Welcome

Bega Valley Shire Council is proud to present our Annual Report for 2017-18. The Annual Report is a key point of accountability between Council and its community. It reports on progress made against the Council’s 2017-2018 commitments in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, and describes how Council is supporting achievement of the Community Strategic Plan.

The report presents performance measure results for Council services, and summarises annual achievements across the key outcome areas.

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1993 the Annual Report also includes required statutory information, and provides an overview of the Council’s financial position.

More detailed information on the financial performance of the Council during 2017-2018 can be found in the Annual Financial Statements, a companion document to this report, which will be released early in 2019.

Our Aboriginal Custodians

The Bega Valley Shire Council acknowledges that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants, custodians and native titleholders of all land and water in the Shire.

We recognise Aboriginal spiritual, social and cultural connections to these lands and waters and state our commitment to ensuring that Aboriginal rights, as enshrined in legislation, are upheld and not eroded.

Our Community Vision

By working together, the Bega Valley Shire community integrates quality of life, enterprising business, sustainable development and conservation of the environment.

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OUR COMMUNITY

We are … the Bega Valley

There are over 33,000 people that call the Bega Valley home. We have grown at a rate faster than predicted, and will grow by a further 5,500 (14%) over the next 20 years.

We are older in age than average, but we have high levels of independence, with more of us fully owning our own homes, and one in four of us actively volunteering.

Less than a third of us are families with children. Currently fewer of us have Bachelor level education than average, but more of us are completing year 12 and attending university than ever before.

Around half of us work, predominantly in farming, manufacturing, health and social services, retail and tourism, and a significant proportion of us are retired.

While we enjoy lower rent and mortgage costs than average, our lower than average weekly income means affordability is just as important to us as our city counterparts.

Volunteers in our Community

Council recognises and values the substantial and ongoing contribution of volunteers in the life of our community. The people of the Bega Valley have a proud history of volunteering and willingness to pitch in and help make the Shire a great place to live. Volunteering helps maintain a strong community, makes us more cohesive and improves our social well-being.

Here at Council there are over 350 volunteers engaged across a broad range of program areas. These volunteers generously provide their time, share their experience and their knowledge, and without them Council simply could not maintain the same level of services and facilities.

Council has a range of volunteering opportunities that suit most people. As a volunteer with Council you will be a part of a team that plans and delivers services and programs across the Shire.

Our Community by numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income and Expenditure</th>
<th>Bega Valley</th>
<th>NSW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median weekly household income</td>
<td>$987</td>
<td>$1,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median weekly mortgage repayments</td>
<td>$312</td>
<td>$456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median weekly rent</td>
<td>$256</td>
<td>$384</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>%</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed university qualification</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed advanced diploma or diploma</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed a trade qualification (certificate)</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed year 12</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending university</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending TAFE</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>%</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workforce participation rate</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total employment</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full time work</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part time work</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forecast Population Change</th>
<th>% 2016</th>
<th>% 2036</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 0 to 17</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 18 to 34</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 35 to 59</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 60 plus</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All figures based on 2016 Census data compiled by .id the population experts: profile.id.com.au/bega-valley

Become a volunteer, it is a great way to make a difference and support your local community.
Our Traditional Custodians

The Traditional Custodians of the Shire are the communities of the Yuin-Monaro Nations. From ancient times they have been the inhabitants and custodians of the land, sea and waterways. The cultural geography of the south coast is in the following terms, reverting to the coastal clans are the Murring, or especially the Yuin clans. These claimed responsibility of country from Cape Howe to the Shoalhaven River in NSW. They formed two large sub-groups or sub divisions, called respectively Guyangal and Kurial, from the words guya, south and kuru, north, gal being the possessive postfix. The inland extent of their country included the fall from the coast range to the sea.

Evidence is limited but the tabulation of marriages makes it quite clear that the far south coast formed a distinct region marked by the intensity of intermarriage while demonstrated that there were, nevertheless, links with Gippsland and the Monaro prior to colonisation as would be expected, since few if any groups lived completely isolated from their neighbours.

The Tadjera-Munji-Djiringanj (from Cape Dromedary south to beyond Bega, inland to the sharp scarp of the Dividing Range east of Nimmitabel), Thaua (north of Merimbula south to Green Cape and west to the scarp of the Dividing Range), Bidawahl (just south of Green Cape) and Nulliker (Twofold Bay), Monaroo (on the escarpment country) groups comprised the Yuin-Monaro Nations in the area now known as the Bega Valley Shire. This was the case for many thousands of years.

The groups of the Yuin communities living in coastal areas are known as Katungal (from the work Katung) sea coast people and the Baianbal or Paienbara (the tomahawk people) those who lived in the forests. A third group, the Bemerigal or mountain people at Cooma belonged to the Ngarigo people.

Sites throughout the Shire demonstrate occupation by these rich cultures to be in excess of 7,000+ years. These people nurtured and organised an active culture many thousands of years older than the creators of the great pyramids of Giza or the medieval monuments of Stonehenge. Some of the oldest physical records of human occupation and activity to be found anywhere in the world are located here in the Bega Valley Shire.
This is the … Bega Valley

The Bega Valley Shire is located at the south-eastern corner of New South Wales, half way between Australia’s two largest cities, Sydney and Melbourne and three hours drive from the nation’s capital, Canberra.

Our coastal fringe extends from Wallaga Lake in the north to Cape Howe and the Victorian border in the south. Collectively this 225-kilometre section forms the beautiful Sapphire Coast, the heart of Australia’s Coastal Wilderness.

The Shire’s combination of natural beauty, temperate climate and its range of towns, villages and recreational opportunities and commercial enterprises has attracted visitors and new residents for many years.

The Bega Valley Shire has a growing economy, with over $1.5 billion annual Gross Regional Product, over $645 million in exports each year and nearly 3,000 local businesses.

Our main industries are farming, commercial fishing, and tourism along much of the coast. The key industrial precincts are in North Bega, Eden and South Pambula and main retail areas in the town centres of Bega, Eden and Merimbula.

We are a regional centre for schools and higher education institutions. There are currently 18 primary and four high schools which include a mixture of private and public facilities. The University of Wollongong operates a campus in Bega. In addition, vocational courses and trade skills are offered by the Bega TAFE Illawarra campus.

Our long stretches of coastline are a tourism draw card. On average 880,000 people visit the Bega Valley Shire spending around $400 million each year.

Bega Valley Shire Council manages over $1.45 billion in critical assets that allow visitors and community alike to live, work and play in this beautiful part of the world.
Message from our Mayor

Having served my first term as Mayor, I am excited to be re-elected for another term! I am looking forward to what the next two years holds for the Bega Valley Shire and my role within it, supporting the development of our prosperous and progressive community.

The reality is that if you live in the Bega Valley Shire you cannot help being affected in one way or another by the operations of Bega Valley Shire Council. Every time you turn on a tap, visit a park or drive on our roads you’re being impacted by the work Bega Valley Shire Council does in this community.

We have continued our focus on asset management to ensure we are maintaining current assets and we have undertaken major reviews of assets across all areas to best prepare for our future.

Council staff, Emergency Services and our community were united and stood as one immense force in response to the Tathra and District Fire Emergency that took place on Sunday 18 March. The strength and support for our community during this time has been significant, unwavering and overwhelming.

As part of council’s ongoing support for the Tathra and District recovery, a Mayoral Appeal Fund was established. To date $1,557,141 has been raised and distributed to impacted residents via an independent committee, of which I am Chair.

A continued commitment to communication and community engagement has seen ‘Councillors in the Community’ sessions implemented in our smaller towns and villages. These sessions have not only derived great ideas and feedback but also empowered valuable connections within the community.

As Councillors, we live and work alongside you and your families. We are approachable and committed to listening to our community to implement new ideas. Accepting that sometimes change is met with mixed reviews and further consideration may be required.

Thank you to my fellow Councillors and our dedicated Council staff for their assistance during the 2017/18 financial year. As Mayor I am justifiably proud of our achievements over the past year and look forward to an even brighter year ahead.

Cr Kristy McBain, Mayor
Bega Valley Shire Council
Council meetings

Everyone is invited to attend meetings!

The agenda for meetings is available from 5pm on the Thursday prior. The agenda is available from Council’s website and a hard copy is made available at the Bega Administration reception desk and in the Council Chambers on the day of the meeting.

Extraordinary Meetings are held from time to time to attend to urgent matters which require the decision of the full Council, these meeting are advertised in the local papers.

Council meetings are lived streamed and can be viewed from Council’s website.

How Council operates

Council is the third level of government and is directly accountable to the local community.

The Local Government Act 1993 provides Council with the framework and powers to provide community services and facilities.

Message from our General Manager

The past twelve months have been seen considerable ups and downs for the community. Our organisation along with our community has been (and continues to be) impacted by bushfire and the generosity, resilience and community spirit through this has been amazing and humbling.

Council continues to invest significant resources into community engagement and consultation to gather opinions, perspectives and build valuable connections with our residents and ratepayers.

This enables the organisation to set the direction of the Shire and importantly, address the priorities for Council’s work over the coming years. We are passionate about making your place, our place, a great place to live.

An important measure of our performance as a Council is our ability to achieve the outcomes, goals and strategies identified in Council’s four year Integrated Plan. This is the highest level plan for the Valley, shaped by the community, which sets the vision, priorities and framework for a more sustainable, successful and resilient future. I am pleased to report significant achievements across the organisation.

