

Richmond Valley Council

Annual Report
2021-2022

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.

Richmond Valley Council

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR AND GENERAL MANAGER



Robert Mustow



Vaughan Macdonald

The 2021-2022 financial year will be remembered as a year of challenges but also one of opportunities.

We know the past 12 months forced many to accept tough situations they had little to no control over.

Council, Richmond Valley residents, businesses and communities continued to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. To deal with the complexities of COVID-19, Council closed certain public-facing services, while others were required to work remotely. Throughout the pandemic Council's decision to close and reopen facilities and services was carried out in line with advice from NSW Health.

Following the December 2021 Local Government elections, first-time councillors Patrick Deegan and Debra McGillan joined councillors Robert Mustow, who was popularly elected as Mayor, Steve Morrissey, Sam Cornish, Sandra Humphrys and Robert Hayes to fill the seven-seat council. Cr Morrissey was elected unopposed as deputy mayor for the fourth successive year.

The Council resolved to approve and adopt the Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2021-2022, which is known as Our Big Conversation. This strategy is a guiding framework to support development of the Community Strategic Plan in close consultation and collaboration with our local community.





The catastrophic floods of February and March 2022 left a trail of devastation in their wake. People in our community lost homes and livelihoods, crops and livestock, buildings and infrastructure; however, our community connection, and our hope for the future has not been swept away.

The estimated repair bill for flood damaged roads and infrastructure stands at \$150 million, including the cost of repairing major landslips in North Casino. The floods saw our water supply networks put under significant strain and our sewerage networks were significantly damaged.

Council is heavily focussed on rebuilding the Richmond Valley and has prioritised roads and infrastructure restoration, and the economic recovery of our towns and villages, as key elements to achieving this goal. Council continues to engage with the community through its five Flood Recovery Advisory groups, to inform our advocacy for our community to seek that Government support is shared equally across the region.

Despite the many setbacks forced by COVID-19 public health orders and the ongoing wet weather, the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX) was the site of another record-breaking performance with the last sale of the 2021-2022 financial year pushing results to a staggering \$210 million in total cash turnover, a massive \$67 million increase from \$143 million in 2020-2021.

Vendors were the big winners sharing an estimated \$194 million, followed by the five agent groups at around \$10.3 million, with Council receiving \$1.8 million. The NRLX has now moved to number two in the State, validating the \$15 million redevelopment investment.

Casino is officially home to Australia's best tap water with Richmond Valley Council taking out top honours in the Ixom 2021 Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia competition. Representing NSW, Council beat Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, West Australia and Tasmania. The annual competition was held virtually, with a judging panel assessing samples from six water treatment plants on colour, clarity, odour and taste.

Residents and visitors turned out in force for one of the Richmond Valley's showcase events, the Casino Beef Week Festival. The week was highlighted by a great turnout for the Breakfast with the Butchers event and Beef Week Saturday, where people filled the Casino CBD to enjoy the community spirit. Council is a proud sponsor and supporter of Casino Beef Week.

We continue to support our community through our Event Support Scheme and Community Financial Assistance Scheme. During the 2021-2022 financial year, 28 community groups across the Valley shared in \$106,900.

Council continued to deliver many new exciting projects across the region. These include the Casino Drill Hall Precinct and Coronation Park, the Casino Memorial Pool upgrade, the Casino Showground and Racecourse redevelopment, upgrade of the Evans Head Library, Rappville sewerage system design, and the Razorback Lookout makeover.

A further project underway is the Rappville Hall rebuild. Council developed a Revitalisation Plan following the bushfires of 2019, which destroyed the Rappville Community Hall. The hall was identified as being a key element to providing a sense of community connection for the village. Utilisation of grant and insurance funding, together with a Council contribution, will enable the construction of a new, multi-use facility. Completion is expected in late 2022.

As part of our Youth Employment Strategy, Council offers scholarships, apprenticeships and traineeships across a range of services. The 2021-2022 intake brought to 101 the number of young people given a valuable start to their career throughout the program's eight-year history. To date, 35 YES participants remain with the organisation in fulltime employment, highlighting our commitment to providing job opportunities for young people to encourage them to stay in our local government area, and, equally important, to be active members of their communities.

We are moving forward after what has been a traumatic and testing time for many people and would like to thank our residents for their determination while times are tough. We are also immensely proud of the volunteers, emergency services, neighbours and many other members of our community who stepped up and worked hard to support and protect our community during and after the flood events.

We are preparing plans for the future of the Valley which will be consulted with our community during 2022/2023 which aim to see our region boom again, to create new jobs and housing and deliver improved infrastructure to support the lifestyle our residents love.

By working in partnership with our community, we will bounce back from this period of natural disasters better than ever.



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 March 2022, the estimated unemployment rate in the Richmond Valley was 5.5 percent. There are 1731 businesses providing employment for 7922 people. Food product manufacturing is the largest single employment industry, comprising 1175 jobs, or 18.4 percent of the workforce. Combined with 811 jobs, or 12.7 percent of the workforce, in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries, this accounts for 31.1 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 \$920 million as of 30 June 2021.

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 \$210 million turnover in 2021-2022. 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: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR)

FLOOD ADVOCACY

In February 2022, the Richmond Valley experienced one of the most devastating flood events in recorded history. Records indicate that 2,800 homes were affected by flood waters, with approximately 1,600 experiencing significant flooding. The event saw the community rise to the challenge of working together and providing support to one another.

The initial focus for Council during the event was providing direct support to emergency services, restoring critical services such as drinking water, sewerage and waste collection, and repairing major roads so that supplies could reach isolated communities. Following restoration of critical services, the focus shifted to the long-term recovery process, which is expected to take several years.

The flood event received national attention, with on-site visits by the Prime Minister, NSW Premier, Deputy Premier and the Commissioner of Resilience NSW. In line with this, Council led the way with its flood advocacy efforts.





Rate relief

At the March Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to implement rate relief across the local government area by waiving interest on all overdue rates (rates and water/sewer charges) for the remainder of the 2021/2022 financial year. At the May Ordinary Meeting, Council further resolved to extend this period for an additional six months, until 31 December 2022.

Council's Financial Hardship – Natural Disaster Policy provides relief by deferring the due date for payment of rates and charges allowing the ratepayer/property owner the following two years to pay the outstanding rates and charges, including withholding of interest on outstanding monies for that period.

Council wrote to the NSW Premier in March, seeking support to provide additional rating relief to flood affected communities, on a similar basis to the bushfire rating relief arrangements introduced in 2020. The NSW Government's response, received in June, provided for up to \$40 million in rate relief for eligible residents, with Service NSW responsible for administering the scheme.

Natural disaster declaration

As a result of the significant impact of this flood event, a Notice of Natural Disaster Declaration for Richmond Valley was issued. This declaration activated Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA). NDRRA sets out the Australian Government's response to natural disasters and includes the provision of relief and recovery assistance to disaster affected communities.

Temporary housing

Council advocated strongly for temporary housing for flood affected communities. Council is represented on the Northern Rivers Housing Recovery Taskforce and worked directly with State agencies to deliver much needed accommodation. A key focus was on seeking solutions that keep people connected with their community, rather than relocating them to other areas where they have no support networks.

As a result of advocacy from Council and the community, it was announced in June that at home caravans would be provided on Woodburn residents' properties, at no cost, to support flood recovery.

Flood Response

In April, Council finalised its Flood Response document. The document includes analysis surrounding the potential cost of the flood event, the impact on essential infrastructure and community buildings, delays to major projects and the restoration of essential services. It also addresses the important matters of building flood resilience, restoration of key roads and ways in which to support the region's economic recovery.

The document was provided to relevant government authorities, including NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet, as a means for Council to highlight the funding and assistance the region required.

Economic Impact Statement for the Richmond Valley

To help gain an understanding of the flood's impacts on the local economy, Council engaged Sea & Star Advisory to undertake a preliminary economic impact statement and advise on measures to support economic recovery.

The study found that the Richmond Valley's economy could expect to experience significant loss of production over the two years following the flood event – estimated at \$250 million. The biggest impacts are forecast to be in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors.

Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Recovery Plan

Council implemented a revised Integrated Planning and Reporting framework in response to the flood event. The development of the new Community Strategic Plan was delayed by 12 months, with Council adopting a Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Plan in lieu of a traditional Delivery Program. The Plan sets out Council's vision to help restore the Richmond Valley and 'build back better' over the three-year period from July 2022. The Plan is divided into three sections:

- Respond

This section outlines Council's direct response to the flood, such as helping people to rebuild their homes, reconnecting communities and repairing damaged roads and infrastructure.

- Prevent/Prepare

Actions to assist in the reduction of the impact of floods in the future and to help communities better prepare for natural disasters.

- Sustain

This focuses on Council's 'business as usual' activities and continuing work on long-term strategies to help the Richmond Valley recover, such as providing more housing and implementing the Regional Jobs Precinct.



NSW Flood Inquiry submission

Council resolved at its April meeting to make a submission to the NSW Flood Inquiry, highlighting the challenges experienced by residents, businesses and the farming community in the recovery process and raising concerns regarding the potential impact of the Pacific Motorway redevelopment on flooding in the Mid-Richmond.

Council's submission, presented to the Inquiry in May, included recommendations to improve the way that NSW communities plan for, respond to and recover from natural disasters in the future. The submission pointed out that the Richmond Valley had endured eight natural disasters in three years, and strong, decisive and coordinated leadership from all levels of government was needed to help communities deal with future disasters.

Key recommendations included:

- Improving flood warning systems
- Reviewing flood impacts of the Pacific Motorway and making the findings public
- Improving telecommunications services
- Improving coordination between state agencies and cutting red tape for flood assistance programs
- Developing a new consolidated model for emergency services that combines the key response agencies SES and RFS under one administration and considers the best fit and future structure and role of Resilience NSW
- Clarifying responsibilities for the establishment and operation of Evacuation Centres
- Improving the government's response to temporary housing needs and expediting Back Home assistance grants
- Improving flood risk planning controls, based on the lessons learned from the 2022 flood
- Calling on the NSW Government to assume full responsibility for delivering and funding the voluntary house raising program
- Improving assistance to business and primary producers, and
- Expediting urgent community infrastructure repairs.

The submission included a copy of Council's draft Recovery Plan, highlighting stories of local community experience during the floods, and a copy of the Economic Impact Statement for the Richmond Valley.

In September 2022 the NSW Government released the findings of the 2022 Flood Inquiry and the Government's response to the Inquiry's 28 recommendations. Of the 12 recommendations included in Council's submission, 11 were directly addressed in the report. These included the need to improve flood warning systems, strengthen telecommunications networks and improve government coordination of recovery. The issues Council raised regarding the need to plan ahead for provision of temporary housing, improve funding support schemes for business and primary producers and extend voluntary house raising and buy-back schemes to flood victims were also addressed in the recommendations.

However, one of the key issues for many residents – the potential impacts of the newly constructed Pacific Motorway on the flow and retention of flood waters in the Mid-Richmond – was not directly addressed and remains a matter of great concern for our community. Council hopes that the current work being undertaken by the CSIRO as part of the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative will finally provide the answers our community needs on the movement and retention of flood waters in the Mid-Richmond.

Regional Recovery Meetings

There are five Advisory Groups held across our LGA, with the majority of groups meeting on a monthly basis. The groups are: Coraki, Woodburn, Broadwater, Rappville and Rural (encompassing Bungawalbin, New Italy, Whiporie, Tatham, Codrington and Greenridge).

Representatives from each community were asked to participate, as they were seen as community members/business owners who had a voice within their community.

These groups are an opportunity for Council to learn about issues that have arisen in each community. Where possible Council assists with these issues and passes the information to the relevant external department for further information/assistance. The meetings also provide the opportunity for Council to determine if there are any programs or events that Council may be able to provide assistance with. The meetings are chaired by Council's Recovery Coordinator, with invitations extended to members of Council's executive team and elected body.

RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCILLORS



L to R (standing): Cr Stephen Morrissey (Deputy Mayor), Cr Robert Hayes, Cr Patrick Deegan, Cr Sam Cornish
L to R (seated): Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Robert Mustow (Mayor), Cr Debra McGillan

STAFFING PROFILE

Council employs 265 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

DID YOU KNOW



34%

of staff are women



27%

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



16%

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



9%

of staff have worked for
Council for over 25 years

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 2021/2022 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

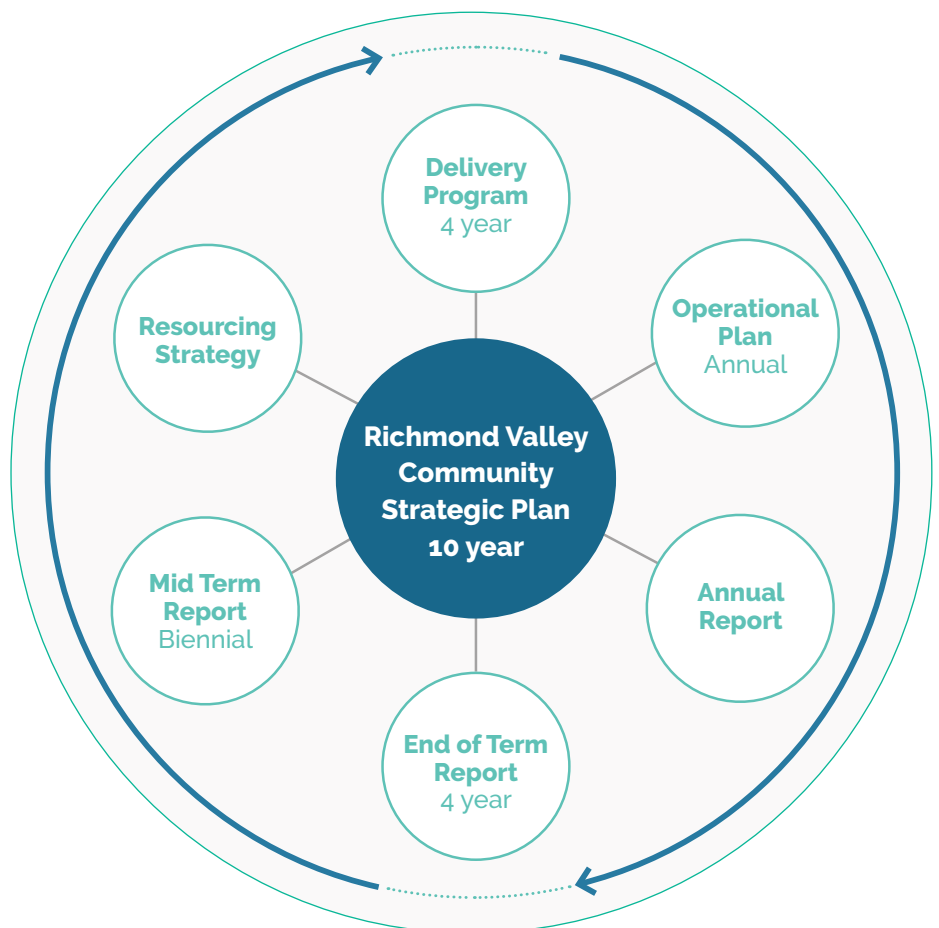


INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

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.

