



GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL
OPERATIONAL PLAN

2025/2026





OUR ELECTED COUNCIL

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GWDIR SHIRE COUNCIL ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

The current organisational structure is under review and due to be finalised by the end of July 2025. The organisational structure includes the functional areas under each directorate within Council. Each of these functional areas is reported on with the reports including a description of the function, outputs and the 4-year Delivery Program actions aligned to this functional area.

Image coming soon



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER

Max Eastcott

When I commenced at Bingara Shire Council my desire was simple. To work with the elected Councillors and the Council staff to make Bingara the best it could be.

I simply extended my guiding principle to Gwydir Shire when it was created on 17th March 2004.

I hope that in some small way I have consistently trodden the path towards that goal. The question that grows out of that guiding principle is what does it look like – Gwydir being the best it can be?

It is a very aspirational statement, but visions should always represent the light on the hill that navigates your way forward.

Some of the practical outcomes of this approach are detailed below.

For example, the Shire's Road network needs to be fit for its various purposes.

That the Council will have sufficiently zoned land to meet the demand for residential or business activities.

That the Council will have a professional, committed and well trained staff.

That the Shire's business community is assisted not hindered in the pursuit of growing their individual businesses.

That Gwydir Shire is accepted as a positive force for good within its community and not seen as 'them' by the Gwydir's community members.

That the Council seeks to protect and enhance its natural environment.

Every decision I made was evaluated by me through that prism, does it assist Gwydir in being the best Gwydir can be.

It has been my pleasure to work for this community over the last quarter of a century and I thank you all for the ongoing support that I have received.

Max Eastcott, General Manager



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VISION

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

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.









WHERE ARE WE NOW?

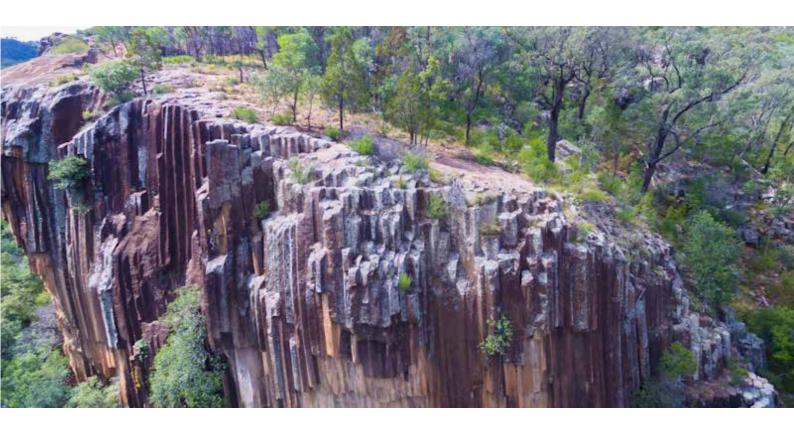
Gwydir Shire is located on the North West Slopes and Plains of NSW, approximately 400kms north of Sydney, 120kms north of Tamworth, 300kms south west of Brisbane, 40kms west of Inverell and 40kms east of Moree.

The Shire sits at the crossroads of the Fossickers Way, a popular north-south touring route, the Gwydir Highway, a significant east-west route linking the NSW North Coast to Outback NSW and on Nature's Way (State Touring Route 3), which links Narrabri to Inverell via Gwydir Shire. The Bruxner Highway (east-west route) traverses the northern edge of the Shire with links into southern Queensland.

Much of Gwydir Shire lies between the 29°S and 30°S latitudes, placing it midway in the realm of arable lands within the Southern Hemisphere. It has a temperate climate with warm to hot summers (25°C – 35°C) and cool to mild winters (10°C – 20°C). The average elevation across the Shire is approximately 350m above sea level. The Gwydir Shire lies about 300kms from the Tasman Sea and the North Coast of NSW Incorporating an area of 9,122 square kilometres, Gwydir Shire extends from the Nandewar Range in the south and north to close to the Queensland border. The landscapes of the Shire are diverse, and in places, breathtaking.

The Shire is part of the New England – North West Region of NSW (also known as the Northern Inland Region) and is bounded by Tamworth Regional Council to the south, Narrabri Shire to the south west, Moree Plains Shire to the west, Inverell





Shire to the east and Uralla and Guyra Shires to the south east.

Incorporating an area of 9,122 square kilometres, Gwydir Shire extends from the Nandewar Range in the south and north to close to the Queensland border. The landscapes of the Shire are diverse, and in places, breathtaking.

The southern and central areas of the Shire are located within the Gwydir River catchment area with the Gwydir River flowing through Bingara and Gravesend. The southern areas of the Shire are hilly with pockets of highly fertile river flats along the Gwydir River and its main tributaries.

Mt Kaputar National Park forms the western edge of the Shire, with rugged remnant volcanic peaks and landforms rising above the Gwydir Valley. The northern part of the Shire lies within the 'Golden Triangle'. Built on the black soils from basalt outflows of the New England, it is one of the most productive agricultural areas in Australia.

Agriculture is the primary land use and economic activity within Gwydir Shire. Livestock production dominates in the southern and central areas of the Shire, with the Shire producing prime beef, lamb and pork. The Shire has a collection of beef cattle and sheep properties with several renowned beef studs.

Broadacre cropping is undertaken in the northern part of the Shire, with the main crops being wheat, sorghum and barley. Other crops include dryland cotton, other grains (oats, maize, triticale), hay and pasture seeds, pulses (chickpeas, field beans, mung beans, faba beans, lentils) and oilseeds (canola, soybeans and sunflowers).

In June 2015, Gwydir Shire had an estimated population of 5,068. The Shire has two small towns, Bingara and Warialda, located approximately 40km apart. Bingara services the southern part of the Shire. Located on the Gwydir River at the intersection of the Fossickers Way and Nature's Way (State Touring Route 3), Bingara is a popular stop for travellers.

Warialda is located on the Gwydir Highway, midway between Inverell and Moree. The town is a service centre for both the surrounding rural area and Highway travellers. Both towns have small, vibrant shopping centres, with IGA supermarkets, historic hotels, eateries and shops that meet the day-to-day needs of the community. There are also a few boutiques and some lifestyle and 'quirky' retailers that are always popular with visitors. Both towns are ideal to use as a stop-over base for exploring the Gwydir Shire and surrounding regions.

The Shire has five rural villages – North Star, Croppa Creek, Coolatai and Gravesend in the northern part of the Shire, and Upper Horton in the south. The Shire has 21 rural localities – Boonal, Blue Nobby, Yallaroi, Crooble, (part of) Pallamallawa and Balfours Peak in the northern half of the Shire, and Warialda Rail, Gineroi, Bangheet, Riverview, Elcombe, Pallal, Rocky Creek, Back Creek, Cobbadah, Gundamulda, Dinoga, Gulf Creek, Upper Bingara, Keera and Copeton in the southern half.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

Council acknowledges the traditional owners of the land, the Kamilaroi People, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



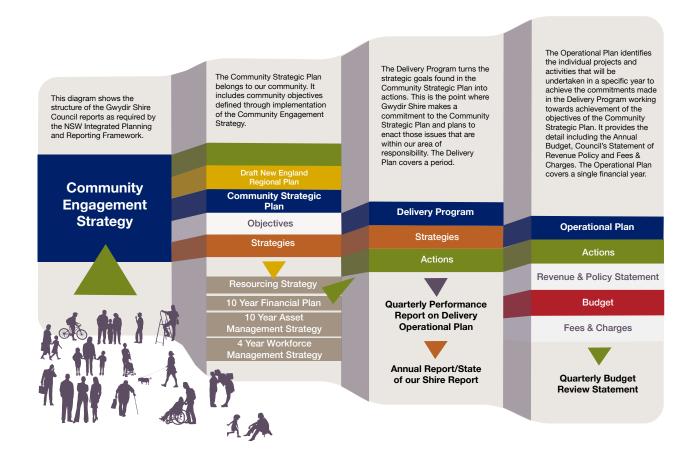
OUR PLANNING FRAMEWORK

How it all fits together

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework impacting all NSW Councils, was introduced by the NSW State Government in 2009. The reforms replaced the former Social and Management Plan structures. All NSW Councils are required to develop a Community Strategic Plan spanning a minimum of 10 years, a Delivery Program spanning the four (4) year period of the elected council and Operational Plans covering each financial year.

The Framework allows Gwydir Shire Council to link all their plans together to get the maximum leverage by planning holistically for the future. Key changes to the Act in 2021, reinforce the pivotal role of the IP&R Framework in guiding all council planning and decision making.

Gwydir Shire Council has been working within the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework since June 2012. The essential elements of the Framework, and how they fit together, are shown in the diagram below.





THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Community Strategic Plan is the highest-level plan prepared by Gwydir Shire Council and the community. It spans a period of a minimum of ten (10) years. It belongs to the community and reflects the community's main priorities and future aspirations. The Community Strategic Plan is a roadmap for the future. In addition to the community priorities, it considers trends, issues and future demands.

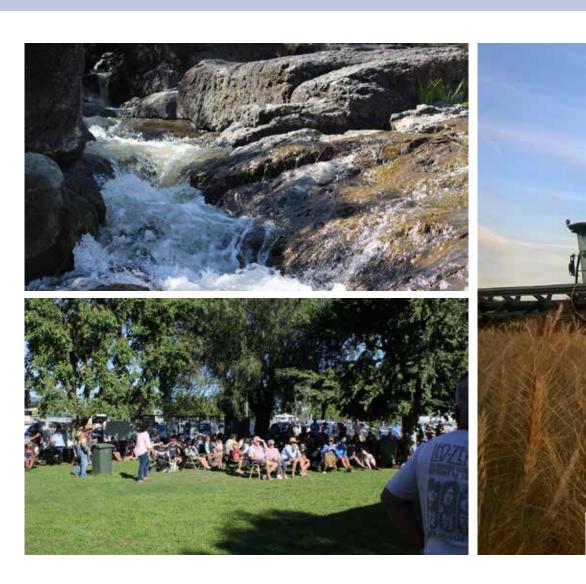
The Community Strategic Plan belongs to the Gwydir Shire community. While Gwydir Shire Council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing and maintaining the Community Strategic Plan on behalf of the Gwydir Shire community, it is not wholly responsible for its implementation. The long-term objectives of the Plan will require other partners such as State and Federal agencies and community organisations to have input.

The Community Strategic Plan is based on the Social Justice Principles, Access, Equity, Participation and Rights. Our Community Engagement Strategy has been developed around these Principles.









THE DELIVERY PROGRAM

This is the point where the community aspirations identified in the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) are actioned. This Plan is a statement of commitment to the Gwydir community from its newly elected Council. The creation of the Delivery Program is a statement from the elected members to their community that they will work towards the long-term goals included in the CSP.

The Delivery Program is a single point of reference for all principal activities that will be undertaken by the Council during their term of office.

This Plan embraces all areas of Council's operations. The community goals and strategies included in the CSP are expanded to include actions for the four (4) year period of the operation of the plan.





While the Delivery Program lists all of the strategies in the Community Strategic Plan, it only focuses on those strategies and actions that can be efficiently achieved by Council. The Delivery Program features all the goals and strategies from the CSP, however it does not feature actions that cannot be completed within the term of council.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Community Strategic Plan, Operational Plan and Resourcing Strategy. All of these documents can be found on the Gwydir Shire Council website www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

(This plan)

The Operational Plan supports the implementation of the Delivery Program and outlines in more detail the individual actions and associated activities that our council will undertake in the 2026 financial year.

RESOURCING STRATEGY

The Resourcing Strategy is a suite of plans that ensure that Gwydir Shire Council has the necessary assets, people and money to deliver the goals in the CPS and the strategies and actions included in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. The Resourcing Strategy includes the following:

Workforce Management Strategy - 4 years

Long Term Financial Plan

- minimum 10 years

Asset Management Plans and Strategy

- minimum 10 years



Our Community Vision established during the community consultation process is...

