

The community vision "Gwydir Country
A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity."



END OF TERM REPORT*

* Council term extended in 2020 due to COVID-19

| **2017 - 2021** |



MAYOR'S REFLECTION



This report concludes a 5 1/4 year for the elected councillors.

COVID-19 prevented the scheduled Local Government elections to be held in September 2020. The election will now be held on December 4th, 2021. No other level of government in Australia has exceeded the legislated term.

The term of Local Government just completed will be recorded in history as one with an outstanding number of significant events.

The term began in September 2016. Gwydir Shire is predominately an agricultural shire and towards the end of 2016 it was noticeably dry. A four year drought followed which proved to be the driest period in recorded history. This impacted heavily on our community and in response Gwydir Shire Council commenced an employment scheme for those out of work due to the drought. Water cartage of potable water was also implemented to households free of charge.

Our sister Council Willoughby donated a slide on poly tank to assist this programme and we appreciate this help from our city cousins.

The State and Federal governments responded by supplying drought stimulus funding in the form of increased road funding and civic infrastructure grants.

The next major event was a big one. COVID-19 arrived in Australia. Travel was restricted, and all of NSW was locked down for four weeks at one stage. The Federal and State governments provided aid once again as a stimulus to maintain the economy. Gwydir has received large sums of grant funding for road works and civic infrastructure once again.

As you drive the Shire you see a distinct face lift in the towns and villages and the road network is improving with some roads to go from gravel to bitumen.

Other events worth noting are the mice plague and the March 2021 floods. Council has received funding to repair the flood damage.

During the period we have built a state of the art truck wash facility, installed solar panels on many Council owned buildings and half completed the Warialda Heavy Vehicle Bypass.

My congratulations go to all staff of Gwydir Shire Council. It has been a testing time with working from home for some, the wearing of face masks and added to that the Bingara indoor staff have had to abandon their offices and relocate to other facilities due to a build up of mould in the main Council building. Thank you also to the elected members who have served for an extended term. Councillors and staff have worked well together.

The morale in the organisation is high. As a team we have achieved an enormous amount, most of which is recorded in the following report.

In conclusion it has been a wonderful time to be in Local Government. We have achieved great things for the community we serve.

Thank you to all concerned.

COUNCILLOR REFLECTIONS



Cr Catherine Egan – Deputy Mayor

The current Council term has been an extremely challenging time for our Shire residents. I am proud of Council's and the community's resilience throughout some significant events in recent history.

Gwydir Health Alliance (GHA) – this Alliance was formed in 2017 to seek to address the issue of attracting and retaining doctors to our local government area. Gwydir Shire Council has now been selected as part of a NSW trial through the University of New England known as the Attract, Connect and Stay Project seeking to improve health outcomes for rural communities.

During the drought the people of Bangalow on the north coast provided drought assistance during the worst drought experienced by rural NSW in over 100 years. Assistance was in the form of livestock fodder and household essentials for families affected by the drought. It took many hours to coordinate the delivery of these supplies, and to see the appreciation from people was well worth the commitment. Council also provided free potable water to households during the drought.

I happily supported the recent relocation and upgrade of Bingara Library which opened in 2020 thanks to successful grant funding. I have long been an advocate of the library, attending and participating in library activities and attending the Central Northern Regional Library meetings.

The Bingara Showground/Racecourse User Group Committee of which I have served as Chair, has been instrumental in managing grant applications and upgrades e.g., new lighting and amenities at the Bingara Showground.

Seeing Bingara's new pool precinct open was a significant achievement during this term. Being part of earlier discussion regarding the Bingara Swimming Pool precinct I was happy to see this project come to fruition as it was suggested at one time that the Bingara pool be closed and Bingara residents either travel to Wialda to use their pool or use the river, neither suggestion being good for residents of Bingara and surrounds.

Community based achievements

As an avid golfer, I was especially invested in ensuring that the upgrade to the Bingara Sporting Club was successful. Being actively involved with the entire project from the initial application to the completion of the works, it was exciting to see the fruits of our labour come together and is something that the entire community and any visitors can enjoy for many years to come.

Through drought, fire, floods, pandemics, and plagues, I am proud of the way that our community have banded together. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on Council and deem it an absolute privilege to serve the community.



Cr Tiffany Galvin

In Gwydir Shire we have so many volunteers who contribute their time and energy to our community. Council alone has many volunteers who are involved in environmental care, aged and disability services, community events, The Youth Council, the section 355 committee network and many more working alongside community and sporting groups. I would like to thank each of you who contributes to making Gwydir Shire a better place for all of us. As we come towards an election, I want to say a large thank you to the Council staff, the community groups, volunteers, and every member of the Gwydir community that have made this term

on Council an absolute pleasure. As long as I am on Council, I will try my absolute best to put the community first and make even some small difference.

Cr James Moore

Over the past 9 years as an elected Councillor, I would like to thank the Residents who have placed their faith and trust in me to represent their views and concerns, at a local level. I can assure you I have not taken this responsibility lightly. I believe being selected as a Councillor is a privilege and a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in our community, not only in Council matters but also within the local Organisations I am involved with. Throughout this time, I have been involved with many significant decisions and changes associated with community projects, road infrastructure and community events that have been successful and benefited all of our community. I am proud of the strength of our Council and our established Community Organisations working together as a cohesive unit representing all residents, moving forward through the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



Cr Frances Young



Being a Councillor is very interesting and also quite challenging at times. However, this time has been extremely rewarding and has provided me with some valuable learning opportunities. The opportunity to represent our Shire and the community has been an honour and a responsibility that I do not take lightly. I do not regret a minute of it and am proud of the achievements that our Council has made, especially during what has been a very trying time for all.



Cr David Coulton

As I near the end of my first term as a Councillor of Gwydir Shire I can reflect on the last 5 years as being an experience that I will never forget in my life. As a previous employee of Local Government, it has been quite a different experience seeing Council operations from another side and it has been thoroughly rewarding in seeing what this Council has been able to achieve over this period of time and more recently throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, I have not seen the achievements, to date, for the increase in industry and population growth throughout the Shire that I had hoped to see, so I will "throw my hat in to the ring"

again and stand for another term in an effort to see these things come to fruition.

Cr Marilyn Dixon OAM

Reflecting on my 9 years as a councillor, I have witnessed many changes occurring within Gwydir Shire. I have learnt a lot from the conversations I have had with many residents and gained an appreciation of the things about Gwydir that the community values. I am reminded that first and foremost my obligation as an elected representative, is to represent the community and I am honoured that I get the opportunity to do this.



Cr Stuart Dick

Looking back on my 9 years on Council, I have seen many changes and challenges occurring in the Gwydir Shire. The last 18 months have been and continue to be very hard for our communities, what with fires, floods, mice and now COVID-19.

My focus has been on population, business growth and the welfare of our communities. I would like to thank our many volunteers for the dedication and commitment they show time and time again.



Cr Geoffrey Smith

My aim at the beginning of last term was to make sure we concentrated on our main agendas (i.e. Roads and infrastructure) and I think this has happened thanks to the good work of many of the Council staff during the last few very challenging years.

Stay well and safe.



COUNCIL

STATEMENTS & VALUES

OUR VISION

To be the recognised leader in Local Government through continuous learning and sustainability.

OUR MISSION

To ensure that the Council's long term role is viable and sustainable by meeting the needs of our residents in a responsible caring way, attract sustainable development while maintaining the traditional rural values, character and culture of our people.

Council Core Values

1. For Our Community and Visitors

We will provide a safe, clean and healthy environment in which all people have the opportunity to participate in and share in the Council's services and facilities.

2. For Our Community Committees

We will seek their opinion in relation to the services in which they assist us, offer relevant and timely support, and recognise their valuable contribution.

3. For Our Staff

We will create an atmosphere of team support, which encourages frank and honest communication, and the use of common sense and innovation in a safe and friendly working environment with the aim of efficiency.

4. For Our Councillors

We will treat all Councillors equally and ensure that they are provided with accurate and timely advice and expect that they will treat each other and the staff with due respect.

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On assessment of the community aspirations (wants and needs) it was determined that the already defined strategic direction outlined in the Community Strategic Plan adopted in July 2012 was still applicable. The broad categories of feedback included roads and other assets, the appearances of our towns and villages, tourism, economic development, specifically increasing our population. It was recognised that we could improve on our previous consultation process during the production of the last Community Strategic Plan. With this in mind, we conducted additional consultation with individuals in the Aged and Youth demographics.