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 matched the \$1.5 million received from the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund to construct the newest nine-lot industrial subdivision at Reynolds Road, Nammoona which was awarded to a local company, Price Civil. This project is nearing completion with the finalisation of the sewer rising main and pump station now in progress. The finalisation of the project is dependent on the delivery of the electrical switchboards for the pump station where the manufacturer has been flood impacted.

An Expression of Interest for the sale of the lots was undertaken earlier in the year and negotiations continue with interested parties which will ideally bring job generating industry to the Richmond Valley.



Reynolds Road Industrial Estate

Cassino Drive: Electrical Upgrade

Council was successful in obtaining \$10 million in funding through the State Government's Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund to upgrade the electrical capacity of the Cassino Drive Industrial Estate and secure a proponent to build a large-scale medicinal cannabis facility. Connection applications are underway with Essential Energy and the detailed design and procurement process are being planned. This project is estimated to create 300 jobs and cost upwards of \$100 million to build.

Rappville Sewer

Council was successful in obtaining \$3 million through the NSW Government Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund. This grant funding opportunity mandated that the Public Works manage the project on Council's behalf due to the specialist nature of a sewage system. Public Works is currently working on the land acquisition of the preferred location for the treatment system. Design of the system is nearing completion and Council staff are carrying out continued community consultation for this project.

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 \$10 million to be programmed over three years (\$1 million in 20/21, \$2 million in 21/22 and \$7 million 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 \$9 million of works over the next two years.

A major priority for Council is to repair and upgrade MR145 as it is a major regional link road and is critical to improve the region's flood resilience. Council has been working on a two staged approach to unlock the full potential of MR145 through a series of major upgrades.

Stage One focuses on the Woodburn to Coraki section of the road and has been funded. This section is 15.7km and needed repair due to heavy vehicle damage due to the Pacific Motorway Upgrade.

Stage Two is the upgrade of the Casino to Coraki section of the road. This would position MR145 as the main transport link between Casino and the coast. This section is 28.6km with a small portion of works in progress. Council is actively pursuing funding for this stage to complete this section which includes the replacement of the two bridges at Tatham.

The first four sections have been completed and work has commenced on the fifth section of works starting at the town limits of Coraki heading south 1.5km. Designs for the Birmingham Flat section are nearing completion in readiness for construction.



Roadworks on Coraki-Woodburn Road



Naughtons Gap

Following a major land slip on Naughtons Gap Road in 2020 and further land slip movements on adjoining land and road sections, Council has:

- considered the merits of proposed re-alignment through a local designated stock reserve, and reconstruction on current alignment to restore access for this critical road network, and
- consulted with TfNSW and the various disaster recovery agencies to gain an agreement in principle for the preferred option due to the conditions and risk in repairing the road corridor.

Council is currently negotiating the preferred scope and outcomes for this project and investing in an options report to secure all relevant information to scope an on-formation repair or the deviation of the road. The failure and landslip on the Naughtons Gap site are complex and Council is exploring all options to reopen this critical transport link.

At this stage, TfNSW is favouring an on alignment rebuild, which is where funding dollars are most likely to be sourced.

Northern Rivers Rail Trail (Casino to Bentley) Construction

The Casino to Bentley Rail Trail masterplan was adopted at the December 2020 Ordinary Council meeting. The total budget for the 13km section is \$7.5 million (funded by the Australian Government Tourism Icons' Program) with a delivery date of 30 December 2023.

The removal of the rail on the alignment has been completed with clearing works continuing along the rail corridor. Design for construction of the trail is 80% complete and a Review of Environmental Factors which satisfies the planning requirements, is in the final stages of completion.

Once this is finalised the construction program will commence. The construction program will be managed internally by Council staff with some elements to go to quote or tender.

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.

Richmond Valley Council has been working closely with Tweed, Byron and Lismore Councils throughout the project development stages, along with the Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc. (NRRT) advocacy group. Together, Councils and NRRT Inc. have worked collaboratively to ensure the rail trail maintains benchmark design standards for the whole of the trail, while also ensuring Councils are able to showcase each region's unique and diverse landscapes and cultures. Together we have also developed branding, marketing and signage guidelines and continue to explore an overall Governance model.



Landslip at Naughtons Gap Road



Tunnel entrance on Casino to Bentley section of Northern Rivers Rail Trail

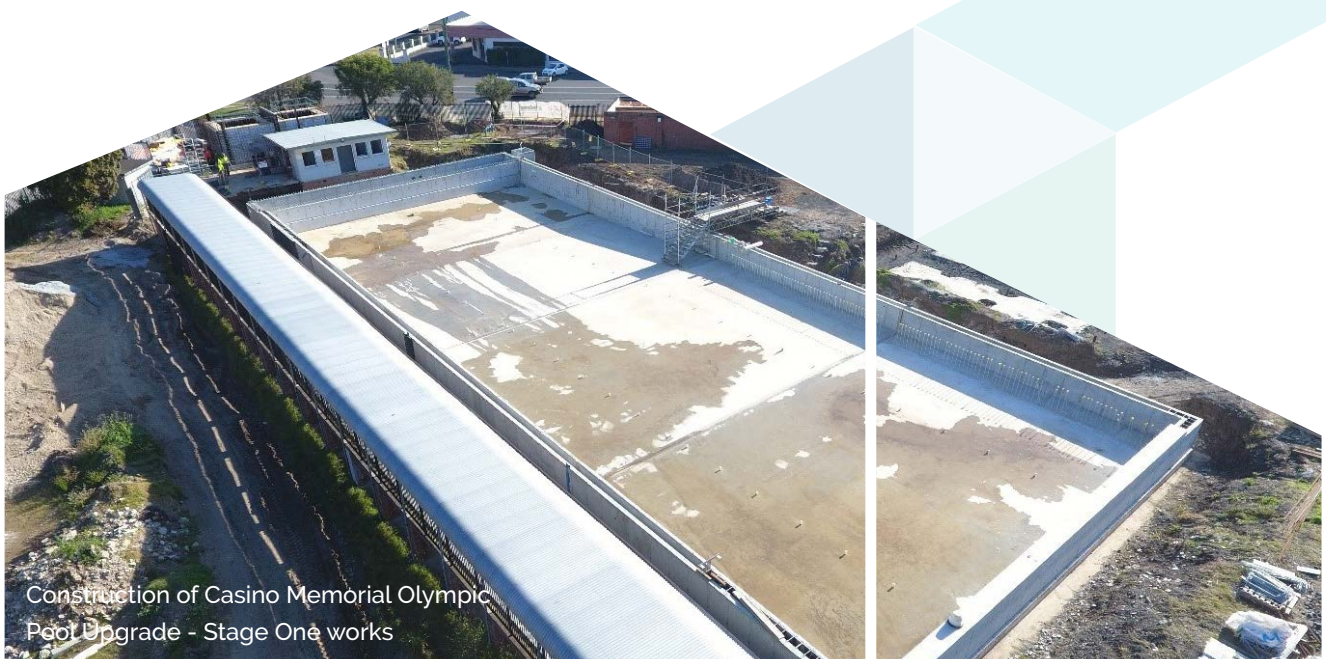
Casino Memorial Olympic Pool Upgrade - Stage One

The Casino Memorial Swimming Pool is a key community facility which was built in the 1950s and is in the process of major upgrades to provide a modern and safe aquatic experience for users. During the 2019 Federal election, Council was committed \$3.2 million 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 and design for the entire upgraded swimming centre and has commenced construction of stage one of the upgrade of the Casino Memorial Swimming Pool which is expected to be completed in early 2023.

The construction program has met difficulties due to recent weather events. The 50m pool structure is nearing structural completion with the final concrete pour to the East end wall happening before the end of August. The major risk to the delivery of the project is the continuing wet weather. Council staff continue to work closely with the contractor, Momentum Built, to find ways to keep this important project on track. We continue to seek further funding to complete all stages of the master plan.

Stage one is valued at \$7.2 million 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

In November 2020, Council received \$8 million from the NSW Government Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund for the redevelopment of the Casino Showground and Racecourse in line with the master plan.

One of the exciting outcomes of the master plan is to position Casino as the equestrian capital of the Northern Rivers, bringing visitors from across the region and interstate, and in turn will provide a sustained economic boost to the Richmond Valley.

This project is being delivered internally with different parts of the project being managed by Council and others by tender. In May 2022, AGS was awarded the major structural design and construct elements of the project. Design is currently at 80% completion with construction starting on site in late August 2022. The last round of user group consultation meetings will happen prior to site establishment by AGS.

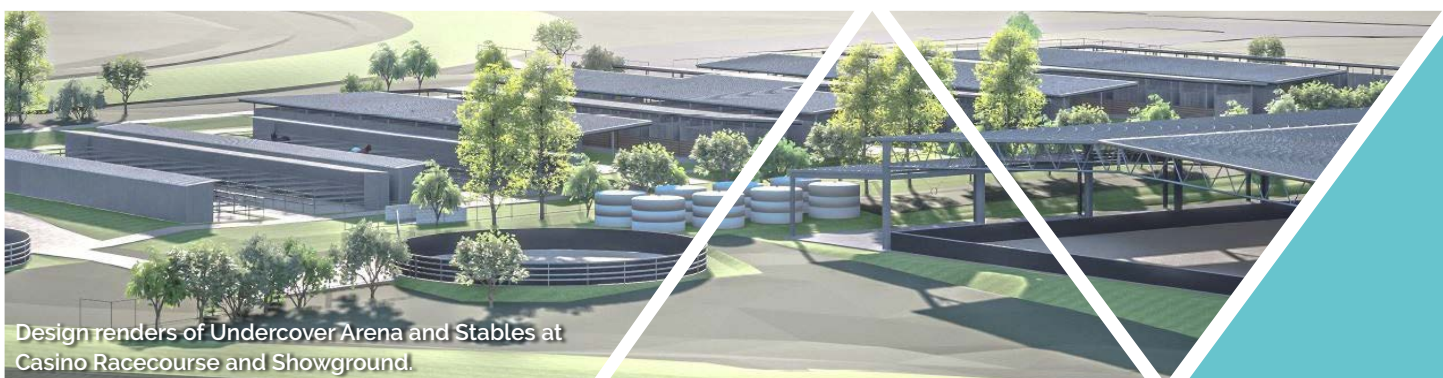
Council is currently in the design phase with the following projects needing funding to finish what we have started and provide a regional and resilient facility.

Unfunded Project Components:

1. Facility Enhancements \$1.62 million - Increasing showground accessibility and resilience by meeting essential industry best practice and standards. This includes accessibility and emergency access, improved access to and around undercover arena and upgrades of sewer, water, and fire services. Access will be increased to and around the undercover arena to increase spectator capacity.
2. Outdoor Equestrian Area \$1.42 million - Outdoor turfed and sand equestrian areas, equine pool and additional day yards, round yards and horse walkers.
3. Roadways and Carparks \$1.8 million - Formalised carparks and entry road including truck wash facility. Internal roads will also be upgraded. Roadways and carparks will be built to provide all weather access.
4. Accessible Amenities \$1.15 million - Amenities to cater for events and camping.
5. Event Enhancements \$1.14 million - Betting ring improvements, mobile grandstands and mobile canteen and toilets.

Casino Showground – Day Stalls

Council has received \$420,000 through NSW Government – Drought Communities Funding and the Tender for the Casino Showground Day Stalls was finalised at the July 2022 Council Meeting. Negotiations commenced with contractors and the concept modification and final stakeholder consult is expected in August 2022. Design and approvals are to follow with construction to be completed by 31 December 2022.



Design renders of Undercover Arena and Stables at Casino Racecourse and Showground.

Casino Showground – New Toilet Block, Electrical Upgrades & Sand Yard Extension

Council has received \$918,000 through the NSW Government – Showground Stimulus Program. Tender for the Casino Showground Toilet Block has been finalised with negotiations commencing. Concept modification and final stakeholder consultation is expected in August 2022. Design and approvals to follow with construction to be completed by 31 December 2022.

Electrical Upgrades will be completed in line with other electrical works as part of the AGS program of works with an expected completion by 31 December 2022.

Sand Yard Extension stakeholder consultation is completed. Works are underway and steel has been ordered. Earthworks have commenced with an expected completion by 31 August 2022.

Nammoona Landfill Cell 6

Council engaged a consultant to complete a design and technical specification detailing the construction and quality assurance requirements for the construction of Cell 6. A contract for the construction was awarded in July 2022 with construction to commence in early September 2022. The first phase is expected to be completed by April 2023 and the Cell 6 construction program will run over seven years with further phases to be constructed as needed.

The EPA Facility Licence has been updated to include the construction of Cell 6 and the construction of the new cell will also rectify long standing issues with leachate on the site.

PARKS & RECREATION

Casino Drill Hall Memorial Walk and Coronation Park Upgrades

Stages 1 and 2 of the Drill Hall Precinct are now complete, creating a very well utilised 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 (for Stage 2) to complete the Drill Hall memorial walk and upgrades to Coronation Park. A contract for completion of the following elements were awarded to Boyds Bay Landscaping:

- Casino Drill Hall Memorial Walk
 - 8m 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.

The works were completed August 2022 and Council will continue to pursue funding to complete the final stage of the masterplan (Parade Ground Green) to fully complete the master plan of the Drill Hall Precinct.



Queen Elizabeth Park

During the March flood event, Council was required to quickly act and find a temporary storage location for the flood waste. Queen Elizabeth Park was utilised as a temporary flood waste transfer station which was vital in the quick response flood clean-up process in Casino which was also accessed by the Australian Defence Forces. This allowed affected residents the ability to clean out their properties and allow them to get back into their houses and start the recovery process.

Rectification works for the entry road and carpark commenced in July 2022 and is expected to be completed in December 2022.

Razorback Lookout

Council was successful in receiving grant funding under the Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and a contract was awarded to Boyds Bay Landscaping with construction completed in late 2021. The following elements were completed:

- Upgrading shaded picnic tables
- Creation of additional car parking spaces
- Asphaltting 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.



Razorback Lookout

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 for 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 November 2022.



Construction of Rappville Community Hall

COLLABORATIONS

NORTHERN RIVERS FLOOD RECOVERY PROGRAMS

Councils in the Northern Rivers have been working closely with the NSW Government to support flood impacted communities to recover and rebuild following the catastrophic floods of February/ March 2022. Richmond Valley Council has been an active member of the Northern NSW Regional Recovery Committee and its various subcommittees to address emergency housing, flood relief funding, health and wellbeing, and agricultural, animal welfare and environmental support programs. Council will also work closely with the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (established on 1 July 2022) and its supporting Infrastructure Coordination Office to progress Disaster Recovery Funding and repairs for local roads, bridges, water and sewerage infrastructure damaged in the floods.

