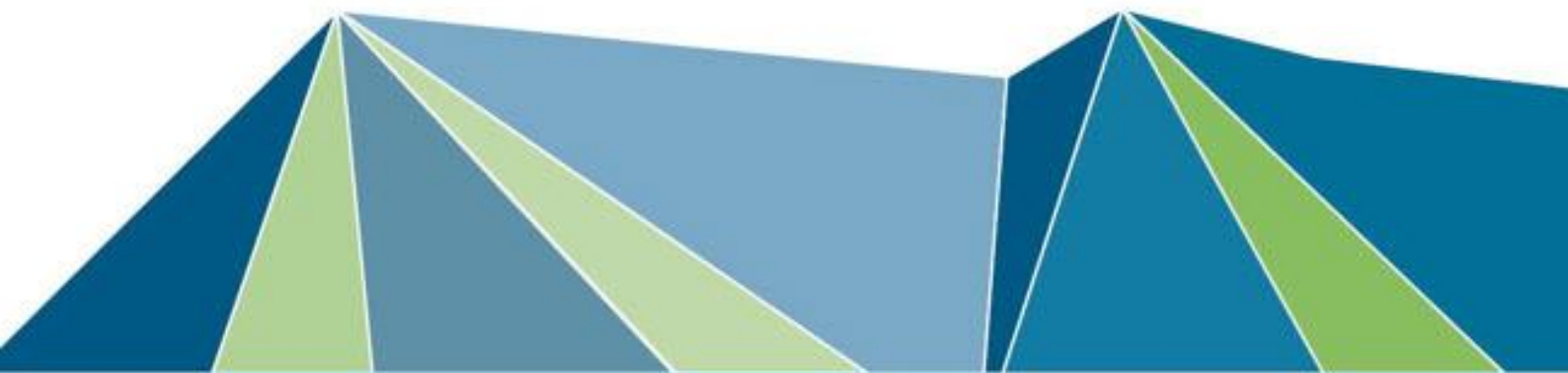


# ATTACHMENTS TO

## *Ordinary Meeting Business Paper*

28 May 2026



## Table of Contents

7.1	Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition	3
	Attachment 1: Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition .....	3
	Attachment 2: Spoonbill Reserve Community Engagement Summary Report - Public Exhibition .....	23
	Attachment 3: Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Revised Draft for Adoption .....	107
	Attachment 4: Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition Redacted Submissions .....	127
7.3	Policy (Review) - Climate Change	
	Attachment 1: Policy (Review) - Climate Change - 26 February 2026 Ordinary Meeting .....	131
	Attachment 2: Policy (Review) - Climate Change - Submissions.....	144
8.3	Ward Committee - Membership	
	Attachment 1: B Ward Committee Membership Application - Newrybar Community Hall (redacted) .....	158
	Attachment 2: C Ward Committee Application - Our Lady of Rosary Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society (redacted).....	160
8.8	Policy (Review) - Councillor Training and Development	
	Attachment : Policy (Review) - Councillor Training and Development.....	162
8.9	Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review	
	Attachment : Quarterly Budget Review Statement-Department of Housing, Planning and Infrastructure (for attaching to Council report) .....	170

**DISCLAIMER ©NSW Spatial Services 2024. Although all care is taken in the preparation of plans within Council's business paper (both agendas and attachments), Ballina Shire Council accepts no responsibility for any misprints, error, omissions or inaccuracies. The information contained within each plan is for pictorial representation only and not to scale. Accurate measurements should be undertaken by survey.**



Jaaguun (Land / Country)

# Spoonbill Reserve, Skennars Head

## DRAFT MASTER PLAN

9 February 2026





*Ballina Shire Council acknowledges that we are here on the land of the people of the Bundjalung Nation. The Bundjalung are the traditional owners of this land and are part of the oldest surviving continuous culture in the world.*

## Contents

	Page
The Project	
Background .....	3
Process .....	3
 The Big Picture	
Strategic Context.....	4
 The Place	
Focus Area.....	5
Observations + Considerations .....	6
 The People	
Demographics .....	10
Engagement .....	10
Strong Community Messages.....	11
 The Vision	
Master Plan Strategy.....	12
Key Design Objectives.....	12
Design + Key Functional Zones.....	12
Master Plan Snapshot .....	13
Master Plan Up Close .....	15
 Where to Next? .....	18
 References/Acknowledgements / Copyright Note	19

Jaaguun (Land / Country)



## The Project

### BACKGROUND

Spoonbill Reserve is Ballina Shire Council owned community land, strategically located between older and expanding new residential areas of Skennars Head and opposite Xavier Catholic College. For many years, members of the Skennars Head community have been advocating for a plan to be prepared to articulate the community's aspirations for the future of the Reserve.

In response to this, Council's current Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2025- 2029 includes an activity EL1.2b to:

*"Prepare management plan for Spoonbill Reserve " (2025/26).*

The Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 - 2043, sets the community contextual vision for this project to:

- *"maintain the coastal, village feel (ngumbiny munay), through a network of connected, well serviced neighbourhoods each with their own local character..."*
- *"enhance our wild coast, rural amenity and habitat connectivity..."*
- *providing opportunities for ...recreation...to meet the needs of existing and future generations (Jaagan)".*

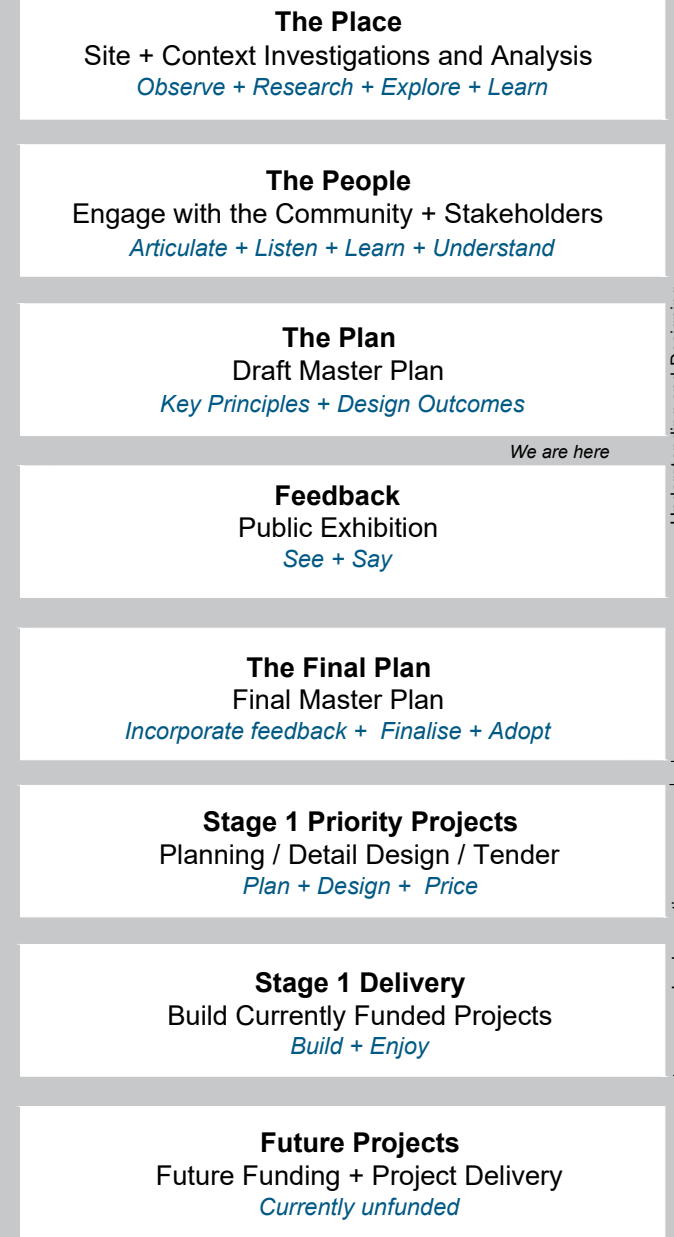
In addition to this, the master plan articulates the specific community needs and aspirations into a longer term but modest vision which will provide a strategic tool to support future investment, planning and implementation of improvement works.

### Project Objectives

This process and the final master plan seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- meaningfully engage with stakeholders and the community to better understand the intricacies of the place and community values;
- determine and articulate priorities for environmental, recreational and social infrastructure and activation within the Reserve which address community needs and aspirations and are, where possible consistent with key principles of the Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 - 2043.

### PROCESS



Jaagun (Land / Country)

## The Big Picture

### STRATEGIC CONTEXT

#### North Coast Regional Plan 2041

The North Coast Regional Plan 2041 (NCRP) acknowledges the continuous Aboriginal connection to the land, water, sea and skies in the region and the important role this connection plays in the cultural identity of the region and its places. This and the natural environment are defining characteristics, and must be valued, respected and carefully managed and protected.

The NCRP sets a framework for the future of the region which has consideration to the broader environmental context and hierarchy of places. The plan envisages strong regional growth, an aging population, an increase in smart technologies, new job opportunities and a need to protect assets such as farmland and the natural environment. The plan envisions the region as a collective of *"healthy and thriving communities, supported by a vibrant and dynamic economy that builds on the region's strengths and natural environment"*.

Within the context of this plan, Skennars Head is an urban growth area set within the "coastal strip" with identified opportunities for urban expansion and growth. This potential is also reinforced by Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement and the Ballina Local Environmental Plan 2012 which identifies land zoned for a "local centre", increased medium density and for further expanded low density residential areas to the south. This means more people within 10 minutes walk of the site and demand for open space.

Key NCRP Shire specific goals relevant to this project include:

- *"Livable and Resilient - Promote and recognise Aboriginal culture, local character and local creativity and investigate opportunities for the provision and enhancement of cultural and community assets within the shire"*.
- *"Housing and Place - Promote social cohesion and connection through good design and place making"*.

The community is well connected to Ballina by The Coast Road and via a scenic coastal shared path network.

#### Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 - 2043

The Skennars Head community, through an extensive engagement process undertaken in 2023, have articulated their vision for the locality into a locally relevant strategic plan.

This vision provides a clear strategic direction for the community with the vision:

*"Lennox Head and Skennars Head will maintain the coastal, village feel (**ngumbiny munay**) through a network of connected, well serviced neighbourhoods each with their own local character, complementing Lennox Head village. Our respect for First Nations and Australian cultural heritage and our natural environment (**jaaguun**) ensures we enhance our wild coast, rural amenity and habitat connectivity. We will work together for a strong, diverse community by providing opportunities for mixed income housing, local employment, recreation and transport to meet the needs of existing and future generations (**jaagan**)"*.

The recommendations of the Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 - 2043 are intended to guide future development in Skennars Head. Therefore, this master plan aims to provide design solutions which link to the following specific locality objectives as they relate to the Site:

- *Improve and maintain pedestrian access from the neighbourhood to Sharpes Beach.*
- *Maintain and sensitively increase residential densities close to the local centre.*
- *Nurture existing street trees to provide future pedestrian amenity and visual character.*
- *Retain wild coast values of Skennars headland.*



## The Place

The Skennars Head and Lennox Head cultural landscapes have been cared for by the Nyangbal people of the Bundjalung Nation for many thousands of years. The findings of significant artefacts and cultural sites near Spoonbill Reserve are evidence also of an active culture and more recent history of enduring Aboriginal occupation and custodianship of the area.

Following colonisation, the forested land in this area was substantially cleared for farming and became a popular holiday destination generally known as 'The Pines' because of the visual prominence of the 5 Norfolk Pine trees. The area near Spoonbill Reserve and the pine trees later contained the pioneering Sharpe family homestead. Sharpes Beach derives its name from this family.

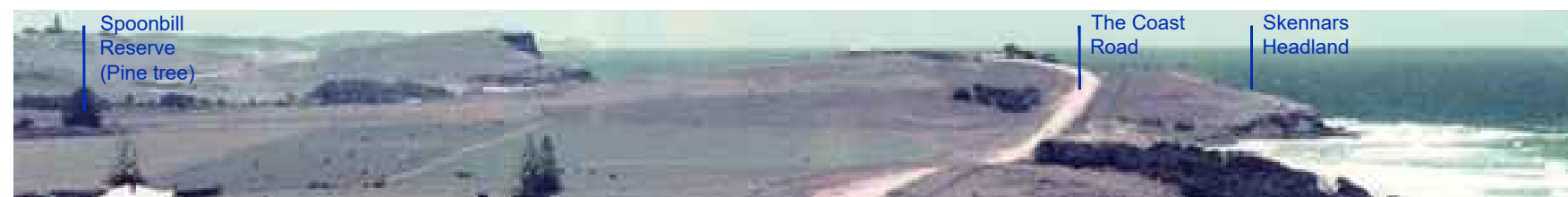
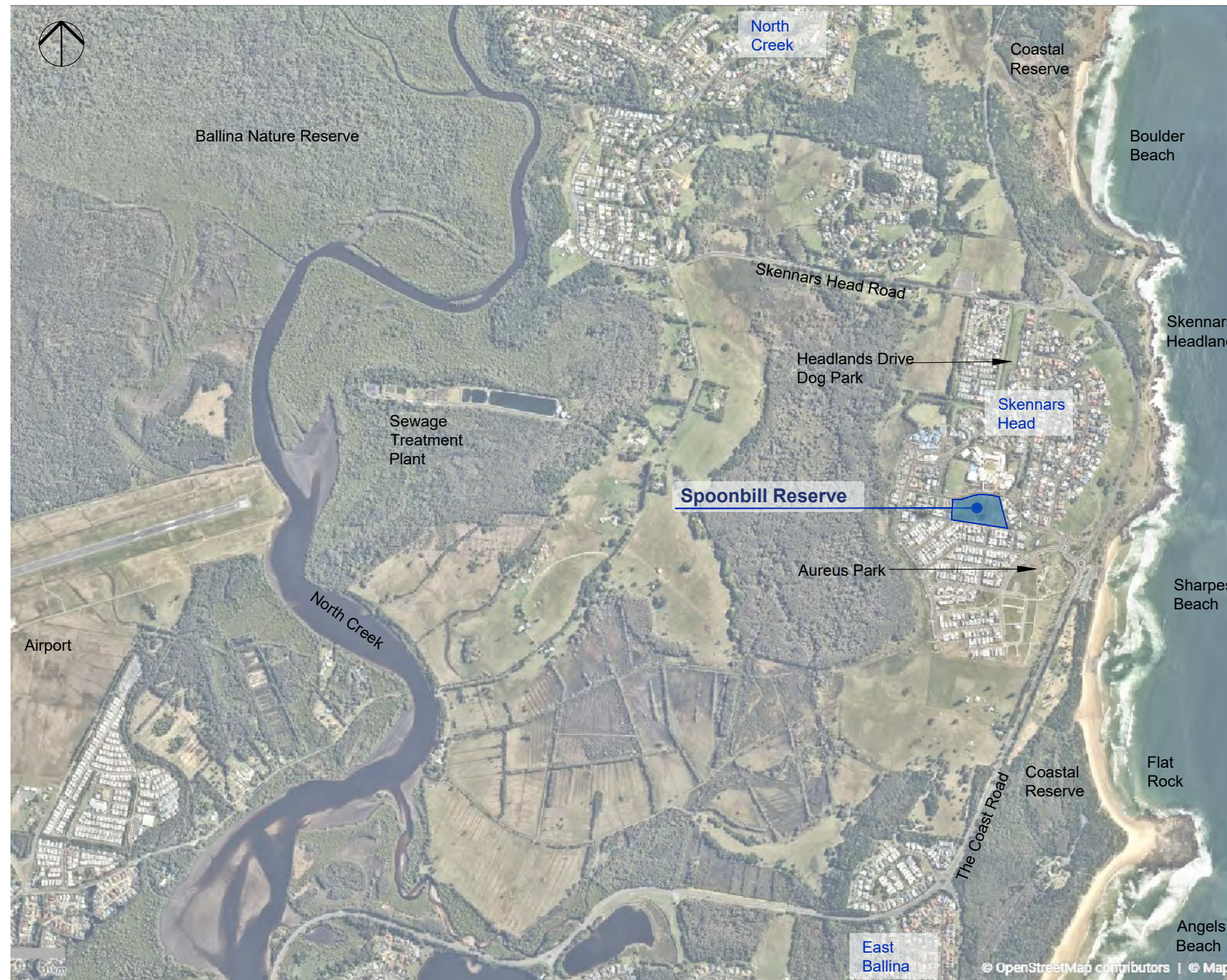
The wild coastline of the locality, which includes Skennars Headland is visually prominent comprising a sequence of scenic headlands (*ngamgirr/ bawur jaaguun* - headland), beaches and coastal escarpments supporting a diversity of endemic flora and fauna.

Spoonbill Reserve sits within part of the 'coastal corridor' which has undergone recent and rapid change. Today, the landscape of the locality is a patchwork of residential developments, rural pastures, coastal wetlands and diverse natural ecosystems. Historically and again more recently, community members report sightings of the Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*) in the Norfolk Pine trees or roaming the grass areas, inspiring the reserve name. The sedgeland, swamp forests and Nature Reserve to the west are likely habitat for this and other bird species.

The Site, which remains unembellished, is now central to the expanding residential catchment of Skennars Head and nearby to private primary and secondary schools. It is also a short 20-25 minute bike ride from the village centre of Lennox Head and the Ballina CBD.

Top Left: NearMaps sourced 21/10/2025

Bottom Left: Extract from historic photograph date unknown (Council records)





- |                              |                          |                                 |                                   |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Study Area                   | Key landmark (pine tree) | Pedestrian pathway (narrow)     | Slope/fall direction (approx 3%)  | Zone of high vehicle movement, parking and pedestrian conflict (40km/hr) |
| Significant tree             | Street lighting          | Path kerb ramp / crossing point | Interface public and private land | Area of high pedestrian and youth activity                               |
| Urban street tree (immature) | Vegetated drainage swale | School pedestrian entry point   | View corridor                     | Desirable connection to park and beach                                   |

## The Place

### FOCUS AREA OBSERVATIONS + CONSIDERATIONS

The study area for the project is shown on the adjacent map. The study area land parcel was dedicated to Council for public open space in the late 1990's as a condition of consent of the nearby Headlands Estate development.

#### Cadastral Description

The land is described as Parcel 13432, Lot 32 Section -, D.P. 846639, 5-15 Redford Drive, Skennars Head NSW 2478.

#### Zoning

The land is zoned RE1 Public Recreation under Ballina Shire Local Environmental Plan 2012.

#### Tenure

The land is owned by Ballina Shire Council, and classified as Community Land under the Local Government Act 1993.

It's use is governed by Council's generic Plan of Management for Community Land 2025 (Land Register 3201701) and is categorised for *General Community Use*. The purpose of this category is 'Providing a location for, and supporting, the gathering of groups for a range of social, cultural or recreational purposes. Providing multi-purpose buildings (e.g. community halls and centres) with specialised community uses...'

#### Land Use Context

The study area is a large parcel of open space set within a low to medium density residential context. The northern and eastern older residential areas predominantly feature traditional low-rise housing on large lots. Xavier Catholic College is immediately to the north of the study area. The school recreation facilities are not accessible to the general public. The southern, most recent residential precinct features houses on smaller lots, apartments, a future local centre and additional substantial open space embellished with children's playground and picnic facilities. Access to Sharpes Beach, the coastal reserve and shared path network is provided via a pedestrian underpass.

# The Place

## FOCUS AREA OBSERVATIONS + CONSIDERATIONS

The following sections discuss some key aspects of the place important to consider when developing a plan for the site.

### Trees + Vegetation + Habitat

Observations:

1. The vegetation of the broader locality is biodiverse with the two large trees at the site providing vegetation 'stepping stones' between the wetlands to the west and coastal reserve to the east.
2. Whilst primarily a large open lawn area, the site is known to be used by a variety of birds such as the Royal Spoonbill and is part of a larger coastal connector corridor for species such as the grey-headed flying fox and rose-crowned fruit dove.
3. There is a large Norfolk Pine tree and Moreton Bay Fig tree central to the site. The pine tree was part of the Sharpe colonial family property and has local community significance.
4. The pine tree is a visual landmark when viewed from surrounding residential areas.
5. The large open grass area is used informally by the community for recreation but lacks shade.
6. New native street trees have been planted on the southern street frontage as part of the water sensitive urban design drainage structure. These trees will improve shade and amenity on this frontage over time.

Design Considerations:

- Retain existing pine and fig tree as habitat trees and visually dominant features of the site and ensure that constructed works will not adversely impact the tree root system or tree health.
- Look for opportunities to provide additional shade.
- Strengthen the corridor function of the site through additional tree planting.
- Consider opportunities to provide education about local birds and wildlife.

### Drainage

Observations:

7. Vegetated swale drains form part of the southern streetscape.
8. The site is gently sloped (approx 3%), draining to the north-western corner. This makes it a good area for informal play.

Design Considerations:

- Maintain good drainage to support informal use of open space areas.



Jaagunn (Land / Country)

# The Place

## FOCUS AREA OBSERVATIONS + CONSIDERATIONS

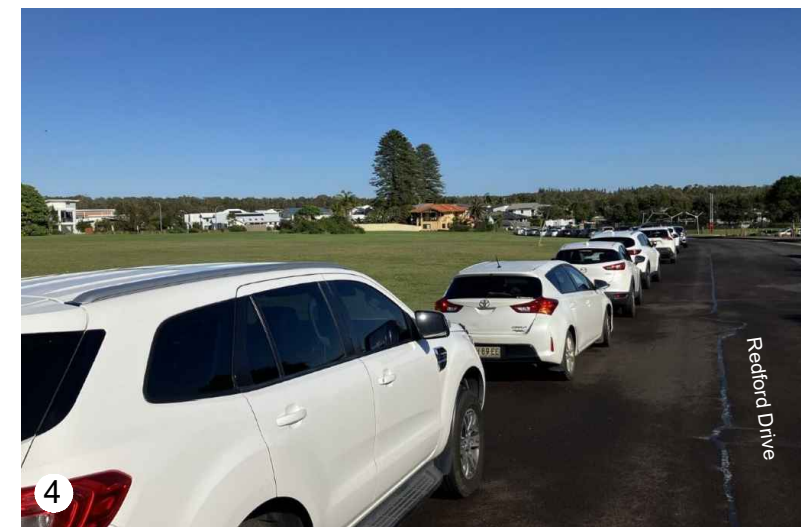
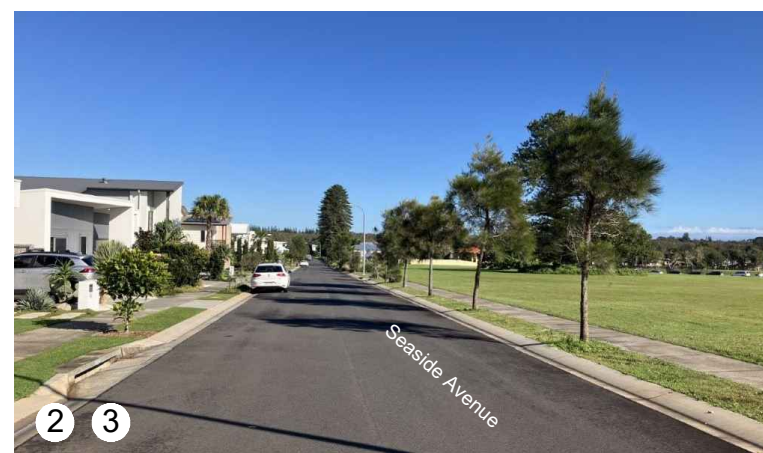
### Walkability, Access + Parking

Observations:

1. Most houses in Skennars Head are located within a 20 minute walking catchment of the site, making it a convenient open space for local residents. The site is also within a 20-25 minute bicycle ride of East Ballina and the southern edge of Lennox Head village centre.
2. The locality has a fragmented pathway network and the site is poorly connected to this network with only a narrow footpath along part of the southern boundary. Most footpaths and shared paths in the locality connect to the high school but not to the site. There are few pathways connecting open spaces.
3. People walk across the site on the grass to access residential areas and the schools. There are limited pathway connections to further support or promote walking or cycling.
4. Redford Drive, opposite Xavier Catholic College contains a lot of parked cars during school hours, but few parked cars outside school hours. School drop off and pick up times are busy with short-term parking congestion. There is no dedicated pedestrian crossing point on Redford Drive between the site and school.
5. Some adjoining private properties have unapproved gates providing direct access to the site.

Design Considerations:

- Investigate opportunities to improve parking on Redford Drive without encroaching on the site.
- Investigate ways to provide accessible pathway connections to encourage and support active travel to the site and school.
- Improve opportunities for equitable pedestrian access to and through the site.



Jaagunn (Land / Country)

# The Place

## FOCUS AREA OBSERVATIONS + CONSIDERATIONS

### Amenity + Activity

Observations:

1. There are no places to sit at the site other than on the grass.
2. There are no basic amenities to support day-to-day community use or entice people to stay for longer (e.g. places to sit, gather, eat, water for drinking, weather protection).
3. The site is popular for walking dogs even though there is a designated off-leash dog area along the Headlands Drive drainage reserve.
4. Footpath access is limited with only a narrow path on part of the southern street frontage and there is a lack of connectivity across the site.
5. The school and local residents use the open space area for informal sporting activities. Some residents have basketball hoops in their driveways or on the street verge so they can play on the road.
6. The area in front of the high school is high activity at peak school drop off and collection times in the morning and afternoons, but few people use the site at these times.

Design Considerations:

- Look for opportunities to provide individual and group seating and other amenities to support day-to-day use.
- Consider the impact of dogs at the site and opportunities to connect and improve access to the nearby Headlands Drive off-leash dog area as the primary dog exercise and play space. Improvements to the Headlands Drive off-leash dog area are part of the Companion Animal Management Plan (Policy) review planned for 2026.
- The abundant open space presents opportunities for large amenity and habitat trees to provide shade to footpaths and streets.
- Make design choices that support general community use and are compatible with the residential context.
- Make provision for services such as power supply and water to enable small local activities or events to occur in the space from time to time.
- Balance any new site features with protection of tree roots.



### Culture + Heritage + Art

7. The landscape of the locality has been shaped by layers of Aboriginal, colonial and natural cultural heritage values.
8. The Nyangbal people of the Bundjalung Nation have deep spiritual and cultural connections to the sky, land and waters of the Skennars Head locality.
9. The Lennox Head Heritage Committee reports that the site has some local colonial heritage significance, believed to be the location of (or near to) the pioneering Sharpe family homestead. Council holds some old sand-stock bricks from the Prospect Sugar Mill (Ballina) constructed by John Sharpe for reuse at the site.
10. The pine tree is a significant colonial historic landmark.

### Design Considerations:

- There are opportunities to increase education and information about cultural heritage stories and features.
- Explore opportunities for local art in the public domain.
- Involve the community to articulate the unique cultural heritage narrative of the place into immersive and sensory experiences throughout the site (story telling, interpretative signage, native gardens, plantings, sound trails, art).
- Look for opportunities to respectfully integrate the sand-stock bricks into design features at the site.



# The People

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### Lennox Head + Skennars Head

Usual resident population 2021



Usual resident population increase from 2016 to 2021



Population aged over 15 years



Average household size (persons per dwelling)



### Skennars Head

The population of Skennars Head and the surrounding locality is growing as a result of approved residential developments. This growth is predicted to continue with a forecast increase in population from 1925 (2026) to 3970 (2046). According to forecasting datasets, the largest increase in persons to 2035 will be "Parents and Homebuilders (aged 35-49)", followed by an increase in older age groups (50+) between 2035 and 2046.

Source: Population and Household Forecasts, 2021 to 2046, National Forecasting Program, .id (informed decisions), June 2024).

## ENGAGEMENT

In late 2025, Council consulted widely through a variety of forums to obtain insights into community values, needs and aspirations.

### Community and Stakeholder Notification

Letterbox drop, web site content, social media, print media  
October 2025

### Community Conversations

Listening + mapping values and ideas  
2 drop-in sessions  
(Epiq Marketplace + Spoonbill Reserve)

This also included online ideas mapping opportunities between October 2025 and November 2025 via the Your Say Ballina portal.  
October - November 2025

## CURRENT KEY USER GROUPS

The key user groups are predominantly:

- Residents in nearby residential areas of Skennars Head
  - visual amenity
  - observing wildlife
  - walking through it
  - dog walking
  - informal recreation activities or leisure.
- Primary and high school students
  - informal sports and recreation
  - walking through it.

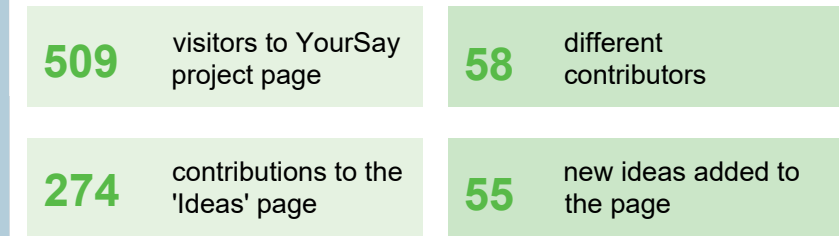
Council's community engagement sought to find out more about the community values and ideas for the future of the site. Community participation in all activities was high.

### Online Feedback

A YourSay project page was established on Council's web site as a central location to connect to the community and provide general information about the site and project. The web site used the 'Ideas' tool to gather feedback from the community on the following questions:

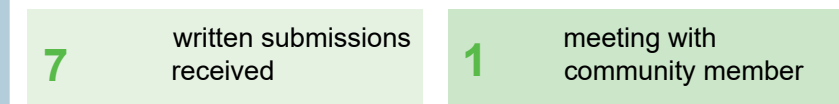
*What is important to you about Spoonbill Reserve?*

*How would you like to see the Reserve embellished in the future?*

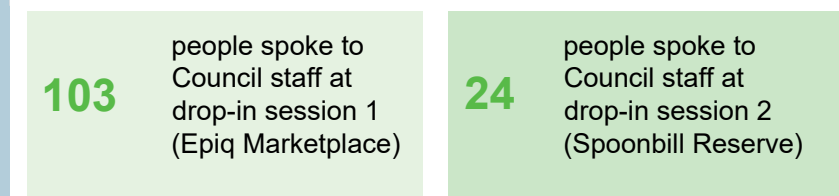


\* This included 3 ideas by Council staff to start the conversation.

### Written Submissions + Meetings



### Community Conversation Drop-In Sessions



# The People

## STRONG COMMUNITY MESSAGES

The raw community engagement material is available from Council in a separate report. This includes a transcription of values and ideas from the drop-in sessions, online ideas mapping and comments, written submissions, meetings and phone conversations. The following strong community messages were heard:

### 01 Community Values

*The community value the site as an informal open space which is primarily a 'natural' green area.*

*The community value the birds and wildlife which use the site, in particular the Royal Spoonbill.*

*The community value the open grass area and the opportunities this presents for informal use and play (e.g. throwing/kicking a ball, cricket etc).*

*The pine tree and fig tree are valued for shade and wildlife habitat values.*

*The nearby residents value the peacefulness of the current open space.*

### 02 Community Ideas

Whilst there were people who wish the site to remain "as is", many people also identified opportunities for improvements at a variety of scales. The most popular community ideas can be grouped into 3 themes:

#### 1/ Natural/environmental values and peaceful informal open space.

*More trees and natural shade were mentioned repeatedly as a priority for comfort, environmental value and wildlife.*

*Maintaining a large open grass area to enable casual and informal recreation and as space for wildlife is important.*

Many of the comments on this theme made explicit the aspiration to maintain the peaceful nature of the site without additional structured infrastructure.

#### 2/ Active recreation and things for youth/older children to do.

*Facilities for older children were frequently mentioned, with examples including a bike pump track, basketball court, skatepark, general hardstand, sportsfield, courts, playground, exercise equipment.*

#### 3/ General amenity improvements and low-key additions to support family use.

*Low-key additions to the park to support day-to-day and family use were frequently mentioned with examples including a drinking fountain, pathway connections, seating, picnic facilities, shade, landscaping and interpretative signage.*

*A dog park or off-leash dog area was also an idea often mentioned, particularly at the drop-in sessions. Many people did not realise that there is an existing dedicated off-leash dog area at Skennars Head.*

Less commonly mentioned ideas included:

- *Formal open space constructs such as botanical gardens, community gardens or water park.*
- *Buildings or other infrastructure such as pre-school, shops and carparking.*

Community Engagement at Epiq Marketplace



# The Vision

## MASTER PLAN STRATEGY

There is a community desire to maintain the informality, low-key and 'natural' charm of the site as a place of environmental value and peacefulness within an expanding residential precinct.

There is also strong community aspiration to improve opportunities for general community use with provision of basic general amenities (such as seating and pathways) and some things to do for youth.

This master plan aims to articulate design strategies for the future of Spoonbill Reserve which balance these aspirations, to ensure the site remains a place which supports and is loved by the locals.

## KEY DESIGN OBJECTIVES

### Enhance Natural and Environmental Values

- Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
- Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.

### Maintain Open Green Space

- Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.

### Provide Things to do for Youth

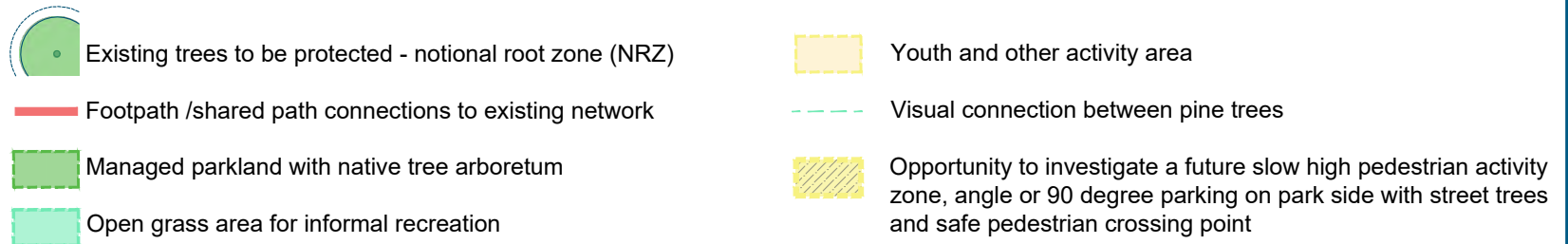
- Unlock the potential of the open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the communities environmental values and amenity expectations.

### General Amenity Improvements

- Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
- Connect the site with accessible pathways to key destinations and existing pathway networks and nodes such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
- Improve the pedestrian safety of Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)
- Provide intuitive wayfinding (visual/sound/sensory) which tells the unique story of the place and people.

## DESIGN + KEY FUNCTIONAL ZONES

The below illustration shows the key design features and functional relationships for Spoonbill Reserve.



# The Vision

## MASTER PLAN SNAPSHOT



### DESIGN ZONES

Refer to Pages 15 - 17 for plan enlargements of each design zone:

- 1 Zone 1 - Managed parkland with native tree arboretum
- 2 Zone 2 - Open grass area for informal recreation
- 3 Zone 3 - Youth and other activity area

### ILLUSTRATIVE LEGEND

#### Existing

- Significant tree root protection area (NPZ)
- Pathway
- Street tree
- Vegetated swale drain

#### Proposed Features

- Primary accessible pathway connection through parkland
- Secondary accessible pathway
- Pedestrian priority crossing (subject to traffic investigations)
- Native trees
- Native groundcover garden
- Open grass area
- Picnic shelter and table setting
- Youth art paving
- Interpretative signage
- Seating (various types)



0 5 10 20 30 50m

The master plan is subject to detailed investigations, survey, design and approvals.



