


RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

Richmond
Valley
Council





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

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Message from the Mayor and General Manager

We are proud to present Richmond Valley Council's 2017/2018 Annual Report which provides an overview of Council's progress in the first year of the 2017/2021 Delivery Program.

Together, we have achieved many things during the year through team work, hard work and focus – and we look forward to working together closely in the year ahead as we continue our progress as a Council in serving the needs of our growing community. Our key areas of focus are guided by the priorities in our Community Strategic Plan, including economic development, advocacy and partnerships, and civic pride.

We are also driven by our ongoing commitment to customer service excellence – whether it's at the front desk, over the phone, via email or when we meet you on the street.

2017-2018 highlights

There have been many highlights throughout the two years, including:

- the long-awaited multi-million dollar upgrade of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (Casino saleyards)
- the redevelopment of the Casino Drill Hall site
- the revitalisation the Woodburn Riverside Precinct
- upgrade of the Coraki Riverfront
- producing a Guide to Economic Development and a Tourism Development Plan
- Launch of Broadwater shared pathway plans, and master plan for Broadwater-Rileys Hill Community Hall and Memorial Park adopted by Council
- Casino and Evans Head libraries refurbishment
- renewal of community facilities throughout the Council area, including accessible toilet and extended access ramp installed at the Rappville Public Hall,

- playgrounds and amenities for Albert Park, Crawford Square, Queen Elizabeth Park, Webb Park and the Showgrounds in Casino, Stan Payne Oval, Paddon Park and Razorback Lookout, Evans Head, Coraki riverfront, and Woodburn Oval, the New Italy Mountain Bike Forest, the Evans Head Aquatic Centre, as well as the Casino, Evans Head and Woodburn skate parks
- landscape improvements to town entrances, median strips and garden beds throughout the Council area

Looking ahead

One of Council's largest-ever capital works programs will see the completion of the multi-million dollar upgrade of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange which commenced in the 2016/2017 year. With NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian visiting in July 2017 to announce a \$7 million contribution to enable the full upgrade of the NRLX, a new era for livestock sales is coming with the creation of a nationally-significant saleyard complex which will be modern, comfortable, efficient and safe. Efficiencies created through the upgrade will give livestock agents an opportunity to present cattle to a very high standard, and will ensure better animal welfare and management and better safety for both people and animals.

Council continues to work closely with potential investors for key projects in Evans Head, Woodburn and Broadwater, as we rise to the challenge of supporting the construction of the Pacific Motorway and preparing our towns and villages for life after the highway has bypassed our towns.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Mustow'.

Cr Robert Mustow
Richmond Valley Mayor



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vaughan Macdonald'.

Vaughan Macdonald
General Manager

About the Richmond Valley

The Richmond Valley has a population of approximately 23,000 people. The area has a steady economy but has seen some changes in recent years stemming from a population spike with tree and sea changers beginning to move to the area.

While the economy is a net exporter of significant levels of value-added products, it has a low-socio economic base through a range of measures. Unemployment reduced across the Richmond Valley local government area (LGA) in 2017-2018, and whilst it sits lower than its neighbouring councils at 6.6%, the Richmond Valley was ranked most disadvantaged LGA in the Northern Rivers on the Socio-Economic Indexes Areas (SEIFA) of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage in 2016.

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

The local area has a large number of natural assets including beaches, significant rivers, creeks and hinterland areas. This natural beauty and the relaxed and friendly atmosphere of the community has been a major draw card for sea changers and tree changers in recent years. The area also sits within a highly attractive region with the Gold Coast and Brisbane 1½ and 2½ hours away respectively.

For a number of years, Council has sought to lay the way forward to address the low socio-economic base by securing the future prosperity of the LGA while maintaining the sense of place, which is highly valued by residents. It has been providing leadership in developing

partnerships between all spheres of government, business and stakeholders to develop strategies in economic planning and development to pursue investment and employment growth opportunities.

Specific challenges for Richmond Valley Council include:

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

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

Source: REMPLAN Community Profile; 2018 ABS Labour Force Survey & Small Area Labour Markets, 2016 SEIFA Index Score 2016

Brief Statistics for 2017/2018

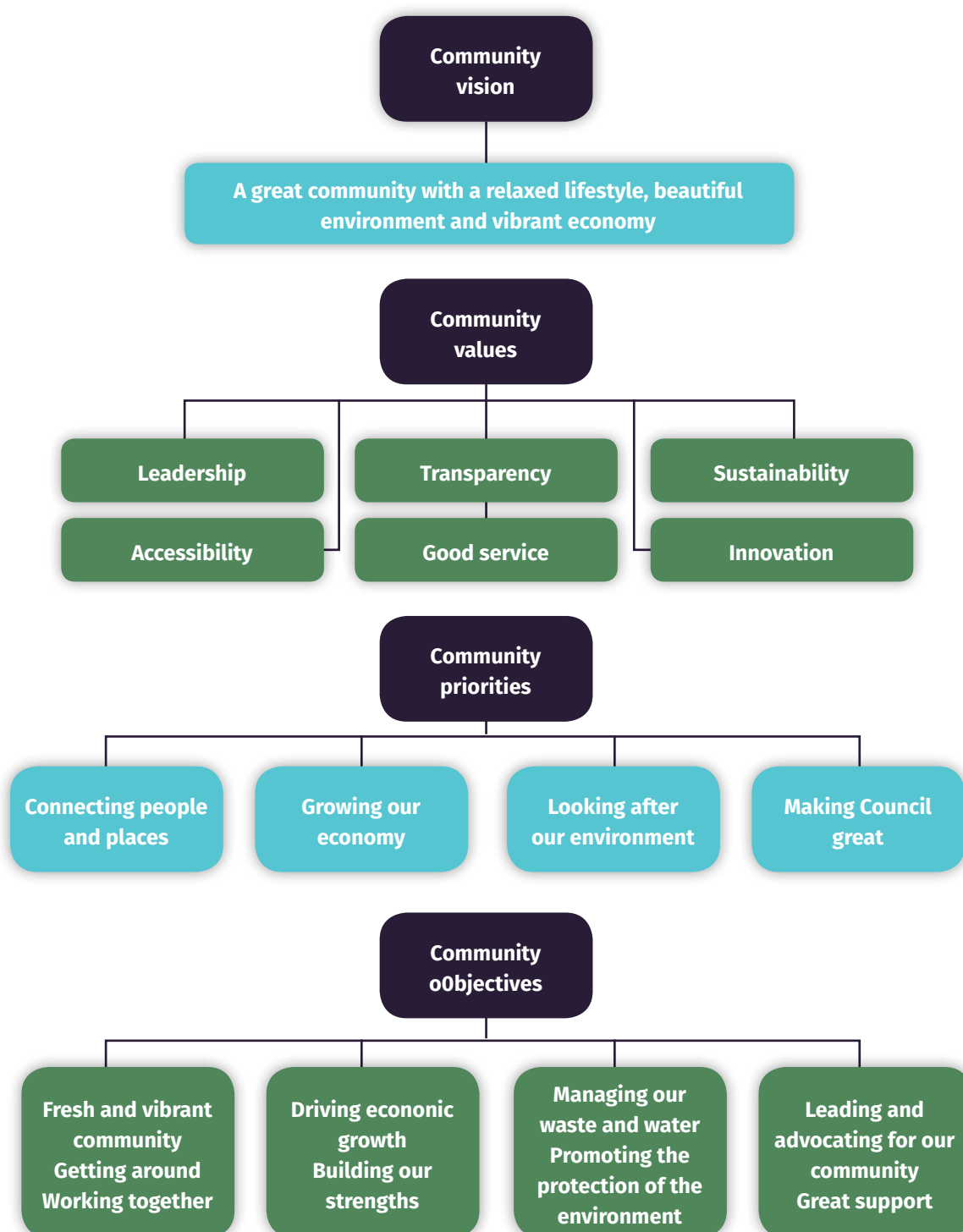
A silhouette of a person wearing a cap and holding a fishing rod, standing on a rocky shore and looking out at the ocean during sunset. The sky is dark with some clouds, and the water reflects the low sun.

Total population	22807
Families	5912
Council area (km ²)	3051 km²
Number of Council staff (full-time equivalent)	276
GRP (Gross Regional Product)	\$1.134 billion
Visitors to Richmond Valley	292,000
No. of nights stayed (average 4 nights)	515,000
Visitor spend in local economy	\$67 million
Top industry – Manufacturing	\$917.663 million
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	\$247.806 million

Source: ABS 2016

Our vision and values

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



Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

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

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

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



Highlights of our Signature Projects

Over the past twelve months a number of exciting new projects have taken shape across our area.

Council took notice of the Australian and NSW governments' call to action by having a number of quintessential community projects 'shovel ready' for funding opportunities when they become available. Council realises the value of government grants and how they can make a difference to our communities. We have been proactive about obtaining funding to get the ball rolling on a number of community projects to make sure the Richmond Valley remains a wonderful place to live and work. By getting on the front foot through master planning and actively engaging with our community, we are making sure our projects are in line with our community's priorities.

Upgrade of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange

The long-awaited multi-million dollar upgrade of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX) commenced construction in June 2017, with the handing over of phase one taking place in December allowing phase two to start mid 2018. This upgrade is a most critical project for the region's productivity and economic growth, with the community deriving significant direct economic benefit from the NRLX. The livestock industry is already one of the largest employers in the region and this investment will ensure it continues to grow and prosper.

The opening of stage one saw users gaining access to features such as two semi-automatic drafts, eight new drafting pens, 12 multi-purpose pens, 50 new selling pens, soft floor throughout, full rail and gate replacement, new roof structure, walkways, storm water management, and electrical upgrades.

Not only is the new roof big enough to cover the pitch at Suncorp Stadium, it also allows rain water harvesting and storage for use in the truck wash, pen hose down area, and public amenities. This will greatly reduce the NRLX's reliance on town water supply. The capture of rain water will also mean a reduced volume of contaminated run-off to be processed onsite, providing significantly greater environmental outcomes.

The upgrade also provides industry benchmarks for work health and safety, and animal welfare benefits.

Phase two of the stage one construction picked up momentum in 2018, which resulted in its completion by June.

Phase two of stage one saw the roof and soft flooring completed over the current selling pens; older pens were demolished and replaced with stronger rails and gates; and soft flooring was placed throughout this area.



The \$14 million project is fully funded thanks to a \$7 million investment from the NSW Government, with the Federal Government and Richmond Valley Council committing \$3.5 million each.

Work was programmed to start on the \$7 million second stage in October 2018. Funded by the NSW Government, and managed by Richmond Valley Council, stage two will see the redevelopment of the NRLX's holding section, including a new roof and soft floor throughout.

Stage two includes a redesign and new configuration to the lead into the scale house aimed at improving efficiencies and safety. As well, all new steel rails and gates will replace the existing timber ones.

A new double-deck unloading ramp is included in the design, directly linking to the new transit yard facilities with scanning, which is an extension to the facility.

New technology will be deployed including an additional 10 CCTV cameras, upgrades to wifi enabling online selling, and a buyers lounge.

There will be an expansion and upgrade to the existing administration building which will be the first phase in converting the NRLX business to a full-time agriculture and customer service hub.

As the fourth largest in cattle sales in NSW, and ninth across Australia, the NRLX plays a big part in the local economy in many ways.

By enabling expansion and improvements to the NRLX, Council is certain this investment will pay dividends for economic development within the Richmond Valley, and the wider Northern Rivers region.

Benefits flow to local growers having a facility close to their operations, stock and station agents who use the yards to run their business, transport operators who move stock and purchase fuel, locals who work there, and the businesses who support the NRLX operations and its users.

There are also substantive indirect benefits which flow to the community through increased business transactions and services, which are required to service the families who live in the area because of the saleyards, and the additional activity which takes place when people outside of the area attend sales.

It's estimated the full upgrade will deliver a \$50 million boost to the local economy over the life of the facility.

The Casino Drill Hall and Riverside Precinct

The redevelopment of the Drill Hall site provides an opportunity for Council to create an iconic new leisure and tourism space which will define the entry to Casino from the south. Estimated total cost of the project is \$3,314,000, with \$1,952,000 committed. This includes \$1.2 million from Council, \$1.337 million from the Australian Government and \$252,000 from the NSW Government.