Additionally, Council have established a Recovery Team, to work directly with Resilience NSW, the National Recovery and Resilience Agency and flood affected communities within the Richmond Valley. This includes establishing and supporting Local Advisory Groups to ensure that residents' concerns are addressed. Council continues to advocate to all levels of government for additional support for flood affected communities, particularly for temporary housing, assistance programs and house-raising/ buy-back schemes. This work will continue in the coming year, as Council delivers its three-year Recovery Plan for the community.

NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION (NRJO)

Council continues to be an active member of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO), which 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.

During the year, the NRJO has undertaken a number of initiatives, including advocacy for increased social housing and improved insurance options for flood affected communities, exploring opportunities to protect biodiversity within the region and explore opportunities for sustainable energy and waste management.

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 Job Precincts are part of the NSW Government's 20-year Economic Vision for Regional NSW and Council has been working closely with Regional NSW to progress this initiative.

Job Precincts are designed to deliver faster 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. Council hopes to see the Regional Job Precinct Masterplan and supporting Casino Place Plan finalised by the end of 2022.

INVESTIGATING REGIONAL SOLUTIONS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT

Recent developments in waste disposal and recycling - and the growing logistical, environmental and financial challenges of treating municipal wastes - have prompted North Coast councils to investigate other approaches to waste management. In collaboration with the NSW Government, North Coast councils, led by Richmond Valley Council, undertook a review of existing waste management practices within their LGAs and identified opportunities for a regional collaborative response to waste management. This led to an Expression of Interest (EOI) process, on behalf of nine North Coast Councils (including RVC) to identify a sustainable waste management solution for the region, which may include alternative technologies for waste treatment and processing. Responses to the EOI have been assessed and further work on regional opportunities will progress in the 2022/2023 year.



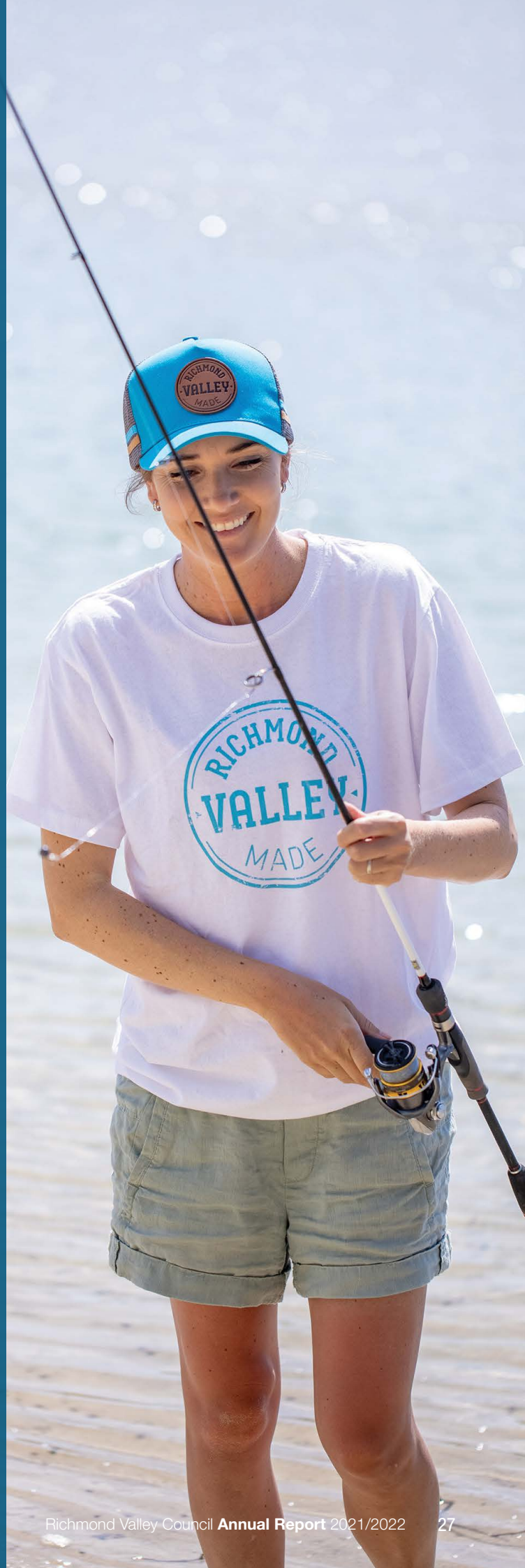
OUR TOWNS AND VILLAGES

CORAKI

- Town entrances in Coraki, Woodburn and Rappville as well as the Coraki Memorial Park have had semi-mature trees planted across these locations. To assist with riverbank stabilisation along Coraki Memorial Park and Coraki Riverside Caravan Park, there have been 1500 trees planted.
- A NSW Government grant will fund the Coraki Swimming Pool Water Play Space Project. The creation of an inclusive water play space at Coraki Swimming Pool will deliver exciting water-based play elements for children. The new water play space will include a zero-depth splash pad area with a variety of water play elements, encouraging inclusive and interactive play for toddlers and children to enjoy.
- The Community Christmas Festival returned for 2021. Coraki and Woodburn villages had a six-metre high community Christmas tree. It is the first time Coraki and Woodburn have had a Christmas Tree Light Up. They coincided with the Woodburn Carols by Candlelight in Riverside Park and the Coraki Christmas Markets in Memorial Park.

BROADWATER/RILEYS HILL

- Construction finished on the final section of the Broadwater pathway over the new Pacific Highway.



EVANS HEAD

- Evans Head's Razorback Lookout has received a revamp, with the assistance of grant funding from the Federal Government. Key items included:
 - o Replacement of retaining walls
 - o Installation of concrete kerb
 - o Installation of two new shelters and park furniture
 - o New accessible pedestrian ramp
 - o Heavy patching and road reseal works on the facility road and carpark areas
 - o Expansion of two car parks
 - o Replacement of bollards.
- A major upgrade for the Evans Head southern breakwall is being carried out by Transport for NSW as part of a \$205 million stimulus package. A concrete pathway to the total width of the breakwall will be welcomed by local residents and visitors at this popular tourist attraction and recreation spot.
- Evans Head will share in a total of \$6.2 million worth of dredging work along with four other NSW waterways to improve safe boating access to coastal river entrances and harbours.

WOODBURN

- A bulk water filling station has been installed at Woodburn outside the Woodburn tennis courts. This is the second bulk water filling station to be installed by Council. The first was installed outside the Council's Casino Depot. These were funded via a \$1 million drought grant received from the Australian Government, with \$100,000 allocated for designated bulk water filling stations across the Local Government Area to assist residents and bulk water carriers.
- Council has acquired a new Wirtgen W200 road stabiliser to support the renewal of the Woodburn Coraki Road. Once complete, a total of 5km of pavement between Swan Bay and Woodburn will have been fully renewed.

CASINO

- The NSW Government will provide a \$45,000 stimulus grant to support repair work at the Casino Showground following the flood events. The Casino Showground is a multi-use hub which supports the community by catering for a range of activities including rodeo, pony, camp draft, cutting horse and poultry groups as well as the annual show, camping and racing. The showground also serves a vital role as an emergency evacuation point in times of crisis, hosting Defence personnel who were flown in to assist with flood recovery. BlazeAid volunteers also made the showground their base while carrying out repairs on flood-affected properties.
- Two Casino Momentum Collective projects will soon go ahead in Casino thanks to substantial NSW Government funding. These projects include Momentum's Casino Oak Centre Community Accessibility Project and funding to enable ten new social housing units to be built across Northern NSW.
- A NSW Government grant will fund revitalisation of the community play space at Crawford Square Regional Park. This will include an inclusive farm-themed play space for the community, with play activities for all ages and abilities. The area will encompass a climbing structure and slide for older children, a junior play space, double-bay swing set, and inclusive elements such as a tipi carousel and jumper square, providing a safe space for children.
- Work is coming along on the Casino Swimming Pool Upgrade project. Construction began in August 2021 and has been delayed due to weather, however is expected to be finished during summer.

RAPPVILLE

- A new Rural Fire Service brigade station, which has become a symbol of resilience, was officially opened in Rappville. The new \$600,000 purpose-built station is centrally located in the village, boosting the brigade's accessibility and firefighting capabilities. The new station features two bays, amenities, a workshop, storage room, kitchen and a training room. The original station, located five kilometres outside the village, will continue to be used as a storage facility for the brigade. The brigade was formed in 1952 and now boasts 33 members who actively respond to nearby incidents and support neighbouring units.
- A project on the agenda for the next 12 months includes construction of the new Rappville Hall and Community Precinct. This is an important milestone in the long-term recovery of the village from the 2019 bushfires. The new facility will provide a central community hall, as well as kitchen and entertainment facilities, but also inviting garden spaces which will provide public amenity for the village.



FESTIVALS AND EVENTS 2021/2022

Considering the challenging circumstances of the past 12 months, we were fortunate to be able to celebrate quite a few key events across the Richmond Valley, including all community Christmas events, which were well embraced by residents and visitors alike.

The 2022 February-March flood events saw many events either cancel or reschedule. Saturated fields meant signature events like the PRIMEX Field Days, Beef Week Races and the Beef Week Rodeo could not go ahead.

Those events which were celebrated enjoyed large crowds, with local attendees being joined by visitors from around the region. These included:

- Rappville Rebounds 2021 NSW Working Dog Trials
- Evans Head Fishing Classic
- Casino Quota Craft Fair
- Water is Life Program Opening
- Casino Farmers Market
- Evans Head Farmers Market
- Casino Golf Club Markets
- Woodburn Spring Orchard Show
- St Mary's Cup

- Remembrance Day across the Richmond Valley
- Casino Christmas Street Party
- Evans Head Tree Light Up
- Coraki Christmas Celebrations
- Woodburn Christmas Celebrations
- Casino Lions Christmas Carols
- Casino RSM Community Christmas
- Evans Head Rotary Christmas Parade and Carols
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Theatre Performance
- Back to the Old Days of Evans Head
- Coraki Uniting Church Markets
- Australia Day
- Car and Bike Show and Shine
- Evans Head Food Truck Carnival
- NSW Seniors Festival Events
- NSW Youth Week Festival Events
- ANZAC Day across the Richmond Valley
- Casino Cow Country Music Muster
- Casino Beef Week including:
 - Casino Beef Week Opening Night
 - Casino Beef Week Fashion Parade
 - Casino Beef Week Wednesday Cattle Spectacular
 - Casino Beef Week Rural Ladies High Tea
 - Casino Beef Week Breakfast with the Butchers
 - Casino Beef Week Saturday
 - Casino Beef Week Car Show and Shine
- Into the Forest – NORPA Performance



SECTION 1:

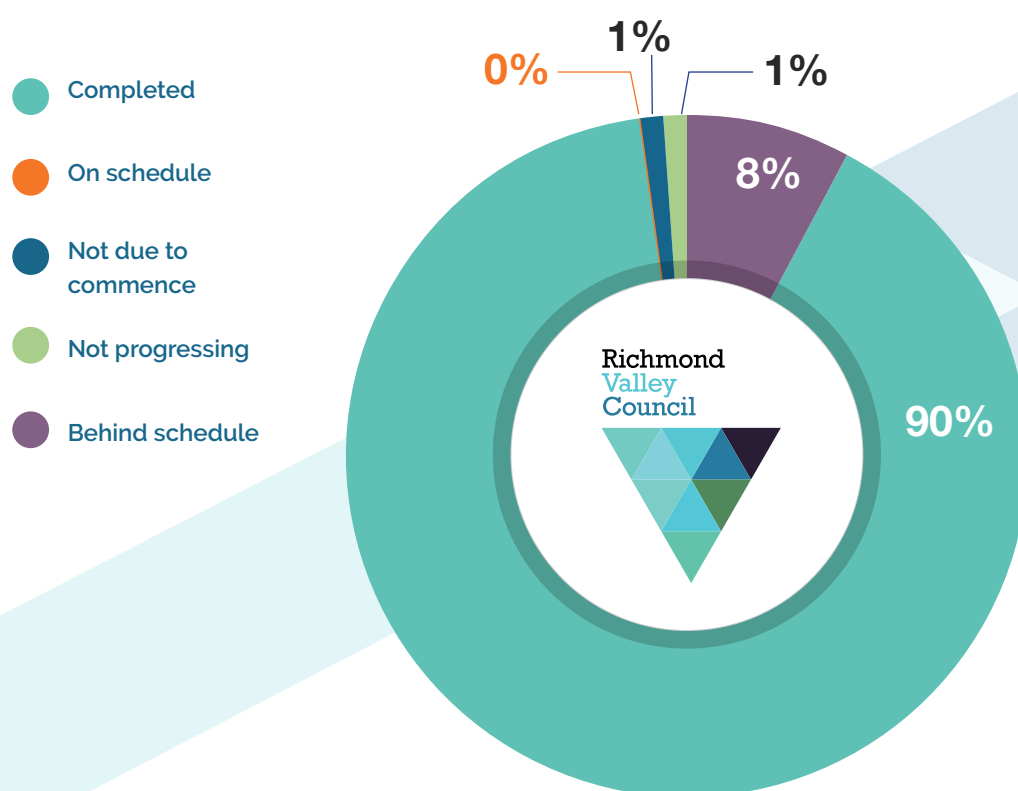
DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS

Annual reporting for all local government organisations requires a progress report of activities and projects identified in the Delivery Program. The 2021/2022 financial year is the fifth 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, was delayed until December 2021 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the current reporting cycle was 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 five 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 2022), full five-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/>



