Bega Valley Shire Council

Annual Report 2018-2019
Welcome

Bega Valley Shire Council is proud to present our Annual Report for 2018-19. The Annual Report is a key point of accountability between Council and its community. This report outlines progress made against the Council’s 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 can be found in the Annual Financial Statements, a companion document to this report, which will be released early in 2020.

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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We are ... the Bega Valley

There are over 36,000 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, with more of us fully owning our own homes, and one in four of us actively volunteering. A third of us are families with children.

Currently fewer of us have Bachelor level education than average. More of us are completing year 12 and attending university than ever before.

Around half of us work, health and social services, retail, tourism, farming and manufacturing, 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

The Bega Valley Shire is well known for its large number of volunteers, with 25% of residents reporting as volunteers, well over the NSW and Australian average. (ABS, 2016). Volunteers are the lifeblood of our communities and are vital to our economic and social wellbeing. Everyone benefits from volunteering; volunteers feel happier, healthier and better connected, and communities become stronger, and more resilient. Council’s Community Directory is a great place to find out more about volunteering opportunities in our Shire.

Council has over 450 registered volunteers who contribute across a range of program areas, generously providing their time, their knowledge, and expertise. Volunteers help Council manage halls, sports grounds and cemeteries. They contribute to our visitor experience in libraries and at the Bega Valley Regional Gallery, and they get hands on to help care for our reserves and parklands.

Our community by numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Income and Expenditure</strong></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><strong>Education</strong></th>
<th>Bega Valley</th>
<th>NSW</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>8.3</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed a trade qualification (certificate)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed year 12</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending university</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending TAFE</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Employment</strong></th>
<th>Bega Valley</th>
<th>NSW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workforce participation rate</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total employment</td>
<td>94.6</td>
<td>93.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full time work</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>55.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part time work</td>
<td>42.6</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Forecast Population Change</strong></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
### Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bega Valley</th>
<th>NSW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population 2019</td>
<td>34,348</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated population 2036</td>
<td>38,138</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forecast population increase by 2036</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons per hectare</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### How we live

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% (Bega Valley)</th>
<th>% (NSW)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Couples with children</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One parent families</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couples without children</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live alone</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group household</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Diversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% (Bega Valley)</th>
<th>% (NSW)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas born</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>27.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language at home other than English</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Health and Helping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% (Bega Valley)</th>
<th>% (NSW)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteering</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need assistance with core activities</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Transport & Technology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% (Bega Valley)</th>
<th>% (NSW)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public transport to work</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with internet connection</td>
<td>73.8</td>
<td>73.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% (Bega Valley)</th>
<th>% (NSW)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of dwellings</td>
<td>17,989</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average household size</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live in dwelling which are separate house (%)</td>
<td>80.2</td>
<td>80.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unoccupied dwellings (%)</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own home outright (%)</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>35.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with a mortgage (%)</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households renting (%)</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>25.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 from the escarpment 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 demonstrating 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-Yuin (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), Bidawahal (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 word 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 southeastern 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 have attracted visitors and new residents for many years.
Our place by numbers

The Bega Valley Shire has a growing economy, with over $1.5 billion annual Gross Regional Product, over $505 million in exports each year and nearly 3,000 local businesses.

Our main industries are agribusiness including fishing and aquaculture, health and social services, and tourism. 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 4 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. Over a million people visit the Bega Valley Shire spending around $450 million each year.

Bega Valley Shire Council manages over $1.51 billion in critical assets that allow visitors and community alike to live, work and play in this beautiful part of the world.
As I look back at my third year as Mayor of this wonderful Shire, the mutual support and resilience of our community have been a highlight of my experience. Our support for each other in challenging times and our collective resilience in getting on with the job at hand have been constant themes. My fellow Councillors, our dedicated Council staff and the community at large are sources of great pride as I look back on how we have worked together to achieve our shared goals and ambitions.

As the community was slowly recovering from the devastating Reedy Swamp, Vimy Ridge and Tathra fires in March last year, the Yankees Gap fire again challenged our community’s resilience. Council’s Recovery Support Service was called upon to extend its services and, with added support from community service organisations, went on to provide direct support, provision of relevant information, practical assistance and advocacy to those impacted by both fires. I took personal pride in seeing the Mayoral Appeal Fund reach a staggering $1.5 million just twelve months after the tragedy.

My fellow Councillors and I have always made a special effort to nurture close, consultative relationships with our communities, but over the past year Council has expanded its efforts to become more responsive to our community’s sentiments, needs and aspirations. Initiatives such as the ‘Councillors in the Community’ offer the community greater access to their Councillors, and our recently drafted ‘Community Engagement Strategy’ seeks to further improve the way Council interacts with the community to deliver on their stated priorities through an improved consultation process.

As we begin another year, I look forward to responding to our community’s needs and applying more innovative approaches to what we do. Better consultation along with forward thinking innovations such as FOGO, our all-abilities playgrounds and carbon reduction strategies will enable us to build a healthy, happy and thriving community well into the future.

Cr Kristy McBain, Mayor
Bega Valley Shire Council
Our Councillors for 2018-19

Mayor
Councillor Kristy McBain

Deputy Mayor
Councillor Mitchell Nadin

Councillor Tony Allen

Councillor Robyn Bain

Councillor Jo Dodds

Councillor Russell Fitzpatrick

Councillor Cathy Griff

Councillor Liz Seckold

Councillor Sharon Tapscott

Elected Council

Bega Valley Shire Council is governed by nine elected Councillors. The Councillors are elected every four years with the last election being held in September 2016. Councillors provide leadership and establish policy and strategic direction for the organisation and the future of the Shire.

There are no wards or ridings in the Bega Valley Shire which means the nine Councillors are elected by the people to represent the interests of all residents. The Councillors elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
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 meetings 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

It is in the most difficult times that the character of a community and the capability of any Council is put to the ultimate test.

We have always been a proud and close-knit community in the Bega Valley, however there is no doubt that the 2018-19 year challenged our collective spirit and resilience like very few have before.

The year will be forever remembered for the devastating impact of the Tathra and District and Yankees Gap bushfires, but critically it will also represent a time when we delivered clear, confident and collaborative leadership for our community.

Every section of Council has been involved in the recovery from both bushfires, with a focus on offering practical, meaningful and compassionate assistance to people in trauma, as they began to comprehend their losses and adapt to their changed circumstances.

Complementing this enormous task, and in close collaboration with our community, we embarked on an ambitious program to enhance facilities and services across the Shire. This work included a comprehensive suite of infrastructure projects, environmental programs and community driven initiatives.

Upgrades to infrastructure such as boat ramps and all-abilities playgrounds encouraged healthier and more active communities. We connected our communities with new bike paths and enhanced liveability by improving drinking water quality, conserving culturally significant sites and having an art gallery that was named in Country Style’s ‘50 Agents of Change’ list.

The community applauded our pro-active approach to consultation and communication through the Councillors in the Community program which, together with a series of digital and non-digital media, has elevated Council’s profile and reputation for transparency.

Our partnership with the University of Wollongong in establishing a local Innovation Hub is creating forward-thinking opportunities for local businesses and industries, and we worked with primary producers on a major upgrade to the Bega Saleyards.

An array of environmental initiatives ranging from our highly successful FOGO (Food Organics, Garden Organics) scheme to our comprehensive Clean Energy Plan and the Green Shoots bushfire regenerative program are all contributing to the sustainable nature of our local region.

Bega Valley Shire Council has met extraordinary demands in unwelcome circumstances. Our proven processes, plans, and ability to work hand in hand with the people we serve, has enabled us to meet these challenges and achieve remarkable outcomes across all areas of our organisation.

Leanne Barnes, OAM
General Manager
Our Structure

Council’s General Manager, Leanne Barnes is responsible for the implementation of Council’s policies as well as the administration and management of all Council day-to-day business. The General Manager reports to the Council (Councillors).

The General Manager is supported in the role by three Directors who, with the General Manager, form the Leadership and Executive Group.

