



# Richmond Valley Council

## AGENCY INFORMATION GUIDE

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009



*Love where we live and work*



**This document was affirmed by Council on 19 March 2024 [Resolution 190324/12].**

**Richmond Valley Council**

Locked Bag 10

CASINO NSW 2470

[council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)

[www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)

# Contents

<b>Overview</b>	4
<b>Structure and functions</b>	5
<b>Principles</b>	7
<b>Our vision for the future</b>	7
<b>Roles and functions</b>	8
<b>Functions of Council</b>	9
<b>Integrated Planning and Reporting</b>	12
<b>Public Participation</b>	13
<b>Council Committees</b>	14
<b>Information available from Council</b>	16
<b>Access to documents</b>	20

# 1. Overview

This Agency Information Guide has been prepared and published in accordance with the requirements of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*. It describes the structure and functions of Council, the various types of information Council holds and how the public can access the information.

Council is committed to the principles of open, accountable, fair and effective government and recognises the right of the public to access Council information. Council holds a wide range of information concerning both the Richmond Valley local government area and the operation of Council. Much of this information is available on Council's website.

This publication provides members of the public, community organisations, the media, government agencies and staff with information about:

- Council's vision, values, principles and our commitment to the community;
- The structure and functions of Council;
- The ways in which the functions of Council (in particular, the decision-making functions) affect members of public;
- The avenues available to the public to participate in the formulation of Council policies and the exercise of its functions;
- The kinds of information held by Council and in particular, the information Council makes publicly available;
- The manner in which Council makes information publicly available; and
- The kind of information that is free of charge and that for which a charge is imposed.

## 2. Structure and functions

Richmond Valley Council is a duly constituted body under the Australian *Constitution Act 1902*, *Local Government Act 1993* and associated legislation. This legislation provides the legal framework for an effective, efficient, environmentally responsible and open system of local government.

### Our Council Representatives

At the Richmond Valley Council Local Government Election held on 4 December 2021, the following seven Councillors were elected to represent the Richmond Valley for the council term which will conclude in September 2024.



L to R (back row): Cr Stephen Morrissey (Deputy Mayor), Cr Robert Hayes, Cr Patrick Deegan,  
Cr Sam Cornish

L to R (front row): Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Robert Mustow (Mayor), Cr Debra McGillan