GWYDIR COUNTRY-FRESH AIR, INNOVATION, OPPORTUNITY AND RESILIENCE

The Community Strategic Plan as developed by the community will be implemented by the Council on behalf of the community. The Plans are underpinned by the principles of Social Justice and built around the five (5) goals outlined below:











In addition to the Social Justice Principles, the Local Government Act 1993 dictates that the CSP must address the social, environmental, economic and civic leadership considerations, which are the quadruple bottom line considerations. In addition to the four (4) considerations, the Council has decided to add an additional consideration of governance, the goal being Organisational Management. This goal specifically applies

to internal management functions that are aligned with the community aspiration of a sustainable council.

The strategic goals included in the **Community Strategic Plan** are turned into actions in the four (4) year **Delivery Program**. **The Operational Plan** identifies the individual projects and activities that will be undertaken in a specific financial year.



HOW WE WILL REPORT

It is important to both Council and the community that we measure and report on our progress. The plans are all interconnected. Progress toward the Operational Plan contributes to the implementation of the Delivery Program which contributes to achieving our community's goals and objectives as outlined in the Community Strategic Plan.

Progress toward the Operational Plan will be reported to the community in line with Quarterly

Budget Review processes and published on Council's website. Measures are designed to inform each other and tell a story about Council's progress towards achieving the Community Strategic Plan, both day to day and over longer periods of time. The diagram below identifies the types of reports we will provide, what we will measure and what reporting periods will be covered.

PERFORMANCE ANNUAL QUARTERLY STATE OF BUDGET REVIEW REPORT REPORT OUR SHIRE REPORT Quarterly Six Monthly Annually Four Years Resource Strategy **OPERATIONAL COMMUNITY DELIVERY PLAN & BUDGET PROGRAM** STRATEGIC PLAN Community Input **Annually** Four Years Ten Years Intergration with local and regional plans

The different reports we will provide, what we will measure and the reporting periods are outlined below:

BUDGET REVIEW

- Quarterly
- · Budget only

PERFORMANCE REPORT

- Six montlhly
- Reports on progress in implementing the Operational Plan projects and works through service output measures

ANNUAL REPORT

- Annually
- Reports on progress in implementing the Delivery Program activities through outcome measures and Operational Plan projects and works
- Also includes State of the Environment Report, audited financial reports and other statutory information

STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

- Four yearly in line with end of Council
- Shows progress in implementing the goals of the Community Strategic Plan during Councillor's term of office.





OUR ASSETS

The total value of Gwydir Shire Council's asset inventory exceeds \$668 million. This includes water, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure, roads, bridges, land, buildings, and plant and equipment. These assets combine to enhance the quality of life for our residents and those visiting Gwydir Shire Council.

Buildings and Land

Gwydir Shire Council has a total of 200 buildings recorded in our asset register. We have a wide variance of facilities under our management including:

- 15 public halls and community centres
- 19 aged care/low income units
- 9 residential houses
- 2 medical centres
- Naroo a 36 bed aged care facility
- 3 learning region complexes hospitality, automotive, and primary industry trade training centres
- 6 sporting facilities/indoor stadiums/ showgrounds
- 2 caravan parks with 18 cabins for hire
- 22 public amenities
- Over 20 parks and public reserves

Other Assets

In conjunction with the regular Council functions, we also provide services and maintenance for:

- Preschools, including the Tharawonga mobile unit
- Swimming pools
- Tourist centres
- Toy libraries
- Aerodromes
- Museums
- Cemeteries
- The Roxy theatre

Roads

The Gwydir Shire area is 9,122 square kilometres, with a comprehensive road network totaling 2,335 kilometres (not including state owned highways).



Our infrastructure is comprised of:

- 1,637km of unsealed roads
- 698km of sealed roads
- 110 bridges (this includes 67 culverts that are defined as bridges)
- 18km of footpaths
- · 33km of kerb and guttering
- 42km of sewerage pipes
- 79km of water pipes

Proposed Land Acquisition Expenditures

Section 187 of the Local Government Act 1993 states that if a council is using its powers under that Act to acquire land, the acquisition must occur in accordance with the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991. Section 178 of the Roads Act 1993 has similar acquisition provisions with respect to roads. Councils must have the legislative power to acquire land or an interest in the land. Once the council has established that it has the power, it can resolve to proceed with acquiring the land either by – private agreement; or compulsory process (with or without land/interest owner's consent).

During the reporting period, the council may consider the following acquisitions:

- Crown Land located around Queen and Cross Streets, Warialda
- Crown Land located around the former Bingara Saleyards location
- A rural parcel being purchased adjacent to the Burundah Subdivision, Warialda; and;
- The finalisation of Crown Land located around the Warialda Bypass.

Proposed Borrowings in 2025/2026 Period

Council will look to borrow funds to the value of \$1,500,000.00 during the reporting period for the purpose of finalising the funding for the Bingara Administration Centre.

Service Review Program for the 2026 Reporting Period

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW), councils are required to conduct regular service reviews as part of their Delivery Program to ensure that services remain efficient, effective, and aligned with community needs. These reviews help councils assess whether services are being delivered in the most sustainable and cost-effective manner while meeting statutory obligations and strategic priorities. A service review examines key aspects such as service demand, resourcing, cost-

effectiveness, and potential improvements. It may also explore alternative delivery models, partnerships, or technological advancements that can enhance service quality and accessibility.

By embedding service reviews into our strategic planning documents, councils demonstrate their commitment to continuous improvement, accountability, and responsible resource management. These reviews also provide transparency to the community by ensuring that services continue to meet expectations while being delivered efficiently within available budgets.

Ultimately, the service review process supports evidence-based decision-making, enabling councils to adapt to changing community needs, legislative requirements, and financial constraints while striving for operational excellence. For the 2026 fiscal year, Council will conduct a service review on S355 Committees of Council.

Asset Category	Total of At Cost (\$)
Roads Structure	175,120,736.02
Roads Surface	51,892,630.50
Unsealed Roads	48,539,878.66
Non-depreciatiable bulk earthworks	109,997,723.83
Bridges	55,225,803.72
Footpaths	4,251,081.74
Kerb & Gutter	2,388,502.13
Buildings (Non Specialised)	45,246,264.33
Specialised Buildings	50,379,846.28
Operational Land	7,696,462.08
Community Land	3,713,255.56
Land Improvements	272,945.62
Furniture & Fittings	1,575,648.93
Office Equipment	1,428,932.36
Other Assets	232,913.72
Other Structures	12,469,594.56
Plant & Equipment	31,041,482.20
Pools	4,009,680.47
Water Infrastructure	29,225,526.03
Sewerage Infrastructure	23,734,039.36
Stormwater Drainage	7,080,108.89
Landfills	3,164,074.60
Quaries	210,271.42
Total Assset Cost	668,897,403.01

^{**}Figures published as at 15/04/2025. Final figures may vary due to end-of-year processing.



GRANT FUNDING

STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND - ROUND 4

The Stronger Country Communities Fund was established in 2017 by the NSW Government to deliver local projects that enhance the lives and wellbeing of regional communities. Round Four of the Stronger Country Communities Fund will see a further \$100 million made available for community projects that increase the liveability of regional NSW communities, including up to \$50 million for projects that enhance female sporting facilities and increase female participation in sport.

The objectives of the fund are:

- to boost the liveability of communities in regional areas by providing new or upgraded social and sporting infrastructure or community programs that have strong local support
- to deliver enhanced infrastructure and programs that remove barriers to female participation in sport across regional NSW.

Roxy Theatre Maintenance	\$110,000	Complete
Project Name	Funding Amount \$	Completion Date (est.)





STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND - ROUND 5

The Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 5 aims to boost the wellbeing of communities in regional areas by providing new or upgraded social and sporting infrastructure, or community programs that have strong local support.

A total of \$160 million is available, including up to \$50 million for projects delivered by eligible community organisations.

Projects must be for infrastructure or community programs that boost the wellbeing of regional areas through improved amenities and positive social outcomes.

Funding is available for the local community and sporting infrastructure, street beautification, projects enhancing accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities, projects improving outcomes for Aboriginal people, and community programs and local events.

Council has successfully obtained funding for the below projects.

Project Name	Funding Amount \$	Completion Date (est.)
Warialda Swimming Pool	\$358,603	Complete
Playground equipment upgrades	\$284,763	Complete
Gwydir Oval Bingara & Warialda Recreation Ground upgrades	\$163,763	Complete

Various community groups within the Shire have also been successful in obtaining Round 5 funding. These include:

Community Group	Project Name	Funding Amount \$
Bingara Show Society Bingara	Bingara Campdraft Arena Upgrade	\$180,000
Croppa Creek Bowling Club	Croppa Creek Bowling Club Improvments	\$160,000
Warialda Showground Trust	Warialda Showground amenities upgrade	\$150,000



BIG RIVER DREAMING – WATER WEAVING WAY – RESTART NSW

The Restart NSW Fund was established by the NSW Government in 2011 to improve the economic growth and productivity of the state. As at the 2019-20 NSW Budget, more than \$33.3 billion has been deposited into Restart NSW since 2011. Under the Restart NSW Fund Act 2011, Infrastructure NSW is responsible for providing independent funding recommendations to the NSW Government on all infrastructure projects to be funded from Restart NSW.

These include:

- Major NSW government-led projects.
- Local and community infrastructure projects being delivered by councils, non-government organisations and other entities.

Restart NSW local and community infrastructure projects include vital upgrades to rural and regional road and rail networks, the development of infrastructure to boost tourism, projects which address infrastructure constraints in mining communities, the provision of safe and reliable water services, and infrastructure which drives economic growth and productivity.

There are currently more than 600 projects which have been allocated more than \$1.6 billion through the Restart NSW local and community infrastructure funding programs. The total project budget for these is approximately \$2.8 billion. Many of these projects are currently active and in various stages of delivery, projects within Gwydir Shire that have successfully obtained funding from the Big River Dreaming – Water Weaving Way project scheme are tabled below.



Project Name	Funding Amount \$	Completion Date
Walking Track	\$41,000	Complete
Trails and Rest stops – RFS1, and RNS3 – Sheep Station Creek	\$184,942	Complete
Interpretive Centre - The Living Classroom	\$1,302,000	TBC
Gwydir River Ghats (pontoon)	\$30,000	Complete
Splash Park – Bingara Pool Precinct	\$150,000	Completed
Activity Centre – Bingara Pool Precinct	\$200,000	Complete
Information station signage	\$62,058	Complete





COVID-19 ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE – LOCAL ROADS & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (LRCI) – PHASE 3

The purpose of the LRCI Program is to support local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Phase 3 of the LRCI Program continues a temporary, targeted stimulus measure responding to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The LRCI Program assists a community-led recovery from COVID- As with the earlier Phases of the LRCI Program, Eligible Funding

Recipients can select a broad range of projects to fund so that communities can continue to be provided with the infrastructure they require. It is expected that Eligible Funding Recipients will use local businesses and workforces to deliver projects wherever possible to ensure stimulus funding flows into local communities.

The intended outcomes of the LRCI Program are to: provide stimulus to protect and create local short-term employment opportunities through funding construction projects following the impacts of COVID-19 and deliver benefits to communities, such as improved road safety, accessibility and visual amenity by supporting local jobs, firms, and procurement.

Project Name	Funding Amount \$	Completion Date
Upper Horton Sports Club amenities	\$110,000	Complete
Bingara footpath program	\$180,000	Complete
Warialda footpath program	\$180,000	Complete
Reedy Creek access road Warialda	\$83,523	Complete
Reedy Creek footpath – stage 1	\$88,139	Complete
Warialda street tree upgrade	\$83,338	Complete
Bingara Riverside Caravan Park amenities	\$490,000	Complete
Warialda Memorial Pool improvements	\$260,000	Complete
Gravesend Recreation Reserve improvements	\$50,000	Complete
Warialda Rail amenities	\$110,000	Complete
Warialda CBD Park	\$514,148	June 2025
Warialda Fitness Centre amenities	\$80,300	Complete



BLACK SUMMER BUSHFIRE RECOVERY GRANTS PROGRAM

The Black Summer Bushfire Recovery grants program is part of the now \$2.2 billion National Bushfire Recovery Fund and builds on support already provided through a range of other bushfire recovery measures. The Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program is helping communities address priorities and activities for recovery and resilience after the 2019-20 bushfires.

The grants are supporting medium to long-term recovery for communities to enhance and strengthen their resilience and recovery.

