



Central Coast Council
Business Paper
Ordinary Council Meeting
29 October 2024





COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028

ONE – CENTRAL COAST IS THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) FOR THE CENTRAL COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

ONE – CENTRAL COAST DEFINES THE COMMUNITY'S VISION AND IS OUR ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

ONE – CENTRAL COAST BRINGS TOGETHER EXTENSIVE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TO SET KEY DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES

One - Central Coast will shape and inform Council's business activities, future plans, services and expenditure. Where actions are the responsibility of other organisations, sectors and groups to deliver, Council will work with key partners to advocate on behalf of our community.

Ultimately, every one of us who live on the Central Coast has an opportunity and responsibility to create a sustainable future from which we can all benefit. Working together we can make a difference.

RESPONSIBLE

WE'RE A RESPONSIBLE COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY, COMMITTED TO BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS AND DELIVERING A GREAT CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE IN ALL OUR INTERACTIONS.

We value transparent and meaningful communication and use community feedback to drive strategic decision making and expenditure, particularly around the delivery of essential infrastructure projects that increase the safety, liveability and sustainability of our region. We're taking a strategic approach to ensure our planning and development processes are sustainable and accessible and are designed to preserve the unique character of the coast.

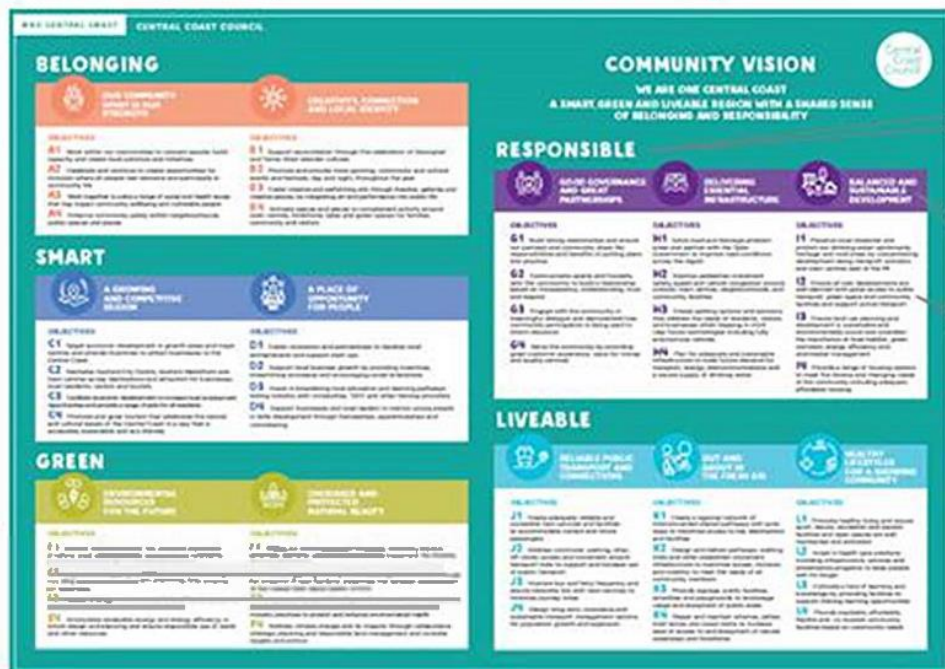
 **Good governance and great partnerships**

G2 Engage and communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on trust, transparency, respect and use community participation and feedback to inform decision making

There are 5 themes, 12 focus areas and 48 objectives

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028 FRAMEWORK

All council reports contained within the Business Paper are now aligned to the Community Strategic Plan. Each report will contain a cross reference to a Theme, Focus Area and Objective within the framework of the Plan.