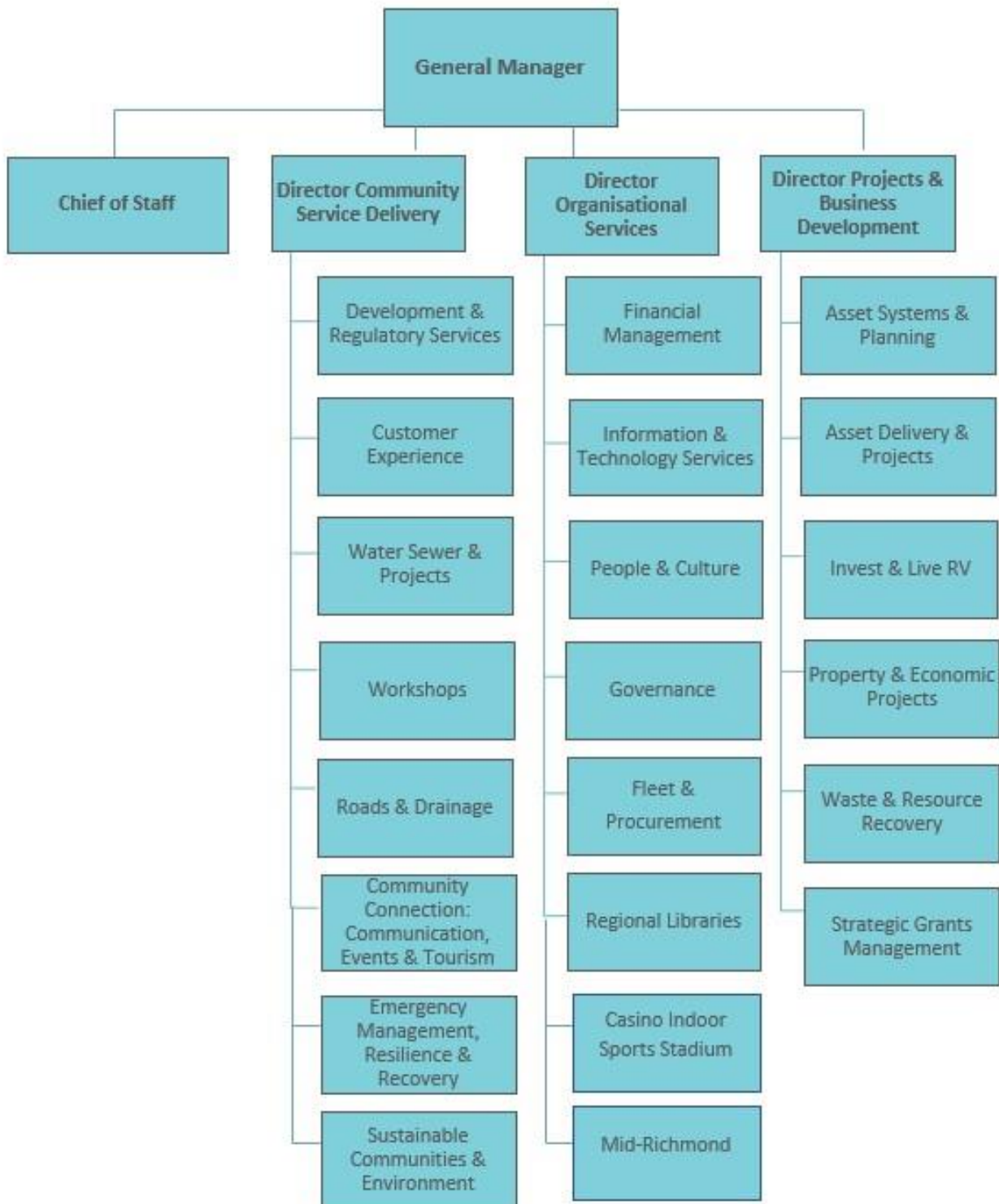
The elected Council is responsible for the direction and control of Council's affairs in accordance with the *Local Government Act* and associated legislation.

Councillors represent the interests of our residents and ratepayers. They provide leadership and guidance to the community; and facilitate communication between the community while maintaining the broader vision, needs and aspirations of the wider Richmond Valley.

## Our Council Structure

Council adopts an organisational structure that will support the General Manager in implementing the actions identified in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. The structure and functions of Council are determined by the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Chapter 6.

Council operates under the following structure:



## 3. Principles

The following guiding principles are to be utilised as part of the everyday decision-making processes, actions and management of Richmond Valley Council:

- Good governance - delivers good performance, minimises risks, ensures transparency and accountability and promotes efficiency and effectiveness.
- Representative democracy and community support - Council's direction and activities are to broadly reflect its community demographics and to have community support.
- Sound policy - clear direction via a policy and planning framework.
- Sufficient resources - human and financial resources to implement its decisions and to fulfil statutory obligations.
- Meaningful planning - a process to translate community needs and aspirations into Council services; to be meaningful, plans must result in actions and outcomes for the community.
- Connectedness - high level of connectivity across all of the community.
- Strong leadership - effective local government and outcomes can only be achieved via strong community leadership through councillors and staff.

## 4. Our vision for the future

### Our Vision and Values

Our community has agreed upon the values and principles to guide the future of the Richmond Valley.

As part of the consultation for development of the Community Strategic Plan, we asked people what they wanted the Richmond Valley to be like in the future and this is what the community identified as being important to them:

- Everyone in our community should feel safe, valued and respected;
- People should be proud of where they live;
- Everyone should be treated fairly and have the same opportunities in life;
- Everyone should have a home;
- People should be able to live here all their life – they shouldn't have to move away to get an education, find a home, or get a job; and
- All of us should leave this place better than we found it for the generations to come.

