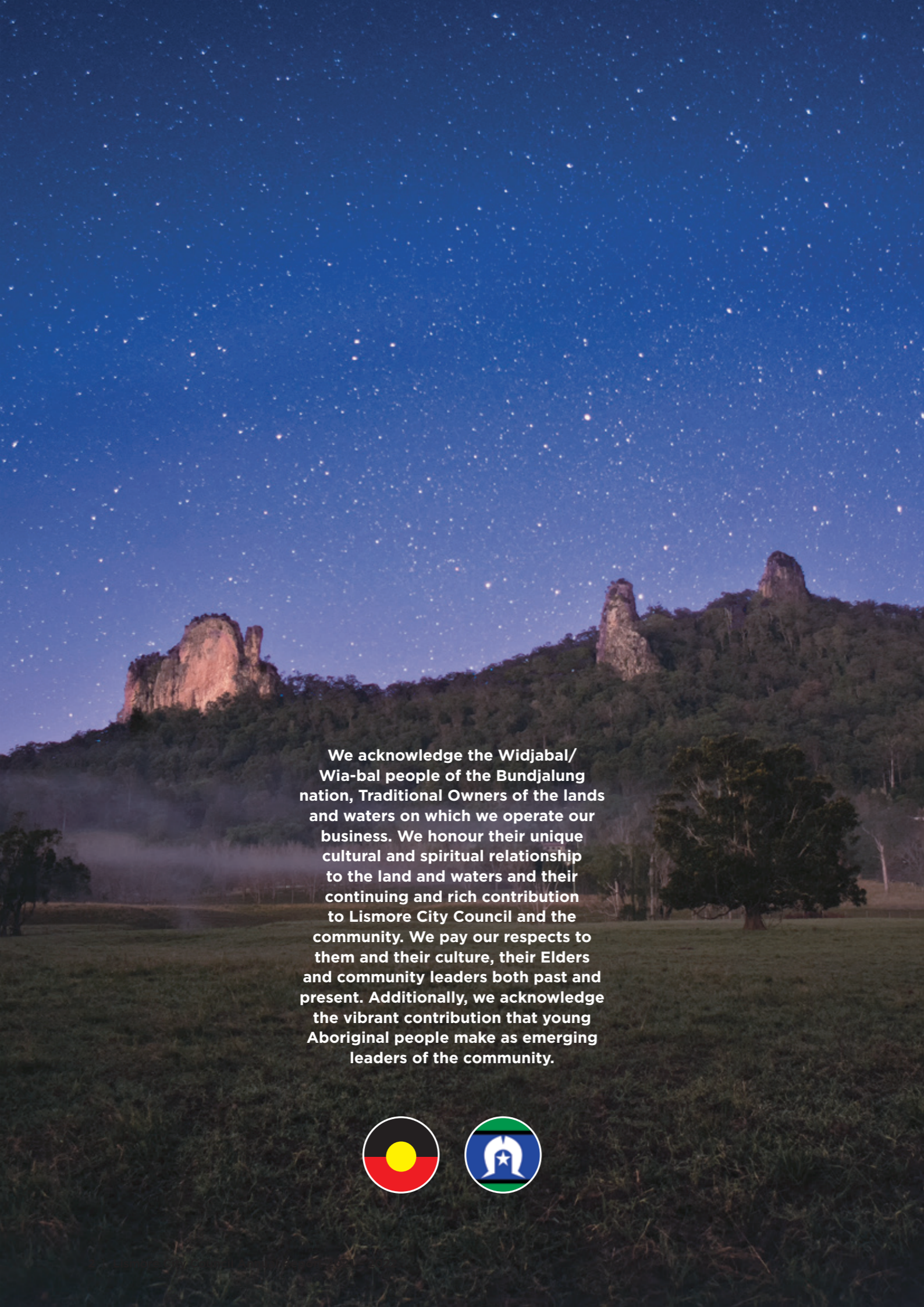


An aerial photograph of Lismore, Australia, showing a mix of residential houses, commercial buildings, a river, a bridge, and a large sports field. The text 'Annual Report 2021 - 2022' is overlaid in a white box.

# Annual Report 2021 - 2022



**lismore**  
city council



We acknowledge the Widjabal/ Wia-bal people of the Bundjalung nation, Traditional Owners of the lands and waters on which we operate our business. We honour their unique cultural and spiritual relationship to the land and waters and their continuing and rich contribution to Lismore City Council and the community. We pay our respects to them and their culture, their Elders and community leaders both past and present. Additionally, we acknowledge the vibrant contribution that young Aboriginal people make as emerging leaders of the community.



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\*This report may contain culturally sensitive content, including images and names of deceased persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait ancestry.



# Executive summary

Welcome to the 2021/22 Annual Report for Lismore City Council.

Our Annual Report provides an overview of the highlights, achievements and challenges experienced in the 2021/22 financial year. The report also measures our performance and progress against the objectives and priorities, as set out in the Imagine Lismore Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027 and the Delivery Program 2017-2021.

Ordinarily we would have had newly elected Councillors and a new Delivery Program early in 2021, however COVID-19 restrictions forced the postponement of elections until December 2021. This meant that the Delivery Program 2017-2021 continued to guide Council operations for the 2021/22 financial year.

The catastrophic natural disasters across February and March of 2022 completely derailed existing plans. Significant Council and Community resources were diverted to evacuation, emergency and recovery works which forced a reprioritisation of all Council operations. The last four months of

the year was devoted to cleaning up after the floods and working to support our community through one of the worst natural disasters in Australian history.

Despite natural disasters and wave after wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the incredible spirit of this community shone through. From the “Tinny Army” and the “Mud Army” to the volunteers who clothed, fed and sheltered the flood-affected, Lismore demonstrated a strength and sense of community that makes us all proud to live and work here.

Council worked closely with community and government organisations to remove more than 70,000 tonnes of flood waste. A plan to repair more than \$350 million of flood-damaged assets is underway and will take several years to complete. The events of 2022 will shape the future but we take inspiration from the community spirit that has refused to give up.

We are proud to live and work in the heart of the Northern Rivers.

# Mayor's Message

## It is my pleasure to introduce Lismore City Council's Annual Report.

This year has been like no other in our history and follows two years of repeated COVID-19 lockdowns. The combination of the February natural disaster and COVID-19 has rewritten the play book.

The 15-month COVID-enforced delay to Council elections meant the new Council was only elected in December. Devastatingly, two months later our city and our community suffered the most-costly natural disaster in Australia's history.

Ironically only four days before our City was inundated with flood waters, we announced an additional \$1 million in funding to start fixing potholes across our road network, reflecting the new Council's determination to address this long-neglected issue.

This Council has since focused on lobbying for State and Federal Government assistance to repair the \$350 million of damage to our road network and other Council assets.

This Council was elected to make sensible decisions to improve Council's long-term financial sustainability while increasing funding to improve our roads.

Our first budget delivered on this promise. There were no increase in rates, no increase in fees and charges, no new borrowings and no reduction in the services Council provides for the community.

What it did have was a cash surplus, more investment in our roads, particularly for pothole repairs, and an overall improvement in our net operating result.

This was a great outcome and the first step towards long-term financial sustainability.

We are now tracking in the right direction to financial sustainability. It has not been an easy



year, but it has been one of major growth and change for this community and Council.

Councillors and Council are determined to Build Back Better and lay the groundwork for a strong local economy, supporting our businesses as they come back from the natural disaster and create local jobs for our community.

To this end, Council has adopted a renewed focus on economic development over the last 12 months that will continue into the future as we implement our Economic Development Strategy.

I thank the community for their support and understanding as we recover and Build Back Better.

Lismore in Widjabul Wiabal country continues to be a great place to live with our resilient community, incredible biodiversity, fertile farmlands, world class medical and educational facilities and recovering economy. We truly are the heart of the Northern Rivers.

# General Manager's Message

The world dramatically changed for Lismore on 28 February 2022. As well as ensuring all our services were provided to our community, overnight we had to quickly respond to the worst natural disaster our community – and Australia - has ever experienced.

I am proud and humbled to report that not only did Council respond to the immediate needs of our community, but over the following months Council also laid a very strong foundation for recovery.

The damage caused to our community and Council's own infrastructure cannot be overstated.

The initial review of 1720 homes found more than 80% were either destroyed, or suffered major or severe damage, and of the 800 commercial, industrial or community properties surveyed, around 65% were either destroyed or suffered major or severe damage.

The repair bill to our road network and other Council assets will exceed \$350 million.

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, Council assisted with the emergency evacuation of thousands of our citizens and set up an evacuation centre at the Goonellabah Sports & Aquatic Centre.

Working with the Defence Forces, Council staff literally hiked through mountainous rainforests to re-establish Nimbin's water supply and our road crews worked in harsh conditions clearing landslips to provide access to isolated communities.

Council also coordinated the establishment of a Recovery Centre at Southern Cross University and Distribution Centre at the Lismore Showgrounds to ensure our community could feed and clothe themselves.

We also set up the Lismore City Council Flood Appeal that distributed a total of \$1.7 million to 1800 flood-affected residents, as well as provided relief on water rates and interest on outstanding rates.

Emergency repairs to Council's waste facility, sewage treatment plants and water infrastructure



were successfully undertaken and kerbside waste collection services across the LGA were restored.

This was undertaken as Council worked to establish a sustainable pathway forward by examining our current capabilities and capacities and lobbied State and Federal agencies for financial assistance.

Recognising our limited capabilities, Council put in place a new leadership structure to ensure greater flexibility and clearer lines of responsibilities.

Council's Economic Development team also worked closely with our local businesses to revitalise the CBD, strengthen our local economy and protect local jobs.

Council has not taken a backward step as we work to Build Back Better.

To this end, Council will continue to work with the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation and other State and Federal agencies to breathe new life into our city and ensure Lismore remains the Heart of the Northern Rivers.

# Who we are

Lismore is the heart of the Northern Rivers.

## Our community at a glance...

Total population

44,334

Urban population

28,876

Rural population

15,457

Unemployment

5.1%

Total households

19,774

Average household size

2.43

Average weekly income

\$1,319

Average age

44

People who speak a language other than English

5.2%

One parent families

13.1%

Single person households

28.4%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

5.6%

People born in Australia

89.6%

Reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability

7.1%

As a regional city and services hub, Lismore supports a large urban population as well as providing vital services for many outlying villages, hamlets and rural areas.

Lismore is located within rich farmland and is flanked by beautiful beaches and ancient rainforests. It is 45 minutes from the world-famous holiday destination Byron Bay, 30 minutes from the world-famous alternative lifestyle capital Nimbin and a two-and-a-half hour drive from Queensland's capital city, Brisbane.

Lismore is the recognised centre for health, education, retail, entertainment, culture and sport in the Northern Rivers. It continues to strengthen its status as a regional city with

hospital service upgrades, expansion of university facilities and, in the countryside, the growth of many cottage industries that celebrate and export the best of the region's food, art and natural products to the world.

Lismore's population of around 45,000 encompasses a diverse range of colourful people from all walks of life. Lismore is a city where difference is embraced and community is strong.

All of this combines to create a unique Local Government Area with a character that is vibrant and individual. The region is more broadly known as the Rainbow Region in honour of its diversity.

Compared to NSW, Lismore has a higher proportion of:

Children and secondary schoolers aged 12-17 years old and older people aged 50-85 years.

People working in technical and trade, community and personal service, sales and as labour workers.

People living in low-density housing (separate houses).

People with no internet connection.

\*Statistics from the 2021 census.

# Your Councillors

Lismore City Council is made up of 11 Councillors, including a popularly elected Mayor, who were elected to serve until September 2024.

Due to COVID-19, the NSW Office of Local Government extended the previous term of Council by 15 months. This means Councillors elected in 2021 will serve a shortened term. The next local government elections will be held in September 2024.



**Our Mayor**

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## Role of Councillors

- Provide strong and effective leadership, planning and decision-making
- Represent the collective interests of residents, ratepayers, and the local community
- Plan strategically, allocate resources, and provide services and regulation that meet the diverse needs of the local community
- Facilitate communication between the community and the Council

## Councillor Entitlements

Councillors are eligible for a range of entitlements and allowances associated with their role, including reimbursement of expenses incurred in carrying out their civic duties and provision of facilities to assist in fulfilling their obligations. These are provided in accordance with Council's Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy, which ensures entitlements are transparent, accountable, and meet the expectations of the community. A copy of the Policy can be downloaded from Council's website at [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au).

