

Community Update

August 2020/21 Budget Edition



**\$162
MILLION
BUDGET**

Mayor's Message

This year we are hoping to deliver one of our our largest ever capital works budgets with a whopping \$58 million for roads, bridges and infrastructure. To put it in perspective, our capital works budget last year was \$38 million and by this time next year you will really see a difference in our towns and rural areas, especially on the roads.

The \$1.5 million refurbishment of the Brunswick Heads bridge will be finished this year and we've started building a new bridge to replace the Repentance Creek Road causeway at Goonengerry. The \$24 million Byron Bay bypass will be open in time for Christmas.

We've allocated \$2.1 million for a new skatepark and activation of space at Sandhills near the Byron Bay Library, as well as \$6.8 million for libraries, community services and childcare services.

We are strong supporters of our volunteer organisations and are proud to continue our annual donations to not-for-profits including Brunswick Volunteer Marine Rescue. We are also looking forward to continuing to work with our amazing community volunteers through organisations such as Bangalow Koalas and Brunswick Valley Landcare. The work done by these groups has such incredible benefit for our bush and wildlife.

As we move into 2020/21 the biggest challenge will be COVID-19 and while the future is uncertain I have no doubt we will meet this challenge together, as friends, as neighbours...as a community.



Cr Simon Richardson



\$58.6million

For construction, maintenance and renewal of our road, water, sewer and drainage network



