



# Community Summary Report 2020-21

## Connected Sustainable Creative

Council has focussed on working together with our community to translate their hopes and aspirations into meaningful activities that address the environmental, financial sustainability, resilience, water security and disaster preparedness challenges our Shire faces now and into the future due to the recent drought, bushfires, floods and the current pandemic crisis. This document summarises information from the Annual Report. The full document can be found on Council's website.





## A Gumbaynggirr Community Vision

Respect for the land and the original people of this country.

A place where the ancestors' way of holding country is recognised.

A place where there is respect for custodial people who carry this tradition today and for Elders and the children of the future.

A place where we all walk together, where we can all be here in harmony with the land and all life.

The land around here has a great capacity to do that, to heal... in a way that's not separating.



## Highlights

In 2020-21 Council delivered a \$7.2 Million capital program including:



**\$5,106,504**

Roads And Transport



**\$1,637,138**

Community Facilities  
Town Improvements  
Sport And Recreation



**\$464,144**

Water, Sewer, Environment  
And Waste \*Inc Flood Event

## In 2020-21 There Were:



**68%**

Waste Diverted From  
Landfill



**\$26.3M**

Grant funding  
successfully secured



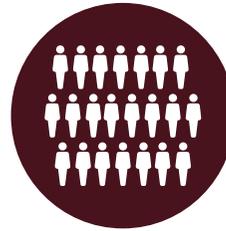
**22,467**

Phone Calls And  
Counter Enquiries  
Answered



**80,905**

Library Items  
Borrowed



**99,097**

Library Visitors



**3,100**

People informed  
via Council's  
engagement portal



**372**

Health & Environment  
Inspections



**30,833**

Swimming Pool  
Visitors



**154**

Active Volunteers Involved  
in Council Programs



**79%**

First Contact  
Resolution Rate



**100%**

Building Inspections  
Carried Out Within 3  
Days



**7,900**

Youth Engagement  
Through Hub Activities  
and Programs

## A snapshot of the achievements for the 2020-21 year include:



- Council has been successfully awarded \$26,350,076 in grant funding. This has enabled \$30,063,503 worth of projects to be realised, with Council's contribution being \$797,010. This result has enabled priority projects to be brought forward and/or projects to be funded from sources other than Council's budget.
- \$1.5M Bushfire Recovery, Resilience and Preparedness Program comprised of 22 projects across the themes of: Managing Risk; Effective response to and recovery from Emergencies; and Enabling, empowering, and supporting community resilience.
- Delivery of a Deliberative Panel on Community Resilience
- Adoption of the Inclusive Tourism Strategy
- Review of the Economic Development and Tourism Plan
- Investment of nearly \$1M funded by the State Governments' Regional Growth Environment and Tourism Fund along with a \$230,000 contribution from Council delivered the new Dangar Falls viewing platforms and upgraded pathways
- Completion of the Bellinggen Branding and Style Guide
- Council showcased the benefits of the Great Koala National Park (GKNP) at the North Coast Tourism Symposium and Awards

- Development approval secured and works underway to transform the Bellinggen Memorial Hall into a cultural space and community hub
- Launch of a new online Community Directory
- Investment in a Vegetation report and biodiversity mapping to protect important ecological communities
- Coordination of local resources to establish our own Shire's Pandemic Response Group
- In a national first, and now in its second year, Council has championed the creation of the Community Leadership & Resilience Scholarship Scheme
- Successful grant worth \$482,000 secured to undertake Dorrigo library extension works





- Redevelopment of Dorrigo's Coronation Park
- A total of 27 bridges have been approved for funding in consideration of the Bridge Prospectus developed in partnership with the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation
- Adoption of a new s7.12 Bellingen Shire Contributions Plan
- Completion of the Mylestom Pathway Project
- \$54,000 of grant funds invested to refurbish the Bellingen Valley North Beach Surf Club



- The Community Engagement Plan to frame the consultative process to develop the community carbon plan has been developed
- Detailed design stages with survey and geotechnical investigations complete for the Sewering Coastal Villages Project
- Council's Energy Efficiency Projects are keeping Council on track to meet the emissions targets of the Corporate Carbon Plan and reduce the ongoing costs of purchased electricity
- Water Resilience Officer recruited
- Bellingen River Snapping Turtle have again been re-introduced into our local river system