In 2021/22, a total of \$334,190 was provided in allowances, including:

- \$60,950 for a Mayoral allowance
- \$234,685 in total for Councillor allowances

Councillors were also eligible for the following allowances, expenses and facilities:

Councillor Expenses and Facilities	\$
Office equipment and facilities	\$625
Telephone calls	\$755
Conferences and seminar attendance	\$6,011
Training and Professional Development (including Induction)	\$19,355
Interstate visits (including transport, accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses)	\$0
Overseas visits (including transport, accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses)	\$0
Expenses for spouses (spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a Councillor, being expenses payable in accordance with the Guidelines)	\$95
Childcare (or expenses involved in the provision of care for an immediate family member of a Councillor)	\$1,450
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,291</b>

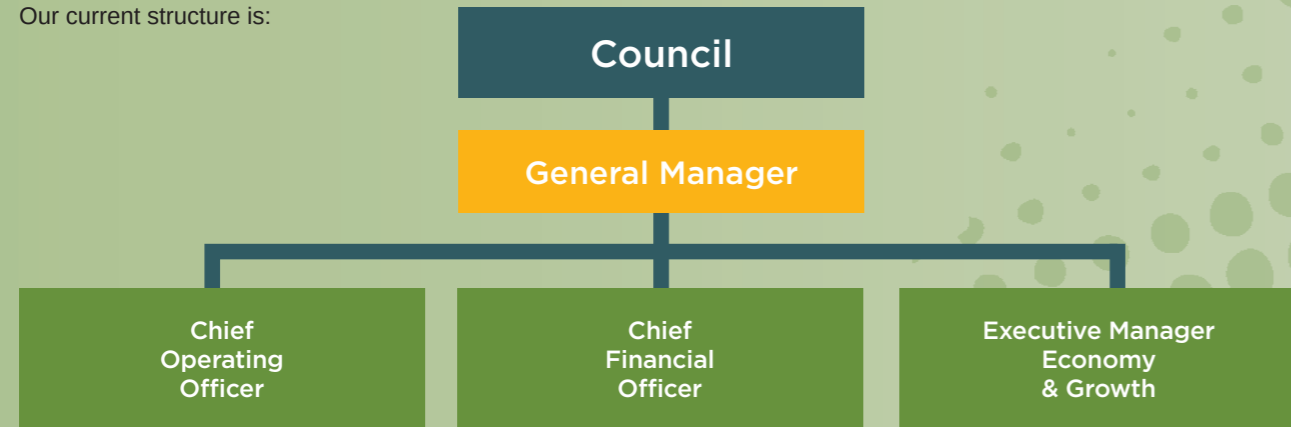


# Your Council

## Organisational Structure

Every four years, Council adopts a staff structure to support the Council and General Manager to deliver programs and activities detailed within Imagine Lismore Delivery Program.

Our current structure is:



**335**  
Council full-time employees

**83**  
Council part-time employees

**58.83**  
RTRL full-time equivalent employees



## General Manager

Council welcomed General Manager John Walker in the 2021/22 financial year for a period of up to 12 months.

Mr Walker is a change agent and well credentialed with a very strong background in leading local government organisations and businesses.

Prior to his tenure with Council, Mr Walker has held the position of Chief Executive Officer of Richmond Valley Council and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Western Australia.

Mr Walker was also the founding Chief Executive Officer of AFL's West Coast Eagles and Westpac's General Manager of Retail Banking, as well as holding Chief Executive Officer roles at Dominos and Thrifty.



## Chief Operating Officer

Brendan Logan



## Chief Financial Officer

Kristian Enevoldson



## Meet the Executive Team

Council's executive team recently underwent a significant restructure to better align the organisation with the needs of the city and community.

The NSW Government announced support for Council in this transformation and rebuild with a generous \$20 million funding agreement over three years. A needs analysis prepared for the Office of Local Government (OLG), after consultation by consultants Morrison Low formed the basis of the roadmap.

Under the changes, the previous three Directors roles and directorates were abolished and replaced with two new positions titled Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Chief Operating Officer (COO).

A new position of Executive Manager Economy and Growth has been created within the General Manager's office to reflect the importance of this area, including strategic planning.

## Executive Manager Economy & Growth

Eber Butron



# Delivery Program Progress Report



## Our Progress



Lismore City Council provides a broad range of services to meet the day-to-day needs of the community.

Every program, project, activity, and service Council delivers to the community is planned for and documented in the Imagine Lismore Delivery Program.

The Delivery Program seeks to achieve a range of strategic objectives identified by the community in the Imagine Lismore Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027.

This section of the Annual Report focuses on Council's progress during 2021/2022 in implementing the fifth year of the original Imagine Lismore Delivery Program 2017-2021.

This section of the report details progress, achievements, and statutory information prescribed by the *Local Government Regulation 2005* for each of the five key themes.



# A An inclusive and healthy community



## 10-year objectives

**A1** Our community is safe, happy and healthy.

**A2** We recognise our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and cultures.

**A3** Our sporting facilities and recreational spaces encourage active and passive community participation.

**A4** Our community is a desirable place to live, an easy place to work and a welcoming place to visit.

**A5** Our community has access to essential services.

## Key Highlights

Council secured \$2,546,640 of funding to build a 1.1km Rainbow Road Walking Track in Nimbin which will complement existing infrastructure, linking to Nimbin's iconic main street.

Council officially opened the new biking facility at Nesbitt Park in South Lismore including a new Mountain Bike Skills Course and an upgrade of the BMX Pump Track.

Council celebrated National Reconciliation Week with a live-streamed flag-raising ceremony, the announcement of the 2022 Cory James Memorial Scholarship winner and a morning tea with staff, the Aboriginal Advisory Group members and community members.

Council completed a \$430,000 upgrade to Oakes Oval's sports lighting. The new LED lighting has increased the brightness to a regional standard and will allow more use of this facility.

Following community consultation on the new popular Heritage Park water play area, a shade cover was added.

Council upgraded play equipment at Wade Park in East Lismore, as well as Elders Memorial Park and Greenhills Park both in Goonellabah.

Following the damage sustained to the Lismore Library during the February natural disaster, a Pop-Up was opened to the community at the Richmond Tweed Regional Library Support Services building in Goonellabah to provide access to borrowing and allow continuation of library programs.

With support from 123Read2me, Lismore Library distributed book donations to schools and children who were affected by the flood.

The Albert Park Baseball Complex secured a grant of almost \$900,000 to improve accessibility and encourage female participation, which will further enhance this world-class regional sporting facility.

## \$2.5 million Walking Track investment in Nimbin tourism



Lismore City Council has received funding of \$2,546,640 from both the Federal and State governments to build a 1.1km Rainbow Road Walking Track in Nimbin.

The walking track will complement existing infrastructure, linking to Nimbin's iconic main street, which features heritage murals and colourful street life.

The project centre's around Nimbin's vision to be a high quality, nature-based tourism destination.

Then Lismore City Council Mayor Vanessa Ekins welcomed the funding and believes the walking trail will deliver an array of positive benefits for the Nimbin community.

"The vision and work for this walking trail has been an on-going project for almost 20 years. It will link the many attractions in Nimbin has to offer to deliver a fantastic experience for tourists," she said.

## New Mountain Bike Skills Course at Nesbitt Park

Riders of all types will now be able to enjoy the new Mountain Bike Skills Course at Nesbitt Park which was officially opened by then Lismore Mayor Vanessa Ekins, NSW Member of the Legislative Council Ben Franklin and State Member for Lismore Janelle Saffin.

Lismore City Council received a grant under the NSW Government's Round 2 Stronger Country Communities funding of \$268,956, to build the track.

The new facility caters for all levels of experience with a focus on beginners and intermediate riders.



The course was designed and constructed by World Trails which installs mountain bike facilities in Australia and around the world. It has been designed to help beginner and intermediate mountain bike riders develop their skills on various natural elements they may find on actual bushland trails.

This facility will add yet another element of play that the community can experience at Nesbitt Park which already has playground equipment, a 1km walking track, exercise equipment, BBQ's, sportingfields and a Radio-Controlled Car facility.



## Reconciliation Week scholarships awarded

As part of Reconciliation Week 2022, Lismore City Council named Jeb Walton as this year's recipient of Council's Cory James Memorial Scholarship.

The Award is in memory of the late Cory James, a young Indigenous Council employee who passed away four years ago. Cory was a proud indigenous man who wanted to promote his culture and heritage within the community.

With a large crowd in attendance at Council's Corporate Centre, Aunty Jenny presented Jeb,

who works in road construction, with the scholarship. The scholarship will allow Jeb to undertake further study and training to help further develop his career.

During Reconciliation Week, Council Project Officer Malcolm Saunderson was awarded the 2022 National Reconciliation Week Pat Dixon Scholarship for his work and dedication in promoting awareness of Indigenous culture.

The scholarships were established in honour of Pat Dixon, a Dhanggati woman who became the first Aboriginal woman elected to local government in Australia.

## Library programs continue to support community

Following the damage sustained to the Lismore Library and Mobile Library during the February Natural Disaster, Lismore Library staff continued to provide opportunities to access borrowing and programs to the community.

A Pop-Up library was quickly opened to the community at the Richmond Tweed Regional Library support services building in Goonellabah, with a small collection available for borrowing and to allow continuation of library programs. Programs included story time, baby bounce, social groups and writers groups which provided important opportunities for social connection during a challenging time.

The mobile library was also back on the road shortly after the disaster, operating out of the back of a car while Council assessed the damage to the mobile library truck. The replacement truck was back on the road in August 2022.

Lismore Mayor Steve Krieg said it was a significant achievement by Lismore City Council staff to ensure its return. "It's great news for our small communities and villages that library services are returning to their doorstep."



# B A prosperous and vibrant city



## 10-year objectives

**B1** Our community has diverse business and industry as well as opportunities for investment and growth.

**B2** Our city and villages are attractive meeting places that provide for diverse activity and strengthen our social connections.

**B3** Our community has a diverse and thriving arts and cultural life.

**B4** Our community is connected and convenient.

## Key Highlights

Council received funding to build a 2km concrete walking trail along the Wilsons River, which will connect Riverside Park and Albert Park.

Children were thrilled in the lead-up to Christmas to visit Santa's Wonderland at Lismore Regional Gallery. Not only was the Wonderland Santa's home away from home in December, there were lots of fun activities for children.

Council began consultation on its Tourism and Events Strategy for Lismore, Nimbin, and Villages that will provide a blueprint for the types of events and tourism activities Council delivers and supports over the next five years.

Lismore Regional Gallery introduced Accessible Arts - Accessible Exhibition Design for staff and Accessible Arts - Disability Confidence Training for staff and volunteers.

Council sponsored Art on Bundjalung Market through the Business Activation Plan. The event is organised by Arts Northern Rivers and proudly works with Bundjalung artists.

After the February natural disaster and March major flood, Lismore Regional Gallery introduced the Collage Club that makes space for the community to recover through gentle art-focused activities. It is a free event that takes place at The Quad every Thursday afternoon.

Council completed the Laneways Project, a \$510,000 project designed to help reinvigorate our inner-city laneways precinct and attract more visitors.

Council was successful in receiving a grant of \$9 million under the Building Better Regions Fund to build the Bentley to Lismore Rail Trail.

Council launched the 'Loving Local Gift Cards' program, designed to make it easier for shoppers to spend their money in Lismore and help businesses recover from COVID-19 and the impact of lockdowns.

## Goonellabah Industrial Estate project begins

Lismore City Council received \$11 million from the NSW Government and \$2 million from the Federal Government to complete this important project. Council also contributed \$1.17 million to the redevelopment.

The extension of Oliver Avenue to the Bruxner Highway will unlock the untapped potential of the Goonellabah Industrial Estate and attract more job-creating businesses to the area, while the installation of the roundabout will improve safety and the new car parking at Hepburn Park will improve the area's amenity for the community.

Entry to Lismore Industrial Precinct does not support a left hand turn for heavy vehicles, which means B-double truck drivers are required to travel past the precinct on Holland Street and make a U-turn at a high-traffic intersection.

This major redevelopment will support future growth of the estate, help create long-term jobs in the region and better connect to the Pacific Highway to make sure Goonellabah is the first choice for a business to locate.



