



FRRR

Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal

Nambucca Valley

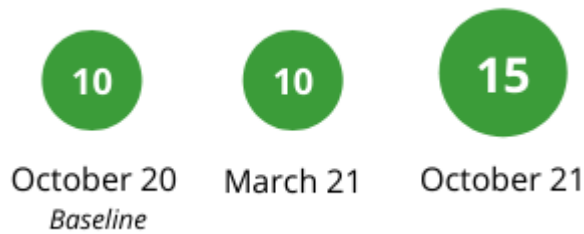
Data Collection # 3

October 2021

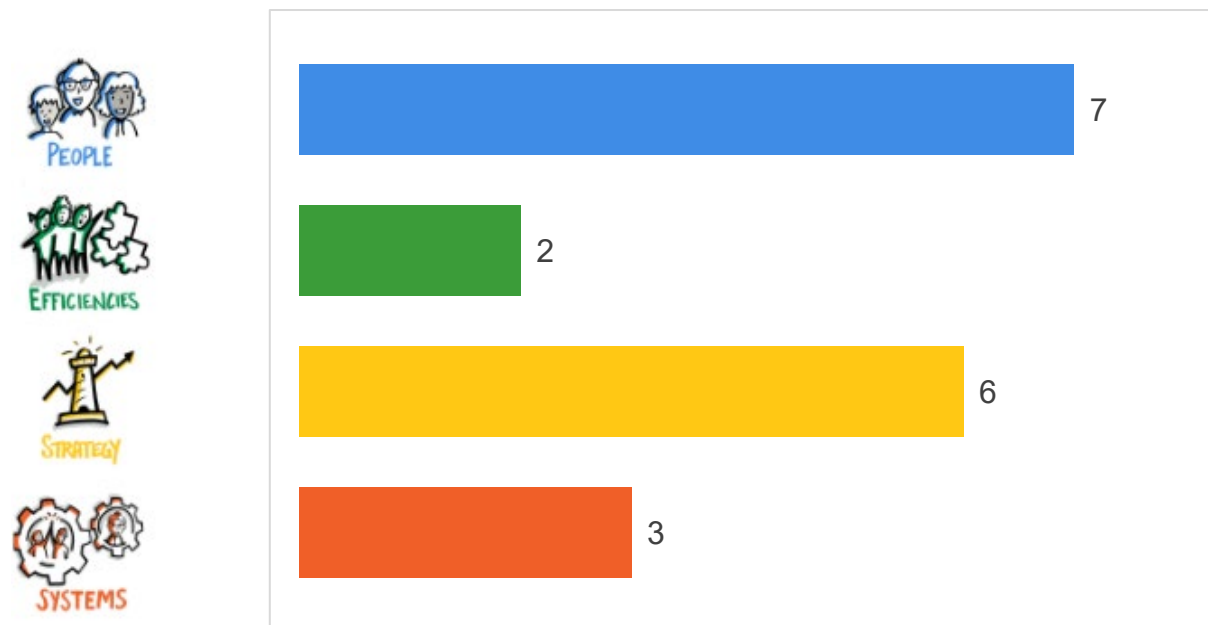
Investing in Rural Community Futures

Overview

Participating NFP's



IRCF Projects Funded by strategic pillar

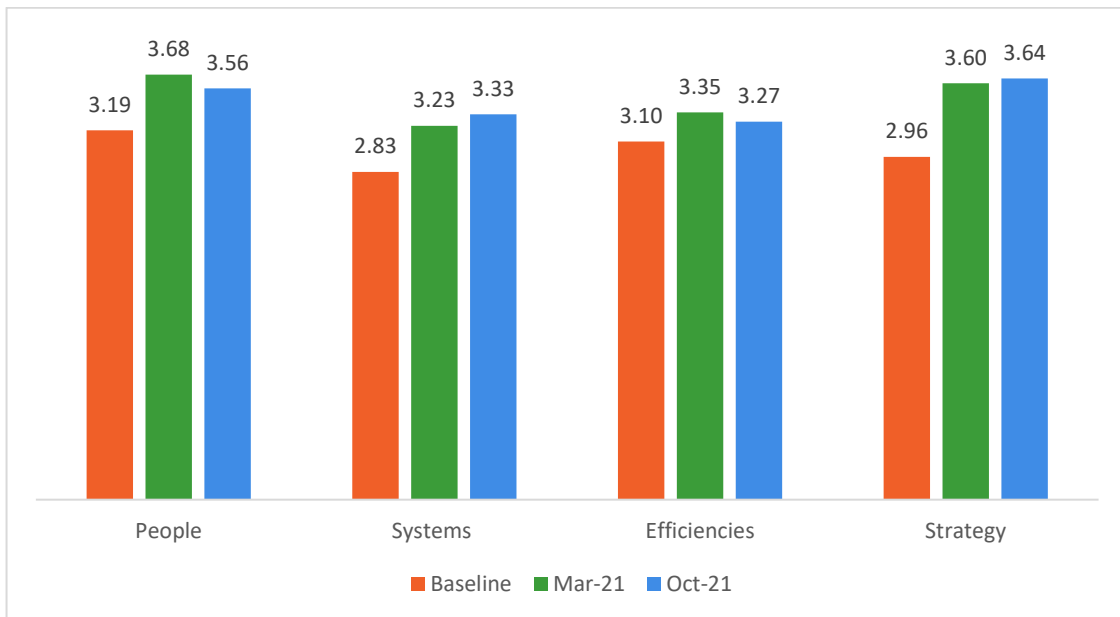




Progress Against Pillars compared to baseline

October 2020 – October 2021

Average of responses from self-assessment survey completed by all participating NFPs in Nambucca Valley



As part of this evaluation, the change and impact on the capacity and sustainability of the individual NFP organisations involved in the program is being measured by using a series of tools. One of these tools is an organisational self-assessment for committees to collectively discuss the current health of their organisation. It was designed specifically for the program looking at the four pillars of People, Systems, Efficiencies, Strategy.