Council engaged architects Chris Pritchett and Associates to prepare a draft master plan for the development of the Casino Drill Hall site, using information compiled from community meetings and feedback. The plan was endorsed by Richmond Valley Council in March 2017 and:

- Provides a strategic framework for the future enhancement and/or development of the site which recognises the resources available to Council and the community.
- Identifies issues involved with the site and presents plans to resolve or mitigate these issues.
- Introduces new activities and makes best use of the land available through maximising use of the site.
- Enhances the visitor and users' experience

The area for this master plan project covers 73-81 Lennox Street and a section of Coronation Park. The total site, including the section of Lennox Street and the service road to the east of the site, is approximately 2.11ha. The Drill Hall site is approximately 1.28ha.

The Casino Drill Hall is the key building on the site and is the anchor around which the master plan was developed. The building has heritage recognition under the Richmond Valley Council Local Environment Plan.

The Drill Hall was originally built by the Light Horse Brigade in 1908 on land near the Post Office in Barker Street, before being relocated in the mid 1930s to its current location on sloping land to the south of the Richmond River on the Summerland Way.

Light Horse regiments from Casino, Tenterfield and Kyogle were based at Casino and used the hall for training. Following a severe outbreak of 'flu in 1929 the

Drill Hall was approved as an emergency hospital if required.

Council bought the land from the Department of Defence for \$340,000 in 2015. Under the Commonwealth property disposals policy, there is a capacity for the Australian Government to sell surplus property to local government where such a sale would provide local economic or social benefits.

As much as possible the master plan has responded to the results of community consultation, the site analysis, and the realities of Council's and the community's resources. Additionally, it has integrated existing features with new facility requirements. Outcomes include:

- A design which emphasises the Casino Drill Hall as the anchor of the site.
- Dedicated precincts which define spaces and use.
- Indoor and outdoor event spaces for a range of community and cultural events.
- A flexible, multi-purpose design which encourages sharing of resources.
- A supportive environment to involve the community and foster new associations.

The relocation of the Visitor Information Centre from its current position to the Casino Drill Hall will make an important contribution to the vibrancy of the site. Where tourists would normally just stop to gather information and to use the toilet facilities, with the correct encouragement, these visitors will be tempted to stay longer and use more of the site's facilities.

The site will be connected into the walking and cycle paths along the south side of the Richmond River, such



as to Queen Elizabeth Park, and across the Richmond River Bridge to the CBD and residential areas on the north side of the river. For most people the site will be easily accessed either on or off-road.

The redevelopment of the site involves a number of different trades, such as: aluminium windows, bricklayers & blocklayers, concrete, doors and frames, earthworks, electrical services, hydraulic services, joinery, landscaping, mechanical services, painting, plasterboard, pest control, reinforcement, roofing, structural steel, surveying, tactile indicators, tiling, timber trusses, and waterproofing.

Council will continue to explore and pursue any available grant funding opportunities deemed appropriate to complete works described in the draft master plan.

The Woodburn Riverside Park

Council endorsed the draft master plan for the Woodburn Riverside Precinct in March 2017. The \$3.8 million two-phase project is particularly important with the opportunity to positively respond to the upcoming bypass of the town by the Pacific Highway and to position it for a positive future.

The project will see the site transformed into a unique facility and space which will continue to draw road and river traffic to the area.

The upgrade of the precinct will be staged into two phases as follows:

Stage 1 (underway)

- Construct pontoon and boardwalk
- Construct community building
- Construct western lawn and picnic terrace
- Construct beach and standalone terrace
- Demolish CWA and ski club buildings

Stage 2

- Construct playground
- Construct eastern picnic terrace
- Construct village green
- Construct ski clubhouse (subject to funding and DA approval)

The initial stage of the precinct will provide a modern multi-use building containing a community function room, a Visitor Information Centre and public toilets, as well as a new jetty and pontoon area, and children's play area. These will provide a centrepiece for the town to focus on the positive aspects of change, including:

- becoming a new water ski sports hub focused on the Richmond River, attracting regional, state and higher level events which draw valuable sports-based tourists and spectators from northern NSW, south east Queensland and beyond;
- acting as a gateway to the diverse tourism offerings of the Northern Rivers region, from coastal villages to the east, agriculturally based towns to the west and other major attractions including the Rainforest



Way tourist drive which commences in Woodburn and travels through the world heritage listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia;

- creating a platform for a healthy and vibrant community which is no longer characterised by the heavy traffic of the highway, with the building providing a base for health and wellbeing activities, business and community events as well as private functions and celebrations; and
- remaining an attractive stop-over for those who are travelling along the Pacific Highway, particularly with the new public toilet facilities, visitor information centre and renewed connections between the main street and Richmond River.

As a result of the infrastructure improvements, the local and regional economy will be stimulated initially through the construction phase, but more importantly the facilities will act as a catalyst for much greater levels of tourism opportunity over the longer term. For example, numerous organisations have identified the area as having perfect attributes for competitive water ski and wakeboard competition - from local right through to national and international events.

With waterways in northern NSW and south east Queensland becoming increasingly overcrowded and unsuitable for water ski competition, the implementation of proposed infrastructure will unlock latent demand and generate more than 12,000 visitor nights and numerous day visits per annum. Combined with worldwide exposure through live streaming and localised exposure from those visiting for competitions or as spectators, the facilities have great economic development potential for the region.

The upgraded park will not only encourage the travelling public to continue to stop at Woodburn, but will also

assist the town to transition from being reliant on passing trade to one which becomes a gateway to other localities in the region - and a destination in its own right. The multi-use building will enable the removal of three existing buildings which currently act as a visual barrier between the main street from the adjoining waterway, creating a more attractive outlook and highlighting the river as an integral part of the town.

Estimated construction completion

Mid 2019

Estimated total cost of project

\$3,800,000

Committed funding

\$2,162,880 (Australian Government \$810,000; NSW Government \$652,880;; Richmond Valley Council \$700,000)

Casino Showgrounds and Racecourse

Council worked with regular users of the Casino Showgrounds and Racecourse for 12 months to help define a draft master plan. Consideration was given to:

- what is currently happening on the site;
- the needs of the community;
- the wider surroundings;
- social, environmental and economic considerations; and
- planning constraints and opportunities.

The need for the master plan stemmed from the acknowledgment that while the existing Casino Showgrounds and Racecourse site met the basic needs of many of its users, the potential existed to greatly enhance the facilities for the future.



The plan for a new community precinct will cater for the long-term future of the site, taking into consideration existing and potential sporting and community-based activities.

The Casino Showgrounds and Racecourse site is already well-patronised, but with this master plan it could be turned into a modern precinct, regularly attracting people from around the region, and potentially interstate. The associated infrastructure would allow for major regional events which would provide an economic boost to the Richmond Valley.

Exciting additions proposed for the site include an indoor equestrian arena, redevelopment of the horse racing training stables, and renewal of the sand track and racecourse proper.

Council recognises the importance of the showgrounds area to the town and people of the Richmond Valley area, and would like to see the site upgraded for the enjoyment of a wide variety of people, of all ages and abilities.

The draft master plan was used to support an \$8 million Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund Grant application for the proposed works.

The showgrounds have an important historical and social significance and are home of the Casino Show, the Beef Week and Gold Cup races, gymkhanas and camp drafts.

It is also proposed Council, the Casino Race Club and Racing NSW will work towards an agreement to support the training industry in this region, and provide employment opportunities into the future within the industry.

Casino Memorial Swimming Pool

Following endorsement of the Casino Memorial Swimming Pool Draft Master Plan at its September meeting, Council is seeking community input on the best way the pool precinct could be redeveloped.

Future works as identified within the draft master plan are unfunded. The estimated redevelopment cost of the project is \$8 million. It is proposed the information supplied in an adopted master plan will allow Council to consider funding options as well as pursue grant opportunities into the future. It is recognised that substantial investment is needed to allow the pool to function appropriately and meet the needs of the community.

Key elements identified in the draft are:

- Renewal of filtration system for pools
- Access ramps into main pool
- Water splash play space
- Indoor heated Learn to Swim and therapy pool with all ability access
- New twin tube water flume slide
- Refurbishment of entrance, kiosk, and development of a food court
- New children's wading pool

The above elements had earlier been identified by the community in the Community Strategic Plan consultation forums, as well as correspondence received in recent years.

Information will be compiled throughout the consultation period and a more detailed draft proposal will be submitted to Council for adoption as an approved master plan.



Rehabilitation of Woodburn-Coraki Road

Work started on the rehabilitation of the Woodburn-Coraki Road in May 2018. Funds for this project came from the \$1.4 million heavy haulage levy applied to Quarry Solutions and some other heavy industries, and a \$1 million Federal Government grant. Richmond Valley Council continues to seek a significant boost in funding for this regional road. The 1.7km stage one section was located 200m west of Old Ferry Road and finished 350m east of Reardon's Lane. Stage two starts at Purseys Road and finishes 1.4km east.

Coraki Riverfront Upgrade

A total \$477,820 has been committed to the precinct for redevelopment and upgrade. The proposed redevelopment will be a massive boost for local jobs, the tourism industry and the community which will go a long way in showcasing Coraki as tourist destination of choice.

Following community consultation, priority areas have been identified and are on display in the Rural Transaction Centre.



Facilitated Signature Projects

Over the next few years we have other potential projects we will develop and facilitate so we can capitalise on funding opportunities.

The Northern Rivers Rail Trail

Council is a supporter of a rail trail on the 132km of unused rail line running from Casino to Murwillumbah.

Along with Lismore City Council, Richmond Valley Council contributed \$15,000 to a business case to conduct an economic and financial analysis, along with sound commercial and management analysis.

This business case is being prepared by Business Sense, and will be used as a supporting document when applying for funding.

The reality of a rail trail was given a huge boost in 2017, with the Australian and NSW governments each contributing \$6.5 million of funding towards a rail trail for the Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek section.

Nammoona Industrial Precinct

The Nammoona Industrial Precinct is anticipated to generate employment, business activity and revenue for the local community with the Richmond Valley well placed to strengthen its position as the industry and transport hub of the Northern Rivers.

The precinct has been identified as its key industrial expansion zone by Council in the Richmond Valley.

Not only do we see multi-million dollar upgrades and expansions across the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange, the Nammoona Waste Facility and the Northern Cooperative Meat Company, the precinct is also home to DTM Timber and Riverina Stock Feeds and Council is actively pursuing new technology investments in the waste-to-energy sector for this precinct.

Approximately 60 hectares of vacant industrial land has been zoned suitable for an intermodal facility and distribution centre which Council is keen to see activated. The economic growth of the region is a key objective for the Richmond Valley community and investments of this nature therefore have a high level of priority within Council's Community Strategic Plan.

Opportunities for an intermodal and rail terminal have been clearly identified and investors actively sought. Both projects are continuing to progress. If both projects were to be realised significant employment opportunities and economic benefits to our Council and the region would ensue. This would encourage other industries to consider setting up in or around the precinct, and provide a growth environment where ancillary businesses can benefit from the enhanced economic activity.

As a community leader, Council must look to secure its area's future by providing opportunities for industry



growth and employment for generations to come and this precinct is a source of significant optimism in regard to the opportunities it could deliver.

Razorback Lookout Upgrade

The future development and management of Evans Head's Razorback Lookout, on Ocean Drive, and Goanna Headland, located adjacent to the Dirawong Reserve, is underway. A variety of suggested concepts and ideas are being explored and the feasibility and cost established to allow for future budgets bids. Council staff have held initial consultation meetings with stakeholders to discuss the project and receive feedback on ideas to begin the development of a master plan.

Upgrade of Jabiru Geneebeinga Wetlands

The Jabiru Geneebeinga Wetlands, in North Casino, were developed in 1988 as a bicentennial project with an aim to support and preserve habitat primarily for native bird species, as well as offer a viewing platform and an amphitheatre. While more 130 species of native, local and migratory birds utilise the site, over the years its condition has deteriorated with weed incursion and declining resources for maintenance.

Sunday 30 July 2017, National Tree Day, saw the first steps of restoration efforts for the wetlands. This event was achieved in partnership with the Jabiru

Geneebeinga Wetland Restoration Working Group, Casino Scouts, Casino Environment Centre, Richmond Valley Council, Kyogle Landcare and the Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare Network all on board.

