

something to talk about

August 2022/23

Budget Edition

Mayor's Message



The last 12 months have been some of the toughest ever faced by the Byron Shire community and I'd like to formally acknowledge the devastating impacts of the recent floods on so many people's lives. I'd also like to acknowledge the incredible community effort in the wake of the natural disaster to help our fellow residents.

We have a damage and repair bill of some \$180 million for roads, bridges, causeways and drains across the Byron Shire. The rebuilding and recovery task ahead of us is enormous and it is going to take time.

Housing is also an issue requiring immediate action.

Thanks to a lot of persistence, we are the only Council in the State with permission from the NSW Government to impose 90-day caps on short-term holiday letting in the majority of the Shire. According to research undertaken, this could see up to 1,500 properties returned to the long-term pool, something that is desperately needed.

We need to get the balance right in this space, and with so many businesses struggling to hire staff due to the housing shortage, these extra properties will help us achieve that balance.

As we move into the new financial year, it's an opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved over the last 12 months.

We opened a new rail corridor park in Byron Bay, resurfaced around 30 streets in Ocean Shores and South Golden Beach, upgraded Grays Lane at Tyagarah and the Tennyson Street precinct in Byron Bay, finished upgrades for Stuart Street Mullumbimby, resurfaced the Bangalow skatepark and we are about to start on an exciting new skatepark and recreation precinct in Byron Bay.

We also took a pleasing step towards our own renewable energy solution with development application approval for the Bioenergy project granted by the Northern Rivers Regional Planning Panel. There is a lot of hard work ahead of us but also great opportunities for action on what matters most to our community.

Michael Lyon

Mayor, Byron Shire

\$164 million budget



\$69.40 million

for major works and construction, maintaining roads, bridges, footpaths and drains.



