

# something to talk about

2023/24

## Mayor's Message



For Councillors and staff, the community is at the core of what we do and in the last 12 months we have never worked harder as we continue our flood recovery journey.

We have a damage bill estimated at over \$300 million and at 30 June had submitted funding applications for all of this work.

Only a handful of these applications have been approved so far which has allowed us

to get a start on the reconstruction of Federal Drive, drainage at Upper Huonbrook and the replacement of Englishes Bridge.

For people negotiating the damaged roads and causeways every day, progress has been frustratingly slow. I am hoping that this will change as the NSW Government approves more of our applications. At our end we will be getting the work done as soon as we are able and as quickly as we can.

I am so proud that our hard work to try to deliver more housing to the long-term rental pool in our Shire was vindicated by findings from an Inquiry held by the NSW Independent Planning Commission and we will continue to negotiate with the

State Government on this. You can find out more about this on page six.

Reflecting on the last 12 months there have been some major achievements. We opened the new \$2.6 million Byron Bay Skate Park, progressed several affordable housing initiatives, delivered major improvements on roads including Midgen Flat Road and The Pocket Road, resealed roads in Mullumbimby, Ocean Shores and Ewingsdale, built a new shared path at Bangalow, adopted a Dogs in Public Spaces Strategy, completed a project to help rebuild the sand dunes at Byron Bay's Main Beach, supported our rough sleepers and so much more.

Looking ahead the 2023/24 budget is lean, a reflection of the floods and the additional, and unforeseen costs the organisation is carrying.

We are balancing the costs of flood recovery work and our regular maintenance and upgrade programs, all the while mindful of the services our community wants and needs.

Thank you for your patience as we continue the recovery journey.