We have completed the Merimbula CBD Bypass, various upgrades to bridges, drains and pavement stabilisations on Towamba Road, Myrtle Mountain, Candelo-Wolumla Road, Murrabrine Bridge and Government Road, completion of stage 1 of the North Bega Sewer Network Project.

Council’s investment in advocating for and supporting works at the Eden Port is continuing.

The wharf extension and safe harbour upgrade are on track with an expected completion date of early 2019. Works on upgrades at the Merimbula Regional Airport are also progressing.

A large number of community based projects and programs were delivered through the Regional Gallery, Shire libraries, our children’s services teams, our waste facilities, our sportsgrounds, pools and beaches; services that, I am proud to say, have continued to exceed expectations.

Council was successful in a significant number of grant applications during 2017/18. These have contributed to achieve many exciting outcomes.

In the wake of the Tathra and District Fire Emergency, our community have steadfastly rallied together providing an enormous wave of strength and support for impacted residents.

It is truly humbling to see the community spirit that erupted within the Bega Valley following the Tathra and District Fire.

Council is proud of the achievements in 2017/2018 outlined in this report. We sincerely thank the community, Councillors, staff and other agencies who have worked with us to improve the wellbeing of our community and our environment.

As Council moves into the 2018/19 year as a dynamic organisation, we are committed to delivering for our community. We look forward to improving services and working with you so that we can continue taking action to build a successful and sustainable future for the Bega Valley Shire.

Leanne Barnes, General Manager
Bega Valley Shire Council
What we do:

Provide and maintain community facilities such as:
- Parks and sportsgrounds
- Playgrounds and skate parks
- Sapphire Aquatic Centre and swimming pools throughout the Shire
- Sports and recreation facilities throughout the Shire
- Local libraries in Bega, Bermagui, Eden and Merimbula
- Preschools and Childcare centres in Bega and Eden, and our Mobile service for Candelo and Bemboka
- Merimbula Airport, Bega Saleyards and cemeteries throughout the Shire

We care for the environment by:
- Managing and enhancing bushland areas
- Providing environmental and waste education and recycling services
- Responding to pollution incidents and prosecuting polluters
- Monitoring the water quality of the Shire’s estuaries
- Planting trees and controlling noxious weeds
- Beneficially recycling and reusing treated effluent

We create a safer place to live by:
- Maintaining and improving roads, footpaths and stormwater drains
- Working with emergency organisations such as the Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service, NSW Police and NSW Surf Life Saving
- Managing the keeping of companion animals
- Inspecting food premises
- Treating and supplying drinking water to our community
- Treating sewage to a high standard to protect human health

We enhance our community by:
- Listening to community views
- Holding citizenship ceremonies and Australia Day Celebrations
- Offering services for seniors, young people, new migrants and people with a disability
- Providing grants to community organisations
- Supporting local community groups such as sporting clubs, arts, migrant groups and charities
- Encouraging and promoting volunteering in our communities

We plan for the future by:
- Planning and managing the urban environment
- Preserving heritage sites
- Consulting with the community about its needs
- Developing long term strategic plans for Council and the Shire
OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

A snapshot of the 2017/18 financial year and our events, awards and grants received.

Significant events

July 2017

- Launch of the South East and Tablelands Regional Plan to promote opportunities and growth.
- Community Environment Grants totalling $50,000 funded fourteen projects designed to restore and protect our local environment.
- Bega Valley Waste and Recycling Facebook page launched.
- Council joined the Cities Power Partnership working towards a clean energy future.
- Bega’s Kisses Lagoon restoration completed.

August 2017

- Lifelines: Celebrating Family and Local History Expo held by the library service in partnership with South East History Group Inc.
- $122,000 grant received from NSW Government to assist flood management.
- Mumbulla Foundation partnership extended to June 2021.
- Council votes yes to Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO).
- Council assumes management of the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre.
- Coastal weeds project celebrates 10 year milestone with hugely improved beachscapes.
- Heritage Near Me week long celebration held in conjunction with NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

September 2017

- Merimbula CBD Bypass opened.
- Development of Flying Fox Camp Management Plan.
- Improvement to Wallaga Lake Road and Cobargo-Bermagui Road intersection.

October 2017

- Hydrographic Survey for Eden’s Lake Curalo begins.
- Australia’s only youth portrait prize, ‘The Shirt’ 2017 winner announced as Samantha Sommariva AKA Misklectic.
- ‘Back in the Day’ exhibition of Wallaga Lake community photographs is launched.

November 2017

- The highly successful Tura-based Intergenerational Playroom branches out into Bega.
- Concept design and Environmental Impact Statement for the Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade and Deep Water Ocean Outfall begins.
- Tathra to Kalaru Bike Track project enters planning phase.
- The Access All Areas Film Festival held in Bega to celebrate the International Day of People with a Disability.

December 2017

- Marine Hydrographic Survey in the waters of Merimbula Bay begins as part of the planning for the Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade.
- Joe McKenzie’s ‘Spirit Dance’ announced as the inaugural winner of the Bega Valley Mural Prize and later painted on the Bermagui water tower.

January 2018

- Heritage lamps installed in Bega Park.
- Australia Day celebrations showcase community achievers amid family fun.

February 2018

- Bega Valley Regional Gallery’s first artist in residence, Julian Meagher, opens his Inlet Outlet exhibition.

March 2018

- Launch of the Future Towns project.
- NSW Government announces access to disaster funding to help with the clean-up of homes destroyed by the Tathra and District Fire.

April 2018

- Councillors in the Community sessions begins.
- Sibling Architecture selected to design the upgrade to the Bega Valley Regional Gallery.

May 2018

- The Tathra and District Bushfire Mayoral Appeal Fund passes $1 million.
- New online Community Directory launched.
- Eden Child Care Centre identified as Exceeding the National Quality Standard.
- Aldi supermarket on the way to becoming a reality for Merimbula.
- Tathra and District Fire Recovery Support Service established.

June 2018

- New water reservoir for Bermagui comes into service.
Awards

Citations

Throughout the year, Council has been recognised for its outstanding work in various areas across the organisation. Council continues to formally recognise our community through Citizen of the Year, Senior of the Year Awards and the Community Service Medallions for volunteers who are dedicated to helping make the Bega Valley a great place to live.

The following awards were won by Council during 2017–18:

• Award for Innovation at the IPWEA NSW Engineering Excellence Awards.
• Local Government NSW RH Dougherty Award for Community Reporting.
• Highly Commended – Exhibition Projects Galleries with two staff or less
• YOUNG & FREE – An Australian Discourse curated by Iain Dawson
• Eden Child Care Centre identified as Exceeding the National Quality Standard.
• Bega Valley Shire Library received a LG Focus ‘High Achievers’ in recognition for their quality programs that support diversity and engagement in our communities across the Shire.

Tathra and District Bushfire

Our communities hold strong and proud to a deep sense of identity, compassion and resilience.

The Tathra and District Bushfire of 18 March 2018 has proven that our communities hold strong and proud to a deep sense of identity, compassion and resilience, even in the face of the devastating damage and grief wrought by the fire.

Thankfully, no lives were lost in the blaze and 810 homes were saved despite horrific environmental and property damage. The bushfire burnt through more than 1,250 hectares, damaging and destroying residential properties in Reedy Swamp, Vimy Ridge and Tathra as well as holiday accommodation and businesses in Tathra. A total of 205 houses, outbuildings and facilities were adversely impacted by the fire; 65 homes were destroyed, 70 caravans/cabins and 50 homes damaged.

(Source: NSW Department of Justice Keelty Report, June 2018.)

Sunday, 18 March 2018

Council responded to the bushfire emergency by providing staff and infrastructure to establish the Emergency Operations Centre in Bega, and assisted support agencies in activating two Evacuation Centres at the Bega Showground and at Bermagui.

On 20 March, NSW Premier, Ms Gladys Berejiklian, under Section 44 of the Rural Fires Act 1997, officially declared Tathra and district a disaster recovery scene, fast-tracking support and services to the community.

Recovery

Four days after the fire, on Thursday 22 March, the NSW Office of Emergency Management (OEM) established a Recovery Centre headed up by Coordinator, Euan Ferguson, at the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre with Council providing staff, infrastructure and resourcing support. Council involvement and organisation was integral to the success of the Recovery Centre as it phased through three locations over subsequent months, until 18 June when it transitioned to the Recovery Support Service (located in Tathra) to be managed by Council for the next 12 months.

Recovery and Resilience Officers offer one-on-one assistance with personal and practical needs to support people through the process of adjusting to their changed circumstances.

Mayoral Appeal Fund

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of locals as well as businesses big and small, service clubs, sporting groups, other Councils, schools and individuals from all over Australia, the Mayoral Appeal Fund hit the $1 million mark in early May 2018. Stage 1 of the funds distribution then began and was aimed at owner/occupiers and tenants whose homes were destroyed or declared permanently uninhabitable. At the end of June 2018, there was $1,181,207.81 in the Fund.

Community meetings

Council staff attended the regular community meetings, organised initially by the Recovery Centre, to provide information directly to those affected, to answer questions and to receive valuable feedback and suggestions from the Tathra, Reedy Swamp and Vimy Ridge communities.

Thank you to all:

Volunteers

Emergency services

Support and welfare services

Service organisations

Sporting clubs

Businesses that contributed goods and services

We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation!
Council support
Council resolved to waive water and waste fees, interest on General Rates instalments and all Council planning and development fees and charges for people with destroyed or damaged homes to alleviate further financial burden.