\$9 million

for the natural environment, planning and development



\$28.45 million

for maintaining water and sewerage operations



\$16.8 million

for buildings and pools



\$3.2 million

for enforcement and environmental health



\$17.62 million

for recycling and waste services



\$1 million

for emergency services



\$1 million

for governance and administration



\$10.64 million

for parks, sports fields, beaches and bush regeneration



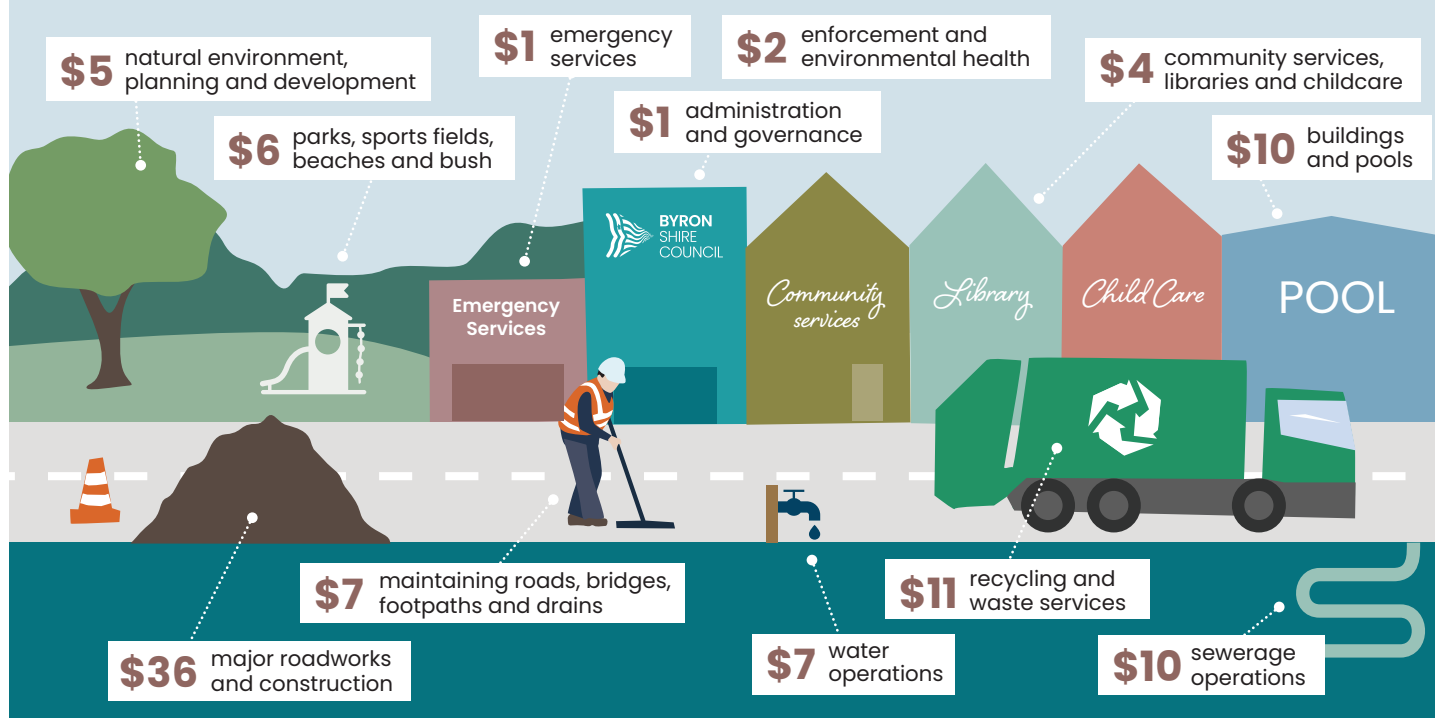
\$7.1 million

for community services, libraries and childcare services



**BYRON
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

Where do your rates go? For every \$100 spent we invest:



Sign up to receive your rates by email

Sign up today to receive all future water and rates notices electronically and stop paper copies at www.byron.enotices.com.au.

To sign up you will need your unique reference number found at the bottom left-hand corner of your rates or water notice.



Having trouble paying your rates?

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 our staff at rates@byron.nsw.gov.au.

For more information read our Hardship Policy on our website.

Your rates notice in 2022/23

On your rates notice you will see an increase in waste charges in 2022/23.

The reasons for this are:

- Our waste is sent to a state-of-the-art processing facility in Queensland and costs, including fuel and the Queensland waste levy have increased.
- Because the Lismore organic processing facility has closed we are sending the organic waste from our green bins to Queensland and transport and processing costs have increased.

Other increases include:

- 2.3 per cent – the rate increase allowed by the NSW Government
- 3.5 per cent (approx) – inflation rate or Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Rates relief for flood-affected ratepayers

The NSW Government has announced that flood-affected ratepayers in the Byron Shire may qualify to have their 2022/23 land rates waived.

The rate relief will apply to any ratepayer who has made a successful claim through Service NSW, or who had their property assessed by the SES as directly damaged from the flood or storm events.

Eligible ratepayers will have their residential, business and farm rates for 2022–2023 paid for by the NSW Government.

Note – this only applies to land rates not charges such as waste, water and sewer.

Service NSW will administer the program and eligible ratepayers will receive the relief automatically. There is no need to apply. The NSW Government will be contacting ratepayers directly to confirm their eligibility.

People who do not receive rate relief but think they are eligible should contact Service NSW on 13 77 88.



In the news

Thank you
Byron Shire



We are so grateful to all the community organisations, businesses and every member of the Byron Shire community who has stepped up to offer their skills, their help and their kindness during the flood emergency and the recovery.

We are proud to be part of this generous and compassionate community.



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Our flood recovery

No one in our community has been untouched by the floods. The recovery is long and will take many years. Our website has a dedicated section relating to flood recovery.

Our website is being updated continually as new information becomes available and circumstances change relating to programs. Take the time to check in regularly at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/recovery.

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 will start in the coming weeks and should be finished in early 2023.

It will be built on a site known 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.

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.

Rail corridor revitalised

People are loving the upgrade to the rail corridor in Byron Bay's CBD.

What was a derelict part of town that was fenced off to the public is now a park that celebrates the rail heritage of Byron Bay and connects Railway Park, the bus interchange, the top of Lawson Street and all the way to the Arts and Industry Estate via a shared path.

Check it out!

Pay parking now \$5 p/h



Parking charges in Byron Bay will be increasing by \$1 per hour. It's the first time Council has increased the hourly rate since parking meters were introduced in 2017.

The aim of pay parking is for Council to recoup money from visitors to our Shire so we will not be increasing the cost of annual parking permits for Byron Shire residents and businesses.

The price increase is to off-set the impact of COVID and the floods as well as inflation.

See Council's website for information.

