

# COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL

## 2015/16 ANNUAL REPORT – SECTION 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS



Helping to achieve the 2030 Community Vision

## 2015/16 ANNUAL REPORT – SECTION 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

This Annual Report provides an overview of Coffs Harbour City Council’s performance in addressing the *Coffs Harbour 2030* Community Strategic Plan. The Significant Achievements detailed in this report follow the thematic structure of the 2030 Plan. The Annual Report refers to the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

An appendix to the Annual Report this year is the 2016 End of Term Report. It summarises the overall progress towards achieving the objectives of the 2030 Plan during the 2012-2016 term of the elected Council. The 2016 Regional State of the Environment Report is also an appendix to this report.

The Annual Report is a component of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) legislation. Full details of Council’s performance against the 2015-2019 Delivery Program and 2015/16 Operational Plan can be found in six-monthly progress reports in the Corporate Planning and Reporting pages of Council’s website:

[www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au](http://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au)

In a separate document, Section 2 of the Annual Report includes information that is prescribed by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. It is considered important for the community to have access to this information so it can better understand how Council has been performing both as a service provider and a community leader.

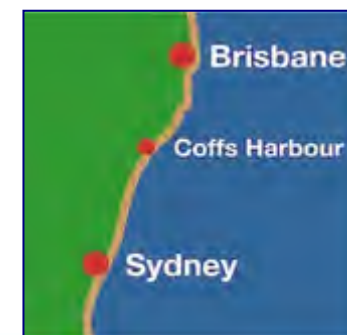
Also tabled separately, Section 3 of the Annual Report contains Council’s Annual Financial Statements, as required by the Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428 (4) (a).

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Coffs Harbour is a major regional city on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales, about midway between Sydney and Brisbane. The traditional home of the Gumbaynggirr people, the city now has a population of approximately 73,000 and encompasses a total area of 1,174 square kilometres of land stretching from Red Rock, south to Bundagen and west past Brooklana and Lowanna.

*COVER IMAGE: During National Volunteer Week in May, Council paid tribute to the army of nearly 500 community volunteers who help to keep the city running. (Photo: Seen Australia)*

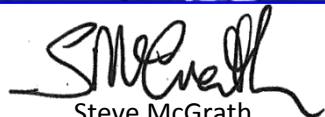


## FOREWORD TO THE 2015/16 ANNUAL REPORT



  
Councillor Denise Knight,  
Mayor of Coffs Harbour



  
Steve McGrath,  
General Manager

This 2015/16 Annual Report is tabled as Council undergoes a period of change following the local government elections. We welcome the five new councillors and the additional talents, perspectives and energy they bring to the task of representing the people of Coffs Harbour. However, this Annual Report is an opportunity to reflect on the many achievements of the organisation in the last year under the direction of the previous elected Council. And there is plenty for which the outgoing councillors can be proud.

Steady progress was made across a range of major ongoing initiatives. The CBD Masterplan Program saw the completion of the Park Avenue interchange and the commencement of work on the Duke Street extension and the drainage and traffic upgrade of the Harbour Drive/Gordon Street intersection. The Jetty4Shores project advanced with the completion and opening of the centrepiece walkway with its distinctive turtle motifs. The ongoing Public Amenities Upgrade Program saw the completion of a new facility at the popular Macauleys Beach reserve; the 4.5km Moonee to Emerald Water Main Trunk Line was completed, securing the water supply to Northern Beaches development areas; and boat owners benefitted from the completion of the expansion of the harbour boat ramp facility.

Coffs Harbour's status as the winner of the prestigious 2015 IFEA World Festival and Event City Award was underscored with another hectic, twelve-month program of fixtures and events. We again played host to the World Rally Championships, the International Buskers Festival, and our regional gallery's signature event, the EMSLA Still Life Award and Festival. The C.ex Coffs International Stadium scored a coup with the staging of the first-ever Sheffield Shield cricket match in the city, and other stadium highlights included an A-League football trial match between the Western Sydney Wanderers and the Central Coast Mariners, national Oztag events, and an AFL training camp with the Sydney Swans. For the third year in a row Coffs Harbour also played host to the NSW Blues' State of Origin training program.

Passenger services at Coffs Harbour Regional Airport were expanded, the addition of new flights to Melbourne and Brisbane helping the airport towards near-record passenger numbers. Sustainability continues to drive Council programs, with both the adoption of the Coffs Harbour Renewable Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan and the finalisation of the Coffs Coast Region Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy through to 2027.

Council's own Transformation to Sustainability (T2S) Program continues to steer the organisation towards financial security. Projected savings of more than \$3m a year – through operational efficiencies and organisational restructuring – are on track to be achieved in 2017 in line with the T2S schedule. The process hasn't been without its challenges however, the organisation is now better positioned to serve the Coffs Harbour community into the future.

