



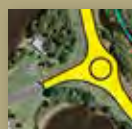
community connect

the magazine of ballina shire council

Recycled Water



Angels Beach Drive Upgrade



Dumping Culprits



Wardell Strategic Plan



Honouring the men and women who served our nation

On 25 April our community will commemorate and honour the first Anzacs and all the brave servicemen and women who have followed in their footsteps. This year Anzac Day commemorations mark the 101st anniversary of the Anzac landings at Gallipoli but it is also an opportunity to recognise the Anzacs who fought on the Western Front in 1916 in battles including Fromelles and Pozieres.

See pages 38 and 39 for details on commemoration services in Ballina and Alstonville.



Time in motion, watch the tower rise

Did you hear the cheers in Ballina in early February when work on the new Marine Rescue Tower started?

Construction of the tower is being captured on time-lapse video.

Each week the footage is uploaded to Council's website, so the public can see the construction in quick time.

This is a great way to record construction in our Shire which will also become an archival record for future reference and posterity.

The new \$2.28 million tower has a range of funding partners including:

- Ballina Volunteer Marine Rescue Fundraising - \$150,000
- Ballina Shire Council - \$318,000
- NSW State Government (Public Reserves Management) - \$350,000
- NSW State Government (Roads & Maritime Services) - \$215,000
- NSW State Government (Community Building Partnership) - \$200,000
- NSW State Government (NSW Marine Rescue) - \$200,000
- Australian Government (National Stronger Regions Fund) - \$850,000

It is expected that the new tower will be finished by October 2016 and Marine Rescue volunteers are looking forward to taking up residence in their new headquarters.

You can keep up to date on the progress of works by following the link to the Marine Rescue Tower Construction page from the homepage of Council's website www.ballina.nsw.gov.au



our *vision*

serving the
community
of today while
preparing for the
challenges of
tomorrow

contents

engaged leadership

From the Mayor's Desk	3
Leaders of the future	4
Ballina CBD roundabout public art	4
Community pools redevelopments	5
Upgrade to Angels Beach Drive	6-7
MyBeachInfo	8
Know the rules outside schools	8
Buying a 4WD permit	8
Swim between the flags	8
Wardell Strategic Plan	9



healthy environment

Do you recognise these culprits – keep Ballina beautiful	10-11
Water Talk – Issue 32	12-15
Endangered species profile – Coastal Saltmarsh	16
Let's talk about...your septic tank	16
Lake Ainsworth Carpark Extension	17
Mythbusters – Lake Ainsworth Precinct	17
Waste Watch – Issue 12	18



prosperous economy

Ballina thriving – \$94 million worth of building approvals in six months	20
Buy local and invest in the place we call home	20
Around the Business Chambers	21
Investing in our community	22
Wollongbar Estate – Stage 2 Land Sale	22
Have your say about speed limits	22
Draft North Coast Regional Plan	22
New Visitor Guide to be launched in April	23
Local Government Tourism Conference	23
Ballina Byron Gateway Airport	24
Wigmore Arcade	25



connected community

Australia Day	26
Drivers, Riders and Pedestrians go together safely	27
Staff Profile – Nilanga Thabrew	27
Arts Connect – Northern Rivers Community Gallery	28-29
Meet some locals – Matt Landos & Tracey Kristiansen	30
Smoke alarms for deaf and hard of hearing people	30
Who is Daisy?	30
Sprung! opens doors to dance	31
If these halls could talk – Show + Tell at Meerscham Vale Hall	31
Community Events – What's On?	32-33
Market Calendar	33
Park Lane Theatre	34
Community Spaces	34-35
School Holiday Activities	36-37
Anzac Day Commemoration Services	38



from the mayor's desk

It's hard to believe that it's the end of March, already. So much has happened in the first three months.

Firstly, the construction of the new building to house our Marine Rescue volunteers is finally underway. It is hoped that it will be completed by October so that it can be used for the Christmas period. The tower will feature updated surveillance gear, an internal lift to help members access the observation room as well as providing extra communication equipment.

The Coastal Recreational Pathway from Angels Beach to Sharpes Beach carpark has commenced – finally. When completed, visitors will be able to experience a journey into the dreamtime with magnificent displays of local aboriginal history as well as gaining a sensory experience through the coastal vegetation.

I haven't written about toilets in this column before but I am proud that Council is providing, in the Wigmore car park, the first 'Changing Place' facility in regional NSW and the second in the state. This facility allows patrons with severe and profound disabilities ample space for themselves and their carers. Features include a ceiling hoist and adult sized change table. There are also facilities for the able-bodied.

On the 11th of March I had the wonderful opportunity to open the Park Lane Theatre at the Lennox Head Community and Cultural Centre. The main hall has been retrofitted with carpeting, curtains, the largest movable screen available in Australia, a state of the art movie player unit, tiered seating and a great sound system through grants from the NSW State Government as well as Council.

This new venture will allow for movie screenings, live theatre – NORPA visits, travelling shows and local performances. Council now has added a facility that can cater for functions and cultural experiences and it is a great adjunct to the Northern Rivers Regional Gallery.

By the time you read this, the installation of the Eco Barriers at Lighthouse Beach will be well underway. The 900 metre barrier will cater for a wide variety of activities in protected waters. The DPI and State Government must be thanked for allowing our Shire to trial the only two Eco Barriers in the Country.

If the positioning of the barrier needs to be changed, there will be possibilities for changes after seeing if the barrier will stand up to rough weather.

Finally, it was thrilling to watch, the exploits of Lennox Head locals in the Quiksilver Pro Gold Coast 2016 and the Roxy Pro surfing events at Snapper Rocks.

To watch Stu Kennedy defeat 11 times world champion, Kelly Slater in Round Two and then progress to the semi-finals shows that the dream of many of our young locals can be realised.

Even more amazing was the display of fabulous skills by Tyler Wright in winning the Roxy Pro – 2016. Tyler can now set sights on winning her first world title. She defeated the 2015 World Champion, Carissa Moore on her way to her win.

Well done and all the best for the 2016 competition.

Cr David Wright

our *values*

creative

accessible

respectful

energetic

safe

Leaders of the future

Student Representative Councils visit Council Chambers

Ballina Shire Council recently had the great honour of hosting the Student Representative Councils (SRC) from Ballina High School and Alstonville High School.

