



STATE OF OUR CITY

(Previously END OF TERM REPORT)

ACHIEVEMENTS IMPLEMENTING THE NAMBUCCA COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2027

2016 - 2021



Giinagay (said: 'ginn-a-gay') = welcome. From the local indigenous/Gumbaynggirr language.

PROFESSIONALISM | ACCOUNTABILITY | COMMUNITY FOCUS | TEAMWORK | SAFETY | VALUE FOR MONEY | LEADERSHIP

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Over the last 5 years the Council has seen the best of times and the worst of times all at the same time. I'll try to explain this.

As per Dorothea Mackellar's poem the drought and Kian Road bushfire natural disaster of the 2019/2020 financial year was replaced with a flood natural disaster in March 2021, about a 1 in 20 year (or 5% annual exceedance probability) in the lower estuary and larger in other locations such as Warrell Creek.

This major flood event caused an extraordinary level of damage to Council's road network and the loss of one bridge. Twenty nine (29) houses in Macksville were affected by inundation with many more houses and businesses affected by water damage from the torrential rain.

The scale and frequency of these recent natural disasters is driving all levels of government to consider how communities can be made more resilient to these events. The Council has directed grant and other funding to a number of measures to improve resilience including \$1m for improved mobile phone communications for our rural blackspots; a bulk water dispensing station in George Street, Bowraville for public use; new rain and flood gauges through the catchment plus the creation of a perpetual tax deductible donations fund for future disasters.

Thanks to the natural disaster funding provided by the Federal and NSW Governments, ratepayers are shielded from much of the repair bill. However there is still widespread deterioration of the road network which is not claimable and which will take years to make right. Even the claimable damage is so large and widespread that securing contractors to undertake repairs in a timely way is a challenge.

And all the while the COVID-19 pandemic has continued with the incongruous economic impacts of seeing parts of the economy shut down whilst spending by the government sector, including Nambucca Valley Council, has exploded. Whilst most of the grant funded increase in the Council's capital works budget will be recorded in 2021/22 and subsequent financial years, the 2020/21 year still saw a \$4.7m increase in grants and contributions for capital purposes being a 64% increase on the previous year.

The combination of the additional grant (COVID stimulus and Natural Disaster) funded capital works together with the booming real estate sector has required the employment of more staff, mainly on fixed term agreements. In June 2020 Council's full time equivalent (FTE) workforce stood at 124.28 but by July 2021 this had increased to 138.91.

A range of capital works projects were commenced or completed in the financial year including:

- Creation of 8 hectares of new employment land at the Valla Growth Area
- Nambucca V-Wall precinct upgrade
- The heating of the Macksville Memorial Olympic pool
- A new marshalling area at the pool
- An extension and refurbishment of the Nambucca Heads library and small hall
- Dawkins Park environmental learning precinct
- Riverbank restorations
- Seawall to protect the carpark, access road and surf club at Main Beach, Nambucca Heads
- Half basketball court at Bellwood Park
- Replacement of 18 timber bridges under the Bridges Renewal and Fixing Country Bridges programs

- New shared cycleways and footpaths
- Park improvements at Hennessey Tape sporting precinct, Bowraville
- Jacks Ridge Bike track

In water operations a design and tender was completed for a \$2.4m upgrading of the town water purification system via the installation of UV treatment and enhanced chlorine dosing. The purification upgrade is partly in response to an identified cryptosporidium risk, a type of parasitic infection which whilst rare in public water supply systems can cause serious illness. The tender exceeded the established grant funded budget but agreement between Council and the NSW Government will see the project proceed with a \$ for \$ split of the overrun.

In sewer operations the Council commenced inspecting property connections to the sewer system in the Macksville catchment. The purpose of the inspection program is to identify and rectify unlawful storm water connections and inflow points. This storm water inflow is resulting in surcharges from Council's sewerage system into the Nambucca River and forced closures of the oyster industry from harvest activities. The inspection program is also required by the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

Council's waste management arrangements have been indirectly affected by a decision of the NSW Environment Protection Authority to firstly ban the land application of the processed organic fraction of the kerbside red bins and then later by the withdrawal of transitional funding for the additional cost of transporting and landfilling this material. As part of an agreement with Coffs Harbour City Council, this Council will shortly be taking back responsibility for its mixed (red bin) waste which will be landfilled at the Nambucca Waste Management Facility.

But the term of this Council, which was elected in September 2016, included three years of pre COVID-19 operations. For those who can remember life pre COVID-19 the notable highlights of Council's achievements included the following:

2016/17

- Council amalgamations which did not involve the Nambucca Valley resulted in the number of councils in NSW declining from 152 to 128
- Extensive negotiations with the then RMS were undertaken to finalise the asset handover of the old Pacific Highway. The RMS proposed to transfer to Council's responsibility approximately 30 kilometres of the former highway including 14 major bridge structures. The RMS agreed to retain responsibility for the Macksville Bridge and the other major bridge structures and to classify as regional road that section of the old Highway between Macksville and Nambucca Heads, including Riverside Drive.
- Council completed five (5) bridge replacements being Lovedays, Bakers Creek, Boat Harbour, Degross and Colemans.
- There was major road rehabilitation work on Scotts Head Road, Gumma Road and Rodeo Drive
- The reticulated sewerage network was extended south from Bellwood to Florence Wilmont Drive and the Pelican caravan park
- The Council advocated for a new Macksville Hospital to be built at a "greenfield" site at North Macksville rather than an extension to the current building.

2017/2018

- After many years of lobbying by elected Councils past and present, the Pacific Highway bypass of Macksville was officially opened to traffic in December 2017 and the Pacific Highway upgrade through the Nambucca Valley was completed.
- The BP Highway Service Centre at the Nambucca Heads Pacific Highway interchange was opened.
- Upgrade of the Bowraville Sewage treatment plant to allow the agricultural use of treated effluent
- Business Advisory Committee established which promoted verandah reinstatements in Macksville and murals in various locations
- Council decided to proceed with a 13 lot residential subdivision of land it owned in Hyland Park

2018/2019

- Replacement of Lanes Bridge at Bowraville. At \$1.5m it was the largest capital works project ever undertaken by Council staff who delivered it on time and on budget.
- Completion of 13 lot Hyland Park subdivision
- Construction of the new \$75m Macksville Hospital commenced
- Coastal protection (bleachers) constructed in front of Nambucca Heads SLSC
- New lighting for Coronation Park
- New lighting at Allan Gillet Oval
- New amenities, carpark and improvements at Phillip Hughes Oval
- Heritage verandah reinstatements in Macksville
- Children's playground, Bowraville

2019/2020

- An extended drought culminated in the Kian Road bushfire natural disaster on 8 November 2019 resulting in the death of one resident and serious injuries to other residents and fire fighters. The bushfire destroyed 63 houses, 135 outbuildings and impacted 349 rural properties.
- Provision of solar energy on Council's administration building which reduced electricity costs by 25-30%
- Watt Creek cycleway extension
- Florence Wilmont/Rosella Road connection
- Nambucca Heads RSL boardwalk replacement
- Fischer's and Allgomera No. 2 bridge replacements
- Scotts Head beach seawall
- Nambucca Heads V-Wall revitalisation
- Lighting of the Macksville bridge

Michael Coulter

Michael Coulter
GENERAL MANAGER

FORWARD

NSW Local Government uses a legislated Integrated Planning and Reporting Cycle commonly known as I P and R. It is based on a 20 year Community Strategic Plan, a 10 year Financial plan, a 4 year Operational Plan (that reflects the term of each Council) and annual Delivery Program which contains detailed budgets.



