY MAP: 0km. Beginning of trail





existing conditions - locations correspond with the Key below



KEY:

1.

**RAIL TRAIL LINE**

This site marks the beginning of the NRRT; the trail will commence as a formalised path that could transition into a decomposed granite track.
2.

**MINI RAIL**

The existing mini rail will be retained and run adjacent the new rail trail for the above shown portion. Realign existing fence and provide new aesthetically pleasing fence to safeguard against mini train movement.
3.

**ENTRY STATEMENT**

Entry sign with feature tree, bike racks and seating; this area also denotes the first on-line access and now termination point to the original rail alignment.
4.

**OLD CASINO STATION AREA**

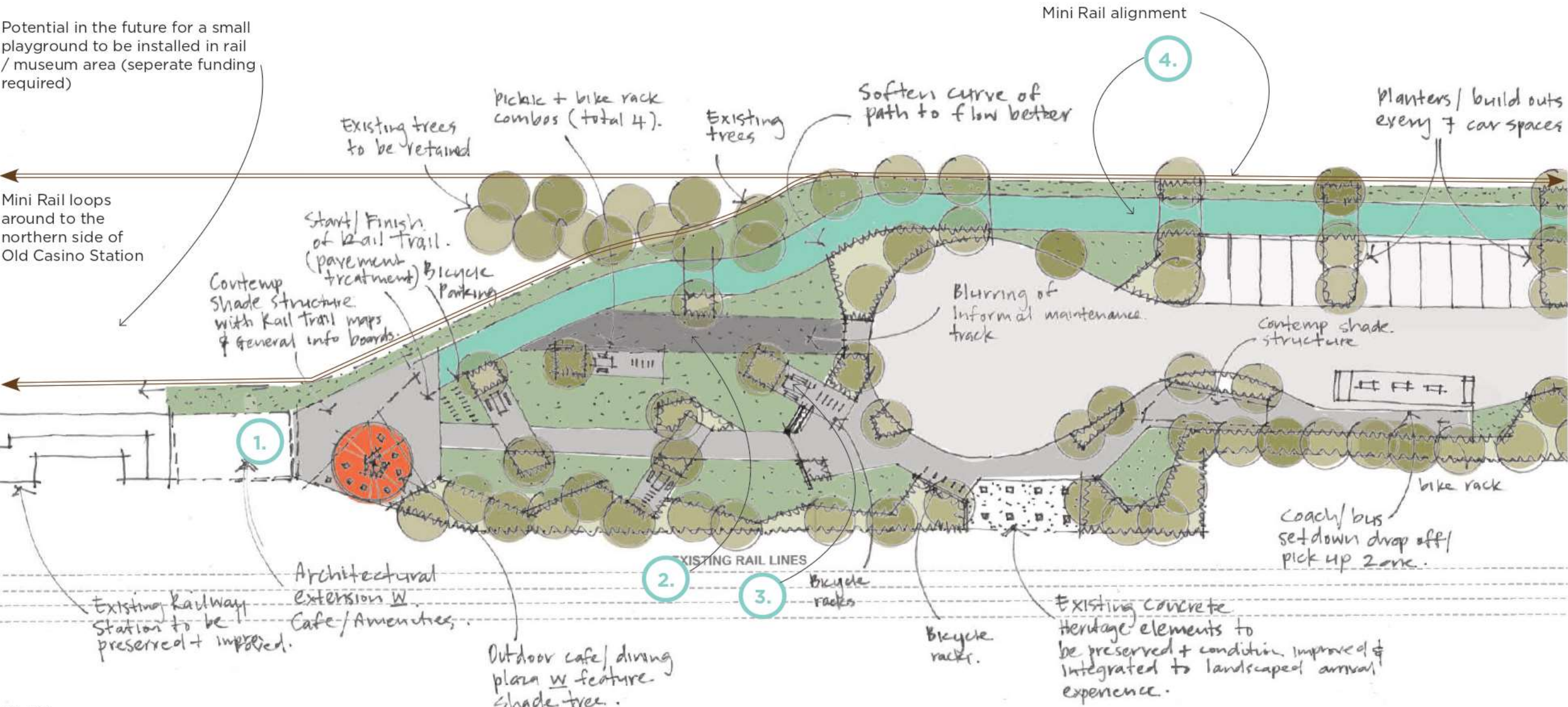
A new structure could adjoin the existing heritage Old Casino Station to accommodate a kiosk, amenities and information regarding the rail trail. This meeting place could spill-out into an open courtyard with a feature shade tree; ample seating and bike racks.

OLD CASINO STATION PRECINCT PLAN 1:500 @ A1, 1:1000 @ A3





NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN



KEY:

1.

**INFORMATION CENTER**  
Kiosk / information center to be built independent of the Old Casino Station allowing the heritage building to be maintained/refurbished.
2.

**SERVICE ACCESS**  
Access for deliveries and emergency vehicles could be gravel surface to integrate within the open meeting area. Removable bollards can be installed to control access.
3.

**PICNIC TABLES**  
Shade gardens adjoining seating and bike racks adjoin the path access to the Information center, Old Casino Station and Rail Trail start point.
4.

**RAIL TRAIL**  
The Rail Trail will be a 3 meter wide track that for the most part overlays on the existing disused Northern Rivers Rail line. Potential for elements of the original rail line to be incorporated into the trail finishes.

STATION PRECINCT - ZOOM PLAN 1:200 @ A1, 1:400 @ A3





Feature Tree Species: large native trees will be significant markers throughout the NRRT project. They will act as a wayfinding specimen to alert people to the trail. Good shade trees with distinctive character will be used. Potential to be used at all entrances and key destinations to the trail.



Gravel access way may be used for deliveries and emergency vehicles. Should be flush with surrounding surface finishes to eliminate trip hazards and ensure non obstructive overall movement. Provide controlled edge to lawn. Removal bollards can be installed to control access.

Bollards: bollards may be required at certain locations to control traffic. A removable bollard can be installed to the service access to limit vehicular traffic within the pedestrian / bike zone.



Furniture: Indicative picnic table and seating. A consistent suite should be provided along the corridor. These could be used at specific locations for meeting / socialising, rest and eating. May be used at all four key destinations.

Rail trail surface: A sealed asphalt with concrete edge could be used at the start of the rail trail for a comfortable 'take-off' pathway.



Indicative drinking fountain that may be used along the corridor, could include bottle refill and dog bowl.

Dogs on the rail trail are to be on leash.

Investigate possible locations based on potable water supply.

Numbers correspond to areas on the previous page.

OLD CASINO STATION PRECINCT: INDICATIVE IMAGES



NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

3.1.1 WAYFINDING AND SIGNAGE

*A wayfinding strategy will be included at all destinations and crossings with a consistent plant and signage palette identifiable to the NRRT.*

Welcome signs will be required at major entry points along with secondary signs at crossings and safety and provision signs to name a few. Counters and distance markers may also be used.

To strengthen the long length of this trail it is important to maintain continuity through the planting and materials palette.

This will be done through a collaborative discussion with Council of the additional three areas the NRRT travels through. Possible use of hard wood timber and steel for longevity and to pay homage to the timber sleepers and steel rails of the original track. Additionally ballast rock can be reused at road crossings to frame garden bed areas.

A conceptual idea shown here is a timber post containing a steel sign to be painted at the top as a landmark consistent with the Casino patterned logo. These indicative ideas will be investigated further to form a holistic palette of materials, colours and patterns that identify the NRRT.

A consistent plant palette will be used with native and endemic species, marking the signage areas at entrances and road crossings; by using large tree it can be a visual placeholder.

Similarly accent plants could be at each crossing as a visual cue for another layer of awareness.

Signs could also be down at eye level warning riders to slow and stop as they approach a road crossing.



Welcome example



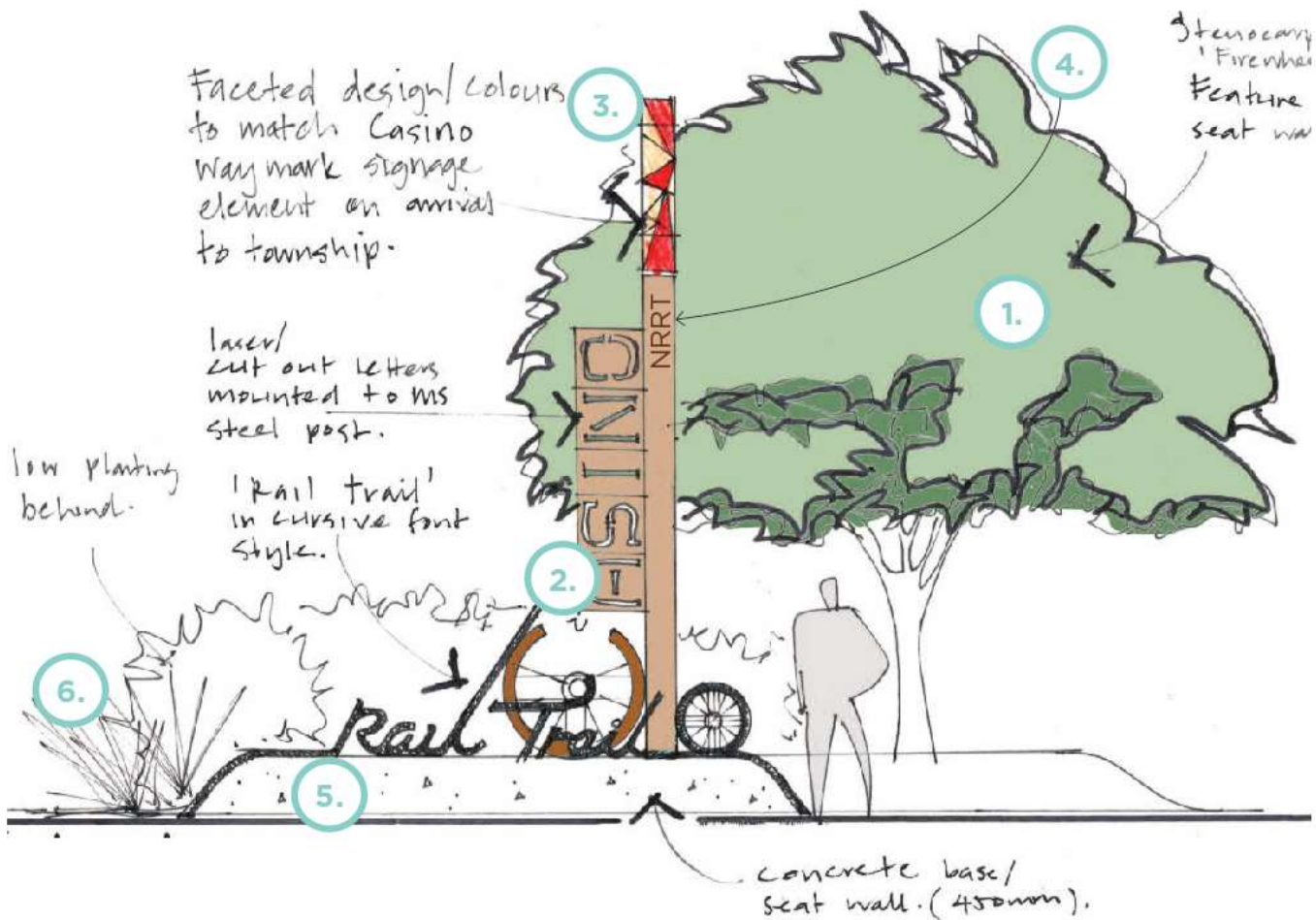
Counters / Distance markers



OLD CASINO STATION WAYFINDING - Indicative Concept Example 1:25 @ A1, 1:50 @ A3



Design to be adopted in conjunction with Councils responsible for the extended NRRT for consistency along the full extent of the Trail. Indicative concept shown below.



KEY:

1.

FEATURE TREE

A feature tree like the Brachychiton or the Firewheel could be used as a landmark feature shade tree for their bright colour, located at each road crossing and entry point.

2.

CORTEN STEEL SIGN

Could use laser cut letters in corten steel panel attached to hardwood timber posts.

3.

DESIGN PATTERN

Design to be adopted in conjunction with the Tweed Council for consistency along the full extent of the NRRT. The example pattern shown here would be similar to the Casino welcome logo as well as the RVC logo illustrating a connection to the area. The colours could represent the rural land; the dry grasses and the sunsets. They also tie in with the flowers on the feature tree.

4.

NRRT SIGNAGE

NRRT etched into the hardwood timber post with painted pattern at the top.

5.

CONCRETE BASE

Concrete could act as a physical barrier at road crossing and a seat at entry points. Could be formed on site and poured insitu.

6.

FEATURE ACCENT

Large accent species will be selected based on their robust qualities. They can be used to punctuate crossings.

OLD CASINO STATION INDICATIVE ENTRY STATEMENT - Concept Example 1:25 @ A1, 1:50 @ A3



NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

3.2 PRIMEX PRECINCT PLAN

*By utilising a key location the Primex precinct doubles its use for NRRT users and for event spill out for the Primex site.*

The first stop on the Rail Trail after the Old Casino Station is proposed at the Primex site.

This area could feature the reuse of salvaged rail line materials at the entry drop off area for large groups and buses. Existing timber sleepers and rail tracks from the railway line will be integrated within the soft landscape, this creates a talking point especially for visitors to the Primex site.

The Rail Trail, featuring the adaptive reuse of the rail line supported by informative interpretation of the cultural heritage would serve to promote awareness and would encourage visitors to share their experience with others, attracting further visitation and promotion.

This location also provides a significant additional parking area for Primex functions.

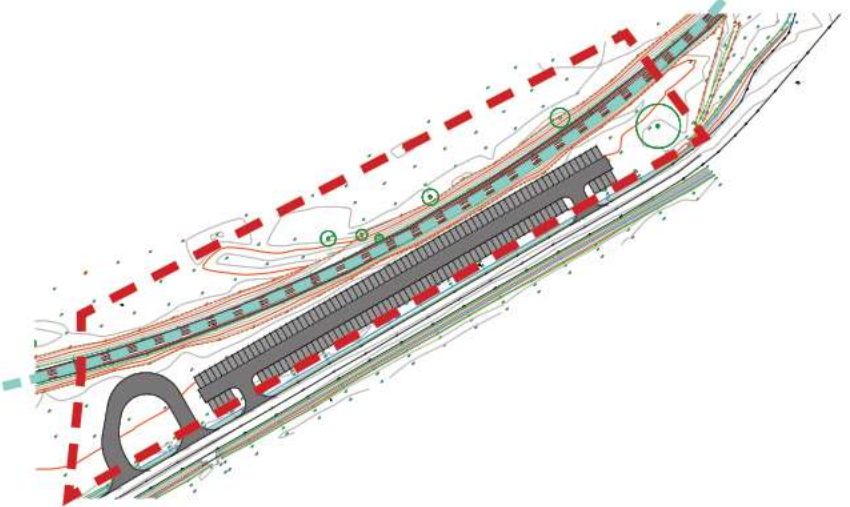
Shade trees and native low maintenance vegetation will surround picnic tables and car parking to create an enjoyable sense of space.

Different ground surface will delineate the vehicular area and the meeting / drop off space.



LOCALITY MAP:

1km. north along the trail







Naughtons Gap  
Road crossing

**KEY:**

1.

## NRRT

The rail trail track will be a formalised path through the Primex site, this may change to deco gravel northeast of this site. Feature planting can be used on approach to this site as a visual cue for users joining the path.

2.

## MATERIAL REUSE

Potential to reuse some rail tracks within the landscape as a focal point as people arrive by car / bus. Promoting a heritage link to the old railway lines.

3.

PICNIC AREA

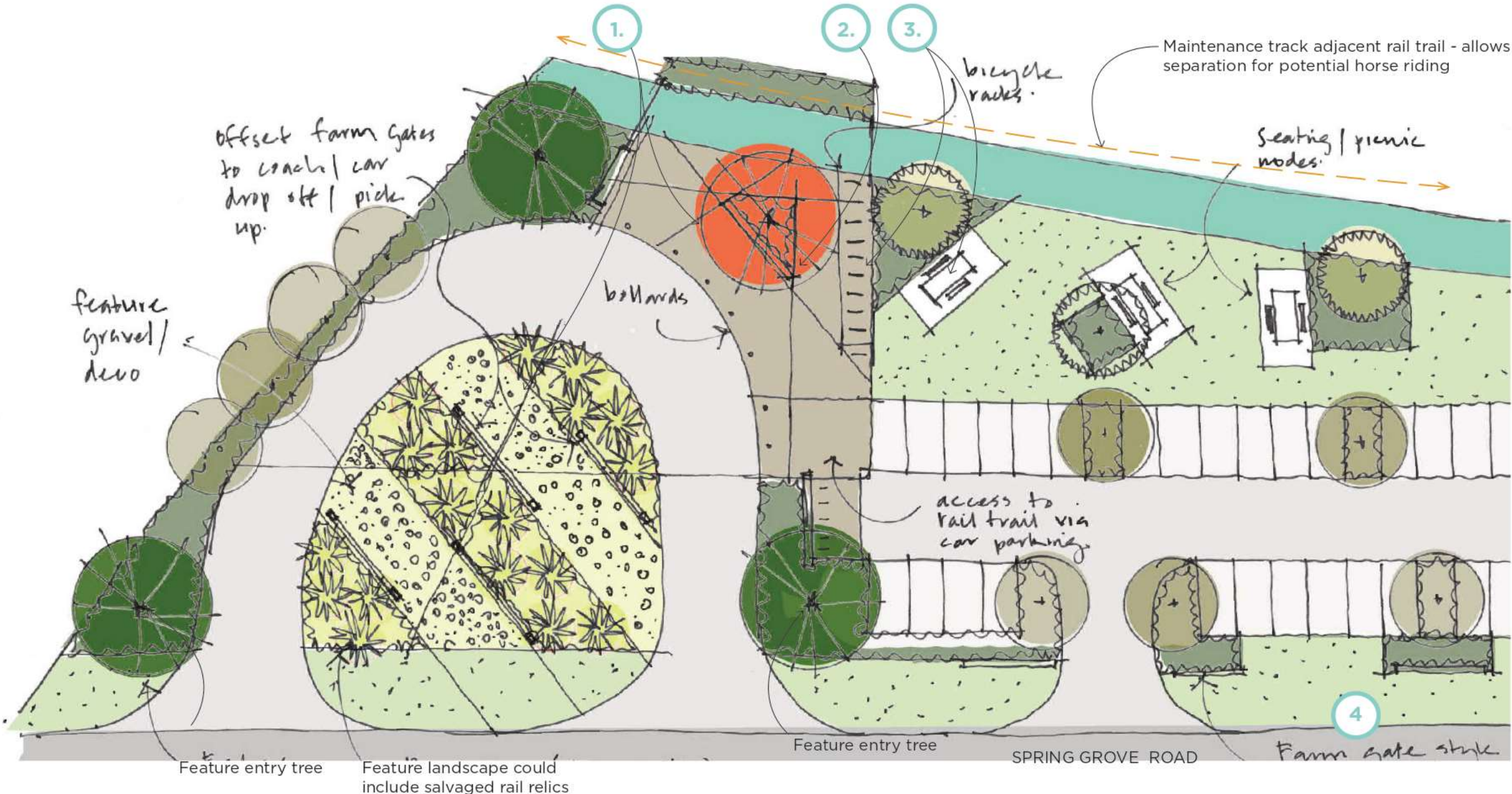
Picnic tables under shade trees and possibly shade structures provide rest and meeting areas for the rail trail users. This area will also double as a parking and meeting place for people using the Primex site.