Students held their first meetings of the year in the Council Chambers. They used the opportunity to discuss a range of important issues including:

- Their goals for the year
- How they can engender greater community spirit and leadership within their schools
- Building house morale
- Fundraising activities and who will be their beneficiaries in 2016.

It was great to see such bright, talented and engaged young people make good use of our Council Chambers. We wish you well for 2016.



Ballina CBD roundabout public art

INVITATION TO ARTISTS

It's not often artists have the opportunity to design and create public artworks so Council is pleased to announce we are inviting expressions of interest for public artwork concepts that will be installed at two roundabouts in the Ballina town centre.

The roundabouts are at the intersections of Cherry and Tamar Streets and Fawcett and Moon Streets.

Experienced artists are invited to submit concepts for one or both of the roundabouts, with the aim of creating an artwork that reflects the community and culture of the Ballina township.

This Expression of Interest (EOI) is the first step of a three stage process.

Council is currently only asking for preliminary concept proposals and no fees will be paid to artists for submitting an EOI.

A shortlist of artists will then be invited to progress to Stage 2.

For further information visit ballina.nsw.gov.au or contact Skye McNamara, Sustainability Planner, on 6686 1284.

Submissions close: Monday 2 May 2016.

CHERRY AND TAMAR STREETS ROUNDABOUT



FAWCETT AND MOON STREETS ROUNDABOUT





Getting in the swim of things

Redeveloping the Ballina and Alstonville pools

The Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools are two of our Shire's most used assets. They are also showing their age and are in need of a major facelift.

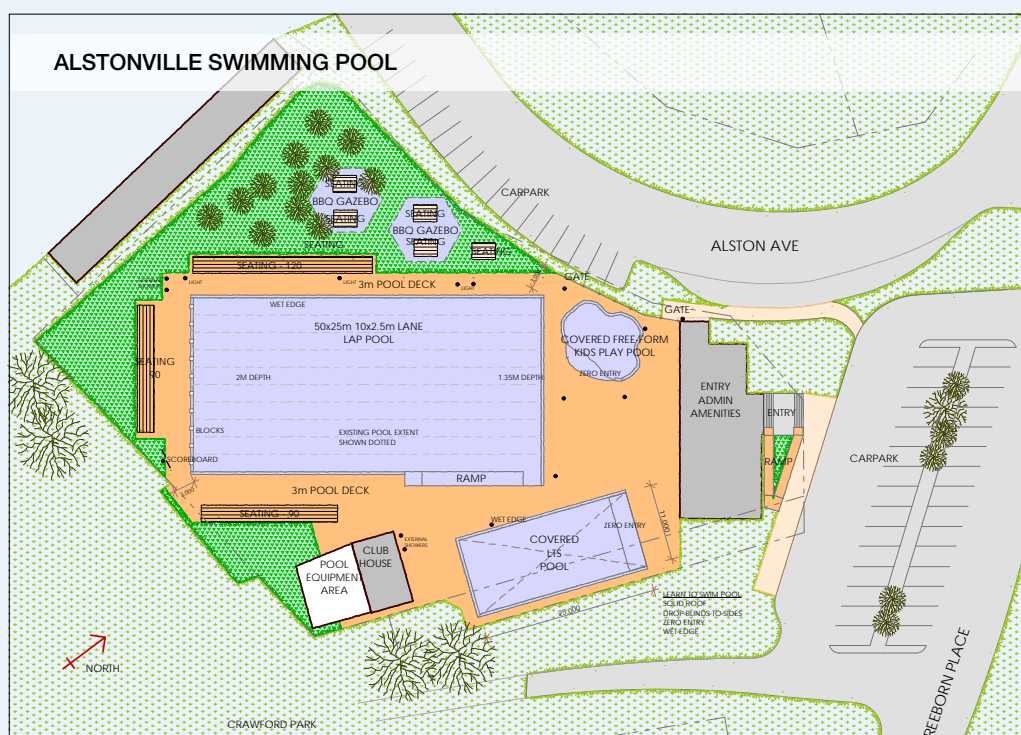
Our plans to redevelop the Alstonville and Ballina pools are well underway with the design concepts for each project now endorsed by Council. Tenders for the construction of the pools will be awarded by November this year.

The redevelopment of the Alstonville and Ballina pools are significant community projects and when completed we believe they will be exceptional assets that will benefit many people in our Shire.

Consultants undertook extensive community consultation last year and after taking public comments into account the new pool complexes will have:

- FINA compliant 50m x 25m heated pool. Each pool will have ten lanes at 2.5m each to allow for competition swimming and 'across pool' water polo games with simultaneous 25m lap swimming.
- Access ramps
- 25m x 10m heated learn-to-swim pools. These pools will also be able to be used for rehabilitation
- wet play areas for toddlers
- The Ballina pool will have a new amenities building and transparent screens along the Richmond River.

Work will start in March 2017 and the pools will reopen in September 2017, just in time for the swimming season.



upgrade to angels beach drive

an important safety initiative

Ballina Shire Council is about to embark on a major upgrade to Angels Beach Drive.

The Roads and Maritime Services RMS has identified Angels Beach Drive as a black spot. The improvement works will include the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Links Avenue and two curve corrections, one north of Prospect Bridge and another to the east of the Links Avenue intersection. This is a \$2 million project totally funded by the RMS.

What sections will be upgraded and when will construction commence?

The works will be completed in three stages and will commence Monday 4 April and continue to August 2016 (weather permitting).

STAGE 1: CURVE CORRECTION

Angels Beach Drive adjacent to Chickiba Lake

The first stage will commence shortly after Easter 2016. These works will correct the road curve, to improve motorist safety, on Angels Beach Drive adjacent to Chickiba Lake.

As Angels Beach Drive north of Links Road will be closed, Council is also taking the opportunity to improve motorist safety and rehabilitate the section of road east of the curve correction all the way to Silver Gull Drive.

These works need to be completed prior to osprey nesting in June.

Stage 1 is shown in green.

STAGE 2: CURVE CORRECTION

Angels Beach Drive north-east of Prospect Bridge

This stage will commence following completion of stage 1. These works also correct the road curve on Angels Beach Drive north-east of Prospect Bridge.

Stage 2 is shown in pink.

STAGE 3: ROUNDABOUT

Links Avenue and Angels Beach Drive intersection

Council will be constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Links Avenue and Angels Beach Drive.

This is likely to start in the first quarter of the new financial year, following the anticipated approval from the NSW Government regarding an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP).

Stage 3 is shown in yellow.

