

# Business After Hours

The Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation acknowledges that it stands on Country which always was and always will be Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging. We are committed to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work.

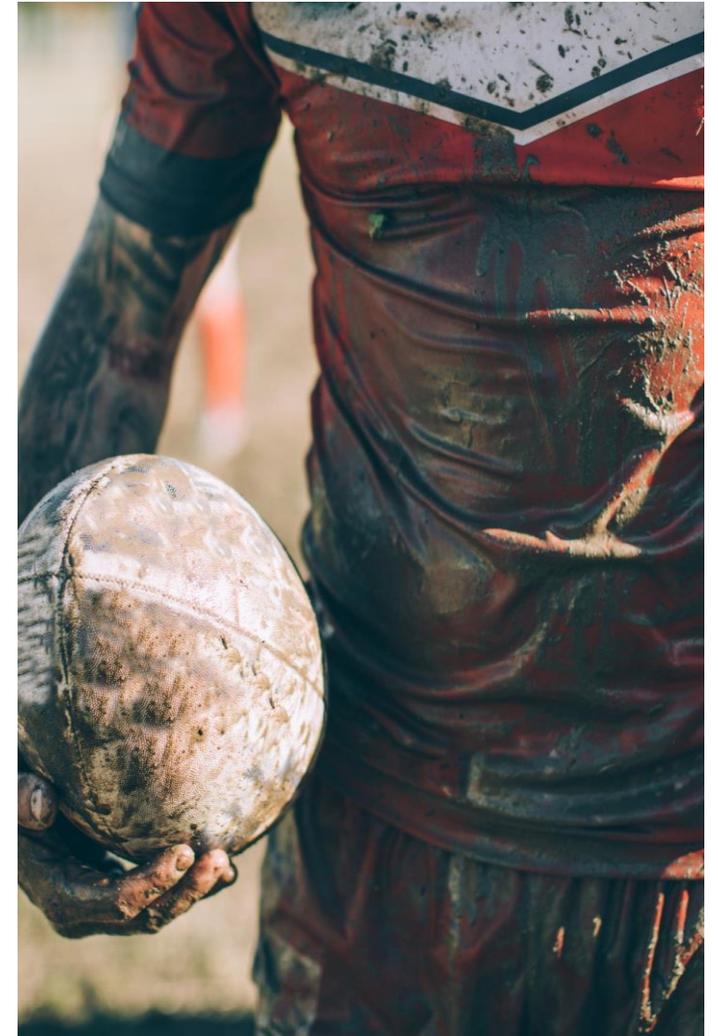
# Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation

Brad Birney  
Senior Projects and Program Officer (Industry and Economic Recovery)

June 2023

# Background

- 10 years sales and marketing in the Beef & Pork Industry servicing both domestic and export markets.
- Worked with MSC (Mediterranean Shipping Company) , Caltex and Toxfree.
- In 2016 I moved into Local Government where I did:
  - 5 years in Project Management
  - 1 year in Economic Development
- Moved to the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation.
- Passionate about my community
- Heavily involved in rugby league
  - 390 registered players, the largest junior club between Newcastle and the border
  - 40-45% of our players identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
  - Largest growth area is in female participation, with approximately 100 registered female players
- President of the Casino RSM Club which has around 9000 members.



# Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation

The **Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC)** was formally established on 1 July 2022 to lead and coordinate the long-term reconstruction of flood impacted areas across the Northern Rivers. The NRRC is working with Councils within the local government areas of Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Tweed, Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley and Lismore to identify, prioritise and support projects that can rejuvenate these communities. The priorities for the NRRC are largely driven by the recommendations from the **NSW Independent Flood Inquiry**.