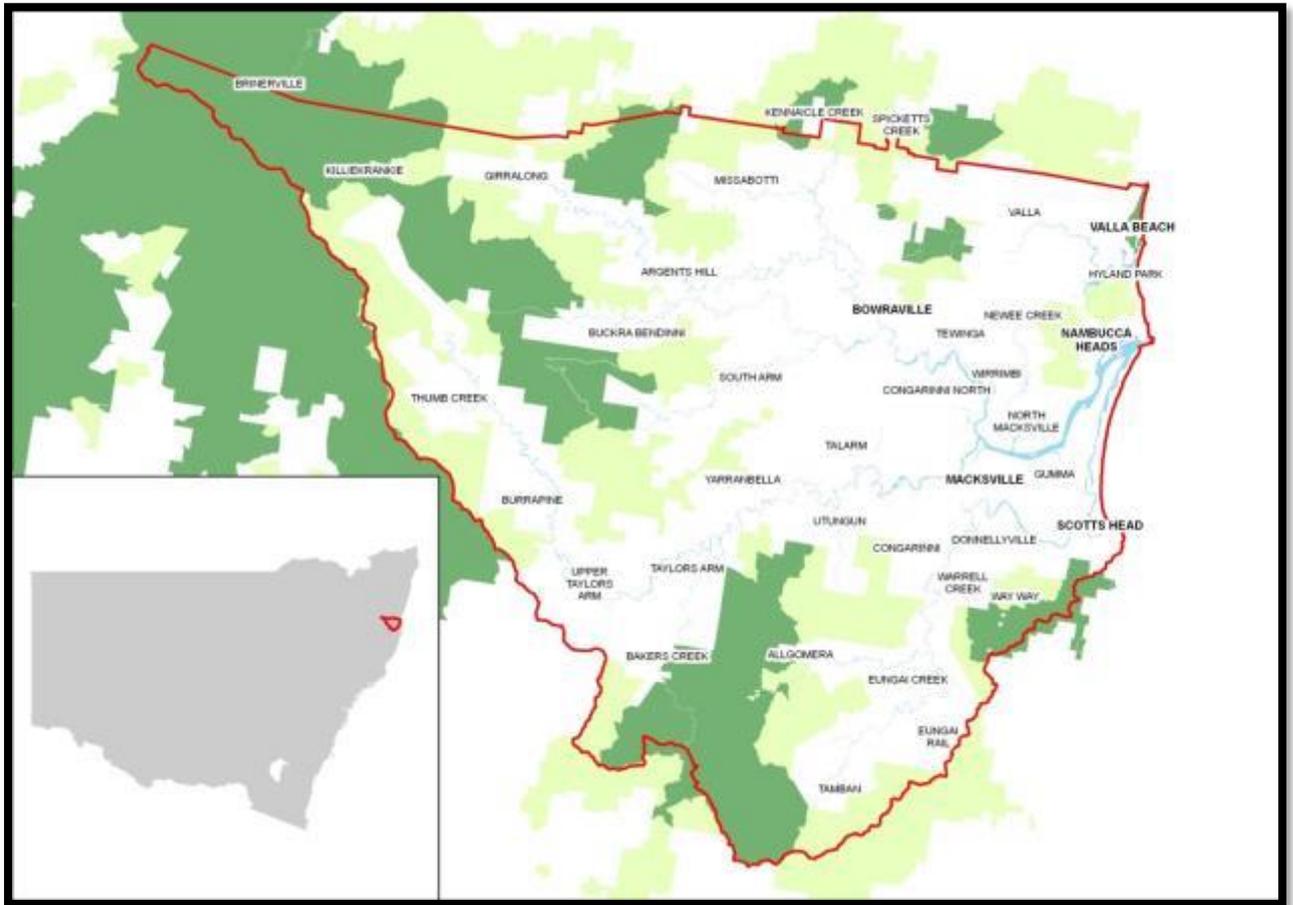
A report on the progress on implementation of the Community Strategic Plan must be presented at the final meeting of an outgoing Council. This report also informs the incoming Council who must review the Community Strategic Plan prior to the next Budget.

This is a report on the implementation of the Nambucca Valley Community Strategic Plan 2027 and it highlights the notable achievements of the Nambucca Valley Council 2016-2021.

STRATEGIC PLAN THEMES AND DIRECTIONS

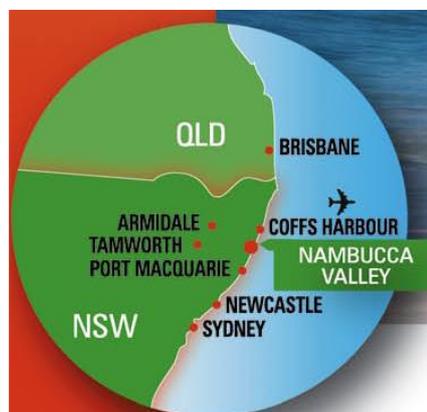
- 1 CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY
 - Civic Leadership and Administration
 - Public Order and Safety
 - Public Health
- 2 CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT
 - Community Support and Education
 - Environmental Planning
 - Building Regulation
 - Environmental Services and Community Amenities
- 3 LIVING WELL
 - Recreation and Culture
- 4 PROMOTING PROSPERITY
 - Local Economy
 - Transport
 - Water Cycle

NAMBUCCA VALLEY OVERVIEW



The Nambucca Valley Local Government Area (LGA) is located between Kempsey and Bellingen Shire Councils on the Mid North Coast of NSW, approximately 500km north of Sydney and 480km south of Brisbane. It is 1492.8 km² and is situated between 30°30'S and 30°56'S and 152°18'E and 153°01'E. The terrain is steep and intersected by small streams nestled between the foothills of the Great Dividing Range and the coastline of the Pacific Ocean. The rugged topography of the eastern edge of the New England plateau in the western part of the valley is dominated by steep slopes and valleys, while the eastern portion of the valley is characterised by the gentle slopes of the river floodplains.

The Nambucca River drains the valley and is 47km long. Nambucca Valley Council has two National Parks, eight local nature reserves and 25km of coastline.



NAMBUCCA VALLEY POPULATION - SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

	2011	2017	Change	2020
Total persons	18,644	19,212	+3%	19,995
Aged 14 years and under	3,382	3,220	-4.8%	17.5%
Aged 65 years and over	4,999	5360	+7.2%	24%
Born overseas	2,778	3,554	+28%	
Median Age	49	51	+2 Yrs	43%
Unemployment Rate	8.7%	6.7%	-2%	6.5%
Households with internet access	63.0%	72.5%	+9.5%	

(Source: ABS)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up about 7% of the population, nearly treble the national average and their living culture is an integral part of the Valley's society.

NAMBUCCA VALLEY - TOWNS, VILLAGES AND RURAL POPULATION

The main localities include Nambucca Heads, Macksville, Bowraville, Valla Beach and Scotts Head with many smaller villages and rural settlements. The LGA has a population density of 13 people per km².

	1996*	2001*	2006	2011	2016	2020
Bowraville	884	956	954	1,208	1,122	1,218
Eungai **	139	583	584	658	781	781
Hyland Park	284	321	315	441	429	453
Macksville	2,722	2,661	2,658	2,567	2,598	2,650
Nambucca Heads	6,248	6,146	6,121	6,222	6,327	6,923
Scotts Head	832	793	794	821	899	900
Valla Beach	729	814	819	1,200	1,313	1,320
Rural/Non-Urban Balance	5,729	5,444	5,415	5,527	5,743	5,750
TOTAL	17,567	17,718	17,660	18,644	19,212	19,995

** Area extended in 2001 to include Eungai Creek, Eungai Rail and Allgomera

Nambucca Heads from 2006 includes Kingsworth Estate (not previously included in town population)

(Source: ABS)

The Nambucca Valley is rapidly becoming a desirable destination for lifestyle sea and tree changers and the recent Pacific Highway upgrade has made it an easy commute to the regional centre of Coffs Harbour. Traditional industries of dairying, timber, grazing, and horticulture have been supplemented by aquaculture and crops such as macadamias and blueberries. Service industries, in particular tourism, aged care and health services are important and growing sources of employment.

Being strategically located between Sydney and Brisbane with easy access via the North Coast rail and the Pacific Highway, the Nambucca Valley is a natural location for logistics hubs and warehousing operations but has also enticed major manufacturers to relocate and expand in the Valley. The major industries are niche manufacturing and vehicle body manufacturing, timber processing and pre cast concrete production. Council has also been fortunate in securing multi-million dollar grants to construct the Valla Growth Area over the next few years and this will create jobs and prosperity.

Nambucca Valley Council has a full range of Local Government operations and is responsible for maintaining a wide range of infrastructure including roads, bridges, parks and gardens, footpaths, an aquatic centre, libraries, stormwater drainage, water pump stations and reservoirs, sewer pump stations and treatment plants. The Valley is lush and beautiful with high rainfall, extensive coastline, river frontage and rugged terrain, however these same attributes also make it difficult and expensive to build and maintain infrastructure assets. Given the Valley's limited resources, priorities need to be constantly reassessed and the Council has to be open to new and better ways of doing things.

Theme 1 CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Our community will be a safe, healthy place to live where everyone is valued.

Civic Leadership and administration

Council will use a variety of tools, engage with the community in ways that are accessible and transparent.

Continue to liaise with Council Section 355 committees to provide advice on policy areas.

Offer public forums, delegations to Council meetings.

Arrange Council meetings throughout the Valley.

Provide open access to information held by Council wherever possible.

Achievements:

- Councillors and Senior Staff attend S355 Annual General Meetings and minutes are reported to Council.
- A centralised web page provides Committees with easily accessible information: Volunteer application form, Handbook and Safety Handbook; Guidelines to Operate; and Codes of Conduct and Meeting Practice.
- Council continued to conduct “away” meetings in villages and outlying rural areas until COVID-19 restrictions and then all meetings were held in Macksville. Residents addressed Council via delegations at public forums.
- A newsletter is issued along with rate notices.
- Numerous media releases were issued and there was an increase in the number of media releases following bushfires, floods and COVID-19 rules during 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Use information from the community in decision making by reporting submissions and community comment to Council; and undertaking regular Community Satisfaction Surveys

Achievements:

Numerous plans and documents were exhibited over the period using Council’s website and physical displays in the Administration Centre, libraries or shop fronts eg Flood Risk Management Plan in 2017. A Community Survey of 400 residents was undertaken by Jetty Research in 2019 and a 2021 Survey has been planned. Survey results are used to inform Council strategic and corporate planning. Based on feedback from the 2019 Survey (64% support), Council underwent a change of name from Nambucca Shire Council to Nambucca Valley Council. Rebranding was undertaken & resources were replaced or updated.