The master plan is subject to detailed investigations, survey, design and approvals.

BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL Spoonbill Reserve Draft Master Plan 14

Jaagunn (Land / Country)

# The Vision

## MASTER PLAN UP CLOSE - ZONE 1

### Managed Parkland with Native Tree Arboretum

- 1A** Mixed native trees provide shade for people and habitat for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail throughout the site that includes:
  - tree information signs (botanical species, cultural significance or use, description of key features)
  - opportunities for planting of larger specimen trees.
- 1B** There is open space under the shade of the existing pine and fig tree with seating providing opportunities for outdoor learning.
- 1C** An interpretative signage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides education about local flora, fauna and cultural heritage.
- 1D** Recovered red sand-stock bricks from the Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture.
- 1E** Native groundcover gardens provide refuge and habitat for bees, birds and bugs.
- 1F** Seating is provided in quiet areas around the parkland.



All features of the master plan are subject to further detailed investigations, design and approvals.

# The Vision

## MASTER PLAN UP CLOSE - ZONE 2

### Open Grass Area for Informal Recreation

- 2A** Two large open areas of grass are retained for community recreation and play. These areas support informal community use. Open grass areas also support ground foraging birds.
- 2B** A pathway provides an accessible connection across the site supporting users of varied capability. Subject to traffic investigations, a safe road crossing point could also be provided to the high school. Pathways include art, heritage or cultural references.



Jaaguun (Land / Country)



Photo by David Fry (c. 2023)



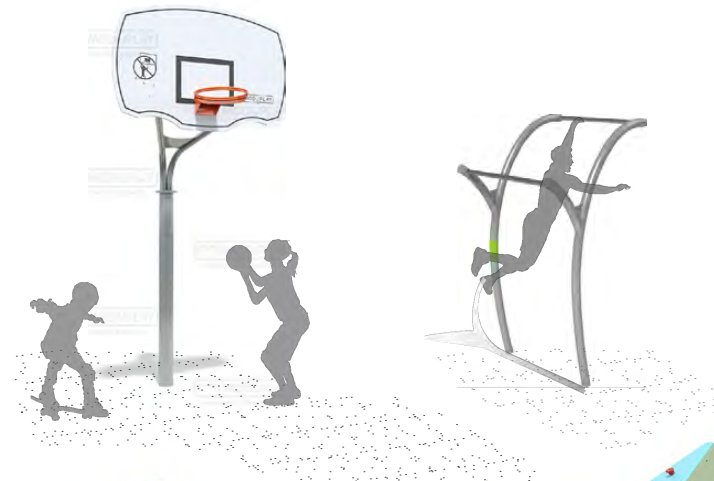
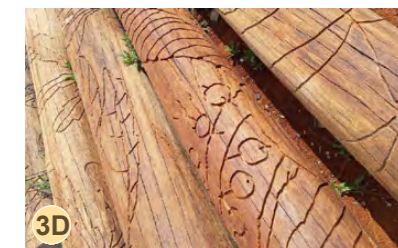
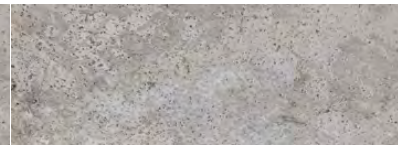
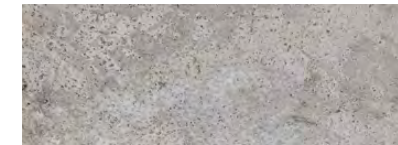
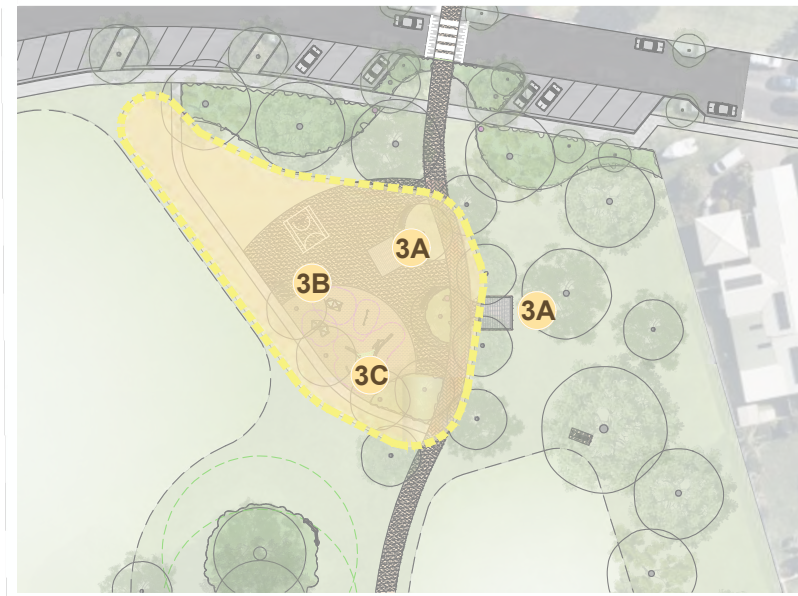
All features of the master plan are subject to further detailed investigations, design and approvals.

# The Vision

## MASTER PLAN UP CLOSE - ZONE 3

### Youth Activities Area

- 3A** Picnic shelters and table settings provide a formal place for community small scale activities
- 3B** Equipment suitable for teens supports flexible and active play:
  - basketball hoop (not full court)
  - outdoor bouldering
  - gymnastics high bars
  - general use hardstand area
- 3C** Rope and timber seating is interactive and multifunctional overlooking the active play areas.
- 3D** Artwork created by youth features throughout the site.
- 3E** Recovered red sand-stock bricks from the Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture.
- 3F** Native groundcover gardens provide refuge and habitat for bees, birds and bugs.



Jaagunn (Land / Country)



All features of the master plan are subject to further detailed investigations, design and approvals.



## Where to next?

### **Feedback - Public Exhibition**

The Draft Master Plan will be placed on public exhibition to obtain further feedback from the community relating to the content of the master plan and priorities.

### **Final Master Plan Adoption**

Feedback received during public exhibition will be considered and the master plan finalised and presented to Council for adoption. Priority minor works will be identified for construction with the available budget. All other works are unfunded.

### **Implementation of Priority Minor Works**

Priority minor works will be built with the available funding. This may require planning approvals and a tendering process which will be determined upon confirmation of the project scope.

### **Future Projects**

All other works currently remain unfunded.

## REFERENCES

**Ballina Shire Council**, 2023, *Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 - 2043*

**Ballina Shire Council**, 2023, *Lennox Head Planning and Environment Study 2023*

**NSW Department of Planning an Environment**, 2022, *North Coast Regional Plan 2041*

First draft published January 2026 by Ballina Shire Council,  
40 Cherry Street, Ballina NSW 2478.

© Ballina Shire Council 2026

### DISCLAIMER

While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that this document is correct at the time of printing, Ballina Shire Council, its agents and employees, declaim any and all liability to any person in respect to anything or the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done in reliance or upon the whole or any part of this document.

### COPYRIGHT NOTICE

Council agrees to the reproduction of extracts of the original material that appears in this document for personal, in-house, non-commercial use or professional research or report production purposes without formal permission or charge. All other rights reserved.

If you wish to reproduce, alter, store or transmit material appearing in the document for any other purpose, a request for formal permission should be directed to Ballina Shire Council.

### INDIGENOUS CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (ICIP) AND COPYRIGHT NOTICE

ICIP or copyright of the Aboriginal content reproduced in this document is held by the Indigenous contributor/s.

Permission to reproduce elsewhere should be sought from the relevant custodian/s.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Council acknowledges and thanks the Skennars Head and surrounding community for the extensive input provided towards the preparation of the plan to date.



**Ballina Shire Council**  
40 Cherry Street Ballina NSW 2478  
p: 1300 864 444 e: council@ballina.nsw.gov.au

*ballina.nsw.gov.au*

## **SPOONBILL RESERVE, SKENNARS HEAD**

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY – PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

Between 20 October and 17 November 2025 Council staff engaged extensively with the community to gain insights into community values and aspirations for the reserve.

This engagement informed preparation of the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan.

Council, at their Ordinary Meeting of 26 February 2026 resolved (260226/9):

*That Council endorses the public exhibition of the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan, as per Attachment 1 to this report, for a minimum period of 28 days.*

The Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan was placed on public exhibition to obtain further community feedback from 9 March – 8 April 2026.

The community was informed and the public exhibition period promoted as follows:

- Letters / emails sent to key stakeholders, stakeholder groups and community members who nominated in previous engagement to be 'kept informed';
- The web site YourSay project page was updated with notice of public exhibition and the draft master plan;
- Social media posts to Council's facebook page and pushed to local community pages;
- YourSay online survey;
- Poster in Council's foyer.

#### **Community Feedback**

Feedback was received from the community through the online survey and written submissions. Key community messages are summaries below and the original feedback provided in the attachments.

At the February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting, there was some discussion on the potential of the land for residential housing. Whilst the amendment that was moved with respect to further investigations for housing was lost and the Council resolved to proceed to public exhibition with the land remaining a public reserve, this discussion raised significant community concern and was a cause of objection.

A flier prepared by a community members was distributed to local residents and posted on the site. This flier urged the community to oppose the site for housing and to keep the park as unembellished open space.

Many of the written submissions appear to directly respond to the information in this flier and not necessarily the specific exhibited master plan content.

#### Online Feedback

The YourSay project page was updated as a central location to connect to the community and provide general information about the exhibited plan.

The FAQ were also updated to address misinformation regarding the scope of the exhibited master plan to keep the community informed.

The online engagement was open from Monday 9 March to Wednesday 8 April 2026 with the following interactions:

- 76 page visits (14 registering to leave comments)
- 14 visitors to the survey.

The web site used the 'Survey' tool to gather feedback from the community on the following questions:

- *Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?*
- *What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?*
- *What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?*
- *Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?*
- *Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?*

The following is a summary of the online feedback results. Refer to Appendix 1 for the full YourSay report and expanded comments.

Of the 14 online respondents:

- 7 (50%) stated that they live in Skennars Head,
- 4 live in Lennox Head,
- 1 lives immediately adjoining the site,
- 1 lives in an adjoining shire,
- 1 is a visitor to the shire.

All respondents stated that they had read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan.

6 of the 14 respondents stated that they had participated in the initial round of community engagement, whilst 8 stated that they did not.

The 5 most supported responses to each question are provided below:

*Q4 - Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?*

- Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
- Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.
- Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.
- Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
- Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.

*Q5 - What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?*

- Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play
- Zone 1 - Mixed native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail.
- Zone 1 - Native groundcover gardens provide safety and homes for bees, birds and bugs
- Zone 2 - A pathway makes it easy for people of all abilities to move across the reserve. Pathways include art, heritage or cultural references

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

- Zone 3 - Picnic shelters and table settings provide a place for people to sit, eat and hold small scale activities

Q6 - *What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?*

- Zone 3 - Artwork made by youth features throughout the reserve
- Zone 1 - A signage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides information about local flora, fauna and cultural heritage
- Zone 3 - Equipment for teens supports flexible and active play. This could include a basketball hoop (not full court), outdoor rock climbing, gymnastics bars, a flat hardstand area for general use and rope play equipment)
- Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play
- Zone 1 - Red sand-stock bricks from the historic Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture.

Q7 - *Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?*

There were a mix of response to this question including:

- Less grass
- No parking in the reserve
- Need to consult a Spoonbill expert
- Draft is comprehensive
- Looks good
- Wildlife corridor
- Less features
- No youth activities (put at Aureus)
- More play equipment for all ages
- Leave as is

Q8 - *Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?*

- Leave as is. Stop spending money.
- Pedestrian crossing at Seaside Avenue
- Add gym equipment, BMX track, dog park, water fountain
- Take stuff out of the plan e.g. seats
- Site is underused. Needs something.
- More equipment
- Path
- More play for all ages
- Plan is comprehensive
- Abandon it

### Written Submissions

25 written submissions were received via email or over the counter. One of these was received outside the exhibition period but has been included herein. These submissions are contained in Appendix 2.

The overwhelming message from the written submissions is in objection to the idea of housing in Spoonbill Reserve (which was not a part of the draft master plan on exhibition).

Other messages were mixed and in support and opposition to various aspects of the draft master plan including:

- Leave it as it is (no embellishments or change)
- The current open space is valuable, but some low-key embellishments could be included (e.g. shade trees, seating, pathway, gardens etc)
- Support for things to do for youth as well as opposition to youth activities in Spoonbill Reserve with suggestions that they would be better suited at Aureus
- Some support for the master plan as exhibited
- Some concerns regarding the impact of trees on adjoining residents
- Some concerns about Council's financial situation and the cost of infrastructure and inadequate budget to undertake maintenance.

It appears, from specific wording and content, that many of these written submissions may have been influenced by the flier that was distributed around the Skennars Head locality.

It is unclear in some written submissions whether the submitter had read the draft master plan.

### Other Considerations

The public exhibition of the draft master plan appears to have been influenced by discussions at the Council meeting relating to options to explore housing at the site and distribution of a community generated flier to residents on this matter.

### **Strong Community Messages across all Engagement**

In collectively considering the initial and public exhibition stage engagement, the following strong community values remain:

- The community value the reserve as an informal open space which is primarily a 'natural' green area.
- The community value the birds and wildlife which use the reserve, in particular the Royal Spoonbill.
- The community value the open grass area and the opportunities this presents for informal use and play (e.g. throwing/kicking a ball, cricket etc).
- The pine tree and fig tree are valued for shade and wildlife habitat values.
- The nearby residents value the peacefulness of the current open space.

Minor embellishments to support these values seem generally supported. Community views on the draft master plan are mixed, with both support and opposition to the various features of the plan.

**APPENDIX 1: Community Engagement Supplementary Information**

**Online Survey Feedback**

Engagement HQ / Online Project YourSay Report (including expanded comments)

Confidential submissions are provided in a separate attachment.

## Survey Responses

09 March 2026 - 09 April 2026

### Spoonbill Reserve - Draft Master Plan

# Your Say Ballina

Project: Spoonbill Reserve, Skennars Head - Draft Master Plan



VISITORS					
14					
CONTRIBUTORS			RESPONSES		
14			14		
14	0	0	14	0	0
Registered	Unverified	Anonymous	Registered	Unverified	Anonymous



Respondent No: 1

Login: shelly1

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Mar 12, 2026 08:58:24 am

Last Seen: Mar 11, 2026 21 :50:28 pm


P Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. Where do you live? (select one only)	I live in Skennars Head
Q2. I have read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - (document link)	Yes
Q3. I participated in the initial round of community engagement in October and November 2025 either online, in writing or by attending one of the face-to-face sessions at Epiq Marketplace or at Spoonbill Reserve.	Yes
Q4. Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?(1 = most supported, 8 = least supported)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.</li> <li>2. Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.</li> <li>3. Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.</li> <li>4. Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.</li> <li>5. Provide open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the community's environmental values and amenity expectations.</li> <li>6. Provide clear signage (visual/sound/sensory) that tells the unique story of the place and people.</li> <li>7. Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.</li> <li>8. Improve pedestrian safety on Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)</li> </ol>
Q5. What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - <b>Managed Parkland with Native Tree Arboretum</b> Zone 2 - <b>Open Grass Area for Infonnal Recreation</b> Zone 3 - <b>Youth Activities Area</b>	<p>Zone 1 - Mixed native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail.</p> <p>Zone 1 - Native groundcover gardens provide safety and homes for bees, birds and bugs.</p> <p>Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play.</p>
Q6. <b>What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 • Managed Parkland with Native Tree Arboretum</b> Zone 2 • <b>Open Grass Area for Infonnal Recreation</b> Zone 3 • <b>Youth Activities Area</b>	<p>Zone 3 - Picnic shelters and table settings provide a place for people to sit, eat and hold small scale activities.</p> <p>Zone 3 - Equipment for teens supports flexible and active play. This could include a basketball hoop (not full court), outdoor rock climbing, gymnastics bars, a flat hardstand area for general use and rope play equipment).</p>
Q7. <b>Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?</b>	No part of this recreation area should be encroached on for parking issues the high school has.

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

Q8. Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?	Stop spending money the council does not have. Leave the park as is. Stop putting our rates up.
Q9. I have read and agree with Council's Privacy Policy	Yes
Q10. If you would like your submission to be confidential, please provide a reason for confidentiality	not answered

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

	Respondent No: 2	Responded At: Mar 16, 2026 11:01:25 am
	Login: Peter F	Last Seen: Mar 15, 2026 23:52:50 pm
	Email: [REDACTED]	P Address: [REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

- Q1. Where do you live? (select one only) I live in Skennars Head
- 
- Q2. I have read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - (document link) Yes
- 
- Q3. I participated in the initial round of community engagement in October and November 2025 either online, in writing or by attending one of the face-to-face sessions at Epiq Marketplace or at Spoonbill Reserve. No
- 
- Q4. **Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?(1 = most supported, 8 = least supported)**
1. Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.
  2. Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
  3. Improve pedestrian safety on Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)
  4. Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.
  5. Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
  6. Provide open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the community's environmental values and amenity expectations.
  7. Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
  8. Provide clear signage (visual/sound/sensory) that tells the unique story of the place and people.
- 
- Q5. **What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?(check box limited to 5 selections only)**Zone 1 - Managed Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Informal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area
- Zone 1 - Mixed native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail.
- Zone 1 - There is open space under the shade of the existing pine and fig tree with seating providing opportunities for outdoor learning.
- Zone 1 - Red sand-stock bricks from the historic Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture.
- Zone 1 - Native groundcover gardens provide safety and homes for bees, birds and bugs.
- Zone 2 - A pathway makes it easy for people of all abilities to move across the reserve. Pathways include art, heritage or cultural references.


## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

---

Q6. What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - Managed Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Informal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area	Zone 1 - A sinage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides information about local flora, fauna nad cultural heritage
Q7. Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?	See below
Q8. Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?	Safe pedestrian crossing at Seaside Ave/Reef St
Q9. I have read and agree with Council's Privacy Policy	Yes
Q10. If you would like your submission to be confidential, please provide a reason for confidentiality	not answered

---

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

	Respondent No: 3	Responded At: Mar 16, 2026 16:24:10 pm
	Login: mdickson	Last Seen: Mar 27, 2026 06:33:09 am
	Email: [REDACTED]	P Address: [REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	

- Q1. Where do you live? (select one only) I am a visitor to the area
- 
- Q2. I have read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - (document link) Yes
- 
- Q3. I participated in the initial round of community engagement in October and November 2025 either online, in writing or by attending one of the face-to-face sessions at Epiq Marketplace or at Spoonbill **Reserve**. Yes
- 
- Q4. Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?(1 = most supported, 8 = least supported)
1. Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.
  2. Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
  3. Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
  4. Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.
  5. Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
  6. Provide open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the community's environmental values and amenity expectations.
  7. Improve pedestrian safety on Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)
  8. Provide clear signage (visual/sound/sensory) that tells the unique story of the place and people.
- 
- Q5. What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - **Managed** Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Informal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area
- Zone 1 - Mixed native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail.
- Zone 1 - There is seating in quiet areas around the parkland
- Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play.
- Zone 2 - A pathway makes it easy for people of all abilities to move across the reserve. Pathways include art, heritage or cultural references.
- Zone 3 - Picnic shelters and table settings provide a place for people to sit, eat and hold small scale activities
- 
- Q6. **What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - Managed Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Informal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area**
- Zone 3 - Artwork made by youth features throughout the reserve.

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

Q7. Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?	A little less grass perhaps.
Q8. Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?	Gym equipment, BMX track with jumps, fenced dog park, water fountain (for dogs/people).
Q9. I have read and agree with Council's Privacy Policy	Yes
Q10. If you would like your submission to be confidential, please provide a reason for confidentiality	not answered



Respondent No: 4

Login: Pouteria

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Mar 17, 2026 16:21 :43 pm

Last Seen: Mar 17, 2026 04:46:40 am

P Address: [REDACTED]

- Q1. **Where do you live? (select one only)** I live in an adjoining shire
- 
- Q2. **I have read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - (document link)** Yes
- 
- Q3. I participated in the initial round of community engagement in October and November 2025 either online, in writing or by attending one of the face-to-face sessions at Epiq Marketplace or at Spoonbill Reserve. No
- 
- Q4. Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?(1 = most supported, 8 = least supported)
1. Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
  2. Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.
  3. Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.
  4. Improve pedestrian safety on Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)
  5. Provide clear signage (visual/sound/sensory) that tells the unique story of the place and people.
  6. Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
  7. Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
  8. Provide open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the community's environmental values and amenity expectations.
- 
- Q5. What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - **Managed** Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Informal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area
- Zone 1 - A signage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides information about local flora, fauna and cultural heritage.  
Zone 1 - Native groundcover gardens provide safety and homes for bees, birds and bugs.  
Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play.
- 
- Q6. What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - **Managed** Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Informal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area
- Zone 1 - A sinage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides information about local flora, fauna nad cultural heritage  
Zone 1 - Native groundcover gardens provide safety and homes bees, birds and bugs  
Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play
- 
- Q7. **Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?** YES Spoonbils dislike human disturbance. F nesting they will move on. CONSULT SPOONBILL EXPERT!
- 
- Q8. **Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?** NO I want stuff out eg seating. Let people bring blankets. If too wet keep off the grass

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition


Q9. I have read and agree with Council's Privacy Policy Yes

---

Q10. If you would like your submission to be confidential, please provide a reason for confidentiality not answered

---

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

	Respondent No: 6	Responded At: Mar 25, 2026 16:33:02 pm
	Login: Nick 01	Last Seen: Mar 25, 2026 05:17:28 am
	Email: <input type="text"/>	P Address: <input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	

- Q1. Where do you live? (select one only) I live in Skennars Head
- 
- Q2. I have read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - (document link) Yes
- 
- Q3. I participated in the initial round of community engagement in October and November 2025 either online, in writing or by attending one of the face-to-face sessions at Epiq Marketplace or at Spoonbill **Reserve**. No
- 
- Q4. Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?(1 = most supported, 8 = least supported)
1. Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
  2. Provide open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the community's environmental values and amenity expectations.
  3. Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
  4. Improve pedestrian safety on Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)
  5. Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.
  6. Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.
  7. Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
  8. Provide clear signage (visual/sound/sensory) that tells the unique story of the place and people.
- 
- Q5. What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - **Managed** Parkland with **Native Tree Arboretum**Zone 2 - **Open Grass Area for Infonnal Recreation**Zone 3 - **Youth Activities Area**
- Zone 1 - Red sand-stock bricks from the historic Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture.
- Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play.
- Zone 2 - A pathway makes it easy for people of all abilities to move across the reserve. Pathways include art, heritage or cultural references.
- Zone 3 - Picnic shelters and table settings provide a place for people to sit, eat and hold small scale activities
- Zone 3 - Equipment suitable for teens supports flexible and active play. This could include a basketball hoop (not full court), outdoor rock climbing, gymnastics bars, a flat hardstand area for general use and rope play equipment)

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

Q6. <b>What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?(check box limited to 5 selections only)</b> Zone 1 - <b>Managed Parkland with Native Tree Arboretum</b> Zone 2 - <b>Open Grass Area for Informal Recreation</b> Zone 3 - <b>Youth Activities Area</b>	Zone 1 - Mixed native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail. Zone 1 - There is open space under the shade of the existing pine and fig tree with seating providing opportunities for outdoor learning Zone 1 - A signage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides information about local flora, fauna and cultural heritage Zone 1 - There is seating in quiet areas around the parkland. Zone 3 - Artwork made by youth features throughout the reserve.
Q7. <b>Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?</b>	No, draft is comprehensive and well thought out.
Q8. <b>Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?</b>	I would like that actually something is created as the site is underused (closer to never used),
Q9. <b>I have read and agree with Council's Privacy Policy</b>	Yes
Q10. <b>If you would like your submission to be confidential, please provide a reason for confidentiality</b>	Happy to be known.



Respondent No: 7

Login: Georgie

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Mar 30, 2026 11:18:58 am

Last Seen: Mar 29, 2026 22:47:09 pm

P Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. Where do you live? (select one only)	I live in Lennox Head
Q2. I have read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - (document link)	Yes
Q3. I participated in the initial round of community engagement in October and November 2025 either online, in writing or by attending one of the face-to-face sessions at Epiq Marketplace or at Spoonbill <b>Reserve</b> .	No
Q4. Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?(1 = most supported, 8 = least supported)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.</li> <li>2. Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.</li> <li>3. Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.</li> <li>4. Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.</li> <li>5. Improve pedestrian safety on Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)</li> <li>6. Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.</li> <li>7. Provide clear signage (visual/sound/sensory) that tells the unique story of the place and people.</li> <li>8. Provide open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the community's environmental values and amenity expectations.</li> </ol>
Q5. What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - <b>Managed</b> Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Infonnal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area	<p>Zone 1 - <del>Mixed</del> native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail.</p> <p>Zone 1 - A signage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides information about local flora, fauna and cultural heritage.</p> <p>Zone 1 - Native groundcover gardens provide safety and homes for bees, birds and bugs.</p> <p>Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play.</p> <p>Zone 3 - Picnic shelters and table settings provide a place for people to sit, eat and hold small scale activities</p>
Q6. <b>What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - Managed Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Infonnal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area</b>	<p>Zone 3 - Equipment for teens supports flexible and active play. This could include a basketball hoop (not full court), outdoor rock climbing, gymnastics bars, a flat hardstand area for general use and rope play equipment).</p> <p>Zone 3 - Artwork made by youth features throughout the reserve.</p>

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

Q7. Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?	Wild life corridor.. ensure other close wild life pockets are regenerated. This creates a wildlife c
Q8. Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?	No
Q9. I have read and agree with Council's Privacy Policy	Yes
Q10.If you would like your submission to be confidential, please provide a reason for confidentiality	not answered



Respondent No: 8

Login: AN

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Mar 31, 2026 19:45:12 pm

Last Seen: Mar 31, 2026 08:35:02 am


P Address: [REDACTED]

- Q1. Where do you live? (select one only) I live in Skennars Head
- 
- Q2. I have read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - (document link) Yes
- 
- Q3. I participated in the initial round of community engagement in October and November 2025 either online, in writing or by attending one of the face-to-face sessions at Epiq Marketplace or at Spoonbill **Reserve**. Yes
- 
- Q4. Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?(1 = most supported, 8 = least supported)
1. Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
  2. Provide open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the community's environmental values and amenity expectations.
  3. Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.
  4. Improve pedestrian safety on Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)
  5. Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
  6. Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
  7. Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.
  8. Provide clear signage (visual/sound/sensory) that tells the unique story of the place and people.
- 
- Q5. What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - **Managed Parkland with Native Tree Arboretum**Zone 2 - **Open Grass Area for Infonnal Recreation**Zone 3 - **Youth Activities Area**
- Zone 1 - Mixed native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail.
- Zone 1 - There is seating in quiet areas around the parkland
- Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play.
- Zone 2 - A pathway makes it easy for people of all abilities to move across the reserve. Pathways include art, heritage or cultural references.
- Zone 3 - Equipment suitable for teens supports flexible and active play. This could include a basketball hoop (not full court}, outdoor rock climbing, gymnastics bars, a flat hardstand area for general use and rope play equipment)

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

Q6. <b>What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?(check box limited to 5 selections only)</b> Zone 1 - <b>Managed Parkland with Native Tree Arboretum</b> Zone 2 - <b>Open Grass Area for Informal Recreation</b> Zone 3 - <b>Youth Activities Area</b>	Zone 1 - There is open space under the shade of the existing pine and fig tree with seating providing opportunities for outdoor learning Zone 1 - A signage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides information about local flora, fauna and cultural heritage Zone 1 - Red sand-stock bricks from the historic Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture. Zone 1 - Native groundcover gardens provide safety and homes bees, birds and bugs Zone 1 - There is seating in quiet areas around the parkland.
Q7. <b>Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?</b>	Looks good - survey difficult - nothing I don't like in design and forced to pick??
Q8. <b>Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?</b>	I'd include more exercise equipment - it's not just for kids/teens. Dip bar, various height pull up
Q9. <b>I have read and agree with Council's Privacy Policy</b>	Yes
Q10. <b>If you would like your submission to be confidential, please provide a reason for confidentiality</b>	not answered

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

	<b>Respondent No:</b> 9	<b>Responded At:</b> Apr 01, 2026 06:41 :09 am
	<b>Login:</b> Humphreys	<b>Last Seen:</b> Mar 31, 2026 19:29:24 pm
	<b>Email:</b> <input type="text"/>	<b>P Address:</b> <input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	


- Q1. Where do you live? (select one only)** I live in Skennars Head
- 
- Q2. I have read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - (document link)** Yes
- 
- Q3. I participated in the initial round of community engagement in October and November 2025 either online, in writing or by attending one of the face-to-face sessions at Epiq Marketplace or at Spoonbill Reserve.** Yes
- 
- Q4. Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?(1 = most supported, 8 = least supported)**
1. Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
  2. Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
  3. Improve pedestrian safety on Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)
  4. Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.
  5. Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
  6. Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.
  7. Provide open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the community's environmental values and amenity expectations.
  8. Provide clear signage (visual/sound/sensory) that tells the unique story of the place and people.
- 
- Q5. What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - Managed Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Informal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area**
- Zone 1 - There is open space under the shade of the existing pine and fig tree with seating providing opportunities for outdoor learning.
- Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play.
- Zone 2 - A pathway makes it easy for people of all abilities to move across the reserve. Pathways include art, heritage or cultural references.
- Zone 3 - Picnic shelters and table settings provide a place for people to sit, eat and hold small scale activities

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

---

Q6. <b>What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?(check box limited to 5 selections only)</b> Zone 1 - <b>Managed Parkland with Native Tree Arboretum</b> Zone 2 - <b>Open Grass Area for Informal Recreation</b> Zone 3 - <b>Youth Activities Area</b>	Zone 1 - Mixed native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail. Zone 1 - A signage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides information about local flora, fauna and cultural heritage Zone 1 - Native groundcover gardens provide safety and homes for bees, birds and bugs Zone 3 - Equipment for teens supports flexible and active play. This could include a basketball hoop (not full court), outdoor rock climbing, gymnastics bars, a flat hardstand area for general use and rope play equipment). Zone 3 - Artwork made by youth features throughout the reserve.
Q7. <b>Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?</b>	Scale this project back! Add a path and be done with it. I don't understand why this plan is so OTT!
Q8. <b>Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?</b>	The simple need for a path or two is all that's needed to ensure people can cross without wet shoes
Q9. <b>I have read and agree with Council's Privacy Policy</b>	Yes
Q10. <b>If you would like your submission to be confidential, please provide a reason for confidentiality</b>	not answered

---


	<b>Respondent No:</b> 10	<b>Responded At:</b> Apr 02, 2026 21:36:53 pm
	<b>Login:</b> Tarawood	<b>Last Seen:</b> Apr 02, 2026 10:31:18 am
	<b>Email:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>IP Address:</b> [REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

- Q1. **Where do you live? (select one only)** I live in Lennox Head
- 
- Q2. **I have read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - (document link)** Yes
- 
- Q3. **I participated in the initial round of community engagement in October and November 2025 either online, in writing or by attending one of the face-to-face sessions at Epiq Marketplace or at Spoonbill Reserve.** No
- 
- Q4. **Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?(1 = most supported, 8 = least supported)**
1. Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
  2. Provide open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the community's environmental values and amenity expectations.
  3. Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
  4. Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
  5. Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.
  6. Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.
  7. Provide clear signage (visual/sound/sensory) that tells the unique story of the place and people.
  8. Improve pedestrian safety on Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)
- 
- Q5. **What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?(check box limited to 5 selections only)**Zone 1 - Managed Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Informal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area
- Zone 1 - There is open space under the shade of the existing pine and fig tree with seating providing opportunities for outdoor learning.
- Zone 1 - There is seating in quiet areas around the parkland
- Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play.
- Zone 3 - Picnic shelters and table settings provide a place for people to sit, eat and hold small scale activities
- Zone 3 - Equipment suitable for teens supports flexible and active play. This could include a basketball hoop (not full court), outdoor rock climbing, gymnastics bars, a flat hardstand area for general use and rope play equipment)

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

Q6. What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - Managed Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Informal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area	Zone 1 - Red sand-stock bricks from the historic Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture. Zone 3 - Artwork made by youth features throughout the reserve.
Q7. Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?	More play equipment to suit all ages. From toddler to teen. Low and high risk exploration
Q8. Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?	Include more play for all ages
Q9. I have read and agree with Council's Privacy Policy	Yes
Q10. If you would like your submission to be confidential, please provide a reason for confidentiality	not answered

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

	<b>Respondent No:</b> 11	<b>Responded At:</b> Apr 06, 2026 16:36:13 pm
	<b>Login:</b> Jameso81	<b>Last Seen:</b> Apr 06, 2026 06:29:12 am
	<b>Email:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>P Address:</b> [REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

- Q1. **Where do you live? (select one only)** I live in Lennox Head
- 
- Q2. **I have read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - (document link)** Yes
- 
- Q3. I participated in the initial round of community engagement in October and November 2025 either online, in writing or by attending one of the face-to-face sessions at Epiq Marketplace or at Spoonbill **Reserve**. No
- 
- Q4. Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?(1 = most supported, 8 = least supported)
1. Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.
  2. Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.
  3. Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
  4. Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
  5. Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
  6. Provide clear signage (visual/sound/sensory) that tells the unique story of the place and people.
  7. Improve pedestrian safety on Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)
  8. Provide open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the community's environmental values and amenity expectations.
- 
- Q5. What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - **Managed** Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Infonnal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area
- Zone 1 - Mixed native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail.
- Zone 1 - Native groundcover gardens provide safety and homes for bees, birds and bugs.
- Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play.
- Zone 3 - Equipment suitable for teens supports flexible and active play. This could include a basketball hoop (not full court), outdoor rock climbing, gymnastics bars, a flat hardstand area for general use and rope play equipment)
- 
- Q6. **What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - Managed Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Infonnal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area**
- Zone 3 - Artwork made by youth features throughout the reserve.

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

Q7. Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?	1
Q8. Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?	not answered
Q9. I have read and agree with Council's Privacy Policy	Yes
Q10. If you would like your submission to be confidential, please provide a reason for confidentiality	not answered



Respondent No: 13

Login: Tabaka

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Apr 06, 2026 21 :50:01 pm

Last Seen: Apr 06, 2026 11 :22:51 am

P Address: [REDACTED]

01. Where do you live? (select one only) I live in Skennars Head
- 
02. I have read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve **Master Plan** (document link) Yes
- 
03. I participated in the initial round of community engagement in October and November 2025 either online, in writing or by attending one of the face-to-face sessions at Epiq Marketplace or at Spoonbill Reserve. No
- 
04. Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?(1 = most supported, 8 = least supported)
1. Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
  2. Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.
  3. Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.
  4. Provide clear signage (visual/sound/sensory) that tells the unique story of the place and people.
  5. Improve pedestrian safety on Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)
  6. Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
  7. Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
  8. Provide open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the community's environmental values and amenity expectations.
- 
05. What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 • Managed Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 • Open Grass Area for Informal RecreationZone 3 • Youth Activities **Area**
- Zone 1 - Mixed native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail.
- Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play.
- 
06. What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - Managed Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 • Open Grass Area for Informal RecreationZone 3 • Youth Activities Area
- Zone 1 - Mixed native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail.
- Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play
- 
07. **Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?** Leave the area as it is. No change is required, desired and wanted.
- 
08. **Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?** Just abandon the plan and never come back to this issue.