The assessment measures each pillar using a five-point scale out of 12 areas of organisational competency, giving organisations a score out of 60. We use an average of this score across the funded organisations to monitor the overall health of these organisations and to track any impacts the program may have. All funded organisations take part in the self-assessment.

Note on data collection tools during this period:

Due to Covid restrictions there were no Community Workshops (Harwood) held in this data collection period.

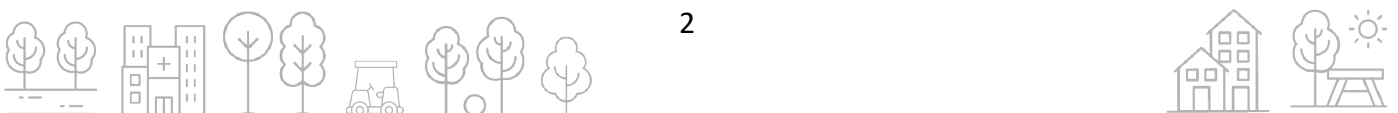
Funds Leveraged Since Project Start¹

**Nambucca Valley
leveraged funds
\$808,540**

**Total FRRR Funding
Contribution Since Project Start**

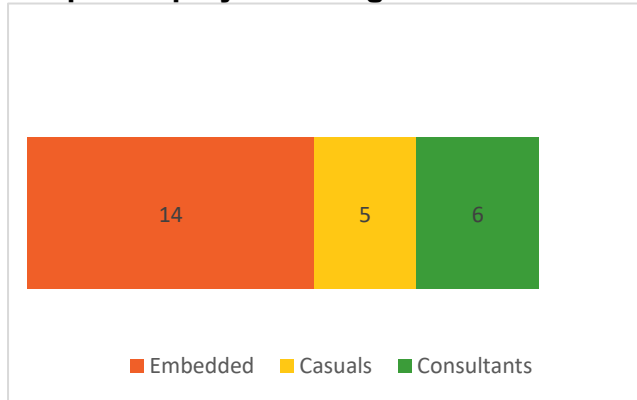
**FRRR contribution
\$669,689**

¹ This is an estimated figure provided by NFP's. 'Leverage' was described to NFP's in their interviews as 'what additional non-IRCF funding has your organisation secured as a result of the IRCF funded projects - either direct additional grant funds secured or increased capability (ie fundraising) which then secured funds or funding which the NFP directly related in any other way to their involvement with IRCF'.