The NRRC's approach is focused on:



**Community-led recovery**



**Locally-specific solutions**



**Evidence-based programs**



**Collaborative, scalable  
and capability  
building programs**

The NRRC also has a strong focus on supporting Aboriginal outcomes, including:



**Indigenous skills  
development and  
supporting Aboriginal  
businesses across the  
supply chain.**



**Embedding the  
'Connecting with Country'  
draft framework and  
principles across  
engagement, programs  
and projects.**



**Delivery of Aboriginal  
housing, supporting  
infrastructure and  
community facilities.**

# Objectives

The NRRC has **3 key objectives** which translate into **3 streams of work** building toward a long-term adaptation plan for the region:

## Deliver resilient homes

Improve the disaster resilience of existing homes. Ensure new homes are built to be resilient to future hazards and safer in place.

## Drive economic recovery

Drive the economic recovery and adaptation of businesses, industries and local economies, with a focus on Connecting with Country.

## Construct critical infrastructure

Restore and build resilience of critical infrastructure in the built and natural environment.

### Each work stream is underpinned by:



- A common, region-wide All Hazards Risk Assessment, ensuring all decisions consider current and future natural hazard risk
- Consideration of social, indigenous, cultural, heritage and environmental factors
- Consultation with community and stakeholders.

## Resilient Homes Fund Dashboard

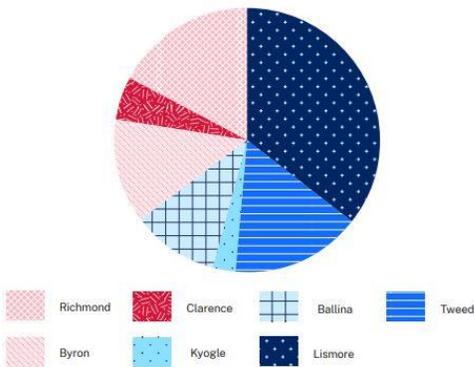
The dashboard provides a fortnightly snapshot update of the Resilient Homes Program.

25 May 2023 issue date  
Numbers as of Monday 22 May 2023

### Program registrations

**6471** Active  
Duplicates merged

Registrations by LGA



Initial eligibility assessment complete (actual and forecast)



Engagement

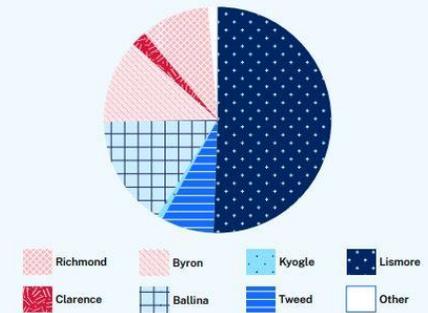
**72**  
Community engagement activities

With over **2239** residents since 4 November 2022

## Resilient Lands

**322**  
Expressions of interest received

EOIs by LGA



Program progress



For more information on the Resilient Lands Roadmap, and each step in the process, visit the [resilient land page](#)