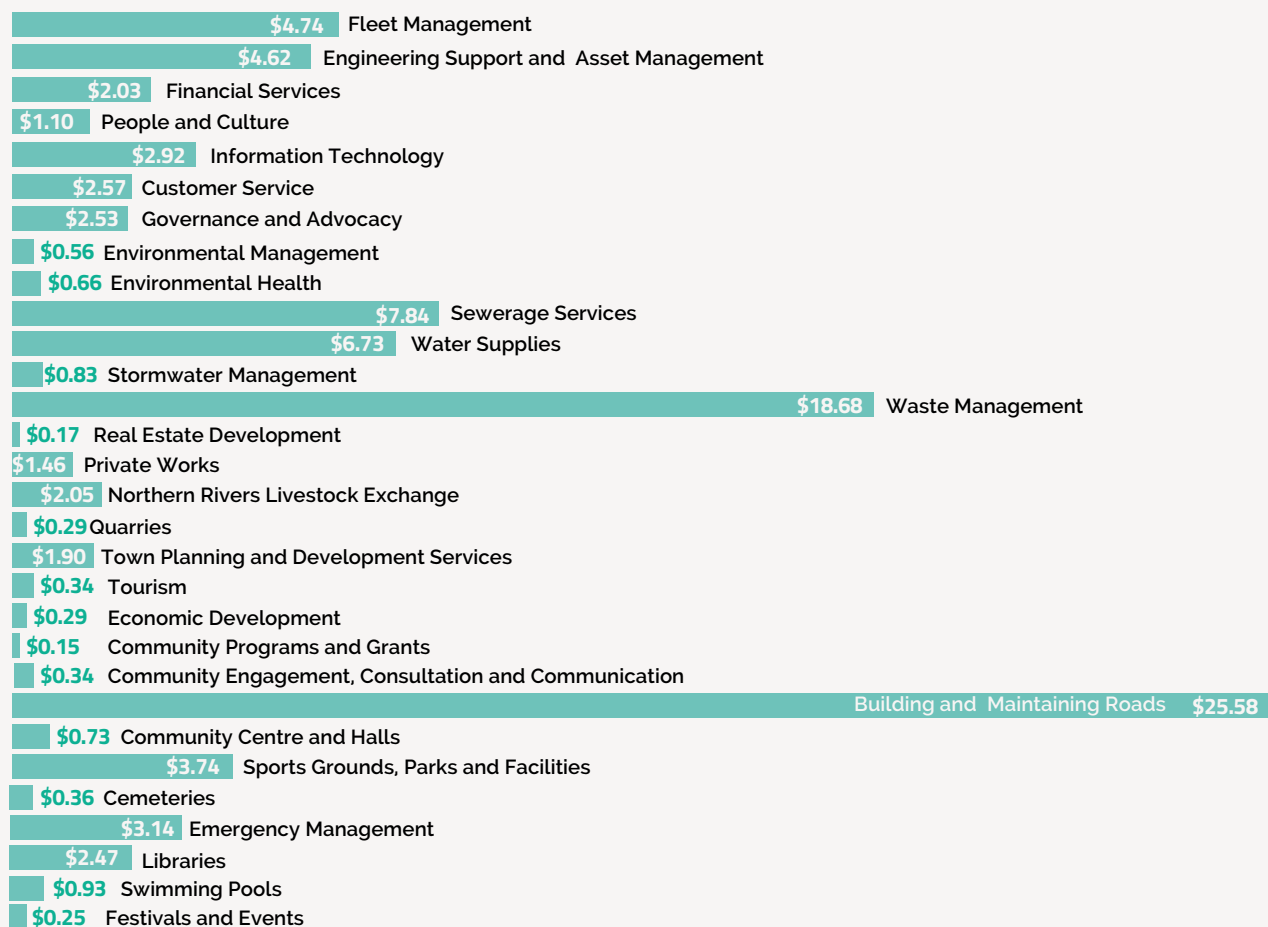
ACHIEVEMENTS SNAPSHOT

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS SNAPSHOT 2021/2022

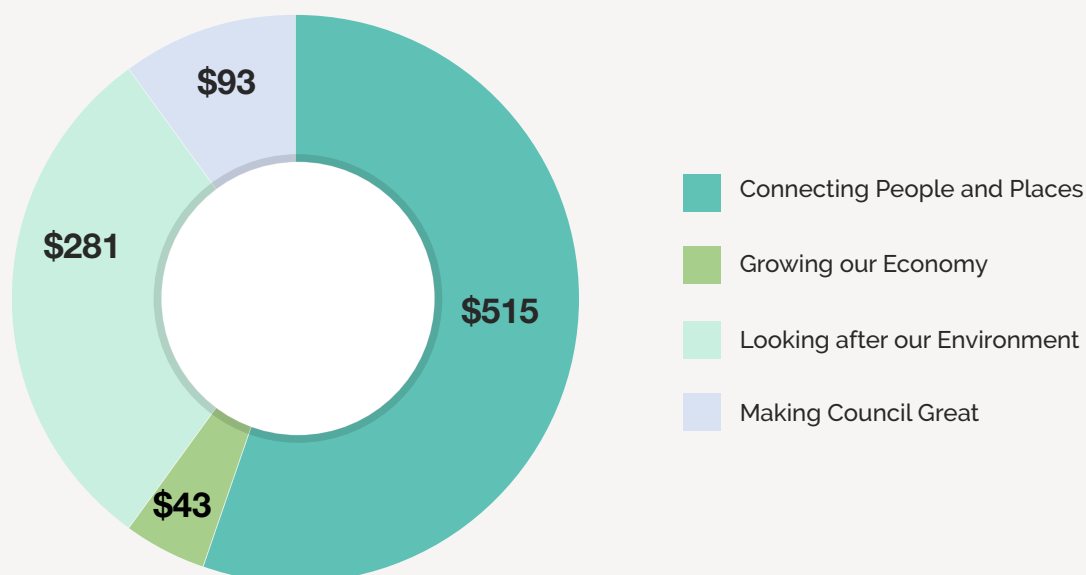
ROAD MAINTAINED	1,064 km
POTHOLE REPAIRS	37,360
WATER USAGE – DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION (CASINO)	5.50 ML
WATER TREATED	2,006.15 ML
SEWERAGE TREATED (ACROSS FOUR TREATMENT PLANTS)	2,720.43 ML
RECYCLED WASTE	5,061 t
E-WASTE	27.3 t
BINS LIFTED ANNUALLY	
– EXCLUDING PUBLIC PLACE BINS	645,977
– INCLUDING PUBLIC PLACE BINS	669,554
RATEABLE PROPERTIES (INCLUDING STRATA)	10,751
RATEABLE INCOME RAISED	\$14,719,199
CALLS RECEIVED	33,524
DAs ASSESSED	290
DAs ISSUED	266
CRMs ISSUED	8,438
NRLX CATTLE TRADED	123,713
NRLX CATTLE SALES VALUE	\$210,437,318
GRASS MOWED	13,785 HA
TREES PLANTED	454
LIBRARY MEMBERS	16,199
LIBRARY LOANS	123,204
CATS & DOGS REGISTERED	291
STRAY/LOST ANIMALS	369



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

- NAIDOC Week celebrations were held in July with the official ceremony in Graham Place, Casino followed by a march and family fun day at Queen Elizabeth Park including stalls, music, amusement rides, sports and elders' tent.
- Rappville Rebounds NSW Working Cattle Dog Trial Championships was held from 16-18 July at the Rappville Sports Ground. As well as dog trials, the event featured a dog high jump competition and a Make It, Bake It and Create It Market, plus kids shows presented by Farmer Dave (of television fame) and his muttley crew of working dogs.
- Arts Northern Rivers' Rappville Creative Recovery Project culminated in October, presenting 3 days of creative arts events in the community of Rappville. Although splintered by the impacts of the pandemic, the event has followed suit of Rappville's resilience and adapted from what was first intended to be delivered as a major one-day festival.
- Australia Day celebration event was held in Evans Head. The event included a citizenship ceremony, markets, live entertainment, food and amusement rides. It coincided with the 100th anniversary of the Casino/Evans Head Surf Club.





- With the support of Council, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) held a street parade in Casino in April 2022, giving residents the opportunity to offer thanks to the serving ADF members for the enormous role they played in assisting the Richmond Valley community.
- The inaugural 2022 Casino Cow Country Music Muster held in April is hoped to become the newest addition to the country music circuit. The two-day muster featured many talented, multi award-winning country music artists.
- The Casino Food Co-Op Beef Week 10-day festival was held in May, with more than 100 events across the town and plenty to get out and celebrate our amazing industry.

Getting into the spirit of Beef Week, Council's Customer Experience team transformed the Council foyer into the middle of a cricket stadium.

- The Casino Visitor Information Centre transformed into a kids' wonderland for a teddy bear's picnic in May. There was music, stories from local authors, children's books from the library and as the song says, lots of big surprises, as we invited children and parents from the area to enjoy the outdoor space.
- The Richmond Valley Reconciliation Black and White Ball was held in June. One of the highlights of the night was the announcement of Reconciliation Awards in Education, Business, Sport and Community.

SWIMMING POOLS

- Construction of Stage 1 of the Casino Memorial Olympic Pool including a new heated swimming pool, a new multi-purpose learn-to-swim and splash pool and upgraded amenities have been ongoing throughout the 2021/2022 financial year. Council continues to seek grant funding to deliver Stage 2 of the upgrade of this important community facility which will include an indoor heated multi-purpose 25m pool, an accessible adult change facility and a family change room.
- Council has secured a \$212,500 grant from the NSW Government to construct a children's play area incorporating a Splash Pad and shade structure at the Coraki Swimming Pool.

LIBRARIES

- For the second time, the Casino Library was named the winner of the Public Libraries NSW Association 2021 Innovation in Outreach Services Award (10,000-30,000 population). Casino Library also won this honour in 2019.
- With its welcoming interior, wide open spaces and modern facilities, the new Evans Head Library was officially opened by Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis and Richmond Valley Council Mayor Robert Mustow.
- The Coraki Library underwent a transformation with a new fresh look both inside and out. The exterior of the library has been freshened up with some pressure cleaning, new paint and new signage. All these changes, along with the recent new carpet and interior painting has made the Coraki Library more welcoming and functional.
- Library team members donated some no longer required picture books to Brighter Futures which works with families within our community. It is hoped this will assist in the development of a positive relationship moving forward.
- The library was again successful with another Backyard Cricket Grant for \$1,000, with funds to be used to run programs to enhance inclusion for children with a disability or development delay.
- Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library donated 20 boxes of books to the Richmond-Tweed Regional Library following the February flood event.

With new furniture, furnishings and amenities, the renovation both inside and out has transformed the library into a friendly community hub for residents and visitors to enjoy for many years. In a nod to 100 years of surf lifesaving in Evans Head, the 'Buzza Pearce' lifeboat hangs from the library's ceiling which is sure to be a focal point during next year's century celebrations.



DID YOU KNOW?



In 2021/2022 The Regional Library had **56,972** members and guests walk through the doors to use the library facilities. This comprised of:

CASINO

30,723

KYOGLÉ

14,387

EVANS HEAD

7,513

MOBILE LIBRARY

2,985

CORAKI

1,364



SPORTS GROUNDS, PARKS & FACILITIES

- A new Rural Fire Service brigade station that has become a symbol of resilience has been officially opened in Rappville.
- Casino Greyhound Racing track to shine even brighter with \$270,000 funding boost from the Nationals in NSW Government. The track at Queen Elizabeth Park has had much needed new lighting installed.
- A mounded grandstand was formed for both Cricket and Rugby League spectators to enjoy at Queen Elizabeth Park. Around 700 tonnes of unwanted excess soil from the site preparation excavations at the Casino Pool upgrade was reused to form these grandstands.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PROGRAMS & GRANTS

- Community Grants Program available for locally led projects in the Richmond Valley local government area. The objective of this community grants program is to support small-scale community recovery activities which benefit the Richmond Valley community and address disaster recovery outcomes.
 - A new multi-purpose community hub will be built adjacent to the Jumbunna Community Preschool and Early Intervention Centre in Casino providing increased support services for local families.
- The hub is a partnership between the Australian and NSW governments, Jumbunna and The Casino Food Co-op which donated two blocks of land. The Australian and NSW governments are providing a combined \$1.52 million, with Jumbunna Community Preschool and Early Intervention Centre contributing \$480,000 to purchase an additional two blocks of land.
 - Eight new community grants in the Richmond Valley have been funded by the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership program. The grants are worth more than \$100,000 for six community group initiatives and two projects put forward by Council. The grants include a \$25,000 overhaul of Coraki Youth Hall, including new toilets and asbestos removal, and \$14,000 to build a new outdoor park shelter with a BBQ and picnic setting at Rileys Hill Community Centre. The other grants include repainting the New Italy Museum, solar panels for the Evans Head Senior Citizens Hall and St Vinnies in Casino, and upgrades for Coraki Golf Club, Casino Pony Club and Casino Croquet Club.
 - The Federal Government has committed \$1 million over three years for Casino Beef Week as part of the Large Agricultural Events program.



PP2: GETTING AROUND

Provide safe and accessible transport

- The 2021-2022 capital works program contained a budgeted \$10 million for capital upgrades to repair regional and rural roads and bridges, as well as urban roads.
- Footpath repairs and construction of new sections with \$220,000 included in the capital works program.
- Council's two grading crews returned to their normal schedule of rural grading after an intensive period repairing roads damaged during the disaster declared flood in March. Assisted by three contract crews, they fixed more than 280km of roadway, which included initial emergency work to make roads passable, followed by grading, and re-sheeting and drainage work where needed.
- Council has allocated \$10.4 million in capital upgrades, with renewals of sections of a number of roads, streets and bridges. This is in addition to the schedule of planned roadworks across the Richmond Valley's 1,175km road network.
- Bennis Road, Shannon Brook, will benefit from a Nationals in New South Wales Government program. The project involves repairing and rehabilitating three sections of pavement which have come under stress from increasing heavy vehicle use.
- Work to replace the single-lane timber Bungabbee Bridge at Bentley was completed. The new concrete bridge removes existing load limits and allows heavy vehicles to cross Back Creek. The project helped support 20 jobs over the nine months while work was carried out.
- Page MP Kevin Hogan announced \$9.9 million to construct the Northern Rivers Rail Trail section between Bentley and the Lismore Railway Station. This complements the Australian Government's \$7.5 million commitment to complete construction of the 13km Casino to Bentley section. Once completed, the Northern Rivers Rail Trail will be one of the longest rail trails in the country.



