



# The Little Council That Did

2017-2018 Highlights

Bellingen Shire Council is a key player in supporting the community to achieve its aspirations, as set out in the Shire of Bellingin 2027 Community Vision. This document provides highlights of what Council has worked towards achieving against the goals the Council has set for its term.

This document summarises information from the Annual Report. The full document can be found at the following link: [Annual Report](#).

## Bellingen Council has a broad portfolio of community infrastructure and assets as follows:

### Community Facilities



475 ha of Land



53 Sporting and Recreation Facilities



9 Halls



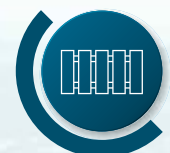
3 Libraries



3 Swimming Pools



2 Surf Clubs



1 Saleyards

### Transport



98km Roads



135 Bridges



29km Shared Pathways



4 Car Parks

### Services



170km Water Supply Mains



101km Sewage Collection Mains



39km Stormwater Drains



9 Reservoirs



5 Sewer Treatment Plants

## Meeting your aspirations: Resilient Economy

### ASPIRATIONS:

- We have meaningful work and vibrant businesses within our community
- We have balanced, sustainable tourism
- We have a sustainable local farming sector that provides us with healthy, fresh food

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Bellingen Memorial Hall highlighted as a hub for building the Shire's creative industry with redevelopment works scoped and applications prepared for grant funding
- Coffs Coast Regional Economic Strategy developed to guide growth and investment
- Growth Management Strategy under development including extensive engagement around homes for our future
- Collaboration with the NSW government brought the "Easy to do Business" program to the area
- Key priorities in the Gleniffer Masterplan delivered upon, including the upgrading of Arthur Keough Reserve
- Inclusive tourism workshops hosted at Bellingen, Dorrigo and Urunga
- Bike tourism growing after a partnership with CycleLife HQ was established to promote the area
- Coffs Coast Harvest brand developed to market local produce
- \$35,000 grant secured to run a Google Ad Words campaign to attract investment

## Meeting your aspirations: Community Wellbeing

### ASPIRATIONS:

- Our children, youth and seniors are valued, involved and supported
- We are a learning and creative community
- We value, honour and actively acknowledge our Gumbaynggirr culture and heritage
- We are connected, safe and healthy with a strong sense of community

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Implemented the silver level of the Liveable Housing Design Standards, making housing more adaptable and accessible for families, people with disabilities and seniors
- Created a trainee opportunity for one local young person to gain experience as a pilot for future initiatives
- Focused on traineeship opportunities when reviewing services
- Over 2,000 events hosted through Bello Youth Hub
- Supported various festivals and events including the Bellingen Readers and Writers Festival and Bello Winter Music Festival
- Supported seniors in accessing training on technology
- Ran 12 large community events and over 400 small events





## Meeting your aspirations: Places for people

### ASPIRATIONS:

- We have a diversity of beautiful spaces that foster community happiness and wellbeing
- We have a mixture of affordable sustainable housing options for all in our community
- We are connected and able to move around in a safe, accessible, affordable, healthy and environmentally friendly way
- We have the facilities and services needed to be a healthy and active community

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Major investment in the Main Street Project (\$1.8 million) including Church Street, Bridge Street and the Hyde and Oak Street intersection to improve amenity as well as pedestrian and vehicle safety
- Actively engaged with the Affordable Housing Local Solutions Forum, including showcasing the 'Homes for our Future' discussion paper that was developed to support the Growth Management Strategy, which is currently under development
- Addressing the shortfall of 1 and 2 bedroom residences through concessions and a review of requirements
- 185 new developments assessed and underway
- Reduced length of road in really poor condition by 15%
- Rebuilt 3.5km roads and resurfaced 16km
- Repaired 14,000 potholes
- Gravel re-sheeted 7.8km of road and graded 80km
- 7 bridges renewed or repaired
- Urunga to Hungry Head cycleway was completed
- 1,180 hours lifesaving supervision





## Meeting your aspirations: Civic governance

### ASPIRATIONS:

- Council is an organisation that embraces business excellence
- Our community is informed and engaged with a strong sense of civic leadership
- Council is proactive in representing the needs of our community

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Halved the time taken and reduced the cost to fill vacant positions
- Undertook service reviews across 4 major portfolios of Council
- Implemented outcomes of the service review in Water and Wastewater, including delivery of savings by employing an electrician rather than buying in the service
- Launched 'Create', Council's online engagement tool, to allow Council to foster information provision and engagement with over 700 submissions received from our community around a range of diverse issues such as land use strategies, bike tourism, bridge load limits and car parking
- Major advocacy on behalf of our community around the provision of the NBN resulting in the delivery of fibre to the kerb rather than fibre to the node in Bellingen and Dorrigo

## Meeting your aspirations: Living environment

### ASPIRATIONS:

- We have clean water which is protected and used sustainably
- Our surroundings are quiet and clean
- We reduce, reuse, recycle
- We live sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint and contribution to climate change
- We protect and enhance our biodiversity
- We work together to protect and enhance our environment

