



Destination North Coast NSW

North Coast News & Views No. 120

Greater Sydney Lockdown Extended

Given the ongoing number of infectious cases in the community, the current lockdown in Greater Sydney will be extended for at least another two weeks until 11:59pm on Friday, 30 July.

[Keep up-to-date](#) on the latest information with restrictions also continuing to apply across [rural and regional NSW](#).

NSW Covid-19 Support Package - State and Federal Government Funding

The Morrison and Berejiklian Governments continue to work together to support households and businesses in New South Wales during the current COVID-19 lockdown. Under a new combined support package, the COVID-19 Disaster Payment will be further expanded and increased.

The commitment will now be up to \$5.1 billion, including more than \$1 billion from the Commonwealth as part of a business and employee support program.

Targeted support for the state's accommodation sector will be provided through a \$26 million initiative aimed at easing the pain of lost bookings over the winter school holiday period. The cash-flow boosting funding will enable eligible accommodation premises that have lost room nights between 25 June and 11 July inclusive to apply for grants up to \$5,000.

The business grants program announced two weeks ago has been expanded, with grants between \$7,500 and \$15,000 available to eligible businesses with annual wages up to \$10 million. A new grant program has also been introduced for smaller micro businesses with turnover between \$30,000 and \$75,000.

Thousands of employees will also be protected with NSW committing half of a new \$2.1 billion business and employee support program to be delivered together with the Commonwealth.

Businesses will benefit from payroll tax waivers of 25 per cent for businesses with Australian wages of between \$1.2 million and \$10 million that have experienced a 30 per cent decline in turnover.

The NSW Government will also cover the disaster recovery payments for areas outside the Commonwealth declared hotspot from week four of the NSW lockdown providing valuable support across the state.

This comprehensive support package had three key aims - protecting business, saving and keeping jobs through the lockdown and ensuring people had support during an uncertain and difficult time.

Read [Media Release](#).

Australian Banking Association (ABA) To Support Small Businesses And Homeowners

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Treasurer Dominic Perrottet welcomed a package of measures announced by the Australian Banking Association (ABA) to [support small businesses and homeowners](#) affected by COVID-19 lockdowns.

The ABA package is aimed at helping eligible customers significantly impacted by restrictions, and includes up to three-month repayment deferrals for small businesses, refunds of merchant terminal fees for up to three months and loan deferrals on a month-by-month basis for eligible homeowners and small business customers.

The NSW Government continues to work with the broader business community to identify areas that most needed help, and will continue to build on the COVID-19 support package, which is worth up to \$1.4 billion, announced last week which includes support grants of between \$5000 and \$10,000 for eligible businesses impacted by the recent restrictions. Applications will open later in July. Find more information on [eligibility criteria](#).

Read [Media Release](#).

Register Now! Business Accelerator & Mentoring Program - ONLINE Launch Events

Applications for the [Destination North Coast Business Accelerator & Mentoring Program](#) will open soon. This exciting program is fully funded by the Australian Government and Destination North Coast and will offer up to 7 hours of one on one business mentoring to support advancement and growth of your tourism business.

Join us for a **1 hr online Launch Event** where you'll learn everything you need to know about the Program.

Please note due to the current COVID restrictions across NSW, we will unfortunately no longer be running these events in person. Whilst disappointing that we won't be meeting face to face, being able to adapt and move to an online space gives you the option to attend one of the three proposed online launch events without having to leave your place of business or your home!

Registration required:

- [Monday 26 July from 11am - 12pm](#)
- [Tuesday 27 July from 4pm - 5pm](#)
- [Thursday 29 July from 10am - 11am](#)

For more information contact: [Sarah Elphinstone](#), DNC Project Manager or call 0410448 570.

Reigniting Arts Festivals Across Regional Australia

The Federal Government is continuing to reactivate the arts and cultural sector in regional Australia, with 25 projects set to share in more than \$870,000, under Round 12 of the [Festivals Australia program](#). Congratulations to [Curryfest Woolgoolga](#) as one notable recipient of this funding.

The Morrison Government is investing more than \$1 billion into the arts and creative sector through a diverse range of programs in 2021-22. The Festivals Australia program supports arts projects that invite community participation and audience engagement at festivals across the country.

