



Central Coast Council

Ordinary Council Meeting

**ATTACHMENTS PROVIDED UNDER
SEPARATE COVER**

Tuesday 10 December 2024

Central Coast Council
ATTACHMENTS PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER to the
Ordinary Council Meeting
To be held in the Central Coast Council Chambers,
2 Hely Street, Wyong
on Tuesday 10 December 2024
Commencing at 6:30 PM

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**Instrument of Delegation
to Chief Executive Officer, Mr David Farmer**

On 25 February 2021 the Central Coast Council ("the Council") resolved pursuant to s. 377 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to delegate to Mr David Farmer all of the Council's functions (except for those functions which must not be delegated by the operation of s. 377(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*) for the period that Mr Farmer is appointed in the position of General Manager [Chief Executive Officer] of the Council commencing from 12 April 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dick Persson".

.....
Mr Dick Persson AM
Administrator
Central Coast Council
26 April 2021

I accept the delegation and sub-delegation made to me by this instrument.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Farmer".

.....
Mr David Farmer
Date: 27/04/2021



Façade Improvement Support Program 2024/25

Applications

Recommended for Funding

Property Address	Project Summary	Recommendation
17 The Boulevard, Woy Woy	Façade painting and new signage	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$2,459.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
139 Mann Street, Gosford	Outdoor dining furniture	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$1,415.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
125 Donnison Street, Gosford	Signage	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$5,000.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
Shop 2, 72-82 Mann Street, Gosford	Signage and roller blinds	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$5,000.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
310 Main Road, Toukley	Replace driveway	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$5,000.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
147 Main Road, Toukley	New fencing	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$2,618.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
Shop C, 225 Main Road, Toukley	Signage	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$2,222.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
145 Main Road, Toukley	New fencing	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$4,598.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
168 Pacific Highway, Wyong	Façade upgrade	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$5,000.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.

Façade Improvement Support Program 2024/25

Applications

Property Address	Project Summary	Recommendation
177 Main Rd, Toukley	Awning upgrade	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$5,000.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
Henry Wheeler Place, Gosford	Fencing upgrade and signage	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$4,563.50 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
45 Mann Street, Gosford	Landscaping remediation	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$5,000.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
81 Mann Street, Gosford	Signage	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$2,846.25 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
283 Main Road, Toukley	Repainting	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$600.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
4/296-300 Main Road, Toukley	Signage	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$3,037.95 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
104 Erina Street, Gosford	Entry handrail	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$1,498.50 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
21 Ranken's Court, Wyong	Repaint and repair awning	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$5,000.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.

Façade Improvement Support Program 2024/25

Applications

Property Address	Project Summary	Recommendation
3/266 Main Road, Toukley	Window upgrade	Recommended for funding Amount Recommended: \$2,829.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
262 Main Road, Toukley	Signage and improved entry points	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$5,000.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
151 The Entrance Road, The Entrance	Signage	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$733.70 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
12A Dane Drive, Gosford	Replace entry door	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$3,289.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
243-245 Main Road, Toukley	Awning upgrade	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$5,000.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
150-154 Main Road, Toukley	Awning upgrade	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$5,000.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
374 Main Road, Toukley	Signage	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$2,095.50 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
24 Dane Drive, Gosford	Repainting	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$4,500.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
Shop 3 & 4, 119-123 The Entrance Road, The Entrance	Façade repair	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$5,000.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
266 Main Road, Toukley	Signage	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$4,622.90 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.

Façade Improvement Support Program 2024/25

Applications

Property Address	Project Summary	Recommendation
36 Alison Road, Wyong	Cleaning of external shopfronts and concrete pathways, line mark carpark	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$2,640.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
10-12 Alison Road, Wyong	Repainting	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$3,850.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
7/107 Mann Street, Gosford	Outdoor furniture	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$1,386.92 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
92 Terrigal Esplanade, Terrigal	Repaint and signage	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$5,000.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
193 Main Road, Toukley	Removal of asbestos wall and signage upgrade	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$4,189.48 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
296-300 Main Road, Toukley	Replace asbestos side wall	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$5,000.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
148 Main Road, Toukley	Repainting and signage	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$1,791.50 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
37-41 Canton Beach Road, Toukley	Repainting	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$4,600.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
45 Canton Beach Road, Toukley	Repainting	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$5,000.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
89 The Entrance Road, The Entrance	Outdoor furniture, lighting and signage	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: 5,000.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
13 Victoria Avenue, The Entrance	Signage and façade repair	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$3,825.25

Façade Improvement Support Program 2024/25

Applications

		Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
63 Trafalgar Avenue, Woy Woy	Signage	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$980.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.
Shop 2, 266 Main Road, Toukley	Repainting and signage	Recommended for funding. Amount Recommended: \$2,167.00 Meets program objectives and all required information is provided.

Not Recommended for Funding

Property Address	Project Summary	Recommendation
6 Hereford Street, Berkeley Vale	Façade upgrade and signage	Amount Recommended: \$0.00 Not Recommended for funding as the application is ineligible in accordance with eligibility clause 5.1 of the Façade Improvement Support Program Guidelines. 5.1 Façade improvement for the purposes of the grant program is defined as the external frontage structure of buildings and facilities that build on their street appeal and contribute to enhancement and activation of the following town centres: Gosford, Terrigal, The Entrance, Toukley, Woy Woy, Wyong.
61 Masons Parade, Point Frederick	Install signage, lighting and awnings	Amount Recommended: \$0.00 Not Recommended for funding as the application is ineligible in accordance with eligibility clause 5.1 of the Façade Improvement Support Program Guidelines. 5.1 Façade improvement for the purposes of the grant program is defined as the external frontage structure of buildings and facilities that build on their street appeal and contribute to enhancement and activation of the following town centres:

Façade Improvement Support Program 2024/25

Applications

Property Address	Project Summary	Recommendation
		Gosford, Terrigal, The Entrance, Toukley, Woy Woy, Wyong.

Community Support Grant Program

October 2024 Applications

Recommended for Funding

Organisation Name	Project Summary	Recommendation
Manno Mens Shed Incorporated	Purchase Bench Thicknesser	Recommended for funding. Amount recommended: \$1,000.00. Community benefit is demonstrated, and all required information is provided. Any future applications for funding for this project will be required to demonstrate ongoing sustainability.
Police Citizens Youth Clubs NSW Limited	PCYC Bateau Bay Front Door Upgrade	Recommended for funding. Amount recommended: \$5,000.00. Community benefit is demonstrated, and all required information is provided. Recommendation conditional on all relevant approvals being provided prior to the release of funds.
The Probus Club of The Entrance	Printer and laptop replacement	Recommended for funding. Amount recommended: \$1,696.00. Community benefit is demonstrated, and all required information is provided.
Central Coast Concert Band Incorporated	Rental subsidy	Recommended for funding. Amount recommended: \$3,100.00. Community benefit is demonstrated, and all required information is provided.
Wamberal Surf Life Saving Club Incorporated	External Lighting	Recommended for funding. Amount recommended: \$5,000.00. Community benefit is demonstrated, and all required information is provided. Recommendation conditional on all relevant approvals being provided prior to the release of funds.
	TOTAL	\$15,796.00

Community Support Grant Program

October 2024 Applications

Not Recommended for Funding

Organisation Name	Project Summary	Recommendation
Garawa Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Garawa - Connection to Community	<p>Amount recommended: \$0.00.</p> <p>Not recommended for funding as the project is ineligible as per clause 7.7 of the Community Support Grant Program Guidelines.</p> <p>7.7 Applications seeking funds for retrospective projects and activities commencing, or project items purchased, prior to one (1) month from the end of the grant closing date. (For example, an application submitted in July must commence no sooner than 1 September to be eligible)</p>
Central Coast Basketball Incorporated	Pickleball Equipment	<p>Amount recommended: \$0.00.</p> <p>Not recommended for funding as the project is ineligible as per clause 7.7 of the Community Support Grant Program Guidelines.</p> <p>7.7 Applications seeking funds for retrospective projects and activities commencing, or project items purchased, prior to one (1) month from the end of the grant closing date. (For example, an application submitted in July must commence no sooner than 1 September to be eligible)</p>



Central Coast Council
Open Space Strategy
2024-2031

Final report - November 2024

Central
Coast
Council

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play.

We pay our respects to Darkinjung country, and Elders past and present.

We recognise the continued connection to these lands and waterways and extend this acknowledgement to the homelands and stories of those who also call this place home.

We recognise our future leaders and the shared responsibility to care for and protect our place and people.



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1. Introduction

The Central Coast boasts an enviable lifestyle. Set amongst hinterland forest and stunning beaches, the area offers an extensive range of recreation opportunities within close proximity to Sydney. Its hundreds of kilometres of shared pathways, lake foreshores, parklands and beaches contribute to the area's character and sense of place and create an ideal setting for residents to lead active lifestyles and connect. The area's world-class, natural features contribute to the Central Coast's ECO Destination status, making it a popular destination for visitors.

Council is acutely aware of the importance of parks and play spaces for its communities and visitors, acknowledging the key role greenspace plays in supporting and providing essential mental, physical, social, economic and ecological benefits. This is strongly reflected in Council's community vision:



Following the merger of the former Wyong and Gosford Councils there was a need to take a fresh look at open space planning for the Central Coast and develop a strategic document that will inform decision making and encourage participation in active lifestyles.

Council is cognisant of the need to develop a long-term vision and framework for the provision and enhancement of the open space network, so that it can continue to provide attractive, meaningful, beneficial and sustainable green spaces that encourage an active community for many years to come.

1.1. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Open Space Strategy is to:

Provide direction for Council on the future development and management of its open space portfolio.

The Open Space Strategy is primarily concerned with ensuring the supply and development of public open space is sufficient to support anticipated growth and that it is acquired and developed in a timely manner.

The development of the strategy has the following overarching objectives:

- « Increasing participation in outdoor recreation and sport and encouraging active lifestyles.
- « Improving access to public open space opportunities.
- « Ensuring parks and sporting areas are fit for purpose and well designed, to cater for future demand.
- « Engaging the community and partners in the next 10 years of planning for public open space.
- « Adopting a whole of life approach to active lifestyle opportunities that ensures diversity of opportunity.
- « Ensuring culture, heritage and environmental significance, is appropriately considered in the planning and design of public open space.

1.2. What is included in the Central Coast Council Open Space Strategy

The Central Coast Council Open Space Strategy includes urban parks and open spaces that provide outdoor recreation opportunities for the community and visitors. This Strategy has a focus on ensuring supply of open space for recreation and sport in response to population growth over the next 10 years.

The Strategy does not include future planning for:

- « Bushland and conservation areas
- « Aquatic and leisure centres
- « Community halls
- « Individual sports and their specific facility needs
- « Land not managed by Council
- « Mountain biking and recreation in natural areas¹
- « Coastal Open Space System (COSS) lands and wetlands.

¹ Mountain Biking was a significant issue emerging during consultation for the Open Space Strategy, however a Council resolution requires council to prepare a Central Coast Mountain Biking Plan in the future. A separate study is also being undertaken on Recreation in Natural Areas.



1.3. Timing of Strategy Preparation

Research for the development Central Coast Council Open Space Strategy was undertaken by Otium Planning Group in 2020, 2021 and 2022 with a draft report provided to Council in late 2022. Key council staff undertook further review of the draft Open Space Strategy during 2023, with the final document now ready for adoption by Council.

Please note that 2021 ABS Census data is used to inform Central Coast Council population projections and for Open Space Benchmarking/Provision rates, including shortfalls and surpluses.

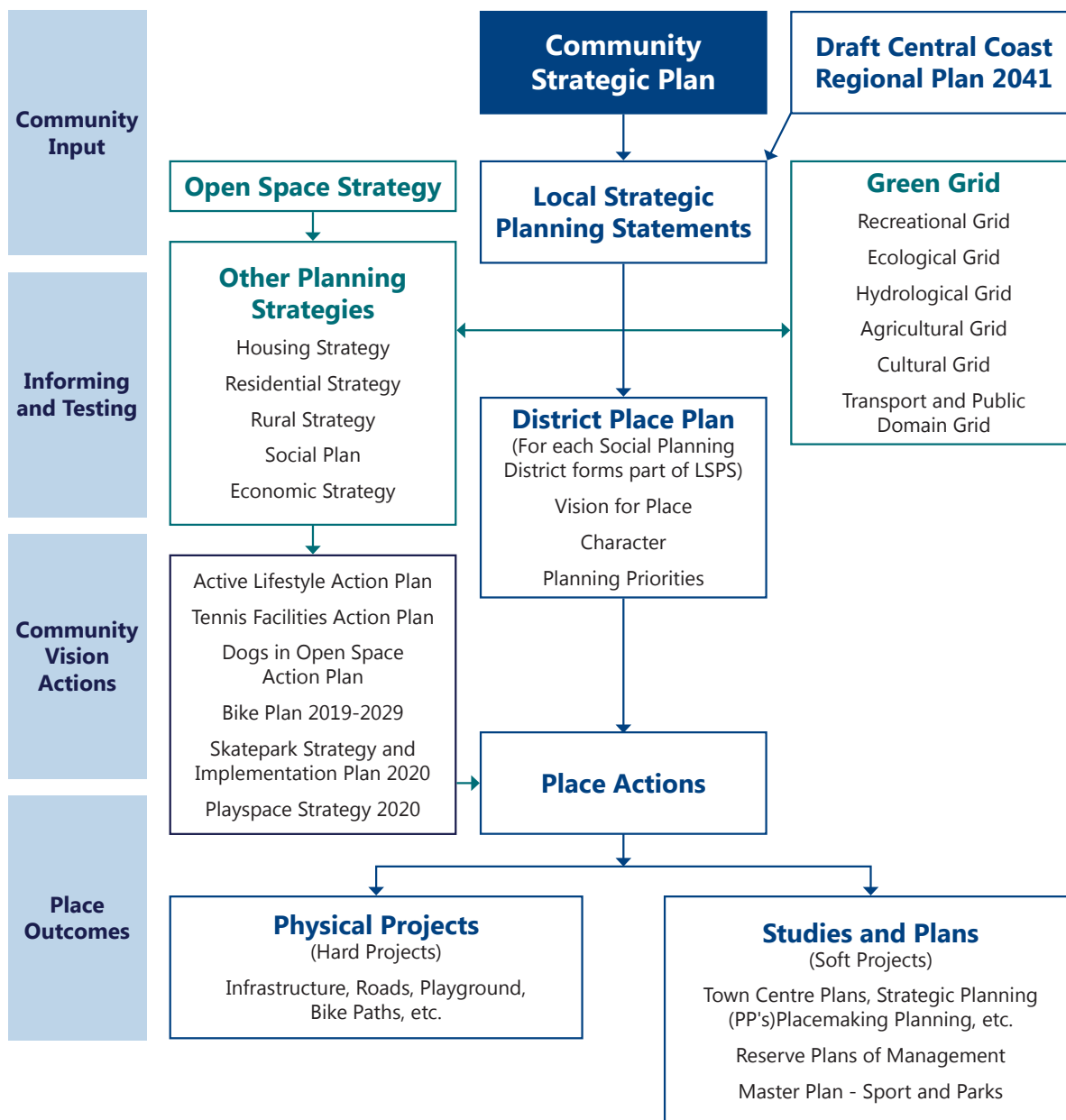
1.4. Central Coast Council Open Space Strategy Structure

The Central Coast Council Open Space Strategy is underpinned by a number of supporting documents including:



1.5. Strategic Context

As shown below, the Central Coast Council Open Space Strategy is aligned to a range of strategic documents and Planning Strategies and is the overarching strategy informing a number of Action Plans.



2. The Central Coast

2.1. Population and Growth



By 2046, the population is expected to increase by over 64,000 residents.



The **majority of future growth will occur in the northern part of the Central Coast Council area** around Warnervale-Wadalba and Lake Munmorah/Chain Valley Bay areas. Over two-thirds (68%) of projected population growth to 2031 will occur in the two northern Planning Areas of Wyong/ Warnervale/ Gorokan and Northern Lakes/ San Remo/ Budgewoi.

2.2. Age

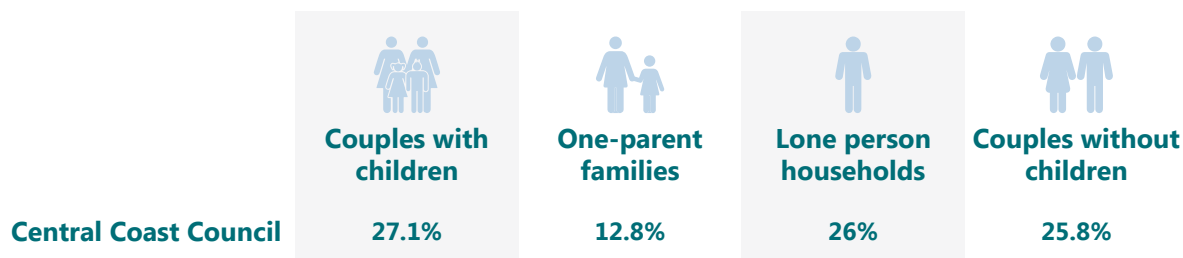
	Seniors	Empty Nesters	Young workforce	Parents and homebuilders
Central Coast Council	13.2%	12.4%	11%	18.3%
New South Wales	10.2%	11%	14.1%	20.1%

Significant growth in the older population, with the 65+ age cohort accounting for approximately 40% of the growth to 2036.

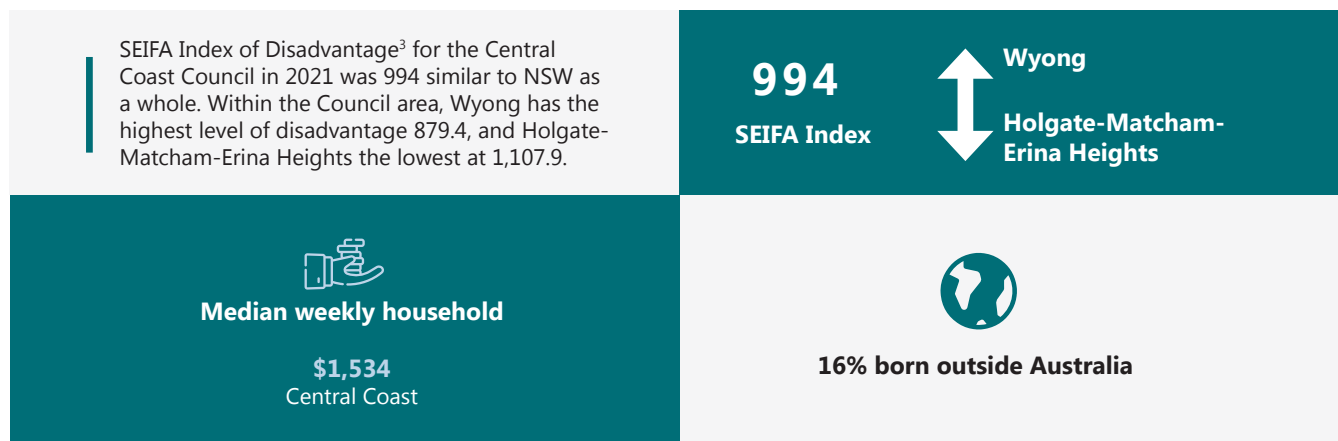


² Source: <https://profile.id.com.au/central-coast-nsw> (accessed 22/01/2021)

2.3. Household structure



2.4. SEIFA, Income and Ethnicity



2.5. Health and Well-being Indicators⁴

Across the Central Coast:

Obesity - aged 2 - 17

In 2014-2015 - 23.3% of the population aged 2 to 17 were overweight or obese, this increased to 25.7% by 2017-18, compared with Greater Sydney (23.0%) and NSW (24.4%).



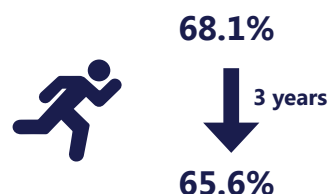
Obesity - aged 18+

In 2014-2015 - 68.1% of the population aged 18 years and over were overweight or obese, increasing to 69.3% by 2017-18. Higher than Greater Sydney (60.6%) and NSW (63.3%). **The national 2025 target for adults in Australia is 61.1%.**



Activity level

Rates of activity have increased over the last 3 years. In 2014-15 68.1% of the population aged 18 years and over were insufficiently physically active with a decrease to 65.6% in 2017-18. This rate is similar to Greater Sydney (65.2%) and NSW (65.3%) but is worse than Australia as a whole (47.3%). **The 2025 target for Australia is 40%.**



³ The Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) is an index that measures an area's relative level of socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of Census characteristics such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations.

⁴ Source: Australian Health Policy Collaboration: Australia's Health Tracker Atlas, published Sept 2020; Australian Health Policy Collaboration (AHPC) at Victoria University and the Public Health Information and Development Unit (PHIDU) at Torrens University

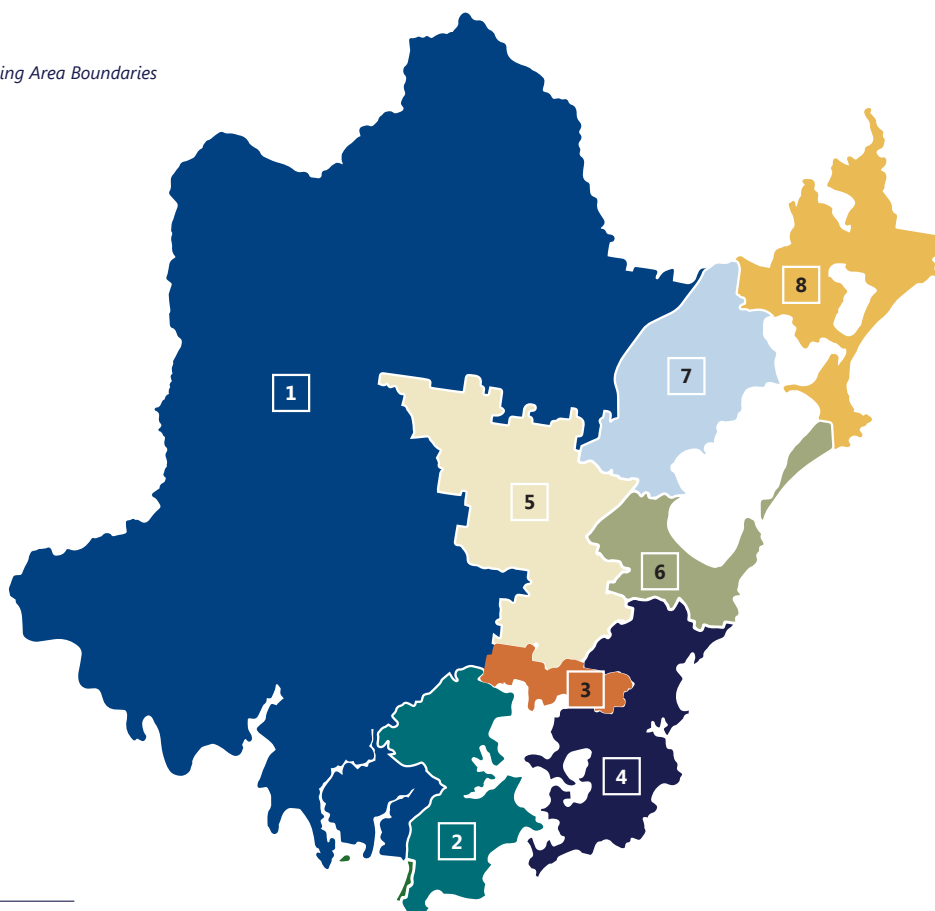
2.6. Planning Area Growth Projections

Central Coast Council has identified eight (8) planning areas⁵ for the Open Space Strategy to provide a more localised analysis of supply and demand.

Table 1: Planning Area Population Projections 2021-2031⁵ (Highest to Lowest Growth)

NO.	PLANNING AREA	2021 POPULATION	2031 POPULATION	POPULATION CHANGE	% CHANGE
1	Mountains and Valleys	8,419	8,797	378	4.5
2	Peninsula	52,058	53,175	1,117	2.1
3	Gosford Central	23,066	27,154	4,088	17.7
4	East Brisbane Water and Coastal	68,149	68,432	283	0.4
5	Narara Valley and Ourimbah	36,718	38,337	1,619	4.4
6	Southern Lakes and The Entrance	55,861	60,532	4,671	8.4
7	Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan	61,133	82,202	21,069	34.5
8	Northern Lakes, San Remo and Budgewoi	49,511	55,389	5,878	11.9
Central Coast Council area		354,915	394,019	39,104	11.0

Figure 1: Planning Area Boundaries



⁵ Planning Areas as determined by Council in 2020 for the start of the project

⁶ Source: profile.id courtesy of Central Coast Council

2.7. Planning Implications for Open Space Strategy

Planning for Growth

In absolute terms, the main growth areas to 2031 are:

- « Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan (+21,069)(Represents 54% of all projected growth to 2031)
- « Northern Lakes, San Remo and Budgewoi (+5,878)
- « Southern Lakes and The Entrance (+4,671)
- « Gosford Central (+4,088)

State planning legislation, planning guidance and regional planning has made clear that provision of parks, open space and sporting facilities to support active living, is an essential part of forward planning for growth.

Planning for an Ageing Population

The Central Coast population is ageing, and this means a likely increase in self-directed exercise and recreation such as walking and cycling. This places a greater focus on use of parks and beaches, active transport links with, and connectivity to, residential areas. Increased provision of a range of opportunities, programs and associated services will and help to keep older residents healthy.

Addressing Inactivity and Obesity

Slightly more than two-thirds of the Central Coast population is overweight or obese and insufficiently active. Trends (over recent years) show little improvement. Ensuring that the population has access to opportunities for physical activity will improve the overall health of the Central Coast population.

International and national literature outlines the importance and impact of urban design and provision of attractive and accessible open space and active transport networks. This critical infrastructure encourages physical activity, social interaction and improves productivity.

Integrating the Open Space Strategy into Central Coast Planning

Gosford has been the focus of urban renewal/ redevelopment/ reinvigoration, by both Council and the state government. As population density increases, so to does the importance of accessible open space infrastructure. Adding further pressure on open space infrastructure is Gosford's role as a regional centre and destination for visitors.

Regional planning to inform land-use and economic development must be supported by planning for open space sport and recreation. This should focus on on improving facility development, increased utilisation, sport and community organisation viability and encouraging participation in sport and outdoor recreation.

As planning instruments and controls are updated for the Central Coast Council, the Open Space Strategy will have an important role to inform developer contributions towards open space and recreation provision.



3. Evidence for Action

3.1. Importance of Parks, Pathways and Open Space

Urban residents are placing a higher importance on parks and open space. They expect to have bikeways and walking tracks available in their local neighbourhood and are increasingly using path and park networks for exercise and recreation. Community expectations in regard to quality of parks has also increased as more use is made of the local parks network.

Key trends in participation and community views include:



Walking is still the dominant form of physical activity and participation is increasing. Combined with rising participation in cycling and running in parks and natural areas, this means that demand for access to pathway networks within open space is one of the largest emerging infrastructure needs identified in cities.



Research has shown the importance of a **supportive environment** in public open spaces to encouraging participation in active recreation. This means appropriate and accessible facilities such as change and toilet facilities for all users, shaded pathways, natural landscape settings, passive surveillance and a sense of safety, and ease of access to public open space.



Community **expectations are increasing** as to the quality of parks and sporting areas and the level of access to these. In particular, there is increasing awareness of “high quality” destination parks with regional scale play and active recreation elements.



The rise of **exercise and fitness as recreation** has meant that public parks have become the new venues for formal and informal group fitness and social exercise. This is increasing pressure on local parks as well as increasing demand for shade and water as key elements.



The **infiltration of technology throughout our lives** means we have unlimited access to knowledge, information and engagement and expect instantaneous communication. There is potential for increased digitisation of public spaces through virtual and augmented play experiences and use of “smart” features, such as smart lights which can double as a WiFi node, smart benches with solar powered USB charging docks and interactive kiosks that provide information on weather and local news.



Increased value on the importance of our **environment and sustainability** will drive incorporation of sustainable design into parks and playspaces and creation of green spaces and corridors that mitigate urban heat island effects.



Increased pet ownership and the need to **exercise pets** is likely to increase demand for **dog friendly parks**, particularly in urban areas.

3.2. Trends that Influence How We Plan and Provide Open Space

Lessons from past planning failures have seen shifts in state policy and in how we think about the open space network:

Increasing multiple use of open space and the decline of "single purpose" use of public spaces



There is increasing acceptance of **multiple use of open space** to achieve a number of outcomes. But there are challenges as incompatible uses can greatly diminish the recreation value of a space if design does not consider what is "fit for purpose" for recreational uses. In some cases, attempting multiple use can be more costly and less effective.



With **good design and sufficient space**, multiple uses of open space can support recreation, pathways, protection of riparian environments and management of stormwater.



There has also been increased awareness that **single purposes sporting uses can be inefficient** and inequitable. Some uses such as golf courses can "constrain" large areas of public land, which, if not being used to capacity, may have the potential to help address undersupply of parkland and sporting space.



Many local governments are facing **increasing financial constraints** on the funding of infrastructure and future maintenance obligations. Planning and finance controls such as contributions caps and borrowing restraints have meant that funding parks and recreation facilities is increasingly difficult. A key challenge is to deliver open space and recreation infrastructure in a timely manner as demand emerges in urban growth areas.



Over recent years in a number of urban areas in Australia, the **use of public land for golf courses** has been reviewed in the light of increasing demand for open space and declining land availability. Responses include redevelopment to recreation park⁷; increasing public access for non golf use, increasing multiple use through scheduling and reduction in size of course/ number of holes to increase multiple uses of the land.



Sporting precincts and fields are also able to support formal and informal uses and should be designed to encourage multiple-use and particularly for nearby residents-rather than being locked away for sport only.



Changes in sport delivery from traditional home-and-away competition and training patterns with introduction of new formats are changing the facility mix at sport parks and precincts, and in some cases requiring playing surfaces/ field of play that are more resilient to use and wear. These facilities can cater for higher numbers of users and uses through the week/ season.



Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) is a key driver of multiple-use open space attempting the integration of waterway protection and stormwater treatment systems into public open space. This can see drainage swales, gross pollution traps, filtration wetlands, detention basins and similar elements designed into larger area of public parkland.



Multiple use can also ensure that areas designed primarily for water treatment, drainage and flood management can be enhanced, through good multiple use design, to **provide additional recreation opportunity such as trails and small recreation nodes**.



Where appropriate, planning for multiple use can **increase the diversity of outdoor recreation** opportunities and reap increased value for the community from infrastructure investment.