Keep the community informed of the decisions, key issues and actions of Council by using Council’s website, media opportunities, newsletters and direct personal communications to inform stakeholders and the community.

Achievements:

- Council reports and minutes of meetings posted on website including webcasts of meetings.
- Council became more proactive with the use of Social Media, specifically Facebook.
- Media releases distributed and various television, radio and newspaper articles on Council activities occurred during the term.
- Encouraging use of media releases instead of paid advertisements to reduce cost and increase reach. Paid advertisements used where there is a statutory or other requirement.

Maintain an effective governance by meeting and maintaining Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements and having effective Internal Audit function

Achievements:

- Audit Risk and Improvement Committee is operating as per Office of Local Government Best Practice requirements.
- Internal audit plan projects have been undertaken with reviews being conducted by Forsyths Chartered Accountants.
- Council was selected along with 5 other councils for a credit card audit in 2021 by the Auditor General, with a number of recommendations implemented.

Sustainable Delivery of Services

Identify and implement initiatives to improve financial sustainability through revenue increases, by completing grant funding, by using Office of Local Government financial sustainability indicators and expense saving initiatives

Achievements:

- Asset sales of surplus land for Hyland Park, Giinagay Way and Riverside Drive.
- On a consolidated funds basis OLG benchmarks for all financial indicators are being met except for the Operating Performance Ratio, Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio, Buildings and Infrastructure Renewals ratio and Infrastructure Backlog Ratio.
- Significant amount of grants obtained.

Use of effective asset management practices through annual asset management maturity assessments

Achievements:

- Revaluation of Transport Assets and Buildings.
- A comprehensive revaluation of other infrastructure, other structures, other open space, recreational assets, other pools assets was undertaken in 2020/2021.
- Update of AMPs for Open Space and Recreation, Water, Sewer, Buildings, Transport - Other Assets, Bridges, Stormwater, Kerb and Gutter, Carparks, Footpaths, Swimming Pool, Other Assets, Sealed Roads, and Unsealed Roads. The Bridge AMP has been updated to reflect the Fixing Country Bridge (FCB) Grant program.
- New AMP's for Swimming pools and other structures/infrastructure have been prepared following the recent revaluation.
- A Strategic Asset Management Plan SAMP is to be developed in 2021/22 as well as a NAMS* maturity assessment to be completed.
- A comprehensive Revaluation of Water and Sewer Assets is to be undertaken in 2021/22, as well as an update to all Asset Management Plans.

* NAMS – is the Institute of Public Works Engineers Australasia (IPWEA) toolkit for Asset Management Planning.

Embrace a culture of continuous improvement including the best utilisation of the human resources, reviews of what and how services are delivered with a view to improvement of processes and the embracing of new technologies.

Achievements:

- Council adopted Vendor Panel for contracts.
- Street sweeper identified for the Civic Services and included in the 2020/21 budget.
- Continued upgrade to the SCADA* telemetry to reduce labour requirement at sewage treatment plants.
- Employee Portal created for access to forms, policies and information for staff.
- “Pulse Onboarding” is a software solution for employment of new staff and for annual staff reviews.
- An online training package called Blueprint has ensured staff training is current whilst minimising downtime caused by group training. Staff undertake annual training at their own pace and as an individual for Code of Conduct, Work Health and Safety, EEO, Fraud and Corruption Awareness, Workplace Bullying and Harassment, and Information Privacy.

*SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) is a software package that is positioned on top of a real-time control system to control an external process. Telemetry is a technology which allows the remote measurement and also reporting of information to Council staff.

Risk Management

Integrate effective risk management practices across the organisation

Achievements:

- Strategic Risk Register updated.
- New reporting from the field capability introduced.
- Insurance through Statewide and Statecover.
- Register of instances maintained.
- Regular reporting to MANEX (Management Executive Committee).
- Green Space team continue to plant out embankments to reduce manual maintenance and reduce WHS (Work Health and Safety) issues.
- “AP Workflow” is a software solution for managing invoicing which virtually eliminates the use of paper and with increased checks and balances decreases the risk of fraud and corruption.

Instil a culture of safe work practices across the organisation

Achievements:

- Implementation of WHS action plan with regular audits.
- Reduction in the number of work related claims or reported incidents.
- Enhanced reporting of work related claims and reported incidents to MANEX and to Council in closed meeting.
- Monthly meetings to discuss WHS issues, inspections and reports undertaken by Council’s Risk Officer.
- “Vault” introduced to all work teams for electronic capture of incidents, tool box talks and incident reporting.

Sustainable Energy Use

Implement technologies and make decisions to reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions and reduce Council's carbon footprint.

Establish a clean energy committee to investigate options for investment growth in renewable energy.

Achievements:

- Conversion of street lights to LED has been completed.
- Electric vehicle charging Stations installed in Macksville and Nambucca Heads.
- A 50Kw Solar Panel system was installed on Council Chambers in 2019 with four (4) systems installed on Macksville Library, Macksville Senior Citizens Centre; Council Works Depot and the Bowraville Dam in 2020.
- Implementation of Councils Renewable Energy Action Plan.
- Investigation of opportunities to transition Councils Light Fleet to energy efficient vehicles.
- Council is a member of two state government programs to support sustainability initiatives and funding is provided from Environmental Levy to implement actions.
- Investigation undertaken on Hybrid and electric vehicles. The Sustainable Fleet and Plant Policy contains the statement that "consider new and emerging technologies and monitor the practicality of electric vehicles where practical and fiscally possible".

Make information available to the community to help them reduce energy use by providing links on Council's website to reputable websites that provide information on sustainable energy use and Government objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Achieved.

- A 50Kw Solar Panel system was installed on Council Chambers in 2019 with four (4) systems installed on Macksville Library, Macksville Senior Citizens Centre; Council Works Depot and the Bowraville Dam in 2020.
- Implementation of Councils Renewable Energy Action Plan.
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Public Order and Community Safety

Provide support for local emergency services and beach safety by maintaining Fire Trails, providing Lifeguard services, maintaining an effective Local Emergency Management Committee and providing Effective Ranger Services to regulate use of beaches by 4WD's.

Achievements:

- Bush fire mitigation and trail maintenance was undertaken in accordance with the approved plans, and fire mitigation orders issued by the Rural Fire Service were complied with.
- The Emergency Operations Centre was made operational in March 2021 to manage the flood and storm. All Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) members were involved with the floods.
- Three LEMC meetings are held annually.
- The Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) was reviewed and endorsed by the North coast Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC).
- Council has maintained an attendance at REMC meetings.
- Ranger services monitoring vehicles on the beaches, Honorary Rangers continue to monitor and report any issues to the Rangers.
- Lifeguard services funded by Council for the Christmas period and reported to Council in March annually.

Provide leadership on safety initiatives by recommending road safety improvements through the Local Traffic Advisory Committee and by specific safety initiatives such as Alcohol Free Zones implemented in conjunction with the Local Police District

Achievements:

- A joint Road Safety Officer with Bellingen Shire Council was appointed in 2021 to initiate Transport for NSW (TfNSW) road safety programs.
- Recommendations of Local Traffic Advisory Committee are reported to Council and implemented.
- AFZ's reviewed and re-established: Bowraville CBD 1 June 2017 and 1 June 2021; Nambucca Heads Visitor Information Centre precinct 1 June 2018 and Nambucca Heads CBD 10 January 2019.

Companion Animal Welfare

Manage Companion Animals to ensure the community's safety and improve animal welfare.

Achievements:

- Council aimed to reduce the number of impounded and euthanased animals and increase the number impounded animals which are rehomed.
- Responsible Pet Ownership programs were run to assist disadvantaged groups with de-sexing and registration costs.
- Maintained 'doggy bags and bins' program for the responsible disposal of dog faeces.
- Responsible Pet Ownership Program maintained during the period.
- The number of animals rehomed has increased significantly over recent years due to Council actively working with rescue groups. The only animals destroyed have been those that legally have to be under the Companion Animals Act.

Number of Dogs and Cats Euthanased

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/2020	2020/21
Cats	18	24	15	2	0	0
Dogs	66	70	21	1	7	4

Provide open spaces where dogs can be exercised; maintain and police dog walking and off leash areas

Achievements:

- Council's Rangers have been undertaking regular patrols.
- Additional signs erected in response to complaints.
- Review of Companion Animals Policy in response to community views eg consultation on proposed off lease areas adjacent to Macksville sporting fields and between Swimming Creek and Main Beach, Nambucca Heads in 2021.

