

Something to talk about.



A BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL MAGAZINE | ISSUE 3 | DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021



New skatepark for Byron Bay

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A great year for bridges

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**Walk, roll, ride
on the new
Byron to Suffolk
Park Cycleway**

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From the Mayor's desk

As the year comes to a close, it's time to reflect on what a huge year of change and challenge it has been for us all. As Mayor, I'm grateful for the way our community has pulled together in the face of bushfires, floods and the ongoing impacts served up by COVID-19. Through it all, Council has delivered its largest program of works. And I'm not talking just about the kilometres of resurfaced roads and delivery of six bridges – though this has certainly been a highlight for me. I'm talking about the steady upgrade and transformation of our playgrounds, parks and skateparks, our ambitious plans to provide more affordable housing and stepping up to join an internationally-recognised mission to end rough sleeping in the Byron Shire. We are involved in these projects because we are a community that cares – and I thank everyone who has been a part of it.

Mayor, Simon Richardson

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Seasons Greetings

Wishing everyone in our amazing community a **happy festive season** and here's to a **peaceful 2021**.

Council offices will close at 4:00pm on 24 December and reopen at 8:30am on 4 January.



Byron Shire Council takes silver in NSW most prestigious Local Government award

Byron Shire Council has taken second place in the quest for the 2020 Local Government NSW AR Bluett Award – an award considered to be the most prestigious honour given to a council in NSW.

Some of Byron Shire Council's other achievements in 2019/20 were:

- 867 DAs processed valued at \$340 million
- Started the Byron Bay bypass
- Upgraded five parks and three skateparks - \$3.38 million
- Restored fish passage to 27.4km of the Brunswick River
- Started the \$5 million Reducing Stormwater in the Sewer project
- Substantially progressed planning for the first Australian bioenergy facility of its kind
- Two Public Space Liaison Officers employed to work with people sleeping rough in the community
- Purchased the old Byron Bay Hospital for \$1 and started working with the community to turn it into a community hub
- Introduced bespoke planning provisions for regulating events in rural areas.
- Worked with communities on the Bangalow, Mullumbimby and Byron Arts and Industry Estate masterplans
- 78% customers satisfied with Council
- More than 100 staff members completed Mental Health First Aid Officer training

Council adopted:

- Award-winning 2020-2030 Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
- Integrated Pest Management Strategy 2019-2029
- Towards Zero – Integrated Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy
- Affordable Housing Contributions Policy

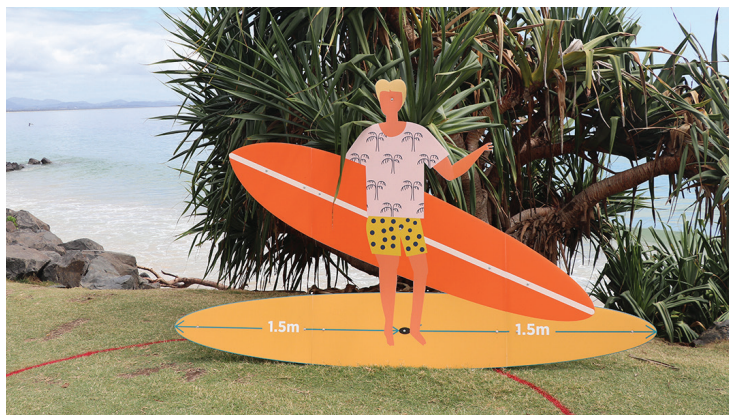
Happy Holidays



Extra weekly bin collections for Christmas

From Monday 21 December to Friday 1 January, you can place all bins at the kerbside for weekly collection. Put your bins out the night before your normal collection day. Bin collections run everyday, including Christmas day.

Joining forces for a COVID-safe summer



Byron Shire Council has launched the COVID-safe Summer Byron campaign which is designed to be a visual reminder to people about the importance of health measures such as social distancing.

Byron Shire Mayor, Simon Richardson, said indications are that the summer is going to be busy and that people need to continue to respect the health guidelines set out by the NSW Government.

Council is doing what it can to proactively support local Police and the Northern NSW Local Health District because keeping the community safe is everyone's responsibility.

"As a community, a state and a nation, we have all done incredibly well coping and responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic," Mayor Richardson said.