⁷ In Brisbane the inner city Victoria Park Public Golf Course will be redeveloped as major destination parklands.

3.3. The NSW Approach to Planning Open Space for Sport and Recreation

The **Urban Green Infrastructure Policy** [Greener Places] [NSW] was released by the state government in 2017 and the **Draft Greener Places Design Guide** was released in 2020 which includes guidance on planning Open Space for Recreation.

The Greener Places⁸ document aims to create a networked urban ecosystem of green space that encompasses parks and open spaces to help create a healthier, more liveable and resilient place to live. The policy advocates for green infrastructure to be considered as essential infrastructure throughout the urban design process, from strategy to construction and maintenance.

The objectives of the draft policy are:

- « To protect, conserve and enhance NSW's network of green and open natural and cultural spaces
- « To secure a network of high quality, high performing and well-designed green space, establishing a crucial component of urban infrastructure to address the environmental challenges of the twenty-first century
- « To promote healthy living, encouraging physical activity, social cohesion, and enhancing wellbeing by providing liveable places for the NSW community
- « To create a more strategic approach to planning for Green Infrastructure, encouraging early and integrated investment through statutory planning
- « To deliver better tools for the delivery of Green Infrastructure across NSW.

The **Draft Greener Places Design Guide** [released in 2020] - [Open Space for Recreation] proposes a new framework for planning. In summary it advocates:

- « A shift in focus from reliance on simplified measures such as hectares per 1000 people to a performance approach combining a number of measures.
- « An emphasis on the recreation opportunity outcomes required and defining the spaces needed to support these.
- « A recognition that existing parks have a capacity and can only accommodate so much use before additional land is needed.
- « Increased multiple use of open space and other public spaces such as within schools.
- « It details a range of performance criteria that guide successful planning and delivery. These criteria include:
 - Accessibility and Connectivity
 - Distribution
 - Size and Shape
 - Quantity
 - Quality
 - Diversity.



This guide has informed the Open Space Strategy and provided significant guidance on the planning principles and performance criteria used for open space planning in particular

⁸ Source: <https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/policies/greener-places>

4. Stakeholder Engagement Snapshot

The results of stakeholder engagement are summarised below. For the full detail, please refer to the Engagement Report.

The community and stakeholder engagement program was influenced by the constraints of Covid-19 and necessary adaptations in response to health requirements.

4.1. How We Engaged



Information on Council's **'Your Voice Our Coast'** web-site



Social media posts across councils platforms



An on-line **community survey** – 438 responses



An on-line **survey of community user groups and organisations** – 95 responses



Workshop with Council officers representing a range of related areas



2 workshops with **key community stakeholder** agencies

4.2. Community Survey

4.2.1. Most Popular Activities

The most popular activities were:



Mountain biking - 57%



Swimming at the beach/ waterways - 50%



Walking/ running on trails and bush paths - 49%



Cycling on roads and bikeways - 37%



Water sports (SUP, paddling, surfing, water-skiing) - 34%



Walking the dog or taking dog to an off-leash space - 30%



Gym, fitness centre or health club training - 25%



A high number of respondents indicated they participated in in multiple activities each week. The prevalent activities undertaken multiple times per week were:

- « Walking the dog or taking dog to an off-leash space
- « Going to the Gym, fitness centre or health club training
- « Mountain biking

4.2.2. Activity Aspirations:

Approximately one third of respondents indicated an interest in other activities they were unable to participate in for a range of reasons:

- « 31% of the desired activity responses mentioned mountain bike riding or aspects related to this activity (types of trails, sanctioned use, pump tracks etc).
- « 10% were cycling based (continuous trails, off-road options etc)
- « 9% mentioned exercise options (access to equipment and programs etc)
- « Of the range of reasons inhibiting/ preventing people from participating, the most frequent response was lack of available facilities.

4.2.3. Important Features of Popular Facilities:

The most important attracters in choosing local parks, reserves, facilities or trails:

- « Bikeways/ pathways for walking, running or riding
- « Good quality activity surface
- « Access to amenities, toilets and change rooms
- « Access to car parking.

4.2.4. Encouraging Physical Activity

Suggestions to increase/ enhance active lifestyles were:

- « Improved supportive infrastructure (shade, amenities, benches, bins, water and storage).
- « Open space, parks and reserves (including sports fields and walking paths) are important to have and need to be well maintained.
- « Increase sports programs, active lifestyle activities and infrastructure (e.g., outdoor fitness equipment and wharfs/ jetties to access lakes).
- « Maintain natural bushland and ensure ecological sustainability.
- « Improve water quality in the lake
- « Increase single track MTB trails
- « Separate bike and walking trails
- « Increased provision of fenced off leash dog areas
- « Accessible and inclusive spaces.



4.3. Community Organisations and User Groups

4.3.1. Facility Satisfaction

Of the sport facilities and reserves used for these activities, most respondents indicated their level of satisfaction was either *satisfied* or *neutral*.

Reasons for dissatisfaction were mostly associated with:



4.3.2. Key Issues for Organisations

From a range of issues that typically impact community organisations, difficulty attracting and retaining volunteers was ranked as the issue causing the most impact. Other important issues included:



Cost of hiring or maintaining facilities



Storage



Spectator amenities



Availability of coaches and instructors



Lack of access to fields and facilities



Facility condition

4.3.3. Future Priorities

Priorities for facilities were primarily in relation to amenities (including female friendly change rooms), storage, maintenance, cleanliness, and access.

Organisational priorities focused on building/ retaining membership, supporting volunteers, training and coaching and better use and sharing of resources.

4.4. Key Stakeholders

Key Themes emerging:

- « Well distributed, located, accessible multiple-use facilities and opportunities
- « Protecting and enhancing the natural environment and natural assets of the region with facility design and development that contributes to sustainability, incorporating elements that contribute to liveable environments
- « Recognition that the larger combined local government is positive for consistent and integrated facility planning, development and delivery
- « Facilities, activities, services and programs that are adaptive, inclusive and accessible 'cradle to grave' offerings where all members of the community have opportunities to engage in active lifestyles at all stages of life
- « The settlement pattern of the area provides challenges to equitable and accessible facilities and opportunities
- « Optimally utilised and quality facilities and opportunities were recognised as being the ideal; with issues raised about timely renewal/ replacement of aged/ deficient assets and restricted access to some facilities
- « Consideration to aspects of sport and recreation activity delivery/ provision that prioritise participation instead of competition being the primary (and only in some cases) choice.

4.5. Implications for the Open Space Strategy

The **community is generally supportive** of Council's role and efforts in providing infrastructure and opportunities for physical activity and recreation.

Improved opportunities for incidental or **self-directed outdoor recreation** can arise from improved maintenance of a range of setting types, increased capacity on pathways (cycling, walking), and increased focus on inclusive and accessible spaces.

Support for a **needs-based assessment** to prioritise provision of and investment in, public open space as well as **increased multiple use** and design of flexible and adaptable spaces.

Club and association facility/ infrastructure issues reflect the broader community comments on **maintenance, quality and accessibility**. Priorities for improving organisational viability focused on building/ retaining membership, supporting volunteers and recruiting/ retaining coaches and instructors. Improved multiple use and sharing of facilities and resources is also important.

5. Supply of Open Space for Recreation and Sport

This strategy focuses on:

- « Public open space **owned or managed by Council** within the urban and suburban areas of the Central Coast
- « Public open space needed by residents and visitors for a range of formal and informal outdoor recreation, physical activity and sport activities
- « Supply of land for sport and recreation for the **next 10 years**.

The strategy does not consider the detailed needs of individual sports and other organised activity, which is addressed through separate or future planning.

While the strategy is primarily concerned with parks and sporting areas in the ownership or control of Council, these public lands are supplemented by other spaces managed by state government agencies (e.g. National Parks, Schools) and sporting clubs who own their land.

5.1. Classification Framework

The existing network of open space for sport and recreation has been classified according to:

- « **Primary Purpose** - the high-level purpose of the land parcel (such as sport, conservation, recreation etc.) as described in Figure 2 below and
- « **Function** - the specific type of provision that the land is used for (e.g. community facility, sport, recreation park etc.) as described at Figure 3.

Most public open spaces will have a main function (such as sport, recreation, conservation or natural/built heritage) and may also support secondary, or multiple functions (such as conservation areas that support walking tracks or sporting areas that provide general park opportunities).

The assessment of the existing supply has been undertaken considering the Primary Purpose definitions outlined below. Environmental open space, natural areas/ bushland, private open space/ sport land and other open space such as drainage, flood mitigation/ retention areas and detention basins all contribute to an open space network, however these "types" are not *public open space for recreation and sport*, and as such are not included in supply and planning analysis.

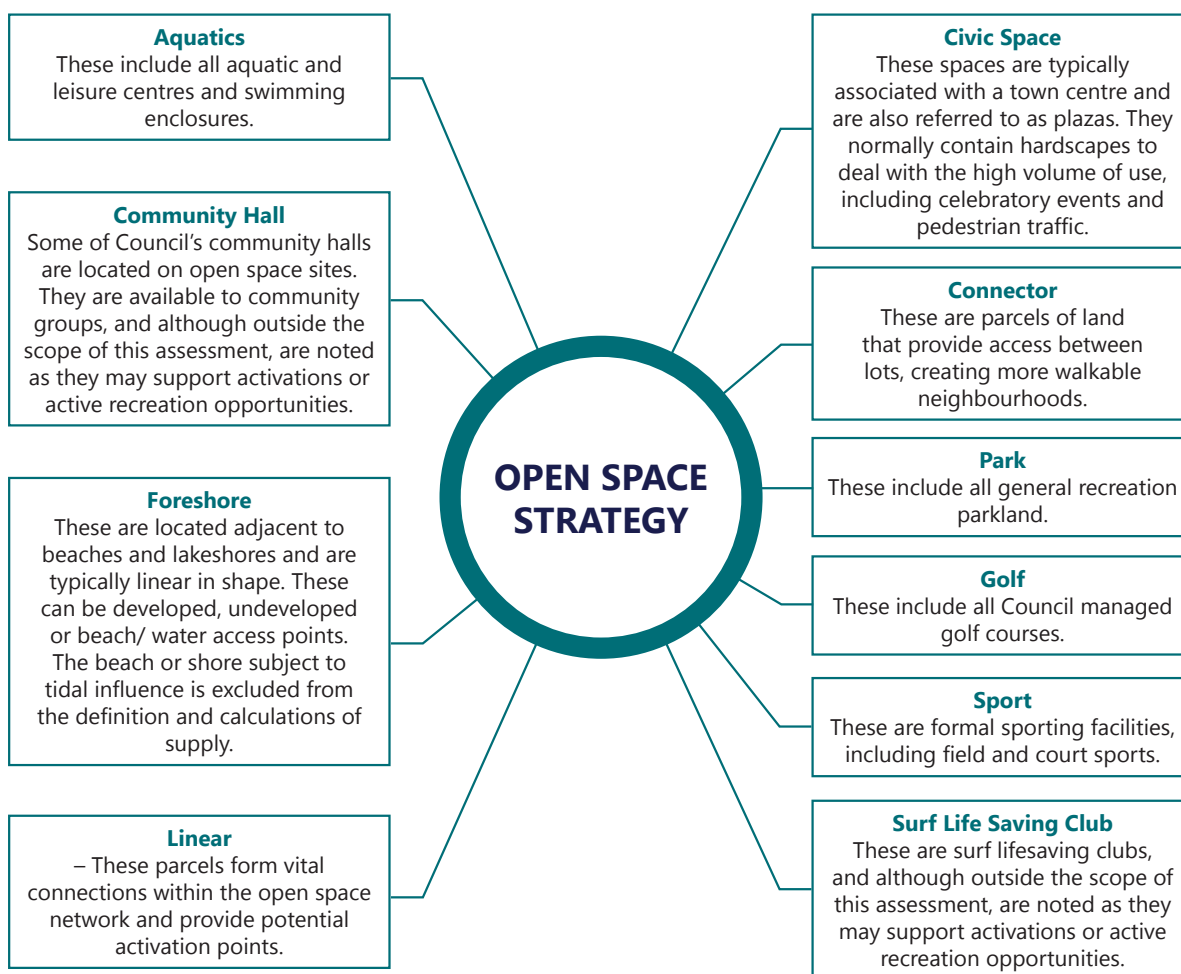
Figure 2: Primary Purpose of (Public) Open Space



5.1.1. Functional Assessment

Open space for sport, general community use and park has been further classified into the following, based on an assessment of their main function:

Figure 3: Functional Types for the Open Space Strategy (Sport, General Community Use, Park)



5.1.2. Distribution of Public Open Space and Access

Across the Central Coast:

- « 41.6% is primarily Sport
- « 30.9% of the assessed open space network (excluding natural areas) is Park
- « 24.7% is (developed/ accessible) Foreshore, demonstrating the importance of this type in the region and to local communities.
- « The balance is made up of aquatics, civic space, community hall, connector, linear and SLSC.
- « An additional 205.3Ha of public land is contained within golf courses.

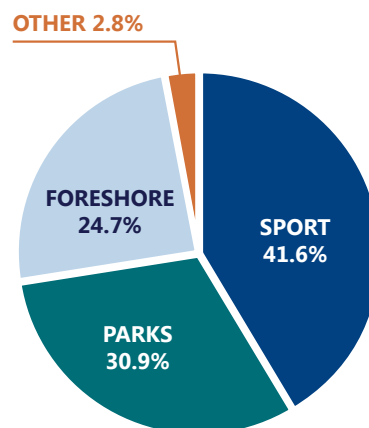


Figure 4: Composition of Public Open Space in Central Coast (excluding Golf Courses)

5.1.3. Size of Public Open Space Areas

Size is a critical qualitative criterion in considering whether a site is fit-for-purpose and has the capacity to accommodate use. Very small parks (often called “pocket parks”) have limited ability to accommodate recreation use and are inefficient to maintain. However some small parcels, especially those associated with linear open space can be useful as active transport linkages or use nodes along waterway corridors. They can also complement other public space such as squares or plazas.

Within the Central Coast 22 sites/ parks are smaller than 1,000 m2 and have been identified as non-conforming to a minimum functional area assessment. As part of Council's upcoming District Place Plan project, which will be completed for each Social Planning District, the long-term value of these parcels will be investigated and a future use determined.

5.2. Supply Assessment and High-Level Population Benchmarks

5.2.1. Council-wide Supply Rates

Across the whole Council area the rate of provision is:



Table 2 summarises and compares the area of open space within each planning area against 2021 and 2031 populations, showing this as the provision rate (hectares of open space per 1,000 people).

Table 2: Summary of Open Space Provision by Planning Area (2021 and projected 2031)⁹


NO.	PLANNING AREA	2021			2031		
		Population	Total Open Space	Rate of supply (Ha / 1000 Residents)	Population	Total Open Space	Rate of supply (Ha / 1000 Residents)
1	Mountains and Valleys	8,419	29.95	3.56	8,797	29.95	3.40
2	Peninsula	52,058	154.75	2.97	53,175	154.75	2.91
3	Gosford Central	23,066	82.02	3.56	27,154	82.02	3.02
4	East Brisbane Water and Coastal	68,149	152.39	2.24	68,432	152.39	2.23
5	Narara Valley and Ourimbah	36,718	77.24	2.10	38,337	77.24	2.01
6	Southern Lakes and The Entrance	55,861	186.48	3.34	60,532	186.48	3.08
7	Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan	61,133	174.88	2.86	82,202	209.35*	2.55
8	Northern Lakes, San Remo and Budgewoi	49,511	187.88	3.79	55,389	187.88	3.38
Central Coast Council		354,915	1,127.59	2.95	394,019	1,162.06	2.65

* Includes additional supply for planning area 7 based on the inclusion of land identified in the Warnervale District Contributions Plan 2021.


⁹ Provided by Central Coast Council and Profile ID in 2021)

5.2.2. Benchmarks for Future Planning


Based on current supply and existing benchmarks¹⁰, acknowledging that the data indicates mixed supply levels, and adopting a principle of no net loss of functional open space, it is recommended the following high-level benchmarks be adopted:



Land for Sport
1.3 Ha / 1,000
(being the rate identified by Otium's Demand Analysis Model¹¹ and just below the current rate of supply)



Land for Recreation
(general parkland)
1.8 Ha / 1,000
(being a rate between past adopted benchmarks and close to the existing level of supply)



Total Land for Recreation and Sport
3.1 Ha / 1000

The following table applies these recommended benchmarks to current supply to assess current (2021) and future (2031) supply (expressed as demand) surplus or deficit. The projected surpluses or deficits have been determined on the basis of no planned increases on 'current supply', with the exception of achieving the increases outlined in the Warnervale District Contributions Plan 2021¹² (which anticipates 11.34 Ha of land for sport and 24.62 Ha of land for recreation parks).

Table 3: Central Coast Open Space Supply Assessment - revised benchmarks - 2021 and 2031

	CURRENT SUPPLY (HA)	2021 DEMAND (HA)	2021 SURPLUS/ DEFICIT (HA)	2031 DEMAND (HA)	2031 SURPLUS/ DEFICIT (HA)
Land for sport: 1.3 Ha / 1,000	397.99	461.39	-63.40	512.22	-114.23
Land for recreation (general parkland): 1.8 Ha / 1,000	647.59	638.85	8.75	709.23	-61.64
Total Land for Recreation and Sport: 3.1 Ha / 1,000	1,045.58	1,100.24	-54.66	1,221.46	-175.87 (less 35.28 Ha from Warnervale District Contributions Plan 2021) -140.59 deficit

Note the above high-level benchmarks do not include natural areas and conservation lands and assume that the land provided for sport and recreation is fit for purpose, sufficiently accessible and able to be developed and maintained for a reasonable cost.

Benchmarks are mostly relevant for high level analysis. Effective planning for future provision should be undertaken at catchment level and focused on the quality and performance criteria detailed in the provision framework (refer Sections 7.3 and 7.4).

While the city-wide summary indicates a slight deficit against the proposed Open Space Benchmarks, Council has the opportunity to address the gap through Strategic Open Space Planning in the coming decade.

¹⁰ Central Coast currently uses a range of supply benchmarks related to prior planning and contributions plans.

¹¹ Demand calculated using Otiums Demand Assessment Model (refer to Section 6.2).

¹² Since the original preparation of this strategy the final Warnervale Contributions Plan was adopted in 2021 which resulted in a slight increase of provision of around 0.8 Ha)

5.3. Planning Area Supply Analysis

As outlined in Section 2.6, Council has identified eight (8) planning areas to guide more detailed analysis of supply and planning for future needs. The following section summarises the supply within, and comparisons between, Planning Areas.

5.3.1. Overall Supply within Planning Areas

The supply of open space within each Planning Area is summarised in Table 4 below. It is evident that supply is not evenly distributed across the Central Coast as a whole. The recommended benchmarks at Section 5.2.2 have been applied to the current and projected population for each Planning Area at Table 2, to calculate surpluses or deficits of open space.

Table 4: Summary of Surplus or Deficit in 2021 and projected 2031 Demand for Open Space in Planning Areas

PLANNING AREA #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Current Supply (Ha)	29.95	154.75	82.02	152.39	77.24	186.48	174.88	187.88
Projected 2031 Supply (Ha)	29.95	154.75	82.02	152.39	77.24	186.48	209.35 ¹³	187.88
Recommended benchmark - 3.1 Ha/ 1,000								
2021 Demand (Ha)	26.1	161.38	71.50	211.26	113.83	173.17	189.51	153.48
Surplus/ Def (Ha)	3.85	-6.63	10.51	-58.87	-36.59	13.31	-14.63	34.40
2031 Demand (Ha)	27.27	164.84	84.18	212.14	118.84	187.65	254.83	171.71
Surplus/ Def (Ha)	2.68	-10.09	-2.16	-59.75	-41.61	-1.17	-45.48	-16.17

The above table demonstrates that:

- « Planning Areas 2, 4, 5 and 7 currently have a supply deficit with the deficit being significant in 4 and 5.
- « In 2031 significant deficits will exist in Areas 4 and 5 and minor deficits in 2, 3 and 6
- « The large deficit in Planning Area 7 will largely be addressed via the Warnervale District Contributions Plan 2021 with a remaining 11 Ha deficit.

¹³ Includes projected additional land from Warnervale District Contributions Plan 2021

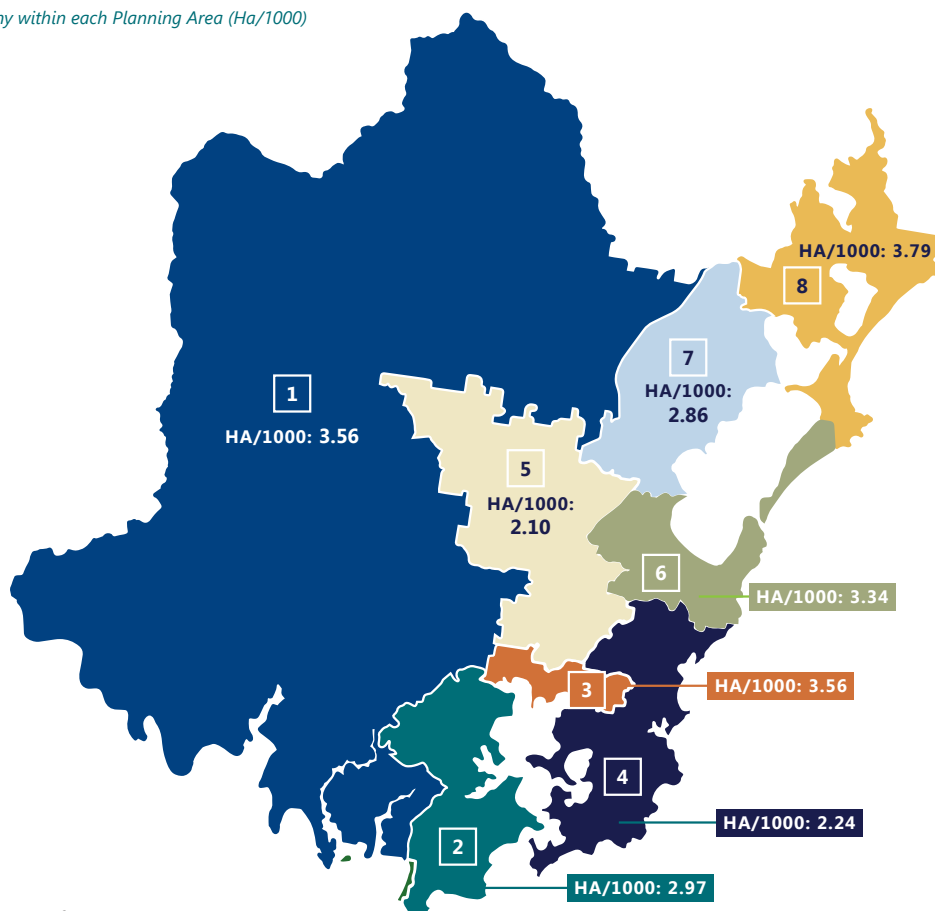
5.3.2. Summary of Comparison across Planning Areas

Across the Central Coast, the comparison of supply within each planning area is summarised below:

Table 5: Comparison of Open Space Types within each Planning Area (Ha/1000)

PA#	POPULATION	TOTAL RECREATION PARK (HA)	RATE OF RECREATION PARK SUPPLY HA/1000	TOTAL SPORTING PARK (HA)	RATE OF SPORT SUPPLY HA/1000	TOTAL OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATION AND SPORT (HA)	HA/1000
1	8419	9.53	1.13	20.42	2.43	29.95	3.56
2	52058	106.59	2.05	48.16	0.93	154.75	2.97
3	23066	27.71	1.20	54.31	2.35	82.02	3.56
4	68149	101.53	1.49	50.86	0.75	152.39	2.24
5	36718	32.47	0.88	44.77	1.22	77.24	2.10
6	55861	129.57	2.32	56.91	1.02	186.48	3.34
7	61133	90.24	1.48	84.63	1.38	174.88	2.86
8	49511	149.95	3.03	37.92	0.77	187.87	3.97
Central Coast Council	354915	647.59	1.83	397.98	1.12	1045.57	2.95
Average across all Planning Areas			1.70		1.35		3.05

Figure 5: Supply by Hierarchy within each Planning Area (Ha/1000)



Note: Recreation Park includes foreshore areas and linear parks

5.3.3. Walkability assessment

The distribution and accessibility of public open space is a key performance measure in meeting the needs of the residential population. The ability to walk to a local park and the capacity of that park to accommodate recreation use are critical to creating active and healthy communities and consistently identified by the community as priorities.

The following graph (Figure 5) details the percentage of 2016¹⁴ resident population that has access to open space for recreation within 400m¹⁵ safe walking in each planning area.

The analysis considers the following:

- « Safe walking access excludes multilane highways unless underpasses or other safe and functional crossing treatments are in place. Other barriers are railways, creeks, drainage lines etc.
- « Low-density areas are excluded. Areas of low density (<5 People/ ha). These are typically rural residential areas where the provision of local (walk to) public open space is not required.

Key findings include:

- « Across the the Central Coast Council area 8.85 % of the population (around 29,000 residents) live in urban areas and do not have access to any public open space within 400m walking distance.
- « 82.62% have access to parks for recreation and a further 3.77% only have access to a sporting area. In addition, 4.76% of the population live in low-density areas where walkability assessment is not relevant.
- « In each planning area, except Mountains and Valleys (1), a high proportion of the resident population has access to at least one open space area within walking distance.
- « There is a smaller proportion of residents that do not have access to recreation parks but do have access to sporting land (these are indicated as Sport Only). The only sport facility within the Central Coast that has been excluded from this analysis is the Central Coast Stadium (Gosford)¹⁶, recognising that the stadium is maintained for elite training and events and therefore is not accessible for general community sport or recreation.
- « Potential strategies to address the access deficit include:
 - Identification of active transport links that can improve access to open space.
 - Development of "green street" connections to provide enhanced walkability and connectivity.
 - Acquisition of additional land, or easements to increase the permeability of, or access to, existing parks
 - Acquisition of land to provide new parks or to expand existing parks.
 - Improving local outdoor recreation opportunities with appropriate enhancement of bushland and conservation areas (trails and picnic areas).
 - Identification of other open space areas (such as school grounds, unused road corridors and buffers) that can be improved or enhanced as multiple purpose areas to provide local recreation opportunities.

¹⁴ This assessment has utilised 2016 population data, as only census data is available at mesh-block level enabling this level of detail analysis

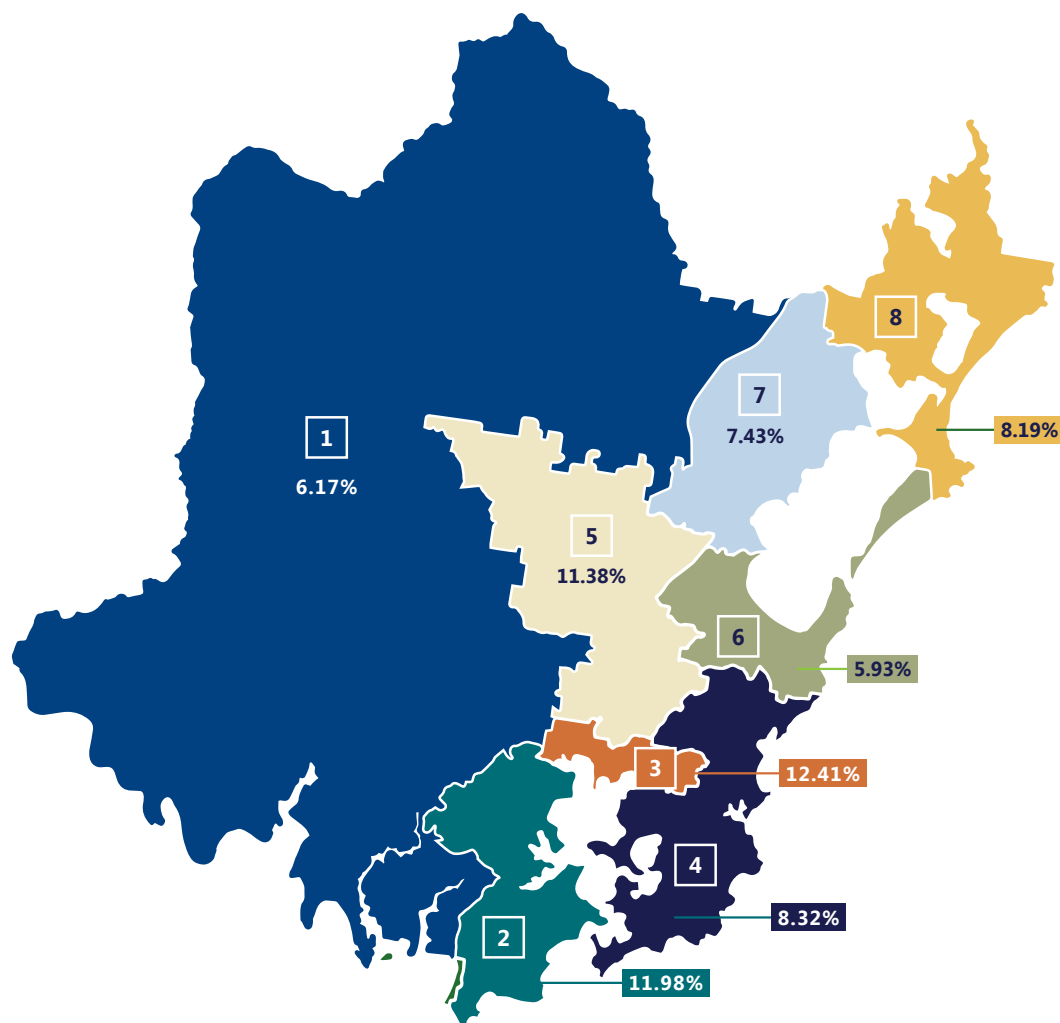
¹⁵ This is consistent with the "NSW Govt Draft Greener Places Design Guide" (p16) which indicates a performance standard for barrier-free access to a local park of 2-3 minutes walk/ 200m walking distance in high density areas (defined as >60 dwellings/ ha) and 5 minutes walk/ 400m walking distance in medium to low density areas (defined as <60 dwellings/ ha)

¹⁶ The Central Coast Stadium is included in the calculation of overall supply of open space

Table 6: Analysis of Walking Access to Parks and Sporting Areas

PA#	PLANNING AREA	RECREATION PARK ACCESS WITHIN 400M	NO PARK ACCESS BUT A SPORTING AREA WITHIN 400M	NO ACCESS TO PARK OR SPORTING AREA WITHIN 400M	% OF CATCHMENT LIVING IN LOW DENSITY
1	Mountains and Valleys	7.24%	14.37%	6.17%	72.22%
2	Peninsula	85.16%	1.76%	11.98%	0.11%
3	Gosford Central	78.77%	6.76%	12.41%	2.06%
4	East Brisbane Water and Coastal	81.9%	3.53%	8.32%	6.24%
5	Narara Valley and Ourimbah	82.34%	1.5%	11.38%	4.79%
6	Southern Lakes and The Entrance	85.92%	4.25%	5.93%	3.9%
7	Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan	84.28%	5.42%	7.43%	2.86%
8	Northern Lakes, San Remo and Budgewoi	89.05%	2.49%	8.19%	0.27%

Figure 6: Proportion of the residential population in urban areas with no access to public open space (park or sporting area) within 400m walk



5.4. Summary of Key Findings from the Supply Assessment

The key findings of the supply assessment are:

- « The Central Coast Council average for supply is 1.83 Ha/ 1000 for recreation parks and 1.12 Ha/ 1000 for sporting parks. When the individual supply rates of each catchment are averaged, this changes to 1.7 Ha/1000 for recreation parks and 1.35 Ha/ 1000 for sporting parks.
- « The high-level benchmark adopted for future planning is 1.8 Ha/ 1000 for recreation parks and 1.3 Ha/ 1000 for sporting parks.
- « Northern Lakes, San Remo and Budgewoi (Planning Area 8) has the highest supply of open space yet further planning needs to be undertaken to identify additional Sporting Facilities for this catchment given projected population growth.
- « Mountains and Valleys (Planning Area 1) has the lowest supply, however it has the smallest population and per capita provision exceeds 3.5 ha/ 1,000.
- « Narara Valley and Ourimbah (Planning Area 5) has the lowest per capita rate of provision of 2.1 Ha / 1000 (2021 population).
- « Across the planning areas, there are 22 sites at 1,000 m2 or less that require further/ detailed investigation, informed by local planning considerations, as to retention, improvement or alternative use. It may be that some of these sites could be improved/ expanded to help address deficits where they are located in an area of low supply.
- « In some planning areas there is a prevalence of regional sites which provide local access to recreation opportunities.
- « In the planning areas with significant lake and ocean foreshore, there is a heavy reliance on foreshores providing recreation space .
- « Across Central Coast Council area 8.85 % of the population (around 29,000 residents) live in urban areas and do not have access to any public open space within 400m walking. 82.62% have access to parks for recreation and a further 3.77% only have access to a sporting area. In addition 4.76% of the population live in low density areas where walkability assessment is not relevant.
- « The walkability assessments indicate that in catchments 2,3 and 5 there are around 12% of homes with no walkable access to any public open space. In other locations the only locally accessible (within 400m walk) open space is that of sporting parks. Not all of these are well developed for local recreation use. These sites will remain important for a range of recreation opportunities and should be planned and designed (future development and upgrades) to provide multiple uses/ opportunities, both formal sport and informal recreation use.