**Michael Lyon**  
Mayor, Byron Shire

## \$288 million budget



**\$143.1 million**

Flood recovery



**\$27.8 million**

Major work and construction



**\$18.1 million**

Buildings and pools



**\$17.4 million**

Sewerage operations



**\$15.4 million**

Recycling and waste services



**\$13.3 million**

Maintenance of roads, bridges, footpaths and drains



**\$12 million**

Water operations



**\$11.3 million**

Parks, sports fields, beaches and bush regeneration



**\$10 million**

Natural environment, planning and development



**\$7.3 million**

Community services, libraries and child care



**\$7.2 million**

Administration and governance



**\$3.8 million**

Enforcement and environmental health



**\$1.3 million**

Emergency services

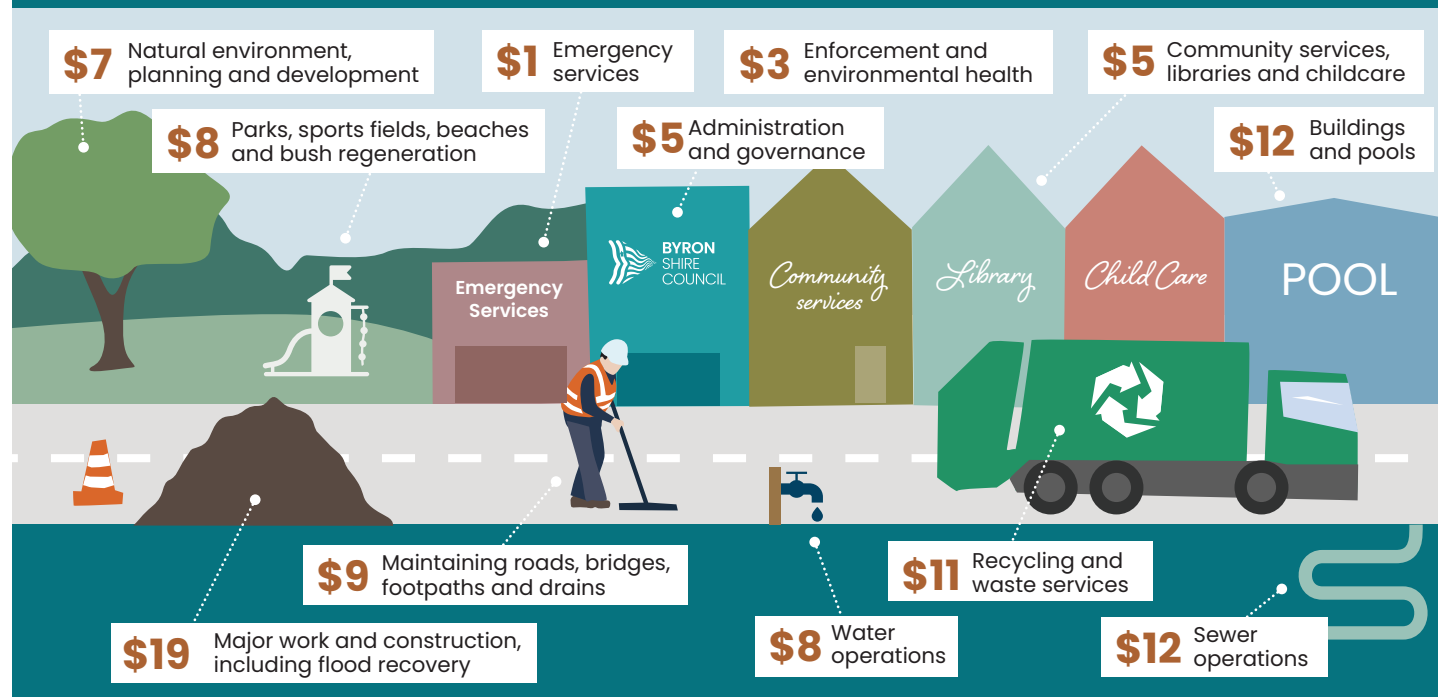


**BYRON  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL**



## Where do your rates, water and sewer charges go?

In 2023/24, for every \$100 spent we will invest:



### Sign up to receive your rates by email

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

<https://www.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 on 02 6626 7000 or [rates@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rates@byron.nsw.gov.au).

For more information read our Hardship Policy on our website. Simply type 'hardship policy' into the search bar.

### Your rates notice in 2023/24

The NSW Valuer General updates property land values every three years so all NSW councils can determine the rates landowners will pay.

The most recent valuations for the Byron Shire were undertaken in 2022.

#### Important things to know are:

- Council does not receive more money because the value of land in the Shire has increased. The amount of money we are able to raise via general rates in 2023/24 is capped by the NSW Government at 4.6%.
- Your rates do not increase or decrease by the same percentage as your land value increases or decreases. Generally, if your land value increased by more than 95% you may pay more rates in 2023/24 and if it increased by less than 95% you may pay less.
- Your rates are calculated by multiplying the value of your land by a 'rate in the dollar' which is set by the Council every year.
- The 'rate in the dollar', also known as the Ad Valorem, in 2023/24 is

0.1080 for residential properties. There are different rates for business and farm land. This information is on our website. <https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/rates>

- To ensure all property owners are contributing to Council services there is also a minimum rate which is applied to all land under a certain value.
- In 2023/24, the minimum rate of \$1,000 applies to all residential land that is valued at \$925,926 or less.

The following examples show how much land rates a residential property owner will pay in 2023/24 for a range of land values.

- **2022 land value \$750,000**  
 $\$750,000 \times 0.001080 = \$810.00$   
 This is less than the minimum amount payable so the property will pay \$1,000.00
- **2022 land value \$1,000,000**  
 $\$1,000,000 \times 0.001080 = \$1,080.00$
- **2022 land value \$2,500,000**  
 $\$2,500,000 \times 0.001080 = \$2,700.00$

<https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/rates>



## In the News



### Check out the new Jarjumirr Byron Bay Skate Park

It's open and fully sick!

The long-awaited Byron Bay Skate Park opened on 1 June and from reports from skaters it's pretty awesome.

Designed and built by Convic, one of the world's best skate park designers, there is something for everyone with a competition-level bowl, and plenty of room to skate, kick-flip and grind.

Jarjumirr Park was funded by a \$2.05 million grant from the NSW Government and Council contributed \$600,000.

"It's important for our community to recognise the critical role the Bundjalung of Byron Bay Arakwal people and Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council played in enabling this project to be delivered for Byron Shire on this land," Byron Shire Mayor Michael Lyon, said.