"This summer will be another challenge for Council, police, our health service and lifesavers so it would be terrific if everyone, visitors and locals, continued to do their bit to stay informed and respect COVID-safety rules," he said.

New skatepark for Byron Bay



Plans are underway to turn what is a tired and under-utilised space known as Sandhills (behind the Byron Bay Library) on the fringe of the Byron Bay CBD into a vibrant skatepark and recreation precinct.

A much welcomed injection of \$2.05 million from the NSW Government's Roads and Infrastructure Election Commitment, and another \$600,000 from Council has meant this skatepark project is now ready to progress to the detailed design phase.

One of the world's leading skatepark designers, CONVIC, has been engaged to design the skatepark and recreational hub.

A survey asking the community for feedback on initial concept plans closed on 14 December and CONVIC is currently working through the feedback as part of a more detailed design for the skatepark.

Once finalised, it will go through Council's development application process, providing a second opportunity for public submissions and input.

For more information go to the Your Say Byron Shire website, www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au.

Byron Bay to Suffolk Park cycleway a winner

The final line markings are going down and the long-awaited Byron Bay to Suffolk Park cycleway will be finished.

The \$3.1 million project was delivered thanks to funding from the NSW Government including \$1.57 million from its Roads and Infrastructure Election Commitment. Council contributed \$110,000.

People of all ages and abilities can now walk, roll or ride from Suffolk Park to Byron Bay safe, in keeping with Council's commitment of encouraging 'cars out and people in' in the Byron Bay CBD.

The cycleway also includes a designated bike lane on sections of Broken Head Road.

\$25 million funding boost continues to deliver

Byron Shire Council has added another 8km of road reseals to its list of over 30km of completed projects across the Shire as it forges ahead with delivery of a smooth new network under the NSW Government's \$25 million Roads and Infrastructure Election Commitment funding.



In total, \$3.5M of the funding has been spent and Council has delivered nine roads in Byron Bay and Ewingsdale, three in Suffolk Park, 11 in Brunswick Heads, three in Federal, five in Ocean Shores, a major resesal of Pearce Road, Booyong and Binna Burra Road, as well as upgrades for Kolora Way, South Golden Beach and Federal Drive, Goonengerry.

The focus for the next four months will be completion of Bangalow Road upgrades to complement the opening of the Byron Creek Bridge.

Mullumbimby is next on the list for substantial roadworks, reseals, drainage and footpath improvements over the next two years, starting with reseals on parts of Stuart Street, Fern Street, Tincogan Street and Station Street in early 2021.

The Byron Bay bypass

Opening in February 2021



The Byron Bay bypass project, despite substantial challenges, is progressing well towards completion and will be opened for traffic by the end of February 2021

A construction shutdown is scheduled over Christmas and there will be no disruption to traffic as a result of the project during the holiday period.

“This will be our last Christmas and New Year period without the Byron bypass but Council looks forward to opening the road before the end of summer,” Director of Infrastructure Services Phil Holloway said.

“The project has been in the planning for over 30 years and there isn’t long to wait now before we can all experience it.”

Nationals Member of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Ben Franklin, said this project has long been in the works and would be well worth the wait once it officially opens.

“This new bypass will help alleviate traffic congestion and make trips smoother and faster for all road users – particularly locals.



“It is incredibly exciting that the opening will be happening this summer and I’m looking forward to joining the many thousands of others in trying out the new bypass come February,” Mr Franklin said.

While work has been progressing well in recent months, one of the development consent conditions for the Bypass project is that noise abatement works are completed in full, prior to the opening of the new road. While the majority of the work will be completed before Christmas, Council is not permitted by law to open the Bypass in full until these works are complete.

Great year for bridges

Six bridges and \$5.8 million of upgrades delivered in 2020



Byron Creek Bridge at Bangalow



Engineer Josh Provis underneath the Brunswick Head Bridge

Council is proud to have completed three substantial bridge projects across the Byron Shire this year, two causeways in Main Arm and a third on the way.

The beautiful timber restoration of Brunswick Heads’ South Arm bridge was completed in October after around 10 months of hard work and craftsmanship. Before this \$1.7 million upgrade, the iconic old bridge was in very poor condition with major structural issues. Now it has been fully re-engineered with new girders, pylons and cross bracing that will give it an impressive 75 year lifespan.