Directors

Dr Alice Howe
*Community, Environment and Planning*
- Communication and Events
- Planning and Sustainability
- Certification and Compliance
- Community and Cultural Assets
- Community Connections

Anthony McMahon
*Assets and Operations*
- Leisure and Recreation
- Projects
- Strategy and Assets
- Works
- Waste Services
- Water and Sewer

Graham Stubbs
*Business and Governance*
- Finance
- Economic Strategy and Projects
- Information Technology
- People and Governance
- Revenue and Customer Service
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
Significant events

July 2018

- Tathra and District Bushfire Mayoral Appeal Fund distribution moves onto Stage 2.
- Activating and lighting of Bega’s public spaces to improve the use, function and safety.
- Changes to Merimbula’s waste collection zones to achieve consistency with bin collection dates.
- Planning proposal to allow additional supply of residential land in Wolumla.
- One of the first councils in NSW to adopt a low upfront charge for business water and sewerage contributions.
- Bega Valley Shire Council celebrates National Tree Day by providing 2000 free trees and tree guards.
August 2018
- $65,460 in ClubGRANTS awarded to assist 34 community projects.
- Tathra and District Recovery and Resilience Grants Program opens.
- Erosion and sediment control continues on Tathra’s asset protection zones.
- New ‘split’ garbage trucks hit the road.
- New concept design for upgraded Bega Sporting Complex Building released.
- Restoration of Tathra Headland begins following March fires.
- Environment grants awarded to eleven community groups to enhance, protect and restore our local environment.

September 2018
- New 10 year blueprint for waste management released.
- Council’s Ageing and Disability Services team welcomes new NDIS clients.
- Cr Kristy McBain re-elected as Mayor.
- Cr Nadin elected Deputy Mayor
- ALDI supermarket site secured in Merimbula.

October 2018
- Bega Valley Regional Gallery bid for funding.
- Upgrades start on key sections of Bermagui's road and drainage network.
- Pambula Beach Drive drainage work commences.
- Community Planting Day to restore Tathra Headland Reserve after March fires.
- Council recognised for climate partnership at Cities Power Partner Summit Awards.
- Bega Valley Waste APP upgraded.
- Council waives fees and charges for those impacted by Yankees Gap fire.
- Eden Child Care Centre turns 30.
- Council announces grant opportunities for Seniors Festival activities.
- Tathra and District Bushfire Mayoral Appeal Fund moves to next stages of distribution.

November 2018
- Costa Georgiadis launches The FOGOmentary.
- Council offers Young Women’s Scholarships in acknowledgement of International Women’s Day (IWD) 2019.
- Shire residents and industry groups recognised for excellence in coastal management and protections at New South Wales Coastal Conference.
- Council undertakes Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

December 2018
- Council expands distribution of high quality FOGO compost to more tips.
- Bega Valley school community given access to free FOGO and recycling bins.
- Council engages specialists to supply and install Smart Parking in Merimbula.
- Council wins major organics recycling industry award for its composting, introduction to FOGO and commitment to the local community.

January 2019
- Bega groundwater hydrology investigation commences.
- Flood recovery program near completion.
- Upper Brogo Road surface and drainage work commences.

February 2019
- Council secures $999,970 from Federal Government’s Drought Communities Programme.
- Council gifts land to Bega Preschool Association Inc.
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 2018–19:

- Cities Power Partnership Award 2018-Knowledge Sharing Award Winner- The award recognises the work being done in local government to transform Australia’s energy landscape.
- 2018 Australian Organics Recycling Association (AORA) Award for Local Government initiatives in organics collection, processing and marketing.
- Local Government NSW RH Dougherty Award for Community Reporting for Fogo campaign “Anyone who includes a picture of their mayor in PJs deserves an award.”
- Local Government NSW RH Dougherty Award for Innovation in Special Events: FOGOmentary “Innovative and progressive event, a credit to those involved”.
- IPWEA Australasia Awards, Excellence in Asset Management for the Network Operations Centre

March 2019

- Council takes to the streets to inform community about Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant and Ocean Outfall Project.
- Mayoral Tathra and District Fire Appeal Fund reaches $1.5 million.
- Work commences on Merimbula Airport Terminal Extension terminal extension.

April 2019

- New fish waste processing business starts operations at local boat ramps.
- Infrastructure Prospectus released.
- ‘Green Shoots’ campaign launched.

May 2019

- Tender awarded for construction of Tathra to Kalaru bike track bridges.
- Tathra and District Bushfire Mayoral Appeal Fund reaches $1 million.
- Bega Valley Community Directory launched.
- Tathra and District Recovery support service established.

June 2019

- Bega Valley Shire Community Service Medallions presented to outstanding volunteers across Bega Valley Shire.
- Nutleys Creek Reservoir put into service.
Figures at a glance

- 57,653 calls through the call centre
- 553,932 visits to Council’s website
- 6,229 likes on Council’s Facebook
- 196,997 library visits

- 2,160km of road reserve sprayed for weeds
- 7,000 tonnes of organics processed into compost and mulch
- 1,177,297 domestic bins emptied
- 1,458km of roads managed by Council across the Shire

- 101 public land use applications
- 341 groups and organisations registered on Council’s Community Directory
- 26,000 attendances at exhibitions at the Bega Valley Regional Gallery
- 172,485 swimming pool attendances

- $140,363,600 in construction across the Shire
- 61,064 passengers through the Merimbula airport
- 984,000 visitors to the Shire
Five months after the Tathra and District Fires our community experienced the fires in Yankees Gap and District. Four homes, numerous sheds and kilometres of fencing was destroyed. Between August 15 and September 15 2018 over 20,000 hectares were burnt. The Tathra and District Recovery Support Service was approved by the State Government to be expanded to include this area. The name of the Service was then changed to Bega Valley Fire Recovery Support Service.

In support of those residents and communities post the fires, the Tathra and District Recovery and Resilience Grants were distributed to successful applicants in December 2018 and January 2019. These grants were for groups and/or individuals to run events or activities. The common goals were to achieve social cohesion, resilience and wellbeing within the communities.

In December 2018/January 2019 a survey was sent to all Tathra and District registered residents to determine the community’s position on the future of community meetings and proposed events to mark the anniversary of the fires. From this survey, bi-monthly meetings were the preferred choice and a tree planting day combined with other community activities were identified to mark the anniversary.

In March 2019 a Yankees Gap Fire Needs Assessment survey was completed. A total of 26 households participated with comments including the need for ongoing preparedness, further community meetings, fences and financial issues.

In early 2019 financial assistance was made available to residents for the repair of fencing through the Yankees Gap Bushfire Fencing Grant Program funded through the Federal Government’s Drought Communities Program. Over 18 properties impacted by the fires were supported financially through this program.

The Bega Valley Fire Recovery Support Service hosted well attended Casual Coffee group events in 2018 and 2019. There was no specific theme for these events but the purpose was to invite people to join in casual discussion about any current issues or concerns.

The Recovery Support Service also partnered with RFS NSW to deliver the HotSpots Fire Project throughout this period. HotSpots is an award winning program which provides landholders and land managers with skills and knowledge regarding fire behaviour and management.

The Recovery Support Service continues to provide direct support, provision of relevant information, practical assistance and advocacy for residents. The service also provided guidance with accessing ongoing psychosocial and emotional support and practical assistance with debris clean-up, removal of rubbish, tree debris and cleaning of blocks where homes were destroyed or on nearby reserves.
During 2018-19, 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>Environment and Tourism Fund</td>
<td>$2,271,000</td>
<td>Restart NSW</td>
<td>A Destination for All</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Council contribution</td>
<td>$495,000</td>
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<td>Waste Less Recycle More Initiative (Organics Infrastructure Fund)</td>
<td>$177,070</td>
<td>NSW Environment Protection Authority</td>
<td>Food Donation Education</td>
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<td>Council contribution</td>
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<td>Crown Reserves Improvement Fund Program</td>
<td>$8,250</td>
<td>NSW Government Crown Lands</td>
<td>Tarraganda Hall Repair Works</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixing country roads</td>
<td>$1,651,954</td>
<td>Transport for NSW</td>
<td>Part sealing of Tantawangalo Mt Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixing country roads</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>Transport for NSW</td>
<td>Sealing of Towamba and Burrage Roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixing country roads</td>
<td>$1,695,900</td>
<td>Transport for NSW</td>
<td>Eden Port to Highway High Productivity Freight Link</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment and Tourism Fund</td>
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<td>Tathra Headland Wharf Access</td>
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<td>Crown Reserves Improvement Fund Program</td>
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<td>NSW Government Crown Lands</td>
<td>Wandella Public Hall works</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crown Reserves Improvement Fund Program</td>
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<td>Roads to Recovery Program</td>
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<td>Australian Government</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Department of Infrastructure Regional Development</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants Scheme</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Transport for NSW</td>
<td>4 new bus shelters</td>
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<td>Drought Communities Programme</td>
<td>$999,970</td>
<td>Australian Government Department of Infrastructure Regional Development</td>
<td>Bega Valley Drought Communities Project</td>
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<td>Safe and Secure Water Program</td>
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<td>Brogo-Bermagui Water Treatment Plant</td>
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<td>Safe and Secure Water Program</td>
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<td>Saving Lives on Country Roads program</td>
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<td>NSW Safer Roads</td>
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<td>NSW Safer Roads</td>
<td>Wolumla School Treatments</td>
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<td>One-off purpose grant</td>
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<td>Safety upgrades to Towamba and Burrageate Roads</td>
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<td>Sports Infrastructure</td>
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<td>Office of Sport</td>
<td>Bega Valley Regional Sports Hub – Bega and Pambula</td>
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<td>Recreational Fishing Trusts</td>
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<td>Recreational Fishing Trusts</td>
<td>BVSC Fish Cleaning Table Upgrades Phase 1 - upgrades to: Fish cleaning facilities at Bermagui Harbour, Bermagui River, Pambula River and Quarantine Bay</td>
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<td>Grant</td>
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<td>Building Better Regions Fund</td>
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<td>Bega Valley Regional Economic Development Future Vision Platform</td>
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<td>Regional Employment Trial Program</td>
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<td>Bega Valley Shire Labour Force Capability and Futures Assessment</td>
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<td>Public Library Infrastructure Grant</td>
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<td>State Library of NSW</td>
<td>Eden Library Refurbishment</td>
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<td>Community Child Care Fund</td>
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<td>Growing Booris of Eden</td>
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<td>Stronger Country Communities Round 2</td>
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<td>Infrastructure NSW</td>
<td>8 projects, walking trails, playgrounds, sports grounds upgrades, community hall kitchen upgrades</td>
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<td>Bega Valley Local Heritage Assistance Fund</td>
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<td>Office of Local Government NSW</td>
<td>Cool places for a warmer climate – prevention and preparedness measures for vulnerable populations</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ACHIEVING OUR PLAN