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition


Q9. I have read and agree with Council's Privacy Policy Yes

---

Q10. If you would like your submission to be confidential, please provide a reason for confidentiality not answered

---

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

	<b>Respondent No:</b> 14	<b>Responded At:</b> Apr 07, 2026 17:10:30 pm
	<b>Login:</b> Lennox Head Heritage Committee	<b>Last Seen:</b> Apr 07, 2026 07:01 :09 am
	<b>Email:</b> [Redacted]	<b>P Address:</b> [Redacted]

01. Where do you live? (select one only) I live in Lennox Head
02. I have read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve **Master Plan**• (document link) Yes
03. I participated in the initial round of community engagement in October and November 2025 either online, in writing or by attending one of the face-to-face sessions at Epiq Marketplace or at Spoonbill Reserve. Yes
04. Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?(1 = most supported, 8 = least supported)
1. Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.
  2. Provide clear signage (visual/sound/sensory) that tells the unique story of the place and people.
  3. Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
  4. Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
  5. Provide open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the community's environmental values and amenity expectations.
  6. Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.
  7. Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
  8. Improve pedestrian safety on Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)
05. **What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?(check box limited to 5 selections only)**Zone 1• **Managed Parkland with Native Tree Arboretum**Zone 2 - **Open Grass Area for Informal Recreation**Zone 3• **Youth Activities Area**
- Zone 1 - A signage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides information about local flora, fauna and cultural heritage.  
 Zone 1 - Red sand-stock bricks from the historic Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture.  
 Zone 1 - Native groundcover gardens provide safety and homes for bees, birds and bugs.  
 Zone 2 - A pathway makes it easy for people of all abilities to move across the reserve. Pathways include art, heritage or cultural references.  
 Zone 3 - Picnic shelters and table settings provide a place for people to sit, eat and hold small scale activities

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

<b>Q6. What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - Managed Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Informal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area</b>	<p>Zone 1 - There is open space under the shade of the existing pine and fig tree with seating providing opportunities for outdoor learning</p> <p>Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play</p> <p>Zone 3 - Picnic shelters and table settings provide a place for people to sit, eat and hold small scale activities.</p> <p>Zone 3 - Equipment for teens supports flexible and active play. This could include a basketball hoop (not full court), outdoor rock climbing, gymnastics bars, a flat hardstand area for general use and rope play equipment).</p> <p>Zone 3 - Artwork made by youth features throughout the reserve.</p>
<b>Q7. Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?</b>	No, but ensure colonial heritage is recognised with signage, along with the sandstock bricks.
<b>Q8. Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?</b>	No, it is very comprehensive and takes account of community feedback.
<b>Q9. I have read and agree with Council's Privacy Policy</b>	Yes
<b>Q10. If you would like your submission to be confidential, please provide a reason for confidentiality</b>	not answered





# Spoonbill Reserve - Draft Master Plan

## SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

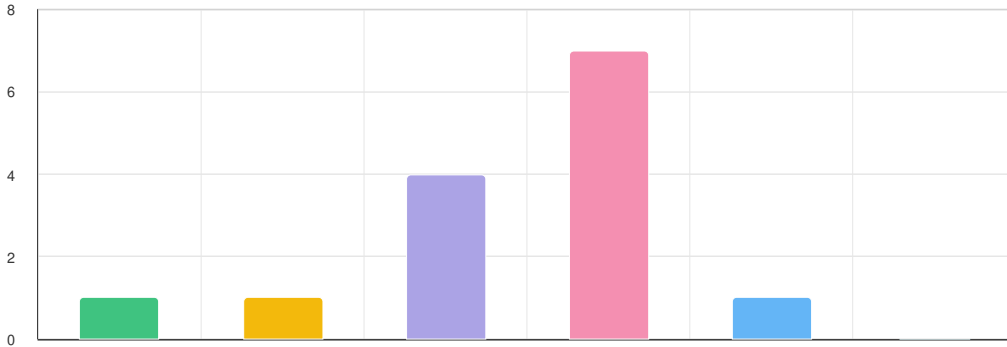
09 March 2026 - 09 April 2026

### PROJECT NAME:

Spoonbill Reserve, Skennars Head - Draft Master Plan



**Q1. Where do you live? (select one only)**



Question options	responses	%
<span style="color: green;">●</span> I am a visitor to the area	1	7.1
<span style="color: yellow;">●</span> I live in an adjoining shire	1	7.1
<span style="color: purple;">●</span> I live in Lennox Head	4	28.6
<span style="color: pink;">●</span> I live in Skennars Head	7	50.0
<span style="color: blue;">●</span> I live immediately adjoining the site	1	7.1
<span style="color: lightblue;">●</span> I live in Ballina shire	0	0.0

14 responses · 0 skipped

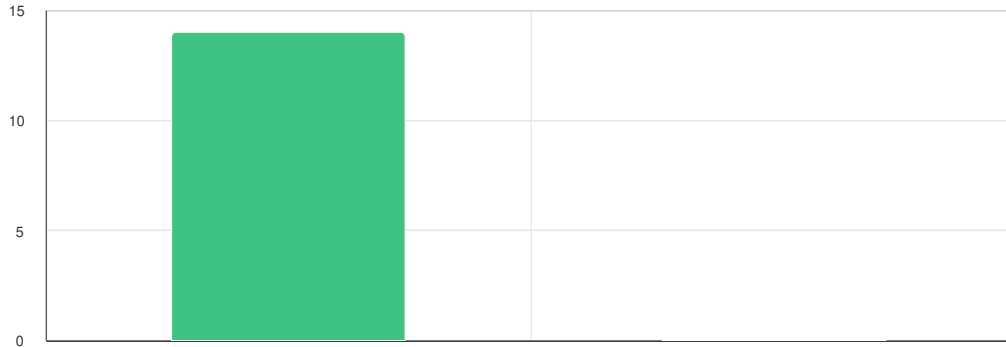
Question type : Checkbox Question

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

Spoonbill Reserve - Draft Master Plan : Survey Report for 09 March 2026 to 09 April 2026

09/04/26  
shire council

### Q2. I have read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - (document link)



Question options	responses	%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	14	100.0
<input type="checkbox"/> No	0	0.0

14 responses · 0 skipped

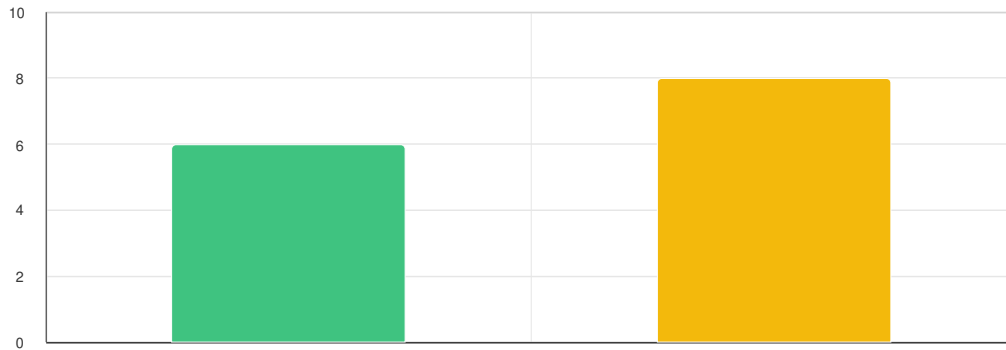
Question type : Checkbox Question

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

Spoonbill Reserve - Draft Master Plan : Survey Report for 09 March 2026 to 09 April 2026

09/05/26  
Ballina Shire Council

**Q3. I participated in the initial round of community engagement in October and November 2025 either online, in writing or by attending one of the face-to-face sessions at Epiq Marketplace or at Spoonbill Reserve.**



Question options	responses	%
Yes	6	42.9
No	8	57.1

14 responses · 0 skipped

Question type : Checkbox Question

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

Spoonbill Reserve - Draft Master Plan : Survey Report for 09 March 2026 to 09 April 2026

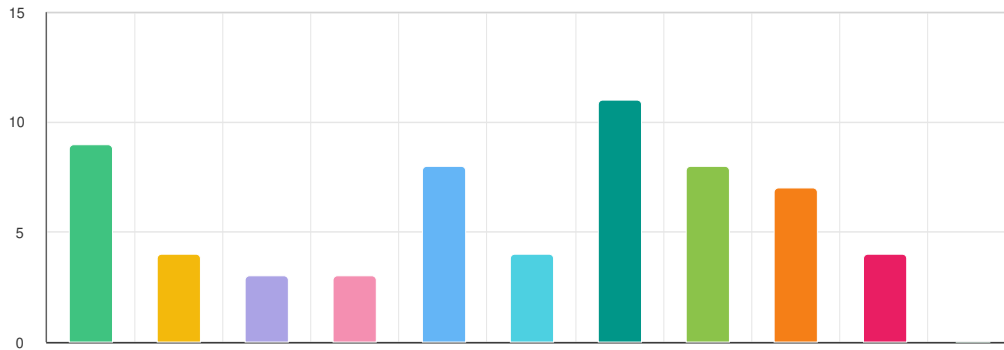
09/04/26  
shire council

**Q4. Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?(1 = most supported, 8 = least supported)**

<b>Question options</b>	<b>Avg rank</b>
Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.	2.50
Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.	3.00
Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.	3.86
Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.	4.36
Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.	4.50
Improve pedestrian safety on Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)	5.36
Provide open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the community's environmental values and amenity expectations.	5.93
Provide clear signage (visual/sound/sensory) that tells the unique story of the place and people.	6.50

14 responses · 0 skipped  
**Question type** : Ranking Question

**Q5. What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?(check box limited to 5 selections only)**  
 Zone 1 - Managed Parkland with Native Tree Arboretum  
 Zone 2 - Open Grass Area for Informal Recreation  
 Zone 3 - Youth Activities Area

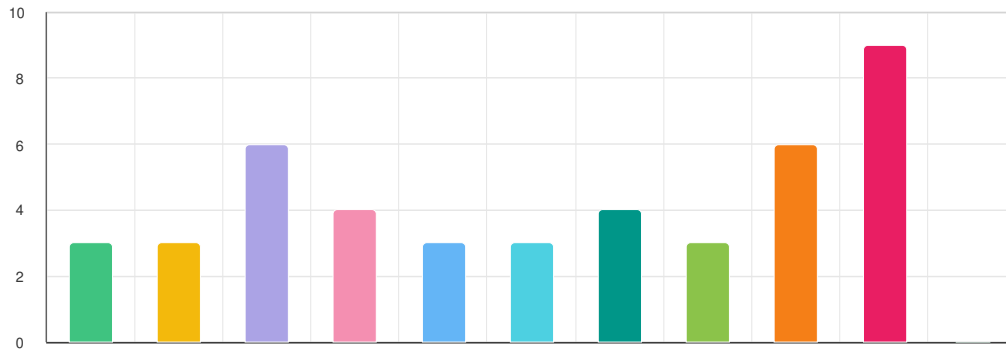


Question options	responses	%
● Zone 1 - Mixed native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail.	9	64.3
● Zone 1 - There is open space under the shade of the existing pine and fig tree with seating providing opportunities for outdoor learning.	4	28.6
● Zone 1 - A signage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides information about local flora, fauna and cultural heritage.	3	21.4
● Zone 1 - Red sand-stock bricks from the historic Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture.	3	21.4
● Zone 1 - Native groundcover gardens provide safety and homes for bees, birds and bugs.	8	57.1
● Zone 1 - There is seating in quiet areas around the parkland	4	28.6
● Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play.	11	78.6
● Zone 2 - A pathway makes it easy for people of all abilities to move across the reserve. Pathways include art, heritage or cultural references.	8	57.1
● Zone 3 - Picnic shelters and table settings provide a place for people to sit, eat and hold small scale activities	7	50.0
● Zone 3 - Equipment suitable for teens supports flexible and active play. This could include a basketball hoop (not full court), outdoor rock climbing, gymnastics bars, a flat hardstand area for general use and rope play equipment)	4	28.6
● Zone 3 - Artwork made by youth features throughout the reserve.	0	0.0

14 responses · 0 skipped

Question type : Checkbox Question

**Q6. What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?(check box limited to 5 selections only)**  
 Zone 1 - Managed Parkland with Native Tree Arboretum  
 Zone 2 - Open Grass Area for Informal Recreation  
 Zone 3 - Youth Activities Area



Question options	responses	%
● Zone 1 - Mixed native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail.	3	21.4
● Zone 1 - There is open space under the shade of the existing pine and fig tree with seating providing opportunities for outdoor learning	3	21.4
● Zone 1 - A sinage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides information about local flora, fauna nad cultural heritage	6	42.9
● Zone 1 - Red sand-stock bricks from the historic Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture.	4	28.6
● Zone 1 - Native groundcover gardens provide safety and homes bees, birds and bugs	3	21.4
● Zone 1 - There is seating in quiet areas around the parkland.	3	21.4
● Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play	4	28.6
● Zone 3 - Picnic shelters and table settings provide a place for people to sit, eat and hold small scale activities.	3	21.4
● Zone 3 - Equipment for teens supports flexible and active play. This could include a basketball hoop (not full court), outdoor rock climbing, gymnastics bars, a flat hardstand area for general use and rope play equipment).	6	42.9
● Zone 3 - Artwork made by youth features throughout the reserve.	9	64.3
● Zone 2 - A pathway makes it easy for people of all abilities to move across the reserve. Pathways include art, heritage or cultural references.	0	0.0
14 responses · 0 skipped		
<b>Question type</b> : Checkbox Question		

### Q7. Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?

Screen Name Redacted 3/12/2026 08:58 AM	No part of this recreation area should be encroached on for parking issues the high school has.
Screen Name Redacted 3/16/2026 11:01 AM	See below
Screen Name Redacted 3/16/2026 04:24 PM	A little less grass perhaps.
Screen Name Redacted 3/17/2026 04:21 PM	YES Spoonbills dislike human disturbance. IF nesting they will move on. CONSULT SPOONBILL EXPERT!
Screen Name Redacted 3/20/2026 02:14 PM	The suggestion that Council would like to sell off this site to boost their budget is outrageous.
Screen Name Redacted 3/25/2026 04:33 PM	No, draft is comprehensive and well thought out.
Screen Name Redacted 3/30/2026 11:18 AM	Wild life corridor.. ensure other close wild life pockets are regenerated. This creates a wildlife c
Screen Name Redacted 3/31/2026 07:45 PM	Looks good - survey difficult - nothing I don't like in design and forced to pick??
Screen Name Redacted 4/01/2026 06:41 AM	Scale this project back! Add a path and be done with it. I don't understand why this plan is so OTT!
Screen Name Redacted 4/02/2026 09:36 PM	More play equipment to suit all ages. From toddler to teen. Low and high risk exploration
Screen Name Redacted 4/06/2026 04:36 PM	1
Screen Name Redacted 4/06/2026 09:27 PM	Not supportive of area for youth activities suggest these built on Aureus where more young people li
Screen Name Redacted 4/06/2026 09:50 PM	Leave the area as it is. No change is required, desired and wanted.
Screen Name Redacted 4/07/2026 05:10 PM	No, but ensure colonial heritage is recognised with signage, along with the sandstock bricks.

14 responses · 0 skipped

**Question type** : Single Line Question

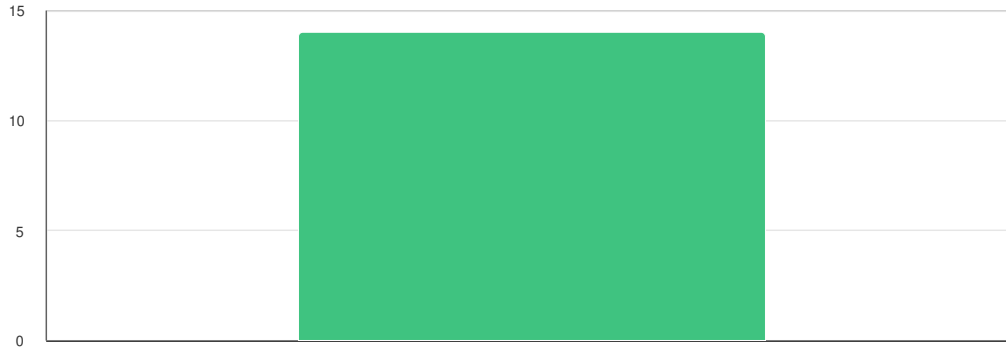
### Q8. Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?

Screen Name Redacted 3/12/2026 08:58 AM	Stop spending money the council does not have. Leave the park as is. Stop putting our rates up.
Screen Name Redacted 3/16/2026 11:01 AM	Safe pedestrian crossing at Seaside Ave/Reef St
Screen Name Redacted 3/16/2026 04:24 PM	Gym equipment, BMX track with jumps, fenced dog park, water fountain (for dogs/people).
Screen Name Redacted 3/17/2026 04:21 PM	NO I want stuff out eg seating. Let people bring blankets. If too wet keep off the grass
Screen Name Redacted 3/20/2026 02:14 PM	No brule out ever selling this site for flats, units or houses
Screen Name Redacted 3/25/2026 04:33 PM	I would like that actually something is created as the the site is underused (closer to never used),
Screen Name Redacted 3/30/2026 11:18 AM	No
Screen Name Redacted 3/31/2026 07:45 PM	I'd include more exercise equipment - it's not just for kids/teens. Dip bar, various height pull up
Screen Name Redacted 4/01/2026 06:41 AM	The simple need for a path or two is all that's needed to ensure people can cross without wet shoes
Screen Name Redacted 4/02/2026 09:36 PM	Include more play for all ages
Screen Name Redacted 4/06/2026 04:36 PM	
Screen Name Redacted 4/06/2026 09:27 PM	
Screen Name Redacted 4/06/2026 09:50 PM	Just abandon the plan and never come back to this issue.
Screen Name Redacted 4/07/2026 05:10 PM	No, it is very comprehensive and takes account of community feedback.

**Optional question** · 12 responses · 2 skipped

**Question type** : Single Line Question

**Q9. I have read and agree with Council's Privacy Policy**



Question options	responses	%
● Yes	14	100.0

Optional question - 14 responses - 0 skipped  
Question type : Checkbox Question

**Q10. If you would like your submission to be confidential, please provide a reason for confidentiality**

Screen Name Redacted

3/12/2026 08:58 AM

Screen Name Redacted

3/16/2026 11:01 AM

Screen Name Redacted

3/16/2026 04:24 PM

Screen Name Redacted

3/17/2026 04:21 PM

Screen Name Redacted

Privacy

3/20/2026 02:14 PM

Screen Name Redacted

Happy to be known.

3/25/2026 04:33 PM

Screen Name Redacted

3/30/2026 11:18 AM

Screen Name Redacted

3/31/2026 07:45 PM

Screen Name Redacted

4/01/2026 06:41 AM

Screen Name Redacted

4/02/2026 09:36 PM

Screen Name Redacted

4/06/2026 04:36 PM

Screen Name Redacted

Dont want name made public. Possible retribution

4/06/2026 09:27 PM

Screen Name Redacted

4/06/2026 09:50 PM

Screen Name Redacted

4/07/2026 05:10 PM

**Optional question** · 3 responses · 11 skipped

**Question type** : Single Line Question

**APPENDIX 2: Community Engagement Original Material**

**Written Submissions**

The following written submissions were received with the key submission message highlighted in the table below. Refer to the full submissions for detailed feedback.

Council Ref	Name	Location	Key message (See Appendix 2 for full submissions)
26/20018	Glen Harry	Skennars Head	Objection to selling, rezoning or developing the reserve for housing Does not support additional hardscape or recreational infrastructure Retain Spoonbill Reserve as open space
26/20475	Rochelle Penhey	Skennars Head	Strongly opposed to housing at the site Values the current open space and wishes to keep it in its current condition without embellishment
26/20774	Shannon Frawley	-	Strongly opposed to housing at the site No further comment provided on the exhibited master plan
26/21148	Karen Leadbeater	Skennars Head	Strongly opposed to housing at the site Park is well used already. No change needed.
26/21342	Julie Young	-	Strongly opposed to housing at the site Inconsistent messaging from Council with inadequate budgets to maintain new facilities Preserve the park as a natural and low maintenance public space
26/22218	Natasha Gering	-	Objection to selling, rezoning or developing the reserve for housing Concerns about spending money on extra infrastructure and rate increases
26/22219	Janette Cobb	Skennars Head	Objection to selling, rezoning or developing the reserve for housing No playground required
26/22221	Dani Suslov	Skennars Head	Supports development of the site for alternative uses to support the community such as an independent grocery store, a small farmers market and a mobile coffee trailer
26/22427	Tracy Stephenson	-	Strongly opposed to housing at the site Values the current open space and wishes to keep it in its current condition without embellishment
26/22637	Graham Peterson	Skennars Head	Leave it as it is – unembellished open space
26/562 and CR26/562	Sally Petrie	Skennars Head	Leave it as it is – unembellished open space
26/23284	Sarah Oud	Skennars Head	Objects to housing. Retain Spoonbill Reserve as green space / recreation area. Supports provision of things to do for youth.
26/23286	Shane Hanrahan	Skennars Head	Opposes basketball ring Supports seating, pathways, extra gardens, trees, open space
26/23374	Ashley Wing	Skennars Head	Objection to development of the site for housing Supports the draft master plan
26/23500	Alex Sawras	-	Objection to development of the site for housing Supports upgrading to include gardens, pathways as somewhere for families
26/23504	Lennox Head Residents Association	Lennox Head	Objection to development of the site for housing Strong support for the direction and priorities of the master plan including the balance between open space and active recreation and proposed facilities

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

	(Narissa Phelps)		
26/23666	Greg Newson	Alstonville (business address provided)	Support limited, low-key improvements such as tree planting. Opposes concrete pathway and youth activity area. Opposes housing
26/24007	Albie and Kristina Viel	Skennars Head	Opposes youth area in this location – prefers Aureus Concerns regarding the impact of new trees on adjoining property
26/24011 and 26/24010	Dr K.Bagraith	Skennars Head	Objection to development of the site for housing Supports embellishment of the reserve consistent with its zoning and land purpose and as outlined in the draft master plan with some suggestions for expansion of recreation and play features and an off-leash dog area. Suggests redistributing car parking
26/24200	Ryan Oud	Skennars Head	Leave it as it is - unembellished open space
26/24255	Jason Kostal		Supports minor embellishments such as pathway, tidying up under trees, and some seating with retained open space. Has concerns about further infrastructure causing nuisance.
26/24519	Bob and Diane Fyfe	Skennars Head	Leave it as it is – open space. Support for some minor embellishments such as native groundcover gardens, timber benches, open grass area pathway with art, heritage / cultural references.
26/24521	Anthony Scicluna	Skennars Head	Objection to development of the site for housing No comments provided on the exhibited master plan
26/24523	Karen Paterson	-	Concern regarding timeframe for feedback Support for some aspects of the master plan such as footpath and zebra crossing, occasional seating with new suggestion for low growing shrubs along the fencelines of properties Opposition to angled parking, additional tree planting other than 1-2 new large shade trees, picnic tables, basketball and outdoor learning area.
26/27570	Ben Holmes (received 9/4/26)	-	Strongly opposed to housing at the site No further comment provided on the exhibited master plan

**APPENDIX 2: Community Engagement Supplementary Information  
Written Submissions**

**From:** [Redacted]  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to Proposed Development of Spoonbill Reserve  
**Date:** Friday, 20 March 2026 1:12:55 PM

---

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to formally object to any proposal to sell, rezone, or develop Spoonbill Reserve.

Spoonbill Reserve is a valued public open space that provides important environmental, social, and recreational benefits to the community. The justification of short-term financial gain does not outweigh the permanent loss of public green space. Once this land is developed, it cannot be restored to its current natural state.

The reserve already functions as a low-maintenance area and does not require costly upgrades or additional infrastructure. The Draft Master Plan's proposed additions—such as built structures, landscaping works, and parking—represent unnecessary expenditure and increased long-term maintenance costs. These are not priorities identified or requested by the community.

Furthermore, the land was originally dedicated as public open space, and residents were led to believe it would remain so. Any move toward rezoning or development would undermine community trust and set a concerning precedent for the future of protected public lands.

From an environmental perspective, Spoonbill Reserve contributes to local biodiversity, providing habitat for native flora and fauna. Development or increased hardscaping would inevitably degrade these ecological values, fragment habitat, and reduce the area's natural resilience.

The argument that Council cannot afford to maintain local parks is inconsistent with proposing new spending on non-essential infrastructure. This raises serious concerns that such upgrades could be used to justify future development to offset costs.

I strongly urge Ballina Shire Council to:

- Retain Spoonbill Reserve as protected public open space
- Reject any proposals for rezoning or residential development
- Prioritise conservation of biodiversity and natural habitat
- Respect prior commitments made to the community

Spoonbill Reserve is not for sale, not for rezoning, and not for development. It is a shared community asset that must be preserved for current and future generations.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Yours sincerely,  
Glen Harry

[Redacted Signature]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** Spoonbill Reserve Skennars Head  
**Date:** Sunday, 22 March 2026 12:06:42 PM

---

To Ballina Shire Mayor and Councilors

I would like to give you feedback on your recent proposals for the Spoonbill Reserve at Skennars Head.

Our property backs onto the Spoonbill Reserve, so I can give you accurate and up to date information.

Upon reading the community survey results it was clear there was an overwhelming majority that were keen to leave the site in its present state. It is currently a low maintenance, open space, available to the whole community to use as they please, as well as home to various wildlife species. It is used by many as a walking area, dog exercise park, golf practice, families gather to have cricket and football days, children ride bikes and play imaginative games there. The beauty of this reserve is the space is not hardscaped for designated play but rather inspires both adults and children to use it for whatever purposes they wish. Everyone currently interacts daily in symbiosis with the wildlife, a factor which may be impacted with a hardscaped area. There are not many reserves in the area that have this special feature.

I believe there is a masterplan being considered that includes basketball hoop, climbing and play equipment, seating and paths, and more gardens. It is my understanding that the council is having difficulty funding the maintenance on facilities already built in the Ballina area, so it does not make financial sense to build more facilities, particularly when they are not necessary. We already have a wonderful hardscaped park area in the Aureus Estate for residents to enjoy, the current state of the Spoonbill Reserve perfectly complements this.

We also are not keen to have an arboretum on our back fence. The Spoonbill Reserve is currently kept very neat and tidy – a credit to the council maintenance team!

Planting more gardens and trees, particularly close to the residences, will cause a loss in our beautiful view, loss of sunlight in our yards, constant leaves and debris coming into our yards and pools, and higher risk of snakes in the reserve and in our yards.

We recently received a flyer in our letterbox that the council has been investigating the possibility of developing the Spoonbill Reserve site with housing lots, townhouses or apartments options. We would like to let you know we strongly oppose this option. There is already a medium density residential area bordering the reserve, with many townhouses approved and in various stages of development. The families of Aureus rely on the reserve for their recreation area, as they are lacking yard space. Also, the roads are already very busy with the schools and day care in the area and could not support the increased traffic more development would bring. Development of such a beautiful, peaceful green space would be such a disaster for both the community and wildlife that currently enjoy this space.

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

In conclusion, please consider leaving Spoonbill Reserve in its current beautiful, natural state for all to enjoy.

Thank you for your time in receipt of this feedback.

Kind regards

Rochelle Penhey

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** SPOONBILL RESERVE IS NOT FOR SALE, NOT FOR REZONING AND NOT FOR DEVELOPMENT  
**Date:** Tuesday, 24 March 2026 1:29:45 PM

---

Hi,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment with the council's recent actions. After a petition and a media release clearly stating that Spoonbill Reserve would be preserved as a park, it is extremely concerning to now see a change in direction. This appears to be nothing more than revenue-raising, especially following the recent increase in our rates.

The area is already struggling with the growing housing density and the lack of supporting infrastructure. Further development would only worsen these issues.

Let me be absolutely clear: Spoonbill Reserve is not for sale, not for rezoning, and not for development.

The community has spoken, and we expect the council to honour its commitments.

Local resident and rate payer.

Shannon

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** Spoonbill Reserve  
**Date:** Wednesday, 25 March 2026 2:53:34 PM

---

To whom it may concern,

Good Afternoon

It has come to our attention that this area is being looked at as another set of housing blocks and 40 townhouses.

You need to come and sit in this area between 8 and 9 am and 3 to 4 pm and try to figure out how the traffic will be managed with all these new dwellings. We are living on the corner of Redford and Headland Streets and cannot leave our house between these times. If we need to, we park our cars up the road on Headland.

So, all the hours spent, for your staff to sit at the reserve and Epiq was just a big waste of taxpayers money. None of it was real - asking for suggestions for the area was a load of twaddle.

Can you imagine the extra traffic with that many houses and units. The street is not wide enough for all the students that drive to work and fill up all the parks on either side - and then about 20 buses going each morning and afternoon.

What a joke.

Just remember, this school is before and after school care - primary school and high school. That's a lot of cars and buses.

Also, the park does get used already, without needing to change it. The school sports days quite often overflow into this arera.

In the end leave it how it is. Cr Phil Meehan and Mayor Sharon Caldwell need to stop being so greedy.

Thankyou for your time.

Karen Leadbeatter

[REDACTED]  
Skennars Head

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the development of Spoonbill Reserve  
**Date:** Thursday, 26 March 2026 11:02:07 AM

---

To Ballina Shire Council,

I am writing as a concerned community member to express my strong opposition to the proposal by Cr Phil Meehan to develop Spoonbill Reserve in Skennars Head for housing lots, townhouses, or apartments.

Spoonbill Reserve is a vital piece of public open space that was dedicated in the late 1990s and zoned specifically as RE1 Public Recreation. The community was given an assurance that this land would remain open space, and I urge the Council to honor that commitment.

My opposition is based on the following key points:

- **Permanent Loss for Short-term Gain:** While I acknowledge the "dire financial position" mentioned by Mayor Sharon Cadwallader, selling off public assets is a short-sighted fix. Once this green space is developed, it is gone forever. Financial mismanagement should not be used as a justification to strip the community of its environmental and recreational assets.
- **Contradictory Budgeting:** It is inconsistent for the Council to claim a lack of funds for maintenance while simultaneously proposing a Draft Master Plan (issued 9 February 2026) that includes expensive, unrequested "extras" like decorative brick features and landscaped gardens. The reserve is currently low-maintenance and should remain so to protect its natural value.
- **Environmental Impact:** Replacing green space with hardscaping and high-density housing will negatively impact the local ecosystem and the character of the Headlands Estate. The native birds that habitat the area will be destroyed.
- **Long-term Costs:** Developing this land or implementing the proposed Master Plan creates upfront costs and ongoing maintenance burdens that could lead to higher rates or further pressure to sell off public land in the future.

Public parks are the lungs of our community and are essential for the wellbeing of residents. I request that the Council immediately cease any investigation into the rezoning or sale of Spoonbill Reserve and instead focus on preserving it as a natural, low-maintenance space for all to enjoy.

Spoonbill Reserve is not for sale, not for rezoning, and not for development.

I look forward to your response and a confirmation that the Council will protect this public asset.

I feel the council does not listen to the community, we opposed the rate rise in great numbers and you just went ahead with it anyway.

Sincerely,

Julia Young

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** Spoonbill Reserve is NOT for sale  
**Date:** Monday, 30 March 2026 2:01:56 PM

---

Spoonbill reserve is not for sale not for rezoning and not for development.

My name is Natasha Gering and I do not support Cr Phil Mehan to develop at Spoonbill reserve.

Financial problems are no justification for selling public open space. Spoonable reserve is already low maintenance and does not require enhancing. Hard scaping open green space sets a precedent to increased hard scaping elsewhere.

The proposal as a major upfront cost and lock the community into ongoing maintenance expenses. That pressure could be higher rates for residence or even renewed, pushes to develop the land for housing to cover the shortfall. Council needs to stop thinking in the short term.

Sincerely,  
Natasha Gering

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** SPOONBILL RESERVE SKENNARS HEAD  
**Date:** Monday, 30 March 2026 12:20:35 PM

---

I am writing to express my dismay that Ballina Shire Council would consider any kind of Development on this reserve. We have owned property and lived in the area since the original development and know this area was allocated as open space and there is no reason to change that !!!! The area should NOT BE SOLD for the councils finances! It does NOT need rezoning !! It does not require playground equipment. And it certainly should not be turned into housing of any sort which would create massive parking and traffic issues for the what is an already busy area around the high school. There is already and will be additional traffic attached to further development at Aureus as recently approved by council against the wishes of local residents.

Janette Cobb  
[REDACTED]  
Skennars Head.  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** Spoonbill Reserve  
**Date:** Sunday, 29 March 2026 6:38:29 PM

---

Hello Ballina Council,  
I am a home owner and resident of Skennars Head and I have 2 children that attend Xavier. I would like to make a proposal for the Spoonbill Reserve that, as a resident, I believe we need (not what a councillor thinks we need) and it is this - we are heading as a nation to a recession, nationally, state wise and most importantly, local council wise. We need community to stick together. We need community to have access to basic food where we don't need to drive!

My proposal:  
A small (not woollies or Coles) independent corner grocery store that provides the basics essentials to Skennars Head people. A small farmers market is also held on the reserve every 2 week or month. And finally a small mobile coffee trailer to bring the residents together. With some wooden seats to enjoy the su. And breeze.

We need community and nourishment. This provides that.

Sincerely  
Ms. Dani Suslov

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** Spoonbill Reserve  
**Date:** Tuesday, 31 March 2026 10:02:08 AM

---

RE: SPOONBILL RESERVE

Spoonbill reserve is not for sale. Not for rezoning and not for development.

My name is Tracey Stephenson and I do not support Cr Phil Mehan to develop at Spoonbill reserve.

Financial problems are no justification for selling public open space. Spoonbill reserve is already low-maintenance and does not require enhancing.  
Hard-scaping open green space sets a precedent to increased hard-scaping elsewhere and do we really want another crowded Aureaus town house area in Headlands? We chose this area to live because of the open spaces.

Thankyou for your time.

Sincerely,  
Tracey Stephenson

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** spoonbill reserve  
**Date:** Tuesday, 31 March 2026 2:46:03 PM

---

Sent from my iPhone. it needs to be left as it is, ballina needs as much green space as it can keep,why are you trying to overdevelop ballina ,spend the money in other parts of the shire,graham peterson [REDACTED]  
Skennars Head

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Ballina Shire Council](#); [Councillors](#); [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** Spoonbill Reserve  
**Date:** Wednesday, 1 April 2026 7:48:22 AM

---

I would like it to be recorded, once again, I fully support retaining the Spoonbill Nesting Reserve as dedicated public Open Space. Historically it also provides an ecosystem for our local fauna - in particular the Spoonbill!

I am a long term resident and rate payer in the Ballina Shire, and understand the psychological and social necessity of green open space in residential areas.

This Reserve has a history of needing to be protected from those who see it as an opportunity as a land grab to appease poor decision making by inept authorities in the past. Do not allow this to continue.

The virtues and benefits to the whole community of green open space must see this parcel of land protected for present and future generations.

Mrs Sally Petrie  
[REDACTED]  
Skennars Head 2478

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** Spoonbill Reserve is not for sale or development!  
**Date:** Thursday, 2 April 2026 1:06:41 PM

---

Hello

My family and I live near Spoonbill Reserve and frequently use the area with other children and families.