The Byron Creek Bridge in Bangalow has received a \$2.2m transformation this year. The impressive 45m long bridge now has a 100+ year lifespan and features three spans with a wider central span for improved hydraulics during flood events, two 3.5m wide traffic lanes, 1.5m wide shoulders for cyclist safety and provision for a future shared path to improve access and safety.

Repentance Creek Road causeway received a \$600,000 bridge upgrade this year involving the replacement of the existing causeway crossing over Byrangery Creek at Goonengerry, with a new 12m span, two lane bridge.

Main Arm causeway #7 was replaced with a new bridge and \$500,000 upgrade this year. Upgrades are also underway at Main Arm causeway/bridges #12 and #14 which are receiving \$400,000 of improvements each and are expected to be completed early 2021.

Roads and Infrastructure



Completed

- South Arm Bridge refurbishment - **\$1.7 million**
- 1km Bangalow Road renewal east of Byron Creek Bridge - **\$1.3 million**
- Byron Creek Bridge replacement - **\$2.2 million**
- Bangalow Road safety improvements at Talofa Rail Bridge - **\$250,000**
- The Pocket Road Stage 1 - **\$1.2 million**
- Main Arm #7 causeway replacement - **\$543,000**
- Middleton Street, Massinger Street renewal and Lawson Street asphalt overlay - **\$300,000**
- Repentance Creek Road bridge replacement - **\$600,000**
- Byron Bay to Suffolk Park cycleway - **\$3.1 million**
- Upper Wilsons Creek #10 causeway replacement - **\$422,000**
- Blackbean Road causeway replacement - Wilsons Creek - **\$438,000**
- Main Arm Road safety improvements at Durrumbul - **\$600,000**
- Booyong Road rehabilitation - **\$650,000**
- Binna Burra Road rehabilitation - **\$390,000**
- Ewingsdale Road asphalt overlay - **\$705,000**



Byron Bay to Suffolk Park cycleway



Ongoing

- Coolamon Scenic Drive safety improvements - **\$2.4 million**
- Main Arm #12 causeway replacement - **\$462,000**
- Main Arm #14 causeway replacement - **\$470,000**



Projects coming in 2021

- Bangalow Road Safety improvements - **\$1.7 million**
- Myocum Road Safety improvements - **\$3.8 million**
- Myocum Road rehabilitation - **\$900,000**
- Myocum Road realignment at Possum Shoot Road intersection - **\$2.2 million**
- Rifle Range Road intersection upgrade - Bangalow - **\$1.2 million**
- Grays Lane upgrade and sealing - **\$868,000**
- Seven Mile Beach road sealing - **\$350,000**
- Minyon Falls road sealing - **\$473,000**
- Balemo Drive shared path stage 2 - **\$927,000**
- South Beach Road and parking upgrade - **\$900,000**
- Skinners Shoot Road safety improvements - **\$510,000**
- Tincogan Street Intersection priority changes Fern Street - **\$790,000**
- Stuart Street and Greenspine - **\$1.29 million**
- Tallow Creek Footbridge - approach path raising - Suffolk Park - **\$60,000**
- Belongil Bridge walkway refurbishment - **\$65,000**
- Main Arm Road rehabilitation and road raising west of Sherry's Bridge - **\$1.3 million**
- Pacific Esplanade street drainage upgrade - South Golden Beach - **\$180,000**
- The Pocket Road Stage 2 - **\$1 million**
- Reseals and overlays - **\$3 million**

Community Projects

Parks & Amenities

Bangalow playground



There's a new playground at Bangalow Parklands with children giving the bird's nest swing and carousel the 'thumbs up'.

The \$75,000 playground also features a new climbing tower with nets, bridges and play panels as well as a musical feature for stimulating little imaginations and encouraging creative play.

The swings and spring toy were recycled from the old playground which had reached the end of its usable life in relation to safety and maintenance.

Check out Council's website to find more amazing parks and play spaces.

New toilets on the way for Gaggin Park

Once the holiday season is finished, work will start on new public toilets at Gaggin Park in Suffolk Park.

The toilets will be put up in February 2021 and the old amenities block will be demolished in March.

The budget for the project is \$132,000.

In the last 12 months, Council has also built new toilet facilities at South Golden Beach and Federal.