Ocean Shores and SGB – 30 roads resealed

More than 30 streets in Ocean Shores and several in South Golden Beach got a major asphalt overlay last year thanks to Council's successful application for funding from both the NSW Government's Fixing Country Roads program and the \$25 million Election Commitment. In addition, many roads received kerb upgrades, heavy patching where needed and fresh line marking. The works have held up well against the recent floods and saturation.





Roads and Infrastructure

Completed in 2021/22

- ✓ Lighthouse Road – stormwater diversion **\$1.4 million**
- ✓ Tennyson Sreet – shared path **\$950,000**
- ✓ Bangalow Road – safer roads program **\$2.4 million**
- ✓ Deacon Street – shared path **\$325,000**
- ✓ Stuart Street – upgrades **\$1.2 million**
- ✓ Coolamon Scenic Drive – safer roads program **\$2.4 million**
- ✓ Byron Bay to Suffolk Park – cycleway (final stage) **\$1.57 million**
- ✓ Myocum Road – upgrade and safety improvements **\$6.8 million**
- ✓ Ocean Shores – road resurfacing on 24 roads **\$3.2 million**
- ✓ Grays Lane – upgrade **\$830,000**



Coming up in 2022/23

- ➔ Broken Head Road – traffic calming/control **\$265,000**
- ➔ Seven Mile Beach Road – traffic calming/control **\$120,000**
- ➔ Byron Bay skatepark and recreation precinct – **\$2.65 million**
- ➔ Main Arm Road – safety improvements and reconstruction **\$5 million**
- ➔ Lawson Street from Fletcher to Middleton – road renewal (2023) **\$470,000**
- ➔ Upper Main Arm Road – causeway no 2 renewal **\$805,000**
- ➔ Rifle Range Road – upgrade **\$1.2 million**
- ➔ Englishes Bridge – replacement **\$1.8 million**

Underway

- ➔ Clifford Street – drainage upgrade **\$160,000**
- ➔ The Pocket Road – stage 2 **\$1.2 million**



Housing – Taking up the challenge

Update on short-term rental accommodation

Council has made significant progress in managing short-term rental accommodation across the Shire.

The NSW Government's Department of Planning approved a Gateway Determination for a planning proposal to reduce the number of days of non-hosted short-term rental accommodation in parts of the Byron Shire from 180 days to 90 days.

This means that Council has permission to go forward and put on public exhibition the planning proposal, which involves breaking up the Shire into two types of precincts where either:

- Non-hosted accommodation will be available for short-term/holiday accommodation for a maximum of 90 days a year, which takes in the majority of the Byron Shire, or
- Non-hosted accommodation will be available for short-term/holiday accommodation for 365 days a year including parts of Byron Bay, Suffolk Park and Brunswick Heads.

Staff are now working on the next stage in the process which will be to put the planning proposal on public exhibition.

Housing Forum

Recognising that Byron Shire is facing one of the most acute shortages of affordable housing in Australia, Council hosted a Housing Forum in June, bringing together community members and some of Australia's industry experts.

There's no quick and easy solution but at the end of the day there was a range of ideas and concepts that will be presented to Councillors including:

- The concept of a demonstration village
- Housing for the Indigenous community
- A housing industry that embraces alternative tenure and living options with a cooperative focus.



Community Projects and Services

Council working with Landcom

Council and Landcom, the NSW Government's development agency are working on a landmark agreement for the development of up to 29 studios, one and two-bedroom units on a Council-owned carpark in Mullumbimby.

The location for the proposed development is at 57 Station Street.

"I am hoping this will be the first project of its kind with Landcom and Byron Shire Council because we have other sites such as the old Mullumbimby hospital land, that lend themselves to this type of partnership," Mayor Lyon said.

The timeframe for this development is approximately two years.

Housing and Affordability Advisory Committee

In recognition of the housing crisis in our Shire, Council has set up a Housing and Affordability Advisory Committee.

Deputy Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, along with Councillors Sama Balson and Duncan Dey, will work alongside seven community members to look at opportunities based on delivering affordable and sustainable housing options for the Byron Shire.

Services for the homeless at Fletcher St Cottage

Byron Shire Council, in collaboration with Byron Community Centre and Creative Capital, opened Fletcher Street Cottage in March this year – a space that provides support, information, referral, and advocacy to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Byron Shire has the highest rate of homelessness outside of metropolitan Sydney. The NSW Government's street count in 2021 showed Byron Bay had 198 people sleeping rough, behind the City of Sydney at 272.