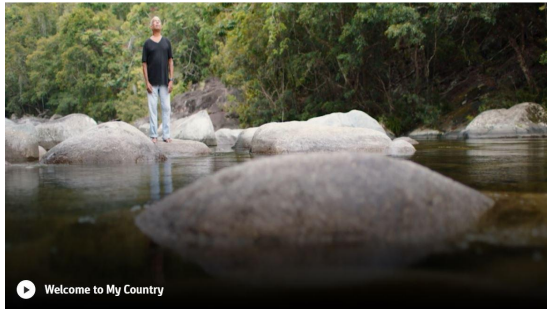
Read [Media Release](#).

National Cabinet Agrees A Pathway Out Of COVID-19

A recent [National Cabinet](#) meeting saw agreement on the need for on the pathway out of COVID-19 that will see Australia move from a pre-vaccination period, which is focused on the suppression of the virus, to one that sees COVID-19 managed as an infectious disease like any other in the community.

To do this, a four phase plan is being developed and will be finalised in the coming weeks, based on medical evidence and modelling work being done by the Doherty Institute. The move through the phases will be based on the achievement of a vaccination threshold (as a percentage of the eligible population, aged 16 plus) based on modelling conducted for the COVID-19 risk analysis and response taskforce. See an overview of the [National Plan](#).

A subsequent meeting of [National Cabinet](#) led to the elaboration of some of the details of the progress for the 'pathway out of COVID-19' which will be finalised in coming weeks.



NAIDOC Week

To celebrate NAIDOC Week, Tourism Australia undertook a series of initiatives including the compelling [Welcome to My Country video](#) which features prominent Aboriginal Elders and can be found on [Australia.com](#).

REMINDER - Updated Rules Around QR Code Check-in

From 12 July 2021, more businesses and organisations will need a [NSW Government QR code](#) so that staff and customers can check in using the Service NSW app.

Check the list of [premises that need to comply](#).

To access your NSW Government QR code, check if you've [already registered as COVID Safe](#).

Around Our Region

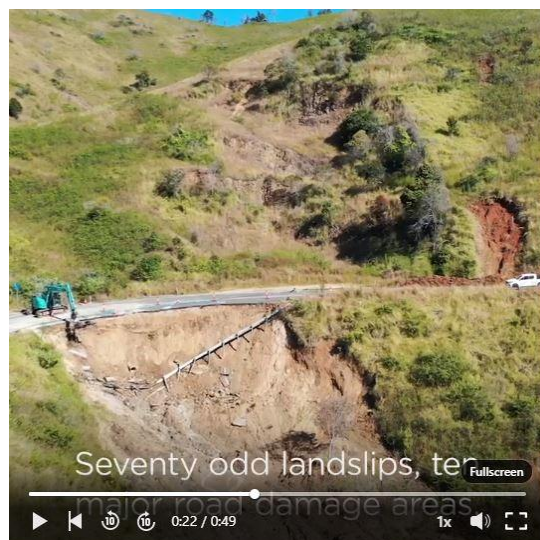
The Oxley Highway Between Wauchope And Walcha Reopens To Through Traffic

A large section of this often-mountainous road has been closed since March when severe weather caused more than 70 landslips and serious damage.

The highway is a lifeline to residents and a significant access route for visitors.

It's a great milestone for Transport for NSW to have the highway reopen to traffic, but only the first step toward getting it back to its pre-flood condition.

Read [news article](#) and [watch video](#).



Recipients Of The Local Economic Recovery (LER) Funding Program - The Local Economic Recovery (LER) funding program is helping bushfire-affected communities restore local economies and build back better.

The benefits of these projects include employment and other advantages to local communities - creating jobs, attracting visitors and helping key industries.

Find information about the many and varied [North Coast projects supported under this program](#).

More Funding Support For Coastal Councils Now Open - The latest round of funding under the [NSW Government's Coastal and Estuary Grants Program](#) is now open with more opportunities for councils to protect their local beaches and coastal wetlands.

Work funded under the program includes coastal dune revegetation, wetland management and water quality monitoring, as well as scoping studies. Applications close 17 August 2021. Read [Media Release](#).

Stand For Your Community Campaign To Increase Diversity In Local Government - People from all walks of life are being encouraged by the NSW Government to stand for their community and run for their council election as part of a new campaign to increase diversity in local government in the recently launched [Stand for Your Community - Diversity Counts](#) campaign aimed at increasing the number of candidates from under-represented groups at the upcoming Local Government Elections on Saturday 4 September. Read [Media Release](#).

Dorrigo National Park - Upgrade works have commences on the [Wonga Walk in Dorrigo NP](#). Please be aware of and inform visitors of [anticipated disruptions](#).