New toilets at South Golden Beach

Hall Upgrades

Brunswick Heads Memorial Hall



With some major upgrades and renovations now complete, the Brunswick Heads Memorial Hall has been restored as a community hub for events, old time dances, weddings and functions.

Featuring a new commercial kitchen and a new roof, the Brunswick Heads' historical Memorial Hall has been sensitively restored in keeping with its 1950s Art Deco heritage but the upgraded facilities mean it will better serve the community for many years to come.

More works are expected in 2021 including a new stage with improved access.

Ocean Shores Community Centre



A major refurbishment of the Ocean Shores Community Centre is well underway.

The \$500,000 project is jointly funded by Council and grants from the

NSW Government via its Stronger Country Communities Fund (\$141,000) and the Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund (\$60,000).

The improvements include upgrades to the rooms for community hire as well as meeting spaces, a new entrance, storage areas, a cover for the existing deck, a new roof and a coat of paint for the exterior of the building.

Work is expected to be completed in early 2021.

Making connections to end rough sleeping



Byron Shire is the first area in NSW, outside Sydney, to pilot an internationally-renowned project called End Rough Sleeping. The aim of this collaboration is to drastically reduce and hopefully end rough sleeping – and it is supported by the NSW Premier's Priority Commitment to reduce rough sleeping by 50% by 2025 and end rough sleeping by 2030.

The pilot project kicked off in the Byron Shire with Connections Week which ran from 16 – 20 November, 2020. Trained local volunteers and community workers went out to speak with people who were sleeping rough around the Byron Shire. In addition to recording numbers of people sleeping rough, as Council has done in previous years, we listened to people's stories and used evidence-based methodology to collect information that can help support targeted help and transition out of homelessness.

The project was a great success with 72 people sharing their stories and completing surveys that will now assist local and State services in working together to provide the best help possible.

For more information see Council's website.

Introducing... Rob Appo



Rob Appo is Council's Aboriginal Project Officer and Acting Coordinator Social and Cultural Planning.

He is very well known in the Northern Rivers area having

worked for many years in the arts and culture space and in roles involving Aboriginal Culture Heritage protection and management and Aboriginal community development.

Rob is passionate about providing a stronger voice for the Aboriginal community to close the inequity gaps that have been around since colonisation.

Chill out at your local library over summer

December 2020 - January 31 2021

Summer Reading Club—Myths, Fairy Tales, and Legends!



Join the Summer Reading Club – Register at the library or online at www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au.

Collect your activity pack and complete your logs while participating in reading

challenges and the 5 for Fun challenges over summer! Go in the draw for weekly prizes and the major prize, a Samsung tablet—drawn 5 February 2021.

December 1-24

Children's Take and Make Packs (6-12 years)

Show us what you're reading and collect a Take and Make Christmas pack! Children must be present and borrowing from the library. While stocks last!

Regional Readers—Online Book Club



Regional Readers is your very own region-wide book club, and is open to everyone!

Post what you're reading and comment on others posts to get involved.

Join the group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/696957941065376.

Christmas / New Year Closure

All branches of Richmond Tweed Regional Library will be closed from 2pm on Thursday 24 December. We reopen for the new year at 9.30am on Monday, 4 January 2021.

You can access the library 24/7, including eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines at www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au. Download RB Digital, BorrowBox, and Indyreads from your app store and login using your library membership.

Children's Services - Early childhood and outside school hours services

In addition to our Sandhills Early Childhood Centre which provides outstanding care and education for children from five months to school aged children, Council also operates vacation care and after-school care programs at Brunswick Heads Public School, Mullumbimby Public School and Byron Bay Public School.

For more information contact Council on 02 6626 700, or Sandhills on 02 6685 8118 (waitlists do apply for certain sites).

Community Initiatives Grants

A total of \$44,750 funding has been awarded to nine community projects as part of Byron Shire Council's annual Community Initiatives Program.