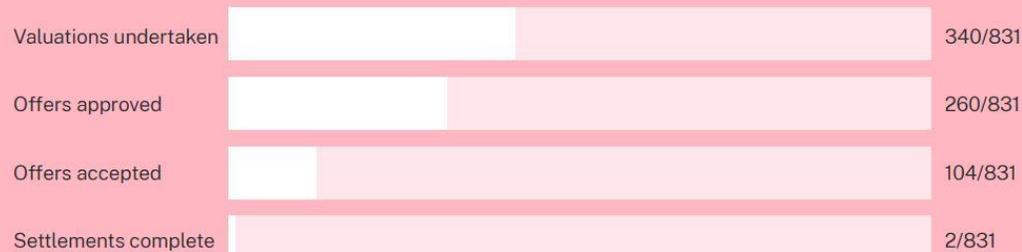
**831**  
eligible

Home buy-backs  
Stream underway



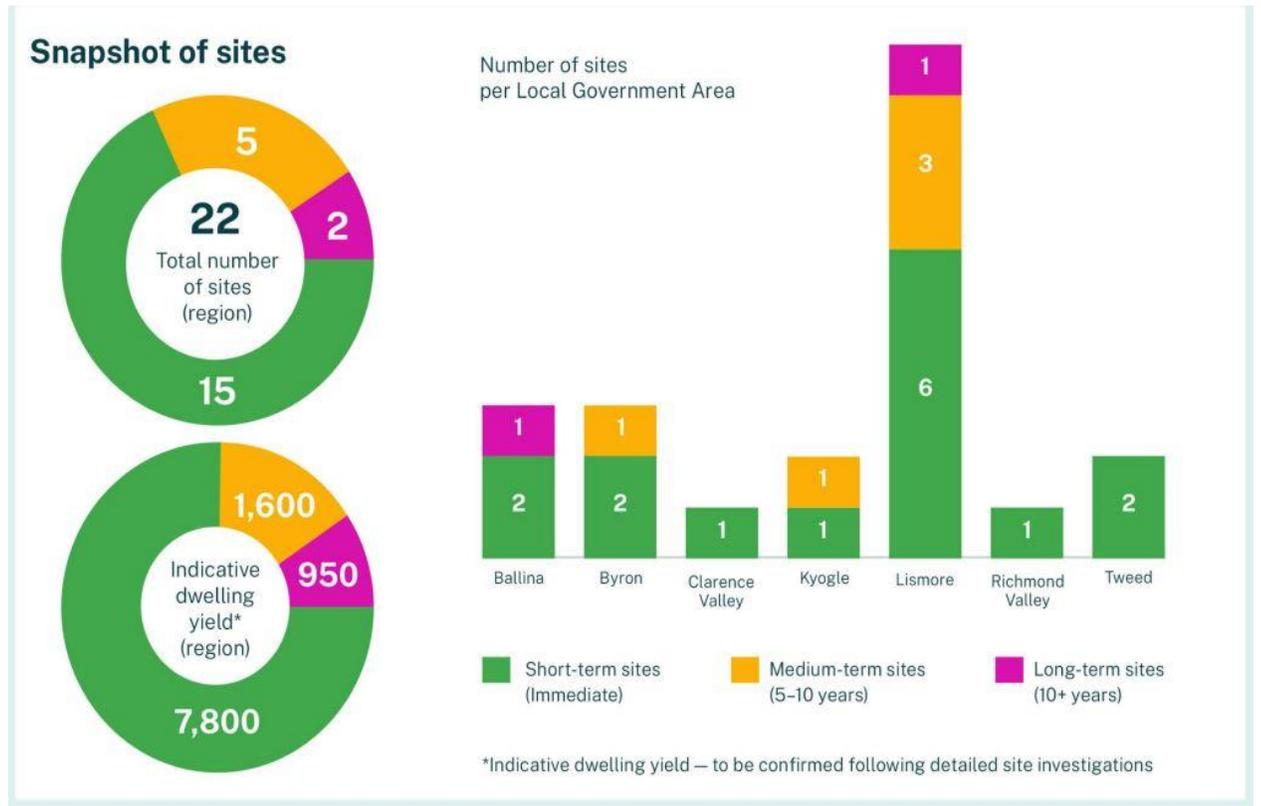
