

Something to talk about.



August 2021/22 Budget Edition

General Manager's Message



As we move into the new financial year, it's an opportunity to reflect on our achievements of the last 12 months and to see what's in store for 2021/22.

We do this while recognising the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and that we are facing some of our toughest challenges as a community.

Collaborative projects like the reopening of the Council-owned Fletcher Street cottage for homelessness services and the Ending Rough Sleeping in Byron Shire project are just two examples of our commitment to do more for our community's most vulnerable.

Our aspiration for 2021/22 is to build on the momentum created over the last financial year when, with the support of the NSW and Australian Governments, we delivered our biggest program of infrastructure and road works to date including the Byron Bay bypass and the Byron Creek bridge at Bangalow.

Some of the projects earmarked for delivery this year include a major upgrade of Myocum Road and the Sandhills skatepark at Byron Bay. The Federal community will also finish its work on a masterplan for the village and we will continue to roll out projects identified in the Bangalow, Mullumbimby and Byron Bay town centre masterplans, as well as the Byron Bay Arts and Industry Precinct Plan.

Mark Arnold

General Manager
Byron Shire Council

\$147.5 million budget



\$63.5 million

For major works and construction, maintaining roads, bridges, footpaths and drains



\$26 million

For maintaining water and sewerage operations



\$14.9 million

For recycling and waste services



\$9 million

For parks, sports fields, beaches and bush regeneration



\$7.2 million

For community services, libraries and child care services



\$3.2 million

For enforcement and environmental health



\$8.6 million

For the natural environment, planning and development



\$1 million

For governance and administration



\$13.1 million

For buildings and pools



\$1 million

For emergency services

WHERE DO YOUR RATES GO? FOR EVERY \$100 SPENT, WE INVEST...



Rates due? Need some help?

If you are worried about paying your rates, please get in touch with our Rates team and talk to them about a payment plan. You can reach them at rates@byron.nsw.gov.au.

Did you know that signing up to receive your rates and water notices electronically gives you access to your transaction history? This can be helpful at tax time, for budgeting and keeping track of your transactions – and it's better for the environment too.

Sign up today to receive all future water and rates notices electronically and stop paper copies at: www.byron.enotices.com.au. You'll need your unique reference number - found at the bottom left-hand corner of your rates or water notice.

Special Rate Variation comes to an end

The 2020/21 financial year was the final year of the Special Rate Variation (SRV) with \$4.7 million allocated on renewing and maintaining infrastructure around the Shire.

Over the four years of the Special Rate Variation, \$11.7 million was

raised and spent on hundreds of projects including road improvements, playgrounds, public toilets, drainage and upgrades to some of our halls. The cumulative \$11.7million raised through the Special Rate Variation will remain as a permanent addition to Council's rating income.

Our Byron Our Future Community Strategic Plan

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is one of Council's most important documents. It sets out the community's vision and aspirations for the Byron Shire for the next 10 years and the strategies in the CSP will be used to guide Council's other plans and strategies.

Over coming months, we'll be inviting everyone to provide input into this 10 year plan.

We want to know what issues are important to you, what you love about the Shire and what you think can be improved.

So...if you see us out and about at markets and in the streets please stop, say 'hi' and have your say on this important document for our future.

We'd love to have your input.



BE COVID SAFE

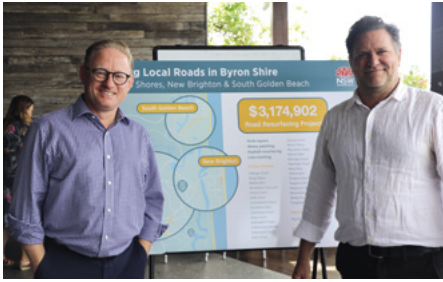
Available on the **App Store**

GET IT ON **Google Play**

health.gov.au



Road upgrade blitz for Ocean Shores



Ocean Shores residents can expect to see a major upgrade to their roads in the next six months with more than \$3 million earmarked for kerb repairs, heavy patching, resurfacing and line-marking.