Report on performance against the delivery of the outcomes, goals and actions committed to in the Community Strategic Plan 2040.

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

Performance against our ...

Delivery Program:
Following is a progress summary of the six outcome areas with overall results being shown as as follows:
• On track indicates actions that are on schedule to be completed by the end of financial year.
• Ongoing indicates actions that will continue across the 4 year life span of the Delivery Program.
• Completed indicates actions that were completed by the end of financial year.
• Off track indicates actions that experienced delays.

Operational Plan:
The performance against our annual activities to achieve the strategic actions is set out in Attachment 1 to this report.
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.
The relationship between the community's input and Council's plans.

RESOURCING STRATEGY
4 year plan
ADOPTED COUNCIL DIRECTION INFORMED BY THE COMMUNITY SURVEY
- Financial Management
- Workforce Management
- Asset Management
- Technology Management
- Plant & Fleet Management

COMMUNITY INPUT
+ Integration with state and regional plans

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN
10+ year plan
COMMUNITY OWNED DIRECTION

DELIVERY PROGRAM
4 year plan
COUNCIL’S ANNUAL DIRECTION INFORMED BY COMMUNITY SURVEY

OPERATIONAL PLAN
1 year plan
COUNCIL ANNUAL ACTIVITIES & BUDGET STAFF DELIVERY

QUARTERLY & ANNUAL REPORTING
yearly
AS PER PROGRAM OUTCOMES
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 109 actions 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 of 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.
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.
Hidden Heritage
- 101 Objects

Expenditure: $95,000

Strategic outcome: 1 - Goal 1
4 - Goal 8

With assistance from the NSW Government’s Heritage Near Me program, Council enlisted the help of three expert local heritage advisors to curate 101 culturally and historically significant local objects and locations.

These objects include a combination of everyday items that represent past life in the Shire through to places that have a unique or special importance in the history of the area, and were officially revealed at a ceremony at Wolumla Memorial Hall in April 2019.

As part of South Coast History Day, locals were treated to a seminar explaining more about the 101 Objects and an afternoon bus tour took participants around the Shire to visit sites of historical importance not usually open to the public.

This project has shone a light on important aspects of the Shire’s history. It provides a platform for enhanced tourism activities, as well as improved opportunities for local people to connect with the Shire’s vibrant Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Visit www.hiddenheritage.com
Bega Valley Shire Council upgraded Tathra’s Lot Stafford Playground in response to community desire for better and more inclusive play areas.

The new playground was designed and upgraded in accordance with the NSW Government’s Everyone Can Play guidelines to create a play space suitable for all members of the community. The project was the first as a pilot to be delivered in Regional NSW which led to an expanded program across the State.

Some of the pre-existing play items, including the ever-popular green dragon were retained and several new items installed to enhance the play experience.

Other upgrades included improvements to the pathways to facilitate all-inclusive access, provision of disabled parking close to the playground and the installation of new accessible seating and tables. In line with Council’s reuse principles, the pedestrian bridges within the park were constructed using recycled wharf timbers and some of the pre-existing play equipment was relocated to other parks within the town of Tathra.

This significant community asset provides benefits for people of all abilities from across the Shire as well as our visiting tourists. Council aims to apply similar accessibility principles to planned playground revitalisation projects across the Shire.
Eden Place Plan
Endeavour Park

Expenditure: $160,000

Strategic outcome: 1 - Goal 1 & 2
2 - Goal 4

Bega Valley Shire Council collaborated with community organisations, the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council, Elders, school children, youth, residents and dedicated volunteers to activate and upgrade Endeavour Park, an under-utilised space; the result is a vibrant meeting place in constant use by children and families.

Our team responded to community concerns about the park and worked closely with residents throughout the planning, design and construction phases to create a valued and culturally positive outdoor space with multiple uses.

This multi-faceted project also provided a range of opportunities for education, training and employment for locals, whilst boosting wellbeing for residents of the nearby social housing area.

Endeavour Park now boasts a multi-purpose shelter, bike track, new play equipment, mini basketball court, bubbler, mural, children’s dreaming garden, pathways, shared food garden and Indigenous plantings.

Children helped to plant the gardens and paint artwork and teenagers took part in constructing the bike path, now used regularly by Eden Marine High School.

A community-led celebration marked the completion of the project, which was funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services.
In the wake of the devastating bushfires that swept through the town of Tathra and surrounds in March 2018, Council immediately pledged its support for every member of this close-knit community in its time of grief.

The event sent shockwaves through the entire Bega Valley community and challenged our collective spirit.

Council responded swiftly, establishing the Tathra and District Fire Recovery Support Service (RSS) and appointing 2.5 full time equivalent staff, including two Recovery and Resilience Officers. These officers would offer free, confidential and personalised case management to households and individuals impacted by the bushfire.

The RSS was designed as a flexible service with the focus on empowering people. A Recovery Support Centre was established in Tathra as a focal point for the delivery of services and a ‘go to’ place for people seeking support and guidance.

Regular meetings were convened in the town to provide the community with updates regarding issues such as access to properties, asbestos contamination, common insurance and regulatory issues and forward planning.

Support services were offered for a range of personal and practical needs, with these needs and timeframes for individual cases varying enormously.

For more complex situations, officers developed long term action plans, organised letters of support, facilitated meetings and helped with practical matters such as replacing key documents.

Support services

- Developing action plans and strategies for families
- Sourcing financial and non-financial support
- Assistance with referrals and applications
- Help coping with grief and loss
- Navigating rebuilding and insurance processes
- Liaising with Centrelink
- Assistance with funding submissions for community recovery events
- Arranging transport to community recovery and rebuilding events
- Psychological first aid where needed
- Access to charity programs and resources
Council also waived fees and charges including water and sewer charges, waste fees and interest on general rates instalments for properties directly affected.

As the Tathra community continued its long road to recovery, another local bushfire at Yankees Gap added to the challenges already facing Council and the broader Bega Valley community.

The Yankees Gap fire ignited in August, burnt for 44 days and impacted approximately 80 landholders, four of whom lost their homes.

Council immediately included those impacted in the RSS, extending financial assistance and help finding accommodation to those who lost their homes.

As an adjunct to the RSS, Council established a Recovery and Resilience Grants Program to help communities link back into their support networks, tell about their experiences, address issues arising from the disaster and build a greater sense of future safety.

Individuals and groups were encouraged to apply for grants to undertake activities and events that will foster social cohesion, resilience and wellbeing in residents and home owners.
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.
Huge benefits from saleyards upgrade

Expenditure: $790,000

Strategic outcome: 2 - Goal 3
6 - Goal 12

Local primary producers are the major beneficiaries of an upgrade to the Bega Saleyards.

Funding under the Federal Government’s Drought Communities Program enabled upgrades to the site amenities, renovation of the site office, improved signage and fencing, creation of a community meeting room, installation of rubber matting livestock pens and a renewal of the effluent management infrastructure.