\$23.2million

For maintaining water and sewerage operations



\$14.8million

For recycling and waste services



\$6.8million

For community services, libraries and child care services



\$10.9million

For parks, sports fields, beaches and bush regeneration



\$3million

For enforcement and environmental health



\$8.6million

For the natural environment, planning and development



\$1.2million

For governance and administration



\$23.7million

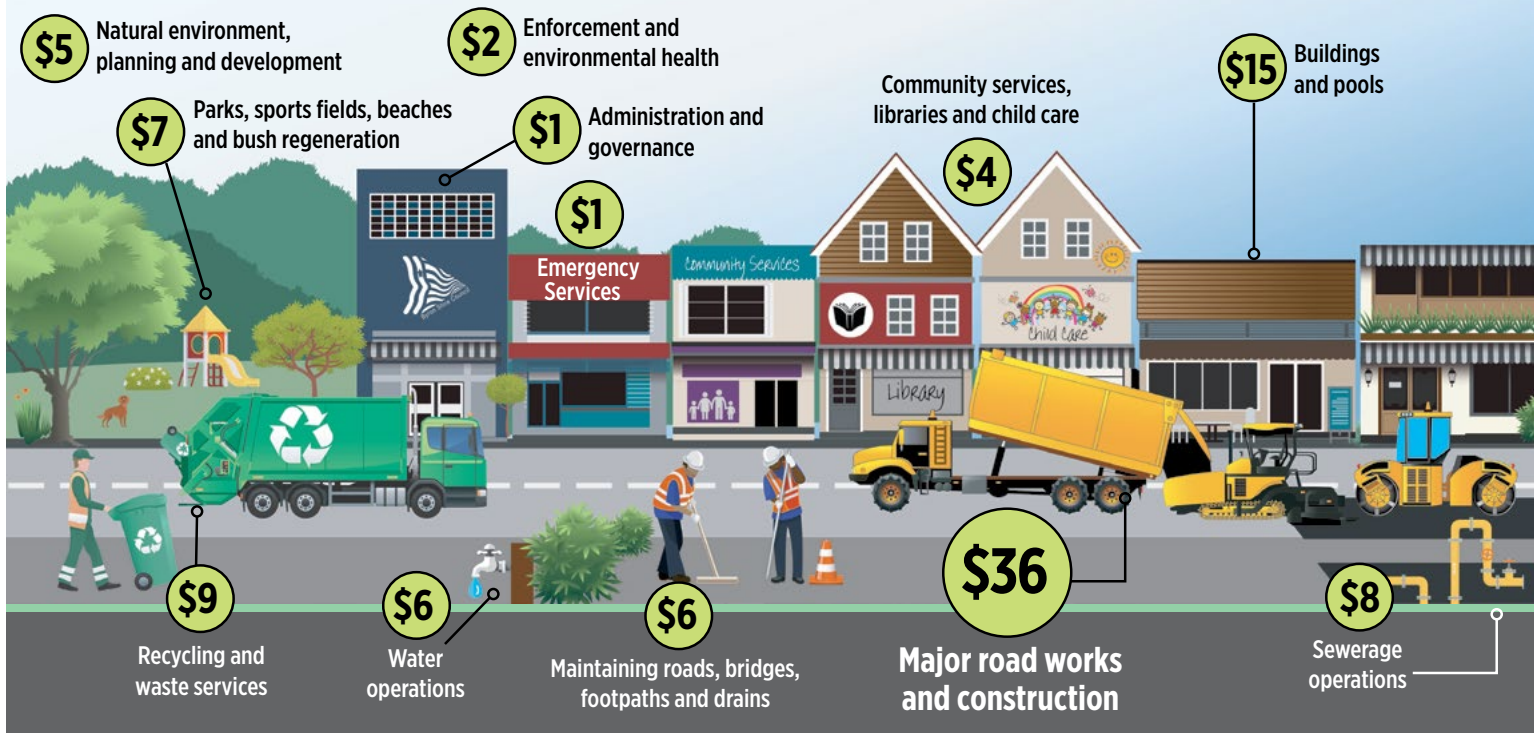
For buildings and pools



\$980,000

For emergency services

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



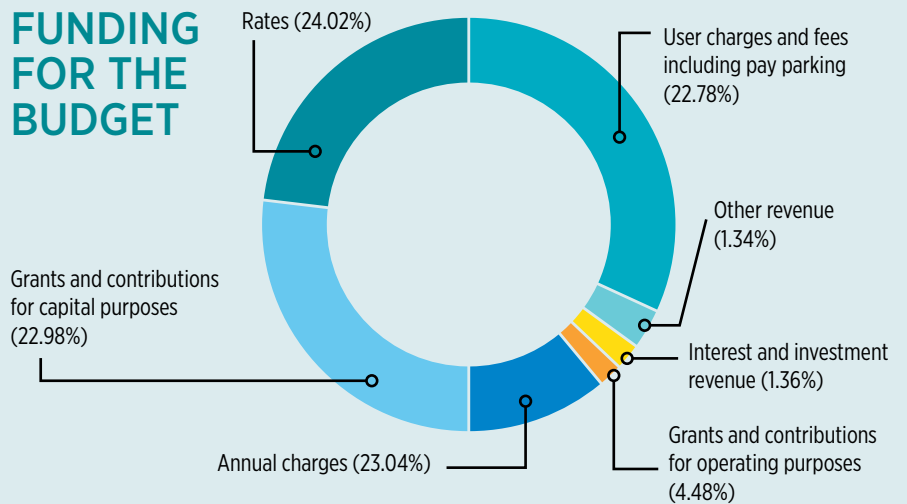
RATES DUE? NEED SOME HELP?

If you are worried about paying your rates please get in touch with our Rates team and talk to them about a payment plan.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an enormous amount of stress for people. Unfortunately Byron Shire Council cannot waive or stop rates and water repayments as this money is used to deliver essential and community services but we can make it easier for you to pay your accounts over a longer period of time.

You can reach our Rates team at rates@byron.nsw.gov.au.

FUNDING FOR THE BUDGET



THE ROADS AHEAD FOR 2020/21

🚧 \$2.2 million for road reseals and asphalt overlays

🚧 \$2.6 million for major work on Myocum Road

🚧 \$1.6 million to finish off safety work on Coolamon Scenic Drive

🚧 \$1.34 million to replace causeways #7, #12 and #14 at Main Arm

🚧 \$1.2 million for Stuart Street at Mullumbimby

🚧 \$1.2 million for The Pocket Road





PAY PARKING REVENUE PROJECTS

The COVID-19 pandemic put a dent in our pay parking revenue last financial year but it still raised \$2 million. This money was used for a range of projects across the Shire including:



Improvements to Coorabell Road and The Pocket Road



Footpath repair works outside Byron Bay Post Office



Improvements to the Clarkes Beach carpark and Apex Park

BYRON BAY BYPASS



We are on track to open the Byron Bay bypass by Christmas this year (2020) with work now underway on reconfiguring the roundabout at the northern end of the bypass at the intersection of Butler Street, Shirley Street and Lawson Street.

Work is also underway on a new roundabout at the southern end of the bypass.

The bypass is designed to make it quicker and easier for people to move across town, taking traffic out of Jonson Street.

We will soon be getting started on bush regeneration projects at Butler Street Reserve, Midgen Swamp and Sunrise Boulevard in line with a commitment to go above and beyond what was legislatively required as part of our environmental offsets for the bypass.

The \$24 million project is funded by the NSW Government (\$20 million) and Byron Shire Council (\$4 million). For more information go to www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Byron-Bay-Bypass.



SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

The 2020/21 financial year is the final year of the Special Rate Variation (SRV) and this year it will raise \$4.7 million which will be used to continue renewing and maintaining infrastructure around the Shire including:

- 🚧 \$624,000 in open spaces and parks including lighting for the Bangalow recreation grounds, landscaping in the Byron Bay town centre, renewal of park furniture across the Shire and lighting for the Waterlily Park tennis courts.
- 🚧 \$2.6 million on road reseals, repairing footpaths, heavy patching and

replacing damaged kerb and guttering and the Mullumbimby Inflow and Infiltration Stormwater Renewal project.

- 🚧 \$300,000 for bridge works including the renewal of the Bangalow Parklands Footbridge.
- 🚧 \$644,000 for roads and drain maintenance in urban and rural areas.
- 🚧 \$555,000 for our community buildings including those at the Cavanbah Centre, swimming pools and the Tyagarah airfield.