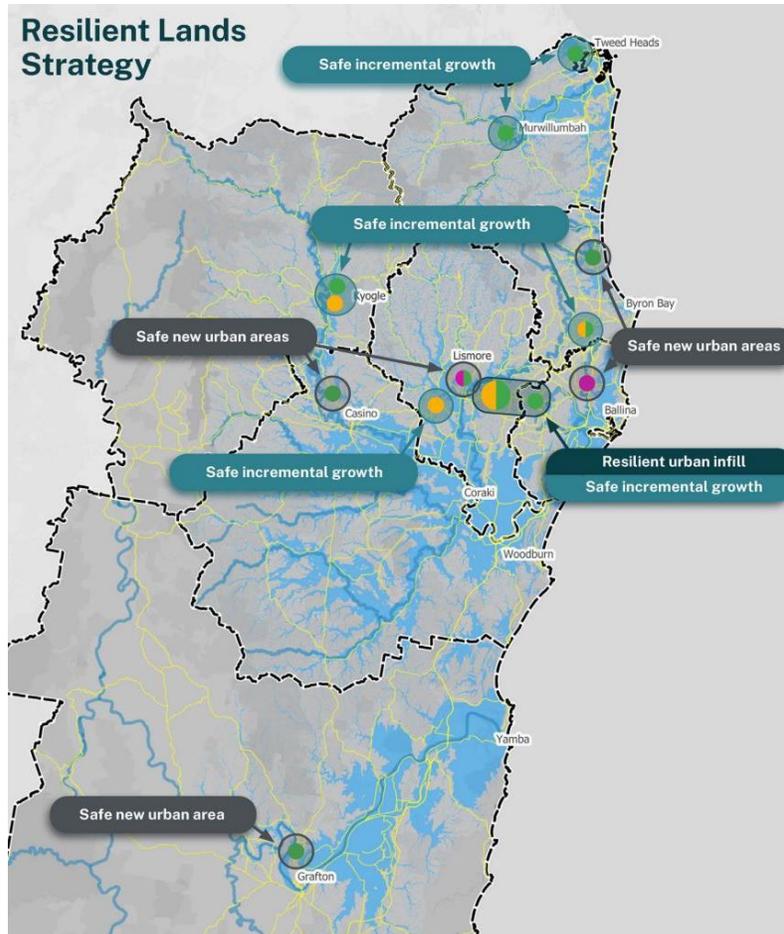
Home raising & retrofits  
Streams to commence Q2 2023