6. Future Demand Assessment

6.1. High-level Open Space Demand Assessment

Determining the demand for open space across Central Coast Council can use a high level benchmark (as detailed in Section 7.4). This is based on population projections and the proposed ratio of open space provision. It is acknowledged that determining this demand using only quantitative measures does not incorporate qualitative aspects such as functionality, quality and accessibility factors that are important in a sustainable open space network.

Table 7 applies the proposed provision standard against population projections for Central Coast Council to demonstrate the total quantum of open space required.

Table 7: Open Space Provision Standard - Demand Assessment

	2016	2021	2031
Population projections	335,309	354,915	394,019
Open Space Required (based on proposed supply benchmark of 3.1 Ha/ 1000)	1,039.46	1,100.24	1,221.46

6.2. Sport Facility Demand Assessment

Otium Planning Group has developed a Demand Assessment Model based on participation data, facility capacity, user requirements and a number of variables calibrated for the specific population.

This proprietary model allows a projection of the land area needed and the number of facilities required to accommodate the demand. Using the model provides a tool to test provision scenarios for future populations as well as assess the adequacy of current supply in terms of current or modelled demand. Demand for sporting facilities is modelled using a combination of the following data:

- « Available sport activity participation data for the population.
- « Modelling of the capacity of fields, courts or other facilities in terms of the number of users they can accommodate.
- « Determination of the areas required to accommodate actual playing surface and ancillary space required for different facilities.
- « Setting parameters for the modelled facilities around hours of operation, differences between training and competition use and average lengths of seasons relative to each sport.

6.2.1. Sporting Land Supply Needs to 2031

Based on the demand modelling the following sporting land needs have been identified.

Table 8: Summary of Sport Facility Land Requirements (Using Demand Modelling)

FACILITY TYPE	TOTAL SPACE REQUIRED (HA)		
	2016	2021	2031
Oval	210.00	218.4	243.60
Rectangle	196.88	205.44	231.12
Outdoor Courts	21.30	22.8	25.20
Indoor Courts	5.55	5.85	6.60
TOTAL	433.73	452.49	506.52
Averaged Supply Rate/1000 residents		1.3 Ha	

6.3.Future Demand Summary for Planning Areas

The following table represents the summary of projected future demand (2031) for sport, recreation park and total recreation and sport land, based on the existing current supply, with the exception of achieving the increases outlined in the Warnervale District Contributions Plan (2021). The calculations are based on the recommended benchmarks (refer Section 7.4) and the sporting land demand analysis completed above.

The 'deficit' indicates the priority areas that should be investigated to ensure that future populations have access to the required amount of open space:

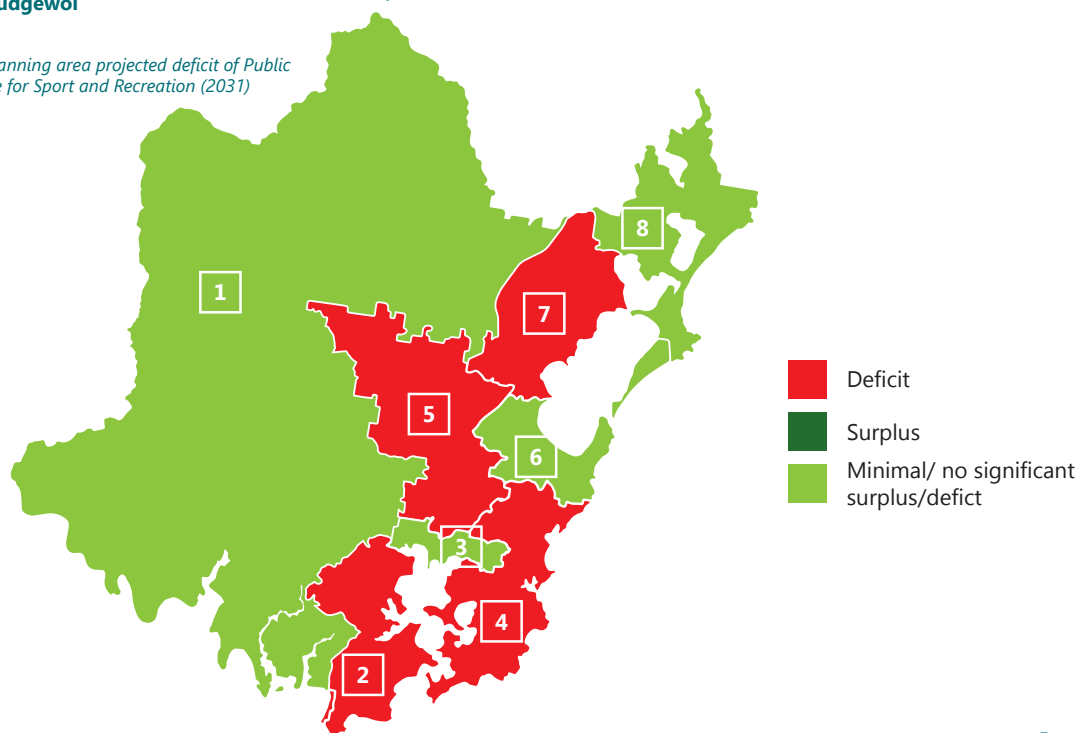
- « Planning Areas with deficits:
 - Peninsula (2)
 - East Brisbane Water & Coastal (4)
 - Narara Valley & Ourimbah (5)
 - Wyong, Warnervale & Gorokan (7)
- « Gosford Central (3) and Southern Lakes & The Entrance (6) have a minor surplus of total public open space in 2021, with no additional provision this will become a possible minor deficit by 2031.

2031 Public Open Space for Sport and Recreation - Additional land needed

Table 9: Demand Summary for Sport and Recreation Park - Projected for 2031

PA#	PLANNING AREA	POPULATION 2031	SURPLUS/ DEFICIT (HA)		
			SPORT	RECREATION PARK	TOTAL LAND FOR RECREATION AND SPORT
1	Mountains and Valleys	8,797	8.99	-6.31	2.68
2	Peninsula	53,175	-20.96	10.87	-10.09
3	Gosford Central	27,154	19.01	-21.17	-2.16
4	East Brisbane Water and Coastal	68,432	-38.10	-21.65	-59.75
5	Narara Valley and Ourimbah	38,337	-14.15	-27.46	-41.61
6	Southern Lakes and The Entrance	60,532	-21.78	20.61	-1.17
7	Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan	82,202	-10.89	-34.59	-45.48 (less 35.28 proposed in the Warnervale District Contributions Plan)
8	Northern Lakes, San Remo and Budgewoi	55,389	-21.27	30.25	-10.2 8.98

Figure 7: Planning area projected deficit of Public Open Space for Sport and Recreation (2031)



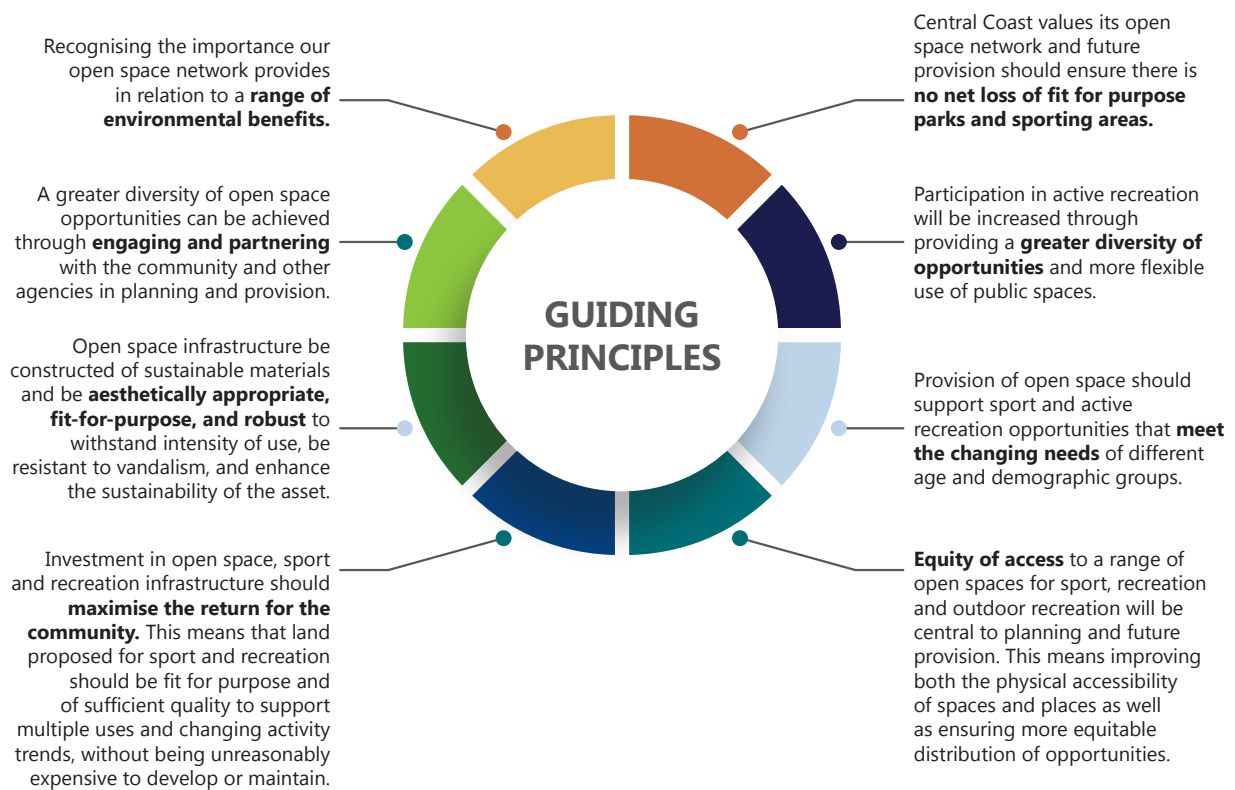
7. Policy & Strategy Framework

7.1. Vision



7.2.Guiding Principles

Council will implement the Vision using the following guiding principles:



7.3. Proposed Provision Framework - Public Open Space for Recreation and Sport

A proposed provision framework for the Central Coast has been developed around a set of performance criteria to ensure that the network of open space providing for sport and recreation is:

- « Fit for Purpose- able to accommodate use, not constrained by other or adjacent uses, and affordable to develop and maintain
- « Accessible – located within walking distance (for local parks), visible, able to be accessed easily and can be designed for inclusion
- « Comprised of parks and open space areas that are a suitable size and shape to be used for recreation or sport
- « Diverse in the range of landscape settings supporting parks and providing diverse activations within each site
- « Supportive of a range of co-located recreation uses and shared use of spaces including access to sporting spaces for informal recreation.

The provision framework provides guidance on multiple performance features for parks at local, district and regional levels and for district and regional sporting parks.

7.3.1. Open Space for Recreation

Table 10: Draft Provision Framework for Open Space and Recreation Parks

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	LOCAL RECREATION PARK	DISTRICT RECREATION PARK	REGIONAL RECREATION PARK
Size Distribution & Accessibility			
Preferred Minimum Size: Minimum sizes are not the "preferred size", it is a minimum. It is recommended that park sizes are larger where possible and a diversity of sizes 0.5 Ha and above is the target	0.5-1ha	1 -4ha	4ha +
Shape	More regular shapes preferred over linear open space. No edge/ boundary to be less than 20 m.	Shape can be variable but no edge/ boundary to be less than 50 m.	Shape can be variable, but in general edges/ boundaries should be greater than 50 m.
Linear – tracks, trails, pathways	Connections between residential streets, active transport network and activity spaces Widths and surface treatments to align with Council's design standards, including Universal Design Principles		
Minimum width for access points	Greater than 15 m wide (excluding the width of creeks or waterways measured from the top of bank). If part of a pathway or linear access connection or providing a minor entry point, then 10 m minimum width providing it is no longer than 20 m.		
Useable Area/ Hazard free The "functional" area of the park- the amount of space fit for recreation use and public activity. (refer to Quality Criteria)	75% of site useable, free of hazards For parks proposed to be less than 0.5 Ha an absolute minimum useable area of 3000 m ²	75% of site useable and free of hazards to support sport and recreation activity, facilities and access	Must have at least 50% flood free and level land to support sport and recreation activity, facilities and access.
Service Area/ population and access radius	Local neighbourhood/ suburban area; one park for every 1,500 persons	Serves a number of suburbs or planning catchment; one park for every 5,000-10,000 persons. District parks also serves local catchment i.e. its locality provide	Serves whole council area and some regional (beyond Central Coast Council) demand. Major destination parks also serves local and district catchment i.e. its locality.

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	LOCAL RECREATION PARK	DISTRICT RECREATION PARK	REGIONAL RECREATION PARK
Proximity - Distance from Residential Dwellings	80% of all residential dwellings to have access within 400-500 m or 5-minute safe walking distance. 100% of dwellings to have access within 800m safe walking distance. (Note excludes rural and large lot areas)	80% of all residents to have access within 25 minutes walk/ 2km or 10 min drive 100% of dwellings to have access within 5 km. Should include off-street parking and connect to active transport networks	All dwellings to have access to a major regional or large Central Coast wide "destination" park within 10-20 km, or up to 30 minutes travel time on public transport or by vehicle. Connected to active transport networks and public transport routes.
Access and equity	One or more access points appropriately sited to connect with local access network Access by path to perimeter-footpaths and kerb ramps. If larger playgrounds, picnic shelters and BBQs are provided then continuous paths of travel are required, to allow for people with mobility challenges. All new/ replacement/ upgraded parks to comply with/ consider Everyone Can Play Guidelines and Central Coast Council's Disability Inclusion and Access Plan.	Multiple access points appropriately sited to connect with local access network Access by path into park and connecting to picnic and play facilities and toilets. Off-street accessible parking to be provided. Fitness and exercise nodes to be accessible and provide inclusive/ all abilities elements.	Should be highly accessible with inclusive pathway access to all key activity areas, picnic areas and toilets. Highly accessible with multiple access points appropriately sited to connect with local access network Minimal barriers to access and inclusive access to key activity areas, play spaces, picnic areas and toilets. Off street parking. Wayfinding to support inclusion.
Proximity for Commercial and Retail areas	Provision of civic and community uses and mixed use areas, local parks or district parks to provide access within 5-10 minutes walk of commercial and retail areas such as town centres.		N/A
Road frontage	Minimum 50% road frontage, with minimum 2 roads or combined road and public use area (e.g. major foreshore and multi-use pathway). Linear systems should have at least 25% road frontage with no section of road frontage less than 50m		
Capacity Assessment for Existing Parkland ¹⁸ to determine future needs, <i>more applicable in higher density residential areas</i>	Deemed to be exceeding capacity if the population within 500 m of a park exceeds a user ratio of 1,500 per 5000m ² (3.3 m ² per person) of parkland ¹⁹ . Any areas less than 1000 m ² are deemed to have available capacity exhausted.	Deemed to be exceeding capacity if more than 5,000 residents per 1 ha (2 m ² per person) of district parkland, are within 5 km. ²⁰	No fixed measure.

¹⁸ Assessing the capacity of an existing park identifies if it has any capacity to accommodate additional demand.

¹⁹ Based on 50% of population represent peak use (750 people) times the minimum area needed (8.3 m²). This means that a minimum of 6,225 m² is needed for the peak demand. This has been discounted to 5,000m² as a conservative measure.

²⁰ Assumes 25% of catchment = peak demand. At minimum sizes this is 2.7 m² per person. This has been further discounted to 2m² per person.

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	LOCAL RECREATION PARK	DISTRICT RECREATION PARK	REGIONAL RECREATION PARK
Diversity of Opportunity			
Provision for Group Use	Individuals, carers with children, family groups	Family and social groups. Small to medium sized groups, informal sport, sport training and competitions	All group sizes up to large groups, festivals, markets, sporting competitions and events
Number of activations²¹ - Uses/ activities	5 or more activations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Local Play « General recreation « Active spaces « Pathways « Community gardening « Tables and seats « Drinking water 	10 or more activations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Play for young children, play for older children (e.g., nature play and adventure play) « Inclusive design for parks and play spaces « Exercise and active recreation « Informal field « Sport courts « Recreation spaces for young people « Paths and trails « Access points for water based recreation « General picnic and recreation « Dog-off leash area « Interaction with nature « Areas for relaxation and contemplation « Public art/ cultural spaces/ history interpretation 	Multiple use nodes and more than 20 activations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Multiple users and activities « Long stay sites « All elements of a District park plus additional features such as kiosks, cafes, built sport or community facilities « Can be combined sport and recreation
Play equipment	May provide local play for children up to 6 years old or children 6-12 years old in accordance with CCC Playspace Strategy and Disability Inclusion and Access Plan. Inclusive play space design considering/ complying with <i>Everyone Can Play Guidelines</i> .	May provide a diversity of play opportunities for children up to 6 years old, children 6-12 years, or youth recreation space (13+ years old) in accordance with CCC Playspace Strategy and Disability Inclusion and Access Plan. Inclusive play space design considering/ complying with <i>Everyone Can Play Guidelines</i> .	Should provide a diversity of play opportunities in accordance with CCC Playspace Strategy and Disability Inclusion and Access Plan. Inclusive play space design considering/ complying with <i>Everyone Can Play Guidelines</i> .
Other facilities (bicycle circuit, pump track, outdoor gym, skate park, BMX track)	Not standard	Yes, as determined by appropriate facility/ activity provision strategy and site/ facility master plan	
Other/ Special features	Interpretive or other information features if special values exist (e.g. cultural, environmental or heritage)	Special features may be associated with key activations such as youth spaces or destination play spaces. Interpretive or other information features if special values exist (e.g. cultural, environmental or heritage)	Sculptural art (consistent with Council's Public Art Policy in Civic Parks of regional significance), fountains/ water features Interpretive or other information features if special values exist (e.g. cultural, environmental or heritage)

²¹ An activation is an element, piece of equipment or feature that encourages use and activity within the park.

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	LOCAL RECREATION PARK	DISTRICT RECREATION PARK	REGIONAL RECREATION PARK
Duration - average Length of Stay	Up to 30 minutes	Up to 2 hours	Extended stays of more than 2 hours.
Site Quality/ Land Suitability Performance Criteria			
General considerations also include continuous natural soil , connection to natural groundwater, and protection of any natural vegetation			
Hazards and Constraints	Free of hazards and constraints to community use such as contaminated land, High voltage transmission lines and adjacent noxious industry.		
Safety and Design	Consider CPTED ²² principles; should have good road frontage, legible access point/s and visibility from surrounding residents and traffic.		
Buffers and Adjacent Land Use	Consider adjacent uses and be adequately buffered from incompatible uses. Solutions may include vegetation corridors, planted mounds and fencing.		
Flooding and other hazards	<p>All built amenities and visitor facilities above 1% AEP levels. For paths and bridges, 5% AEP is acceptable if these are designed for site conditions.</p> <p>Main use area free of regular flooding (i.e. above 10% AEP²³) with at least 10% of total area above 2% AEP levels.</p> <p>No more than 10 % of site to be impacted by Constructed drains or stormwater treatment mechanisms.</p> <p>Detention and retention basins generally not suitable for parkland.</p> <p>Multiple Use open space solutions may be considered in some circumstances (e.g. infill development) providing all other performance criteria concerning safe and functional space can be met.</p>		
Slope and Topography	1:25 for main use area 1:6 for remainder	1:25 for main use area Variable topography for remainder	Varies Use areas (e.g. picnic facilities) 1:20
Visibility	Good visibility from surrounding residents. Narrow linear shapes not preferred	Should have good visibility from surrounding residents and traffic	Should have good visibility from surrounding residents and traffic

²² Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

²³ AEP - Annual exceedance probability. A 1% AEP is a 1 in 100 year chance of flooding and 10% is a 1 in 10 year chance.

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	LOCAL RECREATION PARK	DISTRICT RECREATION PARK	REGIONAL RECREATION PARK
Solar Access	<p>Solar access is an important consideration for both the quality of the user experience as well as the quality of public open spaces including turf and tree health. In high density areas where residential development is predominantly tower based there is both a high need for access to outdoor space and sunlight and a risk that poor design can “shade out” public open space.</p> <p>Approvals for multi-storey development must consider the impact on solar coverage of adjacent public open space areas. Ensure that all public open space sites will receive at least 3 hours of sunlight across 75% or more of the area, on the winter solstice - 21 June.</p>		
Site Infrastructure			
Public Toilets/ amenities	Not normally provided. May be provided if the local park is the only park servicing a community and/ or has extended stays	Yes - universally accessible toilets	Depending on size and location of activity areas, may need more than one universally accessible toilets including adult changing facility possibly co-located with park kiosk/ cafe.
Seating	Number and location of seats assessed on a case-by-case basis	Several park bench seats	Park bench seats throughout the park
BBQ	Not normally provided. May be required where a local park is servicing a small community or has higher use	Several, some covered	Numerous, some covered
General waste and recycling bin	Yes	Several	Numerous
Picnic Table	0-1	Several	Numerous
Covered Picnic Table	No, not normally provided unless insufficient natural shade	Several	Numerous and covered group area
Shade Structure	No, not normally provided. Shade structures may be required as a temporary or permanent measure for play spaces, until tree plantings reach maturity.	Yes. Over play spaces, youth space, picnic areas. Preference is for natural shade, however, can be supplemented with built shade where natural shade is insufficient.	Yes, multiple locations and purposes. Preference is for natural shade, however, can be supplemented with built shade where natural shade is insufficient.
Natural Shade	<p>Preferred for all use areas and to help shade playgrounds and activations. Overall parks should have 40% natural shade coverage of main use areas between 9am and 3pm in summer. For sites that provide open, active spaces such as general open space, an informal field or playing field/s, 40% shading of the perimeter of the active space.</p> <p>Location of trees and root plate pattern to be determined in relation to location of courts to prevent root incursion and potential damage to the court surface and substrate. If required, trees to be planted in growth cell when in close proximity to infrastructure to prevent root incursion.</p>		
Pathways	Minimum 1.5m wide pathways to play equipment and to toilets or BBQ areas if present.	Shared pathways (minimum 2.5m wide) provide circulation and connection with active transport network. Paths provided to play and picnic facilities.	Numerous and shared pathways linking activity nodes and to active transport network
Parking	On street parking Includes accessible parking providing access to facilities.	On street and some off-street parking including accessible parking bays.	Internal roads and parking areas.

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	LOCAL RECREATION PARK	DISTRICT RECREATION PARK	REGIONAL RECREATION PARK
Signage	Park location and identity signs. Wayfinding signage if part of open space network or linked to active transport network.	Park location and identity sign Directional and wayfinding signs internal to park. Information and interpretive signage where appropriate.	Park location and identity sign Directional and wayfinding signs internal to park. Information and interpretive signage.
	All signage to be in accordance with Council's Design Guidelines		
Lighting	No internal lighting, unless proposed for civic space. Streetlights adjacent to entry points.	Lighting for carpark, toilets, picnic areas, internal pathways, siting and type determined by safety in design planning. Other lighting assessed on case-by-case basis.	Lighting for carpark, toilets, youth space, active recreation spaces, picnic areas, internal pathways, siting and type determined by safety in design planning.
Power, Technology and CCTV	Not required	Power may be provided to activity spaces where deemed necessary. CCTV assessed on a case-by-case basis. Wi-fi may be provided at youth spaces, picnic areas and at sport facilities.	
Landscaping: design of landscape and planting areas that create a variety of spaces supporting multiple activities. Landscape connections include the site and network to support/ promote species diversity for resilience and habitat	Generally, a mix of open and shaded areas with trees and plantings designed not to impede visibility. Planted beds and formal gardens not usually provided.	Numerous trees and landscaped areas. Formal gardens and planted beds may be included to define spaces or create settings.	Significant trees in expansive grassed park area with multiple formal and natural landscape features.
Playground seating	Minimum 1 bench seat in shade	Seats and tables overlooking play spaces	Numerous table or seat options associated with different play areas and nodes.
Bubbler/ tap	One bubbler/ tap	One or more bubbler/ tap	
Fencing	Perimeter bollards (or other similar means) to prevent vehicle access into park. Fencing of play areas only provided where essential for safety, providing an accessible playspace or where buffering from neighbouring land use or from roads (close proximity/ high volumes or speed) is required.	Fencing of activities nodes such as play spaces if required for safety, providing an accessible playspace or where buffering from neighbouring land use is required. Perimeter bollards/ barricade/ fencing to prevent vehicle access into park. Sandstone/ concrete blocks as required in line with public safety guidelines. Fenced dog off leash area may be provided according to a council-wide strategy for dog exercise areas. Fencing may be used for event spaces, with fit for purpose fencing as required by sport activity and level of competition.	
Indicative Maintenance Levels²⁴	Generally a high service level for maintenance with daily to weekly inspection and servicing. Formal annual inspections should be undertaken of all infrastructure, with formal quarterly inspections of playground equipment.	Generally a moderate service level for maintenance with weekly to fortnightly inspection and servicing. More popular, visual or higher use District Parks may require higher maintenance levels. Formal annual inspections should be undertaken of all infrastructure, with formal quarterly inspections of playground equipment.	Generally a lower service level for maintenance with monthly inspection and servicing. Formal annual inspections should be undertaken of all infrastructure, with formal quarterly inspections of playground equipment.

7.3.2. Sporting Parks

Sporting parks and precincts are areas primarily designed and constructed as a venue for public sport and recreation in organised activities such as team sports. These are only provided at district and regional level. Participation in sport is highly mobile across the city and within planning areas. In effect all sporting parks and precincts service a district or larger catchment so there is no local provision planned. However, informal sport or social games and informal training activities can occur on other spaces such as kick about spaces in recreation parks. This type of use is considered part of the active recreation mix that general recreation parks provide.

The provision framework for sporting parks aims to ensure that:

- « Land for sport is suitable for the intended use and affordable to develop and maintain
- « The size of areas is supportive of efficient use from multiple users and can be reconfigured as needs change to accommodate other sports
- « Sporting parks are located to be accessible and to minimise impacts on surrounding land uses
- « There is equitable supply of sporting space across the city
- « There is sufficient land to meet anticipated demand and diversity of activities.

Table 11: Draft Provision Framework for Sport Parks

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Size Distribution & Accessibility		
Preferred Minimum Size: Minimum sizes are not the "preferred size", it is a minimum. It is recommended that sport park sizes are larger where possible and a diversity of sizes 6ha and above is the target for District	6ha and larger In general, larger precincts allow for greater efficiency through shared use of access and support infrastructure shared buffering along boundaries and greater mixed use and ability to reconfigure in response to changing needs.	15ha and larger
Shape	Shape can be variable; a regular shape will allow for optimal sport facility development; but no boundary to be less than 30 0m. Ability to develop minimum playing area (150 m x 150 m) on one level	Shape should be regular allowing for optimal sport facility development. In general boundaries should be greater than 500m.
Linear – tracks, trails, pathways	Connections between activity spaces and adjoining/ close residential streets, and active transport network Widths and surface treatments to align with Council's design standards. Any linear access corridors into sporting areas should be a minimum of 15-20 m and allow for access by grounds maintenance machinery.	
Useable Area/ Hazard free The "functional" area of the park- the amount of space fit for recreation use and public activity. (refer to Quality Criteria)	75% of site useable and free of hazards to support sport and recreation activity, facilities and access	Must have at least 50% flood free and level land to support sport and recreation activity, facilities and access. Sport – field of play areas - free of physical hazards
Service Area/ Radius	Serves a number of suburbs or planning catchment District parks also serves local catchment i.e. its locality	Serves whole council area and some regional (beyond Central Coast Council) demand. Major/ regional sport parks also serves local and district catchment i.e. its locality.
Proximity - Distance from Residential Dwellings	100% of all residents to have access within 25 minutes walk/ 2km, 10-15 min drive Pathway access and off-street parking.	All dwellings to have access within 10 – 20 km. Or up to 30 minutes travel time on public transport or by vehicle. Should be highly accessible with inclusive pathway access to all key activity areas, seating and toilets.