Meeting Notice

**The Ordinary Council Meeting
of Central Coast Council
will be held in the Central Coast Council Chambers,
2 Hely Street, Wyong
on Tuesday 29 October 2024 at 6.30pm,
for the transaction of the business listed below:**

**The Public Forum will commence at 6.00pm, subject to any
registered speaker/s to items listed on this agenda.**

Further information and details on registration process:

www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings-and-minutes/council-meetings

Oath or Affirmation of Office

Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office to undertake their duties in the best interests of the people of the Central Coast and Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities, and discretions vested in them under the *Local Government Act 1993*, or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgement. Councillors are also reminded of their obligations under the Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

Disclosures of Interest

Councillors are reminded of their obligation under Council's Code of Conduct to declare any conflict of interest in a matter considered by Council.

Recording

In accordance with the *NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*, you are advised that all discussion held during the Open Council meeting is recorded for the purpose of livestreaming the public meeting and verifying the minutes. This will include any public discussion involving a councillor, staff member or a member of the public.

S QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

S.1 Question with Notice: Consultancy fees 5

David Farmer
Chief Executive Officer



Item No: S.1
Title: Question with Notice: Consultancy fees
Department: Corporate Services

29 October 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2024/00015 - D16478784
 Author: Emma Galea, Chief Financial Officer
 Manager: Marissa Racomelara, Director Corporate Services
 Executive: David Farmer, Chief Executive Officer

S.1 Question with Notice: Consultancy fees

The following question was submitted by Councillor Kyle MacGregor :

How much did council spend on consultants in the past financial year and how does this compare with the annual spend on consultants over the previous 5 financial years?

The use of consultants for operational projects fluctuates over time however for the last five years has been 1-2% of operating expenditure. Over the 5 years the cost of consultants has decreased from 9% to 6% of the materials and services annual expenditure.

The use of external expertise is a key component of Council's resourcing mix to deliver the Operational Plan. In 2023-24, total resourcing costs were \$263M.

Department	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
01. Office of the Chief Executive Officer	178,432	257,513	558,018	26,670	0	750
02. Community and Recreation Services	1,136,040	1,090,916	515,712	427,563	536,969	1,117,106
03. Infrastructure Services	1,155,651	2,289,457	606,325	589,041	1,700,809	1,586,222
04. Water and Sewer	1,455,760	1,424,708	2,275,671	1,447,418	2,550,109	3,706,073
05. Environment and Planning	4,232,419	4,405,606	4,381,781	3,434,686	3,643,354	4,852,047
06. Corporate Services	2,285,903	4,288,554	1,604,290	1,759,450	3,640,270	3,123,852
08. Retired Cost Centres	168,228	852,127	61,205	0	0	0
Grand Total	10,612,433	14,608,880	10,003,002	7,684,828	12,071,510	14,386,049

Consultants are used across the business in four broad categories:

1. Assurance – internal audit, independent reviews, recruitment services, IT penetration testing, community consultation, security services, cyber security monitoring, etc
2. Projects – election and onboarding, affordable housing review, customer service enhancements, FOGO feasibility and business case, Coastal Management Plans, enterprise architecture, GIS rollout, website etc
3. Specialist skills or knowledge – document mould remediation, engineering inspections, dam safety, species management, asset condition inspections, legal services, bushfire risk analysis, geotechnical reports, investment portfolio management, SCADA, environmental and flood studies, etc
4. Mandated costs – ARIC member fees, IPART requirements, development assessment costs (heritage, ecological, acoustic, etc) records sentencing, actuarial services, critical infrastructure risk assessments, Employee Assistance Program, staff training, etc

Consultancies are captured by project or activity within a directorate. Consultants may be funded from general revenue, grants or restricted funds. The directorates that are the larger contributors to consultant costs often have these costs funded from sources other than general revenue. For example, we may charge a fee for a service which covers (or partially covers) our costs, such as development assessment. In other cases, the use of a consultant is part of a larger funded project such as environmental remediation projects. Water and Sewer directorate consultants are funded from restricted funds to undertake key tasks and projects to deliver the IPART determination.

It is noted that some capital works projects may also utilise the services of consultants for activities such as architecture, engineering design, recreation facility design etc. The costs of consultants for specific capital projects is included within the overall project cost. Further detail is available is here [on the capital works map](#).

Attachments

Nil.