Roadworks Woodburn-Coraki Road

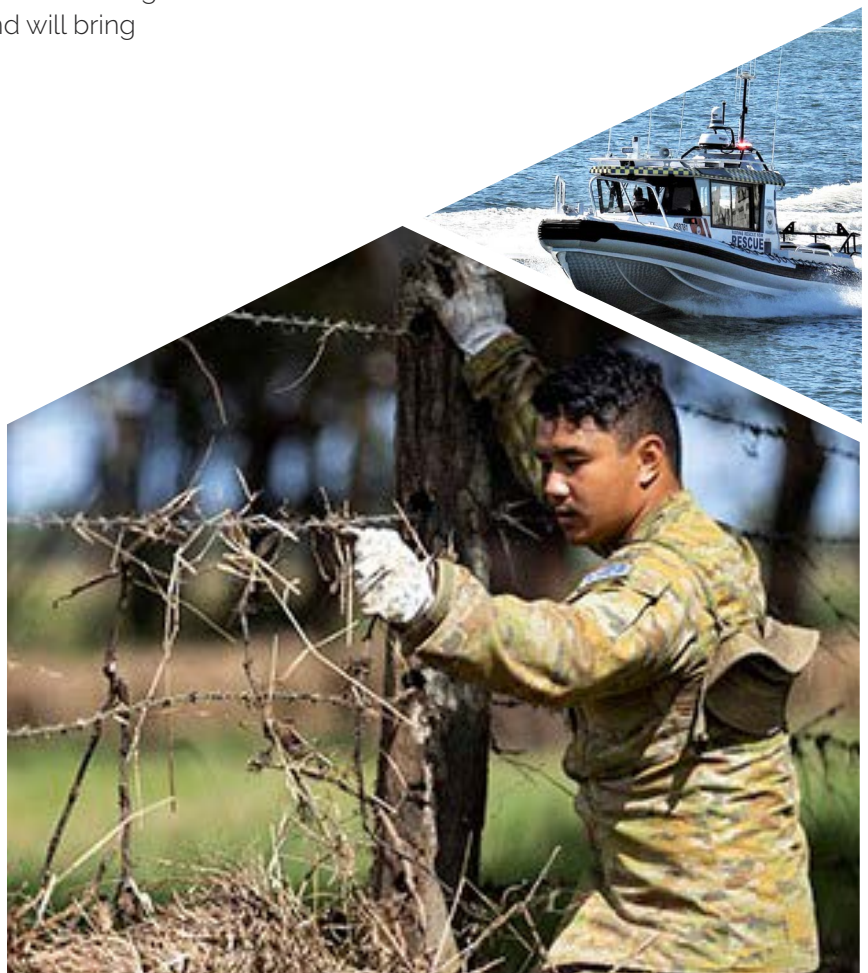


Shared pathway Hare Street

PP3: WORKING TOGETHER

Good communication and engagement between Council and the community

- Crews from Marine Rescue Evans Head will be able to respond faster to an emergency on the water with the delivery of a new \$565,000 rescue vessel. It is one of 38 new rescue vessels funded across the State by a \$37.6 million investment program by the NSW Government. The Marine Rescue Evans Head Unit also undertook energetic fundraising efforts to contribute 20 per cent of the cost of the new vessel, thanks to the generosity of the local community. The boat can deploy up to 30 nautical miles out to sea to rescue boaters who find themselves in trouble offshore and will support the safety of the North Coast's large local boating community and its many visiting boaters.
- Council staff joined with the St Mary's Catholic College community to acknowledge Sorry Day. Council's Aboriginal Liaison Officer shared a few wise words with the audience on how working together and looking after the land will bring about genuine reconciliation.
- Following extensive public consultation, the vision for a mural on the Casino water tower has reached a new milestone with the selection of experience public art outfit, Brightsiders to deliver the artwork. The work continues into the next financial year.
- A new online disaster dashboard will provide real-time information to help residents and visitors to the Richmond Valley be aware of, prepare for and respond to local emergencies. From road conditions and closures, to power outages and river heights, the disaster dashboard is designed as a one-stop-shop for disaster events. It provides links to emergency news and contacts, as well as a direct feed from the Bureau of Meteorology's weather warnings.
- NSW State Emergency Services (SES) is launching a new flood awareness campaign. The 'Floods. The Risk is Real' campaign encourages communities to be aware of their risk of floods and take steps to get prepared. The campaign will help people, especially newcomers to the area, to know what they can do before a severe weather event may strike.



- Council worked with Federal and State agencies to clean up flood-damaged properties and provide support to those affected. There was a significant and coordinated multi-agency emergency response deployed over the recovery phase to assist our communities led by the NSW Police.
- Council proactively sought to highlight with all levels of government the urgent community needs for our area and further commitments of funding support. Council's Mayor and General Manager met with the Prime Minister, Premier and Deputy Premier, as well as other ministers and Members of Parliament, showing them first-hand the devastation of our region following the flood event in February 2022.
- More than 3800 troops from the Australian Defence Force were on the ground across the Richmond Valley assisting with the flood clean up.
- The Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange became a hub for flood affected cattle with our operating agents, Local Lands Service, DPI and Rural Crime all helping identify and re-unite cattle with their owners following the floods. Team members were involved in flood recovery efforts assisting other council departments, helping with boat rescues, working in evacuation centres and supporting those who were affected in the floods.
- Council responded to the flooding crisis with a detailed report which was handed to NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet, outlining the extent of the recovery challenge and plans to rebuild its infrastructure, economy and community.
- Council called for a new model for emergency management in NSW, following this year's catastrophic flood events. In an 18-page submission to the 2022 NSW Flood Inquiry, Council said it was time to rethink the way that disaster response and recovery was managed, and to improve coordination between State agencies. Council's submission was prepared to highlight the common issues raised by the community following two catastrophic flood events.
- Men's Health Week was held in June, with the theme, Building a Healthy Environment for men and boys. The Civic Hall was filled by Council staff listening to author and men's health advocate Tammy Farrell. Tammy spoke of the awareness around men's health issues, including physical and mental health, and also urged men to take action regarding any warning signs they may have.



GROWING OUR ECONOMY

EC1: DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Significantly grow the Richmond Valley's economy

- A Prime Angus bull fetched \$20,000 in highly competitive bidding during the Annual Casino All Breeds Bull and Female Sale at the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX).
- Thirty-four brand new homes are to be built in South Grafton and Casino for disadvantaged families thanks to a multi-million investment by the Nationals in NSW Government.
- The Richmond Valley local government area saw a steep rise in development approvals in the previous financial year, led by a home improvement boom, in what is a silver lining for the local economy despite the ongoing threat of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Richmond Valley has been identified by the NSW Government as a potential location to establish a new thermal waste-to-energy facility.
- The Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX) dollar turnover has demolished the all-time record, resulting in a significant contribution to the financial stability and recovery of the region.
- The second stage of Council's residential subdivision at Canning Drive in Casino has been completed.
- Casino was announced as a location for a nbn Business Fibre Zone, enabling more than 560 local businesses to access high-speed business-grade fibre at reduced wholesale prices.
- The \$15M investment in the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX) sees it continue to shine as a leader in livestock trading across NSW and Australia, passing a significant milestone. The revenue from sales for this financial year stood at \$210, 437,318, an almost

\$70M increase from \$143M in 2020/2021.

This result demonstrates the growth of the beef industry and this year demonstrated its capacity as a regional livestock exchange by providing vital support for many primary producers who suffered significant losses and destocking following the flood events.



Council is selling nine industrial-zoned lots at Reynolds Road, Casino.

The lots, which are contained in the Richmond Valley Regional Job Precinct, range in size from 5000m² to 5ha and were developed to attract employment-generating industries to the Richmond Valley. Improvement work throughout the precinct included road construction and the installation of water, sewer and power services. The Regional Job Precinct offers improved planning pathways, such as cutting red and green tape with a 30-day target for planning approvals. Council had been looking for opportunities to create more local jobs in the area and was prepared to pursue that objective through investment and development. The Reynolds Road project will give Council a strong competitive advantage for companies locating to the area, in particular manufacturing businesses. By providing the necessary lead-in infrastructure, Council can help support emerging industries, as well as local companies looking to expand. A lot of the valley's residents commute outside the area for work, which is why the development of industrial land is yet another important step in building a strong Richmond Valley for the future, where people can expect to find good jobs closer to where they live.

SOCIAL VALUE OF SALEYARDS



The Australian Livestock Markets Association (ALMA) recently released the results of a research project conducted into the Social Value of Saleyards (SVOS) for rural communities.

A range of participants from six different saleyards were interviewed as part of the project including producers, agents, saleyard staff and livestock carriers.

Some key points from the report include:

96% of respondents attend saleyards to not only buy and sell livestock, but also to come together for social interaction.

78% of participants identified finding connection and belonging to the saleyard community.

76% of participants identified networking as one of the main reasons they attend saleyards.

59% of participants experience social isolation when not able to attend saleyards.

The project report will be a valuable tool for the saleyard industry to help shape future policy and funding direction.

For more information please visit the ALMA website:

www.australiansaleyards.com.au



EC2: BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS

Maximise income for the community through our commercial activities

- The Reynolds Road industrial estate development will see at least six new industrial lots built to drive job opportunities and business growth in Casino.
- A \$2.4 million project in Callistemon Street in Casino will result in nine new affordable two-bedroom homes for disadvantaged families and essential workers. The project is already DA-approved, and construction may be completed in the 2022/2023 financial year. The project will help alleviate housing stress by providing a significant boost to housing options in Casino. The project is being funded by the NSW Government.

- The Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX) continues on its path to becoming one of the leading facilities not only in NSW, but across Australia, with the latest Meat & Livestock Australia saleyard survey moving the NRLX to the number two spot in NSW, with cattle throughput at 103,700. Dubbo held top spot with 115,836, followed by Wagga Wagga 113,401. As the current boom in cattle prices showed no signs of abating the NRLX is well-positioned as a modern, industry-leading facility which vendors and buyers can rely on.



LOOKING AFTER OUR ENVIRONMENT

EH1: **MANAGING OUR WASTE AND WATER**

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

- This year saw substantial investment in waste and resource recovery infrastructure, water and sewer infrastructure, and other essential assets:
 - Nammoona Waste and Recovery Centre construction of a new cell (stage one) - \$3 million and capping of four cells (stage one) - \$1.89 million;
 - Water infrastructure renewals - \$2.709 million;
 - Resource recovery infrastructure projects - \$846,000;
 - Sewerage infrastructure renewals - \$3.767 million; and
 - Stormwater asset renewals \$375,000.
- Two new bulk water filling stations in Casino and Woodburn are now operational.
- Casino is officially home to Australia's best tap water with Richmond Valley Council taking out top honours in the Ixom 2021 Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia competition. Representing NSW, Council beat out Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, West Australia and Tasmania and then went on to represent Australia at the annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting Competition held in West Virginia, USA. The annual competition was held virtually, with a judging panel assessing samples from six water treatment plants on colour, clarity, odour and mouthfeel.
- Council worked with local contractors to remove kerbside and roadside flood waste from properties across the Richmond Valley following the February/March 2022 flood event.



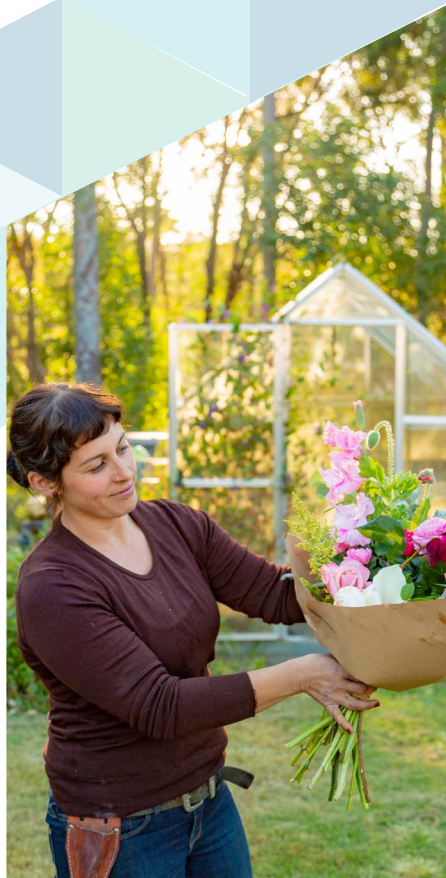
EH2: PROMOTING THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Protect and enhance the Richmond Valley's beautiful environment

- Native fruit trees were planted at the Junbung River Walk, on the banks of the Richmond River, behind Queen Elizabeth Park during NAIDOC Week. Thanks to successive tree plantings nearby by Council, this area of the riverbank is steadily improving.
- The Australian Government's \$280 million Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants program, supporting communities devastated by the 2019/2020 bushfires had up to \$4.5 million available for eligible projects in the Richmond Valley.
- Work on a new whole of catchment Richmond River Coastal Management Program (CMP) has started. The CMP will provide a long-term strategy and management actions for the Richmond River.
- The Bungawalbin Landscape Bushfire Recovery project has received \$102,208 from the Australian Government's National Bushfire Recovery Fund to improve 175ha of fire-impacted national parks and surrounding private land in a partnership with Bungawalbin Landcare, Bandjalang traditional owners, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, and the local community.
- Council is closing the loop, by purchasing 100% recycled paper. This is important as manufacturing recycled paper can use up to 90% less water and 50% less energy than making it from trees, it saves trees, can help save landfill space and reduces carbon emissions.
- Richmond Valley Council continues to work with local contractors to carry out bush regenerate works along the riverbank at Queen Elizabeth Park. These works form part of our successful flying fox grant, including weed control, sediment control and plantings of endemic species to enhance and stabilise the bank whilst also providing significant habitat.



- Council rangers maintained a daily presence at Evans Head over the holiday period. Their work included early morning illegal camping patrols and enforcing driving and dog regulations, particularly on Airforce Beach. They also spoke to more than 400 people about State Government regulations governing beach use rather than issuing fines and were able to provide directions and advice for holidaymakers. On Australia Day, working alongside local police and National Parks and Wildlife staff, the rangers conducted a high visibility operation on Airforce Beach. Focus was on beach users' safety and the protection of native wildlife.
- Richmond Valley Council and eight other councils across the New South Wales North Coast are considering a new processing facility to cut waste going to landfill. The councils are calling for expressions of interest from industry proponents to provide a regional response to the challenge of the volume of waste sent for landfill disposal, as well as enhance recovery rates and gain opportunities from recovered materials to end markets.
- In conjunction with North East Waste, the Wipe out Waste tent spread its message on Australia Day at Evans Head. There were plenty of discussions had with the public, including what people can take to the Community Recycling Centre for free disposal, signing up to Council's our food smart program and getting free produce bags, and lots of different ways to avoid single-use plastic.



MAKING COUNCIL GREAT

CS1: LEADING AND ADVOCATING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

A highly efficient and effective Council

- Council moved its planning process online through the NSW Planning Portal in July 2021 to help cut the delays and red tape which can, at times, frustrate homeowners, builders and developers. The benefits of this transformation will make development more accessible and streamline the lodgement process for applicants.
- Council led the way with career and training opportunities for students and job seekers with the Richmond Valley Jobs Fair and Careers Expo.
- The NSW Government is undertaking planning for a Richmond Valley Regional Job Precinct in Casino. The aim is to drive growth, create jobs and simplify development pathways in target industries such as food processing, manufacturing and value add to agriculture.
- Richmond Valley Council was named as a finalist in the 2021 NSW Tourism Awards. Council has been nominated in both the Visitor Information Services and Local Government Award for Tourism sections.
- Recognition was made to those who make the region a better place at the Richmond Valley Australia Day Awards, held on 26 January 2022. The six categories for the awards included Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year, Volunteer and Young Volunteer of the Year, and Sportsperson and Young Sportsperson of the Year.
- The YES Program has been an ongoing commitment from Council and like previous years Council were able to welcome our new trainees/apprentices to the workforce for 2022. There are two new trainees in Waste and Resource Recovery, a junior ranger and two apprentice mechanics.
- Council's successful Try-a-Trade program ran again for women looking to gain experience in non-traditional roles. This is a program Council have undertaken for many years, and this year ran with the assistance of the NSW Government's Investing in Women program. Participants received free training at TAFE, unit competencies towards a Certificate IV in Civic Construction, PPE and work-experience across a range of Council areas.