**PRIMEX PRECINCT PLAN**1:500 @ A1, 1:1000 @ A3





NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN



KEY:

1.

**LANDSCAPE**  
The Primex site is at times highly utilised; this adjacent location will provide additional parking amenity as well as a rest spot for a picnic for cyclists and a meeting point. The native landscape surrounds could be embellished with some structure using recycled rail materials; lines of timber in ballast rocks and integrated vegetation
2.

**WAYFINDING**  
A place to take in the scenery. Potential for remnants from the railway to be integrated into the interpretive landscape design. Signage can be educational and functional rich with history and Aboriginal / artist input.
3.







**TABLES & BIKE RACKS**  
Seating and picnic areas can be provide for rest and refreshments and meeting other cyclists. Bike racks will be logically located for convenience.
4.

**PRIMEX LINK**  
Investigate potential to incorporate future informal pedestrian crossing connection to the existing Primex site. (currently not in this project scope).

PRIMEX PRECINCT ZOOM PLAN 1:200 @ A1, 1:400 @ A3





INDICATIVE IMAGES ONLY.			
<p>Evocative landscape that incorporates reuse of old rail tracks and sleepers with vegetation interwoven around them; reminiscent of the disused line for so many years with the new landscape representing the new use of the corridor.</p>	 1	 2	<p>Counters: could be used to understand how many people are using the trail.</p> <p>Distance Markers: Could be included with the wayfinding to show distances to and from destinations and entry points to the trail.</p> <p>Further potential to integrate a (solar powered) NRRT App/ map for significant destinations and events in the future.</p>
<p>Interweaving ground materials for visual interest and another reuse of recycled rail materials: old recycled railway timber sleepers, ballast rock; within garden areas (non access areas).</p>	 1	 3	<p>Furniture: picnic table and seating to be a consistent suite along the corridor. To be used at specific locations for meeting / socialising, rest and eating.</p> <p>To be used at all four key destinations.</p>
<p>Wayfinding, informative and heritage interpretation signage / art: Potential to incorporate storyboards designed by the local Aboriginal community that incorporates the Galibai language, and local artists input.</p> <p>Indicative materials - signs could be made from corten steel to top old recycled railway tracks. Information regarding the Primex site and NRRT history and evolution.</p>	 2	 1	<p>Feature planting to denote NRRT destination spot. The strong structural form of the Giant Spear Lily, a large native feature plant, mimics the robust nature of a rail corridor and is low maintenance. Great as a landmarking feature, its red flower is consistent with the Brachychiton flowers.</p>
Numbers correspond to areas on the previous page.			

**PRIMEX PRECINCT: INDICATIVE IMAGES** - illustrating examples of materials and feature planting.



NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

3.3 TUNNEL PRECINCT PLAN

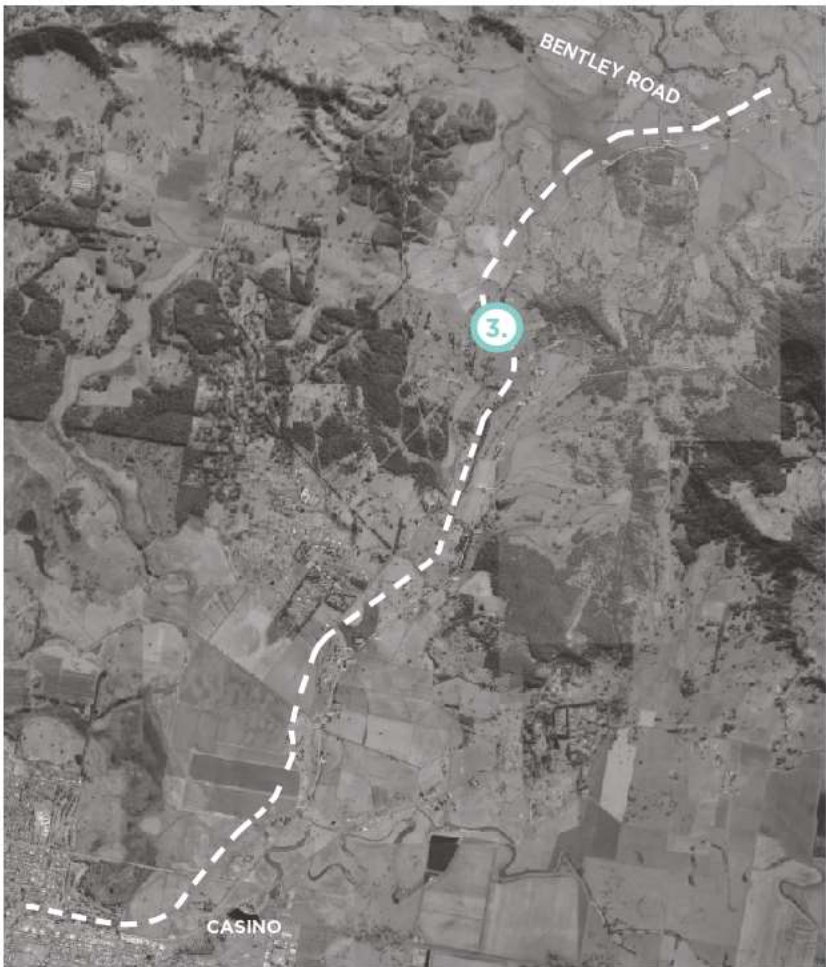
*Interpretive elements will be used to educate visitors about the bat colony in the tunnel.*

Recent surveys show a large colony of bats have taken up residency in the tunnel. Further studies are currently being conducted to inform the tunnel management plan for the future.

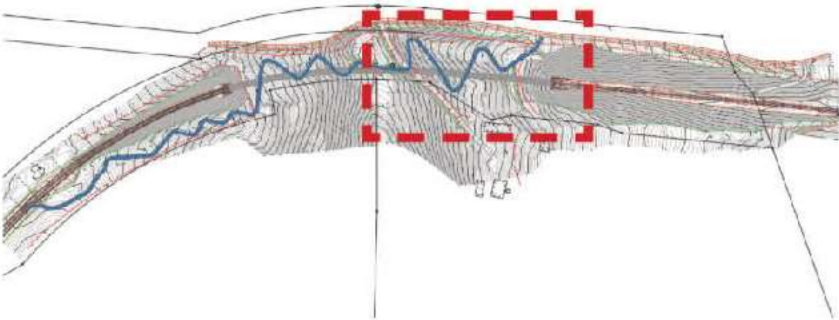
There is potential at this location on the rail trail to add a track up and over the hill. Investigations are underway for a small portion of the path to be shared-path along Stones Road on the northern side of the tunnel hill. Going over the hill could provide the opportunity to take advantage of the views, this could tie in with rest area that may provide shade and water.

Further path design options will consider the grading, potential wash-off in heavy rain events and associated surface finishes and safety measures.

On the northern side of the tunnel there is a sheltered nook on the track just outside the playful echoes in the tunnel; this site provides an opportunity to stop and take in the country atmosphere; a listening and spotting location of fauna and flora. Can incorporate education about the nature surrounds and sightings - birds, bats, kangaroos, koalas and the like.



LOCALITY MAP: 8.8km. north along the trail





KEY:

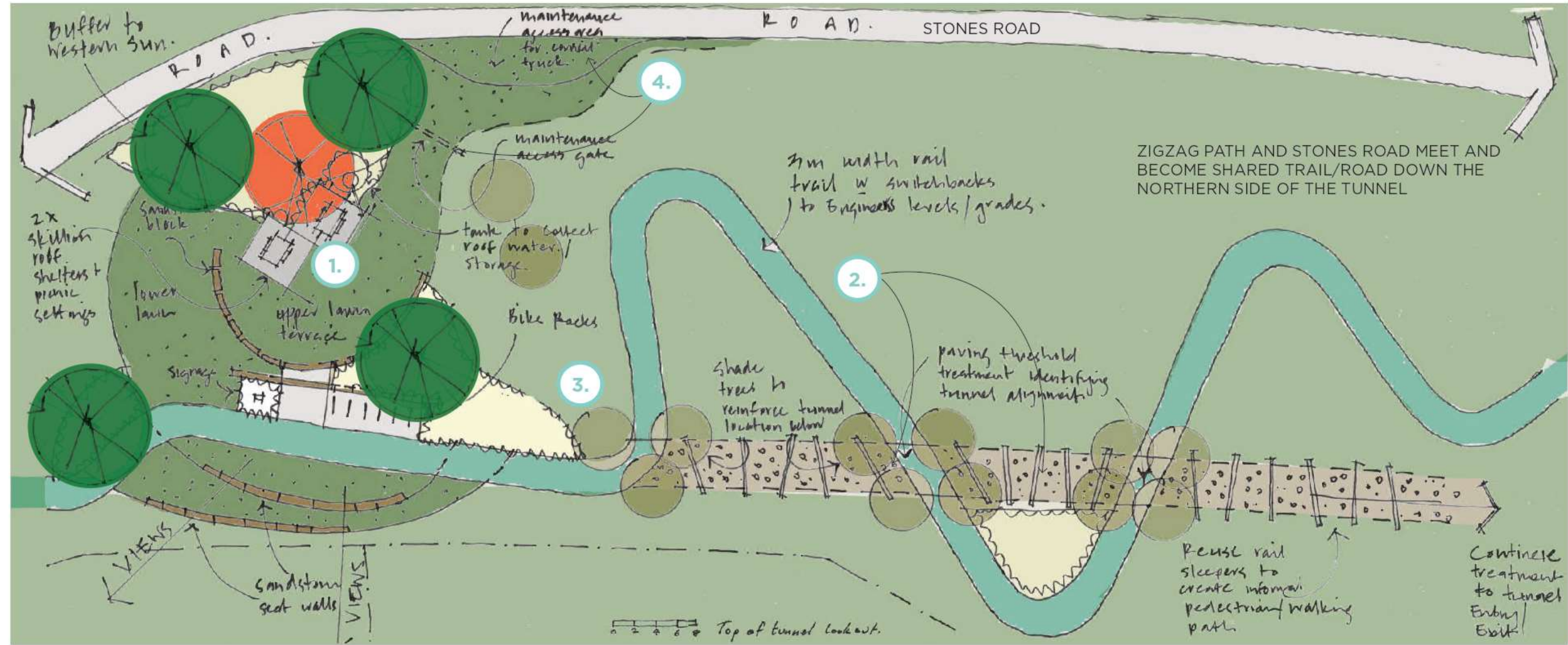
1.

**VIEWING REST AREA**  
Possible stone wall to create a level raised viewing area; This is on the tunnel hill open and exposed therefore shade structures and (tank) water will be provided. This remote water supply also adds another educational layer about the rural lifestyle.
2.

**TUNNEL ALIGNMENT**  
Large Eucalyptus trees (Koala favourites) could denote the tunnel alignment below. Paving threshold treatments and salvaged railway materials could also be used to denote the location of the tunnel alignment. Potential for rest area with bike racks overlooking farmland to enjoy the views, spot wildlife, catch your breath and wait for the slow coaches.
3.

**FLORA & FAUNA HABITATS**  
Further research into flora and fauna habitat corridors and the potential to enhance links to them will be completed through the concept design phase.  
  
Additionally, an option of a Bush Tucker trail/walk in this area will be investigated further. This could create opportunities for educational environmental walking tours based around habitats and bush tucker.
4.

**MAINTENANCE ACCESS**  
Stones Road adjoins the potential rest spot on to of the hill allowing a logical maintenance access point (existing access). A fence and gate can be installed to control access.



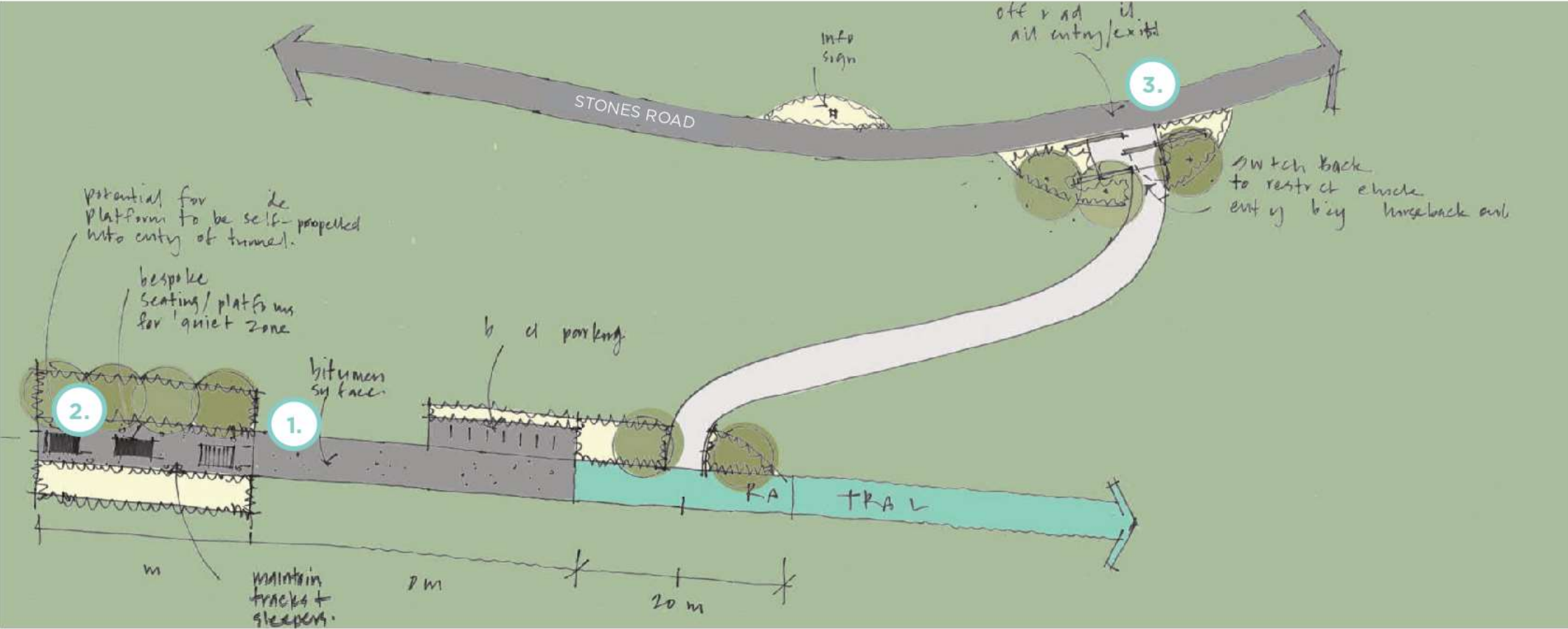
TUNNEL PRECINCT PLAN EXAMPLE - HILL TOP 1:200 @ A1, 1:400 @ A3





NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

existing conditions



KEY:

- 1. RAIL REUSE**

A fun rail reuse is being investigated for pedaling back to the tunnel entry. This goes from the northern access point where the trail rejoins the track corridor.
- 2. NATURE REST SPOT**

A peaceful location to take a break listen and look for nature and learn about the surrounding land; the habitats, the species and the land uses. Reuse of rail materials could make seats in an informal gathering space.
- 3. ACCESS FROM STONES RD**

The shared Stones Road and trail joins the existing maintenance access route back on to the rail corridor. Fencing with gates can be installed to control access for emergency and maintenance access.

TUNNEL PRECINCT SKETCH IDEAS 1:200 @ A1, 1:400 @ A3





The NRRT will feature significant tree plantings as a markers at key locations, this could include on the hilltop to create a picturesque landmark from afar. Additionally a mix of Eucalyptus trees can be used as vertical markers of the tunnel alignment below. These also increase wildlife habitat.



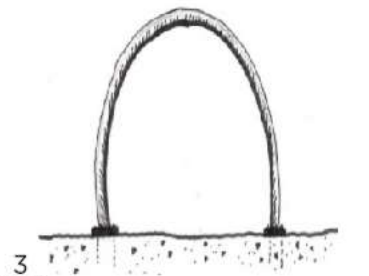
Indicative image only. Share peddle train to access into the tunnel, peddle access could be via the northern end.

Further investigations are being conducted to determine the tunnel access. This has been critical due to the bat colony that reside in the tunnel. Educational and interpretive signage about the bat colony can be incorporated into the design. Provision for lighting in tunnel will also be considered.