In 2019/20 the SRV raised \$3.4 million



SOUTH ARM BRIDGE BRUNSWICK HEADS



Council is in the final stages of the \$1.5 million refurbishment of South Arm Bridge at Brunswick Heads. The project has involved extensive work on the foundations of the old bridge as well as the renewal of the timber deck.

The timber features of the bridge, which are loved by locals, have not only been retained, but have been enhanced. It's the ultimate recycling story with the timber used on the South Arm Bridge salvaged from old bridges at Bangalow that were replaced two years ago.

This means there's a piece of history in every plank of wood.

Our thanks to the locals who have been very patient and understanding during the project especially when we had to close the bridge to traffic. We hope you like the new/old bridge as much as we do! It will be open to two lanes of traffic in late August and fully finished in September - October.

For more information go to www.byron.nsw.gov.au.

Waste

Thanks to the efforts of our community in 2019/20 we:

- Diverted 21 tonnes of batteries from landfill through the Community Recycling Centre
- Diverted 55 tonnes of E waste from landfill
- Transformed 2,983 tonnes of garden waste into 1,500 tonnes of organic compost
- Celebrated a 31% reduction in litter
- 6,321 pieces of litter collected in our Take 3 for the Sea Byron campaign

Byron Shire Council also won the NSW Local Government Award for Environmental Excellence for our Butt Free Byron campaign. The NSW Environment Protection Agency is now using this as a model for its litter reduction campaigns.

Keep our pipes clean - poo, pee and paper only

Poo, pee and paper, the three Ps, are the only things that should be flushed down the toilet.

The recent toilet paper shortage saw people flushing wipes, facial tissues, napkins and paper towels down the toilet and this created blockages at the Shire's sewage treatment plants (STP).

Sewer chokes can cause a back-up in the sewer system and result in an environmental spill that can affect local waterways.

Every year Council removes blockages in the sewer caused by a build-up of wet wipes and other things such as nappies, band-aids and sanitary products.

It's expensive to fix the equipment at the STPs and the problems are completely avoidable if people remember the three Ps rule. Only poo, pee and paper in the toilet please.

WHAT SHOULD GO DOWN THE LOO?

ONLY FLUSH THE 3 Ps



PEE



POO



PAPER

DO NOT FLUSH



WIPES
even flushable



NAPPIES



BANDAIDS

More at byron.nsw.gov.au/3ps 

Regenerating our bushland



Did you know Council has a dedicated Bush Regeneration team? Last year they worked on more than 230 hectares across the Byron Shire including more than six kilometres of river banks.

The team is removing weeds and invasive species, planting trees, installing nest boxes and building fences to keep stock out of riparian areas.

Major refurbishment of Ocean Shores Community Centre on the way

Major work is about to start on the Ocean Shores Community Centre with the aim being to transform it into a vibrant and inclusive hub for youth and community services.

Council is contributing \$300,000 to the project which is also supported by a \$141,000 grant from the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund (Round 3), and \$60,000 for replacement of the Centre's roof from the NSW Government's Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund.

\$1.5 million drainage upgrade for Belongil catchment



Byron Shire Council is investing \$1.5 million towards a drainage upgrade in the Byron Arts and Industry Estate, to improve water management in the Belongil catchment while providing better access to the industrial area.

Spanning 2.3 kilometres, the project will also include the construction of a new shaded pathway, cycleway and 14-metre long pedestrian bridge.

Council has started the tender process to construct the additional flow path, which includes the upgrading of existing public drainage land and construction of a small section of new pipeline. For more information go to www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/additional-flow-path.

Keep an eye out for the Byron Shire Council emergency dashboard



Council is in the final stages of its Emergency Dashboard project which, when completed, will be a valuable resource for the community.

The Emergency Dashboard is a website that will provide residents and visitors with a wide range of current information during events such as floods. The website will be linked with agencies such as the SES, RFS and Bureau of Meteorology, as well as Council so it will be a one-stop-shop.

People will be able to see information such as real-time rainfall gauges, flood predictions and river levels. It's being developed with input from emergency services and Council is looking to launch it to the community later this year.

Mullumbimby's green spine

Planning staff are working on the design brief for Mullumbimby's Greenspine, a vision for a green boulevard on Stuart Street, from Heritage Park, through the town centre to the Mullum rec grounds and community garden.

The Greenspine is a priority recommendation from the Mullumbimby Masterplan and is expected to be finished by mid 2021. For more information go to www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/stuart-st-greenspine.

A new bike path for Bangalow



During the development of the Bangalow Village Plan residents told us they wanted to improve the walking and cycling network around the village. With this in mind, Council will soon be starting design work on a new shared path along Deacon Street near the Bangalow Parklands.

All going well the work will be completed by June next year. The project is being funded by developer contributions as well as NSW and Australian Government grants. For information go to www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/bangalow-shared-paths.

We will also be planning a shared path to connect the town to the nearby recreation grounds and sports fields.