

something to talk about

2024/25

Mayor's Message



Over the last 12 months we've tackled some of the biggest issues facing our community and a mixture of our openness to new ideas and innovation, as well as sheer persistence, has seen our hard work pay off.

The NSW Government has heeded our request for reform of short-term rental accommodation (STRA) in parts of the Shire.

From 23 September, a 60-day annual cap will apply to all unhosted STRA in the Shire, with the exception of parts of Byron Bay and Brunswick Heads. It's a first for NSW.

We have delivered upgrades to The Strand Avenue at New Brighton, River Terrace in Mullumbimby, Left Bank Road in the hinterland, Main Arm Road, Carlyle Street and Wordsworth Street in Byron Bay. We resealed streets in Brunswick Heads and began planning for improvements to South Beach Road and surrounding areas in preparation for the implementation of pay parking.

Further to this, we have also resolved to remove the yearly resident permit fee of \$55, as I firmly believe locals should not have to pay to park in their own towns.

Two and half years on from the floods and some roads and

infrastructure, especially in the hinterland, remain in a terrible state. Council is working closely with Transport for NSW and the Reconstruction Authority, pushing as hard as we can, to get our flood funding applications approved, mindful of the enormous strain on residents.

We supported a trial of an assertive outreach program to help those experiencing homelessness in our community and never has this been more important with the NSW Government recently releasing data showing the Byron Shire has the highest rate of homelessness in NSW. These vulnerable members of our community deserve so much more than what is currently available and we continue to advocate, on their behalf, for improved Government services.

Ultimately, the key to improvement here, and to alleviate the broader housing crisis, will be housing supply. Council has finalised the Residential Strategy after many years, and I am very confident that we have done what is required to ensure improvement in the housing space over the medium term.

I hope you take the time to read this overview of some of our achievements in 2023/24.

Michael Lyon
Mayor, Byron Shire

\$162 million budget

(correct at time of printing)