The opportunity exists for this precinct to become an important regional tourist destination as it also includes the Casino Golf Course and Casino Mini-rail. Richmond Dairies has proposed a project in conjunction with Southern Cross University to utilise the land they currently use for grazing to expand the Wetlands and provide improved processes for effluent management, to enhance the existing wetlands. Improved habitat, wetlands and facilities could become an exciting draw card for birdwatchers and visitors who enjoy the outdoors.



Our Towns and Villages

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

We want to ensure our projects are spread across the Richmond Valley in response to your aspirations and desires for every town to have the benefit of and be able to showcase a project in their community. We have highlighted some of the projects, both funded and unfunded, that we believe you would like to see in your community.

Broadwater/Rileys Hill



- Rehabilitation works undertaken on Broadwater Bridge Road.
- Shared pathway from the Broadwater township to Broadwater Beach Road officially open. The construction included a pedestrian refuge island on Little Pitt Street and kerb blister islands on George Street. Drainage works included the installation of box culverts and stormwater pipe extensions to accommodate the 2.5m wide shared pathway.
- Work starts on the Broadwater Rileys Hill Community Hall and Memorial Park redevelopment.

Coraki



- Woodburn-Coraki Road rehabilitation works completed as part of the NDRRA funding.
- New shade structure installed at the Coraki Public Pool.
- New access ramp at the Coraki Youth Hall.
- Opening of the new Coraki SES Shed.
- Construction of new kerb and gutter along Duke Street.

Evans Head



- Two new replacement aluminium shelters erected on Razorback Lookout over new picnic tables.
- New footpath for Ash Street.
- New shade over the children's playground at Stan Payne Oval.
- Upgrades to decking and handrails at the Evans Head Surf Club viewing platform.
- Fitness equipment installed in Evans Head.
- NSW Government funding of \$101,990 to fit out the Evans Head Tennis Clubhouse.

Woodburn



- New playground installed at Woodburn Oval.
- New footpath from Cedar Street to the skate park.
- Upgrade of Riverside Precinct has commenced, including floating pontoon and gangway.
- Around around 70 tonnes of river sand applied to Woodburn Beach.

Casino



- Official opening of stage one of the \$14 million upgrade of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange.
- NSW Government support of \$267,883 for a modern catering and amenities block at Casino Showgrounds; Showgrounds master plan adopted by Council.
- Extensions to Crawford Square skate park; fitness equipment installed.
- Civic Hall floor replacement and lighting upgrade.

Rappville



- Accessible toilet and extended access ramp installed at the Rappville Public Hall.
- Work starts on Rappville Road upgrade.
- Investigating options to improve pedestrian/ cycleway links within the township.

Festivals and Events – 2017/18

July 2017

- Naidoc Week Celebrations
- Evans Head Fishing Classic
- Heritage Weekend
- Rappville Working Dog Trials
- Northern Rivers Drag Racing
- Quota Art, Craft and Quilt Fair
- Casino All Breeds Sale
- Richmond Valley Business Awards
- Jazz and Shiraz at Windara

August 2017

- Seafood Bowls Carnival
- Bentley Art Prize
- Casino Truck Show
- Hotel Cecil Gold Cup
- Casino Campdraft
- Trash & Treasure - Woodburn
- YES Careers Expo
- NRCHC Cutting Show

September 2017

- Yoga 4 Dignity - Casino Indoor Sports Stadium
- Casino Spring Show Ball
- Windara Father's Day Pig Races
- Historical Photographic Exhibition
- Quota Spring Fashion Parade
- Woodburn Orchid Show
- St Marks Spring Flower Show
- Bos Indicus Youth Round Up
- Casino Fun Run
- Woodburn Riverside Figure 8's
- Northern Rivers Drag Racing
- Casino Spring Orchid Show
- Evans Head Malibu Classic

October 2017

- Casino Mini Rail 24th Birthday Celebrations
- Richmond Valley Health and Fitness Expo
- Casino Show
- Woodburn Riverside Festival
- Northern Rivers Auto Spectacular
- Golden Oldies Gala Day
- Casino Scavenger Hunt
- St Mary's Cup
- Coraki Art Prize

November 2017

- Windara Carols by Fireworks
- Northern Rivers Craft Beer Festival

December 2017

- Richmond Valley Christmas Street Party
- Woodburn Carols by Candlelight
- Lions Carols by Candlelight
- Coraki Carols by Candlelight
- Evans Head Christmas Carols

Jan 2018

- Great Eastern Fly In
- Australia Day - Broadwater

Feb 2018

- Super Cheap Auto Spectacular

March 2018

- Craig Shepherd Memorial Ski Race
- International Women's Day Celebrations
- Hotel Cecil Casino Gold Cup
- Trash & Treasure Day - Woodburn
- Horse Cutting Show
- Days Machinery Music Muster

April 2018

- Northern Rivers Drag Racing
- Seniors Week Celebrations
- Co-Opera - Barber of Seville
- Youth Week Celebrations
- Silent Disco - Casino Indoor Sports Stadium
- Anzac Day Services

May 2018

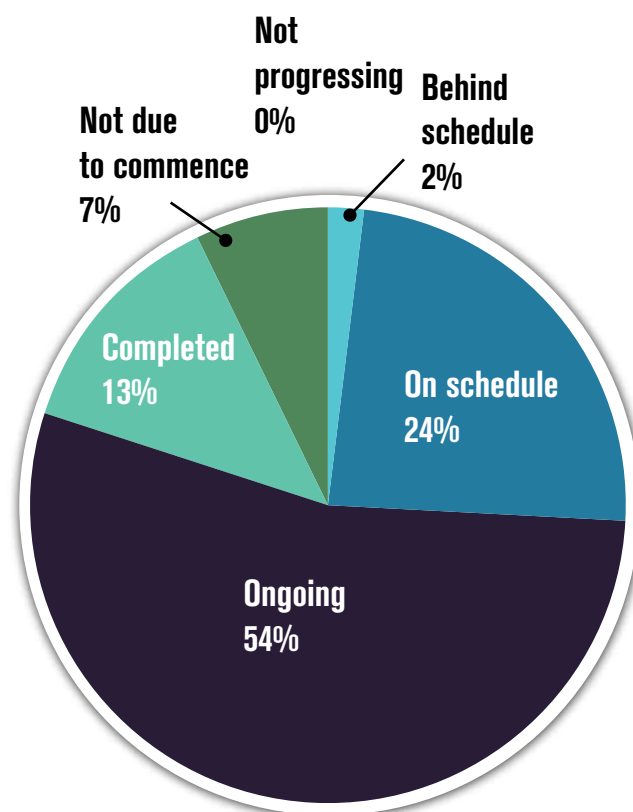
- Autumn Mothers Day Orchid Show
- Casino Beef Week
- Beef Meets Reef
- Casino Autumn Orchid Show
- CUB Beef Week Golf Open
- Casino Beef Week Cup
- Reconciliation Week Celebrations
- Woodburn Hall Ball
- Reconciliation Week Morning Tea
- NRLX/NCMC Behind The Scenes Tour
- Beef Week Farm Tour

June 2018

- Northern Rivers Drag Racing
- Richmond Valley Health and Fitness Expo
- Primex
- Crankfest Youth Festival
- Rappville Bull Ride
- Rappville Working Dog Trials

Section 1: Delivery Program Progress

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



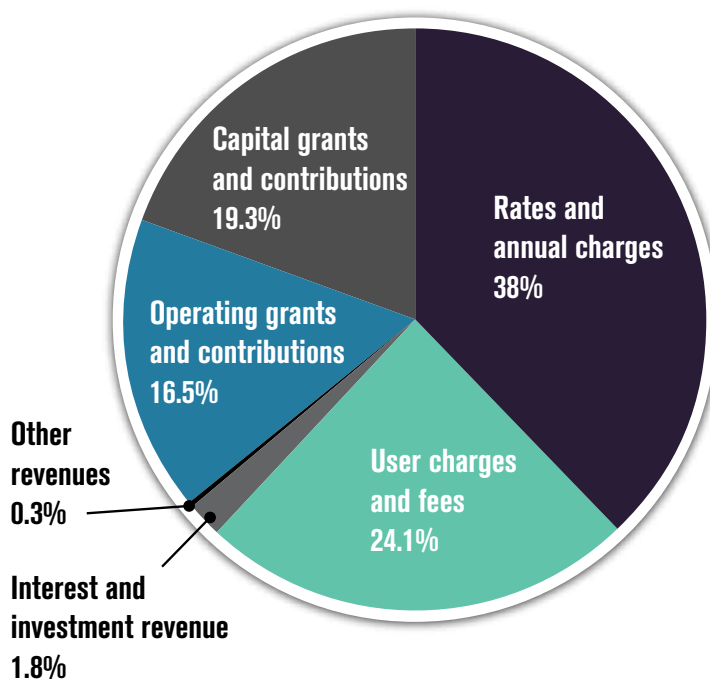
The highlight pages which follow provide a summary of Council's achievements in delivering on the agreed outcomes in the Richmond Valley Made 2030 Community Strategic Plan. The highlights are broken down into the four Community Priority areas "Connecting People and Places", "Growing our Economy", "Looking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

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

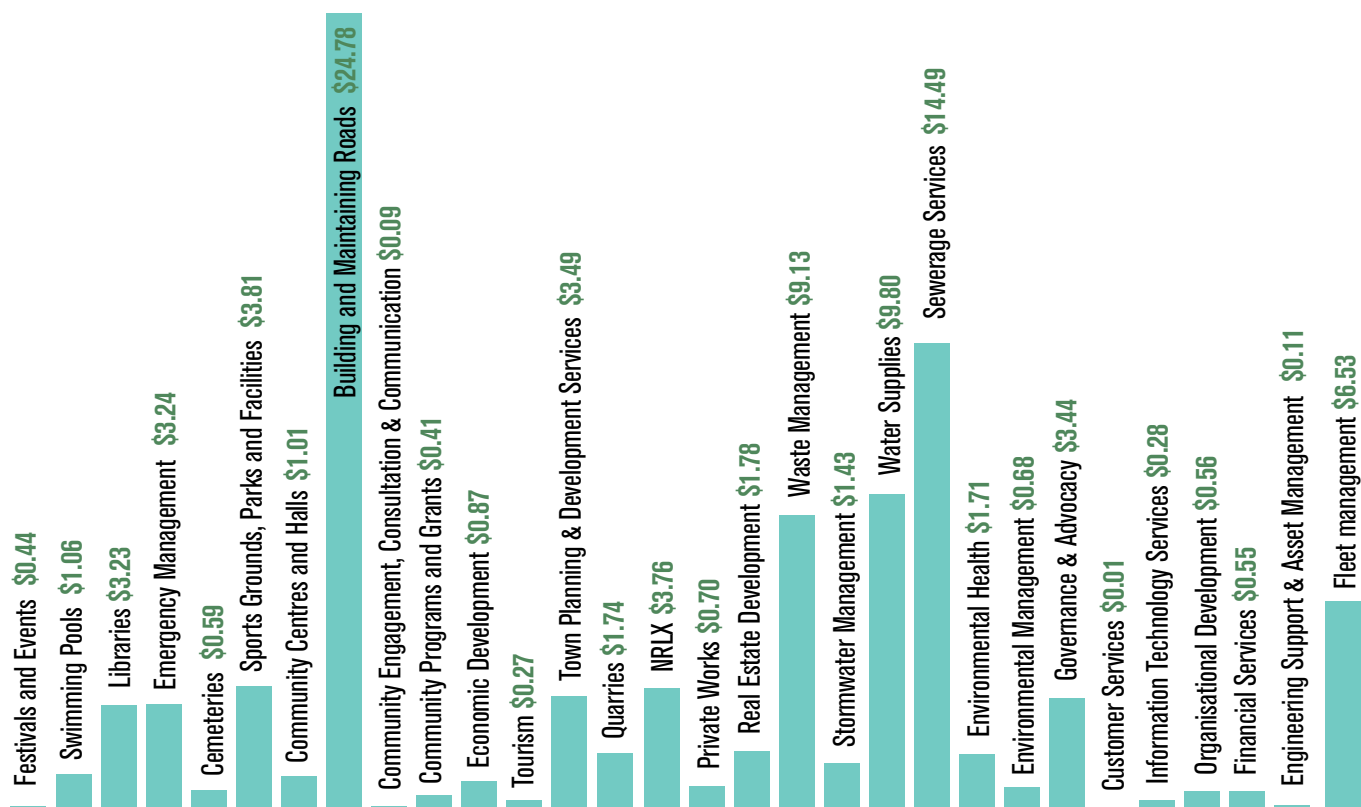
The full progress report is detailed in the [Delivery Program Progress Report \(period ending 30 June 2018\)](#)