Possible low stone walling to provide informal seating for rest and retain a level viewing area. Indicative image shows sandstone blocks. Open lawn terraces would take full advantage of the 360 degree viewing from this location.

Proposed bike racks for the NRRT; design could be based on the tunnel's curved cathedral shape. Material: Powder coated steel: colour to match wayfinding treatments.



Furniture: picnic table and seating to be a consistent suite along the corridor. Shelters may be used at the tunnel hill for amenity on the open exposed hill top. Style example could be skillion roof with hardwood timber structure and colorbond Surfmist roof. Gutters and downpipes could be connected to stormwater tanks to provide drinking water.

Numbers correspond to areas on the previous 2 sketch pages.

TUNNEL PRECINCT: INDICATIVE IMAGES



NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

3.4 BENTLEY SECTION PRECINCT PLAN

*After a long ride a relaxing camping ground adjacent to farmlands, where cattle may come to meet you, may include amenities, playground and amazing bridge views. This is a destination not to miss.*

Bentley Road provides vehicular access to camp ground sites for a van or sites for your tent or tee pee to sleep under the great open sky and enjoy some star gazing.

An amenities building with toilets, showers and fresh (tank) water allow for longer stays. This is located near the old Bentley Station platform; heritage interpretation will be incorporated into this area for interest.

It is recommended that a study be done on the feasibility of the existing Bentley Road 100km/hr zone being reduced to 80km/hr for safety and easier access to the proposed car parking and drop off area.

There are 77 proposed car spaces with trees in garden beds to break up the hardscape and reduce the heat island effect. The configuration may vary to accommodate caravan parking in the following design phase.

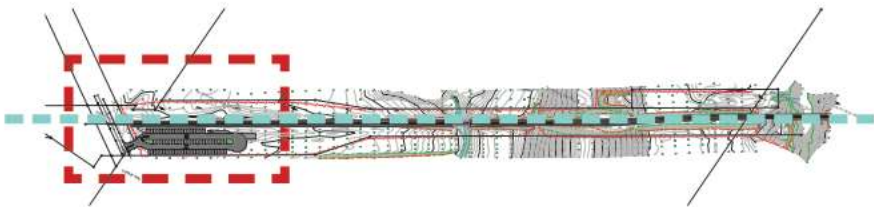
Vehicular camp sites can be denoted with recycled rail materials such as timber sleepers and rails for seating and site number signage.

Tent camping is to the northwestern side of the trail, on the same side as the possible amenities building.

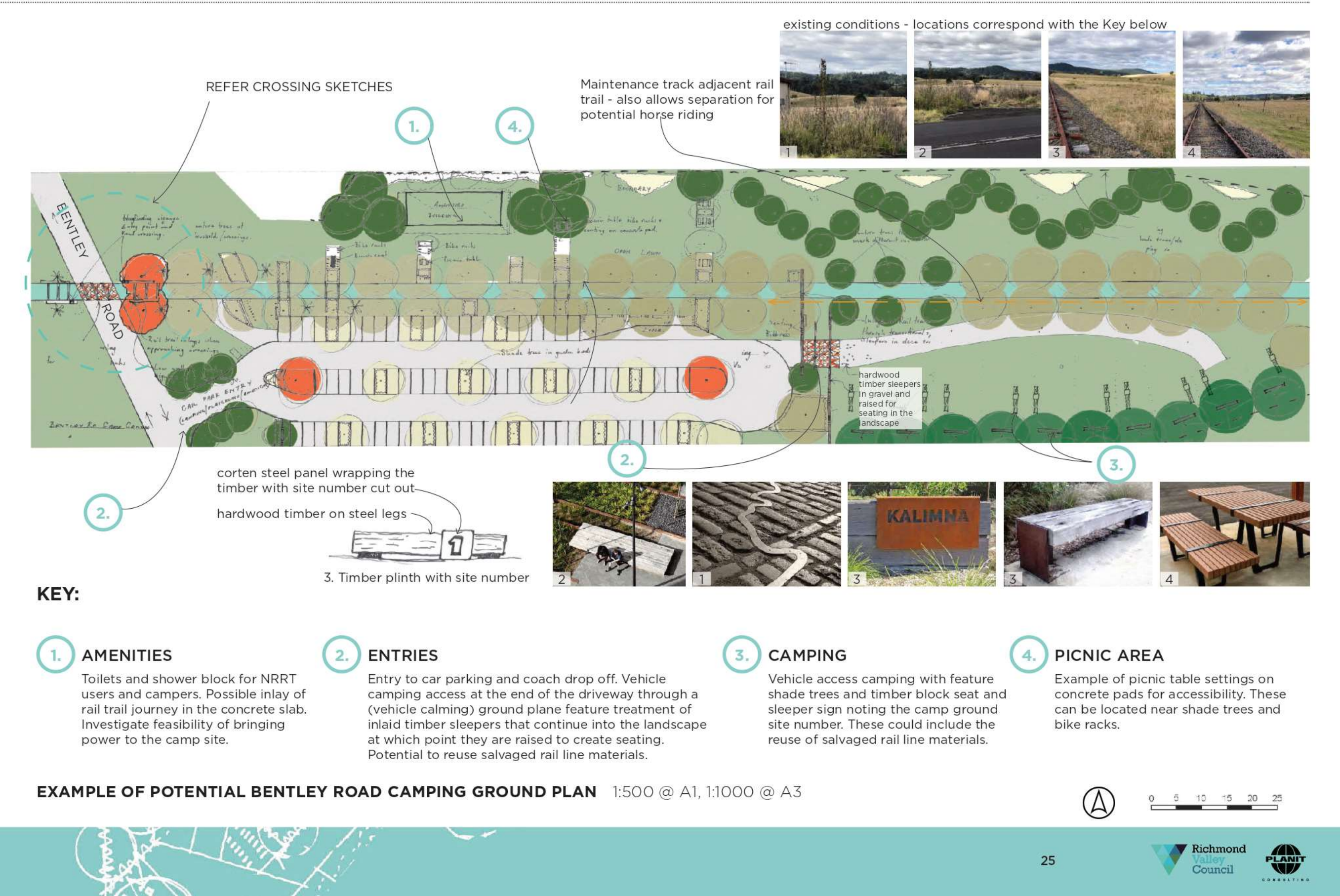
Potential to power the camp site.



LOCALITY MAP:









NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

3.5 NATURE PLAY AREA

*While adults relax at the camping grounds the kids can explore the playground 200m up the track.*

The playground is proposed to be integrated with the existing rail corridor cutting, spanning approximately 22m across the cutting and up to 4m high at the top of the cutting. On top of the cutting hill two barn character structures could provide access to the rope climb. With views over the farmland and to the rolling hills beyond this exciting playground can cater for children of all ages.

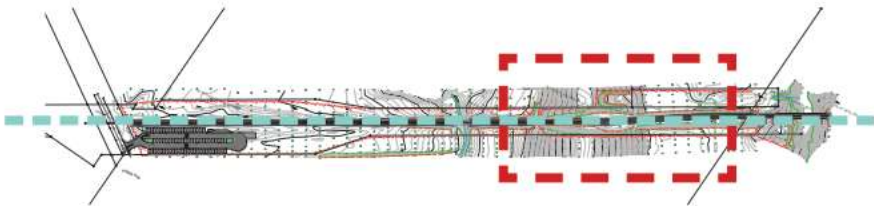
An existing stock crossing could be moved southwest 15-20m (this could be rebuilt with the rail trail works); If it is relocated within the informal play space of the grass mounds it may an exciting opportunity to create an interpretive crossing with timber (similar to the original/ existing crossing), plus interpretive steel inserts of animal foot prints. Educational signage located along the trail could doubles as a precaution for trail users to give way to cattle crossing.

Large shade trees could make this space a usable area in the summer months, while low planting will enhance the space and maintain visual amenity.

The design items proposed will be subject to budget constraint. Items may be minimised or substituted to meet costing requirements.

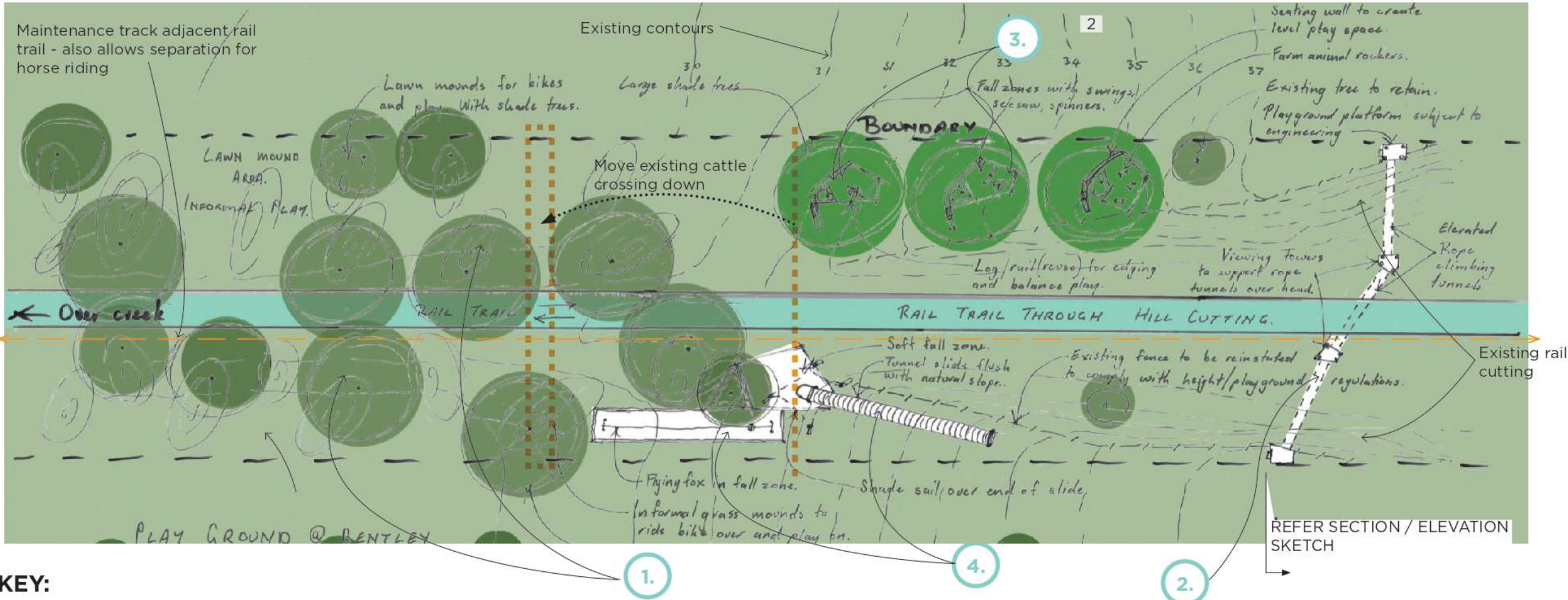


LOCALITY MAP: 13.5km. north along the trail





existing conditions - rail cutting and cattle crossing



KEY:

1.

**GRASS MOUNDS**  
Gentle grass mounds for informal play - riding and rolling around. Large trees suitable for playgrounds for shade amenity. Could include some feature Morton Bay figs.
2.

**PLAYGROUND ROPE CLIMB**  
Adventurous rope tunnel across the rail cutting; vantage points on each side. The two middle towers are likely to just be structural support. Existing fencing could be replaced with safety compliant fencing. Access may be limited for safety.
3.

**PLAYGROUND ITEMS**  
A terraced landscape with sandstone blocks that double as seating (could match the top of the tunnel hill) on the northern side of the cutting. Play items could be located on the terraced area; These could be based on farm characters with natural tones on artificial turf softfall to marry in with the grass surrounds.
4.

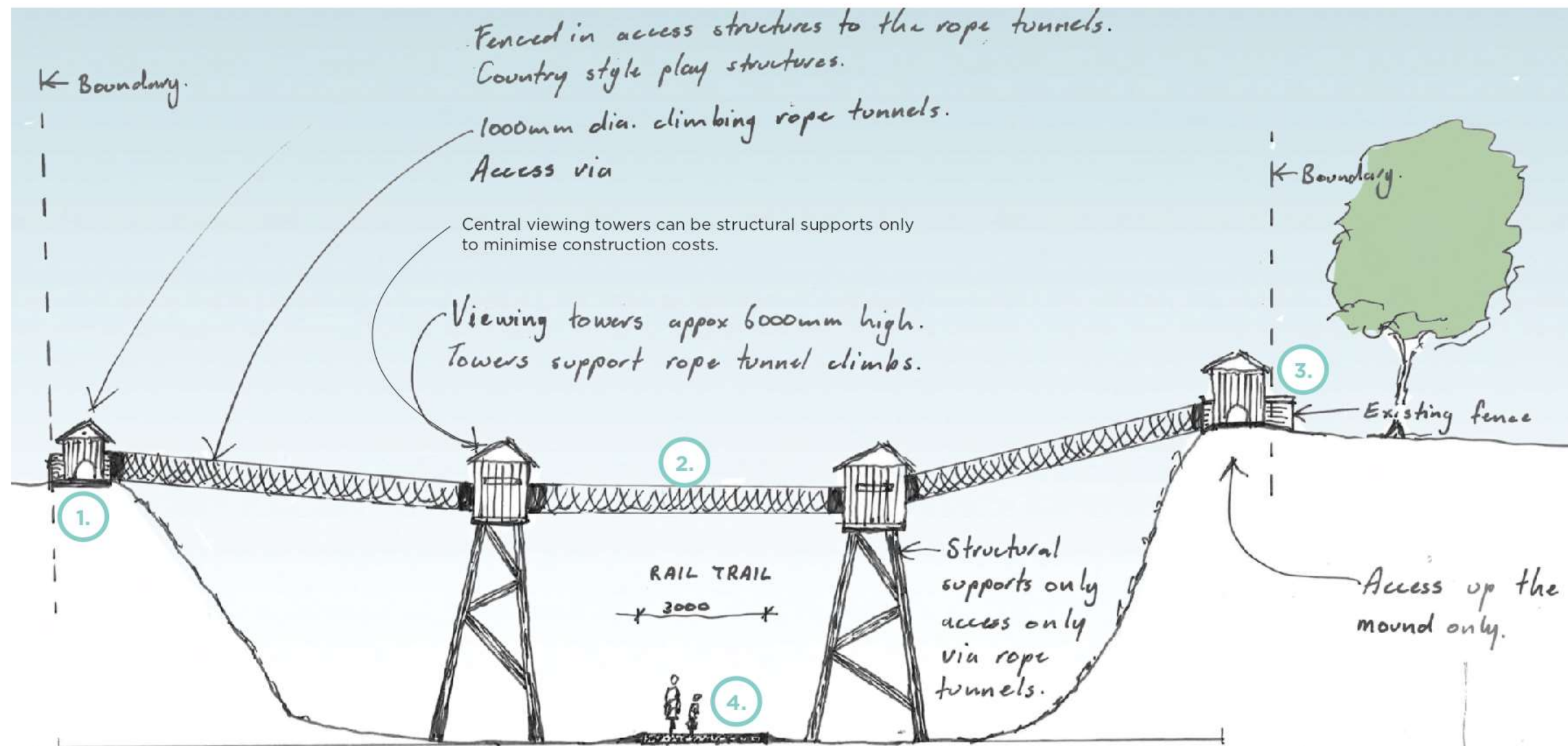
**HILL PLAY**  
Potential to build a 10-15m slide into the existing grade. Can use shade sail over the landing pad within softfall takura mulch. Investigation into possible flying-fox nestled among shade trees with takura mulch softfall.

EXAMPLE OF POTENTIAL BENTLEY PLAYGROUND PRECINCT PLAN 1:1000 @ A3

0 2.5 5 7.5 10  
SCALE - 1:200 @ A1, 1:400 @ A3



## NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN



## KEY:

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>1. FARM BARN</b></p> <p>Rope access through play structure; this structure could be designed after a barn to evoke the local character.</p> | <p><b>2. ROPE CLIMB</b></p> <p>Adventure climb across the rail trail over existing cutting. The rope can be 1m diameter and fully enclosed for the full extent of the cutting. Further investigations into the safety maintenance requirements recommended.</p> | <p><b>3. FENCING</b></p> <p>Existing safety and boundary fence could be rebuilt for safe access into the ropes and playground / Australian Standards compliance. No access would be permitted past the barn structures for safety.</p> | <p><b>4. RAIL TRAIL</b></p> <p>3m wide rail trail to go under the rope tunnel along the existing rail corridor alignment.</p> |
|---|---|--|---|

INDICATIVE ROPE TOWER SECTION 1:100 @ A3

0 1 2 3  
SCALE - 1:50 @ A1, 1:100 @ A3



Significant tree plantings. The fig tree is an important part of the Australia landscape vernacular, particularly in open hot areas in the middle of summer. This tree can provide a beautiful form that is fantastic for deep cool shade and fun for kids to climb, making it a great specimen for the playground area.



Fun large share swing can be located on an artificial lawn terraces. All playground areas will have softfall zones in compliance with AS.

Further investigations will be undertaken into a possible elevated adventure tunnel that could be constructed across the rail cutting. This would provide exciting views as kids watch people ride under them and they spot the camp ground, bridges and farm animals from up high in the sky. This can be fully enclosed omitting any softfall requirements.



Low stone walling can provide informal seating and retain level play spaces. Indicative image: sandstone blocks. Artificial lawn terraces with adjoining garden beds with fig trees; a playful climbing tree with beautiful shade. Terraces can be located to provide views back towards the camp ground and over the adjoining farmland.

Country style seesaws and animal characters for playground rockers can be installed on the terraces. All playground areas would be design to current safety guidelines and standards such as AS4685.



There is a great opportunity to taking advantage of the grade by adding a long playful slide that can grade with the slope. Indicative image only: the slide could be a plastic tube to reduce heat impacts, plus shade structure can be installed over the open landing area. Landing pad and softfall requirements would be compliant and suitable for this environment.