### The project includes:

- Construction of the 'Oliver Avenue link', which includes a 580m road and a new 20m bridge to span over Tucki Tucki Creek
- Construction of a new roundabout at the Oliver Avenue/Holland Street/Taylor Avenue intersection
- Modifications/upgrades to the existing roundabout at Bruxner Highway/Holland Street to facilitate B-double movements
- Construction of a new public carpark at Hepburn Park
- Filling of Council-owned land at 260 Oliver Ave to facilitate additional industrial lots

## Lismore walking trails receive funding boost

Lismore City Council received funding of \$660,153 from the Federal and State governments to build a 2km concrete walking trail along the Wilson River, as well as repair the closed trail through Rotary Park in Lismore.

The Wilson River trail will connect Riverside Park and Albert Park, allowing locals and tourist to enjoy the Wilson River precinct.

There will also be a redevelopment of the closed walking trail through the Rotary Park Dry Rainforest, which was closed late 2021 for safety reasons. It will include a raised platform to significantly improve accessibility and education about the Big Scrub rainforest.

Both walking trails will deliver fantastic experiences for locals and tourists who can use it to exercise and connect with our creeks and river.

The projects are funded under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Package, co-funded by the Federal and NSW governments for bushfire recovery, response, and preparedness in NSW.



## Santa returns to his Santa's Wonderland in Lismore

With COVID-19 restrictions lifting, it was time for our community to come together and celebrate the Festive Season – and Santa agreed!

The Jolly Man in Red once again came to town to take up residence at Santa's Wonderland at the Lismore Regional Art Gallery

The CBD came alive with Christmas decorations and the popular Find The Elf hunt. There was special opportunities and prizes to support local shopping and enjoyment across the CBD.

2021 was the fourth year Santa took up residence at his Lismore Wonderland. This year it is supported through Council's Business Activation Plan.



## Much to discover in our unique laneways

The latest art installation in Lismore's Laneway *In the Heart* by Lismore artists Holly Ahern and Eden Crawford-Harriman certainly dominates the corner of Magellan and Carrington streets and is sure to bring a smile to visitors to our CBD.

Inspired by Lismore City Council's much loved Come to the Heart logo, the artwork features two large vibrant pink arms embracing a pulsating heart with *YOU ARE HERE* in bright neon inviting all to come and experience Lismore.

Built from recycled plastics with ground-breaking 3D printing, this work was fabricated by the world class workshop Studio Kite in the hills of the Northern Rivers.

*In the Heart* and *The Antechinus Family* by 2021 Brunswick Nature Sculpture Walk winner and installation artist Andrew Cullen, were installed as



part of the Lismore Laneways Project, with more installations to come.

The Laneways Project is designed to help reinvigorate our inner-city laneways precinct and attract more visitors. It is funded through a \$510,000 grant, which is part of a \$1.5 million grant from the NSW Government for the ongoing revitalisation of the Lismore CBD.

# C Our natural environment



## 10-year objectives

**C1** Our waterways and catchments are healthy.

**C2** We are committed to resource recovery, waste management and recycling innovation.

**C3** We are committed to environmental sustainability.

**C4** Our diverse natural environment is protected and enhanced.

### Key Highlights

Rural Landholder Initiative now in its sixth year, provided small grants of up to \$7,500 to landowners to improve the biodiversity and farm productivity on their land.

Council engaged with our Community about Tucki-Tucki Creek Reserve to hear from the different users of the Reserve on what they valued most about the area. The extensive feedback gathered will assist Council with future planning for the Reserve.

Council's annual grants to urban Landcare groups enhanced the capacity of community groups working on biodiversity, as well as provided additional funding for post-flood site maintenance works in the urban riparian sites.

After being delayed by the February natural disaster, construction began on the \$650,000 'Solar Carpark' in the Council-owned Clyde Campbell carpark.

Council's SRV-fund contributed to bush regeneration in urban reserves, covering more than 50 hectares of urban bushland to enhance landscape connectivity, habitat values and improve protection of threatened species on Council-managed land.

As part of the Feel Blue Touch Green initiative, Council hosted two well-being days for frontline health professionals an opportunity to experience the benefits of nature and well-being.

Council continued its involvement in koala habitat conservation initiatives funded under our Biodiversity Management Strategy. These initiatives include the Koala Habitat Restoration Program, Monaltrie Landcare Environmental Trust Project and the Regional Koala Survey.

Council adopted a new strategy, the Resource Recovery and Residual Waste Strategy 2022-32 with a vision of sharing the responsibility towards a Circular Economy and Resourceful Community.

Council increased the number of free waste vouchers available to residents for January and February to help the community dispose of extra waste generated over the summer holiday period.

## Lismore's first electric vehicle charging station in the CBD

### Work began on Lismore's first Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station in the heart of the CBD.

After being delayed due to the February natural disaster, construction began in June 2022 on the \$650,000 'Solar Carpark' in the Council-owned Clyde Campbell carpark.

The infrastructure includes the installation of an architectural 'butterfly-shaped' awning, clad with photo-voltaic solar panels and covering 40 carparks. It also includes the installation of two EV fast chargers, making them Lismore's first.

The project will provide much-needed shade for visitors to the CBD, with excess solar energy fed back into the electricity grid.

The solar shade project at the Clyde Campbell Carpark is a great example of local government showing leadership on climate change issues and working towards becoming a sustainable city that embraces renewable energy.



The potential for flooding at the site was a major consideration of the design. All electronic/ electrical components are positioned above the 1% AEP flood level or are removable (the EV charger). Furthermore, the structure itself has been engineered to withstand these flood depths and velocities, including an allowance for the build up of debris.

The Solar Carpark is 100% funded by the 'Drought Communities Program' Federal Government Grant.

## Circular economy partners



### Following community engagement in 2021, in June 2022, Council adopted the new strategy, Resource Recovery and Residual

Waste Strategy 2022-32 with a vision of Sharing the Responsibility towards a Circular Economy and Resourceful Community.

This Strategy is a 10-year approach to shifting from the current linear model of 'Take, Make, Break, Dispose' to a circular economy model that's about designing waste out of our systems, keeping materials in use and regenerating natural ecosystems.

A circular approach includes:

- Recognising waste and pollution as design flaws that shouldn't exist
- Designing products to be reused, repaired, or re-manufactured
- Knowing no waste. Like nature, everything is food for something else

Council aims to work with applicants to co-design or facilitate suitable circular economy solutions that deliver desired outcomes for the region in partnership with Council and other relevant regional partners.



## Waste vouchers help to lighten the load

**Lismore City Council has increased the number of free waste vouchers available to residents for January and February to help the community dispose of extra waste generated over the summer holiday period.**

An extra 1000 vouchers were made available for January and February that residents could apply for to

help them get rid of any extra waste they accumulated over the Christmas and New Year period.

Once a voucher was issued, residents had 30 days to take their waste to either the Lismore Recycling & Recovery Centre on Wyrallah Road, East Lismore or the Nimbin Transfer Station.

As always, residents were asked to sort as much of their waste as possible to allow us to recycle as many items we could to keep them out of land fill.

## Free field days for local landholders

**The Rural Landholder Initiative is a key part of Lismore City Council's Biodiversity Management Strategy.**

The Strategy is a rural landholder capacity-building project that involves educational opportunities such as field days as well as the popular annual small grants program.

The free Rural Landholder Initiative field days focus on practical ways to manage rural properties. Field days topics included:

- Effectively managing environmental weeds, including camphor laurel, coral trees, lantana, privet etc.
- Restoring waterways and managing erosion
- Looking after soil biology to reduce landholder costs
- Restoring habitat for threatened species such as koalas

Held on properties where the landholders have demonstrated exceptional land management practices, the field days are a great opportunity to meet other landholders, network, share stories about challenges and swap ideas on land management practices and techniques.



# D Our built environment



## 10-year objectives

**D1** Our city and village services are well managed and maintained.

**D2** Our built environment is managed and enhanced to meet the needs of our growing community.

**D3** Our land use planning caters for all sectors of the community.

**D4** Our community has a diversity of affordable housing options.

## Key Highlights

Lismore City Council completed its \$8.2 million South Lismore Flood Mitigation Project. The project involved removing 410,000 m<sup>3</sup> of soil to reduce flood levels.

Lismore City Council's \$10 million Bridge Replacement Project began in April. Works will begin to replace 10 ageing wooden bridges in coming years.

Council began the review of the Growth Management Strategy 2015-2035 which draws together the community's aspirations for growth and identifies land that will support population and employment growth until 2035.

Council successfully secured funding for the Nimbin Wayfinding Project which will enhance road and footpath networks, provide additional seating and shaded areas and address safety concerns around the pedestrian crossing.

With 90% of Council's road network suffering extensive damage and an estimated cost of hundreds of millions to rebuild and repair, Council established a Flood Recovery Roads team to coordinate this multi-year project.

Works commenced on the new roundabout at the corner of Holland Street and Oliver Avenue Goonellabah.

Thanks to funding from the NSW EPA, Lismore Recycling & Recovery Centre's new polystyrene recycling machine increased the facility's recycling capacity.

Council reconstructed and rehabilitated approximately 700m of New Ballina Road which included widening and slope stabilisation, stormwater upgrade, installation of kerb and gutter and reshaping of existing table drains.

## Christmas tree pedals back to life

Lismore City Council's iconic recycled bike Christmas tree was back by popular demand and was unveiled in the CBD on 1 December 2021.

Originally created in 2015 as Council's first recycled Christmas tree, it returned with a fresh coat of paint and some minor changes

The tree was made entirely from old bikes from the Revolve Shop with more than 90 bikes welded together, 50 litres of white paint and almost half a tonne of steel.



This is the seventh tree Council staff have erected on the corner of Keen and Magellan streets to celebrate the festive season and Lismore's commitment to recycling and sustainability.

Now an annual event, the recycled bike tree was Council staff first gift to the community and attracted national attention when it was installed.

Staff create the tree in their own time after work and raised funds to pay for any materials.

## Recycling more polystyrene

**Thanks to funding from the NSW Environment Protection Authority, recycling polystyrene has been given a new boost with a new dedicated polystyrene recycling machine at the Lismore Recycling & Recovery Centre.**

In 2009, the NSW EPA Better Waste and Recycling Fund allowed Lismore City Council to be one of the first council in Australia to have a dedicated polystyrene recycling machine. With the additional funding, Council has been able to increase its capacity. Council previously recycled around 30 tonne of polystyrene every year, saving around 550 cubic metres of landfill.



The new machine can process up to 300 kilograms of polystyrene per hour by crushing and sorting the foam which is then pushed through heating rings that melts and cuts the foam. The product is then cut into golf ball-sized material, then cooled and sold – it can be recycled into items such as photo frames and architrave.

Residents can recycle polystyrene free of charge by taking the material to either the Lismore Recycling & Recovery Centre or at the Nimbin Transfer Centre drop off area.

## New Ballina Road rehabilitation roadworks

Council reconstructed and rehabilitated approximately 700m of New Ballina Road which included widening and slope stabilisation, stormwater upgrade, installation of kerb and gutter, and reshaping of existing table drains.

This project was Stage 2 of New Ballina Road Reconstruction and took approximately six months to complete. Pre-construction of the project included activities such as compound set up, clearing works, management works, vegetation erosion and sediment control. Followed by the construction of a 70m X 2.5m retaining wall to prevent road subsidence.



## Three bridges replaced, seven to go

**In addition to repairing our damaged road and bridge network following the February natural disaster, Council also continued with its planned work including the replacement of 10 ageing wooden bridges with new concrete structures thanks to a \$11 million grant under the State Government's Fixing Country Bridges program.**

Mayor Steve Krieg was joined by NSW Minister for Regional Roads and Transport, Sam Farraway, to cut the ribbon on bridge #3 over Tucki Creek at Tucki Tucki. Also completed this financial year were the replacement of Bungabbee Bridge at Bungabbee and Dudgeon Bridge at Keerrong.

The remaining bridges to be replaced are Sexton Bridge at Monaltrie, Town Bridge at Terania Creek, Walsh Bridge at Blakebrook, Boomerang Bridge at Corndale, Greens Bridge at Nimbin, Ridgewood Bridge at Rosebank and Henson Bridge at Nimbin.