Property progress under buy-back stream (actual)



# Draft Resilient Lands Strategy Release

The Resilient Land Strategy identifies land that will be accelerated for delivery, with funding support provided under the Program.



## Aboriginal Engagement & Business Industry Update

- Northern Rivers Reconstruction Conference held on Thursday 27 April
- Well attended with over 280 industry professionals, local contractors, employment agencies
- Secured support from Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program to engage project officer, to increase participation of women in construction
- The region needs to substantially increase the direct construction workforce
- Targeted consultation testing the key directions in the workforce strategy completed in May, with the strategy soon to be released
- Connecting to Country Framework development is nearing completion and will soon be tested in community.



# Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program (ISLP)

NRRC will deliver the Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program (ISLP) on behalf of Infrastructure NSW with a focus on the following construction targets:

- 4% of the Trade-related Workforce to be women
- 7% of the total Project Workforce to be women in non-traditional trades

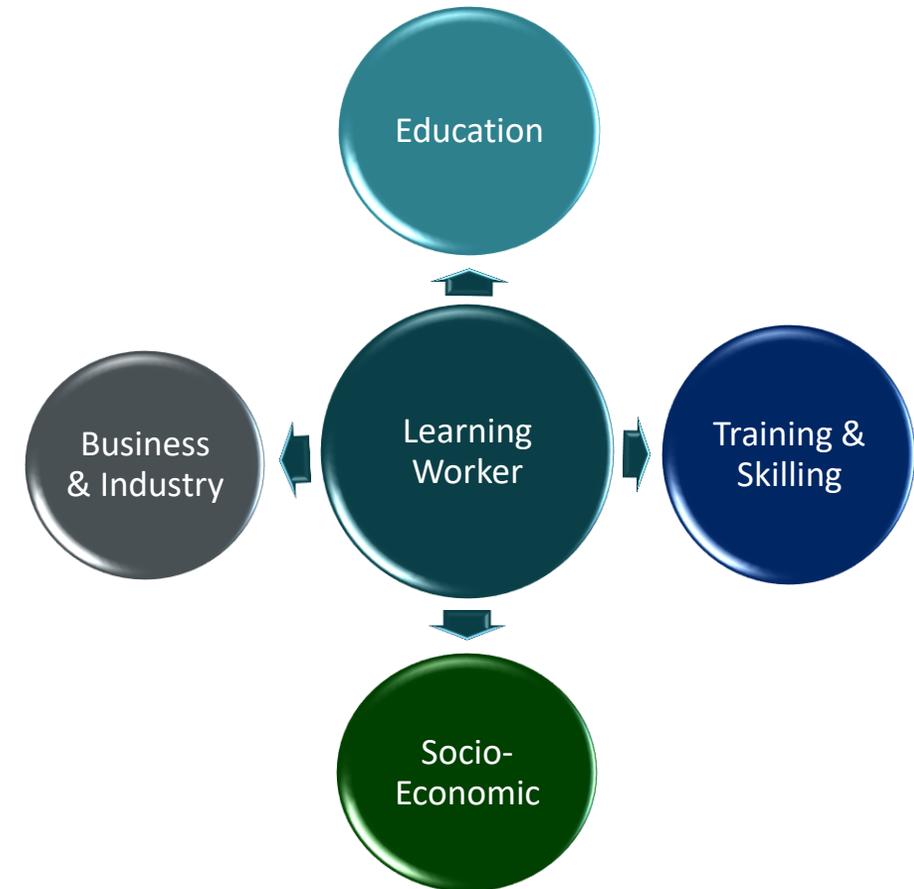
In addition, we also aim to achieve the following regionally specific targets by embedding into procurement contracts:

- 4.6% categorised Aboriginal procurement targets
- 20% of all Trades Workforce to be apprentices
- 20% of the total Project Workforce to be learning workers
- 4% of the Trade-related Workforce to be women
- 7% of the total Project Workforce to be women in non-traditional trades
- 8% of the total Project Workforce to be young people (under 25)



## Complicating Factors

- 42% skills shortage across all technicians and trades workers (NSW, 2021)
- Over 20% NSW apprentices and trainees cancel training within first 6 months, 35% cancel within a year
- Cancellation rate for Aboriginal apprentices and trainees is over 41%
- In 2021/2022 Northern Rivers 40% apprentices cancelled within first 12 months
- Northern Rivers youth suicide rates are 22/100K (National average of 12/100K)
- First year construction apprentices 2.5 times more likely to suicide
- Projected Northern Rivers first year apprentice's construction suicide risk factor of 55/100K
- Southern LGA's of Northern Rivers are identified as some of the most disadvantaged socio-economic LGA's in NSW