CS2: GREAT SUPPORT

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

- Laura Walker started her traineeship at the Nammoona Waste and Resource Recovery Facility in January 2020. One year on, Laura won the Trainee of the Year for the North Coast and Mid North Coast in the NSW Training Awards.
- The Richmond Valley Get Ready Day in September at the Casino Showground delivered advice on being prepared for storms, fire and flood. It included a fun family day out with key emergency services and experts to get you ready for the threat to your family or property if a natural disaster should strike.
- Council's trainee, Tiarn Stenner, is one of twenty young people from across the state to win a prestigious New South Wales Government Diploma of Event Management scholarship. Tiarn joined the team at Richmond Valley Council in 2020. The scholarship for the Diploma is run by peak industry body Meetings & Events Australia.



SPOTLIGHT ON ...

TRAINEE OF THE YEAR - SOPHIE-ROSE HASTIE



Sophie-Rose commenced with Richmond Valley Council in February 2021 as a part-time trainee under the YES program and was given the opportunity to work with Council's Library team. Sophie attends work

at the library one day per week, TAFE one day and school the remainder. She is due to complete her traineeship in December 2022.

Sophie's Careers Advisor suggested that a job in the library was made for her!

Sophie was excited to be given this opportunity to learn within a field that complements her interests, as she has a love of books and reading.

Key factors in Sophie's development include experience working with the community at the front desk and behind the scenes with library processes and structure. Sophie has been involved in a program run for seniors in the community in the IT field, helping them feel more confident navigating this challenging area.

"It's been an invaluable experience during the last two years of school".

Sophie-Rose Hastie

Sophie was awarded the 2022 Regional Winner of the North Coast and Mid North Coast School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year.

Sophie will graduate from school with a Certificate II in Business and is looking forward to a bright future.



Casino Library Coordinator, Ngarie Macqueen with Sophie-Rose Hastie



TRY-A-TRADE

Featuring Georgia who started at Richmond Valley Council through the Try-a-Trade program and is now Council's Apprentice Mechanic.

Have you ever thought about working at Council?
Would you like free training and experience?

If you've answered YES and you are a woman we invite you to:

TRY-A-TRADE!

Meet Georgia,
a participant of
Try-a-Trade and now an
Apprentice Mechanic in 2022!



Richmond Valley Council's first Try-a-Trade program commenced in 2018, and we are pleased to continue to offer this program in 2022.

The aim is to give women an opportunity to work in non-traditional trade roles. Participants receive:

- General Construction Induction (White Card)
- Unit competencies in Cert IV Civil Construction
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Work-Experience in Water Sewer, Roads, Open Spaces, Waste or Workshops and more!



Investing in Women

Apply at richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au
Applications Close 23 May 2022



Trade Pathways For Women
Funded By NSW Government
Facilitated by Richmond Valley Council



SECTION 2: FINANCIAL AND ASSET REPORTING



During 2021/2022 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 2021/2022 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 2021/2022 are available in the Financial Statements section of Council's website www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au.

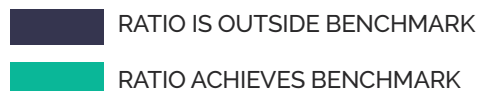
INCOME STATEMENT

	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET COST
Function/Activities	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Connecting People and Places	33,959	34,831	(872)
Growing our Economy	9,514	6,099	3,415
Looking after our Environment	33,214	34,937	(1,723)
Making Council Great	24,142	4,975	19,167
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	100,829	80,842	19,987

BALANCE SHEET

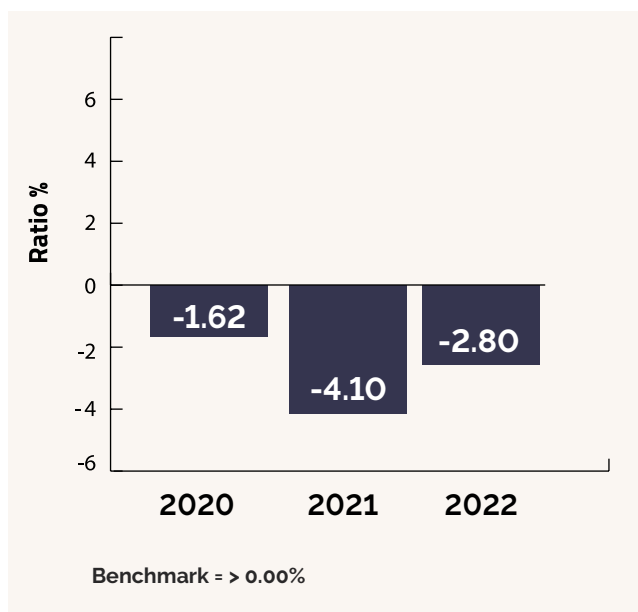
\$'000	ACTUAL 2022	ACTUAL 2021
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	49,572	26,669
Investments	22,330	30,357
Receivables	9,667	9,018
Inventories	4,907	2,722
Contract assets	2,647	3,316
Other	520	355
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	89,643	72,437
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investments	6,750	4,750
Receivables	2,458	1,375
Inventories	815	1,074
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	831,155	796,866
Right of use assets	1,099	814
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	842,277	804,879
TOTAL ASSETS	931,920	877,316

INDICATORS



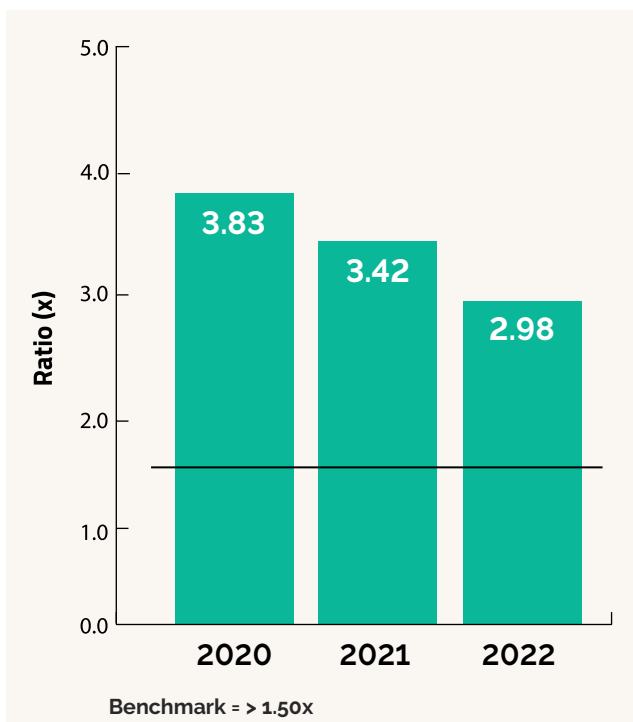
OPERATING PERFORMANCE RATIO

Council's operating performance ratio has improved slightly to -2.80% for 2021/2022. This ratio excludes capital grants and contributions which have increased from 2020/2021. This ratio has been impacted due to an increase in operating revenue with Council receiving insurance and natural disaster funding as a result of the major flood event in February 2022 as well as an additional advance payment of the financial assistance grant for 2022/2023 from the Federal Government..



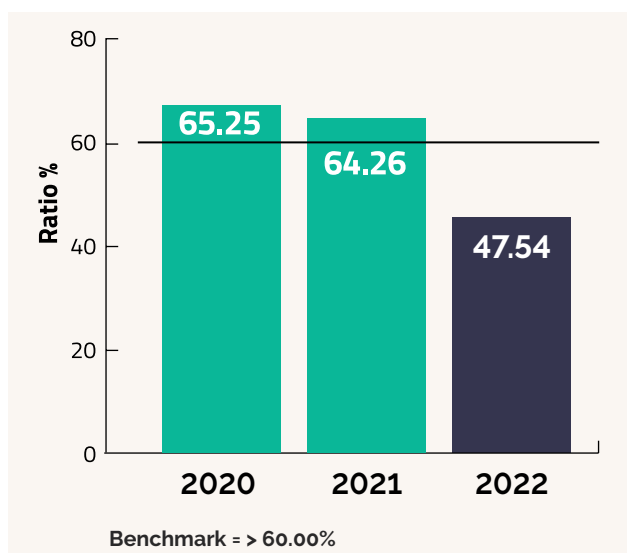
UNRESTRICTED CURRENT RATIO

Council's unrestricted current ratio has fallen slightly to 2.98, however it remains well above the benchmark of 1.50.



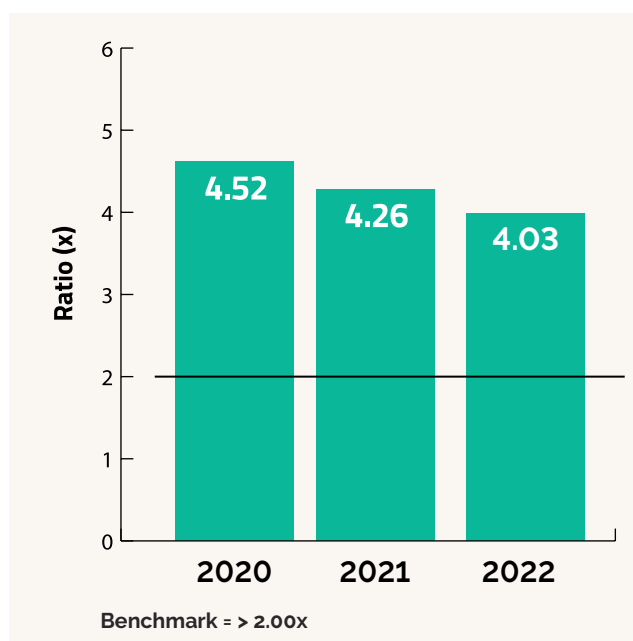
OWN SOURCE OPERATING REVENUE RATIO

Council's own source operating revenue ratio has fallen to 47.54%, below the benchmark of 60%. This is largely due to an increase in operating revenue as a result of Council receiving insurance and natural disaster funding as a result of the major flood event in February 2022.



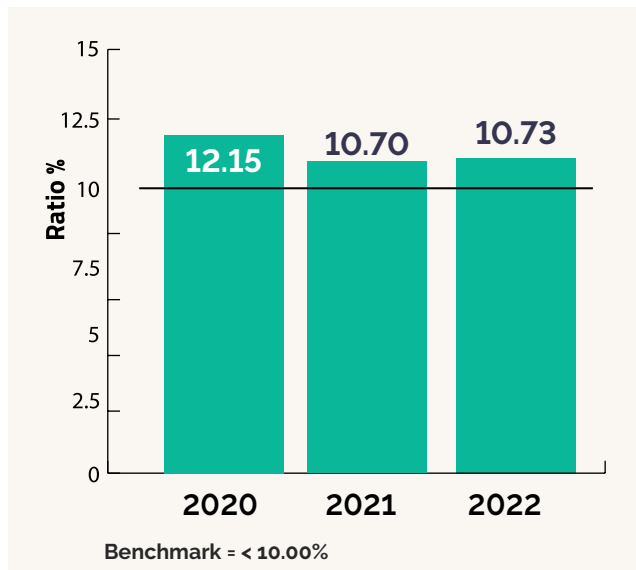
DEBT SERVICE COVER RATIO

Council's unrestricted current ratio has remained relatively consistent at 4.03 and remains well above benchmark of > 2.0. This is due to an improved operating result meaning there was more cash available to service the repayment of debt.



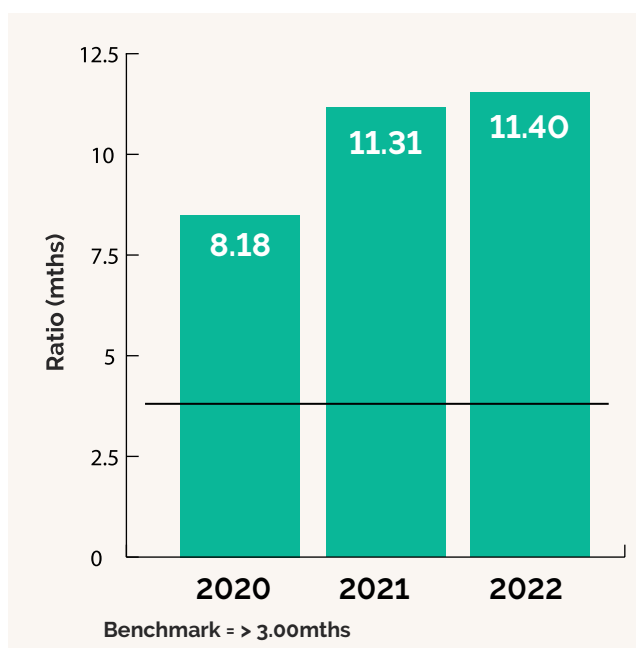
RATES AND ANNUAL CHARGES OUTSTANDING PERCENTAGE

Council's rates and annual charges outstanding percentage remains consistent with the previous year, increasing only slightly to 10.73%. On a consolidated basis however it has improved to 4.80% for general fund. The consolidated ratio is impacted by the fact that Council levies its water and sewerage annual charges in arrears. Council actively monitors and pursues outstanding balances through its debt recovery practices.



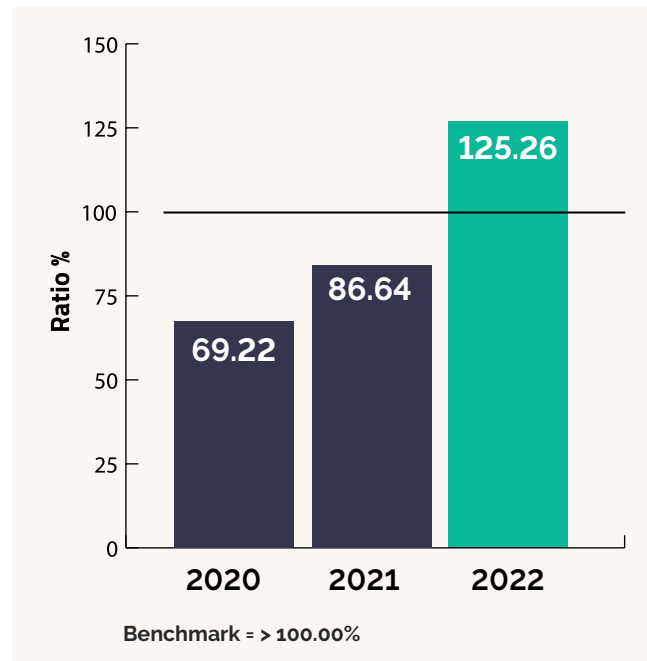
CASH EXPENSE COVER RATIO

Council's cash expense cover ratio remains consistent with the previous year, increasing slightly to 11.40. This is due to Council holding a high level of cash and cash equivalents. This ratio is well above the benchmark of > 3 months.