This year, grants have been awarded to:

- Eureka Hall -kitchen upgrade
- Bangalow Koalas - koala corridor from Byron Bay to Repentance Creek
- Spaghetti Circus -scholarship program for kids
- Mullum SEED's Significant Trees Project - showcasing rare trees in Byron Shire
- Queer Family Northern Rivers - two events for the LGBTQIA+ community
- Bangalow Lions Club - extending the Combatting Social Isolation for Seniors during COVID-19 to include the whole community
- Bunyarra Culture Collective - restoring cultural practice so it can be shared with the community
- Brunswick Valley Landcare - promote the educational benefits and increase visitation to the Maslen Arboretum
- Byron Multicultural Inc - to understand the community's priorities and develop a resources hub



Spaghetti Circus Performance Troupe (Lachie, Anais, Brahminy, Rosa, Nelle, Luella & Aquila) / Photographer - John McCormack

New 1km cycle and running track at the Cavanbah Centre



This year, the Byron Cycle Club received a \$250k grant from the Australian Government's Community Sport Infrastructure Fund to turn a 508-metre circuit at the Cavanbah Centre into a 1km multi-use cycle and running track suitable for professional events.

"With Byron Shire Council's support we have transformed what was an underutilised circuit into a multifaceted facility benefiting the whole community," Byron Bay Cycle Club's Deb Fuller said. "Parents can bring their young kids to learn to ride and junior cyclists will have somewhere closer than the Gold Coast to train for events," she said. The new track can also be used for general exercise by wheelchair users and anyone wanting to walk for recreation and fitness.

Skateparks improved across the Shire



Three of Byron Shire's much-loved skate parks have been upgraded this year with repairs and resurfacing completed at the Brunswick Heads, Mullumbimby and Federal Skateparks.

Council invested \$30,000 on repairs and upgrades for the Brunswick Heads skatepark, \$40,000 on repairs and maintenance on the Federal Skatepark and \$150,000 on major upgrades and resurfacing at Mullumbimby.

The next big recreation project is the Byron Skatepark at the Sandhills Estate (behind the Byron Library).

Leading designers CONVIC are currently doing a detailed design.

For more information go to *Your Say Byron Shire* www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au

An update from the planners!

Development Applications

In 2019/20 in Byron Shire, the total value of DAs assessed was \$340 million for 860 development applications. That's up from the previous year's figure of \$248,184,043.

Main Beach Shoreline Project



In October, the Main Beach Shoreline project moved focus from the first phase of investigation, assessment and appraisal of general options, to presenting the

local community with seven concept designs for feedback and opinion.

A big thank you to everyone who provided their ideas and participated in the survey.

We have extended our survey deadline to 23 December and the consultation remains open for submissions and comments until end January 2021 via *Your Say Byron Shire* - www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au.

The seven concepts depict a range of different protection structures and scenarios for Main Beach, Byron Bay and include everything from simply improving the existing structure, to redesigning it or removing groynes, to building a stepped concrete sea wall or a sloping rock sea wall, or moving the entire structure more landward.

Car parking, recreational areas, pedestrian pathways or a combination of all three are possible under all seven designs.

All of the feedback collected through this consultation phase will be presented in a report to Council in early 2021 - and we will report back to the community on our findings.

Our aim is to narrow down to three preferred options so that we can design the best solution possible.

For more information go to www.yoursaybyronshire.com/mbbsp

Place Planning done differently

In addition to the award-winning Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan, Council has now adopted three more Place Plans for Bangalow, Mullumbimby and the Byron Arts and Industry Estate. We also have a fifth master planning process starting in Federal.

The Place Planning Collective, which consists of 19 community volunteers, has been established to advise and assist in the implementation of key projects from each adopted Place Plan.

Our Mullumbimby Masterplan

Talking Street project – Burringbar Street



The Talking Street trial is an initiative of Our Mullumbimby Masterplan that has been made possible thanks to Council securing a Shared Spaces grant from the NSW Government.

A working group, made up of community representatives,

has met with Council staff and Councillors throughout 2020 to progress the project.

The Talking Street trial will test the following temporary activation measures:

- Reshaping the intersection of Burringbar and Stuart Streets to provide additional public space, traffic calming and painted road surfaces.
- Artistic entry treatments and traffic calming at both ends of Burringbar Street (the Council end and the Post Office end).
- Creation of parklets (small parks) that transform unused road space into much needed additional space for people.
- Slowing down traffic on Burringbar Street so that people can more easily and safely walk throughout the centre.

Greenspine project – Stuart Street, Mullumbimby

The Greenspine project is another initiative to come out of the Our Mullumbimby Masterplan and has been made possible thanks to \$660,000 from the NSW Government's Road and Infrastructure and Election Commitment, a \$300,000 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant from the NSW Government and a \$330,000 investment from Council.