The opening hours and capability of Eden and Merimbula waste facilities were modified to take account of fire clean-up activities, including disposal of asbestos.

The work our teams carried out in debris and waste clean-up, inspections, compliance and approvals in regards to property and trees has been exemplary and facilitated the positive position where rebuilding applications and approvals were possible relatively soon after the fire.

Council also formally revised The Delivery Plan 2017 – 2021 to take account of the fire’s impact on Council programs and resourcing requirements for the next 18 months.

Within a month after the fire, Council started a Green Shoots campaign aimed at restoring all fire affected natural areas and in partnership with Tathra Landcare, South East Local Land Services and the Far South Coast Landcare Association.

Events have been held regularly to plant native seeds and seedlings to fill gaps where the fires destroyed or badly degraded the existing plant community, and to help support important habitats for many native birds and animals.

Australians have a great way of banding together in the challenging times and the nation’s collective embrace of those impacted by the disaster has been extremely encouraging and comforting.- Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain.

Funding
The NSW Government provided access to Natural Disaster Funding to facilitate the clean-up of all homes destroyed by the bushfire and to ensure the cost of cleaning up properties would not be deducted from funds available under residents’ insurance policies for rebuilding.

NSW Public Works coordinated the clean-up operation, in partnership with Council and insurers. $1.2 million in funding from the NSW Government was granted to support tourism to the Shire and Tathra in particular with the bulk of the funding earmarked for the Tathra Headland Walk project.

Extra counselling services were made possible by $250,000 worth of funding from the Federal Government to the South Eastern NSW Primary Health Network.

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Events have been held regularly to plant native seeds and seedlings to fill gaps where the fires destroyed or badly degraded the existing plant community, and to help support important habitats for many native birds and animals.

Australians have a great way of banding together in the challenging times and the nation’s collective embrace of those impacted by the disaster has been extremely encouraging and comforting.- Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain.

Funding
The NSW Government provided access to Natural Disaster Funding to facilitate the clean-up of all homes destroyed by the bushfire and to ensure the cost of cleaning up properties would not be deducted from funds available under residents’ insurance policies for rebuilding.

NSW Public Works coordinated the clean-up operation, in partnership with Council and insurers. $1.2 million in funding from the NSW Government was granted to support tourism to the Shire and Tathra in particular with the bulk of the funding earmarked for the Tathra Headland Walk project.

Extra counselling services were made possible by $250,000 worth of funding from the Federal Government to the South Eastern NSW Primary Health Network.

Snapshot grants received
During 2017-18, Council continued to advocate for funding from the Federal and NSW governments to support infrastructure projects and services to benefit our community.

This table outlines the grants we received, noting that work on some of these projects will continue into the next financial year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tathra to Kalaru Bike Track</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>RMS 2017-18 Active Transport Program</td>
<td>Design and construct 4.6km bike track between Tathra and Kalaru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Street Shared Path</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>RMS 2017-18 Active Transport Program</td>
<td>Lake St Merimbula Shared Path from Main Street to Bar Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Darragh Road Guardrails</td>
<td>$432,750</td>
<td>Australian Government Black Spot</td>
<td>Install guardrail with motorcycle protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPAIR Programs</td>
<td>$ 1,982,000</td>
<td>RMS Repair Program</td>
<td>Multiple pavement stabilisations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Renewals</td>
<td>$1,205,153</td>
<td>Australian Government Bridge Renewal Program Round 3</td>
<td>Bridge works: Brokelos Creek Bridge; Gowings Creek Bridge; Galba Creek Culvert; and Bermagui Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connectivity Improvements to the Port of Eden</td>
<td>$1,600,000</td>
<td>Australian Government Building Better Regions Round 2 (2017)</td>
<td>Upgrades to connect to Port of Eden including upgrade of Albert Terrace intersection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footpath Connection Eden</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>NSW Social Housing Community Improvement Fund</td>
<td>Footpath connection West Street, Eden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sealing of West Kameruka Road</td>
<td>$ 3,542,400</td>
<td>Transport for NSW Fixing Country Roads Round 3 (2017)</td>
<td>Sealing of West Kameruka Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tathra Headland Wharf Access</td>
<td>$1,219,000</td>
<td>NSW Regional Growth Fund - Environment and Tourist Fund</td>
<td>260 metres walking path, board walks and construction of a rock concrete wall to the wharf carpark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACHIEVING OUR PLAN

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is supported by the:
• Resourcing Strategy;
• Delivery Program; and
• Operational Plan.

The performance against our annual activities to achieve the strategic actions is set out in Attachment 1 to this report.

Performance against our ...

Delivery Program:
Following is a progress summary of the six outcome areas with overall results being shown as On track or Off track.

• On track indicates actions that were completed, or are on schedule to be completed by the end of financial year.
• Off track indicates actions that experienced delays.

Operational Plan:
The report on performance against the delivery of the outcomes, goals and strategies committed to in the Community Strategic Plan 2040.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“A Destination for All” - Coastal Accessibility Project</td>
<td>$2,927,000</td>
<td>NSW Regional Growth Fund - Environment and Tourist Fund</td>
<td>Improving accessibility at Bruce Steer Pool Bermagui, Short Point Merimbula and Pambula Beach Reserve precinct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Playground upgrades</td>
<td>$300,705</td>
<td>NSW Stronger Country Communities - Round 1</td>
<td>Rural village playground upgrades (Mogareeka, Bemboka, Wyndham, Cobargo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great South Coast Walk - Stage 1</td>
<td>$225,500</td>
<td>NSW Stronger Country Communities - Round 1</td>
<td>Great South Coast Walk Stage 1 (Wallaga Lake) connectivity improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organics Collection Grant Program</td>
<td>$641,000</td>
<td>NSW Environmental Protection Authority</td>
<td>The grant supports kerbside food organic and garden organic (FOGO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarantine Bay Pontoon upgrade</td>
<td>$155,000</td>
<td>NSW Boating Now - Round 2</td>
<td>Renewal and extension of existing floating pontoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackfellows Lake Boat Ramp upgrade</td>
<td>$390,000</td>
<td>NSW Boating Now - Round 2</td>
<td>Upgrade manoeuvring, traffic flow and lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bermagui River Boat Ramp upgrade</td>
<td>$485,000</td>
<td>NSW Boating Now - Round 2</td>
<td>Upgrade manoeuvring, traffic flow and lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All inclusive Play Space Tathra</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
<td>NSW Government - Everyone Can Play</td>
<td>Upgrade Lot Stafford Playground existing playground to an all-inclusive play space playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Hall Kitchen upgrades</td>
<td>$143,000</td>
<td>NSW Stronger Country Communities - Round 1</td>
<td>Upgrade kitchen facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bandara Childcare Centre revitalisation</td>
<td>$163,000</td>
<td>NSW Stronger Country Communities - Round 1</td>
<td>Upgrade Bandara Childcare centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eden Log Cabin upgrade</td>
<td>$141,000</td>
<td>NSW Stronger Country Communities - Round 1</td>
<td>Upgraded Eden Log Cabin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eden Library refurbishment</td>
<td>$44,000</td>
<td>NSW Public Library Infrastructure Grant</td>
<td>Refurbish Eden library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bemboka Memorial Hall upgrade</td>
<td>$32,000</td>
<td>NSW Department of Industry Infrastructure Grant</td>
<td>Upgrade hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Integrated planning and reporting

A framework for a strategic and sustainable local government

All councils in NSW are required to operate within the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework. This Framework was introduced by the NSW Government to facilitate a strong and sustainable local government system by ensuring all local councils have in place strategic plans, underpinned by community priorities and supported by appropriate resources.

The IP&R Framework encourages councils to view their various plans holistically to understand how they relate to each other, and in doing so, leverage maximum results.

Ultimately, it aims to provide greater accountability and transparency in local government, by strengthening councils’ strategic focus, streamlining reporting processes and making it easier for the community to understand and track councils’ progress on identified priorities.

The key documents included in the IP&R Framework, and an overview of their functions, is provided below.

Community Strategic Plan
This is the highest level plan that a Council will have and is prepared for a minimum period of 10 years. The purpose of the Community Strategic Plan is to identify the community’s main priorities and aspirations for the future and to plan strategies for achieving these goals. It is developed and delivered as a partnership between the council, state agencies, community groups and individuals and should address a broad range of issues that are relevant to the whole community.

Resourcing Strategy
This strategy addresses the resources – time, money, assets and people – required to deliver the long-term community aspirations expressed in the Community Strategic Plan. It comprises: long term financial planning; workforce management planning; and asset management planning.

Delivery Program
This is a statement of commitment to the community by each newly elected council outlining its priorities for achieving the community’s long-term goals (as identified in the Community Strategic Plan) during its four year term of office.

Operational Plan
Supporting the Delivery Program is an annual Operational Plan. It spells out the individual projects and activities that will be undertaken each year to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program.

Annual Report
This document is one of the key points of accountability between a council and its community. It focuses on the council’s implementation of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan to help the community understand how the council has been performing both as a business entity and a community leader.
How the aspirations of our community will be delivered...

The priorities identified during the community engagement are reflected through the following:

**Six outcome areas:**
1. Active and healthy communities
2. Employment and learning opportunities
3. Sustainable living
4. Liveable places
5. Connected communities
6. Strong, consultative leadership

Sitting under these outcomes are a series of **12 goals** that reflect the community’s key ambitions for our future.

