

## KOALA CONVERSATIONS: TWO WEEKS OF IDEAS, DIALOGUE AND ACTION



At the end of May, the Northern Rivers Koala Partnership is offering a two-week series of engaging events across the Northern Rivers, including workshops, tree planting and field days - all focused on koala conservation. Led by a range of local organisations, these activities aim to foster understanding and action for our beloved koalas.

A number of events will take place in the Lismore Local Government Area, including Koala Hospital tours at Friends of the Koala, cultural burns, rural field days, botanical drawing sessions and tree planting events.

Lismore City Council will host two Koala Collage Clubs at the Pop-Up Gallery (23 and 30 May) and a Rural Landholder Initiative field day at Koonorigan (24 May). Focussed on supporting rural landholders to understand and make decisions about improving Koala habitat, this field day has limited numbers so book now.

Koala Conversations will culminate on 1 June with a full-day forum in Lismore, featuring expert speakers discussing vital topics focused on protecting, restoring, and creating koala habitat.

Proudly developed by the Northern Rivers Koala Partnership (made up of six regional councils and Friends of the Koala), and supported by the NSW Government this initiative aims to unite communities in safeguarding koalas and their habitats.



Scan the QR Code for the events program, booking links and forum information.

## IMPROVING KOALA HABITAT FREE WORKSHOP

Are you involved or interested in managing koala habitat in and around the Lismore Local Government Area? Would you like to know more about what makes good koala habitat and how you can restore it?

This field day will help rural landholders and restoration practitioners understand the practical side of koala habitat conservation: how to maintain, improve and restore koala forests in the specific context of the Lismore area.

We will hear from experts in the field who will explore what species and vegetation communities koalas need to support their fragile populations. We will explore the different types of forest communities of the Northern Rivers where we might expect to find koalas and the conditions needed to maintain those vegetation communities. We will discuss local conservation quandaries including koalas and the Big Scrub Rainforest, koalas in peri-urban and agricultural landscapes, managing novel ecosystems and threatened species in the context of climate change.

Finally, we venture into the field to make a practical assessment of koala habitat and potential management actions. We will stroll up the road to view a very nearby property currently being worked on to improve the native vegetation under Lismore City Council's Rural Landholder Initiative. We will hear from bush regenerators about the challenges they face and the practical decisions they make when determining a restoration action plan. The landowner will share their dream for the property with us and recent observations which include koala's being heard in the newly worked areas.

- **When:** Friday, 24 May, 2024
- **Where:** Koonorigan Community Hall  
395 Koonorigan Rd, Koonorigan



Scan the QR Code to register

## NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL - LISMORE TO BENTLEY

The Northern Rivers Rail Trail is converting disused railway line into a 132km trail to draw thousands of visitors each year to explore and discover the natural beauty of the Northern Rivers. Delivered across four stages, the trail runs from Tweed through Mullumbimby and Lismore to Casino.

Construction of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail, Lismore to Bentley section is steadily progressing. There has now been 10kms of the track completed, with two-thirds of the gravel trail surface in place.

Transformation of the old rail tracks into the rail trail has commenced at the Lismore Railway Station, with concrete pouring completed this month. Progress has also been made with the construction of sections of the trail where deviations are required to improve user safety and accessibility.

With these updates, the 16.3km Lismore to Bentley section is on track to be delivered in the latter part of 2024.

To share further detail on construction, and answer your questions, we invite you to join us for an onsite Meet and Greet with the project team at the Lismore Railway Station in South Lismore on:

- **Thursday, 9 May 2024 from 3pm to 4pm.**

Your RSVP is appreciated, as light refreshments will be provided. Please send your name and best contact to [railtrail@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:railtrail@lismore.nsw.gov.au), or call 6625 0500.



The Richmond Valley section officially opened on 23 March 2024, and has been receiving strong support, attracting daily visitation to Casino and the trail.

Lismore businesses are encouraged to take part in an upcoming workshop designed to maximise the economic benefits of the Rail Trail opening in Lismore later this year. The workshop will be held on 7 May 2024 from 7.30am - 9am.

For enquiries, please email [business@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:business@lismore.nsw.gov.au).

To subscribe to the Rail Trail Newsletter for updates, trip and travel inspiration, upcoming events, trail activities and more please visit [www.northernriversrailtrail.com.au](http://www.northernriversrailtrail.com.au)

## TACKLING THE BARRIERS TO MORE WOMEN IN SPORT

Lismore City Council is committed to supporting a healthy, active, and thriving community for everyone.

It is widely acknowledged amongst all levels of government that women and girls face more barriers to accessing and participating in sport and recreational opportunities. As such, we are seeing more grant funding opportunities becoming available aiming to address this.