**Bike shed Gravesend • Water refilling stations • Vacant land for development
• Friends of Naroo • Naroo Sustainability • Improve medical services
• North Bingara sewerage expansion • Communication • More volunteers
• Strategic relationships • Circular Economy • Population growth
• Expanded tourism • Economic Development • Gwydir Learning
Region • The Living Classroom • Fit For The Future • Domestic
Waste Collection • Financial stability • Review of service levels**

**Warialda Rail Water Supply • Two Pools? • Naroo development
• Extension of Gravesend Club • Independent living units Naroo
• Roxy Theatre - events/shows • Vacant land for sale
• Foreshore Management • Optimum Road Network
• Asset Management Plans • Petition Other Levels of Government
• Behind the Meter Scheme • Park Irrigation systems**

**Cranky Rock • Focus on Arts • Cost savings - Community Halls • Review
standard of ramps • Self Help (Roads) • Greenhouse & Poultry • Redevelopment
Bingara Civic Centre • Roxy Café • Reduce levels of service for parks and
gardens • Fossickers' Paradise • Attract more Grey Nomads to stay longer
• Regional conferencing • Biolinks projects • North Star water upgrade
• Gravesend water supply • Sewerage treatment - pipe relining programs
• Development of town water bore Croppa Creek • Warialda water supply
• Friends of Myall Creek Committee • Regular welcome new
residents/visitors • Development of Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Site
• ePlanning • Directional signage improved • Mongard's town strategy roll
out • Review of staff salaries and numbers • Small community events
• Review our staff literacy and numeracy levels**

**Upper Horton - mobile phone tower • Inland Rail project • Improve mobile coverage
• Museums • Biodigester • Sand mine opportunities • Divert tourist traffic
• Warialda geological walks • Redevelopment Bingara Council Depot • Gwydir River
cold water pollution • Noxious weeds programs • Recognition of local heroes
• Gwydir - geological centre of excellence • Coolatai Rock • Migrant resettlement
• Bingara - bypass • Coolatai - RV friendly accreditation**

**"Riley the Hairy One" • Warialda Pop up Gallery • Expand visitor accommodation
• NBN Opportunities • Warialda Food Bank • Biodegradable coffins • Winding down in Warialda
Festival • Warialda Amateur Dramatic Society • GSC plastic free zone
• Find fee free pathway for ESL students • Warialda Triathlon • Diner en Blanc Warialda
• Warialda - Bingara marathon • Gwydir Shire - Centre for Adventure • Public Art
• Reedy Creek - mud run • Companion Animals' Welfare • Warialda Community Garden
• Quirky Festival • Wellness Centre of the North West • Discos for kids at Gravesend
Develop Reedy Creek • Paint Bingara bridge • Coolatai Art Show
• Coolatai - improved RV sites ie dump sites**

GWYDIR SHIRE GOALS

Council Achievements

The Gwydir Shire Council goals and their link with the quadruple bottom line principles and the additional Governance goal are outlined below:



**A HEALTHY
AND COHESIVE
COMMUNITY
(SOCIAL)**



**BUILDING THE
BUSINESS BASE
(ECONOMIC)**



**AN
ENVIRONMENTALLY
RESPONSIBLE SHIRE
(ENVIRONMENT)**



**PROACTIVE
REGIONAL AND
LOCAL LEADERSHIP
(CIVIC LEADERSHIP)**



**ORGANISATIONAL
MANAGEMENT
(GOVERNANCE)**

The following section is consistent with our Community Strategic Plan where you can clearly identify Council's achievements and how they have linked back to the goals above.



A HEALTHY AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY (SOCIAL)

During the term you told us it was important to you that the shire is...

A liveable community has pride of place, ease of access, community harmony, a mobile and healthy population that participates in community life, a feeling of safety and security, a strong vibrant cultural base and places to relax, study and play.

Council has done this by....

NAROO & CHSP

- Naroo kitchen extensions were completed in November 2020 funded through a Commonwealth ACAR grant.
- New security and call bell system was integrated into the facility which included all rooms having falls sensors in the ceilings to alert staff of any high falls risks residents attempting to get out of bed on their own. This system has greatly reduced the number of falls and the severity of injury from a fall.
- In June 2021 Grant application successful for \$495,000.00 – this will be used to improve the aesthetics of the building and allow social interaction of all residents including those suffering from Dementia.
- New furniture purchased for main Dining room and lounge area funded by the Naroo Committee.
- New flooring and blinds purchased for Dining room and loungeroom.

- Manual Handling equipment purchased.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic CHSP staff continued to deliver services by making personalized phone calls to “check in” on their clients, along with morning & afternoon tea contactless deliveries.
- Warialda CHSP purchased a new bus to transport clients.
- Bingara CHSP purchased a new bus to transport clients.
- Bingara CHSP branch of NSW Transport has been exceptionally busy transporting clients to medical appointments throughout the region.



GWYDIR LEARNING REGION

- The Sound Trail at TLC was created and activated. The focus points and their stories are shown above.
- The Geo-Transect at Junction Park was established – It serves as an educational display and a traffic control barrier representing the Geological Transect from Copeton Dam to Killarney Gap to scale.
- Many school groups attended TLC. Schools from across NSW and southern Queensland attended some staying in the Bunkhouse accommodation.
- Author and historian Bruce Pascoe joined with indigenous artist Karla Dickens, videographer Brendan Blacklock and AFS committee leader Laura Fisher to produce a film about Valuing Country. They had cooperation from Bingara Central School and seven students over two evenings in February 2018.

TOURISM, EVENTS, ROXY THEATRE

- Support of local events through in-kind event administration or financial support - Warialda Men's Health Nights, Warialda Off Road, Warialda Sheep Shearing Titles, The Pulse of the Earth Festival, Upper Horton Rodeo, Copeton Fresh Water Swim, The Bingara Races, Bingara and Warialda Agricultural shows, Bingara Historical Society 50th Anniversary Fete
- Annual Warialda Honey Festival - Festival had to be cancelled in 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Bingara and Warialda Christmas Carnivals.
- Development of the Bingara Orange Festival from a small local street carnival to a regional flagship event attracting around 5000 across the weekend.
- Gwydir Shire Drought support for farming businesses in the form of events and outreach support. These events included Farming Families dinners held at the 7 towns and villages across the shire attracting close to 700 attendees; Mental health support training; drought relief concerts in Bingara and event in Warialda in association with Healthwise; family movie night in North Star; family BBQ in Upper Horton.
- Coordination of Annual Gwydir Community and Business Awards.
- Revamp of Bingara Visitor Information Centre including upgrades to carpet, lighting and visitor displays.
- Roxy Theatre recognised as a site of national significance and was listed on the NSW State Heritage list.
- 2017 - over 5,680 visitors - Anglican Youth Muster, Women's Health night, CWA monthly morning teas, NWTC Films, NWTC performances, Gwydir Shire Council Health Forum, Elanor's Story - live show, 'Roxy on Tour' live show at the Warialda town hall 'Fall of the Roman Empire', weddings, GSC community meetings, 'Embrace' movie fundraiser, private parties, Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea, Tour Groups, Melbourne City Ballet 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', 'Aladdin' live show, kids school holiday movies, The Black Dog Ball, Bingara MPS, Pink Breakfast, school presentations, circus workshops, Orange Festival movies and events.
- 2018 - over 4630 visitors - 'Dustier than Ever' live show, Kamahl live in concert, NWTC Films, Biggest Morning Tea, David Scheel concert pianist, Melbourne City Ballet performance of 'Carmen', Myall Creek Concert, Orange Festival movies and events, 'Kookoo Kookaburra' live kids' performance, Governor of NSW cocktail party, Ceramic Break travelling quilt show, 'Stings Attached' live concert, Chatswood band, 'Big Bad Wolf' kids performance, 'Menopause the Musical', Gwydir Business Awards, Movie Fundraiser, Library party, meetings and conferences.
- 2019 - over 5800 visitors - 2019 Gwydir Community Education & Business Awards, 'The Big Country' live show, Northern Slopes Landcare event, Senior's Week, National Youth Week "Neon Social", Gwydir/Willoughby student exchange welcome dinner, CHSP Christmas in July, NWTC Films, NWTC "Shadows" & "Walking on the moon", "Louisiana Ladies", David Scheel 'Mad Maestros' concert pianist, The Stomping Ivories, "You'll never guess where I hid the cheese", & "Sugar, Sugar" live shows.
- 2020 & 2021 - over 8318 visitors - NWTC Films, Travis Collins, The Twits, Margaret Fulton the Musical, many shows in 2020 & 2021 were postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Small business workshops including E-commerce, media writing for small business, visual merchandising, web design, RV friendly town workshop, Easy To Do Business Program, Business Germinator Workshop, Warialda Enterprise with Energy initiative, Farm Biz Field Day.