Council specialist bridge construction and maintenance crew have the knowledge and experience to deliver construction projects, as well as maintain our existing timber bridge networks.

All three replaced bridges to date went under a considerable amount of floodwater and all withstood the quality build test.





# E Leadership and Participation



## 10-year objectives

**E1** We engage and communicate with our community.

**E2** We collaborate with other agencies to achieve great outcomes.

**E3** Our decisions and actions are open, transparent, effective and in the interests of all.

**E4** We provide effective management and responsible governance.

**E5** We continue to grow our reputation and capacity as a regional city.

## Key Highlights

Lismore Council launched the Lismore Flood Appeal raising just over \$1.7 million raised for flood-affected residents through various fund-raising initiatives and the One from the Heart concert.

Lismore City Council held its annual Australia Day Awards. The awards recognise community members who have volunteered their time and energy to make our community an even better place to live.

With State Government funding, Council was able to offer one year of rate relief for those who were affected by the 28 February natural disaster and March flood.

Following a delayed Local Government election, Steve Krieg was declared the new popularly elected Mayor of Lismore City Council.

Council staff set up and coordinated the GSAC Evacuation Centre as a temporary 'overflow' centre for our flood-affected community when the need exceeded the available space and resources at the main Southern Cross University Evacuation Centre. GSAC supported about 300 flood-affected residents as well as offering an emergency food bank and clothing supply.

Council launched its new Business Activation Plan designed to help grow businesses in Lismore and Nimbin Central Business Districts.

Council endorsed the appointment for the new term of the Aboriginal, Nimbin, Access & Inclusion and Sister City Advisory Groups to provide advice and guidance to Council on a range of matters.

To celebrate the resilience and lift the spirits of the Lismore community, Lismore City Council, Chugg Entertainment and Helium staged a free concert at the Lismore Showgrounds - One From The Heart.

## Australia Day Awards

Council held its annual Australia Day Awards to recognise people who give back to the community through volunteering or community work and those who excel in sport or other endeavours.



Lismore's Australia Day Awards recognise unsung heroes who put in many hours as volunteers to make the local community a great place to live and raise a family.

Di Lymbury was named Lismore Citizen of the Year 2021 for her tireless work helping those who are living with Parkinson's Disease.

Other winners announced during the Australia Day celebrations at Lismore City Hall were:

- Services to Community – Individual - Dr Eslam Ibrahim
- Services to Community – Group - U3A Northern Rivers Lismore (Inc)
- Sports Team - Marist Brothers Rugby League - Ladies League Team "The Ramettes"
- Sports person (Junior) - Malachi Canning



## Lismore City Council launches flood appeal for the community

In March 2022, Council announced it had set up a Flood Appeal for public donations to help with the recovery of our residents.

Council was successful in its application for the Australian Tax Office (ATO) to grant the fund tax deductibility status. No administration costs were deducted from the funds raised, with all donated funds going to flood-affected residents. Council developed procedures and processes to ensure the large sum of money and applications were managed in a fair, transparent and efficient manner.

Fundraising continued past the end of the 2021/22 financial year closing in December 2022 with just over \$1.7 million raised and distributed directly to residents.

Lismore City Mayor Steve Krieg encouraged people to make donations to help the Lismore community. "This flood has devastated our city. It is a 1-in-500-year flood event and has led to many hundreds, if not thousands, of people being evacuated with little more than the clothes on their back," he said.

"I want to thank all the people from near and far who contributed to the appeal. The overwhelming generosity and kindness we have seen throughout this flood appeal process is very heartening and inspiring."

## One from the Heart

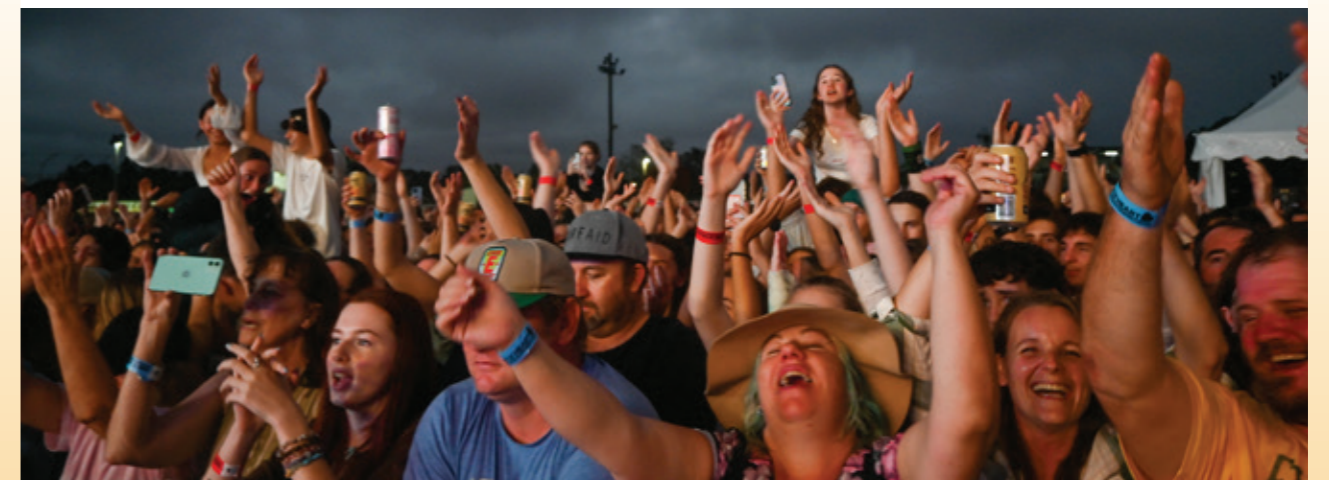
To celebrate the resilience and lift the spirits of the Lismore Community, Lismore City Council, Chugg Entertainment and Helium staged a free concert at the Lismore Showgrounds - One From The Heart.

With amazing performances from Daryl Braithwaite, Jon Stevens, Paul and Dan Kelly, Grinspoon, Lime Cordiale, Sheppard, Darlinghurst and the Buckleys, the One in the Heart Concert truly brought our community together.

Lismore City Mayor Steve Krieg said this was an event our community needed.

"The last two months have been difficult for our community, however I know there is a strong need for our community to come together and this concert is an opportunity for us to celebrate our resilience and lift community spirits," he said.

At the 2022 Local Government Week Awards, Lismore City Council received a "Special Acknowledgement" for the One From the Heart concert.



## Activation plan to support our local businesses

Lismore City Council launched its new Business Activation Plan designed to help grow businesses in Lismore and Nimbin Central Business Districts.

Its release came at a time that many of our local businesses were struggling with the financial fallout from the COVID-19 lockdown.

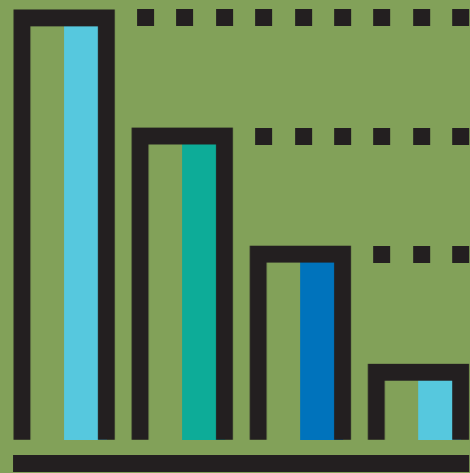
The plan was developed by Council's Economic Development team which engaged the business community through workshops and an online survey, as well as working closely with the Business Activation Plan Working Group.

The Working Group comprised of representatives from Council, the Lismore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, the Lismore Square and Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers.

The Working Group identified four simple themes to underpin the plan: vibrancy to encourage more people to visit and connect with our CBDs, experience to ensure our streets are safe and attractive; promotion to showcase local events, attractions and the business community; and support to help existing and new businesses to flourish.



# Community Financial Report 2021/22



## What information is included?

The Community Financial Report provides a plain English explanation of our financial statements so that they can be easily understood by our community, business partners, customers and employees. It's a snapshot of:

- our financial performance for 2021-22
- our financial position at 30 June 2022
- what the results mean in terms of financial sustainability

## Extension of time to lodge

**Council received an extension to finalise and submit its 2021-2022 Financial Statements to the Office of Local Government until 31 January 2023.**

**Once the Financial Statements have been audited and lodged, Council will publish it on our website at [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au) as required under the Local Government Act.**

## What were the results?

In the 2021/22 financial year, the Lismore LGA suffered two catastrophic natural disasters in February and March 2022. These events caused widespread damage to Council's infrastructure assets and adversely impacted Council's financial results. This included the loss of revenue at a number of facilities that were non-operational after the two events, as well as the impairment and disposal of damaged infrastructure.

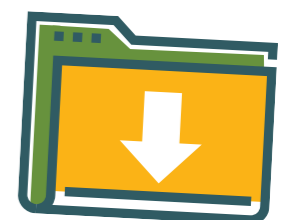
Council finished the financial year with an operating surplus of \$5.1 million, after excluding capital grants and contributions a deficit of (\$27.22) million is reported. Council invested over \$43.4 million into infrastructure, property, plant and equipment for the year and total equity increased by \$9.7 million to \$1.74 billion.

Importantly, if the impacts of the natural disasters are excluded, the underlying performance of Council shows improvement year on year. Adjusted for the natural disaster (loss on disposal of assets), an operating surplus of \$33.5 million was achieved, as well as an operating surplus before capital grants and contributions of \$1.24 million.

Looking to the longer-term, Council faces ongoing challenges in recovering from the catastrophic natural disasters of 2022, which is expected to take several years. Council has secured Federal and State Government funding to assist in this process. In addition, there are further challenges to adequately fund the maintenance and renewal of its assets, particularly roads, as our community grows and expectations and needs increase. This is not a unique issue to Lismore, but an issue experienced by many other local governments in NSW.

## DID YOU KNOW?

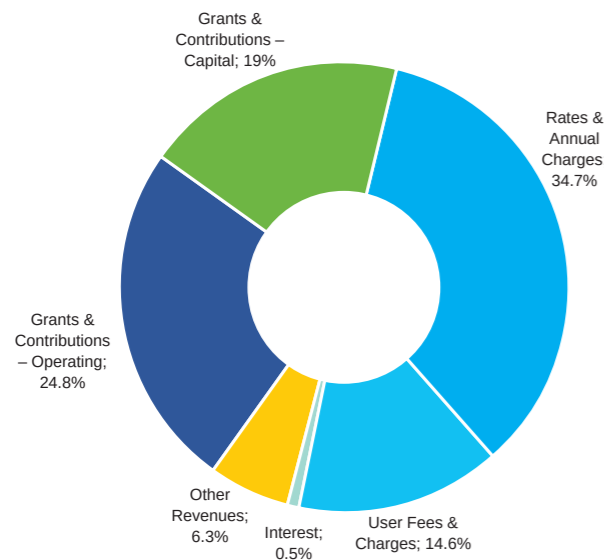
More detailed information about our financial performance and position is provided in the audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report (Appendix 2), which is available from our website at [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au).



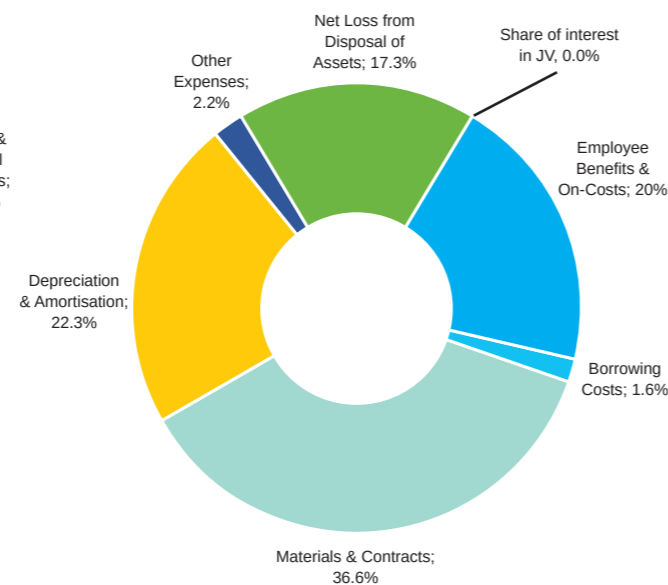
# Financial Performance

**Total Revenue: \$169.5 million** up \$26.6 million from last year  
**Total Expenses: \$164.5 million** up \$40.3 million from last year

## Where did the money come from? (%)



## How was the money spent? (%)



## What was the result?

**Net Result: \$5.07 million surplus**  
down (\$13.6) million from last year

**Net Result: (\$27.2) million deficit**

(excluding capital grants and contributions)  
down (\$12.25) million from last year

## Major changes from 2020/21:

- \$23.4m increase in Grants and Contributions: increase in natural disaster funding of \$22.2 million, roads of \$4.6 million, offset by decreases in noncash developer contributions (\$3.2) million.
- \$5.3m increase in Other Revenues, mainly associated with insurance claims from natural disaster events.
- \$4.1m decrease in User Charges and Fees due to impacts of flood events where a number of Council facilities were non-operational
- \$24.4m increase in Net Loss From Disposal of Assets, due to flood events causing significant damage to Council's assets.
- \$12.0m increase in Materials and Services due to additional cost incurred as a result of the natural disaster events.