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Access and equity	Access by path into park and connecting to facilities and toilets. On and off-street accessible parking to be provided.	Highly accessible. Minimal mobility challenges. Inclusive access to key activity areas and toilets. Wayfinding to support all abilities.
Proximity for Commercial and Retail areas	N/A	
Road frontage	Minimum 50% road frontage or combined road and public use area	
Capacity Assessment for Existing Sport Parkland	District and regional sporting land within a planning area should not be less than 1.3 ha/ 1,000.	
Diversity of Opportunity		
Number of activations - Uses/ activities	Dedicated sporting use for competition or training. High level of regular participation	Dedicated sporting use for high level competition or training Providing the only facility for a sport within the Central Coast Council
Sporting Fields, courts, facilities	Fields and/ or courts developed to playing standard Typically, multi-field facility (5-10ha) catering for one or more sports	Fields developed to high playing standard Could be single field facility catering for high level competition only Could be only facility catering for training and competition for particular sport in Central Coast Council
Duration - average Length of Stay	Up to a day	Extended stays more than 2 hours- up to a day and possibly into the evening.
Site Quality/ Land Suitability Performance Criteria		
Hazards and Constraints	Free of hazards and constraints to community use such as contaminated land, high voltage transmission lines and adjacent noxious industry.	
Safety and Design	Consider CPTED principles; should have good road frontage, legible access point/s and visibility from surrounding residents and traffic.	
Buffers and Adjacent Land Use	Consider adjacent uses and be adequately buffered from incompatible uses. Solutions may include vegetation corridors, planted mounds and fencing.	
Flooding and other hazards	Main use area free of regular flooding (i.e. above 10% AEP) with at least 10% of total area above 2% AEP levels. Constructed drains or detention basins not suitable for sport park.	All use areas above 10% AEP. Free of other physical hazards. Constructed drains or detention basins not suitable for sport park.
	All built amenities and visitor facilities above 1% AEP levels.	
Slope and Topography	1:50 for sport playing surfaces Variable topography for remainder	Sport – playing surfaces/ field of play 1:50
Visibility	Should have good visibility from surrounding residents and traffic	
Soils	Suitable soil and sub-soil profile with ability to develop level and sustainable turf surface with associated drainage and irrigation (as appropriate)	Suitable soil and sub-soil profile with ability to develop level and sustainable turf surface with associated drainage and irrigation.
Site/ Facility Infrastructure		
Sports lighting	To relevant Australian Standard for competition	To relevant sport/ Australian Standard for level of competition conducted

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Public Toilets/ amenities, change rooms	Universally accessible change rooms, toilets, kiosk, storage areas for training and club equipment in 350+ m2 building	Depending on size and location of sport and activity areas, may need more than one. Universally accessible player/ official change rooms and spectator toilets including adult changing facility in 500+ m2 building or co-located with grandstand, club administration, canteen/ kiosk, scoreboard, ticket box.
Seating/ spectator facilities	Covered seating optional	Spectator seating as determined by facility master plan, e.g. undercover or formalised seating i.e. grandstand/ pavilion
BBQ	Not normally provided. May be required where a sport park is servicing a small community or has higher use	
Rubbish Bin	Several	Numerous
Picnic Table	Not normally provided. May be required where a sport park is servicing a small community or has higher use	
Shade Structure	Preference is for natural shade, however, can be supplemented with built shade where natural shade is insufficient.	Preference is for natural shade, however can be supplemented with built shade where natural shade is insufficient. Built shade considered for spectator seating
Natural Shade	Overall parks should have 40% natural shade coverage of main use areas between 9am and 3pm in summer. For sites that provide open, active spaces such as general open space, an informal field or playing field/s, 40% shading of the perimeter of the active space. Location of trees and root plate pattern to be determined in relation to location of courts to prevent root incursion and potential damage to the court surface and substrate. If required, trees to be planted in growth cell when in close proximity to infrastructure to prevent root incursion.	
Pathways	Shared pathways provide circulation and connection with active transport network; paths provided to main use areas.	
Parking	Off-street parking including accessible parking bays and bicycle racks. Supported by on street parking as required. Number of off-street spaces to be accommodated depends on scale and use/ activities planned for sport park.	Internal roads and parking areas. Includes accessible parking providing access to facilities.
Signage	Park location and identity sign Directional and wayfinding signs internal to park. Information and interpretive signage where appropriate. All signage to be in accordance with Council's Design Guidelines	Park location and identity sign Directional and wayfinding signs internal to park. Information and interpretive signage.
Lighting	Lighting for carpark, toilets, picnic areas, internal pathways. Other lighting assessed on case-by-case basis.	For carpark, toilets, security lighting for buildings.
Power, Technology and CCTV	Power may be provided to activity spaces if/ where deemed necessary. CCTV assessed on a case-by-case basis. Wi-fi may be provided at sport facilities.	
Landscaping	Generally, a mix of open and shaded areas with trees and plantings designed not to impede visibility.	
Other facilities (bicycle circuit, pump track, skate park, BMX track)	As determined by appropriate facility/ activity provision strategy and site/ facility master plan	
Other/ Special features	As determined by site/ facility master plan	
Bubbler/ tap	One or more bubbler/ tap	Numerous bubblers
Fencing	Fencing/ barricading to control access into site as well as limiting internal traffic access to field and facilities	Range of fencing/ boundary definition styles as appropriate to location. Fencing may be used for event spaces, with fit for purpose fencing as required by sport activity and level of competition

7.4. High Level Benchmarks for Greenfield Areas

While the proposed provision framework is a performance based approach developed to guide current provision, assessment and planning for new developments including infill/ high density development, there may be circumstances where a high-level benchmark is required to provide general guidance for the overall quantum of public open space needed. The following “failsafe” benchmark has been recommended based on the assessment of open space in the Central Coast:



Land for Sport 1.3 Ha / 1,000

(being the rate identified by Otium's Demand Analysis Model and just below the current rate of supply)



Land for Recreation (general parkland) 1.8 Ha / 1,000

(being a rate between past adopted benchmarks and close to the existing level of supply)



Total Land for Recreation and Sport 3.1 Ha / 1000

The use of this benchmark should be tempered with the following qualifications:

- « The failsafe benchmarks are for **sport and recreation parkland only** and do not include land needed for nature conservation, protection of waterways, drainage and stormwater management, easements, active transport networks and land for bushfire management such as asset protection zones.
- « The area recommendation assumes that **100% of the land is fit for purpose and suitable for development and use for sport or recreation**. Land that is subject to frequent inundation, comprises a detention or retention basin or has excessive slope is not considered suitable. Nor is land underneath high voltage powerlines or land that is a wetland or natural forest.
- « The above assumes also that all land included as open space for recreation and sport is **fully accessible and has 50% or greater road frontage**.



8. Strategic Actions

8.1. Open Space Planning and Provision

Adopt the Guiding Principles, Provision Framework and Benchmarks outlined at Sections 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 of this report. Importantly, a detailed Open Space Planning report referencing the Open Space Provision Framework and Benchmarks, should be undertaken by Council to support the strategic acquisition of new Public Open Space, and/or disposal/repurposing of existing Public Open Space.

8.2. Strategic Open Space Planning Documents

Council has several strategic open space documents that will require review in the coming years (ie. Playspace Strategy 2020 and Skatepark Action Plan 2020) and in other areas, completely lacking strategy to inform the planning and provision for Community Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity.

Subsequently, Council is recommended develop over time and as funding permits:

« **Sports Facilities Strategic Plan**

This project will build on the planning of the Open Space Strategy and provide direction to Council to plan for the current and future needs of Sporting Facilities across the Central Coast. Council should consider the preferred approach for being an 'all in one' document for Sport, or separate documents for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facility Provision.

« **Parks and Playspace Plan**

Applying the planning framework of the Open Space Strategy, assess the functionality of Council's Park and Playspace network with reference to contemporary standards and trends (ie. Universal Design) and underpinned by community need for quality parks and playspaces.

« **Physical Activity Plan**

The Open Space Strategy identified that Central Coast population has a higher incidence of physical inactivity and obesity. Council is encouraged to prepare a Physical Activity Strategy to support and develop physical activity opportunities as part of a broader health and wellbeing approach for the community.

« **Coastal Activation Plan**

The Central Coast is renowned for its natural coastline, multiple lakes and estuaries. Council currently maintains numerous boat ramps, public swimming enclosure and other supporting infrastructure but does not have a high level plan. The Coastal Activation Plan will provide a strategic framework to assist with the planning, provision and management of community water based recreational infrastructure across the Central Coast.

« **Nature Based Recreation Plan**

Consolidation and completion of the draft plan which commenced during 2020/21, to inform the forward planning, provision and management of Council's natural areas and reserves.

« **Dogs in Open Space Action Plan**

Address the use of open space for dog exercise by completing a Dogs in Open Space Action Plan. This should provide a policy and planning framework to guide decision-making about how and where provision will be made for dog owners and their dogs in open space, and should consider the diversity of demands that are placed on the open space network, including:

- a. The protection and enhancement of the natural environment
- b. The recreation and sporting needs of the community
- c. Managing risk
- d. The preservation of public amenity
- e. Dog owners and those who do not want to interact with dogs in public places.

« **Central Coast Mountain Biking Plan/Regional Trails Action Plan**

Progress with the development of a Central Coast Mountain Biking Plan in collaboration with an active stakeholder group as per the Council resolution of 14 December 2021. The Central Coast Mountain Biking Plan proposed to be part of the Regional Trails Action Plan which will include walking and other types of recreational trails appropriate to the purpose of the land.

« **Green Infrastructure/Public Domain Plans**

Develop a series of Green Infrastructure/Public Domain Plans to enhance local street and walking networks to provide more appealing walking environments and linkages to open space to offset the lack of available local open space within safe walking distance.

« **Development Control Plan**

With the adoption of the Open Space Strategy, review the existing provisions within Central Coast Development Control Plan with referencing Open Space Provision Framework and Benchmarks including:

- a. Creation of an Open Space Chapter
- b. Review and where required update the existing site/location specific Chapters.

« **Developer Contributions Plans**

Undertake a strategic review of existing developer contributions plans and update as required, to ensure alignment with Open Space Provision and Benchmarks. In addition, Council is encouraged to develop Structure Plans to assist with the assessment of Open Space requirements for new Planning Proposals.

« **Leisure and Aquatic Facilities Strategic Plan**

Though outside the scope of the Open Space Strategy, Council is encouraged to undertake a Leisure and Aquatic Facilities Strategic Plan to drive then planning, distribution, development and management of Council maintained leisure and aquatic facilities across the municipality.

Additional strategic documents may be required by Council to respond to emerging community needs over the life of this strategy.

8.3. Open Space Planning and Provision

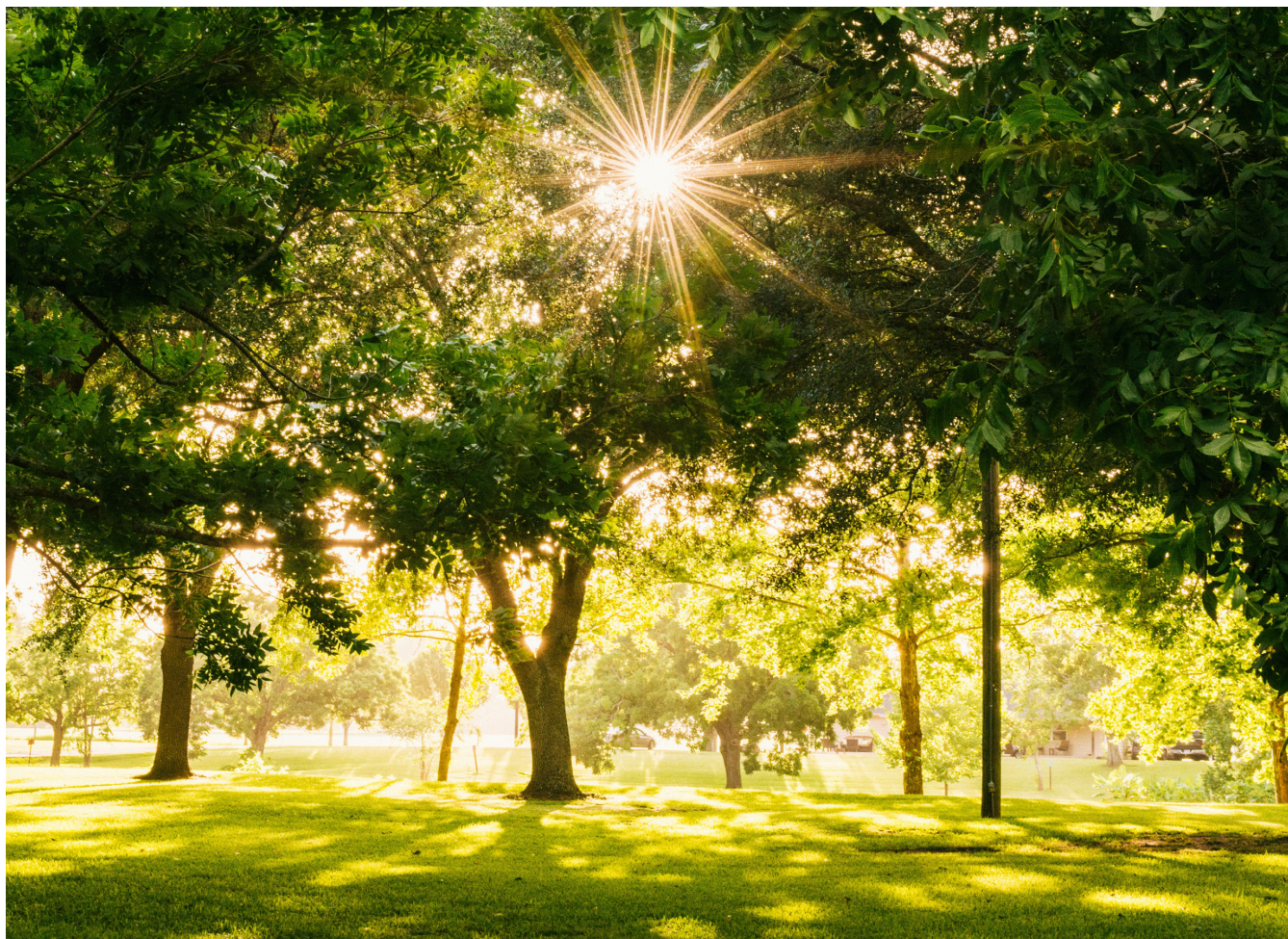
- « Where practical, seek further opportunities to acquire suitable land for Open Space (Sport and Parks) where future population growth is anticipated and/or a critical undersupply of future Open Space is identified. To support the Council expenditure for Open Space, it is preferred to undertake site specific master planning/feasibility studies, to demonstrate broader community need and benefit, to understand the financial implications and to consider development options, and to identify external funding opportunities.
- « In catchments where an undersupply of Open Space has been identified and/or where future Open Space provision maybe be limited, review the current use of Sporting Facilities and Community Parks and Reserves, to ensure Open Space caters for a broader range of community uses for sport, recreation and physical activity.
- « Seek further opportunities to unlock Department of Education (DoE) land and facilities for community sport, particularly in catchments where there is limited opportunities for Council to develop functional sporting facilities.
- « Where the need is identified, actively plan for Community Precincts or Hubs, to maximise use of Open Space for Community Sport, Recreation and Education purposes including co-location and shared use of community infrastructure, playing surfaces and playspaces. Community Hubs can be cost effective in delivering a range of community services and sharing infrastructure costs across the tiers of government.
- « A strategic hazard assessment considering various planning horizons should be undertaken to inform the long-term, successful implementation of the Open Space Strategy. Some parcels of Open Space land that is viable now, may not be in coming decades as a result of various site hazards, and exacerbated by climate change.
- « Strategically identify opportunities for new RE1 zoned land to assist with addressing projected deficits in each Planning Area where required. This may include securing tenure of suitable Open Space land that is not currently in Council ownership (ie. Crown Land/devolved land).
- « The Open Space Strategy identified 22 sites smaller than 1000m² as non-conforming as functional open space. Council is encouraged to investigate the strategic value of these parcels considering current community use and benefit, levels of service, and preferred future use of these sites.

9. Warranties and Disclaimers

The information contained in this report is provided in good faith. While Otium Planning Group has applied their experience to the task, they have relied upon information supplied to them by other persons and organisations.

We have not conducted an audit of the information provided by others but have accepted it in good faith. Some of the information may have been provided 'commercial in confidence', and these venues or sources of information are not specifically identified. Readers should be aware that the preparation of this report may have necessitated projections of the future that are inherently uncertain and that our opinion is based on the underlying representations, assumptions and projections detailed in this report.

Accordingly, neither Otium Planning Group, nor any member or employee of Otium Planning Group, undertakes responsibility arising in any way whatsoever to any persons other than the client in respect of this report, for any errors or omissions herein, arising through negligence or otherwise however caused.



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Open Space Strategy 2024-2031

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November 2024



Open Space Strategy

2024-2031

Engagement summary

Central
Coast
Council

Summary

Between 6 August and 27 September 2024 Central Coast Council sought community feedback on a draft Central Coast Council Open Space Strategy (2024-31).

This feedback window followed extensive consultation with community and key groups when the project was known as 'Active Lifestyles Strategy'.

The survey was designed to:

- Ensure there are adequate open spaces such as parks, reserves and sportsgrounds to accommodate the growing population of the Central Coast, and ensure they are suitable for their use, inclusive and accessible.
- Support and promote active and healthy lifestyles and increase participation in outdoor recreation and sport.
- Plan for a greater diversity of recreational opportunities.
- Engage the community and partners in the next 10 years of planning for public open space.

We invited the community to complete an online survey or provide email feedback between 6 August and 27 September 2024.

Engagement Results

Highlights of feedback provided by survey participants included:

- A need for greater access to toilet and drinking water facilities.
- Accessible outdoor equipment for disabled or older people needs further consideration.
- Shaded areas are in high demand.
- Consideration of pets and rules around animals in open spaces is of high interest.
- Mountain bike infrastructure was highly requested.
- Environmental concerns and a desire for more native plants included in open space planning.

How you connected



13,968 visits to the Your Voice Our Coast website



The strategy document was downloaded **453** times.



7,407 people reached and **30** interactions, comments and shares.



More than **21,427** social media users reached generating **1,578** outbound clicks.



14,578 stakeholders were kept up-to-date through e-news.



88 surveys completed



A total of 90 submissions received



You said...

"The NSW Office of Sport supports the development of an open space strategy, recognising that the adequate provision and management of open spaces are vital for community health and well-being. These spaces are essential for providing opportunities for the community to engage in sports and active recreation. As the Central Coast region is expected to experience significant growth over the next two decades, ensuring an adequate supply of suitable open spaces will be crucial to meet the evolving sport and recreation needs of the community. This report marks an important step toward addressing these issues and meeting future challenges."

- Office of Sport

"A big part of our work focuses on Healthy Eating & Active Living or more specifically, overweight and obesity prevention. Objectives include increasing physical activity and decreasing sedentary behaviour. A key strategy involves creating healthy built environments i.e. those that support our community to lead active, healthy lives. Such environments include equitable access to an appropriate quantity of quality public open space, physical activity and social connectivity opportunities, public and active transport networks and more.

We believe the Draft Open Space Strategy is a sound document and commend Council for undertaking this important piece of planning in the interests of our current and future community.

We would welcome further involvement in development of the Open Space Strategy and some of the other plans detailed within it, namely the proposed Physical Activity Plan."

- Central Coast Local Health District (The Health Promotions Team)

What's next?

Council will use the feedback you have provided, along with the previous related consultation results, to finalise the strategy.

We will inform the community of the finalised plans in the coming months.

Find out more and stay up to date at yourvoiceourcoast.com

Part 4 Location Specific Development Controls – Major Centres
Chapter 4.7 Tuggerah Regional City

CHAPTER 4.7 TUGGERAH REGIONAL CITY

4.7.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide specific guidelines for development within the Tuggerah Regional City.

4.7.1.1 Objectives of this Chapter

- To promote the orderly use of land in accordance with its status and development potential as a Regional City.
- To encourage high quality urban design as appropriate to the presentation, perception and development of a multi-functional Regional City.
- To provide appropriate controls and incentives to attract investment in the centre.
- To maintain and reinforce the existing competitive advantage of the Tuggerah Regional City centred on accessibility and connectivity.
- To encourage higher density development adjacent to the primary retail uses, and service amenity with public transport service.
- To encourage a high-quality building stock which can adapt over time to a range of uses.
- To ensure that the built form defines a spatial hierarchy with a human scale which contributes to the legibility of the Tuggerah Regional City.

Part 4 Location Specific Development Controls – Major Centres
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4.7.1.2 Land to which this Chapter Applies

The land to which this Chapter applies is shown edged heavy black in **Figure 1**

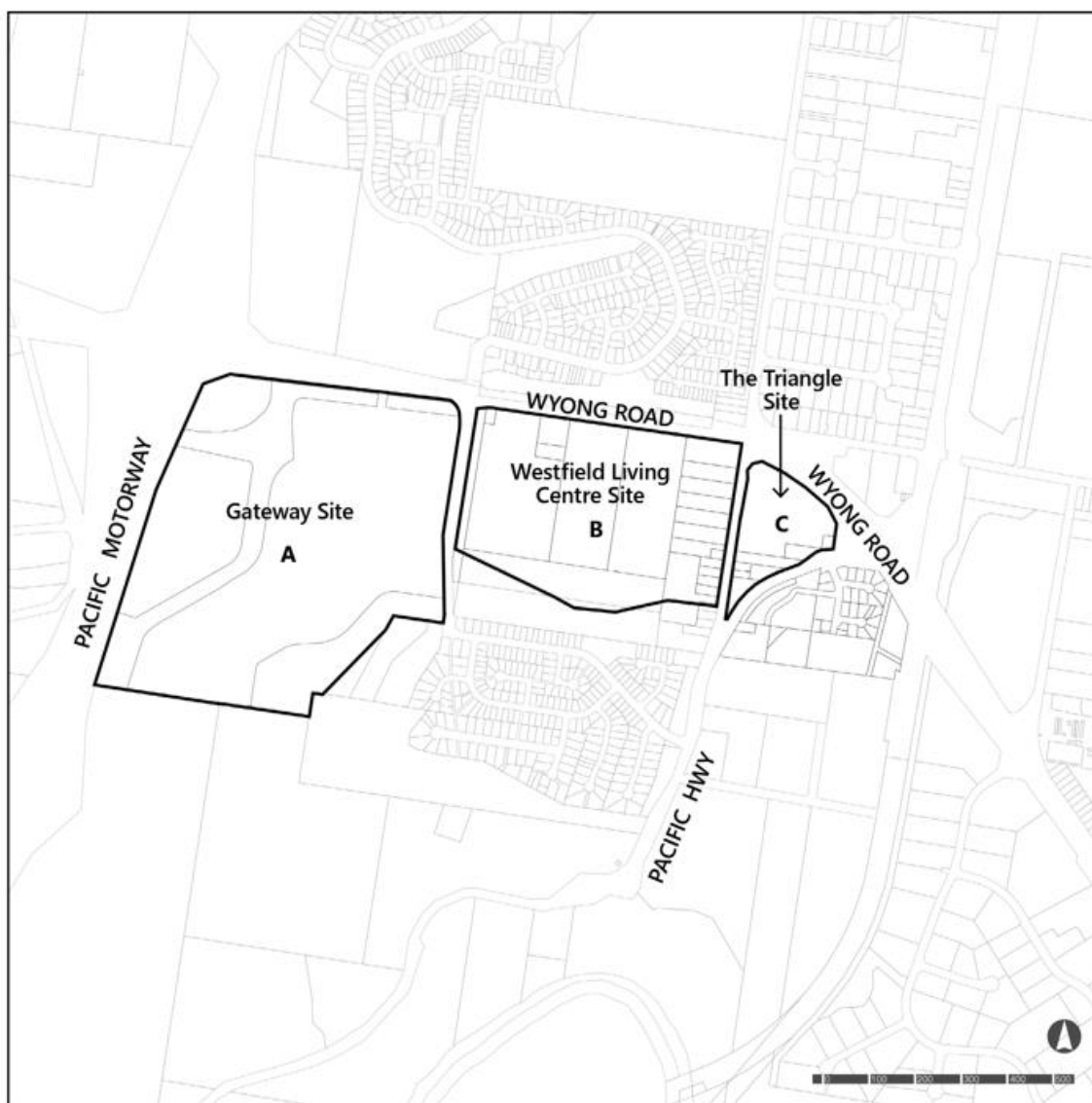


Figure 1 Land to which this Chapter Applies

Part 4 Location Specific Development Controls – Major Centres
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4.7.1.3 Using this Chapter

4.7.1.3.1 Relationship to other Chapters and Policies

All development applications **MUST** be accompanied by the required assessments under the relevant State Government Policy and Council policy, including but not limited to, any matters identified in this chapter for further investigation.

This Chapter should be read in conjunction with other relevant Chapters of this Development Control Plan and other Policy Documents of Council, including but not limited to:

- Chapter 2.1 - Dwelling Houses, Secondary Dwellings and Ancillary Development
- Chapter 2.2 – Dual Occupancies and Multi Dwelling Housing
- Chapter 2.3 – Residential Flat Buildings and Shop-Top Housing
- Chapter 2.4 – Subdivision
- Chapter 2.5 – Commercial Development
- Chapter 2.13 – Transport and Parking
- Chapter 3.1 – Floodplain Management
- Chapter 3.5 – Tree and Vegetation Management
- Council's Civil Works Specification

For any inconsistencies, the requirements in this chapter prevail.

4.7.1.3.2 Area Plans

For the purposes of this Chapter, the Tuggerah Regional City is divided into a number of areas.

Section 2 applies across the entire Tuggerah Regional City.

Sections 3 contains controls specific to the Gateway Site **A**.

Section 4 contains controls specific to the Westfield Living Centre Site **B**.

Section 5 contains controls specific to the Triangle Site **C**.

All relevant Sections are to be considered as part of any development proposal.

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4.7.2 GENERAL CONTROLS – APPLYING ACROSS THE CITY

The aim of this Section is to set development controls which acknowledge that this area represents the gateway to the northern Central Coast from the M1 Pacific Motorway, and that development should be of a high standard with a mixed range of uses.

4.7.2.1 Public Transport Network

OBJECTIVES

- To integrate all sites into the regional public transport network and promote accessible, safe and legible public transport services.
- To provide new bus routes and upgrade the existing bus network to better serve future demands.

REQUIREMENTS

- a Provide a major public transport node within the Tuggerah Regional City at an agreed location.
- b Future bus stops are to be fully compliant with Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT) and TfNSW requirements.
- c Bus stops are to be provided along approved bus routes, no greater than 400 metres apart.

4.7.2.2 Active Transport Network

OBJECTIVES

- To create a safe, well-connected and shaded pedestrian and cycle-friendly environment.
- To provide a self-informing, legible, safe and efficient system of pathways for pedestrian and cycle movement.

REQUIREMENTS

- a Provide high quality and safe pedestrian links and cycleway to enhance connectivity within and throughout the Tuggerah Regional City.
- b Improve and enhance the pedestrian and cycle connections to public transport nodes and local destinations.
- c Improve pedestrian and cyclist crossing on Wyong Road towards the train station.
- d Maximise pedestrian connectivity and circulation (vertical and horizontal) around and through Tuggerah Regional City.
- e Provide a shared pedestrian and cycleway path as a recreational connection between major open spaces, major facilities and residential communities.
- f Manage the traffic and parking for the benefit of the residents, business people, service personnel and visitors.

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4.7.2.3 Earthworks

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure cut and fill requirements do not compromise a high standard of development.
- Minimise cut and fill through site sensitive subdivision, road layout, infrastructure and building design.
- Protect and enhance the aesthetic quality and amenity of the area by controlling the form, bulk and scale of land forming operations to appropriate levels.

REQUIREMENTS

- a Earthworks are to be designed and constructed in accordance with Council's *Civil Works Specification*.
- b Details are to be provided with all development applications showing the extent of proposed earthworks and retaining including proposed finished surface levels, batter slopes and retaining walls. This includes earthworks relating to property boundaries as well as those required for civil works such as roads and parks.
- c Subdivision and building work should be designed to respond to the natural topography of the site wherever possible, minimising the extent of cut and fill.
- d Any benching is to be done in an integrated way and not at an individual lot level.
- e Retained areas or engineered structures visible in the public domain are to have a decorative appearance or be screened by landscaping.
- f Retaining walls are to be consistent throughout and durably constructed of visually recessive materials and colours.

4.7.2.4 Public Domain Controls

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure the public domain is attractive, safe, connected and easily accessed.
- To enhance the quality of the public domain.

REQUIREMENTS

4.7.2.4.1 Built Form

- a The built form should provide, where appropriate, a visual transition to the public space by avoiding continuous lengths of blank walls at the interface between the public and private space.
- b Views into and from the public domain are to be protected to increase opportunities for natural surveillance. Where appropriate, ground floor areas abutting public space should be occupied by uses that create active building fronts with pedestrian flow and contribute to the life of streets and other public spaces.
- c Accessibility should be provided for all members of the community, particularly those with a disability, and should occur across all areas of the public domain. This includes designing for durability, adaptability, maintenance and replacement.

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4.7.2.4.2 Landscaping

- a All development proposals shall include a landscape plan prepared by a suitably qualified landscape architect that addresses the following matters:
 - i general planting themes within the site and indicative species.
 - ii the proposed street tree theme for Wyong Road and integration of this theme with other sections of Wyong Road, in consultation with TfNSW.
 - iii landscaped boundary interfaces for all sites.
 - iv hard surface materials within the site including paving, terracing, ornaments, ponds, street furniture, lighting and the like.
 - v proposed protection measures of adjoining wetland and riparian systems.
 - vi protection and treatment of vegetation proposed to be retained on site.
 - vii A proposed landscape maintenance report and schedule.

4.7.2.5 Private Domain Controls

OBJECTIVES

- To promote development of a visually attractive form, integrating the built and natural environments.
- To encourage Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) by the incorporation of measures promoting energy efficiency and treatment/reuse of stormwater.

REQUIREMENTS

4.7.2.5.1 Built Form

- a Building siting design shall incorporate Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles and implement best practice approaches to water and energy efficiency including solar access.

4.7.2.5.2 Materials and Building Finishes

- a Building materials should complement the predominant masonry construction of recent developments within the Tuggerah Regional City. A preference for high quality, durable, UV stabilised/resistant building materials is favoured.
- b The reflectivity index for glass used externally in construction of a building (as a curtain wall or the like) shall not exceed 20%.
- c Development is encouraged to draw upon an indigenous colour palette within the existing natural and cultural landscape.