The project scope was developed following consultation with local farming groups and co-operatives, support organisations, and major agricultural businesses.

The saleyards support over 2,000 traders who attend sale days each year from across our Shire, Eurobodalla, Snowy-Monaro and East Gippsland. For the regional agricultural community, they are a key focal point to meet and discuss a range of industry trends, issues and opportunities, and are a space for socialisation and peer support in times of hardship and drought.

These works immensely improve the functionality, accessibility, safety and amenity of the site and lead to positive economic flow-on effects.
Small business friendly

**Strategic outcome: 2 - Goal 3 & 4**

Bega Valley Shire Council was delighted to be recognised for its commitment to the *Small Business Friendly Councils* initiative and *Easy to Do Business*. Council was commended for its leadership in making it easier for local businesses to start and grow at the inaugural Small Business Friendly Councils Conference in May 2019.

The *Easy to Do Business* program transforms how small business owners transact with government and helps them navigate their way through red tape to get started quickly and succeed.

Small business owners in the Bega Valley now have access to information, workshops, networking opportunities and resources; in addition to free online and phone support from Service NSW’s Business Concierge.

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**Innovation Hub**

Expenditure: $50,000 (over 2 years)

**Strategic outcome: 2 - Goal 4**

Seizing the opportunity to invigorate the local economy through business innovation, Bega Valley Shire Council partnered with the University of Wollongong (UOW) to establish an Innovation Hub in the Bega Valley and host the iAccelerate Education Program - a first for regional NSW.

The twelve-week program was designed to encourage start-ups and prepare scale ups and existing businesses for engagement with the market and investors for sustainable long-term growth.

The Bega Valley Commenorative Civic Centre provided the perfect space for a combination of industry experts, experienced entrepreneurs, investors and UOW academics to deliver the iAccelerate Educate Program.

The seven existing and new local businesses who participated in the first round of the program benefited from expert guidance and mentorship on topics such as marketing, leadership, finance, tax, accounting, customer relationships, networking and business structure.

At the end of the program, each of the businesses was given the opportunity to pitch their innovative ideas to a panel of experts.
The Bega Valley Regional Gallery (BVRG) provides an ever-surprising program of high calibre exhibitions to the people of the South East and visitors, including touring exhibitions of national significance and integrated creative activities for adults and children. BVRG has proven to be a regional asset, supporting cultural tourism by attracting thousands of visitors annually. Close to half of gallery attendees come from beyond the Shire and bring in $1.3 million of economic activity every year.

It’s no wonder BVRG was named one of Country Style’s 50 Agents of Change in December 2018!

BVRG holds up to eight important exhibitions annually and having one of the country’s richest and most loved portrait awards - The Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award, which is a biennial $50,000 non-acquisitive prize for realistic portraiture.

Born out of the Shirley Hannan award, The Shirl is a $10,000 biennial and acquisitive portrait prize for artists aged between 16-25 years and fills an important gap in the Australian art world as the only portrait prize specifically for young and emerging Australian artists.

Recognising the significance of public art to communities, BVRG awards The Bega Valley Mural Prize to local artists living and working in our Shire. The works are reproduced on a large scale and presented as murals on Council water tanks in different locations.

A growing number of national and state arts institutions are partnering with BVRG to deliver valuable and vibrant visual arts programming to the South East, including the Art Gallery of NSW, The National Maritime Museum, The Australian War Memorial, Museums & Galleries NSW, Murray Art Museum Albury (MAMA), Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art and University of New South Wales Art & Design.

Visit gallery.begavalley.nsw.gov.au
National Science Week at forefront of STEM learning

Expenditure: $9,970

**Strategic outcome: 2 - Goal 4**

Bega Valley Shire Library’s leadership in fostering an extraordinary program of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) experiments, displays and demonstrations during local National Science Week, places them at the forefront of progressive library services, at least matching any metropolitan service.

Over 1300 people attended the event; 84% of primary and high school children rating it “a good way to learn about science”.

The Library collaborated with the Sapphire Coast Regional Science Hub to gather scientific experts to share their knowledge and ideas about the natural world, threatened species, marine science and cutting-edge technologies.

For many people it was the first time they’d had a chance to see, touch and try a variety of technologies including a virtual reality installation, robotics, digital music-making, gamer technology and 3D printing.

Local organisations, like *The Atlas of Life in the Coastal Wilderness*, *Eden Game Development Centre*, *Bournda Environmental Education Centre*, *Panboola Wetlands*, and *Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre*, joined with the Library to run the eight-day event, which gave families and residents of all ages plenty of opportunity to experience the impressive range of STEM activities, including a Microeye microscope with 100 times magnification, through which people had the rare chance to inspect local flora and preserved fauna using projection onto a big screen.

Questacon’s Fascinating Science interactive stations engaged children with topics of logic, balance, fluids, illusions and mathematical puzzles and 30 school classes visited the event.
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.
Innovation driving new water treatment plant

Expenditure: $5,000,000

Strategic outcome: 3 - Goal 6
4 - Goal 8
6 - Goal 12

Innovative and creative system design means the new Bemboka Water Treatment Plant can extract much more value from its renewable energy generation than most plants of its type.

Aligning pump operation with peak power generation from the 30kW solar PV system underpins the 100% renewable energy philosophy that drove this project.

This project called on Council staff to take a creative approach due to a lack of available consultants with the experience and capacity to advise on such an innovative design. To inform the optimisation process, plant power consumption and PV generation data were interrogated to maximise efficiency and help deliver on the ambitious clean energy project objective.

Provision for the future installation of a battery bank was part of the forward planning incorporated in the overall project design.

Other advantages of the new system, that replaced a small pumping station and chlorinator situated on the banks of the Bemboka River, include minimal requirement for operator supervision and the ability for operations to be monitored remotely.

Valuable knowledge gathered in the design, construction and operation of the Bemboka system will inform similar projects across the Bega Valley.

Council invited the community to engage with the project through a Community Open Day that featured walking tours, Q&A sessions with staff and an official opening by the Mayor.
New technology reduces emissions

Expenditure: $373,922

Strategic outcome: 3 - Goal 5
3 - Goal 6

The Gas Collection and Treatment System at the Central Waste Facility applies new technologies engineered to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit the amount of leachate generated from waste.

As waste decomposes, landfill gas is produced, most of which is methane created by the decomposition of organic matter, such as food and garden waste.

The new Gas Collection and Treatment System at the Central Waste Facility decreases greenhouse gas emissions by converting methane to carbon dioxide, energy and water, with a 28-fold reduction in greenhouse warming potential.

The Gas Collection and Treatment System is registered with the Federal Government’s Clean Energy Regulator as a new abatement project under the Emissions Reduction Fund. This means that carbon credits are available to be claimed.

Landfill Gas Industries have been contracted by Council to construct, operate and manage the project.
Grants for fencing

Expenditure: $210,000

Strategic outcome: 2 - Goal 4
3 - Goal 5

Sixteen local primary producers received significant assistance to replace fencing that was damaged or destroyed during the Yankees Gap bushfire emergency.

The Yankees Gap Bushfire Fencing Grants Program was administered by Council’s Recovery Support Service after we received a $210,000 Drought Relief Grant from the Federal Government.

In addition to helping to reinstate both boundary and internal fencing, the program also provided much-needed business injections for the fencing contractors and suppliers, who had been not only impacted by the fires, but also the drought that had been gripping the area.
Beyond FOGO

Expenditure: $1,003,273

Strategic outcome: 3 - Goal 5
3 - Goal 6
6 - Goal 12

Engagement and participation have been key to Bega Valley Shire Council’s outstanding success in the expansion of its Food Organics, Garden Organics (FOGO) program.

Through engagement with all sectors of the community, from school children to householders and business operators, Council has stimulated participation at every level.

A comprehensive communications strategy employing social media, community events, advertising campaigns and multi-media resources brought the whole community on board, with participation eclipsing all expectations.

Engagement was extended to visiting tourists through the roll out of a ‘We Go FOGO’ awareness campaign. During peak tourism periods bin contamination can be much higher, so it was important to encourage visitors to choose the right bin. In collaboration with tourism operators, Council produced a set of resources including flyers, corflute signs, stickers and fact sheets for the visitors.

FOGO is now delivering significant economic and environmental benefits to the Bega Valley community through increased waste avoidance, reuse and recycling.

Economic benefits include extending the life of landfill sites and the production of compost, which is already being returned to the community in the form of fertiliser for sporting fields and street landscapes. Council is now considering options to commercialise the compost production operation to generate revenue.