Yes, we've been busy. But let's take this time to acknowledge the contribution made by all – our councillors, our dedicated workforce and our army of selfless volunteers – for their combined efforts in helping to make Coffs Harbour an even better place to call home.



## ELECTED MEMBERS

**Mayor,  
Councillor Denise Knight**



**Deputy Mayor,  
Councillor Garry Innes**



**Councillor  
John Arkan**



**Councillor  
Nan Cowling**



**Councillor  
Rodney Degens**



**Councillor  
Bob Palmer\***



**Councillor  
Keith Rhoades**



**Councillor  
Mark Sultana**



**Councillor  
Sally Townley**



\* Councillor Palmer resigned from Council 20 April 2016

## ELECTED MEMBERS – ATTENDANCE RECORD

| Councillor Attendances<br>(by portfolio)                |      | Denise Knight     |      | Sally Townley     |      | John Arkan        |     | Nan Cowling       |      | Rodney Degens     |      | Gary Innes        |      | Bob Palmer *      |     | Keith Rhoades     |      | Mark Sultana      |     |
|---|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|-----|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|-----|-------------------|------|-------------------|-----|
| Type of event   | Held | Attendance<br>No. | %    | Attendance<br>No. | %    | Attendance<br>No. | %   | Attendance<br>No. | %    | Attendance<br>No. | %    | Attendance<br>No. | %    | Attendance<br>No. | %   | Attendance<br>No. | %    | Attendance<br>No. | %   |
| Council Meetings  | 18   | 16                | 89%  | 17                | 94%  | 14                | 78% | 18                | 100% | 11                | 61%  | 12                | 67%  | 7                 | 39% | 17                | 94%  | 16                | 89% |
| Council Briefings                                       | 31   | 26                | 84%  | 17                | 55%  | 11                | 35% | 30                | 97%  | 12                | 39%  | 20                | 65%  | 11                | 35% | 7                 | 23%  | 21                | 68% |
| Access Advisory Committee                               | 4    |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     | 4                 | 100% |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |     |
| Airport Emergency Committee                             | 1    | 0                 | 0%   |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |     |
| Airport Focus Group                                     | 3    |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     | 3                 | 100% |                   |     |
| Airport Security Committee                              | 1    | 0                 | 0%   |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |     |
| Australia Day/Special Events Committee                  | 6    | 3                 | 50%  |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      | 0                 | 0%   |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |     |
| Coffs Harbour International Sports Stadium Incorporated | 3    |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     | 1                 | 33%  | 1                 | 33% |
| Coffs Harbour Local Traffic Committee                   | 4    |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     | 4                 | 100% |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |     |
| Coffs Harbour Sports Advisory Committee                 | 6    |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     | 5                 | 83%  |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      | 3                 | 50% |
| Coffs Coast Tourism Association                         | 3    |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |      |                   |      | 2                 | 67% |                   |      |                   |     |
| Environmental Working Group Committee                   | 4    | 2                 | 50%  | 1                 | 25%  |                   |     |                   |      |                   |      | 0                 | 0%   |                   |     |                   |      |                   |     |
| Floodplain Management Advisory Committee                | 2    |                   |      | 2                 | 100% |                   |     |                   |      |                   |      | 1                 | 50%  |                   |     |                   |      |                   |     |
| Governance and Audit Committee                          | 4    |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      | 1                 | 100% |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |     |
| Mid North Coast Bush Fire Management Committee          | 3    |                   |      | 2                 | 67%  |                   |     |                   |      |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |     |
| Mid North Coast Group of Councils                       | 0    |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |     |
| Multicultural Reference Group                           | 3    |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      | 0                 | 0%  |
| Performance Review Panel for the General Manager        | 1    | 1                 | 100% |                   |      |                   |     | 1                 | 100% |                   |      | 1                 | 100% |                   |     |                   |      |                   |     |
| Transport Working Group                                 | 2    |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      | 1                 | 50%  |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |     |
| Yandaarra Aboriginal Consultative Committee             | 3    | 3                 | 100% | 1                 | 33%  | 1                 | 33% |                   |      |                   |      |                   |      | 1                 | 33% |                   |      |                   |     |
| Training Sessions                                       | 0    |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |      |                   |      |                   |     |                   |      |                   |     |

Note: Reporting period is October 2015 to September 2016 (reporting cycle set by September 2012 Council election)

