

# Richmond Valley Council

Annual Report  
2020-2021

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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# CONTENTS

Message from the Mayor and General Manager	4
About the Richmond Valley	7
Richmond Valley Councillors	8
Staffing Profile	9
Brief Statistics for 2020/2021	10
Our Vision	11
Our Values and Behaviours	12
Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework	13
Highlights of Signature Projects	14
Collaborations	22
Our Towns and Villages	24
Festivals and Events 2020/2021	26
Section 1: Delivery Program Progress	27
Our Achievements Snapshot 2020/2021	28
Connecting People and Places	30
Growing our Economy	36
Looking after our Environment	38
Making Council Great	40
Section 2: Financial and Asset Reporting	43
Income Statement	43
Balance Sheet	43
Indicators	44
Assets Held	46
Section 3: Statutory Reporting	47
Overseas Visits by Councillors, Council Staff or other persons representing Council	47
Councillor Fees, Expenses & Facilities	47
Contracts Awarded by Council	48
Legal Proceedings	49

Financial Assistance	51
External Bodies Exercising Function Delegated by Council	52
Corporations, Partnerships, Trusts, Joint Ventures, Syndicates or Other Bodies in which Council held a Controlling Interest	52
Corporations, Partnerships, Trusts, Joint Ventures, Syndicates or Other Bodies in which Council participated in during the year	52
North East Weight of Loads Group (NEWLOG)	52
Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library	52
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation	52
North East Waste	52
Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan	53
General Manager and Senior Staff Remuneration	54
Stormwater Management Service Charge	55
Companion Animals	56
Rates and Charges Written Off	57
Special Variations to General Income	57
Swimming Pool Inspections	58
Councillor Induction and Professional Development	59
Environmental Upgrade Agreements	60
Planning Agreements in Force	60
Disability Inclusion Action Plan	60
Section 4 – Appendices	61



# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR AND GENERAL MANAGER

**It has been another dynamic year in the Richmond Valley marked by new challenges, new opportunities, and planning for a positive future.**

After the unprecedented challenges of 2019/2020, the 2020/2021 financial year was marked by both recovery and growth, but also some significant natural disasters.

## FROM FIRE TO FLOOD

After the severe bushfires of 2019, the Richmond Valley local government area was hit by four declared natural disasters between February 2020 and March 2021. Three of these natural disasters occurred within the 2020/2021 financial year: a flood in December 2020; a storm in February 2021; and another flood in late March 2021.

These flood events resulted in an estimated \$16 million damage bill to Council's essential infrastructure. Combined with the bushfire damage, from which the Richmond Valley was still recovering, the approximate impact was \$22 million.

In the months following the most recent March flood, Council's rural grading crews and contractor crews repaired more than 280km of unsealed roadway, which included initial emergency work to make roads passable, followed by grading, resheeting and drainage work where needed.

A number of more extensive asset reconstruction projects were also undertaken throughout the financial year as a result of flooding and bushfire recovery. These included culvert and bridge and causeway replacements, embankment restorations, gravel resheeting and a variety of drainage repairs.

Projects of this nature were carried out across the Richmond Valley local government area, including at Bungawalbin, Busbys Flat, Pikapene, Rappville, Whiporie, Shannon Brook, Mt Marsh, Ainsworth, Swan Bay and Hogarth Range.



## CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM 2020/2021

Council completed, and commenced, several major projects in 2020/2021 which were prioritised in line with the Richmond Valley Made 2030 Community Strategic Plan, and delivered thanks to a combination of Federal, State and Council funding.

In the Mid Richmond, the \$880,000 upgrade of the Evans Head Library was completed. This project has transformed the Library into a modern, open plan space. The renovation tripled the size of the public floor space, introduced modern amenities and finishes, and added a new shaded courtyard area, complete with seating and landscaping to create a great outdoor option for library users.

Council also completed construction of a new amenities block at the Coraki Riverside Caravan Park (\$585,000), which included accessible public toilets, showers, a deck overlooking the river, and storage rooms. This was an essential upgrade to the popular caravan park which has delivered modern facilities for visitors as well as new public toilets in a central location.

This project has complemented the ongoing beautification project of the Coraki Memorial Park in recent years, which has brought new life to this scenic location.

Sporting facilities are vital to the amenity of the Richmond Valley and in 2020/2021 Council completed the enhancement of Casino's Colley Park soccer field (\$205,000), which included a full resurfacing of the main field, new fencing, including guard fencing behind the soccer goals, new soccer goals, and the construction of coaches' boxes.

The Broadwater Youth Space project was also completed, with the addition of a rope climb and seesaw rocker (\$107,000) in the southwestern corner of the park. This was the final element of this important facility for the growing Broadwater community, which features a skate park, basketball half-court, picnic and barbecue equipment, and a playground.

During 2020/2021 Council began design works for the Casino Memorial Swimming Pool upgrade and selected a tenderer to carry out the scope of works for stage one of the upgrade, which is scheduled to commence in the first half of 2021/2022.

In January 2021 Council commenced a three-year, \$10 million upgrade of one of the area's most important transport routes, the Woodburn-Coraki Road.

Work began at the Woodburn end of the road with a 1.3km section restored. Council then immediately commenced another 2.1km section and the project is scheduled to continue over the next two financial years, with an approximate length of 10km of road fully restored by completion.

A new shared pathway along Casino's Hare Street, between Colches and Centre streets, was constructed. This forms an important connection between residents in south Casino and Gays Hill to the Casino CBD and Crawford Square.

As always, a number of essential asset upgrades and renewals were carried out during 2020/2021, to ensure Council is staying on top of its asset management responsibilities. These included \$3.34 million in sealed road renewals, \$442,000 in unsealed rural road renewals, \$2.51 million in water infrastructure, and \$3.11 million in sewerage infrastructure renewals.

## BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

The 2020/2021 year saw Council continue its focus on supporting the recovery of those parts of the Richmond Valley community severely impacted by the Black Summer bushfires.

Council received a \$1.4 million bushfire recovery grant from the Australian Government, with \$1 million of this funding invested into the hard-hit village of Rappville, and a further \$150,000 invested into projects in the New Italy area.

Projects completed in 2020/2021 included an 800m shared pathway through Rappville, which connects the Public School to the post office (\$230,000), the replacement of burnt infrastructure and upgraded facilities at the Rappville sportsground (\$220,000).

Significant progress was also made on the rebuilding of the Rappville Hall (\$500,000 from the Federal Government) with the public exhibition of architectural plans, followed by the awarding of a tender for construction to local Richmond Valley-based contractor, Bennett Robertson Builders.

In New Italy, Council allocated \$50,000 towards the New Italy Mountain Bike Forest to rebuild burnt infrastructure in this important tourism attraction for the Richmond Valley. A further \$100,000 was allocated to the New Italy Museum to clear burnt vegetation and install new kitchen facilities.



## BOOM TIME AT THE NORTHERN RIVERS LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE

The Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX) had a stellar year in 2020/2021, with a record throughput value of \$143,216,075 exceeding the previous record by \$29.6 million. This was a remarkable achievement for NRLX, the vendors and the broader community.

In small regional communities like the Richmond Valley, this business activity is paramount, supporting local traders and maintaining local jobs. The flow on effects from such a successful year for producers will continue to ripple through the local economy for some time.

## COVID-19 SPARKS RENOVATION BOOM

The Richmond Valley local government area also saw a steep rise in development approvals in the 2020/2021 financial year, led by a home improvement boom, in what was a silver lining for the local economy despite COVID-19.

There were 340 development applications approved by Council, worth more than \$67 million combined, representing a 10-year high.

## COVID-19 AND TOURISM

As the economy started to reopen following the initial lockdown, interest in the Northern Rivers as a tourism destination soared, as restrictions around much of the country eased and international borders remained closed.

In November 2020, an 'Explore Next Door' campaign got underway to promote the Richmond Valley to travellers who lived within a three-hour drive of the region.

The campaign was part of a comprehensive Discover Richmond Valley marketing strategy, which included new branding, a YouTube and social media campaign, and a new look visitors' guide. This initiative was funded by the Federal and NSW governments as part of a targeted grant package to help restart tourism in the region following the bushfires and COVID-19.

Council also launched the Richmond Valley Destination Management Plan 2021-2025, a document which sets an overall strategy to support the sustainable growth and development of the visitor economy.

Throughout 2020/2021 Council continued to progress planning and pre-construction works on the Northern Rivers Rail Trail – Casino to Bentley. This has included the completion of a master plan for the project, which was placed on public exhibition and approved in the first half of the financial year.

## PUBLIC EVENT SUCCESS

Despite the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions, Council continued to take a proactive approach to supporting events in the Richmond Valley where possible during 2020/2021.

Two signature events which form a pillar of the visitor economy in Casino are the Primex Field Days and the Casino Beef Week Festival. Council has a close working relationship with both events and allocated significant resources to ensure these events could go ahead in 2021, while meeting relevant COVID-19 restrictions. Council's proactive and practical approach resulted in two successful COVID-safe events, which brought thousands of people to the Richmond Valley for one or both of the events and injected much-needed funds into the local economy.

# ABOUT THE RICHMOND VALLEY

**Welcome to the Richmond Valley, where the bush meets the beach, and some of Australia's best farming country and fertile river plains gives way to majestic and unspoiled coastlines.**

The area known today as the Northern Rivers was occupied by the Bundjalung speaking people, made up of an estimated 20 different language groups. The traditional custodians of the land surrounding the Casino area, or Djanangmum as it is known to Aboriginal people, are the Galibal people. The Mid Richmond is home to the Bandjalang people, and Rappville is home to the Birihi people.

The Richmond Valley Council local government area covers 304,737 hectares and extends from the coastline at Evans Head to the foothills of the Great Dividing Range to the west, interspersed with State forests, national parks and nature reserves. The largest town is Casino, with other communities including Broadwater, Rileys Hill, Coraki, Evans Head, New Italy, Woodburn and Rappville, as well as rural areas.

The Richmond Valley is accessible by rail, coach and road from a variety of major cities and centres. With airports located at Lismore, Ballina, Coolangatta and Brisbane, Casino is readily accessible. The Pacific Motorway, the major arterial coast road, is complemented by the interior Summerland Way, linking Casino to South East Queensland in the north and Grafton in the south.

With an estimated population of 23,490 people, the area has a steady economy and 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.

As of the December 2020 quarter, the estimated unemployment rate in the Richmond Valley was 5.9 percent. There are 1,700 businesses providing employment for 8,635 people. Food product manufacturing is the largest single employment industry, comprising 2,134 jobs, or 24.7 percent of the workforce. Combined with the 800 jobs in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries, this accounts for 30 percent of total employment in the local government area, which is a significantly higher percentage than seen in other areas of NSW.

The Richmond Valley's gross regional product was \$998 million as of 30 June 2020, with manufacturing being the most productive industry, generating \$238 million. Agriculture, forestry and fishing contributes \$79.9 million. Health care and social services are also significant sectors of the Richmond Valley economy with a total annual contribution of around \$58 million.

The Richmond Valley has the platform to support significant growth in our local economy, which in turn will contribute to growth in the Northern Rivers regional economy. As the Beef Capital, we have the Casino Food Co-op, which employs more than 800 locals and contributes around \$65 million towards the local economy each year, Richmond Dairies exports to numerous countries, followed by Council's own Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange, which had a \$143.2 million turnover in 2020/2021. Along with this we have Australia's largest beef jerky producers in New World Foods - all located in Casino.

But it's not just beef the Richmond Valley produces. We also have sugar cane growers supporting the Broadwater Sugar Mill and emerging industries such as Blue Dog tea tree, Mara Foods and OzRice, to name a few. The diversity in our economy is exemplified by the tourism influxes experienced in our coastal regions, and there are many opportunities to be developed to draw more tourists inland.

The Valley is full of unique places, people and produce, all shaped by the local environment.

This is what makes the Richmond Valley area so special.

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



# RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCILLORS



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

## STAFFING PROFILE

Council employees 293 staff (full time equivalent) under the leadership of the General Manager, with services delivered under the following structure.



### COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY

Development and Regulatory Services | Customer Experience  
Infrastructure Services | Communication, Engagement, Events and Tourism  
Emergency Management, Resilience and Recovery  
Environment, Health and Sustainability

### ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

Finance and Procurement | Governance and Risk Management  
Information and Technology Services | People and Culture  
Regional Libraries | Casino Indoor Sports Stadium

### PROJECTS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Project Management Office | Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX)  
Economic and Property Development | Strategic Asset Planning  
Waste and Resource Recovery | Quarry Enterprises

### DID YOU KNOW



**34.74%**

of staff are women



**27.27%**

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



**16.23%**

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



**8.76%**

of staff have worked for  
Council for over 25 years



# BRIEF STATISTICS

for 2020/2021



CATEGORY	2020/2021
TOTAL POPULATION	23,490
FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS	5,262
COUNCIL AREA (KM2)	3,051 km2
NUMBER OF COUNCIL STAFF (FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT)	292.88
GRP (GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT)	\$1 billion
VISITORS TO RICHMOND VALLEY	302,000
DOMESTIC VISITOR NIGHTS STAYED	119,000
VISITOR SPEND IN LOCAL ECONOMY	\$76 million
LOCAL JOBS	8,635
TOP INDUSTRY OUTPUT - MANUFACTURING	\$1,049 million
INDUSTRY OUTPUT - AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING	\$227 million

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

# OUR VISION

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





# OUR VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS

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

In 2019/2020, Council adopted the following set of behaviours which aimed to reflect how we handled the challenges Council and the community faced during this time, including drought, bushfires, floods and the COVID-19 pandemic. The behaviours were retained for the 2020/2021 year, which proved to be a challenging year in itself.