Public Health - Safe Food

Effectively license and regulated premises that handle food for public consumption aiming for all required premises licensed, all routine inspections to be completed, effective response to complaints; and a reduction in warnings, infringements and reported cases of illness caused by unsafe food.

Achievements:

All food premises inspected within reporting period.

Public Health - Clean Water

Ensure Nambucca waterways will not be contaminated by on-site sewerage systems by requiring on-site sewerage systems to licensed, completing routine inspections completed, effectively responding to complaints; and through a reduction in warnings, infringements and reported cases of pollution from on-site sewerage systems.

Achievements:

Councils OSSM inspection program has been operating as scheduled, with any identified failing systems actively rectified through compliance action.

Note: There are approximately 3,500 septic systems in the valley.

Protection and restoration of riparian areas as prioritised in the Nambucca River Estuary Management Plan using funding from external grants and the Environmental Levy.

Achievements:

- Improvements to Bellwood Foreshore.
- River Bank Stabilisation Works completed at Bellwood Foreshore; Gumma Reserve and Gordon Park.
- Boating Facility improvements at Gumma Reserve including a new amenities, lighting, parking refinements and bank stabilisation.
- Boating Facility improvements at Weir Reserve including amenities renovations, boat ramp improvements, parking and access improvements and protection of surrounding reserve from ad hoc vehicle movements.

- Boating facility improvements at Devils Elbow and Grassy Park to support Passive Craft launching and the development of a Kayak Trail which highlights local infrastructure and promotes exploration of our waterways.
- Fish cleaning tables upgraded at Gordon Park and Stuart Island.
- V-wall Revitalisation and interpretative space.



Water craft launch site at Nambucca Heads constructed by Council staff - 2019

Public Health - Personal Health and Wellbeing

Support existing and initiate new public health activities and advocate to the State Government for improved health services specifically the upgrade or replacement of Macksville Hospital.

Achievements:

- Council was effective in advocating for a new Macksville hospital on a green field site at Darruya* Road North Macksville.
- Trunk water and sewerage to the new Macksville hospital was provided by Council at a cost of \$1.2m with a funding grant of \$600,000 from the Australian Government. Council also waived contributions for water & sewerage head works and provided pro-bono DA assessment. This support is valued at \$1.5m.
- Assistance in the establishment of a new HealthOne facility in Bowraville.

**From the local indigenous/Gumbaynggirr language. Darruya (said: 'Dah-roo-ya') = get better!*

Theme 2 CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

Our community values our natural environment and seeks a safe, liveable, sustainable built environment that is adaptive to change.

Housing

Provide diverse, sustainable, adaptable and affordable housing options through effective land use planning.

While there has been growth in the take up of vacant residential land, there are still considerable areas of growth available under the current planning instruments.

Building Regulation - Safe Buildings and Pools

Ensure private pools are of a safe standard.

Achievements:

Following a blitz of inspections with the introduction of new legislation some 7 or 8 years ago, inspections have slowed in line with the program and available resources. Pools have been inspected as a result of property transfer, requests for certificates of compliance, and those used as part of tourist and visitor accommodation or on properties which contain multi dwelling housing. There are more than 800 swimming pools in the Valley.

Ensure private infrastructure and buildings comply with relevant standards and codes.

**Council offers a competitive certification service
Council maintains an effective compliance program.**

Achievements:

Council has maintained an increased compliance presence within the land use space.

A risked based compliance program for building fire safety is conducted.

Achievements:

Fire safety statement audits are ongoing on an annual basis.

Promote sustainable building practices including energy and water efficiency by subsidising the installation of water tanks and by providing information and assistance on sustainable building practices

Achieved

Waste Management

Provide an efficient and effective waste management facility that meets environmental standards.

Achievements:

- Nambucca Waste Management Facility is available to the public all year (except public holidays).
- Ratepayers without kerbside collection have access to a 3m3 tipping voucher.
- Plans for the construction and rehabilitation of landfill cells are kept current and are executed as required. Cell 4 design modifications were required before submitting to the EPA for approval prior to construction commencing.
- Groundwater and surface water monitoring and testing meets licensing requirements. Surface water sampling and testing were undertaken after each rainfall event and EPA annual returns were completed in accordance with licensing requirements.
- Pollution reduction programs were undertaken to meet licensing requirements.

Provide collection of separated domestic waste materials through a cost effective and reliable kerbside collection service and a household kerbside bulky goods items collection program.

Achievements:

The new kerbside waste collection and recycling processing contract commenced on the 5 March 2018 with expiry due 5 March 2027.

The contract required an upgrade to the old MRF to provide a higher processing of recyclable materials and minimise waste to landfill.

The NSW EPA banned the land application of the processed organic fraction of the kerbside red bins in October 2018. NSW target by 2022 for recovery of municipal waste is 70%. Council had exceeded the recovery rate, which was 90% until the NSW EPA revoked the land application of mixed waste organic outputs (MWOO) which the recovery rate has since dropped by 40%.

The processing of organic materials (food/green waste) continues with the contract expiry being March 2027.

Minimise illegal dumping of waste through prosecution and surveillance.

Achievements:

The installation of hidden cameras to catch and penalise those dumping in hotspots has been ongoing particularly around the kerbside bulky goods collection times when illegal dumping increases.

Clean Streets

Street sweeping of high-profile areas

Achievements:

A contract street sweeper is engaged to sweep kerb and gutter in high profile and CBD areas prior to the NSW school holiday periods.

Street and park litter bins are emptied before they overflow or cause a public nuisance

Achievements:

The number of litter bins within the Valley has been rationalized and are emptied on a daily basis in high use areas. All solar bins send an alert to the staff when they are at 60% capacity advising servicing will be required.

CBD foot paths are clean

Achievements:

CBD footpaths are pressure cleaned on a rolling three-four year program due to cost and resources. Footpaths were cleaned if required outside the pressure cleaning program.

Cemeteries

Effectively, efficiently and respectfully manage, maintain and administer cemeteries across the Valley

Achievements:

- Affordable and efficient interment services are provided.
- Council has a maintenance program which takes into account days of significance and therefore potentially higher visitation.
- A Plan of Management is implemented for each cemetery.

Environmental Protection

Protect against deliberate damage on public land – tree vandalism

Achievements:

The standard protocol for vandalism of tree damage is to investigate after each incident by the Green Space Coordinator, report the matter to the Police and followed up with a media release. For example in 2020 there were trees reported to be vandalized at the reserve above Little Beach Scotts Head. The area is owned and maintained by Crown Lands, therefore referred to appropriate officer.

Support community organisations undertaking natural resource management - support Landcare and Dunecare and collaborate with North Coast Local Land Services (LLS) and other natural resource agencies

Achievements:

- Hennessy Tape Riparian Improvements;
- Bank Stabilisation Works and Fish Habitat improvements at Wilson Road and Welshs Pioneer Park, Talarm,
- Bank Stabilisation work at Bellwood Park and Gumma Reserve
- Fish Habitat Flagship program at Bowraville
- Significant Partnership established with Federal Government Fish habitat program, LLS and Landcare to deliver bank stabilisation projects in Nambucca River and the Taylors Arm.
- Partnership established with Landcare to assist with the delivery of vegetation Koala restoration activities.

- Partnership established with Landcare to coordinate bushfire recovery activities on rural land.
- Management of environmental weeds on Council and Council-managed Crown land in conjunction with NSW and Federal Governments, Local Land Services, Office of Environment and Heritage and Land care.



Landcare volunteers at work following bushfires - 2019

Develop management plans for environmentally sensitive areas.

Achievements:

- Draft Coastal Management Program prepared and exhibited to deliver management actions for all Coastal Land.
- Koala Management Strategy drafted.
- Awaiting State Government to finalise policy direction prior to commencing comprehensive Koala Management Plan.
- Several Review of Environmental Factors were prepared to support management of foreshore area management.
- Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement was prepared and adopted by and is available on the DPIE Planning Portal.
- V-Wall Revitalisation Plan prepared and implementation commenced.
- Draft Bowraville Masterplan Prepared, exhibited and endorsed by Council in principle. Refinement of detail required to progress.
- Draft Macksville Foreshore Plan prepared and being exhibited.

Biodiversity

Provide education on and control noxious and other environmentally hazardous weeds.