The Australian Organics Recycling Association (AORA) recognised Council’s FOGO and compost program with judges commenting that our “commitment to community engagement and education, their dedication to continual process improvement and the passion of their team are a credit to Council and an outstanding example for other communities.”

Turning fish waste into compost

Expenditure: $60,000 pa (ongoing)

Strategic outcome: 2 - Goal 3
3 - Goal 5
3 - Goal 6

In a first for NSW, Bega Valley Shire Council partnered with new Eden based business Ocean2earth to transform fish waste into organic compost whilst reducing the amount of waste going to landfill.

With an ongoing problem at local boat ramp areas, where overflowing, unsightly and smelly fish bins were causing public health concerns and fish waste being thrown back into the ocean or dumped in community spaces, Council called for Expressions of Interest to find a sustainable solution. Ocean2earth proposed an innovative and practical solution, which Council is proud to support.

Council has located specially-marked blue bins at boat ramps at Bermagui Harbour, Bermagui River, Quarantine Bay, Pambula Lake, Kianinny and Mogareeka with the bins cleared regularly by Ocean2earth. Council has also installed new red and yellow bins at the ramps to make it easier for people to choose the right bin.

Providing improved recycling and waste facilities at these six boat ramps and supporting the Ocean2earth initiative is a step towards a long-term goal in Council’s 10-year waste management strategy.

Council is responsible for a public reserve network that stretches along 225 kilometres of coastline; the towns and villages along the way are central to community life and the region’s tourism appeal.
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 within our Shire that meet local needs.
Terminal project in full swing

Expenditure: $2,401,968

Strategic outcome: 4 - Goal 8  
6 - Goal 12

The Merimbula Airport terminal upgrade and redevelopment is well underway.

Architecturally designed and informed through consultation undertaken with airport user groups, the project involves extending the terminal building and including airport screening, a search room, upgraded staff room, an external seating area with access to the café, and the separation of incoming and departing passengers.

Through pursuing a modular expansion, there is little disturbance to the current terminal footprint, and capacity for further sections to be added as the need arises into the future. The terminal upgrade complements the runway extension and aviation activation plans currently underway.

The key aims of the project are to improve passenger comfort and safety and importantly future-proof the airport allowing for the introduction of security screening for passengers and their baggage.

Heating and cooling of the building will be improved through the use of environmentally friendly instantaneous heating and fan driven ventilation and aesthetic improvements are being incorporated to ensure that the terminal’s presentation to arriving travellers will reflect its key role as a gateway to the Sapphire Coast.
Pretty Point Bridge

Expenditure: $100,000

Strategic outcome: 4 - Goal 8
6 - Goal 11

Bega Valley Shire Council committed to the restoration of Pretty Point Bridge in response to a clear message from the Wyndham community that the bridge represented an important element of their village history and identity.

Council worked closely with local bridge enthusiasts to plan and execute the project with the help of funding from the NSW State Government. The 1896 Allan Truss bridge, with its 118-year-old grey box trusses, has now been brought back to life after the trusses were removed in 2014 to facilitate an upgrade.

The Pretty Point Bridge, one of several truss bridges in the Shire, is expected to become a new tourist attraction generating increased economic activity in the village of Wyndham.
Beauty Point boat ramp

Expenditure: $400,000

Strategic outcome: 1 - Goal 2
4 - Goal 7

Plans to upgrade the boat ramp facilities at Beauty Point began with some positive community consultation sessions and culminated in the construction of a double boat ramp to replace the existing gravel ramp and improve safety and access to the water for locals and tourists alike.

The work also included enlarging and upgrading the existing access road and launch area, enlarging and formalising the parking area and improving the lighting.

The renewal of the boat ramp was identified in the Transport for NSW Far South Coast Regional Boating Plan (2015) and in Council’s Leisure & Recreation Asset Management Plan (2017) as a renewal and improvement project for maritime facilities.

Our team completed the project under budget and successfully negotiated with NSW Roads and Maritime Services to have a portion of the remaining funds redirected to aesthetic and accessibility improvements to the nearby amenities block – a bonus for the community!


Lawrence Park

Expenditure: $276,000

Strategic outcome: 1 - Goal 2
4 - Goal 7

Tathra’s Lawrence Park has become a far more user-friendly place since Bega Valley Shire Council upgraded the field lighting with the installation of new poles and replacement of outdated halogen lamps with energy efficient LED lights.

The project also included the replacement and relocation of the existing playground to a safer and more accessible location.
Green Shoots after bushfire

Strategic outcome: 3 - Goal 5
4 - Goal 8

Bega Valley Shire Council initiated the Green Shoots project to restore natural areas in Tathra, which were destroyed or badly degraded by the Tathra and District Bushfire.

It’s an ongoing project working in partnership with locals, Tathra Landcare, South East Local Land Services, Far South Coast Landcare Association and the Bega Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Public events, involving hundreds of people, have included a dune planting, two headland plantings, a rainforest restoration activity and a headland weeding event. Planting native seeds and seedlings regularly to fill gaps in the existing plant community is supporting important habitats for many native birds and animals.

As well as plantings, simple erosion and sediment controls are proving highly effective. We sprayed hydromulch, containing native and exotic seeds, onto fire-affected ground, and strategically placed coir logs, jute fabric and sediment control mesh to prevent further erosion.

The standout success of Green Shoots lies in providing the community positive, practical and informal activities to connect after the bushfire through planting activities, which are both healing for the land, its flora and fauna, and its people.

Community working group collaboration

Expenditure: $35,000,000 (total project cost)

Strategic outcome: 3 - Goal 6
4 - Goal 8

Bega Valley Shire Council is upgrading the Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to improve the quality of sewage effluent and maximise reuse potential.

Council is partnering with a 10-member Community Working Group (CWG) to co-design the project so it meets the needs of the community.

The broader community is involved in the project through an ongoing engagement campaign, which encourages information sharing through beach and market information tours, STP tours, a dedicated website, phone line, email and social media.


Bega Valley Shire Council manages more pumps and pipes in its water and sewer network than Sydney Water.

The Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant is one of 10 that Council owns and operates to provide safe and sustainable sewerage services to the community.
Goal 9: We have opportunities to work, learn and socialise through the provision of affordable public transport and telecommunications services.

Goal 10: We have a network of good quality roads, footpaths and cycleways connecting communities throughout the Shire and beyond.
Merimbula Airport certification

Expenditure: $50,000

Strategic outcome: 2 - Goal 3  
5 - Goal 9

It is rare for an aerodrome certificate for an existing airport to be issued to a new applicant. Bega Valley Shire Council achieved this feat in 2019.

Merimbula Airport is an essential component of the Sapphire Coast infrastructure, enabling airline transport and emergency service access, whilst supporting general aviation, freight and tourism.

With the retirement of the airport operator and holder of the aerodrome certificate for over 25 years, Council took on full policy accountability and cultural responsibility for the continued operation of Merimbula Airport.

Council achieved a seamless handover of the full operation and security functions to gain aerodrome certificate-holder status, meeting aviation-specific legislative requirements and earning for itself the same exemptions granted to the previous operator.

Essential to this achievement was Council’s embedded safety culture, a forensic approach to aviation-specific legislation, a respectful relationship with the outgoing operator, recognition of the need to fully uphold aviation safety imperatives, and the development of a constructive relationship with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).

The nine-month process resulted in the permanent certificate being issued by CASA in May 2019.
Bike infrastructure on track

Expenditure: $3,120,000

Strategic outcome: 1 - Goal 2
5 - Goal 10
6 - Goal 11

The new bike track built between Tathra and Kalaru aligns perfectly with the vision and short-term priorities of the Bega Valley Bike Plan, provides a connection with the existing mountain bike network and caters for cyclists of all abilities.

Some of the key goals for the project were to provide a safe and enjoyable cycling experience for the community, raise safety awareness and education amongst cyclists and road users, support and advocate cycling as an alternative mode of transport and improve and advocate for bicycle tourism in the area.

Working closely with the Bega Tathra Safe Ride community group and with strong support from the community at large, the project represents the first stage in creating a cycling network between Bega and Tathra.

The project was entirely funded by a $3,120,000 grant received from the NSW Government under the 2017/18 Active Transport Program.


This will not only better connect two of our great communities it will also provide another fantastic tourism driver and give the region a further economic boost.
Pro-active approach to flood mitigation

Expenditure: $7,045,392

Strategic outcome: 4 - Goal 7
2 - Goal 4
5 - Goal 10

Substantial damage to roads, bridges, and public infrastructure in flood events over the past few years has led to a rethink of our approach to flood mitigation.