\* Councillor Palmer resigned from Council on 20 April 2016

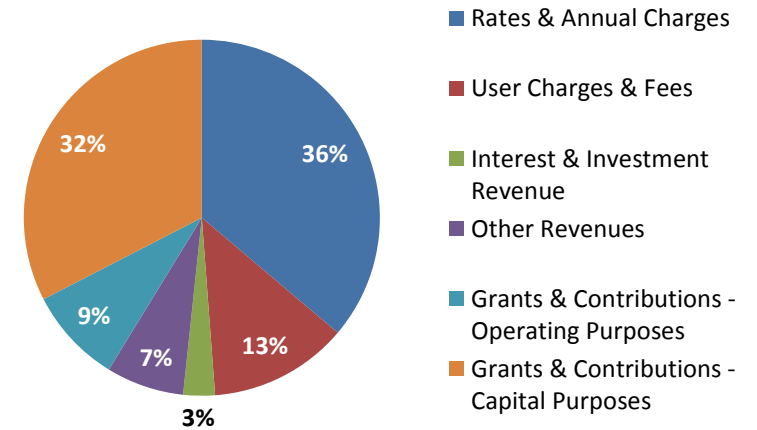


# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2015/16

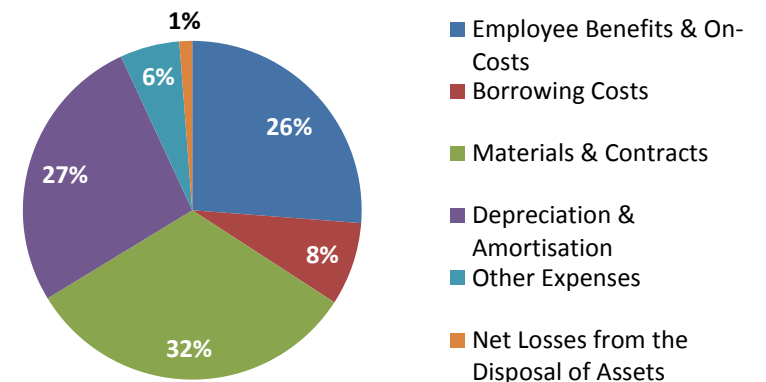
## Coffs Harbour City Council – Income Statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2016 \*

| Budget<br>2016<br>\$ '000 |  | Notes | Actual<br>2016<br>\$ '000 | Actual<br>2015<br>\$ '000 |
|---------------------------|--|-------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|                           | <b>Income from Continuing Operations</b>   |       |                           |                           |
|                           | <i>Revenue:</i>  |       |                           |                           |
| 81,364                    | Rates & Annual Charges   | 3a    | 85,968                    | 81,083                    |
| 32,432                    | User Charges & Fees  | 3b    | 30,012                    | 37,461                    |
| 5,705                     | Interest & Investment Revenue  | 3c    | 6,829                     | 7,358                     |
| 9,375                     | Other Revenues   | 3d    | 16,781                    | 8,486                     |
| 18,255                    | Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes   | 3e,f  | 20,641                    | 17,829                    |
| 16,678                    | Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes   | 3e,f  | 77,384                    | 24,391                    |
| <b>163,809</b>            | <b>Total Income from Continuing Operations</b>   |       | <b>237,615</b>            | <b>176,608</b>            |
|                           | <b>Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>   |       |                           |                           |
| 41,689                    | Employee Benefits & On-Costs   | 4a    | 42,808                    | 41,159                    |
| 12,892                    | Borrowing Costs  | 4b    | 12,963                    | 14,228                    |
| 58,829                    | Materials & Contracts  | 4c    | 52,488                    | 49,819                    |
| 48,131                    | Depreciation & Amortisation  | 4d    | 43,773                    | 44,517                    |
| 6,448                     | Other Expenses   | 4e    | 9,274                     | 11,033                    |
| -                         | Net Losses from the Disposal of Assets   | 5     | 2,001                     | 3,772                     |
| <b>167,989</b>            | <b>Total Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>   |       | <b>163,307</b>            | <b>164,528</b>            |
|                           | <b>Operating Result</b>  |       |                           |                           |
| <b>(4,180)</b>            | Operating Result from Continuing Operations  |       | <b>74,308</b>             | <b>12,080</b>             |
| <b>(4,180)</b>            | <b>Net Operating Result for the Year</b>   |       | <b>74,308</b>             | <b>12,080</b>             |
| (4,180)                   | Net Operating Result attributable to Council   |       | 74,308                    | 12,080                    |
| -                         | Net Operating Result attributable to Non-controlling Interests   |       | -                         | -                         |
| <b>(20,858)</b>           | <b>Net Operating Result for the year before Grants and Contributions provided for Capital Purposes</b> |       | <b>(3,076)</b>            | <b>(12,311)</b>           |