Achievements:

In the past 5 years Council has identified and assisted all land holders of all tenures with the management of numerous weed incursion sites through Identification and control advice, financial assistance through grants and on-ground exercises. These sites include but are not limited to:

➤ 20 Tropical Soda Apple sites	➤ 10 Mysore Thorn sites
➤ 3 Water Lettuce sites	➤ > 20 Honey Locust Tree sites
➤ 35 Cats Claw Creeper sites	➤ 2 >10Ha areas of Yellow Bells
➤ 4 Kudzu sites	➤ 5 incursions of Giant Devils Fig
➤ controlled Nambucca first Sticky Night Shade plant incursion (from fodder)	➤ Bitou Bush and Gloriosa Lilly control over the entire Council and Crown managed coastal zone
➤ 6 sites of Devils Fig	➤ 100's of Broad Leaf Pepper tree and Green Cestrum incursions in the Urban areas

- Council has continued tenure neutral property inspections throughout the entire Nambucca Local Government Area for declared pest plant species under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015.
- Council's authorised officers have taken part in the creation of the North Coast Strategic Weed Management plan which outlines priorities of weed control of the whole North coast as a region.
- Many media releases, field days, participation in the development of yearly calendars, new information on weeds in fodder booklets and recently a brand new Weeds of the North Coast Identification guide.
- Biosecurity staff have teamed with the Rates Department to deliver high priority weeds information to all land holders through the annual rates mail out. Plant identification and management advice is offered to all land holders by Council Biosecurity staff. The inspection program has been possible due to the continuation of the NSW Weeds Action Program (WAP) which is State grant fund delivering financial and administration assistance to all LGA's on the North coast. The newly secured WAP program extends to 2025 and will help with the management of pest plant species through the Nambucca Valley.
- Developed a road side grass weeds control programme using red guideposts to delineate areas to be treated and not mown.
- Identified and managed a new grass weed called Grader Grass (originates from India) introduced to new M1 Motorway corridor by interstate contractors machinery.
- Worked with researchers to release numerous bio-control agents for Salvinia, Cats Claw Creeper, Parramatta Grass and Sagitaria.
- The First Parthenium weed infestation to be located on the North Coast of NSW ever was found in the upper reaches of the Nambucca just 1 year ago and is still being intensively monitored for new plants at the known sites or downstream.
- A Novel Grant was secured through the North Coast Local Land Services to pay for the training of two "sniffer dogs". The two Springer Spaniels called Connor and Dash reside at a training facility in Port Macquarie and are co-owned by OEH and the training provider TATE Animal Enterprises. They have been used in the field to great success for locating small Parthenium weed plants in paddocks before they flower.

Deliver projects funded under the Environmental Levy that promote biodiversity.

The following projects were undertaken or continued during the reporting period with funding from the Environmental Levy or other sources:

- Public Reserves Revegetation and Restoration.
- Koala feed tree restoration project underway in partnership with Landcare.
- Dawkins Park Management and establishment of an Environmental and Cultural Learning Space.
- Fish Habitat and Bank Stabilisation at Wilson Road and Welsh's Pioneer Park Talarm.
- Indian Myna Bird Management Program.
- Noxious weed management.
- Coastal EEC and Endangered Species habitat Management Scotts Head.
- Goanna Trail improvement and weed management at Scotts Head.
- River Bank and Riparian Restoration projects.

FEATURE PROJECT

Dawkins Park – Macksville

Formerly just seen as a stormwater catchment for a large part of Macksville, with poor water quality, lack of environmental diversity and ageing infrastructure; this staged project is transforming the area into a key feature of the town. Taking an approach of “learning about climate change through public spaces”, the park now includes an 18m high windmill with water re-circulation through a rain garden to filter water and reduce pond stagnation, together with accessible shelters, new pathways and educational signage. Using funding from Council's Environmental Levy, together with partnerships with the NSW government and Southern Cross University the park is now a place used by schools for environmental education and by residents or visitors as a place of leisure. Further developments are planned.



3 LIVING WELL

Our community values our natural environment and seeks a safe, liveable, sustainable built environment that is adaptive to change.

Recreation and Culture

Support local museums so that they continue to operate successfully and attract new volunteers and visitors

Achievements:

Museum Advisor Program Phase 2 commenced in 2019 and is jointly funded by Council and the Museums and Galleries of NSW. The Program assists local governments and volunteer museums to develop more effectively operated and vibrant museums leading to greater cultural and tourism opportunities for the museums and their towns. Bowraville Folk Museum, Mary Boulton Cottage and Museum, Headland Museum and Frank Partridge VC Military Museum are involved. Volunteering in museums has generally increased, along with local collaboration. A key achievement was the celebration of the Centenary of Macksville Railway Station in 2019. Despite being 100 years old, the Station was also officially opened as the original plans were cancelled due to a world flu pandemic following WW1.



Ingo and Lesley Ueckerman at Bowraville Folk Museum

Continued involvement with the Arts Mid North Coast Development Board

Achievements:

Council annually elects a Councillor delegate to the Board of Management. The Arts Mid North Coast regular newsletter keeps Council and community informed about opportunities and events.

Investigate and promote public art and street art so that it is incorporated into redevelopment of commercial areas

Achievements:

There has been a noticeable increase in public art throughout the valley with a number of works now installed in Wallace Lane Macksville which have been completed by school students, business owners and community. “Nambucca Valley – Keep the Pressure Down” was painted by local artist Ian Moule on a high profile water tank in Nambucca Heads; and metal sculptures have also started to establish a presence eg (temporary) installation of a large pelican at the V-Wall and a permanent pelican at the garden centre on Riverside Drive.

There has also been an increase in public-facing private wall murals eg Greg Inglis and Phillip Hughes at the Macksville Hotel and wall art at Elk on 38.



The Durham family, Wallace Lane Macksville

Meeting Places - Maintain public buildings where justified by community use.

Achievements:

- Work with section 355 committees responsible for the buildings.
- All fire, pest, and roof anchor inspections of halls were completed in accordance with the legislative requirements.

Operate the Senior Citizens Centre at Macksville

Achieved.

Maintain Sporting Facilities by working with 355 Committees, reviewing/delivering the priorities of Master Plans and the Open Space Strategy, and completing a safety and maintenance inspection program

Achievements:

- Committees are operating within their Charter.
- Reviewed S355 Committees and replaced some with licensees.
- New or updated Asset Management Plans have been prepared for swimming pools, playgrounds and other structures/infrastructure following recent revaluations.
- Playground inspections and repairs are ongoing, with recommendation report completed but a small number of playgrounds are becoming very aged and are reaching or exceeding their serviceable life. Council has considered the rationalization of existing playgrounds and chosen to invest capital to replace unserviceable equipment, including soft-fall borders.
- Asset staff member trained on playground inspections to program more regular inspections.
- Grants Officer works with Committees of Management to seek funding for projects.

FEATURE PROJECT

Upgrade Phillip Hughes Oval – Macksville

With the potential to boost local tourism with an increase in locally-hosted cricket matches (on a turf wicket) from across the region, this project included the construction of the “Phillip Hughes Pavilion”, traditional white picket fencing, revitalised the playing fields and other infrastructure. Completed in early 2020 at a cost of \$673,700 the facility promotes healthy living, inclusion and social participation.



Operate and maintain Macksville Memorial Aquatic and Fitness Centre

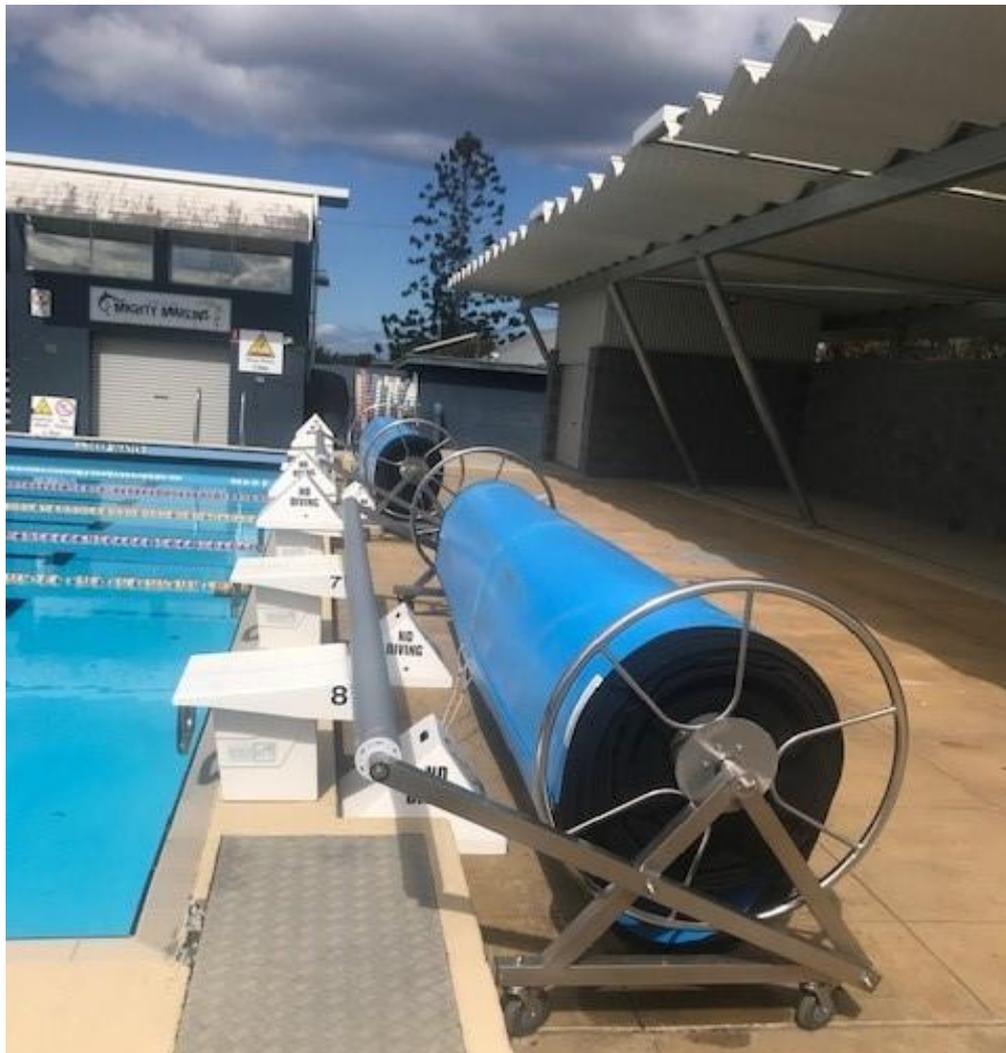
Achievements:

- Work with the contractor to deliver affordable and popular gym and swimming program.
- Effectively manage and maintain the centre within the agreed budget.
- The 5-year tender which was to expire June 2021 was renewed for a further two years due to flood and COVID impacts. Centre maintained despite closures. Pool heating installed and operational for 2021/22 season. (See below.)

FEATURE PROJECT

Memorial Aquatic & Fitness Centre – Macksville

A \$1.2 million improvement, incorporating heating of the 50m swimming pool (Olympic 8 lane), pool covers and a new marshalling area, solar power, a swim wall, 350 Kw Heat Pump and a utilities upgrade; is nearing completion. The project will result in a facility of regional and State standard which will be open for an additional 4 months a year to incorporate the shoulder season, increasing participation in sport at the Centre. The work has been funded by Nambucca Valley Council and the NSW State Government.



Work with S355 Committees to deliver social and community infrastructure projects and assist them to successfully fulfil their charters

Achievements:

Licence agreements are continuing successfully with Incorporated Associations acting as S355 Committees (eg tennis clubs, netball club and cricket club, Grants Hall). This removes potential conflicts between the objects of the Incorporated Association and the objects of Council. A revised Code of Conduct has been circulated to S355 Committees. A list of Committees follows:

COMMITTEE	FUNCTION
Argents Hill Hall Committee of Management	Care, control and management of Argents Hill Hall
Bowraville Sports Ground Committee of Management	Care, control and management of Bowraville Sportsground
Burratine Public Hall Committee of Management	Care, control and management of Burratine Public Hall
Disaster Advisory Committee	Advise Council on the distribution of donations and funds raised.
Coronation Park Committee of Management	Care, control and management of Coronation Park
E J Biffin Playing Fields Committee of Management	Care, control and management of E J Biffin Playing Fields
Eungai District Community Council Committee of Management (Memorial Hall)	Care, control and management of Eungai District Soldiers' Memorial Hall
Grants Hall Committee of Management <i>Disbanded during 2021</i>	Care, control and management of Grants Hall, Bowraville
Macksville Gift Parade Committee of Management	Organising and presenting the Macksville Gift Parade
Macksville Park and Sports Committee of Management	Care, control and management of Macksville Park and Sports grounds
Mary Bolton Pioneer Cottage & Museum Committee of Management	Care control and management of Pioneer Cottage Macksville
Missabotti Community Centre Committee of Management	Care, control and management of Missabotti Community Centre
Nambucca Community and Arts Centre Committee of Management	Care, control and management of Nambucca Community and Arts Centre
Nambucca District Band Committee of Management	Support and acquisition of instruments for the Nambucca District Band
Nambucca District Historical Society Committee of Management	Care, control and management of the Headland Museum
National Celebration Day Committee	To consider nominations; select annual award recipients and facilitate celebratory events such as Australia Day.
North Macksville Playing Fields Committee of Management	Care, control and management of North Macksville Playing Fields
Scotts Head Sports Fields Committee of Management	Care, control and management of Scotts Head Sports Fields
South Arm Community Hall Committee of Management	Care, control and management of South Arm Hall

Talarm Hall and Welsh Pioneer Park Committee of Management	Care, control and management of Talarm Hall
Taylor's Arm Hall Committee of Management	Care, control and management of Taylor's Arm Hall
Taylor's Arm Sports Reserve Committee of Management	Care, control and management of Taylor's Arm Sports Reserve
Tewinga Community Centre Committee of Management <i>Became a Licensee in 2021</i>	Care, control and management of Tewinga Community Centre
Unkya Reserve Committee of Management	Care, control and management of Unkya Reserve
Utungun Community Centre Committee of Management	Care, control and management of Utungun Community Centre
Valla Beach Community Association	Care, control and management of Valla Beach Urban area and Hall
Valla Public Hall Committee of Management	Care, control and management of Valla Public Hall
Warrell Creek Public Hall Committee of Management	Care, control and management of Warrell Creek Public Hall
We're Here Committee of Management	Promote Nambucca Valley to former military personnel as a place to work and reside.

Operate, maintain and improve Open Spaces by collaborating with community volunteers and community work schemes

Achievements:

- Ground maintenance was undertaken by aeration, fertilization and topdressing on high use sporting ovals.
- Normal slashing, mowing and whipper snipping was completed across the open space areas, Council continued with the philosophy of planting out high bank areas using mulch, native trees and shrubs to minimise maintenance and WHS issues.

Auspice Grant Funding and provide grant writing support

Achievements:

Council staff work closely with Committees of Management and community groups to submit grant applications for funding to support the community, including sporting upgrades, equipment, museum improvements, delivery of programs and upgrades of facilities.

Some successful community projects include:

- Digital Scanner and printer at Mary Boulton Pioneer Museum.
- Equipment to store and save historic photographs – Headland Museum, Nambucca Heads.
- Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) funding for kitchen upgrades at South Arm Hall, Eungai Soldiers Memorial Hall and Argents Hill Hall.
- FRRR funding for Utungun Hall for storage shed, tables and chairs.
- FRRR funding for South Arm Hall for equipment and materials to make the Hall more resilient.
- FRRR funding for an outdoor covered area and external repainting for Taylor's Arm Hall.
- Drought Resilience funding for community yoga classes at South Arm Hall.
- Local Sports Grant for a digital score board at Hennessey Tape Oval in Bowraville.
- Funding for the Nambucca Valley Croquet Club.
- Stronger Communities funding to upgrade/paint Valla Hall.
- Department of Veteran's Affairs funding for an Honour Board at Eungai Soldiers Memorial Hall.
- Canteen upgrades at Buz Brazel Oval in Scotts Head in collaboration with Scotts Head Sharks.
- Lighting and sound improvements at the historical Bowraville Theatre.

Nambucca Valley Council has been successful in obtaining grant funding for many projects throughout the period that this report covers.

Successful projects were for infrastructure, social and environmental works for the benefit of our community. In more recent years, there has been unprecedented funds available, by a competitive grants application process, that could be called “once in a lifetime opportunities”.

In 2017/2018 Nambucca Valley Council was successful gaining funding of \$844,000 under Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF) – Round 1 – for 3 projects with a strong sporting focus, adhering to the guidelines.

In 2018/2019 under SCCF Round 2, Council was awarded \$1,688,702 for 6 projects with a strong community focus including the Bowraville inclusive playground, upgrades at Nambucca Heads V-Wall precinct and grants program to reinstate verandahs in the Macksville CBD.

In 2019/2020 under SCCF Round 3, Council was awarded \$740,776, for community based and sporting projects including heating the 50m Macksville pool and Half-Court Basketball at Bellwood.

In 2020/2021 Council was successful in securing funding of \$6,115,470 for the replacement of 17 aged and deteriorating timber bridges.

A table of comparative awarded grant funding from 2017/2018 to 2020/2021 is below, identifying the increase in grant funding success for Nambucca Valley Council over this period of time.

Financial Year	Total \$
2017/2018	6,335,361.33
2018/2019	10,376,696.00
2019/2020	12,774,199.00
2020/2021	\$14,778,040.00

Volunteers in the community are recognised and encouraged

- Volunteers operating successfully with one work for the dole program at Coronation Park.
- Volunteer Handbook and Volunteer Safety handbook distributed to new volunteers.
- There are 16 volunteers at Libraries - on the job training conducted throughout the year.
- Volunteer numbers at Museums are increasing.
- Recognition through National Celebration Day awards.