How will this impact me?

For the works to be completed in the most efficient and safest way, sections of Angels Beach Drive will be closed to vehicles.

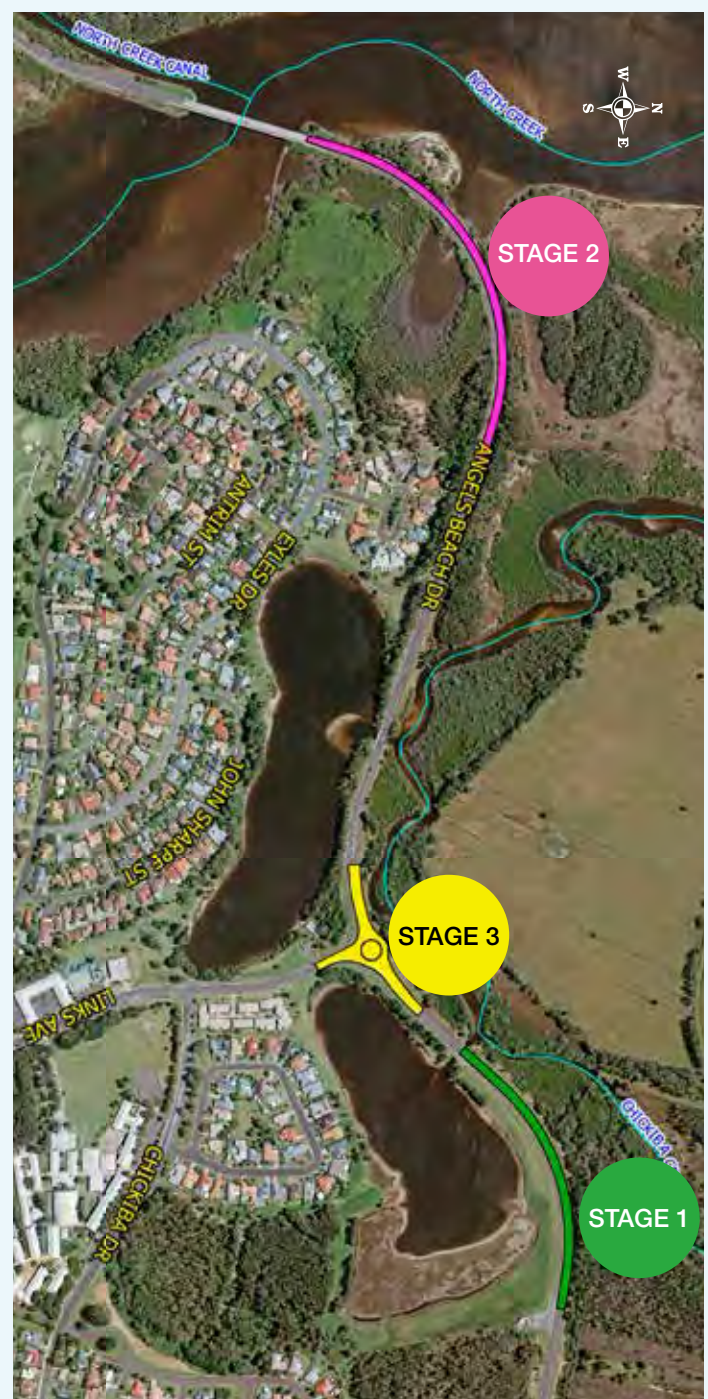
DURING STAGE 1 - Angels Beach Drive will be closed from Links Avenue to the south of North Angels Estate.

DURING STAGE 2 - Angels Beach Drive will be closed from Bangalow Road to Links Avenue.

Access will be open to pedestrians and cyclists only.

We seek your patience during construction works. Unfortunately, there will be delays in travel due to increased volumes of traffic on the alternate routes. Council will be implementing the appropriate traffic control measures where required to assist with alternate routes.

MAP 1



© Land & Property Information 2016. This map is illustrative and not to scale.



What are the alternate routes?

DURING STAGE 1 – SEE MAP 2

Commence Monday 4 April.

- For traffic to and from Lennox Head the alternate route will be via The Coast Road.
- Residents in the North Angels Estate and Silver Gull Drive Estate will also use the alternate route via The Coast Road.
- East Ballina (Lakeside) residents heading towards Ballina Island can access either The Coast Road or Angels Beach Drive (east).
- East Ballina residents heading towards Lennox Head will use the alternate route via The Coast Road.

DURING STAGE 2 – SEE MAP 3

Following stage 1

- For traffic to and from Lennox Head the alternate route will be via The Coast Road.
- Residents in the North Angels Estate and Silver Gull Drive Estate will also use the alternate route via The Coast Road.
- East Ballina (Lakeside) residents accessing Ballina Island the alternate route will be Links Avenue and Pine Avenue.
- East Ballina residents heading towards Lennox Head will use the alternate route via The Coast Road.

DURING STAGE 3 – CONSTRUCTION OF ROUNDABOUT

Following stage 2, subject to AHIP approval.

Road closures and traffic control for the construction of the roundabout will be notified closer to the construction date.

Why close entire sections of Angels Beach Drive? Why not leave one lane open?

Closing Angels Beach Drive, between Links Avenue and The Coast Road, will allow for:

- Construction works to be completed sooner, without the disruption of traffic control. A reduced construction period also means costs savings to Council and the community.
- Cost savings in not having to install traffic controls devices and personnel.
- Improved safety for construction crews, as they are not impeded by vehicles.
- Improved safety for motorists, as they avoid the construction zone.

MAP 2 – ALTERNATE ROUTES DURING STAGE 1



© Land & Property Information 2016. This map is illustrative and not to scale.

MAP 3 – ALTERNATE ROUTES DURING STAGE 2



© Land & Property Information 2016. This map is illustrative and not to scale.

Where do I get further information on the Angels Beach Drive Project?

Please contact the Civil Services Project Team on 6686 4444 or visit Council's website: ballina.nsw.gov.au



MyBeachInfo

Are you a regular beachgoer?
Do you have the free
MyBeachInfo app on your
phone?

Ballina Shire Council and
Lismore City Council developed
the MyBeachInfo app which
provides information about beach
conditions in the Ballina Shire.

Beachgoers will now have access
to beach conditions at their
fingertips including information
about whether beaches are
open or closed, patrols, and surf
conditions.

MyBeachInfo is the close cousin
of the MyRoadInfo app, which provides information about road
closures. This has been particularly useful during floods when
people are trying to figure out how to get to work etc.