BUILDING SERVICES

- Warialda Memorial Hall upgrade including a new kitchen, amenities & air-conditioning
- Bingara Central School sports court surfacing and erection of COLA.
- Coolatai Sportsground construction of amenities building.
- Warialda Recreation Ground refurbishment of amenities and construction of bar/BBQ function centre.
- Bingara Showground construction of new stables.
- Warialda Rail sportsground improvements.
- Bingara Historical Society construction of new office & storeroom.
- Carinda House refurbishment of kitchen and air-conditioning to stump room.
- Bingara Civic Centre redevelopment for the Bingara library.
- Gravesend Sportsground construction of amenities building.
- Croppa Creek Hall improvements including refurbishment of kitchen and construction of deck.
- Crooble Hall improvements including installation of new windows and air-conditioning.
- Warialda Catholic Convent painting.
- CWA Hall improvements including refurbishment of amenities and air-conditioning.
- Warialda Anglican Church Hall building improvements.
- 47 Hope Street refurbishment and access improvements.
- Warialda Golf & Bowling Club improvements.
- Warialda Medical Centre improvements.
- Naroo Hostel commercial kitchen refurbishment.
- Bingara Living Classroom construction of beef cattle shed.



INFORMATION SERVICES, RECORDS & BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

- Transition to NBN for all Council services (November 2020)
 - o Enabled Council to provide faster open and free Wi-Fi to the public at designated Council sites.
- Achieving 99.9% uptime to ensure services are available for efficient delivery to the community.



SOCIAL SERVICES

- Ongoing delivery of resources promoting health, education and wellbeing by Toy Libraries and Playgroups.
- Child, Youth and Family Health Nurse visits to Toy Libraries in both Warialda and Bingara to provide specialised access to health information.
- Kool Skool kids program providing after school care for Toy Library members
- Bingara Preschool underwent National Quality Standards rating and assessment process and passed this assessment.
- Numbers at Bingara Preschool continue to grow.



PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

- Transition to planning portal for all development applications.
- An increase of development applications from farmers who were utilizing the drought feeding exemption transitioned to permanent feed lot operations.
- Water sampling – additional testing requirements came into effect requiring sample site testing by council staff of chlorine, pH, temperature and turbidity.
- COVID-19 saw the temporary closure of ready to eat food retailers and saw some shut down permanently.
- Bin enclosures with litter messaging were installed at the Recreation Ground Park.
- Camping entry signs, Interpretive signs and compliance signs were installed.
- Sealing of entry roads to camping grounds on the Gwydir River.
- Regular inspections were conducted of the Gwydir River camping areas.
- Improvements to pound.
- A solar CCTV system was installed at the Warialda pound.

TOWN UTILITIES AND PLANT OPERATIONS

- Telstra – Lions Park Maitland Street Bingara
- Captain Cook Park upgrade – involved removal of old playground installation of new
- Gwydir River Pontoon and pathway
- Hope Street Arcade construction
- Turfed bottom section of Maitland Street gardens
- CWA Park shelters part donation
- Hospital Park – All Abilities Park construction
- Gwydir Oval – Grandstand refurbishment
- Gwydir Oval – new amenities block
- Bicentennial Park boundary fence/barrier
- Bingara – Maitland Street turf centre gardens
- Gwydir Oval canteen fridge replacement
- Warialda Rail – Town Entry signs
- Cunningham Park – Shade sails
- Bingara Town Entry Signs
- Captain Cook Park – Shade sails
- Warialda Rail – Playground plus shade sail installation
- Bicentennial Park – installation of CWA monument
- Warialda Koala reserve – including planting numerous native trees and installing irrigation along with the Koala water stands
- All Abilities Park – landscaping
- All Abilities Park – shade sail installation
- Town street trees
- Cunningham Park – BBQ and Shelters
- Fays Park – seats and shelter
- Cunningham park – new toilet block
- North Star Blue tree - support
- New stable block E construction
- New 8 x 15m General Purpose shed
- Showground stimulus phase 1
 - New cool room refrigeration unit
 - Polocrosse canteen cool room cover
 - Pavilion led lighting
 - New general purpose shed lighting
 - Stable maintenance
- Showground stimulus phase 2 – Grandstand refurbishment
- Showground stimulus phase 2b
 - New toilet block
 - LED Ring Lighting
- Fays Park Bingara – install drinking fountain
- Water refill stations – bubblers
- Coolatai amenities
- Community flagpoles
- Warialda airstrip amenities
- Warialda cemetery toilet
- Bingara cemetery Columbarium Extension and paving
- Bingara Anglers club – shelter and tables
- Bingara cemetery new plinths in lawn cemetery
- Warialda lawn cemetery plinths extensions
- Bingara cemetery toilet and colourbond fence screening
- Warialda cemetery Columbarium extension
- Bingara central School – Sandstone block – yarning circle.



COMMUNITY ASSETS

- The King of Bingera, Cobbara Ball was laid to rest at the junction of Halls Creek and the Gwydir River, Bingara, 1 December 2017. The return of the King of Bingara was a project in which Council assisted the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Anaiwan Aboriginal Local Land Council.
- Defibrillators were purchased and installed at both public pools.
- Council purchased an inflatable obstacle course through the Drought Stimulus – Regional School Holiday Activities grant.
- Bingara War Memorial Baths – Through external Federal and NSW Government funding Construction the Baths were upgraded. The project saw a new 25 metre pool, splash program pool, kiosk and activities room, all access amenity, and an upgrade to the existing amenities continued throughout winter and spring. The project also included the demolition of the existing pools, and plant room; the construction of new pump and plant rooms; the installation of a skillion, privacy screens, concourse, shade sails, starting blocks, fencing, bench seating, gardens, and turf.
- The Bingara Pool project was chosen to showcase the success and effectiveness of the funding program.
- Warialda Swimming Pool – Substantial upgrades were completed at the pool to make the complex aesthetically pleasing and safer.
- Free Entry to our swimming pools - at Council's Special Ordinary Meeting on 24 January 2019, it was resolved that during the period of drought and excessive heatwave conditions that the entry fee to the Council's Warialda and Bingara Pools be waived in consultation with the Pools' Contractors when the predicted temperature at Moree is set to be equal to or exceed 100 Degrees Fahrenheit or 37 Degrees Celsius. This initiative developed into allowing free entry to Gwydir Shire residents and ratepayers everyday of each season. This has proved very successful with increased patronage at both pools and expanded learn to swim, training, and activity programs.
- Gwydir Shire Council successfully gained \$10,000 funding from the NSW Government's Regional School Holiday Activities Fund to assist with school holiday and youth programs across the Shire. The funding enabled Council to purchase 9 iPads and 2 gaming laptops which will be used in both branch libraries and youth spaces.
- Bingara Library successfully gained \$7,500 funding from Good Things Foundation for their Be Connected program. \$5,000 was spent on iPads and prepaid sim cards to be used in tutorials and to lend to seniors enrolled in tutorials. \$2,500 assisted with costs associated with hosting sessions in the villages.
- Council extended the operating hours of the Warialda library which also allowed for the expansion of after school programs.
- In 2021 Council received a generous donation of shelving from Willoughby City Council. This has enabled Council to provide shelving for book exchange in its outer villages, caravan parks and tourist spots, schools and the historical societies in Warialda and Bingara.
- A household recycling station has been installed at the Bingara Library. In this, residents can deposit old batteries, smoke detectors, ink cartridges and fluoro globes
- University and external students' study in the Bingara Library study spaces and quiet room.
- Bingara Library hosted the film "Looby" which was touring Australia to mark 100 years of the Archibald Art Prize.
- Warialda Library hosted the Innovation Studio for a Robot Soccer School Holiday workshop and Secret Agent workshop.
- On 14 February 2020, Library Lovers Day, opened the new Bingara Library. Council was successful in gaining \$200,000 through the NSW State Library Development Grants and a further \$300,000 through the NSW Government's Stronger Country Community Funding – Round 2. The new library is purpose built and makes

much more use of the Civic Centre and allowed for the transfer of the local library services from the Neighbourhood Centre which had become an unsuitable space.