**We lead by example**

**We take responsibility**

**We do what we say**

**We embrace change**

**We are community focused**

**We are in this together**



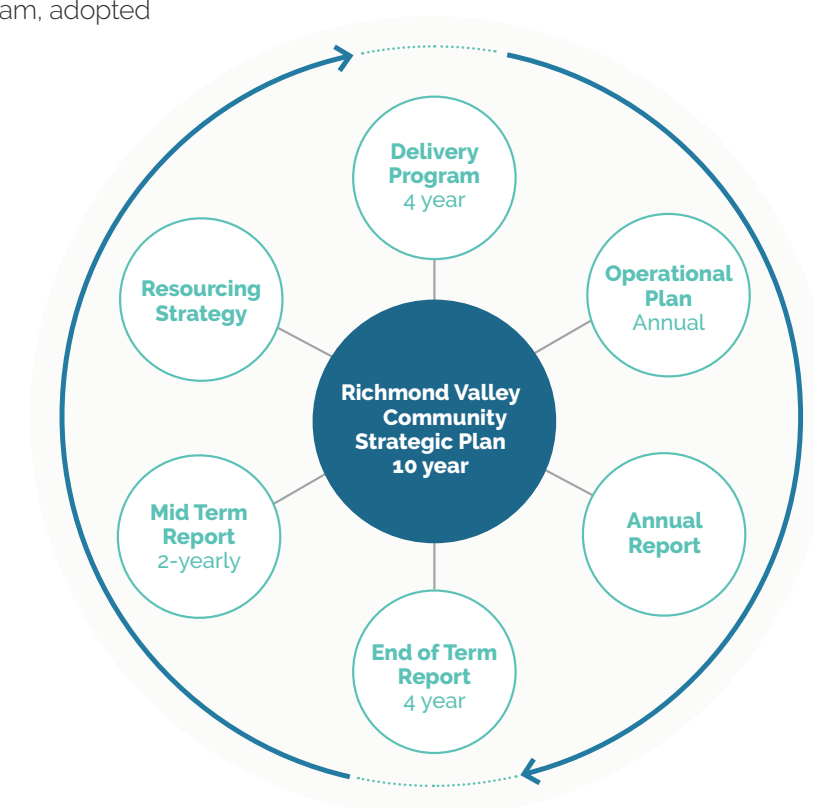
# INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

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

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

The 2020/2021 Annual Report reports on progress against the fourth year of Council's Richmond Valley Made 2030 Community Strategic Plan, adopted June 2017 and 2018/2022 Delivery Program, adopted in June 2020.

COMMITMENT TO ONGOING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION







# HIGHLIGHTS OF SIGNATURE PROJECTS

## INDUSTRIES ACTIVATION & RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

The Richmond Valley has been identified, through the NSW State Government's North Coast Regional Plan, for major population growth with the requirement of up to 1,550 new homes by 2036. Council is being proactive by ensuring the availability of commercial and residential land within Casino, the Valley's commercial hub.

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

## Reynolds Road: Design & Civil Works, Sewer Pump Station & Rising Main, and Electrical Network

Council received over \$1.5M from the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund, along with a matching contribution from Council to construct the newest industrial subdivision at Reynolds Road, Nammoona. Council awarded a contract for the Civil Works to a local company (Price Civil) who are expected to complete those works by mid-2021. Planning has also been completed and contracts have also been awarded for the Electrical installation and Sewer Pump Station and Rising Main connection. Once those works are completed, Council will have 8 blocks, all with road/access infrastructure that will enable means of entry by B Double trucks to release to the market. All planned works are on track for completion by February 2022 and are expected to be available for purchase by March 2022.



## Cassino Drive: Electrical Upgrade

Council was successful in obtaining \$9.9M in funding through the State Government's Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund to upgrade the Electrical capacity of the Cassino Drive Industrial Estate to maintain the supply to current businesses and secure the infrastructure for any potential future industrial expansion and developments in that area. This includes a new 66kV feeder bay and 66kV line spanning 8.5km in length to connect into the Sub Station on Ellangowan Road to a 66kV/11kV new substation in the Cassino Drive Industrial Estate, Casino. Construction is expected to commence in mid-2022.

## Canning Drive, Casino Residential

There are several exciting land activation opportunities currently under development including Canning Grove Estate. Council has purchased 1.74ha of land in Canning Drive, Casino which, together with a portion of closed road, has been developed into 19 residential lots. Stage one of the development (10 lots) was completed and released for sale in June 2020. Construction of Stage two (9 lots) was completed in August 2021 and is expected to be available on the market for purchase in late 2021.

## ACCESS & FACILITIES

### Coraki-Woodburn Road (MR145)

After continuous advocating to the State and Federal Governments for funding for the Richmond Valley community to rehabilitate the severely damaged road (due to increased truck movements from the Pacific Highway Upgrades), Council was successful in receiving \$10M to be programmed over three years (\$1M in 20/21, \$2M in 21/22 and \$7M in 22/23). Council has completed programmed works that include the full rehabilitation of 4.5kms of high priority sections and is on track to deliver the remainder of the \$9M of works over the next two years.





## Evans Head Library and Administration Centre Upgrade

In 2014, the Evans Head Library and Council Customer Service teams merged. This allowed for multiskilling of staff and an increase in opening hours available to the community for them to access library resources.

To ensure the building kept pace with increased usage, Council allocated \$480,000 towards an upgrade in the 2020-2021 budget, with an additional \$400,000 provided by a Public Library Infrastructure Grant. The refurbishment has given residents improved access to a modern and well-resourced library that will continue to grow with the community. The Library has tripled in size, allowing a greater number of users to move more freely throughout the building.

Council awarded the contract for construction to a local company, Bennett and Robertson, and the building opened to the public on 3 August 2021.

## Northern Rivers Rail Trail Design

During the 2019 Federal elections, \$7.5M in funding was committed to Council for the completion of the Casino to Bently section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail, out of the Australian Government Tourism Icons' Program. Funding was split across two phases, with \$1M for phase one preliminary stage which included master plan and concept design, and \$6.5M for phase two which includes detailed design and construction. Planit was awarded the phase one works, which was completed in March 2021. Council will look to commence phase two in the last quarter of 2021.

The Northern Rivers Rail Trail is a regionally significant project that will span over 130 km across 4 LGAs, starting in Casino and finishing in Murwillumbah. The project will deliver numerous positive economic, tourism, health and environmental outcomes to the Northern Rivers community.

## Casino Memorial Olympic Pool Upgrade - Stage One

The Casino Memorial Swimming Pool is a key community facility which was built in the 1950s and now needs major upgrades to provide a modern and safe aquatic experience for users. During the 2019 Federal election, Council was committed \$3.2M in funding under the Female Facilities and Water Safety Stream Program. As part of its ongoing commitment to provide recreational facilities to the community Council has completed a master plan for the entire upgraded swimming centre and initiated the design of all elements of the master plan and has commenced construction of stage one of the upgrade of the Casino Memorial Swimming Pool.

Stage one is valued at \$6.68 million and the works have been awarded to Momentum Built Pty Ltd and will include:

- Demolition of the existing pools, concrete concourses, filtration tanks, shade structures and light poles
- Construction of a new concrete and tiled, eight lane 50m wet deck heated pool with an all-ability access ramp and stairs
- Refurbishment of the existing plant room and the construction of new filtration infrastructure for the 50m pool
- Construction of a new concrete and tiled, multipurpose toddlers and variable depth splash pool in the vicinity of the entrance to the pool centre
- Construction of a new plant room and filtration infrastructure for the splash pool
- Relocation of the existing water slide
- Shade structures at each end of the 50m pool and over the toddlers/splash pool
- New concrete concourses and all ability access ramps

- The installation of an electrical substation suitable for the full redevelopment of the swimming centre
- New electrical switch room
- New flood lighting
- Refurbishment of the existing shower facilities and change rooms complying with current WHS (Workplace Health and Safety) and mobility access standards including non-slip flooring, new showers, and plumbing fixtures

The full project will be delivered in stages in line with funding available and other elements of the masterplan also include:

- construction of an indoor heated 25m multipurpose pool
- construction of adult and family change rooms
- construction of a new swimming club clubhouse and equipment storage areas
- renovation of the existing control area including, the entry foyer, kiosk, kitchen, office, staff facilities, first aid facilities, gymnasium, and swim squad room
- construction of a large twin flume water slide





## Casino Showground Upgrades

The Casino Showground and Racecourse has long been part of the social history of the Casino area and continues to play an important role for many groups that utilise the site and for its occasional use for major events. The site is Crown land that has been reserved for the purposes of the Showground, Racecourse and Public Recreation, with a wide range of sports and community groups recognising the site as their home.

In recent years Council has been working with site user groups and other stakeholders such as peak sporting bodies, to develop a comprehensive master plan for the site. This master plan was completed and endorsed by Council in 2018 following public exhibition. This master plan envisages the site as having the opportunity to grow its existing uses and to expand its reach to become a regional centre for a range of equestrian, horse racing and other inter-related activities. Elements of the master plan include:

- Services upgrade
- Construction of a new undercover arena
- New training stables and agistment areas
- Upgraded grass and sand tracks
- New day stalls
- Arena kiosk, toilet and pony clubhouse
- New truck and float parking area
- Upgraded Race Club area
- Upgraded car parking and road access
- Turning of the equestrian event area
- Upgraded cutting yard and rodeo arena
- Landscaping
- New entry gates and thresholds
- New cross-country circuit

- New wayfinding, signage and murals
- Upgraded cattle pavilion

Council has received the following funding for the project:

- \$8,200,000 from the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) fund
- \$1,010,695.86 through Crown Lands Showgrounds Stimulus Funding Program
- \$420,000 Drought Communities Programme

Works as part of the Casino Showground upgrades is expected to be delivered by June 2023 with sand and grass tracks kicking off by the end of 2021.

## PARKS & RECREATION

### Casino Drill Hall Memorial Walk and Coronation Park Upgrades

With stage one of the project completed in July 2019, the Drill Hall site has created a focused community space for Casino and an engaging destination for visitors to stop close to the CBD.

Council was successful in receiving funding under the Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program to complete the Drill Hall memorial walk and upgrades to Coronation Park. The upgrades will include the following elements:

- Casino Drill Hall memorial walk
  - 10m wide memorial walk featuring raised planter beds
  - Reflection pond
  - Trenches
  - Landscaping
  - Signature memorial feature

- Formalised access ramps from car park and amphitheatre
- Coronation Park
  - Poppy themed playground
  - Shaded picnic areas including BBQ and seating
  - Boardwalk and viewing platform
  - Beautification and riverbank plantings

A contract for these works was awarded to Boyds Bay Landscaping which has successfully completed works for Council previously and these works are expected to be completed late 2021.

### Razorback Lookout

Council undertook a master plan process to provide a strategic direction for the future development and layout. Following submissions, Council developed the master plan to include the following elements:

- Upgrading shaded picnic tables
- Creation of additional car parking spaces
- Asphalting of existing facility access road and car parks
- Designated car parking space for Marine Rescue
- New accessible pedestrian ramp
- Expansion of existing two car parks
- Replacement of old timber retaining walls with sandstone blocks
- Landscaping and general park maintenance

Council was successful in receiving grant funding under the Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. Construction is expected to be completed in late 2021.

## Woodburn Riverside Park (Eastern End) and Jetty Upgrade

Council has completed the upgrade to the Woodburn Riverside precinct. This project is a key deliverable for the Woodburn community with the vision for it to be a key attraction point for travellers, following on from the completion of the Pacific Highway bypass.

The final stage of the works was completed in April 2021, which was an upgrade to the eastern end of Woodburn Riverside Park.

Elements delivered during the full upgrade were:

- Upgraded lawn area
- Picnic terraces
- Extensive pathways and turfing throughout
- Timber boardwalk and boating pontoon
- BBQ area and shelters
- Refurbishment and upgrade to the war memorial

Throughout this project there was an opportunity to not only beautify and refresh the area, but to establish an iconic and unique facility and community space which will continue to draw road and river traffic to the area.

Council will also be installing an additional jetty at the eastern end of the park. These works have been funded out of the NSW Government's Boating Now funds and will be completed in 2021.





## Colley Park Sports Field Upgrade

Colley Park Casino is the home ground for more than 450 Casino RSM Cobras Soccer Club members, including junior, senior and female teams. The Club's premier soccer field required resurfacing due to heavy sporting traffic over many years. Installation of new goals and coaches' boxes ensured the safety and enjoyment of everyone whilst fencing and safety guards behind the goals improved safety of players, spectators and volunteers. Elements of the Colley Park premier soccer field delivered included:

- Resurface the overused main soccer field - remove the top layer of turf, cultivate and aerate soil, laser level and returf
- Construction of two 4.8 metre by 2.5 metre vandal resistant steel coaches' boxes with concrete pad and aluminium bench seat
- Erection of 376 lineal metres of black powder coated PVC mesh fencing which consists of 40 metres of 3.6metre high fencing behind soccer goals and the remainder to be 0.9 metres high around perimeter of field
- Installation of two new boxed soccer goals

Council has planned future upgrades to the sports field which includes a new clubhouse and changerooms. Council is actively pursuing grant funding to complete the remaining of the upgrades to the sports field.



## Rappville Community Hall

During the devastating 2019 Bushfires, the Rappville Community Hall was destroyed. As a roadmap, Council developed the Richmond Valley Community Revitalisation Plan, which identified the Community Hall precinct as an opportunity to become the key to an active, vibrant and well-connected village which offers a wide variety of services and a great range of experiences, while respecting Rappville's unique character and sense of history. Council received insurance funds from the building which was destroyed, as well as grant funding under BizRebuild and contributions from Council to construct a new, multi-use facility which will include the following elements:

- Hall replacement
- Septic tank and field renewal
- Outdoor undercover community area
- Electric BBQ and outdoor kitchen
- Playground equipment including rubber soft fall
- Off-the-street, car parking
- Landscaping

A contract for construction of the Community Hall was awarded to a local company, Bennett and Robertson and it is expected the works will be completed by mid 2022.