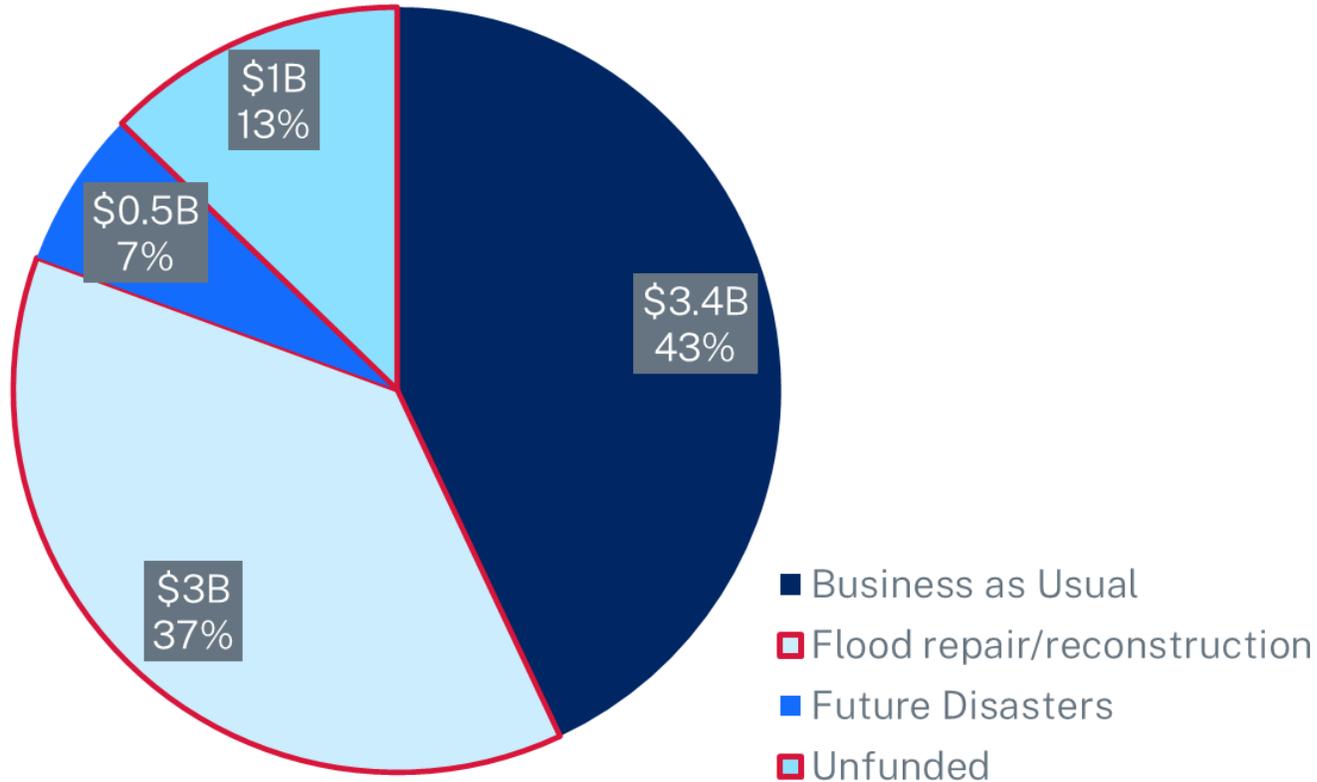
# Southern Gold Coast

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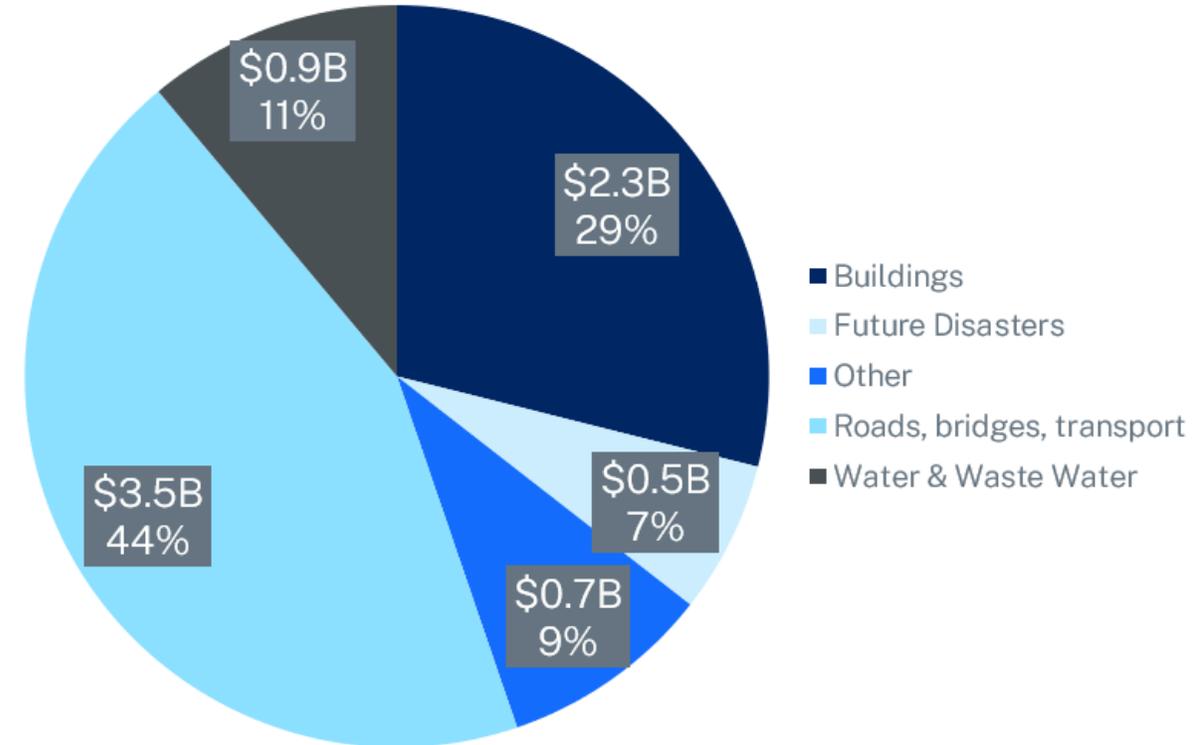
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# Regional Master list of Public Infrastructure projects - \$7.9Billion