The MyBeachInfo and MyRoadInfo apps are free.



buying a 4WD permit

*to access Seven Mile Beach
has just been made easier.*

An automated kiosk is situated opposite the Lennox Head
Surf Club approaching Camp Drewe Road.

1 day permit	\$10.00
30 day permit	\$30.00
6 month permit	\$45.00
Annual permit	\$75.00

Payment by Card Only.

For more information visit ballina.nsw.gov.au
or telephone 6686 4444



Know the Rules Outside Schools

The safety of our children is a priority for the
entire community and this is why Council
Rangers regularly patrol school zones. Children
are extremely vulnerable because of their
unpredictability, their size and inability to judge
speed and distance. In fact, it's recommended
that a parent or adult hold the hand of children
under the age of eight when crossing the road,
in the carpark, or when walking on a footpath.

Parking offences in school zones carry heavy fines
and the loss of demerit points.

Remember...it is against the law to:

- stop and park in bus zones and 'No Stopping' zones
- double park
- stop longer than two minutes in a 'No Parking' zone
- stop on or within 20m of a pedestrian crossing or children's crossing



Our Rangers do a great job trying to keep school
zones safe but unfortunately people can be very
unkind when they realise they have been caught
doing the wrong thing.

If you are caught parking in a school bus zone,
over-staying the parking limit or having your dog in
the wrong place – spare a thought for the Rangers. They are just doing
their job. There is an expectation within the community that there needs
to be laws regarding safety for children, parking and dogs etc. If you
don't want to be fined – do the right thing.



SWIM BETWEEN THE FLAGS

Beaches in the Ballina Shire are again being patrolled by
contracted surf lifesavers and volunteers.

BEACH	PATROLS START	PATROLS FINISH	DETAILS
Lennox Head Beach	09/04/2016	25/04/2016	9am – 5pm 2 Lifeguards Mon-Fri Volunteers on weekends and public holidays
Sharpes Beach	09/04/2016	25/04/2016	9am - 5pm 2 Lifeguards 7 days a week
Shelly Beach	09/04/2016	25/04/2016	9am - 5pm 2 Lifeguards 7 days a week
Lighthouse Beach	11/04/2016	22/04/2016	9am - 5pm 2 Lifeguards Mon-Fri Volunteers on weekends and public holidays





W 2035

WARDELL STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 - 2035

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

- To guide Council's strategic planning and decision making relating to Wardell Village and surrounds within the period 2015 to 2035;
- To assign actions and responsibilities;
- To provide a means by which the Council and community can monitor implementation progress; and
- To provide a mechanism through which the plan may be reviewed.

REVIEWING PROGRESS

Proposed actions contained within this plan will be reviewed on a regular basis to take account of changing circumstances and assumptions.

The plan review process consists of the following elements:

- Reporting on status of strategic actions to the Council on a bi-annual basis; and
- Review of the Wardell Strategic Plan 2015 to 2035 at 5 year intervals.

HOW THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED?



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

You can find out more information on the Wardell Strategic Plan and background information at ballina.nsw.gov.au/pl/wardellstrategicplan or contact Council's Strategic and Community Facilities Group 02 6686 1284.

COMMUNITY VISION

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WARDELL VILLAGE TO 2035

Utilising comments made by local residents at public meetings, and resident's survey responses, the following community vision for Wardell Village has been compiled.

01

CREATION OF A VIBRANT AND BEAUTIFUL RIVERSIDE VILLAGE WHILST RETAINING SMALL VILLAGE ATMOSPHERE

02

ENCOURAGING TOURISM CENTRED ON THE RIVER AND BASED ON ARTS AND CRAFTS THEMES

03

WORKING TOWARDS BETTER CONNECTING OUR VILLAGE TO MAKE IT MORE ACCESSIBLE

04

ENHANCING OUR VILLAGE THROUGH VILLAGE ENTRY AND STREET LANDSCAPING, BUILDING MAINTENANCE, AND NEW BUILDINGS WITH SPECIAL CHARACTER

05

ENSURING THAT FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IS STAGED, PROGRESSIVE AND AFFORDABLE

It is the above five elements which form the locality objectives within this strategic plan.

engaged leadership

DO YOU RECOGNISE THESE CULPRITS?

1	2	3	4	5	6
HAZARDOUS LIQUID WASTE	OP SHOP DUMPING	ASBESTOS	DUMPING ON PUBLIC LAND	DOG POO	POLLUTION TO ESTUARIES AND RIVERS



keep ballina beautiful

Ballina Council is asking locals and visitors to do the right thing and keep the Shire beautiful.

In addition to the damage to the environment, dumping costs our community many thousands of dollars that could be better spent elsewhere. If you see someone dumping or polluting or damage to the environment please report it by calling 6686 4444 or report online at illegaldumping.com.au

1. DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS LIQUID WASTE



Hazardous liquid wastes such as paints, fuels, solvents, acids and pesticides should never be poured down the sewer or stormwater system, or placed in your household wheelie bin.

This type of waste is not only dangerous to people and pets but can cause serious property damage and harm the environment and wastewater systems.

Commercial premises require a Liquid Trade Waste License to prevent this occurring. Trade Waste is monitored and managed by Ballina Shire Council.

Once a year, Council provides a Household Chemical Cleanup (HCC) Day. Information will be available in the local media when a date is known.



2. HELPING OP SHOPS TO HELP OTHERS — DON'T DUMP RUBBISH



With Op Shops catering for those in need, disposing of unusable furniture and other junk items is only making their job harder.

If collection bins are full, drop-off donations when the op shop re-opens or the bin is emptied.

3. HOW TO DISPOSE OF ASBESTOS



With Asbestos causing serious health problems, don't play renovation roulette. If in doubt, leave it to the professionals and/or purchase a \$30 asbestos kit. See page 18 for details on the Householders' Asbestos Disposal Scheme.

Council is finding asbestos hidden in ordinary household waste being collected by garbage trucks.

Not only does this cost Council

a significant amount of money to dispose of the waste properly but asbestos is a danger to collection staff and their families.