Tourism Services Return To Lismore - Lismore City Council and Rous County Council have signed a three-year lease for Rous to rent the Lismore Visitor Information Centre on Molesworth Street. Council will work with Rous in delivering [tourism information and environmental and cultural services](#).

Lismore Council's historic vote to hand back Banyam Baigham - This week Lismore Council voted last night to return the land, also known as [Lismore Plateau, to the traditional custodians](#).

Calling Artists To Create The Barrington Coast Art Trail - The Tanks - MidCoast Council invites artists or Artist groups to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the development of artworks for the Barrington Coast Art Trail - The Tanks. MidCoast Council has identified several water reservoirs in the region which are considered potential sites for this project with current grant funding allowing the construction of artwork on the first 2 of the selected tank sites at Barrington Water Reservoir and Tea Gardens Reservoirs. The closing date for [expressions of interest in the project](#) is Friday 30 July 2021.

Nominations Open For The Tweed Sustainability Awards - [Award Categories](#) include: Regenerative Agriculture; Wildlife and Habitat Conservation; Tweed Tourism and Hospitality Sustainability; Tweed Sustainability.

Ballina Shire Council (BSC) - BSC received funding through the NSW Government's Streets as Shared Spaces program to pilot temporary traffic calming and streetscape features that aim to improve safety and amenity in and around Park Lane, Lennox Head. Provide input on the vision for Lennox Village by way of this short [Council Survey](#).

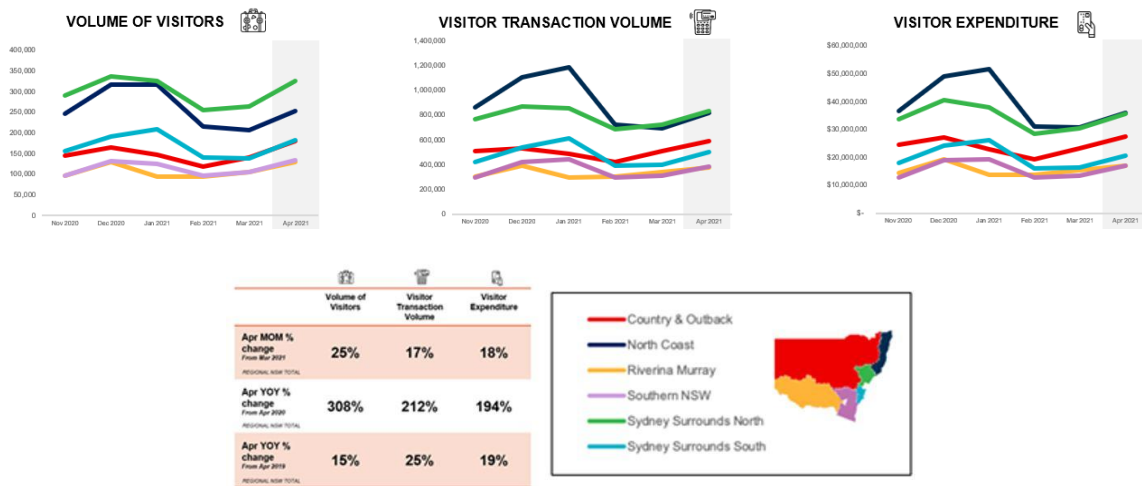
Clarence Valley - Three Mobs, One River Art Project - NAIDOC Week presented the ideal time for Clarence Valley Council to unveil the Three Mobs, One River artwork which is a collaboration between Frances Belle Parker, Joe Walker and Deborah Taylor blending the stories, totems, and significant places from each nation into one design that represents all the First Nations People of the Clarence Valley. The [Three Mobs, One River artwork](#) and elements of the design will be rolled out across the Clarence Valley, to be used on Council uniforms, signage and other assets.

Rural Lands Strategy For The Clarence Valley - The strategy will investigate the long-term needs and priorities for rural areas in the Clarence Valley. It will help inform future planning decisions and policies for rural lands. Contribute ideas by way of a [Community Survey](#).

Industry Insights

Destination NSW Westpac Tourism Expenditure Monitor April 2021

Visitor metrics from the [DNSW Westpac Tourism Expenditure Monitor April 2021](#) showed significant growth from April 2020 (visitor metrics were also significantly up, when compared to April 2019). April 2020 was one of the hardest hit months for the NSW travel industry with the Government ban on travel to regional NSW put in place at the end of March 2020.



