

We Remain A Connected Community



Council is mindful of the significant challenges presented to our road network in response to recent flood and extensive rainfall events. This relates particularly to key infrastructure such as Kalang Road and in consideration of this, Council is looking to strengthen the resilience of the road alignment through the following upcoming works programmes.

Disaster Recovery Program

The Disaster Recovery program will restore 90 flood damaged sites across the Shire over the coming two years. Remediation works comprise of pavement reconstruction, embankment stabilisation and stormwater infrastructure repair.

To complete this substantial works program, Council will utilise both internal resources and engage contractors through an open tender process.

Remote Road Pilot Project - Funded Rehabilitation of Kalang Road - \$5M road upgrade

The project has been developed in consideration of current asset condition data and focused on improving the resilience of the road alignment. Its key focus is to extend the seal to the remaining unsealed length of road, implement widening for further safety and address dilapidation of existing culverts and drainage structures to reduce risk of future slips.



35 flood damaged sites will be restored on Kalang Road.

Delivery of the significant project will be progressed over several years with design completed within a 12-month period once funding approval is received. Commencement of construction is anticipated in 2023 with delivery over a 24-month period, weather permitting.

Get To Know Your Councillors



A minute with Deputy Mayor, Cr Joanne Cook

What is your favourite place in our Shire to relax?

Having come to the shire as a "tree changer" from the deserts of the NT there are many places that I consider special.

I love to watch the sunset on a clear winters evening in Dorrigo, looking toward the mountains in the West. I love the Crystal Showers walk and Griffiths Lookout. I also love to walk on the beach at Hungry Head/Wenonah headland.

Most of all, it makes me glad to be alive to drive from Dorrigo to Bellingen to work on a clear morning and see the cloud sitting over the Bellingen Valley, and the crystal blue flowing from the Waterfalls on Waterfall Way. It makes my heart sing to look at that view and it never gets tired. We really do live in such a beautiful place, and sometimes it is important to just take a moment to appreciate that.

When you look at our Community Vision, what opportunities do you see to improve our road map for the future?

Part of the community vision is having a resilient community. Our community has faced many challenges in the past few years including bushfires and floods. I see the opportunity to have better connectivity through telecommunications and internet as a big challenge. After attending the flood round table community engagement event in Dorrigo it was obvious that up to date information that is easily accessible to the community is a must. Council has the opportunity to be the provider of this, with web sites that are updated and changing as situations change, with relevant web cams that show current footage. People need to know if their roads are

- open, they need to know when to collect children, even when to evacuate.
- There are also opportunities in the civic leadership realm. Focusing on transparency and collaborative community engagement is important. People need to know that their opinions are valued and listened to in the community engagement and collaboration phase of our decision making and we need to be able to get those answers out to the community in a timely manner.



Council has undertaken a lighting upgrade of Council buildings including libraries, depots and offices to energy saving LED fittings.

Over the next 10 years, these upgrades are estimated to save almost \$500,000 and 2,510 Tonnes of CO2!

Making the swap to energy saving LED's could also save you money. For more tips head to:

<https://www.energysaver.nsw.gov.au/>



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"STRENGTHENING OUR CONNECTED COMMUNITY"



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Updates during emergencies and disasters.



Information about great initiatives for resilience around Bellingen Shire.



Have Your Say on Community recovery, and resilience.



Inclusive Community

Council is committed to improving access for everyone living, working and visiting our Shire. We demonstrate this through our Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) and Inclusive Tourism Strategy which was recently awarded the winner at the 2022 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards, after having been chosen as a finalist in the category Organisational Diversity and Inclusion.

One of the actions in this plan is to undertake accessibility and amenity upgrades in various townships and to improve footpaths.

Council have recently erected a new amenities block at the Alma Doepel Reserve in Mylestom which includes an accessible toilet and have made improvements to the existing footpath between the Surf Life Saving Club and the BBQ shelter by widening and linking this pathway.

Works at Roses Reserve in Thora are underway and will include a new accessible toilet block and a new car park area with a disability parking space and a new accessible footpath linking the two, while at Dangar Falls, Dorrigo work is being undertaken to construct a new accessible footpath to improve access to the BBQ shelter and improved access to the amenities block which includes an MLAK access toilet.

Bringing Our Operational Plan To Life

The 2022-23 Operational Plan is our way of shaping success for our community. We plan to make significant progress towards achieving our Community Vision over the next 12 months.

Investment in bridges, roads and footpaths will strengthen our connectivity, making our favourite places and spaces more accessible, while upgrades to community buildings, cultural and sporting facilities, swim centres, parks and playgrounds will ensure our Shire continues to remain sustainable and creative.

 We plan to spend a total of **\$76.6M**

We plan to deliver **127** total actions 

Visit www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au and follow our social media pages to keep up to date.



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Local Matters

"Building on our connected community"



Winter 2022