## 5. Roles and functions

### Mayor

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* section 226, the role of the mayor is to exercise the policy-making functions of the governing body of the council between meetings of the council (in cases of necessity), to exercise other functions of the council as the council determines, to preside at meetings of the council and to carry out the civic and ceremonial functions of the mayoral office.

### Councillors

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* section 232, the role of councillors includes:

- to provide a civic leadership role in guiding the development of the community strategic plan;
- monitor the implementation of the council's delivery program;
- to direct and control the affairs of the council;
- to participate in the optimum allocation of the council's resources for the benefit of the local government area;
- to play a role in the creation and review of council's policies and objectives relating to the exercise of council's regulatory functions; and
- to review the performance of the council and its delivery of its services.

### Executive Staff

The General Manager, and by delegation, the Executive staff, are responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the Council's organisation and for ensuring the implementation, without undue delay, of decisions of council. Richmond Valley Council's Executive staff include:

Vaughan Macdonald	General Manager
Angela Jones	Director Community Service Delivery
Ryan Gaiter	Director Organisational Services
Ben Zeller	Director Projects and Business Development
Jenna Hazelwood	Chief of Staff

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* section 335, the functions of the General Manager include:

- to assist the council in connection with the development and implementation of the community strategic plan, resourcing strategy, delivery program and operational plan, together with the preparation of its annual report and state of the environment report;
- the day-to-day management of the council;
- to exercise such functions as delegated by the council;
- to appoint staff in accordance with the organisational structure and resources approved by the council; and
- to implement the council's equal employment opportunity management plan.



## Functions of Council

*Local Government Act 1993* (Chapter 5) confers the following functions upon Council:

- Service functions (Chapter 6)
- Regulatory functions (Chapter 7)
- Ancillary functions (Chapter 8)
- Revenue functions (Chapter 15)
- Administrative functions (Chapters 11, 12 and 13), and
- Enforcement functions (Chapters 16 and 17).

Council's priorities and services provided are outlined below:

<b>Strengthening our role in the region</b>	
OBJECTIVE 1: REBUILD AND RECONNECT OUR COMMUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recovery</li> </ul>
OBJECTIVE 2: ESTABLISH THE RICHMOND VALLEY AS A REGIONAL GROWTH CENTRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Development</li> <li>• Real Estate Development</li> <li>• Strategic Planning</li> </ul>
OBJECTIVE 3: GROW AND DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• NRLX</li> </ul>
<b>Creating great places to live</b>	
OBJECTIVE 4: CELEBRATE OUR LOCAL IDENTITY AND LIFESTYLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Festivals &amp; Events</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Community Programs &amp; Grants</li> <li>• Sports Grounds, Parks &amp; Facilities</li> <li>• Community Centres &amp; Halls</li> <li>• Pools &amp; Cemeteries</li> </ul>
OBJECTIVE 5: LIVE SUSTAINABLY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning &amp; Development</li> <li>• Emergency Management</li> </ul>
OBJECTIVE 6: PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT MEETS COMMUNITY NEEDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads</li> <li>• Stormwater Management</li> <li>• Water &amp; Sewerage Services</li> <li>• Engineering Support &amp; Asset Management</li> </ul>
<b>Protecting our unique environment</b>	
OBJECTIVE 7: PRESERVE NATIVE BUSHLAND AND BIODIVERSITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Health</li> </ul>
OBJECTIVE 8: MAINTAIN HEALTHY RIVERS, BEACHES AND WATERWAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Management</li> </ul>

## Delivering for our community

OBJECTIVE 9: TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Management</li> </ul>
OBJECTIVE 10: LEAD AND ADVOCATE FOR OUR COMMUNITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance &amp; Advocacy</li> <li>• Community Connection</li> </ul>
OBJECTIVE 11: MANAGE RESOURCES RESPONSIBLY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Services</li> <li>• People &amp; Culture</li> <li>• Work Health &amp; Safety</li> <li>• Fleet Management</li> <li>• Quarries</li> <li>• Private Works</li> </ul>
OBJECTIVE 12: PROVIDE GREAT SERVICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customer Service</li> <li>• Information Technology Services</li> </ul>