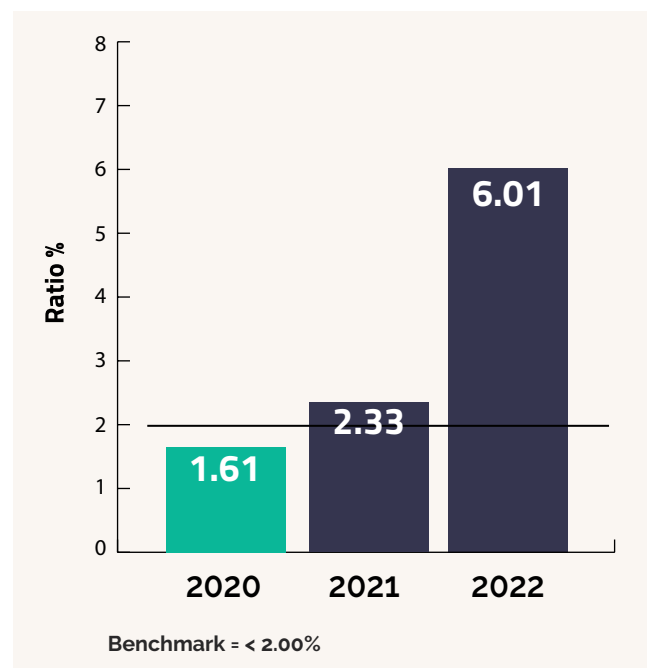
BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWALS RATIO

Council's buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio improved to 125.26% for 2021/2022 which is above the benchmark of 100%. Council has been successful in receiving a number of capital grants, resulting in much higher renewals for that year.



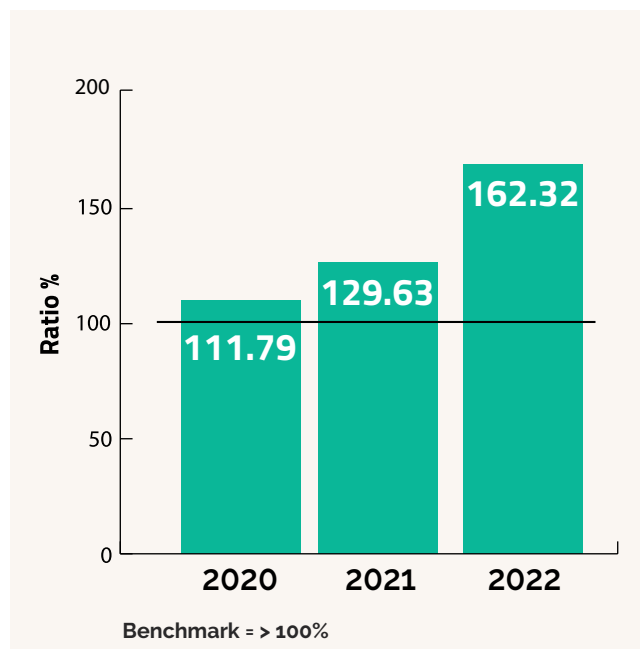
INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG RATIO

Council's infrastructure backlog ratio has increased to 6.01. This is mainly as a result of impaired infrastructure assets due to natural disaster events, with an estimate of over \$35mil in works being required to restore these assets.



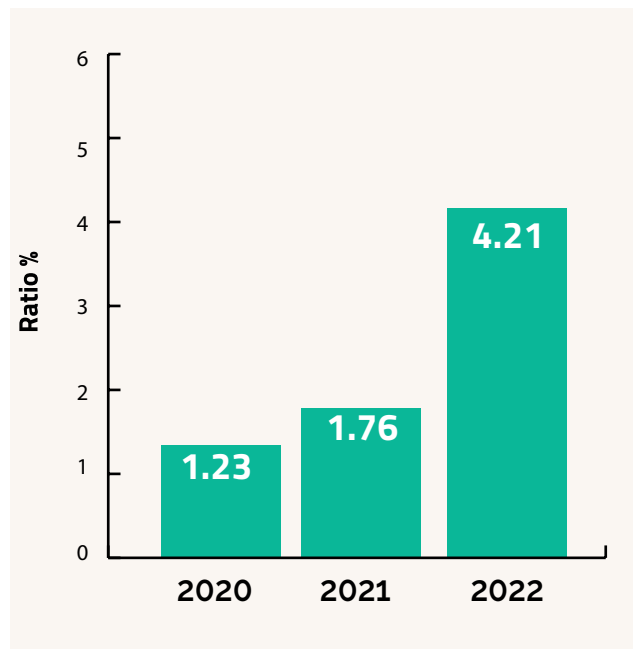
ASSET MAINTENANCE RATIO

Council's asset maintenance ratio has improved to 162.32 which is above the benchmark of 100%.

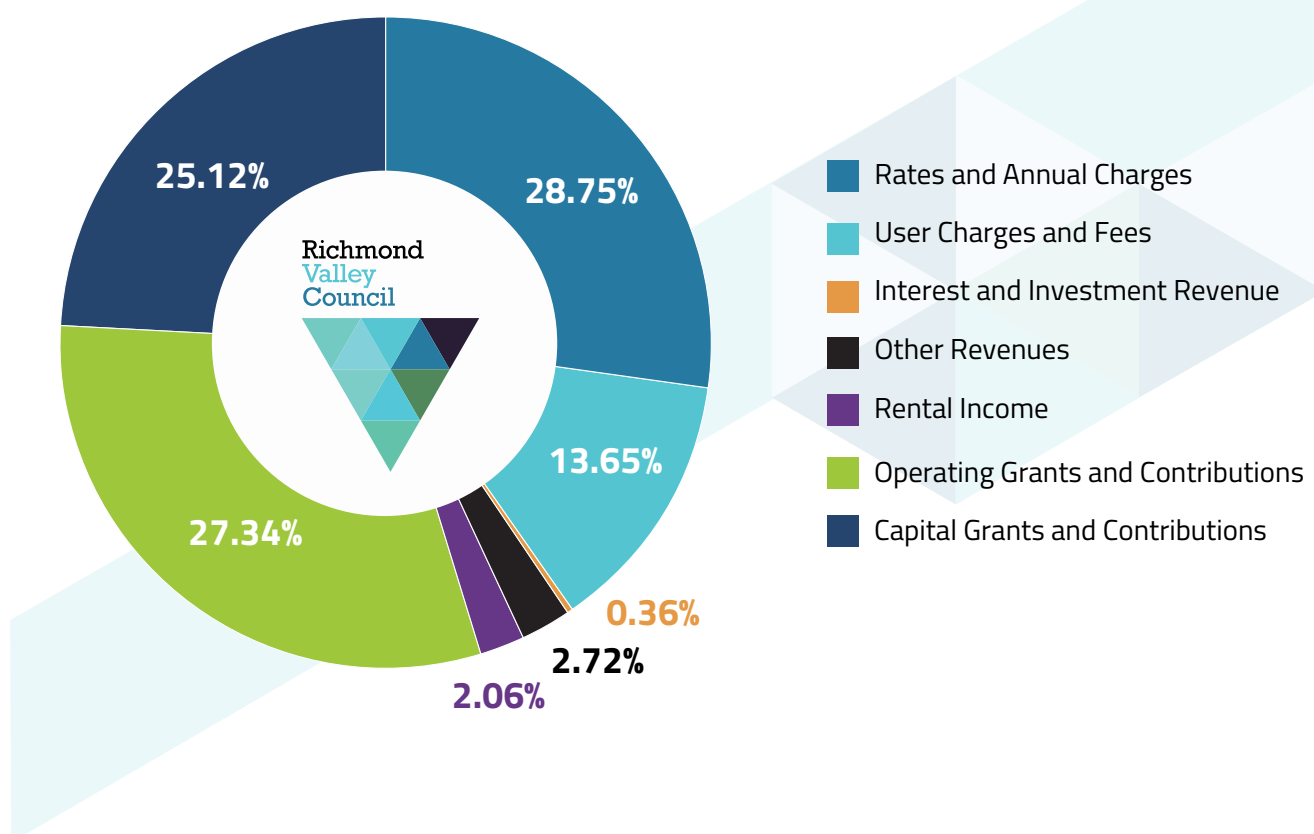


COST TO BRING ASSETS TO AGREED SERVICE LEVEL

Council's outstanding renewals ratio is 4.21%. This is mainly as a result of impaired infrastructure assets due to natural disaster events, with an estimate of over \$35mil in works being required to restore these assets.



SOURCE OF COUNCIL FUNDS



SECTION 3: STATUTORY REPORTING

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

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(a)

No overseas travel was undertaken by Councillors, Council staff or other persons representing Council during the 2021/2022 financial year.

COUNCILLOR FEES, EXPENSES & FACILITIES

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – 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 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.

COUNCILLOR FEES, EXPENSES AND FACILITIES 2021/2022

Expense Type	\$ (exc GST)
Mayoral Fee	45,140.00
Councillor Fees	138,226.40
Mayoral Expenses:	
Communication expenses	497.74
Conferences, seminars, training & civic function attendance	1,260.88
Interstate Travel	0.00
Intrastate Travel	0.00
Mayoral vehicle expenses	11,912.90
Other expenses	1,452.44
Councillor Expenses	
Communication expenses	2,796.66
Conferences, seminars, training & civic function attendance	5,086.12
Interstate Travel	2,109.74
Intrastate Travel	134.84
Other expenses	8,443.57
Total Expenses	217,061.29

CONTRACTS AWARDED BY COUNCIL



Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(a2)

During 2021/2022 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)
Somerville Excavator Hire	Flood Works Package 1 - Gores Road - Construct culvert and repair bridge	\$292,805.00
Eviron Group	Tree Maintenance and Roadside Vegetation Management Services	As per tendered rates
Lismore Tree Services Pty Ltd		
Richmond Valley Tree Services Pty Ltd		
Savco Vegetation Services		
Summit Open Space Services		
Treeserve Pty Ltd		
SG Fleet Australia Pty Limited	Wirtgen W200 Road Stabiliser Plant 405 Asset 2040502 (Lease)	\$727,400.88
Civilcs Pty Ltd	Reynolds Road - Sewer Pump Station and Rising Main Construction	\$1,748,541.49
Boyd's Bay Landscaping Pty Ltd	Casino Drill Hall Memorial Walk and Coronation Park	\$1,128,463.71
Boyd's Bay Landscaping Pty Ltd	Upgrades to Razorback Lookout Evans Head	\$227,654.57
AGS Commercial Pty Ltd	Detailed Design and Construct Upgrade of Casino Showground Precinct	\$6,407,539.87
Boral Resources	Supply and Delivery of Ready Mixed Concrete	As per tendered rates
Graham's Concrete & Quarry		
Holcim Australia Pty Ltd		
Origin Energy Australia	Electricity for Contestable Sites and Street Lighting	As per tendered rates
Willow and Sparrow Pty Ltd	Casino Sewer Pump Station 604 Renewal Works Response VPR431606	\$332,726.00
G.J Bennett & S.C Robertson	Construction of Rappville Hall	\$2,000,748.88
Quanta Lines Pty Ltd	Reynolds Road Industrial Subdivision Electrical Reticulation	\$311,016.20
S.R Davidson & T.A Davidson	Cemetery Maintenance and Operational Assistance	\$226,281.00
MCS Civil (NSW) Pty Ltd	Flood Works Package 4- Ainsworth Road Embankment and Culvert Works	\$867,014.82
MCS Civil (NSW) Pty Ltd	Design and Construct Bridge on Elliotts Road Myrtle Creek	\$432,166.43
Northern Rivers Concreting	Footpath restoration from NBN works	\$189,000.00
Thearle Electrical	Riley Hill Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade - Electrical Site Works	\$173,935.11
PT Automation Solutions Pty Ltd	Purchase of switchboards	\$328,268.88
Coote Burchills Engineering Pty Ltd	Northern Rivers Rail Trail Design	\$416,390.00
Safegroup Automation Pty Ltd	Programmable Logic Controller and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition upgrade at Casino Water Treatment Plant	\$171,450.40
JR Stephens & CO	Ongoing transport of collected food organics and garden organics for processing	\$195,000.00
Shayne Bakers Earthmoving	Northern Rivers Rail Trail easement clearing and slashing	\$218,716.40

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(a3)

During 2021/2022 Council was involved in a number of legal proceedings, a summary of which is shown below:

Matter	\$ Amount (Excl GST)
Planning & Development	
- Development assessment	26,633.10
- Development prosecutions	10,420.00
Debt Recovery	
- Rates, charges and other debtors	18,359.56
Infrastructure & Environment	
- Contract works	27,040.10
Corporate Services	
- Litigation	65,922.49
- Public Liability	4,320.00
- Other	10,005.72
TOTAL	162,700.97

Following is further information pertaining to some of the matters included in the table above.

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 2021/2022 of \$17,132.

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 defended a possessory title claim relating to a parcel of land within Council's local government area and was a respondent in an appeal of a

decision made in those proceedings, at a cost of \$41,786.17 in the 2021/2022 financial year. Judgment was handed down in Council's favour.

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 and was the respondent in an appeal of the decision made in Council's favour, at a cost of \$15,610.72 in the 2021/2022 financial year. Judgment was handed down in Council's favour.

3. Richmond Valley Council ats Wilson

Land and Environment Court Proceeding Number: 2021/00148190. This matter relates to an appeal concerning a development application. The applicant discontinued the appeal. The cost incurred by Council in the 2021/2022 financial year was \$19,185.50.

4. Richmond Valley Council ats Mead

District Court Proceeding Number: 2022/00125651. Council is the defendant in proceedings initiated in May 2022 pertaining to negligence / personal injury. The matter is ongoing, at a cost of \$14,838.15 in the 2021/2022 financial year.

5. Richmond Valley Council ats Richards

District Court Proceeding Number: 2022/00190655. Council is the defendant in proceedings initiated in June 2022 pertaining to negligence / personal injury. With the plaintiff's Statement of Claim lodged on 30 June 2022, costs pertaining the defence of this matter will be reported upon in the 2022/2023 financial year.

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 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(a4)

Council did not subsidise any private works during 2021/2022 in accordance with Section 67 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(a5)

During the year, Council resolved to make contributions/grants totalling \$75,902.41. These were allocated to the following organisations

Community Group	\$ amount (exc GST)
Broadwater Community Hall	\$907.00
Casino and District Historical Society	\$4,991.00
Casino Anglican Parish	\$4,500.00
Casino Community Men's Shed	\$4,798.80
Casino Sport and Recreation Association Inc.	\$1,395.20
Clovass McKees Hill Soldiers Memorial and Community Hall Inc.	\$2,500.00
Evans Head District Cricket Club	\$5,370.00
Evans River Rugby Union Club	\$3,000.00
Greenridge Memorial Hall and Social Activities Club Inc.	\$1,899.00
New Italy Museum Inc.	\$4,509.00
Scouts Australia NSW Branch 2nd Casino Scout Group	\$989.85
Woodburn Pony Club	\$4,988.00
Casino Art Group Inc.	\$2,050.00
Casino Community Gardens (Momentum Collective)	\$4,000.00
Casino Magpies Cricket Club Inc.	\$3,250.00
Coraki CWA Preschool	\$5,000.00
Northern NSW Helicopter Rescue Service Limited	\$3,000.00
Pacific Coast Railway Society Inc. trading as Casino Miniature Railway and Museum	\$3,754.56
Windara Communities Ltd	\$5,000.00
Woodburn Amateur Boxing Club	\$5,000.00
Woodburn Wolves	\$5,000.00
TOTAL	\$75,902.41

EXTERNAL BODIES EXERCISING FUNCTION DELEGATED BY COUNCIL

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Section 217 Clause 1 (a6)

Richmond Valley Council has not given any delegation to external organisations during 2021/2022.