Austrade Visitor Economy Report

Austrade has released a new report examining trends and opportunities for the visitor economy in a post-pandemic world. The report aims to suggest opportunities and be used as a resource for the **'Reimagining the Visitor Economy' Expert Panel** to draw on to help the government shape policy framework.

Adventure Travel Trade Association - Pandemic Recovery Advice

The **Adventure Travel Trade Association** found and summarised this article **Pandemic Recovery Advice for Companies and Destinations: A Summary of Recommendations** from McKinsey and Company that, while focused on Spain's recovery, contains relevant advice for many adventure travel companies and tourism destinations.

UNWTO Travel Restrictions Report

The latest edition of the **Travel Restrictions Report** from the United Nations World Tourism Organisation shows that as at 1 June, 29 per cent of all destinations worldwide have their borders completely closed to international tourism.

Industry Development & Other Opportunities

Join Destination North Coast On LinkedIn

Feedback from industry has led Destination North Coast (DNC) to change our DNC Business Events LinkedIn account to be a general one for all DNC news, especially that which is time-sensitive and occurs between the fortnightly cycle of our North Coast News & Views e-newsletter.

Please join **Destination North Coast on LinkedIn** and stay up to date on important information affecting our region and industry.

Businesses Encouraged To Share Stories With Destination NSW

Destination NSW is actively supporting businesses in a variety of ways at this challenging time and is working to keep NSW top of mind for future visitors through ongoing daily media outreach.

Businesses are encouraged to provide updates or news, specific to tourism offerings, deals or incentives to the **team via email**.

Northern Rivers Regional Business Awards

The **Northern Rivers Regional Business Awards** recognises and celebrates business excellence. The Northern Rivers has a diverse regional economy with strong industries such as tourism, health, manufacturing and education. Entries close 6 August 2021.

Celebrating Provenance - Storytelling For Your Business Workshop

Telling your story is critical for any successful business. Telling it well is about being yourself; about communicating your authentic self and doing so in a genuine way.

Northern Rivers Food are running this workshop at subsidised rates to help the local food & beverage community develop their unique authentic stories. By working on individual stories, collectively we also help

define our regional food provenance or industry reputation of the region. [Bookings are essential](#).

Sample Food Festival 2021

The annual [Sample Food Festival](#) will be held at the Bangalow Showground on 4 September 2021. Bookings are open for [Stall Applications](#) for relevant businesses.

New TAFE Course - Certificate III in Events (Events and Virtual Experiences)

The NSW Government is proud to announce [20 new virtual TAFE NSW courses](#) delivering real world future-focused skills across a range of exciting career areas one of which focuses on [Events and Virtual Experiences](#).

Now available for Year 10 students across NSW to select as part of their Year 11 and 12 curriculum. Students will finish school with a Certificate II or III qualification and credit towards their HSC and ATAR.



Funding And Other Opportunities

Latest Infrastructure Grants Funding Open

The next round of the [NSW Government's Infrastructure Grants program](#) opened recently, with community organisations impacted by COVID-19 encouraged to apply for funding to support the building, renovation and fit-out of local community infrastructure.

Infrastructure Grants can be used toward the costs of construction, alteration, renovation, completion and fit-out of buildings and community infrastructure in the following categories:

- Arts and Culture: \$50,000 to \$200,000 available per project
- Community Infrastructure: \$10,000 to \$200,000 available per project
- Disaster Readiness: \$10,000 to \$200,000 available per project
- Sport and Recreation: \$50,000 to \$300,000 available per project.

Applications close 26 July 2021.

New Grants Empower Aboriginal Businesses And Employees

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners and businesses are set to thrive with nearly \$3.4 million in new grants announced by the NSW Government to mark NAIDOC week. 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations will benefit from the [Barranggirra Aboriginal Skilling for Employment Grant and Aboriginal Business Advisory Initiative](#) that encourage growth, support start-ups and provide access to training and jobs for Aboriginal businesses right across the state. Read [Media Release](#).

[Live Music Australia Program](#) - Provides support to the live music sector, with a focus on small to medium venues that support high quality original Australian live music that is professionally staged. Closes 9 August 2021.

[Arts Projects - Individuals & Groups](#) - Funds a range of activities that deliver benefits to the arts sector and wider public, including national and international audiences. Closes 7 September 2021.