In addition to the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council has a range of functions under other legislation, including but not limited to:

- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- *Boarding Houses Act 2012*
- *Building and Development Certifiers Act 2018*
- Building Code of Australia
- *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2013*
- Cemeteries and Crematoria Regulation 2022
- *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*
- *Children's Guardian Act 2019*
- *Civil Liability Act 2002*
- *Coastal Management Act 2016*
- *Community Land Development Act 2021*
- *Community Land Management Act 2021*
- *Companion Animals Act 1998*
- Companion Animals Regulation 2018
- *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*
- *Conveyancing Act 1919*
- *Crimes Act 1900*
- *Crown Land Management Act 2016*
- *Disability Inclusion Act 2014*
- *Dividing Fences Act 1991*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021
- *Fines Act 1996*
- *Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1957*
- *Food Act 2003*
- *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*
- *Graffiti Control Act 2008*
- *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*
- *Heritage Act 1977*
- *Land and Environment Court Act 1979*
- *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*
- *Library Act 1939*
- *Liquor Act 2007*
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- Local Government (State) Award 2020
- *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*
- *Native Title Act 1994 (NSW)*
- *Ombudsman Act 1974*
- *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2011*
- *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
- Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2022
- Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2017
- Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014
- *Public Health Act 2010*
- Public Health Regulation 2022
- *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022*
- *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021*
- Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Regulation 2022
- *Public Works and Procurement Act 1912*
- *Radiocommunications Act 1992 (Cth)*
- *Real Property Act 1900*
- *Recreation Vehicles Act 1983*
- *Roads Act 1993*
- *Road Transport Act 2013*
- Road Transport (General) Regulation 2021
- Roads Regulation 2018
- Road Rules 2014
- *State Records Act 1998*
- *Strata Schemes Development Act 2015*
- *Strata Schemes Management Act 2015*
- *Surveying and Spatial Information Act 2002*
- *Swimming Pools Act 1992*
- *Unclaimed Money Act 1995*
- *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001*
- *Water Management Act 2000*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- *Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998*

## 6. Integrated Planning and Reporting

Councils in NSW are required to develop an Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework under legislative requirements prescribed in the *Local Government Act 1993*, Chapter 3. This framework has been put in place to encourage councils, the community and other organisations to work together to plan for the future in an efficient and collaborative manner. The IPR has five main components:

- Community Strategic Plan
- Delivery Program and Operational Plan
- Resourcing Strategy incorporating Asset Management Plan
- Annual Report
- State of the Valley Report (formerly End of Term Report)

### Community Strategic Plan

Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 'Richmond Valley Made 2040' was adopted in June 2023. The CSP identifies the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and establishes broad strategies for achieving these goals. In order to plan and monitor these goals, Council has an established IPR framework consisting of a Resourcing Strategy, Delivery Program and Operational Plan. In order to facilitate community involvement in the ongoing planning processes, Council has adopted a Community Engagement Strategy.

### Delivery Program and Operational Plan

The Delivery Program is Council's commitment to its community over the length of Council's term and addresses the major areas council will focus on to address the strategies and actions that will be undertaken to address the program. The Operational Plan is a one-year plan that outlines the actions council will undertake in the financial year to implement the Delivery Program and allocates the resources necessary to achieve the actions over the twelve-month period.

### Resourcing Strategy

The Resourcing Strategy consists of the Long-Term Financial Plan, Organisational Development Plan and Asset Management Plans. They contain information on the time, money, assets and people required by council to progress the projects within the Delivery Program and move towards achieving our community outcomes.

### Annual Report

The Annual Report focuses on Council's implementation of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. The report includes information prescribed by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021. The Annual Report assists the community in understanding how council has performed over the financial year.

### State of the Valley

The State of the Valley reports on progress of implementation and the effectiveness of the Community Strategic Plan, (the State of our Valley (formerly referred to as the End of Term Report)) must be presented to and endorsed at the second meeting of a newly elected council.