**BENTLEY PLAYGROUND PRECINCT: INDICATIVE IMAGES**



NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

4.0 INDICATIVE CROSSINGS

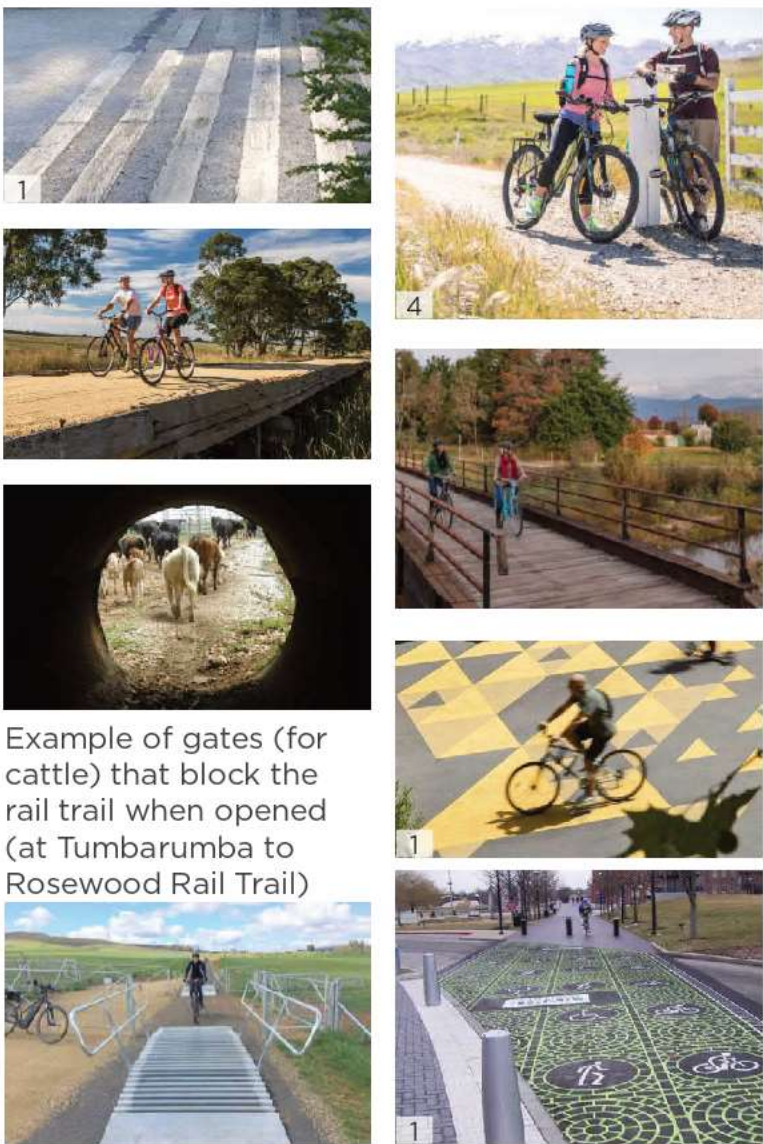
Crossings provide a point of interest and require specific treatments for safety, wayfinding and education.

There are a number of different crossing treatments throughout the trail. A consistent design will be implemented to suit each type. The types of crossings include.

**Creek bridge crossings:** can be a modular design that is installed over existing bridge structures that have been deemed structurally sound. Where possible a consistent approach will be undertaken for all bridges along the trail. This requires further coordination with Councils throughout the extent of the NRRT. There will be some exceptions to this bridge style for example, Back Creek bridge, a significant visual structure that has been declared safe to retain; there is an opportunity to transform the existing bridge to accommodate recreational traffic use. Further investigation are required into the feasibility of installing glass panels intermittently within the floor structure of the bridge to allow visual connection through the bridge to the creek below.

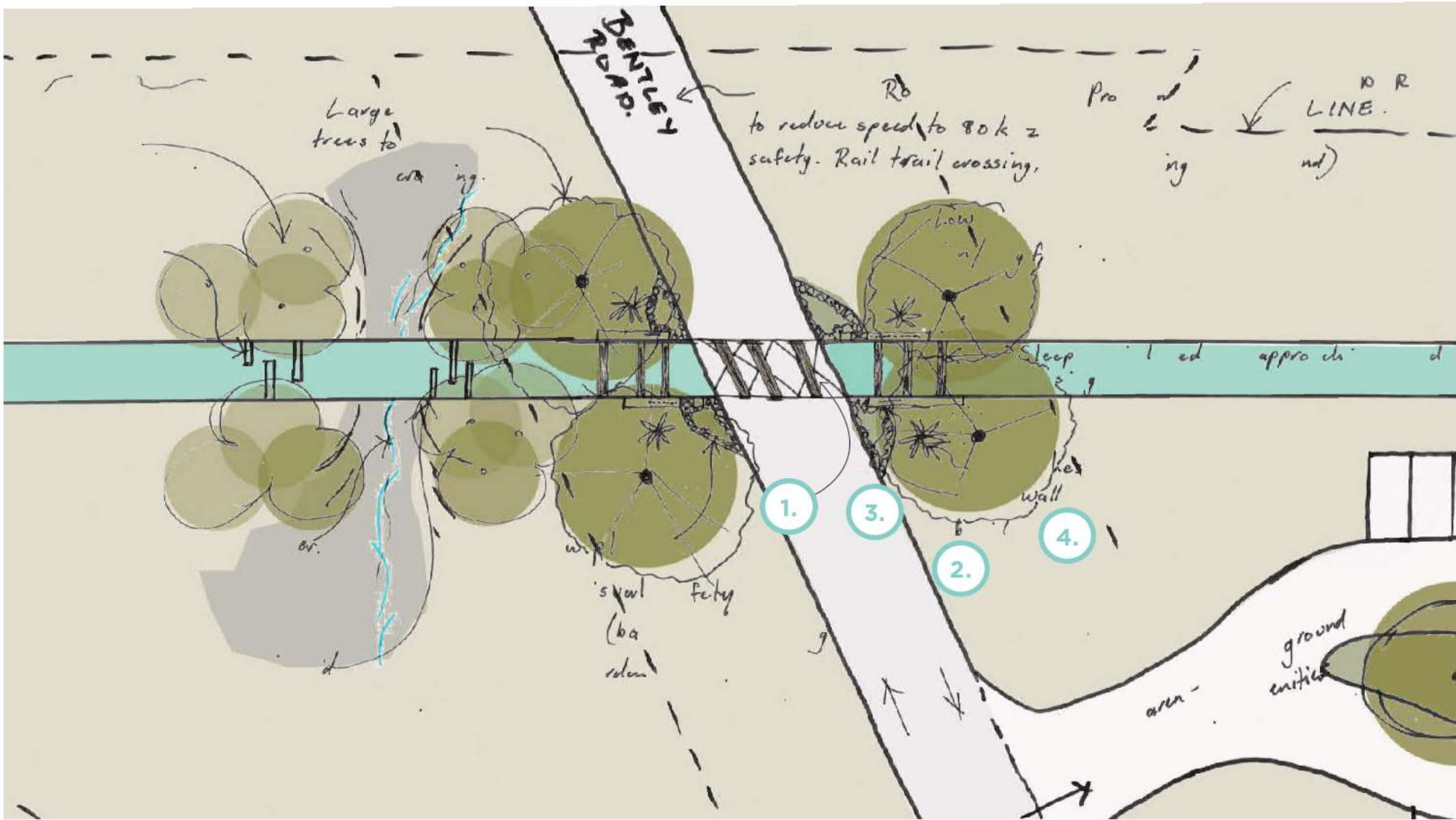
**Road crossings:** a stencil design could be overlaid onto roadways for safety. A visual connection to the NRRT graphic may be used however, there is an opportunity to integrate Aboriginal art/interpretation of the land, and/or the rail corridor history. A consistent identity and story can be used all NRRT crossing roads; further coordination will be sort with Councils. Local artists installations may also be considered for this application.

**Farm crossings:** cattle and machinery crossings will provide safe and interesting crossings. A number of design ideas are currently being investigated for cattle crossing points. Potential to provide a gate block-off scenario may be feasible for particular locations; an example of this is shown from the Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail. Investigations will also be made into various culvert style stock crossings.



Example of gates (for cattle) that block the rail trail when opened (at Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail)





KEY:

1.

**CROSSING TREATMENTS**  
Potential to install a stencil (interpretive cultural/history opportunity) over the roads at Trail crossing points. This can add a physical and visual passive awareness, that can slow both vehicular traffic and recreational users, creating a safer environment.
2.

**FEATURE TREE**  
A large feature tree can be used as a signifying landmark on both sides of the road at all trail / road crossings; they can be offset to not obstruct views in compliance with Australian safety standards.
3.

**ACCENT PLANTS**  
Accent plants for example a Giant Spear Lilly could provide landmarks for trail users, they can be used as additional visual cues for the approach to crossings.
4.

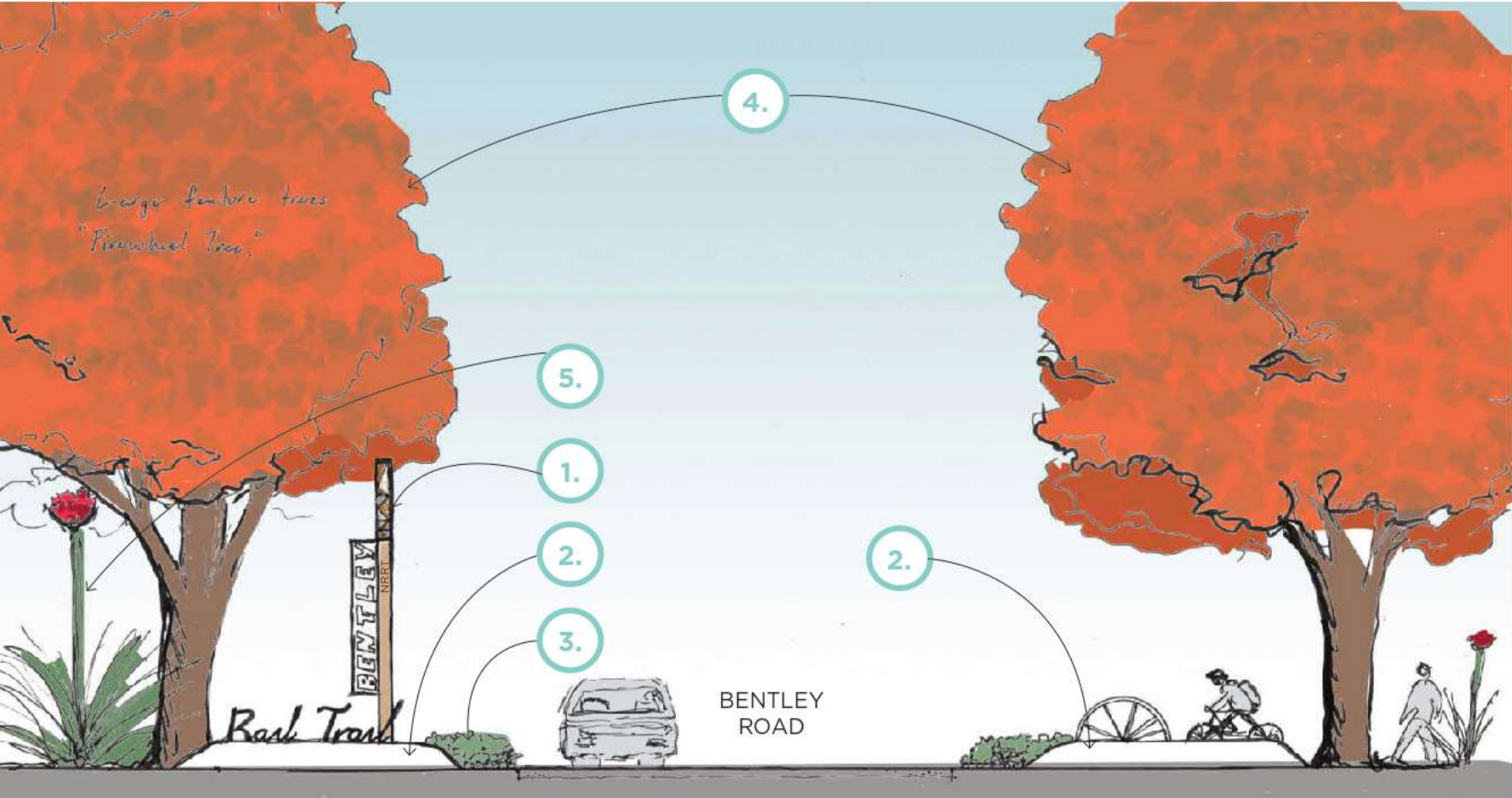
**SAFETY**  
All crossing works will be developed to the relevant guidelines such as RMS to ensure traffic calming, signage and sight-lines are in compliance. Additional design overlays can add character as well as awareness to the crossing areas as noted under crossing treatments.

INDICATIVE ROAD CROSSING BENTLEY ROAD EXAMPLE 1:200 @ A1, 1:400 @ A3





NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN



KEY:

1. NRRT SIGNAGE

Signage materials to be further investigated in collaboration with other Councils to develop a holistic design approach for the entire NRRT length. Appropriate naming for each area for example, the Bentley Road precinct could have Bentley in corten steel; hardwood timber post with NRRT etched into the post and a painted pattern at the top.

2. LOW FEATURE WALL

Example section shows Rail Trail text made from steel, fixed to low concrete wall; abstract steel bike wheel fixed to top of wall.

3. PLANTING

To ensure compliant sight-lines for safety low planting can be used around the low wall with ballast rock surrounding the planting.

4. FEATURE TREE

Feature NRRT tree could be a large native shade tree that denotes the sense of place and each crossing and entry to the trail. It would have the relevant setback from the roads for visual safety.

5. ACCENT PLANTING

A large robust plant can be used as a visual cue for rail trail users on approach to all roads, bridge and farm crossings.

EXAMPLE - TYPICAL ROAD CROSSING 1:25 @ A1, 1:50 @ A3





Potential for reuse of rail materials for interest and connection to the history of the site. For example, steel inlays to inform cattle cross here.

A number of adjoining farms require access for crossing cattle and machinery; these could incorporate signage and interpretive elements through interesting ground treatments. Fence and gate types will also be further investigated for adjoining properties as well as culvert stock crossings. Example of gates (for cattle) that block the rail trail when opened (at Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail).

33

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NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

5.0 INDICATIVE MATERIALS

Corten steel evokes a heritage connection to the old railway tracks with its rust finish that is robust, durable and long lasting. This material could be used within signage elements along the corridor.

Hardwood timber also reflects the timber sleepers of the railway. Where possible the reuse of the timber sleepers and railway tracks can be used from the Northern Rivers Railway line.



Softfall materials in compliance with AS: Takura mulch is a natural look softfall option for the slide landing area and the flying fox zone.

Artificial lawn terraces could be used in the playground, fallzone padding can be installed under the turf to AS. This allows a visually aesthetic surface with low maintenance.

Furniture: Indicative picnic table and seating. A consistent suite should be provided along the corridor. These could be used at specific locations for meeting / socialising, rest and eating. May be used at all four key destinations.



Low stone walling can provide informal seating and retain level play spaces. Indicative image: sandstone blocks.

Terraces can be located to provide views back towards the camp ground and over the adjoining farmland.

Indicative drinking fountain that may be used along the corridor, could include bottle refill and dog bowl.

Dogs on the rail trail are to be on leash.

Investigate possible locations based on potable water supply.



Furniture to be a consistent suite along the corridor. Shelters could be used at the tunnel hill for amenity on the open exposed hill top. Style example shown is a skillion roof with hardwood timber structure and colorbond Surfmist roof. Gutters and downpipes could be connected to stormwater tanks to provide drinking water.

A robust low maintenance selection criteria has been set for th NRRT materials. The final materials palette will be selected in coordination with other Councils to ensure a level of consistency along the full extent of the trail.



GROUND TREATMENTS EXAMPLES



**Bitumen Seal** | Formalised finish could be utilised in high traffic areas and in some key precinct areas. For example, the Old Casino Station precinct and up to the Primex area. Bitumen can also be utilised to mitigate any erosion issues that may arise with other ground treatments.



**Stabilized Decomposed Granite** | Locally sourced deco could make up the vast majority of the trails ground treatment. A stabilized finish has been used successful for recreational trails including for wheelchair accessibility. Further investigations into the surface finish will be done with consideration to pram, bike training wheels and wheelchair accessibility.



**Maintenance Track/Trail** - the maintenance track can be grass access allowing for both maintenance and emergency access, as well as potential horse riding. This track would be located along side the rail trail where space and topography permits.

There could be a number of entry points from the nearest road to assist in easy access to the rail trail.



NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Key areas of interest can be selected for special treatments to be applied to. These include some cost effective solutions, adaptive reuse of existing remnant rail infrastructure and use of bespoke feature paving.



**LANDSCAPE MURALS**  
Simple stencils can be applied to bitumen surfaces for interest and to enhance awareness and increase safety around road crossings. These could aid in wayfinding, define crossings, meeting points or areas of interest. This provides pops of colour and are potentially an exciting opportunity for a local artist to showcase their work on a large scale.



**ADAPTIVE REUSE OF EXISTING RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE**  
Utilising remnant infrastructure provides a tangible connection to the areas heritage. Salvaged rail line elements could be incorporated into new spaces of planting, paving or seating in key areas. Examples pictured here are the high-line in New York, a former tram depot in Madrid and the Tumbarumba to Rosewood trail, NSW where the integration of rail elements enrich the sites character and in turn the users experience.



**FEATURE GROUND TREATMENTS**  
More bespoke treatments could be utilised in high traffic precinct areas. These could include the use of natural materials such as riverbed stones and timber or more modern hardscape solutions such as bricks and permeable paving.