### Old Byron Bay Hospital redevelopment

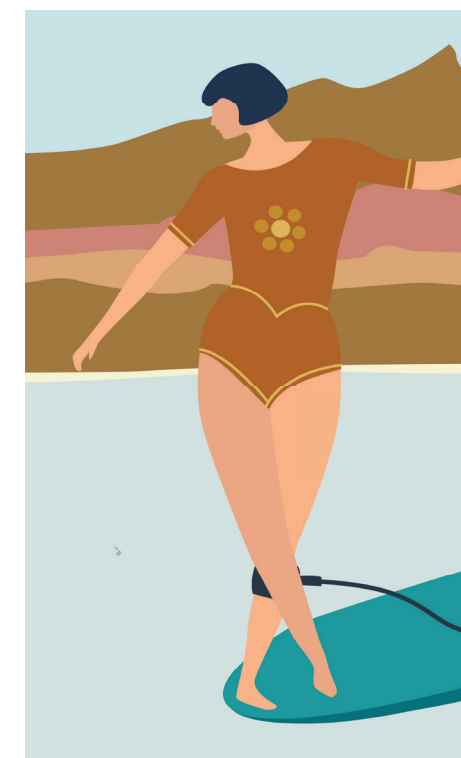
There will be major changes on the old Byron Bay Hospital site in 2023/24 with work to get underway on transforming it into a community precinct with a focus on education, community support services and an outlet for socially-minded commercial enterprises.

Planning consent has been granted and construction is due to start in August/September 2023.

All going well the redevelopment will be finished by mid-2024.

Not-for-profit organisation, Social Futures, will manage the site when the redevelopment is finished.

<https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Byron-hospital>



### Leg ropes compulsory in Byron Shire

There have been some nasty accidents in the surf.

For the safety of everyone in the water – if you're on a board use a leg rope!





## Flood Recovery

### Roads, bridges, causeways...

More than 600 pieces of infrastructure including roads, bridges and causeways were damaged in the 2022 flood and the repair bill is estimated to be around \$300 million.

We have submitted funding applications for the repair and reconstruction of this infrastructure and so far have received approval for:

- Federal Drive reconstruction (\$23 million)
- Huonbrook drainage (\$1.5 million)
- Englishes Bridge (\$1.9 million – completed)

We have submitted funding applications for roads, bridges and causeways in the following areas:

- Gravel resheeting for Kennedys Lane, Cedarvale Road, Durrumbul Road, Riverside Drive, The Saddle Road, Jones Road and Huonbrook Road
- Upper Wilsons Creek roads
- Huonbrook Road landslip
- Coopers Lane and Coopers Creek Road
- Beatties Creek Road and Johnsons Road causeways
- Bridge and guardrail replacements for Booyong, Donaghys, Jubilee Avenue, Keys, Palmwoods, Pioneer, Repentance Creek and O'Mearas bridges

- The Pocket Road
- Main Arm causeways 8, 11, 13, 14, 15 and the culvert between 15 and Dry Creek Road
- Mullumbimby drainage structures
- Palmwoods Road causeways 1, 2 and 3
- Wilsons Creek Road
- Left Bank Road
- Landslips at various locations including Johnsons Road, Huonbrook Road, Goonengerry Road and Possum Shoot Road
- Wanganui Road causeways 1, 2 and 3.

### What happens next?

Council can only do periodic maintenance on roads until we get funding approval from Transport for NSW for permanent repairs or replacement.

Once approved we will work as fast as we can to get the work done but some of the projects are complex and will need to go to tender.

The timeframe for flood repairs and reconstruction is likely to stretch beyond 2026.



### Mullum Flood Recovery Centre wins NSW Award

The Mullum Flood Recovery Centre has won the Community Partnerships Award at the 2023 Local Government Excellence Awards.

It's an award that recognises the amazing work of everyone involved in the Recovery Centre, including Council staff, and the Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre whose staff and volunteers make an incredible difference to our community every day.

From March to August last year support was provided at the Recovery Centre to people and businesses on more than 8,000 occasions, in an environment that was safe, nurturing and reflective of our special community.



## Roads and Infrastructure

### A snapshot of what we completed in 2022/23

- ✓ Johnstons Lane causeway upgrade
- ✓ Englishes Bridge replacement
- ✓ Upper Main Arm Bridge replacement
- ✓ Sherringtons Lane Bridge replacement
- ✓ Byron Bay Skate Park
- ✓ Broken Head Reserve Road / Seven Mile Beach parking
- ✓ The Pocket Road upgrade
- ✓ Mullumbimby roads resurfacing
- ✓ Ewingsdale roads resurfacing
- ✓ Ocean Shores / South Golden Beach roads resurfacing
- ✓ Main Arm Road improvements
- ✓ Midgen Flat Road improvements
- ✓ Murwillumbah Road crossing upgrade
- ✓ Whian Road pavement rehabilitation
- ✓ Ewingsdale shared path
- ✓ Kingsley Lane drainage upgrades
- ✓ Mullumbimby Skate Park access road
- ✓ Gilmore Crescent upgrade
- ✓ Manns Road upgrade

### A snapshot of what's underway and coming up in 2023/24

- ➔ Tincogan Street footpath
- ➔ Belongil parking and road safety upgrade
- ➔ Rifle Range Road intersection upgrade
- ➔ Koranba Place intersection upgrade
- ➔ Left Bank Road improvements
- ➔ Carlyle Street parking and landscaping
- ➔ Byron Hospital redevelopment
- ➔ South Beach Road parking upgrade
- ➔ Mullumbimby Road upgrade



### Success for Byron Bay dune recovery project

In November last year heavy equipment moved onto Byron Bay's Clarkes Beach and Main Beach for a week, marking the start of a dune recovery project.

