



2020/21 Information for local residents

YOUR ROADS



On the road again...

Welcome to the sixth edition of *Your Roads* – our annual publication to update you on our roads schedule and provide some interesting stats and facts.

We have had some recent success in improving our road conditions, thanks to our strategy of resurfacing as many kilometres of bitumen as possible to ensure roads are repaired before they start to fail.

But there is still more work to do, which requires ongoing investment. This financial year, Council is responsible for investing \$26.09 million in our roads and associated infrastructure.

Unfortunately, this is not enough to make much headway into our backlog of roadworks. Lismore has one of the largest road networks in regional NSW, with a backlog that has been allowed to build up over many decades and now exceeds \$70 million.

Recognising this historical underinvestment, and in response to community expectations, in 2017 Council adopted its Delivery Program for 2017-2021. This included a proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) to raise an additional \$3.74 million annually for direct investment in roads.

However, Council struggled with the SRV application and ultimately resolved to withdraw its SRV application to the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). Council also resolved in June this year to remove almost \$4 million in road funding from Council's annual budget.

This year we have been successful in obtaining additional road funding although these grants will focus on state roads and prioritise road safety issues. Unfortunately, Council cannot rely on grant funding to continue at these increased levels, or to address our roadworks backlog, particularly for local streets and roads.

The reduction in Council's own funding for local streets and roads means we have no choice but to reduce the level of work we can do in some areas. This will mean there will be longer periods between gravel road grading and maintenance, and our pothole maintenance schedule and response to complaints will have longer waiting times.

It is a fact of life that the cost of building things increases every year. This is an ongoing challenge for Council as our cost to repair roads increases, our revenue does not keep pace and our road network continues to decline.

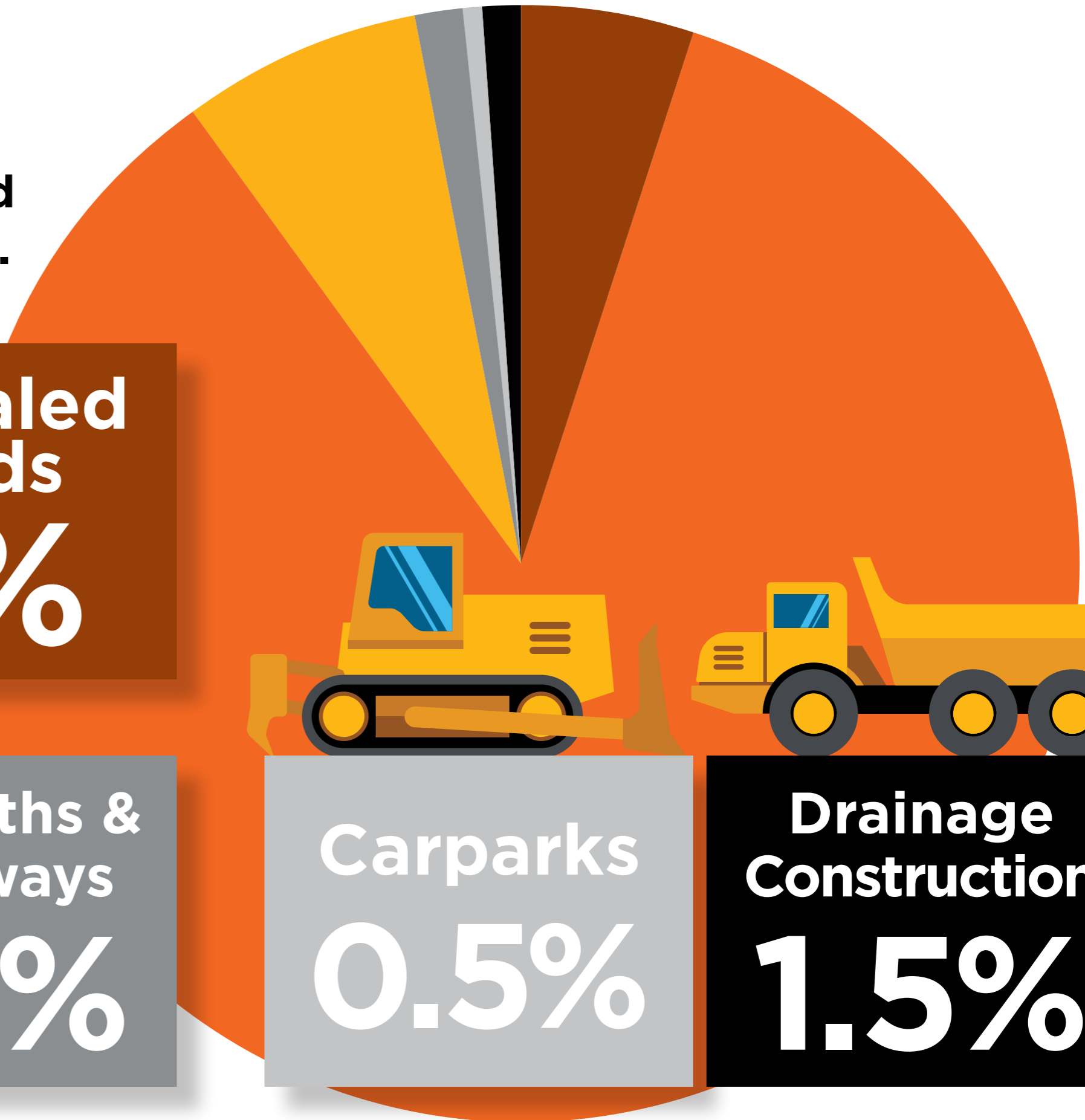
It is an issue that is not unique to Lismore City Council – many other councils in NSW face this growing problem. There is no easy fix – the reality is that all councils need more revenue to keep delivering essential services.