## DID YOU KNOW?

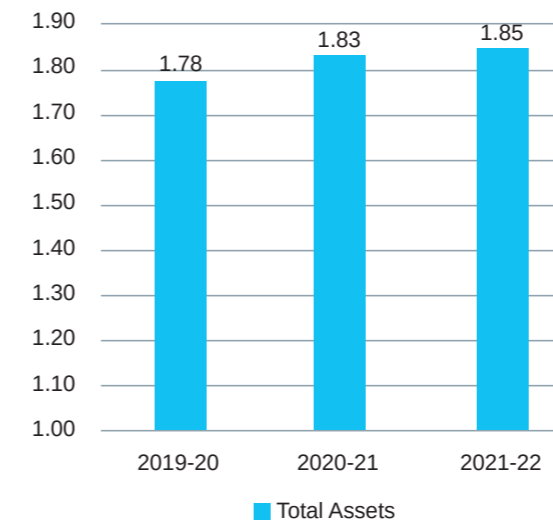
A capital grant or contribution includes money provided by the Government or contributions from developers for Council to renew or build new community assets. The money cannot be spent on Council's day-to-day operating activities or services.

# Financial Sustainability

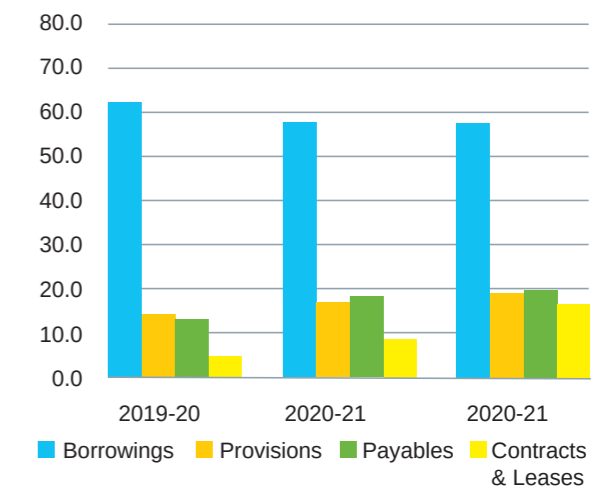
**Total Assets: \$1.85 billion** up \$16.2 million from last year

**Total Liabilities: \$108.3 million** up by \$6.5 million from last year

## What do we own? (\$ billion)



## What do we owe? (\$ million)



As at 30 June 2022, 90.9% of Council's assets were infrastructure, property, plant and equipment, including:

- Roads, bridges and footpaths
- Water infrastructure
- Wastewater infrastructure
- Stormwater infrastructure
- Land and buildings
- Plant and equipment
- Open space and recreation assets (including parks)

## Grants and contributions

Council's grants and contributions increased by \$23.4 million from the previous financial year to a total of \$74.3 million. This included operating grants of \$42.0 million and capital grants and contributions of \$32.3 million.

This increase was mainly due to an increase in natural disaster grant funding of \$22.2 million to a total of \$28.38 million.

Council will continue to advocate to all levels of government for additional funding to assist in the recovery phase as it will play a significant role in rebuilding our regional city and infrastructure.

## What was the result?

**Net Worth: \$1.74 billion** up \$9.7 million from last year

## Major changes from 2020/21

- \$32.1m increase in cash and investments
- \$20.9m decrease in infrastructure, property, plant and equipment
- \$6.5m decrease in contract liabilities
- \$5.3m decrease in loan liabilities
- \$4.6m increase in receivables

# Financial Sustainability

Each year, we report a series of performance measures, which are local government benchmarks set by the State Government and reflect expectations for financial sustainability. The measures use figures from the Audited Financial Statements (Appendix 2) to demonstrate relationships between key numbers.

There are two types of measures:

- Financial measures, which show how well Council is managing its finances.
- Infrastructure asset measures, which show how well Council is managing its assets.

## Financial Measures

### Operating Performance Ratio

This measures the extent to which revenue raised covers operational expenses.

Benchmark: > 0%

Council's result: **0.88%**



### Debt Service Cover Ratio

This measures the availability of Council's operating cash to service its debt, including interest, principal and lease payments.

Benchmark: > 2 times

Council's result: **4.73 times**



### Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio

This measures financial flexibility by assessing Council's reliance on external funding sources such as grants and contributions.

Benchmark: > 60%

Council's result: **56.13%**



### Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage

This measures the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity, and the adequacy of Council's recovery efforts.

Benchmark: < 10%

Council's result: **10.59%**



### Unrestricted Current Ratio

This measures whether Council has enough short-term resources to cover short-term financial obligations.

Benchmark: > 1.5 times

Council's result: **2.38 times**



### Cash Expenses Cover Ratio

This measures the number of months Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflows.

Benchmark: > 3 months

Council's result: **14.14 months**



## Infrastructure Asset Measures

### What does this mean?

The infrastructure asset measures, which are focussed on longer-term sustainability, suggest that Council faces an ongoing challenge to adequately fund the maintenance and renewal of its assets. For 2021/22, the measures highlight that Council was not able to find enough funding to cover the required asset maintenance and renewal costs, however these results were impacted by the events of February/ March. It is expected that moving forward the ratios will improve for 2022/23 as Council restores the damaged infrastructure.

### Asset Maintenance Ratio

This measures actual maintenance for the year as a percentage of the required maintenance for the year.

Benchmark: > 100%

Council's result: **80.18%**



### Infrastructure Backlog Ratio

This measures Council's infrastructure backlog as a proportion of the total value of Council's infrastructure assets.

Benchmark: < 2%

Council's result: **15.02%**



### Asset Renewal Ratio

This measures the rate at which existing assets are being renewed against the rate at which they are depreciating.

Benchmark: > 100%

Council's result: **22.73%**



## Achieving Financial Sustainability

### What does this mean?

Financial sustainability is Council's ability to meet the reasonable expectations of current residents whilst maintaining its financial capital and infrastructure capital over the long-term without risking the capacity of future generations to meet their own needs.

Council will be considered financially sustainable if it can meet the performance measures specified by the Office of Local Government.

To be financially sustainable in the long-term Council will need to find and allocate increased funding to infrastructure to meet the benchmarks. This is best achieved through the development of its key planning documents including the Asset Management Plan, the Workforce Management Plan, and the Long-Term Financial Plan.

# Statutory Information 2021/22



## Annual Report 2021/22

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## Beneficiaries of Financial Assistance (grants and donations)

In accordance with Local Government Regulation 2021 cl217(1)(a5), an annual report must include details of the total amount contributed or otherwise granted under the Local Government Act s356 to financial assist others.

Assistance Category	Amount (\$)
FNC Life Education Van Relocation	\$5,253
Mayor's Discretionary Funding	\$200
Community Grants Scheme	
Rural Halls – Maintenance and Insurance	\$58,000
Rural Halls – Rates	\$19,289
Contribution to Friends of Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens	\$46,299
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$129,041</b>

## Capital Works Projects

In accordance with the Division of Local Government Capital Expenditure Guidelines (2010), councils should provide a report on capital works projects in annual reports.

Council did not undertake any capital works projects that were subject to the Capital Works Expenditure Guidelines during 2021-2022.

## Companion Animal Enforcement

In accordance with the Local Government Regulation 2021 cl217(1)(f), an annual report must include a statement of the Council's activities during the year in relation to enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act 2008.

Council funded a total of \$432,000 on companion animal management activities in 2021/22.

This covered enforcement, education and information activities such as:

- Community education programs and community liaison to promote and assist in responsible pet ownership, microchipping and de-sexing of dogs and cats.
- Maintenance of four off-leash areas at Riverside Park South (fenced area), Lismore Gasworks, Elizabeth Gardens, and Hepburn Park Recreational Area.
- Provision of appropriate management and care of animals that come into Council's custody at the Lismore Animal Care Facility.
- Investigation of 114 reported dog attack incidents (includes when a dog threatens, harasses, chases, or bites a person or another animal). Following investigations 24 of the reported attacks were recorded within the Companion Animals Register.

Council has an obligation under the Companion Animal Act 1998 to consider alternative courses of action before any animals that come into its care are euthanised. Animals are temperament assessed to determine suitability for rehoming. Council works closely with other welfare agencies to maximise rehoming outcomes. Wherever possible, animals are released back to owners or offered for adoption directly through Councils Pound or released for rehoming to animal rescue organisations. Animals not suitable for rehoming due to poor health or temperament are euthanised.

In 2021/22, of the 86 dogs impounded, 49 were released to owners, 16 were rehomed as part of Council adoption packages and 20 were released to organisations for rehoming. Of the 38 cats seized 4 were released, 2 were rehomed as part of Council adoption packages, 27 were released to organisations for rehoming and 2 was euthanised.

## Contracts Awarded

In accordance with the Local Government Regulation 2021 cl217(1)(a2), an annual report must provide details (names, nature, amounts) of contracts awarded for amounts exceeding \$150 000.

Contract No.	Contract Details	Contractor	Tender Amount
84330	Rous County Council	Bulk water purchases for 2021/22. Charges to be invoiced in monthly instalments.	\$6,011,000.00
84508	Environmental Protection Authority	Goods & Services	\$177,187.77
84655	Datacom Systems Pty Ltd	Microsoft 365 A5 for faculty x125, Microsoft, etc	\$182,180.09
84772	HXR Pty Ltd	July crushing - Aggregates, July Crushing - R, etc	\$226,462.50
84773	Blair & Sons Engineering Contractors	Fixing Country Bridges-Project Management Ser, etc	\$389,103.00
84774	Four Water Dragons Pty Ltd	Preparation of property plans and delivery of Natural Sequence Farming courses (second year) as per Q20/185	\$159,312.00
84775	Kyogle Earthworx	Construction of Gravity Wall System New Ballina Road	\$206,000.00
85006	HXR Pty Ltd	Crushing Services August - RB20, Crushing Ser, etc	\$203,500.00
85287	HXR Pty Ltd	Crushing services for August 2021 - RB20, Cru, etc	\$236,780.27
85588	InQuik Pty Ltd	Tucki Creek bridge replacement structure - InQuik	\$155,320.00
85589	Autonomous Energy Pty Ltd	T2020/24 - Clyde Campbell Solar Carpark & EV Chargers	\$603,611.58
85658	InQuik Pty Ltd	Sexton bridge 16.1 x 7.2 bridge structure	\$307,230.00
85659	Public Works Advisory DRNSW	LEL Civil Works - Contract Admin	\$166,295.80
85660	Greg Clark Building Pty Ltd	Construction of the Crozier Tidal Building an, etc	\$5,913,158.00
85704	ENV Solutions Pty Ltd	Cell 2B intercell bund removal Clean Up, Bund Removal	\$198,037.54
85720	Blair & Sons Engineering Contractors	Pineapple Road Sewerage Scheme - Project Management	\$326,612.00
85779	ENV Services Pty Ltd	Cell 2B intercell bund removal: clean Up, Bund Removal	\$198,037.54
85813	SEE Civil Pty Ltd	T20/34 Section B- Wyrallah Road, Buckendoon -, etc	\$1,127,186.00
86051	Pipe Replacement Solutions Pty Ltd	Package of Works 1 - Schedule of Rates Contract	\$494,013.19
86052	Smith Plant Hire (NSW) Pty Ltd	Installation of Storm Pro Stormwater pipes	\$168,228.83
86181	Wagstaff Piling QLD	Sexton bridge piling works	\$182,363.50
86685	Alder Constructions Pty Ltd	T21/15 - LEL Civil Construction	\$8,159,183.12
86995	NSW Spray Seal Pty Ltd	2021/2022 Resurfacing Program Resealing	\$780,000.00
87015	CD Civil Pty Ltd	T20/34-Section A-Nimbin Rd Sites & Blue Knob Rd	\$3,507,367.00
87057	Insituform Pacific Pty Ltd	21/22 sewer retic main lining package 1	\$578,253.00
87058	World Trail Pty Ltd	RFQ21/370 Approval - Nesbitt Park Pump Track.	\$189,934.28
87197	ENV Services Pty Ltd	Cell 2B intercell bund removal, clean up, lining installation CQA verification / testing	\$167,787.54