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Made 5 action pledges for sustainability:
  - Use strategic and statutory planning processes to promote renewable energy - both at the residential and commercial level and larger scale
  - Install renewable energy on Council buildings such as childcare facilities, libraries, street lighting, recreation centres, sporting grounds, and Council offices
  - Adopt best practice energy efficiency measures across all Council buildings and support community facilities to adopt these measures
  - Provide for adequate cycle lanes in road design and support cyclists through the provision of parking and end-of-ride facilities
  - Implement an education and behaviour change program to influence the behaviour of Council officers, local residents and businesses within the Shire to drive the shift to renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport
- Installed solar panels on two main Council buildings reducing our energy footprint by 86.8 megawatts
- 78.9% of domestic waste was diverted away from landfill
- Overall waste reduced by 566 tonnes
- Increased the range of plastics that can be recycled
- Opened the Community Recycling Centre
- Major upgrades to transfer stations at Bellingen and Dorrigo
- Developed a management plan to protect the Bellingen Island flying fox colony
- Implemented shared service arrangement with Nambucca Shire Council including the provision of our impounding service for companion animals

# Financial Information

Council has continued to work on achieving financial sustainability and this year has achieved a positive bottom line for the second year in a row. More detailed information is provided in the Annual Report.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Increased revenue, primarily from grants, has boosted revenue.
- Efficiency savings and increased focus on capital works have allowed us to keep expenses in check.

## Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2018

ORIGINAL UNAUDITED BUDGET '18	\$'000	ACTUAL 2018
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>		
<i>Revenue:</i>		
13,846	Rates and annual charges	13,689
6,480	User charges and fees	8,506
962	Interest and investment revenue	891
520	Other revenues	636
5,447	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	6,516
4,616	Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	7,170
<i>Other income:</i>		
	Net gains from the disposal of assets	196
	Fair value increment on investment property	80
<b>31,871</b>	<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>	<b>37,684</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>		
10,775	Employee benefits and on-costs	9,245
559	Borrowing costs	548
7,870	Materials and contracts	10,223
7,225	Depreciation and amortisation	6,973
2,515	Other expenses	3,095
<b>28,944</b>	<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>	<b>30,084</b>
<b>2,927</b>	<b>Operating result from continuing operations</b>	<b>7,600</b>
<b>2,927</b>	<b>Net operating result for the year</b>	<b>7,600</b>
2,927	Net operating result attributable to Council	7,600
(1,689)	Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	430

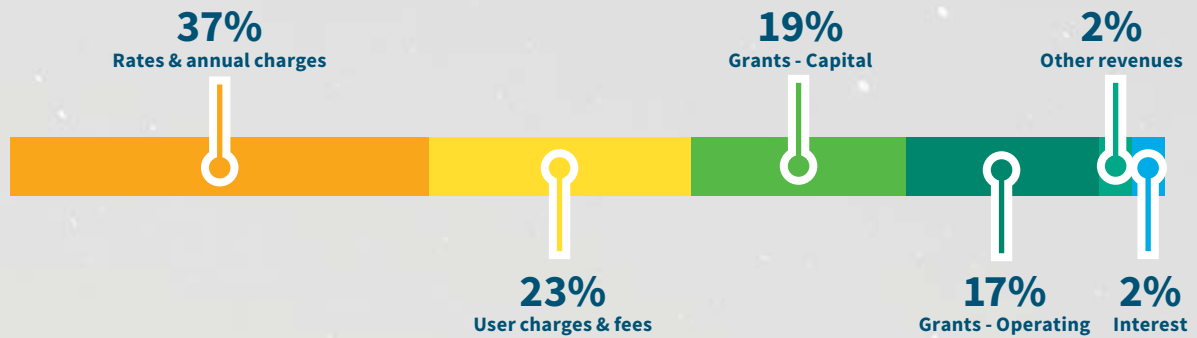
## Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2018

\$'000	ACTUAL 2018
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<i>Current assets</i>	
Cash and cash equivalents	1,238
Investments	23,500
Receivables	7,747
Inventories	248
Other	23
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>32,756</b>
<i>Non-current assets</i>	
Investments	8,900
Receivables	46
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	422,624
Investment property	2,316
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>433,886</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>466,642</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
<i>Current liabilities</i>	
Payables	3,230
Income received in advance	301
Borrowings	702
Provisions	2,493
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>6,726</b>
<i>Non-current liabilities</i>	
Payables	6
Borrowings	7,039
Provisions	787
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>7,832</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>14,558</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>452,084</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	
Accumulated surplus	273,948
Revaluation reserves	178,136
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>452,084</b>

# Where do the funds come from

The Council raised \$37.6million from various sources.



# Where the funds go

Council spent \$33.2 million on maintaining and renewing assets and providing services.

(\$ thousands)