The 'Greenspine' vision is to enhance Stuart Street, creating a leafy, green boulevard that runs from Heritage Park and the Brunswick River, through the town centre, to the Mullumbimby Recreation Grounds and community gardens.

Though we are looking at improvements for the entire length of Stuart Street, funding has only been secured, so far, for road resurfacing upgrades and beautification works on the southern section of Stuart Street. The final extent of the stage 1 works are currently being planned.

These works are scheduled to get underway in 2021, following consultation with the community, which we hope to get started early next year.

With both the Greenspine project and the Talking Street trial running concurrently, Council is assessing how the two projects can work together and achieve the best outcomes for the town.

To this end, we are now looking at the sequencing of roadworks across Mullumbimby, making sure these happen in the right order for the benefit of both projects.

Byron Arts and Industry Estate Precinct Plan



The precinct plan for the Byron Arts and Industry Estate was endorsed by Council in June 2020 and we're on track to deliver our first project from the plan, a pocket park on Bayshore Drive, that will provide a little green space amongst the warehouses and businesses. This project was made possible thanks to a \$56,100 grant from the NSW State Government.

Centennial Circuit One-Way Traffic Trial

In late February next year we will implement a change to traffic flow in part of Centennial Circuit, to trial a north-bound one way flow from Brigantine Street to Wollongbar Street.

We will be speaking to all businesses in this part of the estate in January 2021 to make sure everyone is ready for the change. The trial will be in place for six months, during which time we will talk with business owners and the wider community.

The trial will then allow us to make longer-term decisions to help traffic movement in the estate more generally.

Byron Bay Hospital

In July 2019, Council purchased the old Byron Bay Hospital from the NSW Government to repurpose it as the Byron Community hub.

This year, Council and the project's community steering committee worked collaboratively with Southern Cross University to develop plans for a flagship education and research destination in Byron Bay.

Protecting our environment

The protection and preservation of the environment continues to be a major focus for Council.

Some of the highlights this year are:

Award-winning Biodiversity Strategy



This year we adopted a new 10 year Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Byron Shire. It's an extensive plan of 90 actions designed to support Council and the community to develop projects and seek funding to protect and enhance our unique biodiversity.

In October this year, our Biodiversity Conservation Strategy was named the winner of the Local Government NSW's Environment Awards in the 'Innovation in Planning, Policies and Decision Making' section.

Koala initiative launched with Mullumbimby High School



Council recently joined forces with the Mullumbimby High Student Representative Council (SRC) to launch its Trees for Koalas - Connecting Communities project which aims to plant hundreds of koala food trees on private properties across the Byron Shire.

"The students were concerned about the serious threats to koalas in our region and they approached Council, asking if we could work together to help create more koala habitat and we jumped at the opportunity," Byron Shire Council's Biodiversity Officer, Liz Caddick said.

"As many of the students live on rural properties that are in, or close to, koala habitat, they spotted a great opportunity to invite expressions of interest from students and their families to plant koala food trees at home, and to invite neighbouring properties to do the same," she said.

Expression of interest forms have been sent out to the school community and students at neighbouring primary schools. People can access them at www.mullumbimbyhs.nsw.edu.au/trees-for-koalas/

Flying Fox Plan of Management



Flying foxes play a vital role in our ecology but are not always the easiest neighbours to live with and this is a key consideration of Council's Flying Fox Camp Plan of Management (2018-2023) designed to manage five of the camps in our Shire that are located near people and houses.

Council has started the \$160,000, three-year Flying Fox Improvement Project. A grant for \$80,000 was received from the NSW Environmental Trust and Council is contributing \$80,000 of an in-kind support to the project.

Activities are focused on improving vegetation condition at the camps to encourage flying foxes to move away from their human neighbours, as well as community education regarding the importance of flying foxes in our environment.

So far, projects have been undertaken at Paddys Creek (Bangalow) and Beech Camp (Suffolk Park) with work to start soon in Mullumbimby.



**Three Ps,
pee, poo and
paper, keep
things flowing**

Keeping Byron's wastewater flowing is as simple as three ps – pee, poo and paper only down the toilet.

During the COVID-19 pandemic people were using products such as wipes, facial tissues, napkins and paper towels as substitutes for toilet paper, which resulted in blockages at the Shire's sewage treatment plants. Regardless of what packaging says, no wipes should be flushed down the toilet, even if they claim to be safe for sewer systems.