We often enjoy playing cricket, football and picnics with neighbours. Our children walk through the reserve for school.

No it should not be considered for another housing development. In 2024-2025 Ballina Council completed surveys with children and young people across the shire in collaboration with ACYP (now NSW Office for Youth). Ballina Council also supported the Youth Forum in May last year. Feedback is young people from the shire are bored and wanting more active spaces for such as basketball court / hoop, gym equipment, monkey / gymnastic bars etc. What about a community garden to encourage and sense of community and provide young people with responsibility, pride and opportunities?

Ballina Council continue to approve playgrounds designs for very young children such as Ross Park in Lennox, Hutley Drive, Aureus Skennars Head and the upgrades at Pop Denison Park.

What about youth? Community members are constantly talking about kids on e-bikes and youth crime but there are no areas or projects created for the interests of young people in Lennox and Skennars. Ballina Council recently employed a Youth Engagement Officer. I suggest they are consulted regarding the space and leave Spoonbill Reserve as a green space / recreation area.

Enough with the housing developments or there will be no green space around Lennox and Skennars. What about promoting opportunities and health for our next generation rather than money for Councils and Developers?

Sarah Oud

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Shane](#) [redacted]  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** Spoonbill reserve  
**Date:** Thursday, 2 April 2026 1:29:01 PM

---

Hello,

I live adjacent to spoonbill reserve on seaside avenue with my young family,  
We love using the open space that spoonbill provides as do many other locals and non  
locals.

On Australia day a group of people celebrating the day had a game of cricket and set up a  
lunch area amongst them selves, leaving no mess no destruction of the area, it was really  
good to see the area being treated with respect,

However if you plan to put a basketball court / ring or the alike on spoonbill reserve expect  
graffiti and vandalism from the youth especially those with E bikes who actively travel and  
harass the locals particularly the elderly in the area.

There is already graffiti on the very little cement we have in the estate right in front of my  
place on the gutter (spoonbill) side of the road id hate to see it continue all over the place.

And since its not cost effective to have to mow the grass imagine the cost of fixing all the  
vandalism and the destruction of the court and graffiti, replacing cement / ring repairs /  
cleaning, not to mention the "accidents" that turn into compo claims that the council will  
have to fix the bill,

I strongly suggest if you want to keep the beautiful space that it is try and minimise the  
concrete look and youth attractions as it only brings vandalism and unwanted guests to the  
area as everybody knows and sees in existing skate parks / courts.  
There is already a park 200m either direction of spoonbill reserve

I like the idea of seating and path ways extra gardens / trees which will minimise the  
mowing costs slightly with the added costs of the garden work,

Think of the people living on and near spoonbill before taking action please.

Submission: Preservation of Spoonbill Reserve

**Mr Ashley Wing**  
Resident & Ratepayer of Ward B

02 April 2026

The Mayor  
Cr Sharon Chadwallader  
Ballina Shire Council  
PO Box 450  
BALLINA NSW 2478

Cc: Cr Phill Meehan, Mr Paul Kickey (GM-BSC)

Dear Mayor,

**Re: SUBMISSION OPPOSING THE RECLASSIFICATION OR REDEVELOPMENT OF SPOONBILL RESERVE, SKENNARS HEAD**

*Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition*

**Key Position**

Spoonbill Reserve should remain community land for public recreation. The proposal would exchange a permanent public asset for a temporary and comparatively modest fiscal benefit, while creating new infrastructure liabilities and avoidable impacts in one of the shire's most sensitive school precincts. Its redevelopment for housing would be legally complex, strategically misaligned, socially and environmentally costly and financially inadequate as a response to Council's underlying structural pressures.

**1. Purpose**

I write in my capacity as a resident and ratepayer of Ballina Shire to support the permanent preservation of Spoonbill Reserve as public open space and to oppose any proposal to reclassify, rezone, dispose of or otherwise develop the reserve for residential purposes. Spoonbill Reserve is approximately 1.969 hectares of Council-owned community land situated between Redford Drive and Seaside Avenue, opposite St Francis Xavier Catholic College.

The central issue is not whether Ballina Shire faces financial pressure, nor whether housing supply matters. Both are real. The issue is whether *this particular reserve* is an appropriate, lawful, prudent and strategically defensible response to those pressures. On the evidence presently available, it is not.

As detailed on the Your Say Ballina project page and Council's exhibited planning material, the reserve is classified for 'General Community Use' under the Plan of Management for Community Land and zoned REI Public Recreation under the Ballina Local Environmental Plan 2012. Council records confirm the land was dedicated in the late 1990s as a condition of subdivision consent during the Headlands Estate development to satisfy open space requirements. The reserve's history, planning status, location and community function all weigh strongly against redevelopment.

### 2. The Reserve is Not Surplus Land

Council's own publicly exhibited material confirms that Spoonbill Reserve is community land reserved for public use. RE1 zoned land is not held for speculative disposal. It is held to support public recreation, local amenity and the public interest.

The reserve also carries a specific planning provenance. At the March 2026 ordinary meeting, the operational representative confirmed that the original subdivision layout was deliberately altered in the late 1990s in response to the identified presence of Royal Spoonbills in the area. They described the development as having been "rejigged" to preserve habitat and stated that the reserve's "configuration and shape" reflected "thinking at the time around what would be a good area for spoonbills to prosper."

A reserve created through a negotiated planning outcome to secure public open space and ecological function should not later be treated as a convenient balance-sheet item merely because its location has become valuable. That would invert the very purpose for which the land was dedicated.

### 3. Significant Legal and Procedural Barriers to Reclassification

Community land cannot be sold at Council's discretion. Section 45(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) is unambiguous; *A council has no power to sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of community land.* Before any sale can occur, the land must first be lawfully reclassified as operational land through an amendment to the Local Environmental Plan.

- a) The reclassification pathway is neither simple nor assured. It requires a
- b) Council resolution to initiate a planning proposal;
- c) a Gateway Determination from the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure;
- d) a mandatory independent public hearing under section 47G of the Act;
- e) formal public exhibition of a planning proposal to amend the LEP (encompassing both reclassification and rezoning from RE1 to a residential zone); and
- f) ministerial approval following a series of public interest tests.

The General Manager confirmed at the March 2026 ordinary meeting that this process takes approximately 12 to 18 months. The reclassification process is overseen by the NSW Government through the Minister for Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, and there are extensive public interest tests that must be satisfied before any such approval can be granted.

The legal complexity is further compounded because Spoonbill Reserve was dedicated under what was then section 94 (now section 7.11) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* as a condition of subdivision consent. Section 32 of the *Local Government Act 1993* imposes an elevated threshold for such land: Council may reclassify it *only* if satisfied that the land has been found to be unsuitable for the provision, extension or augmentation of public amenities and public services. Moreover, net proceeds from any subsequent disposal must be treated as a monetary contribution equivalent under the Act, which materially constrains Council's ability to apply those funds to general operating expenditure.

NSW Land and Environment Court jurisprudence has consistently scrutinised the validity of reclassification resolutions, particularly where land was originally dedicated for a public purpose. Any attempt by Council to reclassify Spoonbill Reserve would invite a reasonable and expected legal challenges, with attendant legal costs, delay and reputational risk.

### 4. Development Would Not Resolve Council's Structural Financial Problem

The strongest argument advanced for housing on the reserve is fiscal. At the March 2026 ordinary meeting, Councillor Meehan estimated that 20 lots at \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 each could return approximately \$15 million net after development costs. That estimate does not withstand analysis.

**The deficit is structural, not incidental.** Council's FY2025 audited financial statements reveal that the General Fund has recorded operating deficits before capital income in at least five of the last six financial years. The sole positive year (FY2022/23) was driven by a non-recurring gain on disposal of real estate, without which the deficit would have persisted continuously for six years. Your own Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) has raised concerns about General Fund sustainability in each of its last three annual reports. The ARIC Report on General Fund Financial Sustainability concluded that the fund is not yet terminally compromised, but that the trend of increasing losses requires corrective action.

**Land sales do not address recurrent gaps.** ARIC has formally characterised asset liquidation as a short-term cash injection that fails to address recurrent cost-revenue imbalances arising from award wage growth, materials inflation, insurance premiums and cost-shifting from other tiers of government. Council's own balance sheet confirms the diminishing nature of this strategy. Land inventory available for resale declined from \$11.5 million to \$8.1 million in a single year (FY2024 to FY2025), a reduction of nearly 30%. The land sale pipeline, including holdings in the Southern Cross and Russellton Industrial Estates, is projected to be substantially exhausted by 2027/28.

**The net return is materially lower than claimed.** Once regulatory and planning costs, civil infrastructure works, developer contributions under the Ballina Developer Contributions Register, time-value discounting over a realistic five-year sell-down period and ongoing maintenance liabilities are accounted for, the adjusted net present value of the development falls to a fraction of the \$15 million headline figure. Under pessimistic but plausible assumptions, the adjusted return approaches breakeven or turns negative. This is before accounting for the opportunity cost of permanently losing 1.969 hectares of irreplaceable coastal open space.

### **5. Development Would Create New Liabilities, Not Merely Realise Value**

The proposal is typically framed as converting a passive asset into active value. That framing is incomplete. Residential subdivision of Spoonbill Reserve would generate new internal roads, footpaths, a stormwater drainage network, water and sewer connections and streetlighting, all of which become Council-maintained assets with lifecycle renewal obligations extending well beyond the sell-down period.

Council already manages over \$2.0 billion in infrastructure assets. Its audited prudential ratios are trending downward across the board: the unrestricted current ratio has fallen from 2.6x to 2.0x in two years, and the debt service cover ratio has halved from 3.3x to 2.0x, now sitting precisely on the Office of Local Government benchmark floor. Voluntarily assuming new infrastructure liabilities in this environment is imprudent. The question is not only "what can be sold?" but "what new obligations would be created, and are they worth assuming?" The answer, on the available evidence, is no.

### **6. The Site is Strategically Ill-Suited to Additional Housing**

Even if one accepted the fiscal premise, that does not establish this reserve as the right location. Spoonbill Reserve sits directly opposite St Francis Xavier Catholic College and in close proximity to Holy Family Catholic Primary School and St Anne's Long Day Care Centre. This concentration of three educational institutions makes this one of the most transport-sensitive precincts in the Skennars Head urban area.

Standard NSW trip generation rates indicate that a 20-lot residential development would contribute approximately 148 to 180 additional vehicle trips per day, with 16 to 17 additional movements during peak hours. These trips would coincide directly with school drop-off and pick-up windows, compounding an already congested corridor characterised by queuing that extends onto Redford Drive. Residents in the area have already raised concerns about existing school-related congestion affecting their ability to safely access their own properties.

The introduction of residential driveways within an active 40 km/h school zone would create new conflict points between reversing or entering vehicles and child pedestrians. Children, as a recognised vulnerable road user cohort, have well-documented limitations in perceiving vehicle speed, distance and approach direction. A risk-based assessment of this precinct identifies a High pre-mitigation risk for child pedestrian conflict on desire lines between any new development and the school opposite. Effective mitigation would require, at minimum, a formalised raised pedestrian crossing, continuous footpaths, kerbside management and impact-resistant fencing, all at substantial capital cost and all required before first occupancy.

Fire and Rescue NSW published guidance requires that emergency access must not be obstructed by parked vehicles, with turning and turnaround provisions where dead-end access exceeds 120 metres. The existing school-peak parking pressure in this precinct makes compliance with emergency access standards a material design constraint that further reduces developable yield and increases cost.

These are not abstract inconveniences. They are predictable, quantifiable operational consequences of locating residential access points and additional traffic generation opposite a major school frontage. Some of these risks cannot be designed away but rather they can only be avoided by not developing the site.

### **7. Preservation Aligns with Council's Own Strategic Planning**

Council's Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan, currently on public exhibition, retains the reserve for public recreation and proposes a measured approach: native tree arboretum, picnic shelters, youth activity zones and formalised paths, while maintaining the site's informal, low-key and natural character. Community feedback during the engagement process strongly favoured this direction.

The adopted Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 to 2043 articulates a locality vision in which Lennox Head and Skennars Head maintain their coastal village character through connected, well-serviced neighbourhoods, while enhancing natural environment values, habitat connectivity, recreation and community wellbeing for existing and future generations. That plan does not contemplate the conversion of established public recreation land into housing. It recognises that growth must be balanced with local character, amenity and ecological function.

Reversing the trajectory of the Master Plan after public exhibition would introduce reputational and procedural risks for Council. It may reasonably be perceived as a breach of the community's trust in the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework and would undermine confidence in the integrity of future engagement processes.

### **8. Community Confidence and Intergenerational Equity**

Public reserves are held on behalf of the community, including future residents who have no voice in today's decisions. Once lost, coastal open space of this scale is rarely replaced on like-for-like terms, particularly in established neighbourhoods where land values are high and large parcels are scarce.

*Submission: Preservation of Spoonbill Reserve*

A council can rate again. It can sequence capital works differently. It can review service levels and renegotiate cost structures. It cannot easily recover an established two-hectare coastal reserve after it has been subdivided and built out. That asymmetry is the fundamental reason the Legislature imposed community land protections in the *Local Government Act* and it is the reason the Parliament required such rigorous procedural safeguards before reclassification can occur.

The preservation of Spoonbill Reserve is not anti-housing. It is pro-sequencing, pro-strategy and pro-public interest. Housing supply should be advanced through locations and mechanisms that are legally cleaner, financially more rational and socially less damaging. Council's own Local Strategic Planning Statement identifies appropriate growth areas. Spoonbill Reserve is not among them.

### **9. Requested Outcome**

For the reasons set out above, I respectfully request that Council:

- (a) retain Spoonbill Reserve as community land and public recreation land;
- (b) proceed with the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan, incorporating refinements arising from community feedback during the current exhibition period;
- (c) formally resolve not to pursue reclassification, rezoning or disposal of the reserve for residential development; and
- (d) direct housing supply efforts toward strategically intended growth sites identified in Council's adopted planning instruments.

### **10. Conclusion**

Spoonbill Reserve should be preserved. Development of the reserve for housing would not resolve Council's underlying structural financial challenge. It would instead substitute a permanent public asset for a temporary and comparatively modest fiscal benefit, while simultaneously creating new infrastructure liabilities, exposing Council to legal and reputational risk and imposing avoidable safety and amenity impacts on one of the shire's most sensitive school precincts.

The prudent course is clear: keep the reserve in public hands, implement the Master Plan, pursue housing supply in strategically appropriate locations and address Council's financial sustainability through recurring and strategically coherent measures.

The community deserves both housing and open space. Good governance delivers both. It does not sacrifice one for a diminished return on the other.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss any aspect of this submission with Council officers or elected representatives.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr Ashley Wing**  
Resident & Ratepayer of Ballina Shire

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

**From:** [alex](#)  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** Spoonbill reserve  
**Date:** Friday, 3 April 2026 9:36:40 AM

---

Regarding the proposed development of spoonbill reserve, I'd like to register my voice to oppose this plan.

This low maintenance open space is used by residents of skennars head daily and it would be a shame to lose this to additional housing.

Ballina council have enough residential housing development currently underway and completed (Cumbalum, Lennox Head and Skennars Head) with forecast rates income that should alleviate financial stress.

People choose to live in this area for the connection to open space and the natural environment. We are already paying some of the highest council rates along the eastern seaboard. By adding to the built up area it will make Skennars Head less attractive to all.

I would rather see spoonbill reserve upgraded to include gardens and pathways. Somewhere for families to enjoy.

Regards

Alex Sawras

**From:** [Lennox Residents](#)  
**To:** [Strategic](#); [Cr. Kiri Dicker \(she/her\)](#); [Cr. Michelle Bailey](#); [Cr. Eva Ramsey](#); [Cr. Sharon Cadwallader](#)  
**Subject:** Submission of feedback on the Draft Plan of Management for Spoonbill Park: Lennox Head Residents Association  
**Date:** Saturday, 4 April 2026 4:04:26 PM

---

Dear Mayor Cadwallader, Ballina Shire Planners and Councillors,

On behalf of the Lennox Head Residents' Association, I write regarding the Draft Plan of Management for Spoonbill Reserve at Skennars Head.

At the outset, we wish to state unequivocally that we do not support any proposal for this land to be considered for housing. We hold a strong and consistent view that Spoonbill Reserve must remain dedicated to public recreation and community use, in keeping with both its environmental significance and its value to current and future residents.

We commend Ballina Shire Council for the clear vision articulated in the Draft Plan of Management. While we acknowledge the financial constraints under which Council operates, we strongly support the direction and priorities outlined in the plan.

In particular, we endorse the commitment to preserving the natural, informal character of the reserve and the retention of existing trees. This approach reflects a sensitive understanding of the site's unique landscape qualities and its importance to the community.

We also greatly appreciate the thoughtful balance proposed between open space and additional tree planting. The intention to unlock the area for youth-oriented recreation is especially welcomed, as it addresses a clear community need while maintaining the integrity of the reserve.

Furthermore, we strongly support the proposed enhancements, including the provision of seating, interpretive signage, and picnic facilities. The integration of recovered bricks from the Sharpe Family Mill is an inspired inclusion, adding a meaningful historical dimension to the space.

In closing, we congratulate Ballina Shire Council on the development of this well-considered plan and confirm the full support of the Lennox Head Residents Association for its implementation.

Yours sincerely,



**Narissa Phelps**  
**President**  
**Lennox Head Residents Association**

**From:** [Greg](#)  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** Spoonbill Reserve, Skennars Head - Draft Master Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, 7 April 2026 11:07:06 AM

---

### **Submission on Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan**

To Ballina Shire Council,

I write to object to parts of the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan.

I support limited, low-key improvements that respect the existing character of the reserve, particularly additional tree planting and shade using appropriate large specimen trees such as Norfolk Pines or Moreton Bay Figs where suitable. However, I strongly oppose the proposed concrete pathway through the reserve and the proposed youth activity infrastructure, including the basketball hoop, climbing elements and similar built features.

My reasons are as follows.

#### **1. The reserve's value lies in its existing informal, natural character**

The draft plan itself acknowledges that the community values Spoonbill Reserve as an informal, natural green space, with open grass, peacefulness, wildlife, and the existing significant trees being central to its character.

Many community comments also expressed the desire to maintain the peaceful nature of the site without additional structured infrastructure. In my view, the proposed pathway and activity zone move away from these values rather than respecting them.

#### **2. The land has already been considered for development and rejected**

At a recent Council meeting, a proposal to use this land for housing was put forward and ultimately defeated (7 votes to 3).

That outcome reflects a clear intent to retain this land as open community space. While this master plan does not propose housing, the introduction of paths, hardstand areas and built infrastructure risks gradually shifting the reserve in that same direction over time.

It is important that the intent of preserving this land as open space is upheld in both planning and design decisions.

#### **3. Financial constraints should guide priorities**

At that same Council meeting, it was acknowledged that Council is under financial pressure. In that context, it is difficult to justify spending ratepayer money on non-essential infrastructure in a reserve that already functions well in its current form.

This is not about refusing all improvements — it is about prioritising what is genuinely needed. Simple enhancements such as tree planting and shade make sense. Concrete paths and built activity zones do not.

#### **4. Built youth infrastructure is not appropriate in this location**

Facilities such as basketball hoops and climbing structures may seem minor, but they

change how the space is used.

They tend to concentrate activity and can lead to increased noise, graffiti, vandalism and ongoing maintenance issues. There are already other locations better suited to more active recreation. Spoonbill Reserve currently serves a different purpose — quiet, open, and low-key — and that should be preserved.

**5. Wildlife and habitat values should be given greater weight**

This reserve has recognised environmental value, including its association with Royal Spoonbills.

I have personally observed spoonbills roosting in the Norfolk Pine and foraging on the ground alongside ibis. This reinforces that the site is actively used by birdlife, not just historically associated with it.

If Council accepts that the reserve has habitat value, then the planning response should be to strengthen that role through sensitive tree planting and minimal disturbance — not increase infrastructure and human intensity.

**Preferred outcome**

I ask Council to amend the draft master plan so that Spoonbill Reserve remains primarily an open, natural reserve with only minimal, sympathetic improvements. In particular, I request that Council:

- remove the proposed pathway through the centre of the reserve
- remove the proposed basketball hoop, climbing equipment and hardstand activity area
- retain the large open grassed area
- prioritise additional tree planting and shade
- preserve the quiet, informal character of the reserve

Spoonbill Reserve does not need to be transformed. Its value is in what it already is — open, simple, green and peaceful.

**Kind Regards**

Greg Newson  
Naturopath | Nutritionist | Herbalist





7th April, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in reference to the Spoonbill Reserve, Skennars Head - Draft Master Plan. As long term residents of Skennars Head we are deeply disappointed that Ballina Council has not seen the value of preserving this unique parcel of land. It is unclear why the proposed plan for a 'youth activity area' does not build upon the existing playground within the Aureus development, rather than developing an additional area of land. Also, should a project such as this be deemed necessary given the council's financial position? Developing this area will increase maintenance time and costs which at the current time are minimal.

In addition to the above, particular concern arises given the shared boundary between our property and Spoonbill Reserve, such that any development, planting, or increased activity have a direct and ongoing impact on the use and enjoyment of our property.

Our primary concern is in regard to **Zone 1 - Managed parkland with native tree arboretum** which we would like further clarification on. We believe that further detail and discussion is required in the planning and long-term management of the proposed works, particularly in their interaction with the established adjoining dwellings. The concerns are set out below.

1. What type of native trees will be planted?

Further detail is required regarding the specific tree species proposed for planting within the various zones. Different native species vary significantly in terms of mature height, canopy width, debris production, root behaviour, and maintenance requirements. Understanding the exact species intended for planting is essential for assessing potential impacts on adjoining properties.

2. When the trees have reached maturity, what will be the clearance zone from an adjoining property's boundary?

The proposal includes the planting of native trees in proximity to existing dwellings. Clarification is sought regarding whether appropriate clearance zones will be incorporated and maintained as the trees reach full maturity. Consideration of canopy spread and long-term growth is necessary to prevent encroachment onto the surrounding private properties. This consideration is noticeably

absent from the current proposal. A comparable issue has arisen in the Angels Beach subdivision, where trees planted along the public side of the boundary have grown to overhang adjoining properties.

3. Has the debris impact on surrounding properties been considered?

Concerns arise regarding the potential for leaf litter, branches, and other debris to fall within adjoining properties. This will result in ongoing maintenance burdens and expenses, particularly in relation to pools, lawns and gutters. It is requested that preventative measures be addressed within the planning framework.

4. Will root system growth be taken into consideration prior to any trees being planted in order to ensure that adjoining properties are not affected in any way?

Clarification is sought as to whether the projected root systems of the proposed native plantings have been assessed with regard to potential impacts on adjoining properties, including fencing, underground infrastructure, and structural elements.

5. Does the proposed plan show the actual number of trees to be planted?

It is requested that Council confirm whether the submitted plans accurately represent both the number and placement of the intended tree plantings.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you soon.  
Albie and Kristina Viel

[Redacted signature area]

To: Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Mayor,  
Ballina Shire Council  
40 Cherry Street  
Ballina NSW 2478

7 April 2026

CC: Cr Michelle Bailey; Cr Kiri Dicker; Cr Eva Ramsey; Mr Paul Hickey, General Manager

**Subject: Spoonbill Reserve, Skennars Head**

Dear Mayor Cadwallade,

I write in relation to Ballina Shire Council's *Spoonbill Reserve, Skennars Head – Draft Master Plan* dated 9 February 2026, currently on public exhibition. I appreciate Council making the draft plan available for public review before any final position is adopted, particularly in the context of recent Council consideration of whether the land should be repurposed for non-recreational uses.

**1. Retention of Spoonbill Reserve, enhancement within existing zoning, and broader housing context**

I strongly support retaining Spoonbill Reserve as a community asset under its current zoning and ownership. I do not support any future sale, rezoning, or residential or commercial development of this land.

Spoonbill Reserve is finite **RE1 Public Recreation land**. Once community recreation land is sold, rezoned or repurposed, it is effectively lost permanently. That is particularly important in a growing coastal community, where recreational land becomes more valuable over time and replacement opportunities become more limited.

That said, I am not opposed to development in principle. I support continued investment in, and activation of, the reserve where that occurs within its existing zoning and community purpose. My position is not that the reserve must remain untouched; it is that future works should strengthen its value as community recreation land rather than weaken it.

From a financial perspective, using community land to generate one-off sale proceeds does not appear to be the strongest long-term trade-off. While it may provide immediate fiscal relief, it does not address underlying structural funding pressures and would come at the cost of permanently reducing a strategic community asset. A longer-term approach would favour alternatives that preserve finite RE1 Public Recreation land while responding to budget and housing pressures in sustainable ways.

I would welcome greater transparency regarding how Council prioritises capital works against long-term financial sustainability. If financial pressures are current or projected, the community should be able to better understand how new works are being sequenced, what backlog already exists, and how recurring maintenance and renewal costs are being weighed in those decisions.

I also acknowledge the housing pressures facing the region and support genuine efforts to increase housing supply. However, additional housing should be pursued through pathways that do not diminish finite **RE1 Public Recreation land**.

In particular, Council has an opportunity to more actively enable housing delivery within existing residential areas by:

- establishing a clear and streamlined local approval pathway for development on already zoned residential land where proposals utilise the NSW Housing Pattern Book model
- publicly reporting assessment timeframes and approval outcomes for applications using such a pathway
- clearly articulating Council's intended contribution to the State's regional housing targets through uptake of this form of compliant infill development

That would better align housing delivery with existing residential land and broader State planning priorities, while preserving community recreation land.

### **2. Support for the Draft Master Plan, subject to targeted changes**

Where Council wishes to further realise community recreational value within the existing zoning, I support progression of *Spoonbill Reserve, Skennars Head – Draft Master Plan* dated 9 February 2026. However, I consider several refinements necessary if the plan is to deliver material community benefit and represent sound value.

#### **a) Recreation value and utility**

In its current form, the proposed intervention appears modest relative to the opportunity presented by the site and risks under-delivering in terms of practical community use.

For that reason, whilst *maintaining* the larger of the two Open Grass Area for Informal Recreation:

- the proposed basketball facility should be expanded to at least a **half-court basketball court**, so it is genuinely functional and proportionate to the investment
- **Expansion of the play elements** (e.g., swings) should be included to broaden appeal across age groups and make the reserve more useful for younger children and families, not only older youth
- Addition of cricket nets
- Addition of a fenced off-leash dog area, perhaps re-purposing the smaller of the Open Grass Area for Informal Recreation (i.e., the area accessed from Seaside), to provide for another cohort to support broader community engagement.

A slightly broader recreation mix would better reflect the reserve's role as a community asset serving a wider catchment and a wider age range.

#### **b) Parking location and scale**

If parking is to be provided, it should be split between Redford Drive and the **Seaside Avenue side** of the reserve rather than entirely on the Redford Drive frontage.

Redford Drive is already the more constrained interface. It experiences school-related movement (backing up of traffic along Redford drive), on-street parking pressure, driveway conflict and local congestion. Additional parking on that frontage is likely to intensify those pressures and further reduce local amenity and traffic function.

If parking is retained, the distribution should be balanced between Redford Drive and Seaside Avenue. Additional bays will inevitably be used, and parking provision should not unnecessarily concentrate more vehicles on the most constrained frontage (i.e., Redford Drive).

**c) Delivery timing and public transparency**

The currently indicated potential delivery timing of **2029–2030** is too remote to give the community confidence that the plan is intended for implementation.

A project of this nature should have a clearer and more immediate delivery horizon, aligned more closely with completion of the present planning and consultation process.

There should also be greater public transparency regarding:

- the currently prioritised capital works pipeline
- the backlog of unfunded or deferred works under consideration
- the criteria and process used to prioritise other projects ahead of Spoonbill Reserve.
- what parts of the Spoonbill Reserve plan, if any, are intended to be delivered in stages and on what timeframe

**3. Outcomes sought**

To provide clarity and confidence to the community, I respectfully request that Council:

1. formally commit to retaining Spoonbill Reserve under its current zoning and ownership on a long-term basis, and not pursue future sale or rezoning of the land
2. continue to explore enhancement and activation of the reserve only in ways that remain consistent with its present zoning and community land purpose
3. revise the Draft Master Plan to improve its community value, including:
  - expansion of the basketball area to at least a half-court
  - inclusion of swings or similar play elements
  - Consider addition of further varied amenities.
  - If parking is retained, balancing between Redford Drive and Seaside Avenue.
4. provide a clearer and more accelerated implementation timeline, more closely aligned with the present planning process rather than a distant 2029–2030 horizon
5. provide greater public transparency on capital works prioritisation, backlog, delivery sequencing, and how long-term maintenance obligations are being considered in decisions.

Spoonbill Reserve is an important long-term community asset for current and future residents. With thoughtful refinement, it can be enhanced meaningfully within its existing zoning and ownership, without compromising its fundamental purpose or exposing it to future development pressure.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K.Bagraith

Ward B: Resident and Rate Payer

██████████ Skennars Head

████████████████████

**From:** Will [redacted]  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan Submission  
**Date:** Wednesday, 8 April 2026 9:42:34 AM

---

Dear Sir/Madam,

I do not support development of Spoonbill Reserve from its current appearance. The reserve is functional and attractive in the current state.

I use the reserve with my children often playing ball games and frisbee in the open space. The open undeveloped grass with seldom scattered trees that the parks in Skennars Head contain enhance the area.

Ballina Shire Council has officially applied to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation (SRV), seeking to increase general rates by 6% annually over four years beginning 2026/27 to 2029/30 financial years. These developments are not a necessary or responsible use of Ballina Shire Council residents rates.

This proposed Draft Master Plan for Spoonbill Reserve is not supported by residents in the area or the Shire who value protecting green spaces for the future. It was also evident from the overwhelming disapproval of the BSC application for a SVR that residents want less development projects and less rate increases in the future.

Street survey results indicated 98% disapproval for a SVR. Local media cited opposition as high as 86%. 1348 residents signed a petition opposing a 6% annual SVR increase.

Even a controversial Council Commissioned Survey reported 66% of respondents were opposed to the proposed rate increase. This survey was criticised by some residents as "push polling" due to its 15-minute script and perceived leading questions that framed the choice as a rate rise vs. service cuts.

Please abandon any further plans and protect Spoonbill Reserve in its current state. It is the environmentally responsible, socially responsible and financially responsible course of action that residents deserve from their elected representatives.

Regards,

Ryan Oud

[redacted]

[redacted]

**From:** Jason [redacted]  
**To:** Strategic  
**Subject:** Spoonbill Reserve Feedback  
**Date:** Wednesday, 8 April 2026 12:19:37 PM

---

Hi there,

Just to feedback on the council's proposed changes to Spoonbill Reserve at Skennars Head, please consider the following:

- the proposed basketball court could be located at the Skennars Head sporting fields adding to this complex at a dedicated sporting facility rather than next to housing. The annoying bouncing of basketballs is noise pollution in a residential area. The high school already have courts for use during the day for students that already echo around an otherwise quiet neighbourhood.
- The addition of extra trees, particularly next to housing may also increase cover for criminals. This has been a recent issue at Skennars Head and the openness of Spoonbill reserve is currently a deterrent.
- Perhaps clearing the environmental weeds around the current shade trees and using the current areas for simple seats would be a better solution, it would also open this area up once again for animals, particularly bird species like the spoonbills, ibis, magpie, ducks, lapwings as an example that currently nest and feed on the reserve.
- I am unsure of the purpose of an educational garden when there are two educational facilities across the road and down the street who both removed their agriculture plots. Perhaps if the schools reinstated these with native bush tucker species and common food species in conjunction with council there would be a collaborative opportunity and no need to spend money on putting this at Spoonbill Reserve.
- There is an opportunity to enhance angle parking in College St around the corner. At present it is parallel parking, however it would not take much to make this an angle parking option. This would allow school kids to enter either at Isabella drive or Redford Drive and free up the bus Bay Area. However preferentially Xavier Catholic College, as a business, also has the ability and a responsibility to create extra parking on site and it should not be up to the residents to foot the bill for this and it should not impact the Spoonbill Reserve site.
- In summary I agree that a simple connecting path would be useful utilising and tidying up existing shade trees and an addition of some simple seats under these existing trees would add to the usability of this space for residents and wildlife. That is all that is needed at Spoonbill Reserve.

Yours Sincerely

Jason Kostal

[redacted]

**From:** [Bob](#)  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Spoonbill Reserve - Strategic Plan  
**Date:** Wednesday, 8 April 2026 4:56:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [31641700213330.jpeg](#)  
[31641700213327.jpeg](#)

---

Good Afternoon,

In regard to the Ballina Shire Council Spoonbill Reserve, Skennars Head - Draft Master Plan, we would like to add the following:

We feel that Spoonbill reserve should be retained in its present state. Spoonbills are often seen in the area and photographed by local residents; as shown by the attached recent images.

We do not support the graphic shown under “The Vision – Master Plan Snapshot” in its entirety, at all. The value of the area to local residents is clearly outlined in your Master Plan under ‘The People’

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->01 Community Values and

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->02 Community Ideas 1/ Natural environment.

**Zone 1**

Native Tree Arboretum (1A):

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->The plan for an arboretum was not displayed or mentioned when Council recently conducted their Community Engagement Drop-in Sessions.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->Have residents adjacent to this proposal been individually consulted?

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->Newly planted trees adjacent to their boundary will clearly affect their individual properties. Leaf litter and other vegetation will be constantly deposited into their properties.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->Will Council be undertaking the removal of this vegetation on a weekly basis?

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->Furthermore, their properties will be subjected to reduced sunlight as they will be in shadow from the newly planted trees.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->Local residents are also concerned that these newly treed areas on the boundaries will provide an ideal opportunity anti-social behaviour.

Increased parking as shown in the plan is a worthwhile consideration as current parking, particularly with Xavier High School staff and students, is limited. The current resultant reduced trafficable area creates hazardous driving and pedestrian conditions.

Native groundcover gardens will be an asset and will provide shelter and nesting sites for existing and future wildlife

Structured covered seating is unnecessary when shaded areas are available. Timber benches (images 1E and 1F) would be a more suitable option and would be in keeping with the environment.

**Zone 2**

Open grass areas should be retained for both wildlife and for community use.

A pathway offering a link through the area and safe crossing is a worthwhile idea. Pathways with art, heritage and / or cultural references would be a valuable addition.

However, a pathway relating to the Royal Spoonbill would be ironic if the structures proposed and increased activity, actually prevent the birds from returning, nesting and foraging. I.e. “So, this is what used to be here”....

**Zone 3**

We feel that almost everything in Zone 3 is totally inappropriate and unnecessary in this space:

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->Recovered bricks as stated, with timber benches would be welcomed and more in keeping with the environment.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->Picnic shelters (particularly covered) are not

desired by any local residents we've spoken with and the timber and metal picnic tables shown in images (3A) are unsightly and not in keeping with the area.


<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->The majority of residents wanting to have a picnic etc would rather take a two-minute walk down to the beach and have a rest, play and / or picnic with beach views and a beautiful sea breeze, in the extensive open spaces already available there.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->This is definitely not the environment for the kind of 'structured equipment' shown in this Zone. These things are more in keeping with beachfront activities or existing local sporting grounds:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->o these items could enhance the already established park opposite the beach where parents could occupy their children of varying ages; a park for the young ones and a flexible and active play area their older children and community youth.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->o basketball hoops etc could be placed a short walk away at the soccer grounds with the potential for that area to become a Sporting Complex for mixed age sport and activities with plenty of current parking.