They scraped sand from the tidal zone further up the beach onto the eroded dune system in a process that mimics Mother Nature but is much faster.

Fast forward six months and the dunes are recovering nicely, native vegetation is growing, and wildlife has moved back in.

The project was recognised at the Local Government Excellence Awards where it won the Environmental Leadership category.

Chloe Dowsett, our Coast and Biodiversity Coordinator said the award was a terrific endorsement of the success of the project.







## Sustainable Environment and Economy

### Short term holiday letting – what’s next?

Following on from the release of the NSW Independent Planning Commission’s (IPC) report on its Inquiry into Short Term Holiday Accommodation (STRA) in the Byron Shire, Council is preparing a case for the NSW Government.

The IPC released its report in April, recommending a 60-day cap on STRA in all parts of the Byron Shire in what was a stronger, more balanced position than Council’s proposal for a 90-day cap in some sections of the shire.

Byron Shire Mayor, Michael Lyon, said the IPC’s report was a strong endorsement of the work Council is trying to do to address a lack of long-term housing in the area.

“The question we are getting asked now is ‘what’s next?’,” Mayor Lyon said.

“We have just submitted a response to the NSW Government demonstrating how we can implement the recommendations in the IPC report effectively.

“We have been working on this planning proposal for several years now and in all of our negotiations with the NSW Government we have presented a considered position that is supported by credible and strong evidence.

“This is no different and we have legal and planning experts working on a proposal that will clearly show the NSW Government how we will go about regulating STRA in our Shire,” Mayor Lyon said.

The current timeframe will see the planning proposal completed by September this year with the hope it will be in force from June 2024,” he said.



### Hunks of Mullum

#### Has anyone spotted one of the 12 hunks of Mullum?

Our arborist team saw an opportunity to use eight large Tallowood trees that were legally removed from the Mullumbimby Public School as tree hollow habitat for wildlife.

Thanks to Brunswick Valley Landcare and Wildbnb for collecting the wood, making the hollows and installing them.

Elvis the kookaburra thinks they’re bonza. Great work team!



### Dogs in Public Spaces strategy

As part of our Dogs in Public Spaces Strategy, our Animal Education Officer, Priscilla, has been visiting childcare centres and primary schools giving free presentations on dogs, their behaviour and how to be safe around them.

Find out more:  
<https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/pet-education>.

### Keeping Cats Safe at Home project

This year we have teamed up with the RSPCA on a ‘Keeping Cats Safe at Home’ project.

As part of the project, we ran a drawing competition for three months.

You can see some of the entries on the windows of our office in Mullumbimby.



## Corporate and Community Services



### Community awards

We have moved our annual Australia Day awards to Local Government Week which starts on 31 July 2023.

Nominations for the awards only just closed and we have been overwhelmed by the response with 62 nominations over nine categories.

The judging panel is now hard at work. The winners will be announced on 1 August.

## Community facilities

### Completed

- Byron Bay Skate Park
- Byron Bay Rec Ground playground upgrade
- Gaggin Park – new play equipment
- Piccabeen Park Bangalow path
- New pedestrian bridge – Bangalow Weir
- Middleton Street public toilets
- Clarkes Beach public toilets
- Brunswick Heads Community Centre – new roof
- Kohinur Hall (post-flood) refurbishment

### Underway

- Dening Park public toilets
- Mullumbimby sports fields public toilets
- Council Chambers (post-flood) refurbishment
- Linda Vidler Park upgrades (amenities, sports fields)
- Mullumbimby CLIC building (post-flood) refurbishment
- Mullumbimby RFS building (post-flood) refurbishment
- Bangalow Piccabeen Park wetlands restoration
- Brunswick Heads Memorial Hall ramp upgrade