From these outcomes and goals a series of **30 strategies** have been developed that detail how Council, other government agencies and our community can work together to achieve our goals.

The Delivery Program and Operation Plan work towards delivery these outcomes.

The Plan will be reviewed every four years and throughout the life of the Plan, we will be listening to our community to ensure it continues to reflect their long-term aspirations.

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**ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

**Goal 1:** We are co-operative, caring and enjoy a culturally rich community life.

**Goal 2:** We are an active, healthy community with access to good quality recreation and sporting facilities, and medical health care.
### Active and Healthy Communities

**Intergenerational playroom branches out**

The very successful Tura-based Intergenerational Playroom branched out into Bega in November 2017.

The expansion of the program was possible thanks to funding assistance from Club Grants and Uniting and with the support of Bega Valley Meals on Wheels as a valued partner. This support also ensured this popular and rewarding program was able to continue at Tura Marrang Library for at least another year.

The pilot program has been the catalyst for numerous heart-warming and generous interactions between pre-schoolers and elderly folk who mingle and share themed craft activities, games, sensory activities and morning tea once a month.

Both age groups benefit from practising fine motor skills and the children have grown in confidence socially as they relate with older people.

### Family and local history expo

Continuing to expand its partnerships with community organisations, the Bega Valley Shire Library collaborated with the South East History Group Inc. (SEHGI) to organise and run the Lifelines Expo during National Family History Month in August 2017.

The Expo attracted representatives from the Australian War Memorial, National Archives, the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra (HAGSSOC) and Indigenous Services of NSW State Library, and supported local genealogical and historical societies to showcase their local and family history resources and expertise, while giving locals the chance to find out more about the rich research resources available on their doorstep.

Over 100 people attended the Expo which offered 15 exhibitors, a morning and afternoon presentation and bush poetry entertainment, as well as lucky door prizes and giveaway bags.

Entry to the Lifelines Expo was free and the event was supported by Arts NSW’s Volunteer Museum Grant Program, a devolved funding program administered by Museums and Galleries of NSW on behalf of the NSW Government.

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**Highlights**

- **80** exhibitions held at the Bega Valley Regional Gallery
- **16,753** art exhibitions attendance at the BVRG*
- **558** repairs to sport and recreation facilities
- **1,630** public toilet services completed
- **25,652** swimming pool program participants
- **32** arts and creative programs supported BVRG*
- **3,520** bookings of community centres and halls
- **10** sport and recreation capital works projects completed
- **163,943** swimming pool attendances

* Bega Valley Regional Gallery
Active and healthy communities

Inclusive film festival

The Access All Areas Film Festival is an innovative film festival that came to Bega to celebrate the 2017 International Day of People with a Disability, thanks to a partnership between the Bega Valley Shire Library, The Disability Trust, and Tulgeen.

The Festival was an opportunity for people with a disability to attend a major social event specifically designed with their needs in mind.

Everyone loves a good movie and now for the first time in the Valley, we had an inclusive film festival that truly reflected the diversity of our community.

This international program of award winning short films, provided by Bardic Studio, reflected the lived experiences of people with disability and aimed to increase access to cinema for all Australians.

The films were shown with a range of accessibility features including audio description, open captions and a kit for sensory screening with a social story.

The program was also free of flashing lights, there was a dedicated chill space and the venue (Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre) is suitable for people with a mobility disability.

Science for pre-schoolers

Bega Valley Shire Library is at the forefront of an exciting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiative that bring a hands-on science discovery program to local preschool children.

The aim of the Little Bang Discovery Club is to develop ideas and skills in children that inspire further scientific exploration, discovery and learning.

The fun and engaging program incorporates practical sessions on collecting and classifying, measuring and recording as well as using experiments.

It also gives parents and carers ideas about safe experiments to try at home.

The children attend four weekly sessions that incorporate hands-on activities using everyday objects and experiences, a question and answer time and a Discovery Box, which is loaned to each child for the duration of the Club.

Bega Valley Shire Library, with funding support from the Mumbulla Foundation and in partnership with the Sapphire Coast Regional Science Hub, purchased multiple Discovery Boxes, which contain specially assembled, age-appropriate tools and equipment.

New art prize launched

An exciting new art prize specifically for artists living and working in the Bega Valley was launched in the second half of 2017.

The Bega Valley Mural Prize represents the evolution of the Bega Art Prize that has run in differing forms since 1992, with the support of Council. The prize is open to artists working across all mediums.

Joe McKenzie’s ‘Spirit Dance’ was awarded the prize and then reproduced on a large scale and presented as a public mural on the Bermagui water tower.

The installation took place in conjunction with the Wallaga Lake community and Merrimans Land Council, added to the two murals already in situ at Eden and Merimbula and is emblematic of the Bega Valley’s commitment to and passion for the visual arts.

More plaudits for gallery

Industry accolades continue to roll in for the Bega Valley Regional Gallery (BVRG), with its strong exhibitions program again recognised.

This time it was the announcement of a highly commended in the ‘Exhibition Projects – Galleries (Volunteer Organisations or organisations with 2 or less paid staff)’ category at the 2017 IMAGinE Awards presented by Museums and Galleries of NSW.

The IMAGinE awards recognise the people who work in museums and galleries across NSW and the contributions they make and celebrate those organisations run by volunteers, with limited budgets and minimal resources.

The consistent industry endorsement of our Gallery’s program is very encouraging, as we pride ourselves on being at the cutting edge of programming.

It is thanks to the passion and commitment of BVRG Director, Iain Dawson, his staff and our 50 plus volunteers that we can host these important exhibitions.
EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Goal 3: Our economy is prosperous, diverse and supported by innovative and creative businesses.

Goal 4: We have meaningful employment and learning opportunities for people in all stages in life.
Contributions system good for business

Local business are a priority with Bega Valley Shire Council becoming one of the first Councils in NSW to adopt a low upfront charge model for collecting business Water Supply and Sewerage Section 64 contributions.

It had been identified that the previous requirement to pay upfront could be seen as a deterrent to development in the Shire, with many businesses required to pay large amounts before the first customer even walked through the door.

The Section 64 headworks charges apply for commercial and industrial developments that place an additional load on water supply and sewerage systems.

The new high consumption system introduces a user-pays model, making the system fairer, more affordable, more transparent and more attractive to business.

Importantly all commercial and industrial customers will now pay for the water and sewerage service capacity they actually use, instead of paying upfront for their predicted use.

It also acts as an incentive for businesses to reduce their water consumption, with those using less water consequently paying less.

The change is not retrospective, with the high consumption charge activated when a Certificate of Compliance for water supply and sewerage is issued.

Future Towns project

The collective preparedness of the Bega community to take advantage of new business opportunities was strengthened by the launch of the Future Towns project.

Supported by funding from the NSW Department of Industry, Council and the Bega Chamber of Commerce joined forces to help local businesses and organisations embrace the use of technology and subsequently grow their business.

Participation in the Future Towns project was open to local businesses, and not-for-profit community groups in the Bega area.

Over the two months of the project Council and the Chamber undertook a local business survey, held a series of workshops, researched and developed a Digital Ready Plan, and developed an online portal.

Local business and marketing consultant, Nigel Ayling, and his company, Solutions 4 Biz, steered the project.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Goal 5: Our air and water is pristine and our natural environment and rural landscapes are protected.

Goal 6: We are leaders in sustainable living and support innovative approaches to resource recovery and the production of renewable energy and food.
Construction of Stage 1 of the Central Waste Facility’s landfill gas collection and treatment system was completed in June 2018.

The system is a network of wells (vertical and horizontal) drawing gas from the six progressively active and capped landfill cells. The cells, which can contain organic matter, generate methane due to the decomposition of organic matter under anaerobic conditions.

The negative pressure is maintained within the system by trapping the gas and conveying it through flow lines and mainlines to an enclosed flaring unit. This is then flared off, the result is that the methane is converted into carbon dioxide which is not as environmentally damaging.

The main purpose of the flaring unit is to convert methane into carbon dioxide. Methane is a large contributor to global warming and is 23 times more damaging than carbon dioxide which has 12 times less warming potential than methane.

The project has been approved by the Federal Government’s Clean Energy Regulator as a carbon abatement project under the Emission Reduction Fund and trading in Australian Carbon Credits.

The construction of Stage 2 will commence in early 2019.

**Sustainable living**

- **Projects funded through Environmental Levy**: 20
- **Residential tree action applications**: 75
- **Weed inspections**: 1,185
- **Tonnes of organics processed into mulch and compost**: 1,726
- **Properties with waste collection**: 13,553
- **Domestic bins emptied**: 1,181,758
- **Public reserve environmental enhancement projects**: 11
- **Km of road reserves sprayed for weeds**: 2,133
- **kg average of recycling per household bin**: 5
- **kg average of landfill waste per household bin**: 8
- **Properties with environmental enhancement projects**: 11
- **Km of road reserves sprayed for weeds**: 2,133
- **Properties with waste collection**: 13,553
- **Domestic bins emptied**: 1,181,758
Kisses Lagoon restoration complete

The Kisses Lagoon restoration project is complete, with Bega locals and visitors alike now able to take advantage of the greatly improved recreational opportunities on offer at the town’s northern gateway.

One of the most significant natural resource management projects undertaken by Council in partnership with Local Land Services, it included many varied elements over its three-year lifecycle.