Funding Snapshot

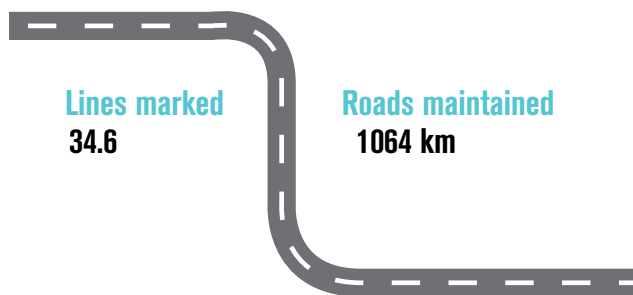
Source of Council funds



Council spending per \$100



Our Achievements Snapshot 2017/2018

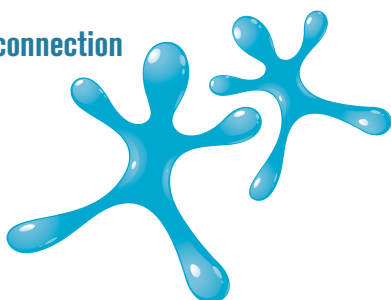


Calls received
28,473

DA's assessed
291

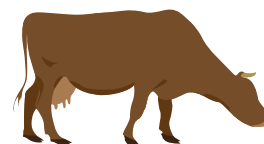
Water use per connection
650 l/d

Water treated
2,144 mL



CRM's logged
(customer requests) **5,553**

NRLX cattle traded
92,608



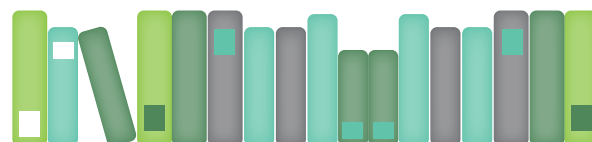
Recycled waste
8,528 t

E-waste
15.75 t



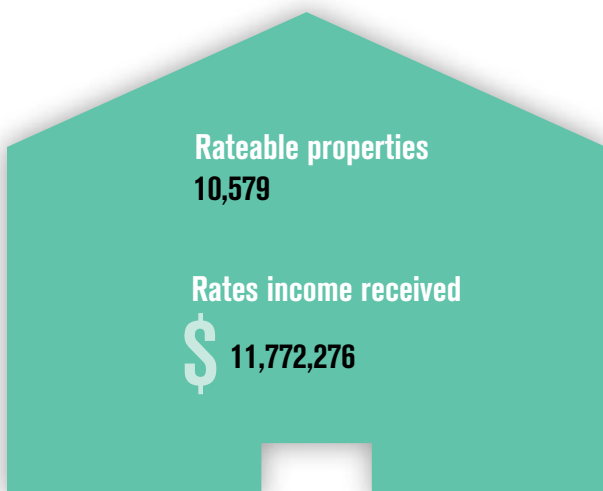
Grass mowed
13,650 ha

Bins lifted annually
595,907



Library members
16,576

Library loans
169,322



Dogs registered
458



Cats registered
141



Stray/lost animals
407



Connecting People and Places

PP1: FRESH AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- RVC partnership with EnVite to plant more than 3000 native plants with approximately 100 trees on the riverbank at Webb Park, Casino
- 500 native and endemic trees were planted on the riverbank at Queen Elizabeth Park
- Purchase and installation of laptop dispensers at Casino, Evans Head and Kyogle Libraries
- Revitalisation Project for the Casino Civic Hall
- Casino drainage improvements
- Woodburn Riverside Masterplan adopted by Council
- Additional NSW Surf Life Saving Patrols to include both QLD and NSW school holiday periods
- Evans Head Surf Club showers
- Basketball hoop installation near Evans Head skate park
- Pathway to Woodburn oval along Cedar Street
- Completion of a Roads Review audit
- Noise prevention and insulation for Casino Indoor Sports Stadium
- Memorial Pool and Crawford Square masterplans drafted for community consultation
- Casino Memorial Pool grandstand works commenced
- Casino Showgrounds Masterplan developed
- Stan Payne tennis courts relocation and clubhouse construction
- Crawford Square outdoor gym stations and wheelchair accessible carousel
- Evans Head riverside outdoor gym stations
- Coraki riverfront precinct consultation and planning

Casino library



The Casino Library was redesigned in 2017 and transformed the library into a modern library with state of the art shelving and modern comfortable furniture. The official opening was conducted by Member for Clarence, Chris Gulaptis, Acting Executive Director Public Libraries and Engagement Division, State Library of NSW, Cameron Morley and the Mayor of Richmond Valley Council, Robert Mustow.

The library also installed self-serve kiosks at its Casino, Kyogle and Evans Head Libraries. In 2017/2018 the popularity of library borrowings continued with 14,499 customers borrowing and/or renewing 43,488 items during the year.

Rappville Public Hall



The accessible toilet and extended access ramp has been installed at Rappville Public Hall. Council received \$10,000 contribution from the NSW Governments' Community Building Partnership program for these improvements.

Stan Payne Oval tennis courts relocation



Council were the responsible authority to facilitate the relocation of the Evans Head Tennis Courts from the Silver Sands Holiday Park site to Stan Payne, as the holiday park is redeveloped. Council worked with Evans Head Tennis Club and contractors to construct four new courts, as well as a clubroom facility.

Casino Memorial Pool masterplan



The Casino Memorial Swimming Pool is a prize community asset and planning needs to be undertaken so that the facility can meet the needs of the future users. A draft masterplan has been adopted by Council to be used for the basis of planning and funding applications into the future.

Outdoor gym stations



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

Tree program – town entries



Council's town entries tree planting program for Casino and Coraki and Woodburn saw the planting of 200 semi-mature trees and over 6,000 bulbs, corms and plants in garden beds throughout the CBD, carparks and riverbanks. More than 700 trees were planted along our riverbanks which will improve the aesthetics and improve the carbon footprint for our area.

Crawford Street Square improvements



Crawford Square underwent upgrades including the replacement of softfall, installation of playground edging and the installation of a wheelchair accessible carousel. The carousel is installed on a protective rubber soft fall surface to create a safe, inclusive play area. Funding of \$44,259 was provided under the NSW Government's Social Housing Community Improvement Fund.

Funded community projects



The NSW Government's commitment to investing in regional NSW continues to flow into the Richmond Valley, which is fantastic for some of our community facilities.

The following local projects have won support this year:

- \$267,883 for a modern catering and amenities block at Casino Showgrounds
- \$201,926 for 'Fit for Parks' – outdoor gyms for Crawford Square in Casino and Evans Head riverside
- \$152,028 for stage one of the revitalisation of Casino Civic Hall
- \$131,785 to upgrade the Broadwater Outdoor Youth Space and Park
- \$101,990 to fit out the Evans Head Tennis Clubhouse
- \$122,000 to extend the jetty at Coraki Riverside Park along with a new pontoon and gangway
- \$100,000 for a new floating pontoon and gangway at Woodburn.

PP2: GETTING AROUND

Provide safe and accessible transport network

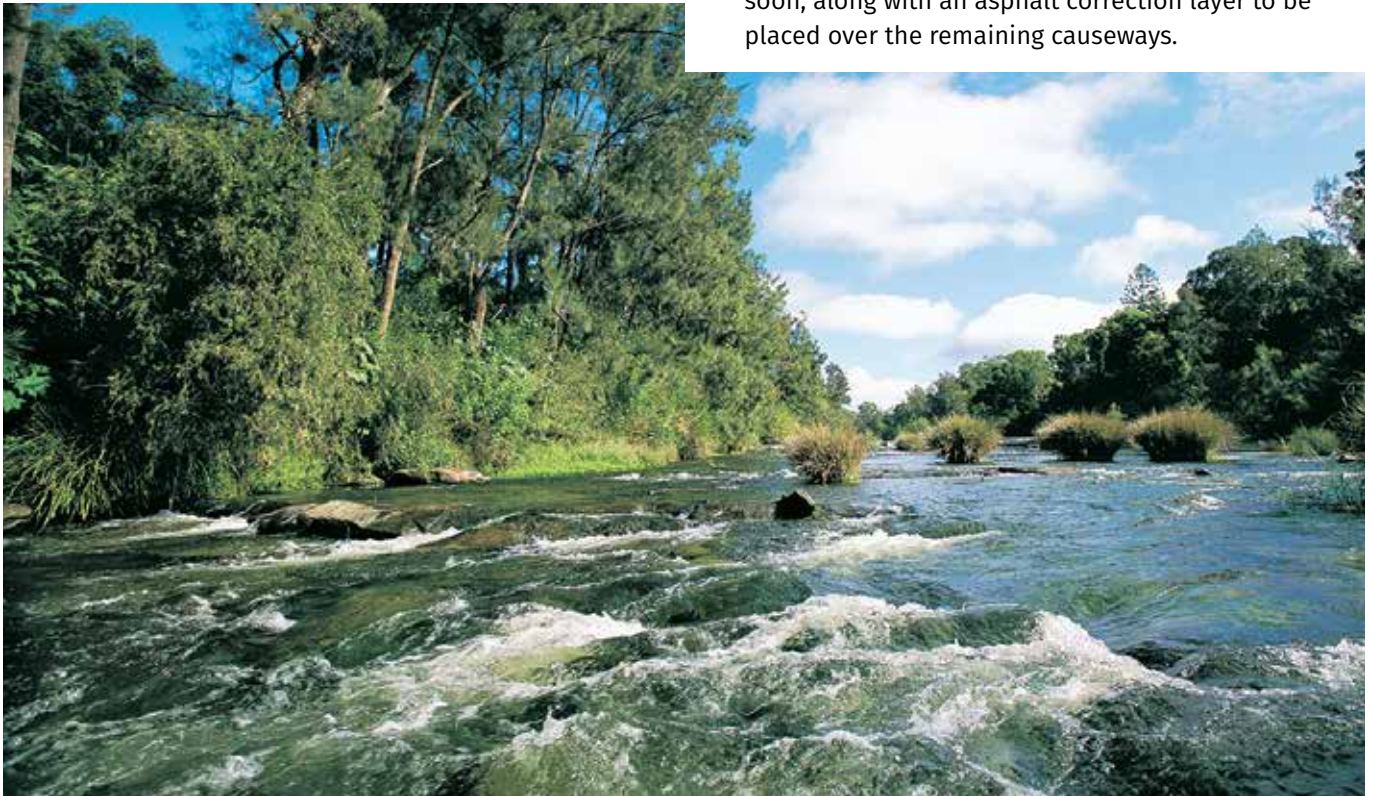
HIGHLIGHTS

- Stage 1 of the Woodburn-Coraki Road project has been completed
- Footpath works commenced on the Broadwater shared cycleway
- Stapleton Ave road works have been completed in Casino
- Springrove road pavement works completed
- New footpath on Cedar Street Woodburn
- CCTV stability with information constantly available to Casino Police
- New solar lights installed for Evans Head K-12 bus shelter
- Reynolds road rehabilitation
- South Evans Head micro surfacing trial

Flood Recovery Program (\$4.9m)

Contractors continued throughout the year to carry out road repairs and culvert and causeway constructions across the Richmond Valley as part of the flood recovery program.

- Roadside drainage works including pipe crossing outlet and inlet clearing were carried out on Boggy Creek Road and Reardons Lane and restoration grading works on Avenue Road.
- Contractors Martin Bros have restored the Swan Bay-New Italy Road back to pre-flood condition, as well as Old Dyraba Road, which needed \$170,460 in restoration works requiring 3000 tonnes of gravel.
- The culvert, which collapsed in the first flood event of 2017 on Swan Bay-New Italy Road, was replaced with a box culvert rather than an eight-cell pipe crossing.
- Around 13 kilometres of flood pavement rehabilitation on Old Tenterfield Road was completed by local contractors Smith Plant at a cost of \$202,000. A total 3300 tonnes of flood-blend road base from RVC's Woodview Quarry was transported to site as part of the flood repair works.
- Drainage works undertaken included causeway clearing, reinstatement of table and 'v drains'. Causeway repairs to the value of \$90,000 will start soon, along with an asphalt correction layer to be placed over the remaining causeways.