Council has developed tools to help it make informed decisions on the best way to invest in flood mitigation, better manage the associated risks and reduce the financial and other imposts of flooding.

The data gathered allowed Council’s consultants to model the existing and predicted flood behaviour in the catchments to guide decisions on effective mitigation.

This work provided essential information to the State Emergency Service to enable more effective responses in flood emergencies, and informed flood mitigation works in the Upper Brogo locality – an area hard hit during the floods of January and June 2016.

Sixty flood damage repair projects were completed in 2018-19 including the construction of rock walls to repair landslips, drainage improvements and gravel road re-sheeting to replace lost road material.

These projects were made possible with support from the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements program and the Natural Disaster Resilience Scheme.

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.
Mayoral Appeal Fund
a great success

Money raised as at 3 July 2019 - $1,571,673

Strategic outcome: 1 - Goal 1
6 - Goal 11
6 - Goal 12

In the wake of the devastating bushfire that swept through the town of Tathra and surrounds Bega Valley Shire’s Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, established a special appeal fund to assist victims of the fire.

The community’s response was extraordinary and by the first anniversary of the tragic event the fund had raised over $1.5 million.

Over 95% of the money has already been distributed to those who were most severely impacted by the disaster, specifically owner/occupiers and tenants whose homes were destroyed or declared permanently uninhabitable.

The appeal fund complemented Council’s Tathra and District Fire Recovery Support Service, which provides assistance with accessing financial and other support available, coping with grief and loss, navigating rebuilding and insurance processes and liaising with Centrelink.

Council also initiated and coordinated a number of other programs to assist the community through the recovery process.
Canberra Region Joint Organisation and Bega Valley Shire Council's Infrastructure Prospectus

Expenditure: $5,000

**Strategic outcome:** 2 - Goal 4  
6 - Goal 11  
6 - Goal 12

Bega Valley Shire Council is maximising opportunities for collaboration and advocacy for regional initiatives through our participation in the Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO).

Pivotal to this relationship with South East councils and the ACT Government, is the innovative Bega Valley Shire Council Infrastructure Prospectus, which was awarded the Local Government NSW RH Dougherty Award (2018) in the category ‘Reporting to Your Community’ for Councils of 30,000 – 70,000 in population.

As an inventive way to overcome the challenge of attracting public and private investment and seizing opportunities to fund infrastructure and projects, the Infrastructure Prospectus, and accompanying video, outlines a carefully scoped list of strategic investment opportunities throughout the Shire and supports elements of CRJO projects based locally.

The community contributed to the Prospectus, setting direction and helping to determine priorities, through the development of the Community Strategic Plan 2040.

The Prospectus was distributed widely throughout Federal and State Governments, and proved its worth, helping to secure substantial funding in 2018-19 for a range of programs such as water, recreational facilities and transport infrastructure.

The future looks exciting as Council, with our CRJO partners, works towards the realisation of key regional projects such as freight corridors linking the Port of Eden with Canberra Airport and the Hume Highway; street lighting to reduce electricity costs; addressing new legislative requirements in relation to contaminated lands; and assistance with the interpretation and implementation of new legislation regarding the Crown Lands Management Act, Native Title matters, biodiversity and biosecurity.
In partnership with the community, Bega Valley Shire Council has carefully mapped and scoped a list of strategic infrastructure investment opportunities to:

• Boost our regional strategic advantage – for tourism and liveability
• Stimulate the local economy – for sustainability, employment and innovation
• Enrich our local communities – for wellbeing across generations
Clean Energy Plan

Strategic outcome: 3 - Goal 6
6 - Goal 12

Bega Valley Shire Council has demonstrated a long-term commitment to the environment in adopting a Clean Energy Plan (CEP) aimed at reducing Council’s greenhouse gas emissions.

The CEP identifies opportunities to reduce emissions through initiatives including LED streetlighting, the installation of solar panels on Council assets and the transition to more fuel-efficient motor vehicles.

The plan identifies potential for 430kW of solar PV to be installed on Council infrastructure assets with total investment of $700,000 and a payback period of 7.5 years.

Street lighting, which currently represents 17% of the Shire’s power consumption and produces over 1,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, was identified as a target for significant savings. The CEP outlines a proposal to upgrade street lighting to LED technology, with the investment of $1 million estimated to be returned within four years.

As an organisation, our 10-year plan shows leadership in setting out a process for Council to become more energy efficient, reducing our electricity costs and our carbon footprint.

Visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au

✔ Long term plan
✔ Investment in renewable energy
✔ Adoption of alternative technology
✔ Investment in fuel efficient vehicles
✔ Return on investment
Citizen science improves local decision making

Strategic outcome: 2 - Goal 4
3 - Goal 5
4 - Goal 8
6 - Goal 11

Bega Valley Shire Council became a participant and supporter of the *Atlas of Life in the Coastal Wilderness* project at its very inception in 2012.

This Bega Valley based citizen science project represents a perfect synergy between community, environment, science and planning.

The project has developed a network of community contributors to record and map the unique biodiversity of the far south coast region of NSW; information which then becomes part of Australia’s national biodiversity database, the *Atlas of Living Australia*, hosted by the CSIRO and publicly available online.

Atlas of Life is a collaborative, volunteer, non-profit organisation and recipient of the prestigious 2018 Banksia Community Award for its involvement in developing the NatureMapr Network, a platform which provides easy-to-use tools for recording and identifying sightings and sharing information.

In partnership with the Atlas of Life, Council has worked with the community to obtain valuable information on pest, weed and threatened endemic species in the Bega Valley. These projects not only fulfil community education and engagement outcomes but provide valuable data used in Council’s environmental management and strategic planning programs.

In a perfect example of the value of this project, Council partnered with the Office of Environment and Heritage, the Atlas of Life and the community to gather information on an important population of the Merimbula Star-hair, which occurs in Tura Beach on Council reserves and private land. The information gathered was then used to inform Council’s development and land management decisions in the Tura Beach area.

Recent Council partnership projects

- Pest wasps, May 2018
- Pollinator project, November 2018
- Upcoming project: Bega River Bioblitz

Past projects

- Beach weeds
  https://atlasoflife.org.au/beach-weeds
- Saltmarsh identification
  https://atlasoflife.org.au/resources/saltmarsh
- Four Winds Bioblitz (2016)
  https://atlasoflife.org.au/atlas-bb/2018/4/7/ketp85dj187phebyewg1k0h0kdui
- Wallagoot Bioblitz (2015)
- Mimosa Rocks Bioblitz (2014)
  https://atlasoflife.org.au/atlas-bb/2018/4/7/3mfv040dnhwc0i74ur1pnxjrkawn
- Panboola Bioblitz (2014)
- Bermagui Bioblitz (2013)
Empowering hall committees

Expenditure: $70,000 pa (ongoing)

Strategic outcome: 1 - Goal 1
4 - Goal 7
6 - Goal 12

Each year our hall committees are given the opportunity to nominate special maintenance projects they’d like Council to fund and facilitate. These projects are in addition to the ongoing operations and regular maintenance funded by hall hire fees and charges.

Community halls are an integral part of community life and important spaces for people of all ages to come together, make connections and build stronger communities.

Council manages 18 community halls across the Shire and works hand-in-hand with 16 volunteer community hall committees to ensure these important community assets are properly serviced and maintained.

Projects funded and facilitated at various halls over the 2018-2019 financial year included re-stumping, driveway repairs, removal of dangerous vegetation, external cladding repairs, floor sanding and addressing drainage issues.
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).

Attachments
- 2018–2019 Audited Annual Financial Statements

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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 2018-19.