They are funding projects for:

- Social recovery and resilience needs
- Economic recovery and resilience needs, and/or
- Recovery and resilience needs of the built environment.

Project Name	Funding Amount \$	Completion Date (est.)
The Living Classroom Emergency Accommodation & Tourism Opportunities	\$850,000	Final stage - Power supply connection - scheduled 6 June 2025
Warialda Emergency Accommodation and Respite Centre	\$750,000	Complete







AGED CARE APPROVALS ROUND – RURAL, REGIONAL AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS BUILDING FUND CAPITAL FUNDING GRANT

This Capital Funding Grant Opportunity was announced as part of the 2020 ACAR, with \$150 million made available for capital grants to fund suitable proposals, which specifically aim to improve access to quality residential aged care in regional, rural and remote locations and/or improve access to care for any of the Special Needs Groups under the Act, in any area.

Some residential care providers, however, cannot accumulate sufficient reserves, or service the debt required, to meet some, or all, of the necessary capital works costs.

The Rural, Regional and Other Special Needs Building Fund (the Fund) is a capital grants program which addresses this issue. The Fund specifically supports access to residential care and continuity of care in a region or area, or for a Special Needs Group, where access would otherwise be at risk.

The main outcomes delivered by the Fund are new residential care buildings, and the upgrade of existing residential care buildings which, without the assistance of capital grants provided under the Fund, would otherwise not be available. The Fund also supports access to residential care and continuity of care in a region or area, or for a Special Needs Group, where access would otherwise be at risk.

Project Name

Funding Amount \$

Completion Date (est.)

Expansion, fit-out and furnishing of activities room and repurposing existing internal courtyard into outdoor recreation area

\$493,215 (original funding) increase in total funding advised Feb 2023

New Funding Amount - \$1,520,000 June 2025



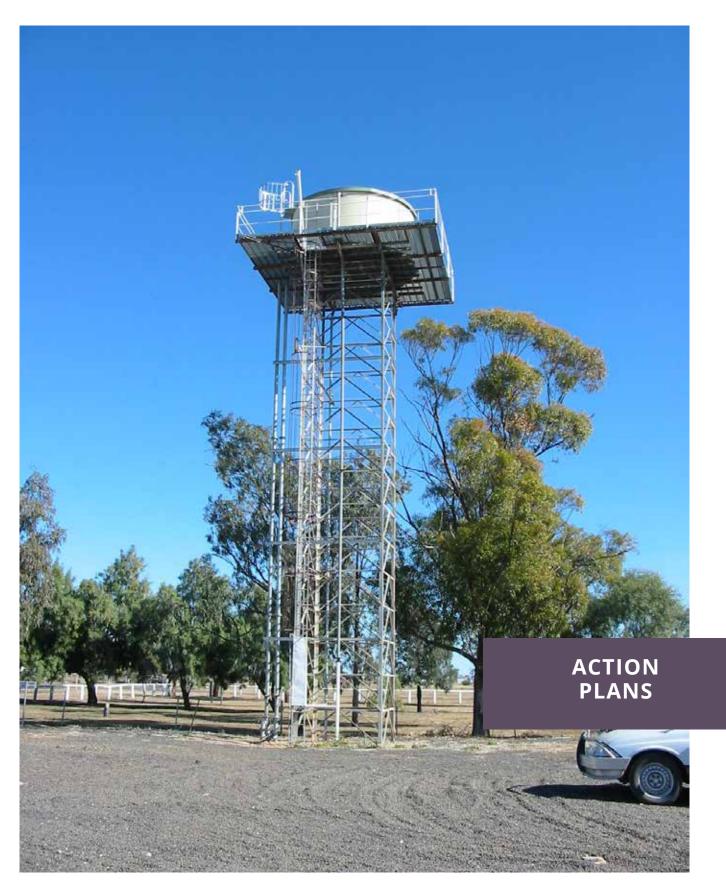


OTHER GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS

Council has also secured grant funding that will allow the completion of the below projects.

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Amount \$	Completion Date (est.)
Horton Road Upgrade	Fixing Local Roads	\$5,000,000	Complete
Getta Getta Road Resheeting	Fixing Local Roads	\$1,854,071	Complete
IB Bore Road construction	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	\$9,746,195	Complete
Gravesend Water Treatment Plant – Stage 2	DPIE	\$1,877,000	June 2026







OUR GOALS, OUTCOMES, STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR 2026

This section of the plan outlines the details of councils 2026 Operational Plan. This is the last plan in Councils suite of documents. It should be read in conjunction with the Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program which clearly demonstrate where the actions in this Plan have originated. The actions included in this Plan are supported by the Gwydir Shire Council Resourcing Strategy.

The outcomes, strategies and actions under each of the goal areas for the 2026 reporting period are outlined below.















A HEALTHY AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY (SOCIAL)





- 1.1 We have healthy and inviting spaces and places
 - 1.1.1 Improve local access to health services
 - 1.1.2 Encourage and enable healthy lifestyle choices
 - 1.1.3 Provide the right places, spaces and activities
- 1.2 Our community is an inviting and vibrant place to live
 - 1.2.1 Enable accessible and affordable lifestyle options
 - 1.2.2 A shared responsibility for community safety
 - 1.2.3 Celebrate our creativity and cultural expression

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.

We have access to a range of high-quality health care services. All residents are supported in living a healthy and active life through the opportunity to participate in recreational activities.

Our community is strong, safe and connected with equal access to the services and facilities that ensure a great quality of life for all ages. Community pride and a sense of belonging are fostered through having a caring and connected community, with suitable programs and activities for all ages and abilities. Our residents' lives are enriched through access to lifelong learning opportunities as well as activities and events that celebrate our culture and encourage participation.



GOAL (CSP) / OUTCOME (CSP) / STRATEGY (DP)	Action	Responsibility	Business Unit
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	Proposed Action Carinda House - Re-Roofing	Responsible Officer: Building Services Manager Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Bulding Services
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	Proposed Action Rosehill Drive Residence - Refurbishment	Responsible Officer: Building Services Manager Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Building Services
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	Proposed Action Warialda Administration Centre - Replacement of Airconditioning	Responsible Officer: Building Services Manager Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Building Services
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.2 - Encourage and enable healthy lifestyle choices	Proposed Action Engage with Naroo residents to understand their preferences regarding food and beverages, offering choices that are flavorful, appetizing, and nutritionally balanced, including for individuals on texture-modified diets. Support residents in consuming meals to their satisfaction while upholding their dignity and respecting the principle of dignity of risk. Ensure that any clinical or physical issues impacting an individual's ability to eat and drink are promptly identified and addressed. Develop appropriate care plans in collaboration with chefs, cooks, and an Accredited Practising Dietitian, including for those with specialized dietary needs. Regularly update menus to ensure variety, providing residents with options that empower them to make informed choices about their meals and beverages.	Responsible Officer: Aged Care Manager Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	Aged Care Services
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.2 - Encourage and enable healthy lifestyle choices	Proposed Action 1.1.2. Ensure facilities are prepared and presented to agreed service levels prior to events and activities	Responsible Officer: Town Utilities Manager Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Showground management
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.2 - Encourage and enable healthy lifestyle choices	1.1.1.2 Support Gwydir Shire's health initiatives	Responsible Officer: Community Assets Manager Authorising Officer: General Manager	Community Assets



GOAL (CSP) / OUTCOME (CSP) / STRATEGY (DP)	Action	Responsibility	Business Unit
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.2 - Encourage and enable healthy lifestyle choices	1.1.2.1 Oversee the operation of Council's Aquatic Centres	Responsible Officer: Community Assets Manager Authorising Officer: General Manager	Community Assets
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.2 - Encourage and enable healthy lifestyle choices	1.1.2.2 Annual swimming pool inspection program	Responsible Officer: Building Services Manager Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Building Services
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.2 - Encourage and enable healthy lifestyle choices	1.1.2.3 Conduct Council's Category B Enforcement agency functions under the Food Act 2003 (NSW) by the specified due dates	Responsible Officer: Manager of Sustainability, Land, and Compliance Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Planning and Development
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.2 - Encourage and enable healthy lifestyle choices	1.1.2.7 Warialda Memorial Swimming Pool Improvements - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Responsible Officer: Community Assets Team Leader Authorising Officer: Community Assets Manager	Community Assets
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	1.1.3.1 Big River Dreaming - Finalise the construction of the Wellness and Interpretive Centre	Responsible Officer: Building Services Manager Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Bulding Services
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	1.1.3.2 Ensure all Preschool, Day care and Play group services are meeting the needs of the community through community consultation and regular review.	Responsible Officer: Social Services Manager Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	Social Services
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	1.1.3.3 Annual Tree Planting Program	Responsible Officer: Urban Works Supervisor Authorising Officer: Engineering Assets Coordinator	Parks & Gardens
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	1.1.3.6 Build our reputation as 'best choice' for families, children and young people to discover their abilities and reach their potential in life	Responsible Officer: Social Services Manager Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	Social Services



GOAL (CSP) / OUTCOME (CSP) / STRATEGY (DP)	Action	Responsibility	Business Unit
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	1.1.3.7 Enhance the overall Resident experience at Naroo Frail Aged Hostel by embedding an active Leisure and Lifestyle program with residents focusing on wellness	Responsible Officer: Aged Care Services Manager Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	Aged Care Services
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	1.1.3.8 Hope Street Warialda CBD Park Construction - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Responsible Officer: Engineering Services Director Authorising Officer: General Manager	Parks & Gardens
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	1.1.3.9 Landscaping Improvements - Warialda Street Tree Upgrade - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Responsible Officer: Engineering Assets Coordinator Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Parks & Gardens
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	1.1.3.11 Progress Gwydir Shire Council Disability Action plan with committee.	Responsible Officer: Aged Care Services Manager Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	Aged Care Services
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	1.1.3.13 Provide high levels of hygiene to councils community assets and facilities	Responsible Officer: Community Assets Coordinator Authorising Officer: General Manager	Community Assets
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	1.1.3.14 State Drought Stimulus Package - CBD Improvements - Warialda footpath upgrades	Responsible Officer: Engineering Assets Coordinator Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Urban Spaces
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	1.1.3.15 COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Package - Phase 1 - Batterham Lookout Makeover	Responsible Officer: Town Utilities Manager Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Parks & Gardens
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	1.1.3.18 Warialda Footpath Program - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI) - Construction/replacement of non-compliant cycle/ walking paths	Responsible Officer: Engineering Services Director Authorising Officer: General Manager	Parks & Gardens



GOAL (CSP) / OUTCOME (CSP) / STRATEGY (DP)	Action	Responsibility	Business Unit
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	1.1.3.20 Implement Council's library programs and initiatives	Responsible Officer: Community Assets Manager Authorising Officer: General Manager	Community Assets
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.1 - We have healthy and inviting spaces and places 1.1.3 - Provide the right places, spaces and activities	1.1.3.22 Warialda GYM (Squash Courts) - Re-roofing of lower roof	Responsible Officer: Building Services Manager Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Building Services
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.2 - Our community is an inviting and vibrant place to live 1.2.1 - Enable accessible and affordable lifestyle options	1.2.1.1 Meet Council's property management obligations	Responsible Officer: Community Assets Team Leader Authorising Officer: Community Assets Manager	Community Assets
 1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.2 - Our community is an inviting and vibrant place to live 1.2.2 - A shared responsibility for community safety 	1.2.2.1 Comply with and report on Councils Companion Animal Management requirements	Responsible Officer: Manager of Sustainability, Land, and Compliance Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Planning and Development
1 - A healthy and cohesive community 1.2 - Our community is an inviting and vibrant place to live 1.2.3 - Celebrate our creativity and cultural expression	1.2.3.1 Roll out the planned schedule of events reviewing the concept, target audience and success of each event	Responsible Officer: Media & Communications Officer Authorising Officer: Community Assets Manager	Events





BUILDING THE BUSINESS BASE (ECONOMIC)



The outcomes and strategies in this goal include:

- 2.1 Our economy is growing and supported
 - 2.1.1 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure
 - 2.1.2 Support the growth of our business community
 - 2.1.3 Promote our community as the place to live, work and invest
- 2.2 We are skilled and have access to excellent educational opportunities
 - 2.2.1 Increase the range of opportunities to work locally
 - 2.2.2 Build on our quality education and training opportunities

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.