Despite our funding challenges, evidence shows that we have made a difference over the last few years.



How roads funding is spent

\$26,090,000 is being invested in our roads this financial year.



Sealed roads
85%

Unsealed roads
5%

Bridges
7%

Footpaths & Cycleways
1.5%

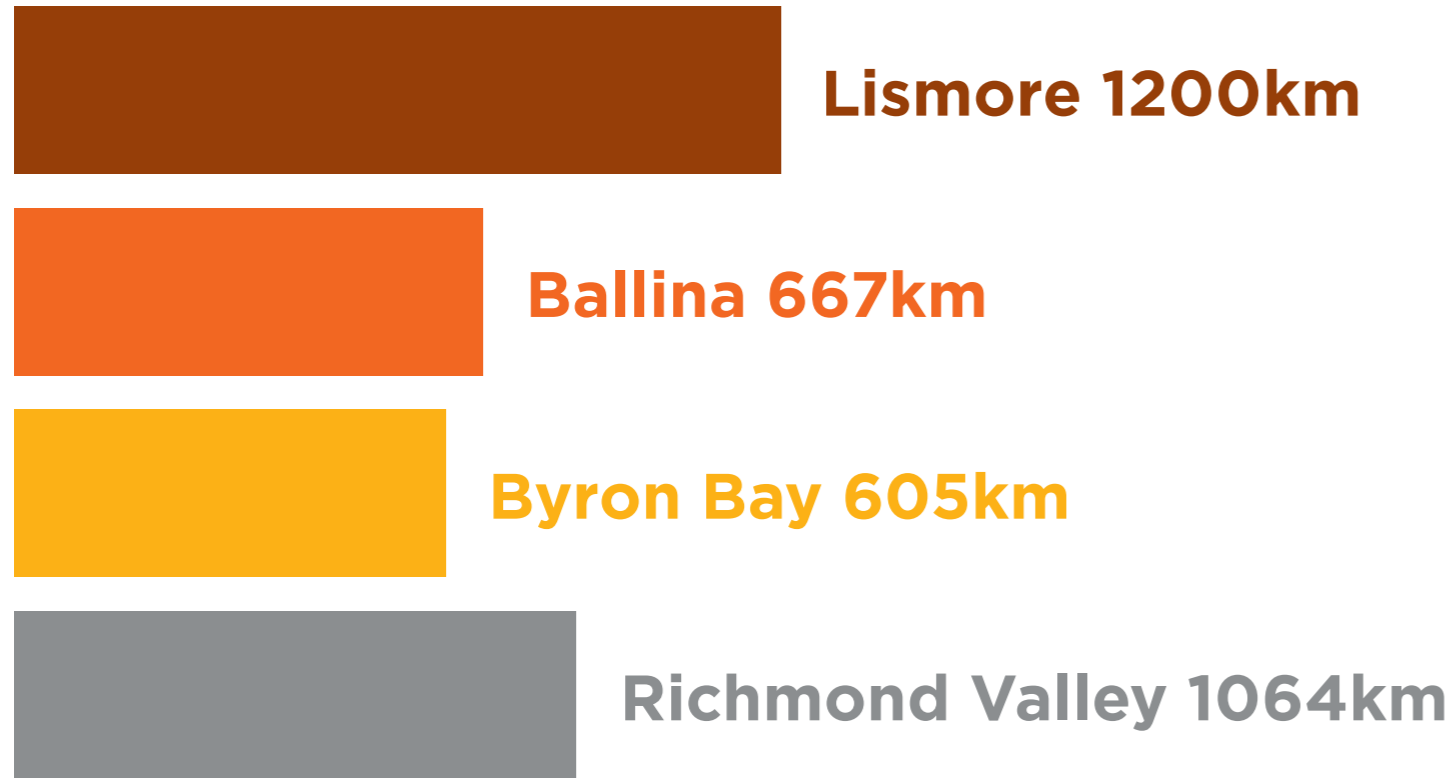
Carparks
0.5%

Drainage Construction
1.5%



Fast facts?

How our local road network compares:



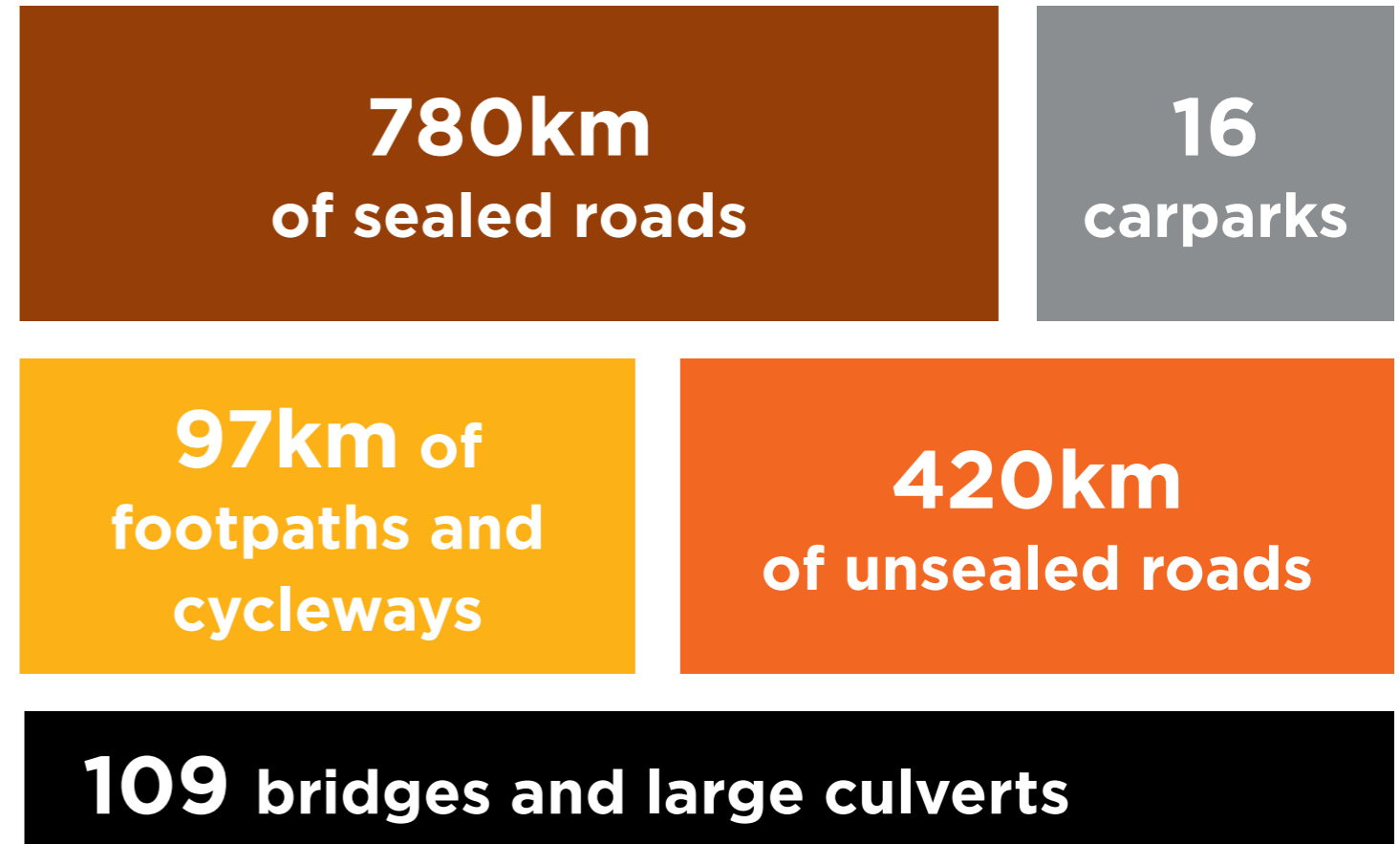
Last year, Council repaired about 30,000 potholes – or 82 every day.

That's up by 5000 potholes compared with the previous year. We also graded 300km of gravel road, costing \$3200 per km.

Did you know?

\$18,860,000 was invested in our roads in 2019/20

We manage...



Four year number crunch

Over this term of Council, we have resurfaced 241km of our road network. We have also reconstructed 10.16km of roads.

Our people ...

Daniel Watson

It's the challenge that gets Daniel Watson out of bed every morning.

"There is a lot that goes into building a road. No two jobs are the same as the subgrade in the Lismore area can be extremely temperamental and difficult to work with, which keeps it interesting," the 35-year-old says.

Daniel returned to the Lismore City Council road crew about six months ago after a two-year break working for a couple of civil earthmoving contractors where he gained experience in different types of road building.

"I first started with Council in 2006 as a skilled labourer. Not long after I became a roller operator where my passion grew to become a grader operator, which I have been doing for about eight years now.

"It's a pretty interesting machine to watch and operate, and the applications that it can be used for are only limited to the imagination of the operator."



Using state-of-the-art technology, such as machine-controlled GPS, the role of a grader is to level and shape the grade of the road to allow water run-off and create correct cambers on corners so that vehicles can safely navigate the corners.

"Every day the grader operator plays a big part in the communication between ground staff, traffic controllers and other operators on site such as the roller and truck drivers that bring in the gravel and water the road.

"I enjoy my job because it keeps me mentally busy all day and I am always thinking about what's next to happen on the job to keep it flowing. We have a great team who I enjoy working with very much."

"Constructing a road is always a team effort. The grader cannot do its job without the help of the other team members. It's not simply throwing down a bit of asphalt; there is a real science behind it, particularly here on the North Coast where we have so much rainfall."