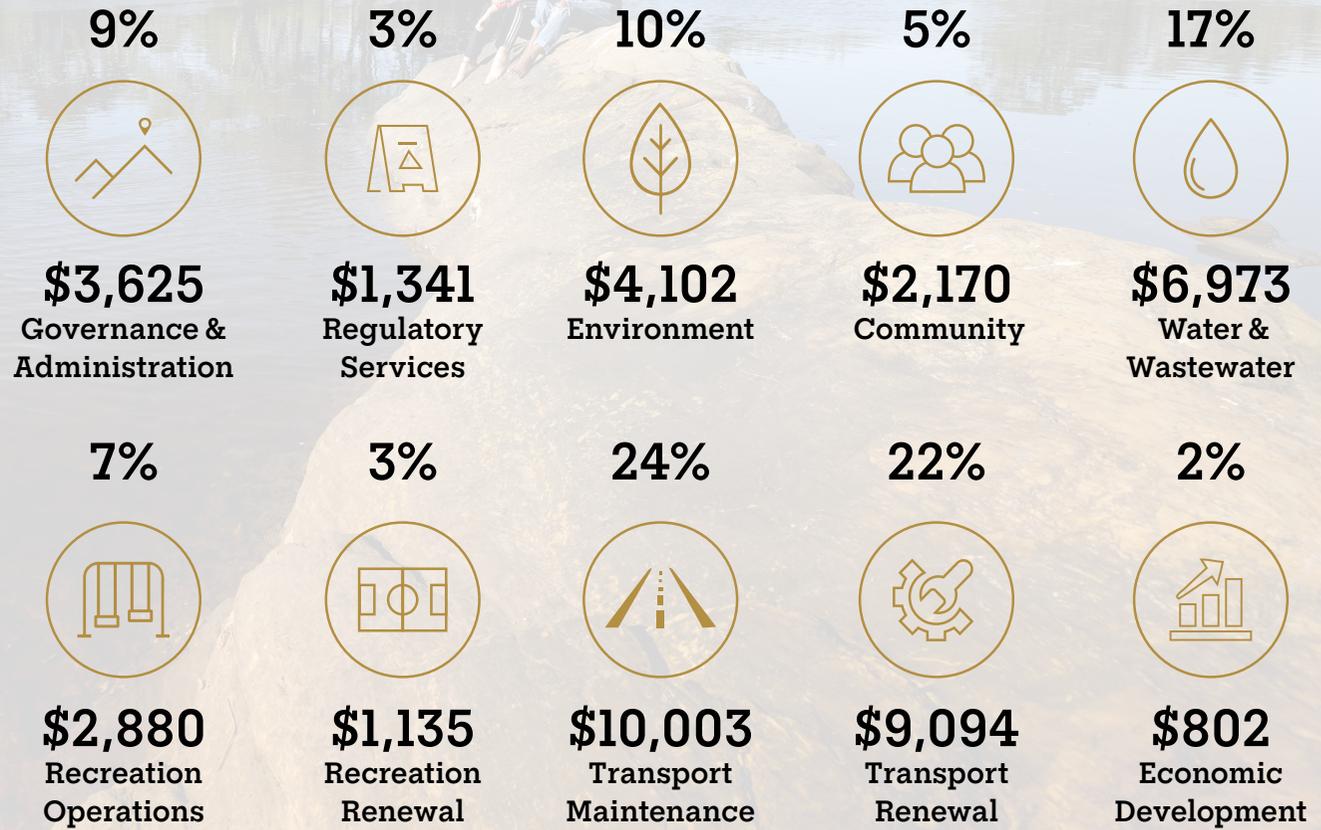
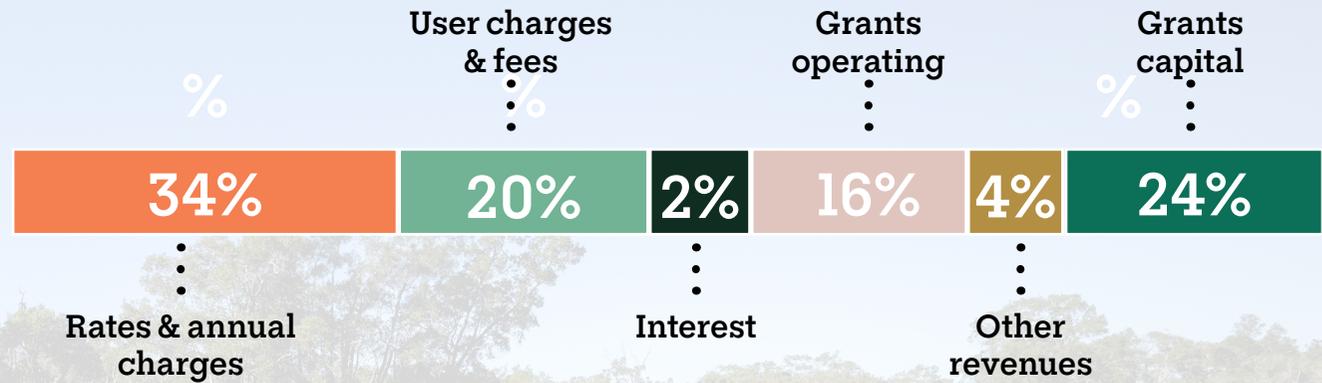