Kind regards,

Bob and Diane Fyfe  
  
Skennars Head 2478



**From:** [anthony](#) [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** Re Spoonbill Reserve Skennars Head  
**Date:** Wednesday, 8 April 2026 9:42:59 PM

---

Dear Council,

Submission in Support of Retaining Spoonbill Reserve as Community Land

I am writing to strongly support the retention of Spoonbill Reserve in Skennars Head as community land and to oppose any proposal for its development.

Spoonbill Reserve is a vital local asset that delivers enduring environmental, social, and community benefits. As one of the remaining open green spaces in the area, it plays an important role in preserving native vegetation, supporting local wildlife habitats, and maintaining ecological balance. In the face of increasing urbanisation, protecting such spaces is essential to safeguarding biodiversity and ensuring resilience against environmental pressures, including climate change.

Beyond its environmental significance, the reserve is highly valued by the community as a place for recreation, relaxation, and connection. It provides accessible open space for walking, informal play, and quiet enjoyment, contributing to both physical and mental wellbeing. These types of shared spaces foster social cohesion and are increasingly important as population density grows.

It is also important to recognise that once community land is lost to development, it cannot be meaningfully replaced. The long-term value of preserving Spoonbill Reserve far outweighs any short-term gains associated with development. Retaining the land in public ownership ensures that current and future generations can continue to benefit from it.

Furthermore, maintaining Spoonbill Reserve aligns with broader planning principles that emphasise sustainable development, environmental stewardship, and the protection of community assets. It demonstrates a commitment by Council to prioritise liveability and the long-term interests of residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge Council to retain Spoonbill Reserve as community land and to rule out any development of this important site.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Kind regards,

Anthony Scicluna [REDACTED]

Skennars Head Resident

**From:** [karen](#)  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** Spoonbill reserve feedback  
**Date:** Wednesday, 8 April 2026 10:29:52 PM

---

Dear Ballina council,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the proposed development of spoonbill reserve. I note that the date this was made available for public comment and the day it was advertised to the public via the Ballina community local Facebook group was a week from the deadline and just before a long weekend. My first concern is that this was a deliberate delay to the public to avoid unwanted feedback. Given that the changes are being earmarked for implementation in 3 years, I'd like to suggest that a more open and transparent feedback session is considered with notification to all residents in the local estates not just those who use Facebook.

My feedback contains details on the elements listed with positives and constructive feedback for consideration.

1 Footpath: the simple foot path designed to move people from the new development to the school makes sense and is a welcome addition. The consideration of a zebra crossing is also welcomed and I would encourage the school to direct students and teachers to use this space rather than the current system of darting between cars.

2 Parking: The rationale for the angled parking is purely to cater for the car parking associated with the business on the opposite side of the road. This business would've been required to accommodate parking plans when they built and there is clearly very little they've done to expand onsite parking on their site. Instead of taking more green space from the reserve I'd like to propose that angled parking is dual funded by the business and council and is located on the business side of the road. Opportunities exist on College Ave, Redford Dr and Headlands drive. Angled parking is a great solution but shouldn't come at the cost of the local community when the business that operates in a residential estate has not planned or executed parking appropriately for their site.

3 Green planting: myself and a majority of Headlands estate residents have already fed back at the on site consulting stage that any additional planting on the reserve should be kept to a minimum as residents both enjoy seeing the open green space, use the large open space as a flexible recreational area and locals would like to see the existing wildlife continue to have access to an open grassed area. Birds who frequent the area including the Spoonbill, Plovers, ducks and magpies are attracted to the openness for safety and food sources. Adding the number of trees proposed would significantly impact their habitat. Any creation of new habitat should not be to the detriment of the existing fauna. I would like to see an environmental report on the existing wildlife and any potential impact of the large number of trees proposed.

I would be in support of low growing shrubs near the fence lines on the east and west sides of the reserve. I would not be in support of large trees in these areas,

or on the southern border. I am also not supportive of trees lining the footpath as this would encourage antisocial behaviour. An open, clear pathway allows for visible foot traffic and vision of any potential hazards from a safety perspective. I would only support low growing plants in the area e.g. max height below the knee. I would also be supportive of 1-2 large shade trees to be planted to replace the previously growing fig and pine tree. My strong preference is for less than 10% of the total land space to have trees and shrubs.

4 Seating: I would be supportive of the occasional bench seat for residents to enjoy the reserve, under the trees towards the centre of the reserve. I am not supportive in any way of tables and chairs. People live close to this area and there is already dedicated spaces at the front of both estates where large groups can gather for a picnic with much better views and plenty of tables and chairs.

Given the number of free campers we currently see setting up near the reserve in the Headlands estate, tables and chairs would also encourage increased numbers of free campers in this residential estate which is not appropriate.

5 Establishment of a park including basketball facilities and outdoor learning space: I would not support this development in any way whatsoever and would protest this type of development if it is adopted by council.

Firstly, the Aureus estate was required to have more green space than they have delivered. When they consulted with locals at the high school this was brought up as an option either in the middle of the estate where additional townhouses have been built or at the front near the existing park. Neither were built and it should not be the Headlands estate residents that have to accommodate recommendations that were not fulfilled by Intrapac. There could be basketball facilities co-located next to the existing park opposite the beach and would allow families of various ages to enjoy the outdoors in the one location. Alternatively, the basketball court could be built at the existing sporting fields that already accommodate soccer and cricket nets. This facility would then service the broader Skennars Head community making it more accessible from all estates.

The outdoor learning space is a clear request by the adjacent business being a school. This reserve is for the local community not for local businesses to acquire more land. It is not appropriate to have a formal learning space, bike racks or any other structure to be utilised by the school in a public green space. This is not an appropriate use of community funds.

Overall the majority of people from the Headlands estate have bought here to live in a quiet location, out of town with open green spaces and plenty of local birdlife. We don't want money spent on trees that won't be maintained by council, expansion of adjacent businesses into local reserves or removal of local green spaces to accommodate business parking when solutions are available onsite at the business.

Thank you for taking this feedback on short notice given the tight turnaround over a holiday period. I am hopeful you will consider extending this feedback period with further advertising to the community via multiple forms to ensure you are following a transparent consulting process.

Kind regards,  
Karen

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

**From:** [Leanne](#)  
**To:** [Strategic](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to council plans for Spoonbill Reserve strategic@ballina.nsw.gov.au  
**Date:** Sunday, 19 April 2026 6:12:25 PM

---

Please consider this message strongly. Opposed to proposed sale of Spoonbill reserve for housing. I find it incredibly irresponsible of council to firstly significantly increase rates for maintenance of public spaces, then change your minds afterwards and propose community consultation on use of Spoonbill for natural, conservation or passive recreation purposes and then completely flip in the quest for more money the sale of public land. Reprehensible!!! Where is the recognition of community in our public leaders into sustainable use of our land? Not everything should be for sale. Manage your budget better and protect our community.

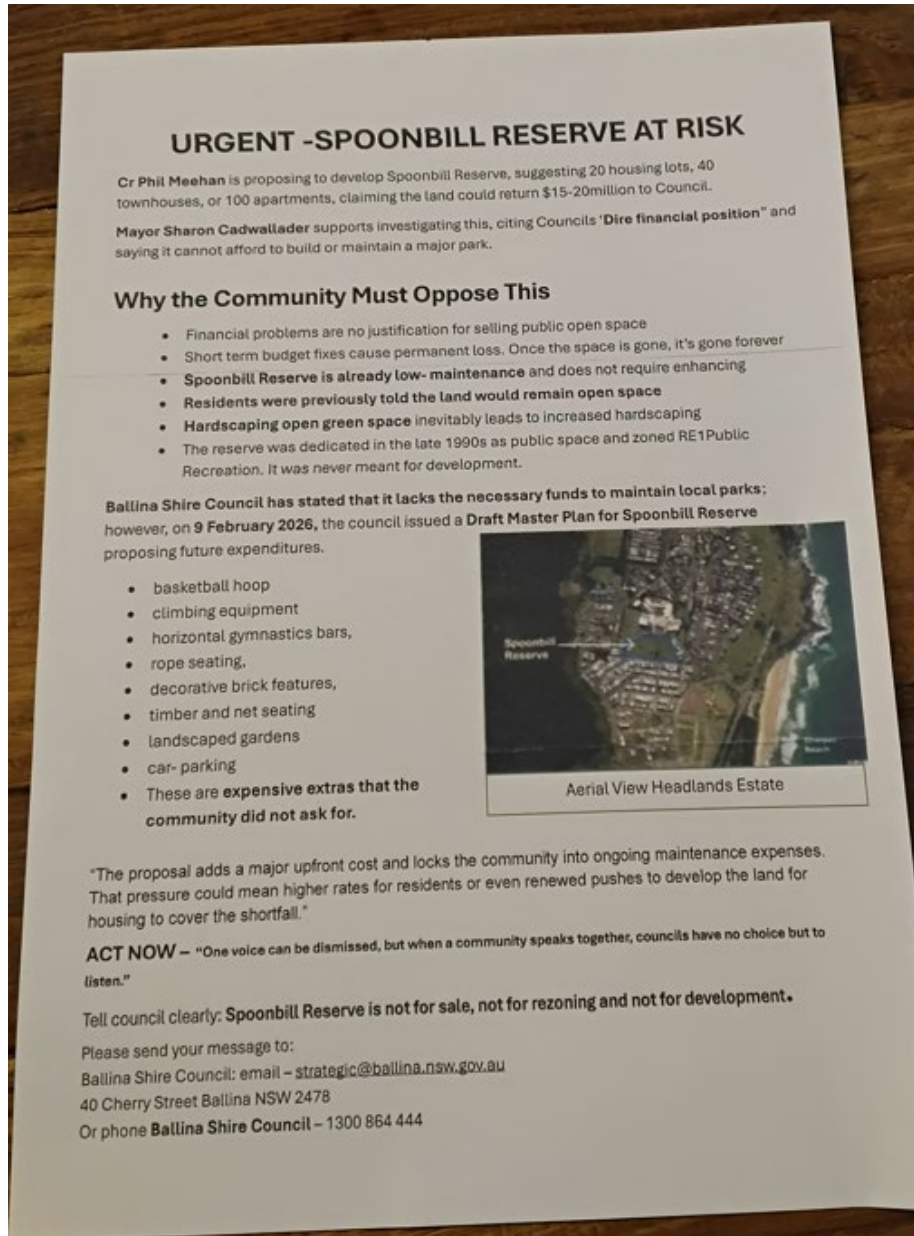
**Ben Holmes**



---

**Community Flier Distributed during Community Engagement Period**

The following flier prepared by a community member was distributed to residents and posted on site.





# Spoonbill Reserve, Skennars Head

## DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Revised 6 May 2026





*Ballina Shire Council acknowledges that we are here on the land of the people of the Bundjalung Nation. The Bundjalung are the traditional owners of this land and are part of the oldest surviving continuous culture in the world.*

## Contents

	Page
The Project	
Background .....	3
Process .....	3
The Big Picture	
Strategic Context.....	4
The Place	
Focus Area.....	5
Observations + Considerations .....	6
The People	
Demographics .....	10
Engagement .....	10
Strong Community Messages.....	11
The Vision	
Master Plan Strategy.....	12
Key Design Objectives.....	12
Design + Key Functional Zones.....	12
Master Plan Snapshot .....	13
Master Plan Up Close .....	15
Where to Next? .....	18
References/Acknowledgements / Copyright Note	19

Jaaguun (Land / Country)



## The Project

### BACKGROUND

Spoonbill Reserve is Ballina Shire Council owned community land, strategically located between older and expanding new residential areas of Skennars Head and opposite Xavier Catholic College. For many years, members of the Skennars Head community have been advocating for a plan to be prepared to articulate the community's aspirations for the future of the Reserve.

In response to this, Council's current Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2025- 2029 includes an activity EL1.2b to:

*"Prepare management plan for Spoonbill Reserve " (2025/26).*

The Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 - 2043, sets the community contextual vision for this project to:

- *"maintain the coastal, village feel (ngumbiny munay), through a network of connected, well serviced neighbourhoods each with their own local character..."*
- *"enhance our wild coast, rural amenity and habitat connectivity..."*
- *providing opportunities for ...recreation...to meet the needs of existing and future generations (Jaagan)".*

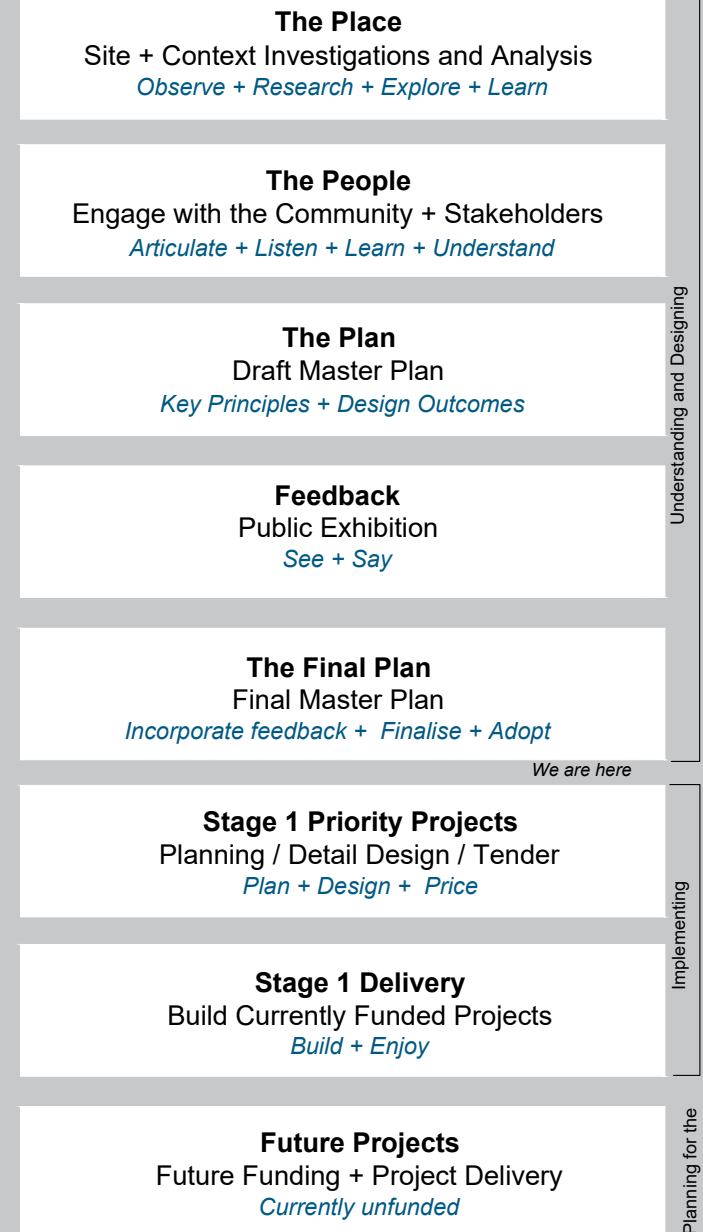
In addition to this, the master plan articulates the specific community needs and aspirations into a longer term but modest vision which will provide a strategic tool to support future investment, planning and implementation of improvement works.

### Project Objectives

This process and the final master plan seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- meaningfully engage with stakeholders and the community to better understand the intricacies of the place and community values;
- determine and articulate priorities for environmental, recreational and social infrastructure and activation within the Reserve which address community needs and aspirations and are, where possible consistent with key principles of the Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 - 2043.

### PROCESS



Jaagun (Land / Country)

## The Big Picture

### STRATEGIC CONTEXT

#### North Coast Regional Plan 2041

The North Coast Regional Plan 2041 (NCRP) acknowledges the continuous Aboriginal connection to the land, water, sea and skies in the region and the important role this connection plays in the cultural identity of the region and its places. This and the natural environment are defining characteristics, and must be valued, respected and carefully managed and protected.

The NCRP sets a framework for the future of the region which has consideration to the broader environmental context and hierarchy of places. The plan envisages strong regional growth, an aging population, an increase in smart technologies, new job opportunities and a need to protect assets such as farmland and the natural environment. The plan envisions the region as a collective of *"healthy and thriving communities, supported by a vibrant and dynamic economy that builds on the region's strengths and natural environment"*.

Within the context of this plan, Skennars Head is an urban growth area set within the "coastal strip" with identified opportunities for urban expansion and growth. This potential is also reinforced by Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement and the Ballina Local Environmental Plan 2012 which identifies land zoned for a "local centre", increased medium density and for further expanded low density residential areas to the south. This means more people within 10 minutes walk of the site and demand for open space.

Key NCRP Shire specific goals relevant to this project include:

- *"Livable and Resilient - Promote and recognise Aboriginal culture, local character and local creativity and investigate opportunities for the provision and enhancement of cultural and community assets within the shire"*.
- *"Housing and Place - Promote social cohesion and connection through good design and place making"*.

The community is well connected to Ballina by The Coast Road and via a scenic coastal shared path network.

#### Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 - 2043

The Skennars Head community, through an extensive engagement process undertaken in 2023, have articulated their vision for the locality into a locally relevant strategic plan.

This vision provides a clear strategic direction for the community with the vision:

*"Lennox Head and Skennars Head will maintain the coastal, village feel (**ngumbiny munay**) through a network of connected, well serviced neighbourhoods each with their own local character, complementing Lennox Head village. Our respect for First Nations and Australian cultural heritage and our natural environment (**jaaguun**) ensures we enhance our wild coast, rural amenity and habitat connectivity. We will work together for a strong, diverse community by providing opportunities for mixed income housing, local employment, recreation and transport to meet the needs of existing and future generations (**jaagan**)"*.

The recommendations of the Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 - 2043 are intended to guide future development in Skennars Head. Therefore, this master plan aims to provide design solutions which link to the following specific locality objectives as they relate to the Site:

- *Improve and maintain pedestrian access from the neighbourhood to Sharpes Beach.*
- *Maintain and sensitively increase residential densities close to the local centre.*
- *Nurture existing street trees to provide future pedestrian amenity and visual character.*
- *Retain wild coast values of Skennars headland.*



## The Place

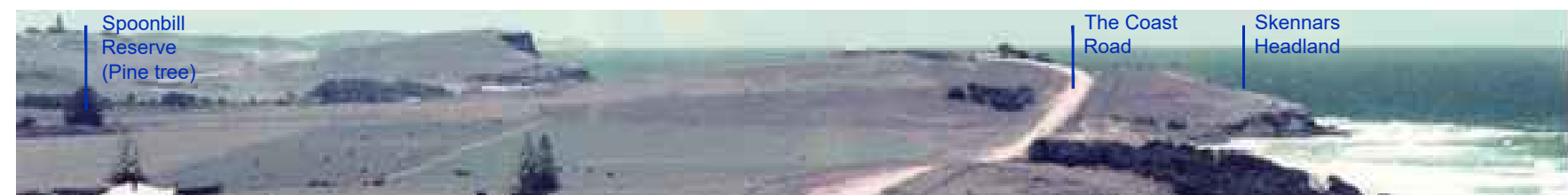
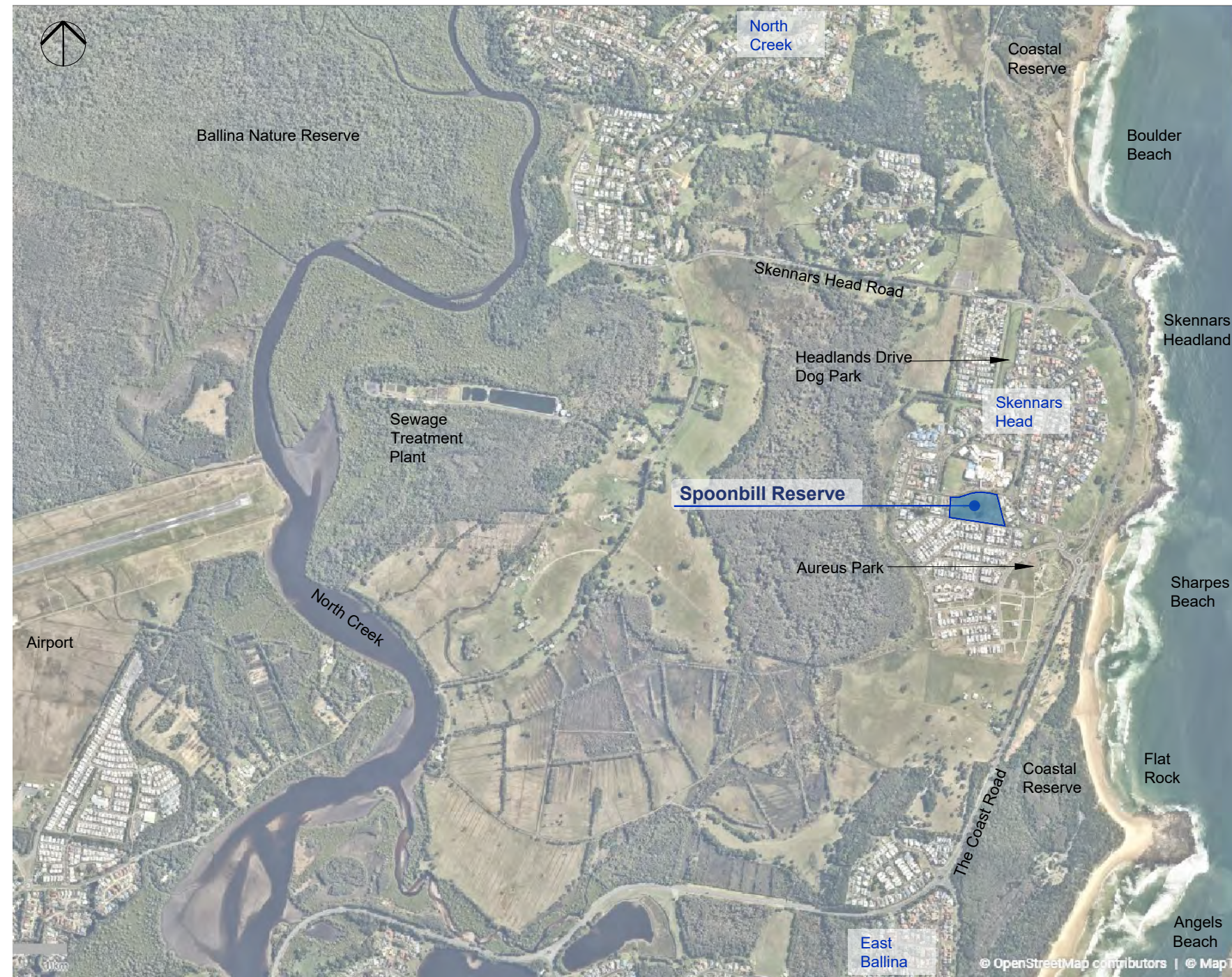
The Skennars Head and Lennox Head cultural landscapes have been cared for by the Nyangbal people of the Bundjalung Nation for many thousands of years. The findings of significant artefacts and cultural sites near Spoonbill Reserve are evidence also of an active culture and more recent history of enduring Aboriginal occupation and custodianship of the area.

Following colonisation, the forested land in this area was substantially cleared for farming and became a popular holiday destination generally known as 'The Pines' because of the visual prominence of the 5 Norfolk Pine trees. The area near Spoonbill Reserve and the pine trees later contained the pioneering Sharpe family homestead. Sharpes Beach derives its name from this family.

The wild coastline of the locality, which includes Skennars Headland is visually prominent comprising a sequence of scenic headlands (*ngamgirr/ bawur jaaguun* - headland), beaches and coastal escarpments supporting a diversity of endemic flora and fauna.

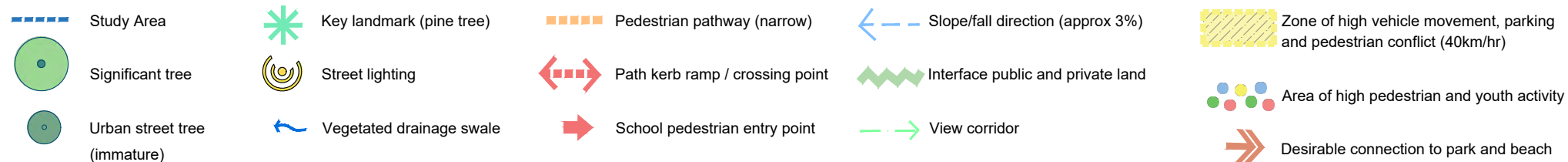
Spoonbill Reserve sits within part of the 'coastal corridor' which has undergone recent and rapid change. Today, the landscape of the locality is a patchwork of residential developments, rural pastures, coastal wetlands and diverse natural ecosystems. Historically and again more recently, community members report sightings of the Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*) in the Norfolk Pine trees or roaming the grass areas, inspiring the reserve name. The sedgeland, swamp forests and Nature Reserve to the west are likely habitat for this and other bird species.

The Site, which remains unembellished, is now central to the expanding residential catchment of Skennars Head and nearby to private primary and secondary schools. It is also a short 20-25 minute bike ride from the village centre of Lennox Head and the Ballina CBD.



Top Left: NearMaps sourced 21/10/2025

Bottom Left: Extract from historic photograph date unknown (Council records)



## The Place

### FOCUS AREA OBSERVATIONS + CONSIDERATIONS

The study area for the project is shown on the adjacent map. The study area land parcel was dedicated to Council for public open space in the late 1990's as a condition of consent of the nearby Headlands Estate development.

#### Cadastral Description

The land is described as Parcel 13432, Lot 32 Section -, D.P. 846639, 5-15 Redford Drive, Skennars Head NSW 2478.

#### Zoning

The land is zoned RE1 Public Recreation under Ballina Shire Local Environmental Plan 2012.

#### Tenure

The land is owned by Ballina Shire Council, and classified as Community Land under the Local Government Act 1993.

It's use is governed by Council's generic Plan of Management for Community Land 2025 (Land Register 3201701) and is categorised for *General Community Use*. The purpose of this category is 'Providing a location for, and supporting, the gathering of groups for a range of social, cultural or recreational purposes. Providing multi-purpose buildings (e.g. community halls and centres) with specialised community uses...'

#### Land Use Context

The study area is a large parcel of open space set within a low to medium density residential context. The northern and eastern older residential areas predominantly feature traditional low-rise housing on large lots. Xavier Catholic College is immediately to the north of the study area. The school recreation facilities are not accessible to the general public. The southern, most recent residential precinct features houses on smaller lots, apartments, a future local centre and additional substantial open space embellished with children's playground and picnic facilities. Access to Sharpes Beach, the coastal reserve and shared path network is provided via a pedestrian underpass.

# The Place

## FOCUS AREA OBSERVATIONS + CONSIDERATIONS

The following sections discuss some key aspects of the place important to consider when developing a plan for the site.

### Trees + Vegetation + Habitat

Observations:

1. The vegetation of the broader locality is biodiverse with the two large trees at the site providing vegetation 'stepping stones' between the wetlands to the west and coastal reserve to the east.
2. Whilst primarily a large open lawn area, the site is known to be used by a variety of birds such as the Royal Spoonbill and is part of a larger coastal connector corridor for species such as the grey-headed flying fox and rose-crowned fruit dove.
3. There is a large Norfolk Pine tree and Moreton Bay Fig tree central to the site. The pine tree was part of the Sharpe colonial family property and has local community significance.
4. The pine tree is a visual landmark when viewed from surrounding residential areas.
5. The large open grass area is used informally by the community for recreation but lacks shade.
6. New native street trees have been planted on the southern street frontage as part of the water sensitive urban design drainage structure. These trees will improve shade and amenity on this frontage over time.

Design Considerations:

- Retain existing pine and fig tree as habitat trees and visually dominant features of the site and ensure that constructed works will not adversely impact the tree root system or tree health.
- Look for opportunities to provide additional shade.
- Strengthen the corridor function of the site through additional tree planting.
- Consider opportunities to provide education about local birds and wildlife.

### Drainage

Observations:

7. Vegetated swale drains form part of the southern streetscape.
8. The site is gently sloped (approx 3%), draining to the north-western corner. This makes it a good area for informal play.

Design Considerations:

- Maintain good drainage to support informal use of open space areas.



Jaagunn (Land / Country)

# The Place

## FOCUS AREA OBSERVATIONS + CONSIDERATIONS

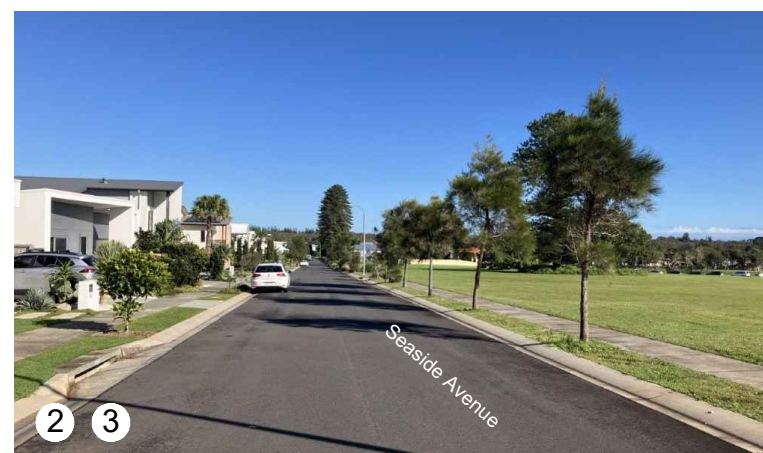
### Walkability, Access + Parking

Observations:

1. Most houses in Skennars Head are located within a 20 minute walking catchment of the site, making it a convenient open space for local residents. The site is also within a 20-25 minute bicycle ride of East Ballina and the southern edge of Lennox Head village centre.
2. The locality has a fragmented pathway network and the site is poorly connected to this network with only a narrow footpath along part of the southern boundary. Most footpaths and shared paths in the locality connect to the high school but not to the site. There are few pathways connecting open spaces.
3. People walk across the site on the grass to access residential areas and the schools. There are limited pathway connections to further support or promote walking or cycling.
4. Redford Drive, opposite Xavier Catholic College contains a lot of parked cars during school hours, but few parked cars outside school hours. School drop off and pick up times are busy with short-term parking congestion. There is no dedicated pedestrian crossing point on Redford Drive between the site and school.
5. Some adjoining private properties have unapproved gates providing direct access to the site.

Design Considerations:

- Investigate opportunities to improve parking on Redford Drive without encroaching on the site.
- Investigate ways to provide accessible pathway connections to encourage and support active travel to the site and school.
- Improve opportunities for equitable pedestrian access to and through the site.



Jaagunn (Land / Country)

# The Place

## FOCUS AREA OBSERVATIONS + CONSIDERATIONS

### Amenity + Activity

Observations:

1. There are no places to sit at the site other than on the grass.
2. There are no basic amenities to support day-to-day community use or entice people to stay for longer (e.g. places to sit, gather, eat, water for drinking, weather protection).
3. The site is popular for walking dogs even though there is a designated off-leash dog area along the Headlands Drive drainage reserve.
4. Footpath access is limited with only a narrow path on part of the southern street frontage and there is a lack of connectivity across the site.
5. The school and local residents use the open space area for informal sporting activities. Some residents have basketball hoops in their driveways or on the street verge so they can play on the road.
6. The area in front of the high school is high activity at peak school drop off and collection times in the morning and afternoons, but few people use the site at these times.

Design Considerations:

- Look for opportunities to provide individual and group seating and other amenities to support day-to-day use.
- Consider the impact of dogs at the site and opportunities to connect and improve access to the nearby Headlands Drive off-leash dog area as the primary dog exercise and play space. Improvements to the Headlands Drive off-leash dog area are part of the Companion Animal Management Plan (Policy) review planned for 2026.
- The abundant open space presents opportunities for large amenity and habitat trees to provide shade to footpaths and streets.
- Make design choices that support general community use and are compatible with the residential context.
- Make provision for services such as power supply and water to enable small local activities or events to occur in the space from time to time.
- Balance any new site features with protection of tree roots.



### Culture + Heritage + Art

7. The landscape of the locality has been shaped by layers of Aboriginal, colonial and natural cultural heritage values.
8. The Nyangbal people of the Bundjalung Nation have deep spiritual and cultural connections to the sky, land and waters of the Skennars Head locality.
9. The Lennox Head Heritage Committee reports that the site has some local colonial heritage significance, believed to be the location of (or near to) the pioneering Sharpe family homestead. Council holds some old sand-stock bricks from the Prospect Sugar Mill (Ballina) constructed by John Sharpe for reuse at the site.
10. The pine tree is a significant colonial historic landmark.

### Design Considerations:

- There are opportunities to increase education and information about cultural heritage stories and features.
- Explore opportunities for local art in the public domain.
- Involve the community to articulate the unique cultural heritage narrative of the place into immersive and sensory experiences throughout the site (story telling, interpretative signage, native gardens, plantings, sound trails, art).
- Look for opportunities to respectfully integrate the sand-stock bricks into design features at the site.



# The People

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### Lennox Head + Skennars Head

Usual resident population 2021



Usual resident population increase from 2016 to 2021



Population aged over 15 years



Average household size (persons per dwelling)



### Skennars Head

The population of Skennars Head and the surrounding locality is growing as a result of approved residential developments. This growth is predicted to continue with a forecast increase in population from 1925 (2026) to 3970 (2046). According to forecasting datasets, the largest increase in persons to 2035 will be "Parents and Homebuilders (aged 35-49)", followed by an increase in older age groups (50+) between 2035 and 2046.

Source: Population and Household Forecasts, 2021 to 2046, National Forecasting Program, .id (informed decisions), June 2024).

## ENGAGEMENT

In late 2025, Council consulted widely through a variety of forums to obtain insights into community values, needs and aspirations.

### Community and Stakeholder Notification

Letterbox drop, web site content, social media, print media  
October 2025

### Community Conversations

Listening + mapping values and ideas  
2 drop-in sessions  
(Epiq Marketplace + Spoonbill Reserve)

This also included online ideas mapping opportunities between October 2025 and November 2025 via the Your Say Ballina portal.  
October - November 2025

## CURRENT KEY USER GROUPS

The key user groups are predominantly:

- Residents in nearby residential areas of Skennars Head
  - visual amenity
  - observing wildlife
  - walking through it
  - dog walking
  - informal recreation activities or leisure.
- Primary and high school students
  - informal sports and recreation
  - walking through it.

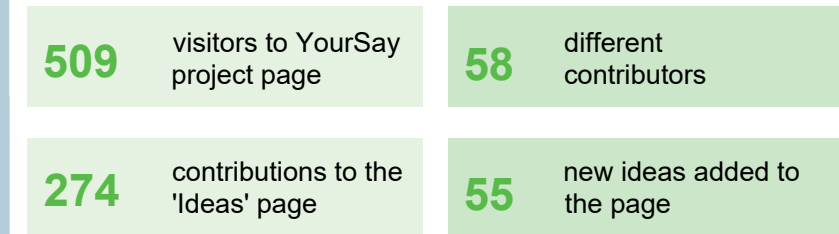
Council's community engagement sought to find out more about the community values and ideas for the future of the site. Community participation in all activities was high.