As part of our Three Ps campaign, bathroom reminder cards have been delivered to caravan parks and accommodation providers to remind visitors of best practice when using bathrooms in the Shire.

DA to be submitted for Council solar farm at Myocum

A 5MW solar farm is currently proposed for Council-owned land, next to the Resource and Recovery Centre at Dingo Lane, Myocum, which would generate approximately 11,460 megawatt hours of electricity per year and reduce Council's emissions by approximately 6,750 tCO₂-e per year.

A DA is expected to be submitted in early 2021. Stay informed by subscribing to project updates at www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/dingo-lane-solar-farm1

A vision for a Brunswick Valley Sustainability Centre

A business feasibility case is underway for sustainable projects that are congruent with the sewage treatment works on the 112.77 ha Council-owned site at Vallances Rd, Mullumbimby.

Council is considering opportunities for projects on this site that offer community and environmental benefits such as:

- renewable energy
- land rehabilitation and bush regeneration
- a native plant nursery
- educational and community facilities
- Indigenous community employment opportunities.

A NSW Flagship grant for the Brunswick River bank stabilisation is planned for January 2021, pending funding announcements.

An electrical engineering concept study is underway to gauge the financial and technical feasibility of a 5MW community solar project to the south of the site.

Engineers are also working on mapping the broad land use requirements, commitments and constraints across the entire property.

How could bioenergy work best for the Byron Shire?

Council is asking the community to learn more and have a say about its proposed bioenergy facility, which would break down the Byron Shire's green waste into biogas and convert it into clean, renewable energy and a valuable compost product.

"Bioenergy offers a smarter, local waste solution which could reduce landfill and help Council to become carbon neutral" Byron Shire Mayor Simon Richardson said.

The dry anaerobic digestion facility would be the first of its kind in Australia.

Byron Shire produces around 20,000 tonnes of organic green waste a year with much of it sent to Queensland for processing.

The project is key to Council's Net Zero Emissions and Renewal Energy Strategy. The facility is forecast to cost approximately \$16 million to design and build, have an installed power capacity of 450 kW and produce over 4 GWh (four million kWh) of energy annually. This represents approximately 70% of Council's electricity consumption, and nearly 20% of Council's carbon emissions.

The facility would produce enough electricity to run the Byron Bay sewage treatment plant with excess electricity to be sent back to the grid, creating a long term revenue stream for Council and ratepayers. The remaining high nutrient residue would be converted into a compost product to support the local agricultural industry.

Subject to reviews and approvals, this facility is planned for detailed design in 2021, construction in 2022 and start-up in early 2023. Have your say at: www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/byron-shire-bioenergy-facility.



Smart water meter trial to help save water

Smart water meters are on trial in the Byron Shire

as part of Council's 12-month pilot project to optimise water management in the region.

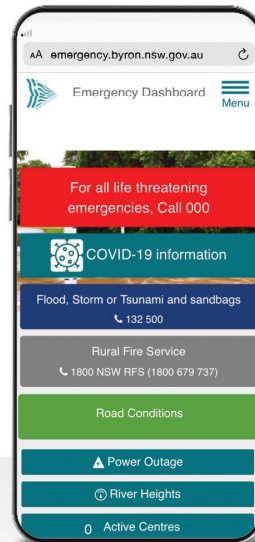
Approximately 400 smart water metering devices are being installed on residential and commercial properties in Mullumbimby and selected bulk recycled water clients in Byron Bay.

Smart water meter devices will provide hourly water consumption data direct to Council so it can better understand how its customers use water, while monitoring the performance of the water network and its supply. Stay informed by subscribing to project updates at www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/smart-water-meter-pilot

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.

emergency.byron.nsw.gov.au

MORE WAYS TO CONNECT



Visit Council

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



Visit Website

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

We're working hard to strengthen our communication and engagement and build on the quality of information available on our website and via social media.



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

You're invited to be part of the ongoing conversation on facebook where we have an active community of 4000 followers and check out our new Instagram page.



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Get a fortnightly summary of Council news from ENews. Email media@byron.nsw.gov.au to subscribe.



Our community engagement platform

www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au

Check out Council's yoursaybyronshire.com.au platform where you can find current Council surveys and consultation and have a say.

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