Combined Regional Capital Works

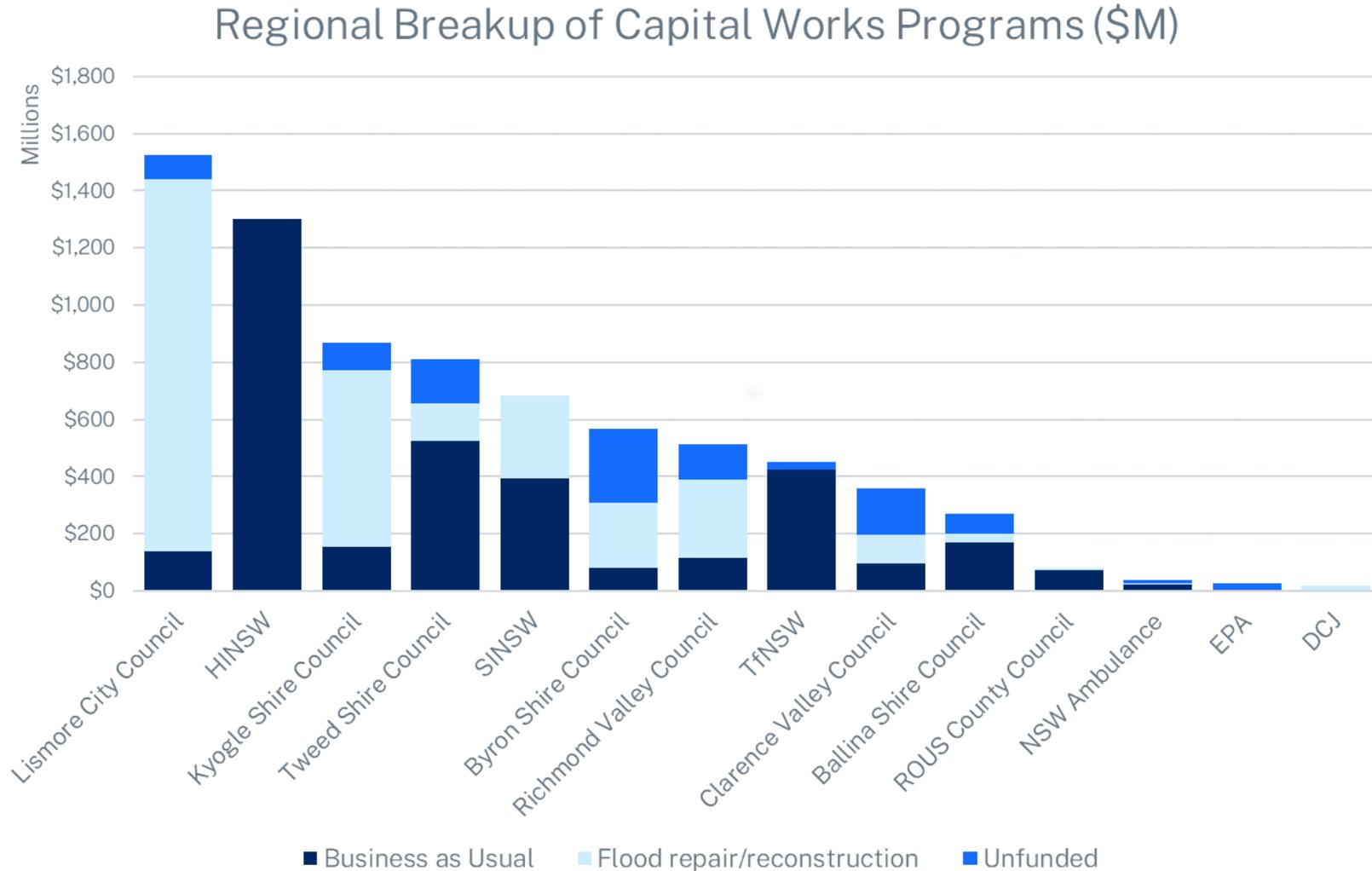


Asset Class Breakup of Regional Program



*Please note the above information provides a point in time assessment of the public infrastructure pipeline across the NSW Northern Rivers. Information regarding the scope, categories and size of these works continues to evolve.*

# Capital Works Program (Estimation only – subject to change)



## Southern Gold Coast

- Northern Rivers unable to internally supply the necessary workforce to support the reconstruction needs alongside business as usual works
- 1200 homes/year, on average built on the Northern Rivers. That needs to increase to 2000/year over next 5 years
- 12 schools to be relocated on the Northern Rivers.
- Identified housing crisis on the Northern Rivers. Where to house a migrant workforce? Gold Coast workforce helps address that issue
- Gold Coast workforce can drive south of the border and not contend with traffic challenges when heading north.
- With residential and commercial builds, think innovation.
- Think collaboration. Partner with Northern Rivers businesses
- THERE IS A BIT OF EVERYTHING FOR EVERYONE



# Procurement

- Majority of delivery through traditional State and Local Government delivery agents
- Get registered in relevant procurement pathways
- This will give your business visibility as to what tenders or quotes are in the market