Fletcher Street Cottage offers a welcoming, safe, and respectful space where people who are sleeping rough can find connections and access broader support services.

For more information go to the Fletcher Street Cottage website.

Much to love at the Lone Goat Gallery



Located in the Byron Bay Library building on Lawson Street, the Lone Goat Gallery is a creative initiative of Byron Shire Council.

The Gallery delivers an exciting annual program of exhibitions, artist talks and events.

Upcoming exhibitions include:

- Cave of Bone – new paintings by Max Berry (13 August – 10 September 2022)
- Rhythm and Motion – an artistic collaboration between renowned contemporary artist Laith McGregor and James Ioannau exploring skate culture (17 September – 22 October)

Sign up to the gallery e-newsletter at www.lonegoatgallery.com.

Follow the gallery on Facebook and Instagram.

Opening hours:

10am – 4pm Wednesday to Saturday.

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 old.

We also coordinate after school and vacation care at Brunswick Heads, Byron Bay Public Schools and St John's Primary School in Mullumbimby.

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 shires.

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 more at www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au.



Planning News

Development applications

In 2021/22 Byron Shire Council received 1,030 development applications with a total value of \$466,006,450. That's up from the previous year's figure of \$282.3 million.

Our Mullumbimby Masterplan



The Green Spine project on Stuart Street (from Burringbar to Fern Street) was completed in June 2022.

The Talking Streets project which trialled a new pedestrian crossing, Arakwal pavement artwork and treatments to slow traffic has also now concluded.

It's good to see some of the trial elements of the Talking Streets now being made permanent through a design process.

Federal Village Masterplan



A big thank you to the dedicated team of Federal community

members who have been busy consulting their local community.

The Federal Village Masterplan is expected to be exhibited later this year.

Byron Arts and Industry Estate

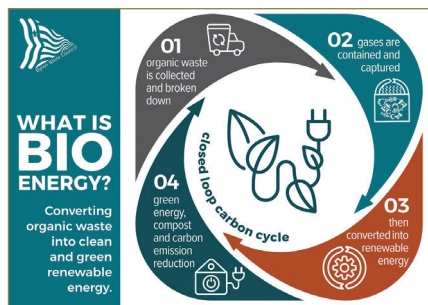
Last year's one-way traffic trial on Centennial Circuit was such a success that it will be a permanent feature.

This concept was delivered as part of the Byron Arts and Industry Estate Precinct Plan.

Just down the street Council built a small 'pocket' park on Bayshore Drive thanks to a Stronger Country Communities fund grant.

There are also plans to upgrade Bayshore Drive, including the addition of footpaths.

Bioenergy update



Council is a step closer to its exciting vision for a Bioenergy facility at the Byron Bay STP following the Northern Rivers Regional Planning Panel approval of a development application (DA) in May 2022.

The bioenergy facility will process 28,000 tonnes of green waste per year and convert it into renewable energy, producing enough electricity to power the plant as well as the Byron Bay STP.

Project Manager, John Hart, said the Panel's decision is an exciting and historic moment for Byron Shire, the Northern Rivers and Australia.

"It's a golden opportunity for Byron Shire to pave the way towards zero emissions with an innovative waste management and renewable energy solution," he said.

Please slow down to save wildlife



There's an increase in wildlife being killed on our rural roads and Council

is asking the community to please stay alert and slow down.

Many of our rural roads cut through important wildlife habitat, and most animals aren't fast enough to get out of the way of a car.

Research shows that reducing your speed from 80km/h to 60km/h can increase the chance of animals like wallabies and koalas surviving road strike.

Free help and advice for rural landowners



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

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

Dunes are for plants. PATHS are for people.



Why we need to care for our dunes

The dunes in front of First Sun Caravan Park in Byron Bay, at Cavanbah Beach, are badly eroded and should be avoided.

For public safety, and to protect our precious dune environments (that also protect areas nearby from inundation) please stay off the dunes and educate others, including kids, that dunes are for plants...paths are for people.



Waste Reduction

Taking up the challenge of reducing litter

In 2021/22 we reduced litter by 40.3 percent (up 10 percent from the previous year).

