







**Bellingen Shire Council**

SEWERING COASTAL VILLAGES - PROJECT TIMELINE  
April 2024

Investigations	2015	JULY	Closure of commercial oyster harvesting in the Kalang River caused by Noro-virus contamination from an illegal sewer connection	
		AUGUST	NSW Public Works Authority (PWA) engaged by Council to review impacts of on-site sewerage systems in Raleigh, Repton, Mylestom and Raleigh Industrial Estate	
Feasibility	2016	MARCH	Options report finalised exploring extension of reticulated sewerage to address areas of concern in Raleigh, Repton, Mylestom and Raleigh Industrial Estate which gave rise to the Sewering Coastal Villages (SCV) Project.	
		MAY	Advice provided to Council that made an application to the National Stronger Regions Fund administered by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development to progress the SCV Project estimated at \$17M.	
Advocacy	2017	DECEMBER	PWA finalise upgrade options report for the Bellingen and Urunga Sewage Treatment Plants (STP's), building on the concept of connecting Repton, Raleigh, Mylestom and Raleigh Industrial estate as well as catering for further development in Urunga South and connecting NORCO facilities.	
		FEBRUARY	Minister Melinda Pavey issued a letter of support for Council to receive funds from Growing Local Economies programme.	
Design	2018	NOVEMBER	Council commenced primary grant application for Growing Local Economies programme.	
		DECEMBER	Council commenced secondary grant application under the Safe & Secure programme.	
	2019	MARCH	Minister Melinda Pavey announced funding in the amount of \$10M through the Growing Local Economies programme.	
		APRIL	Grant application for Safe & Secure Programme finalised following NORCO withdrawing from the scheme.	
		OCTOBER	Workshop to Council to articulate proposed project scope associated with low pressure sewer for SCV Project.	
		NOVEMBER	Report to Council around proposed Fees & Charges to connect to the proposed SCV Scheme.	
	DECEMBER	 <p><b>RESOLVED (Cr Harrison/Cr Wright-Turner)</b> That Council: 1. Resolve not to impose any connection fee on residential properties for access to the sewer network. 2. Resolve to impose a charge of 25% of the connection cost for commercial connections which utilise less than 20kL/day (Internal infrastructure costs only). 3. Resolve to impose a 100% actual connection charge for all new developments and existing commercial operations exceeding 20kL/day. (Internal infrastructure costs only). UNANIMOUS</p>		
	DECEMBER	Funding deed signed by Council for \$11.28M under the Safe & Secure Programme to progress the SCV Project. Suggested funding through Growing Local Economies Programme never realised by Council.		
	Design	2020	MAY	Report to Council around engagement of NSW Public Works Authority (PWA) to conduct the design and preparation of tender documentation for the SCV Project.
			OCTOBER	 <p><b>RESOLVED (Cr Jenkins / Cr Fenton)</b> That Council: 1. accept NSW Public Works Authority's price of \$1,546,735 to conduct the design and preparation of the tender documents for the Coastal Villages Sewer Scheme. 2. exercise its powers under the Clause 55 (3) (b) of the NSW Local Government Act 1993 in terms of a contract entered into by a council with the Crown (whether in right of the Commonwealth, New South Wales or any other State or a Territory), a Minister of the Crown or a statutory body representing the Crown to approve this proposal. UNANIMOUS</p>
Tender	2021	SEPTEMBER	Report to Council in response to tenders received for Stage 1 of the SCV Project related to the upgrade of the Urunga STP. Decision of Council to reject tenders and enter into negotiations to a more affordable solution in consideration of the available project budget.	
		NOVEMBER	 <p><b>RESOLVED (Cr Klipin / Cr Fenton)</b> That Council: 1. Not accept any Tenders, and enter into negotiations with CCB Envico, Haslin and Precision Civil as the proposed shortlisted Tenderers for pricing negotiations in accordance with Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 Section 178(3)(e); 2. Provide that the reason for declining fresh tenders or applications is due to the market already being tested by open tender, with 3 of 4 tenderers shortlisted for further Contract negotiation, noting that grant funding and timing constraints due to the upcoming wet season require Civil Works to be completed as soon as practical. This resolution is as required by Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 Section 178(4)(a); and 3. Receive and note that a further report will be presented to Council in October 2021, to either award or reject the tender. UNANIMOUS</p>	
		NOVEMBER	Report to Council in response to tender negotiation process for Stage 1 of the SCV Project related to the upgrade of the Urunga STP. Decision of Council to decline to accept any tender and investigate potential future funding options to protect the overall financial sustainability of Council.	