The project will target 29 roads and is funded by a much-appreciated grant from the NSW Government's Fixing Local Roads program.

We're hoping to have the work finished by the end of this year if the weather plays its part.

See the full list of roads being renewed on our website.

Byron skatepark dreams set to become a reality



The final concept plans have been completed and construction of the \$2.6 million Byron Bay skatepark is expected to be delivered this financial year.

It will be built on a site referred to locally as Sandhills, which is in the centre of Byron Bay between the Library, Youth Activity Centre and Sandhills Childcare Centre.

The skatepark has been designed by CONVIC, regarded as one of the world's best skatepark designers.

One of the key aims of this project is to allow the community to reclaim a space that has felt unsafe and

unwelcoming for many years.

The new skatepark is being funded by the \$2.05 million from the NSW Government's Roads and Infrastructure Election Commitment and \$600,000 from Byron Shire Council.

Mullumbimby's Green Spine project

With a fresh new surface laid on parts of Stuart Street in Mullumbimby, we are getting ready for the next stage of the Green Spine project.

The aim is to create a zone that is more pedestrian and cycle-friendly, with improved parking, landscaping and garden beds.

What's happening in Bangalow?



The action in Bangalow is all around shared paths with the Deacon Street shared path just about finished.

We are putting the finishing touches on the detailed design of the Byron Street shared path and are looking for grants to fund the construction of this project.

And...we are also looking into building a shared path from Rifle Range Road to the showgrounds.

New Byron Rail precinct coming soon

The restoration of the rail corridor in the centre of Byron Bay is almost done!

We are opening up the run-down and unused rail corridor between Lawson Street and the new bus interchange, building a boardwalk, pathways and grassed and open areas to sit and relax.

The rail corridor restoration project is a critical piece of the puzzle in upgrading the entire rail precinct to improve circulation to, from and through the town centre.

The rail tracks will remain in place and we have focused on highlighting the heritage features of the area and celebrating the rail history of the town.

Three new bridges and one causeway on the way



We are replacing three bridges and one causeway as part of the NSW Government's Fixing Country Bridges Program and the Federal Government's Bridges Renewal Program.

Upper Main Arm Bridge at Upper Main Arm, Sherrington's Bridge at The Pocket and Englishes Bridge at Upper Coopers Creek are timber bridges that are in poor condition and \$1.57 million from the Fixing Country Bridges Program will allow for the replacement of all three.

A \$400,000 grant from Round Five of the Australian Government's Bridges Renewal Program will allow Council to replace the Main Arm #2 causeway with a new bridge or box culvert.

The project, which is jointly funded by Council, will include raising the level of the creek crossing and approaches to reduce the impact of flooding and improve safety for road users.

All four projects are expected to be constructed in 2021/2022.

For the latest news and information about projects go to:
www.byron.nsw.gov.au/news



Roads and Infrastructure

COMPLETED IN 2020/21

- Byron Bay bypass - **\$25.75 million**
- Brunswick Heads South Arm Bridge upgrade - **\$1.7 million**
- Byron Creek Bridge replacement - **\$2.3 million**
- Balemo Drive shared path (stage 2) - **\$910,000**
- Repentance Creek causeway replacement - **\$600,000**
- Main Arm causeways 7, 12, 14 replacement - **\$900,000**
- Skidders Shoot Road safety upgrade - **\$510,000**
- Seven Mile Beach road upgrade - **\$350,000**
- Bangalow Road reconstruction (Byron Creek to Tinderbox Road) - **\$1 million**

UNDERWAY

- Bangalow Road Safer Roads Program - **\$2.4 million**
- Deacon Street shared path - **\$325,000**
- Stuart Street Green Spine - **\$1.2 million**
- Fern Street pavement renewal - **\$350,000**
- Coolamon Scenic Drive Safer Roads Program - **\$2.4 million**
- Byron Bay to Suffolk Park cycleway (final stage) - **\$1.57 million**