\$37.02 million

Major work and construction



\$20.8 million

Recycling and waste services



\$17.82 million

Sewerage operations



\$13.17 million

Water operations



\$15.96 million

Parks, sports fields, beaches and bush regeneration



\$13.93 million

Buildings and pools



\$14.65 million

Maintenance of roads, bridges, footpaths and drains



\$10.69 million

Natural environment, planning and development



\$8.15 million

Community services, libraries and child care



\$4.76 million

Administration and governance



\$3.96 million

Enforcement and environmental health



\$1.26 million

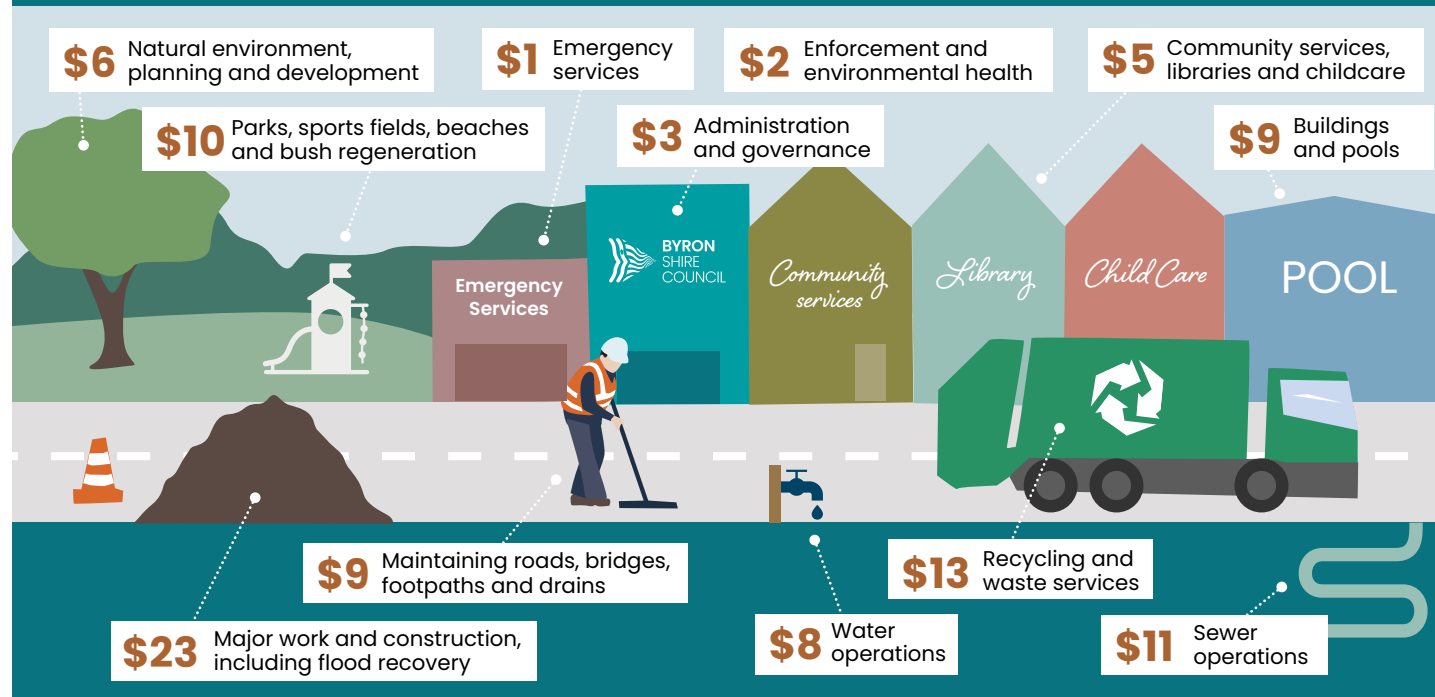
Emergency services



**BYRON
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

In 2024/25, for every \$100 spent we will invest:

(correct at time of printing)



Sign up to receive your rates by email

Sign up today to receive your rates and water notices via email.

<https://byron.enotices.com.au>



Having trouble paying your rates?

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

You can reach them at rates@byron.nsw.gov.au.

For more information read our Hardship Policy on our website.

What can go in your green bin?

Did you know that teabags are not supposed to go in your green bin?

In 2022, the EPA banned some additional items from the green organics bin collection that you might have missed.

See below for a quick recap on common items that should go in your green organics bin, along with new items added to the list (in red) that are not allowed in your green bin.

Stay up to date via Council's helpful resource: the A to Z waste and recycling list on Council's website. →



Yes	No
Fruit and vegetable scraps	No bamboo or cardboard packaging or cups
Meat and bones. Seafood and shells	No newspaper (unless it is used to line a kitchen caddy)
Pasta, bread, rice, and cereal	No timber or cardboard packaging, or pizza boxes
Eggs, dairy, loose tea and coffee	No paper towels, tissues or serviettes
Garden waste – prunings, palm fronds, grass clippings, leaves, flowers and weeds	No teabags
Compostable caddy liners (certified AS4736)	No pet poo and poo bags
	No compostable or biodegradable plastic products (such as coffee cups) or bags. Note that compostable caddy liners certified AS4736 are okay.
	No vacuum cleaner dust, washing machine lint and dryer lint.



In the News

Byron Foreshore Concept Plan puts options on the table

Council is consulting with the community on a concept plan for the future of the Byron Bay foreshore area. The concept plan puts a number of options for upgrades on the table for the Main Beach carpark, Apex Park, Denning Park and Clarkes Beach foreshore areas.

The foreshore area is quite degraded and has accessibility and emergency access issues, so this plan will guide gradual upgrades, and help to source funding for these projects, over the next ten years. Feedback from the community will be used to determine the best uses for different parts of the site, and also guide the relocation of Beach Byron Bay (cafe) at Clarkes Beach so that it's further back from the dune.

The consultation closes on 31 July 2024. See Council's Your Say page to have a say.

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/byron-foreshore



Lots of fun at the Furry Friends Festival

Council hosted its first Furry Friends Festival on Saturday 15 June and it was a sunny success with hundreds of pet owners and dogs on leads dropping in to enjoy the morning's festivities.