## Rappville Sportsground

Council received Australian Government bushfire funding to enable the upgrade of the Rappville Sportsground. Stakeholder consultation was undertaken with user groups feedback received to provide usable, practical and value for money upgrades to the sports ground to increase patronage and provide an important link in the overall recovery of the Rappville community. Elements delivered include:

- Refurbishment of canteen
- Refurbishment of toilet block
- Upgrade sewer system
- Installation of boundary bollards
- Replacement of fencing



## Rappville RFS Station

Following the 2019 bushfires, NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) identified that Rappville would require an upgraded RFS Station for the area, in a better location. A new facility with a position on Council managed Crown Land (at the Rappville Sportsgrounds) was determined to be beneficial to the RFS and the community. Council managed the construction process of this facility on behalf of the RFS and the building was completed in September 2021. The contract for construction of the facility was awarded to AGS Commercial and included the following elements:

- Construct Category 2B station
- New sewage and drainage system
- Supply and install water tanks and associated services
- New electrical service (including relocation of existing power poles if required)
- New fencing
- Install culvert and car parking
- Excavation works
- Landscape works





# COLLABORATIONS

## NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION (NRJO)

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

With representation by the mayors and general managers of each council, NRJO's role is to facilitate and lead advocacy, political representation and cooperative action on matters of regional significance. Richmond Valley Council is an active participant in NRJO projects.

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

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

## RICHMOND VALLEY REGIONAL JOBS PRECINCT

The Richmond Valley has been declared one of four Regional Job Precincts in NSW, providing a welcome boost for investment and employment opportunities in our local government area. The new job precincts are part of the NSW Government's 20-year Economic Vision for Regional NSW, launched by the Deputy Premier on 3 February 2021. Council has been working closely with Regional NSW to progress this exciting initiative.

Job precincts are designed to speed up planning approvals for significant projects in specially designated areas, to generate employment while ensuring that the local appeal of the area is maintained. This will help to create new jobs in agriculture, manufacturing, renewable energy and other emerging industries in the Richmond Valley, while also supporting existing businesses and local producers to diversify and expand their operations.

The initiative complements Council's current Casino Industries Activation project, which involves the construction of road, water, sewer and power services to develop 46ha of industrial land.

## NORTHERN RIVERS NSW REGIONAL BRANDING PROJECT

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

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

## NORTH COAST WASTE INVESTMENT REPORT

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

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





# OUR TOWNS AND VILLAGES

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

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

## BROADWATER/RILEYS HILL

- Stage two of the Broadwater to the Beach shared cycleway nearing completion.
- Residential subdivision under construction in Broadwater.
- Casino Library's Tech Savvy program commenced free lessons in conjunction with the mobile library. The program assists residents seeking assistance with their mobile phones, laptops and iPads. The program visited Broadwater, Bonalbo, Rappville, Tabulam, Whiporie, Woodburn and Woodenbong.

## CORAKI

- NSW Government funding of \$10 million towards works on Woodburn-Coraki Road.
- Construction of Coraki amenities block from steel and concrete, which will reduce maintenance over the long term, in comparison to a traditional timber frame.
- New drying pits at the Coraki Sewer Treatment Plant (STP).
- Coraki riverbank plantings with various bush food trees at the end of the riverbank walk culminating at the off-leash dog park.



## EVANS HEAD

- \$880,000 upgrade of the Evans Head Library, with Council allocating \$480,000, with an additional \$400,000 provided by a Public Library Infrastructure Grant. The project tripled the size of the library, allowing more patrons to enjoy the space, together with the addition of a shaded courtyard area.
- Planting of a row of trees down the centre of Cedar Street, Evans Head, contributing to beautification of the streetscape.
- Additional footpaths for Evans Head with a new 600m section connecting along Cypress, Cedar and Elm streets.
- Major work on Oak Street (on the Evans Head CBD) to alleviate perennial flash flooding issues during heavy rain.
- Refurbishment of the Evans Head high zone reservoir, including a new pump/utility building.
- \$80,000 upgrade of the Evans Head Town Entry cemetery frontage. The project removed expired vegetation and replaced them with twenty-seven sandstone plinths. In addition, twenty-two native Hoop Pines and two entrance feature sandstone raised garden beds, were installed to beautify the town entry and Evans Head cemetery frontage. The project commenced in May 2021, with completion in August 2021.

## WOODBURN

- Woodburn Riverside Park stage two (eastern end) revitalisation complete, with a new picnic shelter, pathways, turf and sandstone retaining walls.

## CASINO

- Council secured a \$3.2 million grant from the Australian Government to undertake initial works on the Casino Memorial Swimming Pool upgrade.
- Casino Food Co-op Beef Week Festival was hailed a fantastic success, with thousands of festival goers attending the 11-day celebration of all-things community. Breakfast with the Butchers and the Saturday cattle competitions and live auction saw up to 3000 people make their way through the CBD.

- Council completed 290m of new fencing at Casino Showground to improve access between event areas, increase public safety and to help modernise the facility. The \$77,000 project was funded under the NSW Government's Showground Stimulus Program. Upgrades were completed on the main pavilion, including a full sand and polish of the timber floor.
- Colley Park, Casino, upgrade of two soccer fields including resurfacing of the field, new fencing around the main field, installation of guard fencing behind the soccer goals, new soccer goals and construction of coaches' boxes. The upgrades, worth \$205,000, were made possible via a grant from round three of the NSW Government's Stronger Country Community Fund.
- Council completed the master plan for the Casino Drill Hall prior to the funding of the \$2.7 million first stage of the upgrade, which was officially opened in October 2019. One of the features of the second stage is a memorial walk to commemorate the sacrifice of Australia's service men and women in keeping with the Drill Hall's history.

## RAPPVILLE

- Launch of the Richmond Valley Art Trail, a complete guide to public art in the Valley. The guide provides the stories behind the public art, such as the platypus sculpture on the Richmond River in Casino, the Coraki healing stones and the Rappville phoenix.
- Council marked the one-year anniversary of the Rappville bushfires with the event, Rise Rappville 2020, which included a commemoration tree planting and dinner.
- Rebuilding the Rappville Hall is one of Council's top priorities for the revitalisation effort after the bushfires. RVC has been consulting closely with the Rappville Advisory Group as part of this process.



# FESTIVALS AND EVENTS 2020/2021

**The events sector was hit hard by COVID-19 and this included a host of events presented by Richmond Valley Council. In an effort to prevent the virus from taking hold in our community, many events were cancelled, rescheduled, or modified.**

Council's Events team took to thinking outside the box to create new ways to bring some events safely into the living rooms of our community. These include the Virtual Casino Fun Run and Melbourne Cup Tour, and virtual Christmas tree light-ups.

We were lucky to have a small window of opportunity at the start of 2021 to plan and deliver three key events – Australia Day, Primex Field Days and the Casino Beef Week Festival, which were well-embraced by community. Although COVID-19 restrictions were in play for many other local events, a good number still took place, such as:

- St Mary's Cup
- Virtual Casino Fun Run
- PUMA Rugby League Camp
- Virtual Melbourne Cup Tour
- Casino Family Carnival
- Remembrance Day
- Evans Head Drive In Air Show
- Casino Miniature Rail Halloween Night
- Craig Shepherd Memorial Ski Race
- Casino Virtual Christmas Tree Light-up
- Evans Head Virtual Christmas Tree Light-up
- Open Air Cinema – Casino & Evans Head
- NSW DPI Kids School Fishing Holiday Workshop

- Australia Day in Coraki
- International Women's Day celebrations
- Melinda Schneider Farewell to Doris Day tour
- Casino Carp Muster
- Woodburn Trash and Treasure Sale
- Aero Modellers Fly In
- Beechies at the Bowlo
- NSW Seniors Festival events
- Food Truck Festival Evans Head
- Rileys Hill Outdoor Movie Night
- Richmond Valley Bushfire Recovery Ride
- Hudson Circus
- Anzac Day across the Richmond Valley
- Primex Field Days
- Casino Beef Week including:
  - Casino Beef Week Fashion Parade
  - Casino Beef Week Races
  - Casino Breakfast with the Butchers
  - Casino Beef Week Saturday
  - Casino Beef Week Rodeo
  - Casino Beef Week Car Show
- Evans Head Breast Comp Ever (women's only surf event, fundraiser for breast cancer)
- Youth Week events
- Evans Head Malibu Classic
- Casino Poultry Show
- Casino Cutting Show
- Casino Campdraft
- Casino Golf Club Markets
- Evans Head Markets



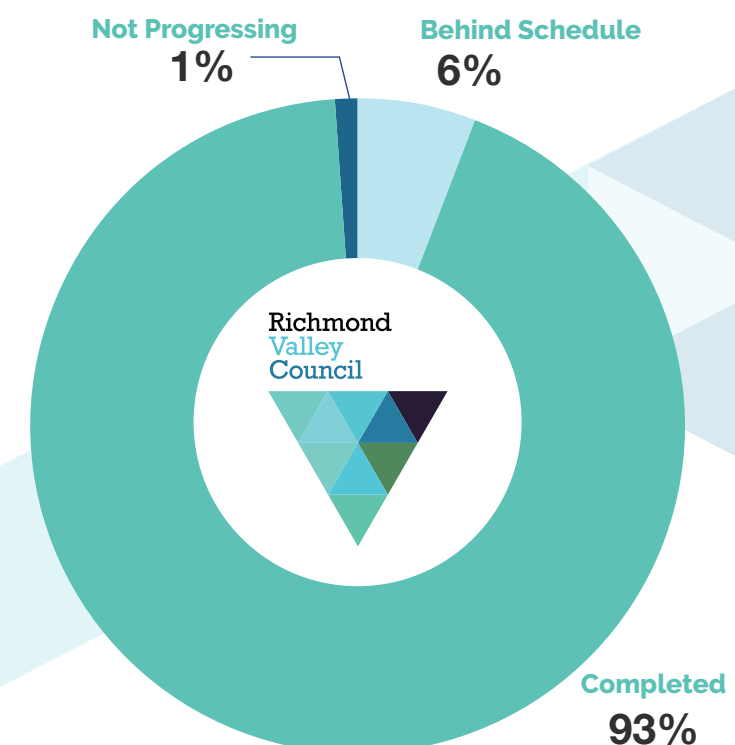
## SECTION 1: DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS

Annual reporting for all local government organisations requires a progress report of activities and projects identified in the Delivery Program. The 2020/2021 financial year is the fourth year in an extended five-year reporting cycle, as detailed in Council's Delivery Program. The local government election scheduled to occur in September 2020, has been delayed until December 2021 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the current reporting cycle has been extended until June 2022. The chart below is a dashboard of Council's overall performance in achieving the outcomes identified in the Delivery Program following the completion of year four of the current 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 progress report (period ending 30 June 2021), full four-year Delivery Program, the one-year Operational Plan and the Community Strategic Plan, visit the Integrated Planning and Reporting pages on the Richmond Valley Council website:

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



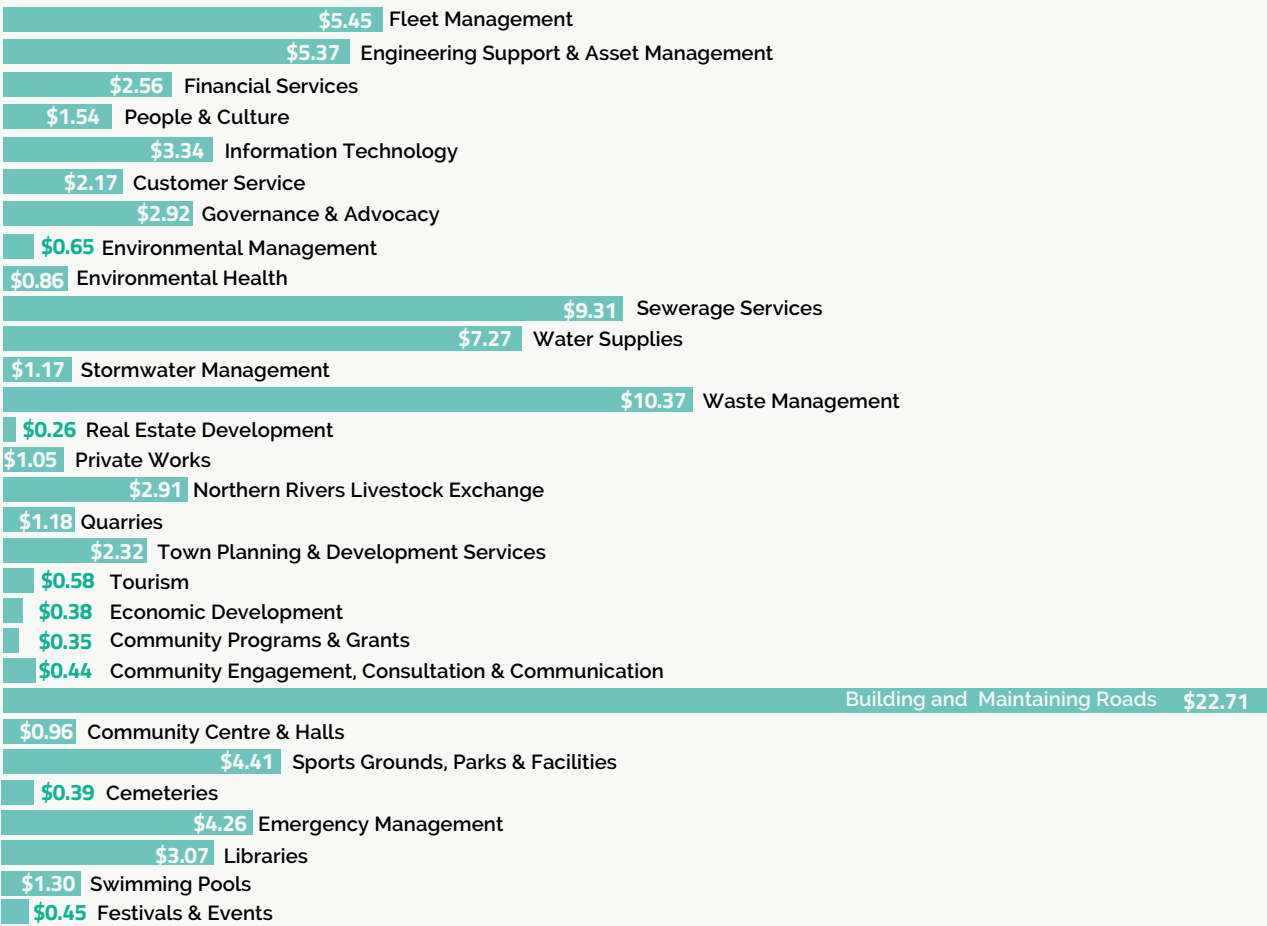


# ACHIEVEMENTS SNAPSHOT

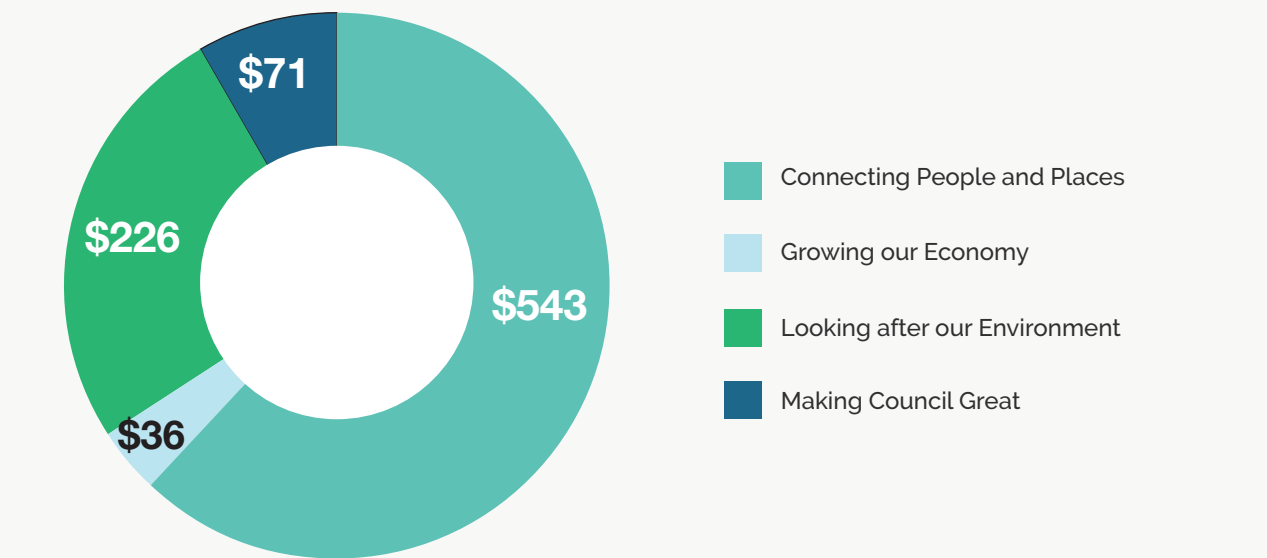
## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS SNAPSHOT 2020/2021

ROAD MAINTAINED	1,064 km
POTHOLE REPAIRS	24,907
WATER USAGE – DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION (CASINO)	5.30 ML
WATER TREATED	1,949.16 ML
SEWERAGE TREATED (ACROSS FOUR TREATMENT PLANTS)	2,260.04 ML
RECYCLED WASTE	7,231 t
E-WASTE	32.6 t
BINS LIFTED ANNUALLY	631,797
RATEABLE PROPERTIES (INCLUDING STRATA)	10,692
RATEABLE INCOME RAISED	\$13,978,729
CALLS RECEIVED	30,734
DAs ASSESSED	341
DAs ISSUED	335
CRMs ISSUED	7,304
NRLX CATTLE TRADED	103,436
NRLX CATTLE SALES VALUE	\$143,216,075
GRASS MOWED	13,785 HA
TREES PLANTED	2,659
LIBRARY MEMBERS	16,338
LIBRARY LOANS	119,414
CATS & DOGS REGISTERED	572
STRAY/LOST ANIMALS	261

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



## TOTAL ASSETS BY FUNCTION \$M





# CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES

## PP1: FRESH AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY

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

### FESTIVALS & EVENTS

- Launch of the Richmond Valley Art Trail, a complete guide to public art in the Valley. The guide provides the stories behind the public art, such as the platypus sculpture on the Richmond River in Casino, the Coraki healing stones and the Rappville phoenix.
- Council marked the one-year anniversary of the Rappville bushfires with the event, Rise Rappville 2020, which included a commemoration tree planting and dinner.
- Norco Primex, a three-day event hosted at the Richmond Valley Events Centre, saw an estimated 25,000 visitors, over 400 agricultural exhibitors and 1400 suppliers. The event this year showcased the Paddock to Plate experience.
- Casino Food Co-op Beef Week Festival took place over 11 days, with the community enjoying events such as: Breakfast with the Butchers, cattle competitions, Beef Week Cup Race Day, Westlawn Rodeo, Celebration of Fashion, Rural Ladies High Tea, Mr Beef and Show 'n Shine.
- Evans Head Fishing Classic, a flagship fishing tournament featuring a food alley, displays and giveaways.

### SWIMMING POOLS

- Council has secured a \$3.2 million grant from the Australian Government to undertake initial works on the Casino Memorial Swimming Pool upgrade.

### LIBRARIES

- Richmond Upper Clarence Regional Library (RUCRL) joined forces with supplier James Bennett in a partnership which aims to support libraries to meet sustainable environmental goals as well as supporting important literary not-for-profit initiatives. The project generates funds from the re-sale of books, or ensures they are responsibly pulped to create new books.
- RUCRL launched an innovative Story Bus program in conjunction with a local early education provider. The program allows the library to continue sharing its love of books with children, in a COVID-19 adapted way. The program also allows the continuance of connections and relationships within the community.
- Casino Library's Tech Savvy program commenced free lessons in conjunction with the mobile library. The program helps residents seeking assistance with their mobile phones, laptops and iPads. The program included visits to Broadwater, Bonalbo, Rappville, Tabulam, Whiporie, Woodburn and Woodenbong.
- \$880,000 upgrade of the Evans Head Library made possible due to an allocation by Council of \$480,000 and an additional \$400,000 provided by a Public Library Infrastructure Grant.
- Launch of exercise equipment.
- \$192,500 funding for Casino Library from the Nationals for the Casino Community Library Courtyard project.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Richmond Upper Clarence Mobile Library:

Serves Richmond Valley Council and Kyogle Council rural communities, covering a total of **6640** square kilometres



Travels over **3000kms** per month

The total length of the mobile library is **12** metres



Has free **WIFI**

Has two free public Internet PCs



Schedule is reviewed every quarter

There are around **3500** items on board

Departs and returns daily to the Richmond Valley Council depot in Casino



Delivers freight weekly to the other four libraries



Can run Tech Savvy sessions





## SPORTS GROUNDS, PARKS & FACILITIES

- Construction of Coraki amenities block, utilising steel and concrete.
- Planting of Cook pine trees in Cedar Street, Evans Head.
- New fencing at Casino Showground to improve access between event areas, increase public safety and to help modernise the facility. In addition, there were upgrades to the main pavilion, Ray Mison Pavilion and Show Society office.
- Queen Elizabeth Park sport upgrades were made possible under the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund. The \$479,717 project included: renovation of the toilets and change rooms at QE2, installation of new lighting at QE5 and QE4, purchase of 10 new portable grandstands, purchase of a new travelling irrigator, installation of irrigation branch lines to sporting fields and installation of water and power for future works at QE2 and QE7.
- Public art has been included at the Coraki Memorial Park in the form of 18 hardwood posts decorated with Aboriginal-themed artwork.
- Colley Park, Casino, upgrade of two soccer fields including resurfacing of the field, new fencing around the main field, installation of guard fencing behind the soccer goals, new soccer goals and construction of coaches' boxes.
- One of the features of the second stage of the Casino Drill Hall master plan is a memorial walk to commemorate the sacrifice of Australia's service men and women. The memorial walk will run from the Casino Visitor Information Centre to Lennox Street, and feature unique elements including trenches and a reflection pool.

- Razorback Lookout redevelopment to include landscaping improvements, such as sandstone retaining walls, improved pathways, picnic shelters, signage and upgraded stair access, together with parking improvements. Upgrades made possible through a \$400,000 grant from the Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.
- Woodburn Riverside Park stage two (eastern end) revitalisation complete, with a new picnic shelter, pathways, turf and sandstone retaining walls.
- New entrance for Crawford Square featuring sandstone walls, sandstone blocks and bench seating and an arbor with wire trellises. Both Rotary Casino and Council contributed to the project.

## COMMUNITY CENTRES & HALLS

- Rebuilding the Rappville Hall is one of Council's top priorities for the revitalisation effort after the bushfires. Council has been working in partnership with BizRebuild, a charitable bushfire-recovery initiative of the Business Council of Australia, on the rebuild, now known as the Rappville Common.
- Thanks to a \$208,000 funding grant from the NSW Government's Regional Cultural Fund, Council moved forward with stage two of the Casino Civic Hall refurbishment project – which included extensive paintwork throughout.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PROGRAMS & GRANTS

- Public exhibition of the Queen Elizabeth Park master plan and the Draft Richmond Valley Council Community Participation Plan 2020.
- Richmond Valley residents were asked to share their views on Council's future direction, with a community survey taking place across the region in June 2021. The telephone survey, conducted by independent researchers Micromex, was designed to provide important insight into the local community's priorities and satisfaction levels when it comes to Council activities, its service delivery, available facilities, and future planning.
- Council received an additional \$250,000 from the jointly funded NSW-Commonwealth Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund to invest in projects which directly benefit recovery efforts in bushfire-impacted communities.
- Council sought to appoint volunteer board members to help manage the Whiporie Public Recreation Reserve.
- As part of NSW Small Business Month, Council hosted free workshops to help small businesses prepare for government tenders. Council also offered free training courses for local businesses with planning tips to adapt, survive and thrive during the COVID-19 recession.
- Thirty-four non-profit community groups shared in more than \$70,000 under Council's Community Financial Assistance Program.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Under the NSW Natural Disaster Essential Public Asset Restoration Guidelines there are three categories of recovery works:
  - o Emergency Works (EW): Removal of debris, temporary repair works, warning signs, barriers and traffic control.
  - o Immediate Reconstruction Works (IRW): Works required to fully reconstruct the road asset to the same standard as was existing pre disaster event. For example, grading and re-sheeting rural roads and reconstructing bridge approaches.
  - o Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works (EPAR): Works which require extensive investigation or a variation to pre-disaster function is necessary due to scale of damage or to meet current engineering standards – for example, replacing a timber bridge with a concrete bridge.

Council has finalised its bushfire funding claims in the first two categories, with \$1.4 million worth of eligible works completed. The flood EW and IRW claims are also being prepared, with works conducted across 722 flood damage sites across Richmond Valley.

Detailed investigation, survey, design and the tender process is now underway for all EPAR sites, with all works required to be delivered before November 2021.





## PP2: GETTING AROUND

### Provide safe and accessible transport.

- Upgrades to the kerb and gutter on the corner of Hickey and Barker streets, Casino, in front of Casino TAFE.
- Completion of the three-stage reconstruction of Fogwells Road; the work involved a 2.2km reconstruction including pavement material, replacement of road base, reshaping of the road, drainage improvement and reseal.
- 300m road reconstruction of Manifold Road north of Smiths Lane.
- NSW Government funding of \$10 million towards works on Woodburn-Coraki Road included a 276m refurbishment of the Woodburn end of the road.
- Road reconstruction on Casino-Coraki Road at Oakey Creek including stabilisation of subgrade soil, grading and resealing.
- Pavement reconstruction on the Summerland Highway near Braemar Park rest area.
- Willox Bridge on the Casino-Coraki Road and Elliotts Road Bridge at Myrtle Creek replaced thanks to \$800,000 funding from the NSW Nationals under the Fixing Country Bridges program.
- Council received \$562,500 from the Fixing Local Roads program, jointly funded by the NSW and Australian governments, to upgrade and seal Country Lane, Casino. Country Lane was identified as a priority due to its importance to local businesses, and will benefit from widening, sealing, drainage upgrades, new kerb and gutter and line marking.
- The \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card has been extended for two more years by the NSW Government. The eligibility criteria has also been widened to include people receiving the Age Pension, a Disability Support Pension or a Carer payment from Services Australia. Eligible seniors have until 30 November 2021 to apply.
- Active Transport Grant provided by the NSW Government provided a \$487,993 grant to Council to help deliver valuable new pathways to promote walking and cycling in the community. The grant will enable the construction of a 660-metre shared path on the Bruxner Highway in South Casino from Colches Street to Hare Street.



## PP3: WORKING TOGETHER

### Good communication and engagement between Council and the community.

- The plans for Rappville Common were unveiled in August 2020, which saw the launch for the community consultation phase of the project.
- The Draft Richmond Valley Council Community Participation Plan 2020 was on public exhibition during August – October. A Community Participation Plan (CPP) is a guide to how the community has a say on a range of development assessment and strategic town planning functions performed by Council under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
- Council provided free community grant writing webinars to support clubs and organisations write effective funding grants. This was followed up with face to face workshops in Casino and Evans Head.
- Richmond Valley Council continues to offer a complimentary development concierge service to make planning and development a more pleasant experience, by providing a clear guide to Council's development review, approval and permitting processes.
- Council partners with GrantGuru to gain access to Australia's most powerful grant search engine. GrantGuru enables businesses, residents and community groups to find available grants by specifying location, industry and type of project.
- Council sought public input into the reclassification of five small parcels of land in Casino. Extensive community consultation was undertaken in two phases, 28 day consultation, followed by a public hearing chaired by an independent party.