Promote social equity with equal opportunities for access and participation

Achievements:

- Council first established an Access Committee in the early 1990’s which continues to meet and provide advice to Council on the needs of older people and people with disabilities.
- Council has a current Disability Inclusion Action Plan. Deadlines for reporting have been met.
- There are now 2 beach wheelchairs available at Nambucca Heads and Scotts Head Surf Clubs.
- Disabled parking is being reviewed by the Access Committee, Macksville has been completed.
- Following a review in 2018, Council’s Seniors Week focus remains the intergenerational morning luncheon with a mini-expo of locally available services.
- Pedestrian Access Management Plans have been reviewed.
- New or renovated accessible toilet facilities are now available at Bellwood Park, Gordon Park, Scotts Head (weir) Reserve and Valla Beach.

FEATURE PROJECT

Everyone Can Play – Bowraville

Developed under “Everyone Can Play” principles, this accessible playground and associated facilities for families was completed at Hennessy-Tape Oval in 2019 at a cost of \$475,000 funded by Council and the NSW Government under several programs including Stronger Country Communities Fund, Everyone Can Play Program, and the Social Housing Community Improvement Fund. At the heart of Everyone Can Play is the declaration that play is for everyone – regardless of age, ability or cultural background. The playground is designed around the three principles of Everyone Can Play, Can I Get There, Can I Play and Can I Stay; to create more inclusive play space for the Nambucca Valley.



Provision of Library Services

Achievements:

- Library Services are provided at Macksville and Nambucca Heads.
- Library Strategic Plan 2018-2022 was developed and priorities are being implemented.
- Development of a design for an extension to Nambucca Heads Library.
- RFID was installed in 2019.
- Continued participation in the e-smart technology for seniors classes in conjunction with TAFE at both Macksville and Nambucca Heads Libraries.
- Commenced Tech Savvy Seniors our Youngsters Tech help program. This program uses local youth to help our seniors with their technology problems.
- Author visits and school holiday activities eg Slime Time, Dungeons and Dragons.
- Weekly Children's Story Time .
- The home library service continues to be supported by our local Lions and Rotary Clubs.

FEATURE PROJECT

R.F.I.D – Nambucca Libraries

Nambucca Valley Libraries moved into a new way of operating with the installation of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) in July 2019. With the benefit of a grant from the NSW State Library of \$134,000, automatic check out and returns equipment was installed and almost 20,000 items electronically tagged. The system improves collection security, allows for library returns 24/7 and makes stock taking and collection management much simpler.



Library Assistant Hayley Laraghy demonstrating the automatic return.

Providing support for young people throughout the valley

Prior to 2018, Council auspiced NSW State Government funding for community development programs for young people. Using this funding, Council provided after school and holiday programs, referral services, advocacy and planning.

Following a review of their priorities, the NSW Government's shifted focus towards younger children and families (Targeted Earlier Intervention) and the funding was re-allocated to direct service provision via Galambila Aboriginal Health Services.

Council continues to support Youth Week and young people via its various Committee with direct activities for young people being offered through its libraries.

Community support and education – Healthy Ageing

Providing support for health ageing initiatives throughout the Valley

Achievements:

Achievements in this area are focussed around being active in the community. A major project to support healthy ageing was the commencement of construction of the Macksville to Nambucca Heads cycle way which is nearing completion. New and wider riverside boardwalks in Nambucca Heads also promote activity.



New Riverside Boardwalk, Nambucca Heads - 2019

Community support and education – Cultural Diversity

Promote an understanding and respect for the Valley’s Indigenous Culture and Heritage by engaging in consultation on culturally sensitive issues and supporting projects

Achievements:

- The Council has collaborated with the State Government, Elders and the Nambucca Heads Local Aboriginal Land Council in the re-interment of skeletal remains at 21 Riverside Drive and its landscaping as a place of special significance for Aboriginal people. The Council is also meeting regularly with local Aboriginal Land Councils and other Indigenous groups to discuss matters of mutual interest.
- Redevelopment of the V-Wall precinct at Nambucca Heads included themes to recognize the Gumbaynggirr language and culture.
- Development of James Park Bowraville.
- Conversations to explore establishing a Keeping Place have commenced.
- Support for Saltwater Freshwater Festival.
- Council awards for Indigenous Citizen of the Year and Cultural Achievement at its National Celebration Day.
- Increasing use of Gumbaynggirr language eg for street and road names.



**Sophie Smith (Australia Day Ambassador), Aunty Sandra Buchanan (Indigenous Citizen of the Year) and Mr Pat Conaghan MP (Member for Cowper)
National Celebration Day Awards - 2021**

FEATURE PROJECT

James Park – Bowraville

To say “untold cost” in relation to this project might seem emotive for a report such as this, however it was such a price that brought the transformation of this small park in Bowraville. Following a Parliamentary Inquiry into the “Family Response to the Murders in Bowraville” which was established by the NSW Legislative Council Standing Committee on Law and Justice, Council set about finding a suitable way to acknowledge the life of Evelyn Greenup, one of the missing children.

Taking an underutilised space surrounded by residences, but often the site of vandalism, the area was transformed into a space of tranquillity and respect. Alongside family members and community, a concept for the area was developed, and incorporating artwork (see picture below) from the children at St Mary’s Primary, Bowraville Preschool and Bowraville Central School, the space has been designed to honour children, especially those we have lost.



4 PROMOTING PROSPERITY

Economic Activity and Employment

Foster development opportunities by seeking out and responding to potential business investment enquiries; identifying opportunities for local businesses, participating in regional development opportunities and establishing working partnerships with Regional Development Australia Mid North Coast.

Achievements:

- Developed marketing material to support investment attraction.
- Developed e-business networking, virtual trade show promoting industry skills shortages.
- Promote Council land developments, seek expressions of interest enquiries for Valla Growth area.

Liaise with local business and State and Federal Government agencies to promote economic and regional development.

Achievements:

- Business development and grant funding opportunities disseminated in collaboration with State and Federal government agencies, with specific focus on business support following Covi-19 impact during the latter part of Council's term.
- Development of virtual industry networking.
- Hosting business and industry leadership professional development seminars.
- Support for the Business Advisory Committee.

FEATURE PROJECT

Verandah Awning Reinstatement – Macksville

This project was an initiative of the Nambucca Valley Council Business Advisory Committee to revitalise the main streets of Macksville following the highway by-pass of the town. Using a \$150,000 NSW Stronger Country Communities Fund grant and matching contributions from building owners, a number of verandahs and awnings were rebuilt to replicate those which over time have been removed from heritage buildings. Updating the tired building facades, painting murals, updating/refurbishing heritage buildings and creating beautiful public spaces has boosted the morale of the community and promotes the town as great places to stop, shop or stay.



No. 8 Princess Street. From this...



To this...

Investment prospectus, marketing and promotional material produced and distributed to potential investors

Achievements:

- Development of the new 2020 economic profile, marketing material for property sales.
- TV and YouTube videos and commercial developed to promote the Valley.
- Promoted land sales for council property development. Sought expressions of interest for Valla Growth Area.

Participate in local and regional marketing events to promote the Valley and raise its profile

Achievements:

- Regional agribusiness, manufacturing virtual events delivered.
- Developed the digital landscape for business and retail within the Valley providing training and information. Distributed funding programs for bushfire relief and COVID-19 information.
- Financial support for events.
- Advertising in World Rally Championship Program.
- “My Town” feature on Macksville identities for Qantas in-flight magazine January/February 2019.
- Various advertisements in tourism publications eg Caravanning Australia.
- The Queen’s Baton completed an epic 388-day journey across the Commonwealth, on its way to the GC2018 (Commonwealth Games) Opening Ceremony and on Thursday 1 February 2018 it came to Macksville carried by 14 local Baton Bearers. School students and residents from across the Valley took part in this unique event. (See picture below)



Ritchie Donovan with the Queen’s Baton Relay – February 2018

Land Development

Develop commercial and industrial land to ensure an adequate supply and market Council's surplus operational land to the community's best advantage.

Achievements:

- Valla Growth Area development commenced.
- Civil works supervision & project management Valla Growth Area undertaken.
- Supervision of concept design tenders for the civil construction of Valla Growth Area.
- Hyland Park residential lots all sold

Tourism and Events

Support and promote local tourism, events and creative industries that will generate growth and opportunities within the local economy.