Building on the previously completed Bega River Reserve project, the wider Kisses Lagoon wetland restoration project featured the removal of a large range of weeds, significant revegetation, new car parking and recreational facilities, landscaping, interpretive signage, stormwater audits, water quality and macroinvertebrate sampling and most recently, a new pedestrian path linking the western neighbourhoods with the existing pathway network and CBD more broadly.

Funding for the project was sourced from several different streams with the NSW Environmental Trust, Local Land Services, and Bega Valley Shire Council all contributing.

Coastal weeds project reaches milestone

Ten years ago our beaches were a different sight to what you see now.

They were infested with weeds like Sea Spurge and African Daisy, but thanks to the success of the Coastal Weeds Project beaches like Merimbula and Pambula are now almost weed free.

The situation a decade ago on beaches and dunes between Bermagui and Eden led botanist Stuart Cameron to take action.

A partnership between Aboriginal Lands Councils, Local Land Services, Far South Coast Landcare, National Parks and Wildlife Services and Bega Valley Shire Council was born. A collaboration that now celebrates 10 years of work.

Under Mr Cameron’s leadership, the ‘Protecting the Wilderness Coast’ project drew on the people power and environmental passion of Landcare Groups and the three Aboriginal Land Councils – Merriman’s, Bega and Eden.

Each spring and autumn a ‘sweep’ for weeds and litter along local beaches and estuaries takes place, funded by the NSW Environmental Trust, and matched by contributions from Bega Valley Shire Council, Local Lands Services and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The project has been so successful that it has been extended to the Eurobodalla Shire and serves as a blue-print of how partnerships can overcome what appear to be insurmountable problems such as coastal weed infestations.

To celebrate the project’s success the Far South Coast Landcare Association released a video. The video can be viewed on the Far South Coast Landcare Associations website - http://www.fscl.org.au/2018/02/20/the-coastal-weeds-video/

Sustainable living

Kisses Lagoon restoration complete

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Funding for the project was sourced from several different streams with the NSW Environmental Trust, Local Land Services, and Bega Valley Shire Council all contributing.

Construction Eden Waste Transfer Station

The design and construction of the Eden Transfer Station was finalised in early December 2017.

The position and design of the Transfer Station optimised the cut/fill balance, allowed for structure integrity and stormwater flow, considered waste management, safety, amenity and traffic flow.

This project realizes a significant part of Council’s 2020 vision on waste, by converting landfill sites to transfer stations.

The upgrade of the Eden Waste and Recycling Facility continues, which will allow for construction and demolition waste processing.

Mayor signs on to clean energy future

Bega Valley Shire Council joined over 30 other Councils in signing up to the Cities Power Partnership.

The Cities Power Partnership is a free, national program that brings together Australian towns and cities making the switch to clean energy.

Local Councils who join the partnership make five action pledges in either renewable energy, efficiency, transport or working in partnership to tackle climate change.

There are dozens of actions that Councils can choose from. Whether it’s putting solar on the local library, switching to electric buses, or opening old landfills for new solar farms, the possibilities are endless.

Inspired by Professor Tim Flannery and The Climate Council of Australia, the partnership empowers councils to undertake projects and initiatives that combat climate change.

The partnership seeks to accelerate the success we have already seen in the Bega Valley and as a partner Council gets exclusive access to the very best information and expertise, and we have started at the very top with Tim Flannery himself.

There are emerging opportunities locally including new industries and opportunities that the Partnership will also help the Shire embrace.

We are on our way towards a future based around renewable energy, in line with our Climate Change Strategy.
Total performance progress

Outcome 4

LIVEABLE PLACES

Goal 7: Our Shire continues to be a vibrant, enjoyable, safe and affordable place to live.

Goal 8: Our places retain their character and scale, development is well planned, and a range of goods and services are available with our Shire that meet local needs.
Liveable places

Building their futures

The consistent quality of Council’s early childhood services has again been highlighted through the National Quality Standard (NQS) Assessment and Rating Process, with the Eden Child Care Centre identified as ‘Exceeding the National Quality Standard’.

The NQS sets a national benchmark for early childhood education and care, and outside school hours care services in Australia and includes seven quality areas that are important outcomes for children.

All three of Council’s Centre-based early childhood services have now been assessed as ‘Exceeding the National Quality Standard’, with Bandara Children’s Services and Eden Preschool receiving the same independent rating in recent years.

Council’s fourth service, Sapphire Mobile Preschool at Candelo and Bemboka, does not undergo accreditation due to its status as a mobile service. However, the preschool operates under the same philosophy and quality service structure as Council’s other early learning centres.

Lighting Bega’s public spaces

Users of the Bega Sporting Complex and Bega Park will notice that these areas have been lit up to improve the use, function and safety of these sites.

Bega Park and the Bega Sporting Complex now have upgraded lighting arising from $150,000 worth of funding Council received from the Commonwealth Government (Department of Home Affairs) under the Activating and Lighting Bega Public Spaces project.

Funding objectives were fourfold: improve surveillance at the Bega Sporting Complex and Bega Park; decrease the incidence of vandalism at both sites; reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour at Bega Park; and improve community perceptions of safety at Bega Park.

Council is evaluating the impact the new lighting has on these recreational areas and the people that use them through consultation with local Police and community feedback.

New water reservoir for Bermagui

The construction and commissioning of the new Nutleys Creek Reservoir is now complete.

At four million litres, the concrete reservoir services the Bermagui township and represents a 60% increase in storage capacity, ensuring the supply for current and future residents of the town is secure.

The significant capacity increase of the reservoir also enables the use of off-peak pumping to reduce ongoing operational costs.

It is a key component of Council’s long-term water supply strategy for Bermagui and was constructed on Council owned land, which was acquired for this purpose more than a decade ago.

The elevation of this particular site was chosen to enable a significant increase in water pressure to the higher areas of Bermagui.
Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade

Specific surveys of abalone in shallow reef areas were undertaken, recognising that abalone fishing is vital to the economy of the area.

As part of a strategy for involving the Merimbula/Pambula community, Council called for expressions of interest from people living in that area to join a voluntary community focus group. Multiple community drop-in sessions were held in November 2017 and again in March 2018 to obtain input from local residents and to keep them informed of progress.

Council and the focus group reviewed a full range of options before agreeing that a deep water ocean outfall is the preferred effluent disposal option. Compared to other options the deep ocean outfall has:

- the greatest environmental benefit;
- least construction and operational impacts; and
- long term social, environmental and economical sustainability advantages.

The concept design and Environmental Impact Statement for the upgrade and deep ocean outfall will be subject to various approvals. Once approval is granted (expected to be in 2019), Council will be able to seek funding for detailed design and construction.

Fluorescent dye was released to show how materials travel and spread in the bay.

With advice from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the community that the beach-face outfall and dunal exfiltration ponds at Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) were not sustainable, Council started working with consultants, AECOM, to develop a concept design and environmental assessment for a deep ocean outfall and upgrade of the Merimbula STP.

This is a long-term investment to improve the water quality of our coastal environment.

In planning for the upgrade, in August 2017, dye dispersion tests were carried out in Merimbula Bay. Harmless, bright red fluorescent dye was released at several locations in the bay to show how materials travel and spread in the bay.

Throughout October and November 2017, Council conducted a Marine Hydrographic Survey in the waters of Merimbula Bay to help develop location options for a deep ocean outfall. These hydrographic surveys involved scientists in power boats towing sonar equipment, measuring physical parts of the bay including water depth and the surface of the seabed.

The marine ecology of Merimbula Bay was studied to better understand habitats and refine maps of the area. Underwater videos were taken at selected locations to identify habitats and groups of fish.

Fluorescent dye was released to show how materials travel and spread in the bay.
### Towamba Road upgrade completed

A $1.1 million project to upgrade a number of sections of Towamba Road was completed in October 2017.

The significant project included road realignment, widening problem areas, gravel re-sheeting and the reinstallation of guideposts and signage.

In addition, Mitchells Creek Bridge was re-decked with concrete modules to improve its load capacity and 1km of sealing was undertaken on either side of the bridge.

The primary aims of the project were to enhance both the safety and ride characteristics of the road and generally improve the overall commuting experience between Eden and Towamba.

### Merimbula CBD Bypass open

The Merimbula CBD bypass opened in September. In its entirety, the bypass runs from the roundabout on Merimbula Drive, into Park Street, taking in a re-aligned Palmer Lane and Monaro Street intersection before reaching the new traffic lights at Monaro and Market Streets.

The $7.5 million bypass project took its eventual form after detailed traffic studies and modelling were undertaken in 2009 and Council adopted the option to realign and upgrade Park Street to provide a traffic route linking the Market/Monaro Street intersection with the Merimbula Drive/Reid St/Sapphire Coast Drive intersection.

The overarching objective of the project was to reduce congestion within the Merimbula CBD by better facilitating through traffic movement along the bypass alignment and away from the often-challenging Market/Main Street, Market/Beach Street and Hylands Corner intersections.

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**Highlights**

- **61,106** passengers through the Merimbula airport
- **7** major bridge repairs
- **281** road signs replaced across the Shire
- **1,396** passengers increase Merimbula airport
- **9,349** sealed and unsealed road repairs
- **305** footpath and cycleway repairs
- **5.5km** additional shared paths designed
- **70km** sealed roads renewed across the Shire
- **14km** unsealed roads renewed across the Shire
- **1** town centre bypass project completed
- **1,396** passenger increase Merimbula airport
- **9,349** sealed and unsealed road repairs
- **305** footpath and cycleway repairs
- **5.5km** additional shared paths designed
- **70km** sealed roads renewed across the Shire
- **14km** unsealed roads renewed across the Shire
- **1** town centre bypass project completed
Launch of new Community Directory

Council was excited to launch a new online Community Directory as part of the 2018 National Volunteers Week celebrations.