COMING UP IN 2021/22

- Myocum Road upgrade and safety improvements - **\$6.8 million**
- Byron Bay skatepark and recreation precinct - **\$2.65 million**
- Rifle Range Road - **\$1.2 million**
- Englisses Bridge replacement - **\$670,000**
- Sherringtons's Bridge replacement - **\$502,000**
- Upper Main Arm Bridge replacement - **\$396,000**
- Ocean Shores roads resurfacing - **\$3.2 million**
- Lighthouse Road stormwater - **\$1.4 million**
- Bus stop upgrade program - **\$500,000**
- Kingsley Lane stormwater - **\$150,000**
- Broken Head Road traffic calming/control - **\$265,000**
- Seven Mile Beach Road traffic calming/control - **\$120,000**
- Grays Lane upgrade - **\$830,000**
- Main Arm Road upgrade - **\$5 million**
- Main Arm Road causeway 2 replacement - **\$800,000**
- Bayshore Drive road renewal and shared path - **\$1.7 million**
- Carlisle Street road renewal - **\$600,000**
- Tennyson Street reconstruction and shared path - **\$1.7 million**
- Minyon Falls Road upgrade - **\$430,000**

Byron Bay Bypass eases traffic congestion



The Byron Bay bypass officially opened in February 2021 with a parade of combi vans leading the way.

The \$25.75 million project was funded by the NSW Government (\$20 million) and Byron Shire Council (\$5.75 million).

Read more at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/byronbypass.

Timber restoration of Brunswick Heads Bridge a great success



Locals are loving the \$1.5 million refurbishment of South Arm Bridge at Brunswick Heads.

The project involved extensive work on the foundations of the old bridge as well as the renewal of the timber deck.

It's the ultimate recycling story with the timber used on the South Arm Bridge salvaged from old bridges at Bangalow that were replaced several years ago.



Community Projects & Services

Homelessness service hub reopening in Byron Bay



Council's Fletcher Street cottage, in the middle of Byron Bay, will be reopened as a service hub to help increasing numbers of local people at risk of becoming homeless, as well as people already sleeping rough.

It's a collaboration between Council, the Byron Community Centre and Creative Capital – which is helping to fund the venture.

Youth Say



Seven students from Mullumbimby High School took part in our Youth Say program held in May.

It's the second time we have held the program which aims to capture the views and concerns of some of our young residents.

Some of the issues we explored were illegal camping, litter reduction and public transport.

The teenagers also spoke at a Council meeting, telling Councillors what was important to them.

The program is open to all high schools in the Byron Shire. Call Heather on 6626 7171 for more information.

Toilet bonanza



We've built two new public toilets at Gaggin Park at Suffolk Park.

The toilets are close to the playground which makes it much easier for people who have small children.

We will also be installing new toilets at Clarkes Beach and Denning Park in 2021/22.

Ocean Shores Community Centre re-opened

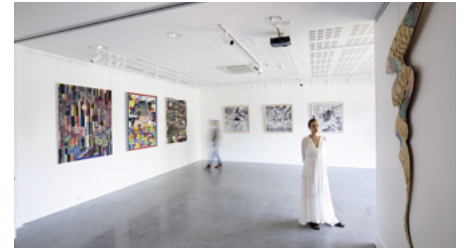


The Ocean Shores Community Centre has had a major facelift with a \$540,000 upgrade completed earlier this year.

Improvements to the centre include significant upgrades and redesign of hire spaces, meeting and office rooms, a new entrance onto Rajah Road, more storage, a cover on the deck, a new roof and painting of the exterior of the building.

Go to Council's website for more information on how to hire a room.

Visit the refurbished Byron Bay Lone Goat Gallery



The Byron Shire's only community art gallery, the Lone Goat Gallery, has been refurbished and is open again.

The \$106,946 refurbishment was made possible by a grant from the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF) which allowed for new lighting, a hanging system, furniture, a digital information system, storage space, painting of the interior and exterior and a new polished concrete floor.