### Coming up in 2023/24

- Tom Kendall Park – playground upgrade
- Bangalow sports fields lighting upgrade
- Mullumbimby off-leash dog park
- Resurfacing Cavanbah netball courts
- Resurfacing Mullumbimby tennis courts
- Resurfacing Linda Vidler Park tennis courts
- Byron Croquet Club drainage and clubhouse improvements
- Mullumbimby Rec grounds amenities upgrade
- Mullumbimby Civic Hall (post-flood) refurbishment



## Waste

### Saving Byron Shire – one piece of rubbish at a time

#### 2022/23 – what a year!

- Our Butt Free Byron Shire (Phase 2) campaign won a Keep Australia Beautiful – Tidy Towns Award.
- Illegal dumping decreased by almost 20%.
- Staff and volunteers picked up 1,200kgs of rubbish on Clean Up Australia Day.
- We opened the Re-Market (aka the revamped tip shop) at the Byron Resource Recovery Centre to create a new space for workshops to encourage repair and reusing.
- Via the tip shop we saved 123 tonnes of waste from going to landfill, more than double that of the year before.
- We launched the Bring it Back – Bruns reuse system. The pilot runs until September 2023.
- We diverted 54 tonnes of E-waste, 1,066 tonnes of scrap metal and 310 tonnes of concrete from landfill.
- Transformed 3,090 tonnes of garden waste into 2,520 tonnes of garden compost.

#### What’s new in 2023/24

We are now recycling and recovering more items. You can drop off these items at the Byron Resource Recovery Centre.

- Concrete, bricks, tiles
- Gyprock
- Mattresses
- Hardwood timber

#### Hire our courtesy trailer for FREE

We have two trailers that are available for free to Byron Shire residents to:

- Bring bulky household items or large loads of waste to the Byron Resource Recovery Centre.
- Take items home purchased from The Re-Market/tip shop.
- Pick up mulch purchased from the Byron Resource Recovery Centre.

Call the Byron Resource Recovery Hotline on 1300 652 625 to check availability and book.







Living in  
harmony with  
nature means  
welcoming all  
creatures.

#### More information

Find out more at  
[www.byron.nsw.gov.au/  
flying-foxes](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/flying-foxes)



**NATIONAL  
GRANTS  
PROGRAM**

This project received grant  
funding from WIRES through their  
annual National Grants Program.  
For more information go to  
[wires.org.au/NGP](http://wires.org.au/NGP)

[www.byron.nsw.gov.au](http://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: <https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au>



### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/byronshire.council](https://www.facebook.com/byronshire.council)



### Instagram

@byronshirecouncil



### Community E-News

Go to our website to subscribe.  
[https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/council/  
media-centre](https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/council/media-centre)



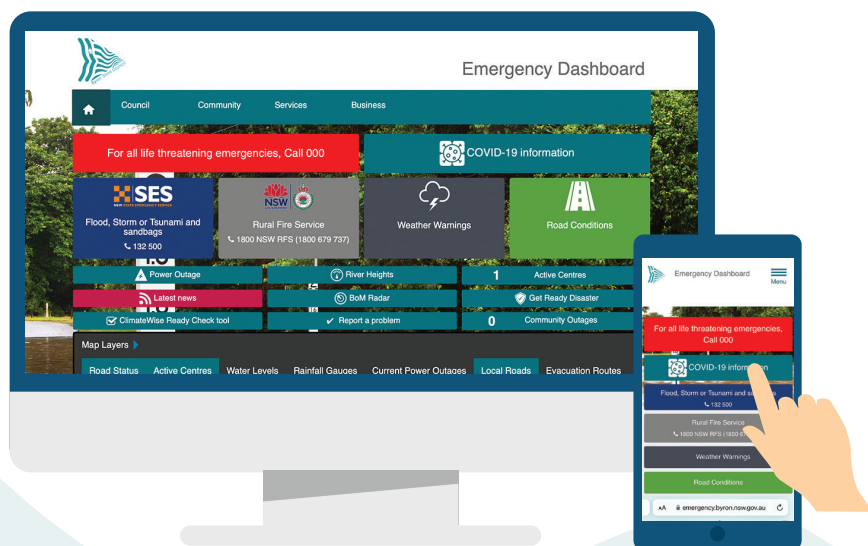
### Our community engagement platform

Check out Your Say Byron Shire where you  
can find current consultations and have a say.  
[https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/your-say-  
byron-shire](https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/your-say-byron-shire)

# The Byron Shire Emergency Dashboard



**BYRON  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL**



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](http://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](mailto:council@byron.nsw.gov.au)

**Emergency After Hours: 02 6622 7022**

[www.byron.nsw.gov.au](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au)