## 7. Public Participation

Council encourages and provides community members with opportunities to supply input into decision-making processes and participate in the formulation of its policies in the following ways:

- Standing for election as a councillor - the next local government election is due in September 2024;
- Talking to your Councillors - for current contact information please refer to Council's website [www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au);
- Attendance at Council Meetings - Ordinary Meetings of Council are usually held on the third Tuesday of each month, commencing at 6pm in the Richmond Valley Council Chambers, corner of Walker Street and Graham Place, Casino;
- Viewing Business Papers for Council Meetings - these are published on Council's website as well as being available at Council's Casino and Evans Head offices;
- Addressing Council on an agenda item during the Public Access Session at the commencement of Ordinary Council Meetings;
- Writing to Council on any matter - all correspondence should be addressed to:  
General Manager  
Richmond Valley Council  
Locked Bag 10  
CASINO NSW 2470  
or emailed to [council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)  
If the matter is outside the policies or delegations on which staff or the General Manager can make a decision, the matter will be referred to the next appropriate Council Meeting.
- Submissions to Community Strategic Plans, Operational Plans, Delivery Program, codes and policies on exhibition;
- Submissions to advertised or notified Development or Subdivision Applications;
- Community surveys; and
- Community Advisory Committees and Section 355 Committees for some functions of Council.

## 8. Council Committees

### **Audit Risk and Improvement Committee**

Richmond Valley Council (Council) has established an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) in compliance with section 428A of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The objective of the ARIC is to provide independent assurance to the Council by monitoring, reviewing and providing advice about the Council governance processes, compliance, risk management and control frameworks, external accountability obligations and overall performance.

Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) comprises:

- One Independent Chair
- Two Independent members
- Council also have the option of appointing a non-voting council member.

### **Richmond Valley Council Local Traffic Committee**

The Richmond Valley Council Local Traffic Committee is a statutory committee with operating arrangements covered by the *Roads Act 1993* and the Roads and Traffic Authority Engineering Manual. The function of the committee is to advise Council on traffic related matters referred to it by Council. The committee acts as an advisory body only.

Memberships consists of one Councillor (Cr Robert Hayes), Director Community Service Delivery, one representative each from the NSW Police and Transport for NSW, and the Member for Clarence.

### **Section 355 Committees**

The function of the following Section 355 Committees is care, control and management of Council halls or sporting facilities:

- Broadwater Community Hall Committee
- Coraki Youth Hall Committee
- Evans Head Recreation Hall Committee
- Fairy Hill Hall Committee
- Rappville Hall Committee
- Rappville Sporting Facilities Committee
- Rileys Hill Community Centre Committee
- Stan Payne Memorial Oval Committee
- Woodburn Memorial Hall Committee
- Woodview Piora Hall Committee.

### **Staff Committees**

Internal committees include the Health and Safety Committee (promotion of the safety and welfare of workers) and the Consultative Committee (a forum of communication between the employer and its employees).

## Delegates to External Organisations and Committees

Organisation	Delegate/Member
Rous County Council	Cr Robert Mustow (Mayor) Cr Sandra Humphrys
Arts Northern Rivers	Cr Patrick Deegan Manager Community Connection
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board	Cr Robert Mustow (Mayor)
Evans Head and District Workspace Committee	Director Organisational Services (or nominee)
Local Government NSW (Annual Conference)	Mayor (or nominee)
Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils (NOROC)	Mayor General Manager
Northern Rivers Zone Liaison Committee	Cr Robert Mustow (Mayor) General Manager (or nominee)
Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO)	General Manager (or nominee) Director Community Service Delivery

## 9. Information available from Council

Council holds a wide range of information that is available for inspection at Council's Administration Office in Casino. This Agency Information Guide describes the information which members of the public can inspect for free. Reasonable photocopying charges will be charged in accordance with Council's Revenue Policy.