- A mobile cell-fi tower and a UHF were installed at the residence at Cranky Rock.
- Obtaining a grant under the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program (Round 3) for \$300,000 will provide for an overhaul and upgrade of the electricity supply to

the Bingara Caravan Park and adjacent pool, and the installation of overhead sporting lights.

- Provision of free community access to Caravan Park laundries for drought impacted farmers.
- Initiative with the Caravan Industry of Australia to install Defibrillators at Council's caravan parks.
- Provision of subsidized accommodation at Bingara and Warialda Caravan Park for tertiary students

studying medicine, nursing, education, social services, and physiotherapy.

- Improvement of infrastructure at Bingara Caravan Park to improve the amenity and safety.
- NSW State Government granted \$231,395 to upgrade the Bingara Caravan Park's amenities block and construct a new caretaker's residence. The residence which will be installed in February 2022 will be a three-bedroom kit home with an office.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Acquisitions	Disposals
47 Hope Street Warialda	123 High Street Warialda
43-45 Hope Street Warialda	3 Bowen Street Bingara
20 Maitland Street Bingara	19 Railway Parade Gravesend
5 Warialda Road Coolatai	28 Maitland Street Bingara (National Australia Bank)
Part Bingara Multipurpose Service land (Bingara Caravan Park)	70 Maitland Street Bingara (vacant land)
Part 260 Warialda Road Warialda	Bingara Industrial Area – Lots 336,337 and 338/822887
Part 276 Warialda Road Warialda	



S355 COMMITTEES & COUNCIL

- Each year Council assists the Friends of Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Site Committee with the Annual Ceremony which is held on the June weekend (except 2020 due to COVID-19). Council also maintains the Site.
- Memorial site fenced and grid installed at Myall Creek Memorial.
- The partnership of Council and the Friends of Myall Creek Committee was recognised at the 2019 NSW Local Government Awards by being named finalists in its Excellence in People and Culture category.
- Council's Property and Liaison Manager was invited to speak at the Reconciliation Australia Symposium held at Blacktown on 30 July 2019. The main attendees were from local government as the goal for the event was to inform and encourage Councils to engage with local reconciliation community groups and Indigenous communities to advance reconciliation within the wider community. Reconciliation Australia deems Gwydir Shire Council as a leader in Local Truth Telling and an exemplar of 'best practice'.
- Funding was obtained to construct an amenities block, shelter, and cultural performance space at the Myall Creek Memorial site. These works were funded under a Create NSW funding program of which the Friends of Myall Creek Memorial Committee were the recipients. The Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Cultural Precinct was opened on Saturday 6 February 2021.
- Council was successful in obtaining a Federal Government grant of \$30,000 to assist in the running of this year's annual Myall Creek Memorial Ceremony and the hosting of the Sounds of Country concert at Gwydir Oval. The grant was through the Bushfire Tourism Recovery Initiatives Program.
- Council staff assisted in the set up and establishment of the Bingara Community Op Shop committee. This included providing advice regarding finances, lease, governance, risk management, induction of volunteers, and the provision of Council's music license.
- On 19 October 2019 the management of the Gravesend Public Recreation Reserve was transferred to Council.
- One of the initiatives undertaken during the reporting period was to make representations to and petition the Federal Government regarding changes to its Stronger Rural Health Strategy - Improved Access to Australian Trained General Practitioners (Strategy). Even though the petition to the Federal Government did not affect change, the Strategy was implemented the Gwydir Health Alliance remains resolute in seeking the optimum services for our residents.
- In 2019 the Warialda Rail Community Group was formed, and volunteers inducted. The Group has held several community events including Christmas Carnivals, and a fundraising Mini Debutante Ball at the Warialda Memorial Hall.
- The Gazettal Notice for appointing Gwydir Shire Council as the Crown Land Manager occurred, therefore, Council now manages the Warialda Rail Public Recreation Reserve on a day-to-day basis from the handover date, which was Friday, 6 March 2020. A Reserve Committee has been formed and they now manage the Reserve in collaboration with Council.
- The Gravesend Hall & Club committee formed the Gravesend Community Group with the objective to renovate the Gravesend Hall and optimise the use of the Club. The Group has been successful in obtaining funds and renovations are progressing.
- The Warialda Sports Council participated in the Local Sports Defibrillator Program and donated funding of the purchase of three defibrillators for Nicholson Oval, Warialda Recreation Ground and Warialda Showground totalling \$7,665.00.
- The Warialda Sports Council's main role is raising funds for the development of sporting facilities for the community and the focus has been the development of the Nicholson Oval. This

work has resulted in the project to install sports field lighting through the Stronger Country Communities Grant Round 3 Program. The Sports Council has also committed to donating \$10,000 towards the installation of the lights.

- Warialda Historical Society volunteers obtained a grant to run a "Be Connected" program, which ties in with the regular family history sessions of a Wednesday night.
- Volunteers of Warialda Historical Society have produced a number of resources including the Passing Glimpses series of publications, and a Cemetery Book.
- In 2019 during the prolonged drought Council released five staff who are members of the Bingara Angler's Club to assist the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) - Fisheries staff to rescue native fish from the Horton River, Rocky Creek and Myall Creek.

This project was the first time people other than DPI staff had been authorised to undertake such action. The River and Creeks were identified as hotspots, where fish kill events were extremely likely to occur.

Using vehicles fitted out with temperature and oxygen-controlled tanks, fish were moved to the Bingara Hatchery as well as being released into the Gwydir River. Well over 100 native fish were saved.

- Bingara Angler's Club

submitted an Expression of Interest for funding under the Federal Government's Communities Environment Program. This submission was successful in the sum of \$20,000. The funding was used to purchase a purpose-built transport tank and trailer which enables members to release fingerlings into local rivers and creeks.

- Bingara Angler's Club was successful in gaining funding in the sum of \$175,000 from the NSW Government for a total upgrade of the breeding pods, and tank system.
- In 2018 Council assisted the Bingara Historical Society by printing and installing a directional map with corresponding markers at the Bingara Cemetery.
- In 2021 Council purchased the Salvation Army property for the sole use of the Bingara Historical Society.
- the Bingara Historical Society Heritage Walk was launched at the opening of the Orange Festival Carnival on Saturday 26 June 2021.



- The Council assisted the Warialda Preschool Section 355 Committee to undertake improvement works at their facility. This included installation of the Logan Taylor Memorial Tractor (play equipment).
- In 2018 Croppa Creek Hall Section 355 Committee was formed.
- Gravesend Historical Society Section 355 Committee disbanded March 2018. Monies held by the committee was transferred to the Warialda Historical Society.





BUILDING THE BUSINESS BASE (ECONOMIC)

During the term you told us that it was important to you that the Shire is...

A productive community, provides people with positive choices for investment, employment and study. An innovative, diverse and resilient economy requires collaboration between local people and other levels of government to ensure that funding for infrastructure and economic development exists to support market strength and diversity

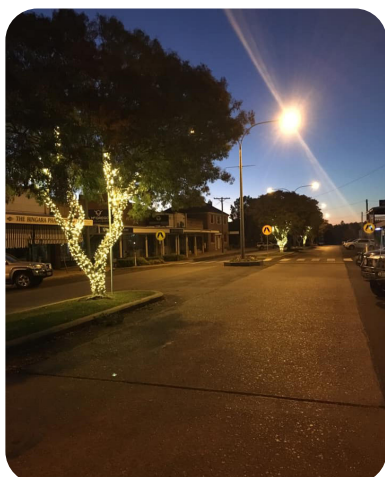
Council has done this by....

NAROO & CHSP

- Enrolled Nurse position recruited.