87235	HXR Pty Ltd	Crushing Services November 2021 - RB20 T20/35, etc	\$316,635.00
87348	O'Brien's Electrical and Plumbing	sewer lateral package as per VP274763	\$259,590.00
87629	RPQ Asphalt Pty Ltd	New Ballina Road - Supply haul and lay Circa 600	\$175,000.00
87638	HXR Pty Ltd	Crushing December - Aggregates per T20/35	\$160,545.00
87786	RPQ Asphalt Pty Ltd	TfNSW AC works	\$850,000.00
88293	Gabba Sporting Products Pty Ltd	Construct 3 National Grade Cricket Nets	\$198,713.04
88299	Steel Post & Rail Pty Ltd	Design & construct a 140 Seat Covered Grandstand	\$420,249.50
88638	HXR Pty Ltd	Crushing - February 2022 RB20 Per T20/35, Cru, etc	\$247,502.37
88810	Veolia Environmental Services	EMERGENCY WORKS (Feb-March 2022 Flood Event)	\$240,000.00
89315	Interflow Pty Ltd	21/22 retic sewer main relining project 2	\$711,113.60
89316	O'Brien's Electrical and Plumbing	21/22 Lateral Lining project 2	\$307,948.15
89512	Richmond Waste	transportation of waste from Lismore to QLD under T	\$187,200.00
89634	McCartney Young Lawyers Law Practice	NLP Water reservoir land acquisition	\$820,000.00
89635	Blay Building & Design Pty Ltd	Contract No. Q21/448 - Oliver Avenue Link Project	\$946,299.82
89944	National Pump & Energy Pty Ltd	Supply of diversion pumps for flood damaged sewer	\$240,000.00
90111	Toyota Fleet Management	Lease Buy-Out of TFM Operating Leases 11280E, 2013	\$234,689.46
90161	HXR Pty Ltd	Crushing April 2022 - per T20/35 RB30/40, Cru, etc	\$254,828.20
90162	InQuik Pty Ltd	Keerrong Road culvert replacement due to flood dam	\$415,250.00
90163	RDT Engineering Pty Ltd	MRF BALING WIRE	\$1,643,814.00
90257	Ti Tree Bioenergy	Emergency Works (Feb-March 2022 Flood Event)	\$240,000.00
90849	Tisdell Constructions Pty Ltd	Oliver Avenue Link Project	\$485,546.89
90859	NSW Electoral Commission	Conduct 2021 Local Government Elections	\$369,151.00
91025	MWL & CO Pty Ltd	Shared Pathway Works for Lismore Employment Lands	\$320,000.00
91026	RPQ Asphalt Pty Ltd	SH16 2021/2022 AC Resurfacing Works - 30 to 31 May	\$300,000.00
91046	Steady State	East Main Control Centre Board -	\$190,000.00
91236	Gabba Sporting Products Pty Ltd	Construction 3 cricket nets Q20/64	\$217,948.76
91319	Ti Tree Bioenergy	Disposal of kerbside Waste to Qld	\$398,355.00

## Councillor Expenses and Facilities

In accordance with *Local Government Regulation 2021* cl217(1)(a1), an annual report must include details of the total cost during the year of the payment of the expenses of, and the provision of facilities to, councillors in relation to their civic functions (as paid by the council, reimbursed to the councillor or reconciled with the councillor), including separate details on the total cost of each of the following:

Councillor Expenses & Facilities	\$
Office Equipment and Facilities	\$625
Telephone calls	\$755
Conferences and Seminar Attendance	\$6011
Training and Professional Development Inc Induction	\$19,355
Interstate Visits (including transport, accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses)	\$0
Overseas Visits (including transport, accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses)	\$0
Expenses for spouses (spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a councillor, being expenses payable in accordance with the Guidelines)	\$95
Childcare (or expenses involved in the provision of care for an immediate family member of a Councillor)	\$1450
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,291</b>

Allowances	\$
Mayoral Allowance	\$60,950
Total Councillor Allowances	\$234,685
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$295,635</b>

The name of the Mayor and each individual councillor that completed council's induction program (where an induction program has been delivered during the relevant year)

Mayor Krieg, Councillors Bing, Bird, Colby, Cook, Ekins, Gordon, Guise, Hall, Jensen, Rob.

The name of the Mayor and each Councillor who participated in any ongoing professional development program during the year

Councillor Rob.

The number of training and other activities provided to the Mayor and Councillors during the year as part of a professional development program:

Eleven.



# Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Disability Inclusion Act 2014, s. 13

Council must include in its annual report information on the implementation of its Disability Inclusion Plan.

Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) promotes equal rights for everyone in our community.

It also recognises Council's responsibility to support people living with disabilities to access the same human rights as everyone else in the community.

Key achievements in 2021/22 in implementing the DIAP include:

- Completed a community wide consultation to inform the development of the 2022-2025 Lismore City Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- Provided Auslan-led tours at Lismore Regional Gallery to allow members of the deaf community to form a deeper understanding and connection with the artworks
- Continued to provide Read speaker technology on the Lismore City Council website for a more accessible platform for people with vision impairment
- Continued to provide a hearing loop in the Council Chambers and live-streaming of Council's ordinary meetings and events
- An exhibition was held at the Lismore Regional Gallery in partnership with RED Inc. to showcase the artwork of 14 contemporary local artists with a disability and ongoing work with artists with a disability.
- In 2021, Lismore Regional Gallery introduced Accessible Arts - Accessible Exhibition Design for staff and Accessible Arts - Disability Confidence Training for staff and volunteers.
- Provided and maintained hoists at the Lismore Memorial Baths and Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre and an adult change facility at the Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre.
- Introduced a dyslexia friendly library through collections and resources available for adults and children with dyslexia
- The Richmond Tweed Regional Library further developed the large print, talking books, ebooks, eaudio books and periodicals collections
- Improved accessibility by relocating all large print collection above knee heights at the Lismore Library
- Provision of funding for Auslan interpreters for meetings upon request.
- The Lismore Library was upgraded with adjustable shelves and hydraulic desks making the library more accessible for wheelchair users, Wheelchair and mobility device users and the elderly
- Waiving of fees for development applications for accessibility improvements.
- Quarterly meetings of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Group to provide advice to Council on disability access and inclusion.

# Government Information (Public Access) Applications

In accordance with the Government Information (Public Information) Act 2009 s125 and Regulation 2009 cl7(3), an annual report must provide:

- Details of the review of its program for the release of government information in the public interest
- Statistical information about access applications received during the reporting year

**Table A: Number of applications by type of applicant and outcome\***

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private sector business	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0
Not for profit organisations or community groups	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (other)	4	5	0	0	1	3	0	0

\* More than one decision can be made in respect of a particular access application. If so, a recording must be made in relation to each such decision. This also applies to Table B.

**Table B: Number of applications by type of application and outcome**

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Personal information applications*	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	4	5	0	1	1	4	0	0
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\* A personal information application is an access application for personal information (as defined in clause 4 of Schedule 4 to the Act) about the applicant (the applicant being an individual).

Table C: Invalid applications	
Reason for invalidity	No of applications
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)	3
Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)	0
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)	0
Total number of invalid applications received	3
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications	2

Table D: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure: matters listed in Schedule 1 to Act	
	Number of times consideration used*
Overriding secrecy laws	0
Cabinet information	0
Executive Council information	0
Contempt	0
Legal professional privilege	0
Excluded information	0
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety	0
Transport safety	0
Adoption	0
Care and protection of children	0
Ministerial code of conduct	0
Aboriginal and environmental heritage	0

\* More than one public interest consideration may apply in relation to a particular access application and, if so, each such consideration is to be recorded (but only once per application). This also applies in relation to Table E.

Table E: Other public interest considerations against disclosure: matters listed in table to section 14 of Act	
	Number of times consideration used*
Responsible and effective government	0
Law enforcement and security	0
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	5
Business interests of agencies and other persons	1
Environment, culture, economy and general matters	0
Secrecy provisions	0
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information legislation	0

Table F: Timeliness	
	Number of applications
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	15
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	0
Not decided within time (deemed refusal)	2

Table G: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome)		
	Decision varied	Decision upheld
Internal review	0	0
Review by Information Commissioner*	0	0
Internal review following recommendation under section 93 of Act	0	0
Review by NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal	0	0

\* The Information Commissioner does not have the authority to vary decisions but can make recommendations to the original decision-maker. The data in this case indicates that a recommendation to vary or uphold the original decision has been made by the Information Commissioner.

Table H: Applications for review under Part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant)	
	Number of applications for review
Applications by access applicants	0
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see section 54 of the Act)	0

Table I: Applications transferred to other agencies under Division 2 of Part 4 of the Act (by type of transfer)	
	Number of applications transferred
Agency-initiated transfers	1
Applicant-initiated transfers	0

## Environmental Upgrade Agreements

In accordance with Local Government Act 1993 s54D(2) and s54P(1), an annual report must include particulars of any environmental upgrade agreement entered into by the council.

A council may enter into an environmental upgrade agreement with a building owner and a finance provider in relation to a building. An environmental upgrade agreement is an agreement under which:

- a building owner agrees to carry out environmental upgrade works in respect of a building, and
- a finance provider agrees to advance funds to the building owner to finance those environmental upgrade works, and
- the council agrees to levy a charge on the relevant land for the purpose of repaying the advance to the finance provider.

Council did not enter into any Environmental Upgrade Agreements during the reporting period.

## External Bodies (controlled by Council)

In accordance with Local Government Regulation 2021 cl217(1)(a7), an annual report must include a statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) in which the council (whether alone or in conjunction with other councils) held a controlling interest during the year.

NIL for 2021/22

## External Bodies (delegated by Council)

In accordance with Local Government Regulation 2021 cl217(1)(a6), an annual report must include a statement of all external bodies that during that year exercised functions delegated by the council.

Council recognises Richmond Tweed Regional Library (RTRL) as an associate in its financial reporting. Council has a 25% interest in RTRL.

## External Bodies (participated in by Council)

In accordance with Local Government Regulation 2021 cl217(1)(a8), an annual report must include a statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) in which the council participated during the year.

Council has an interest in a joint operation – North East Weight of Loads Group (NEWLOG). This organisation is responsible for reducing damage to Council roads. Council also has an interest in Blue Hills Residential Estate.

## Equal Employment Opportunity

In accordance with Local Government Regulation 2021 cl217(1)(a9), an annual report must include a statement of the activities undertaken by the council during the year to implement its equal employment opportunity management plan.

Council's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Plan details our commitment to deliver equal employment opportunity through the Reconciliation Action Plan, Disability Inclusion Action Plan and other measures, to ensure a workforce that is representative of the demographics of our community.

Key achievements in 2021/22 in implementing the EEO Plan include:

- Implemented revised working from home procedure and enhanced flexible working practices to ensure barriers are removed.
- International Women's Day event planned to celebrate equality, diversity and inclusive (Cancel last minute to February/March Natural Disaster).
- Unconscious Bias training now available for all staff.
- Active and ongoing communication with local networks to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to apply for traineeships and employment opportunities.
- Final consultation with staff and Aboriginal Advisory group for the launch of Lismore City Council's third Reconciliation Action Plan.

## Legal Proceedings

In accordance with the Local Government Regulation 2005 cl217(1)(a3), an annual report must include a summary of the amounts incurred by the council during the year in relation to legal proceedings taken by or against the council (including amounts, costs and expenses paid or received by way of out of court settlements, other than those the terms of which are not to be disclosed) and a summary of the state of progress of each legal proceeding and (if it has been finalised) the result.