Information may be made available by mandatory open access proactive release, informal release and formal application. Access to information may be subject to an overriding public interest test against disclosure under certain circumstances in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

### Policy Documents

Policy documents are available for members of the public to access free of charge from Council's website: <https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/council/access-to-council-information/policy-documents/>

- Access to Council Records & Privacy Management Plan
- Adverse Event Plan (October 2021)
- Asbestos
- Asset Capitalisation
- Banking Services
- Bitumen Sealing adjacent to Residences on Unsealed Roads
- Business Ethics
- Cattle Grids – Public Gates and Bypasses Policy and Procedure
- Cemeteries and Burial
- Change of Name – Rates and Water/Sewer
- Child Safety and Wellbeing
- Code of Conduct – Councillors and Personnel
- Code of Meeting Practice
- Community Engagement
- Community Financial Assistance Program
- Complaints Management and Mandatory Reporting
- Concealed Water Leaks – Granting of Allowance and Application
- Conference Attendance
- Contributions for Kerb and Guttering and Footpath Paving
- Council Website
- Councillor Access to Information
- Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy
- Customer Service Charter & Standards
- Dealing with Difficult People
- Debt Recovery
- Development Principles and Development Assessment Panel (DAP)
- Discharge of Liquid Trade Waste to the Sewerage System
- Disclosure of Interest Returns
- Effluent Reuse (Evans Head)
- Election Candidate Signage Policy
- Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)
- Event Support
- Financial Assistance – On-Site Sewerage and Wastewater Management
- Financial Hardship and Application – Residential and Application – Commercial/Business
- Financial Hardship – Natural Disaster and Application
- Fraud and Corruption Control Plan
- Fraud Prevention
- Gathering Information for Legal and Insurance Matters



- Gifts and Benefits
- Heritage Incentives
- Installation of Street Lights and Street Lighting Fact Sheet
- Internal Reporting (Public Interest Disclosures)
- Investments
- Kerbside Dining
- Lease of Road Reserve
- Management of Contaminated Land
- Managing Conflicts of Interest for Council-related Development
- Managing Council's Community Facilities and Halls
- Media
- Modern Slavery Prevention Policy
- Naming of Public Parks, Reserves, Sporting Fields and Council Facilities
- Naming of Roads and Bridges
- Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors
- Permanent Road Closures
- Pressure Sewerage
- Private Works – Charges for Works Under Section 67, Local Government Act 1993
- Purchase Order – Standard Terms and Conditions
- Purchasing
- Recognition of Milestones
- Related Party Disclosure
- Risk Management
- Revenue Policy 2023-24
- Road Management
- Roadside and Reserve Memorials
- Section 355 Committees Policy and Manual
- Signature Event
- Signs as Remote Supervision
- Stormwater Management Charge Discount and Exemption
- Use of Council Aerodromes
- Volunteer
- Water and Sewerage Charges – Application of S552 of the Local Government Act
- Welcome to Country
- Write-Off of Debtors
- Write-Off of Rates and Charges

Members of the public wishing to obtain a copy will be charged reasonable photocopying charges in accordance with Council's Revenue Policy in force as at the date of the request.

## **Integrated Planning and Reporting**

- Annual Reports
- Community Strategic Plan
- Delivery Program and Operational Plan
- Asset Management Policy
- Asset Management Plans
- Asset Management Strategy
- Revenue Policy
- Resourcing Strategy
- State of the Valley (formerly End of Term Report)
- State of the Environment Report
- Annual Reports of bodies exercising delegated Council functions

## Council Meetings

Agendas, Minutes and Business Papers of Council Meetings (excluding items conducted under closed meeting conditions) are available on Council's website.

## Financial Information

- Quarterly Budget Review Statements
- Financial Statements
- Operational Plan including Financial Estimates
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Contracts Register
- Annual Financial Statements (including independent Auditor's Reports)
- Monthly Financial Analysis Report

## Registers

- Land Register
- Register of Investments
- Returns of the Interests of Councillors, Designated Persons and Delegates
- Disclosures of Political Donations (*Local Government Act 1993*, Section 328A)
- Delegations Register
- Councillor Voting on Planning Matters (*Local Government Act 1993*, Section 375A)
- Register of Graffiti Removal Work kept in accordance with the *Graffiti Control Act 2008*, section 13