GWYDIR LEARNING REGION

- Gwydir Learning Region programs continued based at the Warialda Automotive Trade Training Centre. Focus has been on: Heavy Vehicle Training, Small vehicle driver training and TAFE - Automotive Vocational Preparation Certificate II.
- Smart and Skilled - Gwydir Shire Council was approved to run specific short courses under the Smart and Skilled program. The funding will allow free or low-cost training for individuals and will place increased demand for training in the GLR Training department.
- Certificate based courses and ticketed qualifications were conducted regularly at The Living Classroom especially pre COVID-19, including Certificate III in Horticulture and tickets in machinery handling and road operation skills.
- The Living Classroom undertook several projects in conjunction with universities including Sydney University (native grasses) and Southern Cross University Lismore (Regenerative Agriculture).
- Multi-Combination (MC) licencing Training and Assessment was added to the scope of the Gwydir Learning Region and there has been a significant increase in the take up of this training.
- An agreement with ACE Community College to provide learner driver lessons to their clients was implemented during the reporting period.
- The Living Classroom was used for several environmental training programs including Honeybees, Environmentally Beneficial Insects, Freshwater Fish, Koalas and Native Bees.
- The Work for Dole crew proceeded with projects at The Living Classroom for nearly three years. The crew of up to six were working under the supervision of an Overseer. They focussed on pathway construction, removal of fencing and storages at TLC as well as welding benches for the Nursery.



- Several major forums were conducted at The Living Classroom. They included 'Carbon: The Diamond in the Rough', 'Pulse of the Earth' 2019 and 'An Artist, A Farmer and A Scientist ... walk into a bar! In conjunction with the Kandos community.
- Some major structures were added to TLC. They included the Nursery, the Cochineal Cactus Beetle Nursery, the Livestock Barn, and the Bingara Pool Leaky Dam.
- The grant application for 'Big River Dreaming' was submitted in October 2017 and was successful.

- Gwydir Shire Career Start Program launched in January 2019. This program provides an opportunity for job seekers to gain work experience in a Local Government environment whilst studying to obtain a trade qualification

Positions have included:

- o School Based Trainee Gardener
- o School Based Trainee Mechanic
- o School Based Trainee Carpenter
- o School Based Trainee Water & Sewer Operator
- o School Based Trainee Tourism Assistant
- o Information Services (IT) Trainee
- o Information Services (Records) Trainee
- o Care Service Employee (Aged Care) Trainee
- o Trainee Planning & Building Administrative Assistant
- o Trainee Environmental Planning Officer
- o Trainee Plant Operator
- o Apprentice Mechanic
- o Apprentice Gardener.

TOURISM, EVENTS, ROXY THEATRE

- Engagement with visitors to the Visitor Information Centre and the supply of new residents' packs helping to facilitate the relocation of new residents to the shire.
- New residents' evenings which welcomed 76 new residents to the shire in 2017/2018 alone.
- Design and installation of new town entry signs at towns and villages throughout the shire.
- Secured regular media coverage across TV, radio and print to promote the shire as an attractive holiday destination.
- Secured Gwydir TV promotion on Travel Oz hosted by Greg Grainger.
- Promoted Bingara campgrounds and worked with Environmental department on improvements to the campgrounds which saw Bingara nominated as the number one free campsite in Australia as voted by the readers of The Australian Caravanning and Camping magazine.
- Assisted the Coolatai community with the installation of an ANZAC memorial and monument recognizing the towns founding families.
- Development of shire wide Tourist brochure showcasing the attractions, events and history of the shire and its 7 towns and villages.

- Assisted the Australian Caravanning Clubs with the coordination of their National Muster which saw approximately 180 caravans and 330 participants. \$150,000 was spent by the caravanners on living expenses such as food, alcohol and fuel, and another \$40,000 was raised by local community groups through catering.



COMMUNITY ASSETS

- In accordance with the Big River Dreaming NSW Government Tourism Grant, an artist and zoologist were commissioned to create artworks and interpretive signage for the Bingara Pool development. The installations tell the story of the animals which live on, near and above the Gwydir River.
- Bingara residential subdivision - Council developed residential blocks in Bingara. The development included three areas - Blue Hills Estate, Jacaranda Estate and County of Murchison Estate.
- Council manages 52 properties, some of these are leased. Council also leases St Mary's School in Riddell Street, Bingara, and sub leases areas of the building to ensure community and legal services are available locally. Council also leases the Bingara Op Shop, Bingara Fitness Centre properties.
- Warialda Medical Centre - the entire centre has been renovated internally and externally. The centre now enjoys a new layout which was achieved in full consultation with the Doctors and their staff.
- Council continues to provide accommodation for Doctors in Warialda and Bingara.
- New floor coverings and blinds installed throughout the whole of the Bingara Medical Centre. In addition to this, electric doors were fitted to the facility.
- A carport was completed at the Bingara Medical Centre. Council acknowledges the generous donation by Dr Neil Wearne.
- Council has donated \$3,000 to the Bingara Medical Centre for the purchase of new equipment in accordance with Council's current adopted donations budget.
- The council owned home used as a doctor's residence at 84 Finch Street residence was renovated.
- Obtained NSW TDDI Tourism Grant - installation of interpretive signage, pathway upgrade, new fencing, installation of park benches, bollards, and safety guard rail.
- Developed Cranky Rock to improve the amenity, safety and site education.
- Creation and use of promotional video for Cranky Rock.
- Construction of a large open air seating area at Cranky Rock which is used by visitors, particularly groups.
- Arrangements were made with the North Star Sporting Club as to the management of the park.
- New caretakers at Cranky Rock in December 2017.
- NBN News positively featured the Bingara Caravan Park in its news item, Bingara Booms: Tourist town enjoys river upgrades, busy parks.

COMMUNICATION & MEDIA & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Development of 25 small business promotional videos for businesses throughout the shire which were showcased on the Gwydir Shire Facebook pages.
- 62 referrals of local businesses to the NORTEC Small Business Advisory Service.
- Lobbied for a visit to the shire by the NSW Minister for Small Business Damien Tudehope and NSW Small Business Commissioner Robyn Hobbs to assess the impacts of the drought on small business.
- The development of a promotional video for Bingara which helped to secure a doctor for the Bingara Medical Centre.
- Gwydir Treechange initiative which saw three families move to Gwydir Shire 2021.



SOCIAL SERVICES

- Bingara Neighbourhood Centre drought relief and social support program assisted businesses and rural residents.
- Since 2017 Bingara Neighbourhood Centre has provided local families with access to over \$500,000 worth of emergency relief.
- Gwydir Toy Libraries have provided local businesses with space to promote and demonstrate their businesses.
- Small business events were held to promote small business within the Shire.

Our achievements in Roads include:

GRAVEL RESHEETING JULY 2016 TO END JUNE 2021

Location	Sum of Length	Location	Sum of Length
SR37 Oakey Creek Road	4.0km	SR90 Old Bora Road	4.3km
SR51 Towarra Road	15.8km	SR100 Kellys Access Road	1.9km
SR38 Adams Scrub Road	14.5km	SR96 Duftys Road	1.5km
SR44 Boundary Creek Road	4.7km	SR85 Butlers Road	1.0km
SR286 Sonoma Road	1.5km	SR13 Oregon Road	15.6km
SR63 Gil Gil Creek Road	4.8km	SR36 Baroma Road	1.3km
SR41 County Boundary Road	12.5km	SR81 Langley Road	3.9km
SR06 Getta Getta Road	5.2km	SR10 Yallaroi Road	11.1km
SR43 Buckie Road	4.6km	SR65 Munsies Road	10.8km
SR31 Eulourie Road	9.0km	SR16 Trevallyn Road	6.2km
SR61 Peates Road	3.0km	SR09 I.B. Bore Road	12.7km
SR82 Kirewa Road	7.0km	SR92 Killarney Road	5.1km
SR117 Bundaleer Road	1.9km	SR19 Whitlow Road	1.6km
SR17 Back Creek Road	4.4km	SR88 Kywarra Road	1.3km
SR39 Allandale Road	7.9km	SR91 Cracknells Road	0.3km
SR32 Pallal Road	5.2km	SR11 Horton Road	4.2km
SR119 Woodburn Emello Road	6.7km	SR69 Tucka Tucka Road	8.0km
SR68 Goat Road	7.5km	SR255 Crooble Road	2.0km
SR50 Thornleigh Road	3.5km	SR61 Peates Road	7.6km
SR64 Gournama Road	5.1km	SR22 Upper Bingara Road	0.3km
SR66 Reserve Creek Road	5.0km	SR30 Caroda Road	5.2km
SR206 Warragundi Road	6.6km	SR23 Wearnes Road	2.3km
SR08 Gragin Road	4.0km	SR67 Agincourt Road	10.6km
SR80 Ottley Road	4.0km	SR33 Forest Creek Road	3.5km
SR42 Mungle Road	2.6km	SR215 Nooroo Road	1.0km
SR114 Lewis Road	1.0km	SR70 Ashton Road	12.4km
SR18 Gineroi Road	1.0km	SR40 Blue Nobby Road	5.2km
SR62 Hibernia Road	6.0km		