Details	Costs (\$)	Status	Result
Council & Ors ats Widjabul Wai Bai Native Title Federal Court Proceedings No SAD1174/2013	\$36,591	Ongoing	This matter is in the progress of a Native Title claim. It is not a claim against Council but a claim on Crown Land managed by LCC.
Winten North Lismore Plateau Ryan v NRPP & LCC & Winten Judicial Review appeal to L&E Court	\$11,750	Part finalised	Application is before the court and LCC is endeavouring to limit their involvement as the substantive matter has now generally concluded for Council.
Connell v Telstra Pty Ltd & Ors. L&E Court Proceedings	\$3,400	Finalised	Matter concluded with LCC's position upheld on the appropriate consent authority.
Michael Santin v LCC. Quarry DA & Compliance – appeal against refusal of DA	\$97,633	Finalised	Matter concluded – applicant withdrawing their appeal.
Graham Peter Meineke trading as GM Project Development & Management v LCC. Subdivision appeal against refusal of DA	\$67,264	Completed	This matter has now concluded with a court approved conciliatory Development Consent granted.
LCC v Dajoco Investments Pty Ltd & Coyne. Class 4 proceedings in the L&E Court to enforce Council Orders relating to unlawful residential occupation of a building below flood and unauthorised illegal building works.	\$13,425	Ongoing	The court found in favour of LCC and made various orders. Costs still being sought.
LLCC v Mount Pleasant Estate Pty Ltd. Local Court Proceedings. Appeal of an infringement penalty for non-compliance by the developer with the Development Consent	-\$52,061	Completed	Council was successful in defending the appeal. The applicant was found guilty of the offence. Fine was increased and costs awarded to Council.
LCC v Singh - Access to premises for sewer infrastructure works	\$25,974	Completed	Council was unsuccessful in seeking access to premises for sewer rectification works.
LCC v Spectrum Retail Group Pty Ltd. Class 1 action against Council's refusal of a development application.	\$41,190	Completed	Conciliation concluded – consent orders issued by the court.
Two Mates Brewery V LCC This was compliance action for failing to obtain an Occupation Certificate prior to occupying/ opening the business, together with non-compliance with the conditions of Development Consent.	\$23,865	Completed	The matter was listed with the Land & Environment Court for Hearing, but later withdrawn after the majority of the works were done and Occupation permitted by the Private Certifying Authority. There was a matter of costs following the withdrawal which has since been resolved & the matter is completed.
<b>Total Legal Expenses</b>	<b>\$269,031</b>		

## Overseas Visits

In accordance with Local Government Regulation 2021 cl132, an annual report must include details (including the purpose) of overseas visits undertaken during the year by councillors, council staff or other persons while representing the council (including visits sponsored by other organisations).

No overseas travel was undertaken by councillors or Council staff during the reporting period.

## Public Interest Disclosure

In accordance with the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1994 s31 and Regulation 2011 cl4, Council must include the following information:

Component	#
Number of public officials who have made a public interest disclosure to the public authority.	1
The number of public interest disclosures received by the public authority in total and the number of public interest disclosures received by the public authority relating to each of the following:	0
• corrupt conduct	1
• maladministration	0
• serious and substantial waste of public money or local government money (as appropriate)	0
• government information contraventions	0
• local government pecuniary interest contraventions	0
Number of public interest disclosures finalised by the public authority in this reporting period	1
Whether the public authority has a public interest disclosure policy in place	Yes
What actions the head of the public authority has taken to ensure that his or her staff awareness responsibilities under section 6E (1) (b) of the Act have been met	Online Code of Conduct training was implemented for all staff

## Rates and Charges Written Off

Local Government Regulation 2021 – cl132

The annual report must include the amount of rates and charges written off during 2021/22.

Details	2021/22
<b>Pensioner Abandonments</b>	
• General	\$668,812
• Water	\$223,584
• Wastewater	\$215,123
• Domestic Waste	\$185,946
Other Abandonments	\$0
Postponed Rates & Interest	\$0
Written off due to hardship	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,293,465</b>

## Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans

Fisheries Management Act 1994, s220ZT (2)

Recovery and threat abatement plans - Councils identified in a recovery and threat abatement plan as responsible for implementation of measures included in the plan, must report on actions taken to implement measures as to the state of the environment in its area.

Local councils have partial responsibility for three actions in the Threat Abatement Plan for Removal of Large Woody Debris from NSW Rivers and Streams. These are:

CRA 2: Ensure the development, administration and implementation of legislative and policy frameworks to protect riparian vegetation and maintain future supply of large woody debris. This includes development consents, State Environmental Planning Policies, property vegetation plans, private native forestry codes of practice, native vegetation regulations, integrated forest operations approvals and forest operating procedures.

CRA 3: Review environmental impact assessment processes and procedures used by consent and determining authorities when considering developments or activities that have the potential to impact on large woody debris. Identify anomalies, inconsistencies or deficiencies and modify processes as required.

CRA 4: Identify options to utilise regulatory and voluntary incentive-based mechanisms to protect large woody debris in priority areas known to support threatened species populations or ecological communities and implement as appropriate.

Lismore City Council assessment processes include referral to a staff ecologist to ensure compliance with the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* and relevant plans under the *Fisheries Management Act*. During the reporting period, no development applications involving removal of large woody debris from a river or stream was received.

## Remuneration (General Manager)\*

In accordance with Local Government Regulation 2021 cl217(1)(b), an annual report must include a statement of the total remuneration package of the General Manager during the year that includes the total of the following

Component	Amount (\$)
Salary	\$501,675
Bonus/Performance/Other payments	\$0
Superannuation	\$47,742
Non-cash benefits	\$0
Fringe Benefits Tax payable	\$0
<b>Total Remuneration</b>	<b>\$549,417</b>

\* This amount includes a contractual termination payment to the previous General Manager.

## Remuneration (Senior Staff)

In accordance with Local Government Regulation 2021 cl217(1)(c), an annual report must include a statement of the total remuneration packages for senior staff members (expressed as the total, not of individual members) during the year that includes the total of the following:

Component	Amount (\$)
Salary	\$572,851
Bonus/Performance/Other payments	\$0
Superannuation	\$58,876
Non-cash benefits	\$6,770
Fringe Benefits Tax payable	\$762
<b>Total Remuneration</b>	<b>\$639,259</b>

## Employee report

Councils must publish a statement of the total number of persons who performed paid work for them on Wednesday 25 May 2022 including, in separate statements, the total number of the following:

### Labour Statistics Lismore City Council

Total number of persons who performed paid work	521
<b>Number of persons directly employed by council on a:</b>	
• Permanent Full-time basis	335
• Permanent Part-time basis	83
• Casual basis	43
• Fixed Term/Temporary Contract	9
The number of staff members employed by the council who are "senior staff" for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act)	4
The number of persons engaged by the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, that is wholly or principally for the labour of the person, and	41
The number of persons supplied to the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, as an apprentice or trainee.	6

## Special Rate Variation Expenditure (Business Promotion)

Councils must report on special rate variation expenditure (granted under s508) in accordance with conditions of any instruments of approval made by the Minister. For the Business Promotion SRV, Council is required to report in its annual report:

- the program of expenditure that was actually funded by the Special Variation;
- any significant differences between the Proposed Program and the program of expenditure that was actually funded by the Special Variation and the reasons for those differences; and
- the outcomes achieved as a result of the Special Variation

<b>Total Income Received (\$):</b>		<b>\$393,600 (\$583,200 including carry forward)</b>		
<b>Details (Expenditure as funded by SRV)</b>	<b>Budget (\$)*</b>	<b>Actual (\$)</b>	<b>Diff (\$)</b>	<b>Reason for \$ Difference</b>
<b>Promotion – Businesses and Events</b>	<b>\$141,000</b>	<b>\$82,788</b>	<b>\$58,212</b>	2022 floods and 2021 pandemic severely impacted priorities, events and marketing delivery. Particularly in response to floods, business recovery support was key focus for Council's economic development team during the remainder of the financial year.
• Christmas Campaign	\$22,000	\$18,858		
• Shop local initiative - 'Loving Local Gift Cards'	\$12,000	\$11,998		
• Marketing and production (including 'What's Open' – flood recovery campaign)	\$61,000	\$25,210		
• Stocktake sale	\$15,000			
• Contractor costs for marketing planning and Spendmapp data platform	\$31,000	\$26,722		
<b>Vibrancy – Activation and Events</b>	<b>\$192,000</b>	<b>\$40,201</b>	<b>\$151,799</b>	Majority of events and activation projects were impacted by COVID and/or floods, including Lismore Masters Games and Eat the Street (cancelled), SHINE (postponed), and several new activation projects commissioned for production by local creatives engaging with Laneways businesses (paused).
• Christmas events sponsorship	\$45,000	\$16,120		
• Eat the Street sponsorship	\$30,000	\$8,303		
• Lismore Masters Games sponsorship	\$10,000			
• Lismore Event Activation Sponsorship and Night-Time Economy initiatives	\$22,500	\$8,100		
• Lismore Laneways Activation	\$30,500	\$4,190		
• New Events and Pop-Up Activations	\$54,000	\$3,488		
<b>Experience - placemaking initiatives</b>	<b>\$185,500</b>	<b>\$6,877</b>	<b>\$178,623</b>	Impacts of COVID-19 and 2022 floods meant placemaking projects have been paused and postponed, to focus on essential recovery and business renewal priorities.
• Wayfinding project	\$45,000			
• Parklet project	\$8,000	\$1,190		
• Greening pilot	\$5,000			
• Streetscape improvements such as lighting project and co-contributions to funding opportunities.	\$127,500	\$5,687		

Support for Businesses and Events	\$96,396	\$517	\$95,879	Impacts of COVID-19 and 2022 floods on Council and partners, meant programs went online, microgrant projects were postponed, and other plans paused to focus on essential recovery and business renewal priorities.
• Learning and training programs	\$20,000			
• Microgrant pilot for new activation projects	\$50,000			
• Sustainable innovation pilot	\$15,000			
• Business communications materials	\$11,400	\$517		
<b>Coordination and Overheads</b>	<b>\$131,800</b>	<b>\$113,750</b>	<b>\$18,050</b>	Contingency spending on storage rental costs, and contractor on Business Activation Plan completion.
• Salaries, oncosts and labour hire	\$106,800	\$105,506		
• Contingency	\$10,000	\$2,163		
• Contractor spend	\$15,000	\$6,081		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$746,696</b>	<b>\$244,133</b>	<b>\$502,563</b>	

Strategy Area/Project	Outcome
Promotion – Businesses and Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First 10 weeks of the 'What's Open' campaign (May-Sept 2022) to help business recovery and local shopping after the flood disaster. Delivered through sponsorship of the Lismore App to develop lists and stories featuring businesses reopening across Lismore (viewed by over 80,000 by end June), along with interactive map, posters and social media content across Come to the Heart website, Business Enews and Council's publication 'Local Matters' delivered across the community.</li> <li>• Launch of the 'Loving Local Gift Card' program with over 50 participating businesses (prior to flood impacts) and over \$16,000 loaded onto cards for spending at local businesses prior to end June 2022. The network of participating stores is still rebuilding, with new promotions and relief initiatives in development as part of Business Renewal activities.</li> <li>• Promotions and support for Christmas activations, including Santa's Wonderland drawing over 1,250 visitors and their families into the CBD for photos with Santa, hundreds of kids participating in an elf hunt (with local lollies plus the chance for families to win Loving Local Gift Cards prizes), and social media campaigns and competitions to attract shoppers to the CBD in the lead up to Christmas. Spendmapp transactional data across Lismore LGA showed 5% increase on total local spending, year on year, for December 2021.</li> <li>• Promotions of Lismore events, business and attractions, including digital assets (Facebook and Instagram); advertising and content published online and via TV, radio and print channels; website content; and CBD signs and banners. The Visit Lismore website attracted over 54,000 users and the Come to the Heart website attracted over 17,000 users, with the most visited pages about the 'Car Boot Market', 'What's Open' reflecting flood recovery initiatives supporting pop-ups and businesses reopening across the CBD. Online platforms are now subject to a Business Renewal Marketing Plan in response to flood impacts, and new Council websites in development.</li> </ul>
Vibrancy – Activation and Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Lismore, while most 2021-2022 event and activation projects were impacted, postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19 and/or flood disasters, there was much planning, support, development and some outcomes delivered, including:</li> <li>• Sponsorship of the Shopbaby Carols in the Heart event, successfully bringing together 1,800 attendees to Riverside Park to celebrate Christmas in the CBD with high-profile performances and the Lismore Workers Club Laser Show.</li> <li>• Sponsorship of the Art on Bundjalung Market (18 December at the Quad) presented by Arts Northern Rivers, with participating Indigenous artists estimated combined sales exceeding \$45,000 and flow on spend into surrounding businesses from estimated 4,500 people attending.</li> <li>• Sponsorship of the Darrel Chapman Fun Run to raise funds for Our Kids, which purchases paediatric equipment for local hospitals. While the August event went virtual at the last minute due to COVID-19, over 250 people registered to participate across the region, Australia and Internationally, raising \$32,000. This sponsorship provided an insightful pilot for COVID-safe activations and promotions.</li> <li>• Delivery of 'Playpath' small-scale family activation linking creative and CBD spaces, produced by the Quad in January 2022, led by local artists and designed as a COVID-safe pilot.</li> </ul>