Our business community is prepared for future growth and challenges. We welcome new business development opportunities and work with private enterprise to establish strategic partnerships aligned to the creation of employment and industry in our community.

Tourism is embraced by all facets of our community and Gwydir Shire is seen as a destination of choice for travellers. Our lives are enriched through access to quality education which enables the development of a skilled workforce and the uptake of local job opportunities.



GOAL (CSP) / OUTCOME (CSP) / STRATEGY (DP)	Action	Responsibility	Business Unit
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	Proposed Action Develop and implement solutions to improve access to mobile, broadband, and satellite services across the Shire.	Responsible Officer: Business and Strategy Director Authorising Officer: General Manager	Information Technology/ Business Improvement
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	Proposed Action 2.1.1 Annual Telemetry & Technology upgrades - Sewer	Responsible Officer: Town Utilities Manager Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Town Utilities
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	Proposed Action 2.1.1 Annual Renewals Program - Sewer mains relining/replacement	Responsible Officer: Town Utilities Manager Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Town Utilities
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	Proposed Action 2.1.1. Annual Telemetry & Technology upgrades for Water Operations	Responsible Officer: Town Utilities Manager Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Town Utilities
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	Proposed Action 2.1.1. Annual Water Main Replacement Program for Water Operations	Responsible Officer: Town Utilities Manager Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Town Utilities
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	Proposed Action 2.1.1. Annual Pump replacement program for Water Operations	Responsible Officer: Town Utilities Manager Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Town Utilities
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.2 Annual water meter replacement program	Responsible Officer: Town Utilities Manager Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Town Utilities
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	Proposed Action 2.1.1 Annual pump replacement program for Sewerage Operations	Responsible Officer: Town Utilities Manager Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Town Utilities
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.6 2026 Building Services Repairs and Maintenance Program	Responsible Officer: Building Maintenance Supervisor Authorising Officer: Building Services Manager	Building Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.7 December 2020 Flood Disaster works program	Responsible Officer: Engineering Assets Coordinator Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Engineering Services



GOAL (CSP) / OUTCOME (CSP) / STRATEGY (DP)	Action	Responsibility	Business Unit
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.14 November 2021 Flood Disaster works program	Responsible Officer: Engineering Assets Coordinator Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Engineering Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.15 Provide accommodation options to our community and visitors	Responsible Officer: Community Assets Manager Authorising Officer: General Manager	Community Assets
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.16 Plunkett Street Aged Units - Refurbishment	Responsible Officer: Building Services Manager Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Building Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.16 Warialda Memorial Hall - Investigation, underpinning & repairs	Responsible Officer: Building Services Manager Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Building Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.16 Bingara Court House - Re-Roofing	Responsible Officer: Building Services Manager Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Building Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.16 Warialda Office - Courtyard Refurbishment	Responsible Officer: Business Services Manager Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Building Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.23 Town Streets - kerb replacement and pavement enhancement program	Responsible Officer: Urban Works Supervisor Authorising Officer: Engineering Assets Coordinator	Urban Spaces
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.25 Resheeting and bitumen sealing of entire length of Wearnes Road, Bundarra	Responsible Officer: Engineering Services Director Authorising Officer: General Manager	Engineering Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.32 Heavy Vehicle Safety & Productivity Program Round 7 and Fixing Local Roads Program Sealing of IB Bore Road from North Star to Moree Plains Shire	Responsible Officer: Engineering Services Director Authorising Officer: General Manager	Engineering Services



GOAL (CSP) / OUTCOME (CSP) / STRATEGY (DP)	Action	Responsibility	Business Unit
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.34 Develop 10 year stormwater plan	Responsible Officer: Road Maintenance - Council Contracts Project Manager Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Engineering Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.36 Deliver RMCC annual works program	Responsible Officer: Road Maintenance -Council Contracts Manager Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Engineering Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.38 March 2021 Flood disaster works program	Responsible Officer: Engineering Assets Coordinator Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Engineering Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.39 Bingara Administration Centre - Furniture & Furnishings (including blinds)	Responsible Officer: Building Services Manager Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Building Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.40 Croppa Creek Road Upgrade Super Patch of entire length of road with 50mm nominal corrector and new bitumen seal	Responsible Officer: Engineering Services Director Authorising Officer: General Manager	Engineering Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.41 Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund Assorted maintenance and capital renewal activities across the shire	Responsible Officer: Engineering Services Director Authorising Officer: General Manager	Engineering Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.42 Federal Government - Roads of Strategic Importance Program - Sealing of 12.3km of County Boundary Road from end of existing seal to Croppa Moree Road.	Responsible Officer: Engineering Services Director Authorising Officer: General Manager	Engineering Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.43 Sealed Rural Roads Capital Works Program Heavy patching and bitumen resealing of sealed roads at various locations across the LGA	Responsible Officer: Engineering Services Director Authorising Officer: General Manager	Engineering Services



GOAL (CSP) / OUTCOME (CSP) / STRATEGY (DP)	Action	Responsibility	Business Unit
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.44 Road Infrastructure Disaster Recovery - Events AGRN960, 987, 1034 Heavy patching, pothole repairs, gravel resheeting and drainage structure replacements across the LGA	Responsible Officer: Engineering Assets Coordinator Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Engineering Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.45 Resheeting of gravel roads at various location across the LGA Unsealed Roads Capital Works Program	Responsible Officer: Engineering Services Director Authorising Officer: General Manager	Engineering Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.1 - Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	2.1.1.46 Heavy patching and bitumen resealing of streets in Warialda and Bingara Urban Roads Rehabilitation -local Roads and Community Infrastructure Phase 4 Part B	Responsible Officer: Engineering Assets Coordinator Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Engineering Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.2 - Support the growth of our business community	2.1.2.1 Develop links and implement programs to improve the local economy	Responsible Officer: Community Assets Manager Authorising Officer: General Manager	Community Assets
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.2 - Support the growth of our business community	2.1.2.3 Finalise the strategy for small scale industrial land development.	Responsible Officer: Authorising Officer: General Manager	Executive Services
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.3 - Promote our community as the place to visit, live, work and invest	2.1.3.1 Build on key relationships with stakeholders to enhance the Gwydir Shire tourism profile	Responsible Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director Authorising Officer: General Manager	Organisation Development
2 - Building the business base 2.1 - Our economy is growing and supported 2.1.3 - Promote our community as the place to visit, live, work and invest	2.1.3.2 Assist in the creation of an environment in which a sustainable level of population and economic growth can occur to benefit local business and tourism	Responsible Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director Authorising Officer: General Manager	Organisation Development
2 - Building the business base 2.2 - We are skilled and have access to excellent educational opportunities 2.2.1 - Increase the range of opportunities to work locally	2.2.1.1 Continue to be proactive in attracting skilled staff, especially Registered Nurses into the Aged Care sector and work towards 24-hour Registered Nurses on site at Naroo Frail Aged Hostel	Responsible Officer: Aged Care Services Manager Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	Aged Care Services
2 - Building the business base 2.2 - We are skilled and have access to excellent educational opportunities 2.2.2 - Build on our quality education and training opportunities (including through the GLR)	2.2.2.1 Implement and manage the Gwydir Learning Region program	Responsible Officer: Community Assets Team Leader Authorising Officer: Community Assets Manager	Community Assets





AN
ENVIRONMENTALLY
RESPONSIBLE SHIRE
(ENVIRONMENT)



The outcomes and strategies in this goal include:

- **3.1 Our community understands and embraces environmental change**
 - 3.1.1 Encourage respectful planning, balanced growth and good design
 - 3.1.2 Respond to our changing environment
 - 3.1.3 Value, protect and enhance our natural environment
- 3.2 We use and manage our natural resources wisely
 - 3.2.1 Develop a clean energy future
 - 3.2.2 Use our water wisely
 - 3.2.3 Reduce, reuse and recover waste
 - 3.2.4 Identify and make best use of our resource land

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.

We respect and value our natural environment, understand the effects of our actions and make wise decisions to retain balance. We endeavour to use all our natural resources wisely with a view to minimising the impact on our natural environment.

We take responsibility for the management and consumption of our valuable resources and recognise the impact that our actions have both today and on future generations.

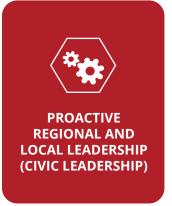


GOAL (CSP) / OUTCOME (CSP) / STRATEGY (DP)	Action	Responsibility	Business Unit
3 - An environmentally responsible Shire 3.1 - Our community understands and embraces environmental change 3.1.1 - Encourage respectful planning, balanced growth and good design	3.1.1.1 Implement Development Control Plan based on the Department of Planning NSW standard format including report to Council and Community Consultation	Responsible Officer: Manager of Sustainability, Land, and Compliance Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Sustainability, Land, and Compliance
3 - An environmentally responsible Shire 3.1 - Our community understands and embraces environmental change 3.1.1 - Encourage respectful planning, balanced growth and good design	3.1.1.2 Local Environment Plan review to be completed and implemented	Responsible Officer: Manager of Sustainability, Land, and Compliance Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Sustainability, Land, and Compliance
3 - An environmentally responsible Shire 3.1 - Our community understands and embraces environmental change 3.1.1 - Encourage respectful planning, balanced growth and good design	3.1.1.3 Conduct/Monitor/Review Gwydir Shire Housing Study	Responsible Officer: Manager of Sustainability, Land, and Compliance Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Sustainability, Land, and Compliance
3 - An environmentally responsible Shire 3.1 - Our community understands and embraces environmental change 3.1.2 - Respond to our changing environment	Proposed Action Inspection and monitoring water and sewerage systems to ensure environmental compliance obligations are being met	Responsible Officer: Town Utilities Manager Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Town Utilities
3 - An environmentally responsible Shire 3.1 - Our community understands and embraces environmental change 3.1.2 - Respond to our changing environment	3.1.2.2 Implement Gwydir and Inverell Shire's Regional Drought Resilience Plan	Responsible Officer: Manager of Sustainability, Land, and Compliance Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Sustainability, Land, and Compliance
3 - An environmentally responsible Shire 3.1 - Our community understands and embraces environmental change 3.1.3 - Value, protect and enhance our natural environment	3.1.3.1 North West Weed Action Program -Gwydir Shire	Responsible Officer: Manager of Sustainability, Land, and Compliance Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Sustainability, Land, and Compliance



GOAL (CSP) / OUTCOME (CSP) / STRATEGY (DP)	Action	Responsibility	Business Unit
3 - An environmentally responsible Shire 3.1 - Our community understands and embraces environmental change 3.1.3 - Value, protect and enhance our natural environment	3.1.3.2 Gwydir River Foreshore - Management Action Plan	Responsible Officer: Manager of Sustainability, Land, and Compliance Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Sustainability, Land, and Compliance
3 - An environmentally responsible Shire 3.2 - We use & manage our natural resources wisely 3.2.1 - Develop a clean energy future	3.2.1.1 Audit Streetlighting coverage across the local networks throughout the Shire	Responsible Officer: Manager of Sustainability, Land, and Compliance Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Sustainability, Land, and Compliance
3 - An environmentally responsible Shire 3.1 - Our community understands and embraces environmental change 3.1.3 - Value, protect and enhance our natural environment	3.2.2. Water Treatment Plant improvements - fitting instrumentation and controls to ensure water quality parameters are met.	Responsible Officer: Town Utilities Manager Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Town Utilities
3 - An environmentally responsible Shire 3.2 - We use & manage our natural resources wisely 3.2.2 - Use our water wisely	3.2.2.3 Implement water management strategies according to demand	Responsible Officer: Town Utilities Manager Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Town Utilities
3 - An environmentally responsible Shire 3.2 - We use & manage our natural resources wisely 3.2.2 - Use our water wisely	3.2.2.4 Gravesend Water Treatment Plant - Stage 2 - Department of Primary Industries and Environment (DPIE)	Responsible Officer: Town Utilities Manager Authorising Officer: Engineering Services Director	Town Utilities
3 - An environmentally responsible Shire 3.2 - We use & manage our natural resources wisely 3.2.3 - Reduce, reuse and recover waste	3.2.3.1 Implement Gwydir Shire Council's Waste Management Strategy	Responsible Officer: Manager of Sustainability, Land, and Compliance Authorising Officer: Business and Strategy Director	Sustainability, Land, and Compliance









- 4.1 We are an engaged and connected community
 - 4.1.1 Encourage an informed community
 - 4.1.2 Enable broad, rich and meaningful engagement to
- 4.1.3 Build on our sense of community
- 4.2 We work together to achieve our goals
 - 4.2.1 Build strong relationships and shared responsibilities
 - 4.2.2 Work in partnership to plan for the future

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.