**Total Income from Continuing Operations  
\$237.6m**



**Total Expenses from Continuing Operations  
\$163.3m**



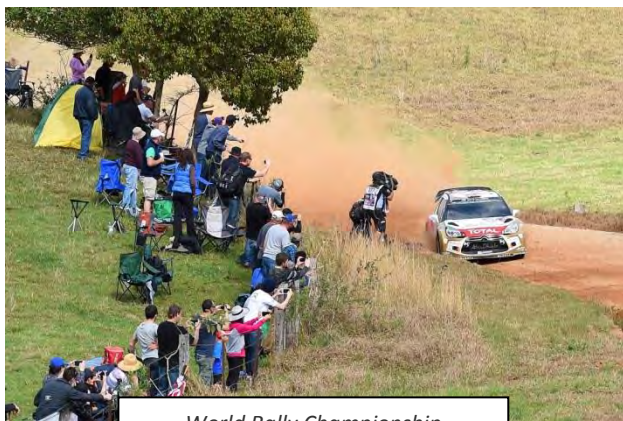
\*See Annual Report Section 3 – Annual Financial Statements



## LEARNING AND PROSPERING

### EVENTFUL YEAR

Council moved to cement Coffs Harbour’s status as one of Australia’s premier event-friendly cities with the release of a new Draft **Events Strategy** for public comment. The blueprint aims to build on the international recognition handed to the city in 2015/16 when Coffs Harbour won the IFEA World Festival and Event City Award.



World Rally Championship

### NEW DIRECTION IN TOURISM

During the period, the **Coffs Coast Tourism Committee** was established to help create a new strategic direction for the region. Made up of tourism industry operators from Coffs Harbour and Bellingen, as well as Councillors and staff from both local councils, the committee aims to grow the Coffs Coast as a tourism destination into the future.

## BUSINESS INNOVATION

Council’s **Six Degrees Co-working** space in the Coffs CBD continued to promote innovative ways for new businesses to flourish. A highlight was the second annual Telstra Business Centre Coffs Harbour Digital Innovation Challenge, assisting local start-up entrepreneurs to learn how to pitch, find co-founders, launch and market their products and form supportive business networks.

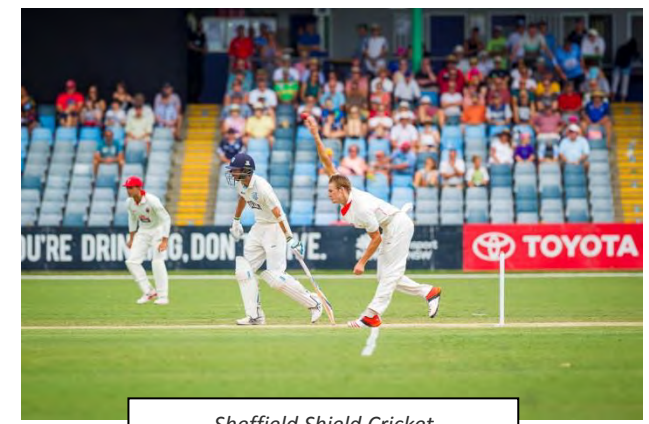


Digital Innovation Challenge

In conjunction with North Coast TAFE, Council supported the **Growing Innovation** Program with the aim of assisting local agrifood producers to expand their businesses. Council also hosted the second annual Mid North Coast Food Forum to encourage local growers, producers and food retailers to achieve their business goals.

## C.EX STADIUM

In a coup for the city, Sheffield Shield cricket came to Coffs Harbour for the first time, with about seven-thousand spectators visiting **C.ex Coffs International Stadium** to see the NSW Blues take on South Australia in the four-day fixture. The Shield game is part of a new partnership between Cricket NSW and Coffs Harbour City Council to bring elite cricket to the city for the next three years.



Sheffield Shield Cricket

Coffs Harbour maintains its standing as the **OzTag** capital of Australia. More than 12,000 players, officials, supporters and fans converged on the city in February for the NSW Oztag Junior State Cup. In its second year, the event pumps an estimated \$4m into the local economy.

The Stadium was also announced as the venue for the first ever fully-fledged Hyundai **A-League Football** fixture to be staged in the city in January 2017. In partnership with Council, Northern New South Wales Football (NNSWF) and North Coast Football, the Newcastle Jets club will play host to Melbourne City in the televised round 17 match.

### C.EX STADIUM IN 2015/16

- 50 events
- 32,300 participants
- 33,200 spectators
- 136,400 visitor nights generated
- \$21.3m economic impact

**WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Generates \$13.8m annually  
for local economy

### GROWERS MARKET

The Council-run **Coffs Coast Growers Market** continued to promote healthy living along with local produce with the staging of the annual Coffs Coast Healthy Canteen Awards. The Mary Help of Christians Primary School at Sawtell was announced as this year's winner in the competition, which aims to encourage healthy eating in local schools.



Coffs Coast Growers Market

### LIBRARY

**Coffs Harbour City Library** continued to inform and engage the local community throughout the year. This year saw a busy program of author presentations, library resource workshops and community activities and events.



Launch of RFID service counters

The library also continued to improve service delivery, most noticeably through the installation of new, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) counters to speed up borrowing for customers.