4. DUMPING ON PUBLIC LAND



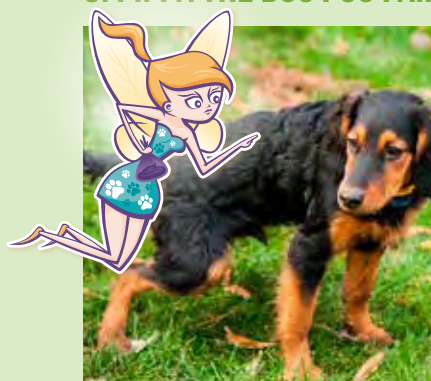
Council works closely with the community, the police and government organisations to prevent illegal dumping of household and industrial rubbish on public lands, such as open space, parks, forests and waterways.

Illegal dumping is a long-term problem. It costs a significant amount of money to remove and also puts wildlife at risk. That's why,

when rubbish was recently dumped at Rotary Lookout at East Ballina, Council was among the first to find out and do something about it.

Council officers found broken furniture, electrical and audio visual equipment, gas bottles and general rubbish strewn at the Rotary Lookout. Council will now ramp up existing monitoring and surveillance, and use hidden cameras. Council plans to fence off this particular site to avoid this happening again. However this also increases costs to ratepayers and could increase inconvenience for those wanting to utilise the Rotary Lookout.

5. PIPPA THE DOG POO FAIRY WON'T PICK IT UP FOR YOU



Pippa has been seeing some bad behaviour recently – particularly dog owners using The Spit in Ballina.

Pippa has reported to Council that some owners are not picking up after their dogs. This is unpleasant for other beach users.

There's no such thing as the Dog Poo Fairy! Bag it and bin it for a cleaner, healthier Ballina Shire.

6. POLLUTING OUR WATERWAYS



Our waterways are valued by the community and we thank the locals who were quick to report a problem at Houghlahans Creek recently.

The creek had turned red due to sediment flowing from extensive agricultural clearing upstream.

Investigations by Council's Environmental Health Officer revealed the sediment laden runoff

from a local property was causing water pollution quite a long way downstream.

Council issued the landowner a 'Direction to Take Preventative Action' that involved work to stabilise the site and prevent further soil and sediment entering the watercourse. This included the installation of temporary sediment fences, contour banks and a large sediment basin to manage flow.

It has cost to the landholder more than \$100,000 to carry out the required works.

Crackdown on illegal dumping

While the vast majority of locals do the right thing, there has been a rise in illegal dumping of rubbish.

Council will continue to use surveillance cameras to catch people dumping rubbish, with fines of up to \$4,000 for individuals and \$8,000 for corporations. The message is clear – do the right thing or you will be caught. Let's all do our bit to keep Ballina Shire clean and beautiful.

Money and resources spent to attend to these dumping activities could be put to better use such as maintaining and upgrading playgrounds and open spaces.

Council is asking locals to report information about illegal dumping by calling 6686 4444 or report online at illegaldumping.com.au



water talk

LAUNCH OF OUR NEW WATER WEBSITE

In the lead up to World Water Day on Tuesday 22 March, Ballina Shire Council celebrated the launch of our new water website.

With the click of a mouse, visitors now have instant access to a treasure trove of information about Council's water services including connections and innovative new programs.

Our new website has been designed to promote information about the way water is used and managed in our community.

Information is organised and arranged around areas of visitor interest to make their navigation through the site clear and simple.

The website aims to provide information that is relevant for all community members, including local organisations and businesses.

That's why there's also a Frequently Asked Questions section to make searching for answers easier.

Highlights include web pages dedicated to Council's Recycled Water, Stormwater, Wastewater and Urban Water Cycle initiatives.

The launch of the website is timely, as it improves access to information about recycled water services, due to be delivered to new estates in Lennox Head in July.

This improvement to assessing information about Council's water services is not only cost effective, but it also means more community members will be able to understand, support and participate in our innovative water programs.

Please visit our new website at ballinawater.com.au



In July 2016 recycled water will start at Lennox Head and will roll out across Ballina Shire.

learn more at ballinawater.com.au

GROUND-BREAKING RECYCLED WATER SERVICE TO COMMENCE AT LENNOX HEAD

A groundbreaking recycled water service is set to commence for the Ballina Shire, starting at Lennox Head in July 2016.

Almost 80 new houses at Lennox Head will begin receiving recycled water for household uses in July, in what Ballina Shire Council believes is a first for regional NSW.

Ballina Shire Council will supply both recycled and drinking water to the properties through a dual reticulated water system.

Ballina Shire Council's Water and Wastewater Manager, Tim Mackney, said the Council was at the forefront of recycled water technology in regional NSW.

"We are in the extraordinary position of saying that Ballina Shire Council will soon have the biggest recycled water service in regional NSW," Mr Mackney said.

"In the first phase of the program, 77 houses in Lennox Head are set to benefit from the delivery of dual recycled and drinking water services in July.

"From there, we will roll-out the program to more than 600 new households in Ballina and Cumbalum. They will have recycled water on tap for uses such as washing clothes, flushing toilets and watering the garden."

Mr Mackney said the Shire's water services were adapting to the growth in demand and the need to ensure a sustainable water supply for future generations.

"The delivery of recycled water for local household uses is going to really change the way we think about water," he said.

"We are not just going to think about using water for household purposes but recycling it to ensure sustainable water supplies for future generations.

"What this really means is that more water will be preserved for essential uses such as drinking, cooking and bathing."

Mr Mackney thanked everyone who had made the revolutionary project possible, with selected agricultural properties, sports fields and commercial premises in the Shire already trialling the dual reticulation system.

Please visit Ballina Shire Council's new website at ballinawater.com.au for more information about the way water is managed in our community.

Open spaces and sporting fields already receiving recycled water

- 1 Coastal Grove Estate**
- 2 Aspects Estate**
- 3 Elevation Estate**
- 4 North Angels Estate**

NEW ESTATES TO RECEIVE RECYCLED WATER



© Land & Property Information 2016. This map is illustrative and not to scale.



© Land & Property Information 2016. This map is illustrative and not to scale.

YOUR GUIDE TO RECYCLED WATER

With recycled water services to begin for the Ballina Shire in July 2016, we've put together some answers to frequently asked questions.

Purple pipelines and taps have already been installed at households set to receive recycled water that distinguish recycled water from drinking water.

You CAN use the Shire's recycled water for:

- ✓ toilet flushing
- ✓ cold water clothes washing tap
- ✓ garden irrigation and ornamental ponds
- ✓ washing cars, bikes, boats
- ✓ watering and washing pets
- ✓ irrigating sports fields and crops.