"We had 25 fantastic exhibitors on the Bangalow Showground oval and there were loads of freebies and giveaways, free face painting, a photo booth and photo competition which was a big hit.

"Thanks to everyone who came along – it was such a great way to meet other pet owners and their beautiful pets and for Council to offer practical advice and assistance with pet ownership at the same time," Council's Animal Education and Enforcement Officer, Jess Clarke said.

The Furry Friends Festival was made possible thanks to a grant from the NSW Government to promote Byron Shire Council's Dogs in Public Places Strategy.

We hope it becomes an annual event!

Safer roads and crossings a win for Mullumbimby

Over the last year, Council has delivered a raft of road projects around Mullumbimby that have made improvements to traffic movement and pedestrian safety.

The raised pedestrian crossing and resurfaced road on Murwillumbah Street near St John's school is making a huge difference, as is the resurfaced road at the Tincogan Street/Dalley Street intersection, which has resolved long-standing traffic issues.

We're also pleased to see the new

pedestrian crossing on Tincogan Street getting great use by the community, with help from the smiley face safety sign.

Meanwhile, Mullumbimby residents are making the most of the new tennis courts near the Community Gardens, the brand-new dog park and new car park adjoining the upgraded skate park.

River Terrace resurfacing is also now complete and the new footpath on Fern Street (connecting to Stuart Street) is almost done. Council has also been consulting the community on their vision for new play equipment at Heritage Park.





Flood Recovery

Two and half years on from the floods we are still working through the long list of outstanding repair work on damaged roads, causeways, bridges and landslips. We acknowledge the frustration of residents, especially people living in the hinterland, who find it difficult at times to do the simplest of road trips such as going to work, or shopping.

Our promise is to continue to push hard to get outstanding applications approved and the work programmed, mindful we must work through the NSW Government processes.

We meet weekly with Transport for NSW staff to progress our applications and claims. In the meantime, we hope to be able to do some initial work in coming weeks and months to make minor improvements on some roads while we wait for advice on the funding applications.

So far 17 applications with a value of around \$52 million have been approved and most of this work is either underway or has been finished.

The total flood repair bill submitted to Transport for NSW is estimated to be more than \$200 million.

Completed projects in 2023/24

- ✓ Gravel resheeting of Kennedys Lane
- ✓ Guardrail replacements at Keyes Bridge and fence repairs at Booyong and O'Mearas Bridge

Projects underway/programmed

- ➔ Federal Drive reconstruction
- ➔ Huonbrook drainage
- ➔ Gravel resheeting of Cedarvale Road, Durrumbul Road, Riverside Drive, The Saddle Road, Jones Road and Huonbrook Road.
- ➔ Guardrail replacement and repairs on Donaghy's Bridge, Palmwoods Bridge, Pioneer Bridge, Repentance Creek Bridge and Jubilee Avenue.
- ➔ Repair of five minor landslips on Main Arm Road (two), The Pocket Road, Goonengerry Road and Left Bank Road.

Approved projects scheduled for 2024/25

- Left Bank Road pavement and culvert repairs
- Johnsons Road pavement and culvert repairs
- Byron Bay drainage upgrade
- Mullumbimby Road improvements
- Coopers Creek Road
- Main Arm causeways 8, 11, 13, 14, 15 and the culvert between 15 and Dry Creek Road
- Palmwoods causeways 1, 2, 3
- Wanganui Road causeways 1, 2

Projects awaiting approval include:

- Upper Wilsons Creek roads
- Huonbrook Road landslip
- Coopers Lane
- The Pocket Road
- Wilsons Creek Road



Water and Utilities

Some of the work completed in 2023/24

- ✓ Sewer pit inspections program
- ✓ Sewer Main CCTV assessments program
- ✓ Carlyle Street water main upgrade
- ✓ Mullumbimby emergency trunk main detailed design
- ✓ Reservoir roof replacements program
- ✓ Inflow and infiltration sewer relining of 20 gravity mains.
- ✓ Additional flow path for the Byron STP