North Coast In The News

[Murwillumbah Featured In Country Style](#) - Country Style Magazine featured a 4-page article on Murwillumbah which was on the back of the Tweed Tourism Co. hosting Country Style writer, Claire, earlier

this year as a part of the media and PR famil program.

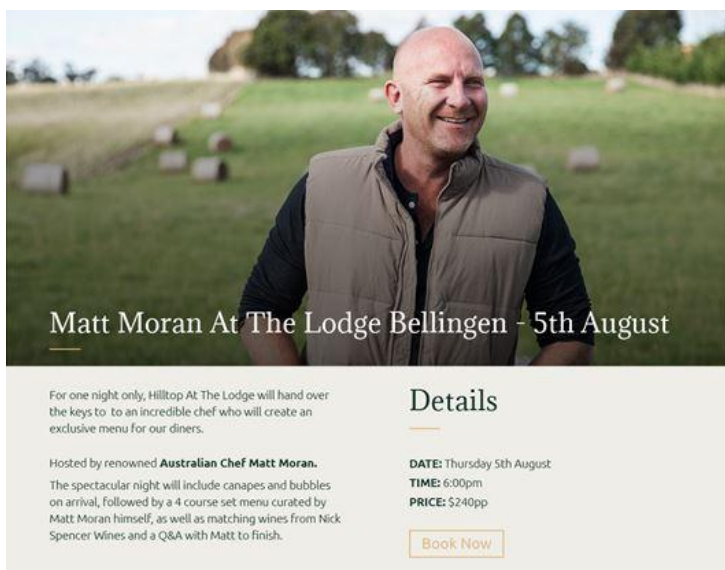
Vision Walks Eco Tours Hits US Media - Live virtual koala tour got a mention in the prestigious **Forbes magazine** with 140 million reach. Glow in the dark live virtual tours got a mention in **Travel and Leisure** (readership 4.8 million).

Out & About With Kids - The Tweed is featured in the latest edition of Out & About With Kids, including a fantastic review of **Tweed Holiday Parks - Pottsville South** and kid friendly activities in the region.

Family Holiday Destinations Highlights North Coast Gems - Dorrigo and Myall Lakes National Parks offer plenty of amazing nature-based opportunities for families (p 32-33 of the June/July issue).

Go Fish On Sunrise - Go Fish was on Sunrise on the 6 June 2021! If only for a minute but worth the early start (watch from about 38 minutes in).

North Coast Events



Matt Moran At The Lodge Bellinghen - 5th August

For one night only, Hilltop At The Lodge will hand over the keys to to an incredible chef who will create an exclusive menu for our diners.

Hosted by renowned **Australian Chef Matt Moran**. The spectacular night will include canapes and bubbles on arrival, followed by a 4 course set menu curated by Matt Moran himself, as well as matching wines from Nick Spencer Wines and a Q&A with Matt to finish.

Details

DATE: Thursday 5th August
TIME: 6:00pm
PRICE: \$240pp

[Book Now](#)

To aid in your planning, please note upcoming events across the region.

Hilltop At The Lodge Bellinghen - Hosted by chef Matt Moran, enjoy an exclusive menu when you dine at **Hilltop at The Lodge Bellinghen** on 5 August 2021.

Eat the Street Lismore - The food, art and music festival will be on Saturday 21 August 2021. The popular event is in its 7th year and will take place in Magellan and Carrington streets and the newly refurbished Lismore Laneways with local food and beverages, art, roving entertainers, and much more.

Eat the Street coincides with the **SHINE** light art festival, which runs after dark from Thursday, 19 August to Tuesday, 21 August 2021. Audiences can expect the unexpected as a program of artists present bold new works ranging from small surprises, large scale projections, the telling of untold stories and immersive light installations that will reframe the Lismore CBD. **SHINE** will be a platform for artists to produce a new experimental public work and for local and visiting audiences to experience high quality work being produced in the region.

Lismore Italian Film Festival - The Lismore Friendship Festival will host the second annual Italian Film Festival at **Lismore's BCC Event Cinemas** on August 7 and 8, 2021. Following the success of the first event in 2019 it was decided that a sweep of historic and contemporary films will attract another multilingual audience.

Byron Writers Festival Cancelled Due To COVID - The organisers of Byron Writers Festival have announced the 2021 event, scheduled to run from August 6-8, will be cancelled due to the developing COVID-19 situation in NSW.

COVID-19 Resource Centre

The DNC **COVID-1**
appropriate Govern

find links to