Mayoral and Councillor fees, expenses and facilities

In 2018-19 the Mayoral allowance was $41,090, allowance for the nine Councillors was $168,000. $18,735 was paid for catering of meetings and civic functions and $11,025 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>1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone calls</td>
<td>8,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences and seminars</td>
<td>22,856.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and skill development</td>
<td>2,349.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstate visits</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas visits</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse / partner expenses</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Manager and senior staff remuneration

In 2018-19 Council had three senior staff and a General Manager in the executive structure. During this period the General Manager had a remuneration package of $287,490 and the combined total remuneration for Directors was $633,900, this was lower than anticipated due to a vacancy in the role of Director of Community, Environment and Planning.
## Finance

### Contracts

Contracts over $150,000 awarded by Council in 2018-19:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract Title</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
<th>Value (Inc GST)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Dewatering, Removal and Beneficial Reuse of Bio solids</td>
<td>Arkwood (Gloucester) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$610,936.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merimbula Lake and Back Lake Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan</td>
<td>Rhelm Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$162,915.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of Airport Terminal</td>
<td>Colin Joss &amp; Co Pty Ltd t/as Joss Construction</td>
<td>$2,976,594.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tathra to Kalaru Bike Track - Kalaru Section</td>
<td>RD Miller Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$511,816.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew Cab Truck Tray</td>
<td>Hartwigs Trucks Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$233,027.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Toyota vehicles</td>
<td>Nowra Toyota (Palmira Holdings Enterprises Pty Ltd)</td>
<td>$170,691.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Isuzu vehicles</td>
<td>Ron Doyle Motors</td>
<td>$220,664.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply and Installation of Guardrail</td>
<td>Western Safety Barriers Group Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$682,489.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bega Valley Shire Council Workshop Refurbishment</td>
<td>Edwards Constructions (NSW) Pty Limited</td>
<td>$814,650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply and delivery of one (1) 4x2 forward control (cab-over) rear mounted crane truck</td>
<td>Hino Motor Sales Australia</td>
<td>$191,618.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply and delivery of one 4x2 cab over front mounted vehicle loading crane tipper truck</td>
<td>Hino Motor Sales Australia</td>
<td>$218,284.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eden Aerobic Tank Diffuser Replacement and Concrete Tank Repairs</td>
<td>Aquatec Maxon Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$262,812.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Nissan vehicle</td>
<td>Ron Doyle Motors P/L</td>
<td>$169,736.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Isuzu vehicle</td>
<td>Harrigan Motor Group</td>
<td>$406,563.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bega Saleyard Floor Matting</td>
<td>RPS Industries Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$578,474.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply &amp; Delivery of one (1) Caterpillar 2017 plated</td>
<td>Westrac (Caterpillar)</td>
<td>$381,700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dell Latitude 5490 14” HD x125</td>
<td>OPC IT Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$182,875.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1 All financial information in this report is pending audit finalisation and subject to change.
Legal proceedings

Legal proceedings taken by or against the council in 2018-19:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Cost to Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW Industrial Relations Commission</td>
<td>Unfair Dismissal Proceedings BVSC vs United Services Union (USU)</td>
<td>Application withdrawn by USU</td>
<td>$5000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Court, Bega</td>
<td>Hearing-</td>
<td>Sequence 1-charge withdrawn</td>
<td>$3,080.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Failure to comply with approval (conditions of Public Lands Use) under Local Government Act 1993-Section 627(1) and;</td>
<td>Sequence 2- person found guilty &amp; sentenced under section 10 (A) under Crimes (sentencing procedure) Act 1999.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Wilfully obstruct officer in exercise of functions Local Government Act 1993 section 660</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land and Environment Court of NSW</td>
<td>Unlawful clearing, destruction and poisoning of vegetation in Jiguma Reserve in 2016</td>
<td>Successful prosecution</td>
<td>$19,427.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Private works

In 2018-19 Council did not make any Resolutions concerning work carried out on private land.

Written off rates and charges

In 2018-19 the following was written off rates and charges:

- $82,493 Voluntary Conservation Agreements
- $9,938 Postponed rates

Financial assistance

In 2018-19 Council provided $240,126 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.

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

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 2018-19 The Stormwater Levy was used as a contribution towards the construction of the following project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Total project cost 2018-19</th>
<th>Stormwater Levy contribution 2018-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tantawanglo St to Merimbula Drive Intersection</td>
<td>$168,608</td>
<td>$168,608</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special Rate Emergency Services**

The 2006-07 Operational Plan implemented a Special Rate Variation approved by the Minister for Local Government of 5%. These funds are committed to supporting emergency services including the growing demands for additional bushfire mitigation works and additional support to general asset management. This variation was approved on an ongoing basis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Income 2018-19</th>
<th>Total Expenditure 2018-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Services</td>
<td>$634,000</td>
<td>$634,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Repayments</td>
<td>$161,000</td>
<td>$161,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering Administration for RFS</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Levy</td>
<td>$406,000</td>
<td>$406,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,253,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,253,000</strong></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.

*1  All financial information in this report is pending audit finalisation and subject to change.
2018-19 Outcomes:

- Ongoing Tathra bushfire environmental protection and rehabilitation work
- The Green Shoots bushfire recovery program, including major community planting day on Tathra Headland
- Support for Coastal Weeds project
- Community Environment Grants Program
- Greenshores environmental enhancement project along Lake St Merimbula
- Coastal Management Program at Wallaga Lake, Bermagui River, Merimbula Lake, Lake Curalo
- Implementing BVS Dune Protection and Management Program
- Merimbula urban landscape improvements (Fishpen, Spencer Park, Town Centre)
- Bega River Estuary Foreshore stabilisation project (Thompsons Corner)
- Kiah Community Environmental Education Day
- Contribution to Biosecurity program
- Contribution to stormwater management program

Special Rate
Libraries, Gallery, Tourism Centres and Weeds

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 2018-19</th>
<th>Total Expenditure 2018-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shire Libraries</td>
<td>$199,000</td>
<td>$199,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Gallery</td>
<td>$134,000</td>
<td>$134,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>$204,000</td>
<td>$204,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeds and Vegetation</td>
<td>$431,000</td>
<td>$431,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Levy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,068,000</td>
<td>$1,068,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1 All financial information in this report is pending audit finalisation 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.

2018-19 Outcomes:

- Private and public property inspections as well as high risk sites and pathways
- Controls of two high risk 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

Various Transport and Recreation Infrastructure and Lifeguards

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></th>
<th>Total Income 2018-19</th>
<th>Total Expenditure 2018-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural sealed road rehabilitation program</td>
<td>$282,000</td>
<td>$282,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armco culvert rehabilitation</td>
<td>$131,000</td>
<td>$131,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge rehabilitation</td>
<td>$131,000</td>
<td>$131,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footpath trip hazards</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation buildings and pools</td>
<td>$92,000</td>
<td>$92,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean lifeguards</td>
<td>$193,000</td>
<td>$193,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban street construction</td>
<td>$259,000</td>
<td>$259,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerb and guttering</td>
<td>$56,000</td>
<td>$56,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,151,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,151,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1 All financial information in this report is pending audit finalisation and subject to change.
Special Rate
Tourism Promotion and Merimbula Airport

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></th>
<th>Total Income 2018-19</th>
<th>Total Expenditure 2018-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merimbula Airport</td>
<td>$396,000</td>
<td>$396,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promotion of tourism and development</td>
<td>$293,000</td>
<td>$293,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$689,000</td>
<td>$689,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Rate
Collector Roads, Recreation Facilities, Public Halls and Buildings

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.

IPART approved the Special Rate Variation for 2015-2016 as part 3 of 3 covering the years from 2013-2014 to 2015-2016 of 5% to be used to help fund renewal and upgrade of public halls and buildings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Income 2018-19</th>
<th>Total Expenditure 2018-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renewal and upgrade of collector roads</td>
<td>$433,000</td>
<td>$433,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewal and upgrade of recreational facilities *</td>
<td>$557,000</td>
<td>$557,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewal and upgrade of public halls and buildings</td>
<td>$458,000</td>
<td>$458,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,448,000</td>
<td>$1,448,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1 All financial information in this report is pending audit finalisation and subject to change.
* This SRV is Council's principle source of funding renewals of recreation assets. It has not been allocated to any of the swimming pools, due to the Asset Management Plan in place at the time indicating a review into their provision (including potential disposal) was required. Outcomes achieved across 2018/19 include playground upgrades, seating, interpretive signage, parkland and path renewals, the new viewing platform at Short Point and boat ramp upgrades (including Beauty Point and the pontoon at Quarantine Bay). It has played a key role in securing grant funding through programs such as the NSW Government’s Stronger Country Communities Fund by demonstrating a commitment to improving our recreation assets.

**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 2018-19 the following Section 355 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
- Internal Risk and Audit Committee

In 2018-19 Council participated in the following corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies:

- Southern Phone Company
- Bega Valley Shire Council Mayoral Appeal Fund
- Australian Coastal Councils Association Inc
- Batemans Marine Park
- Bega Valley Bush Fire Management
• Bega Valley Business Forum
• Biamanga National Park
• Country Mayor’s Association
• Local Government NSW
• Mumbulla Foundation
• NSW Public Library Association
• Sapphire Coast Tourism Limited Board
• South East Arts
• South East Australian Transport Strategy (SEATS)
• Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO)
• Southern Joint Regional Planning Panel

In 2018-19 Council coordinated or participated in the following Internal or Community Committees/ Panels:

• Awards and Scholarships Committee
• Bega Valley Shire “On Track” Committee
• Central Waste Facility Community Consultation Committee (CWFCCC)
• Community Environment Grants Committee
• Community Events and Festivals Grants Evaluation committee
• Heritage Grants Committee
• Integrated Water Cycle Management Reference Panel
• Internal Finance Committee
• Local Traffic Committee & Traffic Development Advisory Committee
• Police Liaison Committee

**Government Information Applications**

During 2018-19 Council received 20 formal applications under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. All applications were determined within the required statutory decision period.