Broadwater shared cycleway

Funding was awarded by the NSW Government to RVC, under the Active Transport Program, for the construction of a shared pathway at Broadwater, including drain crossings, structures and accesses from Broadwater town to the end of Broadwater Beach Road.



Cedar Street footpath Woodburn

A new footpath in Cedar Street from Redwood Lane to Wagner Street now provides a link to the CBD of Woodburn with the sports fields. These works are part of Council's ongoing commitment to extending and improving the footpath network in all towns and villages and will make access to the sports fields much easier and safer.



PP3: WORKING TOGETHER

Good communication and engagement between Council and the community

HIGHLIGHTS

- Community Strategic Plan viewing tours in Broadwater, Casino, Coraki, Evans Head, Rappville and Woodburn
- Signature projects workshops held throughout the year
- Events and community teams attended a number of well attended community meetings
- Volunteer upskilling workshop held in Casino
- In-kind support provided to community event organisers through Council's Event funding scheme
- Council facilitated and chaired advisory committees throughout the year
- Online community engagement through active use of social media
- Grant writing workshops delivered to community members by Council staff
- Council staff participated in the promotion and administration of the ClubGRANTS program
- \$58,535 in community financial assistance grants awarded to community groups and members
- Stronger Country Communities Fund survey

Community programs and grants - grant opportunities

Council has made it a priority to maximise grant opportunities for infrastructure and programs to supplement the capital works, operational budget and Richmond Valley community groups' resources over the past two years.

This targeted approach has already resulted in great success, with highlights including multi-million-dollar upgrades for the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange and the Woodburn Riverside Precinct, and \$850,000 to fund five projects through Round One of the Stronger Country Communities program.

An important part of Council's strategy for grant funding success is to seek out smaller amounts of funding which can support specific programs or double, triple or even quadruple original budgets. Council has had success with funding for such diverse areas as the environmental restoration of fish passageways, operational programs including 'Try a Trade Week' for young women and training for female Council staff, and library infrastructure funding at both Casino Library and Evans Head Library.

Council has also shown its strong support for community groups' funding success through its 'Get that Grant' workshops and through support for applications for the Community Building Partnership program, with between eight and nine groups receiving a total of around \$100,000 annually in the past two years.

Innovative infrastructure projects and community programs are a strength that RVC will continue to build upon.



Community engagement highlights

In 2017, great opportunities for community engagement came about through Council's Community Strategic Plan process. Community members let Council know their interest in seeing good maintenance of current services and infrastructure, with specific requests for good access to local parks, riversides and public recreation spaces.

In 2018, the Richmond Valley community responded with enthusiasm to Council's call for suggestions for community infrastructure projects. The strong response showed that Richmond Valley residents have great ideas for projects in each town, giving Council a range of ideas for future consideration.



Growing Our Economy

EC1: DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Significantly grow the Richmond Valley's economy

HIGHLIGHTS

- Launch of new Visitors Guide
- Finalised the sale of land at Evans Head for the development of the Manufactured Homes Estate and 20 new residential lots
- Launch of the Regional NSW Investment Prospectus in Casino
- Council contributed \$15,000 to a business case to conduct an economic and financial analysis for the proposed Northern Rivers Rail Trail
- Medicinal cannabis facility announced for Casino
- Planning to build a Biohub facility to transform organic waste and waste water into energy
- Partnership with Service NSW to introduce 'Easy to do Business'
- Successful delivery of NSW Government Future Towns projects in Casino and Coraki.
- Expression of Interest and Business Case lodged for funding of the Casino Industry Activation project under the NSW Government Growing Local Economies fund.

Launch of State Governments Regional NSW Investment Prospectus

The [Regional NSW Investment Prospectus](#) was launched by the Deputy Premier, John Barilaro earlier this year in Casino. This is the first time that Regional NSW has had a standalone online resource to provide potential investors (domestic and international) with the "how", "who" and "what" to be able to invest with confidence.

Supporting local business



Richmond Valley Council has a proud history of strong advocacy for local business and is keen to continue to promote and encourage new and existing enterprises.

Council wants to make sure the Richmond Valley is well positioned for the future, socially, environmentally and economically, with all the right ingredients to be the Northern Rivers' primary regional industry hub.

Solaris Nutraceuticals Australia

Council has welcomed a proposal put forward by Solaris Nutraceuticals to construct a one million-square-foot (9.3ha) greenhouse operation for the cultivation, production and manufacture of medical cannabis and associated products in Casino.

Touted as the "largest medical cannabis facility in the southern hemisphere", at full scale it will have the capacity to support annual production of 100,000 kilograms of high-quality cannabis, which equates to an associated annual revenue generation potential of between \$800 million and \$1.1 billion, based on current pricing metrics in the Australian cannabis marketplace.



Biohub

Council is working with Brisbane based company Utilitas Group to develop plans to build a biohub adjacent to the Casino sewage treatment plant. The project will see the biohub facility transform organic waste and waste water into energy, clean water and other bio-products.

Brisbane-based Utilitas Group, a biohub developer, is currently securing finance of \$4.3 million to secure the site and develop the facility. The initial scale of the project is expected to be 330kW – 100 to 200 times bigger than a household solar unit.



Future Towns funded projects in Casino and Coraki

Casino and Coraki were selected by the NSW Department of Industry to receive \$50,000 each in funding towards delivery of Placemaking and Digital Readiness initiatives under the NSW State Government program called Future Towns.

Consultation in Coraki showed that the challenge for local businesses in the town is that visitors do not know their beautiful Coraki village is located just a short drive from the main road. The solution was to create a large graphic sign which highlights the features of the township and encourages visitors to stop.

The Coraki Public Information Sign, which was installed at the end of last year, is an opportunity for the township to promote its beautiful natural scenery and capture more economic activity by diverting more vehicles and visitors from the main road.

Consultation with businesses and community in Casino indicated that the vacant window fronts were detracting from the streetscape. This inspired the concept of

the Retail Revitalisation Project. The project involved 'wrapping' those vacant shopfronts with images and graphic designs which represent the kind of business which could work well in the space. So the benefit is two-fold, the vacant windows are now bright and vibrant, and they are also a positive conversation topic, an inspiration to potential businesses to come along and think about setting up in Casino.



EC2: BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS

Maximise income for the community through our commercial activities

HIGHLIGHTS

- Received development approval for Stage 2 upgrade NRLX
- Construction commenced Stage 2 NRLX
- NRLX truck wash project
- Upgrade Avdata technology to improve measurement and invoicing at the NRLX
- Purchase of land at Canning Drive Casino for residential subdivision
- Leveraging business announcements in the Richmond Valley to generate industrial land activation and development initiatives.

Fixing Country Truck Washes

Richmond Valley Council was successful, under the Federal and State Governments' Fixing Country Truck Washes program, to upgrade the existing facility at the NRLX. The \$358,076 grant will help increase truck throughput and accessibility. The current facility does not have a specific B-double wash bay, which increases the time taken for drivers to wash down their trucks.

The project involves:

- upgrading the current truck wash and enable 24-hour access to the amenities
- add an additional truck wash bay to facilitate B-Double trucks and trailers
- enable the new bay to have both recycled and town water wash options for either cabins or trailers
- install LED lighting
- new water meter



Canning Drive Casino

Council has purchased land at Canning Drive to develop much needed residential lots in Casino. With the successful sales of Settlers Estate there is very limited vacant residential land remaining within Casino. The land will be developed in two stages with Stage 1 being

ten lots expecting to be released to the market in the first half of next year. The development of the second stage, consisting of nine lots, will follow the completion of sales of Stage 1.

Looking after our Environment

EH1: MANAGING OUR WASTE AND WATER

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Nammoona Masterplan adopted by Council
- Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection was introduced and is going well, with low contamination and very few rejected loads.
- Diversion from the kerbside waste stream is sitting at 62%
- Tip Shops at councils Nammoona and Evans Head facilities have proved to be very successful and economically viable.
- A new street bin truck has been purchased with the ability to service larger bins
- Surrendering 2 licences for Broadwater landfill and Evans Head to make for easier compliance/management
- Cell 6 Nammoona is at the design stage with negotiations underway with NSW EPA
- Bora Ridge closure and capping plan is in its final design stage in preparation for the tender process for construction
- Permanent part time Waste Educator Officer
- Water mains network replacement program
- Stapleton Avenue Casino kerb and guttering and water main replacement

Business Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) trial

The Business FOGO trial was very successful with all businesses in the Richmond Valley having access to a weekly food and garden organics collection service from 1 July 2018.



Water mains

The Water-Sewer team has been busy improving the local water supply system by replacing aged and damaged watermains across the network. This work reduces the risk of pipe breaks and interruptions, and helps maintain good quality drinking water.



Nammoona waste & recycling

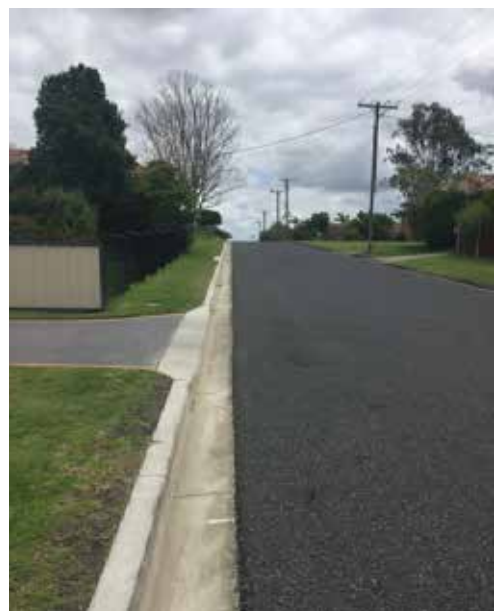
Planning and preparation of a new landfill Cell at Nammoona Waste & Recycling Centre has resulted in the completion of the Nammoona Master Plan which includes the relocation and development of the tip shop, reconfiguration of the Community Recycling Centre, new offices, moving the weighbridge closer to the front of the site, and aims to eventually have a dual weigh bridge. The implementation plan is under development.



Stapleton Avenue and Stormwater

Casino's Stapleton Avenue has undergone extensive work to replace damaged kerb and guttering, and a water main. Works involved removing 80 percent of the kerb and guttering from Walker Street down to Hickey Street, the installation of sub-soil on the northern side to stop water entering the new pavement, the removal of 100mm of old road base, the laying of 220mm of slag lime to strengthen the new pavement, topped off with 10mm of primer.

Three stormwater pits were also upgraded, and new service crossings installed. Weather permitting, a final seal will be placed around February-March 2019.



EH2: PROMOTING THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Protect and enhance the Richmond Valley's beautiful environment

HIGHLIGHTS

- There were 314 Development Applications, an increase of 30 from the previous financial year with the average determination time reduced to 41 calendar days (decrease of 4 days from the previous year).
- Ongoing involvement and support for local Landcare groups and activities.
- Involvement and membership in the Joint Organisations Natural Resource Management Group.
- Council continues to implement its flying fox management plan and intends to plant semi advanced figs (*ficus obliqua*) in Queen Elizabeth Park in the hope of providing more flying fox habitat away from residential areas of Casino and creating a buffer between humans and flying foxes.
- Council is working closely with OEH, neighbouring Councils and other local agencies on a ten-year plan to improve the water quality of the Richmond and Wilson Rivers catchment area.
- The riverbank at Casino's Webb Park is undergoing a transformation with the planting of 3000 native plants and 145 trees.



Riparian Restoration Richmond River

Restoration involved planting in excess of 700 native trees and shrubs at strategic locations to improve the biodiversity and water quality of the Richmond River surrounds and riparian habitat.

A site of around 1.2 hectares near Woodburn, at the approach of the town has been restored. Bushland Regeneration Services were engaged to eradicate all weed species and plant native trees and shrubs including endemic and koala food trees for potential harvest.

Other numerous sites were chosen at Coraki totalling approximately 0.7 hectare on the riverbank and immediate surrounds. These sites augmented the riverbank improvements and incorporated cleaning up some infested and eroded sites, with a regeneration and replanting scheme to improve the overall town riverbank and waterway health.

Council identified a number of Woodburn and Coraki sites alongside the bank of the iconic Richmond River being in need of revegetation and weed eradication. By improving the riverside vegetation, especially where stormwater drains to the Richmond River, water quality and overall resistance to flooding events and associated bank erosion can be minimised.