Advocacy	2022	NOVEMBER	 <p><b>RESOLVED (Cr Klipin / Cr Jenkins)</b> That Council: 1. In consideration of the identified budget shortfall for the project, decline to accept any tenders for Tender TO-13-21BSC Urunga Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade, in accordance with the NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Section 178(1)(b) 2. Cancel the proposal for the contract by resolution of Council as required by Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Section 178(3)(a) 3. Receive a further report in April 2022 in relation to progression of the project which will continue to occur in collaboration with State Government agencies and if appropriate the Commonwealth Government, in consideration of current and potential future funding options to pursue an outcome relative to project scope, cost and timing, within the overall context of the financial sustainability of Council. UNANIMOUS</p>	
		AUGUST	Advocacy undertaken with State and Federal Governments through local members to secure letters of support for the project to pursue potential future funding through the Safe & Secure and National Water Grid Authority Grant Funding Programmes to pursue the overall scope of works for the SCV Project.	
		NOVEMBER	Successful advocacy undertaken with the State Government to secure an extension of grant funding under the Safe & Secure Programme to pursue grant funding through the National Water Grid Authority.	
Tender	2023	SEPTEMBER	Workshop to Council to articulate impacts on costs for the SCV Project around inflation, supply chain and contractor shortages which are affecting capital projects nationwide.	
		NOVEMBER	Workshop to Council to potential changes to the scope of works for the SCV Project to respond to cost increases associated with inflation, supply chain and contractor shortages which are affecting capital projects nationwide.	
		AUGUST	Further report to Council in response to tenders received for Stage 1 of the SCV Project related to the upgrade of the Urunga STP. Decision of Council to reject tenders and enter into negotiations to a more affordable solution in consideration of the available project budget.	
Establishment - Stage 1	2024	DECEMBER	 <p><b>RESOLVED (Cr Cook / Cr Tree)</b> That Council: 1. Decline to accept any of the tenders as a recently completed competitive process has failed to produce an advantageous or satisfactory offer and it is not expected a repeat of the process would produce a better result; 2. Take action under Clause 178 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021; (3)(e) enter into negotiations with any person (whether or not the person was a tenderer) with a view to entering into a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender; and 3. Once the outcome following direct negotiations has concluded, a future report be prepared to Council for consideration as a priority. UNANIMOUS</p>	
		DECEMBER	Workshop to Council to discuss status of tender negotiation process for Stage 1 of the SCV Project.	
		DECEMBER	Further report to Council in response to tender negotiation process for Stage 1 of the SCV Project related to the upgrade of the Urunga STP. Decision of Council to award tender offer to Leed Engineering.	
		DECEMBER	 <p><b>RESOLVED (Cr Tree/Cr Brotherton)</b> That Council: 1. In consideration of the negotiated revised tender sum of \$19,746,478 (ex GST) as outlined in the report, enter into a contract with Leed Engineering Pty Ltd in accordance with Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 Section 178(3)(e), subject to Leed Engineering Pty Ltd submitting the required financial guarantees, which can be suitably called upon by Council in accordance with the conditions of contract; 2. Allocate the identified budget shortfall of \$3Million (ex GST) from the Sewer Fund Reserve, to deliver stage 1 of the Sewering Coastal Villages project; 3. Instruct the General Manager in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer to review the impact of the additional funds required for delivery of Stage 1 and the subsequent impact on the funding implications of the delivery of Stages 2 and 3 of the project, reflecting any additional borrowings required to be undertaken for the project in the Long-Term Financial Plan as part of the 2024/25 budget process. 4. Prepare a timeline report for the public of the decision-making process for the whole Sewering Coastal Villages Project since its inception, and release to the public in the New Year. 5. That councillors are provided with monthly financial and progress updates during the project. UNANIMOUS</p>	
		JANUARY	Post tender negotiations commenced with Leed Engineering to establish finalised lump sum tender offer.	
APRIL	Post tender negotiations finalised and Letter of Award provided to Leed Engineering for Stage 1 of the SCV Project associated with the upgrade of the Urunga STP.			
Establishment - Stage 1	2024	APRIL	Project start up meeting held with Leed Engineering staff on site at Urunga STP ahead of establishment.	
		MAY	Progress further engagement activities to inform the community of commencement of Stage 1 of the SCV Project.	
		MAY	Anticipated site establishment by Leed Engineering to progress works alongside procurement of long lead time equipment.	