Underway or coming up in 2024/25

- ➔ Manhole inspections program
- ➔ Low pressure pump station upgrades
- ➔ Wilsons Creek Weir slip repair
- ➔ Hydrant inspections program
- ➔ Inflow and infiltration patch works program
- ➔ Inflow and infiltration relining works program
- ➔ Mullumbimby emergency trunk main upgrade
- ➔ Bangalow Road water main upgrade
- ➔ Fletcher Street water main upgrade
- ➔ Sewer pump stations renewals program
- ➔ Brushbox water main upgrade
- ➔ Main Arm Road water main upgrade



Roads and Infrastructure



In 2023/24 we resealed

- ✓ Stewarts Road, Booyong
- ✓ Federal Drive, from village to Eureka Road
- ✓ Kings Road, Eureka
- ✓ Minyon Street, Mullumbimbi Street, Short Street, Teven Street, Brunswick Heads
- ✓ Seaview Street and Browning Street, Byron Bay
- ✓ Sections of Booyong Road, Shirley Street, Main Arm Road, Broken Head Road

Some of the work completed in 2023/24

- ✓ Wordsworth Street and Carlyle Street upgrade
- ✓ Left Bank Road pavement reconstruction
- ✓ Strand Avenue pavement rehabilitation
- ✓ Manns Road upgrade
- ✓ Mullumbimby Recreational Ground carpark upgrade
- ✓ River Terrace pavement
- ✓ Linda Vidler Park drainage work
- ✓ Gloria Street and Royal Avenue infiltration drainage
- ✓ Keith Street asphalt overlay
- ✓ Tincogan Street footpath
- ✓ Belongil Beach parking improvements
- ✓ Mullumbimby skate park access road
- ✓ Erosion protection work – Childe St and Manfred St
- ✓ Orana Road Bridge deck renewal

What's underway or coming up in 2024/25

- ➔ Fern Street footpath
- ➔ Bayshore Drive reconstruction
- ➔ South Beach Road upgrade
- ➔ Station Street drainage
- ➔ Mullumbimby Road upgrade
- ➔ Rifle Range Road upgrade
- ➔ SGB flood pump generator power supply
- ➔ Belongil and Tallowood line marking
- ➔ Installation of automated "flooded road closure" signage
- ➔ Station Street upgrade
- ➔ Mullumbimby to Brunswick Heads cycleway design
- ➔ Byron Shire Overland Flow Path Study
- ➔ Bangalow Flood Study
- ➔ Belongil and Tallow Creek Flood Plan reviews
- ➔ Coogera Creek Detention Basin upgrade
- ➔ Broken Head Road culvert upgrade
- ➔ Lawson Street upgrade





Sustainable Environment and Economy

New rules for short term rental accommodation

From 23 September this year there will be new rules in place for owners of short-term rental accommodation (STRA) in the Byron Shire.

There will be a shire-wide, 60-day cap on the number of nights an unhosted property can be let out in a year, with the exception of parts of Byron Bay and Brunswick Heads.

There has been a 12-month transition period in place since last September to allow property owners and the industry to adapt to the changes.

Staff are developing processes to monitor, audit and enforce STRA via the NSW Government register and other data sources in line with the changes that are coming.

Council believes the new rules will be an incentive for some owners to return their properties to the long-term rental pool.

Residential Strategy

In 2023/24 Council began the process of refreshing its Residential Strategy.

The Residential Strategy is a document that looks at how and where future housing will be provided in the Byron Shire over the next 20 years.

The key component of refreshing the Residential Strategy was the exhibition of a Housing Options Paper which looked at four ways of accommodating population growth such as:

- Infill development in established residential areas.

- New land releases suitable for urban development.
- Existing land that is already zoned for residential development but not released.
- Living differently by changing the way we use our homes.

Using feedback from the Housing Options Paper we have updated the Residential Strategy and it is now with the NSW Government for approval.

There's more information about this on our website.