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4.7.3 AREA A – GATEWAY SITE

The land to which this Section applies is shown in thick black dashed line in **Figure 2**.



Figure 2 Area A – Gateway Site

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4.7.3.1 Vision for the Gateway Site

The vision for the Gateway Site is to create a diverse community with active transport opportunities nestled amongst nature and on the doorstep of Tuggerah Living Centre. As the gateway to the Tuggerah Regional City, this site provides the opportunity to integrate the significant natural features, public and active transport into the new mixed-use community.

To enable this vision, the Gateway Site should deliver:

- **Reinstated blue grid for healthier waterways:** Re-establishment of Mardi Creek and its riparian corridor along the original alignment following the southern boundary of the C2 Environmental Management zone and continuing along Wyong Road. Installation of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) to treat water on-site and improve downstream outcomes.
- **Diverse and inclusive housing:** Offers a new lifestyle for the Central Coast community bringing families, students the elderly and everything in-between together in diverse housing including low to medium rise apartments, terrace homes, townhouse, independent living units and detached homes.
- **Active and healthy lifestyles:** Embedded through a network of pathways along green and blue links for everyday journeys in a compact community.
- **Reduced car dependence:** Improved public transport connections to the neighbourhood connecting the community to jobs - both local and regional - as well as local services and facilities at Westfield Tuggerah.
- **Day-to-day convenience:** Safe, comfortable and direct connections via tree covered streets from the neighbourhood to the everyday amenities and entertainment offer of Westfield Tuggerah 'Living Centre' through a new signalised intersection at Tonkiss Street.
- **Local jobs throughout the project life cycle:** Through the delivery of interim short-term bulky goods employment transitioning to future mixed-use development.

OBJECTIVES

- To strengthen and promote the Gateway Site as an integral component of the Tuggerah Regional City
- To establish a clear identity and image for the Gateway Site as the primary focus of mixed-use retail, service and residential activities in the Tuggerah Regional City.
- To encourage development design of high quality, which controls and mitigates the potential environmental impacts arising from the development.
- To ensure the development is undertaken in an orderly and sustainable fashion with sequencing that provides adequate infrastructure service and amenities for the residents.
- To minimise noise impacts on residential and other noise sensitive land uses located in the vicinity of significant noise generating sources.
- To establish consistent and appropriate built forms to mitigate noise and vibration impacts.

REQUIREMENTS

- a The development design of the Gateway site shall be capable of satisfying all requirements outlined in this Section below, with consideration to the existing physical, built and environmental features and constraints of the land, and the phasing of development.

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4.7.3.2 Environmental Management

The natural landscape of the Gateway Site is characterised by undulating landforms, open grassland areas with rocky outcrops to the northwest, extensive bushlands to the south, including Mardi Creek and a meandering natural low-lying corridor traversing the Site. The controls in this section aim to retain and provide management measures to protect the environmental quality of Gateway Site.

This section must be read in conjunction with *Central Coast Council Civil Works Specification*, which provides minimum requirements for the design and construction of civil works including pavements, paths, earthworks, drainage and sewerage systems.

OBJECTIVES

- To protect, rehabilitate and manage significant environmental features located within the site.
- To prioritise the local natural assets by protecting native bushland, restoring waterbody and retaining natural vegetation and topographical feature.
- To minimise and mitigate the potential flooding risks and impact, by implementing stormwater treatment and management with WSUD principles and strategies.
- To allow development that is compatible with the flood hazard of the land.
- To prevent the loss of life and property due to bushfire, by discouraging the establishment of incompatible uses on bushfire prone land.
- To prevent the risk to public health or the biophysical environment when changes to land uses are applied to site.
- To reduce the impact of the existing transmission line to future development and the environment.
- To reduce the impact of development on ecological systems and processes that sustain life.

REQUIREMENTS

4.7.3.2.1 Biodiversity Management

- a Comply with the Biodiversity Certification Order, the approved Biodiversity Certification Assessment Report (BCAR) and the approved Biodiversity/Vegetation Management Plan for the site, to minimise impacts to the land proposed for conservation areas. This includes:
 - i Existing native vegetation and Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) within the Rocky Outcrop to the northwest of the site;
 - ii Existing vegetated area within the western portion of the site; and
 - iii Existing vegetated area along the south-eastern boundary.
- b Detailed information must accompany any future development application regarding the intention for the boundary treatment and plans for recreational trails leading from the development site to the Council and Crown reserves adjoining the site. The interface treatment needs to show that Council-owned vegetation will not be negatively impacted by Asset Protection Zone (APZ) clearing requirements, construction impacts, landscaping, road batters/culverts, WSUD, or edge effects.

Note: The southern conservation zone may need to be fenced along the property boundary.

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- c Re-establish and revegetate the riparian/waterway/biodiversity corridors in accordance with the approved Biodiversity/Vegetation Management Plan for the site.
- d All land zoned C2 Environmental Management must be retained in common ownership and subject to a permanent “in perpetuity” conservation arrangement unless satisfactory arrangements are reached with Council to accept ownership and maintenance of this land.
- e A soft buffer of a minimum of 10 metres is to be provided to all land zoned C2 Environmental Management and riparian/biodiversity corridors throughout the site. Soft buffers may include grassed areas and planting with locally indigenous species, as approved by Council.

4.7.3.2.2 Flood Plain Management

This section applies to land at or below the flood planning level and is to be read in conjunction with clauses 5.21 and 5.22 of *Central Coast Local Environmental Plan 2022*, and *Chapter 3.1 Flood Plain Management of Central Coast DCP 2022*.

- a Any development is to be designed in accordance with WSUD principles and NSW Government’s *Flood Prone Land Policy* and the principles of the *Floodplain Risk Management Manual 2023*.
- b Climate change assessment should be included in flood modelling and may be used to set available development areas.
- c All lots are to be constructed with a finished floor level above the future flood planning level, as demonstrated to be achievable by flood modelling.
- d A site-specific Flood Emergency Plan is required to be submitted with any future development application for housing. The Flood Emergency Plan is to detail the PMF flood event evacuation route, demonstrating safe access and evacuation in a PMF event.

4.7.3.2.3 Dam Safety

- a Part of the site falls within an Emergency Dam Break Flood zone. Future development proposals within this area must consider risks to life and property and incorporate mitigation measures within the development design that eliminate or reduce risks, but only in so far as is reasonably practicable.
- b The development design must consider and include any requirements of the relevant Dam Emergency Plan. Reference should also be made to dams safety related legislation.
- c Prior to the lodgement of any development application for the Gateway site, Council’s Water Assessment Team must be consulted to discuss any dam safety requirements.

4.7.3.2.4 Bushfire / Asset Protection Zone (APZ)

- a Developments must be designed to accommodate the required Asset Protection Zone (APZ) dimensions.
- b Where tree canopy can meet APZ requirements, it should be retained.
- c All required APZs are to be located outside of the riparian vegetation and drainage areas (RVDA) and outside the land zoned C2 Environmental Management.
- d Future roads are to be located along the perimeter of environmental lands and shall form part of the APZ.

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- e Future design iterations (including revegetation and landscape plans) must be prepared with consideration to bushfire and meet the requirements of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019* (PBP).
- f Any stormwater quality improvement device within an APZ must ensure vegetation types are compliant.
- g Future development must provide compliant asset protection zones (APZs) in alignment with Table A1.12.2 of *PBP 2019* for residential subdivisions and Table A1.12.1 of *PBP 2019* for special fire protection purpose (SFPP) developments. This must include all zones with the potential to support future SFPP developments (i.e. this includes APZ setbacks from the bushland located to the south of the site and the proposed internal vegetated corridors).
- h Access for future residential subdivision must comply with Table 5.3b of *PBP 2019*.
- i Perimeter and non-perimeter roads are to consider minimum carriageway widths in compliance with Table 5.3b of *PBP 2019* and the parking provisions outside of the carriageway.
- j Future development must be supported by evidence, such as a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) or Plan of Management (POM), that demonstrate that the managed central corridors and parks will be maintained to the standard of an APZ to demonstrate that the future residential development can comply with Table 5.3b of *PBP 2019* where a compliant perimeter road has not been proposed.
- k The provision of services for future residential subdivisions must comply with Table 5.3c of *PBP 2019*.
- l Future multi-storey residential developments must comply with 8.2.2 Multi-storey residential development of *PBP 2019*.
- m Future development classified as SFPP must comply with Chapter 6 - SFPP Developments of *PBP 2019*, Appendix B of the Addendum to PBP and the amendment to the bush fire protection provisions of the *National Construction Code (NCC) 2022*.
- n The evacuation capacity of the existing network and future traffic modelling of the proposal must be reviewed to confirm the capacity of the road network to support evacuation during bush fire events.

4.7.3.2.5 Stormwater Quality Management

- d Mardi Creek is to be integrated with the future landscape design with an appropriate riparian corridor. A conceptual cross section is provided below in Figure 3 that reflects the intended outcome of the riparian corridor.
- e A natural low land corridor is to be provided to accommodate trunk stormwater drainage, stormwater basins and associated vegetation. A conceptual cross section is provided below in Figure 4 that reflects these principles.
- f Stormwater pit & pipe network is to be designed in accordance with the road network and building lot grading, with adequate land and separation provided with the development design.
- g On-site detention (OSD) is to be incorporated into the development where required in accordance with the storage and discharge requirements of the *Central Coast Stormwater Detention Policy*.
- h Changes to the existing drainage system/pattern should not impact stormwater drainage from the M1 Motorway.

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- i Stormwater improvement devices (SQUDS) are to have a high flow bypass that reduces the risk of flooding and erosion in high flow events. Vegetated SQIDS are to be offline during the establishment period.
- j Ensure all SQIDS can be maintained safely and efficiently.
- k All stormwater and drainage assets created through the development must be retained in common ownership and subject to a permanent 'in perpetuity' management arrangement unless satisfactory arrangements are reached with Council to accept ownership and maintenance of these assets.
- l A Stormwater Management Plan is to be submitted which details a strategy for dealing with stormwater runoff from the site and the integration of stormwater quality improvement devices into the landscape design. The plan is to demonstrate that the proposed SQIDS and onsite detention (OSD) basins are feasible for engineering design and that they can be protected from damage in use and able to be safely maintained. The proposal must demonstrate that water quality requirements can be met for all parts of the development.

Note: the impact of future cut and fill works on development sites may not be able to be managed by modest erosion and sediment controls typical for single site development. The impact on ongoing sediment loads needs to be considered in bioretention design and may require pre-treatment of stormwater via settling ponds.

SECTION 1

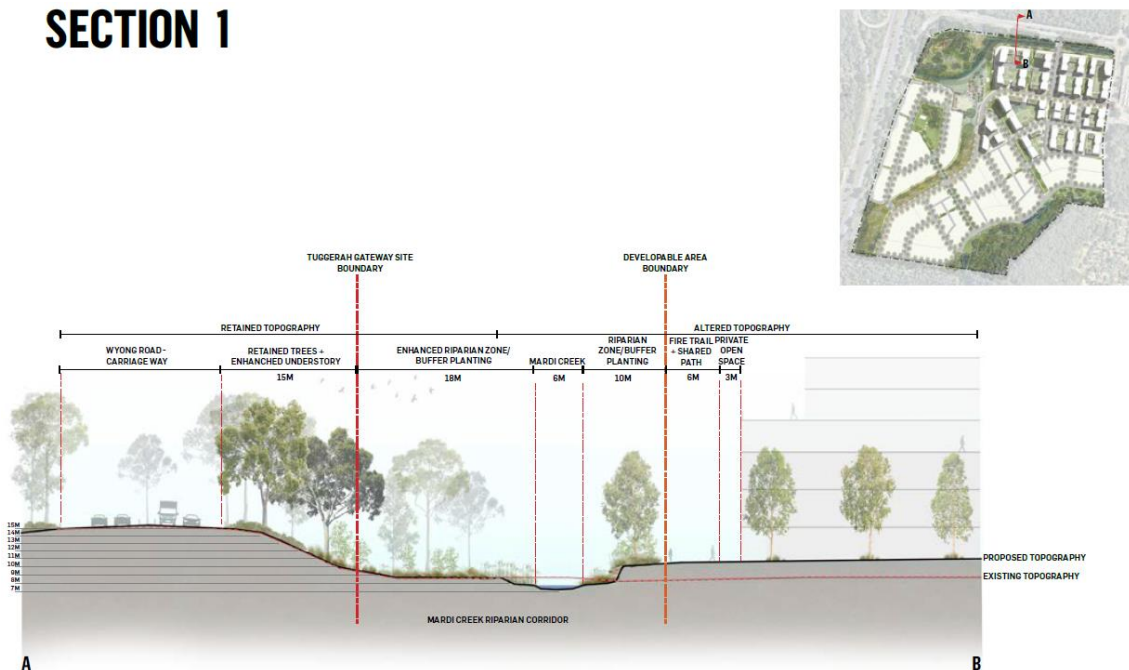


Figure 3 Indicative concept of riparian corridor along Wyong Road

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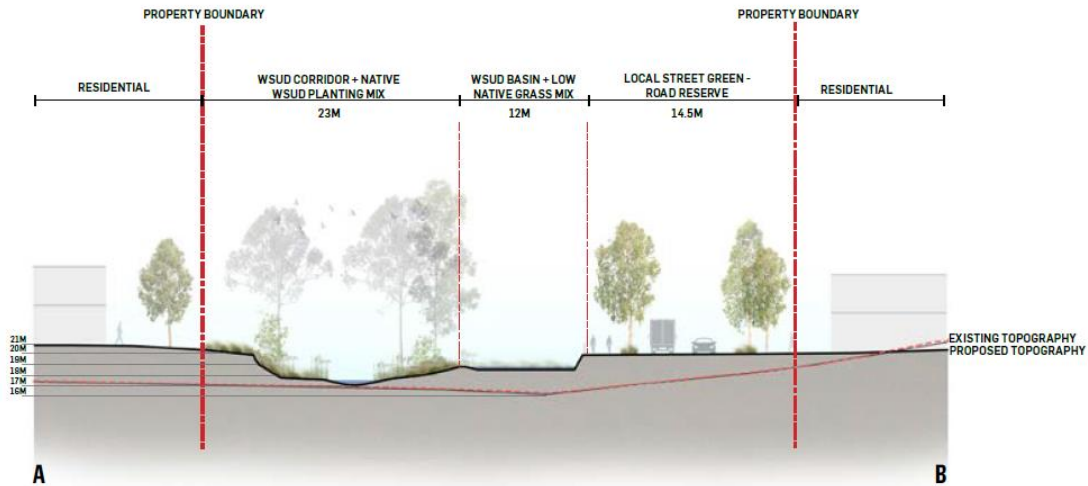


Figure 4 Indicative concept of WSUD/drainage corridor through the site

4.7.3.2.6 Water & Sewer

- a Reticulation mains must be delivered in stages to align with development rollout.
- b Sewer upgrades to existing infrastructure should be delivered to the final permanent size rather than being staged or progressively upgraded over time.
- c A Servicing Strategy is to be submitted with any future development application detailing how development of the land will be serviced in accordance with Council's *Water Supply and Sewerage Development Servicing Plan 2019*. The Servicing Strategy must demonstrate the different options and relevant assessment to service the proposed development.

4.7.3.2.7 Utilities

- a The existing electrical transmission line is to be relocated underground with the alignment to be agreed in consultation Ausgrid.
- b All street lighting is to be designed and constructed in consultation with Ausgrid and TfNSW.
- c All services and utilities are to be located underground with adequate separation between assets.
- d No services are to be constructed through the land zoned C2 Environmental Conservation.

4.7.3.2.8 Noise management

- a A report by a suitably qualified acoustic consultant is to be submitted with any future development application to address potential road traffic noise impacts from the M1 Pacific Motorway and Wyong Road in accordance with the Department of Planning, *Development near Rail Corridors and Busy Roads – Interim Guideline 2008*. The report shall identify:
 - i existing and potential future noise sources,

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- ii areas where specific development should be restricted due to likely noise, and
 - iii mitigation measures to reduce existing or potential noise effects.
- b To mitigate road noise from the M1 Pacific Motorway on adjoining dwellings the following is to be provided:
 - i a minimum 12m boundary setback for any future housing along the western boundary, and
 - ii noise barriers and at-property treatments in the form of architectural treatments such as acoustic insulation, concrete roof construction, double glazed windows, etc for any dwellings along the western boundary.

4.7.3.2.9 Contamination

- a An assessment under Clause 4.6 of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards (2021))* is to be submitted with any future development application to detail whether land is contaminated. If required, a detailed site investigation (DSI) and remediation action plan (RAP) must be prepared with consideration given to the proposed land use.

4.7.3.3 Local Open Space and Parks

The local open space and parks within the Gateway Site are proposed to deliver a high-performance green and blue grid that will create a matrix of multifunctional spaces which protect and enhance natural systems, deliver urban amenity, biodiversity and cooling, and create places for residents and visitors to relax, unwind and play.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide variety of high-quality open spaces with local natural characters and identities.
- To provide focus for social and recreational activities.
- To integrate open spaces with stormwater treatment.
- To ensure direct public access to open spaces.
- To create key visual corridors to the core open space and wayfinding system for open spaces.

REQUIREMENTS

- a Public open spaces are to be provided in consultation with Council.
- b Provision of Public Open Space (POS) of at least 1 hectare in size. The land shall be dedicated at no cost to Council once embellishment to Council's requirement and satisfaction has occurred. Any play space within the POS is to be located on unencumbered land free of flood hazards (H3 and above). The POS is to be fit for purpose with the Concept Design to be prepared generally in accordance with the POS Provision Framework for a District Recreation Park outlined in Council's draft *Open Space Strategy (November 2022)*.
- c A Maintenance Management Plan (MMP) is to be prepared that sets out the proposed maintenance of all open space areas in accordance with Council's current minimum service provisions and a proposed reporting regime.
- d The proposed waterway is not to be included in any open space calculation and may need protective fencing due to the steep banks and high hazard flows predicted in this area.

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- e Provide legible and safe access and prioritise safe pedestrian and cycle links between open spaces.
- f Address Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles in the open space design.
- g Optimise topographical features for open spaces and major vista corridors.

4.7.3.4 Access/Movement, Traffic and Parking

The Gateway Site is envisaging a connected network of permeable streets that integrate the site into the surrounding movement network while new and upgraded pedestrian and cycle connections induce more active transport journeys to local destinations including Westfield Tuggerah, Tuggerah Train Station and Tuggerah Town Centre.

The purpose of this section is to ensure that convenient and safe active and public transport prioritised street networks is provided within Gateway Site.

OBJECTIVES

- To prioritise and promote public transport and active transport.
- To enhance safe connections to the train stations, bus stops and accessibility to Westfield Tuggerah, Tuggerah Town Centre and adjacent neighbourhoods.
- To establish clear street hierarchy and well-connected street networks for all movements and purposes.
- To promote mid-block and through-site links to improve pedestrian permeability of the development blocks that consider the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
- To minimise the vehicle and pedestrian/cycle movement conflict.
- To provide shaded, connected and safe shared and footpaths within the streetscape network.
- To encourage continuous pedestrian or shared pedestrian and cycleway within open spaces.

REQUIREMENTS

4.7.3.4.1 Street Network

- a Prior to the lodgement of any development application for the Gateway site, further traffic impact assessment is to be undertaken to ascertain potential impacts to the surrounding road network and identify mitigation measures relevant to any proposed staging. A microsimulation model (prepared in accordance with TfNSW's base model) is required to assess the impacts of the development on the broader network, including the M1 Pacific Motorway interchange and the intersection of the Pacific Highway and Wyong Road.
- b A Traffic Impact Assessment Report undertaken by a suitably qualified traffic consultant is to be submitted with any development application for the site to ensure the traffic and parking impacts generated by each stage of development are considered and addressed. The report shall identify:
 - i potential impacts to the surrounding road network
 - ii mitigation measures relevant to any proposed staging
 - iii proposed public transport routes, with evidence documenting the outcome of discussions with local public transport providers, specifically local bus service providers. Public transport routes are to be designed in accordance with the TfNSW *Guidelines for Bus Capable*

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Infrastructure in Greenfield Sites 2018.

- iv active transport facilities and infrastructure

- c Future development of the Gateway Site relies on access arrangements outlined in the executed planning agreement between the Minister for Planning and the landowner/developer to support the proposed land uses. Following the further traffic assessment work being undertaken as outlined above, this planning agreement must be amended or renewed to reflect the required infrastructure improvements and the proposed timing of road upgrades to support the development of the site. The updated planning agreement is to be finalised prior to the determination of any development application for housing on the R1 General Residential portion of the site.

- d A Safe System Assessment is to be submitted with any development application for the site together with a Road Safety Audit to assist in the development of a safer environment for all road users.

- e All intersections and access points to Gateway Site are to be modelled to demonstrate that the proposed road configuration operates safely. Modelling is to demonstrate how any potential conflicts with the Westfield Living Centre Site B are resolved.

- f The road layout (horizontal and vertical) shall consider the final development upon the land regarding flood storages and floodway cross sectional area within the watercourses and flow paths.

- g Future subdivision layout is to create a legible and permeable street hierarchy that responds to the natural site topography and environmental characteristics of the land.

- h Street network is to be provided generally in accordance with the following street typologies:
 - i **Collector Road:** primary access routes connecting the site from Wyong Road and Tonkiss Street for all road user movement with activated frontage and shared paths within mixed use area.
 - ii **Green Boulevard:** secondary connection within the southern area of the site providing generous verge with tree canopy, plantings and shared path.
 - iii **Local Street:** local streets with residential development interface on both sides providing direct access to residential lots.
 - iv **Local Street Green:** local streets with open space interface on one side.
 - v **Local Perimeter Street:** local streets along the southern boundary with conservation zone interface in accordance with the *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019* (PBP) requirement.
 - vi **Laneway:** provide vehicle access to residential lots with rear garage and no on-street parking provision.

- i A regional shared pathway is to be provided from the Gateway Site along Wyong Road to the pedestrian overpass.

- j Road hierarchy and road reserve are generally as per the requirements in *Council's Civil Works Specification - Design Guideline (2020)* Table 6. Road Hierarchy and Road Width Schedule.

- k Roads identified as a local bus route must be designed to cater for large and rigid vehicles, having regard for grade, sightlines and avoidance of lane departure during turning movements.

- l The development must be designed to accommodate service vehicles, loading and waste facilities on the site. Such facilities are to be incorporated into the overall design of the development and should not detract from the streetscape.

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- m Provide a safer street environment by ensuring appropriate lighting and using crime prevention through environmental design principles.
- n Road geometry such as steep roads, combined horizontal and over vertical curves, long straight streets, smaller radii curves with adverse crossfall, lot accesses in close proximity to entry and departures of roundabouts etc. that contribute to increased crash risk are to be avoided.
- o Appropriate safety arrangements such as non-scalable fencing must be established along the western boundary adjacent to the M1 Motorway to avoid access to the top of the cliff.
- p Roads to land zoned C2 Environmental Management in the southeast of the Gateway Site are to provide adequate urban interface between conservation areas and residential areas.
- q Provision of adequate buffer within the road reserve for roads internal to the Gateway site and adjoining Wyong Road and Tonkiss Street for street tree planting.

4.7.3.4.2 Pedestrian and Cycle Network

OBJECTIVES

- To provide a well-designed, safe and active public domain which contributes to the wellbeing of the community
- To provide linkages between open space, streets and drainage features to create a clearly distinguishable public domain.
- Provide safe and convenient pedestrian and cycle networks with clear internal links and connection to external regional networks to promote healthy lifestyle choices.

REQUIREMENTS

- a Shared paths/footpaths and cycleways are to be designed and constructed in accordance with Central Coast Council's *Civil Works Specification - Design Guideline (2020)* and *Civil Works Specification - Construction Specification (2020)*.
- b All park edge streets are to have the cycleway/shared footpath located on the park side of the road.
- c Active Transport Infrastructure and facilities, bike lanes, shared paths, footpaths and kerb ramps etc. will consider and align with the vision, aims and objectives of the *Central Coast Bike Plan* and *Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP)*, and provide safety and connectivity to all existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian routes in accordance with the Prioritisation Criteria and the required Standards.

4.7.3.5 Subdivision and Lot Size

The Gateway Site is characterised by an undulating landform setting. The development encourages varied housing typology including small lot housing with proximity to retail and service amenity ensuring housing diversity can be delivered within Gateway Site.

This section applies to residential lot subdivision for dwellings, dual occupancy, semi-detached, multi dwelling and attached dwelling. It does not apply to Residential Flat Buildings/Shop Top Housing uses.

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OBJECTIVES

- To provide housing diversity close to high amenity of the Westfield Shopping Centre and surrounding open space, whilst ensuring the built form is responsive to the slope of the land.

REQUIREMENTS

- a Lot layouts for future residential subdivision shall consider scenic amenity, natural topography of the land, open space areas and environmental corridors.
- b The development is to be staged to ensure a coordinated subdivision layout that responds to site constraints and ensures delivery of infrastructure requirements.
- c The residential subdivision of the land within the Gateway site is to enable a diversity of housing types and facilitate a maximum of 600 lots in the R1 zone. The final subdivision lot layout and minimum lot size is subject to satisfying matters such as slope management, drainage, use of retaining walls and the like.

4.7.3.6 Built Form Guidelines for Dwelling Houses, Semi Detached, Multi Dwelling Housing and Attached Dwellings

The Gateway Site encourages varied housing offer with built forms that are compatible with the desired future character of the locality. The purpose of this section is to ensure that the built form and housing typologies provide adequate amenity for the residents and respond to the surrounding context and character.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide appropriate residential development in proximity to the Tuggerah Town Centre and Tuggerah Train Station to promote walking and cycling.
- To provide a range of residential development densities and dwelling types including housing for seniors or people with a disability, to cater for changing demographics.
- To ensure buildings are compatible with the height, bulk and scale of the existing and desired future character of the locality.
- To ensure building height is compatible with the scenic qualities of hillside and ridgetop locations and respects the sites natural topography.

REQUIREMENTS

4.7.3.6.1 Building Design

- a Residential development will achieve a high standard of urban design through:
 - i A range of architectural features to provide visual relief and individual amenity.
 - ii Building design that encourages surveillance of streets and public spaces.
 - iii Garages and parking structures sited and design to reduce their impact on the street.
- b Building height shall generally be two to three storeys with a maximum building height of 12m.
- c The maximum building height for outbuildings and detached ancillary development is 8.5m.

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- d The Floor Space Ratio for development is as per the Floor Space Ratio Map in the *Central Coast Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2022*.
- e Building siting design and construction shall incorporate Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles and implement best practice approaches to water and energy efficiency including solar access.

4.7.3.6.2 Private Open Space

- a For all dwelling types, the principal private open space areas shall be directly accessible from and adjacent to a habitable room other than a bedroom and shall be provided in accordance with the following:
 - i Lots with a width less than 10m wide at the building line - 16m².
 - ii Lots with a width greater than 10m wide at the building line - 24m².
 - iii Minimum dimension of 3m.

Note: the principal private open space area should be sited behind the front building line and should be generally level and may be in the form of a deck, terrace or paved area. This area should be determined having regard to dwelling design, allotment orientation, and adjoining development and to minimise disturbance from any significant noise sources.

4.7.3.7 Built Form Guidelines for Specialised Retail Premises

REQUIREMENTS

- a A minimum street setback of 4.5 metres is required to allow enough width for a landscaped buffer.
- b The building setbacks fronting the Mardi Creek and the Rocky Outcrop should be in accordance with the *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019* (PBP).
- c Large retail or commercial floor spaces not requiring continuous and direct connection to the street (e.g. bulky goods) should provide landscape buffer and façade treatment.
- d Building frontages fronting Mardi Creek and The Rocky Outcrop should provide landscape buffer to screen building services.

4.7.3 AREA B – WESTFIELD LIVING CENTRE SITE

Any proposal to significantly expand and/or redevelop the existing Westfield Living Centre Site will require the preparation of a site master plan, as part of any future development application, that demonstrates to the satisfaction of Council appropriate physical, built form, public domain connections and integration between Areas A and C.

4.7.4 AREA C – TRIANGLE SITE

Any proposal for the Triangle Site will require the preparation of a site master plan, as part of any future development application, that demonstrates to the satisfaction of Council appropriate physical, built form, public domain connections and integration between Areas A and B.



Voluntary Planning Agreement

Under section 7.4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979

Central Coast Council &
Scentre Pty Limited and Orta Pty Ltd

Draft

Central Coast Council
[insert execution date]

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Voluntary Planning Agreement

Author: Central Coast Council

Central Coast Council & Proponent

Date: April 24

Draft Version

Approved by:

Date of Approval: date

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SUMMARY SHEET

Council:

Name: Central Coast Council

Wyong Office: 2 Hely St / PO Box 20 Wyong NSW 2259 | P 02 4350 5555

Email: ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Representative: Chief Executive Officer

Proponent:

Name: Scentre Pty Limited ACN 000 317 279 and Orta Pty Ltd ACN 008 617 810

Address: 85 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Telephone: 0409 155 803 / 0408 328 772

Email: jgordon@scentregroup.com; AAchterstraat@scentregroup.com

Representative: Jamie Gordon/Adam Achterstraat

Land:

See definition of *Land* in clause 4.1.

Development:

See definition of *Development* in clause 4.1.

Application of s7.11 s7.12 and s7.24 of the Act:

See clause 3.

Registration:

See clause 9.

Dispute Resolution:

See clause 7.

DATE: **date**

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Central Coast Council (ABN 73 149 644 003) of 2 Hely St, Wyong, in the State of New South Wales (**Council**)
and

Scentre Pty Limited ACN 000 317 279 and **Orta Pty Limited** ACN 008 617 810 of 85 Castlereagh Street, Sydney
NSW 2000 (**Proponent**)

BACKGROUND

- A. The Proponent is Orta Pty Limited who is the registered proprietor of Lot 3 in DP 1084221, and Scentre Pty Limited who is the registered proprietor of Lot 2 in DP 1056960, which form the Land.
- B. The Proponent has sought the Instrument Change.
- C. The Proponent intends to lodge a Development Application for the Development of the Land.
- D. The Proponent is prepared to provide the Contributions to Council set out in Schedule 1 of this Agreement if the Instrument Change is made.

OPERATIVE PROVISIONS

1 PLANNING AGREEMENT UNDER THE EP&A ACT 1979 (NSW) (Act)

- 1.1 The parties agree that this Agreement is a Planning Agreement governed by Subdivision 2 of Division 6 of Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act) 1979.