Council is currently undertaking a survey to help us better understand the barriers that women and girls in Lismore currently face in participating in sports and recreational activities.

Your responses will provide valuable feedback to support Council in developing grant submissions and infrastructure planning, as well as designing programs and initiatives to overcome these barriers and promote gender equality in sports and recreation.

There are two surveys to select from – one for women, girls and/or parents of girls, and a second survey targeted at clubs and organisations.

Surveys will remain open for the coming few months to capture information to help us develop plans and initiatives in this space.

Scan the QR Code to take part in the surveys.



## ON THE ROAD TO RECONCILIATION



Lismore City Council is commencing the process of developing the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan for 2024 - 2026.

A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is a document that organisations develop to outline the actions and initiatives that Council will take to contribute to reconciliation in Australia.

The RAP framework is prearranged by Reconciliation Australia and includes the following pillars:

- **Relationships**
- **Respect**
- **Opportunities**
- **Governance**

The Innovate RAP is an opportunity for Council to demonstrate its commitment to meaningful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, continuing to foster and build respect for heritage, cultures and knowledge.

## COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Tell us your ideas for how we can improve relationships, promote culture and foster wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our community.

Your feedback will be used to shape what the 'Focus Areas' are and Council's deliverables in the RAP for 2024-2026.

Our key methods for gathering this feedback are:

- **Online engagement through Your Say, including a short survey**
- **Attendance at community events**
- **Meetings with key stakeholders**

Opportunities to participate in this engagement will be shared with our community through:

- **Face-to-face conversations at community events**
- **Included in direct email to Your Say subscribers**
- **Advertising via social media**
- **Flyers at local libraries and Lismore City Council Corporate Centre**

Scan the QR Code below for more information and to complete a short survey.

## CALL OUT FOR ABORIGINAL ARTISTS

**As part of the production of Council's previous Reconciliation Action Plan, Council commissioned Widjabul Wyabal artist Peter Faulkner-Roberts to supply artwork to illustrate the Plan.**

His work, entitled Bundjalung Nation Coming Together For Ceremonial Business, was used throughout the document.

Council is once again asking for Expressions of Interest from Aboriginal artists to create a piece of Aboriginal art that connects with the community and represents reconciliation.

The chosen artwork will be used to illustrate the upcoming RAP and may be used on Council vehicles, buildings and other assets owned by Council.



**Expressions of Interest close on 21 May, 2024. To submit a proposal scan the QR Code.**



2022-2024 RAP Artwork - Bundjalung Nation Coming Together For Ceremonial Business' by Widjabul Wyabal artist Peter Faulkner-Roberts.



# DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS ISSUED

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT

In accordance with the provisions of Section 4.59 of the Act and Clause 124 of the EP&A Regulation, notification is given that the undermentioned developments have recently been granted consent.

### APPLICATION DETAILS

**DA21/352-3 20 McLennan Lane, Lismore:** Section 4.55(1A) application to modify consent 5.2021.352.2 to amend condition 2 to properly reflect related DA's and numbers of students and staff.

**DA22/235 112 Cullen Street, Nimbin:** A Torrens title subdivision of the subject site in the following stages: Stage 1: A Torrens title subdivision of one (1) lot into three (3) lots (to create lots 1, 2 & 3), with lots 1 & 2 being vacant lots and lot 3 retaining the existing buildings, with associated infrastructure and civil works including extension of the public road; and Stage 2: A Torrens title subdivision of the new lot 3 into four (4) lots to create a total of six (6) lots with associated new public road, infrastructure and civil works, tree removal, filling in of the swimming pool and partial demolition of an existing structure.

**DA22/334 84 Parmenter Road, Coffee Camp:** To seek approval for the use of an existing building as a dwelling, creating a detached dual occupancy.

**DA23/194 109 and 109A The Channon Road, Dunoon:** To undertake the amalgamation of two (2) rural lots and the re-subdivision to create two (2) new rural lots, being Lot 1 (28ha and Lot 2 (47.5ha).

**DA24/20 32 Evergreen Drive, Goonellabah:** To undertake the erection of an attached dual occupancy and associated earthworks, retaining walls and strata title subdivision.

**DA24/22 42 Evergreen Drive, Goonellabah:** To undertake the erection of an attached dual occupancy and associated earthworks, retaining walls and strata title subdivision.

**DA24/42 5 Cherry Lane, Goonellabah:** Dwelling and retaining walls.

**DA24/54 92 Walker Street, East Lismore:** Dwelling additions and alterations (covered deck to second storey).

Details of applications and consents, together with conditions attached, may be inspected at Council's Corporate Centre during business hours or via DA Tracking at [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au).

# DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT

As the consent authority, Council has received the following development applications for consideration.

**DA NUMBER:** 24/73

**LOCATION AND DP LOT:** 152 Keen Street, Lismore.

**APPLICANT:** Newton Denny Chapel

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:** To undertake alterations and additions to the Northern Rivers Conservatorium, including: upgrade and refurbishment to the concert room, post flood restoration works on the ground and first floors, installation of a new Goods Lift, upgrading of the existing carpark, drainage and lighting, rectification works to stabilise and repair cracked brickwork in the southeast corner of the building, new signage and the removal six (6) trees along the Magellan Street and Keen Street frontages.

**CLOSING DATE:** 13 May 2024

If you wish, you may make a submission to the Council in relation to the Development Application. Any submission must specify the grounds of objection (if any).

The above Development Application(s) and accompanying documents may be inspected at Council's Corporate Centre, 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah, during ordinary office hours or via DA Tracking at [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au).

Further information relating to written submissions is available on Council's website. There are laws regarding the mandatory disclosure of political donations in relation to planning matters. Political donations disclosure reporting forms are available from the Department of Planning at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au).

# READ TOGETHER WITH LISMORE AREA LIBRARIES

What better way to start each month than by meeting with a reading group at one of your local libraries?

If you enjoy reading and would like to expand your circle of friends, a book club could be just the thing you are looking for. Meet new people, chat about what you are reading and enjoy a light morning/afternoon tea. Everyone is welcome.

• **Poetry Group**

Wednesday, 1 May: 3pm-4.30pm at the Lismore Pop-up Library

• **Monday Book Club**

Monday, 6 May: 10am-12pm at the Goonellabah Library

• **Tuesday Book Club**

Tuesday, 7 May: 10.30am-11.30am at the Lismore Pop-up Library

Lismore Area Libraries also host other reading groups, which meet at the end of each month.

• **Reading for Reconciliation Book Club**

Friday, 17 May: 1.30pm-2.30pm at Goonellabah Library

• **Book Chat**

Monday, 27 May: 10am-11.30am at Goonellabah Library

For more information, contact your local branch.



Scan Here To Enter



## Mother's Day Giveaway

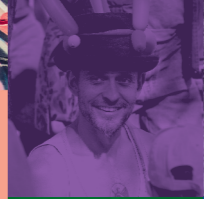
Enter for a chance to win an amazing Lismore experience for Mum!

BUSINESS LISMORE *lismore*



# LOCAL MATTERS

LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWS  
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[WWW.LISMORE.NSW.GOV.AU](http://WWW.LISMORE.NSW.GOV.AU)



CONTACT US:  
**6625 0500**

Corporate Centre: 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah  
Hours: Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm  
Post: PO Box 23A, Lismore, NSW 2480  
Email: [council@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lismore.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au)



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# FAST-TRACK SYSTEM FOR DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Lismore City Council has drastically slashed processing times for residential Development Application approvals from around 40 days to between five and ten days.

Council's Head of Planning and Environment Graham Snow said Council was dedicated to making Lismore easy to do business with to attract more investment in the city.

"We have adopted a Fast-Track System this year that so far has supported the approval of \$7.5 million worth of residential developments in the first three months of the year," he said.

"It really is what is old is new again. This Council, and many Councils in NSW, years ago had a fast-track system which looked at low and medium-risk Development Applications and found pathways to get them progressed quicker.

"After the Minns Government challenged all councils to speed up the approval process, we reviewed the old fast track system and re-introduced it with a more contemporary model.

"We are now seeing low-risk applications processed within five and ten working days, which is an incredible turnaround from about 40 days during the COVID development boom."

Mr Snow said under the previous system DAs would be assessed as they were submitted. This meant if one DA required a more thorough assessment and additional reports, it would slow all other DAs in the queue behind it.

"Under the fast-track system, we are using a risk weighting to triage applications when they first come in so that we can identify the low-risk ones and excise them from the queue and assess them quicker," he said.

"For example, if you are not getting rid of an environmental offset or there is no contamination on a property and there is no need for further information and other reports, then the application will be given to a dedicated resource to quickly approve the application."

Lismore City Council General Manager Jon Gibbons said the successful implementation of the fast-track system was not just benefiting residents but benefiting the city.

"Our planning team should be congratulated for their commitment to improving the planning process and enhancing the customer experience, while ensuring a merit-based assessment that doesn't compromise urban design excellence," he said.

"The new system has significantly changed the way DAs are managed and that is not just important for locals but also places us in a good position of attracting new investment to the city."