Our thoughts and ideas are valued; we are empowered with knowledge and have the opportunity to participate. The Council provides the community with timely information about local issues and includes opportunities for the community to participate in initiatives. Community consultation continues throughout the period of the Community Strategic Plan to ensure that residents are engaged and connected.

We respect our community leaders who listen to and act on our behalf, and value our community's knowledge, experience and ideas which help us implement our vision for the future together.

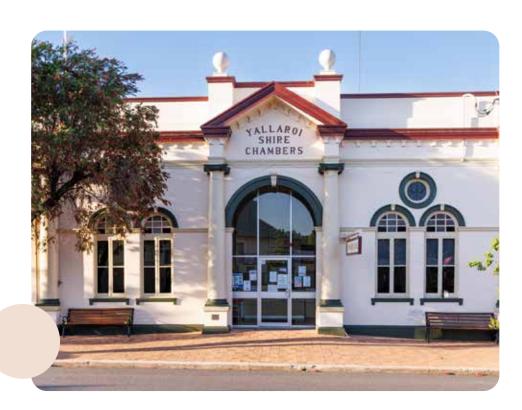


GOAL (CSP) / OUTCOME (CSP) / STRATEGY (DP)	Action	Responsibility	Business Unit
4 - Proactive regional and local leadership 4.1 - We are an engaged & connected community 4.1.1 - Encourage an informed community	Proposed Action Develop a public-facing GIS platform that enables residents, businesses, and developers to access spatial data, including zoning, infrastructure, environmental assets, and service locations.	Responsible Officer: Business and Strategy Director Authorising Officer: General Manager	Information Techonogy/Business Improvement
4 - Proactive regional and local leadership 4.2 - We work together to achieve our goals 4.2.2 - Work in partnership to plan for the future	Proposed Action 4.2.2 Develop and implement targeted community engagement for strategic decision-making through a variety of channels to enhance the accessibility of community consultation throughout the Shire e.g. specific engagement approaches for youth and seniors.	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: General Manager	People and Strategy
4 - Proactive regional and local leadership 4.1 - We are an engaged & connected community 4.1.1 - Encourage an informed community	4.1.1.1 Provide effective communication initiatives to service the community	Responsible Officer: Media and Communications Officer Authorising Officer: Community Assets Manager	Community Assets
4 - Proactive regional and local leadership 4.2 - We work together to achieve our goals 4.2.2 - Work in partnership to plan for the future	Proposed Action 4.2.2. Ensure alignment of the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, and Operational Plan with state and regional priorities.	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: General Manager	People and Strategy
4 - Proactive regional and local leadership 4.1 - We are an engaged & connected community 4.1.2 - Enable broad, rich and meaningful engagement to occur	4.1.2.2 Conduct a review of the effectiveness of communication channels use throughout Gwydir Shire to the wider community. And identify improvements on how Gwydir Shire communicate events and happenings within the community	Responsible Officer: Media and Communications Officer Authorising Officer: Community Assets Manager	Community Assets
4 - Proactive regional and local leadership 4.1 - We are an engaged & connected community 4.1.3 - Build on our sense of community	4.1.3.2 Grow relationships with governments, the corporate sector, community organisations and volunteers to enhance the educational experience	Responsible Officer: Social Services Manager Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	Social Services
4 - Proactive regional and local leadership 4.2 - We work together to achieve our goals 4.2.1 - Build strong relationships and shared responsibilities	4.2.1.1 Review and manage programs and initiatives to connect with, and value other cultures	Responsible Officer: Community Assets Manager Authorising Officer: Maxwell Eastcott	Community Assets
4 - Proactive regional and local leadership 4.2 - We work together to achieve our goals 4.2.2 - Work in partnership to plan for the future	4.2.2.1 Attract, engage and train the next generation of experts in child development.	Responsible Officer: Social Services Manager Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	Social Services
4 - Proactive regional and local leadership 4.2 - We work together to achieve our goals 4.2.2 - Work in partnership to plan for the future	4.2.2.2 Create comprehensive and collaborative models of care and support services that drive successful, responsive and individualised outcomes for families	Responsible Officer: Social Services Manager Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	Social Services





ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT (GOVERNANCE)



The outcomes and strategies in this goal include:

5.1 Corporate Management

5.1.1 Financial management and accountability systems

5.1.2 Information management systems

5.1.3 Administrative and support functions

5.1.4 Workforce planning

5.1.5 Provide responsible internal governance

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.

Good corporate management is about having the right processes for making and implementing strategic decisions.



GOAL (CSP) / OUTCOME (CSP) / STRATEGY (DP)	Action	Responsibility	Business Unit
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.5 - Provide responsible internal governance	Proposed Action Strengthen performance management systems to support employee growth and accountability. DP workplace culture and leadership	Responsible Officer: Human Resources Officer Authorising Officer: Manager People and Strategy	People and Strategy
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.5 - Provide responsible internal governance	LCR Meet all of Councils Legislative Compliance & Reporting requirements as set by the Office of Local Government (OLG)	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	People and Strategy
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.5 - Provide responsible internal governance	Proposed Action 5.1.4. Conduct regular audit and compliance checks on systems, processes and procedures to identify and efficiencies, anomalies, process improvements and/or breaches DP systems and compliance	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	People and Strategy
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.4 - Workforce planning	Proposed Action 5.1.4. Nurture a workplace culture through consistent communication, inclusive practices, and employee engagement to foster a positive, productive and value-driven environment DP workplace culture and leadership	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	People and Strategy
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.4 - Workforce planning	Proposed Action Provide targeted and relevant leadership development training to supervisors and team leaders and management level and above. DP workplace culture and leadership	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	People and Strategy
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.4 - Workforce planning	Proposed Action 5.1.4. Foster a positive workplace culture with leadership development initiatives with a view to succession planning internally where possible. DP workplace culture and leadership	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	People and Strategy



GOAL (CSP) / OUTCOME (CSP) / STRATEGY (DP)	Action	Responsibility	Business Unit
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.4 - Workforce planning	Proposed Action 5.1.4. Explore options of flexible work environments to improve work-life balance and staff satisfaction where operational needs and service delivery can continue to be met DP Staff Recruitment and Retention	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	People and Strategy
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.5 - Provide responsible internal governance	Proposed Action 5.1.4. Provide greater health and wellbeing support, including Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs). DP Employee wellbeing programs and initiatives	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	People and Strategy
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.4 - Workforce planning	Proposed Action 5.1.4. Review and implement identified improvements to recruitment section of Council's website, position descriptions and onboarding systems to enhance the recruitment process DP Staff recruitment and retention	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	People and Strategy
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.4 - Workforce planning	Proposed Action 5.1.4. Enhance employee benefits and incentives offered by Council, discounted fitness memberships, etc. DP employee wellbeing programs and initiatives	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	People and Strategy
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.4 - Workforce planning	Proposed Action 5.1.4. Explore and implement targeted recruitment strategies to attract skilled professionals to rural areas DP Staff recruitment and retention	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	People and Strategy



GOAL (CSP) / OUTCOME (CSP) / STRATEGY (DP)	Action	Responsibility	Business Unit
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.4 - Workforce planning	Proposed Action 5.1.4. Conduct regular workforce capability assessments to identify skills gaps and training needs. DP Workforce planning and development	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	People and Strategy
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.4 - Workforce planning	Proposed Action 5.1.4. Develop and implement succession planning framework DP Workforce planning and development	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	People and Strategy
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.4 - Workforce planning	Proposed Action 5.1.4. Implement Council's Workforce management Strategy to ensure long-term staff retention and skills development. DP - Workforce planning and development	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	People and Strategy
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.5 - Provide responsible internal governance	Proposed Action 5.1.4. Review and Strengthen Human Resources and Payroll policies and procedures to ensure fairness, equity and compliance in line with NSW local government and National Employment Standards. DP systems and compliance	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	People and Strategy
5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.5 - Provide responsible internal governance	Proposed Action Establish a transparent reporting framwork that aligns with quarterly budget reviews, ensuring progress reports are published quarterly DP IP&R	Responsible Officer: Manager People and Strategy Authorising Officer: Organisation and Community Services Director	People and Strategy







SECTION 3 REVENUE AND CHARGING

Rates and charges are a major source of revenue for Gwydir Shire Council. The revenue is used to meet the costs of providing services to businesses and residents of the Shire. Several of the programs and initiatives included in Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan are funded by the rates and charges received by the Council.

Each year the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) determines the allowable annual increase in general income for NSW Councils. This is known as rate pegging.

IPART's rate peg takes into account the annual change in the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI), which measures the average costs faced by NSW councils, in addition to a population factor based on each council's population growth. IPART has set a 2025-2026 rate peg for each council, ranging from 3.7% to 7.6%.

Ordinary General Rate Structure and Strategy

General Rates are levied using a 'rate in the dollar' (ad valorem) amount applied to each property's Land Value in addition to a base amount payable for each property. The land value information for each property is supplied by the Valuer-General. In using a base rate amount, Council can reduce the spread between the higher and lower land values and distribute the cost more evenly





across the Shire. All properties in the Shire are categorised based upon the use of the land and determined as Residential, Business or Farmland.

Rates and charges are calculated as follows:

- Land Value x Relevant Ad Valorem = General Rate Amount Plus Base Amount
- Plus Services
- Less Pension Rebate (eligibility criteria apply)
- Equals Total Rates and Charges Levied

Pensioner Rebates

Rebates are available to eligible pensioners who are solely or jointly liable for the payment of rates and charges and who meet the criteria outlined by the Office of Local Government. These rebates are as follows:

- Ordinary rates and domestic waste management charge up to a \$250.00 maximum rebate.
- Up to a maximum of \$87.50 on water availability charges.
- Up to a maximum of \$87.50 on sewer availability charges.

Attachments

- 1. 2026 Donations
- 2. Statement of Revenue Policy

- 3. Rating Category Maps
- 4. 2026 Fees and Charges (Attachment)
- 5. 2026 Budget (Attachment)

Acknowledgements

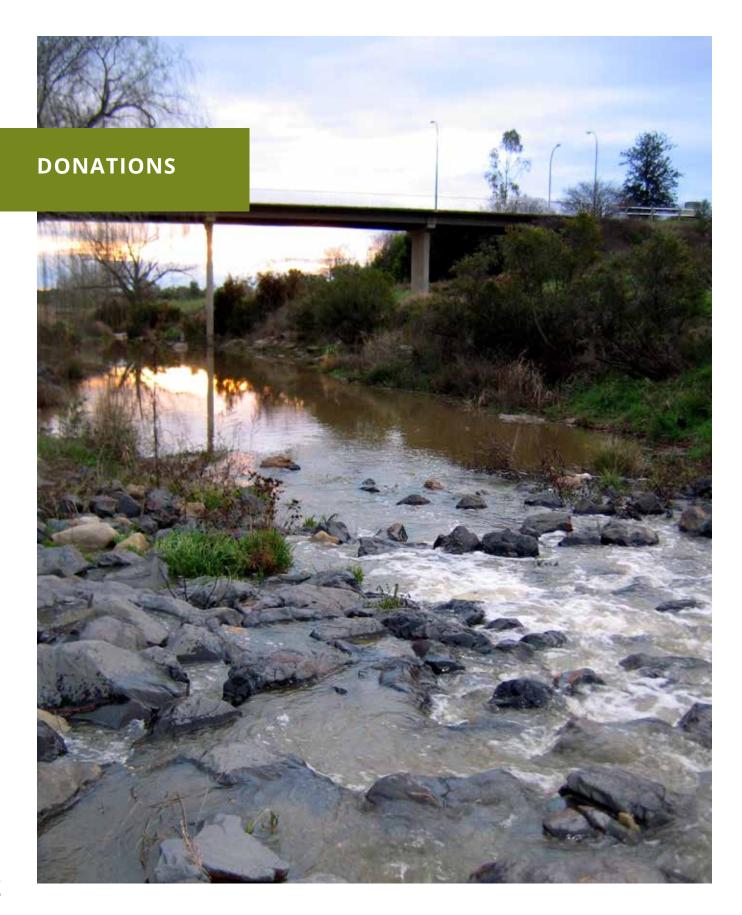
We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the development of the Operational Plan. This document should be read in conjunction with the Community Strategic Plan which belongs to the Gwydir community, and the Delivery Program. Without your dedication, interest and commitment to this planning process, the production of this Operational Plan would not have been possible. It is an exciting time to be living and working in Gwydir Shire Council.