A native tree and shrub day at Coraki riverbank involved planting over 160 natives, including koala food trees for harvesting opportunities to help 'Friends of the Koala' hospital services in Lismore. It is hoped a similar day could energise people local to Woodburn to get involved and enjoy the fun and satisfaction of improving the local environment and overall health of the Richmond River at Woodburn.

These revegetation works are particularly timely alongside the Woodburn riverbank parkland upgrade and the areas identified for full restoration are currently undergoing full weed management by Bushland Regeneration Services (BRS). BRS have been engaged by North Coast Local Land Services supported by funding provided by Richmond Valley Council and the National Landcare Program.

Framework Funding and Intended Activities – River Health

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) proposed creating an effective governance and funding framework to effectively tackle the river health issues within the Richmond River catchment with an integrated river basin management approach, engaging public and private stakeholders to further the process.

This initiative proposed a co-contribution of funds towards a collective pool of \$120,000. OEH generously matched Council contributions of \$60,000, of which RVC provided \$10,000.

Following the successful application and funding for the project, work has commenced with the successful tendering and appointment of Alluvium Consulting who will be tasked with developing and refining potential governance and funding frameworks for the Richmond River catchment. Alluvium will engage in detailed consultation with key stakeholders including all local government, state government, as well as non-government organisations and community groups.



Love it or Lose it

The Richmond River catchment is home to beautiful beaches and scenic rivers but sadly everyday behaviours are negatively affecting the waterways we love. Councils within the Richmond River catchment have joined forces to highlight some of these issues and offer some solutions. They tell three stories highlighting how bad habits are doing more damage than we realise and educate the community to “love it or lose it!”.

Making positive changes in your backyard, business or on the land will ensure future generations can continue to enjoy clean drinking water, healthy fish and beautiful waterways.

The three animations are available at:–<https://loveitorloseit.com.au/>



Making Council Great

CS1: LEADING AND ADVOCATING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

A highly efficient and effective Council

HIGHLIGHTS

- New minute taking program to enable accurate and timely production of council papers and minutes
- Establishment of Northern Rivers Joint Organisation
- Preparation and publication of a new Mid-term report to showcase Council's achievements during the Council term
- Completion of a Roads Review audit
- Delivery of Council's Internal Audit Program
- Roads network revaluation
- Regular media releases on council activities and issues
- Monthly community newsletter delivered to households and by email
- Preparation of bi-annual reports to the community on progress against the 2017/2021 Delivery Program
- \$1.982 million low cost loan from the NSW Government to invest in vital services and infrastructure
- Continued savings of approximately 40% in insurance costs
- Quarterly capital works report provided to Council
- Monthly budget adjustments reported to council
- Dedicated project management office to manage and deliver signature projects

Investment in infrastructure

RVC can unlock investment in infrastructure to benefit the local community now and into the future with a \$1.982 million low-cost loan from the NSW Government. This loan has opened the door for RVC to invest in vital services and infrastructure for residents right across the local area. The projects that will be funded under the loan include \$1.1 million for local roads renewal; \$342,000 for a sports ground; and \$40,000 for public amenities refurbishment and \$500,000 for the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange.

Financial Sustainability (Roads review)

Council undertook an in-house revaluation of the Road network in 2017/2018. The result of this process has provided an excellent database of condition information which in turn allows for more precise and timely works and renewal programming. Following approval by auditors, this network valuation information will be key in the development of a Road Management Strategy. The strategy will illustrate Council's challenges in managing the road network and provide direction for the long term financial sustainability of road infrastructure within Richmond Valley. The draft document will be presented to Council in 2019.



Establishment of Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

In 2017 Parliament passed legislation to establish a network of joint organisation to help drive better planning, economic development and service delivery in regional NSW. Six Northern Rivers councils have come together as the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) comprising Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, and Tweed, to plan and prioritise important regional projects across traditional council boundaries. The NSW Government have provided seed funding of \$300,000 to help establish the new regional body in the Northern Rivers region. The new NRJO will strengthen the collaboration between local councils and the State Government on regional initiatives.



CS2: GREAT SUPPORT

Councils corporate support services provide professional and effective service delivery

HIGHLIGHTS

- Electronic rate notices introduced to rate payers
- Employee self-service payroll to be rolled out to staff
- CBD wi-fi in Evans Head, Woodburn, Coraki and Casino stable with an average of 45 users daily
- New records management system implemented
- First Aid Program rolled out across Council
- Health and Wellbeing strategy implemented across Council
- Injury management procedure and Recover-at-Work program reviewed in line with best practice
- YES program continues with many local students attending the getting to know you session
- State Government funding of \$65,350 was secured for part-qualification training through NSW TAFE; Digital Literacy - \$23,200, Project Management - \$20,250 and Leadership & Management - \$21,900
- Invested more than \$195,032 on training and developing our people
- Leadership Program developed and implemented
- Variety of policies implemented including Issue Resolution and Domestic and Family Violence
- Staff engagement survey strategy developed with intervention implemented upon receiving staff feedback with statistics increasing in satisfaction
- Organisational Development rebranded to People & Culture – aligns with Council's overall strategy of engaging and empowering staff

First Aid training for Council staff

More than 170 Council staff were trained in first aid throughout the year. The training program will ensure that Council has adequate and suitably qualified First Aid Officers and will provide staff with peace of mind that they have access to first aid. Trained staff will have a training qualification which they can benefit both at home and at work.



Staff Health and Wellbeing program rolled out

Richmond Valley Council is committed to promoting health and wellbeing in the workplace. In 2018 Council's health and wellbeing program was rolled out to staff providing a number of initiatives and benefits to create a culture of wellbeing that enables staff to perform at their best. Initiatives rolled out during the year were:

- Mental Health First Aid training
- Women in the Workplace training
- Self-defence and yoga classes
- Fitness Passport
- Morning warm-ups for field staff to mitigate injury
- Implementation of Issue Resolution and Domestic & Family Violence Policies



100 Days for Change

Council has taken action on gender equity through three key initiatives as part of 100 Days for Change. The three initiatives aimed at bridging over barriers to ensure opportunity for training and development for female employees and young people. This included the very successful Try-a-Trade program. Try-a-Trade was an initiative aimed at young females in their last years at school; many who attended this initiative have now applied for Council's YES program



Section 2

Financial and Asset Reporting

During 2017/2018 Richmond Valley Council continued to provide services and facilities to the community in accordance with the adopted estimates (as amended each quarter).

The expenses incurred, and revenue raised by Council during 2017/2018 in respect of its principal activities are summarised below.

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

The audited financial statements for Richmond Valley Council for 2017/2018 are available as a separate document in the Annual Report or Financial Statements section of Council's website www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au

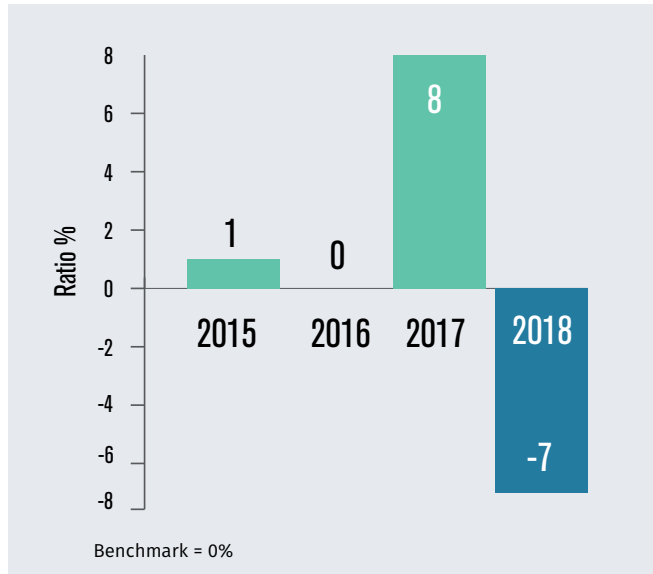
Income Statement

	Income	Expenditure	Net Cost
Function/Activities	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Connecting People and Places	13,363	22,124	-8,761
Growing our Economy	8,732	7,142	1,590
Looking after our Environment	20,641	22,587	-1,946
Making Council Great	17,517	2,720	14,797
Total Functions and Activities	60,253	54,573	5,680
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	60,253	54,573	5,680

Indicators

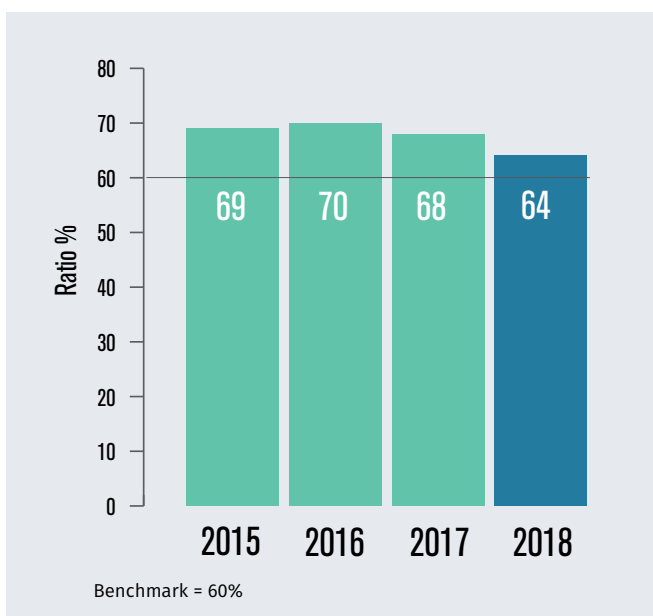
Operating Performance Ratio

Council's operating performance ratio for 2018 was affected by the Federal Government bringing forward the first two instalments of the financial assistance grant, increasing income by \$2.369m. Council recognised loan break costs of \$1.5m during 2018, however will still achieve savings of over \$536,000 due to refinancing three loans.



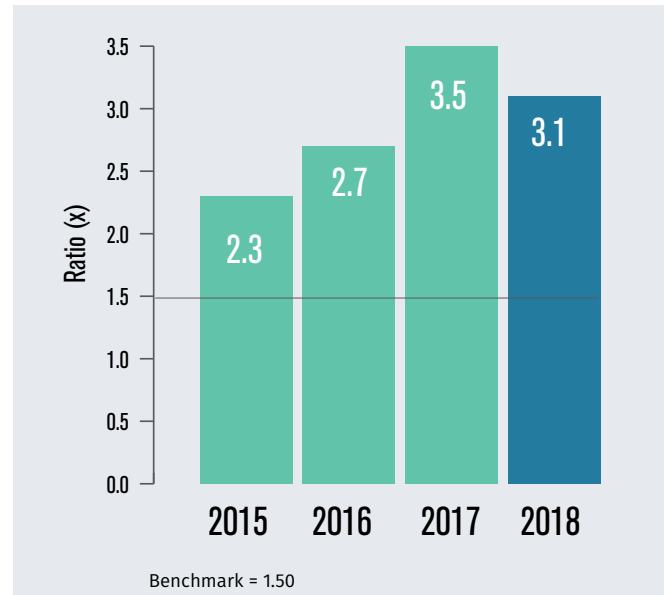
Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio

Council's own source operating revenue ratio is above the benchmark of 60% and remains relatively consistent.



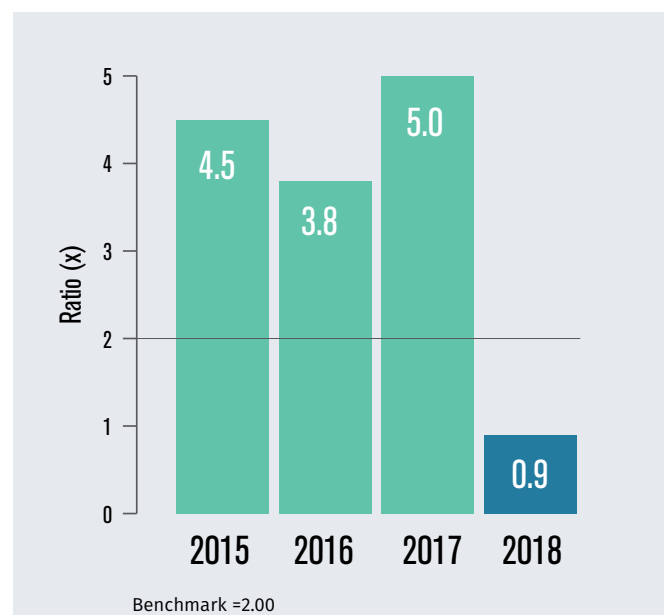
Unrestricted Current Ratio

Council's unrestricted current ratio has decreased to 3.1, which is still well above the benchmark of 1.5. This was due to a proportionate increase in current liabilities over cash and receivables.