Strategy Area/Project	Outcome
Vibrancy – Activation and Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsorship for the award-winning Eat the Street food festival - for which extensive preparation was undertaken, though event cancelled due to floods.</li> <li>• Sponsorship of the inaugural SHINE light arts festival - for which extensive preparation was undertaken, though event postponed due to COVID 19.</li> <li>• Sponsorship of the 11th Lismore Masters Games, which was postponed due to COVID-19.</li> <li>• Microgrants were awarded to two community-led CBD activation projects, one supporting mental health and the second featuring Indigenous film, however these projects have been postponed due to the floods.</li> <li>• Commissioning new digital storytelling and small-scale live tours of the newly developed Back Alley Gallery (designed to function despite COVID lockdowns or other disruptions), featuring new artworks and placemaking projects, local food businesses along with cultural heritage and stories from Indigenous and community leaders. These projects have commenced production by local creatives, but currently paused due to flood damage to infrastructure and impacts on community.</li> </ul>
Experience - placemaking initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two temporary parklets, with new optional shade sails for hot and sunny locations, were relocated to new CBD locations for community enjoyment.</li> <li>• As most of the experience initiatives for greening, lighting and wayfinding were scheduled for 2022, flood impacts mean planned projects have been postponed and are being reconsidered for the 2022-23 financial year.</li> </ul>
Support for Businesses and Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-kind promotional support provided to NORTEC and Corporate 2 Community, to deliver disaster preparation and resilience programs for local businesses, which were delivered online due to COVID-19.</li> <li>• Due to flood impacts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council has suspended collection of SBRV from Lismore ratepayers in the 2022-23 year</li> <li>2. CBD Activation Officer's time has largely focused on business support engagement to understand flood impacts, provide support and information to help businesses to connect with funding and other flood recovery agencies.</li> <li>3. Other support initiatives in planning have been postponed due to floods, with new engagement and activities commenced in the 2022-23 year in alignment with Business Renewal priorities.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

## Special Rate Variation Expenditure (Biodiversity Management)

Councils must report on special rate variation expenditure (granted under s508) in accordance with conditions of any instruments of approval made by the Minister. For the Biodiversity Management SRV, Council is required to report in its annual report:

- the program of expenditure that was actually funded by the Special Variation;
- any significant differences between the Proposed Program and the program of expenditure that was actually funded by the Special Variation and the reasons for those differences; and
- the outcomes achieved as a result of the Special Variation

No.	Details (Program/Project Expenditure as funded by SRV)	Budget (\$)*	Actual (\$)	Diff	Reason for \$ Difference
1	Cleaning up our own backyard: Planning and processes	\$37,998.5	\$19,101	\$18,897.5	Weed management projects in roadside High Conservation Value vegetation were not completed due to the impacts of severe weather and flooding
2	Cleaning up our own backyard: Supporting the community	\$48,998.5	\$61,940	-\$12,941.5	Contributions to regional grant-funded projects including Tuckean Swamp Restoration and additional support to Landcare
3	Working with rural landholders	\$331,998.5	\$232,103	\$99,895.5	Covid delays to the commencement of Round 7 Rural Landholder Initiative meant that these projects were not completed within the financial year. Additionally, some projects were impacted by the severe weather and flooding of Feb-March
4	Working in the urban environment	\$103,998.5	\$77,744	\$26,254.5	Riparian habitat restoration and weed management activities in the Lismore urban area were affected by the severe weather and flooding of Feb-March.
5	Koala Plan of Management	\$35,000	\$46,544	-\$11,544	Additional habitat restoration projects identified and implemented
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$557,994</b>	<b>\$437,432</b>	<b>\$120,562</b>	

Strategy Area/Project	No. (SRV area)	Outcome
Identification and inspection of areas of High Conservation Value roadside vegetation and implementation of weed control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HCV roadside sites were worked as per ongoing maintenance</li> <li>Bridge St was worked</li> <li>Quotes for Boerie Hill, Numulgi Rd, NightCap Range Rd</li> </ul>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weed control undertaken on High Conservation Value roadside vegetation</li> <li>Improved protection of threatened species on roadsides</li> </ul>
GIS project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refined georeferencing of all Council-sponsored biodiversity improvement projects on public and private lands</li> </ul>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spatial data analysed and used to identify and prioritise opportunities for biodiversity projects</li> </ul>

Strategy Area/Project	No. (SRV area)	Outcome
Landcare partnership and support to groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual grants paid out to urban Landcare groups as per agreement exemplifies the funding agreement between Landcare groups and Council's \$1000 per annum contribution.</li> <li>Extra funding was administered for post-flood site maintenance works in the urban riparian sites</li> </ul>	2 and 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced capacity of community groups working on biodiversity outcomes.</li> </ul>
Biodiversity events and workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two additional events were held under a federally funded bushfire recovery project, attended by 65 people in the Nightcap rainforest communities. Council provided an in-kind cash contribution (\$6,420) toward the project.</li> <li>Lismore City Council Landscape Rehydration Project-commissioned the Holistic Management Co-operative (AHMC) and The Mulloon Institute (TMI) to develop a Landscape Hydration Index for the LGA. The report was finalised in March 2022.</li> <li>The associated workshops/ field days (x4) were postponed due to the Feb/March 2022 flood events</li> </ul>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened connections between community and environment, and enhanced capacity in the community to support biodiversity outcomes</li> </ul>
Coastal Management Program (CMP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council contributed to the development of the stage 1 draft Coastal Management Program</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CMP scoping study, a joint project led by Rous County Council.</li> </ul>
Individual landholder projects under the Rural Landholder Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 projects have come to completion at the end of 22: RLI Round 7</li> <li>Bush regeneration undertaken on 26.46ha of native vegetation (inc 11ha of Koala habitat), with 7088 trees planted (inc. 970 Koala trees)</li> <li>8.42ha of area revegetated with native vegetation (i.e., tree planting)</li> <li>1.6 km of fencing installed/maintained for habitat protection</li> <li>3.54km of riparian area restored and 1.86km excluded from stock</li> </ul>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened relationships between LCC and rural landholders.</li> <li>Enhanced capacity of rural landholders to maintain and improve the biodiversity values of Lismore's rural lands</li> <li>Enhanced landscape connectivity and habitat values on privately-owned rural land</li> </ul>
Three Rural Industry partnership projects under the Rural Landholder Initiative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Casino Food Co-Op, Oz Fish, Rous County Council, and Whian Whian Landcare Inc, together with LCC held a field day at Rocky Ck Dam- discussing/ educating local farmers on off-stream watering techniques</li> <li>Golden Grove Teatree Riparian Project- a joint research project with Southern Cross University. The field day was postponed due to covid and the Feb/March 2022 weather events.</li> <li>Events were largely hindered/ postponed during this financial year due to covid/ weather events. Only two RLI extension events were completed.</li> </ul>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened relationships between LCC and rural industries.</li> <li>Enhanced capacity of rural industries to maintain and improve the biodiversity values of Lismore's rural lands.</li> </ul>
Bush regeneration in urban reserves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council's SRV-fund contributed to bush regeneration in urban reserves, covering 50+ ha of urban bushland</li> </ul>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced landscape connectivity and habitat values.</li> <li>Improved protection of threatened species on Council-managed land.</li> </ul>
Bush regeneration in high-value riparian vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council engaged local Ecological consultancy company, Reconeco, to produce The Wilson's River Vegetation Management Plan. Was published in July 2021</li> <li>Primary weed control and follow-up maintenance of the Wilsons River CBD riparian sites began as per the VMP recommendations. The work was halted due to the Feb /March 2022 flooding events</li> <li>Bush Regeneration was also conducted on council-managed sites around the CBD, including the Council's Brunswick St riparian site and Bridge St, adjoining Banyam Baigham</li> </ul>	4	

Strategy Area/Project	No. (SRV area)	Outcome
Feel Blue Touch Green program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held 2 well-being days at Bodhi Tree Forest Monastery and Retreat Centre. Offering frontline health professionals an opportunity to experience the benefits of nature and well-being.</li> </ul>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened connections between community and environment.</li> <li>Supporting mental health and well-being as well as biodiversity.</li> </ul>
Koala habitat restoration projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution of approx. \$30,000 per year from the BMS towards the Koala Habitat Restoration Program delivered through the Rural Landholder Initiative (10,000) and by partnership projects with key stakeholders. Council contributed 10,000 to the Monaltrie Landcare Environmental Trust Project (Cash contribution was part of annual BMS funding) as a partnership project with industry.</li> <li>The remaining funds (10,000) contributed to the Regional Koala Survey across 6 regional council areas (Lismore, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, Ballina, Byron and Tweed).</li> <li>Completed projects:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-1 koala habitat project was funded under the RLI</li> <li>-One additional koala project (RLI Round 8) was funded</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved quantity and quality of koala habitat.</li> <li>RLI outcome- Improvement of koala habitat on private lands through assisted regeneration, revegetation and fencing in key priority areas</li> </ul>
Koala population and density survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KPoM Area Monitoring Survey Report delivered in September 2021.</li> </ul>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved understanding of the presence and density of koalas in this area at the time of the survey.</li> </ul>
Contributions to collaborative research into distribution pathways and strategies for koala conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As opportunities arise</li> </ul>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision-making and resource allocation for habitat restoration based on high quality information.</li> </ul>

## Stormwater Management Services

In accordance with Local Government Regulation 2021 cl217(1)(e), an annual report must include a statement detailing the stormwater management services provided by the council during the year.

Council collected \$384,900 in levies in 2021/22, of which \$99,400 was spent on the stormwater network, and the remainder kept in reserves. The SMS charge was spent on inspections, maintenance, and operational costs. It was also spent on various capital and renewal works including:

- Trinity Drive Drainage Modifications – Design and Nature Strip Works (Complete)
- Monaltrie Creek – stormwater open drain construction and revegetation (complete)
- Various maintenance tasks to improve stormwater flow post-flood (on-going)

The remaining unspent funds are placed back into reserves and can only be used for future stormwater related works as outlined in the Stormwater Management Plan.

## Swimming Pool Inspections

In accordance with Swimming Pools Act 1992 s22F(2) and Regulation 2008 cl18BC, an annual report must include information in relation to swimming pool inspections carried out in accordance with the Act and Regulation.

Council carried out 20 public pool inspections in 2021/22	
Details	#
Number of inspections of tourist and visitor accommodation	15
Number of inspections of premises with more than two dwellings	3
Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of compliance	0
Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of non-compliance	0

## Voluntary Planning Agreements

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203, Division 7.1(2)(7.5)(5) (formerly s93G)

A planning authority that has entered into one or more planning agreements must, while any such planning agreements remain in force, include in its annual report particulars of compliance with and the effect of the planning agreements during the year to which the report relates.

There have been no VMP agreements for the reporting period.

## Works on Private Land

In accordance with Local Government Regulation 2021 cl217(1)(a4), an annual report must include details or a summary of resolutions made during that year under Local Government Act s67 concerning work carried out on private land and details or a summary of such work if the cost of the work has been fully or partly subsidised by the council, together with a statement of the total amount by which the council has subsidised any such work during that year

Council has not performed any works on private property for the reporting period.





**For more information phone  
Lismore City Council**

**6625 0500**