## LOOKING AFTER OUR COMMUNITY

### CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

Council again assisted our Aboriginal community with the staging of the 2015 **Grace Roberts Memorial Community Development Awards**. Rachel Morris was named Aboriginal Community Person of the Year for her contribution to the education of Aboriginal children in the region. The Aboriginal Community Organisation award was presented to the Burlarri Muurlay Nyanggan Project in for its efforts in delivering Aboriginal after-school education programs in Wongala Estate.



NAIDOC Week 2015

Coffs Harbour's **Australia Day** 2016 was celebrated in a community festival event at the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden. In total 22 local residents were nominated for a range of Australia Day Awards, and more than 50 people from 19

countries became new Australians in a moving Citizenship ceremony.

Council supported a range of other community events including National Youth Week, Seniors Week, NAIDOC Week, Volunteer Week, Refugee Week and Carols by Candlelight.

### REGIONAL GALLERY

The **Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery** again attracted national attention with its signature event, the Eutick Memorial Still Life Award (EMSLA) and Festival. Other major exhibitions and events



Archibald Prize at the Gallery

included the touring Indigenous 'Illuminate'

installation, the 'Rust' and Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance shows, special art classes and workshops and musical performances.

### MUSEUM ATTRACTIONS

The long-planned **Orara Vintage Machinery Museum** finally found a home with Council brokering a 20-year licence agreement to operate on Council land adjacent to the Karangi Rural Fire Station. The venture will also operate as a Men's Shed whose members will have a specific focus on farm machinery.

The recently redeveloped **Coffs Harbour Regional Museum** was again a drawcard during the period. Visitors enjoyed the permanent collection as well as a number of special features including exhibitions from the Australian National Maritime Museum,



Pade Family Bible – Museum Collection

the Coffs Harbour Collectors Club and a celebration of the city's history as a tourist destination.

## PLANNING A CULTURAL FUTURE

During the period, Council began developing a new draft **Cultural Strategic Plan 2017-2022** and Cultural Policy for the city. Driven by extensive community engagement, the draft plan will include an issues and options paper on a possible Performing Arts and Conference Centre.

## LIBRARY/GALLERY PROJECT

Council launched an investigation into the development of a new **Library and Gallery** facility for the City. The project has been put forward to



help cater for changing trends in the delivery of library and gallery services and to provide an additional focus in creating a vibrant and reactivated City Centre.

## COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Council again showed its support for the local community and service sector, with increased financial assistance for community groups and events in 2015/16. In addition to the program of annual donations and rates subsidies, Council allocated \$216,000 to projects under its **Community Capital Infrastructure Grants** Program.

Council ran a free Grant Writing Program to help community groups and not-for-profit organisations access and secure funding for their projects.

**Council provided donations, grants and subsidies of \$654,424 in 2015/16**

Council also facilitated the allocation of this year's Southern Phone Grants program; the telecom company providing \$25,000 to help fund projects run by Volunteering Coffs Harbour, Eastern Dorrigo Hall and Showground Committee and South Coffs Community Garden.

## DESTINATION HONOURS

Council's **Park Beach Holiday Park** won more recognition during the period, being voted as one of

the Top 10 holiday parks in Australia in the high-circulation travel magazine, 'Caravan and Camping with Kids'. The magazine's 600,000 readers voted for the Park's outstanding holiday appeal and facilities for families.

## NAVY SPECTACLE

In a historic and spectacular ceremony in May, the Royal Australian Navy's 725 Squadron was granted **Freedom of Entry** to the city of Coffs Harbour. The helicopter training unit, which operates from the Naval Air Station at Nowra, was officially adopted by Coffs Harbour in 2015.



## STAYING SAFE

Council launched a new **MyBeachInfo** system to keep Coffs Harbour locals and visitors instantly updated on beach conditions. Modelled on the successful MyRoadInfo platform, the free apps and website help promote beach safety with user-friendly displays detailing beach openings, closures and cautions.

## SUSTAINABLE COUNCIL

During the period, Council continued to implement the **Transformation to Sustainability (T2S)** Program which aims to make the organisation financially sustainable so it can meet community expectations into the future. The new organisational structure was finalized and the re-engineering and re-designing of Council processes initiated to improve the delivery of services to the community. The T2S project is on track to deliver annual savings of \$3.2m.



## CUSTOMER SERVICE

Council adopted a **Customer Service Strategy** and Charter - a key goal is to have 80% of customer enquiries or requests resolved the first time a customer contacts Council.

## PROSPER COFFS HARBOUR

Council established a funding structure for philanthropic donations aimed at helping improve the city. A not-for-profit body called **Prosper Coffs Harbour Limited** now administers three trusts - the Coffs Harbour Protection of the Environment Trust Fund, the Coffs Harbour Cultural Trust Fund and the Coffs Harbour Futures Trust Fund. Prosper Coffs Harbour Limited is managed by a Board of Directors made up of community and Council representatives.