### Online Feedback

A YourSay project page was established on Council's web site as a central location to connect to the community and provide general information about the site and project. The web site used the 'Ideas' tool to gather feedback from the community on the following questions:

*What is important to you about Spoonbill Reserve?*

*How would you like to see the Reserve embellished in the future?*

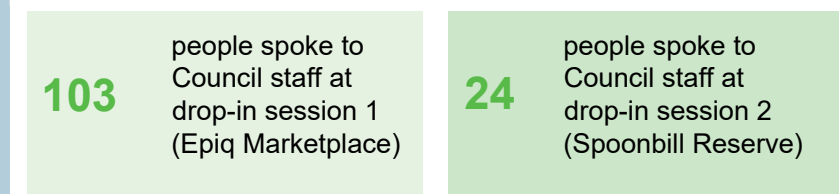


\* This included 3 ideas by Council staff to start the conversation.

### Written Submissions + Meetings



### Community Conversation Drop-In Sessions



# The People

## STRONG COMMUNITY MESSAGES

The raw community engagement material is available from Council in a separate report. This includes a transcription of values and ideas from the drop-in sessions, online ideas mapping and comments, written submissions, meetings and phone conversations. The following strong community messages were heard:

### 01 Community Values

*The community value the site as an informal open space which is primarily a 'natural' green area.*

*The community value the birds and wildlife which use the site, in particular the Royal Spoonbill.*

*The community value the open grass area and the opportunities this presents for informal use and play (e.g. throwing/kicking a ball, cricket etc).*

*The pine tree and fig tree are valued for shade and wildlife habitat values.*

*The nearby residents value the peacefulness of the current open space.*

### 02 Community Ideas

Whilst there were people who wish the site to remain "as is", many people also identified opportunities for improvements at a variety of scales. The most popular community ideas can be grouped into 3 themes:

#### 1/ Natural/environmental values and peaceful informal open space.

*More trees and natural shade were mentioned repeatedly as a priority for comfort, environmental value and wildlife.*

*Maintaining a large open grass area to enable casual and informal recreation and as space for wildlife is important.*

Many of the comments on this theme made explicit the aspiration to maintain the peaceful nature of the site without additional structured infrastructure.

#### 2/ Active recreation and things for youth/older children to do.

*Facilities for older children were frequently mentioned, with examples including a bike pump track, basketball court, skatepark, general hardstand, sportsfield, courts, playground, exercise equipment.*

#### 3/ General amenity improvements and low-key additions to support family use.

*Low-key additions to the park to support day-to-day and family use were frequently mentioned with examples including a drinking fountain, pathway connections, seating, picnic facilities, shade, landscaping and interpretative signage.*

*A dog park or off-leash dog area was also an idea often mentioned, particularly at the drop-in sessions. Many people did not realise that there is an existing dedicated off-leash dog area at Skennars Head.*

Less commonly mentioned ideas included:

- *Formal open space constructs such as botanical gardens, community gardens or water park.*
- *Buildings or other infrastructure such as pre-school, shops and carparking.*

Community Engagement at Epiq Marketplace



# The Vision

## MASTER PLAN STRATEGY

There is a community desire to maintain the informality, low-key and 'natural' charm of the site as a place of environmental value and peacefulness within an expanding residential precinct.

There is also strong community aspiration to improve opportunities for general community use with provision of basic general amenities (such as seating and pathways) and some things to do for youth.

This master plan aims to articulate design strategies for the future of Spoonbill Reserve which balance these aspirations, to ensure the site remains a place which supports and is loved by the locals.

## KEY DESIGN OBJECTIVES

### Enhance Natural and Environmental Values

- Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
- Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.

### Maintain Open Green Space

- Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.

### Provide Things to do for Youth

- Unlock the potential of the open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the communities environmental values and amenity expectations.

### General Amenity Improvements

- Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
- Connect the site with accessible pathways to key destinations and existing pathway networks and nodes such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
- Improve the pedestrian safety of Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)
- Provide intuitive wayfinding (visual/sound/sensory) which tells the unique story of the place and people.

## DESIGN + KEY FUNCTIONAL ZONES

The below illustration shows the key design features and functional relationships for Spoonbill Reserve.



# The Vision

## MASTER PLAN SNAPSHOT



### DESIGN ZONES

- 1 Zone 1 - Managed parkland with native tree arboretum
- 2 Zone 2 - Open grass area for informal recreation
- 3 Zone 3 - Youth and other activity area

Refer to Pages 15 - 17 for plan enlargements of each design zone:

### ILLUSTRATIVE LEGEND

#### Existing

- Significant tree root protection area (NPZ)
- Pathway
- Street tree
- Vegetated swale drain

#### Proposed Features

- Primary accessible pathway connection through parkland
- Secondary accessible pathway
- Pedestrian priority crossing (subject to traffic investigations)
- Native trees
- Native groundcover garden
- Open grass area
- Picnic shelter and table setting
- Youth art paving
- Interpretative signage
- Seating (various types)



0 5 10 20 30 50m

The master plan is subject to detailed investigations, survey, design and approvals.



Option to reconfigure parking to angle or 90 degree parking within the road reserve (subject to traffic investigations). This results in additional parking spaces, shaded footpath and street amenity and a safe crossing point.

Native groundcover gardens (up to 0.6m high)

- Youth activity area
- picnic shelters/tables
  - climbing equipment
  - horizontal gymnastics bars
  - basketball hoop
  - interactive timber and net seating

Open grass area

Youth art paving

Native groundcover gardens under fig tree

Informal outdoor learning space in open grass area

Significant trees (NPZ)

Open grass area

Existing vegetated drain



0 5 10 15 25m

The master plan is subject to detailed investigations, survey, design and approvals.

Jaagunn (Land / Country)

# The Vision

## MASTER PLAN UP CLOSE - ZONE 1

### Managed Parkland with Native Tree Arboretum

- 1A** Mixed native trees provide shade for people and habitat for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail throughout the site that includes:

  - tree information signs (botanical species, cultural significance or use, description of key features)
  - opportunities for planting of larger specimen trees with canopies clear of boundary at maturity
- 1B** There is open space under the shade of the existing pine and fig tree with seating providing opportunities for outdoor learning.
- 1C** An interpretative signage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides education about local flora, fauna and cultural heritage.
- 1D** Recovered red sand-stock bricks from the Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture.
- 1E** Native groundcover gardens provide refuge and habitat for bees, birds and bugs (plants <0.6m high).
- 1F** Seating is provided in quiet areas around the parkland.



Jaaguun (Land / Country)



All features of the master plan are subject to further detailed investigations, design and approvals.

# The Vision

## MASTER PLAN UP CLOSE - ZONE 2

### Open Grass Area for Informal Recreation

- 2A** Two large open areas of grass are retained for community recreation and play. These areas support informal community use. Open grass areas also support ground foraging birds.
- 2B** A pathway provides an accessible connection across the site supporting users of varied capability. Subject to traffic investigations, a safe road crossing point could also be provided to the high school. Pathways include art, heritage or cultural references.



Jaaguun (Land / Country)



Photo by David Fry (c. 2023)



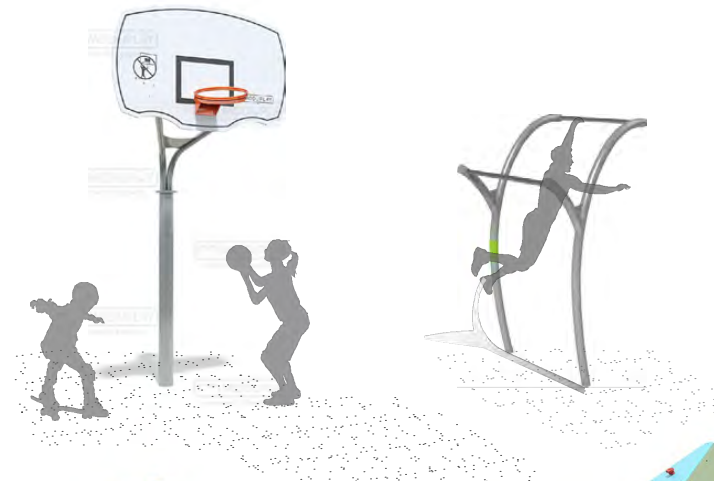
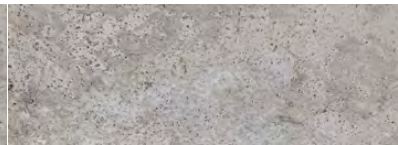
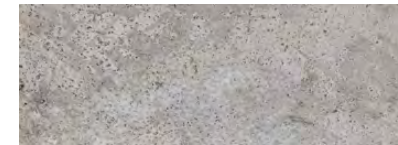
All features of the master plan are subject to further detailed investigations, design and approvals.

# The Vision

## MASTER PLAN UP CLOSE - ZONE 3

### Youth Activities Area

- 3A** Picnic shelters and table settings provide a formal place for community small scale activities
- 3B** Equipment suitable for teens supports flexible and active play:
  - basketball hoop (not full court)
  - outdoor bouldering
  - gymnastics high bars
  - general use hardstand area
- 3C** Rope and timber seating is interactive and multifunctional overlooking the active play areas.
- 3D** Artwork created by youth, features throughout the site.
- 3E** Recovered red sand-stock bricks from the Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture.
- 3F** Native groundcover gardens provide refuge and habitat for bees, birds and bugs.



Jaagunn (Land / Country)



All features of the master plan are subject to further detailed investigations, design and approvals.



## Where to next?

### Feedback - Public Exhibition

The Draft Master Plan was placed on public exhibition between 9 March and 8 April 2026 to obtain further feedback from the community relating to the content of the master plan and priorities. The results of this engagement were reported to the May 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

### Final Master Plan Adoption

Feedback received during public exhibition was considered and the draft master plan finalised and presented to Council for adoption. Priority minor works will be identified for construction with the available budget. All other works are unfunded.

### Implementation of Priority Minor Works

Priority minor works will be built with the available funding. This may require planning approvals and a tendering process which will be determined upon confirmation of the project scope. As the Lennox Head and Skennars Head locality is of Aboriginal cultural significance, cultural heritage investigations and precautions will be an imperative part of any planning, detailed design and construction process.

### Future Projects

All other works currently remain unfunded.

## REFERENCES

**Ballina Shire Council**, 2023, *Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 - 2043*

**Ballina Shire Council**, 2023, *Lennox Head Planning and Environment Study 2023*

**NSW Department of Planning an Environment**, 2022, *North Coast Regional Plan 2041*

First draft published January 2026 by Ballina Shire Council (for public exhibition)

Second revised draft published May 2026 by Ballina Shire Council (for adoption) - this version.

40 Cherry Street, Ballina NSW 2478.

© Ballina Shire Council 2026

### DISCLAIMER

While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that this document is correct at the time of printing, Ballina Shire Council, its agents and employees, disclaim any and all liability to any person in respect to anything or the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon the whole or any part of this document.

### COPYRIGHT NOTICE

Council agrees to the reproduction of extracts of the original material that appears in this document for personal, in-house, non-commercial use or professional research or report production purposes without formal permission or charge. All other rights reserved.

If you wish to reproduce, alter, store or transmit material appearing in the document for any other purpose, a request for formal permission should be directed to Ballina Shire Council.

### INDIGENOUS CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (ICIP) AND COPYRIGHT NOTICE

ICIP or copyright of the Aboriginal content reproduced in this document is held by the Indigenous contributor/s.

Permission to reproduce elsewhere should be sought from the relevant custodian/s.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS


Council acknowledges and thanks the Skennars Head and surrounding community for the extensive input provided towards the preparation of the plan to date.



**Ballina Shire Council**  
40 Cherry Street Ballina NSW 2478  
p: 1300 864 444 e: council@ballina.nsw.gov.au

*ballina.nsw.gov.au*

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition


	Respondent No: 5	Responded At: Mar 20, 2026 14:14:59 pm
	Login: [REDACTED]	Last Seen: Mar 20, 2026 03:02:41 am
	Email: [REDACTED]	P Address: [REDACTED]

- Q1. Where do you live? (select one only) I live [REDACTED]
- 
- Q2. I have read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - (document link) Yes
- 
- Q3. I participated in the initial round of community engagement in October and November 2025 either online, in writing or by attending one of the face-to-face sessions at Epiq Marketplace or at Spoonbill Reserve. No
- 
- Q4. Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?(1 = most supported, 8 = least supported)
1. Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
  2. Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.
  3. Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.
  4. Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
  5. Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
  6. Improve pedestrian safety on Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)
  7. Provide clear signage (visual/sound/sensory) that tells the unique story of the place and people.
  8. Provide open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the community's environmental values and amenity expectations.
- 
- Q5. What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - Managed Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Infonnal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area
- Zone 1 - Mixed native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail.
- Zone 1 - Native groundcover gardens provide safety and homes for bees, birds and bugs.
- Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play.
- Zone 2 - A pathway makes it easy for people of all abilities to move across the reserve. Pathways include art, heritage or cultural references.
- Zone 3 - Picnic shelters and table settings provide a place for people to sit, eat and hold small scale activities

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

Q6. <b>What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?(check box limited to 5 selections only)</b> Zone 1 - <b>Managed Parkland with Native Tree Arboretum</b> Zone 2 - <b>Open Grass Area for Informal Recreation</b> Zone 3 - <b>Youth Activities Area</b>	Zone 1 - A signage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides information about local flora, fauna and cultural heritage Zone 1 - Red sand-stock bricks from the historic Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture. Zone 1 - There is seating in quiet areas around the parkland. Zone 3 - Equipment for teens supports flexible and active play. This could include a basketball hoop (not full court), outdoor rock climbing, gymnastics bars, a flat hardstand area for general use and rope play equipment). Zone 3 - Artwork made by youth features throughout the reserve.
Q7. <b>Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?</b>	The suggestion that Council would like to sell off this site to boost their budget is outrageous.
Q8. <b>Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?</b>	No brule out ever selling this site for flats, units or houses
Q9. <b>I have read and agree with Council's Privacy Policy</b>	Yes
Q10. <b>If you would like your submission to be confidential, please provide a reason for confidentiality</b>	Privacy

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

	<b>Respondent No:</b> 12	<b>Responded At:</b> Apr 06, 2026 21:27:00 pm
	<b>Login:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Last Seen:</b> Apr 06, 2026 11:08:10 am
	<b>Email:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>IP Address:</b> [REDACTED]

- Q1. Where do you live? (select one only) I live in [REDACTED]
- 
- Q2. I have read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - (document link) Yes
- 
- Q3. I participated in the initial round of community engagement in October and November 2025 either online, in writing or by attending one of the face-to-face sessions at Epiq Marketplace or at Spoonbill Reserve. Yes
- 
- Q4. Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?(1 = most supported, 8 = least supported)
1. Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
  2. Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.
  3. Improve pedestrian safety on Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)
  4. Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
  5. Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
  6. Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.
  7. Provide clear signage (visual/sound/sensory) that tells the unique story of the place and people.
  8. Provide open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the community's environmental values and amenity expectations.
- 
- Q5. What are the five features of the draft master plan that you like the most?(check box limited to 5 selections only)Zone 1 - Managed Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Informal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area
- Zone 1 - Mixed native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail.
- Zone 1 - There is open space under the shade of the existing pine and fig tree with seating providing opportunities for outdoor learning.
- Zone 1 - Native groundcover gardens provide safety and homes for bees, birds and bugs.
- Zone 1 - There is seating in quiet areas around the parkland
- Zone 2 - A pathway makes it easy for people of all abilities to move across the reserve. Pathways include art, heritage or cultural references.

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

Q6. <b>What are the five features of the draft master plan you like the least?(check box limited to 5 selections only)</b> Zone 1 - Managed Parkland with Native Tree ArboretumZone 2 - Open Grass Area for Informal RecreationZone 3 - Youth Activities Area	Zone 1 - Red sand-stock bricks from the historic Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture. Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play Zone 3 - Picnic shelters and table settings provide a place for people to sit, eat and hold small scale activities. Zone 3 - Equipment for teens supports flexible and active play. This could include a basketball hoop (not full court), outdoor rock climbing, gymnastics bars, a flat hardstand area for general use and rope play equipment). Zone 3 - Artwork made by youth features throughout the reserve.
Q7. <b>Are there any features of the draft master plan you would change?</b>	Not supportive of area for youth activities suggest these built on Aureus where more young people li
Q8. <b>Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the draft master plan?</b>	not answered
Q9. <b>I have read and agree with Council's Privacy Policy</b>	Yes
Q10. <b>If you would like your submission to be confidential, please provide a reason for confidentiality</b>	Dont want name made public. Possible retribution

**POLICY NAME:** (REVIEW)  
**CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY**

**POLICY REF:** C11

**MEETING ADOPTED:** 26 February 2026 | Resolution 260226/12

**POLICY HISTORY:** 220721/11



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**1 OBJECTIVES.....1**

**2 POLICY.....1**

2.1 Council’s Role in Climate Change Action.....1

2.2 Guiding Principles.....2

2.3 Policy Statements.....2

**3 BACKGROUND.....3**

3.1 History.....3

3.2 Strategic Alignment.....4

3.3 International and National Context.....5

3.3.1 *The Paris Agreement*.....5

3.3.2 *The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*.....6

3.3.3 *The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals*.....6

3.3.4 *Australian and State Government Commitments*.....6

3.3.5 *Local Government Commitments*.....7

3.4 Climate Emergency Declaration.....8

3.5 Climate Change Predictions for the North Coast.....8

3.6 Ballina Shire Council Climate Change Framework.....9

3.6.1 *Mitigation - Organisational Emissions Reduction Targets*.....9

3.6.2 *Climate Change Risk Assessment, Adaptation, and Resilience*.....9

**4 DEFINITIONS.....10**

**5 SCOPE OF POLICY.....10**

**6 RELATED DOCUMENTATION.....11**

**7 REVIEW.....12**

### 1 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Identify Council's approach to measurable and achievable organisational greenhouse gas emissions reduction and renewable electricity targets.
- Identify Council's approach to risk assessment and adaptation planning to identify and manage the organisation's risks from climate change, and to support adaptation and resilience strategies for the community.
- Identify Council's approach to working collaboratively with community, agencies, industry, businesses, and all levels of government to seek and advocate for local, regional, state, and national climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions that are informed by the current knowledge and best available science.
- Provide a framework to guide the preparation and implementation of plans to achieve the targets set out in this policy.

### 2 POLICY

#### 2.1 Council's Role in Climate Change Action

Climate change is a global challenge that requires collaborative action and shared responsibility. All governments, industry, business, communities, and individuals have a role in responding to climate change.

As a key asset owner, service provider, and decision maker, Council has an important role to continually improve its understanding of the risks and impacts from climate change in our region.

Council is one of the largest organisations in the Ballina Shire and operation of Council assets and provision of services generates a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions per annum. Council has the ability to directly influence and reduce its contribution to climate change with a decisive and well planned focus on operational emissions reduction.

Council also has an important role in protecting and enhancing our natural and community owned assets, and in supporting shire wide climate change strategies. Many of Council's activities assist the community to manage and adapt to climate change. Areas where Council has important climate change influence include:

- Council's organisational greenhouse gas emissions, risks, and adaption strategies.
- Developing and implementing land use planning policy frameworks and controls for climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.
- Providing infrastructure and services that facilitate community climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.
- Improving access to climate change research and information for decision making.
- Strengthening local and regional partnerships to take collaborative action on climate change.
- Encouraging community ownership of and participation in climate change action.
- Providing leadership on climate change action.

Australia has committed to climate change action by its pledge to the Paris Agreement and adopted the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). These commitments impart a responsibility on all levels of government to take action on climate change. The NSW Government responded to these commitments with a net zero emissions target that aligns with the international Paris Agreement.

### **2.2 Guiding Principles**

- a) Council declares we are in a state of climate emergency that requires urgent action by all levels of government.
- b) Ballina Shire is likely to be affected by predicted climate impacts, particularly those relating to sea level rise, bushfires, drought and floods.
- c) It is part of Council's role to reduce its organisational contributions to climate change, to identify and manage the impacts and risks to its operations, to facilitate the advancement of community climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, and to support the State and Federal government's climate change commitments.
- d) Council recognises that it alone does not have the resources, influence, or control to address the predicted climate change impacts as they relate to Ballina Shire and that collaboration with all levels of government, industry, and the community is required to deliver long term effective action.
- e) Integration of policy and existing and new climate change related activities into the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework is fundamental to ensure climate change considerations are incorporated into all Council's processes and decision making.

### **2.3 Policy Statements**

Council will aim to achieve the objectives of this policy through the following:

- a) Council will reduce its organisational greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero emissions by 2030.
- b) Council will utilise 100% renewable electricity for its operations by 2030.
- c) Council will meet its targets by developing and implementing detailed emissions action plans and strategies that set out the short, medium, and long term pathway to reach the targets.
- d) Council will undertake a Corporate Climate Change Risk Assessment process to identify, assess, and prioritise climate change risks, and the organisation's ability to manage, mitigate, and adapt to climate change risks.
- e) Climate change related targets and plans will be integrated into the IP&R framework.
- f) Council will progressively develop and implement internal strategies to ensure that the Climate Change Policy and associated plans are required to be considered in corporate processes across various levels of decision making.
- g) Council will base its decision making regarding climate change responses on internationally recognised scientific data and continually review its understanding of the risks and impacts of climate change to Council operations and the community.

- h) Council will be guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to help improve and facilitate climate change mitigation, adaptation, and preparedness across the community through best practice sustainable development principles.
- i) Council will apply resources to implement the Policy and preparation of associated plans will be progressed through the Delivery Program and Operational Plan processes.
- j) Council will track, monitor, and report on the progress towards the organisational targets and make accessible Council's emissions profiles and progress reports.
- k) Council will collaborate with community, industry, agencies, and all levels of government, to build knowledge, develop partnerships, and advocate to find approaches to a changing climate that are informed by the current knowledge and best available science.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 History**

Council has a long history of taking action on climate change. In 2004 Council joined the Cities for Climate Protection program and commenced its journey in implementing emissions reduction and energy efficiency strategies and programs.

In 2010 Council engaged with the community to develop the 2012-2020 Climate Action Strategy (CAS) and Environmental Action Plan (EAP). The CAS and EAP provided direction for Council to integrate identified organisational and community climate change activities into the Community Strategic Plan.

Activities include floodplain management, coastal zone management, infrastructure management, water cycle management, emergency risk management, biodiversity and environmental management.

A number of successful emissions reduction initiatives were implemented including the organic waste collection service, energy efficient lighting projects, recycled water program, and solar PV installations.

Council resolved at the 23 May 2019 Ordinary meeting to review the 2012-20 Climate Action Strategy. Through this process it was identified that Council's ongoing response to Climate Change should:

- Provide strong action on climate change.
- Be a mix of mitigation and adaptation activities
- Be responsive to changes regarding climate science and government policy.
- Be subject to ongoing and timely review.
- Align with and inform other Council plans and documents.

Council resolved at the 28 November 2019 Ordinary meeting to declare a state of climate emergency, which requires taking urgent climate change action.

This policy responds to Council's climate change resolutions and provides a structured approach of climate change action through setting of measurable targets and policy to develop comprehensive plans with routine monitoring and reporting. This will support Council's ability to achieve practical results in climate change action, and enable review and communication of progress.

**3.2 Strategic Alignment**

Council’s activities and operations are guided and directed by State and Federal Government policy. The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework provides the broader strategic direction for Council to develop the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

These Plans translate the community’s future goals, aspirations, and strategic land use planning priorities into the key outcomes that the Council, other agencies, and the community will be working to achieve.

Through the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework Council works with the community to understand what they value, and to prioritise the issues and actions relevant to them. A strong recurring theme from Council’s community engagement is the health and preservation of our natural environment.

The CSP and LSPS and associated strategies are Council’s commitment to working in partnership with our residents, community groups and Governments to realise our vision: “The Ballina Shire is safe, with a connected community, a healthy environment and a thriving economy”.

The policy has been prepared in line with the Delivery Program and Operational Plan ~~2020–2024~~ **2025-2029** strategies, specifically the following:

**Direction one ~~three~~: healthy environment**

<b>CSP OUTCOME HE1.1 - WE UNDERSTAND THE ENVIRONMENT</b>
<i>HE1.1 Our planning considers past and predicted changes to the environment</i>
<i>HE2.2 Use our scarce resources wisely</i>
<i>HE2.3 Reduce resource use through innovation</i>

<b>CSP OUTCOME HE1 - WE PROTECT, RESPECT, AND ENHANCE OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>
<b>HE1.1 Our planning considers past and predicted changes to the environment:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>HE1.1d Implement Climate Change Action Plan</b></li> </ul>

The Climate Change policy also relates to implementation of the following Delivery Program and Operational Plan strategies:

**Direction one: connected community**

<b>CC1. WE FEEL SAFE</b>
<i>CC1.3 Ensure adequate plans are in place for natural disasters and environmental changes</i>

**Direction four: engaged leadership**

<b>HE1.1 - OUR COUNCIL WORKS WITH THE COMMUNITY</b>
<i>EL1.3 Actively advocate community issues to other levels of government.</i>
<i>EL2.1 Proactively pursue revenue opportunities, costs savings and/or efficiencies.</i>

**Direction three: healthy environment**

**HE1.1 - WE UNDERSTAND THE ENVIRONMENT**

*HE3.1 Implement plans that balance the built environment with the natural environment.*

*HE3.2 Minimise negative impacts on the natural environment.*

*HE3.3 Match infrastructure with development to mitigate any impacts on the environment.*

**Direction one: healthy environment**

**CSP OUTCOME HE2 - OUR OPERATIONAL CHOICES ARE BASED ON SUSTAINABILITY AND LIMIT OUR IMPACT ON OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

HE2.2 Use our resources wisely

HE2.3 Pursue innovative technologies

**Direction two: engaged leadership**

**CSP OUTCOME EL1 – DECISION-MAKING IS INCLUSIVE, TRANSPARENT, AND UNDERPINNED BY SUSTAINABILITY**

EL1.3 Incorporate social, economic and environmental considerations into decision-making

**CSP OUTCOME EL2 - COUNCIL'S FINANCES AND ASSETS ARE WELL MANAGED**

EL2.1 Ensure a balance budget, with revenue opportunities combined with cost savings and efficiencies.

**CSP OUTCOME EL3 – OUR LEADERS WORK EFFECTIVELY WITH THE COMMUNITY, OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND COUNCILS**

EL3.1 Actively advocate community issues to other levels of government

EL3.2 Encourage a networked and adaptive approach to meeting regional challenges

**Direction three: connected community**

**CSP OUTCOME CC1 - WE FEEL SAFE AND RESILIENT**

CC1.2 Ensure plans are in place for public health events, natural disasters and environmental changes

**3.3 International and National Context**

The Paris Agreement, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals have been established to urge collaborative global action on climate change.

**3.3.1 The Paris Agreement**

The Paris Agreement is a global response to climate change with almost 200 government signatories worldwide.

The Agreement aims keep a global temperature rise well below 2 degrees higher than pre-industrial levels, and to pursue limiting this increase even further to only 1.5 degrees.

To achieve this, global carbon emissions should be Net Zero by 2050

### **3.3.2 *The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change***

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading world body for assessing the science related to climate change, its impacts and potential future risks, and possible response options.

As part of the decision to adopt the Paris Agreement the IPCC produced a Special Report in 2018 on global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways.

The IPCC reported that the current global commitments may not be enough to reach the 1.5°C goal.

The report indicates that prospects of succeeding will require emissions to reduce rapidly in the short term, and adaptation measures at all levels including resilience through technology, as well as changing behaviour and policy.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) established cumulative historical global emissions to 2020, and the remaining carbon budget to stay within the temperature threshold goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Data released since AR6 (*Global Carbon Budget 2024 (Friedlingstein et al., 2025)* and the *Indicators of Global Climate Change 2024 (Forster et al., 2025)*, show there has been continued growth in global emissions. As a result, we now have a much smaller remaining carbon budget to stay within the Paris Agreement temperature limits.

### **3.3.3 *The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals***

In 2015 all United Nations (UN) Member States including Australia adopted The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

The SDG's are an urgent call for action for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

The SDG's are a globally accepted framework for sustainable development that recognise the co-dependence of society, the economy and the environment.

The goals include strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, promote economic growth while developing ways to manage climate change.

The link between sustainable development and limiting global warming to the 1.5°C goal by 2050 is recognised by the goal 13 for climate action (SDG 13).

### **3.3.4 *Australian and State Government Commitments***

In 2015 Australia pledged to the Paris Agreement and adopted the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

~~The Australian government has committed to a staged emissions reduction approach with a target of 26-28% reduction of emissions below 2005 levels by 2030. This target will be reviewed within the first period of the policy. Australia has yet to set a 2050 target.~~

Under the Paris Agreement, Australia and all other parties must submit emissions reduction commitments through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the UNFCCC every 5 years.

In September 2025 Australia updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to global emissions reduction efforts as part of its Paris Agreement commitments.

Australia's 2035 emissions reduction target is consistent with requirements established under the Climate Change Act 2022. Under the Act, the Australian Government must consider advice from its independent Climate Change Authority (CCA) before setting national emissions reduction targets or communicating its NDC. The CCA provided its advice to government on 12 September and after consideration, the government adopted the CCA's recommendation to set a 2035 national emissions reduction target of 62-70%.

Australia also reaffirms its existing 2030 emissions reduction target of 43% reduction on 2005 levels and to achieve net zero by 2050.

It represents a credible contribution to global efforts to keep global warming well below 2°C and keep 1.5°C within reach.

A target for 20% renewable electricity generation by 2020 has been achieved.

All of Australian States and territories have now emissions reduction targets. Most remain aspirational and are in line with the Paris Agreement, but some are even more ambitious in line with the IPCC recommendation of rapidly reducing emissions to aim to reduce warming to only 1.5°C.

The NSW Government Climate Change Policy Framework commits the State to the objective of achieving net zero emissions by 2050. ~~which is more ambitious than the Federal Government's target.~~

~~The NSW Stage 1 Plan sets out a staged approach of a 35% reduction in emissions compared to 2005 levels by 2030.~~

The NSW Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030 is the foundation for NSW's action on climate change and goal to reach net zero emissions by 2050. The NSW Stage 1 Plan sets out a staged approach of a 50% reduction in emissions compared to 2005 levels by 2030, 70% reduction by 2035. The Stage 1 Plan supports a fast-track of action and seeks to establish NSW as a renewable energy superpower. This will strengthen investment certainty in renewable technologies and give confidence to organisations and communities to commit to renewable energy goals.

NSW Governments Sustainability Advantage program drives the support for NSW organisations to integrate the SDG's into corporate strategies.

A growing number of councils across Australia are incorporating the SDG's into their strategies and plans as a common language and guide to sustainable development practices.

### **3.3.5 Local Government Commitments**

Local Governments across Australia are leading the way in acting on climate change. There are a wide range of commitments from targets that align State and Territory Government commitments, to more ambitious targets which align with the lower Paris Agreement aim of limiting warming to only 1.5°C.

### 3.4 Climate Emergency Declaration

Council has declared that we are in a state of climate emergency and that urgent action is required by all levels of government.

Council has acknowledged that Ballina Shire is likely to be substantially affected by climate impacts, particularly those relating to sea level rise, bushfires, drought and floods. A changing climate will have impacts on Council's delivery of services and management of natural and built assets.

In the declaration Council called upon the State and Federal Governments to drive emergency action to meet the lower of the Paris Agreement aims, of maximum 1.5 degree warming.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that achieving this target is unlikely without a rapid reduction in emissions in the short term.

The targets set within the policy align with Council's climate change declaration.

### 3.5 Climate Change Predictions for the North Coast

~~The NSW Government's Integrated Regional Vulnerability Assessment: North Coast of New South Wales reports that the North Coast region is projected to continue to warm compared to recent years (1990–2009).~~

~~Maximum temperatures are projected to increase in the near future (2020–39) by 0.4–1.0°C, and up to 2.4°C in the far future (2060–79).~~

The North Coast region is one of the most ecologically diverse areas of NSW. It contains world heritage rainforests, 9 major river catchments, and vast beaches. Climate change is already affecting the North Coast, particularly through increased temperatures.

The North Coast Climate Change Snapshot 2025 provides the latest Australian Regional Climate Modelling (NARCLiM2.0) climate projections for the North Coast under low, medium and high emissions scenarios for the middle of the century (2050) and end of the century (2090).

It includes projections for key climate variables including temperature, average rainfall, hot days (days  $\geq 35^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), cold nights.

Projections show temperatures are expected to keep rising. This will increase the number of hot days and decrease the cold nights. Rainfall patterns will change with less rain in winter and more rain in autumn and spring.

Average and severe fire weather is projected to increase in summer and spring.

The changes in climate will pose risks and vulnerabilities to all local systems (social, natural, and economic).

Sea level rise is expected to have impacts on estuarine and foreshore ecosystems and will pose an increased risk of flooding and inundation of coastal plains threatening property and infrastructure. Increased chances of fire, heavy rainfall, and drought will impact land and freshwater ecosystems.

The projected warming trend in the North Coast is of a similar scale to the rate of warming projected for other regions of NSW, although it is considered large compared to the natural variability in temperature in the region.

### **3.6 Ballina Shire Council Climate Change Framework**

The policy framework enables Council to fulfil its role in responding to climate change through targets that will reduce Council's operational contributions to climate change, and strategies to ensure that climate change considerations are part of all Council's activities and decision making.

The framework enables planning for adaptation and resilience of Council's assets and service delivery and improving the community's preparedness for a changing climate.

The targets are considered reasonable and achievable, relative to available resources, and are in line with many other local government climate change commitments.

#### **3.6.1 Mitigation - Organisational Emissions Reduction Targets**

To align with Council's climate emergency declaration, and to support the NSW Government targets, it is considered reasonable that Council's targets are in support of the lower of the Paris Agreements aims of limiting warming to only 1.5°C, and the IPCC's recommendation to achieve this with rapid short-term emissions reduction as well as a range of adaptation strategies.

The targets will be achieved through developing and implementing a comprehensive plan which sets out the detailed short, medium, and long term pathway to reach the targets.

The focus will be on energy efficiencies to reduce electricity and fuel consumption, generation of renewable energy on council sites, low emission fleet options, sourcing of renewable energy from mid-scale plants, Power Purchase Agreements (PPA), sustainable procurement, and accredited carbon offsetting for remaining emissions.

In 2024 Council adopted a Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan. The aim of the Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) is to set out a pathway for Council to reach its 2030 climate change targets through short, medium, and long term actions and continuous improvements.

#### **3.6.2 Climate Change Risk Assessment, Adaptation, and Resilience**

Climate change adaptation and resilience is fundamental to managing the impacts of climate change. It can help to identify and manage risks, adjust economic activity, and reduce vulnerability, and can also improve long term business certainty.

Council completed a Climate Change Risk Assessment in 2009. The key risks identified were extreme heat, drought and water scarcity, sea level rise, and extreme storm and flash flood. Climate change projections show that the occurrence of these events will increase, as well as the intensity.

A changing climate has the potential to increase Council's maintenance costs for infrastructure, cause inundation of Council-owned assets due to sea level rise, lead to more

frequent disruption of transport and communication services due to more frequent extreme storm events and increase risk of coastal erosion.

Council's existing strategic plans list a range of strategies relevant to climate change risks and adaptation. For example, ensuring plans are in place for natural disasters and environmental changes, increasing resilience of our economy, ensuring planning considers changes to the environment, wise use of resources, and risk management.