The new Bega Valley Community Directory is the ‘go to’ place for information on local community groups and non-profit organisations who deliver a multitude of services and activities to Bega Valley residents.

With so many active community groups and organisations operating across the Shire, the Directory supports the tremendous work they collectively do.

The benefits of the new directory far outweigh any previous paper or database type directory, with community groups and organisations able to provide and update their own information for their page and let people know if they need volunteers.

Ocean Drive upgrade

Council’s Civil Construction team completed a major upgrade of Merimbula’s Ocean Drive in December 2017.

The work included drainage renewal with the installation of a stormwater system; the installation of kerb and gutter on both sides of the pavement; pavement renewal including sealing; and the formalisation of over 40 car parking spaces including an accessible space.

The project was completed on time and within budget.

Other road improvements

The safety of Myrtle Mountain Road was improved with pavement stabilisation, guardrail installation, heavy patching and resealing reaching a total of $775,442.

The Candelo Wolumla Road pavement renewal was completed, costing $378,843.

$497,698 was spent on stabilisation, shoulder grading, heavy patching and resealing of the remainder of Wonboyn Road and the Wonboyn urban street network.

Works on Eden’s Government Road received $500,000 for a kerb and gutter installation including stormwater pits and pipes with pavement renewal of the existing road from Princes Highway. This has improved stormwater management, property access and the road condition.

STRONG, CONSULTATIVE LEADERSHIP

Goal 11: We are an informed and engaged community with a transparent, consultative and responsive Council.

Goal 12: Our Council is financially sustainable and services and facilities meet community need.
Restructure aims to meet expectations

The Council's roads resealing program was the direct beneficiary of an internal organisational restructure undertaken in the second half of 2017. During the 2017-18 budget process Council resolved to reallocate $1.4 million to roads resealing, with senior staff directed to find savings, efficiencies and income to offset this additional expenditure. The Resolution specified that at least $250,000 in organisational staffing savings be achieved through a review of positions across the Community, Relations and Leisure and Strategy and Business Services groups.

The staffing changes included a reduction in the Place-Based Officer positions; alterations to the Leisure and Recreation team; the consolidation of the positions overseeing the Bega Valley Regional Learning Centre and Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre; the consolidation of Community Development and Integrated Planning and Reporting Coordination; and changes in reporting lines for Property Services, Halls and Cemeteries, Regional Gallery and Events positions.

The United Services Union was informed of the planned broad structural change and their representatives provided valuable input through the process.

Council assumes control of Civic Centre

Since Bega Valley Shire Council took over the management of the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre in August, the venue has become a major focal point for people of all ages. Offering the largest and most versatile spaces in the Bega Valley Shire, this multi-functional facility can host a wide range of events, including performances, presentations, graduations, conferences, meetings, workshops, public speakers, banquet dinners, cocktail parties and touring productions.

Many events have sold out and it’s been really satisfying seeing locals and visitors enjoy themselves and in many cases experiencing something new.

Much of the success is due to the partnerships formed between various local community organisations and touring agencies.

Touring shows such as Play School, Anh Do, Jimeoin, and Arj Barker have really added to the mix as well.

Restructure aims to meet expectations

The Hillgrove House Ball, the Jellat Rural Fire Service’s 75th Birthday, and Splendour in the Brass with the Bega Band, were all terrific community events and the centre also hosted a number of school presentations and graduations.

Strong, consultative leadership

17 ordinary meetings of Council
211 media releases
534,252 visits to Council’s website
5,514 follows on Council’s Facebook
19 new Australian citizens welcomed
62 addresses to Council
937 subscribers to Council News
22,911 front counter enquiries
46,243 calls through the call centre
86% of customer enquiries resolved by Customer Service team

86% of customer enquiries resolved by Customer Service team
Strong, consultative leadership

New senior management structure

November saw the Councillors approve a new senior management structure for the organisation, which will allow it to better meet the current and future financial constraints.

The three-directorate structure includes Assets and Operations; Community, Environment and Planning; and Business and Governance, with each reporting to the General Manager.

Following a number of resignations and retirements, the option to reconsider restructuring was embraced, providing an opportunity to review the organisation’s effectiveness and look for ways to work better together for the community.

Collaboration strengthens our region

Tucked into the south-east corner of NSW and with Canberra being our nearest metropolitan centre, it makes sense for our Shire to look to our neighbouring Shires and the ACT for collaboration and advocacy.

The Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO) is an umbrella organisation gathering in the ACT Government and nine Councils from across the South East of NSW, including the Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Goulburn Mulwaree, Hilltops, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Snowy Monaro, Upper Lachlan, Wingecarribee and Yass Valley.

Consisting of the elected mayor from each council, the CRJO board meets quarterly to ratify the direction the working groups are taking and to meet with political leaders to lobby for the region as a whole.

Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain is the deputy chair of the now formally legislated joint organisation.

Council is already working with the CRJO on projects across many areas. These include regional waste; street lighting to reduce electricity costs; regional economic development; addressing new legislative requirements in relation to contaminated lands; and assistance with interpretation and implementation of new legislation regarding the Crown Lands Management Act, Native Title matters, biodiversity and biosecurity.

Our e-tendering portal also feeds into the CRJO portal, which pulls together regional procurement activities across all member councils.

Additional supporting information and statutory requirements.

Council’s general reporting requirements are in section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 and section 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (Part 9 Division 7).

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Attachments

- 2017 – 2018 Audited financial statements, notes and information
Councillors and Senior Staff

Overseas visits by Councillors and Council staff

No overseas visits were undertaken by councillors, council staff or other persons while representing the Council in 2017-18.

Mayoral and Councillor fees, expenses and facilities*  

In 2017-18 the Mayoral allowance was $41,090, allowance for the nine Councillors was $181,200. $16,017 was paid for catering of meetings and civic functions and $11,900 was paid in the Mayor’s vehicle expenses. The following payments and facilities were provided to councillors in relation to their civic functions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office equipment</td>
<td>1,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone calls</td>
<td>15,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences and seminars</td>
<td>16,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and skill development</td>
<td>16,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstate visits</td>
<td>77,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas visits</td>
<td>4,700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse / partner expenses</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child care</td>
<td>23,500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Manager and senior staff remuneration*  

In 2017-18 Council commenced with four senior staff and a General Manager, following the second of two staff restructures this was reduced to three senior staff and a General Manager in the executive structure. During this period the General Manager had a remuneration package of $281,000 and the combined total remuneration for Directors was $696,000.

Finance

Contracts*  

Contracts over $150,000 awarded by Council in 2017-18:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract Title</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
<th>Value (Inc GST)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bemboka Water Treatment Plant Design and Construction Contract</td>
<td>CRS Water Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$3,683,692.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft License Renewal</td>
<td>Data#3</td>
<td>$590,237.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracked Trommel Drum Screen</td>
<td>MWS Environmental Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$370,425.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Vehicle - Isuzu</td>
<td>Harrigan Motor Group</td>
<td>$226,779.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood Study Eden and Surrounds</td>
<td>Rhelm Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$200,085.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018 Stabilisation Supply and Mix Contract</td>
<td>Stabilco Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$270,641.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018 Sprayed Bituminous Surfacing</td>
<td>Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$1,069,838.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleet Trucks - Specification T4.516 and T7.216</td>
<td>Nowra Truck and Tractor</td>
<td>$344,260.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design, Construction, Operation and Maintenance of CWF Landfill Gas System</td>
<td>Landfill Gas Industries Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$842,820.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Upgrades Yowaka River Bridge and Murrabrine Creek Bridge</td>
<td>Kaufline Investments Pty Ltd ATF Kaufline Family Trust (Trading as South East Civil &amp; Crane)</td>
<td>$657,450.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of Beach Lifeguard Services</td>
<td>Surf Life Saving Services Pty Ltd (Trading as Australian Lifeguard Service)</td>
<td>$207,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specification TT817 Plant Numbers 390801 and 390601</td>
<td>Southern Truck Centre Queanbeyan</td>
<td>$460,661.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Collection Services</td>
<td>Cleanaway Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$17,597,892.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Construction of Landfill Cell 1 &amp; Cell 2 Cap and Civil Construction of Stage 3 Cell at the Central Waste Facility</td>
<td>John Michelin &amp; Son Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$970,042.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1 All financial information in this report is unaudited and subject to change.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract Title</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
<th>Value (Inc GST)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supply and Installation of Geotechnical Capping System for Cell 1 and Cell 2 and the Supply and installation of Geotechnical Barrier System including Associated Drainage Works for Stage 3 Cell at the Central Waste Facility</td>
<td>Eco Line Solutions Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$758,211.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract and Project Administration - Bemboka WTP</td>
<td>Public Works Advisory</td>
<td>$175,780.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconstruction of traffic signals at TC3450 Market St/ Monaro St/Palmers Lane, Merimbula</td>
<td>Roads and Maritime Services</td>
<td>$290,356.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared Path Lake Street, Streetscape &amp; Civil Design Services</td>
<td>Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$160,262.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of vehicle - Isuzu</td>
<td>Ron Doyle Motors Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$177,300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Sweeper</td>
<td>Bucher Municipal Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$337,681.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauty Point Boat Ramp Construction</td>
<td>GPM Constructions Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$169,608.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS EAS Year 2 Annual Order</td>
<td>Data#3 Limited</td>
<td>$196,710.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer Main Pipe Relining - Eden</td>
<td>Interflow Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$230,977.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bega Water Supply - Hydrological Consultancy</td>
<td>SMEC Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$238,616.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism Marketing Services</td>
<td>Anthony Osbourne</td>
<td>$327,800.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legal proceedings**

Legal proceedings taken by or against the council in 2017-18:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Cost to Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dog Attack</td>
<td>Persons issued with Penalty Notices-(Court Attendance Notice-CAN) and Dangerous dog declaration as “owners of an attacking dog” under Companion Animal Act which occurred on 1/10/16. Matter heard Bega Local Court on 14/6/17.</td>
<td>Control order under section 47 Companion Animal Act and 12 month good behaviour bond on owner</td>
<td>$4,290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Private works**

In 2017-18 Council did not make any Resolutions concerning work carried out on private land.