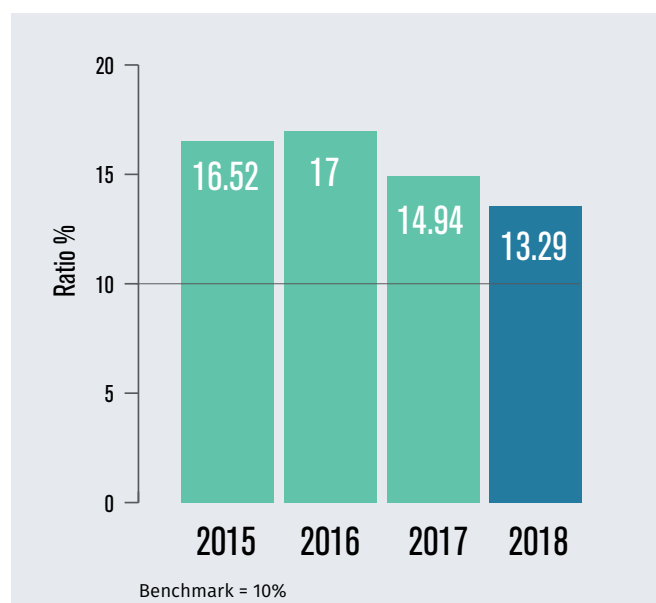
Debt Service Cover Ratio

Council's debt service cover ratio for 2018 has been affected by the refinancing of three loans during the year which will lead to savings of over \$536,000 during the terms of the loans. Principal repayments of \$12.238m have been offset by new loans of \$13.855m.



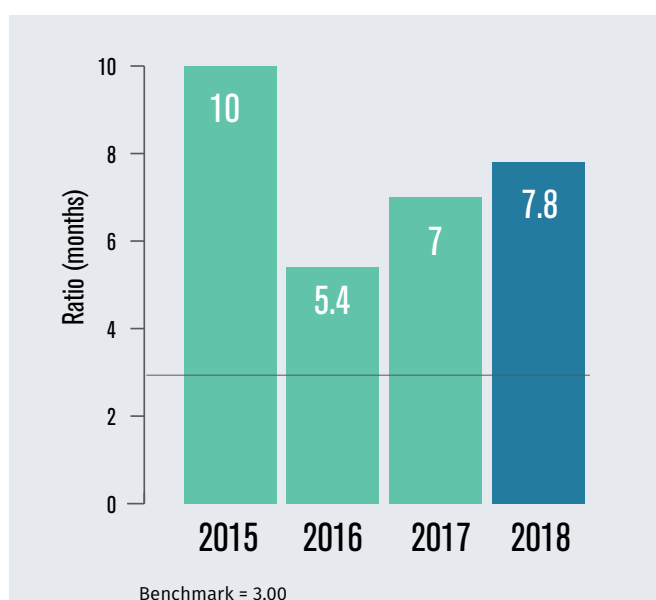
Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges Outstanding Ratio

There has been a further improvement in Council's rates, annual charges, interest and extra charges outstanding ratio, reducing from 14.94% to 13.29%. In comparing this ratio to the benchmark, it is impacted by the fact that Council levies its water and sewerage annual charges in arrears. Council will continue to monitor and pursue outstanding balances through its debt recovery practices.



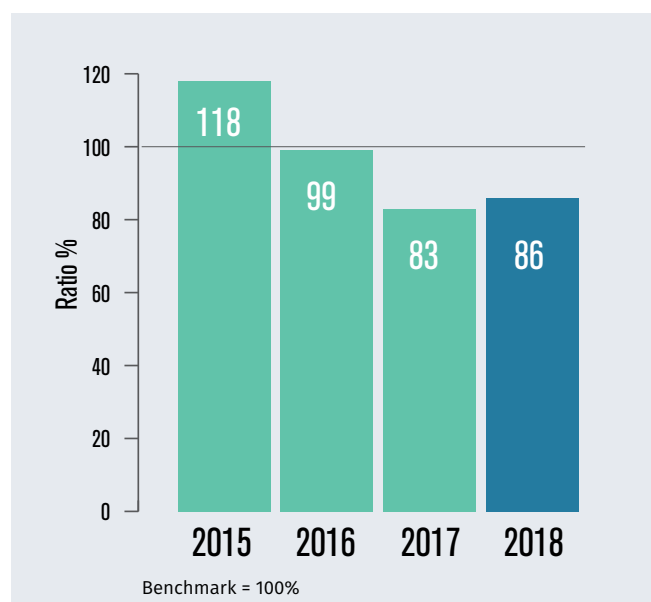
Cash Expense Cover Ratio

Council's cash expense cover ratio is well above the benchmark of 3.0 and has increased due to a higher level of term deposits than in 2017. This ratio excludes managed funds which are liquid assets that can be redeemed within 5 days.



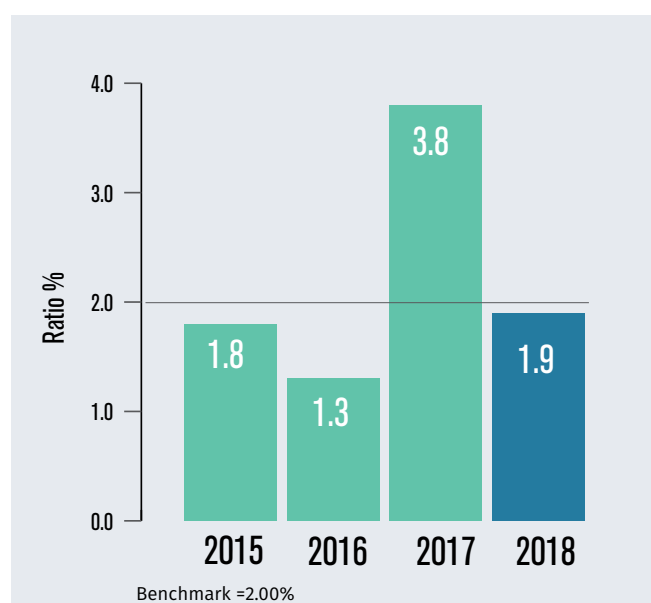
Building, Infrastructure & Other Structures Renewals Ratio

Council's Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio has improved to 86.18% in 2017/2018. Council's special rate variation has enabled a continued focus on asset renewals going forward.



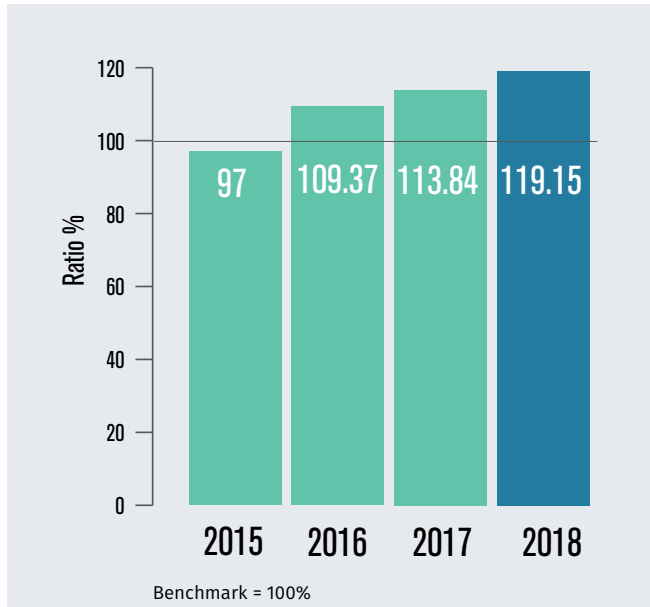
Infrastructure Backlog Ratio

Council's Infrastructure backlog ratio has improved to 1.89%. Major works have been undertaken to restore damage to Council's road network as a result of flooding in March 2017.



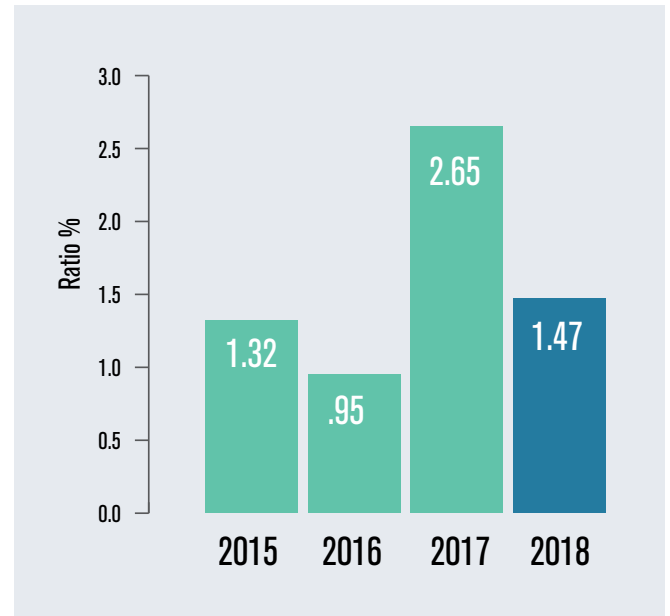
Asset Maintenance Ratio

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



Cost to bring assets to agreed service level

Council's outstanding renewals remain relatively low at 1.47% of the total replacement cost of infrastructure assets.

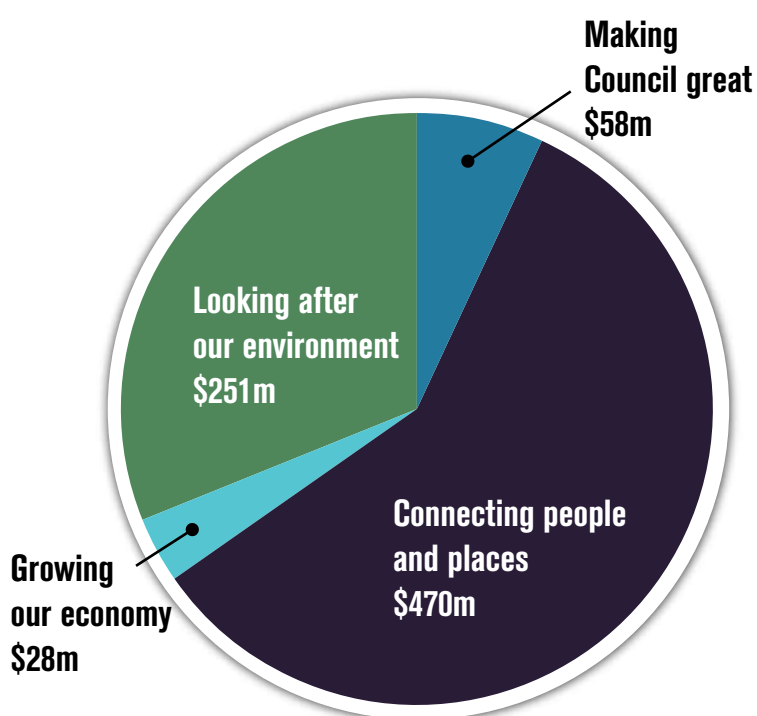


Balance sheet

\$'000	Actual 2018	Actual 2017
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,988	12,934
Investments	35,028	25,711
Receivables	9,066	9,867
Inventories	1,422	1,092
Other	248	369
Non-current assets classified as "held for sale"	0	0
Total Current Assets	51,752	49,973
Non-Current Assets		
Investments	4,000	0
Receivables	2,098	2,208
Inventories	1,679	1,297
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	746,993	673,629
Investments accounted for using the equity method	0	0
Investment property	0	0
Intangible assets	0	0
Total Non-Current Assets	754,770	677,134
TOTAL ASSETS	806,522	727,107

Assets held

RVC functions/activities \$M



Section 3 – Statutory Reporting

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

There were no overseas visits in 2017/2018 by Councillors or others representing Council.

Councillor Fees, Expenses & Facilities

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

A copy of the policy is available on Council's website – <http://www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au>

The table below is a summary of the expenses incurred by Councillors during the financial year.