Achievements:

- Planning underway for next stage of boardwalk improvements.
- Highway by-pass signage for Nambucca Heads – image selection completed by Council and installed by Transport for NSW.
- A new industry-led, 5-year arrangement has been negotiated with the Nambucca Valley Tourism Association Inc which includes a licence to operate the VIC and responsibility for tourism marketing and website management.
- Council's focus has been place making and infrastructure development eg substantial improvements at the Nambucca Valley V-Wall and the lighting the Macksville Bridge project. Both projects become even more appealing at night due to their lighting design.
- Development of Nambucca Valley Strategic Tourism Plan 2018-2023.
- Development of 3 local history walks with print and on-line collateral

Foster local employment and training opportunities

Achievements:

- Promoted apprenticeships for the growth of the local vehicle industry with NSW state training services, industry and TAFE
- Worked with Regional Training Organisations and local educators to enhance opportunities for local youth
- Promoted the benefits of apprentices and traineeships to local businesses.
- Worked with State, Federal and non-government agencies to take advantage of employment programs and training opportunities.
- Delivered training and professional development workshops for local industry via internet.
- Kept business retail, industry and agribusiness informed of bushfire funding and COVID-19 assistance packages.
- Working with Regional Development Australia on youth employment projects.
- Number of apprentices at Council has increased to 4 annually.

FEATURE PROJECT

Lighting Macksville Bridge

The primary objective of this project is to highlight the heritage significance of the Macksville Bridge. Since its opening in 1931, the bridge has been a landmark urban feature within the Nambucca Valley and for any person travelling up or down the east coast of NSW. The project creates an even more memorable landmark through embellishments to the bridge that highlight its structural form and character.

In addition, the spaces providing pedestrian access to the bridge, at both the northern and southern entrances, are being improved. The southern entrance has been re-designed to allow viewing of the bridge and provide interpretive information on the history and time-line of the bridge. The project cost around \$240,000 and was funded by Council and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.



Transport Accessibility - Infrastructure

Maintain, rehabilitate, provide emergency repairs and construct the road network and streets to agreed services levels

Achievements:

Significant weather events has affected the sealed and unsealed road networks, emergency repairs were undertaken under the natural disaster funding guidelines. The March 2021 storm event is estimated to have a damage value of up to \$20million and will take several years to enact the repairs.

Road inspections were undertaken by the Asset Engineer in accordance with the inspection program and work tickets raised to have defects attended to in a timely manner.

Where practical, Infrastructure team members undertaking maintenance and constructions activities along with, water and sewerage and Green Space team members have been relocated to other 'bases of operations' away from the works depot and additional work vehicles sourced to minimise the number of staff travelling in a vehicle

The capital works were reported monthly and placed on Council website. The urban and rural road network that are identified for rehabilitation/construction are generated from the Asset Management Plans.

Maintain and construct bridges to the level of service agreed with the community

Achievements:

- Complete a rolling bridge inspection program.
- Maintain, replace and construct new bridges as per the delivery program.
- Emergency repairs have been conducted.
- Number of load limited bridges reduced.
- A significant weather event in March 2021 affected a number of bridge abutments, which were repaired under emergency repairs through the natural disaster funding guidelines.
- Level one inspections were undertaken as part of the road inspections. There were no Level two bridge inspection completed in this reporting period.
- The Fixing Country Bridge (FCB) program has seen a number of bridges brought forward for replacement with their replacement scheduled with 18 bridges to be constructed between 2021 and 2023 under the FCB.
- The asset management plan for bridges was updated following the announcement of successful FCB grant application for 17 bridges.
- Council has continued to construct concrete bridges through funding provided from Council and the State & Federal Government.

FEATURE PROJECT
Fischer's Bridge – Tamban

Costing just under \$1million and funded by Council and the Australian Government under the Bridges Renewal Program; Fischer's Bridge at Tamban was completed in early 2020. Finding it was a cheaper alternative, the bridge was designed with single long span girders and as a result required one of the largest mobile cranes in Australia to move the girders into place (pictured below).



FEATURE PROJECT

Lanes Bridge – Bowraville

A new Lanes Bridge at Bowraville was opened in August 2019. The bridge replaced a dilapidated 90-year old structure which was in poor condition and prone to flooding, closing for an average of 16 days per year. The replacement concrete bridge has two lanes, a dedicated pedestrian and cycle path, improved approaches, and importantly, a raised deck for better flood immunity.

The \$2.7 million project was awarded \$1 million from the Australian Government's Bridges Renewal Program, \$500,000 from Restart NSW Fixing Country Roads and \$200,000 in NSW Government regional road funding. Nambucca Valley Council also contributed \$1 million to the project.

At 60 metres in length and containing 950 tonnes of concrete, the Lanes Bridge replacement is the largest civil infrastructure project ever undertaken by Council's day labour workforce, not only improving the Valley's infrastructure, it has built the skills and confidence of our staff and has given us the drive to deliver more infrastructure projects in-house, ultimately saving our ratepayers money.



Maintain and construct footpath and cycle ways to the level of service agreed with the community.

Achievements:

- Trip hazards identified and programed in accordance with risk.
- New and replacement footpaths and cycle ways completed as per delivery program.

- A footpath inspection program has been implemented and work tickets created for the grinding of raised footpath areas and replacement of sections of footpath as required.
- Cycle way from Kingsworth Estate to Macksville has commenced on its construction. The project is 100% funded by the TfNSW and will be completed by 21/22 with two sections remaining.

Maintain and construct car parking to the level of service agreed with the community.

Achievements:

- Inspection program completed.
- Landscape and weeding completed as required.
- There was one new carpark identified and constructed in the 2020/21 capital works program adjacent to the V Wall Tavern behind Councils Public Toilet.
- Line marking completed as required.

Continue to support the work of the State and Federal governments in upgrading the Pacific Highway by Supporting Community consultation on Pacific Highway upgrades and negotiating handover of ex-highway assets to Council on acceptable terms.

The highway upgrade has been completed, however there has been no agreement reached on the handover of the old highway. In February 2019, the Government announced that up to 15,000 kilometres of council owned roads would be returned to State management as part of a broader package of support for local councils to better manage and maintain the rural road network. This announcement effectively ceased any further negotiation pertaining to the Old Pacific Highway ownership of assets, classification and compensation. A joint submission with Bellingen Shire Council was uploaded to the TfNSW web portal on Friday 14 August 2020 seeking a priority review for the road reclassification

Maintain and construct boat ramps and boat access points to the level of service agreed with the community

Achievements:

- Regular inspection and cleaning program completed.
- Maintain and construct new works as per the delivery program.

Install bus shelters at high use bus stops

Achievements:

- There has been on average one new bus shelters installed each year. During the reporting period: Bald Hill Road, Centenary Parade, Eungai Creek, Eungai Rail and Valla Beach.
- Normal maintenance of existing shelters undertaken as required.

Sustainable Water Cycle - Water Management

Council will document the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy (IWCM) and supply potable water that meets the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

Achievements:

- IWCM was reviewed, adopted by Council and is implemented.
- Reliable potable supply that meets public health standards is provided.
- Regular water testing is conducted.
- Any breach of required standards is reported.

The identified water quality risks of cryptosporidium, the lower than recommended chlorine contact time for some consumers in rural Bowraville, and the high turbidity and dissolved carbon and iron levels in the dam water impacting the effectiveness of chlorine disinfection all remain as issues.

NSW Government funding has been provided for a project to include UV disinfection in the treatment train and improve the chlorine dosing capabilities. A tender was called in the 2020/21 financial year however the tenders were rejected and Council entered into negotiations with one of the tenderers to finalise a contract. Council has also been funded \$ for \$ on the additional funds required to complete the works.

Operate the Bowra Dam to ensure water security for the Nambucca Valley.

Achievements:

- The dam is maintained and operated according to the Dam Operation Manual.
- Operate and maintain the rising main network from the Bowra Bore fields.
- Maintain water levels in the Dam that will protect water security for the Valley.

Following drought conditions in 2018/19, dam water levels have been restored to full capacity. Overflow spillway was in use during heavy rains in early 2021.

Action is being taken to install a bubble plume mixer to improve mixing and oxygen concentration in the lower levels of the dam with the aim of precipitating the iron present in the dam water in order to improve water quality.

Efficiently maintain, augment and operate the potable water reticulation system, the Bowra Bore fields and treatment plant.

Achievements:

Asset Management Plan developed and implemented.
Asset Management Plan is currently under review as part of the 2021/22 water and sewerage revaluation of assets.

Sustainable Water Cycle – Sewerage Services

Council will apply the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy to effectively undertake the reticulation and treatment sewerage.

Achievements:

- IWCM reviewed and implemented.
- Any breach of required standards is reported.
- Regular outflow testing is conducted.
- Reliable reticulation and treatment of sewerage that meets public health standards.
- Annual licence reports submitted to EPA.
- Pollution incidents reported to EPA in accordance with legislative requirements.
- A report on strategies for managing sewerage overflows was developed and being implemented.

Currently undertaking a program of investigations to identify sources of stormwater inflow into the sewerage system including from private property and eliminating them where possible.



New environment effluent management system at Gumma Reserve reduced the need for septic pump outs and resulted in annual savings of around \$35,000 pa.

Efficiently maintain, augment and operate the sewerage reticulation and treatment network.

Achievements:

- Asset Management Plan developed and implemented.
- The Nambucca Pressure Sewerage system augmentation completed.



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