# GROWING OUR ECONOMY

## EC1: DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH

**Significantly grow the Richmond Valley's economy.**

- Release of master plan for the Northern Rivers Rail Trail – Casino to Bentley section. The plan includes design concepts for four rail trail "precincts", which includes the Old Casino Station trial head in Casino.
- Richmond Valley Made Paddock to Plate Field Day commissioned by Richmond Valley Council as part of the Australian Government Drought Communities Program. The initiative invited farmers, producers, and rural landowners to attend a series of six workshops designed to support the development of business concepts. Participants were also eligible to apply for a six-month business development program.
- Council is leading the way to support a growing economy in the Richmond Valley, with the completion of residential land at Canning Drive in Casino, to help meet current and future demand.
- Work is underway to develop Council's industrial land opposite the Casino cemetery on Reynold's Road. The project will deliver electricity, water, and road access to the site, enabling the expansion of a key industrial precinct for Casino.

## DID YOU KNOW?



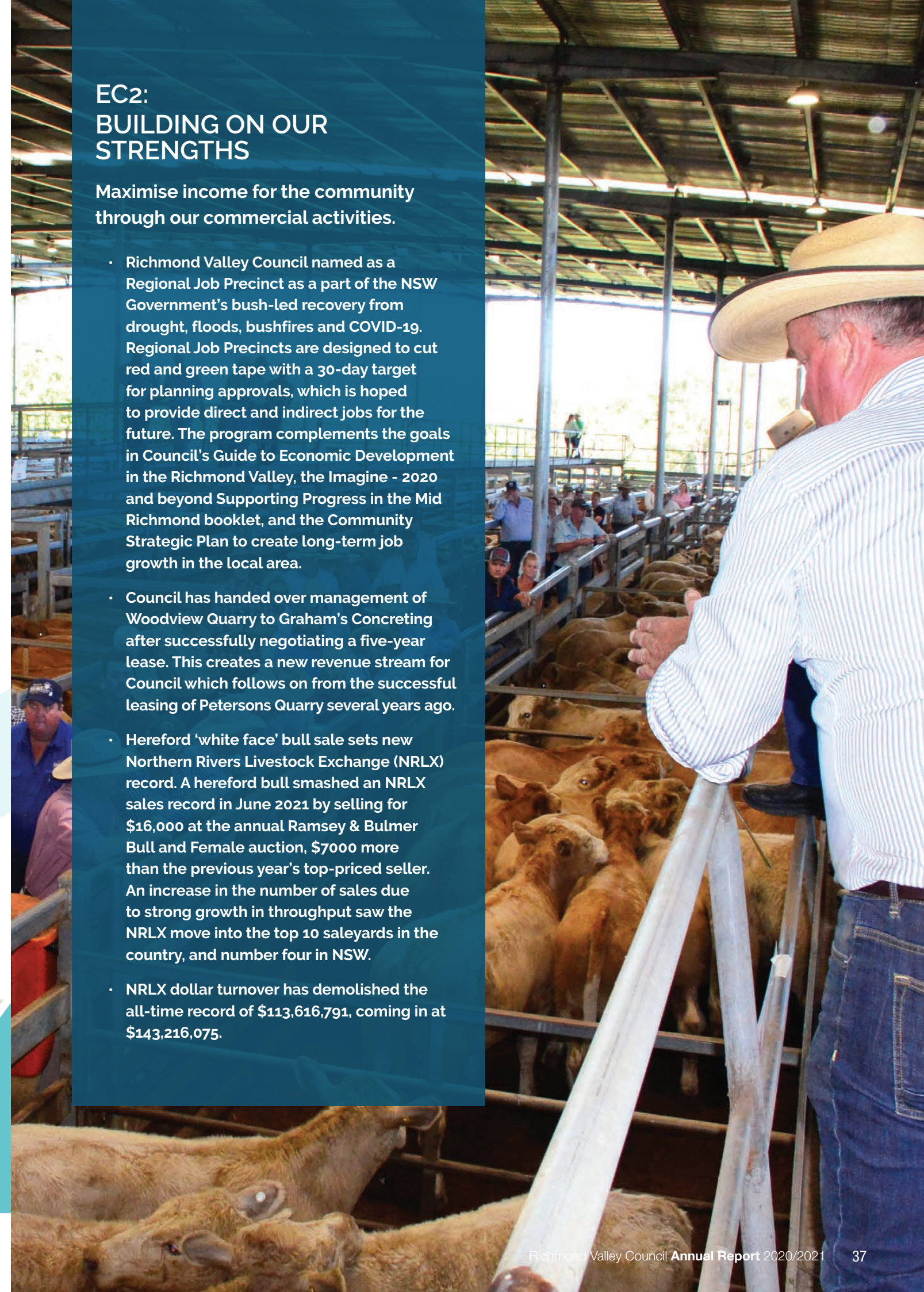
In a great sign for the local economy, the Richmond Valley has seen a **10-year high** in development approvals in the **2020/2021** financial year. The past **12 months** saw **340** development applications approved by Council, worth more than **\$67 million** combined. This was the largest number of development approvals since **2010/2011**. The majority of approvals related to alterations and additions – pools, sheds, decks and other renovations.



## EC2: BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS

**Maximise income for the community through our commercial activities.**

- Richmond Valley Council named as a Regional Job Precinct as a part of the NSW Government's bush-led recovery from drought, floods, bushfires and COVID-19. Regional Job Precincts are designed to cut red and green tape with a 30-day target for planning approvals, which is hoped to provide direct and indirect jobs for the future. The program complements the goals in Council's Guide to Economic Development in the Richmond Valley, the Imagine - 2020 and beyond Supporting Progress in the Mid Richmond booklet, and the Community Strategic Plan to create long-term job growth in the local area.
- Council has handed over management of Woodview Quarry to Graham's Concreting after successfully negotiating a five-year lease. This creates a new revenue stream for Council which follows on from the successful leasing of Petersons Quarry several years ago.
- Hereford 'white face' bull sale sets new Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX) record. A hereford bull smashed an NRLX sales record in June 2021 by selling for \$16,000 at the annual Ramsey & Bulmer Bull and Female auction, \$7000 more than the previous year's top-priced seller. An increase in the number of sales due to strong growth in throughput saw the NRLX move into the top 10 saleyards in the country, and number four in NSW.
- NRLX dollar turnover has demolished the all-time record of \$113,616,791, coming in at \$143,216,075.





# LOOKING AFTER OUR ENVIRONMENT

## EH1: MANAGING OUR WASTE AND WATER

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

- Refurbishment of the Evans Head high zone reservoir including a new pump/utility building.
- New drying pits at the Coraki Sewer Treatment Plant (STP).
- Replacement of a water main at the western end of Farley Street and Colches Street, Casino, as part of ongoing maintenance program.
- Major work on Oak Street (Evans Head CBD) to alleviate perennial flash flooding issues during heavy rain. The job involved boosting the drainage inflow capacity by installing four lintels on the kerb.
- The Casino Water Treatment Plant's 100kW solar PV system reached a significant milestone in August, with the system saving the equivalent in CO2 emissions of a car travelling 1 million kilometres. The system was commissioned in October 2018 and is currently saving Council approximately \$18,000 per year.
- Council endorses its first ever Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy. The strategy will set direction for Richmond Valley Council's waste business for the next decade, with an emphasis on waste avoidance.
- Thirteen new pairs of bins, funded by the Better Waste and Recycling Fund, were installed in Evans Head to promote recycling and reduce litter.
- Environmental initiatives include the introduction of a Subpod composting system in the community gardens at Casino Library, together with the installation of community recycling stations.
- Installation of filtered water drinking fountains in Casino and Evans Head.



## EH2: PROMOTING THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

**Protect and enhance the Richmond Valley's beautiful environment.**

- Planting was undertaken on the Coraki riverbank with various bush food trees planted for the community to enjoy at the end of the riverbank walk culminating at the off-leash dog park.
- Work on the Casino to Bentley section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail continues to progress with clearing of vegetation along the rail line.
- Casino's iconic water tower is set to be decorated with a mural, in a project which will become a key feature of two scenic and heritage walks. Council was successful in obtaining a \$125,000 Australian Government grant through the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Program. The funding will pay for the design and delivery of the mural, in addition to detailed signage to complete the scenic and heritage walks.
- The Australian Association for Environmental Education NSW, together with garden guru, Costa Georgiadis, recognised Richmond Valley Council for its food and garden organics (FOGO) garden.
- A joint operation between NSW Police and NSW RSPCA inspectors, together with assistance from Richmond Valley Council rangers, was conducted over the October long weekend. The aim was to monitor and enforce
- Residents and businesses in the Richmond Valley will be better prepared for flood risks thanks to a \$133,999 grant awarded to Richmond Valley Council to update its local flood modelling as part of the NSW Government's Floodplain Management Program. The funding will assist Council to better understand and manage local flood levels, risk and exposure in the community.
- Resource Recovery and Waste Toolkits were issued to the community. The toolkit is a handy reference guide on how to separate waste, tips on reducing waste, sorting recyclables plus kerbside collection calendars. As part of the initiative, households in the Richmond Valley were eligible to receive a voucher for two reusable cloth produce bags.
- A new decal on Council's waste truck promoting responsible waste disposal through an appreciation of the Richmond Valley's lovely natural surroundings.
- Council planted 2659 trees throughout the 2020/2021 year. This number includes 1150 trees for the Reynolds Road project and 800 trees at Queen Elizabeth Riverbank. Note this figure does not include plants, shrubs and landscaping.





# MAKING COUNCIL GREAT

## CS1: LEADING AND ADVOCATING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

### A highly efficient and effective Council.

- The NRLX now offers a dedicated Richmond Valley Agriculture Customer Service Centre, where visitors can make Council enquiries in person five days per week, combining a customer service branch with NRLX operations onsite to provide direct customer service to the agriculture community. Service functions available include payment of accounts, meeting and training rooms for hire, registration and payment for companion animals.
- Council participated in the NSW Rural Management Challenge, giving staff the opportunity to expand their understanding of local government and providing an opportunity to network with neighbouring Councils. Council was represented by four staff from Tourism, Information Technology, Finance and Waste.
- Richmond Valley Council has been successful in obtaining \$21,169,000 from the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund, co-funded by the NSW and Australian governments, to provide major upgrades to its Casino industrial precinct (\$9,969,000), as well as turn the Casino Showground into a state-of-the-art equestrian facility (\$8,200,000) and provide the village of Rappville with a modern sewage treatment system (\$3,000,000).
- Council's Projects and Performance Office team addressed a group of primary school students in Casino, with a goal of teaching the children about the vast array of jobs Council performs for the community.

## CS2: GREAT SUPPORT

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

- Council warehousing trainee Theo Scholl was awarded the People's Choice Award for School Based Apprentice Trainee of the Year at the 2020 NSW Training Awards.
- Council's Try a Trade program, funded by the Investing in Women Funding Program, offers work experience and certification to approximately 10 regional women with an aptitude for trades. The program supports and promotes young women and rural women taking up positions in male dominated workplaces and trades.
- Council's successful YES (Youth Employment Strategy) program continued with ten new trainees commencing in 2021.
- Council's Customer Experience team hosted community information sessions providing an overview of the NSW e-planning portal and the electronic lodgement of development applications. Electronic lodgement became mandatory across the State from July 2021 with funding from the Regional NSW Planning Portal Grant Scheme assisting with community engagement.

## DID YOU KNOW?



Over the past five years, Richmond Valley Council has secured government funding commitments of more than **\$100 million** for vital community projects and programs. Council has had consistent success in obtaining grants due to a track record of preparing long-term plans and 'shovel ready' projects and building a reputation with funding providers as an organisation which delivers projects on time and within budget.





# SPOTLIGHT ON ...

## WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY

Council's Waste & Resource Recovery department falls under the Projects and Business Development directorate. The department has a focus of exploring waste business opportunities, new technologies and alternate ways to manage the region's waste streams.

Key responsibilities:

- Provide sustainable & reliable kerbside waste collection services.
- Provide sustainable & reliable facilities for the community to dispose of waste and recoverable resources.
- Ensure reliable waste disposal and resource recovery options are available to Council on an ongoing basis such that current and future community needs are met.
- Educate our community on the appropriate, responsible methods of avoidance and minimisation, recycling, reuse and disposal.
- Facilitate the maximum diversion of wastes from landfill in line with the NSW Waste Avoidance & Resource Recovery Strategy.
- Respond to community enquiries related to resource recovery and waste in a professional, reliable and consistent manner.



## TRAINEE OF THE YEAR - LAURA WALKER

Laura started with Council in January 2020 as a full-time trainee under the YES program and was given the opportunity to work as part of Council's Waste team. She discovered a passion for waste and is now a full-time Landfill Operator, with career options aplenty in the fast-growing area of environmental health, recycling and waste management.

Laura successfully completed a Certificate III in Business Services - Customer Engagement and is now studying a Certificate IV in Waste Management.

Cited as key factors in Laura's development include the ability for hands on learning, working within a busy environment and the connection with staff and the community.

Laura was awarded Trainee of the Year at the NSW Training Awards (North Coast & Mid North Coast Region). Laura is a role model for both trainees and young women, especially those in traditionally male-dominated industries.



It's been the best thing ever and I wouldn't change it for the world".

Laura Walker

# SECTION 2:

## FINANCIAL AND ASSET REPORTING

During 2020/2021 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 2020/2021 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 2020/2021 are available as a separate document in the Annual Report or Financial Statements section of Council's website. [www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au).