- Council received the greatest accolade a New South Wales Council can achieve by winning the Rural Category of the 2020 Local Government NSW A. R. Bluet Memorial Awards
- Launch of the new online planning portal
- Introduction of electronic infringement notices has supported regular patrols and new signage implemented in progressing the Bellingen CBD Masterplan
- The Customer Service team responded to 22,467 phone and over the counter enquiries which averages out to 86 enquiries per day
- Adoption of the Community Engagement Policy & Strategy
- Launched new Council website, Instagram, and Facebook
- The MNCJO has revised its Statement of Strategic Priorities

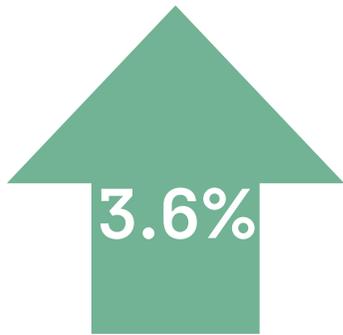


The Council raised \$ 47 million from various sources

Council spent \$ 42.1 million on maintaining and renewing assets and providing services. (\$ thousands)



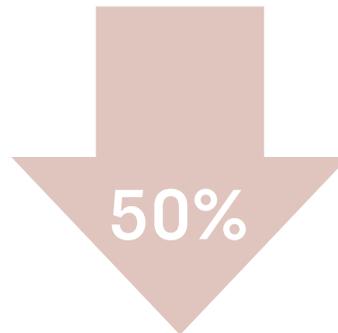
# Key Statistics and Trends



The Estimated Population of Bellingen Shire is 13,141 showing an increase by 3.6% from 12,668



*'The future looks bright for the residents of Bellingen Shire council and they can have the utmost faith in the stewardship of council.'*  
Associate Professor Joseph Drew.  
UTS



50% reduction of load limited bridges across the Shire.



Zero net emissions by 2040

Emissions reductions are tracking well for purchased electricity. Emissions from fuel use will be a particular challenge until the availability and cost of Electric/low emissions plant and vehicles increases.



100% renewable energy by 2030

Council continues to invest in renewable energy through on-site solar generation and the purchase of Green Power. Excluding street lighting, 20.7% of purchased electricity is now from renewables. This will increase to 36.6% from January 2022. It is anticipated that street lighting fixtures will be upgraded by Essential Energy in 2022-23.



Council's online engagement portal attracted a total of 12,000 visits, achieved a maximum daily visit rate of 341 visits, delivered 5480 downloads and engaged with our community across a suite of Council projects.

Additionally, a range of new tools have been introduced and implemented to improve existing lines of communication between Council and our community, inclusive of the introduction of social media platforms including Council Facebook page, Instagram presence and QR Code messaging.



Follow us on  
 **Instagram**  
 @BELLINGENSHIRECOUNCIL

Like us on  
 **facebook**  
 @BELLOSHIRECOUNCIL

WE ARE THE  
SPIRIT OF THE  
PLATEAU, THE  
ANCIENT MYSTERY  
OF THE **DORRIGO**  
AND WHERE OUR  
GREAT RIVER  
RUSHES TO MEET  
**THE PACIFIC.**



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