### Council Coffs Harbour City Council Lifeguard Service 2015/16 Beach Statistics

- Visitation: 691,463
- Rescues: 46
- Patrol days: 740 + 10-days that beaches were closed due to environmental factors.
- Preventative actions: 24,220
- First Aid 79 incidents: treated
- Law Enforcement: 525 (dog, surf craft and other incidents)

## IN TOUCH WITH THE ARTS

In June, Council achieved a milestone in promoting arts and culture on the Coffs Coast, celebrating the 100th edition of its popular **“What’s On” Newsletter**.

In three years, the email newsletter has built up a readership of almost 900 subscribers who are keen to stay up to date with the latest information on cultural activities and happenings in the city and region.



## LOOKING AFTER OUR ENVIRONMENT

### ENERGY TARGETS

Council adopted a strategy aimed at using 100% renewable energy in all Council facilities by 2030. The Coffs Harbour **Renewable Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan** offers the possibility for Council to significantly reduce its emissions and increase its use of renewable energy.

**COUNCIL'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS  
2015/16**

17,551.8 (tonnes CO2 equivalent)

Down 2.1% on 2014/15: 17,929.5 tonnes

### WARTIME HERITAGE

The need to care for a piece of Coffs Harbour's wartime history led to the February release of the draft **Bunker Headland Observation Post Conservation Management Strategy**. The ex-army lookout point is highly valued by the local RSL and Jetty Dunecare, which formed a working group in 2012 to progress its conservation and interpretation.

### LIVING LIGHTLY

The reporting period saw a continuation of the **Living Lightly Sustainability Workshops**, beginning with a program on the impact of chemicals found in household cleaning products and how green cleaning can save homeowners money. The workshops are run in partnership between Council and the Coffs Regional Community Gardens.



*Living Lightly Workshop*

### CUTTING WASTE

The **Coffs Coast Region Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy 2015-2027** was finalised. The blueprint aims to cement the region's position as a leader in recycling, diverting waste from landfill and in conserving resources.

As a member of the MIDWASTE group, Coffs Harbour City Council joined a regional initiative to curb the illegal dumping of waste. A new tool in the

fight is **RIDonline**, a smart phone app that allows residents to immediately report any incidence of illegal dumping to the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

During the 20th annual Coffs Harbour Waste Conference, Council facilitated a local presentation of **'The Frugal Forest'**. The deceptively real rainforest exhibition - crafted entirely from everyday waste material - aims to promote new

**VOLUME OF WASTE TO LANDFILL 2015/16**

28,644 tonnes

Down 3.8% on 2014/15: 29,789 tonnes

thinking about environmental protection and resource management.

Council and MIDWASTE staged a **'Less is More!'** workshop program to help local residents learn how to declutter their homes and dispose of excess stuff sustainably. The program is a NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded from the waste levy.

## SUSTAINABLE LIVING FESTIVAL

The inaugural **Living Coast Festival** was staged throughout November to celebrate the natural beauty of the Coffs Coast and provide sustainable living inspiration. The signature event was the Coffs Harbour Sustainable Living Day at the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden. Other features included Coffs Ambassador Tours, a Marine Discovery Program at the National Marine Science Centre, and the “Tern Up Sawtell” Community Arts Program.

## ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY

In March, Council called for applications from local organisations and individuals interested in securing **Environmental Levy** funding for projects aimed at improving our local environment. Major projects supported in 2015/16 by the Levy included Environmental Weeds management, Bush Regeneration, Ocean View Headland Access and Rehabilitation, and the Orara River Rehabilitation Project.

## GREEN SCHOOLS

Council staged a workshop for local schools, pre-schools and childcare centres interested in applying for grants to fund environmental awareness projects. The **Green Schools** Sustainability Program provides financial and in-kind support for activities and projects that aim to improve our local environment.



*Narranga P.S. Green Schools Project*

During the period, Council achieved a milestone with its **WaterWise Schools** initiative: the accreditation of Woolgoolga Public School as a WaterWise School means that every primary school in the Coffs Harbour local government area has now completed the important water conservation program.

## BOTANIC GARDENS

A consultation process began on the development of a strategic plan for the **North Coast Regional Botanic Garden** to address the future activity and investment needs of the unique inner-city greenspace.

“Making Our Birds Count” was the theme of **Bird Week 2015**, with a number of workshop programs hosted at the Botanic Garden along with the staging of a community bird count.

## MOVING AROUND

### WORKS

Council's **Roads and Bridges** programs made steady progress during the period. The Road Rehabilitation schedule saw the completion of major projects at Beach Road and Lakeside Drive, both at Sapphire, and Sawtell Road at East Boambee. Major bridge upgrades were also completed at Keoghs Road and North Bonville Road at Bonville.