Marking the re-opening of the gallery is a new exhibition, Place, by Charmaine Davis, a Goori Woman who is descended from the Gumbaynggir and Bundjalung Nations.

Caring for kids

We operate long day care at Sandhills Early Childhood Centre in the heart of Byron Bay, offering warm, nurturing and child-led early years education for children up to five years.

We also coordinate after school and vacation care at Brunswick Heads, Byron Bay and Mullumbimby public schools.

Go to our website for more information about long day care, after school care and vacation care.

Support our Libraries!

Did you know that we have three beautiful libraries in the Byron Shire in Byron Bay, Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads.



We are part of the Richmond Tweed Regional Library which also includes Ballina, Tweed and Lismore. Being part of a large library network means you can take advantage of a wider world of books and services on offer.

Reserve books online or download your next read on BorrowBox. Find out about more at www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au



What is an ICOLL?



Belongil Creek and Tallow Creek are ICOLLs – intermittently closed and open lagoon systems.

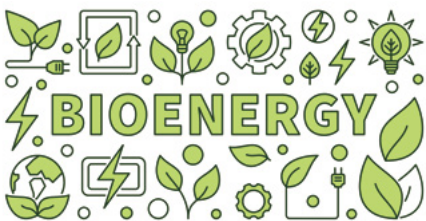
Depending on the build-up of sand at the entrances to the creeks, they either flow into the ocean, or the sandbar forms a dam wall.

ICOLLs are sensitive and complex ecosystems and because of the risk of fish kills we cannot simply open up the creek mouth to release water.

There are strict laws surrounding the opening of ICOLLs and the Department of Primary Industries and Environment (DPIE), Marine Parks Authority and the National Parks and Wildlife Service are involved in any decisions to artificially open the sandbar.

For more information on ICOLLs go to our website.

Bioenergy – a local organics solution



Council is planning a bioenergy facility at the Byron Sewage Treatment plant. It will process the Shire’s organic food and garden waste and convert it into renewable energy and a compost product. The community will soon be invited to provide feedback during the public exhibition of the development application for the project.

Free help and advice for rural land owners



Our Agricultural Extension Officer Andrew Cameron is looking to connect with farmers and landholders, in a bid to revitalise and support the primary production sector in Byron Shire.

“I am offering free one-on-one consultations with local farmers and landowners, to talk about range of support services, solutions, networking and funding opportunities,” Mr Cameron said.

For enquiries or to book a free on-farm consultation call Andrew on 02 6626 7223 or email ancameron@byron.nsw.gov.au



Planning News

Development applications

In 2020/2021 Byron Shire Council received 731 development applications, with a total value of \$282,289,997. That’s down from the previous year’s figure of \$340 million.

Our Mullumbimby Masterplan

The Green Spine project continues to roll out stage 1 improvements on Stuart Street (from Burringbar to Fern Street) and the Talking Streets trial continues until the end of December on Burringbar Street with its parklet trial, pedestrian crossing and traffic calming measures.

Federal Village Masterplan



It has been full steam ahead for the Federal Village Masterplan over the last six months as we pilot a community-led process alongside a dedicated team of Federal community members. After community consultation in June 2021, the Federal Village Masterplanning group is hard at work creating a Place Plan to go on public exhibition later this year.

Byron Arts and Industry Estate

We have started a one-way traffic trial on Centennial Circuit.

The trial is being delivered as part of the Byron Arts and Industry Estate Precinct Plan.

The trial started on 22 May and goes until November 2021.

The Place Planning Collective

This group is responsible for offering advice and help in the implementation of key projects from each town’s adopted place plan. The Place Planning Collective consists of 19 community volunteers.





Waste Reduction

Taking up the challenge of reducing litter.

In 2020/21 we reduced litter by 33 percent. Well done Byron Shire.