Born in Mullumbimby, Daniel now lives in the local area and is happily married with three young children who he looks forward to going home to each day. After hours, Daniel enjoys training his working dogs and riding motorbikes.

Daniel had to take special safety precautions during the COVID-19 lockdown and these are now in place permanently or until the pandemic is over. These measures protect his co-workers, the community, and importantly, his young family.

"We are regarded as essential workers, so in that sense nothing changed – we just continued building and fixing roads," Daniel said.

"We did have to bring in new safety measures though, like limiting the number of people in each vehicle and sanitising machinery."

"Like any job there are ups and downs – when the thermometer reaches over 40 degrees it can get a little tough!"

2019/20
\$18.86m total

Source of Road Funding

2020/21
\$26.09m total

\$7.82m

Roads Construction Grant Funded
Reconstruction/rehabilitation of local and regional roads

\$18.24m

\$3.49m

Roads Construction Council Funded
Reconstruction and/or rehabilitation of local roads

\$0

\$1.97m

Roads Maintenance Grant Funded
Maintenance of local and regional roads

\$2.75m

\$5.58m

Roads Maintenance Council Funded
Maintenance of local roads

\$5.1m

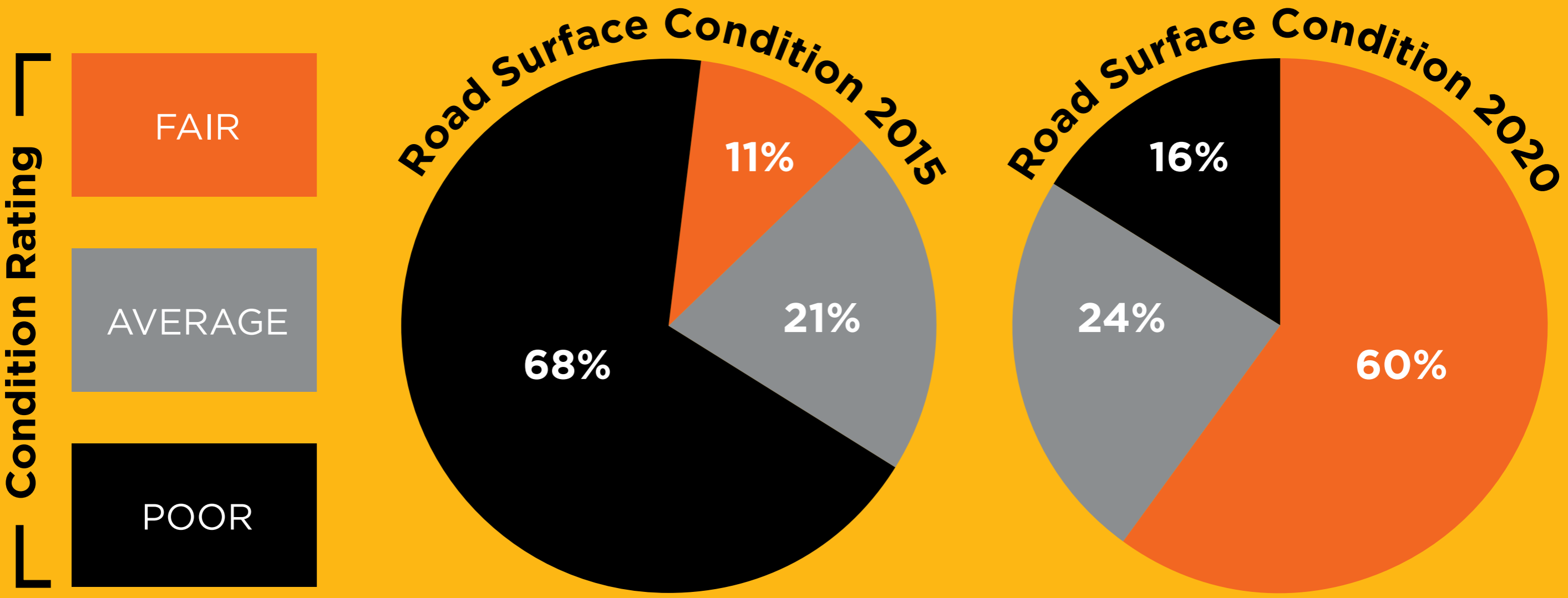


Road conditions improving

Why don't we fix the worst roads first?
Good question. It's the same reason as why you need to paint a weatherboard house. If you don't paint, the weather will cause the paint to peel, allowing the wood to rot. So you paint regularly to stop the problem getting bigger.

Five years ago we adopted a new approach for keeping the road surface in good condition (resurfacing) to keep it waterproof and protect the expensive gravel foundation (pavement) underneath from becoming damaged. This gets the most life out of every road and represents better value for money. However, one of the consequences of this change is that some roads in very poor condition take longer to be rebuilt – you can probably think of one straight away.

To measure improvements, we assessed the condition of our roads in 2015 and applied the same methodology this year to capture real data and measure our performance. The comparison below shows the improvement in the condition of our large road network since we implemented the new approach to fix our roads. Increased future investment in our local roads under this Council strategy will see further improvement over time.



2020/21 Reconstruction Program (sealed roads)