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

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – 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 2021/2022.

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

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – 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 2022 was \$330,994.

View the [NEWLOG Annual Report](http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au).
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 2022 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](http://www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/annual-reports/).
www.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.
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.newwaste.org.au/).
<https://www.newwaste.org.au/>

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Clause 217 (1)(a9)

Council works with agility when it comes to diversity and inclusivity, we are proud of our continuous improvement approach to initiatives alongside our programs that have been labelled 'best practice' with the State Government actively promoting our success to other councils in the pursuit of our programs being rolled-out across the state.

The Youth Employment Strategy is one of the biggest, most acknowledged, and awarded employment programs, our statistics show that this program has increased the employment of women, Aboriginal men and women and those with disabilities.

We are very proud to support our diverse community and have a workforce that reflects best employment practices. In this last term Richmond Valley Council has proudly:

- ✓ Applied for and obtained multiple grants from the State Government to be more inclusive of women in the workplace resulting in greater employment, acknowledgement, and promotion of women in Council.

- ✓ Try-a-Trade continues each year, aimed at offering women opportunities in trades.
- ✓ Implemented multiple Try-a-Trade campaigns targeted at school students, single mothers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women resulting in full-time employment for women in the field with 25% of applicants identifying as Aboriginal women.
- ✓ Increased spotting and promotion of women by consciously focussing on untapped talent and potential resulting in an increase of over 10% of women in formal leadership roles and promotion into higher roles or new career paths.
- ✓ Increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment through the YES program with 68% of the Aboriginal workforce being Generation Z.
- ✓ Implementation of an Aboriginal Liaison Officer who mentors, supports and advises Aboriginal staff.



7.07%

of staff identify as an Aboriginal or
Torres Strait Islander Person



DISABILITY

Council acknowledges that not all people will declare they have a disability.

Council is acutely aware that not all disabilities are visible, and we continue to support our people according to their individual needs.

Mental Health diagnosis has been a core focus for the organisation and making accommodations in times of need that promote supporting individuals and equal employment opportunity, inclusion and understanding.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP



Executive team

40%

identify as women



Senior Leadership team

38%

identify as women



Leadership team

40%

identify as women

WOMEN THROUGH YES



22 YES participants now
full-time employees

27%

WOMEN



6 studying or studied
funded Bachelor's
Degree

67%

WOMEN



19 people currently
enrolled in YES Program

47%

WOMEN



GENERAL MANAGER AND SENIOR STAFF REMUNERATION



Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – 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 2021/2022 was \$360,289.22.

Component	\$
Salary	333,836.70
Bonus/Performance/Other payments	0.00
Superannuation	26,452.52
Non-cash benefits	0.00
Total Remuneration	360,289.22

In addition, fringe benefits tax payable by Council amounted to \$939.91.

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(c)

Council had one other senior staff position (as defined by the *Local Government Act 1993*) during 2021/2022. 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 2021/2022 was \$248,365.90.

Component	\$
Salary	226,126.19
Bonus/Performance/Other payments	0.00
Superannuation	22,239.71
Non-cash benefits	0.00
Total Remuneration	248,365.90

In addition, fringe benefits tax payable by Council amounted to \$6,083.92.



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICE CHARGE

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(e)

Contained in the Operational Plan applicable for 2021/2022 was provision for Council to undertake various urban stormwater drainage works and services estimated to cost \$374,985. These works included the following items:



Works	Cost Planned in Operational Plan
Casino	
Casino Drainage Improvements	\$10,000
Increase drainage points Hotham St	\$30,000
Coraki	
Replace concrete pipes Church Lane	\$10,000
Evans Head	
Illawong Lane Drainage improvements	\$324,985
Total	\$374,985

Actual Works	Actual Expenditure
Casino	
Casino Drainage Improvements	\$0
Increase drainage points Hotham St	\$0
Pipe Replacement Adam St Casino	\$6,684
Coraki	
Replace concrete pipes Church Lane	\$0
Evans Head	
Illawong Lane Drainage improvements	\$0
Total	\$6,684

Unspent funds of \$364,985 were transferred to the 2022/2023 Operational Plan as at 31 March 2022 due to flooding delaying works.



Roadworks on Hickey Street



Waste fleet

COMPANION ANIMALS

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – 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	16
Cats Euthanised	13
Dog Attacks	58

Note: In relation to the dogs impounded at Council's Animal Shelter 6% percent were euthanised. This figure was largely made up of dangerous dogs.

In relation to the cats impounded at Council's Animal Shelter 5% 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 the off-leash area at Airforce Beach 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.

Three 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.

Within the reporting period 1,203 dogs and 219 cats were microchipped within Council's LGA. Only 172 dogs and 49 cats were then registered.

The annual animal registration mailout was not completed, due to COVID-19 and natural disasters, however a mailout is scheduled in September 2022.

In 2021/2022 Council received 611 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/rescue 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 2021, Council reports that the following general rates and water/ sewer charges have been written off during 2021/2022:

Write off-type	\$
General Rates	2,738.33
Water/Sewer Rates	9,762.15
Total	12,500.48

SPECIAL VARIATIONS TO GENERAL INCOME

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

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



YEAR OF APPROVAL 2019/2020

Purpose	Council intends to use the proposed Special Variation funds to enhance its financial sustainability, maintain existing services, and maintain and renew infrastructure.	
Amount of approval as a % of income (inclusive of rate peg of 2.7%)		5.50%
Amount of approval in monetary terms (2021/2022)		\$1,188,738
Expenditure during 2021/2022	Funding existing service levels:	
	Maintain annual riverbank maintenance budget	\$50,000
	Maintain additional annual budget for road maintenance	\$50,000
	Maintain additional annual budget for maintenance of public toilets	\$15,000
	Funding of depreciation and improvements to Operating Performance Ratio	\$848,738
	Capital Renewals:	
	Maintain current annual renewal budget for community amenities	\$185,000
Total expenditure		\$1,148,738
Amount unexpended as at 30 June 2022		\$40,000

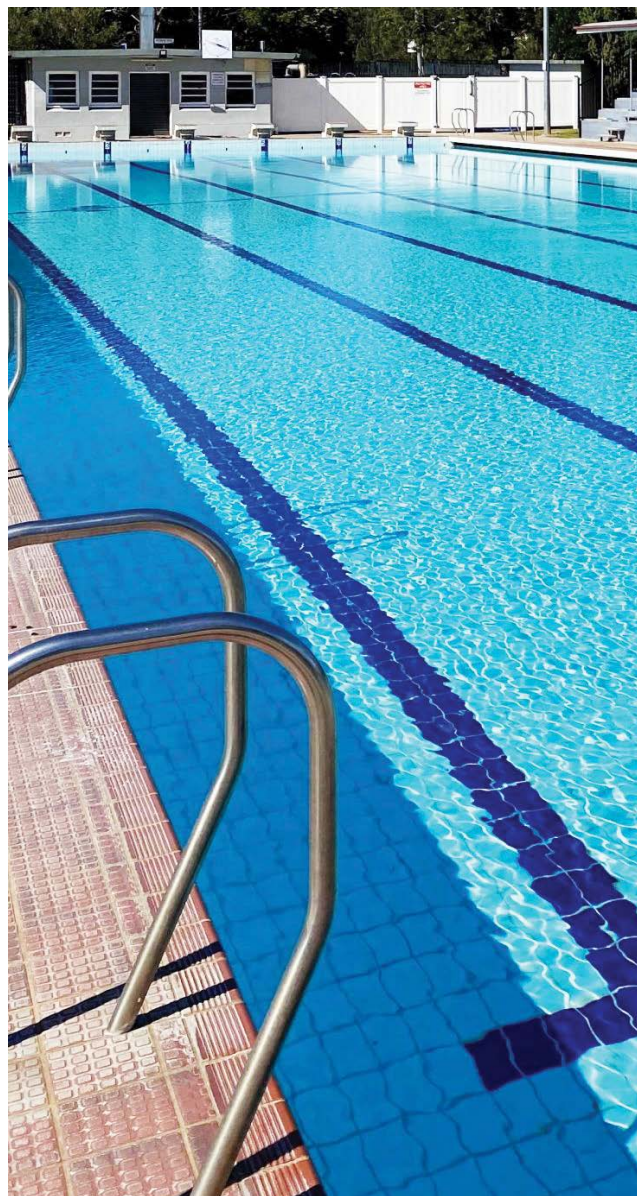
SWIMMING POOL INSPECTIONS

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

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

There are over 1,000 swimming pools in the Richmond Valley LGA. Council 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 2021/2022 the following were carried out as part of the program:



Category	Number of inspections
Number of inspections of tourist and visitor accommodation	4
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 <i>Swimming Pools Act 1992</i>	223
Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of non-compliance under Clause 21 of the <i>Swimming Pools Regulation 2018</i>	14
Total	243

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 maintains a dedicated budget for Councillor Induction and Professional Development.

Date	Description	Attendees
29 November 2021	LGNSW Annual Conference (via video link)	Cr Mustow
15 January 2022	Councillor Induction Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council Structure - Integrated Planning & Reporting - Code of Conduct [presented by Richmond Valley Council and Locale Consulting]	Cr Mustow Cr Morrissey Cr Cornish Cr Hayes Cr Humphrys Cr McGillan Cr Deegan
1 February 2022	Councillor Induction Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professional Development Program - Electoral Funding Obligations - Disclosure of Interest Obligations [presented by Richmond Valley Council]	Cr Mustow Cr Morrissey Cr Humphrys Cr Cornish Cr McGillan Cr Deegan Cr Hayes
1 February 2022	Essentials Online Cyber Security Training for Councillors [presented by Cyber Security NSW]	Cr Mustow Cr Morrissey Cr Humphrys Cr Cornish Cr McGillan Cr Deegan Cr Hayes
5 February 2022 – 30 April 2022	Hit the Ground Running Webinar Series [presented by Office of Local Government]	Cr Mustow Cr Morrissey Cr Humphrys Cr Cornish Cr McGillan Cr Deegan Cr Hayes
16 February 2022	LGNSW Mayoral Meeting – ALGA Federal Election Campaign	Cr Mustow
23 February 2022	Managing Social Media Risks [presented by Locale Consulting]	Cr Morrissey Cr Humphrys Cr Deegan
21 March 2022	Housing Forum [presented by Department of Planning & Environment]	Cr Mustow

ENVIRONMENTAL UPGRADE AGREEMENTS

Local Government Act 1993 – s 54P(1)

Council has not entered into any Environmental Upgrade Agreements in 2021/2022

PLANNING AGREEMENTS IN FORCE

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

The following are the particulars of compliance with and effect of planning agreements in force in 2021/2022:

Agreement ID: VPA2021/0001

Description: Planning Agreement to secure a minimum of six (6) biodiversity offset credits for native vegetation clearing associated with the future development of this land.

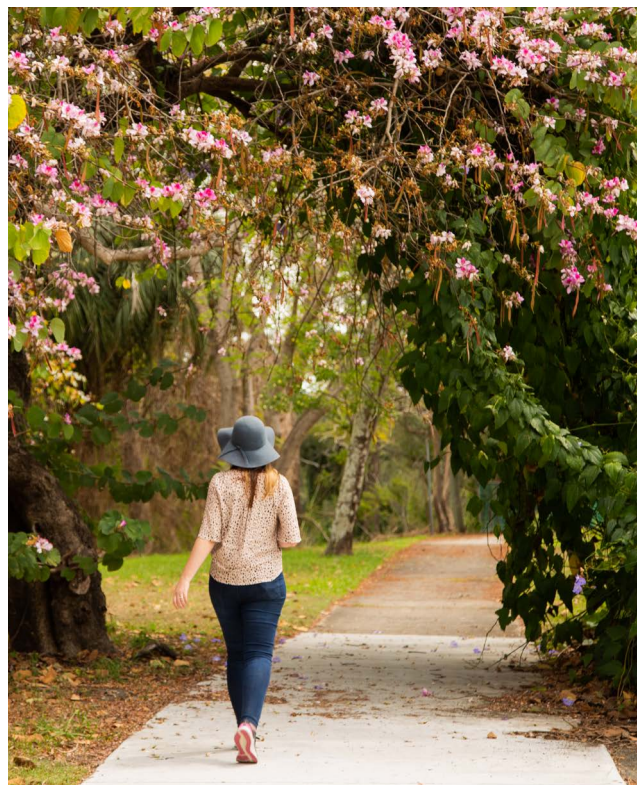
Parties: Richmond Valley Council; Peter Croke Holdings Pty Ltd; and Wombat Developments No. 1 Pty Ltd

Date of Agreement: 30 September 2020

Development: The Planning Agreement supported a Planning Proposal (PL2018/0001) for the rezoning of rural land to residential land which would enable it to be developed/subdivided into about 46 lots.

Land: Lots 86 & 87 DP755627, Corner of East, Lennox and Boundary Streets, Casino.

The agreement obligations were completed with the retirement of 6 Biodiversity Offset Credits (\$22,933.34) on 21/07/2021.



LABOUR STATISTICS

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – s 217

The total number of persons who performed paid work for Richmond Valley Council on Wednesday, 25 May 2022 was 274. This date was chosen by the Office of Local Government as the "relevant day" for councils to report their labour statistics in their annual reports.

- the number of persons directly employed by the council:
 - 221 on a permanent full-time basis
 - 22 on a permanent part-time basis
 - 18 on a casual basis
 - 14 under a fixed-term contract
- the number of persons employed by the council who are "senior staff" for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1993 is 2
- the number of persons engaged by the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, that is wholly or principally for the labour of the person is 8
- the number of persons supplied to the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, as an apprentice or trainee is 22.

DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

Richmond Valley Council has had a strong year of actions against the Disability Inclusion Action Plan Council's goals:

Focus Area 1

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

Focus Area 2

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

Focus Area 3

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

Focus Area 4

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

Highlights have included:

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



SECTION 4 – APPENDICES

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

Appendix 1: Delivery Program Progress Report Q4 to 30 June 2022

<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: 2021/2022 Government Information (Public Access) Act Annual Report

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

Appendix 4: 2021/2022 Public Interest Disclosure Annual Report

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

Appendix 5: 2021/2022 Richmond Upper Clarence Regional Library Annual Report

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

Appendix 6: End of Term Report 2016-2021

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

Appendix 7: State of the Environment Report

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

**RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT**

2021-2022