You CANNOT use the Shire's recycled water for:

- ✗ drinking
- ✗ cooking or other kitchen purposes
- ✗ baths, showers, hand basins or personal washing
- ✗ swimming pools
- ✗ rainwater tanks.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the charges to use recycled water?

Recycled water is supplied at only 80 per cent of the usual water rate, making it an economical choice. The current fees and charges schedule can be viewed on Ballina's Fees and Charges at **ballina.nsw.gov.au**

Is it safe to use parks and golf courses that have been irrigated with recycled water?

Yes, the high standard treatment process makes the recycled water safe for irrigation not only for public open spaces such as parks and sporting grounds, but also for irrigating food crops, pasture and fodder for stock (excluding pigs) and crops such as flowers and turfs.

Is recycled water safe for my pets to drink?

Yes it is safe for pets such as dogs and cats. Just change the water regularly as you would with any water you provide for pets.

How is recycled water tested for quality?

The Ballina and Lennox Head Water Recycling Facilities both produce high quality recycled water that goes through a number of treatment processes in accordance with the Environmental Protection Authority, the NSW Office of

Water and the Department of Health Guidelines. Both facilities have 24 hour online monitoring equipment which monitor pH, electrical conductivity (salinity), turbidity (filter accuracy), chlorine residual, Ultra Violet (UV) intensity and temperature. The facilities will automatically shut down, if any of these elements fall below standards

Can I drink recycled water?

Recycled water is highly treated and suitable for a range of uses. It is not recommended for some uses such as drinking, bathing and cooking but should you accidentally use recycled water in this way, it is unlikely you will fall ill. It is recommended however that you seek medical advice and inform Ballina Shire Council.

Why can't I fill my swimming pool or spa with recycled water?

Bathing, swimming and cooking are not recommended by regulators as accepted uses of recycled water.

Is it safe for children to come into direct contact with recycled water?

Yes, it is safe for children to come into direct contact with the recycled water, however, water toys and playing under sprinklers is not considered acceptable as children can swallow water during these activities.

Find out more at Ballina Shire Council's new dedicated water website at ballinawater.com.au or contact the Recycled Water Officer on (02) 6686 4444.

Recycled water is:

- ✓ crystal clean and safe
- ✓ cheaper to use
- ✓ available 24/7 and in drought.



Become a Hydrant Hero

Don't let an unusable fire hydrant delay firefighters from saving lives and property in your street! Check your nearest hydrant is clearly marked, well maintained and ready for use.

Ballina Shire Council carries out maintenance on some 3000 fire hydrants across the Shire.

With that many hydrants, maintenance is a bit like painting the Sydney Harbour Bridge where by the time Council's crew finishes the last hydrant it's time to start at the beginning again. It can take up to two years before crews revisit the same hydrant again.

In a fire emergency, knowing the location of and having unobstructed access to a water supply is critical to saving lives and property. Precious minutes can be lost in an emergency if firefighters are hindered by hidden or obstructed hydrants, particularly at night.

There have been numerous incidents throughout NSW where firefighters have been unable to access the nearest hydrant in an emergency due to it being poorly marked, obstructed by parked cars, mud or debris, overgrown vegetation or garden beds built over the hydrant. This can result in critical time lost. Don't let this happen in your street.

Become a Hydrant Hero in your street in just three simple steps:

- 1. Find your closest water hydrant - identify and locate hydrants.**
- 2. Clear around the hydrant and ensure it is clearly marked and accessible.**
- 3. If maintenance or marking is required, report it to your local fire station or Ballina Shire Council.**

Note you should not attempt to access or maintain any hydrant where it is unsafe to do so.

If you have any concerns regarding the condition or visibility of your nearest hydrant, please contact Ballina Shire Council's Water Section on (02) 6686 4444.



learn more at
ballinawater.com.au

endangered species profile

Coastal Saltmarsh



Do you know a place where only the toughest plants survive?

The intertidal zone, where only the biggest of tides reach is where the toughest conditions occur. This is because salt from these occasional tides is not regularly washed away by the next tide. The salts build up over time creating extra salty soils and conditions that are too tough for even mangroves to survive. These areas are inhabited by Coastal Saltmarsh. Coastal Saltmarsh is the term used to describe a group of native plants such as grasses, reeds, rushes, sedges, succulent herbs and low shrubs that can tolerate high soil salinity and occasional overtopping by tides.

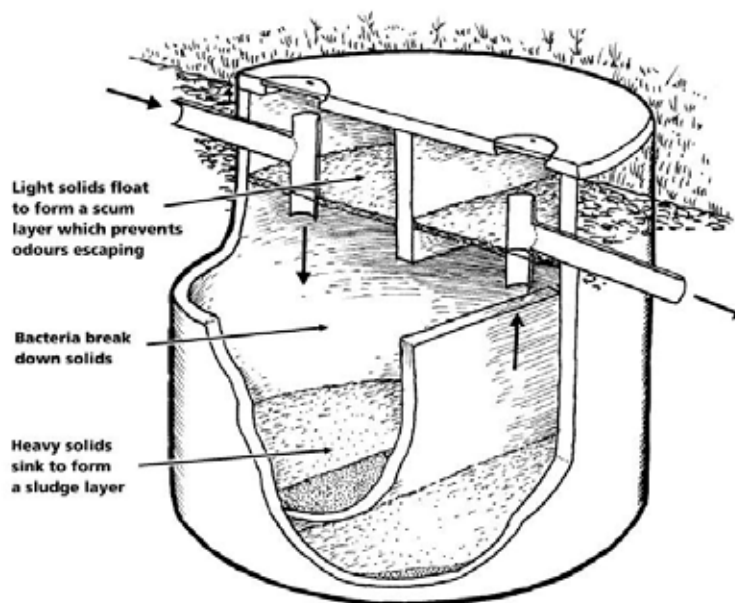
The distribution of Coastal Saltmarsh, mangroves and other coastal vegetation such as Casuarina is like a mosaic with different size pieces. Within this mosaic, areas of Coastal Saltmarsh can range from short narrow fringes, of several square metres where the foreshore rises quickly, to expanses of several hundred metres in low flat areas. Some Coastal Saltmarsh areas have several different species while others are dominated by just one or two. Coastal Saltmarsh provides habitat, food and shelter for fish, especially juveniles and smaller fish species, when inundated during higher tides. Studies have recorded more than 40 species of fish inhabiting tidal Coastal Saltmarsh including commercially and recreationally important species such as Yellowfin Bream, Sand Whiting, Mullet, Garfish, Eels and Crabs.