► Procurement Portals & Schemes

Council/State Agency	Link	Portal
Ballina Shire Council	<a href="#">Tenders and Quotations   Ballina Shire Council (nsw.gov.au)</a>	E-tender
Byron Shire Council	<a href="#">Doing business with Council - Byron Shire Council (nsw.gov.au)</a>	Vendor Panel
Clarence Valley Council	<a href="#">Tenders and bids   Clarence Valley Council (nsw.gov.au)</a>	Tenderlink
Kyogle Shire Council	<a href="#">eQuotes (VendorPanel) - Kyogle Council (nsw.gov.au)</a>	Vendor Panel
Lismore City Council	<a href="#">Our e-procurement system Lismore City Council (nsw.gov.au)</a>	Vendor Panel
Richmond Valley Council	<a href="#">Quotations and Tenders - Richmond Valley Council (nsw.gov.au)</a>	Vendor Panel
Tweed Shire Council	<a href="#">Tenders and contracts   Tweed Shire Council (nsw.gov.au)</a>	eProcure
Buy NSW	<a href="#">buy.nsw</a>	Buy NSW
NSW Public Works	<a href="#">NSW Government construction prequalification schemes and procurement lists   Public Works</a>	Prequalified Schemes
Transport for NSW (TfNSW)	<a href="#">Prequalification scheme   Transport for NSW</a>	TfNSW

# Contact

Contact the NRRRC: [info@nrrc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@nrrc.nsw.gov.au)

**Resilient Homes Program:**

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[nsw.gov.au/resilienthomesprogram](https://nsw.gov.au/resilienthomesprogram)

**Web:** [nsw.gov.au/nrrc](https://nsw.gov.au/nrrc)