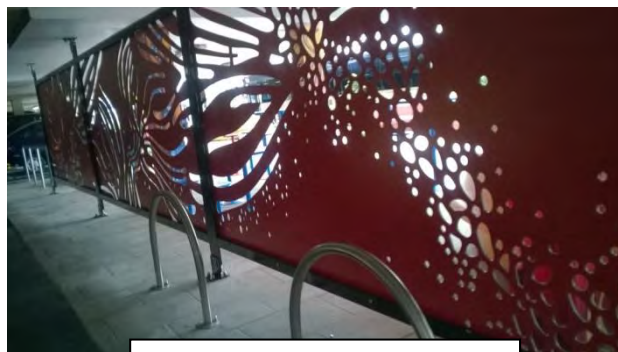
Duke Street Extension

Work began on the **Duke Street extension** and drainage improvement projects as the first stage of a planned future CBD ring road system, one of the key principles of the Coffs Harbour City Centre Masterplan 2031.

The redevelopment of the **Harbour Drive/Gordon Street** intersection began in June. The removal of the existing roundabout, the installation of traffic lights and the completion of associated drainage

works will reduce flooding risks and improve traffic movement and pedestrian safety.

City Centre works saw the completion of the Park Avenue **public transport interchange**, the new facilities winning immediate approval from the regular users of the precinct.



Park Avenue Interchange

### TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

The implementation of the **Transport Working Group Action Plan** continued with significant design work on pedestrian facilities, cycleways and intersection works around the city. A speed management project was finalized for Sawtell Road, Toormina Road and Lyons Road with the introduction of new 50kph limits.

### ROAD SAFETY

Council again supported the Coffs Harbour Liquor Accord in helping to ensure revelers returned home safely from major events during the period. The

free **Nightrider** bus service was provided for the Coffs Harbour Cup race day and on New Year's Eve, the late-night buses offering a safe alternative to driving for people on the Northern Beaches or in the city's southern suburbs.

Council supported the national road safety promotion '**Fatality Free Friday**' in May, using the Growers Market as a venue for local people to sign a road safety pledge and autograph an inflatable



Fatality Free Friday

car. Fatality Free Friday is an initiative of the Australian Road Safety Foundation.

The successful **Myroadinfo** app continued to be taken up by local motorists seeking information about conditions on our roads. The app features local roadworks, as well as updates related to accidents, storms or flooding.

## AIRPORT SERVICES

Passenger services at **Coffs Harbour Regional Airport** expanded during the period. Regional Airline, Fly Corporate, commenced its new service between Coffs Harbour and Brisbane in April/June, offering 12 flights a week on the route. Meanwhile, Tigerair Australia announced an additional weekly return service between Melbourne and Coffs Harbour in response to increased demand.

AIRPORT PASSENGER NUMBERS 2015/16  
377,305  
(Up 6.6% on 2014/15: 353,778)

The Airport received a major boost during the period with the success of Council's application for a grant of \$5.1m for major improvements. The grant, from the NSW Government's Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund, will enable extensions to the runway apron area and upgraded terminal facilities.

## PLACES FOR LIVING

### LAND MANAGEMENT

In a local first, Council joined forces with specially trained Aboriginal fire-fighters in August to conduct a ‘cultural burn’ to improve habitat and reduce bushfire risks around the Regional Airport.



Airport Land Cultural Burn

Community workshops were held in Coramba, Woolgoolga and Bonville to help develop Council’s draft **Rural Lands Strategy**. The blueprint will aim to ensure a productive and economically sustainable long-term future for our rural landholdings.

The community also provided feedback on issues to be managed in a new **Coffs Harbour Residential Strategy**. Key points include our evolving housing and accommodation needs and consideration of creating special ‘character’ precincts.

### JETTY4SHORES PROJECT

There were community celebrations to mark the official opening of the new **Jetty4 Shores** walkway at the Jetty Foreshores in October. With its striking turtle motifs and features emphasising the Aboriginal and European heritage of the site, the



Jetty4Shores Walkway Opening

five-metre-wide walkway is the centrepiece of the entire planned transformation of the Harbour.

The Jetty4Shores initiative advanced further with Council securing dollar-for-dollar Commonwealth funding to proceed with works totaling \$9.2m for Stages 2, 3 and 4 of the harbour upgrade project. The upgrades involve a kiosk area including steps and paving, a proposed market/picnic area and a removable boardwalk, north of the historic Jetty.

### SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

The construction of the 4.5km **Moonee to Emerald Water Main Trunk Line** was completed, securing the water supply to existing and future development areas of the Northern Beaches.

Significant progress was also made on the **water**



Karangi-Red Hill Water Pipeline

**pipeline duplication** between Karangi Dam and Coramba Road via the Karangi Water Treatment Plant. The 5.3km long project is expected to be completed by mid-September 2016.