Council completed a Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Plan in 2024. Councils existing controls for its climate change risks were identified, the residual risk rating with controls was analysed, and adaptation actions identified.

Key residual risks were from average temperature increases, sea level rise and fire weather. Adaptation actions include monitoring and review of relevant programs, policies, and management plans as well as review/update of relevant DCP's and LEP's.

This policy provides the framework for Council to review its climate change risks and integrate risk assessment, adaptation, and resilience planning into all Council's strategic plans.

#### **4 DEFINITIONS**

**Adaptation:** The process of adjustments and actions in ecological, social, or economic systems to actual or expected climate and its effects.

**Carbon offsetting:** An activity or process which reduces carbon from the atmosphere, typically by putting funds towards organisations that support emissions reduction projects such as renewable energy and forestry projects.

**Greenhouse gas emissions:** a gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect by trapping heat in the atmosphere. The four main gases are Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), fluorinated gases. Typically reported as equivalent CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e).

**Net zero emissions:** Achieving a balance between emissions produced, and emissions taken out of the atmosphere i.e. by sequestration (tree planting).

**Mitigation:** Actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming and related effects.

**Power Purchase Agreement:** An agreement to purchase electricity from a renewable energy project at a fixed price and term.

**Resilience:** The capacity for a socio-ecological system to recover and maintain function.

**Sequestration:** A process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide directly or indirectly with the goal of reducing global climate change.

#### **5 SCOPE OF POLICY**

This policy applies to all sections of Council.

### 6 RELATED DOCUMENTATION

Legislation, policy, and plans that relate to Council's climate change responses include:

#### **International**

The Paris Agreement  
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

#### **Federal Government**

Australia's Net Zero Plan  
Australia's 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (2025)  
Australia's Net Zero Transformation: Treasury Modelling and Analysis (2025)  
Australia's Renewable Energy Target (RET) Policy  
Australia's Technology Investment Roadmap  
Australia's National Hydrogen Strategy  
Climate Change Act 2022  
National Energy Transformation Partnership

#### **NSW State Government**

Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023  
Climate Change Policy Framework  
State Government Net Zero Plan Stage 1:2020-2030 and associated frameworks  
North Coast Climate Change Snapshot (2025)  
NSW Climate Change Adaptation Strategy  
Adapt NSW North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation North Coast region report  
Integrated Regional Vulnerability Assessments: North Coast of New South Wales Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016  
Coastal Management Act 2016  
Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987  
Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000  
Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework  
Local Government Act 1993  
Water Management Act 2000

#### **Regional**

North Coast Regional Plan 2036  
~~Northern Rivers Joint Organisation of Councils – Regional Priorities 2020–2022~~  
NSW Government's Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) grant program

#### **Council**

Ballina Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020 – 2040  
Ballina Shire Council Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035  
Ballina Shire Council Delivery Program (4 year) and Operational Plan (1 Year)  
Ballina Shire Council Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan 2023  
Ballina Shire Council Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Plan 2024  
~~Community Strategic Plan 2017 – 2027 Our Community Our Future~~  
Ballina Shire Council Development Control Plan 2012  
Ballina Local Environmental Plan 2012  
Ballina Shire Local Emergency Management Plan  
Coastal Zone Management Plans and Related Documents  
~~Delivery Program an Operational Plan (4 year)~~  
Economic Development Plan  
Environmental Strategies  
Land Use Controls  
Place-Based Strategic Plans

## 7.3 Policy (Review) - Climate Change

Ballina Shire Council

(Review) Climate Change Policy

---

Plans of Management and Master Plans  
Structure and Master Plans  
Tourism and other Strategies

### **7 REVIEW**

The Climate Change Policy is to be reviewed every four years.

---

Page 12 of 10

**Submission in response to Ballina Shire Council**

**Climate Change Policy**

**Ref. C11 26/02/2026**

**RES> 260226/12**

**Responder Malcolm Johnson**

**Alstonville, NSW 2477**

CONTEXT March/April 2026

Ballina Shire residents are currently witnessing and suffering the consequences of Australia's strategic vulnerability due to over reliance on fossil fuels as a major source of energy. Residents are still dealing with costly impacts from 2019 bushfires, 2022 floods and 2025 Cyclone Alfred. Insurance companies have factored in greater risks in their policies leading to increased premium costs which permeate everything in our economy.

BSC Climate Change Policy is commendable but illustrates the enormity of applying numerous short term, medium term and long term strategies required to achieve Net Zero Emissions targets by 2030 and 2050.

1) BSC must agree and accept the definite, conclusive scientific evidence proving through research and empirical studies that global climate is changing due to anthropogenic influences especially since 1950 to 2026. Opponents of this should be educated through scientific based evidence.

2) BSC has committed to support Australian Govt. pledge to the Paris Agreement 2015 and adopted UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Ballina Shire only plays a minute part in influencing adverse climate change impacts but should recognise that working collaboratively with all sectors of community, economy and environment creates a greater synergy to achieve Net Zero Emissions. BSC can proactively display leadership, support and empathy with 200 nations which each emit less than 2% of climate affecting emissions, bearing in mind those nations in the Pacific and northern Australia currently affected by sea level rise.

3) 2026 may be the period which makes Australia shift from complacency and acts on our climate crisis as well as Australia's economic and strategic vulnerability. Developing policies and strategies to implement Climate Change Policies requires finance and resources.

4) Since 1950 Ballina Shire has been impacted by 11 major cyclones and Deep Pressure Lows causing flooding, coastal erosion, wind damage, fish kills, hinterland erosion and infrastructure damage resulting in huge economic, social welfare and environmental costs. Ballina coastal areas are subjected to sea level rising resulting from above average seawater temperatures causing thermal expansion. Since 2015 above average annual air temperatures setting records for intensity and duration create health problems, disrupt horticulture and agriculture, drought (2018/2019), the most serious bushfires ever in 2019, adverse environmental impacts on flora and fauna.

The rapid development of Data Centres in NSW is increasing demand for electricity and cooling water supplies. 2026 War in west Asia has increased the demand for EVs and charging facilities.

5) In 2025 data released on Global Carbon Budget 2024 and Indicators of Global Climate Change 2024 shows continued growth in carbon emissions meaning more urgent action is required. Nature Magazine March 2026 reports that research is showing Earth's average global temperature is increasing well above 2°C.

6) WHAT CAN BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL DO TO MITIGATE ADVERSE CLIMATE IMPACTS?

a) Collaboration with government and industry authorities to improve Floodplain Management ie

- Sugar Cane sequesters carbon but poor farm management allowing drains to accumulate black ooze, promote acid sulfate water and black water affects the Richmond River ecosystem sequestering carbon.
- Seagrass beds, molluscs, fish are reduced or eliminated by low water quality.
- Saltmarsh ecosystems are carbon sequestration sinks and require protection and monitoring.
- River bank erosion and lack of effective riparian vegetation also impact carbon sequestration and exacerbate river flooding.

Tuckean "Swamp" area has proven since 1971 to be a major environmental problem. Thoughtless, single mindedness interest led to the construction of Bagotville Barage which altered the natural environment of Tuckean. The barage gates should be removed and Rous County Council's 2 Part Plan (Operation Recovery; Richmond River) for rehabilitation be adopted. This will assist flood mitigation in the Richmond River with wetland reviving as a carbon sink.

b) Farming practices in Ballina's hinterland should be monitored to assess their role in mitigating flooding, soil erosion, water pollution and reduction of "greenhouse" gas emissions.

c) Natural based rehabilitation methods which assist reduction of adverse climate change agents must be incorporated into flood mitigation engineering to avoid Richmond River catchment acting purely as a fast drain ignoring important environmental factors.

d) February 2026 world events have determined that Australia's national security is entwined with its need to harvest all types of renewable energy. Reliance on fossil fuel energy where prices fluctuate creating uncertainty and instability for investors and consumers cannot be sustained.

e) Ballina Shire in February 2026, according to NSW Govt. data, was the second largest adopter of Rooftop PV Solar electricity in regional NSW with 22,743 homes and Lismore third with 22,162. Since 2020 Adelaide Council owned properties, as part of Power Purchase Agreement with Flow Power, are now 100% operating on renewable power. Melbourne City's 2019 Power Purchase Agreement with Pacific Hydro is now 100% renewable powered. Ausgrid established a 10MW Storage System for the Bankstown LGA in W. Sydney in February 2026 enabling households without Rooftop PV to reap the benefits of renewable energy. There are numerous examples of similar PPAs throughout Australia.

Ballina Shire Council has the opportunity to harvest renewable energy sources via Solar PV installations on all suitable BSC owned properties; develop more biofuel opportunities from waste and sewerage; change the vehicle fleet to EV, reducing fuel and maintenance costs; initiate accredited carbon offsetting projects if necessary by land purchases or agreements; energy efficient water pumping and street lighting.

Solar and biofuel electricity production would require installation of battery storage.

### f) VIRTUAL POWER PLANTS

BSC has an opportunity to investigate with other agencies and authorities the possibility of partnership to create a Mid Scale Electricity Power and Battery Storage facility.

For illustration, in July 2023 the French Govt. mandated that all car parks with more than 85 park spaces must install Solar PV Roofed car ports. The December 2025 report on progress of this policy indicated successful implementation especially in southern France. Not all car parks had suitable conditions but the technology of PV Solar Car Park Ports has developed to include EV charging points.

Ballina township has 5 large carpark facilities ie. Ballina Airport (650 spaces), Ballina Fair (850 spaces), Ballina Central (850 spaces), Harvey Norman Homecentre (?), Bunnings (180 spaces).

Rationale :

- These sites are huge heat islands
- Recent advances in PV Solar Panels has increased their efficiency and power output. These 5 sites have a potential to produce more than 10MW together.
- Transmission distances are short.
- Agricultural land is not required.
- Customer vehicles are under cover, shaded and protected.  
NB. Following Cyclone Alfred several fabric carpark shades were destroyed and needed replacement but they have short service life.
- EV Charging points would be available.
- These carparks adjoin buildings with PV Solar panels increasing potential output.
- An area covered in PV Panels with the purpose of replacing fossil fuel generated electricity sends a message of support to Australia's Pacific neighbours that Ballina is actively responding to the climate crisis.
- Retail Power companies are considering charging domestic solar producers a fee in place of their meagre solar feed-in tariff. A Virtual Power Plant may be able to accept excess PV Solar power for storage and sale.
- Possible source of revenue for Ballina Shire residents and Council.

Lt Col Kevin Loughrey (Ret'd)

[REDACTED]  
Date: 13 March 2026

**Submission to Ballina Shire Council on “Climate Change” Policies**

Dear Councillors and Staff,

I am submitting this paper as a concerned resident and ratepayer of Ballina Shire to provide an alternative perspective on the relevance of “Climate Change” with respect to Council policies and actions. When we talk about “Climate Change,” we’re referring to the assertion by some that human emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) are causing dangerous global warming (known as “Anthropogenic Global Warming” or AGW). I believe this view is based on flawed scientific reasoning, and I’ll explain why using simple data and examples. My background as a retired Lieutenant Colonel (BE Mech Hons, Grad Dip Strategic Studies, ANU) has taught me to question assumptions, especially when they lead to costly policies. As part of my engineering degree, I studied Thermodynamics for 4 years.

*This submission is not about denying natural climate variations—Earth’s climate has always changed.* Instead, it’s about whether human CO2 emissions are appreciably warming the earth’s atmosphere, and whether council policies (e.g., Net Zero targets, renewable mandates, the purchase of electric vehicles) are worth the ratepayer burden given that this theory of AGW is founded in fraud and faulty science.

Indicative of the fraudulent nature of AGW is the oft-repeated claim that the majority of scientists believe in AGW. This is definitely not the case. That assertion is founded on a seriously flawed study, headed by John Cook, a social “scientist”, then employed by the James Cook University. This study falsely claimed there was a 97% consensus amongst climate scientists that AGW was real and of great concern.

**1. Lessons from Recent “Scientific” Claims**

We’ve seen how “expert” advice can be wrong or misleading. During COVID-19, the industrial-scientific community overstated the virus’s lethality, the effectiveness of masks and lockdowns, whilst, at the same time, denying the benefits of early treatments, and willfully lying about the safety and effectiveness of mRNA injections. See [https://www.thefocalpoints.com/p/we-are-the-majority-now-56-of-americans?utm\\_campaign=post&utm\\_medium=web](https://www.thefocalpoints.com/p/we-are-the-majority-now-56-of-americans?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web)

Could similar forces be at play with AGW? I say, “Definitely”. Indeed, some of the main actors in the COVID scam are also prominent in the AGW scam. People like Bill Gates and Larry Fink - CEO of BlackRock.

As the late George Carlin once said, “You don’t need a formal conspiracy when interests converge.” Disparate groups benefit from promoting AGW: Governments gain control through regulations, corporations profit from subsidies for “green” tech, and activists advance agendas such as the WEF’s “Great Reset”. The Communist Chinese see this as a means of profiting their Party members whilst destroying the economies of Western nations. But, in this brief paper, I will show you conclusively that the empirical evidence doesn’t back it up. Let’s look at that.

**2. The Alleged Cause of Global Warming: No Clear Link Between CO2 and Temperature**

Some scientists claim CO2, nitrous oxide (N2O) and methane (CH4) are warming the atmosphere catastrophically; demanding we cut emissions. Yet major emitters like China and India are often exempt from global agreements.

But what if the atmosphere isn't warming? What if it's cooling? Wouldn't that entirely invalidate the need for these cuts?

**Data from Ice Cores Shows No Correlation**

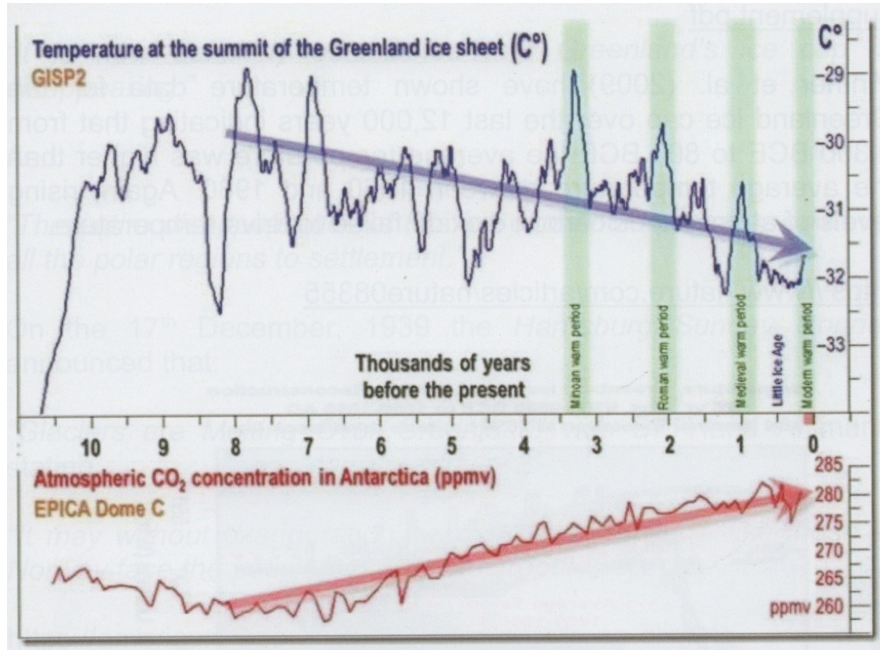


Figure 1: Atmospheric temperature and CO2 concentration over 10,000 years from ice core samples

Figure 1 shows atmospheric temperature and CO2 levels over 10,000 years from ice core samples (like drilling into ancient ice to read Earth's "diary"). While CO2 has risen steadily, temperature has gradually decreased in fits and starts.

This suggests CO2 has no appreciable warming effect. It's like blaming sugar for weight loss when the scale shows the opposite. CO2 is actually "plant food". The higher concentration is actually greening the planet and boosting crops.

This data relates to the previous 10,000 years, but what about closer to the present day? Let's now look at the temperature data from every major, credible climatology network around the world.

### Raw Data from Numerous Climatology Networks All Show the Same Trend – Downwards!

Here are plots of raw temperature data taken from weather stations of long standing around the world that have not been significantly encroached upon by urbanisation. Urban structures, concrete and bitumen roadways artificially exaggerate the real situation with respect to the atmospheric temperature close to Earth's surface. The increases being registered by temperature measuring stations close to cities is actually measuring the increase in urbanisation and has nothing to do with a purported rise in global temperatures caused by CO2 et al.

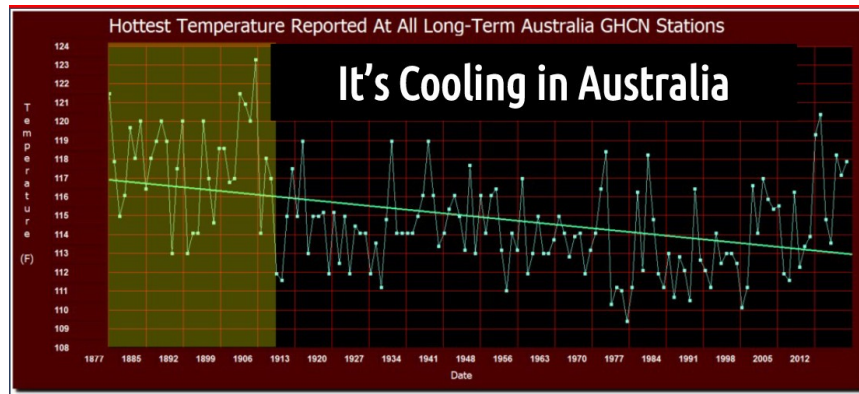


Figure 2: Maximum temperatures in Australia from 1885 to 2019

According to Figure 2, from 1885 to around 1998, Australia's climate has been cooling. After 1998, the temperature record is broken because the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM):

- Replaced the analogue measuring systems with digital technology,
- Used digital equipment *incapable* of reading temperatures below -10°C,
- Until recently, when forced to by a Freedom of Information Request, would not reveal data showing that the results of the two systems when running in parallel produced differing readings and the new system has never been properly calibrated against the analogue system in order to ensure that temperature comparisons would be from the same reference base,
- Put the new equipment in smaller housings (called Stevenson Screens) causing them to record a higher temperature (See Figure 3), and
- Painted the insides of the boxes black<sup>1</sup> so that they radiate more effectively onto the measuring equipment – once again causing higher temperatures to be registered.

1 I was told this by the Hon Craig Kelly MP but haven't been able to verify this. It may not have been a consistent practice or this may have been corrected in some or all of the latest Stevenson Screens.



Figure 3: A Stevenson Screen in which instrumentation is housed

For a detailed dissertation on the incompetence of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, please read Dr Jennifer Marohasy's multipart series, "Australia's Broken Temperature Record", at: <https://jennifermarohasy.com/2022/01/australias-broken-temperature-record-part-1/> Was this incompetence or was it a deliberate ploy to gain Government grants?

Annex A to this paper, provides plots of the maximum temperature of other credible climatology networks. You will see that all show a common trend. The earth's atmospheric temperature is decreasing.

### **CO2 Rise Unaffected by COVID Reductions in Human Activity**

If human emissions are the main driver of CO2 increases, why didn't the rate slow during COVID? Global lockdowns slashed industrial activity, flights, and travel by 50-70% in 2020 and 2021, significantly cutting emissions. Yet, atmospheric CO2 at Mauna Loa kept rising at the same ~2-3 ppm/year rate—no dip. (See Figure 4) This suggests natural sources (e.g., oceans, soils) dominate, and human CO2 isn't the culprit. It's like turning off a tap but the sink is still filling - something else is in play. There are two deductions we may validly draw from this:

1. Human emissions are inconsequential when it comes to the increasing concentration of the atmosphere's CO2.
2. Even if the world were to significantly reduce its industrial activity as happened during the COVID pandemic, it would make not the slightest difference. So why are we doing this?

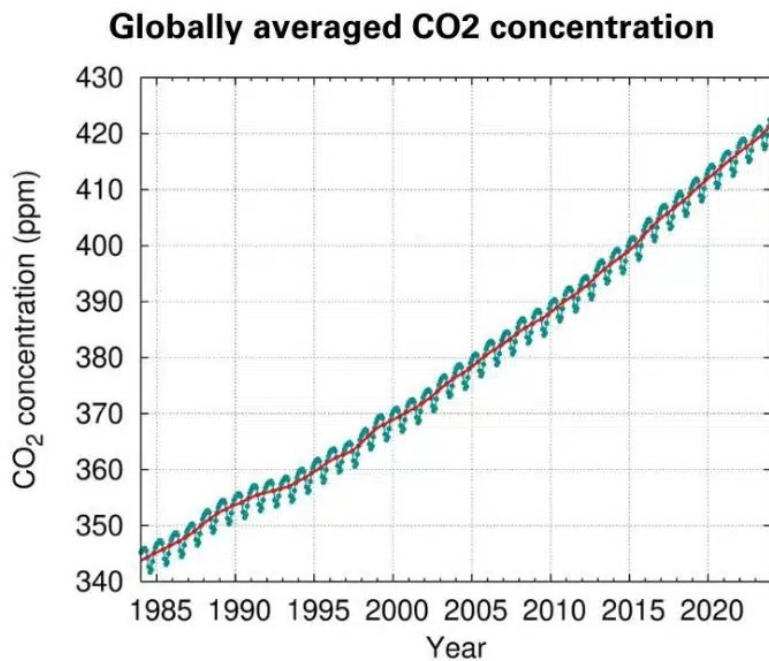


Figure 4: Mauna Loa CO<sub>2</sub> Levels 2018-2022 – showing steady rise through 2020-2021 despite a significant reduction in industrial activity

### **3. Why This Matters for Ballina Shire Council**

If AGW is overstated, council policies based on it waste ratepayer money:

- Net Zero targets mean **higher energy costs** caused by the intermittent injection of electrical power into the grid by unreliable wind and solar generators. (See Figure 5)

## Intermittent Power Injection = Higher Cost of Energy

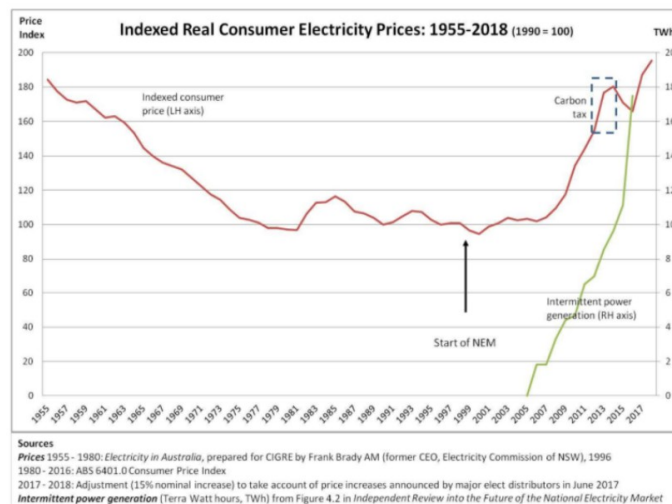


Figure 5: Injecting Intermittent Power into the Grid causes Base Load Generators to operate inefficiently

- “Green” mandates (e.g., electric vehicles, building codes) add burdens without benefits.
- Local jobs in traditional industries suffer; especially because of elevated power costs.

Instead, focus on real issues like flood mitigation, water security or economic growth. Data shows we’re in a cooling phase. Council would do well to prepare for that, not phantom warming.

### 4. Countering Common Arguments

- **“But scientists agree!”**: Consensus isn’t science-data is. Many skeptics (e.g., Nobel laureates) question AGW. See my interview with fellow Clintel associate Professor Will Happer at [https://rumble.com/v6s1xd9-the-climate-scam-with-prof-dr-will-happer-hosted-by-commanding-the-narrativ.html?e9s=src\\_v1\\_ucp\\_a](https://rumble.com/v6s1xd9-the-climate-scam-with-prof-dr-will-happer-hosted-by-commanding-the-narrativ.html?e9s=src_v1_ucp_a)  
 In this opinion we are joined by other eminent atmospheric physicists, astrophysicists and earth scientists such as Professor Richard Lindzen, Professor John Clauser, Professor Willie Soon, Professor Valentina Zharkova and Professor Ian Plimer. I could name a lot more. I say again, the assertion that the majority of scientists agree with AGW is untrue.
- **“Extreme weather is increasing”**: Records show no rise in cyclones, droughts, or floods when adjusted for population growth. Indeed, they show a gradual decrease in cyclones, hurricanes and tornadoes. (See Figure 6)

Tropical Cyclone Trend for Australia 1970 – 2017 (Aust BoM)

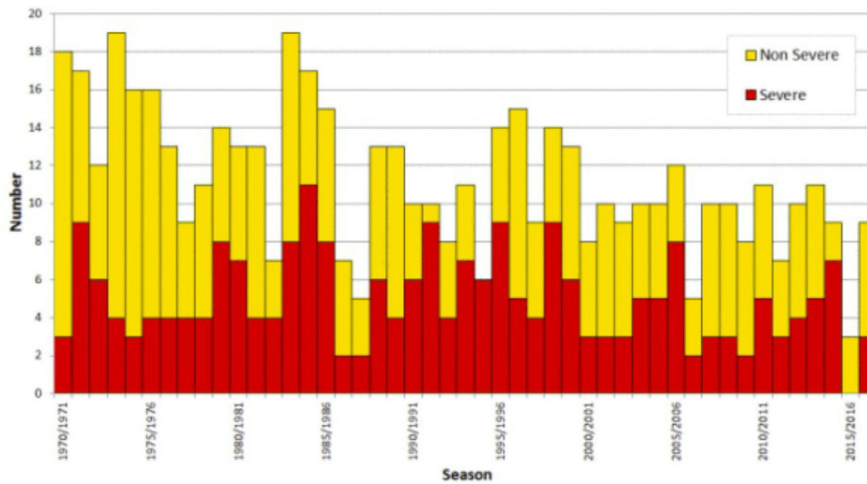


Figure 6: Declining severity of Cyclones in Australia

- **“We must act anyway”**: Why spend billions solving a non-problem when funds could go to health, education, or vital infrastructure?

I’m open to evidence proving me wrong, but the data speaks for itself.

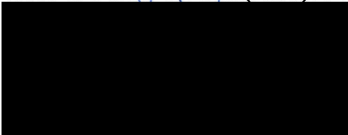
**Conclusion and Call to Action**

AGW is definitely a scam driven by vested interests, much like the COVID “scandemic” which has cost millions of lives and injured many millions more. Council should pause AGW-based policies, review raw data, and consult independent experts. Let’s prioritize facts over fear for our community’s benefit.

I’d welcome a meeting to discuss.

Sincerely,

K.A.LOUGHREY LtCol(Ret'd) BE Mech(hons), psc, jssc, Grad Dip Strategic Studies, ANU



**Annexes:**

A. Graphs of maximum temperatures recorded by credible climatology networks around the world that all show a cooling, not warming, trend.

Annex A to  
 Submission to Ballina Shire Council  
 on "Climate Change" Policies  
 dated 13 March 2026

**GRAPHS OF MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES  
 RECORDED BY CREDIBLE CLIMATOLOGY NETWORKS AROUND THE WORLD  
 THAT ALL SHOW A COOLING, NOT WARMING, TREND**

The following graphs, with the exception of the graph from Syowa Station in Antarctica, use data obtained from the archives of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Antarctica temperature record comes from the Japanese Meteorological Agency. All show that temperatures have been gradually declining from approximately 1880 to the present day.

The red dots on the maps show the locations of the temperature measuring stations that collected this data.

**Unadjusted Data - US Climatology Network (1910 - 2018)**

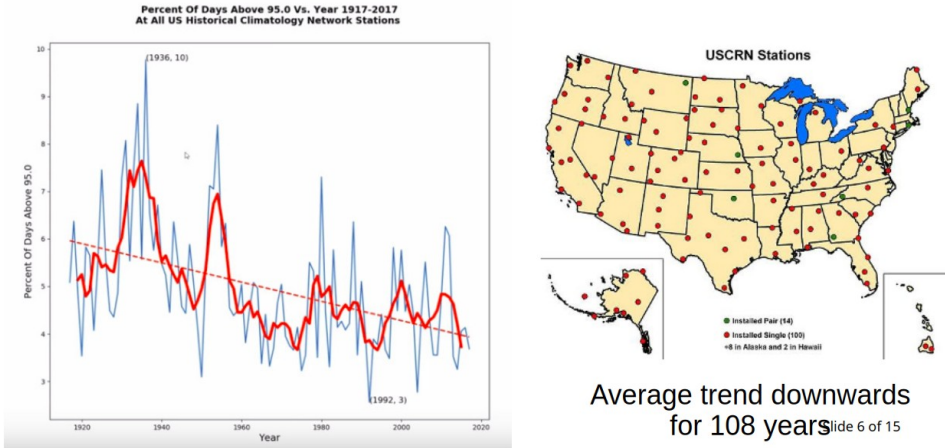
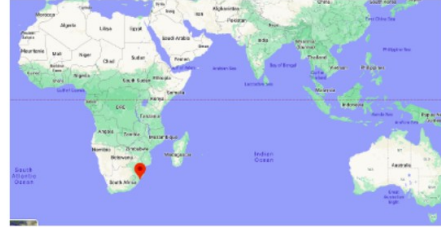
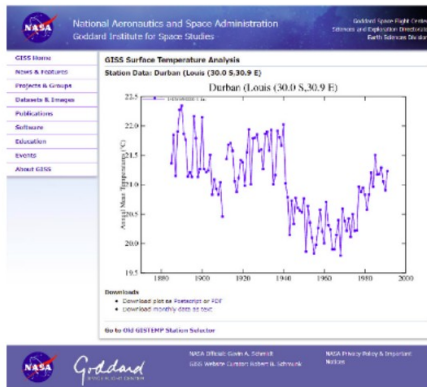


Figure 1: US temperature trend 1910-2018

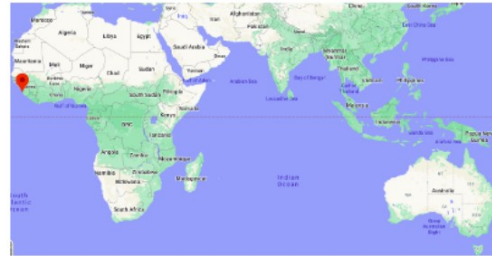
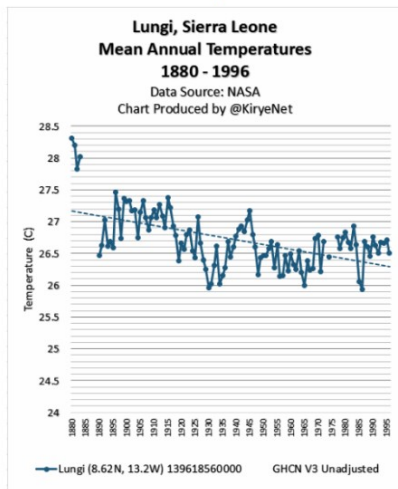
Unadjusted Data – Durban Sth Africa (1885-1995)



Average trend downwards for 110 years

Figure 2: Annual Maximum temperatures Durban South Africa (1885-1995)

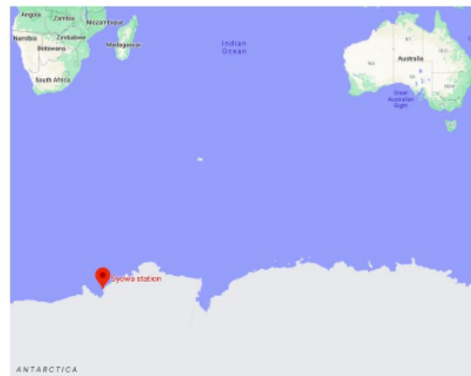
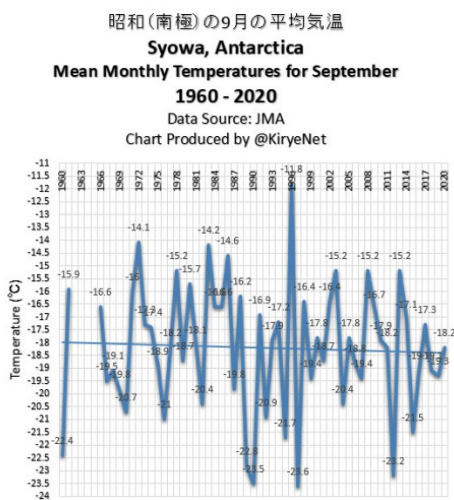
### Unadjusted Data – Sierra Leone (1885-1995)



Average trend downwards for 110 years

Figure 3: Mean Annual Temperatures Sierra Leone 1885-1995

### Unadjusted Data – Syowa Antarctica (1960-2020)



Average trend downwards for 60 years

Figure 4: Mean Monthly Temperatures downward trend - Syowa Antarctica 1960-2020

**Unadjusted Data – Quixeramobim Brazil (1896-2009)**

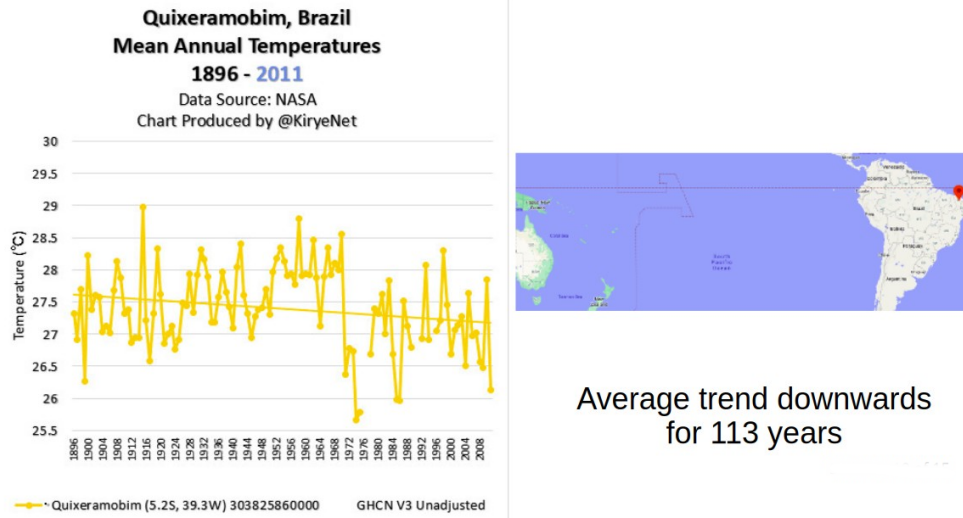


Figure 5: Quixeramobim Mean Annual Temperatures - downward trend 1896-2011

- End of Annex A -

## Here are your results

<b>Submitted At</b>	08-04-2026 14:58:32
<b>Name of Organisation</b>	Newrybar Community Hall
<b>Which Ward Committee are you nominating for?</b>	B Ward (East Ballina, Lennox Head, Skennars Head, Newrybar) meets on the third Monday at 4.30pm
<b>Representative Name</b>	Kurt Rettenmaier
<b>Phone Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email Address</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address of Organisation</b>	13/15 Old Pacific HWY, Newrybar, NSW, 2479
<b>Email Address</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Organisation website</b>	www.newrybarhall.com
<b>Primary purpose and activities of organisation</b>	Weddings ,weekly markets , community events , fundraisers , functions .
<b>Number of members</b>	136
<b>Name of President</b>	Kurt Rettenmaier
<b>Name of Treasurer</b>	Fabia McWilliam
<b>Name of Secretary</b>	Julie Brown
<b>Is your group/organisation not-for-profit?</b>	Yes
<b>Is your group/organisation incorporated?</b>	Yes
<b>ABN Number</b>	We don't have an ABN , we have an ARN . We don't need an ABN as we don't pay tax ARN No. Y1341840
<b>How often does your group/organisation meet?</b>	monthly ...sometimes weekly

### 8.3 Ward Committee - Membership

Are your meetings advertised?	Yes
Name of person completing this form	Kurt Rettenmaier
Submission ID	69d5e07880f65d60900fe21c

## Here are your results

<b>Submitted At</b>	08 05 2026 12:44:32
<b>Name of Organisation</b>	Our Lady of Rosary Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society
<b>Which Ward Committee are you nominating for?</b>	C Ward (Alstonville, Wollongbar, Wardell) meets on the second Thursday at 5pm
<b>Representative Name</b>	Christine Grant
<b>Phone Number</b>	██████████
<b>Email Address</b>	████████████████████
<b>Address of Organisation</b>	PO Box
<b>Email Address</b>	████████████████████
<b>Primary purpose and activities of organisation</b>	Assistance to community members who are struggling
<b>Number of members</b>	12
<b>Name of President</b>	Margaret Lidbetter
<b>Name of Treasurer</b>	Margaret Goulding
<b>Name of Secretary</b>	Helen Niven
<b>Is your group/organisation not-for-profit?</b>	Yes
<b>Is your group/organisation incorporated?</b>	Yes
<b>ABN Number</b>	98 233044572
<b>How often does your group/organisation meet?</b>	fortnightly
<b>Are your meetings advertised?</b>	No

### 8.3 Ward Committee - Membership

<b>Name of person completing this form</b>	Helen Nive
<b>Submission ID</b>	69fd4e10729d6544d70724e0

**POLICY NAME:** (REVIEW)  
COUNCILLOR TRAINING AND  
DEVELOPMENT

**POLICY REF:** C13

**MEETING ADOPTED:** 25 August 2022  
Resolution No. 250822/14

**POLICY HISTORY:** 250118/14; 260913/29; 271108/18



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**OBJECTIVE**..... 1

**POLICY**..... 1

**Induction Program**..... 1

**Professional Development**..... 1

*Imperative Training*..... 1

*Desirable Training*..... 2

*Developmental Training*..... 3

    Approval of Training Payment of Expenses ..... 3

    Notification to Councillors ..... 3

    Recording and Reporting ..... 3

**BACKGROUND**..... 3

**DEFINITIONS** ..... 4

**SCOPE OF POLICY** ..... 4

**RELATED DOCUMENTATION**..... 4

**REVIEW**..... 5

**APPENDIX ONE – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT**..... 6

### OBJECTIVE

This policy has been established to demonstrate Council's commitment to ensuring Councillors have equal access to training and educational opportunities and have the opportunity to maintain their knowledge and skill base to contemporary standards and expectations.