2 APPLICATION OF THIS AGREEMENT

- 2.1 This Agreement applies to the land, the Development and the Instrument Change.

3 OPERATION OF THIS AGREEMENT

- 3.1 This Agreement takes effect once executed by all parties.
- 3.2 This Agreement identifies that the Proponent will provide the Contributions to Council set out in Schedule 1 of this Agreement.
- 3.3 By complying with the obligations of this Agreement, the Proponent will provide a benefit in the form of community facilities and infrastructure as described in **Schedule 1**.
- 3.4 This Agreement does **not** exclude the operation of section 7.11, section 7.12 and section 7.24 of the Act.
- 3.5 This Agreement does **not** apply to any obligation that the Proponent may have to pay contributions, fees or charges under section 7.11, section 7.12 and section 7.24 of the Act or the *Water Management Act 2000* in respect to the Development of the Land.

4 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- 4.1 In this Agreement the following definitions apply:

Act means the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

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Agreement means this agreement and any schedules, annexures and appendices to this Agreement.

Amending LEP means an environmental planning instrument that has the effect of amending the *Central Coast Local Environmental Plan 2022* so the Development of the Land is permissible with Consent.

Consent means the consent granted to the Development Application.

Contributions means the contributions set out in **Schedule 1** of this Agreement.

Council means Central Coast Council.

Current Development Contributions Plan means the applicable plan and the Section 7.11 Contributions Plan for Central Coast Council.

Dedication Date has the meaning given to that term in clause 2.1(b) of **Schedule 1**.

Development means the proposed development of the Land that complies with the Amending LEP.

Development Application means a development application under Part 4 of the Act seeking consent to undertake the Development on the Land.

Instrument Change means the taking of effect of the Amending LEP.

Land means Lot 3 Deposited Plan 1084221 and Lot 2 Deposited Plan 1056960, also known as 60 Wyong Road, Tuggerah.

Maintenance Management Plan (MMP) means the plan outlining the maintenance and servicing of the POS Land and facilities by the Proponent, at no cost to Council, for the designated **Maintenance Period**.

Maintenance Period is the period of five (5) years from the time that the POS Land is dedicated to Council in accordance with clause 2.1 (b) of **Schedule 1**.

Parties mean the Council and the Proponent, including both their successors and assigns.

Party means a party to this Agreement including its successors and assigns.

Planning Proposal means the document required by section 3.33 of the Act that explains the intended effect of the proposed Amending LEP and sets out the justification for making that Amending LEP, being Council reference number RZ/2/2021 and Department of Planning and Environment reference number PP_2021_WYONG_5416.

Proponent means the owner of the Land from time to time, which as at the date of this Agreement is the person or entity identified in Item 1 of **Schedule 2** to this Agreement.

Proponent's Representative is the person identified in Item 2 of **Schedule 2** to this Agreement, appointed by the Proponent to act on behalf of the Proponent, or that person, from time to time, notified to Council in writing by the Proponent.

Public Open Space (POS) Contribution means the dedication of Public Open Space (POS) Land to Council and the carrying out of the Public Open Space (POS) Works.

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Public Open Space (POS) Land means the Public Open Space (POS) land as described in clause 2.1(a) of **Schedule 1**.

Public Open Space (POS) Embellishment Works means embellishment and physical works to the Public Open Space (POS) Land with a minimum contribution value of \$1,000,000.

Regulation means the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*.

Shared Pathway means the pathway constructed within the road reserve connecting the Land to the pedestrian overhead bridge on Wyong Road, Tuggerah, as described in clause 4.1(a) of **Schedule 1**.

Shared Pathway works means the physical works to construct the shared pathway as described in clause 4.2 of **Schedule 1**.

Stage 1 means the first stage of the Development.

Stage 1 Development Application means the Development Application submitted for Stage 1 of the Development.

Subdivision Certificate has the same meaning as in the Act.

Youth Centre means the facility as described in clause 3.1(a) of **Schedule 1**.

Youth Centre Works means the works to establish the Youth Centre with a minimum contribution value of \$1,000,000 and a maximum contribution value of \$1,250,000.

5 PAYMENT OF MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS

- 5.1 This Agreement does not require the Proponent to pay any monetary contribution to Council.
- 5.2 The Parties agree that nothing that the Proponent does to meet its obligations under this Agreement will give rise to a reduction or variation or credit in any monetary contributions that might later be required by a Consent to undertake the Development on the Land.

6 PROPONENT OBLIGATIONS

- 6.1 The Proponent undertakes that it will, as part of the process to seek development consent for the Development of the Land, undertake each contribution set out in Schedule 1 of this Agreement, at no cost to Council.
- 6.2 The Proponent undertakes that it will, as part of the process to seek development consent for the Development of the Land, undertake further traffic impact assessment to ascertain potential impacts to the surrounding road network and identify mitigation measures relevant to any proposed staging. A microsimulation model (prepared in accordance with TfNSW's base model) is required to assess the impacts of the development on the broader network, including the M1 Pacific Motorway interchange and the intersection of the Pacific Highway and Wyong Road.
- 6.3 The Proponent undertakes that it will, as part of the process to seek development consent for the Development of the Land, update or renew the executed existing planning agreement dated 26 October 2015 between the Proponent and the Minister for Planning. This existing planning agreement must be

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amended prior to the determination of the first Development Application for housing on the R1 General Residential portion of the Land, to reflect the required infrastructure improvements and the proposed timing of road upgrades to support the development of the site.

- 6.4 The Proponent undertakes that it will, as part of the process to seek development consent for the Development of the Land, model all intersection and access points to the Land to demonstrate what configurations are proposed and ensure they operate safely. The modelling is to demonstrate how any potential conflicts with the adjoining Westfield Tuggerah Shopping Centre are resolved.

7 PROPONENT WARRANTIES AND INDEMNITIES

- 7.1 As at the date of this Agreement the Proponent warrants to Council that:
- (a) Orta Pty Limited is the registered proprietor of Lot 3 in DP 1084221 and Scentre Pty Limited is the registered proprietor of Lot 2 in DP 1056960 which form the Land;
 - (b) It is able to fully comply with its obligations under this Agreement;
 - (c) It has full capacity to enter into this Agreement; and
 - (d) There is no legal impediment to it entering into this Agreement or performing its obligations under this Agreement.

8 REVIEW OF THIS AGREEMENT

- 8.1 Any amendments, variation or modification to or of, or consent to any departure by any party from the terms of this Agreement shall have no force or effect unless effected by a document executed by the parties which complies with the requirements of section 7.5 of the Act.

9 FURTHER AGREEMENT RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT

- 9.1 The Parties may, at any time and from time to time, enter into agreements relating to the subject matter of this Agreement for the purpose of implementing this Agreement that are not inconsistent with this agreement.

10 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 10.1 If a dispute arises out of or relates to this Agreement (including any dispute as to the meaning, performance, validity, subject matter, breach or termination of this Agreement or as to any claim in tort, in equity or pursuant to any statute) (**Dispute**), any court or arbitration proceedings shall not be commenced by or against Council, the Proponent or their successors or assigns, relating to the Dispute unless the parties to the Dispute (**Parties**) have complied with this clause, except where a party seeks urgent interlocutory relief.
- 10.2 A party claiming that a Dispute has arisen under or in relation to this Agreement is to give written notice to the other parties to the Dispute, specifying the nature of the Dispute.
- (a) The Parties agree to mediate the Dispute in accordance with the Mediation Rules of the Law Society of New South Wales and to take action to have the Dispute mediated within 7 working days of the receipt of written notice of the Dispute.

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- (b) The Parties agree that the President of the Law Society of New South Wales or the President's nominee will select the mediator and determine the mediator's remuneration.
 - (c) The Parties to the mediation will be jointly responsible for the fees of the mediation and each party shall bear its own costs.
 - (d) The Parties may, but are not required, to enter into a written agreement before mediating a Dispute.
 - (e) A legal representative acting for either of the Parties may participate in the mediation.
- 10.3 From the time when a notice of Dispute is served, neither party shall take action to terminate this Agreement, until after the conclusion of the mediation.
- 10.4 Despite clause 10.1, either Council or the Proponent may institute court proceedings to seek urgent equitable relief in relation to a dispute or difference arising out of or in connection with this Agreement.

11 COSTS

- 11.1 The Proponent agrees to pay or reimburse the costs of Council in connection with the:
- (a) Negotiation, preparation and execution of this planning agreement, to a maximum of \$2,500.00.
 - (b) Advertising and exhibiting this planning agreement in accordance with the Act, to a maximum of \$350.00, and
 - (c) All costs related to registration of this planning agreement where required, within 7 working days after receipt of a tax invoice from Council.

12 ENFORCEMENT

- 12.1 The Proponent has agreed to provide security to Council for the performance of the Proponent's obligations under this Agreement by:
- 12.2.1 The registration of the Agreement on the Land pursuant to Clause 13 in relation to all Contributions; and
 - 12.2.2 clause 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 of Schedule 1 are security for the dedication of the Open Space Land to Council.

13 REGISTRATION OF THIS AGREEMENT

- 13.1 The parties agree to register this Agreement for the purposes of section 7.6(1) of the Act.
- 13.2 On execution, the Proponent is to provide Council with each of the following, at no cost to Council:
- 13.2.1 An instrument in registrable form requesting registration of this Agreement on the title to the Land duly executed by the Proponent, and
 - 13.2.2 The written and irrevocable consent of each person to referred in section 7.6(1) of the Act to that registration; and

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13.2.3 Production of the certificate of title for the Land, for the purpose of procuring the registration of this Agreement.

13.3 The Proponent is to do such other things as are reasonably necessary to remove any notation relating to this Agreement from the title to the Land once the Proponent has completed its obligations under this Agreement or this Agreement is terminated or otherwise comes to an end for any other reason.

14 NOTICES

14.1 Any notice, consent, information, application or request that must or may be given or made to a Party under this Agreement is only given or made if it is in writing and sent in one of the following ways:

- (a) Delivered or posted to that Party at its address set out in (b) below.
- (b) Faxed or emailed to that Party at the relevant details set out below.

(i) Council: Central Coast Council

Attention: Chief Executive Officer
Address: 2 Hely Street, WYONG NSW 2259
Fax No: (02) 4350 2098
Email: ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

(ii) Proponent: Scentre Pty Limited and Orta Pty Ltd

Attention: Jamie Gordon / Adam Achterstraat
Address: 85 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Email: jgordon@scentregroup.com; aachterstraat@scentregroup.com

14.2 If a party gives the other party 3 working days' notice of a change of its address or email address, any notice, consent, information, application or request is only given or made by that other party if it is delivered, posted or emailed to the latest postal address or email address.

14.3 Any notice, consent, information, application or request is to be treated or given or made at the following time:

- (a) If it is delivered, when it is left at the relevant address.
- (b) If it is sent by post, 2 working days after it is posted.
- (c) If it is sent by email, on the date it was sent if it was sent during business hours, (unless the sender is aware that the email transmission is impaired, not completed or undelivered), or if it was sent outside normal business hours it will be deemed to have been received on the next business day.

15 ENTIRE AGREEMENT

15.1 This Agreement contains everything to which the parties have agreed in relation to the matters it deals with. No party can rely on an earlier document, or anything said or done by another party, or by a director, officer, agent or employee of that party before this Agreement was executed, except as permitted by law.

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16 FURTHER ACTS

- 16.1 Each Party agrees to promptly execute all documents and do all such things that another Party from time to time reasonably requests to affect, perfect or complete this Agreement and all transactions incidental to it.

17 GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

- 17.1 This Agreement is governed by the law of New South Wales, Australia. The parties submit to the nonexclusive jurisdiction of its Courts and Courts of appeal from them. The parties will not object to the exercise of jurisdiction by those Courts on any basis provided that the dispute resolution provisions in clause 8 of this Agreement have first been satisfied.

18 NO FETTER

- 18.1 Nothing in this Agreement is to be construed as requiring Council to do anything that would cause it to be in breach of any of its obligations at law, and without limitation, nothing is to be construed as limiting or fettering in any way the exercise of any statutory discretion or duty.

19 SEVERABILITY

- 19.1 If a clause or part of a clause in this Agreement can be read in a way that makes it illegal, unenforceable or invalid, but can also be read in a way that makes it legal, enforceable and valid, it must be read in the latter way. If any clause or part of a clause is illegal, unenforceable or invalid, that clause or part is to be treated as removed from this Agreement, but the rest of the Agreement is not affected.

20 WAIVER

- 20.1 The fact that a Party fails to do, or delays in doing, something the Party is entitled to do under this Agreement, does not amount to a waiver of any obligation of, or breach of obligation by, another Party. A waiver by a Party is only effective if it is in writing. A written waiver by a Party is only effective in relation to the particular obligation or breach in respect of which it is given. It is not to be taken as an implied waiver of any other obligation or breach or as an implied waiver of that obligation or breach in relation to any other occasion.

21 EXPLANATORY NOTE

- 21.1 The Appendix attached to this Agreement at Attachment 2 contains the Explanatory Note relating to this Agreement required by Clause 25E of the Regulation.
- 20.2 Pursuant to Clause 25E(7) of the Regulation, the Parties agree that the Explanatory Note in the Appendix is not to be used to assist in construing this Agreement.

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22 EXECUTION PANEL**EXECUTED** as a Voluntary Planning Agreement

Date: date

Executed pursuant to delegated authority under section 377 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, in accordance with the resolution of the Central Coast Council dated date.

Chief Executive Officer	Witness [BLOCK LETTERS]
D FARMER	WITNESS NAME
Name [BLOCK LETTERS]	Name [BLOCK LETTERS]
Director/Secretary [if not Sole Director]	Witness [BLOCK LETTERS]
PROPONENT NAME	WITNESS NAME
Name [BLOCK LETTERS]	Name [BLOCK LETTERS]

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED by)
SCENTRE PTY LIMITED (ACN 000 317)
279) by its undersigned attorneys who)
 declare that he/she has received no notice)
 of revocation of the Power of Attorney)
 dated)
)
)
) Signature of Attorney
 under which this document is signed.)

.....
 Signature of Witness Name of Attorney

.....
 Name of Witness (block letters) Signature of Attorney

.....
 Address of Witness Name of Attorney

Voluntary Planning Agreement - Central Coast Council & Scentre Pty Ltd & Orta Pty Ltd
Draft Version April 24

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED by)	
ORTA PTY LTD (ACN 008 617 810) by its)	
undersigned attorneys who declare that)	
he/she has received no notice of)	
revocation of the Power of Attorney dated)	
)
under which this document is signed.)	Signature of Attorney
)	
)	
.....	
Signature of Witness		Name of Attorney
.....	
Name of Witness (block letters)		Signature of Attorney
.....	
Address of Witness		Name of Attorney

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SCHEDULE 1

1. Contributions

The Proponent undertakes to provide Contributions to the Council in the manner set out below:

Contribution	Timing
Public Open Space (POS) Contribution	In accordance with clause 2 of this Schedule
Community Facilities Contribution	In accordance with clause 3 of this Schedule
Transport Contribution	In accordance with clause 4 of this Schedule

2. Public Open Space (POS) Contribution

2.1 Public Open Space (POS) Land

- (a) The POS Land to be dedicated to Council must be:
 - (i) at least 1 hectare in size;
 - (ii) located on unencumbered land with a minimum of 75% of the site useable and free of hazards to support recreation activity, facilities and access; and
 - (iii) be fit for purpose and suitable to be developed as a District Recreation Park.
- (b) The POS Land must be dedicated to Council at the same time as the first Occupation Certificate for Stage 1 of the Development is issued. The associated Plan of Subdivision must indicate the dedication of the Land to Council as a Public Reserve (to be dedicated at an agreed land value cost at the Dedication Date).

2.2 Public Open Space (POS) Embellishment Works

- (a) The Proponent must:
 - (i) consult with Council regarding the Concept Design of the POS Embellishment Works which is to be prepared generally in accordance with the POS Provision Framework (refer to Attachment 1) for a District Recreation Park outlined in Council's draft *Open Space Strategy* (November 2022);
 - (ii) submit the Concept Design to be reviewed and agreed in principle by Council prior to lodgement of the Stage 1 Development Application for the Land. The Concept Design will identify the preferred layout of the park, play elements, park infrastructure, access requirements, landscape design and tree plantings, and including costings of the works and maintenance considerations for Council;
 - (iii) prepare necessary Concept Design drawings, construction drawings and any necessary reports to Council for review and to obtain Development Approval for the proposed District Recreation Park as part of the lodgement of the Stage 1 Development Application for the Land;

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- (iv) carry out the POS Embellishment Works consisting of playground equipment, physical works, landscaping works and District Level Park works on the POS Land to a minimum value of \$1,000,000 prior to the issue of the Occupation Certificate for Stage 1 of the Development; and
- (v) consider Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in the POS Embellishment Works to maximise public safety and park function.
- (b) The Proponent must:
 - (i) provide or ensure that Council has a Contamination Report prior to the first Subdivision Certificate for Stage 1 of the Development being issued; and
 - (ii) must not dedicate the POS Land until the Council has provided the Proponent with a notice in writing which states that the Council is satisfied that the POS Land is free of contamination and suitable for use as a District Recreation Park.
- (c) The Proponent must ensure that at the Dedication Date, the POS Land is:
 - (i) free from noxious weeds and vermin; and
 - (ii) free from all encumbrances as agreed in writing by the Council.
- (d) The Proponent must pay all rates and taxes owing in respect of the POS Land up to and including the Dedication Date.

2.3 Consent to Compulsory Acquisition of the Public Open Space (POS) Land

Subject to clause 2.4(a) of this Schedule 1, the Proponent consents to the compulsory acquisition of the POS Land:

- (a) in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991* (**Acquisition Act**); and
- (b) on the terms set out in clause 2.4 of this Schedule 1.

2.4. Council's right to acquire

- (a) Council may acquire the POS Land compulsorily in accordance with the Acquisition Act if the Proponent has failed to comply with its obligations with respect to the dedication of that land under this Agreement.
- (b) If Council acquires the POS Land compulsorily in accordance with the Acquisition Act:
 - (i) the Developer agrees that the compensation payable to it on account of that acquisition under the Acquisition Act is \$1.00; and
 - (ii) Council must complete that acquisition within twelve (12) months of a written notice from Council to the Proponent setting out the Proponent's failure to comply with its obligations with respect to the dedication of the POS Land under this Agreement.

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2.5 Consent of owners

The Proponent agrees that the provisions of clause 2.3 and 2.4 of this Schedule 1 are an agreement with respect to the compulsory acquisition of the POS Land for the purpose of section 30 of the Acquisition Act.

2.5 Maintenance of Works

- (a) The Proponent must:
 - (i) provide to Council a Maintenance Management Plan (MMP) that sets out the proposed maintenance of the POS Land and embellishment works in accordance with Council's current minimum service provisions and a proposed reporting regime, at least 30 days prior to the delivery of the POS Land to Council in accordance with clause 2.2;
 - (ii) incorporate any required amendments by Council, acting reasonably, and deliver the final version of the MMP to Council for endorsement of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or a nominated delegate;
 - (iii) commence the implementation of the MMP as approved by Council within 10 days of the finalisation of the plan; and
 - (iv) continue to maintain the POS Land and facilities in accordance with the MMP for a maintenance period of five (5) years commencing on and from the Dedication Date.
- (b) Should the Proponent default on completing the maintenance works in the timeframe outlined in the MMP, the Council may carry out the work necessary and may recover from the Proponent the reasonable costs incurred by it in doing so.

3. Community Facilities Contribution

3.1 Youth Centre

- (a) The Proponent must establish a ground floor Youth Centre in connection with the Development of that part of the Land zoned R1 General Residential zone.
- (b) The Youth Centre may be incorporated within either of:
 - (i) that part of the Land zoned MU1 Mixed Use; or
 - (ii) the Westfield Tuggerah shopping centre located at 50 Wyong Road, Tuggerah.

3.2 Youth Centre Works

- (a) The Proponent must:
 - (i) commence the design of the Youth Centre Works prior to the first Occupation Certificate for any Development on the part of the Land zoned R1 General Residential zone;

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- (ii) finalise the construction of the Youth Centre Works prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate for any Development (excluding subdivision, remediation works or construction of access roads) on the part of the Land zoned MU1 Mixed Use zone;
- (iii) consult with Council regarding the design of the Youth Centre Works which is to be reviewed and agreed in principle by Council prior to lodgement of any Development Application (excluding subdivision, remediation works or construction of access roads) for the part of the Land zoned MU1 Mixed Use zone; and
- (iv) procure the grant to the Council of occupation rights over the Youth Centre by way of a lease for nil rent and otherwise on standard lease terms.

4. Transport Contribution

4.1 Shared Pathway

The Proponent must construct a 3 metre wide Regional dedicated Shared Pathway within the road reserve from the Land, along Wyong Road to the overhead pedestrian bridge, adjoining Westfield Tuggerah Shopping Centre generally as shown in Attachment 2. The Shared Pathway is to provide safe pedestrian access from the Land to the overhead pedestrian bridge.

4.2 Shared Pathway Works

- (a) The Proponent must:
 - (i) obtain all necessary approvals to carry out the roadworks, including any lease or licence for works within the road reserve, to facilitate the construction of the Shared Pathway;
 - (ii) consult with Council and Transport for NSW on the design of the Shared Pathway, including the on grade crossing of Tonkiss St at the intersection with Wyong Rd, which is to be reviewed and agreed in principle prior to lodgement of the Stage 1 Development Application for the Land;
 - (iii) ensure all works are constructed in accordance with Transport for NSW and Council requirements, Austroads guidelines, Australian Standards, and Central Coast Council Civil Works Specification – Design Guideline 2020, including obtaining any permit required for works within the road reserve; and
 - (iv) complete the construction of the shared pathway, including any upgrade required to create the on grade crossing of Tonkiss St at the intersection with Wyong Rd, within six (6) months of the issue of an Occupation Certificate for Stage 1 of the Development.

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Table 1 – Requirements under section 7.4 of the Act (clause 2.2)

The parties acknowledge and agree that the table set out below provides for certain terms, conditions and procedures for the purpose of the Agreement complying with the Act.

Item	Section of Act or Regulation	Provision/clause of this Agreement
1.	<p>Planning instrument and/or development application (section 7.4 of the Act)</p> <p>The Developer has:</p> <p>(a) sought a change to an environmental planning instrument;</p> <p>(b) made, or proposes to make, a Development Application; or</p> <p>(c) entered into an agreement with, or is otherwise associated with, a person, to whom paragraph (a) or (b) applies.</p>	<p>(a) Yes</p> <p>(b) Yes</p> <p>(c) No</p>
2.	Description of land to which this document applies (section 7.4(3)(a) of the Act)	Clause 4.1 – definition of Land, being Lot 3 Deposited Plan 1084221 and Lot 2 Deposited Plan 1056960, also known as 60 Wyong Road, Tuggerah.
3.	Description of change to the environmental planning instrument to which this document applies and/or the development to which this document applies (section 7.4(3)(b) of the Act)	See definition of Development and Instrument Change in Clause 4.1.
4.	The scope, timing and manner of delivery of the provision to be made by the Developer required by this document (section 7.4(3)(c) of the Act)	See Schedule 1
5.	Applicability of sections 7.11 or 7.12 of the Act (section 7.4(3)(d) of the Act)	Clause 3.4 of this Agreement.
6.	Applicability of section 7.24 of the Act (section 7.4(3)(d) of the Act)	Clause 3.4 of this Agreement.
7.	Consideration of benefits under this document if section 7.11 applies (section 7.4(3)(e) of the Act)	Clause 3.5 of this Agreement.

Item	Section of Act or Regulation	Provision/clause of this Agreement
8.	Mechanism for Dispute Resolution (section 7.4(3)(f) of the Act)	Clause 10
9.	Enforcement of this document (section 7.4(3)(g) of the Act)	Clause 12
10.	No obligation to grant consent or exercise functions (section 7.4(9) of the Act)	Clause 18
11.	Registration of this document (section 7.6 of the Act)	Clause 13
12.	Whether certain requirements of this document must be complied with before a construction certificate is issued (section 205(2) of the Regulation)	Not required
13.	Whether certain requirements of this document must be complied with before a subdivision certificate is issued (section 205(2) of the Regulation)	Required – see Schedule 1.
14.	Whether certain requirements of this document must be complied with before an occupation certificate is issued (section 205(2) of the Regulation)	Not required.
15.	Whether the explanatory note that accompanied exhibition of this document may be used to assist in construing this document (section 205(5) of the Regulation)	Clause 21

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SCHEDULE 2

ITEM	DEFINED TERM	PARTICULARS
1	Proponent	Scentre Pty Limited ACN 000 317 279 and Orta Pty Ltd ACN 008 617 810 85 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW 2000
2	Proponent's Representative	Jamie Gordon / Adam Achterstraat 85 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW 2000

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APPENDIX

Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000

(Clause 25E)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Voluntary Planning Agreement

Under section 7.4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979*

Parties

Central Coast Council (ABN 73 149 644 003) of 2 Hely Street, Wyong, , in the State of New South Wales
(Council)

and

Scentre Pty Limited ACN 000 317 279 and **Orta Pty Ltd** ACN 008 617 810 of 85 Castlereagh Street, Sydney
NSW 2000 (Proponent)

Description of the Land to which the Planning Agreement Applies

Part Lot 3 Deposited Plan 1084221 and Part Lot 2 Deposited Plan 1056960 also known as 60 Wyong Road,
Tuggerah.

Description of Proposed Development

Development means the proposed development of the Land that complies with the Amending LEP and is
otherwise approved by Council.

Summary of Objectives, Nature and Effect of the Planning Agreement

Objectives of the Agreement

The objective of the Agreement is to document the voluntary contributions to be provided by the Proponent
to Council in connection with the Instrument Change [Click here to enter text..](#)

Nature of the Planning Agreement

The Agreement is a planning agreement under section 7.4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act
1979* (Act). It is an agreement between the Council and the Proponent. The Agreement is a voluntary agreement
under which provisions are made by the Proponent for the conservation or enhancement of the natural
environment section 7.4(2)(f).

Effect of the Agreement

The Agreement:

- relates to the Instrument Change,
- relates to the carrying out by the Proponent of the Development on the Land,

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- does/does not exclude the application of section 7.11, section 7.12 or section 7.24 to the Development,
- requires the Proponent to provide the contributions to Council set out in Schedule 1,
- is to be registered on the title to the Land,
- provides dispute resolution methods for a dispute under the Agreement, being mediation and arbitration, and
- provides that the Agreement is governed by the law of New South Wales.

Assessment of the Merits of the Agreement

Planning Purposes Served by the Agreement

In accordance with section 7.4(2) of the Act, the Agreement has the following public purposes:

- the provision of public amenities and/or public services
- the provision of transport and other infrastructure relating to land

The Agreement provides the best means of achieving the above public purposes through the provision of a District Level Park, a Youth Centre and infrastructure for roads.

How the Agreement Promotes the Public Interest

The Agreement promotes the public interest by ensuring the embellishment and dedication of land to provide for community recreation, public recreation and undertaking the construction of roadworks.

For Planning Authorities:

How the Agreement Promotes the Objects of the Act under which it is Constituted

The Agreement promotes the objects of the Act by:

- Promoting the social and economic welfare of the community and a better environment by the proper management and development of the State's natural and other resources;
- Facilitating sustainable development by integrating relevant economic, environmental and social considerations in decision-making about environmental planning and assessment;
- Facilitating the orderly and economic use and development of the Land.

The Agreement provides Council with the land for a District Level Park to serve the local community, a Youth Centre to service the local community and roadworks to ensure the safety of residents and visitors to the Land.

Councils – How the Agreement Promotes the Council's Charter

The Agreement promotes the elements of the Council's Charter by:

- enabling the provision of adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community

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- enabling the proper management, development and enhancement of the area for which it is responsible in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of sustainable development
- enabling it as the custodian and trustee of public assets to effectively plan for, account for and manage the assets for which it is responsible
- keeping the local community and the State Government (and through it the wider community) informed about its activities.

The Agreement provides Council with land and public works to enable appropriate services to be provided to the community and for the management of the natural environment for the benefit of those living in the area.

Whether the Agreement Conforms with Council's Capital Works Program

Yes

- Council's Operational Plan has a number of focus areas including Cherished and Protected Natural Beauty, Delivering Essential Infrastructure and Balanced and Sustainable Development.
- The Agreement conforms with Council's current Operational Plan and Delivery program as it includes embellishment and dedication of land to Council for open space and community facilities, and the undertaking of roadworks that will improve transport, safety and liveability.

Whether the Agreement specifies that certain requirements be complied with before issuing a Construction Certificate, Subdivision Certificate or Occupation Certificate

Yes.

The Agreement specifies that the Proponent must undertake the following:

- embellish and dedicate open space to Council prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate for Stage 1 Development of the Land;
- construct and embellish a Youth Centre prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate for any Development (excluding in relation to remediation works or construction of access roads) on the part of the Land zoned MU1 Mixed Use; and
- complete roadworks involving the construction of a shared pathway within six (6) months of the issue of an Occupation Certificate for Stage 1 Development of the Land.

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ATTACHMENT 1 – PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (POS) PROVISION FRAMEWORK

7.3. PROPOSED PROVISION FRAMEWORK - PUBLIC OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATION AND SPORT

A proposed provision framework for the Central Coast has been developed around a set of performance criteria to ensure that the network of open space providing for sport and recreation is:

- « Fit for Purpose- able to accommodate use, not constrained by other or adjacent uses, and affordable to develop and maintain
- « Accessible – located within walking distance (for local parks), visible, able to be accessed easily and can be designed for inclusion
- « Comprised of parks and open space areas that are a suitable size and shape to be used for recreation or sport
- « Diverse in the range of landscape settings supporting parks and providing diverse activations within each site
- « Supportive of a range of co-located recreation uses and shared use of spaces including access to sporting spaces for informal recreation.

The provision framework provides guidance on multiple performance features for parks at local, district and regional levels and for district and regional sporting parks.