Many hectares of Coastal Saltmarsh have been lost when buried with fill for urban developments. Much of the remaining Coastal Saltmarsh has been degraded due to changes in tidal flows, drainage and freshwater inputs. Levees, roads and floodgates, for example, can block tides from reaching areas of Coastal Saltmarsh while agricultural drains can change the extent that the tide moves over the Saltmarsh. Stormwater outlets can introduce too much freshwater into a Coastal Saltmarsh which over time can be replaced by freshwater reeds. Research has found that these changes can make mosquito problems worse. Projects to rehabilitate Coastal Saltmarsh and mangrove habitats can also reduce mosquito hazards, improve water quality and fishing opportunities.

Permits from NSW Fisheries are required to fill or dig in intertidal areas or change how tides, freshwater or groundwater moves into and around these areas.

let's talk about... your septic tank

How a basic septic tank works



We have all heard of septic tanks but how much do you know about how they work?

The major function of a septic tank is to separate solids, grease and oils out of the wastewater before it enters the drainage beds/trenches. The treated wastewater, called effluent, flows from the tank into the drainage beds/trenches to soak into the surrounding soil where it may undergo further natural treatment processes.

When a septic tank system is correctly installed and maintained, it should work effectively for many years. It is necessary to have the septic tank desludged (pumped out) regularly e.g. 5 yearly intervals. Desludging requires that a licensed liquid waste contractor be engaged to open the septic tank and pump out the contents.

Contractors approved to carry liquid waste within Ballina Shire

CONTRACTOR	SEPTIC	GREASE	OIL LIQUIDS	PHONE NUMBER
Ballina Pumping Service	✓	✓	✗	0437 963 976
Motion Mover	✓	✗	✗	6683 4993
Richmond Waste	✓	✓	✓	6621 7431 0407 433 405

Health Caution: Septic tanks do not kill pathogenic bacteria, viruses or parasites. Septic tank effluent must be treated with extreme caution!

For further information please contact Council's Development and Environmental Health Group on telephone 02 6686 1210.



LAKE AINSWORTH CARPARK EXTENSION

Water sensitive urban design
protecting Lake Ainsworth

Looking at the new carpark extension adjacent to Lake Ainsworth you'd be forgiven for thinking that you were looking at a series of garden beds rather than a purpose-built, eco-friendly carpark. And those grassed areas? Yes, that's where you park!

The carpark extension has been designed to incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles aimed at reducing pollution into Lake Ainsworth.

The carpark design reduces the amount of pavement surfaces and instead uses the grassed areas to act as a filter system to trap contaminants that could otherwise flow into Lake Ainsworth when it rains.

It is the first time Ballina Shire Council has used grass in a high volume car park.

It might sound simple but a lot of scientific work has gone into the carpark which uses raingardens technology that was modelled on research from Monash University.

Using technology Council can now estimate more precisely the total pollution from cars using the carpark and this information will be used to design stormwater treatment devices to stop pollution flowing into Lake Ainsworth. It will also tell us how effective the new grass carpark is.



FREE ENERGY SAVING DEVICES @ LIFE CARE24

The LifeCare24 shop on the corner of Moon and Tamar Streets in Ballina caters for people on limited incomes. It stocks a range of light bulbs, bathroom fittings and door drafts designed to save water and energy.

If you are eligible to shop at LifeCare24 don't forget to pick up some products to help reduce your energy and water bills.

MYTH BUSTERS

COUNCIL HAS NOT CONSULTED WITH THE COMMUNITY TO CLOSE THE EASTERN ROAD AT LAKE AINSWORTH, LENNOX HEAD

NOT TRUE.

Council resolved to close the road following significant consultation with residents, government agencies and the business community. The decision was made on the basis of the substantial environmental and social benefits that will result in the removal of vehicles from the eastern precinct. The closure of the eastern road will provide the community with improved grassed areas for recreation, with BBQ facilities, pathways and outdoor showers.

In respect to car parking spaces lost with the closure of this road, Council has now provided additional spaces in the expanded car park area in front of the Surf Club, extra spaces have been provided in Ross Street and further spaces will be provided on the eastern side of Pacific Parade.

Once the eastern road is closed, dog owners will need to walk their dogs on a lead until they reach the off leash area.

There are no changes planned for Camp Drewe Road. The only traffic changes will be vehicles wishing to access the Sport and Recreation Centre will now need to use Camp Drewe Road.

A concept plan which provides a greater level of detail for improvements to the eastern precinct was presented to the 24 March Council meeting and can be viewed on Council's website. The exact date of the road closure and commencement of works will be in the next few months. For detailed plans of the works, please visit ballina.nsw.gov.au



healthy environment

waste watch

A REGIONAL APPROACH TO RECYCLING

The recycled material collected from your wheelie bin every fortnight is taken to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) operated by Lismore City Council. The MRF is a great example of local Councils working together to use facilities rather than duplicating resources.

Staff at the MRF have reported that a lot of electrical cables and plant binding tape is entering the recycling stream.

Remember the Recycling rule: no strings attached...no string, no plant binding tape, rope or electrical cable in your yellow recycling bin...it must go in your waste (red lid) bin.



Compost your fish and chips wrappers and boxes

We have some of the best fish and chips in Ballina Shire, but their wrappings can't be recycled because they have food oils and fats on them which interferes with the recycling process. Paper and cardboard are mixed with water to recycle and oils and water don't mix.

BUT YOU CAN put them in the organics bin (green lid) where they will be turned into compost.

50% OFF Disposal Fees
ASBESTOS
 Householder Disposal Scheme
 Ends 30 June 2015
 For more information visit www.nsw.gov.au/waste
 Ballina Shire Council 02 6686 4444
 This project is a NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded from the waste levy.

EXTENDED

ballina shire council newwaste nsw EPA



HOUSEHOLD ASBESTOS DISPOSAL SCHEME HAS BEEN EXTENDED

During 2014/15 Council participated in the NSW Environment Protection Authority's trial of the Householder Asbestos Disposal Scheme (HADS). This was a free service which covered the disposal costs for household asbestos as a way of promoting the safe management and disposal of the hazardous material.

The trial was very successful with 17 households in the Ballina Shire correctly disposing 2.5 tonnes of asbestos to landfill. Council will continue the scheme and cover the disposal costs for household asbestos waste delivered to the Lismore Waste Facility. To participate in the Scheme, residents must purchase a \$30 asbestos kit.