BITUMEN RESURFACING JULY 2016 TO END JUNE 2021

Location	Sum of Length	Location	Sum of Length
MR132 Macintyre Road	3.7km	SR22 Upper Bingara Road	4.1km
SR88 Kywarra Road	0.9km	SR11 Horton Road	6.0km
SR20 Gravesend Road	2.0km	SR64 Gournama Road	0.9km
SR04 Baroma Downs Road	2.0km	Pound Street, Bingara	0.2km
Byrnes Street, Bingara	0.2km	Belford Street, Croppa Creek	0.5km
Bowling Club Road, Croppa Creek	0.2km	Cleveland Street, North Star	0.1km
David Street, North Star	0.5km	Dunrobyn Street, Gravesend	0.2km
Gwydir Street, Gravesend	0.2km	Onus Street, Gravesend	0.3km
Warialda Street, Gravesend	0.5km	Yagobie Street, Gravesend	0.8km
Queen Street, Warialda	1.1km	Stewart Avenue, Warialda	0.2km
Riddell Street, Warialda	0.5km	Christie Street, Warialda	0.2km
Cross Street, Warialda	0.3km	Holden Street, Warialda	0.2km
Hope Street, Warialda	0.5km	Market Street, Warialda	0.4km
SR01 Copeton Dam Road	6.0km	SR84 Bingara Airstrip Road	0.1km
West Street, Bingara	0.7km	Frazer Street, Bingara	0.5km
Nicholson Street, Warialda	0.3km	Water Street, Warialda	0.2km
MR462 Bruxner Highway	0.8km	RR63 Warialda Road	1.8km
MR134 Delungra Road	3.2km	RR7705 North Star Road	6.0km
HW12 Gwydir Highway	23.8km	MR63 Fossickers Way	25.6km

CONSTRUCTION WORK JULY 2016 TO END JUNE 2021

Location	Sum of Length	Location	Sum of Length
SR03 Elcombe Road	5.3km	RR7705 North Star Road	11.9km
SR04 Baroma Downs Road	2.5km	SR38 Baroma Road	2.0km
SR11 Horton Road	0.8km	MR134 Delungra Road	3.3km
HW12 Gwydir Highway	0.5km	MR63 Fossickers Way	2.1km

BRIDGES AND STORMWATER JULY 2016 TO END JUNE 2021

Elizabeth Kenny Lane Stormwater Upgrade, Warialda
Bent Street Culvert Replacement, Gravesend
High Productivity Vehicle Route Bridge, Warialda
Brainard/Spring Street Stormwater Upgrade, Bingara
Postmans Gully Causeway Upgrade, North Star Road
Stephen/Market Street Stormwater Upgrade, Warialda



AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE SHIRE (ENVIRONMENT)

During the term you told us that it was important to you that...

A sustainable community is characterised by our appreciation of natural surroundings and biodiversity. This is supported by responsible planning and management practices and the lifestyle actions we agree to, to reduce our impact on the natural environment and to conserve valuable resources

Council has done this by....

GWYDIR LEARNING REGION

- The 'baselining' of the soils across The Living Classroom and The Carbon Farm was completed as field work. The samples were analysed for their soil components and carbon content providing details on a 15-metre grid.



SOCIAL SERVICES

- Educational demonstrations focused on sustainable practices held at Toy Libraries and Preschool including site visits to The Living Classroom.
- Information sessions and embedded practice throughout entire department to ensure staff and students are aware of the importance of looking after our environment.



PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

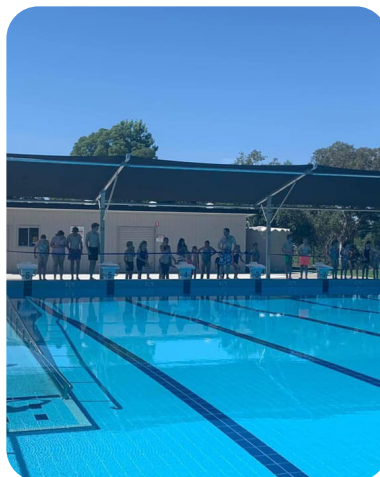
- Solar was installed on Naroo, The Bingara office, the Warialda office, the Warialda depot, the Roxy Theatre, the Roxy cafe, the Warialda wastewater treatment plant and the Living Classroom.
- The Shire electricity supply is contracted through Local Government Procurement. Two cycles of contracting occurred for the three types of contracting for: small sites, large sites and street lighting.
- The streetlights underwent a LED replacement program, offering savings for electricity, maintenance and replacement costs.
- Street bin enclosures were installed on the main street in Bingara replacing the older style 55L round bins and allowing them to be collected under the waste collection contract.
- Security fencing with CCTV at Warialda Rail and Gravesend landfills.
- Participation in the Garage Sale Trail program.
- A large number of waste tyres were collected and processed off site.

- The Shire ran the drumMUSTER at Bingara Landfill and continued to support the community group operating of drumMUSTER at Warialda Landfill, Coolatai and Croppa Creek.
- Council entered an E-waste and Battery recycling contract for the Bingara and Warialda Landfills. The battery recycling received income proportionate to the traded lead price. The E-waste was collected and processed at no charge to the Shire or users as part of the contract.
- Vegetable oil recycling was introduced at Warialda and Bingara Landfills to complement the Petroleum waste oil collections at those sites.
- Regular scrap metal recycling was conducted earning income for the landfills proportionate to the traded scrap metal price mechanism.
- In partnership with NIRW and the EPA, Chemical collections were conducted alternatively at Warialda and Bingara Landfills for two years and subsequently both Bingara and Warialda Landfills annually.
- Participation in NIRW regional contracts for green waste and timber processing.
- An outbreak of Parthenium weed was found in Croppa Creek on a TSR. A rapid response team formed to inspect and control the incursion. The LLS provided additional funding for the rapid response works.
- The weeds unit participated in biological control programs for Cats Claw Creeper. Releasing the biological control agents on sites on the Gwydir River at Gravesend.
- LLS grant for Privet removal was undertaken at the junction of Halls Creek and the Gwydir River.
- LLS grant for a Sagitaria (Arrowhead) project saw the removal and replanting of the affected site below the golf course.
- The LLS grant for high risk pathways enabled the purchase of a basal bark spray rig mounted on a trailer. This was used to control feral fruit trees along the main transport routes within the Shire.
- The weeds team participated in regional rapid response crew work for Green Cestrum on Slaughterhouse Creek on the border with Moree Plains Shire. Staff also assisted with Tropical soda apple control in the Macleay Valley and with waterway inspections on the Peel River.
- The Shire participated in the cross boarder Harrisia Cactus Containment Project that holds the line on incursions of Harrisia Cactus along the northern are off the shire. Various biological and Chemical control methods are tested for efficacy.
- Thorn apple was mulched on foreshore areas where extensive growth was covering large areas.
- Weeping Willow trees were mechanically removed from in stream in the Gwydir River Bingara. Willows on the bank were treated with the drill and fill method to ensure that the riverbank was not destabilized. The program generated a lot of online discussion about the benefits of willow removal from riparian areas.
- The Giant Cane grass that had taken over large sections of Warialda creek within the town boundaries was removed. The area is monitored and any regrowth is treated.



TOWN UTILITIES & PLANT OPERATIONS

- Bingara sewer extension – feasibility study.
- Bingara Dump point relocation from Junction St to Copeton Road.
- Warialda Truck wash construction.
- Warialda Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) pond pump replacement.
- Warialda Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) new supply main from humus tank to ponds.
- New dump point at old Bingara saleyards.
- Warialda Memorial Hall toilets upgrade.
- Warialda Sewer Plant new pumps to Tertiary ponds installed.
- Bingara Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) – removal of overhead power lines and install underground power, including switchboard upgrade.
- Bingara Sewerage Plant – solar system.
- Warialda Truck Wash lagoons.
- Warialda Swimming Pool replacement of sewer mains.
- Bingara Swimming Pool installation of sewer pumps station.
- Water main replacement Copeton dam Road – 450m.
- Upper Horton water supply upgrade.
- Water main extension to Bingara Saleyards 400m.
- Water main replacement Nicholson Street Warialda 200m.
- Water main extension Gragin Road Warialda – 500m.
- Water main extension to Bingara Cemetery 400m.
- Water main installation south street Bingara – 200m ring main Spring and Bywong Street.
- Crane Street Warialda Water main replacement.
- Bingara Hatchery pump replacement.
- High Street Warialda water main replacement – 100m.
- Queen Street Warialda water main replacement – 100m.
- Gwydir Highway Warialda – water main extension – 500m.
- Warialda Caravan Park water upgrade.
- Warialda elevated tower tank replacement.
- Warialda water extension to airstrip – 2km.