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Residential-Strategy



Restoring the banks of the Bruns River

Three cheers for our bush regeneration team who recently planted more than 5,000 native plants along a two kilometre stretch of the Brunswick River on Mullumbimby's Riverside Drive.

The team is regularly working on 432 hectares of bushland reserves across 90 sites in the Byron Shire including 15 kilometres of the Brunswick River and its tributaries and more than nine kilometres of natural vegetation along our beaches.

Thanks to the amazing work of this team approximately 147 hectares now contain less than one percent of introduced plant species.

Legends all!



Help protect our bush stone curlews

Bush stone curlews are endangered in NSW, but we are lucky to have them in Byron Shire.

Become a citizen scientist by reporting all your local curlew sightings via our website:

This information helps conservationists learn more about curlews and how to keep them safe and healthy.

You can also look after your neighbourhood curlews by:

- Leaving them undisturbed.
- Keeping your dog well away.
- Never feeding them.



Community



Pay parking is coming to Bruns

Last year Council resolved to install pay parking in Brunswick Heads and provide eligible residents in the Byron Shire with free permits.

Staff are expecting the pay parking meters to be installed in Brunswick Heads in August/September this year.

Stay up-to-date by checking Council's website.

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/bruns-pay-parking



Looking for childcare?

Did you know Sandhills Early Childhood Centre in central Byron Bay is a vibrant and nurturing community, with a focus on nature, sustainability, creativity and well-being.

We offer nurturing early years education for children aged six weeks to five years of age through a flexible and emergent program.

Get in touch via Council's website to discuss your family's needs.



Facilities for our community

A snapshot of some of our projects in 2023/24

- Kohinur Hall solar power
- Durrumbul Hall improvements
- Lilly Pilly Preschool roof replacement
- New roof and shade sail at Brunswick Valley Community Centre
- Mullumbimby pool filters
- Resurfaced Mullumbimby and Byron Bay netball courts
- Resurfaced tennis courts at Mullumbimby, Suffolk Park, Ocean Shores and Billinudgel
- Improvements to cricket nets, wicket and playing field at Lomath Oval
- Mullumbimby Rugby League fields drainage and surface improvements
- New off-leash dog parks at Mullumbimby
- New amenities at Mullumbimby Recreation Grounds and Denning Park
- New fencing at Pine Avenue sports fields
- Mullumbimby Cemetery – designs for expansion and upgrade of Columbarium Walls section
- Mullumbimby Heritage Park Landscape Masterplan
- Tom Kendall Park improvements
- Replaced 250m of dune fencing on The Esplanade at New Brighton
- Byron Bay Croquet Courts clubhouse and playing surface upgrades.
- Byron Bay Scout Hall roof replacement and upgrade
- Belongil Beach emergency vehicle access ramp
- Refurbishment of indoor courts at Cavanbah Centre
- Resurfacing of Cavanbah Centre southern car park
- New amenities and improvements at Linda Vidler Park
- Brunswick Memorial Hall access ramp
- Lighting upgrade at Bangalow sports fields







**We want to make
Byron Shire a balloon and
single-use decoration free place!**

Balloons are one of the most lethal types of debris impacting Australian seabirds and other marine life including turtles, who eat burst balloons because they look like jellyfish.

How can you help? Find out more about what's banned and the world of alternatives to single-use plastic decorations at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/BalloonFreeByron



www.byron.nsw.gov.au

More ways to connect



Visit or call Council
Visit our office in Mullumbimby or call us on 02 6626 7000 to make payments, renew permits and have your questions answered by our friendly team.



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



Facebook
www.facebook.com/byronshire.council



Instagram
[@byronshirecouncil](https://www.instagram.com/byronshirecouncil)



Community E-News
Go to our website to subscribe.
www.byron.nsw.gov.au/enews



Our community engagement platform
Check out Your Say Byron Shire where you can find current consultations and have a say.
www.byron.nsw.gov.au/your-say-byron-shire

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.

Byron Shire Council
70 Station St, Mullumbimby
P: 02 6626 7000
E: council@byron.nsw.gov.au
Emergency After Hours: 02 6622 7022