**Written off rates and charges**

In 2017-18 the following was written off rates and charges:

- $47,287 Voluntary Conservation Agreements
- $9,816 Postponed rates
- $122,746 Water and Sewer charges
- $20,498 Tathra rates
- $59,286 Tathra water

**Financial assistance**

In 2017-18 Council provided $348,000 in grants and subsidies to a wide range of community groups:

**Coastal Protection Services**

Council does not administer an annual charge for coastal protection services.

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*1 All financial information in this report is unaudited and subject to change.
Stormwater Management Services*1

The Stormwater Levy is used for projects designed to improve the urban stormwater quality within towns and villages across the Shire, including improving old infrastructure below the road surface and roadside drainage. In 2017-18 The Stormwater Levy was used as a contribution towards the construction of the following projects:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Total project cost 2017-18</th>
<th>Stormwater Levy contribution 2017-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Road Eden Urban Drainage and Pavement Renewal</td>
<td>$523,100</td>
<td>$105,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaro Street, Merimbula Urban Drainage and pavement stabilisation</td>
<td>$66,000</td>
<td>$66,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Dr, Merimbula Urban Drainage renewal</td>
<td>$166,000</td>
<td>$51,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bunga Street, Bermagui Urban Drainage renewal</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$62,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garvan St, Wolumla Urban Drainage renewal</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>$900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Environmental Levy

The Environmental Levy has been in place since 2003. Permanent approval for the Environmental Management Special Variation was issued by the Minister for Local Government in 2006.

2017-18 Outcomes:
- Tathra bushfire environmental protection and rehabilitation works
- The Green Shoots bushfire recovery program
- Coastal Weeds project and promotional video
- Community Environment Grants Program
- Public reserve environmental enhancements at: Kisses Lagoon, Bega River Parklands, Fishpen Foreshore, Merimbula
- Bermagui River Wetlands rehabilitation
- Narara Creek, Cobargo rehabilitation project
- Coastal Management Program at Wallaga Lake, Bermagui River, Merimbula Lake, Lake Curalo
- Contribution to noxious weed management program
- Contribution to stormwater management program

Special Rate Libraries, Gallery, Tourism Centres and Weeds*1

The 2007-08 Operational Plan implemented a Special Rate Variation approved by the Minister for Local Government of 9.76%. These funds were targeted at infrastructure, continuing services in branch libraries, the Regional Gallery, Tourism Visitor Information Centers (VIC) and the weeds program. This variation was approved on an ongoing basis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Income 2017-18</th>
<th>Total Expenditure 2017-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shire Libraries</td>
<td>$196,000</td>
<td>$196,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Gallery</td>
<td>$132,000</td>
<td>$132,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism (inc. VICs year 1 then tourism Infrastructure)</td>
<td>$195,000</td>
<td>$195,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeds and Vegetation Management Levy</td>
<td>$425,000</td>
<td>$425,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$948,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$948,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1 All financial information in this report is unaudited and subject to change.
Weed and Vegetation Management Levy

The Weed and Vegetation Management Levy was initially approved with the Special Variation to rates in 2007/08. This permanent Levy was approved to supply funding to help support the agricultural industry generally in regard weed and vegetation management initiatives.

2017-18 Outcomes:

- Transition from the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 to the new Biosecurity Act 2015
- Implementation of the Bega Valley Shire’s Local Weed Management Plan
- Private and public property inspections as well as high risk sites and pathways
- Controls of two new weed incursions in the Shire
- Public consultations of the new Biosecurity legislation and weed identification/control workshops
- Annual shire wide roadside weed control from Dignams Creek to the Victorian border

Special Rate

Tourism Promotion and Merimbula Airport*¹

In 2011-12, a Special Rate Variation was approved by IPART under the new assessment process. It continued the 2010-11 approval for tourism and the resurfacing of the existing tarmac at the Merimbula airport. The approval is for 20 years.

The amount of variation also includes an amount of 0.14% for a ‘Crown Land Adjustment’ which the Council is able to apply for under the Local Government Act 1993 and which the Office of Local Government recommended be included in the Council’s Special Variation approval.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Income 2017-18</th>
<th>Total Expenditure 2017-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resurfacing of tarmac at Merimbula Airport</td>
<td>$389,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion of tourism and development</td>
<td>$293,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$683,364</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Rate

Collector Roads, Recreation Facilities, Public Halls and Buildings*¹

IPART approved the Special Rate Variation for 2013-2014 as part 1 of 3 covering the years from 2013-2014 to 2015-2016. The overall general rate income increase for Year 1 is 5.4% which includes a Special Rate Variation of 2% to be used to help fund renewal and upgrade of collector roads.

IPART approved the Special Rate Variation for 2014-2015 as part 2 of 3 covering the years from 2013-2014 to 2015-2016 of 2% to be used to help fund renewal and upgrade of recreational facilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Income 2017-18</th>
<th>Total Expenditure 2017-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural sealed road rehabilitation program</td>
<td>$278,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armco culvert rehabilitation</td>
<td>$128,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge rehabilitation</td>
<td>$128,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footpath trip hazards</td>
<td>$7,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation buildings and pools</td>
<td>$90,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean lifeguards</td>
<td>$190,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban street construction</td>
<td>$254,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerb and guttering</td>
<td>$55,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,133,484</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Rate

Various Transport and Recreation Infrastructure and Lifeguards*¹

The 2008-09 Operational Plan implemented a Special Rate Variation approved by the Minister for Local Government of 9.33% inclusive of the rate pegging amount. These funds were directed at infrastructure rehabilitation and provision of ocean lifeguards over the busy summer holiday season at beaches not serviced by a Surf Lifesaving Club, but still popular with visitors. This variation was approved on an ongoing basis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Income 2017-18</th>
<th>Total Expenditure 2017-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renewal and upgrade of collector roads</td>
<td>$417,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewal and upgrade of recreational facilities</td>
<td>$545,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewal and upgrade of public halls and buildings</td>
<td>$441,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,403,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*¹ All financial information in this report is unaudited and subject to change.
Governance

Equal employment opportunity
Council has an ongoing commitment to ensuring the principles of equal employment opportunity underpin policy, procedures and activities across Council.
We continue to conduct a rolling program of ‘Code of Conduct’ Workshops which are mandatory for all staff to attend. Issues of bullying and harassment are included in the content of the workshop.
We are committed to the inclusiveness of Aboriginal people in our organisation. We have increased the number of identified Aboriginal positions across our organisation. Employees currently identifying as Aboriginal in our workforce show we are representative of our community demographic.

External bodies, companies and partnerships
In 2017-18 the following committees exercised functions delegated by Council:
- Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
- Bega Valley Shire Community Service Medallion Committee
- Cemetery Advisory Committee
- Coastal Planning and Management Committee
- General Community Hall Committee
- General Sportsground Committee

In 2017-18 Council participated in the following corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies:
- Southern Phone Company
- Bega Valley Shire Council Mayoral Appeal Fund

Government Information Applications
During 2017–18 Council received 43 formal applications under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. Four applications were not determined within the required statutory decision period due to staff resourcing issues following the Tathra Bushfire event. Applicants were consulted regarding the minor delays. Details of these applications are available in the Disclosure Log on Council’s website.

Public Interest Disclosures
During 2017–18 there was 1 disclosure made under the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994.

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

During the 2017-2018 financial year the following progress was made in the four focus areas of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP):

Building positive attitudes

ACTION: Establish partnerships that address community wide barriers to access and inclusion
- Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (AIAC) meetings were held 13 August 2017, 13 November 2017, 12 February 2018 and 18 June 2018. There are three sub committees that focus on business, community and tourism. The AIAC assisted in determining the Community Access Improvement Grant program that contributed $35,440 to nine local projects. They also provided feedback regarding access design to large projects such as the Coastal Accessibility Masterplans, Bega Indoor Sports Building and the Revised Short Point Masterplan.
- The AIAC successfully advocated for a number improvements to business and tourism related initiatives including advocating to business owners and achieving access improvements, such as improvements to the Magic Mountain access path from the carpark to the entrance.
- Council also submitted a funding application and business case for Coastal Accessibility Plans improving for tourism and business. Council succeeded in gaining a $2.2million grant for its ‘Destination for All’ project. Many stakeholders were consulted during this process including the AIAC, Chambers of Commerce, Tourism agencies, local user groups and service groups, neighbouring businesses and land owners.