### EVENT FACILITIES

Council also secured Federal funding to provide new event facilities at **Coffs Coast Sport and Leisure Park**, for the construction of an asphalt surface for parking and temporary event structures



on the east side of C.ex Coffs International Stadium along part of Phil Hawthorne Drive.

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

A new playground was opened at **Ulong**, developed by the Eastern Dorrigo Showground and Community Hall Management Committee with a grant from Council’s Community Infrastructure fund.



Ulong Playground Opening

Council continued to negotiate with NSW Crown Lands to help secure new sites for the **Woolgoolga Marine Rescue** operation and **Woolgoolga Surf Life Saving Club**. To improve services, it’s proposed that the Marine Rescue operation be shifted to Arrawarra Headland, allowing the surf club to take over its existing site.

Council released a review of the **Coffs Harbour Sports Facility Plan** for community comment. The five-year review will ensure that necessary changes

to the sporting and community landscape are incorporated so the Plan remains relevant both to residents and visitors.

A new amenities building was completed at Macauleys Beach Reserve. It was the latest project in Council’s ongoing **Public Amenities Upgrade Program** which has improved facilities in Park Avenue, Castle Street and Arrawarra Headland.



Macauleys Beach Reserve Amenities

A \$290,000 upgrade of the **Woolgoolga Netball Courts** was officially in April. The project was a community effort, with funding from Council, the local Netball Association and Lions Club as well as grants from the NSW Government and the Southern Phone Company.

## FEE REDUCTION TRIAL

Council launched a two-year trial of a policy reducing the costs associated with the development of **secondary dwellings** (otherwise known as

‘granny flats’). The trial will apply for consents granted between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2017.

## OPEN SPACE PROJECTS

Work began on the extension of the **Solitary Islands Coastal Path** at Woolgoolga Headland. A whale-watching theme is central to the walkway design, which will link the current Solitary Islands Coastal Path to Woolgoolga Beach.



Woolgoolga Headland ‘Whale Trail’

Council adopted the **Boambee East Community Reserve Plan of Management** in June. Council also received NSW Government grant approval for three open space projects:

- \$584,000 for CCTV and lighting within Park Beach Reserve under their Safer Streets Program;
- \$50,000 to upgrade Graff Avenue Reserve, Toormina; and
- \$100,000 for work on a number of coastal headlands.

## FLOODPLAIN AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Work began on the development of the Draft **Arrawarra Creek Coastal Zone Management Plan**. The 18-month project will involve community consultation, data assessment, and technical studies to understand the estuary health of the waterway.

Progress was also made on **Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans** for Woolgoolga and the area around Boambee Creek and Newport Creek.

## HARBOUR BOAT RAMP UPGRADE

Work was completed on an expansion of the Coffs Harbour boat ramp. The popular facility was redeveloped to improve public safety by reducing the impacts of wave surges in the harbour. The four-year project went from investigation to design and works; monitoring has shown positive results for boat users



*Harbour Boat Ramp Expansion*

## GRAFFITI INITIATIVE

Council, Rotary Coffs Harbour and Dulux Paints joined forces in October to help clean up Coffs Harbour on **'Graffiti Removal Day.'**

In April, following extensive engagement with stakeholders, Council finalised a **Graffiti Management Policy and Strategy**. The Strategy aims to improve graffiti management through better reporting, removal, prevention, education and law enforcement.

## PLANNING FOR GROWTH

The volume of development applications submitted to Council for determination in 2015/16 increased slightly (+4.5%) compared to the previous year. The total value of applications increased more significantly (by \$31.5m or 18%).

### Development Applications (DAs) Submitted

| Type of Development                                     | 2014/15      |               | 2015/16      |              |
|---|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | No.          | Value (\$m)   | No.          | Value (\$m)  |
| New Dwellings   | 273          | 86.1          | 284          | 86.7         |
| Dwelling Alterations / Additions                        | 307          | 13.1          | 327          | 16.7         |
| New Multiple Occupancy                                  | 14           | 42            | 13           | 31.5         |
| Swimming Pools  | 50           | 1.5           | 85           | 2.8          |
| Commercial / Industrial / Retail                        | 15           | 10.1          | 17           | 38.0         |
| Commercial / Industrial / Retail Additions / Alteration | 24           | 4.7           | 20           | 7.8          |
| Other   | 323          | 21.2          | 306          | 26.7         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1,006</b> | <b>178.7m</b> | <b>1,052</b> | <b>210.2</b> |

Significant Development Applications submitted for the period included:

- 80 room hotel at Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour
- 44 residential units at Park Beach Road, Coffs Harbour
- 25 lot subdivision at Arrawarra Road, Mullaway
- 34 multi dwelling housing at Sullivans Road, Moonee Beach



COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL  
Locked Bag 155 COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450  
[www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au](http://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au)