- ✓ We picked up more than 10,000 pieces of litter for Butt Free Byron Shire.
- ✓ Put in place more than 25 adhesive ground stickers with anti-littering messages.
- ✓ Launched an educational video for tourism businesses targeting the impact of litter on the environment.
- ✓ Launched the Byron Loves BYO campaign to reduce single use take-away items.
- ✓ Undertook four litter enforcement blitzes.
- ✓ Diverted 26 tonnes of batteries and 54 tonnes of E waste from landfill.
- ✓ Installed No Smoking signs at Clarkes Beach, The Wreck and Belongil Beach.
- ✓ Transformed 3,226 tonnes of garden waste into 2,422 tonnes of garden compost.

Council staff pick up 1,460 pieces of litter in 45 mins



Twenty-nine staff from Byron Shire Council picked up more than 1,460 pieces of litter weighing 55 kilograms in a 45-minute trawl through Mullumbimby's CBD in May.

Council's Waste team coordinated the event as a quick, easy and effective way of getting some litter off the streets of Mullumbimby before it ended up in the Brunswick River.

The ultimate winner at the end of the day was the environment because the litter we picked up will not go into the river and flow into the ocean where it can harm marine life, nor will it be able to be picked up by birds.

A breakdown of the litter included:

- 1,021 plastic items (including 586 cigarette butts)
- 213 paper/ cardboard items
- 95 metal items

Introducing our WOW warriors



Meet our war on waste warriors, Zoe and Sarah, from our Resource Recovery team.

They work with schools, community groups and businesses with the aim of reducing waste and litter in our Shire. They run events, presentations and develop campaigns with a focus on reducing, reusing and refusing.

If you see them out and about at the markets, on the beach or in the street say hi and remember to do your bit by Taking 3 for Byron and picking up at least three pieces of litter when you leave your local beach, park, waterway or anywhere!

Do you know...

2.7 million single-use or disposable coffee cups go to landfill in Australia each day?



Unfortunately, 'compostable' and 'biodegradable' coffee cups are often not what they seem and are contaminating whole streams of our green bin waste in the Byron Shire.

There is no regulation around the labelling on takeaway coffee cups and many items are not certified to Australian standards.

What can you do?

1. All takeaway coffee cups need to go in the red bin.

2. Never buy your coffee in a single-use takeaway cup again - simply bring your own cup!

3. Ask your favourite cafes and restaurants to join Council's new Byron loves BYO campaign which is supporting a range of swap-and-go programs across the Byron Shire.

Businesses can get involved by contacting schild@byron.nsw.gov.au.

WHAT SHOULD GO DOWN THE LOO?

ONLY FLUSH THE 3 Ps



PEE

POO

PAPER

DO NOT FLUSH



WIPES
even flushable

NAPPIS

BANDAIDS

Keep wipes out of our pipes - the sewer is great for Threes Ps only! Pee, poo and paper. Let's keep our sewer system flowing by keeping it simple.

Smart water meters on trial

Council's 12-month trial of smart water meters is underway on recycled water clients in Byron Bay. Metres are also being installed in East Mullumbimby. For more information visit Council's website.

Introducing the PayStay App

A feature of Byron's new parking meters is that they're compatible with the PayStay App which is now available for all our pay parking customers to download and use. The PayStay App enables a contactless transaction and allows you to pay for the specific time you're in the parking space. Find out more at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/paystay.

More ways to connect

Visit Council

You can visit us at our offices in Mullumbimby to renew permits, make payments and have your questions answered by our friendly team.

Website

Visit our website: www.byron.nsw.gov.au



Facebook and Instagram

Be part of the ongoing conversation on facebook and check out our Instagram page.

ENews

Get a fortnightly summary of Council news from ENews. Go to our website to subscribe.

Our community engagement platform

www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au



Check out yoursaybyronshire.com.au where you can find current Council surveys and consultations and have a say.

The Byron Shire Emergency Dashboard



For information on floods, fires, storms, weather and how to prepare for an emergency go to the Byron Shire Emergency Dashboard:

emergency.byron.nsw.gov.au



The Emergency Dashboard has links to the SES, RFS, BOM, Essential Energy, road conditions, rainfall, flooding and information about Council services.

Check it out now and be prepared.