Contact Details

We welcome feedback on the Gwydir Shire Council Operational Plan 2026. This feedback will be considered as part of our review process. Submissions should be made in writing to:

The General Manager Locked Bag 5. BINGARA NSW 2404 Email: mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au







Donations Summary					
	Donation		Source of funds		
Classification	Allocations	General Fund	Sewer Fund	Water Fund	Waste
Donations less than \$1,000	\$36,205	\$36,205			
Donations greater than \$1,000	\$54,000	\$54,000			
Foregone Income	\$68,740	\$10,929	\$14,219	\$21,281	\$22,311
Internal allocation	\$28,000	\$28,000			
Totals	\$186,945	\$129,134	\$14,219	\$21,281	\$22,311
In-Kind contributions allocated across other expenditure areas	\$45,250	\$45,250			

	Donations < \$1,000	
Organisation	Donation Type	Proposed Donation*
Upper Horton Rodeo and Campdraft	Annual sponsorship	\$500
Warialda Sports Council Awards	Annual sponsorship - when held	\$350
Bingara Sporting Club Awards	Annual sponsorship - when held	\$350
Warialda Wombats Rugby League Football Club	Annual sponsorship - when active	\$500
Bingara Bullets Rugby League Football Club	Annual sponsorship - when active	\$500
Bingara Missiles League Tag	Annual sponsorship - when active	\$325
Warialda Ladies League Tag	Annual sponsorship - when active	\$325
Warialda High School	Annual academic prizes	\$600
Bingara Central School	Annual academic prizes	\$1,000
Warialda Primary School	Annual academic prizes	\$600
St Josephs Primary School	Annual academic prizes	\$600
Gravesend Primary School	Annual academic prizes	\$600
North Star Primary School	Annual academic prizes	\$600
Croppa Creek Primary School	Annual academic prizes	\$600
Unallocated	Donations requests received during the year	\$28,755
	Totals	\$36,20



Donations > \$1,000		
Organisation	Donation Type	Proposed Donation Requested*
Barraba PA & H Association	Annual donation	\$2,000
Warialda P & A Association	Annual donation	\$2,000
Bingara Show Society	Annual donation	\$2,000
Bingara Orange Festival	Annual sponsorship	\$17,000
Warialda Honey Festival	Annual sponsorship	\$17,000
Bush Bursary NSW Doctors' Network	Annual sponsorship	\$5,000
Warialda Rotary	Australia Day Celebrations Warialda	\$2,000
Barwon Medical Scholarship	Annual sponsorship	\$5,000
Warialda Motor Sports Club	Warialda Off Road event - when held	\$2,000
	Totals	\$54,000

*Subject to events being held



FOREGONE IN	NCOME	
Organisation	Donation Type	Recommended donation
All junior and school sports plus community groups	Waiving of all hire fees	\$5,000
Anglican Church, North Star	Waiving water & waste charges	\$1,284
Bingara Bullets Rugby League Club (If participating)	Use of oval and training lights	\$800
Bingara Radiance Club	Rates and other charges subsidy	\$4,035
Catholic Church, Presbytery, St Joseph's Primary School and Convent	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$10,660
CWA North Star	Rates and other charges subsidy	\$1,991
CWA Warialda	Rates and other charges subsidy	\$2,621
Gravesend Showground	Waste charges	\$1,610
Gwydir Rugby Club (If participating)	Use of oval and training facilities	\$1,050
Presbyterian Church Warialda	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$2,092
Scots Presbyterian Church, Bingara	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$1,914
St Johns Anglican Church, Bingara	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$3,524
St Mary's Catholic Church, Bingara	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$5,036
St Simon and Jude's Anglican Church, Warialda	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$2,621
Uniting Church, Bingara	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$1,914
Unleash The Black Dog Ball (when held)	Waive hire fees of Roxy and kitchen	\$1,000
Bingara Central School	Partial waiving of water charges	\$5,000
Waiving Development Appln and other fees	For community group activities requiring a development application	\$3,000
Carinda House	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$2,621
Warialda P & A Association	Rates, water, sewerage and waste charges	\$9,552
Warialda Rail Recreation Reserve	Waste charges	\$1,413
Totals		\$68,738

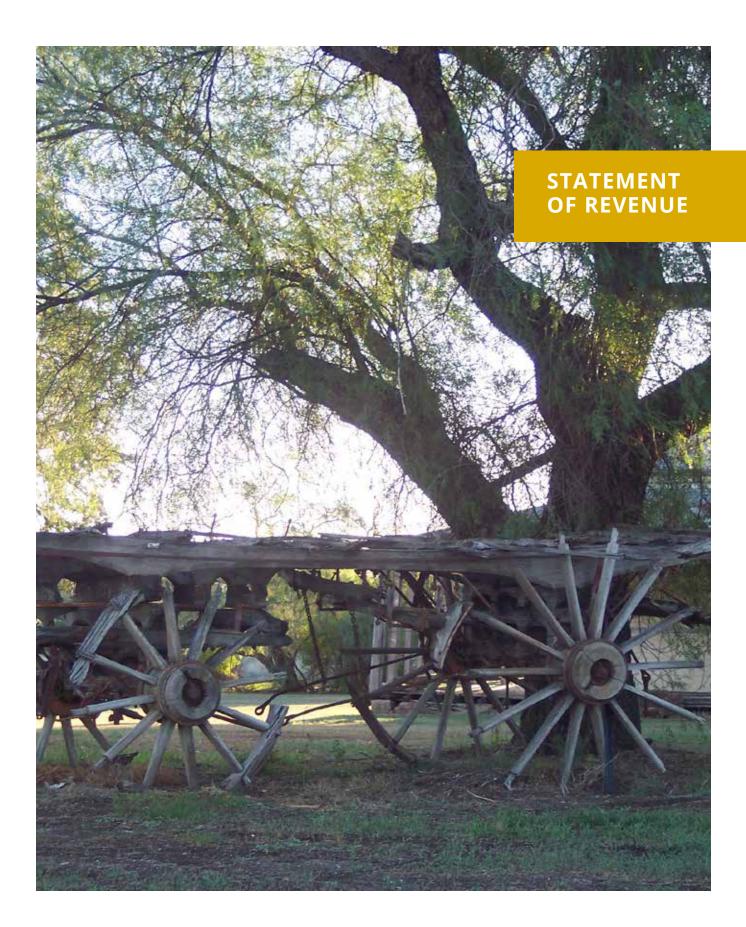


'Council Interrnal 'Donations'		
Organisation	Donation Type	Recommended Dona- tion*
Willoughby-Gwydir student exchange program	Annual allocation	\$10,000
Willoughby-Gwydir staff exchange	Annual allocation	\$10,000
Gwydir Learning Region's Country Education Foundation Committee	Annual allocation	\$5,000
Industry awards	Prizes and assistance during annual business award event	\$3,000
	Totals	\$28,000

^{*}Subject to events being held

IN KIND SUPPORT (Allocated from within maintenance budgets)			
Organisation	Donation Type	Recommended Allocation	
Bingara events unallocated	Support for community events	\$10,000	
Bingara Jockey Club	Preparation for annual race day	\$2,000	
Bingara RSL Club and Sub Branch	Upkeep of memorial gardens in Bingara	\$1,000	
Bingara Show Society	Maintenance of showground	\$3,000	
Carinda House Committee	Maintenance requests	\$1,000	
Myall Creek Memorial Committee	Ground maintenance for annual commemoration	\$7,000	
Warialda Apex Committee	Support during events	\$500	
Warialda Events unallocated	Support for community events	\$10,000	
Warialda Jockey Club	Preparation for annual race day	\$2,000	
Warialda Preschool	Building Maintenance	\$2,000	
Warialda P&A Association	Support during events	\$3,000	
Warialda Tennis Club	Ground maintenance	\$750	
Community Groups	Printing and photocopy	\$3,000	
	Totals	\$45,250	









STATEMENT OF REVENUE POLICY

Rates Statement

Strategy - Ordinary Rates

IPART has advised that the General Rates-Pegging limit for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 shall be 4.0%, with a calculated growth factor of 0.2%. This increase will be applied in full.

The revenue forecast provided in this policy is based on the notional income projections using Councils rating structure and revenue for the 2024/2025 year, Councils proposed rating structure and revenue for the 2025/2026 year with the 4.2% general increase, plus any catch-up from 2024/2025.

The model projects an increase in general rate revenue of \$388,682.66 which amounts to a total increase in general rates of 4.2%.





Rating Categories & Sub-Categories

The following is the structure of Council's General Ordinary Rates to be levied under section 494 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Туре	Category	Sub-Category	Comments
Ordinary	Farmland	Intensive	Eligibility determined in accordance with Local Government Act 1993 and As defined as 'Intensive Agriculture by the Gwydir Shire Council LEP 2013
Ordinary	Farmland	Nil	Eligibility determined in accordance with Local Government Act 1993
Ordinary	Business	Nil	All business properties within the Gwydir Shire Local Government area other than those defined as Warialda Business Urban, Bingara Business Urban or Business Special
Ordinary	Business	Business Warialda Urban	All business properties within the Warialda Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.
Ordinary	Business	Business Bingara Urban	All business properties within the Bingara Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.
Ordinary	Business	Business Special	All business properties within Gwydir Shire Local Government area currently undergoing a temporary operational hiatus.
Ordinary	Residential		All residential properties within the Gwydir Shire Area not in a Village as determined by the relevant LEP that do not exceed two (2) hectares.
Ordinary	Residential	Rural Residential	All residential properties within the Gwydir Shire Area not in a Village as determined by the relevant LEP that exceed two (2) hectares but are less than forty (40) hectares.
Ordinary	Residential	Residential Villages	All residential properties within the Gwydir Shire Area within a Village area other than Warialda Urban or Bingara Urban as determined by the relevant LEP.
Ordinary	Residential	Residential Warialda Urban	All residential properties within the Warialda Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.
Ordinary	Residential	Residential Bingara Urban	All residential properties within the Bingara Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.





Rating Categories & Sub-Categories

Categories are defined by Urban, Rural and Village as follows:

Urban Land:

Each parcel of land valued as one assessment whose dominant use is for urban purposes within the Bingara or Warialda Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.

Village Land:

Each parcel of land valued as one assessment whose dominant use is for urban purposes within a Village area other than the Bingara or Warialda Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.

Rural Land:

Each parcel of land valued as one assessment whose dominate use is for non-urban purposes that is not within any Village area as determined by the relevant LEP.

Maps showing the location of Rating categories and sub-categories are attached. See Appendix





Ordinary General Rate Structure & Strategy

The Local Government Act 1993 provides Councils with three alternative methods of levying rates:

- Solely Ad Valorem Rating (i.e. Cents in the dollar on land value).
- Minimum Rate plus Ad Valorem.
- Base Amount of up to 50% of the total yield from a category and applied to all rateable parcels within that category plus an Ad Valorem rate
 to raise the additional above the base.

Council will continue to levy ordinary rates using a structure comprising a base amount to which an ad valorem component is added. This option ensures higher valued properties contribute a higher amount.

The base amount will vary, depending on rating category/sub-category up to the maximum permissible of 50% of the total yield for each category/sub-category. All rateable properties within each category/sub-category, regardless of their land value, are levied a base amount. The balance of the ordinary rates is derived by multiplying the land value of a property by a rate in the dollar for the relevant category/sub-category, which is determined by Council.

All ordinary general rates for the 2025/2026 period shall be based on land valuations issued by the Valuer-General to individual rate payers with a base date of 1st July 2024. Generally, there has been an increase in land values to date.