People Employed through IRCF funds- 25



*NFP's have engaged people in a range of roles to help them realise their projects. This ranges from **Embedded** salaried staff (either FT or PT), **Casual** employees, **Consultants** and **Contractors** like tradespeople.*

Note on data collection tools during this period:

Due to Covid restrictions there were no Community Workshops (Harwood) held in this data collection period.

Areas of greatest capacity building need:

Partnerships have really strengthened across the Valley and there would be value in building on this momentum through skill building around developing and sustaining effective **organisational partnerships and collaborations**.

Several NFP's also named **financial sustainability** as a barrier and risk for them. These NFP would benefit from understanding some options and financial planning practices available to them for sustainability. This is also linked to the partnerships and collaboration capacity building.



There would also be value to include strategies on service/program delivery and governing/ managing differently in the **'living with Covid' scenario**.





Results at October 2021

This section reports on the evaluation Theory of Change against the four strategic pillars - People, Systems, Efficiencies and Strategy.

<p style="text-align: center;">People</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">PEOPLE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Systems</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">SYSTEMS</p>
<p>Governance</p> <p>Many (11) of the NFP's noted that they had experienced Boards.</p> <p>Others noted some challenges such as - being hard to get a quorum; the Board generally needing to improve if they want to achieve their goals; wanting to attract more professional people on the Board.</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement / Collaboration</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement is central to the service delivery model of at least four NFP's.</p> <p>1 NFP said that when they work in collaboration with other organisations, it helps them build their visibility in the community and it doesn't cost anything.</p> <p>Another, <i>'Programs like IRCF help us work more collaboratively and sustainably'</i>.</p> <p>Another, <i>'The Nambucca Valley is segmented. Bowraville, Scott's Head, Valla Beach, Macksville etc it's important that they can be connected.'</i></p> <p>Confidence with using computers / internet</p> <p>13 NFP's said they were confident users of technology.</p> <p>Some Board members don't have the internet at home, even if they wanted to engage.</p> <p>Use of volunteers</p> <p>At least 6 NFP's said they have volunteering or mentoring programs in place. Volunteering is a big part of the service delivery of many of the NFP's. Covid has impacted volunteer engagement.</p>	<p>Policy and Procedures</p> <p>Nearly all NFP's had policies and procedures in various stages. At least 7 NFP's said they had written policies, others were under development or needed review. 1 said they don't use policies</p> <p>Equipment, machinery, tools to deliver on the organisation's vision</p> <p>Covid has impacted the ability for some NFP's to share office space/facilities.</p> <p>Two NFP's noted that the equipment/resource they share is people.</p> <p>Over 6 NFP's said that they share tools, equipment and resources, while 1 said they don't share their equipment.</p> <p>Financial Management</p> <p>4 NFP's said they had asset registers and depreciation schedules.</p> <p>In several cases volunteers manage the budgets on Excel spreadsheet or Quickbooks and other software.</p> <p>8 NFPs said they had paid professional bookkeepers.</p>





Efficiencies



Partnerships with other organisations or programs

9 NFP's said they had active partnerships with other organisations (for both capacity building and service delivery) - and some with more in development.

Shared Business Systems

At least 10 NFP's said they shared some business systems with another NFP or council.

2 NFP's auspiced projects for other groups.

NFP's are also keen to rent out their halls and rooms.

Strategy



Mission and Goals

Most of the NFP's said they had clear purposes and goals.

A couple of NFP's said they wanted to review their mission.

Organisational Planning Tools and Processes

There is a lot of activity regarding strategic planning. Some recognise they need a strategic plan, others are reviewing their plan, one just created a 5-year plan with IRCF funds, another has developed a new Strategic Plan based on extensive community consultation.

One noted that they do planning at monthly meetings.

1 NFP noted that significant staffing disruptions had affected their program delivery in this period.

Grassroots problem solving in new and different ways and creativity

3 groups noted that grassroots problem solving was endemic in what we do.

Several others said that Covid and bushfires meant they were always problem solving and changing their way of working and using technology more.