### INCOME STATEMENT

	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET COST
Function/Activities	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Connecting People and Places	19,730	27,655	(7,925)
Growing our Economy	8,306	7,780	526
Looking after our Environment	24,335	24,523	(188)
Making Council Great	20,191	2,518	17,673
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	72,562	62,476	10,086

### BALANCE SHEET

\$'000	ACTUAL 2021	ACTUAL 2020
<strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong>		
Cash and cash equivalents	26,669	6,686
Investments	30,357	44,670
Receivables	9,018	8,987
Inventories	2,722	2,324
Contract assets	3,316	3,640
Other	355	295
<strong>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</strong>	<strong>72,437</strong>	<strong>66,602</strong>
<strong>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong>		
Investments	4,750	2,000
Receivables	1,375	1,439
Inventories	1,074	1,153
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	796,866	787,770
Right of use assets	814	292
<strong>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong>	<strong>804,879</strong>	<strong>792,654</strong>
<strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong>	<strong>877,316</strong>	<strong>859,256</strong>



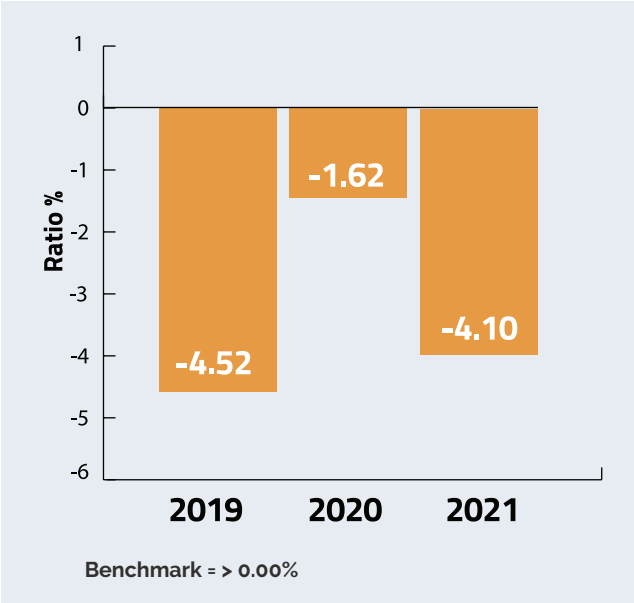
# INDICATORS

■ RATIO IS OUTSIDE BENCHMARK

■ RATIO ACHIEVES BENCHMARK

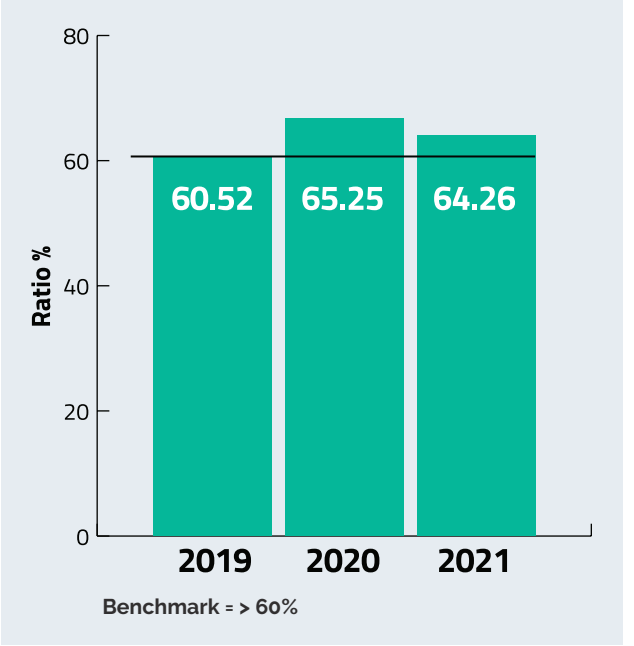
## OPERATING PERFORMANCE RATIO

Council's operating performance ratio has declined to -4.10% for 2020/2021. This ratio excludes fair value gains on investments and capital grants and contributions, both of which increased from 2019/2020. This has led to Council's operating income decreasing comparatively to last year for the purpose of this ratio. In addition, Council's operating expenditure increased comparative to 2019/2020 after the net losses from the disposal of assets are excluded.



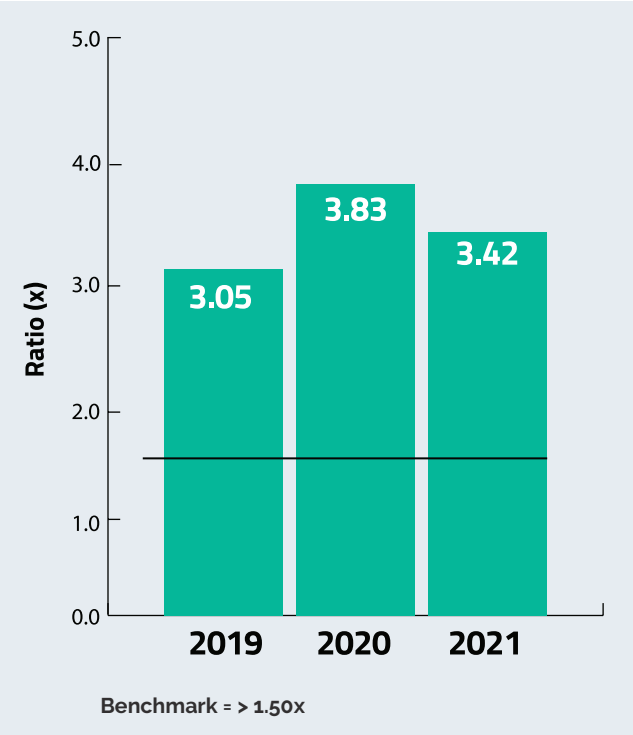
## OWN SOURCE OPERATING REVENUE RATIO

Council's own source operating revenue ratio has fallen slightly to 64.26%, however it remains relatively consistent and above the benchmark of 60%.



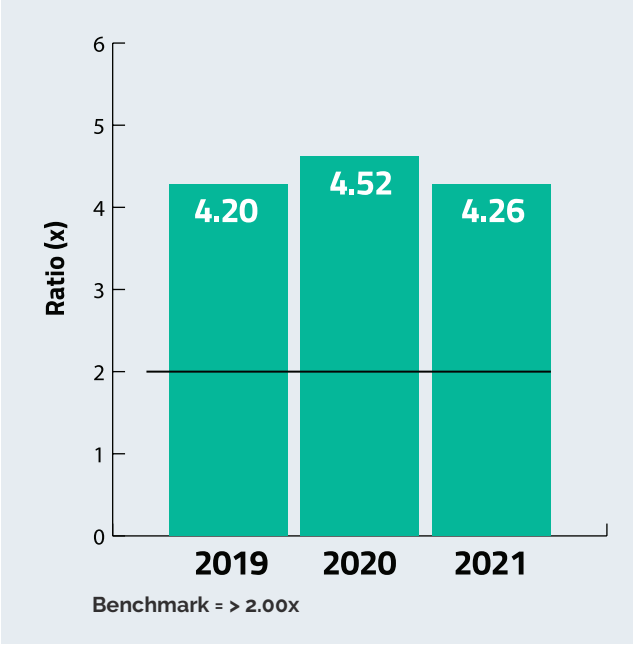
## UNRESTRICTED CURRENT RATIO

Council's unrestricted current ratio has fallen slightly to 3.42, however it remains well above the benchmark of 1.50.



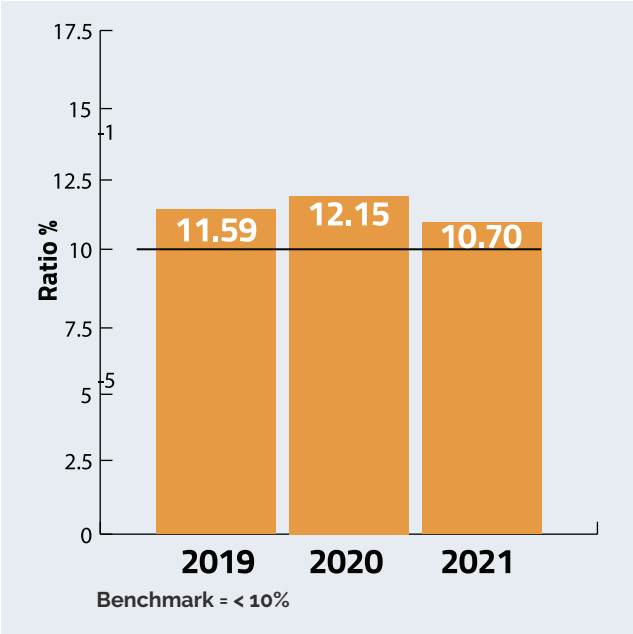
## DEBT SERVICE COVER RATIO

The debt service ratio has decreased slightly to 4.26, however it remains relatively consistent and well above the benchmark of > 2.0.



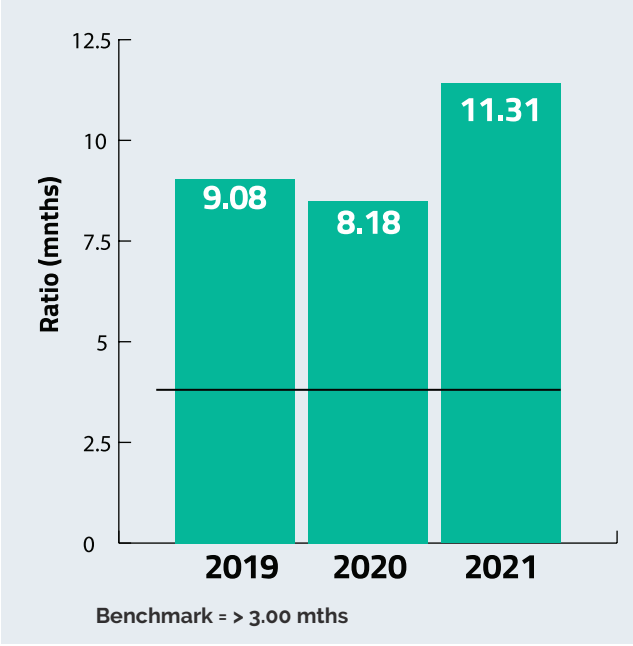
## RATES AND ANNUAL CHARGES OUTSTANDING PERCENTAGE

Council's rates and annual charges outstanding percentage has improved to 10.70% on a consolidated basis and to 5.01% for general fund. The consolidated ratio is impacted the fact that Council levies its water and sewerage annual charges in arrears. Council actively monitors and pursues outstanding balances through its debt recovery practices.



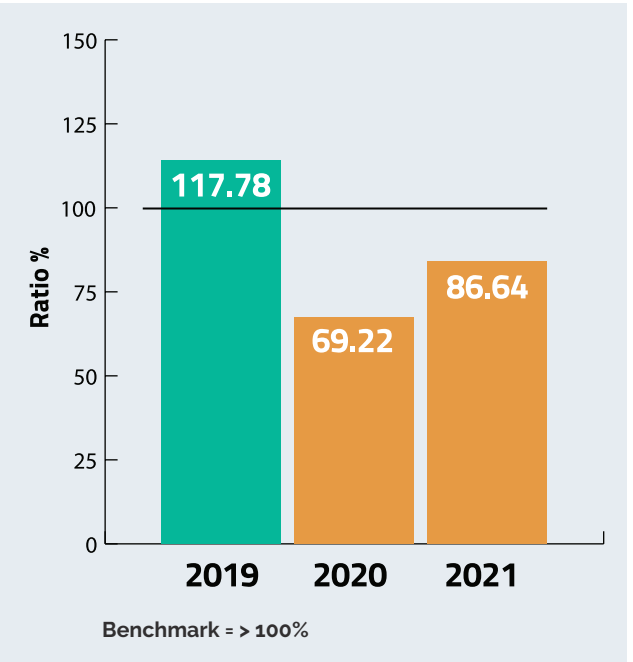
## CASH EXPENSE COVER RATIO

Council's cash expense cover ratio has increased significantly to 11.31 as a result of Council holding a higher level of cash and cash equivalents than the previous year. This ratio is well above the benchmark of > 3 months.



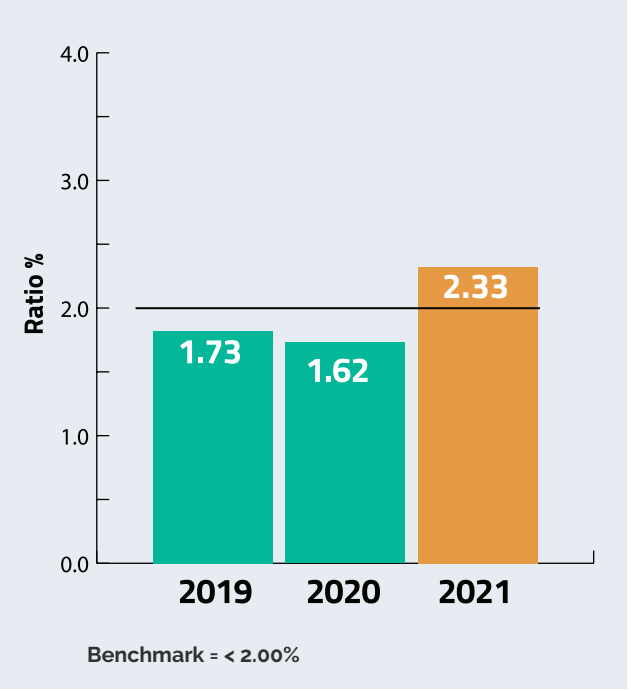
## BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWALS RATIO

Council's buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio improved to 86.64. The 2019 ratio was impacted by Council receiving a significantly higher level of capital grants, resulting in a much higher renewals ratio for that year.



## INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG RATIO

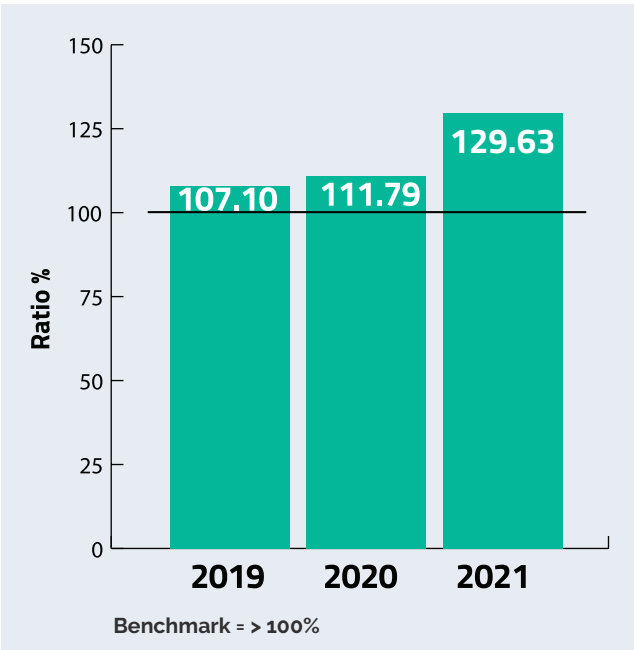
Council's infrastructure backlog ratio has increased to 2.33. This is mainly as a result of impaired roads and bridges assets due to natural disaster events, with approximately \$8m worth of works estimated as being required to restore these assets.





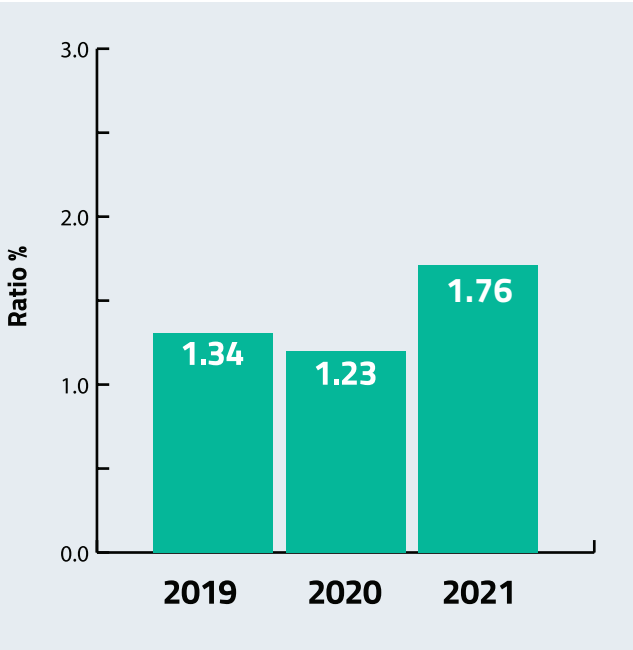
ASSET MAINTENANCE RATIO

Council's asset maintenance ratio has improved to 129.63%, which is above the benchmark of 100%.



COST TO BRING ASSETS TO AGREED SERVICE LEVEL

Council's outstanding renewals remain relatively low at 1.76% of the total replacement cost of its infrastructure assets.



SECTION 3: STATUTORY REPORTING

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

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

No overseas travel was undertaken by Councillors, Council staff or other persons representing Council during the 2020/2021 financial year.

COUNCILLOR FEES, EXPENSES & FACILITIES

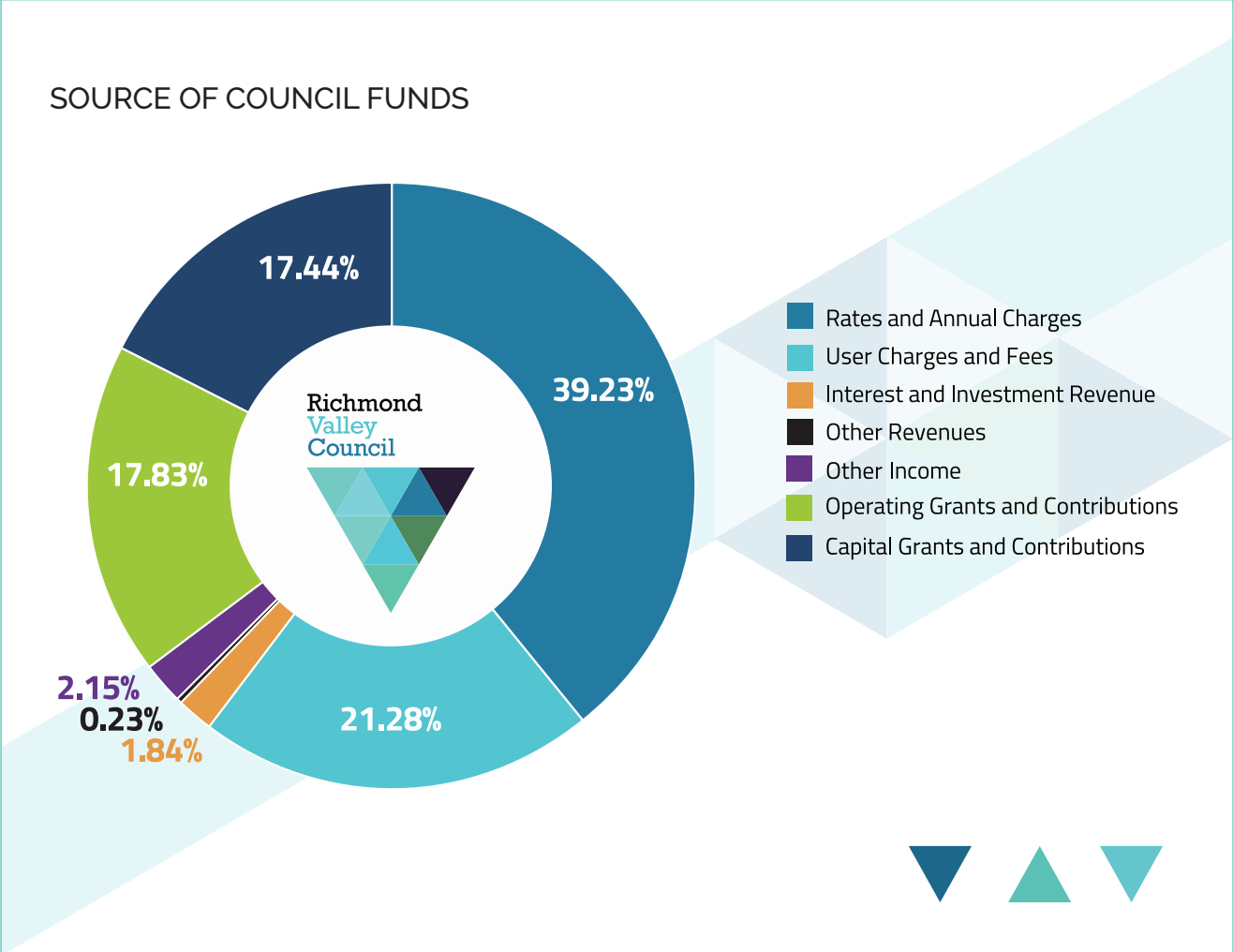
Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1)(a1)

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

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

RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR FEES, EXPENSES AND FACILITIES 2020/2021

Expense Type	\$ (exc GST)
Mayoral Fee	44,250.00
Councillor Fees	141,960.00
Mayoral Expenses:	
Communication expenses	492.13
Conferences, seminars, training & civic function attendance	1,393.82
Interstate Travel	0.00
Intrastate Travel	1,125.09
Mayoral vehicle expenses	12,417.64
Other expenses	1,294.97
Councillor Expenses	
Communication expenses	976.80
Conferences, seminars, training & civic function attendance	845.43
Interstate Travel	0.00
Intrastate Travel	1,740.96
Other expenses	7,066.58
Total Expenses	213,563.42





## CONTRACTS AWARDED BY COUNCIL



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

During 2020/2021 the following contracts for amounts greater than \$150,000 were awarded by Council, as defined by the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Contractor	Nature of Project	\$ Contract Amount (inc GST)
Price Civil Pty Ltd	Reynolds Road Industrial Subdivision Stage 2 Civil Works	1,265,265
Ozwide Bridge Rail & Civil Pty Ltd	Design and Construct Bridge- Bora Codrington Road Bora Ridge	317,515
Pan Civil Pty Ltd	Design and Construct Rock face stabilisation on Manifold Road Bentley	223,905
Bennett & Robertson Construction	Evans Head Library Renovation	516,945
Facility Design Group Architecture & Construction	Design of Casino Memorial Swimming Pool Upgrade	538,560
Santin Earthmoving	Canning Drive Stage 2 Civil Works	222,205
Pearce Family Trust Northern Rivers Concreting	Construct Shared Pathway on Bruxner Highway and replace existing Shared Pathway on Summerland Way	340,981
Ozwide Bridge Rail & Civil Pty Ltd	Design and Construct Bridge - Sandy Creek No.1 Coraki – Ellangowan Road	418,000
Ozwide Bridge Rail & Civil Pty Ltd	Design and Construct Camira Creek Bridge	487,391
Momentum Built Pty Ltd (2/6/21)	Construction of Casino Memorial Olympic Pool	5,824,704
Komatsu Australia Pty Ltd	Komatsu Loader	239,580
AGS Commercial	Rappville RFS Station (price includes variations of \$41,896.91)	382,303

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

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

During 2020/2021, Council was involved in a number of legal proceedings, a summary of which is shown below:

Matter	\$ Amount (Excl GST)
<b>Planning &amp; Development</b>	
- Development assessment	12,484.81
- Development prosecutions	0.00
<b>Debt Recovery</b>	
- Rates, charges and other debtors	35,491.50
<b>Health &amp; Regulatory Control</b>	
- Health administration	9,200.00
<b>Infrastructure &amp; Environment</b>	
- Lease preparation	1,101.00
- Contract works	0.00
<b>Real Estate Development</b>	
- Property matters	3,887.88
<b>Economic Development</b>	
- Future development	0.00
<b>Waste</b>	
- Contract works	6,580.00
<b>Corporate Services</b>	
- Litigation	119,274.54
- Public Liability	3,303.00
- Other	32,720.77
<b>Water Supplies</b>	
- Litigation	0.00
- Property Matters	2,191.10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>226,234.60</b>



Following is further information pertaining to some of the matters included in the table (pg. 49)

## Rates and Charges

Council retains a debt recovery service for the recovery of outstanding rates and charges. All charges incurred to Council through the use of this service is recovered against the ratepayer. Cost for 2020/2021 of \$35,491.

## Legal Action Against Council

### 1. Richmond Valley Council ats Young

Supreme Court Proceeding Number: 2019/368414 and Court of Appeal Proceeding Number: 2021/163589. Council is defending a possessory title claim relating to a parcel of land within Council's local government area and is a respondent in an appeal of a decision made in those proceedings, at a cost of \$82,115.28 in the 2020/2021 financial year.

### 2. Richmond Valley Council & Ors ats Young

Supreme Court Proceeding Number: 2020/00290023 and Court of Appeal Proceeding Number: 2021/180489. Council was the defendant in proceedings in the professional negligence list which were struck out but is now the respondent in an appeal of the decision made in Council's favour, at a cost of \$50,668.29 in 2020/2021.

### 3. Richmond Valley Council ats Wilson

Land and Environment Court Proceeding Number: 2021/148190. An appeal concerning a development control has been lodged by Mr Wilson, at a cost of \$1,171 to Council in 2020/2021. The matter is continuing, with further costs to be expended in 2021/2022.

## Legal Action by Council

### 1. Richmond Valley Council vrs Jardine Lloyd Thompson

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

## PRIVATE WORKS

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

Council did not subsidise any private works during 2020/2021 in accordance with Section 67 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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

During the year, Council resolved to make contributions/grants totalling \$74,991.43. These were allocated to the following organisations

Community Group	\$ amount (exc GST)
Bentley Community Preschool	1,166.20
Broadwater Koala Reserve Trust	980.00
Casino & District Historical Society Inc.	4,990.00
Casino Community Soup Kitchen	2,872.90
Casino Netball Association	1,000.00
Casino Poultry Club Inc.	2,000.00
Casino RSM Social Fishing Club	2,000.00
Casino Show Society Incorporated	4,160.00
Casino Art Gallery	5,000.00
Evans Head-Casino Surf Life Saving Club Incorporated	2,603.00
Richmond River Independent Community Association Inc	1,899.00
Rileys Hill War Memorial Reserve Trust	4,200.00
The Evans Head Living Museum Inc	1,699.90
Casino Community Men's Shed	1,099.00
Casino Forest Garden	400.00
Casino Lions AFL Club	2,500.00
Casino Pony Club Inc	1,000.00
Casino RSM Junior Rugby League Football Club	1,000.00
Casino RSM Youth Club	2,951.93
Casino Rugby Union Club	2,500.00
Casino Vision Impaired Persons Support Group	1,300.00
Ellangowan Public Hall	4,064.50
Evans Head and District Senior Citizen Hall	2,442.00
Evans River & Coastal Landcare Inc	500.00
Greenridge Memorial Hall & Social Activities Club Inc	1,985.00
Mid-Richmond Historical Society Coraki Museum	1,420.00
Northern Rivers Drag Racing Inc	4,470.00
Northern Rivers Military Museum	1,235.00
Pacific Coast Railway Society Inc trading as Casino Miniature Railway & Museum	800.00
Rileys Hill Community Hall	1,400.00
Scouts Australia NSW Branch 2nd Casino Scout Group	3,953.00
The Evans Head Living Museum and Community Technology Centre Incorporated	2,900.00
Woodburn Amateur Boxing Club	2,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,991.43</b>



## EXTERNAL BODIES EXERCISING FUNCTION DELEGATED BY COUNCIL

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

Richmond Valley Council has not given any delegation to external organisations during 2020/2021.

## CORPORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, TRUSTS, JOINT VENTURES, SYNDICATES OR OTHER BODIES IN WHICH COUNCIL HELD A CONTROLLING INTEREST

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

Council has not given any delegation to any corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which council held a controlling interest during 2020/2021.

## CORPORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, TRUSTS, JOINT VENTURES, SYNDICATES OR OTHER BODIES IN WHICH COUNCIL PARTICIPATED IN DURING THE YEAR

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

## NORTH EAST WEIGHT OF LOADS GROUP (NEWLOG)

NEWLOG are an organisation of seven North Coast Councils which operate, with the cooperation and participation of the Transport for NSW, as a Weight of Loads Group, under the authority of the *Roads Act 1993*.

NEWLOG commenced operation in 1995 due to concern from local Councils regarding the damage from overloading heavy vehicles on local road networks. NEWLOG aims to preserve road assets and promote road safety, by encouraging heavy vehicles to comply with weight regulations on local and classified roads.

The member Councils are Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, Lismore City, and Clarence Valley. The group is administered by Ballina Shire Council.

NEWLOG's equity as at 30 June 2021 was \$214,003.

**View the NEWLOG Annual Report.**  
[www.ballina.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au)

## RICHMOND-UPPER CLARENCE REGIONAL LIBRARY

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

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

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

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

**View the Regional Library Annual Report.**  
<https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/annual-reports/>

## NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION

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

Details on projects and priorities, meeting minutes, news and media releases can be viewed on the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Website.  
<https://www.northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au>

## NORTH EAST WASTE

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

**View the North East Waste Report.**  
<https://www.newaste.org.au/>

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

### GENDER DIVERSITY IN MALE DOMINATED INDUSTRIES

Council was successful in obtaining grant funding from the NSW Government: Investing in Women program. Richmond Valley is proud to have been able to implement our Try-a-Trade program for the third year. The Try-a-Trade program is aimed at women in the local community. Richmond Valley partners with Casino TAFE to upskill women into Civil Construction skillset. Participants spend a week at TAFE learning about the fundamentals of construction and obtaining their White Card.

Once pre-requisite studies are completed, the participants are given full PPE to safely undertake work experience with our field staff.

Participants are exposed to many differing functions within Council including: roads maintenance, water and sewer, parks and civic pride. In 2021, 51 women applied for the program, enabling three groups to complete the program. Of the 51 women, 15 identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, 14 participants were over 25 years of age and one woman openly identified as being LGBTIQ.

The opportunity proved valuable for those who completed the program with several gaining full-time employment, traineeships and/or casual work. Council does have on diversifying the workforce and this program has enabled women to get their foot in the door in male dominated industries and successfully obtain positions at Council.





# GENERAL MANAGER AND SENIOR STAFF REMUNERATION

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

The General Manager’s remuneration package consists of:

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

The total remuneration paid to the General Manager in 2020/2021 was \$334,897.72.

Component	\$
Salary	309,096.64
Bonus/Performance/Other payments	0.00
Superannuation	25,801.08
Non-cash benefits	0.00
Fringe Benefits Tax payable	0.00
<b>Total Remuneration</b>	<b>334,897.72</b>



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

Council had one senior staff position (as defined by the *Local Government Act 1993*) during 2020/2021. This position was held by the Director Community Service Delivery.

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

The total remuneration paid to senior staff in 2020/2021 was \$242,097.81.

Component	\$
Salary	215,753.47
Bonus/Performance/Other payments	0.00
Superannuation	20,307.06
Non-cash benefits	0.00
Fringe Benefits Tax payable	6,037.28
<b>Total Remuneration</b>	<b>242,097.81</b>

# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICE CHARGE

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

Contained in the Operational Plan applicable for 2020/2021 was provision for Council to undertake various urban stormwater drainage works and services estimated to cost \$644,022. These works included the following items:



Works	Cost Planned in Operational Plan
<b>Casino</b>	
Casino Drainage Improvements	\$10,000
<b>Evans Head</b>	
Intersection Ocean Dr & Bundjalung Rd	\$90,000
Oak St Stromwater Capacity Upgrade	\$40,000
Currajong St - CDS Unit Rehab	\$15,000
Booyong St adj Stan Payne Oval	\$40,00
Myall Street	\$85,587
Illawong Lane Drainage improvements	\$363,435
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$644,022</b>

Actual Works	Actual Expenditure
<b>Casino</b>	
Casino Drainage Improvements	\$0
<b>Evans Head</b>	
Intersection Ocean Dr & Bundjalung Rd	\$26,786
Oak St Stromwater Capacity Upgrade	\$55,600
Currajong St - CDS Unit Rehab	\$17,465
Booyong St adj Stan Payne Oval	\$1,626
Myall Street	\$78,881
Illawong Lane Drainage improvements	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$180,358</b>

Note: Unspent funds of \$363,465 were transferred to the 2021/2022 operational plan as at 31 March 2021 due to further investigations being required prior to work commencing.





# COMPANION ANIMALS

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

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

Companion Animals Statistics	Number
Impounds	261
Dogs Euthanised	10
Cats Euthanised	44
Dog Attacks	92

Note: In relation to the dogs impounded at Council's Animal Shelter four percent were euthanised. This figure was largely made up of dangerous dogs.

In relation to the cats impounded at Council's Animal Shelter seventeen percent were euthanised. This figure was largely made up of feral cats which could not be rehoused.

## Off Leash Areas

Richmond Valley Council has four off-leash areas in Casino, two in Coraki and two in Evans Head. In Evans Head one off-leash area was extended to 1.68 kms of beach.

## Community Education

Managing companion animals in our local government area is an important component of Council's business and generates one of the biggest workloads of all duties carried out by Council's rangers and garnered the second highest number of enquiries/complaints to Council from the community.

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

There are 120,178 dogs and 2,977 cats microchipped within Council's LGA. There are estimated to be a large number of dogs and cats that are still not registered.

In 2020/2021 Council received 676 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 on Council land. 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 rehousing companion animals that come into our care. Regular liaison occurs with a number of animal welfare groups and other contacts on the Northern Rivers in an attempt to rehouse the dogs and cats.

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 rehousing. Council euthanises some animals, however this is generally due to animals being completely unsuitable for rehousing due to previous poor treatment, being aggressive or the animals being of poor health or injured.

Richmond Valley Council prioritises the wellbeing of the animals in care. Dogs receive regular walks, thanks to the efforts of staff.

Council continues to promote and offer its "Companion Animals Vet Desex Pack", with the cooperation of local veterinary clinics. This is for dogs released from Council's impounding facility ensuring the animals are microchipped, registered, vaccinated 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 Companion Animals Act* and also de-sexed which will ensure that problems such as unwanted breeding and litters do not continue to present in the area.

# RATES AND CHARGES WRITTEN OFF

In accordance with clause 132 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Council reports that the following general rates and water/ sewer charges have been written off during 2020/2021:

Write off-type	\$
General Rates	16,446.29
Water/Sewer Rates	25,331.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,777.30</b>

# SPECIAL VARIATIONS TO GENERAL INCOME

Richmond Valley Council has 1 reportable special variation of general income approved by the Minister for Local Government under Section 508A of the *Local Government Act 1993*. Part of the approval process by Ministerial Order is a requirement of Council to report each year in its Annual Report on outcomes associated with the Special Variation to General Income.

Specific details on the Special Variations to General Income is as follows:

## YEAR OF APPROVAL 2019/2020

<b>Purpose</b>	Council intends to use the proposed Special Variation funds to enhance its financial sustainability, maintain existing services, and maintain and renew infrastructure.	
Amount of approval as a % of income (inclusive of rate peg of 2.7%)		5.50%
Amount of approval in monetary terms (2020/2021)		\$752,728
<b>Expenditure during 2020/2021</b>	<b>Funding existing service levels:</b>	
	Maintain annual riverbank maintenance budget	\$50,000
	Maintain additional annual budget for road maintenance	\$50,000
	Maintain additional annual budget for maintenance of public toilets	\$15,000
	Funding of depreciation and improvements to Operating Performance Ratio	\$412,728
	<b>Capital Renewals:</b>	
	Maintain current annual renewal budget for community amenities	\$185,000
	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>\$712,728</b>
<b>Amount unexpended as at 30 June 2021</b>		<b>\$40,000</b>





SWIMMING POOL INSPECTIONS

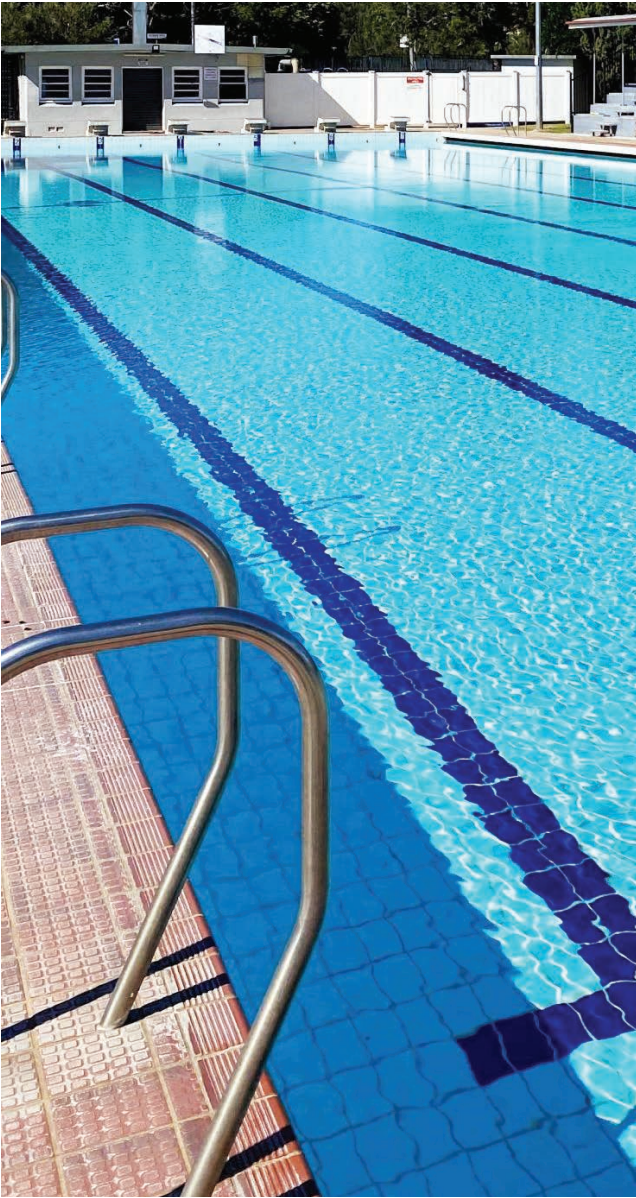
Legislation in relation to swimming pool fencing requirements has been strengthened in recent years in response to concerns about children drowning in swimming pools. Inadequate pool fencing is a major contributing factor in the rate of drowning among children less than five years of age. Part of the 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 - units in strata complexes, community schemes, motels, are required to be inspected every three years.

There are over 1,000 swimming pools in the Richmond Valley LGA. Council staff, under the leadership of the Manager Development & Certification, administer the *Swimming Pools Act 1992* and *Swimming Pools Regulation 2018* and ensure swimming pool fencing complies with the legislation.

In 2020/2021 the following were carried out as part of the program:

Category	Number of inspections
Number of inspections of tourist and visitor accommodation	0
Number of inspections of premises with more than 2 dwellings	2
Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of compliance under s22D of the Swimming Pools Act	114
Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of non-compliance under Clause 21 of the Swimming Pools Regulation 2018	25
Total	141



COUNCILLOR INDUCTION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy CPOL1.14 and Office Local Government Guidelines 2018.

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

Date	Description	Attendees
4 August 2020	'New Integrated Planning and Reporting Requirements for NSW Councils', presented by General Manager to Councillor Information Session	Cr Mustow (Mayor) Cr Morrissey Cr Cornish Cr Hayes Cr Humphrys Cr Lyons Cr Simpson
6 October 2020	'Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW 'At a Glance' Guide for Elected Members' and accompanying training slides (published by OLG), presented by General Manager to Councillor Information Session	Cr Mustow (Mayor) Cr Morrissey Cr Cornish Cr Hayes Cr Humphrys Cr Lyons Cr Simpson
23 November 2020	LGNSW Annual Conference (online)	Cr Mustow (Mayor) Cr Humphrys Cr Lyons
4 February 2021	Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Forum, Coffs Harbour	Cr Mustow (Mayor)
20 April 2021	Deputy Premier and Ministers Meeting, NSW Parliament House	Cr Mustow (Mayor)





## ENVIRONMENTAL UPGRADE AGREEMENTS

### Local Government Act 1993 – s 54P(1)

Council has not entered into any Environmental Upgrade Agreements in 2020/2021.

## PLANNING AGREEMENTS IN FORCE

### Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 – s 7.5(5)

Council has no Planning Agreements in Force under this section.



## SECTION 4 – APPENDICES

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

Appendix 1: Delivery Program Progress Report Q4 to 30 June 2021

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

Appendix 2: Audited Financial Statements

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

Appendix 3: 2020/2021 Government Information (Public Access) Act Annual Report

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

Appendix 4: 2020-2021 Public Interest Disclosure Annual Report

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

Appendix 5: 2020/2021 Richmond Upper Clarence Regional Library Annual Report

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

Appendix 6: Mid Term Report 2016-2018

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

Appendix 7: State of the Environment Report

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

## DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

Richmond Valley Council had a strong year of actions against the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021. Council's goals:

### Focus Area 1

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

### Focus Area 2

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

### Focus Area 3

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

### Focus Area 4

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

### Highlights have included:

- Accessible elements included in playground upgrades
- Analysis of key events to improve accessibility
- Continuous accessible paths of travel included in new master planning exercises and continue to increase in regular maintenance of current paths
- Further improvements to Council's website to standardise access





Richmond  
Valley  
Council



**RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**2020-2021**