**FENCING**  
Certain locations along the corridor will require fencing for user safety to prevent fall, and to adjoining farmland to prevent cattle and the like clashing with recreational users. Wildlife friendly fencing may be considered to allow maximum fauna movement.  
Further investigations will be undertaken to inform the fencing strategy for adjoining properties. Fencing types may vary to suit the individual requirements (and concerns) of adjoining properties.



6.0 INDICATIVE PLANTING PALETTE

The following planting palettes serve as an indicative guide of the species to be selected for the southern 13.5km extent of the NRRT. The species selected are native or endemic to the Northern Rivers area and have been confirmed on the Northern Rivers inventory from Bionet Altas to confirm their character and performance in the area.

Further development of species and character 'zones' within precincts will be developed during detail design. The species selected will be subject to

further scrutiny in relations to the micro-climate of the specific planting locations. For example, if they are to be located near watercourses, sheltered or exposed positions; and their preferred soil types, fertile, moist soils, drainage requirements, there tolerance to extended dry periods, frost and wind exposure.

An example of the selection criteria for detailed design is the Eucalyptus bancroftii that has been selected because it is endemic to the Northern

Rivers region, its gnarly character makes it suitable for out edges of design areas that extend native habitat; it is a primary food tree for Koalas and is suitable for coastal, sandy, infertile gently sloping lowland sites with poor drainage, tolerates extended dry periods, frost and wind tolerant, and is suitable for annual rainfall 900-1600mm.



The species mix has been selected for their a visual connection to the land. The planting will provide diverse colour, texture and form along with enhancing the local flora and fauna habitats. Vegetation will be used to provide shade, screening, visual cues and instill an identifiable character linked to the Northern Rivers country side for a site specific experience along this area of the NRRT.

TREES



Eucalyptus microcorys  
tallowwood



Eucalyptus moluccana  
Grey Box



Eucalyptus robusta  
Swamp Mahogany



Eucalyptus bancroftii  
Orange Gum



Eucalyptus tereticornis  
Forest Red Gum



Eucalyptus signata  
Scribbly Gum



NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

TREES



**Brachychiton acerifolius**  
*Illawara Flame Tree*



**Callistemon salignus**  
*White Bottlebrush*



**Ficus obliqua**  
*Small-leaved Fig*



**Ficus rubiginosa**  
*Port Jackson Fig*



**Cupaniopsis anacardioides**  
*Tuckeroo*



**Syzygium hodgkinsoniae**  
*Red Lilly Pilly*



**Hymenosporum flavum**  
*Native Frangipani*



**Angophora robur**  
*Sandstone rough-barked apple*



**Melaleuca quinquenervia**  
*Paperbark*



**Elaeocarpus eumundi**  
*Eumundii Ash*



**Hibiscus tiliaceus 'Rubra'**  
*Bronze Cotton Wood*



**Livistona australis**  
*Cabbage Tree Palm*



**Lophostemon confertus**  
*Brush Box*



**Pittosporum undulatum**  
*Sweet Pittosporum*



**Stenocarpus sinuatus**  
*Firewheel Tree*



The shrubs palette serves as an indicative guide of the species to be selected for use of screening and infill planting. Where adjoining properties or fence lines require screening for privacy, visual aesthetics and to prohibit access near fence lines, dense pockets of shrubs and trees can be used to minimise opportunistic antisocial behaviour. Shrubs may also be used to create understory planting to enhance habitat and delineate public access movements.

SHRUBS



Acacia courtii  
Wattle



Austromyrtus dulcis  
Midgen berry



Banksia spinulosa  
Hairpin Banksia



Melaleuca thymifolia  
Thyme Honey-myrtle



Westringia glabra  
Violet westringia



Hibiscus heterophyllus  
Native Rosella



Grevillea rhizomatosa  
Gibraltar Grevillea



Banksia aemula  
Wallum Banksia



Persoonia stradbokensis



NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL: CASINO TO BENTLEY SECTION MASTERPLAN

The following feature and groundcover palette serves as an indicative guide of the species to be selected for general arrangements / reducing heat island effect (due to additional hardscape) / weed suppression / erosion control and visual aesthetics and cues; for instance, consistent use at crossings and key destinations.

FEATURES



Crinum pedunculatum  
Swamp Lilly



Doryanthes palmeri  
Giant Spear Lily



Xanthorrhoea johnsonii  
Johnson's Grass Tree



Banksia oblongifolia  
Fern leaved Banksia

GROUND COVERS



Carpobrotus glaucescens  
Pig Face



Hibbertia scandens  
Climbing Guinea Flower



Hibbertia marginata  
Bordered Guinea Flower



Dianella caerulea  
Blue Flax Lily



Lomandra glauca  
Pale Mat Rush



Lomandra hystrix  
Creek Mat Rush



Grevillea juniperina  
Grevillea



The Bush Tucker palette serves as an indicative guide of the species to be selected for use on an edible trail; A bush tucker area can provide additional visitor interest for trail users including walking tours.

Aboriginal stories could enrich to the ‘Bush Tucker’ journey; Investigate the integration of Aboriginal story boards through this area.

BUSH TUCKER



**Macadamia tetraphylla**  
*Rough Shelled Bush Nut*



**Acmena ingens**  
*Lilly Pilly - Red Apple*



**Syzygium hodgkinsoniae**  
*Red Lilly Pilly*



**Drymophila moorei**  
*Orange Berry*



**Backhousia Myrtifolia**  
*Grey Myrtle*



**Davidsonia jerseyana**  
*Davidson's Plum*



**Syzygium australe**  
*Brush Cherry*



**Syzygium moorei**  
*Durobby, Lilly Pilly Coolamon*



**Planchonella australis**  
*Black Apple*



**Citrus australasica**  
*Finger Lime*



**Syzygium luehmannii**  
*Small leaved Lilly Pilly*



**Podocarpus elatus**  
*Plum Pine*



**Eupomatia laurina**  
*Bolwarra*



**Elaeocarpus grandis**  
*Blue Quandong*



**Diploglottis australis**  
*Native Tamarind*

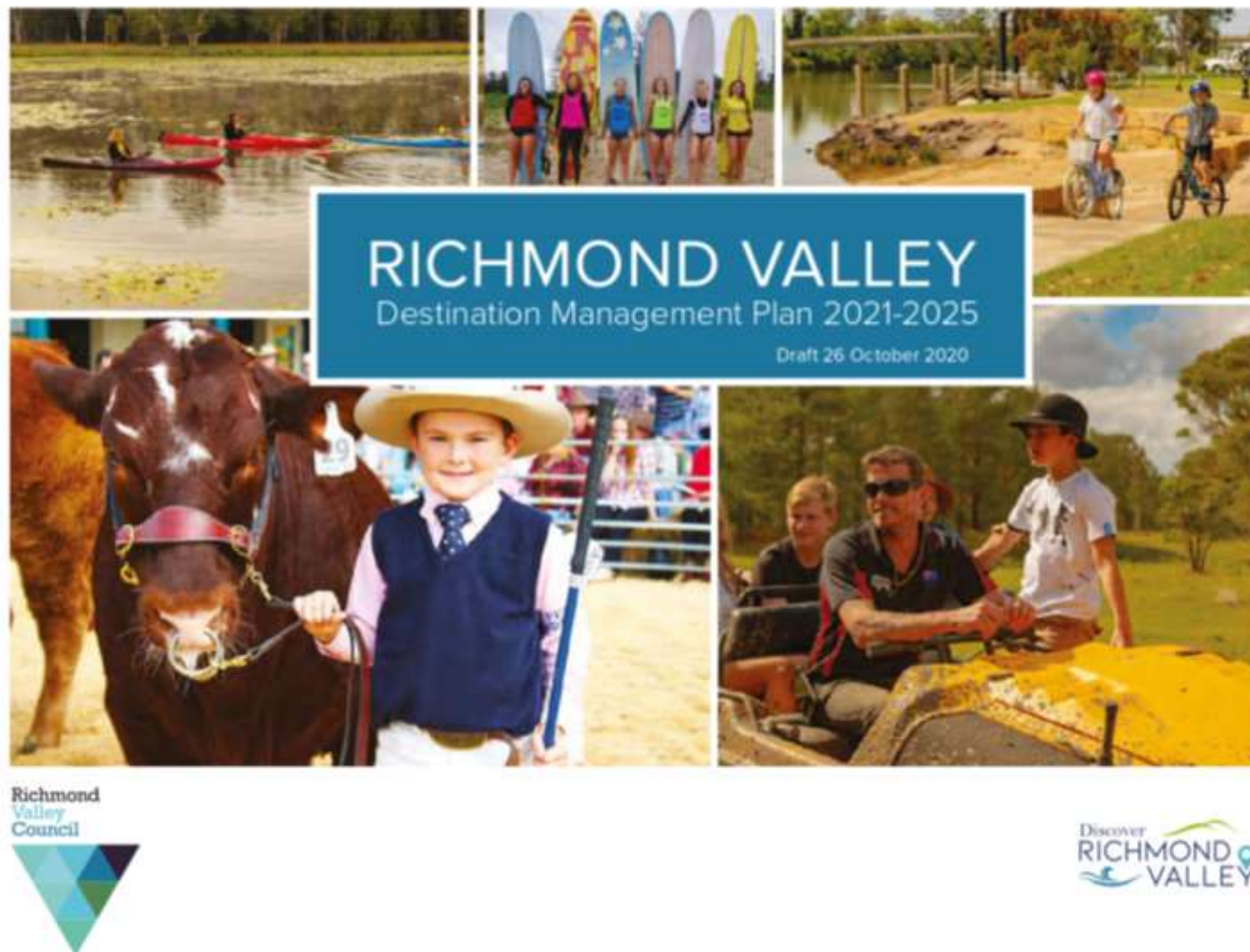
**FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS OF ALL PLANTING PALETTES WILL BE COMPLETED DURING DETAIL DESIGN AND DOCUMENTATION PHASES.**





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## DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this Plan is intended only to inform and should not be relied upon for future business investment or other decisions. It is expected any specific recommended actions should be analysed and appropriate due diligence undertaken prior to making any investment decisions.

Recommended actions contained in the Richmond Valley Destination Management Plan 2021 to 2025 have been made on the basis of assumptions, methodology and information provided from many sources. The authors, and Richmond Valley Council, accept no responsibility or liability for any errors, omissions or resultant consequences including any loss or damage arising from reliance on the information contained in this Plan.







## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Richmond Valley Destination Management Plan 2021 to 2025 has been developed by Meredith Wray, Wray Sustainable Tourism Planning and Research, with support from Jo Mackellar, Destination Research and Development.

The consultants wish to thank the Project Steering Team, Sharon Davidson, Manager Communications, Events and Tourism, and Navanka Fletcher, Destination Officer, for their support and guidance throughout the planning process.

We would also like to acknowledge the representatives of stakeholder organisations across the Richmond Valley region who participated in the engagement process representing government, business and community interests. Thank you for your interest and your valuable contributions to help create this Plan to serve as a framework to guide and foster on-going collaboration to grow and further develop the Richmond Valley visitor economy over the next five years.



## ACRONYMS

ATDW	Australian Data Warehouse
DMP	Destination Management Plan
DNC	Destination North Coast
DNSW	Destination New South Wales
FCNSW	Forestry Corporation of New South Wales
LGA	Local Government Area
LSPS	Local Strategic Tourism Planning Statement
MBT	Mountain Bike Tourism
NPWS	National Parks & Wildlife Service
NSW	New South Wales
RDA	Regional Development Australia
RV	Recreation Vehicle
RVDMP	Richmond Valley Destination Management Plan
RVC	Richmond Valley Council
VFR	Visiting Friends and Relatives
VIC	Visitor Information Centre
YE	Year End





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Executive Summary

<b>1.0</b>	Introduction	7
<b>2.0</b>	Sustainable Tourism Planning Approach	8
<b>3.0</b>	Growing the Richmond Valley Visitor Economy	10
<b>4.0</b>	Visitor Economy Vision & Objectives	12
<b>5.0</b>	Visitation Overview	13
<b>6.0</b>	Key Visitor Markets	15
<b>7.0</b>	Strategic Priorities to 2025	17
<b>8.0</b>	Implementation	30
<b>9.0</b>	Appendices	31





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Richmond Valley Destination Management Plan 2021 to 2025 has been developed to create a roadmap to guide the collaborative work of Richmond Valley Council and local stakeholders to grow, develop and promote the Richmond Valley and its towns and villages as an appealing and competitive tourism region on the North Coast of NSW.

In developing this Plan careful consideration has been given to ensure the development and promotion of tourism celebrates and protects Richmond Valley's natural and built environments whilst providing benefits for the local community.

Importantly, the plan identifies key catalyst opportunities which have the potential for Richmond Valley destinations to gain competitive advantage in the North Coast tourism market place.

### CHALLENGES TO GROWING THE VISITOR ECONOMY

- Richmond Valley has relatively low visitation levels as compared to other North Coast destinations
- There is little tourism product creating a real point of difference for new and repeat visitors
- Improving visitor accommodation quality and capacity is necessary to attract new and high yield visitors to stay longer and explore the local area
- The area has abundant nature based assets, the challenge is how to activate these in a sustainable way to attract new nature-based visitors
- Although agriculture is a main industry for the Richmond Valley, agri-tourism experiences are still mainly under-developed
- It is important to continue to plan for risks which may impact the Richmond Valley visitor economy.

### OPPORTUNITIES TO STIMULATE VISITOR ECONOMY GROWTH

- The Pacific Highway upgrade has the potential to kick-start visitor economy growth for Evans Head and change the access and appeal of Woodburn, Coraki, New Italy and Broadwater
- The Casino to Bentley Rail section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail is a critical catalyst project which will help to enhance the visitor and investment appeal of Casino
- Developing and positioning the Richmond Valley as a distinct walking, cycling and mountain bike tourism destination on the North Coast
- Increasing awareness and further activating nature-based tourism experiences provided by national parks, State forests, reserves, rivers and waterways
- Encouraging and supporting private sector investors to enhance existing and develop new tourism products is essential to attract new and repeat visitors and to drive economic growth
- Attracting visitors year-round is important to achieve sustained growth and viable businesses
- Growing and procuring a vibrant calendar of authentic destinations events which showcase the area and attract visitors year-round
- Creating and promoting agri and cultural tourism experience trails to encourage visitor dispersal
- Sustainable tourism development is important to continue to protect the Richmond Valley and its towns and villages as good places to live and visit
- Establishing clear brand identity and positioning stories for Evans Head (coastal) and Casino (inland)
- Cooperation between Council and industry stakeholders is important to drive sustainable visitor economy growth and development.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1 Destination Management	PRIORITY 2 Destination Planning & Development	PRIORITY 3 Destination Product & Experience Development	PRIORITY 4 Destination Crisis & Risk Management	PRIORITY 5 Destination Marketing
Strengthen Council destination management arrangements for tourism, events and business development to drive a strategic and collaborative approach to grow and develop the Richmond Valley visitor economy	Adopt a strategic and whole-of-destination approach to continue to plan and develop infrastructure and facilities to enhance the appeal and amenity of Richmond Valley destinations as places to live, visit and do business	Attract and support private sector investment to create and deliver a range of contemporary and authentic tourism products and experiences to encourage new and repeat visitors to stopover, stay and explore the area	Continue to assess and plan for potential environmental and economic risks which may impact the Richmond Valley visitor economy	Determine a strong brand identity and positioning story for the Richmond Valley and its main destinations (Evans Head and Casino) and review destination marketing and visitor information service strategies to ensure a coordinated approach to the promotion of the area







## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Richmond Valley Destination Management Plan (RVDMP) 2021 to 2025 has been developed to create a roadmap to guide the collaborative work of Richmond Valley Council (RVC) and local stakeholders to stimulate the sustainable growth and development of the Richmond Valley visitor economy and its towns and villages as an appealing and competitive tourism region on the North Coast of NSW.

Funding has been received from the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund (community stream) for the development of this Plan.

This Destination Management Plan builds on the outcomes of the previous Richmond Valley Tourism Development Plan (2017) and proposes innovative and realistic strategies to assist in developing, managing and marketing the Richmond Valley visitor economy over the next five years.

Richmond Valley comprises the main coastal destination of Evans Head and inland destination Casino as well as the villages of Broadwater, Coraki, New Italy, Rappville and Woodburn.

In line with other North Coast local government areas, the Richmond Valley visitor economy has been growing incrementally over the past five years. Tourism is estimated to contribute \$78 million direct visitor expenditure to the Richmond visitor economy per year\*. Domestic daytrips account for 59% of visitors to the region and domestic overnight visitors account for 40% of visitors.

Increasing direct visitor expenditure and overnight visitation is, therefore, important to growing the area's visitor economy.

Council and local stakeholder organisations agree the time is right to kick start new ways to sustainably develop and grow the Richmond Valley visitor economy so it can be better positioned as an appealing tourism destination on the North Coast of NSW.

Two catalyst infrastructure projects will help to drive visitor economy growth to the area – the upgrade of the Pacific Highway which will make Evans Head and nearby villages more accessible, and the recent NSW Government approval for the development of the Casino to Bentley section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail.

The Richmond Valley Destination Management Plan 2021 to 2025 is an important outcome of comprehensive research, analysis and stakeholder engagement processes, and has been prepared to integrate and leverage with other stakeholder strategic plans across local, regional and State levels.