Reconstruction of a road involves taking the bitumen off the top, adding gravel, mixing it with the existing gravel and then sealing the surface with bitumen. This treatment strengthens the gravel foundation and smooths out the surface.

Road reconstruction works being undertaken in the next 12 months are:

Road	Length Of Work
Alphadale Road	Various sections from Bruxner Highway to Rous Road *
Blue Knob Road	Stage 2 – 200m east of Salkeld Road *
Boatharbour Road	700m east of Richmond Hill Road *
Cowlong Road	Various sections from Bruxner Highway to Cameron Road **
Diadem Street	Roundabout at Orion Street intersection ***
Eggins Lane	From Larkin Lane to Carrington Street ***
Johnston Road	1km south of Bruxner Highway *
Keen Street	Roundabout at Orion Street intersection *
Coraki Road	South of Oakdbank Wharf Road **
Nimbin Road	Various sections from 500m north of Wilson Street to 2.2km north of Bishops Creek Road **
Nimbin Road	Intersection of Boyle Road *
Nimbin Road	400m east of Stony Chute Road ***
Rock Valley Road	3km north of Rosehill Road ***
Stony Chute Road	Various sections from Nimbin Road to Campbell Road *
Tregeagle Road	850m south of Rous Road **
Wilson Street	From Robert White Bridge to Casino Street **

* Funded by the NSW Government.

** Funded by the NSW Government and the Australian Federal Government.

*** Funded by the Australian Federal Government.

2020/21 Resurfacing Program (sealed roads)

Resurfacing means patching a road and putting a new bitumen seal over the existing road. Keeping the road surface in good condition keeps out water and helps it last longer.

Council's Road Resurfacing Program has a target of resurfacing 8.5 kilometres of road this financial year.

Roadworks Scorecard

Resurfacing Program

Last year we made a concerted effort to better meet our roadwork targets, particularly in reconstruction.

While there has been a significant turnaround compared with 2018/19, more work needs to be done to meet these targets.

2018/19

65% completed

2019/20

75% completed

Reconstruction Program

It wasn't a great result in 2018/19 as we were still dealing with flood repairs and encountered other unforeseen but necessary works.

2018/19

27% completed

2019/20

79% completed

We hope **Your Roads** has provided some useful and interesting information.

To view the latest major works coming up as well as the gravel maintenance schedule, go to www.lismore.nsw.gov.au.



For information on delays and road closures caused by roadworks, accidents or floods, download our free MyRoadInfo app from the App Store or Google Play Store, or visit www.myroadinfo.com.au.

Report a pothole

Phone 1300 87 83 87 or click on Report a Problem at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au.