7.3.1. Open Space for Recreation

Table 10: Draft Provision Framework for Open Space and Recreation Parks

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	LOCAL RECREATION PARK	DISTRICT RECREATION PARK	REGIONAL RECREATION PARK
Size Distribution & Accessibility			
Preferred Minimum Size: Minimum sizes are not the "preferred size", it is a minimum. It is recommended that park sizes are larger where possible and a diversity of sizes 0.5 Ha and above is the target	0.5ha Size of 0.3ha may be acceptable if there are increased numbers of parks in accessible locations to meet demand and local catchment conditions make it difficult to achieve the preferred minimum.	1 -4ha	4ha +
Shape	More regular shapes preferred over linear open space. No edge/ boundary to be less than 20 m.	Shape can be variable but no edge/ boundary to be less than 50 m.	Shape can be variable, but in general edges/ boundaries should be greater than 50 m.
Linear – tracks, trails, pathways	Connections between residential streets, active transport network and activity spaces Widths and surface treatments to align with Council's design standards, including Universal Design Principles		
Minimum width for access points	Greater than 15 m wide (excluding the width of creeks or waterways measured from the top of bank). If part of a pathway or linear access connection or providing a minor entry point, then 10 m minimum width providing it is no longer than 20 m.		
Useable Area/ Hazard free The "functional" area of the park- the amount of space fit for recreation use and public activity. (refer to Quality Criteria)	75% of site useable, free of hazards For parks proposed to be less than 0.5 Ha an absolute minimum useable area of 3000 m ²	75% of site useable and free of hazards to support sport and recreation activity, facilities and access	Must have at least 50% flood free and level land to support sport and recreation activity, facilities and access.
Service Area/ population and access radius	Local neighbourhood/ suburban area; one park for every 1,500 persons	Serves a number of suburbs or planning catchment; one park for every 5,000-10,000 persons. District parks also serves local catchment i.e. its locality provide	Serves whole council area and some regional (beyond Central Coast Council) demand. Major destination parks also serves local and district catchment i.e. its locality.

ATTACHMENT 2 – LOCATION OF REGIONAL SHARED PATHWAY



24 October 2024



Ms Kiersten Fishburn
Secretary
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bay 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Email – kiersten.fishburn@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Fishburn

**Tuggerah Gateway Site – 68 Tonkiss Street and 60 Wyong Road, Tuggerah (PP-2021-5416)
– Scentre Group – State Significant Rezoning Evaluation Panel Outcome**

Thank you for your letter advising Council of the State Significant Rezoning Evaluation Panel Outcome to change the Planning Proposal Authority (PPA) for the above proposal from Council to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

It is disappointing that the DPHI has removed Council as the PPA where the delay with the Planning Proposal has been caused by the Applicant. The Applicant has been unwilling to work with Council to find a suitable solution to support safe (traffic and pedestrian) access to and from the site. The indicative access points shown by the Applicant in their Planning Proposal documentation are not functional or feasible and will result in detrimental impacts on ecology and road safety.

The proposed high density development will generate large volumes of traffic that need to be planned for and resolved at the Planning Proposal stage. Intersection location will influence collector road alignment, road hierarchy and subsequent adjoining land uses.

The indicative internal road layout presents engineering issues and critical road safety issues due to the road geometric layout. The road layout is integral to the development of the site and it is critical that this is considered and addressed in consultation with transport authorities, prior to finalisation of the Planning Proposal.

While the intention of the decision to appoint the DPHI as the PPA is to speed up the assessment of the Planning Proposal, rezonings proceeding without all the issues resolved, delays the assessment and determination of development applications for housing, which does not support the NSW Governments housing and dwelling completion targets.

It is crucial that significant strategic aspects of development lands are resolved (or a pathway to their resolution is established) during the rezoning phase. Often, applicants for rezoning will seek to delay such resolution on the basis that some matters 'can be resolved at DA stage'. Once land is rezoned, the opportunity to resolve significant strategic matters (such as road connectivity,



infrastructure provision or width/location of required ecological corridors) is lost, especially where lands are held in multiple ownerships or subsequently divided up for various individual developments applications.

Land that is rezoned results in a significant uplift in land value. Developers who undertake rezonings are incentivised to spend as little money to obtain a rezoning as possible, maximising their return on sites which are rezoned for employment and housing uses. In turn, investors who purchase sites which have recently been rezoned should have a reasonable expectation that the site is capable of being developed for its intended (newly zoned) purpose, without the barriers of broad strategic issues to resolve which should have been resolved at rezoning stage.

Council is unable to finalise the draft Development Control Plan (DCP) for the site until the intersection location and pedestrian and vehicular access points for the site have been resolved. These locations need to be included in the DCP to provide guidance to developers on how the future development will proceed, taking into consideration constraints of the site. It is also important to understand the land requirements and cost of the intersection on Wyong Road and Tonkiss Street as this will impact the economic feasibility of the site for future developers.

To allow for the finalisation of both the draft DCP and Planning Agreement can you please provide the following:

- A timeline for the assessment of the Planning Proposal by DPHI staff;
- A guarantee that the finalisation of the Planning Proposal will not proceed without the execution of the Planning Agreement by both Scentre Group and Council.

Should the finalisation of the Planning Proposal occur without the execution of the Planning Agreement, this will remove the opportunity for Council to seek much needed local infrastructure to support the future residents of the development and provide safe access to Tuggerah Train Station and Westfield Tuggerah.

Council looks forward to working with the Department on finding solutions to the infrastructure issues to allow for the determination of the Planning Proposal.

Should you require further information, a member of your team may wish to contact Shannon Turkington, Unit Manager, Strategic Planning via Shannon.turkington@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au or 0419 461 605.

Yours sincerely,



David Farmer
Chief Executive Officer
Internal Reference: D16438124



Central Coast Council Social Media Policy

Date Adopted: XX/XX/20XX
Revision: 1
Policy No.: CCC120



DRAFT

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. Social media is at the heart of modern communication. Since its inception, social media has grown in popularity and influence and is now fundamental to not just how people interact with one another, but also to how we work, play and consume information and ideas.
- 1.2. Social media can be broadly defined as *online platforms and applications - such as social networking sites, wikis, blogs, microblogs, video and audio sharing sites, and message boards - that allow people to easily publish, share and discuss content*¹. Significantly, one of social media's key features is its unprecedented reach and accessibility, in that anyone with a computer or mobile device can use social media to generate content which has the potential to be viewed and shared by hundreds of millions of people worldwide.
- 1.3. Despite its obvious benefits, social media also presents a variety challenges and risks. These include:
 - 1.3.1. the emergence of new, harmful forms of behaviour, such as cyber-bullying and trolling;
 - 1.3.2. maintaining the accuracy, reliability and integrity of information disseminated from multiple sources;
 - 1.3.3. organisations can be held liable for content uploaded onto their social media platforms by third parties²;
 - 1.3.4. content uploaded in a person's private capacity can adversely affect their employment and cause significant reputational damage to colleagues and employers; and
 - 1.3.5. rapid innovation can make it difficult to keep pace with emerging technologies and trends.
- 1.4. In addition, potential corruption risks may arise due to social media use. These include:
 - 1.4.1. customers, development proponents / objectors, tenderers, or other stakeholders grooming public officials by behaviours such as 'liking' specific posts, reposting content, or sending personal or private messages;
 - 1.4.2. public officials disclosing confidential or sensitive information;
 - 1.4.3. using social media for sponsorship opportunities, which may unfairly advantage one sponsor over another and lack transparency; and
 - 1.4.4. public agencies or officials promoting certain businesses by behaviours such as 'following' them, 'liking' content, or making

¹ NSW Department of Education. Social media policy: Implementation procedures – November 2018

² As confirmed by the High Court of Australia in *Fairfax Media Publications Pty Ltd v. Voller, Nationwide News Pty Limited v. Voller*, and *Australian News Channel Pty Ltd v. Voller*, 8 September 2021.

comments, which may result in those businesses being favoured over others.

2. Principles

- 2.1.** We, the councillors, staff and other officials of Central Coast Council are committed to upholding and promoting the following principles of social media engagement:

Openness	Our social media platforms are places where anyone can share and discuss issues that are relevant to our Council and the community we represent and serve.
Relevance	We will ensure our social media platforms are kept up to date with informative content about our Council and community.
Accuracy	The content we upload onto our social media platforms and any other social media platform will be a source of truth for our Council and community and we will prioritise the need to correct inaccuracies when they occur.
Respect	Our social media platforms are safe spaces. We will uphold and promote the behavioural standards contained in this policy and our Council's code of conduct when using our social media platforms and any other social media platform.

3. Administrative framework for council's social media platforms

Platforms

- 3.1.** Council will maintain a presence on the following social media platforms:
- 3.1.1. Facebook
 - 3.1.2. Instagram
 - 3.1.3. Twitter
 - 3.1.4. YouTube
 - 3.1.5. LinkedIn
- 3.2.** Council's social media platforms must specify or provide a clearly accessible link to the 'House Rules' for engaging on the platform.

Establishment and deletion of Council social media platforms

- 3.3.** A new council social media platform, or a social media platform proposed by a council related entity (for example, a council committee), can only be established or deleted with the written approval of the Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) or their delegate.

- 3.4. Where a council social media platform is established or deleted in accordance with clause 3.3, the CEO or their delegate may amend clause 3.1 of this policy without the need for endorsement by the Council's governing body.

Appointment and role of the Social Media Coordinator

- 3.5. The CEO will appoint a member of council staff to be the council's social media coordinator (**SMC**). The SMC should be a senior and suitably qualified member of staff.
- 3.6. The CEO may appoint more than one SMC.
- 3.7. The SMC's role is to:
- 3.7.1. approve and revoke a staff member's status as an authorised user
 - 3.7.2. develop and/or approve the training and/or induction to be provided to authorised users
 - 3.7.3. maintain a register of authorised users
 - 3.7.4. maintain effective oversight of authorised users
 - 3.7.5. moderate the Council's social media platforms in accordance with Part 6 of this policy
 - 3.7.6. ensure the Council complies with its record keeping obligations under the *State Records Act 1998* in relation to social media (see clauses 8.1 to 8.4 of this policy)
 - 3.7.7. ensure the Council adheres to the rules of the social media platform(s)
 - 3.7.8. coordinate with the Council's Communications and Marketing Unit to ensure the Council's social media platforms are set up and maintained in a way that maximises user friendliness and any technical problems are resolved promptly.
- 3.8. The SMC may delegate their functions under clauses 3.7.5 and 3.7.6 to authorised users.
- 3.9. The SMC is an authorised user for the purposes of this policy.

Authorised users

- 3.10. Authorised users are members of council staff who are authorised by the SMC to upload content and engage on social media on the Council's behalf.
- 3.11. Authorised users should be members of council staff that are responsible for managing, or have expertise in, the events, initiatives, programs or policies that are the subject of the social media content.
- 3.12. The SMC will appoint authorised users when required.
- 3.13. An authorised user must receive a copy of this policy and induction training on social media use and Council's obligations before uploading content on Council's behalf.

- 3.14.** The role of an authorised user is to:
- 3.14.1. ensure, to the best of their ability, that the content they upload onto social media platforms is accurate
 - 3.14.2. correct inaccuracies in Council generated content
 - 3.14.3. engage in discussions and answer questions on Council's behalf on social media platforms
 - 3.14.4. keep the Council's social media platforms up to date
 - 3.14.5. where authorised to do so by the SMC:
 - a) moderate the Council's social media platforms in accordance with Part 6 of this policy
 - b) ensure the Council complies with its record keeping obligations under the *State Records Act 1998* in relation to social media (see clauses 8.1 to 8.4 of this policy)
- 3.15.** When engaging on social media on Council's behalf (such as, but not limited to, on a community social media page), an authorised user must identify themselves as a member of Council staff but they are not obliged to disclose their name or position within the Council.
- 3.16.** Authorised users must not use Council's social media platforms for personal reasons.

Administrative tone

- 3.17.** Authorised users upload content and engage on social media on the Council's behalf. Authorised users must use language consistent with that function and avoid expressing or appearing to express their personal views when undertaking their role.
- 3.18.** Authorised users may use more personal, informal language when engaging on Council's social media platforms, for example when replying to comments.

Register of authorised users

- 3.19.** The SMC will maintain a register of authorised users. This register is to be reviewed annually to ensure it is fit-for-purpose.

Ceasing to be an authorised user

- 3.20.** The SMC may revoke a staff member's status as an authorised user, if:
- 3.20.1. the staff member makes such a request
 - 3.20.2. the staff member has not uploaded content onto any of the Council's social media platforms in the last four weeks.
 - 3.20.3. the staff member has failed to comply with this policy
 - 3.20.4. the SMC is of the reasonable opinion that the staff member is no longer suitable to be an authorised user.

4. Administrative framework for councillors' social media platforms

- 4.1. To maintain a clear distinction between personal and Councillor-related social media, where the rule of the platform allows, Councillors must create a separate profile.
- 4.2. For the purposes of this policy, councillor social platforms are not council social media platforms. Part 3 of this policy does not apply to councillors' social media platforms.
- 4.3. Councillors are responsible for the administration and moderation of their own social media platforms (in accordance with Parts 4 and 6 of this policy), and ensuring they comply with the record keeping obligations under the *State Records Act 1998* (see clauses 8.1 to 8.4 of this policy) and council's records management policy in relation to social media.
- 4.4. Clause 3.2 also applies to councillors in circumstances where another person administers, moderates, or uploads content onto their social media platform.
- 4.5. Councillors must comply with the rules of the platform when engaging on social media.

Induction and training

- 4.6. Councillors who engage, or intend to engage, on social media must receive induction training on social media use. Induction training can be undertaken either as part of the councillor's induction program or as part of their ongoing professional development program.

Identifying as a councillor

- 4.7. Councillors must identify themselves on their social media platforms in the following format:
Councillor "First Name and Last Name".
- 4.8. A councillor's social media platform must include a profile photo which is a clearly identifiable image of the councillor.
- 4.9. If a councillor becomes or ceases to be the mayor, deputy mayor, or the holder of another position (for example, chairperson of a committee), this must be clearly stated on the councillor's social media platforms and updated within five days of a change in circumstances.

Other general requirements for councillors' social media platforms

- 4.10. Councillor social media platforms must specify or provide a clearly accessible link to the 'House Rules' for engaging on the platform.
- 4.11. A councillor's social media platform must include a disclaimer to the following effect:

"The views expressed and comments made on this social media platform are my own and not that of the Council".

- 4.12. Despite clause 4.11, mayoral or councillor media releases and other content that has been authorised according to the Council's media and communications protocols may be uploaded onto a councillor's social media platform.
- 4.13. Councillors may upload publicly available Council information onto their social media platforms.
- 4.14. Councillors may use more personal, informal language when engaging on their social media platforms.

Councillor queries relating to social media platforms

- 4.15. Questions from councillors relating to their obligations under this policy, technical queries relating to the operation of their social media platforms, or managing records on social media may be directed to the CEO in the first instance, in accordance with Council's councillor requests protocols.

Other social media platforms administered by councillors

- 4.16. A councillor must advise CEO of any social media platforms they administer on which content relating to the Council or council officials is, or is expected to be, uploaded. The councillor must do so within:
 - 4.16.1. Five days of becoming a councillor, or
 - 4.16.2. Five days of becoming the administrator.

5. Standards of conduct on social media

- 5.1. This policy only applies to council officials' use of social media in an official capacity or in connection with their role as a council official. The policy does not apply to personal use of social media that is not connected with a person's role as a council official.
- 5.2. Council officials must comply with the Council's code of conduct when using social media in an official capacity or in connection with their role as a council official.
- 5.3. Council officials must not use social media to post or share comments, photos, videos, electronic recordings or other information that:
 - 5.3.1. is defamatory, offensive, humiliating, threatening or intimidating to other council officials or members of the public
 - 5.3.2. contains profane language or is sexual in nature
 - 5.3.3. constitutes harassment and/or bullying within the meaning of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW, or is unlawfully discriminatory

- 5.3.4. is contrary to their duties under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and their responsibilities under any policies or procedures adopted by the Council to ensure workplace health and safety
- 5.3.5. contains content about the Council, council officials or members of the public that is misleading or deceptive
- 5.3.6. divulges confidential Council information
- 5.3.7. breaches the privacy of other council officials or members of the public
- 5.3.8. contains allegations of suspected breaches of the Council's code of conduct or information about the consideration of a matter under the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW
- 5.3.9. could be perceived to be an official comment on behalf of the Council where they have not been authorised to make such comment
- 5.3.10. commits the Council to any action
- 5.3.11. violates an order made by a court
- 5.3.12. breaches copyright
- 5.3.13. advertises, endorses or solicits commercial products or business
- 5.3.14. constitutes spam
- 5.3.15. is in breach of the rules of the social media platform.
- 5.4. Council officials must:
 - 5.4.1. attribute work to the original author, creator or source when uploading or linking to content produced by a third party
 - 5.4.2. obtain written permission from a minor's parent or legal guardian before uploading content in which the minor can be identified.
- 5.5. Council officials must exercise caution when sharing, liking, retweeting content as this can be regarded as an endorsement and/or publication of the content.
- 5.6. Council officials must not incite or encourage other persons to act in a way that is contrary to the requirements of this Part.
- 5.7. Councillors must uphold and accurately represent the policies and decisions of the Council's governing body but may explain why they voted on a matter in the way that they did. (see section 232(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 1993*).

6. Moderation of social media platforms

Note: Councils and council officials should be aware that they may be considered a 'publisher' of any content uploaded onto a social media platform they administer, including content that:

- *is uploaded by a third party; and/or*

- appears on their social media platform because they have 'liked', 'shared', or 'retweeted' the content, or similar.

- 6.1.** Council officials who are responsible for the moderation of the Council's or councillors' social media platforms may remove content and 'block' or ban a person from those platforms. Such actions must be undertaken in accordance with this Part.
- 6.2.** For the purposes of this Part, 'social media platform' and 'platform' means both the Council's and councillors' social media platforms.

House Rules

- 6.3.** Social media platforms must state or provide an accessible link to the 'House Rules' for engaging on the platform.
- 6.4.** At a minimum, the House Rules should specify:
- 6.4.1. the principles of social media engagement referred to in clause 2.1 of this policy
 - 6.4.2. the type of behaviour or content that will result in that content being removed or 'hidden', or a person being blocked or banned from the platform
 - 6.4.3. the process by which a person can be blocked or banned from the platform and rights of review
 - 6.4.4. a statement relating to privacy and personal information (see clause 8.6 of this policy)
 - 6.4.5. when the platform will be monitored (for example weekdays 9am – 5pm, during the Council's business hours)
 - 6.4.6. that the social media platform is not to be used for making complaints about the Council or council officials.
- 6.5.** For the purposes of clause 6.4.2, third parties engaging on social media platforms must not post or share comments, photos, videos, electronic recordings or other information that:
- 6.5.1. is defamatory, offensive, humiliating, threatening or intimidating to council officials or members of the public,
 - 6.5.2. contains profane language or is sexual in nature
 - 6.5.3. constitutes harassment and/or bullying within the meaning of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW, or is unlawfully discriminatory
 - 6.5.4. contains content about the Council, council officials or members of the public that is misleading or deceptive
 - 6.5.5. breaches the privacy of council officials or members of the public

- 6.5.6. contains allegations of suspected breaches of the Council's code of conduct or information about the consideration of a matter under the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW,
- 6.5.7. violates an order made by a court
- 6.5.8. breaches copyright
- 6.5.9. advertises, endorses or solicits commercial products or business,
- 6.5.10. constitutes spam
- 6.5.11. would be in breach of the rules of the social media platform.

Removal or 'hiding' of content

- 6.6.** Where a person uploads content onto a social media platform that, in the reasonable opinion of the moderator, is of a kind specified under clause 6.5, the moderator may remove or 'hide' that content.
- 6.7.** Prior to removing or 'hiding' the content, the moderator must make a record of it (for example, a screenshot).
- 6.8.** If the moderator removes or 'hides' the content under clause 6.6, they must, where practicable, notify the person who uploaded the content that it has been removed and the reason(s) for its removal and their rights of review.
- 6.9.** A person may request a review of a decision by a moderator to remove or 'hide' content under clause 6.6. The request must be made in writing to the CEO and state the grounds on which the request is being made.
- 6.10.** Where a review request is made under clause 6.9, the review is to be undertaken by the SMC or a member of staff nominated by the CEO who is suitably qualified and who was not involved in the decision to remove or 'hide' the content.

Blocking or banning

- 6.11.** If a person uploads content that is removed or 'hidden' under clause 6.6 of this policy on three occasions, that person may be blocked or banned from all social media platforms.
- 6.12.** A person may only be blocked or banned from a Council social media platform with the approval of SMC. This clause does not apply to blocking or banning a person from a councillor's social media platform.
- 6.13.** Prior to blocking or banning a person from a social media platform, the person must, where practicable, be advised of the intention to block or ban them from the all platforms and be given a chance to respond. Any submission made by the person must be considered prior to a determination being made to block or ban them.
- 6.14.** The duration of the block or ban is to be determined by the SMC, or in the case of a councillor's social media platform, the councillor.

- 6.15.** Where a determination is made to block or ban a person from social media platforms, the person must, where practicable, be notified in writing of the decision and the reasons for it. The written notice must also advise the person which social media platforms they are blocked or banned from and the duration of the block or ban and inform them of their rights of review.
- 6.16.** Despite clauses 6.11 to 6.15, where a person uploads content of a kind referred to under clause 6.5, and the moderator is reasonably satisfied that the person's further engagement on the social media platform poses a risk to health and safety or another substantive risk (such as the uploading of defamatory content), an interim block or ban from the platform/all platforms may be imposed on the person immediately for a period no longer than three months if it is the person's first time offence, and six months if the person has been blocked or banned previously.
- 6.17.** A person who is blocked or banned from the platform/all platforms under clause 6.16 must, where practicable, be given a chance to respond to the interim block or ban being imposed. Any submission made by the person must be considered when determining whether the interim block or ban is to be removed or retained under clauses 6.11 to 6.15.
- 6.18.** A person may request a review of a decision to block or ban then from a social media platform. The request must be made in writing to the CEO and state the grounds on which the request is being made.
- 6.19.** Where a review request is made under clause 6.18, the review is to be undertaken by the CEO or a member of staff nominated by the CEO who is suitably qualified and who was not involved in the decision to block or ban the person. Where the decision to block or ban the person was made by the CEO, the review must be undertaken by another senior and suitably qualified member of staff who was not involved in the decision.
- 6.20.** Where a person that is the subject of a block or ban continues to engage on a social media platform(s) using an alternative social media account, profile, avatar, etc., a moderator may block or ban the person from the platform(s) immediately. In these circumstances, clauses 6.11 to 6.19 do not apply.

7. Use of social media during emergencies

- 7.1.** During emergencies, such as natural disasters or public health incidents, the Communications, Marketing and Customer Engagement Unit will be responsible for the management of content on the Council's social media platforms.
- 7.2.** To ensure consistent messaging both during and after an emergency, authorised users and council officials must not upload content onto the Council's or their own social media platforms which contradicts advice issued

by the agency coordinating the emergency response, or agencies supporting recovery efforts.

- 7.3. Training on social media use during emergencies should be included in training and/or induction provided to authorised users and councillors.

8. Records management and privacy requirements

Records management

- 8.1. Social media content created, sent and received by council officials (including councillors) acting in their official capacity is a council record and may constitute open access information or be subject to an information access application made under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*. These records must be managed in accordance with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1998* and the Council's approved records management policies and practices.
- 8.2. You must not destroy, alter, or remove social media content unless authorised to do so. If you need to alter or remove social media content, you must do so in accordance with this policy, and consult with the Council's records manager and comply with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1998*.
- 8.3. When/if a councillor's term of office concludes, the councillor must contact the Council's records manager and SMC to manage/transfer records of social media content created during their term of office and comply with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1998*.
- 8.4. In fulfilling their obligations under clauses 8.1 to 8.3, council officials should refer to any guidance issued by the State Archives and Records Authority of NSW relating to retention requirements for councils' and councillors' social media content³.

Privacy considerations and requirements

- 8.5. Social media communications are in the public domain. Council officials should exercise caution about what personal information, if any, they upload onto social media.
- 8.6. The *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* applies to the use of social media platforms by the Council and councillors. To mitigate potential privacy risks, council officials will:
- 8.6.1. advise people not to provide personal information on social media platforms
 - 8.6.2. inform people if any personal information they may provide on social media platforms is to be used for official purposes

³ See State Archives and Records Authority of NSW 'Government Recordkeeping / Advice and Resources / Local Government' and 'Social media recordkeeping for councillors'
D16138278_ Social Media Policy CCC120_ Adopted Date: XX-XX-XX

- 8.6.3. moderate comments to ensure they do not contain any personal information
- 8.6.4. advise people to contact the Council or councillors through alternative channels if they have personal information they do not want to disclose in a public forum.
- 8.7. Council officials must ensure they comply with the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002* when engaging on and/or moderating social media platforms. In fulfilling their obligations, council officials should refer to any guidance issued by the Information and Privacy Commission of NSW, such as, but not limited to, the Health Privacy Principles.

9. Private use of social media

Note: Activities on social media websites are public activities. Even though privacy settings are available, content can still be shared and accessed beyond the intended recipients. The terms and conditions of most social media sites state that all content becomes the property of the site on which it is posted⁴.

What constitutes 'private' use?

- 9.1. For the purposes of this policy, a council official's social media engagement will be considered 'private use' when the content they upload:
 - 9.1.1. is not associated with, or does not refer to, the Council, any other council officials, contractors, related entities or any other person or organisation providing services to or on behalf of the Council in their official or professional capacities, and
 - 9.1.2. is not related to or does not contain information acquired by virtue of their employment or role as a council official.
- 9.2. If a council official chooses to identify themselves as a council official, either directly or indirectly (such as in their user profile), then they will not be deemed to be acting in their private capacity for the purposes of this policy.

Use of social media during work hours

- 9.3. Council staff who access and engage on social media in their private capacity during work hours must ensure it not does not interfere with the performance of their official duties.

10. Concerns or complaints

- 10.1. Concerns or complaints about the administration of a council's social media platforms should be made to the council's SMC in the first instance.

⁴ Social Media: Guidance for Agencies and Staff (Government of South Australia) – page 9
D16138278_ Social Media Policy CCC120_ Adopted Date: XX-XX-XX

- 10.2. Complaints about the conduct of council officials (including councillors) on social media platforms may be directed to the CEO.
- 10.3. Complaints about a CEO's conduct on social media platforms may be directed to the Mayor or Administrator.

11. Responsibilities

Compliance, monitoring and review

- 11.1. The following staff have identified roles under this Policy:

Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the implementation of this Policy and ensuring that the policy:

- 11.1.1. aligns with relevant legislation, government policy and/or Council's requirements, strategies and values;
- 11.1.2. is implemented and regularly monitored; and
- 11.1.3. is reviewed to evaluate its continuing effectiveness.

- 11.2. **Social Media Coordinator**

The Social Media Coordinator's is responsible for:

- 11.2.1. authorising opening or closing of Council social media accounts;
- 11.2.2. managing content and authorised users in line with this policy;
- 11.2.3. ensuring Council complies to the rules of the social media platform(s); and
- 11.2.4. reviewing blocked or banned users.

Records management

- 11.3. All records relevant to administering this Policy must be maintained in accordance with Council's [Information and Records Management Policy](#).
-

12. Policy Definitions

authorised user	members of council staff who are authorised by the SMC to upload content and engage on the Council's social media platforms on the Council's behalf
council official	<p>in the case of a council - councillors, members of staff and delegates of the council (including members of committees that are delegates of the council);</p> <p>in the case of a county council – members, members of staff and delegates of the council (including members of committees that are delegates of the council);</p> <p>in the case of a joint organisation – voting representatives, members of staff and delegates of the joint organisation (including members of committees that are delegates of the joint organisation)</p>
minor	for the purposes of clause 5.4.2 of this policy, is a person under the age of 18 years
personal information	information or an opinion (including information or an opinion forming part of a database and whether or not recorded in a material form) about an individual whose identity is apparent or can reasonably be ascertained from the information or opinion
SMC	is a council's social media coordinator appointed under clause 3.5 of this policy
social media	online platforms and applications - such as but not limited to social networking sites, wikis, blogs, microblogs, video and audio sharing sites, and message boards - that allow people to easily publish, share and discuss content. Examples of social media platforms include, but are not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, LinkedIn, Yammer, YouTube, Instagram, Flickr and Wikipedia

13. Policy Administration

Business Group	Community and Recreation Services
Responsible Officer	Unit Manager Communications, Marketing and Customer Engagement
Associated Procedure (if any, reference document(s) number(s))	
Policy Review Date	Four years from date of adoption unless legislated otherwise.
File Number / Document Number	D15424607
Relevant Legislation (reference specific sections)	<p>This Policy supports Council's compliance with the following legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i> ▪ <i>Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002</i> ▪ <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> ▪ <i>Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998</i> ▪ <i>State Records Act 1998</i> ▪ <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</i>
Link to Community Strategic Plan	<p>Theme 4: Responsible</p> <p>Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships</p> <p>R-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.</p>
Related Policies / Protocols / Procedures / Documents (reference document numbers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information and Records Management Policy ▪ Code of Conduct ▪ Delegations Register ▪ Privacy Management Plan Policy ▪ Data Breach Policy

14. Policy Authorisations

No.	Authorised Function	Authorised Business Unit / Role(s)
TBA	Authority to open or close Council social media accounts	Unit Manager Communications, Marketing and Customer Engagement
TBA	Responsible for deleting comments and banning users that breach Council's Social Media Community Guidelines	Unit Manager Communications, Marketing and Customer Engagement
TBA	Authority to act as Council's Social Media Coordinator and delegate actions to authorised users	Unit Manager Communications, Marketing and Customer Engagement

15. Policy History

Revision	Date Approved / Authority	Description Of Changes
1	13 December 2022 Minute No. 265/22	Policy adopted.
2	TBA	<p>Policy placed in Council's current Policy template for accessibility, further information added in terms of responsibilities and policy authorisations.</p> <p>New information 4.1 - To maintain a clear distinction between personal and Councillor-related social media, where the rule of the platform allows, Councillors must create a separate profile.</p>

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.



Central Coast Council
Community Engagement Strategy Review
Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

Sheree Gover
25 October 2024



Wyong Administration Building: 2 Hely St / PO Box 20 Wyong NSW 2259
P 02 4306 7900 | W centralcoast.nsw.gov.au | ABN 73 149 644 003

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By delivering effective communication and engagement, Council can make informed decisions and ensure community members and key stakeholders can get involved.

The Community Engagement Strategy outlines this commitment, legislative requirements, and guiding principles for public participation. It also outlines the actions and methods Council will use to provide appropriate and meaningful opportunities for community engagement.

Stage One Consultation

Central Coast Council facilitated stage one consultation on the review of Council's Community Engagement Strategy and Community Participation Plan in 2023-2024.

Objectives of stage one consultation

- To promote and celebrate Council's commitment to delivering meaningful and accessible engagement opportunities.
- To foster discussions on the role of community engagement in building a stronger and more vibrant Central Coast.
- To uphold Council's commitment to ensuring everyone can access the information they need in a format that is right for them.