PROACTIVE REGIONAL & LOCAL LEADERSHIP (CIVIC LEADERSHIP)

During the term you told us that it was important to you that ...

A collaborative community is informed, has responsible decision making and a sound financial position supported by capable leaders, functional assets and efficient operations to meet the changing needs of the community

Council has done this by....

GWYDIR LEARNING REGION

- TLC was successful in winning several awards. They included the Government Partnerships in Landcare Award was won by our local collaboration in 2017.
- The Gwydir Ark Group was formed and coordinated the planting of 1000 koala food trees on a four-hectare site within TLC.
- In 2019 Gwydir Shire Trainee Justin Lanesbury was named New England Trainee of the Year at the Training Services NSW Awards.



NAROO & CHSP

- New Education system in place for staff – Altura
- New Policy and Process system in place – Centro assist
- New electronic resident documentation in place – Person Centered Care
- New Wellness and Enablement Program implemented throughout CHSP in 2020.

COMMUNICATION & MEDIA & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Upgrade of the Gwydir Shire Council website which saw improvements in the visual appeal and functionality of the site as well as the ability to provide online payments.
- Upgrade of the Gwydir Shire Council website which saw improvements in the visual appeal and functionality of the site as well as the ability to implement online payments functionality.
- Caretakers of the Gwydir News and now currently publishing the annual Gwydir Newsletter.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

- Council's cleaning contract with Onescope was terminated and Council transitioned from a contract arrangement to the employment of cleaners. This has proved to be positive resulting in a considerable increase in the quality of the cleaning services.
- The land where the Bingara Caravan Park cabins were located was transferred from the NSW Government to Council.

INFORMATION SERVICES, RECORDS & BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

- The establishment of a business improvement area that focuses on process and cost savings to Council (October 2020).

SOCIAL SERVICES

- In 2019 the Gwydir Shire Youth Council was formed.
- National Youth Week events were held during the term, consisting of a Neon disco, movie nights, colour fun runs, discos, trivia nights and photo challenges.
- Youth Council members attended the Youth Council Conference in Sydney in 2019. Unfortunately, the 2020 & 2021 Conferences were cancelled due to COVID-19.
- Gwydir Shire in collaboration with the Gwydir Youth Council will work together to ensure that our Council is a child safe organisation with a focus on what is important for the future of our youth.



PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

- The weeds unit purchased Utility Terrain Vehicles with a 50L capacity quick spray and a trailer for accessing harder to get to places for weed control and inspection activities.
- The weeds unit went to digital tablets for their mapping and reporting of inspections and control works activities.
- The Noxious Weed Act was replaced by the Biosecurity Act and staff undertook training in the effects the new act would have for operation, compliance and administration for local control authorities.
- Food businesses were inspected annually and supplied with up to date food safety information and calendars.
- Grazing permits referral process was reviewed and streamlined during the drought to make the process straightforward for applicants.
- Personal body camera for Ranger.



TOWN UTILITIES & PLANT OPERATIONS

- Bingara water treatment plant – construction of 8mx 15m skillion.
- Bingara water pump station – footbridge access ramp replacement.
- Relocate the Bingara depot emoleum tank.
- Bingara workshop – roller doors and bird proofing.
- Bingara workshop – mezzanine floor storage space.
- Bingara workshop electrical switchboard upgrade.





ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT (GOVERNANCE)

During the term you told us that it was important to you that...

The main objective of organisational management is to ensure maximum outputs within minimum resources and effort. Effective organisational management ensures smooth and coordinated functioning of the Council bringing additional benefit to the community, staff and Councillors.

Council has done this by....

NAROO & CHSP

- New Aged Care Standards introduced throughout CHSP in July 2019.

GWYDIR LEARNING REGION

- RMS Self-Assessment and ASQA Report occurred in March of each year.

BUILDING SERVICES

- Swimming pool inspection program which has seen every known swimming pool in Gwydir Shire inspected at least once in the last 3 years as required by NSW legislation.

INFORMATION SERVICES, RECORDS & BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

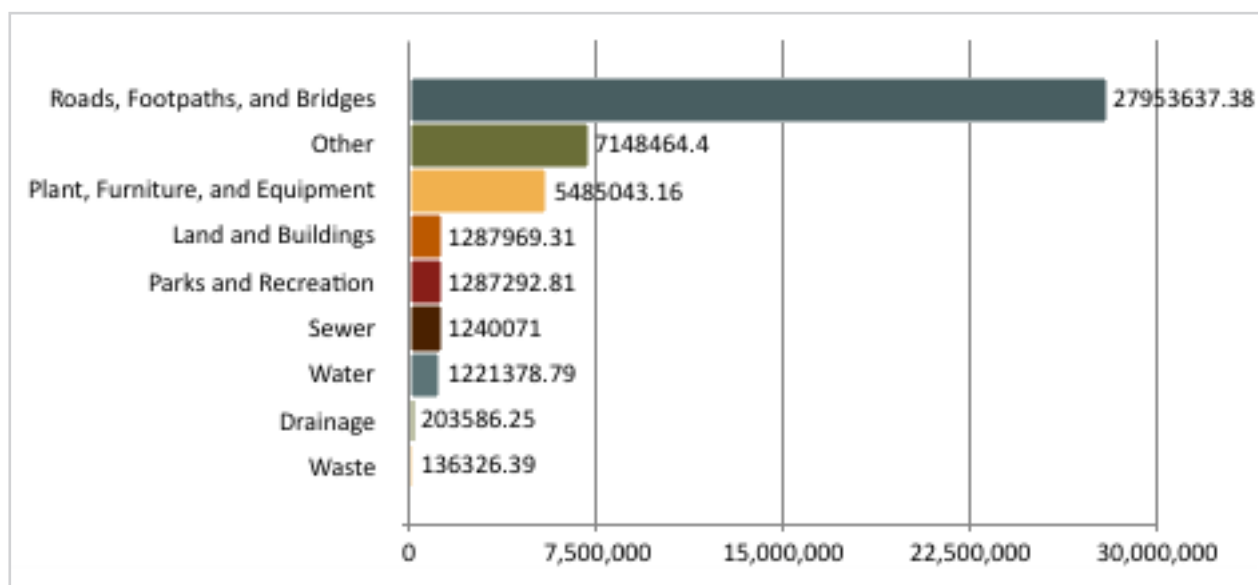
- No cyber security incidents during entire term.
- Staff are able to work from anywhere and access Council resources (June 2019)
- Commenced cyber security assessments to ensure Council data is secure (March 2021).
- Digitisation of legacy paper-based records:
 - o Building and Development Applications (December 2017)
 - o Legacy Council maps (2017-2021)
 - o Bingara Shire, Yallaro Shire Council Minutes (September 2021).
- 100% compliance of physical storage of records as required by State Archives (April 2021).



LIVEABLE REGION

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE SPENDING OVERVIEW

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OVER COUNCIL'S TERM



- \$10.869 million Capital Works program delivered against a budgeted \$14.281 million (2020/2021).
- \$8.942 million Capital Works program delivered against a budgeted \$11.361 million (2019/2020).
- \$11.065 million Capital Works program delivered against a budgeted \$14.382 million (2018/2019).
- \$8.139* million Capital Works program delivered against a budgeted \$7.838 million (2017/2018) *excess due to Warialda HPV construction timelines. Expenditure incurred prior to receipt of income.
- \$6.949 million Capital Works program delivered against a budgeted \$7.327 million (2016/2017).