Collect your asbestos kit from the Waste Management Centre, Southern Cross Drive, Ballina.
 Ph: 6686 1287

Would you like to **REDUCE WASTE** and **SAVE MONEY** in your business?

With the support of your local Council and the NSW EPA, Free Waste Assessments are now available for business.

We can help you to identify where you are wasting resources and money, provide you with solutions and help you to reduce your impact on the environment.

Businesses who participate will receive:

- A Free Waste Assessment
- A tailored Action Plan and Toolkit
- Personalised Support
- Implementation Incentives
- Media Promotion

Go to > www.wastewarriors.com.au to request your **FREE** waste assessment.

This project is a NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded from the waste levy.

nsw EPA newwaste north east waste

waste wise WASTE WARRIORS business smart

new salvage shed on track and open



L-R: Rod Kilby, Salvage Shed Coordinator, and customer David 'Sparkie' Studdert inspecting power equipment.

On Track Community Programs (OTCP) has partnered with the Ballina Shire Council to operate the newly re-vamped salvage shop at the Ballina Waste Management Centre on Southern Cross Drive, Ballina.

The shop is stocked with a wide variety and eclectic mix of reclaimed and pre-loved goods including:

- Household goods and furniture
- Bric-a-brac and hidden treasures
- Building materials and tools
- Clothing and accessories
- Books and DVDs
- Bicycles and toys.

The Salvage Shop – everyone's a winner

SOCIAL BENEFIT – The Salvage Shop provides supported employment for up to eight people living with a disability or mental illness. All profits go towards OTCP's Disability, Mental Health and Homelessness programs in the Northern Rivers.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT – Providing cheap and useful goods to people in the Ballina community.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT – Diverting tonnes of re-usable items from landfill and reducing the environmental impact of manufacturing and distributing those items if they were new.

The Salvage Shop is located at the Waste Management Centre, Southern Cross Drive Ballina (next to the airport). Phone 0429 934 557

Shop open hours: 9:30am – 4:00pm everyday.

Who knows what you might discover. Come in and bag a bargain!



If you forget your re-usable coffee cup when grabbing your daily take-away there are some things you can do to re-use your cup...

1

Grow some cute plants to brighten up your workplace or kitchen window sill.

2

Recycle the plastic lid and compost the cup

Burke family, Lennox Head

**what's your
reduce, reuse,
recycling tip?**

Send your reduce, reuse,
recycling tip to
comms@ballina.nsw.gov.au

The first five ideas will
receive a KeepCup.





Ballina thriving – \$94 million worth of building approvals in six months

Confidence in the Ballina Shire is extremely high with \$94 million worth of building approvals (residential and non-residential) in the six months to December 2015.

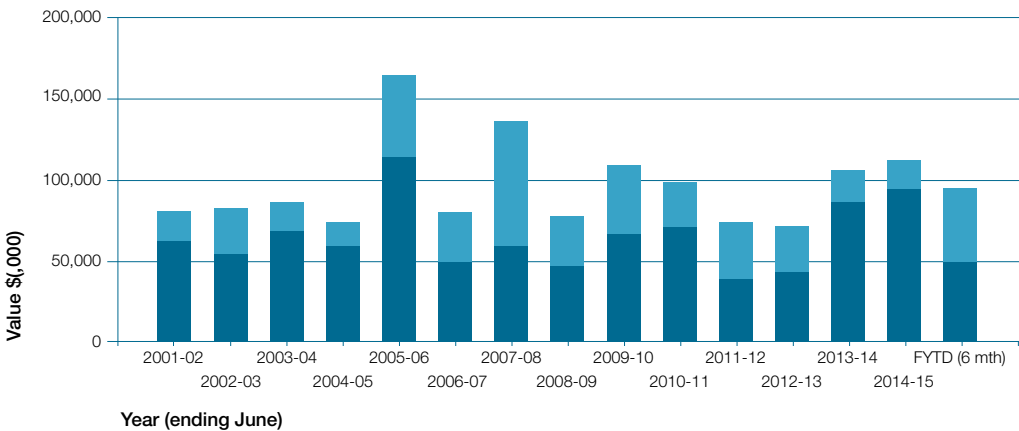
To six months ending December 2015, the value building approvals exceeded the previous financial year 2014/2015. Despite Ballina Shire having only 0.55% of the New South Wales’ population, we had 0.61% of the State’s value of building work for the six months to December.

Building approvals for an area can be highly variable over time, particularly in the non-residential sector. Construction may take several years from the date of approval. A high rate of building approvals can indicate a growth area with a construction-led economy. A low rate of building approvals may indicate a settled area with established infrastructure, or an area with little growth. Note that this dataset is not adjusted for inflation.

VALUE OF TOTAL BUILDING APPROVALS

BALLINA SHIRE

■ Residential ■ Non-residential



Financial year	BALLINA SHIRE			NEW SOUTH WALES			Ballina Shire as a % of New South Wales
	Residential \$('000)	Non-residential \$('000)	Total \$('000)	Residential \$('000)	Non-residential \$('000)	Total \$('000)	
FYTD (6 mth)	68,312	46,055	114,367	13,081,221	5,683,629	18,764,849	0.61
2014-15	94,914	17,455	112,369	18,683,838	9,103,628	27,787,466	0.40
2013-14	86,618	18,557	105,175	15,651,703	12,000,977	27,652,680	0.38
2012-13	41,233	29,893	71,127	11,981,013	7,883,815	19,864,829	0.36
2011-12	39,381	33,447	72,828	10,757,699	6,796,499	17,554,198	0.42
2010-11	69,870	28,630	98,500	10,894,864	6,777,250	17,672,113	0.56

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Building Approvals, Australia, catalogue number 8731.0. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id the population experts

BUY LOCAL AND INVEST IN THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

It's great to see the vacant shops fill with an array of retailers and eateries.... adding to the vibrancy of our town centres.

Ballina Shire has a great range of stores and speciality shops offering loads of gift ideas, quirky treats and personalised customer service. Explore a little further up the side streets shooting off the main streets...you'll find some hidden gems and eateries.

Make a day of it starting with breakfast in Alstonville, lunch in Ballina and a glass of wine in Lennox in the afternoon. Fill the rest of the day browsing all of the shops in each town.

Each purchase you make helps keep someone employed and is an investment in the place we are lucky enough to call home.