ACTION: Celebrate inclusive practice and access outcomes
- Ongoing promotion of access and inclusion projects occurs through social media, media releases, Council News and the website.

ACTION: Improve staff awareness of disability issues
- A new Employee Induction Program has been developed and includes training about diversity awareness at the workplace.
- The Complaints / Compliments Procedure has been reviewed and updated and includes options for individuals to have a support person when making complaints; and for Council to be considerate of the complainant’s unique circumstances such as disability or literacy issues.
Creating liveable communities

**ACTION: Advocate for improved access and inclusion outcomes across all levels of Government**
- Advocacy has been undertaken throughout the year. Letters have been written to Family and Community Services and a number of State Government Ministers regarding affordable and social housing matters. Two Housing Roundtables were held bringing together Council staff, Councillors, community organisations and interested community members to discuss social and affordable housing issues and look at opportunities for collaboration. A number of reports were presented to Council for consideration on affordable housing and partnership opportunities. Council staff have attended local homelessness forums. The AIAC have advocated for improved disabled (accessible) parking spaces across the Shire. A number of additional spaces and improvements have been identified.
- The Local Traffic Committee continues to actively increase the number of off-street accessible parking spaces for people with disabilities along with improved paths of travel. Additional car spaces have been included in Alice Street Merimbula, Bunga Street Bermagui, Merimbula Wharf car park and Cobargo public car park. The committee are also involved in providing pram ramps at the intersection of Peden and Upper Streets Bega for better access from the extension of the Bega Nursing Home to the CBD.

**ACTION: Contribute towards programs which aim to increase social inclusion and community connections**
- A member of the AIAC attends the Business Forum and Chambers of Commerce to advocate for more accessible business practices.
- Grants to the value of $36,115 were recommended and resolved on at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 22 November 2017. Nine organisations received grants to undertake a range of infrastructure and program work.

**ACTION: Contribute towards liveable and accessible public places**
- Council continued to support organisations and committees to improve access to buildings via the Access Improvement Grants. Council also commenced design for renewal of the Bega Valley Regional Gallery which included major access upgrades.
- Capital Works assigned to Project Development are reviewed during briefing and design phases to look and identify opportunities for access and inclusion considerations. Presentation of the Development Application and Concept design of the Bega Valley Regional Gallery to the Access and Inclusion Committee is a significant achievement.

**ACTION: Increase access to community assets**
- Council applied for grants for new access ramps, but these submissions were unsuccessful. The Project Team for the Bega Valley Regional Gallery project also commissioned specialist consultants to advise on accessibility issues in developing the design proposal for the Gallery Redevelopment project.

Supporting access to meaningful employment

**ACTION: Develop and enhance employment opportunities for people with a Continued Support Coordination for NDIS participants disability**
- Meetings have taken place between Council’s People and Governance team and local Disability Providers regarding how Council might improve employment opportunities for people with a disability. This task will remain a high priority for 2018-19 year.
- Planning work has previously been undertaken for the administration building requirements under the building code of Australia; however it is unclear when upgrades can be made. As small changes are made, access is considered. Considerable funds are required to retrofit the administration building to meet current standards. This issue has been discussed and prioritised by Council.
- A case management approach has been adopted by People and Governance relating to employees who have identified as having a disability. In some cases, a care management plan has been implemented to assist staff at the workplace. Support includes the Employee Assistance Program and tailored amendments to work practices to suit the needs of the employee.
- The Volunteering Policy was reviewed by the Community Development team in line with Council’s policy review timeframes, with changes identified and incorporated to build capacity and increase participation.

**ACTION: Provide volunteering opportunities for people with all abilities**
- The Volunteering Policy was reviewed by the Community Development team in line with Council’s policy review timeframes, with changes identified and incorporated to build capacity and increase participation.

Accessible systems, information or processes

**ACTION: Continuously improve processes to achieve access and inclusion outcomes**
- Review of development assessment process has been completed. Public building applications will continue to be referred to AIAC for comment. Process of referral is under review.

**ACTION: Include access and inclusion consideration in project management, design and strategy development**
- Capital Works assigned to Project Development are reviewed to look and identify opportunities for access and inclusion considerations. Examples include presentation of the Development Application and Concept design of the Bega Valley Regional Gallery to the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.
- During the briefing and design phases of project development for capital works, Council explores access and inclusion considerations and seeks advice from the AIAC on improvements.
How we are meeting the needs of people with disability

Council has implemented a range of actions to meet the needs of people with a disability, including through the improvement of recruitment and human resource procedures; local and State advocacy on disability issues; and asset improvements that offer increased accessibility for people with a disability.

Challenges and successes in delivering the DIAP

The decision to allocate responsibilities with the DIAP to a range of teams across Council has ensured that the whole organisation commits to and is accountable for improving access and inclusion for people with a disability. Managers have attended Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (AIAC) meetings, collaborated to achieve improved outcomes, and taken on the advice of the AIAC to improve their project delivery.

One major challenge in delivering the DIAP this year has been resource constraints following organisational restructure. The restructure has created some staffing shortages which have led to delays in achieving some priorities. New staff and teams have had to learn about Council systems and understand their role in delivering the DIAP.

A second significant challenge affecting the delivery of DIAP outcomes was the impact of the Tathra and District Bushfires of March 2018 on many aspects of Council services. Planning, Environment, Communications, Works, Assets and Community teams devoted significant time to managing the effects of the fires, prioritising activities such as fast-tracking Development Applications, assisting with environmental regeneration activities, and supporting individuals through the recovery process. These activities are expected to continue to have a resource impact into the 2018/19 financial year.

Future plans to contribute to greater outcomes for people with disability

A number of proposals and commitments are in place for the 2018/19 year to improve outcomes for people with a disability.

These include:

- A Transport Vision Strategy which will be presented to Council encompassing active mobility strategies for all users, including those with a disability.
- Modifications to the Bermagui Masterplan to improve disability access and car parking.
- Delivery of the Coastal Accessibility Plan ‘Destination for all’ projects, including improved accessibility to Bruce Steer Pool at Bermagui, Short Point at Merimbula, and Pambula Beach Reserve to encourage more inclusive use of these coastal places.
- Council received a $600,000 grant from Planning NSW to establish an inclusive playground at Tathra, which will adhere to the Planning NSW Guideline ‘Everyone Can Play’.
- Council will continue to deliver Support Coordination and Plan Management services under the National Disability Insurance Scheme to support participants with disabilities to achieve personal goals.

Other Information

Companion Animal Management*

In 2017-18 Council spent $323,359 on companion animal management and activities and collected $63,411 in companion animal registration fees which was used to offset the costs of companion animal management.

During 2017-18 animal control officers managed 212 cats and dogs. Of these animals:

- 79 Cats
- 133 Dogs
- 8 Returned to owners before impounding
- 91 Returned to owners after impounding
- 40 Released to animal welfare organisations for rehoming
- 53 Euthanased
- 17 Surrendered

During 2017-18 Council received complaints relating to dog attacks/dangerous dogs. Of these:

- 56 Dog Attacks reported
- 46 Animal victims
- 29 Human victims (24 Adult)
- 65 Attacking dogs
- 3 Dangerous dog declarations
- 16 Infringements issued
- 1 Seized and taken to pound
- 6 Dogs destroyed
- 17 Warning issued
- 9 Investigations continuing
- 4 Menacing dog declarations

Council’s Rangers undertake proactive and reactive activities such as routine patrols of public places and sensitive bird nesting sanctuaries and attend cat and dog complaints. In 2017-18 Council received 1124 companion animal control customer service requests.

Council’s Animal Control Areas were reviewed during 2017-18 with extensive community and stakeholder consultation.

Other companion animal community education programs

Council continues to promote and assist the desexing of dogs and cats by implementing the Companion Animal Policy which requires all animals to be desexed and lifetime registered when leaving Council’s Companion Animal Facility.

*1 All financial information in this report is unaudited and subject to change.
Council continues to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals by rehoming dogs through the Animal Welfare League and cats through the RSPCA sub-branch committee.

There are 15 off leash areas provided in the Council area located within the townships of Bega, Bermagui, Eden, Merimbula, Tathra and Tura Beach.

**Planning Agreements**

In 2017-18 the following Planning Agreements were in force:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agreement Description</th>
<th>Property Description</th>
<th>Agreement Date</th>
<th>Particulars of compliance with and effect of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DA2015.115 Benic - Shortfall in carparking - two spaces - $19,480</td>
<td>Lot 1 DP 244127, 130 Imlay St Eden</td>
<td>21.8.2015</td>
<td>No action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DA2016.26 B Cursley - Shortfall in carparking - three spaces - $17,877</td>
<td>Lot 4 DP 515011</td>
<td>17.11.2016</td>
<td>Paid on 26/5/2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Environmental Upgrade Agreements**

In 2017-18 no Environmental Upgrade Agreement was entered into.

**Swimming Pool Inspections**

In 2017-18 Council performed 83 swimming pool inspections:

- 3 inspections of tourist and visitor accommodation
- 1 inspection of premises on which there are more than 2 dwellings
- 79 resulted in issuing certificates of compliance
- 4 resulted in issuing certificates of non-compliance issue

Note:

The 2017-18 audited financial statements, notes and information will be published following formal receipt by Council.

An extension to the date for lodging of financial statements for audit was lodged and approved by the Office of Local Government.

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*All financial information in this report is unaudited and subject to change.*