### POLICY

Council policy is to facilitate **induction and** training opportunities for Councillors to increase their levels of knowledge and expertise recognising that this investment will enhance the effectiveness of the Council's performance in achieving its goals.

**Under sections of the Local Government Regulation, the following training is to be provided:**

- **Induction training for new Councillors within 6 months of first being elected, which must provide Councillors with information about the functions and obligations of councils and councillors, and the administrative procedures and operations of Council**
- **Induction refresher training for each re-elected Councillor within 6 months of re-election**
- **Supplementary induction training to the Mayor, within 6 months of election, which must provide information about the functions and obligations of councils and mayors and train the Mayor in the skills necessary to perform the role of Mayor**
- **Ongoing professional development program for all Councillors.**

### **Induction Program**

**This program equips mayors and councillors with the information they need to perform their role effectively over the first few months and has a particular focus on building positive, collaborative relationships between councillors and with staff.**

**Ballina Shire Council provides access to an onboarding portal for all Councillors, including first time elected or returning. The program includes a range of presentations, briefings and tours that outline Council's functions and obligations. The topics covered are outlined in imperative training. The presentations and tours are delivered by staff and external experts.**

### **Professional Development**

Training offered to Councillors will be classified as:

- Imperative
- Desirable
- Developmental

#### Imperative Training

Training is *imperative* when it represents essential knowledge that a Councillor must have to act effectively, ethically and legally in their role, typically as there is a legislative framework on which it is based. Council has identified the following topics as Imperative Training:

- Councillor Induction Program
- Code of Conduct
- Relationship between Councillors, General Manager and Staff ~~and~~
- Meeting Procedures
- Cultural Awareness training\*

\*Any cultural awareness training relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage will be coordinated in consultation with Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Imperative training will be offered to all Councillors during the first 12 months of the Council term, with the majority of the training provided within the first three **to six** months. All Councillors should attend imperative training and the cost of imperative training will not be recorded against any individual Councillor annual allowance for training as per the [Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy](#).

### Desirable Training

Training is considered *desirable* when:

- it is important to the role of Councillor and
- it is in the best interest of the Councillor.

It may not be essential for a Councillor to undertake desirable training however the training will help a Councillor more fully understand aspects of their role, along with the various strategic and legislative frameworks in which they operate. This can help improve a Councillor's effectiveness in their role. Council has identified the following topics as Desirable Training:

- Planning Framework
- Chairing and Meeting Procedures
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement
- Financial Skills
- Governance
- Media Skills
- Performance Management for Senior Staff
- Strategic Management
- **Integrated Planning and Reporting**

Councillors should attend a majority of the "desirable training" topics at least once every term.

To assist Councillors **to** attend desirable training and to avoid the inconvenience where training programs may not be delivered locally, the General Manager will co-ordinate training programs, for a number of the desirable training topics, within the Ballina Shire local government area, during the Council term, subject to annual budget constraints.

The cost of this training, where co-ordinated by the General Manager locally, will be classified as corporate training and will not be recorded against any individual Councillor annual allowance of \$~~56~~,000 for training, as per the [Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy](#).

Councillors are also encouraged to attend other desirable training opportunities, as they arise, subject to the annual allowance limit.

### Developmental Training

Training offered to councillors is considered *developmental* when it is aimed at further developing the skills or professional expertise of the Councillor.

Councillors are encouraged to accept training classified as *developmental*. Such training may include, but not limited to:

- attendance at LGNSW workshops whether public, in house, regional programs, induction seminars,
- seminars and informal sessions conducted by Council with appropriate guest speakers and trainers,
- individual councillor training needs that support them to perform their roles effectively,
- purchase of training booklets and discussion papers that could be distributed to Councillors for information,
- on-line training delivery, and
- mentoring.

### **Approval of Training Payment of Expenses**

Approval for training and reimbursement for expenses relating to a Councillor's attendance at training will be determined in accordance with Ballina Shire Council's [Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy](#).

### **Notification to Councillors**

- Every effort will be made by the Mayor and / or General Manager to provide Councillors with as much notice as possible of upcoming training.
- Councillors are encouraged to visit the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) website ([www.lgnsw.org.au](http://www.lgnsw.org.au)) to identify upcoming learning and development programs
- Councillors are encouraged to take advantage of desirable and developmental training opportunities as they arise and attendance can be co-ordinated by contacting the General Manager (or ~~personal~~ Executive Assistant), subject to the annual allowance limits.

### **Recording and Reporting**

Councillor participation in induction training and ongoing professional development is required to be reported in the Annual Report.

The information that will be reported in the Annual Report will include:

- Courses, workshops or information sessions formally made available to councillors
- Classification of training made available under this policy; and
- Councillors who have undertaken the training.

Data relating to training for Councillors can be made available at any other times, by request to the Mayor or General Manager.

### **BACKGROUND**

Councillors have or may quickly attain a clear understanding of the system of local government, how their council works and the full range of their roles and responsibilities.

It is equally important that all councillors have continuing opportunities to undertake appropriate skills development and training in areas needed to assist them to carry out their role effectively.

Under section 232 of the LGA, Councillors have an obligation to make all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform their role. In support of this, the LG Reg requires councils to provide induction training to newly elected mayors and councillors and refresher training for returning mayors and councillors in the first six months after each ordinary council election and ongoing professional development over the balance of the term.

The Office of Local Government has issued Councillor Induction and Professional Development Guidelines under section 23A of the LGA to assist councils to develop, deliver, evaluate and report on the induction and professional development programs they are required to provide under the Regulation.

~~Currently there are no specific legislative requirements pertaining to councillor training or education. However, the Office of Local Government (OLG) strongly encourages councils to develop training programs and encourage continuing development programs to support councillors in their role.~~

#### **DEFINITIONS**

In this Policy the following definitions apply:

<b>Council</b>	Ballina Shire Council
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
<b>LG Reg</b>	Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
<b>Policy</b>	Councillor Training and Development Policy
<b>LGNSW</b>	Local Government NSW
<b>Training</b>	Includes training, development and educational programs / courses / workshops

#### **SCOPE OF POLICY**

This Policy applies to:

- Councillors

#### **RELATED DOCUMENTATION**

This Policy has been prepared with reference to:

- Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy
- Office of Local Government - Councillor Handbook (latest edition **September 2024** ~~December 2024~~)

## 8.8 Policy (Review) - Councillor Training and Development

Ballina Shire Council

(Review) Councillor Training and Development

---

- Office of Local Government – Councillor Induction and Professional Development **Guidelines** – ~~A guide for councils~~
- Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and Regulations 2021 (included in Appendix one)

As a minimum this Policy should be read in conjunction with Council's:

- Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy

### **REVIEW**

The Councillor Training and Development Policy is to be reviewed every four years.

**APPENDIX ONE – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT**

**8A Guiding Principles for Councils**

**1. General principles (section 8A)**

Councils should:

- a. provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision making
- b. carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers
- c. plan strategically, using the integrated planning and reporting framework, for the provision of effective and efficient services and regulation to meet the diverse needs of the local community
- d. apply the integrated planning and reporting framework in carrying out their functions so as to achieve desired outcomes and continuous improvements
- e. work cooperatively with other councils and the state government to achieve desired outcomes for the local community
- f. manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way
- g. work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs
- h. act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community, and
- i. be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supportive working environment for staff.

**2. Decision-making principles (section 8A)**

Councils should:

- a. recognise diverse local community needs and interests
- b. consider social justice principles
- c. consider the long-term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations
- d. consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development
- e. Council decision-making should be transparent, and decision-makers are to be accountable for decisions and omissions.

**3. Community participation principle (section 8A)**

Councils should actively engage with their local communities, through the use of the integrated planning and reporting framework and other measures.

**8B Principles of sound financial management**

- a. Council spending should be responsible and sustainable, aligning general revenue and expenses
- b. invest in responsible and sustainable infrastructure for the benefit of the local community
- c. have effective financial and asset management, including sound policies and processes for:
  - i. performance management and reporting
  - ii. asset maintenance and enhancement
  - iii. funding decisions, and
  - iv. risk management practices
- d. have regard to achieving intergenerational equity, including by ensuring:
  - i. that policy decisions are made after considering their financial effects on future generations, and
  - ii. the current generation funds the cost of its services.

**8C Integrated planning and reporting principles**

**Councils should:**

- a. identify and prioritise key local community needs and aspirations and consider regional priorities
- b. identify strategic goals to meet those needs and aspirations
- c. develop activities, and prioritise actions, to work towards the strategic goals
- d. ensure that the strategic goals, and the activities developed to work towards them, may be achieved within council resources
- e. regularly review and evaluate progress towards achieving strategic goals
- f. maintain an integrated approach to planning, delivering, monitoring and reporting on strategic goals
- g. collaborate with others to maximise the achievement of strategic goals
- h. manage risks to the local community or area or to the council effectively and proactively, and
- i. make appropriate evidence-based adaptations to meet changing needs and circumstances.

8.9 Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review

QBR FINANCIAL OVERVIEW											
Ballina Shire Council											
Budget review for the quarter ended 31/03/26											
DESCRIPTION	Previous Year	Current Year Original	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Revised	Recommended changes	Projected Year End (PYE)	VARIANCE	ACTUAL YTD	
	Actual	Budget	Review	Review	Review	Budget	for council resolution	Result	ORIGINAL budget v PYE	2025/26	
	2024/25 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	Q 1 \$000's	Q 2 \$000's	Q 3 \$000's	\$000's	\$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	
Net Operating Result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	General Fund	3,713	-4,533	-1,319	-494	0	-6,346	-827	-7,173	-2,640	1,908
	Water Fund	-263	818	-107	-38	0	673	-214	459	-359	-1,851
	Sewer Fund	5,274	4,807	1,962	1,020	0	7,789	261	8,050	3,243	10,785
	Consolidated	9,245	1,092	536	488	0	2,116	-780	1,336	244	10,842
Operating Result from continuing operations (with capital grants and contributions) excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	Consolidated	62,110	99,331	-3,312	-14,542	0	81,477	-2,945	78,532	-20,799	62,619
Borrowings	Total borrowings	71,331	68,574		-1,250		67,324		67,324	-1,250	68,282
Liquidity	External restrictions	78,220	51,157	9,551	1,760	0	62,467	3,592	66,059	14,902	69,548
	Internal Allocations	33,796	40,289	-295	211	0	40,205	7,615	47,820	7,531	40,161
	Unallocated	4,577	7,251	-3,330	321	0	4,242	-1,203	3,039	-4,212	27,463
	<b>Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Inve</b>	<b>116,593</b>	<b>98,697</b>	<b>5,926</b>	<b>2,291</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>106,914</b>	<b>10,004</b>	<b>116,918</b>	<b>18,221</b>	<b>137,172</b>
Capital	Capital Funding	53,104	115,015	-12,444	-18,886	0	83,685	-15,639	68,046	-46,969	32,850
	Capital Expenditure	53,104	115,015	-12,444	-18,886	0	83,685	-15,639	68,046	-46,969	32,850
	<b>Net Capital</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

	Opening Balance	Total Cash Contributions Received	Total Interest Earned	Total Expended	Total Internal Borrowings (to)/from	Held as Restricted Asset	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
	As at 1 July 2025 \$000's	As at this Q \$000's	As at this Q \$000's	As at this Q \$000's	As at this Q \$000's	As at this Q \$000's	As at this Q \$000's
Developer Contribution		46,168	2,570	0	4,050	44,688	0
Total Developer Contributions		46,168	2,570	0	4,050	44,688	0

Income and Expenses Budget Review Statement										
Ballina Shire Council										
Budget review for the quarter ended 31/03/2026										
Consolidated Fund										
Description	Previous Year	Current Year Original	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Revised	Recommended changes	Projected Year End (FYE)	VARIANCE	ACTUAL YTD
	Actual 2024/25 \$000's	Budget 2025/26 \$000's	Review Q 1 \$000's	Review Q 2 \$000's	Review Q 3 \$000's	Budget \$000's	for council resolution \$000's	Result 2025/26 \$000's	ORIGINAL budget v FYE \$000's	2025/26 \$000's
<b>INCOME</b>										
Rates and Annual Charges	65,020	67,750	92	625		68,467	10	68,477	727	67,439
User Charges and Fees	34,210	48,170	253	-1,523		46,900	529	47,429	-741	30,377
Other Revenue	3,431	3,346	-22			3,324		3,324	-22	5,390
Grants and Contributions - Operating	11,690	12,102	432	100		12,634	-53	12,581	479	5,826
Grants and Contributions - Capital	22,255	67,819	-3,848	-15,030		48,941	-2,165	46,776	-21,043	28,962
Interest and Investment Income	5,410	4,422		464		4,886	608	5,494	1,072	2,480
Other Income	5,784	5,294	1,798	-3		7,089	150	7,239	1,945	6,224
Net gain from disposal of assets	9,849	2,330				2,330	-198	2,132	-198	1,203
<b>Total Income from continuing operations</b>	<b>157,649</b>	<b>211,233</b>	<b>-1,295</b>	<b>-15,367</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>194,571</b>	<b>-1,119</b>	<b>193,452</b>	<b>-17,781</b>	<b>147,901</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>										
Employee benefits and on-costs	38,505	40,239		149		40,388		40,388	149	31,026
Materials & Services	49,690	61,183	1,990	-934		62,239	1,985	64,224	3,041	48,631
Borrowing Costs	4,067	3,475		-40		3,435		3,435	-40	1,793
Other Expenses	3,277	3,955	27			3,982	-159	3,823	-132	1,544
Net Loss from Disposal of Assets		3,050				3,050		3,050	0	2,288
<b>Total Expenses from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets</b>	<b>95,539</b>	<b>111,902</b>	<b>2,017</b>	<b>-825</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>113,094</b>	<b>1,826</b>	<b>114,920</b>	<b>3,018</b>	<b>85,282</b>
<b>Operating Result from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets</b>	<b>62,110</b>	<b>99,331</b>	<b>-3,312</b>	<b>-14,542</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>81,477</b>	<b>-2,945</b>	<b>78,532</b>	<b>-20,799</b>	<b>62,619</b>
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	30,610	30,420				30,420		30,420	0	22,815
<b>Operating result from continuing Operations</b>	<b>31,500</b>	<b>68,911</b>	<b>-3,312</b>	<b>-14,542</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51,057</b>	<b>-2,945</b>	<b>48,112</b>	<b>-20,799</b>	<b>39,804</b>
<b>Net Operating Result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>	<b>9,245</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,116</b>	<b>-780</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>10,842</b>

**Notes**

Original Budget +/- approved budget changes in previous quarters = REVISED Budget

Revised Budget +/- recommended changes this quarter = PROJECTED year results

The quarterly recommended changes to the revised budget are to include:

- 1) an explanation for the recommended changes and any impact this will have on the Operational Plan, Delivery Program and Long Term Financial Plan
- 2) any impacts of year to date expenditure on recommended changes to budget

**Explanations are to be in plain English and in a style that is easily understood by readers of non-financial information.**

**The narrative is important in understanding why budget changes are necessary.**

Income and Expenses Budget Review Statement										
Ballina Shire Council										
Budget review for the quarter ended 31/03/2026										
General Fund										
Description	Previous Year	Current Year Original	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Revised	Recommended changes	Projected Year End (PYE)	VARIANCE	ACTUAL YTD
	Actual 2024/25 \$000's	Budget 2025/26 \$000's	Review Q 1 \$000's	Review Q 2 \$000's	Review Q 3 \$000's	Budget \$000's	for council resolution \$000's	Result 2025/26 \$000's	ORIGINAL budget v PYE 2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's
<b>INCOME</b>										
Rates and Annual Charges	39,191	41,126	92	45		41,263	10	41,273	147	41,710
User Charges and Fees	22,791	35,553	253	-1,623		34,183	509	34,692	-861	22,908
Other Revenue	2,127	2,103	-22			2,081		2,081	-22	5,390
Grants and Contributions - Operating	11,379	11,685	432	100		12,217	-53	12,164	479	5,317
Grants and Contributions - Capital	17,713	62,319	-3,848	-14,180		44,291	-1,815	42,476	-19,843	28,313
Interest and Investment Income	3,061	3,003		72		3,075	359	3,434	431	1,391
Other Income	5,784	4,952	-202	-3		4,747		4,747	-205	3,678
Net gain from disposal of assets	10,838	2,330				2,330	-198	2,132	-198	1,203
<b>Total Income from continuing operations</b>	<b>112,884</b>	<b>163,071</b>	<b>-3,295</b>	<b>-15,589</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>144,187</b>	<b>-1,188</b>	<b>142,999</b>	<b>-20,072</b>	<b>109,910</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>										
Employee benefits and on-costs	30,581	32,037		149		32,186		32,186	149	27,334
Materials & Services	31,922	42,536	1,883	-1,024		43,395	1,454	44,849	2,313	30,522
Borrowing Costs	2,160	1,777		-40		1,737		1,737	-40	895
Other Expenses	2,700	3,015	-11			3,004		3,004	-11	1,498
Net Loss from Disposal of Assets		2,000				2,000		2,000	0	1,500
<b>Total Expenses from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets</b>	<b>67,363</b>	<b>81,365</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>-915</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82,322</b>	<b>1,454</b>	<b>83,776</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>61,749</b>
<b>Operating Result from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets</b>	<b>45,521</b>	<b>81,706</b>	<b>-5,167</b>	<b>-14,674</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>61,865</b>	<b>-2,642</b>	<b>59,223</b>	<b>-22,483</b>	<b>48,161</b>
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	24,095	23,920				23,920		23,920	0	17,940
<b>Operating result from continuing Operations</b>	<b>21,426</b>	<b>57,786</b>	<b>-5,167</b>	<b>-14,674</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37,945</b>	<b>-2,642</b>	<b>35,303</b>	<b>-22,483</b>	<b>30,221</b>
<b>Net Operating Result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>	<b>3,713</b>	<b>-4,533</b>	<b>-1,319</b>	<b>-494</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-6,346</b>	<b>-827</b>	<b>-7,173</b>	<b>-2,640</b>	<b>1,908</b>

**Notes**

Original Budget +/- approved budget changes in previous quarters = REVISED Budget  
 Revised Budget +/- recommended changes this quarter = PROJECTED year results

The quarterly recommended changes to the revised budget are to include:

- 1) an explanation for the recommended changes and any impact this will have on the Operational Plan, Delivery Program and Long Term Financial Plan
- 2) any impacts of year to date expenditure on recommended changes to budget

**Explanations are to be in plain English and in a style that is easily understood by readers of non-financial information.**

**The narrative is important in understanding why budget changes are necessary.**

Income and Expenses Budget Review Statement										
Ballina Shire Council										
Budget review for the quarter ended 31/03/2026										
Water Fund										
Description	Previous Year	Current Year	Approved	Approved	Approved	Revised	Recommended	Projected	VARIANCE	ACTUAL
	Actual	Original	Changes	Changes	Changes	Budget	changes	Year End		YTD
	2024/25 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	Review Q 1 \$000's	Review Q 2 \$000's	Review Q 3 \$000's	Budget \$000's	for council resolution \$000's	Result 2025/26 \$000's	ORIGINAL budget v PYE 2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's
<b>INCOME</b>										
Access Charges	5,121	5,507		80		5,587		5,587	80	5,163
User Charges	9,113	10,520				10,520		10,520	0	5,792
Fees	819	678				678		678	0	392
Grants & Contributions - Operating	156	156				156		156	0	174
Interest and Investment Income	1,065	901		-28		873	73	946	45	491
Other Income						0		0	0	
Net gain from disposal of assets						0		0	0	
<b>Total Income from continuing operations</b>	<b>16,274</b>	<b>17,762</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,814</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>17,887</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>12,012</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>										
Employee benefits and on-costs	2,879	2,980				2,980		2,980	0	1,157
Materials & Services	2,036	2,072	29	90		2,191	266	2,457	385	3,051
Borrowing Costs						0		0	0	
Water purchase charges	8,799	9,415	78			9,493		9,493	78	7,949
Calculated taxation equivalents	78					0		0	0	
Debt guarantee fee						0		0	0	
Other Expenses	212	227				227	21	248	21	18
Net Loss from Disposal of Assets	759	450				450		450	0	338
<b>Total Expenses from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets</b>	<b>14,763</b>	<b>15,144</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,341</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>15,628</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>12,513</b>
<b>Operating Result from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>2,618</b>	<b>-107</b>	<b>-38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,473</b>	<b>-214</b>	<b>2,259</b>	<b>-359</b>	<b>-501</b>
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	1,774	1,800				1,800		1,800	0	1,350
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts</b>	<b>-263</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>-107</b>	<b>-38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>-214</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>-359</b>	<b>-1,851</b>
Grants and Contributions - Capital	490	1,500		-350		1,150	-100	1,050	-450	75
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>-107</b>	<b>-388</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>-314</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>-809</b>	<b>-1,776</b>

**Notes**  
 Original Budget +/- approved budget changes in previous quarters = REVISED Budget  
 Revised Budget +/- recommended changes this quarter = PROJECTED year results

The quarterly recommended changes to the revised budget are to include:  
 1) an explanation for the recommended changes and any impact this will have on the Operational Plan, Delivery Program and Long Term Financial Plan  
 2) any impacts of year to date expenditure on recommended changes to budget

**Explanations are to be in plain English and in a style that is easily understood by readers of non-financial information.**  
**The narrative is important in understanding why budget changes are necessary.**

Income and Expenses Budget Review Statement										
Ballina Shire Council										
Budget review for the quarter ended 31/03/2026										
Sewer Fund										
Description	Previous Year	Current Year Original	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Revised	Recommended changes	Projected Year End (PYE)	VARIANCE	ACTUAL YTD
	Actual	Budget	Review	Review	Review	Budget	for council resolution	Result	ORIGINAL budget v PYE	2025/26
	2024/25 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	Q 1 \$000's	Q 2 \$000's	Q 3 \$000's	\$000's	\$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's
<b>INCOME</b>										
Access charges	20,708	21,117		500		21,617		21,617	500	20,566
User charges	1,487	1,755		100		1,855	20	1,875	120	1,677
Liquid trade-waste charges						0		0	0	
Fees						0		0	0	
Grants and contributions - Operating	155	261				261		261	0	335
Interest and Investment Income	1,284	518		420		938	176	1,114	596	598
Other Income	1,304	1,249	2,000			3,249	150	3,399	2,150	2,154
Net gain from disposal of assets						0		0	0	
<b>Total Income from continuing operations</b>	<b>24,938</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,920</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>28,266</b>	<b>3,366</b>	<b>25,330</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>										
Employee benefits and on-costs	5,045	5,222				5,222		5,222	0	2,535
Materials & Services	6,933	7,160				7,160	265	7,425	265	7,109
Borrowing Costs	1,907	1,698				1,698		1,698	0	898
Calculated taxation equivalents	74					0		0	0	
Debt Guarantee fee	369					0		0	0	
Other Expenses	365	713	38			751	-180	571	-142	28
Net Loss from Disposal of Assets	230	600				600		600	0	450
<b>Total Expenses from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets</b>	<b>14,923</b>	<b>15,393</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,431</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>15,516</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>11,020</b>
<b>Operating Result from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets</b>	<b>10,015</b>	<b>9,507</b>	<b>1,962</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,489</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>12,750</b>	<b>3,243</b>	<b>14,310</b>
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	4,741	4,700				4,700		4,700	0	3,525
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts</b>	<b>5,274</b>	<b>4,807</b>	<b>1,962</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,789</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>8,050</b>	<b>3,243</b>	<b>10,785</b>
Grants and Contributions - Capital	4,052	4,000		-500		3,500	-250	3,250	-750	574
<b>Surplus /(Deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts</b>	<b>9,326</b>	<b>8,807</b>	<b>1,962</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,289</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>2,493</b>	<b>11,359</b>

**Notes**  
Original Budget +/- approved budget changes in previous quarters = REVISED Budget  
Revised Budget +/- recommended changes this quarter = PROJECTED year results

The quarterly recommended changes to the revised budget are to include:  
1) an explanation for the recommended changes and any impact this will have on the Operational Plan, Delivery Program and Long Term Financial Plan  
2) any impacts of year to date expenditure on recommended changes to budget

**Explanations are to be in plain English and in a style that is easily understood by readers of non-financial information.**  
**The narrative is important in understanding why budget changes are necessary.**

Capital Budget Review Statement										
Ballina Shire Council										
Budget review for the quarter ended 31/03/2026										
Description	Previous Year	Current Year	Approved	Approved	Approved	Revised	Recommended	Projected	VARIANCE	ACTUAL
	Actual	Budget	Changes	Changes	Changes	Budget	changes	Year End	ORIGINAL	YTD
	2024/25 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	Review Q 1 \$000's	Review Q 2 \$000's	Review Q 3 \$000's	\$000's	for council resolution \$000's	(P/E) Result 2025/26 \$000's	budget v P/E 2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's
<b>CAPITAL FUNDING</b>										
Rates & other untied funding	7,524	10,519				10,519	-1,044	9,475	-1,044	4,652
Capital Grants & Contributions	12,489	49,927	-3,848	-12,680		33,399	-3,481	29,918	-20,009	11,965
Reserves - External Restrictions	19,196	34,209	-7,634	-4,296		22,279	-4,029	18,250	-15,959	10,009
Reserves - Internally Allocated	9,895	19,110	-962	-660		17,488	-7,085	10,403	-8,707	6,224
New Loans	4,000	1,250		-1,250		0		0	-1,250	
Proceeds from sale of assets						0		0	0	
Other						0		0	0	
<b>Total Capital Funding</b>	<b>53,104</b>	<b>115,015</b>	<b>-12,444</b>	<b>-18,886</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>83,685</b>	<b>-15,639</b>	<b>68,046</b>	<b>-46,969</b>	<b>32,850</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>										
WIP	53,104	115,015	-12,444	-18,886		83,685	-15,639	68,046	-46,969	32,611
New Assets						0		0	0	239
Asset Renewal						0		0	0	
Other						0		0	0	
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>53,104</b>	<b>115,015</b>	<b>-12,444</b>	<b>-18,886</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>83,685</b>	<b>-15,639</b>	<b>68,046</b>	<b>-46,969</b>	<b>32,850</b>
<b>Net Capital Funding - Surplus /(Deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Notes**

Original Budget +/- approved budget changes in previous quarters = REVISED Budget  
 Revised Budget +/- recommended changes this quarter = PROJECTED year results

Where the **Total Capital Funding** and the **Total Capital Expenditure** values do not match an explanation is to be provided.  
 Carry over funding from previous year should be identified and any proposed carry forwards into next financial year are to be explained.

The quarterly recommended changes to the revised budget are to include:

- 1) an explanation for the recommended changes and any impact this will have on the Operational Plan, Delivery Program and Long Term Financial
- 2) any impacts of year to date expenditure on recommended changes to budget

**Explanations are to be in plain English and in a style that is easily understood by readers of non-financial information.**  
**The narrative is important in understanding why budget changes are necessary.**

Cash and Investments Budget Review Statement										
Ballina Shire Council										
Budget review for the quarter ended 31/03/2026										
Description	Previous Year	Current Year	Approved	Approved	Approved	Revised	Recommended	Projected	VARIANCE	ACTUAL
	Actual	Original	Changes	Changes	Changes	Budget	changes	Year End		YTD
	2024/25 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	Review Q 1 \$000's	Review Q 2 \$000's	Review Q 3 \$000's	Budget \$000's	For council resolution \$000's	Result 2025/26 \$000's	ORIGINAL budget v PYE 2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's
<b>Total Cash, Cash Equivalents &amp; Invest</b>	<b>116,593</b>	<b>98,697</b>	<b>5,926</b>	<b>2,291</b>		<b>106,914</b>	<b>10,004</b>	<b>116,918</b>	<b>18,221</b>	<b>137,172</b>
<b>EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED</b>										
Water Fund	7,370	7,465	-299	-222		6,944	-231	6,713	-752	4,380
Sewer Fund	12,676	10,024	-335	3,076		12,765	2,793	15,558	5,534	16,318
Developer contributions - General	25,500	11,435	10,396	-980		20,851	207	21,058	9,623	23,669
Developer contributions - Water	11,205	12,302		-237		12,065	-53	12,012	-290	11,278
Developer contributions - Sewer	9,499	8,977	-274	91		8,794	1,143	9,937	960	9,777
Transport for NSW Contributions						0		0	0	
Domestic waste management	1,604	954	62	32		1,048	-267	781	-173	4,126
Stormwater management						0		0	0	
Other	10,366					0		0	0	
<b>Total Externally Restricted</b>	<b>78,220</b>	<b>51,157</b>	<b>9,551</b>	<b>1,760</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62,467</b>	<b>3,592</b>	<b>66,059</b>	<b>14,902</b>	<b>69,548</b>
<b>Cash, cash equivalents &amp; investments not subject to external restrictions</b>	<b>38,373</b>	<b>47,540</b>	<b>-3,625</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44,447</b>	<b>6,412</b>	<b>50,859</b>	<b>3,319</b>	<b>67,624</b>
<b>INTERNAL ALLOCATIONS</b>										
Employee entitlements	2,994	2,994				2,994		2,994	0	2,994
Insert nature of allocation						0		0	0	
Insert nature of allocation						0		0	0	
Insert nature of allocation						0		0	0	
Insert nature of allocation						0		0	0	
Insert nature of allocation						0		0	0	
Other	30,802	37,295	-295	211		37,211	7,615	44,826	7,531	37,167
<b>Total Internally Allocated</b>	<b>33,796</b>	<b>40,289</b>	<b>-295</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40,205</b>	<b>7,615</b>	<b>47,820</b>	<b>7,531</b>	<b>40,161</b>
<b>Unallocated</b>	<b>4,577</b>	<b>7,251</b>	<b>-3,330</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,242</b>	<b>-1,203</b>	<b>3,039</b>	<b>-4,212</b>	<b>27,463</b>

**External Restrictions** - must be used for a specific purpose and are not to be used for general operations. The funds are bound by legislation or third party agreement that restricts their use.

**Internal Allocations** - Council have allocated by resolution or policy to identified programs of work and any forward plans identified by Council. These allocations are at the discretion of council.

Developer Contributions Summary																							
Ballina Shire Council																							
Budget review for the quarter ended 31/03/2026																							
Purpose	Opening Balance As at 1 July 2025 \$000's	Developer Contributions Received											Interest Earned Q1 \$000's	Interest Earned Q2 \$000's	Interest Earned Q3 \$000's	Monetary Amounts Expended Q1 \$000's	Monetary Amounts Expended Q2 \$000's	Monetary Amounts Expended Q3 \$000's	Internal Borrowings (to)/from Q1 \$000's	Internal Borrowings (to)/from Q2 \$000's	Internal Borrowings (to)/from Q3 \$000's	Held as Restricted Asset As at this Q \$000's	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from As at this Q \$000's
		Cash			Non-Cash Land			Non-Cash Other															
		Q1 \$000's	Q2 \$000's	Q3 \$000's	Q1 \$000's	Q2 \$000's	Q3 \$000's	Q1 \$000's	Q2 \$000's	Q3 \$000's													
Drainage																					0		
Roads	16,043	250	170	525										288	255	766					15,679		
Traffic facilities	1,187	66	74	73																	1,400		
Parking	1,176	366																			1,542		
Open space	5,225	101	46	247										1,038	1,237	168					3,176		
Community facilities																					0		
Other	1,833			3																	1,836		
<b>Total S7.11 Under plans</b>	<b>25,464</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,326</b>	<b>1,492</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,633</b>		
S7.11 Not under plans																					0		
S7.12 Levies																					0		
S7.4 Planning agreements																					0		
S64 Contributions	20,704	313	114	222										266	7	25					21,055		
Other																					0		
<b>Total Developer Contributio</b>	<b>46,168</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,592</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44,688</b>		

**Notes**  
 All developer contributions received are to be disclosed, and distinguished as cash or non cash. Recognition occurs when council gains control over the asset (cash or non cash). Councils have obligations to provide facilities from contribution revenue levied on developers under the provisions of s7.4,s7.11 and s7.12 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.  
 Developer contributions may only be expended for the purpose for which the contributions were required, however council may apply contributions according to the priorities established in work schedules for the contribution plan.  
 "Monetary Amounts Expended" should only include monetary expenditure. Enter positive value when expended. The amounts recorded under "Non-cash Land" and "Non-cash Other" are not included in "Monetary Amounts Expended", as these represent assets provided in a non-monetary form.'