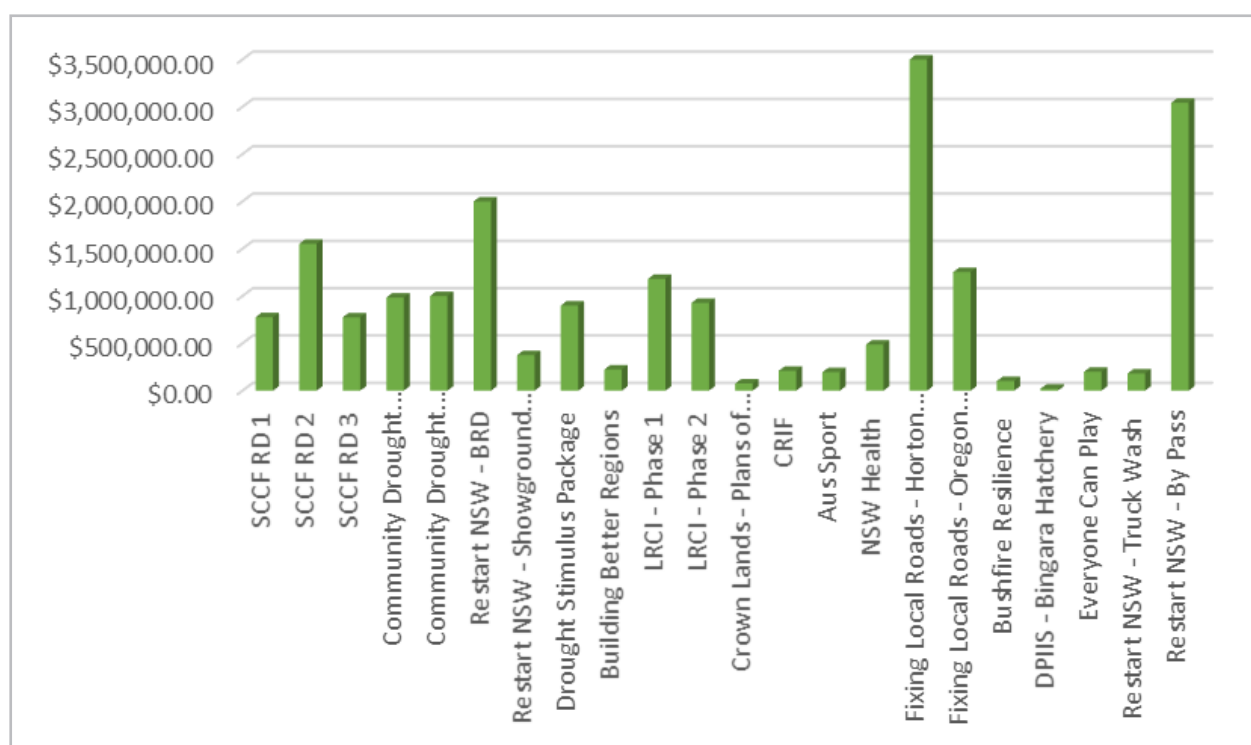
GRANT FUNDING DURING TERM

There is no doubt that our Shire has endured some very trying times, drought, bush fire, floods, the mouse plague of 2020/2021 and COVID-19. However from these unfortunate events there have been positives that have benefited the entire community

The worst drought in 100 years and the COVID-19 pandemic afforded us many opportunities to apply for grant funding that would not normally be open to a Shire of this size.

Grant funding, particularly since 2018 has been widely available via many streams, and Council has received in excess of \$19 million.

GRANT FUNDING



PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED HAVE BEEN SPREAD ACROSS THE SHIRE VARYING IN PROJECT SIZE.

Note: Some projects will be completed over several years.

Bingara Swimming Pool Precinct	Warialda Showground Kitchen Upgrade
Bingara Central School Court Cover	Carinda Community Centre Improvements
Coolatai Sports Ground Amenities Building	Bingara Library - Civic Centre Redevelopment
Warialda Memorial Hall Upgrade - Kitchen, Amenities, Air Conditioning	Bingara Showground Stables, Toilet Block Extension and Grandstand upgrades
Gwydir Oval Grandstand Upgrade, New Amenities Building & Sports Field Lighting	Warialda Rail Sports Ground Improvements - Club Additions & Playground
Warialda Recreation Ground Improvements Amenities & Function Centre	Bingara Sporting Club Improvements - Upgraded amenities and Air Conditioning to Fitness Centre
Warialda Swimming Pool Improvements including amenities upgrade	Bingara Historical Centre Additional Building & display & storage areas
Gravesend Sports Ground Amenities Building	Captain Cook Park Playground Improvements
Croppa Creek Hall Improvements	Cunningham Park Playground Improvements
CWA Park Playground Improvements	Warialda Building Maintenance
Business Grants, SMS Burst, Why Leave Town gift cards, Business advertising	Gravesend Recreation Ground upgrades including tennis court & cricket nets
Warialda Building Maintenance	Re-Roofing of Gravesend Community Hall
Crooble Hall upgrade	Installation of Toilet at Warialda Cemetery
Bingara Hatchery improvements	Upper Horton Water Augmentation
Installation of Solar Panels and Outdoor Lighting to the North Star Sports Club	Installation of Solar Panels & Battery to Warialda Rail Sportsground Clubhouse
Renovation of Upper Horton Tennis Courts and Upgrading to Multi-Sports Courts	Installation of Flag Poles & Flags x 24 to Warialda & Gravesend
Development of an All Abilities Recreation Area at Warialda Hospital Park including equipment	Installation of Fence and Amenities at Warialda Airstrip
Reedy Creek Foreshore Improvements - Litter removal, weed control re-vegetation	Gwydir Foreshore Improvements - Access Way Sealing, Weed Control & Signage
Installation of Flag Poles, Flags & Fairy Lights at Bingara	Purchase of a commemorative CWA Statue leading up to the 100th Anniversary in 2022

Co-contribution for resurfacing at Maitland St Bingara Intersection	Big River Dreaming - Trails and Rest Stops - RFS1, RFS2 & RNS3 Sheep St Creek
Big River Dreaming - Walking Track	Big River Dreaming - Interpretive Centre
Big River Dreaming - Gwydir River Ghats	Big River Dreaming - Splash Park
Big River Dreaming - Trail Markers	Big River Dreaming - Activity Centre
Big River Dreaming - Information Station Signage	Warialda Golf and Bowling improvements including children's play area
Warialda HPV Route	Warialda HPV Truck Wash
Koorilgur Walking Trail Improvements	Warialda Youth Hub
Cunningham Park New Amenities, BBQ and Shelter	Gwydir Fitness Centre - equipment replacement program
Warialda footpath Naroo to Stephen Street	Bingara footpath Pool to Bridge
Batterham Lookout improvements	Warialda Medical Centre improvements
Warialda Dog Pound	Dog Parks - Warialda and Bingara
Shire wide CBD Improvements	Naroo - Kitchen Upgrade
Bingara Caravan Park - CRIF - amenities upgrade	Nicholson Oval Warialda sports field lighting - will be completed in new term
Crown Lands - Plans of Management - will be completed in new term	Bingara Preschool Room Addition - will be completed in new term
Bingara Preschool & Tharawonga Drought & COVID-19 Support.	
Selected gravel re-sheeting, North Star NSW 2408 - Sheetting / Re-sheetting - will be completed in new term SR61 Peates Rd Import gravel, crush on situ and lay new 6m wide pavement SR68 Goat Rd Import gravel, crush on situ and lay new 6m wide pavement SR40 Blue Knobby Rd Import gravel, crush on situ and lay new 6m wide pavement Drainage SR62 Hibernia Rd construct 2 new causeway structures with all-weather approaches.	
Selected gravel re-sheeting Pallal NSW 2404 - Sheetting / Re-sheetting - will be completed in new term SR31 Eulourie Rd import local shale, lay new 6m wide pavement SR17 Back Creek Rd import local shale, lay new 6m wide pavement.	
Cunningham Street, Bingara Traffic improvement - will be completed in new term Junction Street to Riddell Street, construction new centre media with semi advanced trees.	

GENERAL MANAGER'S END OF PERIOD CLOSE

What a momentous term of Council over the last four plus years for those Councillors elected in 2016.

This Council has had to deal with droughts, floods, bush fires and COVID-19.

On the plus side there has been unprecedented, once in a generation, access to both State and Federal grants to meet the challenges that these natural disasters presented to the Shire's communities.

This term has reminded me of the often-quoted Chinese proverb about living in interesting times, which has been both a blessing and a curse at different times.

Overall, I believe the Council met all these challenges head on and achieved great things despite the many obstacles thrown its way.

The 2016/2021 Councillors can be rightfully proud of their collective achievements during their term in office.