## Planning documents

- Development Applications (within the meaning of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*) and associated documents
- Local policies adopted by the Council concerning approvals and orders
- Records of approvals granted, any variation from local policies with reasons for the variation, and decisions made on appeals concerning approvals
- Records of Building Information Certificates under *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*
- Plans of land proposed to be compulsorily acquired by the Council
- Leases and licences for use of public land classified as Community Land
- Plans of Management for Community Land
- Bushfire Prone Land Mapping
- Richmond Valley Local Environmental Plan 2012
- Richmond Valley Development Control Plan 2021
- Section 7.12 Contributions Plan
- Section 94/7.11 Contributions Plan (Heavy Haulage)
- Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy and Casino Place Plan
- Richmond Valley Heritage Study 2007
- Richmond Valley Flood Study
- Casino Stormwater Drainage Study

Members of the public who wish to be provided with a copy of any of the above information may be charged reasonable photocopying charges in accordance with the Council's Revenue Policy current as at the time of the request.

Many of the above documents may also be viewed on Council's website: [www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au).

## **Publications available for purchase**

The following publications are available as hardcopies for purchase from Council and will be charged in accordance with Council's Revenue Policy current at the time of the request:

- Richmond Valley LEP (Comprehensive LEP) #
- Richmond Valley LEP Maps – A3 print size #
- Richmond Valley LEP Maps – A1 print size #
- Richmond Valley Development Control Plan 2021 \*
- Section 7.12 Contributions Plan \*
- Section 94/7.11 Heavy Haulage Contributions Plan
- Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy and Casino Place Plan \*
- Richmond Valley Heritage Study 2007
- Thematic History of Richmond Valley Local Government Area, Brett J. Stubbs, published by Richmond Valley Council 2007
- Stormwater Asset Management Plan\*
- Bush Fire Prone Land Maps \*
- On-site Sewage Management Strategy (OSMS) \*
- Northern Rivers Local Government Development Design and Construction Manual
- Section 64 Water and Sewerage Development Servicing Plans

Note: Electronic copies of publications marked \* are available to download free of charge via Council's website [www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)

Note: Electronic copies of publications marked # are available to download free of charge via NSW legislation's website [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au) and NSW Planning Portal's website [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au)

## 10. Access to documents

Council is committed to the objectives of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* and will strive to achieve the development, maintenance and advancement of a system of responsible and representative democratic government that is open, accountable, fair and effective. The objective of this Act is to open government information to the public by:

- authorising and encouraging the proactive public release of government information by agencies,
- giving members of the public an enforceable right to access government information, and
- providing that access to government information is restricted only when there is an over-riding public interest against disclosure.

Council Policy No. 1.19 - Access to Council Records and Privacy Management Plan, guides the processing of requests/applications to access or amend information, in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, the *State Records Act 1998*, and the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*.

Members of the public can access Council information for free from Council's website [www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)

Members of the public will be able to make informal requests for access to information, and they may also make formal applications by completing the relevant application forms, describing the records or information which is the subject of their application, and the legislation under which they make the application, and they may be charged a fee in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Enquiries concerning inspecting or purchasing Council documents and records can be made to by visiting our friendly Customer Experience staff, contacting Council on 6660 0300 or email [council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au) Customer Experience staff will assist members of the public with enquiries and completion of applications for access to Council information.

Casino Office Opening Hours	Monday to Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm
Evans Head Opening Hours	Monday to Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm Saturday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Complex applications requiring further assistance will be referred to:

The Public Officer  
Richmond Valley Council  
Locked Bag 10  
CASINO NSW 2470

All applications for access to, or amendment of, Council's records must be made in writing to:

The General Manager  
Richmond Valley Council  
Locked Bag 10  
CASINO NSW 2470

This is the most recent Agency Information Guide published by Richmond Valley Council and was approved by the elected body on 19 March 2024. This document can be obtained from Council's website [www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au) or by contacting Council's Public Officer.

Further information is also available by contacting the Information and Privacy Commission NSW:

Phone: 1800 472 679  
Email: [ipcinfo@ipc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipcinfo@ipc.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.ipc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ipc.nsw.gov.au)