Richmond Valley Council Annual Report Data 2017/2018 Councillor Fees, Expenses and Facilities	
Expense Type	\$ (exc GST)
Mayoral Fee	41,938.18
Councillor Fees	133,560.28
Mayoral Expenses	
Communication expenses	1,824.40
Conferences, seminars and training attendance	3,838.17
Interstate Travel	1,956.29
Intrastate Travel	3,106.21
Mayoral vehicle expenses	9,582.92
Other expenses	1,626.58
Councillor Expenses	
Communication expenses	5,621.12
Conferences, seminars and training attendance	1,650.45
Interstate Travel	0.00
Intrastate Travel	4,764.76
Other expenses	5,158.26
Total Expenses	214,627.62

Private Works

Council did not subsidise any private works during 2017/2018 in accordance with Section 67 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Legal Proceedings

During 2017/2018, Council was involved in a number of legal proceedings, a summary of which is available below:

	\$ Amount (Excl. GST)
Planning & Development	
- Development assessment	0.00
- Development prosecutions	0.00
Debt Recovery	
- Rates, charges and other debtors	81,322.76
Health & Regulatory Control	
- Health administration ongoing	0.00
Infrastructure & Environment	
- Contract works	0.00
- Lease preparation	0.00
Real Estate Development	
- Property Matters	100,607.81
Corporate Services	
- Litigation	7,181.00
- Public Liability	0.00
- Other	59,217.39
Water Supplies	
- Litigation	0.00
- Property Matters	151.18
Total	248,480.14

Contracts Awarded by Council

During 2017/2018 the following contracts for amounts greater than \$150,000 were awarded by Council, as defined by the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Name of Contractor	Nature of Project	\$ Contract Amount (inc GST)
Locale Consulting	Detailed design drawings and technical specifications for development of Woodburn Riverside Precinct (RVC-778430)	168,099.80
Ozwide Bridge Rail and Civil PTY LTD	Construct bridge over Pelican creek on Rambaldinis Rd, Naughtons Gap.(RVC-774961)	379,170.00
Chris Pritchett - Architect	Detailed design drawings & technical specs for development of Casino Drill hall & Riverside Park. (RVC 781471)	173,167.50
Insituform Pacific Pty Ltd	Sewer Mains Rehabilitation	754,748.72
VoR Environmental Australia	Design, construction and commission of a sludge dewatering system at the Evans Head Sewerage Treatment Plant	384,890.00
GHD Pty Ltd	Long-Term Strategies for Coraki and Casino STPs and Casino Sewer (VP-106177)	192,858.00
NRC Group LTD PTY	Broadwater Shared Cycleway (RVC357.17)	721,160.00
Precept Renewable Energy Services Australia Pty Ltd (PRESA)	Design and Construction of Casino Water treatment Plant 100Kw Solar Power Generation System (RVC-798628)	227,526.53
AGS Commercial	Design and Construction for Renewal of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (RVC806650)	6,571,070.00
Total		9,572,690.55

Financial Assistance

During the year, Council resolved to make contributions/grants totalling \$58,535.64. These were allocated to the following organisations:

Community Group	\$ amount (exc GST)
2nd Casino Scout Group	1,498.00
Bentley Community Preschool	726.64
Broadwater Koala Reserve Trust	1,318.60
Broadwater Rileys Hill Community Tennis	1,859.00
Casino & District Family History	1,257.90
Casino BMX Club	1,300.00
Casino Community Soup Kitchen	2,000.00
Casino District Cricket Association	3,000.00
Casino Eagle Archers	3,500.00
Casino Impaired Vision Support	925.00
Casino Neighbourhood Centre	2,500.00
Casino Pony Club	5,000.00
Casino Poultry Club	1,100.00
Casino's Own Wireless Association Inc	2,500.00

Community Group	\$ amount (exc GST)
Community Radio Coraki	2,500.00
Evans Head-Casino Surf Life Saving Club	1,155.00
Evans River Rugby Club	2,000.00
GROW	700.00
Northern Rivers Dirty Wheels	3,000.00
Northern Rivers Military Museum	5,000.00
Our Two Hands	2,500.00
Pacific Coast Railway	3,600.00
Rileys Hill War Memorial Reserve Trust	3,300.00
The Village Players Theatre	1,500.00
Uniting Care	2,500.00
Woodburn & District Garden Club Inc	1,212.00
Woodburn Amateur Boxing Club Inc	1,083.50
TOTAL	58,535.64

External Partnerships

Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library

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

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

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

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

View the [Regional Library Annual Report](#)

North East Weight of Loads Group

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

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

NEWLOG's equity at 30 June 2018 was \$128,278

View the [NEWLOG Annual Report](#)

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

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

Details on projects and priorities, meeting minutes and news and media releases can be found at <http://www.northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au/>

North East Waste

Richmond Valley Council, in conjunction with Ballina Shire, Byron Shire, Clarence Valley, Lismore City, Kyogle and Tweed Shire Councils, is a member of North East

Waste, a group of Councils working together towards cost-effective waste management solutions.

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

Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan

Council celebrates diversity and social inclusion and is committed to maintaining Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) practices.

Council has continued to take a leadership role in addressing local youth unemployment by directly recruiting local school leavers into traineeships, apprenticeships and scholarships. Council's Youth Employment Strategy allocates a proportion of its workforce opportunities to local youth each year.

Council has focussed on ensuring that our culture, policy and leadership strategies are aligned to set the organisation up to create an environment where diversity is embraced and accounted for. Some initiatives include: an organisation wide Bullying and Harassment education piece, informing staff of what inappropriate behaviour is and to embrace difference. To facilitate resolution of staff concerns an Issue Resolution policy has been created so there are official channels should staff feel they are not being treated equally or equitably.

Our field operations have been analysed to suit a diverse workforce including ensuring equipment and amenities are suitable for a female workforce. We have also been successful in obtaining the maximum amount of funding from the Elsa Dickson foundation, securing five spots for Indigenous or Torres Strait Islanders to work with us at Council. Further training has been organised for the Leadership team to do part qualifications in understanding Aboriginal culture.

Council has also completed an intensive Mental Health Campaign, training our leaders in recognising mental health issues and how to approach staff should they believe someone is struggling. In addition, through grant money, Women in the Workplace was set up to bring the women together at council (indoor and outdoor staff) to discuss what it is like being a woman at Council and what things can they can do to further develop themselves and in turn be leaders throughout Council to facilitate changes and inclusion. The grant money

also gave Council the opportunity to set-up a 'Try-a-Trade program', where school girls worked with our field staff for a week learning 'non-traditional' roles. This has proven to be very successful with many participants keen to work with Council through our YES program in the coming year.

General Manager and Senior Staff Remuneration

The General Manager's remuneration package consists of:

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

The total remuneration paid to the General Manager in 2017/2018 was \$276,161. Council had two senior staff positions (as defined by the *Local Government Act 1993*) during 2017/2018. These positions were held by the Director Infrastructure and Environment and the Chief Operating Officer (although the COO departed during the year).

The remuneration packages of the senior staff consist of:

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

The total remuneration paid to senior staff in 2017/2018 was \$242,357

Stormwater Management Service Charge

Contained in the Operational Plan applicable for 2017/2018 was provision for Council to undertake various urban stormwater drainage works and services estimated to cost \$323,000. These works included the following items:

Works	Cost planned in Operational Plan	Actual Works	Actual Expenditure
Casino		Casino	
Casino Drainage Improvements	\$10,000	Casino Drainage Improvements	\$5,064
Casino Drainage Study	\$75,000	Casino Drainage Study	\$30,500
Evans Head		Evans Head	
Drainage Unallocated	\$128,000	Drainage Unallocated	\$0
Poplar Lane Drainage Improvements	\$50,000	Poplar Lane Drainage Improvements	\$0
Ash St & Fern Pl	\$60,000	Ash St & Fern Pl	\$0
Total	\$323,000	Total	\$35,564

Companion Animals

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

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

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

There are over 10,700 dogs and 1,800 cats registered and/or micro-chipped in the Local Government Area (LGA). There are a large number of dogs and cats estimated to be housed in the LGA that are not registered, being 20% of dogs and as many as 60% of cats, so the number of dogs and cats in our LGA is likely to be much higher.

In 2017/2018 Council received 1,063 complaints about companion animals, the majority of which were for dogs. These varied from issues relating to barking dogs, straying dogs, nuisance dogs, dog attacks and injured dogs. Our Rangers' primary focus when dealing with people while investigating a complaint is to educate them to get a positive outcome. Taking the time to stop and engage people and discuss their issue and the legal requirements often results in a better outcome than enforcement. Rangers also utilise a variety of educational pamphlets and handouts covering issues from registration through to barking problems.

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

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

aggressive or the animals being of poor health or injured.

RVC prioritise the wellbeing of the animals in care. Dogs get daily walks, thanks to the combined efforts of a volunteer who comes to the pound four mornings a week to help, and of course our Education Officer.

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

Pound Statistics	Number
Impounds (Total)	216
Dogs Euthanised	15
Cats Euthanised	22

The statistics in the table above identify that 17% of dogs and cats impounded at Council's Animal Shelter were euthanised. In regard to the dogs, it is important to note that nine of these were dangerous dogs, three dogs could not be re-housed due to injuries and a further three dogs were euthanised due to being unsuitable to re-house. Of the 22 cats euthanised, 21 were feral and could not be rehoused and one was sick or injured.

Rangers continue to work an on-call arrangement where one Ranger is available after hours to investigate instances related to dog attacks or stock on roads.

Rates and Charges Written Off

In accordance with Section 132 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, Council reports that the following general rates and water/sewer charges have been written off during 2017/2018:

Write-off type	\$
General Rates	5,102.54
Water/Sewer Rates	26,554.05
Total	\$31,656.59

Swimming Pool Inspections

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

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

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

In 2017/2018 the following were carried out as part of the program:

- 49 Compliance Certificate applications received, four subsequently cancelled,
- 44 Compliance Certificates issued,
- 1 Compliance Certificates being finalised,
- 0 High risk premises audited. These were inspected in the 2016/17 financial year.

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

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

Council's original goals for 2018 were:

Focus Area 1 – Changing attitudes and behaviours towards people with disabilities in the community – To ensure public events are accessible

Focus Area 2 – Making our community liveable and accessible for all – Providing continuous accessible paths of travel between facilities and services in town centres and public areas

Focus Area 3 – Improving employment opportunities for people with disabilities – Changing people's attitudes

Focus Area 4 – Improving accessibility of systems and processes - Ensuring all information is available in different formats for all abilities

Highlights have included:

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

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

Special Variations to General Income

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

Year of approval 2014/2015	
Purpose	\$3.4m of extra operating expenditure, \$9.1m of capital expenditure, \$15.9m for reduction of operating deficits and \$6.9m for reserve transfers, loan repayments and further deficit reductions
Amount of approval as a % of income (inclusive of rate peg of 2.3%)	5.50%
Amount of approval in monetary terms (2017/2018)	\$1,911,575
Amount unexpended as at 30 June 2017	\$820,571
Total for 2017/2018 to expend from the special variation of general income	\$2,732,146
	\$1,255,866 being as follows:
Expenditure during 2017/2018	Renewals:
	Gravel Road Resheeting \$7,710
	Sealed Road Rehabilitation \$173,241
	Playground Replacement \$31,303
	Council Parks & Facilities \$64,957
	Additional Service:
	Casino Riverbank Presentation \$49,541
	Sealing of Unsealed Roads \$76,288
	Cultural and Art Facilities \$6,475
	Capital Improvements:
	Woodburn Riverside Precinct \$160,730
	Improved Maintenance:
	Playground Maintenance \$8,196
	Toilet Cleaning Maintenance \$12,705
	Rural Road Drain Maintenance \$35,373
	Increased Capacity:
	IT Upgrades \$105,550
	Public Wi-Fi in Casino CBD, Woodburn & Evans Head \$58,812
	Economic Development Initiatives \$19,175
	Loan Borrowing Program Funding:
	Principal & Interest Repayments \$445,810
Amount unexpended as at 30 June 2018	\$1,476,280

Section 4 – Appendices

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

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

[Appendix 2: Audited Financial Statements](#)

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

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

[Appendix 5: Library Annual Report](#)

[Appendix 6: Mid Term Report](#)

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