The model used in preparation of the rating revenue is designed to distribute the general rates between the rating categories as follows:

Farmland 80.00% Residential 16.00% Business 4.00%





Notional Yield

Ordinary General Rates under section 494 of the Local Government Act 1993

Diff	Category	Sub-Category	# Prop	Ad Valorem	Cents In \$	Base Amount	Percentage of Revenue raised from Base Levy	Estimated Total Yield
10	Farmland	Intensive	2	0.0031394	0.31394	\$750	3.51%	\$42,719.68
1	Farmland	Ordinary	1150	0.0019188	0.19188	\$300	4.53%	\$7,612,658.02
4	Business	Ordinary	72	0.0385925	3.85925	\$300	15.51%	\$139,272.83
8	Business	Business Bingara Urban	54	0.0327260	3.27260	\$300	11.32%	\$143,147.53
3	Business	Business Warialda Urban	67	0.0380014	3.80014	\$300	20.69%	\$97,153.82
11	Business	Business Special	1	0.0023534	0.23534.	\$300	9.39%	\$3,194.70
6	Residential	Rural Residential S/H	196	0.0068419	0.68419	\$225	20.10%	\$219,392.49
5	Residential	Residential Village	262	0.0496545	4.96545	\$150	18.64%	\$210,879.04
9	Residential	Ordinary-Rural Res	55	0.0130942	1.30942	\$150	29.26%	\$28,195.24
7	Residential	Bingara Residential Urban	703	0.0101475	1.01475	\$225	22.27%	\$710,253.40
2	Residential	Warialda Residential Urban	552	0.0152568	1.52568	\$225	34.28%	\$362,355.37
			3,114					\$9,569,222.12

Estimated General Ordinary Rate Income \$9,569,222.12 - Less Pension Rebates (Council 45%) -\$37,118.40 giving Net General Rates Income of \$9,532,103.72 All rates are to be levied on land valuations with a base date of 1st July 2024





Payment of Rates

Ratepayers may pay their rates in four (4) instalments being 31 August, 30 November, 28 February, and 31 May. Council is obliged to forward reminder notices one month in advance. Interest is chargeable on each instalment not paid by the due date.

The maximum applicable interest rate is set each year by the Minister for Local Government and Council may adopt that rate or a lower rate.

Extra Charges or Interest on Overdue Rates

In accordance with Section 566 (3) of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council must determine a rate of interest charge, not in excess of that determined by the Minister.

The interest rate for the year 2025/2026 to be advised for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 (inclusive).

Conservation Agreement Rate Exemption

As stated through the provisions of Section 555 (1) (b1) and (3) of the Local Government Act 1993 the land subject to a Conservation Agreement is exempt from rates. The Act States "Section 555 What land is exempt from all rates?"

(1.b.) Subject to subsection (3), land that is subject of a conservation agreement (within the meaning of the <u>National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974)</u>.
(3) If part of a single parcel of land is the subject of a conservation agreement within the meaning of the <u>National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974</u> (as referred to in subsection (1) (b1), any rate levied on that whole parcel (for any period after 1 July 2008) is to be reduced by the percentage stated in the Act.

The Conservation Agreement amount to be written off for the year 2025/2026 for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 (inclusive) is \$4,802.54.





Statement of fees and charges to apply to rateable and non-rateable properties

Water and Sewerage Pricing

Council's water and sewerage utilities are required to conform to best practice water and sewerage pricing (pay for use). Such pricing is required to comply with the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) Pricing Principles for Local Water Authorities, the COAG Strategic Framework for Water Reform and National Competition Policy.

Best practice water supply pricing involves a cost-reflective two-part tariff or an inclining block tariff with no water allowance, no land value-based charges, an appropriate access charge and water usage charges per kilolitre.

Appropriate pricing is essential to provide relevant pricing signals to customers, enabling them to make informed decisions on their water use. This will encourage each customer to use water efficiently and minimise wastage of our valuable water resources and associated infrastructure.

Water Charges - Strategy

Council has adopted best practice water pricing with a common structure across the entire Shire. The pricing structure has been reviewed and a similar structure adopted for 2025/2026.

The two-part pricing regime includes an access availability charge of \$580.00 for standard connections and an inclining block tariff. In 2025/2026 the water usage charge will be charged quarterly as part of the quarterly water usage billing program. The inclining usage tariff is made up of two (2) tiers being:

- 1. \$1.85 per kilolitre for the first step of 600 kilolitres per assessment.
- 2. And a higher block tariff of \$2.60 per kilolitre for usage over 600 kilolitres per assessment.





Water Charges - Strategy

A water access availability charge applies to all parcels of land to which a service is available and connectable.

The water pricing strategy is designed to gain 50% of the water revenue from access charges and 50% from usage charges.

Properties with larger water services pay a higher access charge proportional to the square of the meter size.

Sewer Charges - Strategy

Sewerage services as with water supplies have moved to best practice pricing.

Residential sewerage bills are to be independent of land value and based on a cost-reflective uniform sewerage charge per property of \$750.00 per connectable property.

Non-Residential sewerage bills are to be independent of land value and based on a cost-reflective two-part tariff consisting of an access charge – (\$650.00 based on 20mm water connection) and an appropriate sewer usage charge per kilolitre of water consumption (\$2.75/KL). This charge is then multiplied by the individual properties sewer discharge factor as determined by Council using industry standards.

The sewer access charge must also be proportional to the square of the size of the water supply service connection to reflect the load that can be placed on the sewerage system plus a usage charge based on discharge volume. The volume discharged into the sewer is estimated using the costumer's total water consumption and a sewerage discharge factor.





Water & Sewer Charges - Sections 501 & 502 of the Local Government Act 1993

Description	Annual Charge	Services Charged	Total Annual Income	Total Income
	\$580.00	1617	\$937,860.00	
20mm Water Meter Service	****		. ,	
25mm Water Meter Service	\$906.25	38	\$34,437.50	
32mm Water Meter Service	\$1,484.80	2	\$2,969.60	
40mm Water Meter Service	\$2,320.00	4	\$9,280.00	
50mm Water Meter Service	\$3,625.00	20	\$72,500.00	
Less Pension Rebate Expense Water (Council 45%)			-\$18,061.00	
TOTAL Annual Water Access Income			\$1,038,986.10	\$1,038,986.10
Annual Water Usage @ \$1.85/KL (Est)	\$1.85	400,000	\$740,000.00	
Annual Water Usage @ \$2.60/KL >600KL (Est)	\$2.60	150,000	\$390,000.00	
TOTAL Annual Water Usage Charges (Est)			\$1,130,000.00	\$1,130,000.00
Total Water Income				\$2,167,882.10
Sewer Charge Residential (20mm)	\$750.00	1149	\$861,750.00	
Pressure Sewer Residential	\$750.00	87	\$65,250.00	
Sewer Charge Non-Residential (20mm)	\$650.00	138	\$89,700.00	
Sewer Charge Non-Residential (25mm)	\$1,015.63	22	\$22,343.75	
Sewer Charge Non-Residential (32mm)	\$1,664.00	2	\$3,328.00	
Sewer Charge Non-Residential (40mm)	\$2,600.00	4	\$10,400.00	
Sewer Charge Non-Residential (50mm)	\$4,062.50	11	\$44,687.50	
Less Pension Rebate Expense Sewerage (Council 45%)			-\$16,525.57	
TOTAL Annual Sewer Charges			\$1,080,933.68	\$1,080,933.68
Sewer Non-Residential Usage Charge At \$2.75/KI	\$2.75	21,226	\$58,371.50	\$58,371.50
Warialda Truck Wash usage charge \$1.50/minute – estimate				\$100,000.00
Total Sewer Income				\$1,239,305.18





Liquid Trade Waste Charges

Gwydir Shire Council is committed to complying with the Department of Primary Industries and Environment (DPIE) guidelines for the best practice management of water supplies and sewerage services to be eligible for financial assistance towards future Capital works.

For the 2025/2026 financial period council will be charging a liquid trade Waste Charge as part of the sewerage pricing structure for commercial businesses.

Liquid trade wastes exert much greater demands on sewerage systems than domestic sewerage and if uncontrolled can pose serious problems to public health, worker safety, Councils sewerage system and the environment. Liquid trade waste pricing ensures that the discharges bear a fair share of the cost of providing sewerage services and to facilitate appropriate recycling, pre-treatment, waste minimisation and water conservation.

For charging purposes liquid trade waste dischargers are divided into three categories.

- 1. Liquid trade waste dischargers conducting as activity deemed by Council as requiring nil or only minimal pre-treatment equipment and whose effluent is well defined and of relatively low risk to the sewerage system. For example retail food outlets with no hot food prepared and or foods that generate an oily/greasy waste.
- 2. Liquid trade waste dischargers conducting as activity deemed by Council as requiring a prescribed type of liquid trade waste pre-treatment equipment and whose effluent is well characterised. For example Premises that prepare and or serve hot foods that generate an oily/ greasy waste.
- 3. Liquid trade waste dischargers conducting an activity which is of an industrial nature and/or which result in discharges of large volumes (over 20kL/d) of liquid trade waste to the sewerage system.





Liquid Trade Waste Charges

Schedule of Annual & Usage Fees - Liquid Waste

Description	# Prop	Services Charged	Estimated Income
Annual Charges			
Annual trade waste Fee (minimum)	82	\$ 125.00	\$ 10,250.00
Annual trade waste Fee (Large discharger)		\$ 450.00	
Reinspection fee		\$ 72.00	
Usage Charges			
with prescribed pre-treatment		\$ 1.75KI	
without prescribed pre-treatment		\$ 15.50/KI	
Tankered Waste		\$ 25.00/KI	

These fees are to be charged on top of existing non-residential sewerage charges.





Waste Management Charges Statement

Council must make and levy a charge for domestic waste management services for each parcel of rateable land for which the service is available under Section 496 of the Local Government Act, 1993. The levied charge must fully cover the cost of providing the service. The urban areas of Bingara, Warialda, Gravesend, North Star, Croppa Creek and Warialda Rail and small rural "lifestyle/rural residential" blocks receive a kerb-side garbage service. This charge is separately itemised on each rate notice.

The charge is added to standard Council rates and is set aside for the specific purpose of the management of waste collections & disposal facilities within the Local Government area. The charge will allow Council to provide additional resources and meet the requirements of waste disposal and environmental legislation and community expectations.

Previously this was undertaken on Councils Waste Disposal Facilities on a reactionary basis in response to community concerns. As a result of increased pressures from regulatory agencies and ongoing community concerns and the scale of the works required to meet these standards, it has become necessary for council to initiate the provision of a waste disposal management program to control waste disposal and environmental protection measures.

The funds collected will only be spent for works at Council's Waste Disposal facilities and related recycling programs, including:

- Land Rehabilitation
- Improved Environmental Monitoring
- Improved waste disposal techniques
- Recycling
- Chemical disposal
- Site Security





The charge is levied in respect of each separate parcel of rateable land in the Council area. The charge applies whether the service is used in whole or in part. The service is provided on the following basis:

Domestic Waste Service and Disposal Charge

A single weekly waste collection service using 1 approved container with a capacity 140-litre for general waste. A single fortnightly green waste collection service using 1 approved container with a capacity 240-litre for green and putrescible waste and a single fortnightly recyclable waste collection service using 1 approved container with a capacity 360-litre for recyclable material.

New premises completed during the year will be charged based on the complete month to the end of the year as a proportion of the annual charge.