The destination management planning process involved the following stages:

STAGE ONE Background Research	STAGE TWO Stakeholder Engagement	STAGE THREE DMP Development
Review of research and relevant strategies, plans and policies across state, regional and local levels	Meeting with senior Council staff, destination workshops and survey with local businesses, Council and community representatives; interviews with relevant stakeholder organisations	Consideration of findings of Stages Two and Three

\*TRA (2020) visitor regional expenditure data at LGA Profiles





## 2.0 SUSTAINABLE TOURISM PLANNING APPROACH

The Richmond Valley Destination Management Plan has been designed as a living document to:

- Sustainably grow and further develop the Richmond Valley visitor economy
- Best position the Richmond Valley within the North Coast region and broader east coast marketplace
- Establish a shared vision with government, business and community stakeholders for the future of visitor economy across the Richmond Valley
- Identify realistic and catalyst opportunities to develop, grow and promote the range and quality of tourism product and experiences across the region that appeal to key visitor markets
- Encourage a productive, and integrated working relationship between Council and industry stakeholders
- Further activate local businesses and support them to flourish
- Adapt to changes in visitor travel patterns and behaviour arising from upgrades to the Pacific Highway and the COVID-19 health pandemic
- Ensure the diverse strategies and benefits of tourism growth are maximised with a targeted approach for sustainable economic growth for residents and towns of the Richmond Valley
- Provide planning and suggested implementation and assessment for a variety of tourism products and experiences and strategies tailored to Broadwater, Casino, Coraki, Evans Head, New Italy, Rappville and Woodburn
- Have a focus on renewed tourism planning as part of the rebuilding and renewal of bushfire-affected farmland and towns
- Adapt to changing conditions, issues and opportunities as they arise
- Recognise the role of Richmond Valley Council as leading the sustainable tourism growth and development of the local visitor economy through the provision of financial and human resources, and as the custodian and manager of key assets, supporting facilities and amenities
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of tourism stakeholders in the implementation of the plan to 2025
- Incorporate an annual monitoring and evaluation process.

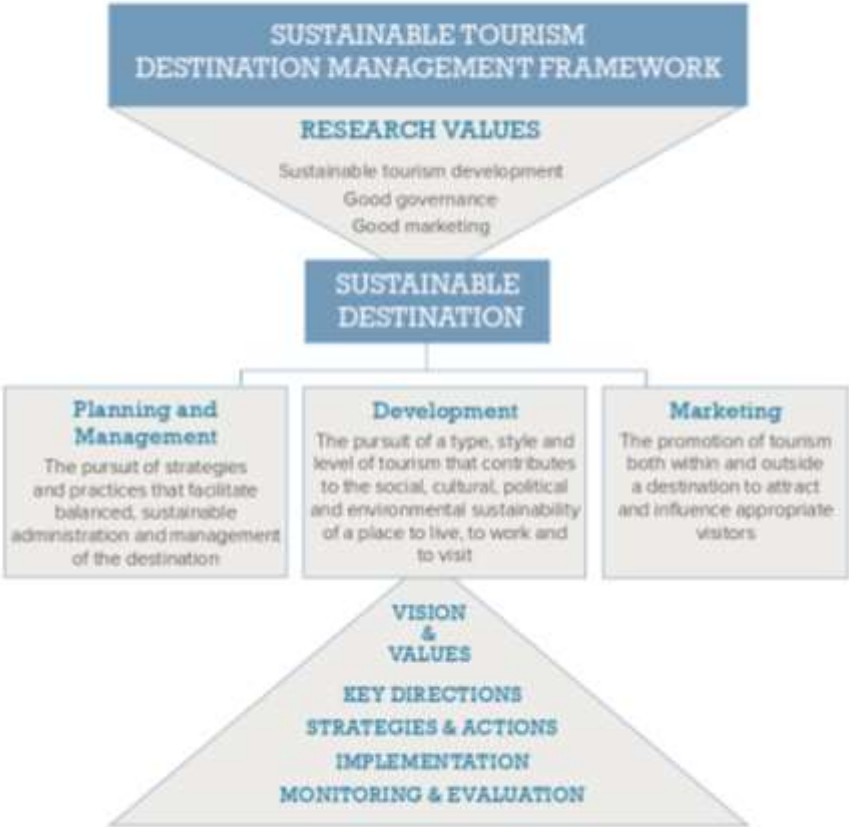






Figure 1: Sustainable Tourism Planning Approach\*

The strategic approach used to develop this Plan is depicted below:



\*Adapted from Dredge, D. 2008 Managing Local Tourism Master Class: Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council Workshop Materials, SCU.





## 3.0 GROWING THE RICHMOND VALLEY VISITOR ECONOMY

Enhancing Richmond Valley and its towns and villages as contemporary and appealing year-round destinations is important to increasing visitor expenditure, overnight stays and daytrips to the area.

Richmond Valley Council has an important role in leading and working with local stakeholders to guide the development, management and marketing of tourism and events to create greater awareness of the area and to encourage visitation year round to grow the Richmond Valley visitor economy.

Collaboration and engagement between Council and industry stakeholders is necessary to drive the Richmond Valley visitor economy forward. This includes consideration of how Council can support business development and engage with the various Chambers of Commerce and other key stakeholder groups, such as Destination North Coast, Forestry Commission of NSW and National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Visitation to the Richmond Valley has increased incrementally over the past five years at an average rate of 7% per year. Although this aligns with the average for regional NSW, direct expenditure from these visitors contributes an estimated \$78 million to the Richmond Valley economy per year.

The Richmond Valley visitor economy can also be considered relatively small compared to other North Coast destinations (Lismore \$153 million and Ballina \$318 million).

In terms of visitation, Richmond Valley attracts mainly daytrips visitors (59%) who spend on average \$97 per day, which is slightly lower than regional NSW average (\$110). Domestic overnight visitors account for 40% of all visitors who spend on average \$102 per night which is also lower than the NSW average (\$159).

The reason for the lower nightly expenditure may be attributed to the mix of accommodation used, with a large percentage of visitors using non-commercial accommodation such as Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) (36%) and caravan/camping (37%). This is much higher than other regional North Coast destinations, such as Greater Port Macquarie (VFR = 31%) and caravan/camping (16%).

Increasing direct visitor expenditure and overnight visitation is, therefore, imperative to growing the area's visitor economy.

There is a significant and immediate opportunity to grow and develop tourism in a sustainable way to help diversify the Richmond Valley economy given the upgrade of the Pacific Highway, and the associated reduction in travel time, to attract year-round new and repeat visitors from Queensland and regional areas to Evans Head and nearby villages.

The proposed development of the Casino to Bentley section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail also has significant potential to be a catalyst project for Casino and its surrounds to attract new visitor markets and stimulate new business investment to the area.





## 3.0 Growing the Richmond Valley Visitor Economy cont.

The background research and stakeholder engagement processes identified the following main opportunities and challenges to growing the Richmond Valley visitor economy.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- The Pacific Highway upgrade has the potential to kick start visitor economy growth for Evans Head and change the access and appeal of Woodburn, Coraki, New Italy and Broadwater
- The Casino to Bentley Rail section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail is a critical catalyst project which will help to enhance the visitor and investment appeal of Casino. The NSW Government approval for use of the railway lines between Casino and Bentley provides Casino with a distinct advantage over other LGAs to activate this project immediately
- Developing and positioning the Richmond Valley as a distinct walking, cycling and mountain bike tourism destination on the North Coast
- Increasing awareness and further activating nature-based tourism experiences provided by national parks, State forests, reserves, rivers and waterways
- Encouraging and supporting private sector investors to enhance existing and develop new tourism products is essential to attract visitors and to drive economic growth
- Attracting visitors year round is important to achieve sustained growth and viable businesses
- Growing and procuring a vibrant calendar of authentic destinations events which showcase the area and attract visitors year round
- Creating and promoting agri and cultural tourism experience trails to encourage visitor dispersal
- Establishing clear brand identity and positioning stories for Evans Head (coastal) and Casino (inland)
- Sustainable tourism development is important to continue to protect the Richmond Valley and its towns and villages as good places to live and visit
- Cooperation between Council and industry stakeholders is important to drive sustainable visitor economy growth and development.

### CHALLENGES

- Richmond Valley shows relatively low visitation levels as compared to other North Coast destinations, ranked ahead of Kempsey and Nambucca Valley and behind Lismore in terms of domestic overnight visitation
- Tourism across the North Coast continues to be competitive as destinations implement development and marketing strategies that are aimed at similar visitor markets to the Richmond Valley
- There is currently little tourism product creating a real point of difference in the Richmond Valley
- Improving visitor accommodation quality and capacity is necessary to attract new and high yield visitors to stay longer and explore the local area. There have been challenges in the past to attracting accommodation investors
- The area has abundant nature-based assets, the challenge is how to activate these in a sustainable way to attract new nature based visitors
- Although agriculture is a main industry for the Richmond Valley, agri-tourism experiences are still mainly under-developed
- It is important to continue to plan for risks that may impact the Richmond Valley visitor economy
- Attracting visitors year round is needed to achieve sustained growth and viable businesses.

## 4.0 2025 VISITOR ECONOMY VISION & OBJECTIVES

The stakeholder engagement process undertaken with industry and community stakeholders to inform this Plan found that participants across all destinations were keen to see the Richmond Valley visitor economy to grow over the next five years.

The following vision statement was created from this engagement and will be used to guide the implementation of the Richmond Valley Destination Management Plan 2021 to 2025:

*By 2025, the Richmond Valley and its towns and villages will be recognised as an appealing tourism destination in the North Coast region of NSW offering a range of attractions and experiences to attract overnight and daytrip visitors to explore the region year round. Council and industry stakeholders will cooperate to achieve sustainable tourism development outcomes to drive visitor economy growth.*

This vision aligns with community and economic visions.

Table 1: Richmond Valley Community visions and related visitor economy strategies

STRATEGY	VISION
Richmond Valley Made 2030 Community Strategic Plan <sup>a</sup>	A great community with a relaxed lifestyle, beautiful environment and vibrant economy
Richmond Valley Local Strategic Planning Statement: Beyond 20-20 Vision	A collaborative community working together to advance a resilient and robust economy which reflects a strong sense of community, successful businesses and a healthy environment
A Guide to Economic Development in the Richmond Valley 2019	Richmond Valley Council is committed to providing an environment which fosters economic growth whilst encouraging sustainable living and business practices

### 2025 VISITOR ECONOMY OBJECTIVES<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup>A new Community Strategic Plan is to be prepared in 2021.

<sup>b</sup>It should be noted that the TRA data provides the only consistent measures of visitation and visitor expenditure data. Visitor economy objectives are based on analysis of this data at the time of preparation of this Plan. Achievement of benchmark goals may also be influenced by external factors such as changes to broader economic conditions and other unforeseen conditions/influences.







## 5.0 VISITATION OVERVIEW

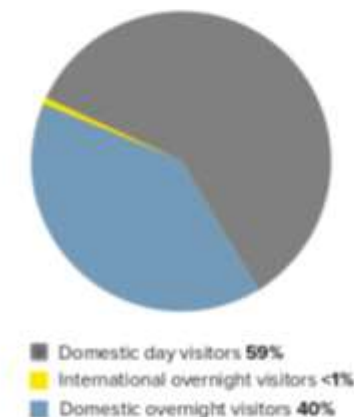
Analysis of the most current Tourism Research Australia (TRA) visitation data for Richmond Valley from 2016 to 2020 shows\*:

- The area has attracted an average of 400,000 visitors per year (2016 to 2020)
- Total visitation has increased incrementally over the past 5 years at an average rate of 7% per year
- Domestic day visitors account for 59% of all visitors
- Domestic overnight visitors account for 40% of all visitors
- International visitors comprise less than 1% of total visitation
- Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) accounts for 36% of visitors
- Expenditure from these visitors contributes an estimated \$78 million to the Richmond Valley economy per year
- *Approximately 466 people are directly employed in the tourism workforce\**
- Visitation is mainly focused in Evans Head (47%) and highly seasonal.

Analysis of visitor length of stay and expenditure shows:

- Domestic overnight visitors stay for an average of 3.8 nights – higher than the average for regional NSW of 3.2 nights. They spend an average of \$102 per night<sup>4</sup> – which is somewhat lower than regional NSW (\$159\*)
- Daytrip visitors spend an average of \$76 per day – which is slightly lower than regional NSW (\$110)
- International visitors spend an average stay for an average of 16 nights – almost equal to the average for regional NSW of 17 nights. They spend an average of \$25 per night – which is somewhat lower than regional NSW (\$70)
- Low visitation levels compared to other North Coast destinations, ranked ahead of Kempsey and Nambucca Valley and behind Lismore for domestic overnight visitation.

Figure 2: Richmond Valley Main Visitor Markets



\*5-year averages are used to allow for yearly variations often caused by weather or other events.

<sup>4</sup>TRA Online (2020) <https://www.tra.gov.au/services> -Year End March 2020 data (RV5 and NV5).

\*ONSW (2019) [travel-to-regional-nsw-snapshot](https://www.ons.gov.au).



## 5.0 Visitation Overview cont.

Analysis of geographic source markets shows:

- **80% of overnight visitors** come from regions north of the Richmond Valley
- **70% of day visitors** come from local areas north-east of the Richmond Valley
- **The Brisbane market provides 50% of the overnight visitors and 10% of day trip visitors.**

Table 2: Main Geographic Source Markets for the Richmond Valley<sup>4</sup>

Key Markets	5-year average (2016-2020)	Overnight	Day
Brisbane	Brisbane	50%	10%
Gold Coast	Gold Coast	14%	9%
	Southern QLD Regional	12%	1%
North Coast NSW	North Coast NSW	10%	80%
	Sydney	4%	
	Sunshine Coast	3%	
	VIC, ACT, SA	3%	
Regional NSW	New England North West	2%	
	Hunter	2%	

Analysis of the age and lifecycle highlights the following main visitor markets:



See Appendix 1 for further analysis of visitation and trends over the past 5 years.



## 6.0 KEY VISITOR MARKETS

Based on visitation research findings, and recommendations of the Tourism Research Australia 'The Beach, Bush and Beyond' report on the regional dispersal for Australian tourists<sup>7</sup>, the focus for Richmond Valley marketing initiatives should be concentrated on the following key visitor markets with the intention of attracting repeat and new visitors and encouraging them to stay and explore the region:

### PRIMARY



- Domestic overnight visitors  
from Queensland and regional NSW targeting road trippers - families and Australians 45+ years

### SECONDARY



- Domestic daytrip visitors  
from the Northern Rivers and South East Queensland targeting families and Australians 45+ years
- Visiting friends and relatives

As further explained in Strategic Priority 5, future brand and marketing should confirm which visitor markets (geographic, demographic and psychographic) are best targeted to achieve sustainable growth over the next five years.

See Appendix 2 for a description of personas most likely and least likely to visit Australia's region identified in the TRA report.



<sup>7</sup>Tourism Research Australia (2019) The Beach, Bush and Beyond: Understanding Regional Dispersal of Australian Tourists, October



### DOMESTIC TRAVEL POST-COVID-19

From March 2020, the Australian visitor economy was then severely impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic which stopped international and domestic travel. A survey undertaken with 1200 Australians at this time found that aspiration to travel remained strong among Australians with 43% of Australians looking to travel. Older (55+), more affluent, educated and socially engaged Australians are most likely to be open to travelling. Domestic travel was identified as the most likely to recover first - driven by this group with local being king\*.

This was confirmed by research undertaken by the University of Queensland in April 2020 with 528 Australians which found participants were keen to travel close to home when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted with coastal destinations the most popular, followed by country and regional destinations. Cities were the least appealing destination for future travel, and half of the travellers stated they would prefer to drive to their destination\*.

Recent research undertaken in Australia indicates the following trends:

- Restricted travel to overseas destinations in the next two years
- Desire to travel to 'safe' destinations that are less likely to have an outbreak
- Increased travel to visit friends and relatives
- Desire to get back to nature and spend time in nature-based destinations
- Record sales of caravans and motorhomes in the past 6 months\*\*.

This may be an advantage for the Richmond Valley in the future with people seeking safe, risk-free, authentic and affordable breaks from their urban lifestyle.

### 6.0 Key Visitor Markets cont.



\*MyTravel Research.com (2020) Australian responses to bushfires and Covid-19, April.

\*\*<https://www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2020/04/sunny-outlook-domestic-tourism-post-covid-19-restrictions>

\*\*[www.jamagateway.wordpress.com/2020/04/02/covid-19-and-sustainable-tourism](http://www.jamagateway.wordpress.com/2020/04/02/covid-19-and-sustainable-tourism)





## 7.0 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Five strategic priorities and associated actions have been established to guide work of Council and industry stakeholders to grow the Richmond Valley visitor economy over the next five years.



The following Destination Action Plan provides detail against each priority and associated actions for Council, industry and community stakeholders to implement cooperatively over the next five years to 2025.

The actions in this Plan have been assigned a priority time frame:

**HIGH** = commencing Year One

**MEDIUM** = commencing Years Two-Three

**LOW** = commencing Years Four-Five





## PRIORITY 1

### Destination Management

Strengthen Council destination management arrangements for tourism, events and business development to drive a strategic and collaborative approach to grow and develop the Richmond Valley visitor economy.

Richmond Valley Council continues to have an important leadership role in strategic destination management across the Richmond Valley area. This includes funding support and coordination of destination marketing initiatives, events and visitor information services as well as strategic planning, and infrastructure development to support sustainable tourism development.

## 7.0 Strategic Priorities cont.

To drive further growth of the local visitor economy Council will need to adopt a proactive approach to support and encourage tourism business investment to the area.

Council and local industry leaders also have a significant role in motivating and inspiring local operators across Richmond Valley to work cooperatively and build a whole of destination approach to drive visitor economy growth and development.

With this in mind, it is recommended that a Tourism Advisory Group be established to facilitate better engagement between Council and leading local tourism stakeholders and relevant stakeholder organisations (NPWS, FCNSW). Representatives should be skills based and selected on a basis of their knowledge and expertise in tourism for a two-year tenure. Clear terms of reference for membership selection and tenure should be developed for the group.

The role of the group would be to:

- Provide strategic advice on the implementation of the Richmond Valley Destination Action Plan 2021 to 2025
- Advocate the benefits to local industry operators of working together to grow and develop the local visitor economy.

The success of this Plan also requires improved engagement with local business stakeholder organisations and groups representing the interests of its main destinations Evans Head and Casino, as well as villages seeking to grow and develop their visitor economies – Coraki, New Italy, Rappville and Woodburn. This includes working with these stakeholder organisations to align their strategic plans and initiatives with the recommendations of the Richmond Valley Destination Management Plan to achieve a whole of destination approach to grow and develop the visitor economy.