**Gold star
Byron Shire!**



- ✓ We were part of the regional launch of the Scrap Together campaign, to promote proper use of green organics bins.
- ✓ Diverted 63 tonnes of community recycling (batteries, light globes) and 38 tonnes of E Waste from landfill.
- ✓ Signed seven local schools up to the Worn Up program, a textile recycling program.
- ✓ Launched the Bring it Back Bruns campaign to reduce single-use takeaway litter in Brunswick Heads.
- ✓ Recycled 1030 tonnes of scrap metal.
- ✓ Collected 11,300 tonnes of flood disaster waste from our streets, with over 4000 tonnes processed through the BRRC.
- ✓ Also provided kerbside flood waste collection for over 500 households.
- ✓ Transformed 3235 tonnes of garden waste into 2979 tonnes of garden compost.

Tackling single-use takeaway litter in Brunswick Heads

Council is starting an exciting new pilot project in Brunswick Heads in June to reduce single-use takeaway litter and overflowing bins in the town.

It will feature a 'return and reuse' program for food businesses who will be supplied with reusable takeaway container options. Council will assist with systems for their collection and sanitisation.

The project will also trial new public place bins for different waste types in popular Brunswick Heads parks and bin sensors will be installed to monitor overflow.



The pilot has been made possible thanks to Council's successful application for \$75,000 from the EPA's Council Litter Prevention grants.

Hire our courtesy trailer for FREE

- Bring bulky household items or large loads of waste to the Byron Resource Recovery Centre.
- Take items home that you have purchased from the second-hand store at the Byron Resource Recovery Centre.
- Pick up mulch purchased from the Byron Resource Recovery Centre.

The trailer is an 8 x 5 (2.4m x 1.4m x 1.3m) box trailer with walls and a cover. Call the Byron Resource Recovery Hotline on 1300 652 625 to check availability and book.



NEW: Two FREE waste drops per year

To help residents with waste disposal, we will be increasing the number of FREE drop-offs from one visit per year to two. People can use their drop-off vouchers for:

- up to 500kg of garden waste
- up to 150kg of general bulk waste

Each voucher can only be used for one trip. You just need to show your rates notice.

If you are a tenant, you can fill out a Bulk Waste Disposal Tenant Form on our website, www.byron.nsw.gov.au.

LET'S GET OUR SCRAP SORTED



DID YOU KNOW?

Your green lid bin takes all of your food scraps, including bones, fish and dairy. They are turned into professionally made compost that helps your local farmers have healthy soil and grow good food for you to enjoy!

So come on Northern Rivers
let's get our scrap sorted.

**YOUR COMMUNITY, FARMERS AND ENVIRONMENT
WILL THANK YOU FOR IT.**

www.newaste.org.au/scrap



More ways to connect



Visit Council

Visit 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.



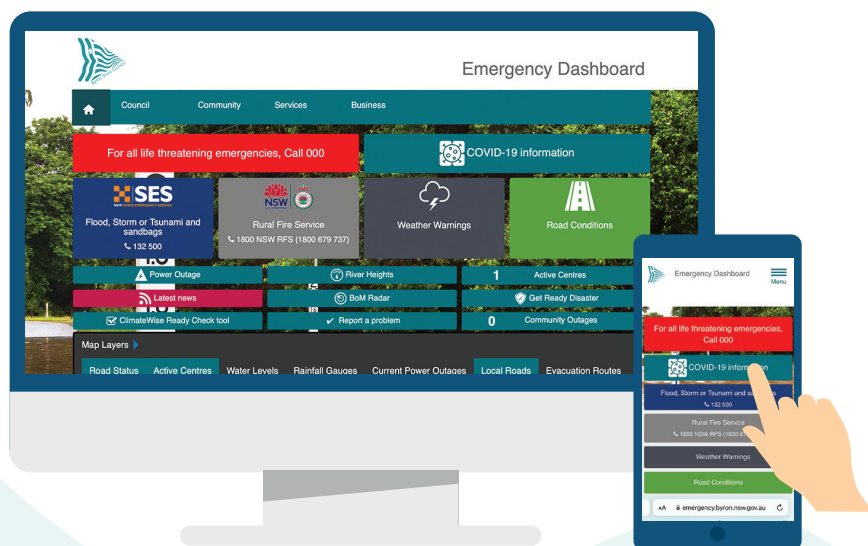
Our community engagement platform

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

The Byron Shire Emergency Dashboard



**BYRON
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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.

Byron Shire Council

70 Station St, Mullumbimby

P: 02 6626 7000

E: council@byron.nsw.gov.au

Emergency After Hours: 02 6622 7022