In accordance with Section 496 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council must levy a domestic waste management charge on all occupied rateable properties. This charge reflects the fixed cost component of having the weekly waste collection service accessible to the property. The charge for 2025/2026 is as follows:

Domestic Waste Collection Charge	Number of Services	Charge	Yield
Domestic Residential Collections (140)	1403	\$ 428.24	\$ 600,822.12
Wheelie Bin Upgraded (240) / Additional (140)	58	\$ 175.77	\$ 10,194.60
Domestic Residential – Vacant	173	\$ 87.91	\$ 15,207.63
Less Pension Rebate Expense Waste (45% Council)			-\$ 14887.66
Total Domestic Waste Management Charges			\$ 611,336.70





Commercial Waste Disposal

Council shall levy an annual charge under Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993 on commercial premises for waste removal and disposal where the owner or occupier has access to that service. The service will be for the removal of one or more garbage containers (wheelie bins) of 240-litre capacity. The service level charge is based on the number of bins available for collection from the premises for which the charge is applicable. The charges for 2025/2026 are as follows:

Commercial Waste Disposal Charge	Number of Services	Charge	Yield
Commercial Waste Disposal – Minor	69	\$ 703.29	\$ 48,527.01
Commercial Waste Disposal – Small	45	\$ 1,406.57	\$ 63,295.65
Commercial Waste Disposal - Medium	14	\$ 2,814.08	\$ 39,397.12
Commercial Waste Disposal – Large	6	\$ 4,710.86	\$ 28,265.16
Total Commercial Waste Management		\$ 170,409.60	





Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal

In accordance with section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993, a waste management service charge will be levied on all non-rateable land electing to utilise Council's waste collection and disposal service. The charge for 2025/2026 is as follows:

Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal Charge	Number of Services	Charge	Yield	ı
Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal – Minor	27	\$ 703.29	\$	18,988.70
Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal – Small	12	\$ 1,406.57	\$	16,878.84
Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal – Medium	4	\$ 2,814.08	\$	11,256.32
Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal – Large	9	\$ 4,710.86	\$	42,397.74
Total Non-Rateable Land Waste Management			\$	89,521.60





Waste Disposal Management

In accordance with Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council must levy a waste management disposal charge on all land and in respect of vacant land which are in the catchment for each of Council's waste disposal facilities. These are defined by maps. See appendix. The charge for 2025/2026 is as follows:

Waste Management Charge	Number	Charge	Yiel	d
Properties	3180	\$ 831,442.80	\$	831,442.80
Less Pension Rebate Expense Waste (45% Council)		-\$	11,636.60	
Total Waste Disposal Charge			\$	819,806.20





Storm Water Charges Statement

In accordance with Section 496A of the Local Government Act, 1993 and clauses 125A, 125AA, 200A and 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Council may make or levy an annual charge for stormwater management services only in respect of urban land that is categorised for rating purposes as residential or business. The urban areas, to which this charge will apply for 2024/2025 (Warialda & Bingara), are defined by maps. (See appendix). The charge for 2025/2026 is as follows:

Storm Water Charge	Number of Services	Charge	Estimated Yield
Residential Properties	1,317	\$25.00 per parcel of land	\$32,925.00
Business Properties	286	\$25.00 per parcel of land plus and additional \$25.00 for each 350sqm or part of 350sqm by which the parcels exceed 350sqm (Estimate based on average of three (3) charges per parcel	\$7,150.00
Total Estimated Storm Water Yield	1,603		\$40,075.00





Statement of fees to be charged and pricing policy of goods and services

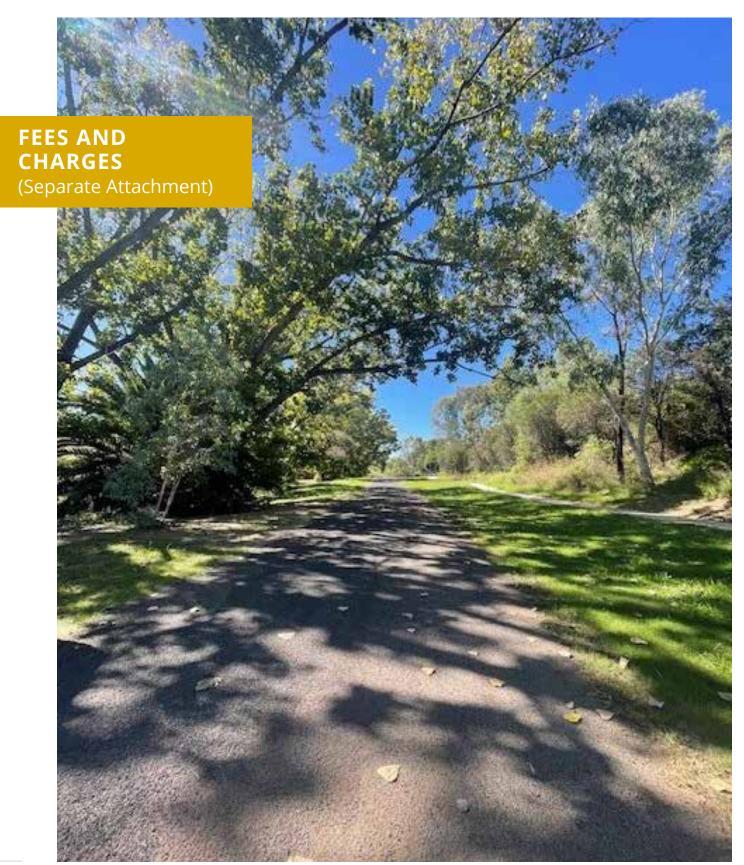
Council fees for the 2025/2026 financial year are listed in the Schedule of Fees and Charges as part of Councils Management Plan.

In determining the appropriate fees to be charged for Council services and facilities in 2025/2026, the basic principle applied, is that charges should be considered fair and equitable to the general community. Individual members of the community should not be precluded from essential services because of economic circumstances.

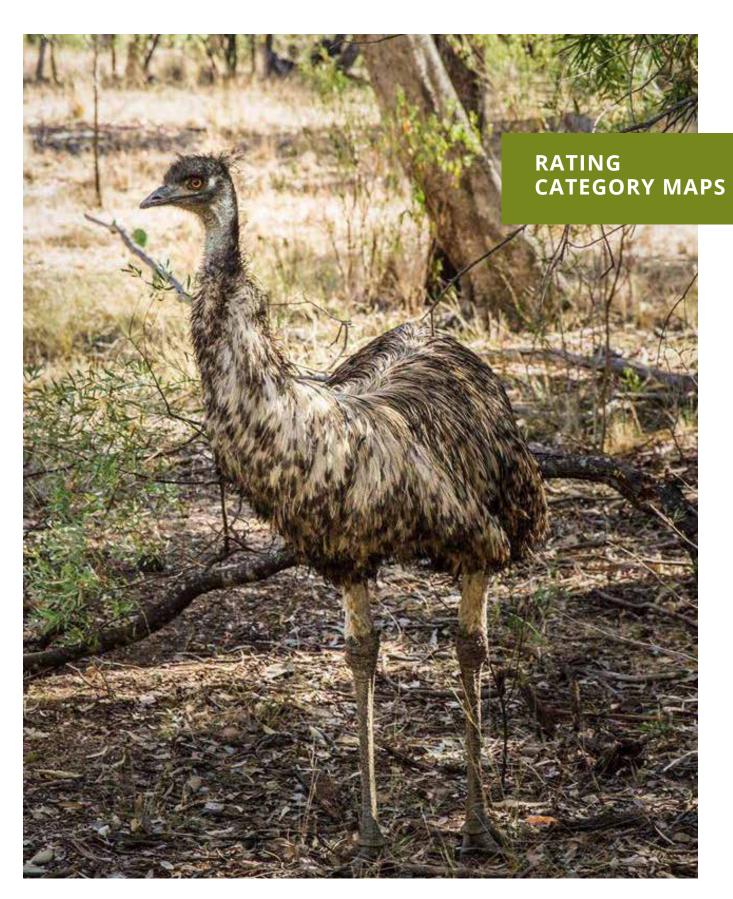
The range of services provided by Council to the community is diverse and requires different considerations when determining the associated fee or charge. The level of the fee or charge was determined having regard to the following categories.

Code	Pricing Category
s	Statutory - Federal or State Government set charges.
FCR	Full Cost Recoverable - Services under this category are such that individual costs can be determined and met by the user of the service.
PCR	Partially Cost Recoverable - Services considered having a level of benefit to the community. Generally, benefits are not solely confined to users. Partially funded by general revenues.
М	Market - Services that Council operates in a competitive market and needs to fix charges like other providers. Calculations may be benchmarked against industry averages

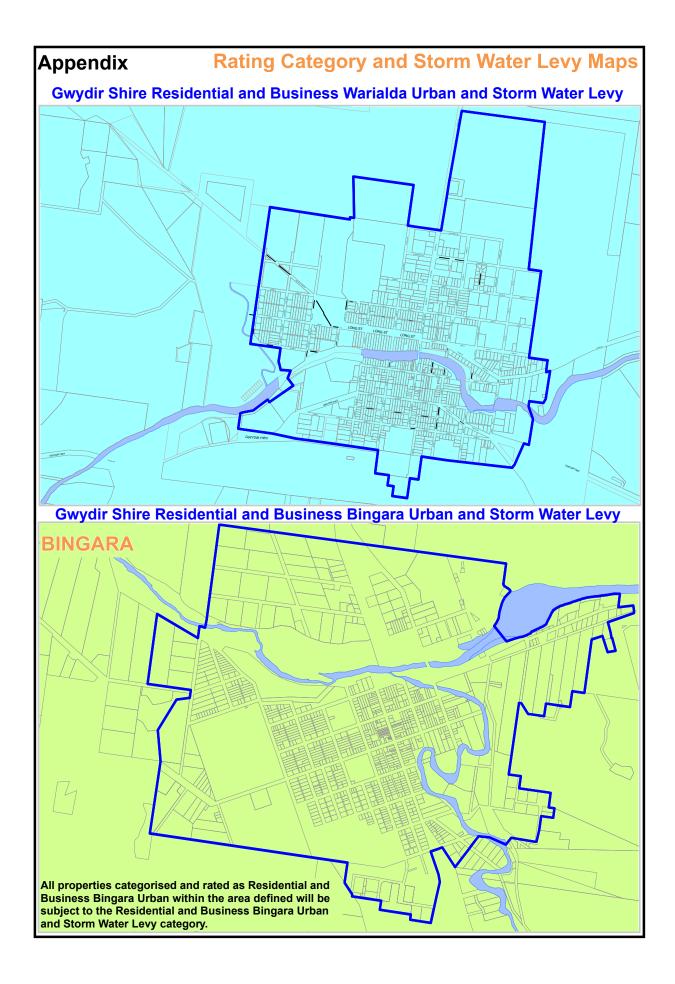




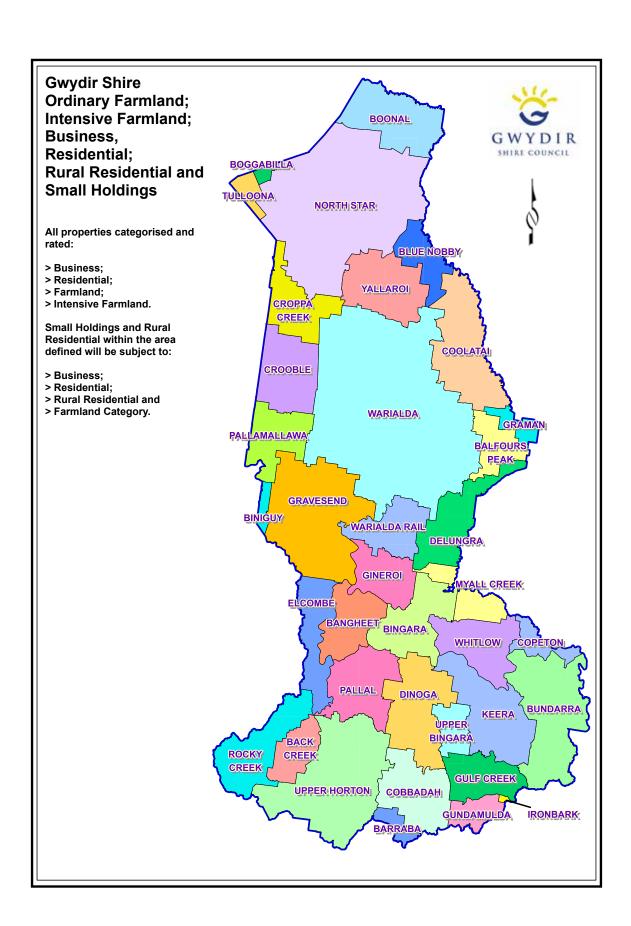














Gwydir Shire Residential Village and Business North Star and Gravesend

NORTH STAR

All properties categorised and rated as Residential Village and Business North Star within the area defined will be subject to the Residential Village and **Business North Star Category.**



GRAVESENDAll properties categorised and rated as Residential Village and Business Gravesend within the area defined will be subject to the Residential Village and Business Gravesend Category.