Encouraging and supporting operator participation in relevant industry development initiatives provided by other key tourism stakeholders is also important (Destination North Coast, and Destination New South Wales).







ACTIONS		PRIORITY
1.1	Integrate the RVDMP into Council delivery programs and annual operational plans.	High
1.2	Review Council budget and staffing arrangements for tourism, events and business development to provide strategic leadership to effectively implement the RVDMP.	High
1.4	Work cooperatively with relevant Council departments to ensure the priorities and actions of the RVDMP are communicated and the visitor economy is an important consideration of Council's strategies and plans.	High
1.5	Present the RVDMP to Richmond Valley chambers of commerce and other key stakeholder organisations and provide support to link their local plans and strategies to the priorities of the RVDMP.	High
1.6	Establish a Tourism Advisory Group to advise on the implementation of the RVDMP. Representatives should be skills based and selected on a basis of their knowledge and expertise in tourism for a two-year tenure.	High
1.7	Facilitate quarterly meetings with the Tourism Advisory Group to cooperatively advise on the implementation of the RVDMP.	On-going
1.8	Regularly participate in Destination North Coast tourism manager forums.	On-going
1.9	Continue to participate in Northern Rivers Tourism Managers Group meetings.	On-going
1.10	Present briefings on the implementation progress of the RVDMP to Council at least twice annually.	On-going
1.11	Work with the key visitor economy stakeholders to prepare an annual Richmond Valley Industry Engagement and Development Program to improve engagement with local tourism operators and businesses, identify industry development needs and opportunities, and encourage cooperation to grow the Richmond Valley visitor economy.	High
1.12	Encourage and support tourism operator participation in relevant industry development initiatives provided by Council and key tourism stakeholders (Destination North Coast, and Destination New South Wales).	On-going
1.13	Provide professional development opportunities for Council staff involved in tourism, events and business development to advance their strategic tourism knowledge and leadership capacity, such as tourism and strategic land-use planning, destination research, event planning and evaluation, strategic marketing, digital marketing, industry development, crisis management planning and recovery.	On-going
1.14	Evaluate annual implementation of RVDMP action across all Council divisions.	On-going





## PRIORITY 2

### Destination Planning & Development

Adopt a strategic and whole-of-destination approach to continue to plan and develop infrastructure and facilities to enhance the appeal and amenity of Richmond Valley destinations as places to live, visit and do business.

Council has planned and initiated major infrastructure development in recent years to establish the Richmond Valley and its towns and villages as attractive places to live and visit (Casino Drill Hall Precinct, Coraki riverfront precinct, Razorback Lookout upgrade, Casino Showground and Racecourse upgrade).

The recent upgrade of the Pacific Highway and the proposed development of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail are significant catalyst infrastructure development projects which will help to drive visitor economy growth.

To take advantage of these opportunities, there is a need to adopt a strategic and whole-of-destination approach to continue to enhance Evans Head as an appealing year-round coastal destination and to activate Casino as an appealing inland destination.

## 7.0 Strategic Priorities cont.

Key considerations to inform future strategic planning and infrastructure development for these destinations are outlined below: Evans Head

- The upgrade of the Pacific Highway, and the associated reduction in travel time, presents an immediate opportunity for Evans Head to attract year-round new and repeat overnight and daytrip visitors from Queensland, North Coast and regional areas.
- It is anticipated growth will progressively occur, however, it will be important to consider how much visitation growth and development Evans Head can sustain in the longer term.
- The township is relatively land locked so it will be important to adopt a whole-of-destination approach to strategically plan and consider the type and scale of development which is appropriate for the area, and clearly identify sites for future sustainable tourism development.
- Consideration of NSW Government short-term holiday letting policy outcomes (when finalised) to ensure Evans Head continues to enjoy the benefits of short-term holiday letting while managing potential adverse impacts as the destination becomes more popular.

### Casino

- The Northern Rivers Rail Trail from Casino to Bertley has been approved for construction. Casino will be the 'Rail Trail Head' of the trail. Consultants have developed a master plan to guide the development of the 13.5 km section of the rail trail from Casino to Bertley which has received \$7.5million funding for construction, and is due to start in 2021. \$430,000 has also been approved for the development of the Old Casino Railway Station.
- To take full advantage of this opportunity a whole-of-destination approach is required to strategically plan for the whole of Casino CBD as a significant start/end point of the rail trail, not just the upgrade of the Old Casino Railway Station and development of the rail trail. This will help to provide opportunities for visitors to spend locally rather than just using the rail trail.
- There is a need for a coordinated approach to consider the supporting infrastructure and facilities needed to present Casino as a bike/walking-friendly town, to identify new tourism product opportunities, to attract and support interested investors, as well as working with industry to adopt an open-for-business attitude.
- Advocate for the development of the project with other LGAs with an interest in the rail trail is also important to fast track its development.
- Integrate with other destination development initiatives – such as such as Recreation Vehicle (RV) friendly town and Drill Hall Precinct.







The Pacific Highway upgrade will also change visitor travel patterns to Broadwater, Woodburn, New Italy and Coraki. Bushfire recovery grants are designed to fast track the recovery process and create new opportunities, which will alleviate pressure for New Italy and Rappville.

The following outline key considerations in future strategic planning and infrastructure development for these villages:

#### Woodburn, Coraki and Broadwater

- Although the Pacific Highway upgrade will impact businesses in Woodburn and Broadwater in the short term, it is expected that new businesses will emerge as these towns evolve as appealing places to live
- The Woodburn master plan and Council's recent work to upgrade the Woodburn Riverside Precinct will help to enhance the recreational and leisure appeal of Woodburn
- Woodburn is geographically well situated as a gateway to access national parks, State forests and reserves in the area
- The recent upgrade to the Coraki riverfront precinct will help to boost visitor and investor interest in Coraki
- It is anticipated that growth for Broadwater will come from new residents moving to the area.

#### New Italy

- It is expected that New Italy will experience a significant increase in stopover visitation from visitors travelling north as a result of the highway upgrade
- This will help to position New Italy as the southern gateway to the Richmond Valley
- The New Italy community was allocated \$100,000 through bushfire recovery grants to upgrade facilities which will significantly improve the visitor experience
- \$30,000 bushfire recovery funding has been allocated for the reinstatement of mountain bike trail infrastructure at New Italy and there is an opportunity to further develop mountain bike tourism (see more in Priority 3)
- The New Italy Museum Committee has prepared its own strategic plan (2019 to 2024) and has invested in the development of the museum, café, glass art gallery and facilities.

#### Rappville

- Council has been looking at ways to grow the tourism pie for some time now, and offering a range of camping options to attract visitors to Rappville has been a key focus, which will boost economic activity in the village
- \$1.4million has been allocated to rebuild the Rappville Hall. The new building and surrounds will provide a much-improved space for the community to use, as well as ensure the growth and prosperity the village
- There may be opportunities to develop Rappville as a hub for mountain bike tourism in the Braemar Forest (see more in Priority 3)



## 7.0 Strategic Priorities cont.

The background research and stakeholder engagement processes undertaken to inform this Plan recognise Council's role in strategic place-based planning and the development of facilities to enhance Richmond Valley's towns and villages as good places to live and visit. Key projects identified include:

- Continuing to implement the Woodburn master plan to enhance the Woodburn main street
- Creating a distinct walking trail along the Evans River to the Razorback Lookout, including improving the amenity of the Fishing Co-op area on the Evans River, would help to enhance the appeal of Evans Head as a nature-based tourism destination
- Enhancing recreation facilities, including family-friendly walking and cycle tourism offerings, more boat ramps and supporting riverside infrastructure, to better activate the rivers and waterways to attract recreation visitors
- Fast tracking plans to make destinations within Richmond Valley RV friendly
- Improving the Woodburn to Casino Road to allow improved access for residents and visitors between the coast and inland.


### THE RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT: BEYOND 20-20 VISION (LSPS)

Sustainable tourism development is important to continue to protect the significant environmental, heritage and community values. The preparation of the Richmond Valley Council 2040 Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) is timely and has the potential to address opportunities and challenges to drive the growth and development of the sustainable development of tourism of the Richmond Valley. Proposed objectives are important to enhancing its towns and villages as appealing places to visit and to encourage private sector investment.

The LSPS outlines the Richmond Valley local government area's town planning priorities and strategic direction to address planning and development issues of importance to a vibrant and sustainable future. The following actions are specifically relevant to the growth and development of the visitor economy:


- Investigate opportunities to expand nature-based, adventure and cultural tourism places and enhanced visitor experiences (Action 8.4)
- Implement Council's Imagine-2020 and beyond-Supporting progress in the Mid Richmond Plan as a Pacific Highway bypass management strategy aimed at stimulating tourism and business interests in Mid Richmond localities (Action 8.6)
- Partner with key stakeholders to deliver new and diversified employment opportunities, and employment lands (Action 8.8)
- Ensure Council's planning provisions accommodate the changing needs for agriculture, manufacturing and emerging agribusiness and agri-tourism opportunities (Action 7.1).





7.0 Strategic Priorities cont.

ACTIONS	PRIORITY
2.1 Work with Council's Department of Planning and Environment to ensure the visitor economy is considered as part of Council strategic plans to drive a strategic and coordinated approach to the growth and development of the visitor economy (Local Strategic Planning Statements, Local Environment Plan, Development Control Plans, and Community Participation Plan).	On-going
2.2 Continue to advocate and support the enhancement and development of key infrastructure projects which will help drive visitor economy growth to the area, such as upgrade of the Woodburn to Casino Road, walking and cycle tracks, camping ground amenities.	On-going
2.3 Advocate the development of the Casino to Murwillumbah Rail Trail as a priority infrastructure development project to State and local government stakeholders.	On-going
2.4 Adopt a whole-of-destination approach to prepare a place-making plan for Casino which identifies supporting infrastructure and facilities needed to develop and activate Casino as a significant rail trail destination (walking and cycling routes, identification of sites for new tourism product opportunities to attract and support interested investors).	High
2.5 Work with local tourism and hospitality operators to create Casino as an appealing, visitor-friendly town in preparation for the completion of the Casino to Bentley section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail including adopting an open-for-business attitude.	High
2.6 Engage with the NSW Department of Industry to identify ways to improve the access (walking and cycling) and appeal of the riverside between the Evans Head township and Razorback Lookout.	Medium/low
2.7 Continue to improve the visual appeal, character and amenity of Richmond Valley towns and villages through the implementation of the Council plans, beautification and streetscape works, and enhancement of gateway entrances.	On-going
2.8 Identify suitable sites for free camping, develop RV parking facilities near towns and villages, and continue to work with the CMCA to gain accreditation for Casino and Woodburn as RV friendly destinations.	High
2.9 Consider NSW Government short-term holiday letting policy outcomes when they are finalised to ensure Evans Head continues to enjoy the benefits of STRA while managing potential adverse impacts as the destination becomes more popular.	Medium
2.10 Identify and leverage government grant funding for infrastructure and tourism product, experience and event development.	On-going



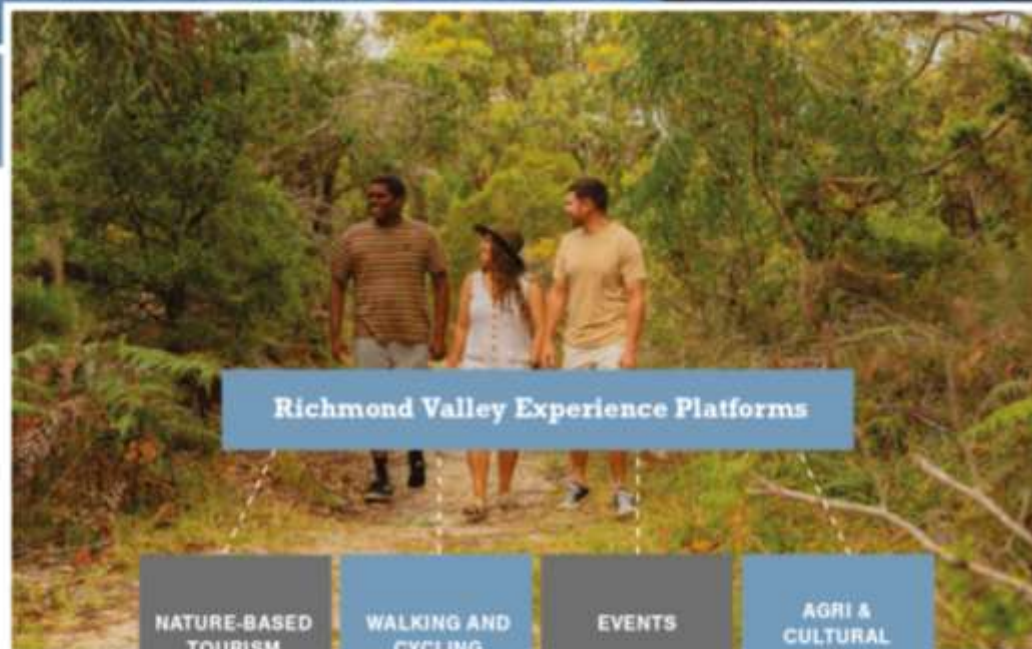
23

**PRIORITY 3****Destination Product and Experience Development**

Attract and support private sector investment to create and deliver a range of contemporary and authentic tourism products and experiences to encourage new and repeat visitors to stopover, stay and explore the area.

To attract visitors to stay longer and explore the area will require taking a strategic and proactive approach to support current businesses to grow, and to draw and support potential investors to the area to develop new products including: accommodation; nature-based tourism operations; agri-tourism experiences; coastal and country hospitality experiences - restaurants, cafes, and pubs.

Four experience platforms and associated actions are proposed to drive and coordinate tourism product and experience development across the Richmond Valley over the next five years<sup>14</sup>.

**Richmond Valley Experience Platforms****NATURE-BASED  
TOURISM**

Increase awareness and further activate nature-based tourism experiences provided by national parks, State forests, reserves, rivers and waterways

**WALKING AND  
CYCLING**

Develop and position the Richmond Valley as a distinct walking, cycling and mountain bike tourism destination on the North Coast

**EVENTS**

Grow and procure a vibrant calendar of authentic destinations events which showcase the area and attract visitors year round

**AGRI &  
CULTURAL  
TOURISM**

Create and promote agri and cultural tourism experience trails to encourage visitor dispersal

<sup>14</sup>These platforms align with the Destination North Coast Destination Management Plan 2018 to 2021 – Nature; Caravan and Camping; Events; Food and Local Produce; Arts, Heritage and Aboriginal Tourism.





## 7.0 Strategic Priorities cont.

The background research and stakeholder engagement processes undertaken to inform this Plan identified:

- The proposed development of the Casino to Murwillumbah Rail trail will create new opportunities for cycling and walking visitors and may attract new tourism and hospitality investors/entrepreneurs to the Casino area.
- There is an immediate opportunity to further develop mountain bike tourism at New Italy. The Dirty Wheels Mountain Bike Club has identified four new trails, including a gravity-ride trail. Funding is required to activate the trails and NSW Forestry has highlighted the need for the Club to prepare a five-year strategic plan to guide future mountain bike activity and projects. There are also opportunities for Richmond Valley Council and Dirty Wheels Club to work with Ballina, Lismore and Kyogle LGAs to promote mountain bike experiences to attract overnight visitation to the region. Consideration of opportunities in the Braemar State Forest would help to support the Rappville economy.
- Nature-based tourism is a strength of the area. The challenge is how to further activate nature and outdoor experience drawcards for the Richmond Valley in a competitive North Coast marketplace, and attract operators to create more bookable products. Caravan and camping has also been a traditional accommodation/experience strength for the Richmond Valley with caravan parks and camping grounds located in key nature-based locations around the area. Given the Pacific Highway upgrade is complete in the RVC area, NPWS is interested in working with Council and other stakeholders to undertake research to inform future planning and decision making for sustainable tourism/recreational infrastructure in the RVC footprint, including how to best support the development of Aboriginal tourism product and experiences.
- Improving the coordination of events, and having more destination events through the year, was identified as a way to attract visitors and create greater awareness of what the Richmond Valley has to offer linking to its rivers, strong agricultural history and diverse range of produce. Events currently contribute an estimated \$8million (10%) to the Richmond Valley visitor economy. Casino's major events, Primex Field Days and the Casino Beef Week Festival are currently planning for the growth and further development of their events post COVID-19. There are, however, opportunities for these events to work more cooperatively. Creating another signature event for Evans Head was identified as important and currently being planned by the Evans Head Chamber of Commerce Marketing and Events Sub-Committee, but was affected by COVID-19 restrictions.
- Although agriculture is a main industry for the Richmond Valley, agri-tourism experiences are still mainly under-developed. There is an opportunity to position and develop the area as an agri-tourism destination, particularly for beef and sugar. Regional food or hospitality offerings are not currently a significant strength for the area as compared to other North Coast destinations (the Tweed). The previous Tourism Development Plan proposed the need for an agri-tourism strategy, but this work is still to be done. Council is currently working on developing a paddock-to-plate trail initiative to showcase local produce to visitors. In addition, Sunshine Sugar has identified an opportunity for a rum distillery at Broadwater, but does not have funding to develop this in the shorter term. It is, therefore, important that future work on an agri-tourism strategy considers agri-tourism product development as well as strategic land use planning initiatives to support the development of this sector into the future.
- Heritage and cultural experiences have potential to be further developed and could be linked to agri-tourism. The challenge for further cultural tourism development is how to further develop engaging, contemporary cultural tourism experiences. Local historical groups continue to struggle to offer consistent opportunities for visitors to engage with their offerings given they are reliant on volunteers. Participants representing historical and cultural groups agree that a coordinated project which identifies how cultural tourism could be best packaged, presented and promoted to visitors would be beneficial.
- Accommodation development is important to growing overnight visitation and the visitor economy. The need for more quality accommodation was identified as critical for the growth of the visitor economies across the Richmond Valley. Destination North Coast will soon be releasing findings of its Accommodation Reinvestment Project. It is anticipated this project will provide recommendations to inform future accommodation investment in the region. Holiday houses in Evans Head are increasingly available for booking on visitor accommodation rental platforms indicating a shift to a mix booking options for visitors – real estate agencies, properties which are self-managed and both. This may have implications for future short-term holiday letting regulations.