Details of the formal applications are available in the Disclosure Log on Council’s website.

Council dealt with 131 informal applications, with 120 of these lodged by the same community organisation.

**Public Interest Disclosures**

During 2018-19 there were no disclosures made under the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994.
Disability inclusion action plan

During the 2018-2019 financial year the following progress was made in the four focus areas of the 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 on 27/8/18, 12/11/19, 18/2/19 and 13/5/19. 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 up to $16,800 to four local projects. They also provided feedback on access design to range of projects.

- The AIAC provided general support for inclusive tourism and supported updates to Council’s tourism website www.sapphirecoast.com.au on accessible tourism opportunities with the use of the preferred accessibility symbol. Council’s Tourism Service Provider provides advice to stakeholders on accessible tourism initiatives and connects businesses to appropriate assistance in implementing initiatives.

- Council executed a funding deed with Restart NSW for the ‘Destination for All’ project, to deliver accessible coastal infrastructure. This will see approximately $2 million invested in a range of projects. A further $50,000 in funding was also sourced through the Australian Government’s ‘Drought Communities Programme’. This funding was for an ambulant toilet, walking paths and accessible car park space at Bega Saleyards. The works are underway and due for completion in 19/20.

**ACTION: Celebrate inclusive practice and access outcomes**

- Access and inclusion continue to be a focus across Council and the Communications and Events team have used social media, media releases, Councils website and Council’s regular newsletter Council News to promote projects and programs.

**ACTION: Improve staff awareness of disability issues**

- An updated Induction and Training Program for employees has been developed and implemented. The new program provides identified Customer Service responsibilities and adopts inclusive service provision techniques.

- Several external training program opportunities have been provided to Councillors through their Personal Development Plans. Councillors have also worked one-on-one with senior staff members to support and improve knowledge of disability issues.
• The Complaints / Compliments Procedure 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 efforts for affordable housing and transport activity has been undertaken through the Canberra Region Joint Organisation as part of Federal and NSW election campaigns. Affordable housing options included as part of the Residential Housing Strategy, which is in development. Council has held meetings with social housing providers and potential Council sites have been identified for consideration. Staff have also attended a recently established Affordable Housing Working Group and local homelessness forums.

• The Bega Valley Local Traffic Committee (LTC) actively considers requests for additional accessible parking. However, constraints are considerable for on street parking due to the current DDA requirements which makes additional on street accessible parking spaces difficult to deliver to meet compliance. Where possible the Bega Valley LTC will improve and add to off street parking for people with disabilities. The LTC have been able to improve and increase the number of accessible parking spaces in various locations within the Shire. Some examples of these are the Bega Netball Courts, Alice Street carpark and Bega River Reserve. The Council representative of the LTC has undertaken an initial audit of the existing accessible Council controlled car spaces within the Shire.

ACTION: Contribute towards programs which aim to increase social inclusion and community connections

• Council has continued to provide general support for inclusive businesses in the Bega Valley Shire. Council’s Economic Development Officer has joined the Disability Access Committee.

• Through the Access Improvement Grants, in 2018 Council awarded $16,800 to four projects. The 2019 round was opened in June 2019, with $25,000 available to community projects which improve access and inclusion in the Bega Valley.

• Council has assisted with a range of inclusive and accessible events including Gallery collaboration with Tulgeen, Light and Sound Bermagui, Autism Lab Bega, Intergenerational Playgroup and Storytime at Tura and Eden libraries.

ACTION: Contribute towards liveable and accessible public places

• Council is seeking to implement a strategic approach to community input at concept design stage on identified projects in public places and this will be further incorporated into Council’s Community Engagement Strategy which is currently under development.
Accessibility in Council buildings is being reviewed by the Property team and plans are progressing to address identified areas of improvement.

Scoping has been undertaken for the redesign of Council’s entrance and customer service desks in Zingel Place to improve access to Council offices and customer service.

**ACTION: Increase access to community assets**

- Council has sought to prioritise access outcomes in renewals and upgrades of community assets include the Tathra Everyone Can Play Playspace, design work for the Tathra headland walk and replacement of fire damaged viewing platform, application of Everyone Can Play guidelines for access improvements for rural village playgrounds (Wyndham, Bemboka, Cobargo, Mogareeka), Coastal Accessibility projects (Pambula, Short Point, Bruce Steer pool) and 'path and furniture' improvements at Beauty Point boat ramp upgrade.

**Supporting access to meaningful employment**

**ACTION: Develop and enhance employment opportunities for people with a Continued Support Coordination for NDIS participants disability**

- Council has undertaken an audit of its Conditions of Employment procedures to ensure it is compliant with current legislation. A review of the Workforce Strategic Plan will commence shortly. A new Employee Handbook and a new Work Experience Handbook for High School students has been developed and implemented.

- As part of the Onboarding process there is now an opportunity for employees to hold a meeting with their supervisor to discuss opportunities for assistance/including manual aids (e.g. computer screens/IT support).

**ACTION: Provide volunteering opportunities for people with all abilities**

- Council has reviewed its volunteering policy to ensure volunteering opportunities are accessible and inclusive. A project template and plan has been completed and is on track for delivery.

**Accessible systems, information or processes**

**ACTION: Continuously improve processes to achieve access and inclusion outcomes**

- Council’s current development assessment processes address statutory access requirements however with a focus on continuous improvement Council is reviewing its Public Land Use Policy to incorporate footpath accessibility requirements. Further advocacy action regarding access to existing commercial premises is being considered by the Access Improvement Advisory Committee.
ACTION: Include access and inclusion consideration in project management, design and strategy development

- All current projects consider access and inclusion design elements in line with project scope and budgets. Merimbula Airport terminal has been designed to ensure compliance with all relevant DDA and BCA requirements.

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 communication and engagement strategies; 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 allocation of responsibilities for actions arising from the DIAP across a range of Council teams has ensured that the whole organisation commits to and is accountable for improving access and inclusion for people with a disability. Managers and responsible officers have regularly attended 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 meeting compliance with DDA requirements in order to increase additional on street accessible parking. Where possible the Bega Valley Local Traffic Committee has aimed to improve and add to off street parking numbers for people with disabilities.

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

These include:

- Adoption of the Community Engagement Plan and development of the Community Engagement Toolkit which will guide Council Staff in planning and delivering engagement. The toolkit will specifically identify ways in which Council engagement strategies are accessible and inclusive.
- Development of an inclusive playground in Bermagui.
- New Event management procedures which will include access and inclusion requirements.
- 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 all of the Coastal Accessibility Plan ‘Destination for All’ projects.
Other information

Companion animal management

In 2018/19 Council spent $250,141 on companion animal management and activities. Council collected $44,104 in companion animal registration fees which was used to offset the costs of companion animal management.

During 2018-19 animal control officers managed 212 cats and dogs. Of these animals there were:

- 83 Cats
- 122 Dogs
- 4 Returned to owners before impounding
- 72 Returned to owners after impounding
- 57 Released to animal welfare organisations for rehoming
- 72 Euthanized
- 17 Surrendered

During 2018-19 Council received complaints relating to dog attacks/dangerous dogs. Of these:

- 47 Dog attacks reported
- 58 Animal victims
- 32 Human victims (24 Adult)
- 67 Attacking dogs
- 4 Dangerous dog declarations
- 6 Infringements issued
- 2 Seized and taken to pound
- 3 Dogs destroyed
- 7 Warnings issued
- 23 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 2018/19 Council received 870 companion animal control customer service requests.

Council’s Animal Control Areas were reviewed and adopted during 2018/19 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.

Council continues to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals by rehoming dogs and cats through the Animal Welfare League. There are 15 off-lease areas provided in the Council area located within the townships of Bega, Bermagui, Eden, Merimbula, Pambula Beach, Tathra and Tura Beach.

Planning agreements

In 2018-19 there were no Planning Agreements in force.

Environmental upgrade agreements

In 2018-19 no Environmental Upgrade Agreements were entered into.

Swimming pool inspections

In 2018-19 Council performed 77 swimming pool inspections:

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

Attachments

- 2018 - 2019 audited Annual 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 has been lodged with the Office of Local Government.