## 7.0 Strategic Priorities cont.

ACTIONS	PRIORITY
3.1 Provide support to the Northern Rivers Dirty Wheels Club Incorporated to prepare a five-year strategic plan to guide the Club's development of mountain bike trails in Richmond Valley State forests.	High
3.2 Work cooperatively with the NSW Forestry Commission and Northern Rivers Dirty Wheels Club and other interested stakeholders to develop a strategic approach to mountain bike tourism for the area, including auditing existing and proposed trails at New Italy Mountain Bike Forest, feasibility of trail development at Braemar Forest, creation of interpretive signage and supporting hub facilities.	High
3.3 Consider findings of the Destination North Coast Accommodation Reinvestment Project to inform Council support for new accommodation investors and the upgrade of existing accommodation facilities (motel, hotels, serviced apartments, caravan and camping parks) to provide quality facilities for visitors to stay and explore the area, including farm-stays, eco-accommodation, short-term holiday letting and accessible accommodation.	High
3.4 Create engaging material about business development opportunities in the Richmond Valley and include case studies of local private sector investors which have developed successful tourism enterprises and promote these as part of 'doing business with Council' website to help attract new tourism entrepreneurs to the area.	High
3.5 Provide business development support to local operators to grow and enhance their businesses and deliver high-level support to new investors seeking opportunities to establish tourism operations in the area, including support to create bookable product and ADTW listings.	On-going
3.6 Work cooperatively with National Parks and Wildlife Service and other key stakeholders, such as Southern Cross University, Forestry Commission of NSW, local Aboriginal tourism stakeholders, to undertake research and prepare a Richmond Valley Nature-Based Tourism Plan for the sustainable provision of tourism/recreational infrastructure, tourism product development opportunities, including the feasibility of positioning Woodburn as the gateway to nature-based tourism experiences.	High
3.7 Review the Richmond Valley draft Events Strategy to determine strategies to strengthen procurement and support for the growth of destination events which align with the four experience platforms. The strategy should aim to increase visitation expenditure across the year through development of current events and creation/attraction of new events, attract event funding support, to leverage public and private sector investment for new event infrastructure and facilities relevant to the local area.	High
3.8 Ensure the paddock-to-plate initiative includes research which could inform the development of a Richmond Valley Agri-tourism Strategy.	High
3.9 Based on findings and outcomes of Action 3.7, prepare a Richmond Valley Agri-tourism Strategy which includes consideration of Development Control Plans for rural lands to support development of agri-tourism, farm gates, farm stays, eco-development, on-farm experiences, and country weddings and events.	Medium
3.10 Prepare a Casino to Bentley Rail Trail Investment Prospectus to promote tourism product development opportunities associated with the Casino to Bentley Rail Trail development to potential investors and existing operators and promote this on Council's website and to other stakeholders (DNC, RDA) (see Action 2.3)	Medium
3.11 Work with historical associations, tourism operators and other interested cultural and heritage groups to create a bookable Richmond Valley Cultural Tourism Trail experience which provides opportunities for visitors to engage and experience the rich cultural heritage story of Richmond Valley in an appealing and contemporary way. The experience should be more than museum openings and self-guided walking tours (a virtual reality trail experience).	Medium/low





## PRIORITY 4

### Destination Crisis & Risk Management

Continue to assess and plan for potential environmental and economic risks that may impact the Richmond Valley visitor economy.

Richmond Valley destinations are highly dependent on domestic visitation and any socio or macro-economic effect on the domestic tourism market may affect visitor economy growth potential. Regional tourism destinations in NSW and other Australian states were in drought and then suffered severe bushfires over the summer period 2019-2020, including areas of Richmond Valley.

From March 2020, the Australian visitor economy was then severely impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic which stopped international and domestic travel.

As a consequence, there is a need for Richmond Valley to continue to assess and plan for risks to the visitor economy and be prepared to implement recovery initiatives for any unexpected crises or risk which may affect business viability, community and visitor wellbeing, as well as the environment. This includes working with other government departments and agencies involved in crisis management planning and recovery. This will be particularly critical for recovery from the COVID-19 health pandemic.

At a local level, there is a need for consideration of strategies for shark mitigation and beach safety to ensure Richmond Valley's beaches are, and perceived to be, safe for residents and visitors. An immediate issue is limited beach patrols at Evans Head for the 2020-2021 summer period.



## 7.0 Strategic Priorities cont.

The Richmond Valley was severely impacted by bushfire events which started in August 2019 and resulted in 48.6% of the local government area and more than 350 homes and outbuildings. The Rebuilding the Richmond Valley: Community Revitalisation Plan was developed to analyse the impact of the bushfire disaster, understand which recovery actions have been initiated and identify the ways in which a well planned and coordinated approach can be used to help impacted communities recover, rebuild, grow and thrive.

The plan determined a number of actions to fast track the recovery process, create new opportunities which will alleviate pressure in the impacted areas and ensure communities are given the opportunity not only to restore, but to grow following such a devastating event for Rappville and New Italy.

ACTIONS		PRIORITY
4.1	Continue to provide support to the Evans Heads Surf Lifesaving Club to ensure Evans Heads beach is patrolled at peak times.	High
4.2	Continue to collaborate with relevant North Coast stakeholders to plan strategies for shark mitigation.	High
4.3	Continue to work with key stakeholders to consider and plan for potential risks that may impact the local visitor including recovery from the COVID-19 health pandemic, natural disasters, threats to natural and economic environments, and ensure visitor safety and security is assessed and integrated into current and future Council plans and policies.	On-going

## PRIORITY 5

### Destination Marketing

Determine a strong brand identity and positioning story for the Richmond Valley and its main destinations (Evans Head and Casino) and review destination marketing and visitor information services strategies to ensure a coordinated approach to the promotion of the area.

#### BRAND AND MARKETING

Richmond Valley Council has engaged a local agency, Wild Honey Creative, to create and implement the Richmond Valley Council tourism brand, Discover Richmond Valley. The scope of work involves development of:

- A logo and style guide which aligns both with Richmond Valley Council existing branding, and with the Richmond Valley Made place brand
- A marketing strategy, including a creative concept and marketing campaign that will keep the Richmond Valley in the front of mind and choice for travellers
- A social media strategy including visual storytelling through promotional videos
- Design of a new Richmond Valley Visitor Guide
- Professional review of the existing Discover Richmond Valley website so that it aligns with the new campaign.

The results of this work are were finalised in October 2020 with a marketing campaign 'Explore Next Door' to be implemented from November 2020 to February 2021. The campaign is designed to reach overnight and day trip visitor markets within a three-hour radius of the Richmond Valley.

It is also important to recognise that visitors don't travel to local government areas. With this in mind, new destination marketing must dive deeper to consider the brand architecture for the area that clearly articulates the brand identities and positioning stories for the main destinations of Evans Head and Casino, as well as its villages – Coraki, Woodburn, New Italy and Rappville.



The background research and stakeholder engagement processes undertaken to inform the development of this Plan identified:

- The Richmond Valley is not widely recognised as a distinct tourism destination in its own right. For example, it is grouped with Lismore on the Visit NSW website.
- There is also more work to do increase Richmond Valley tourism product listings on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse to elevate the Richmond Valley profile.
- Evans Head stakeholders are keen to establish a clear brand identity and positioning of the destination within the coastal marketplace that considers:
  - Taking advantage of the new Pacific Highway to attract new and repeat visitors from Queensland
  - The natural and under-developed appeal of Evans Head offers nature-based tourism experiences which are different from more urbanised destinations, such as Ballina and Coffs Harbour
  - The authenticity and friendliness of Evans Head was also identified as being different to the experience in Byron Bay.
- Casino stakeholders highlighted:
  - The potential for Casino to better capitalise and really tell the story of its beef and agricultural heritage and status as 'Beef Capital'
  - The need to attract visitors from the coast to inland areas - the challenge is at the moment there is not much product to really 'pull' visitors to explore inland.





## 7.0 Strategic Priorities cont.

**VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES**

Council has traditionally coordinated delivery of visitor information services through centres at Casino, Evans Head and Woodburn. Information is also delivered through digital sources – Discover Richmond Valley website and social media platforms which deliver curated and non-curated visitor information and reviews, as well as printed collateral like maps, brochures and a Richmond Valley Visitors Guide.

Visitation to Richmond Valley visitor information centres has, however, been declining in line with trends across regional Australia. A new VIC at Woodburn opened in February 2020 and it is anticipated that New Italy will become more of a key hub for stopover visitors travelling north and an important source of local and regional information at a key gateway point to the area. It is, therefore, timely to review the delivery of visitor information services at Woodburn, New Italy and at highway stop over points, including highway service centres.

Visitor information collateral should also be reviewed as part of new brand and marketing initiatives to ensure a coordinated and contemporary approach to visitor information design and delivery.

**EVALUATION**

Evaluation of marketing campaign performance is also required to inform future planning and decision making as well as regular monitoring of visitation, visitor profiles, competitive situation. Visitor satisfaction and perceptions research would also be helpful to understand consumer views about the appeal of Richmond Valley and what it has to offer.

ACTIONS	PRIORITY
5.1 Implement the Richmond Valley Explore Next Door campaign for 2020-2021.	High
5.2 Review the Discover Richmond Valley brand to establish a clear brand architecture which articulates brand identities and positioning stories for its main destinations, Evans Head and Casino, and its villages.	High
5.3 Review visitor information services delivery at Richmond Valley VICs to take advantage of changed travel patterns from Pacific Highway upgrade.	High
5.5 Based on recommendations of Action 5.2, prepare a three-year cooperative marketing campaign (commencing 2022) to reach key visitor markets and promote Richmond Valley destinations to relevant visitor markets.	Medium
5.6 Review visitor information collateral (print and digital) to align with the Richmond Valley brand identity and positioning (Action 5.2).	Medium
5.7 Create bookable experience clusters/trails to package accommodation, food, drink, produce, heritage attractions and nature and outdoor products and experiences to attract visitors to stay longer and explore the area.	Medium
5.8 Evaluate marketing campaign effectiveness annually.	On-going
5.9 Engage tourism research consultants to provide analysis of TRA visitation data on an annual basis to track growth, visitor profiles and trends.	On-going
5.10 Establish a visitor satisfaction survey to be administered in key Richmond Valley destinations to track visitor profiles and satisfaction of destination products and experiences.	Low



## 8.0 IMPLEMENTATION

Monitoring of the implementation of this Plan is important to ensure its vision and priorities are achieved and to provide new information which can be used to inform planning and decision making for the Richmond Valley visitor economy over the next five years.

### Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities – Richmond Valley Destination Management Plan 2021 to 2025

To ensure the effective implementation of this Plan, it is important the roles and responsibilities of Richmond Valley Council and other key tourism stakeholder organisations are clearly understood and communicated.

It is recommended that:

- **Richmond Valley Council** is positioned as the umbrella authority to coordinate the implementation of this Plan, and provides support to implement the strategies and actions in the Richmond Valley Destination Development Plan over the next five years
- **A Richmond Valley Tourism Advisory Group is established** comprising industry leaders with considerable knowledge of tourism to provide regular strategic advice to assist Council to implement the strategies and actions in this Plan, and assists Council to encourage industry engagement to grow and develop the Richmond Valley visitor economy
- **Other key stakeholder organisations and agencies identified in this Plan** are encouraged to provide on-going support to the assist with the implementation of this Plan.

Monitoring of the implementation of the plan's strategies is important to ensure the vision and objectives are achieved and to provide valuable information which can be used to inform decision making over the next five years.







## 9.0 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1

Table 3: Richmond Valley Visitation Analysis 2016 to 2020 (Year End March)

Year end March '000	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	5 year average
Domestic overnight visitors	131	156	152	153	214	161
% Change		19%	-2%	1%	39%	14%
Domestic nights	617	591	585	495	729	603
% Change		-4%	-1%	-15%	47%	7%
Average night stay	4.7	3.8	3.8	3.2	3.4	3.8
Sample size	44	71	62	59	78	63
Domestic day visitors	269	220	188	221	292	238
% Change		-18%	-15%	18%	32%	4%
Sample size	27	18	26	25	30	24
International overnight visitors	3	3	5	2	3	3
% Change		0%	67%	-60%	50%	14%
International Nights	50	36	55	31	77	50
Average night stay	17	12	11	16	26	16
Sample size	19	16	21	17	16	18
Total Visitors	403	379	345	376	509	402
% Change		-6%	-9%	9%	35%	7%
Total Visitor nights	667	627	640	526	806	653

Source: TRA domestic and International Visitor Surveys 2016 to 2020<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Visitation data are based on the relatively low sample sizes and therefore provide an indication of visitor trends rather than actual visitor numbers.



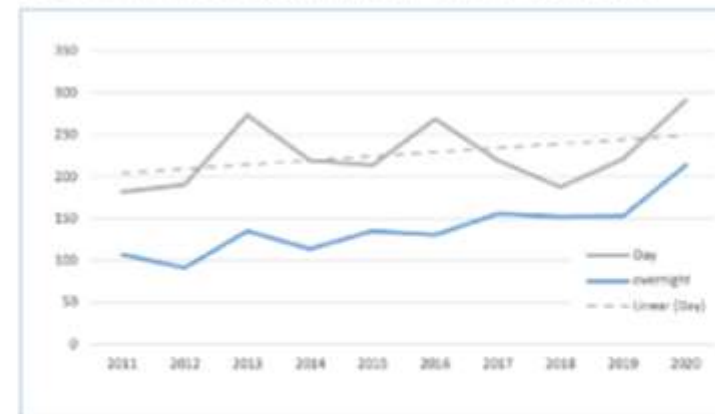


Table 4: North Coast NSW: Competitor Analysis

Y/E March 2020	Domestic '000			International '000		
LGA	Visitors	Visitor Nights	Day Trips	Visitors	Visitor Nights	Total visitors
Kempsey	201	700	161	6	18	368
Nambucca Valley	198	624	192	6	142	396
<b>Richmond Valley</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>509</b>
Ballina	382	1112	463	14	140	859
Lismore	234	782	666	10	108	910
Clarence Valley	658	2223	661	24	98	1343
Port Macquarie-Hastings	858	2689	989	64	305	1911
Tweed Valley	803	2450	1268	23	273	2094
Coffs Coast	999	3465	1128	91	1086	2218
Byron Shire	905	3737	1225	198	1344	2328

Source: TRA domestic and international visitor surveys YE March 2020

Figure 3: Richmond Valley Overnight Visitation Trends 2011 to 2020



Source: TRA NVS Survey data 10-year average 2011-2020





APPENDIX 2 RA Persona Descriptions<sup>19</sup>

## THE PERSONAS MOST LIKELY AND LEAST LIKELY TO VISIT AUSTRALIA'S REGIONS

<p><b>FAMILY ROAD TRIPPERS</b> (20% of domestic leisure visitors)</p> <p><b>1<sup>ST</sup> (MOST LIKELY)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>62% visited a regional area on their last trip</li> <li>repeat customers – 32% had been before</li> <li>28% use word of mouth as a key information source</li> </ul> <p><i>For this group, taking a holiday means spending quality time with the family – and regional Australia offers an affordable, easy to access option</i></p>	<p><b>ASIAN VISITING FRIENDS AND RELATIVES (VFR) MARKET</b> (4% of international leisure visitors)</p> <p><b>1<sup>ST</sup> (LEAST LIKELY)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19% visited a regional area on their last trip</li> <li>gaining knowledge, natural attractions and iconic wildlife are important</li> <li>choose destinations with direct flights</li> </ul> <p><i>Among those who did not visit regional Australia, more than seven-in-ten agreed that regional Australia would be a good place to visit if time permitted. However, they require more information on what is on offer</i></p>
<p><b>TRADITIONAL MARKET GEN Y/Z</b> (4% of international leisure visitors) on their 1<sup>st</sup> trip</p> <p><b>2<sup>ND</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>59% visited a regional area on their last trip</li> <li>use the internet to decide where to travel and what to do when they get there</li> </ul> <p><i>Regional Australia is part of their 'bucket list' and a chance to learn something new, but they are more price-sensitive than other travellers</i></p>	<p><b>FESTIVAL AND EVENT GOERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>34% visited a regional area on their last trip</li> <li>those who did visit had a preference for regional areas, and are strongly motivated by the opportunity to explore</li> </ul> <p><i>Those preferring capital cities identified ease of travel and greater shopping and dining experiences as ways to convince them to travel to regional Australia</i></p>
<p><b>AFFLUENT 55+ AUSTRALIANS</b> (10% of domestic leisure visitors)</p> <p><b>3<sup>RD</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>56% visited a regional destination on their last trip</li> <li>enjoy eating out at restaurants and shopping and stay longer at regional destinations (5.9 nights on average) than capital cities (5.8 nights)</li> <li>repeat customers – 44% had been before</li> </ul> <p><i>For these older Australians, travel offers the chance to escape day-to-day life and gain knowledge</i></p>	<p><b>ASIAN GEN Y AND Z MARKET</b> (7% of international leisure visitors)</p> <p><b>3<sup>RD</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>41% visited a regional area on their last trip</li> <li>Once there, they typically stay 9.6 nights – less than the 15 night average for international leisure visitors</li> <li>use social media for both inspiration and planning travel</li> </ul> <p><i>Drawn to natural wonders and food and wine experiences, those who have not travelled to regional Australia could be induced to visit with a better range of shopping, dining and experiences</i></p>

<sup>19</sup>Tourism Research Australia (2019) The Beach, Bush and Beyond: Understanding Regional Dispersal of Australian Tourists, October