Stage Two Public Exhibition

From 30 July to 5pm on 30 September 2024, Central Coast Council's draft Community Engagement Strategy, including Community Participation Plan was on public exhibition.

Objectives of public exhibition

- To build positive relationships with the community and stakeholders, enhancing trust in Council's processes and cultivating pride and ownership of the Central Coast.
- To report publicly on how community and stakeholder input has influenced the decision-making process and any changes that have been made.
- To ensure that feedback gathered during stage one consultation was captured accurately.

This report provides an overview of the community engagement campaign which has helped inform the review and development of the Central Coast Council Community Engagement Strategy including Community Participation Plan.

During stage one and stage two consultation, Council carried out a range of engagement activities online and in-person, including pop-ups, staff workshops, targeted phone surveys as well as online surveys (hosted by Your Voice Our Coast).

Both stage one and public exhibition were undertaken at the Consult and Involve scale on the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation.

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

INCREASING LEVEL OF COMMUNITY IMPACT → INCREASE LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT →						
PURPOSE	INFORM	EDUCATE	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Goal	To provide the community with information to assist their understanding of the issue, problem, opportunities or solutions.	Provide the community with the knowledge and skills to enable them to make an informed decision.	To obtain feedback and information about attitudes, opinions and preferences that assist Council in its decision-making processes.	To work on an ongoing basis with the community to ensure their concerns, ideas and hopes are listened to and understood.	To partner with the community in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives, sharing of resources, and the discovery of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the stakeholders.

Fig 1.1 – IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

Overall, the opportunity to engage was presented to the community on over 20,000 occasions. Approximately 1,900 community members also had the opportunity to engage in person.

Over 2,600 contributions were received across both stages.

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

2. STAGE ONE CONSULTATION

Stage one consultation involved:

- 16 internal stakeholder meetings
- 1,952 responses to Council's Wellbeing Survey
- Presentation to Executive Leadership with feedback noted.

The following section provides an overview of each engagement method.

Internal consultation

A series of meetings were conducted with internal stakeholders to understand the challenges and opportunities of engagement at Council, including:

- Strategic Planning
- Development Assessment Services
- Councillor and Democratic Services
- Roads and Drainage
- Water and Sewer
- Environmental Compliance Services
- Community Development
- Governance, Risk and Legal
- Economic Development
- Corporate Planning and Reporting
- Open Space and Recreation
- Libraries and Education
- Community Services and Facilities

Date	Stakeholder	Stakeholder Comment	Council Officer Response
15 June 2023	Engagement Team	Insights into the level of support extend to staff for effective community engagement while also fostering the exchange of ideas and the sharing experiences within the realm of Community Engagement.	Information noted and used to inform the updated community engagement framework.
9 August 2023	>40 Central Coast Council Staff	Understand the perspectives of Council staff regarding their role in executing community engagement initiatives of Central Coast Council.	Training facilitation techniques and upskilled staff on community engagement. This workshop aimed to gather information that will help inform the updated community engagement framework.
4 June 2024	Executive leadership	Present the draft Community Engagement Strategy.	Feedback noted.

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

External consultation

Council carried out ongoing evaluation to understand satisfaction with engagement activities, such as the Let's Talk placed-based program, and incorporated this into all engagement planning.

Council Central Coast Wellbeing Survey

The Community Wellbeing Survey invited Central Coast residents of all ages and backgrounds to rate how they felt on topics such as community connectiveness and support, their neighbourhood, personal safety, access to services and facilities, health and wellbeing – and generally living, playing or working on the Coast.

The survey comprised of 27 questions, with external engagement consultant Woolcott Research and Engagement conducting telephone interviews using the Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI). In addition, an online survey was open from 15 April 2024 to 13 May 2024 via Council's community engagement hub Your Voice Our Coast. Advertisements included media releases, social media (Facebook and LinkedIn), the Central Coast Community e-newsletter and radio.

A total of 1,952 responses were received via Your Voice Our Coast (1,300 responses) and telephone (652 responses). [Central Coast Council Wellbeing Survey](#)

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

3. STAGE TWO PUBLIC EXHIBITION

3.1 Resources

A range of resources were developed to support and promote the public exhibition and consultation of the Draft Community Engagement Strategy:

- Posters and flyers distributed to Council facilities including libraries; leisure centres and at pop-up events including Movie Nights and the Sustainable Future Festival.
- Digital screens across Council's libraries and facilities/
- Your Voice Our Coast survey page.
- Social media ads and organic posts.



Figure 3.1 Flyer

3.2 Promotion

The following communication tools were used to promote the public exhibition and channel people to provide feedback online via Your Voice Our Coast.

Electronic Mail (email)

The project team leveraged Council newsletter subscriptions to build awareness of the opportunity to engage.

Electronic Mail	Subscribers	Open rate	Date
Coast Connect	14,492	39%	21 August
eNews			
Coast Connect	14,646	18.28%	25 September
eNews			

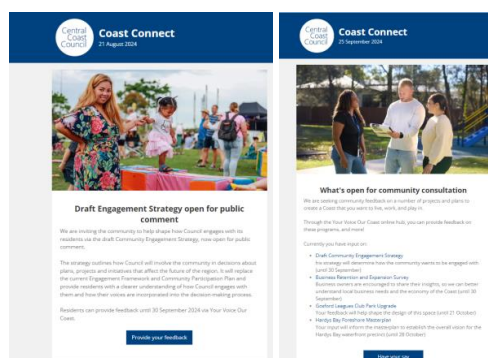


Figure 3.2 Coast Connect email newsletter 21 August 2024 & 25 September 2024

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

Social Media

An organic and paid campaign was promoted across Council social media channels, including Facebook and Instagram

Paid Campaign	Statistics
Reach	18,870
Frequency	3.19
Link Clicks	1,213
CTR (click through rate)	3.78
Spend Total	\$1,000
Organic campaign coverage	
Council Facebook reach	2,600
Council Instagram	55

Social media insights

Overall, the paid campaign performed well with good CPC, CTR and Engagement rate. Frequency was higher than targeted. The engagement rate surpassed CCC benchmarks (>2) at 3.50%, indicating that the copy and images resonated and were relevant to the target audience.

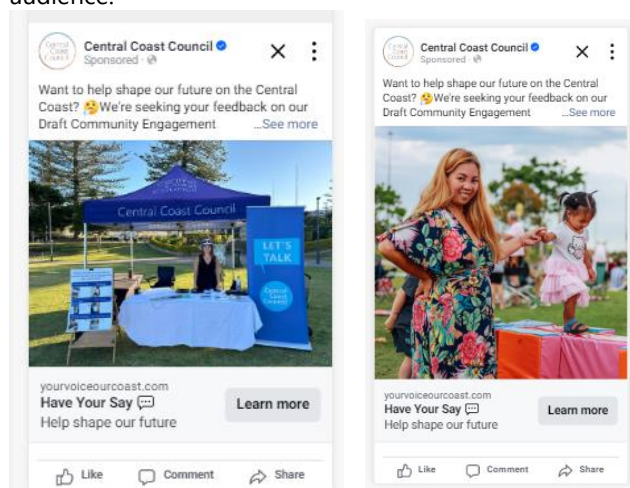


Figure 3.3 Facebook and Instagram paid social media ads

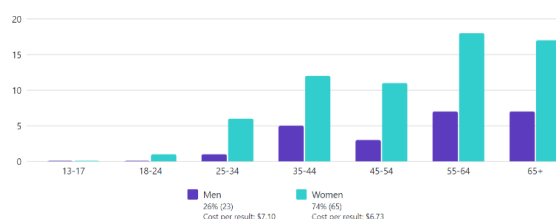


Figure 3.4 Age and Gender distribution for paid social media campaign.

Media

A media release was issued to 140 news outlets on 19 August 2024.

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

3.3 Online Engagement – Your Voice Our Coast

Throughout public exhibition, the Draft Engagement Strategy was displayed on the home page of Your Voice Our Coast website. During this time, 18,322 sessions were recorded on the home page of the website and 2,549 views of the Draft Engagement Strategy Survey page.

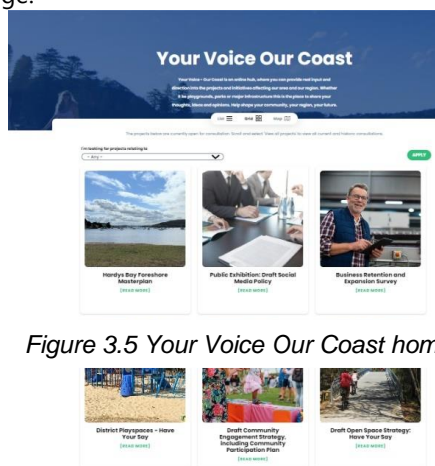


Figure 3.5 Your Voice Our Coast homepage



Figure 3.6 Your Voice Our Coast project

Project Page	Statistics
Views	2,549
Contributions	243

43% of visitors to the project page came through Organic Search, 12-13% from Organic Social, Paid Social and Directly via link and less than 10% via email link or referral from another website.

Live link [Draft Community Engagement Strategy, including Community Participation Plan | Your Voice Our Coast](#)

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

3.4 In-person engagement

Approximately 1,900 members of the community had the opportunity to interact with Council staff in person during the public exhibition.

Event	Method	Location	Date	Duration	No.
Outdoor Movie Night	Online surveys and voting on best ways to engage.	The Entrance, Memorial Park	Friday 6 September	2.5 hours	300
Outdoor Movie Night	Online surveys and voting on best ways to engage.	Toukley, Village Green	Saturday 7 September	2.5 hours	150
Outdoor Movie Night	Online surveys and voting on best ways to engage.	Gosford, Kibble Park	Friday 13 September	2.5 hours	150
Sustainable Futures Festival	Online surveys and voting on best ways to engage.	Visitor Information Centre, The Entrance	Saturday 14 September	6 hours	500
Outdoor Movie Night	Online surveys and voting on best ways to engage.	Wyong, The Chapman Lawn	Saturday 14 September	2.5 hours	300



Figure 3.7 Council Staff engaging with community at Outdoor Movie Nights

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

3.5 Phone Survey Engagement

400 members of the community had the opportunity to interact over the phone during public exhibition of the draft strategy.

Date	Method	Profile	Duration	No.
10 September – 20 September	Quantitative Phone Surveys to 400 residents LGA- wide	Targeted 18 – 70+ local residents equally across CCC wards	14 minute phone interviews	400

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

4. KEY FINDINGS

4.1 Stage One Consultation

Internal consultation

Internal consultation resulted in changing some language in the strategy to be more community centric, formatting was updated to ensure the document could be easily read and additional updates to consistency of language around confidentiality and privacy.

Wellbeing Survey

One question was included in the Wellbeing Survey that focused on Social and Community Engagement.

Opportunities to have a say on local issues

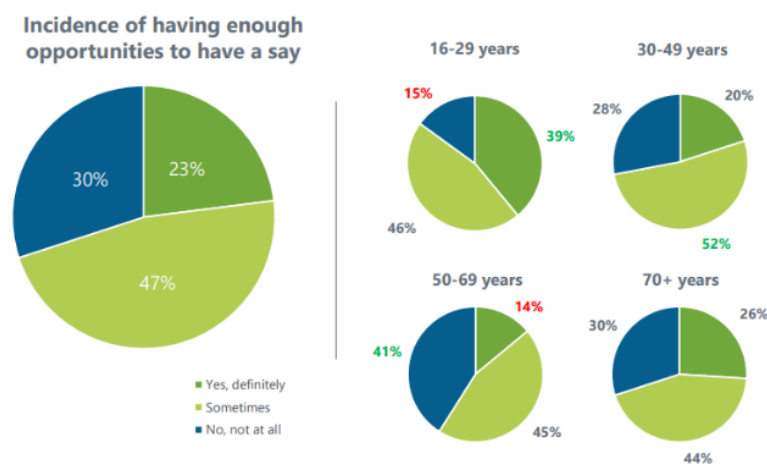


Fig 4.1 Do you feel there are enough opportunities to have a say on local issues that are important to you?

Summary of Stage One Consultation

- 70% of respondents felt they 'had' or 'sometimes had' enough opportunities to have their say on local issues

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

4.2 Stage Two Consultation

Summary Stage Two Consultation

- As a whole, over 90% of the community believe engagement and an engagement strategy is important.
- More than half of online respondents and just under half of phone research respondents are 'satisfied' or 'somewhat satisfied' with Council communications.
- Awareness and time constraints are cited as the primary barriers to participation.
- Effective engagement needs to be multimodal, a mix of face to face and digital options will need to be provided in order to reach the widest population.
- Messaging needs to be relevant, simple to understand, and provide a clear call to action.
- Council needs to ensure engagement opportunities are accessible to all.
- When it comes to specific topics or issues, Central Coast residents are most interested in hearing from Council about:
 - Roads and footpaths management
 - Long-term planning
 - Recreational facilities, parks/reserves/playgrounds
 - Large scale residential development

Improvements made to the draft Community Engagement Strategy

- Plain English version to be made available to assist accessibility.
- Timing and constraints in participation noted.
- Short and concise surveys to be prioritised.
- Multimodal activities considered for all engagement.
- First Nations Engagement Strategy to be developed.

Improvements made to Engagement Activities

- Preference for place-based engagement activities
- Increase in face-to-face engagement activities
- Increase accessibility options and expansion of diverse voices
- Better promotion of engagement opportunities

Your Voice Our Coast Survey

An online survey was hosted on Your Voice Our Coast from 30 July to 30 September, with 234 responses received during this period.

General Satisfaction of Draft Engagement Strategy

- **General Approval with Reservations:** Many respondents agree that the strategy is comprehensive and covers key areas, but there are concerns about follow-through post Administrator, with some expressing doubt about its implementation in practice.
- **Longevity of Planning:** There is concern about the continuity of community planning efforts, particularly the potential for plans to be scrapped with changes in government, leading to wasted resources. Respondents want assurances for the long-term sustainability of plans.
- **Integration with Broader Strategies:** Positive feedback highlights integration with related initiatives such as the Open Space and Greening Spaces Strategies.

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

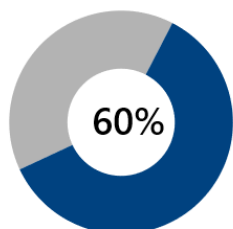
- **Call for Area-Specific Planning:** Some suggest that planning processes should be more localised, involving the community in both design and delivery of projects, which could foster stronger engagement.
- **Transparency and Accessibility in Development Planning:** Strong desire for more transparent communication, particularly regarding development proposals. People prefer receiving information through letters or more accessible website navigation rather than having to search laboriously online.
- **Youth and Disability Engagement:** The need for more inclusive spaces for youth, particularly youth hubs, and a stronger focus on accessibility for those with disabilities is highlighted. Some feel that the strategy lacks enough representation from people with lived experiences of disability and suggest more meaningful engagement of advocacy groups.
- **Criticism of Current Engagement Practices:** Some feedback critiques the tokenistic or insufficient engagement methods, with concerns that feedback from small groups or limited responses might disproportionately influence decisions. There are also calls for better face-to-face contact and more proactive engagement with the community.
- **Accountability and Staff Culture:** Some respondents express dissatisfaction with Council staff culture and transparency, particularly in relation to the management of development and environmental issues.
- **Call for More Diverse Representation:** Several comments suggest that the engagement process did not adequately represent full-time workers, certain demographic groups, or people with disabilities, calling for more inclusive participation in developing the strategy.

N=120

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

Awareness and Engagement levels

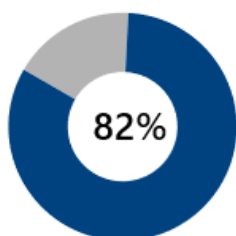
How well do you feel Council updates you about projects and services?



More than half of respondents feel Council communications are moderately or very effective.

Fig4.2 N = 210.

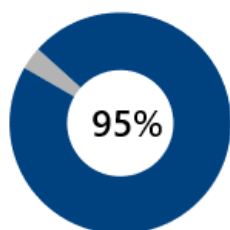
Which Council engagement activities have you participated in before?



More than three-quarters of respondents had engaged with Council previously by filling in a survey, attending a workshop or drop-in session or submitting to Your Voice Our Coast. A small number have also joined committees or advisory boards.

Fig 4.3 N =210

How important do you think it is for the community to work with Council to make decisions that affect our region?



An overwhelming 95% of respondents agree that engagement is important, and the community need to work with Council to help shape the future of the Central Coast.

Fig 4.4 N =212

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

Preferences and Access

How do you prefer to find out about Council activities and news?

Majority of respondents prefer to receive general information via social media or email.

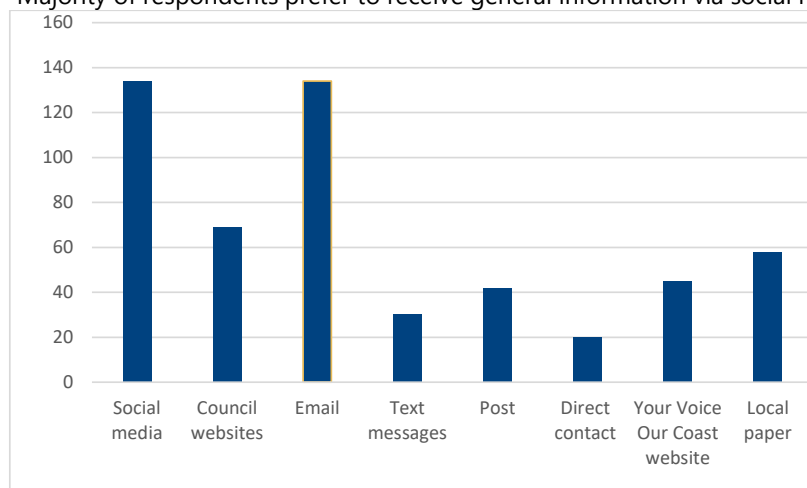


Fig4.5 N=234 with 545 responses to this question

*What is your preferred means for receiving **urgent** information from Council?*

Majority of respondents prefer to receive urgent information via text, email or social media.

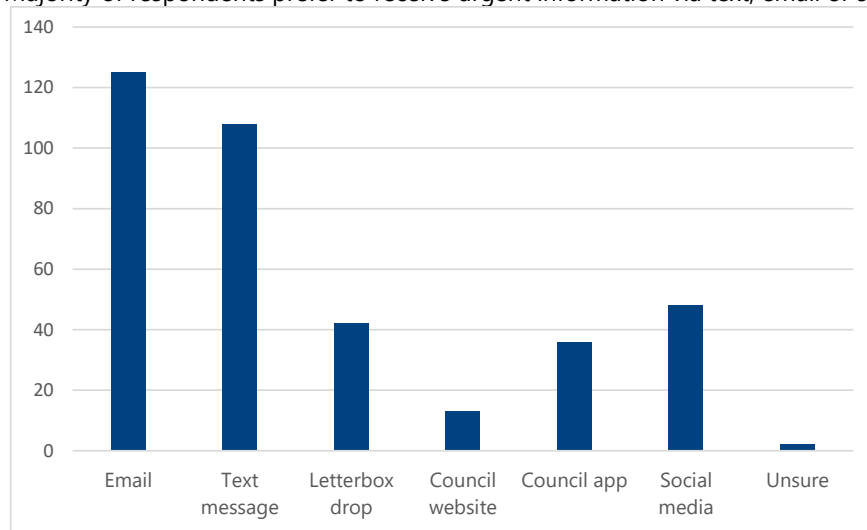


Fig4.6 N=234 with 383 total responses to this question.

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

Do you face any obstacles in accessing information from Council?

Over one-quarter of respondents face difficulty in accessing information from Council

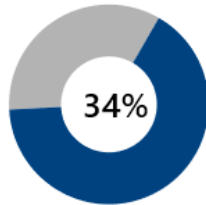


Fig4.7 N=202

The main themes of the obstacles for access information from Council are:

- **Limited Access to Information:** People expressed difficulty in accessing reliable information through various channels, such as websites, newspapers, or Council responses (e.g., unanswered emails and requests for factsheets).
- **Lack of Transparency:** There is a perception that Council withholding information or not openly sharing it fosters distrust, with calls for more openness and honesty in releasing information.
- **Communication Issues:** Barriers include inadequate use of diverse media platforms (radio, print, TV), non-subscription to newsletters, and difficulties finding critical information.
- **Website Usability:** Poor website navigation, challenges in finding the correct search terms, and lack of intuitive design are highlighted as major obstacles in engaging with Council digital platforms.
- **Customer Service Difficulties:** Trouble reaching Council staff, whether through customer service or other channels, hinders effective engagement.
- **Proactive Search Requirement:** Many feel they must proactively seek out information instead of it being readily accessible or advertised in a user-friendly way.

Future contact with Council: If you needed to contact Council to obtain information about any kind of Council-related issue, which of the following methods would you prefer to use?

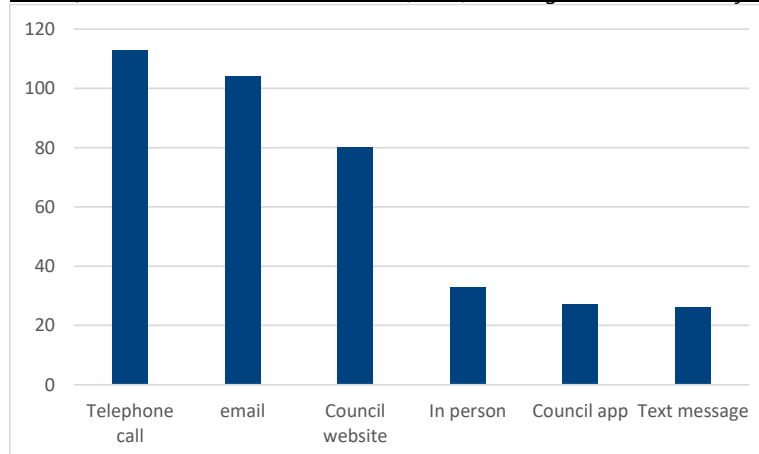


Fig 4.8 N=234 with 456 responses to this question

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

Future engagement: How would you like to participate in Council's engagement activities in the future?

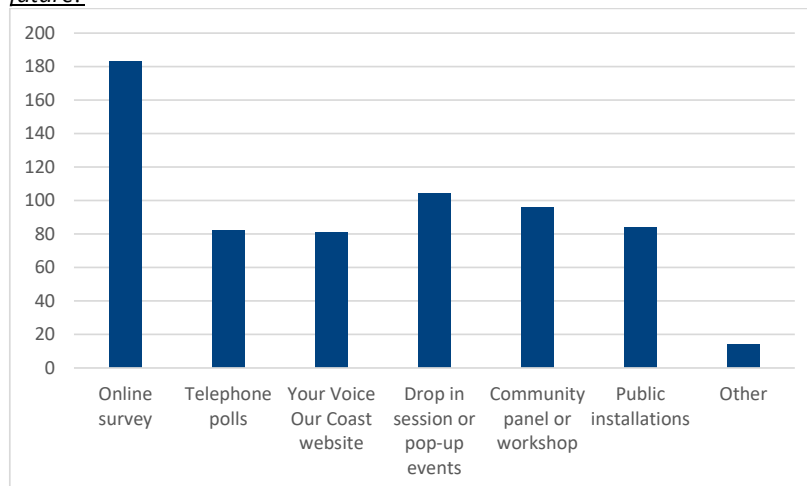


Fig4.9 N=234 with 644 total responses to this question.

Projects and topics of interest

Do you think place-based engagement should be a priority for Council?

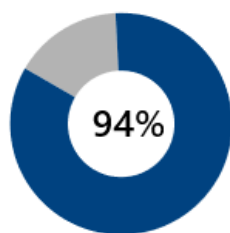


Fig 4.10 N=212

Place based engagement is a holistic approach where a local community can discuss and provide feedback on several Council projects and plans based on a geographic area. It gives the community a chance to understand what projects multiple departments within Council are working on in any one place, and the ability to provide feedback with the whole picture for the area in mind.

An overwhelming number of respondents agreed place-based engagement is important

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

Are there any specific topics or issues you think should be explored through community consultation and engagement?

The main themes from these responses regarding topics for engagement include:

- **Development and Urban Planning:** Concerns about overdevelopment, illegal construction, and the need for better planning to accommodate population growth, infrastructure, and environmental protection. Specific development issues include affordable housing, strategic town planning, and repurposing public spaces like the old library in Kibble Park.
- **Roads and Infrastructure:** Repeated mentions of road quality, potholes, footpaths, bike lanes, and traffic management. Respondents also highlight the need for better infrastructure to accommodate population growth, including sewage, water supply, and drainage systems.
- **Environmental Protection:** Strong focus on preserving natural environments, preventing overdevelopment, managing flooding, tree planting, and protecting local wildlife. Concerns about climate change, coastal erosion (e.g., Wamberal Beach), and banning short-term rentals like Airbnb to protect native species.
- **Public Amenities and Recreation:** Interest in maintaining and upgrading public spaces, parks, playgrounds, and waterfronts. Calls for more open spaces, leisure facilities, and dog parks. Some respondents also highlight the need for arts and cultural initiatives to enhance community engagement.
- **Community Services and Social Issues:** Respondents emphasise the importance of affordable housing, mental health services, youth spaces, domestic violence support, and services for the elderly. Calls for transparent governance, community participation, and the inclusion of First Nations in planning processes are also common.
- **Sustainability and Smart City Planning:** A few responses mention sustainability efforts, waste reduction, and future-proofing infrastructure. Interest in smart city initiatives, including improved transportation systems and energy-efficient urban planning, is also noted.
- **Traffic and Transport:** Concerns about growing traffic congestion and inadequate public transport options, as well as a desire for better pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.
- **Flood Management and Drainage:** Several comments raise concerns about flooding, particularly in areas like Tuggerah Lakes, and the need for improved drainage systems to prevent future disasters.
- **Crime and Safety:** Some respondents express concerns about crime, vandalism, and safety, particularly in relation to road upgrades, speed enforcement, and the condition of public spaces.
- **Youth and Leisure Facilities:** Calls for youth-specific spaces, affordable activities for young people, and better recreation opportunities were highlighted, along with support for outdoor music events and arts initiatives.

N=148

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

In person engagement

Throughout the consultation period, five pop-up sessions were delivered:

- Outdoor Movie Night, The Entrance, Memorial Park, Friday, 6 September
- Outdoor Movie night, Toukley, Village Green Saturday, 7 September
- Outdoor Movie Night, Gosford, Kibble Park, Friday 13 September
- Sustainable Futures Festival, Visitors Information Centre, The Entrance, Memorial Park, Saturday, 14 September
- Outdoor Movie night, Wyong, The Chapman Lawn, Saturday 14 September

A number of comments were received from community members – these have been provided in the below table:

Comments

Senior citizens would like face to face engagement, especially for those who don't have social media

Senior citizens feel they are not being engaged with effectively

Seniors not knowing what is going on with Council due to not being online

Would like Council to do more pop-ups, workshops, and face to face events with the community

Council don't get back to emails and complaints

No knowledge of what Your Voice Our Coast is or how to know what is going on in the Community

Positive feedback about Council staff being out in the public listening and engaging

Short and concise surveys preferred – people are time poor

Nobody objected to the idea of place-based engagement and the idea was received favourably

People mid 30s and below don't like phone engagement

People below mid 30s prefer social media and online

During the pop-up engagement sessions, the community was asked to choose the best method that Council could use to engage with them.

The top three preferences from this were:

- Drop in / pop-up sessions
- Workshops and focus groups
- Online or hard copy surveys

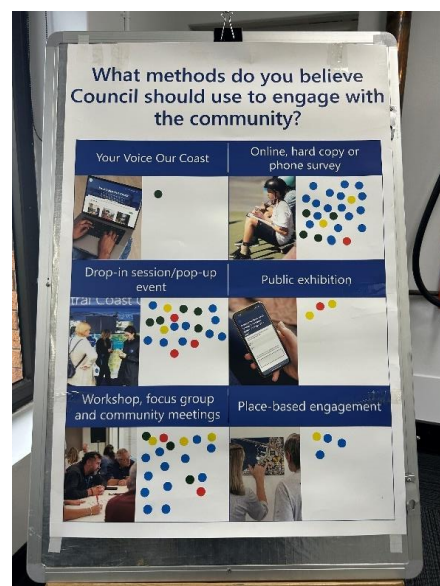


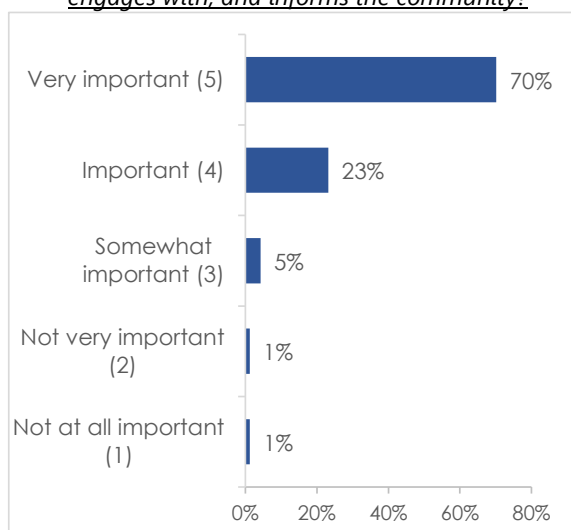
Fig 4.11 Dot voting at pop-ups

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

Phone survey engagement

Awareness and engagement levels

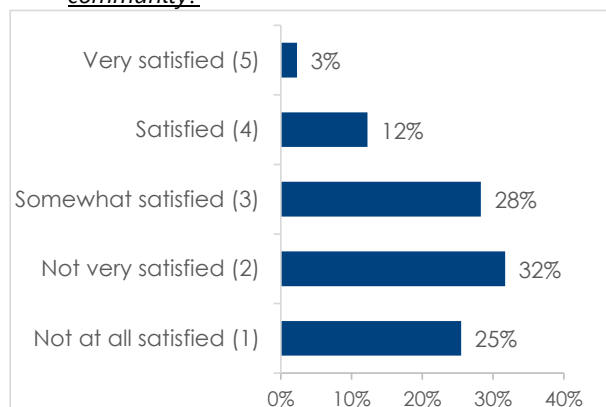
Thinking of everything we have just discussed, how important is it that Council has a community engagement strategy that has established principles and guidelines for how Council engages with, and informs the community?



93% of residents feel that it is very important/important for Council to have a community engagement strategy to guide how Council engages with, and informs, the community. Female residents and those who do not speak a language other than English place greater importance on the establishment of such engagement principles and guidelines.

Fig 4.12 N=402

How satisfied are you currently with the level of communication Council has with the community?



43% of residents are at least somewhat satisfied with the level of communication Council has with the community. Comparisons by demographics show no significant differences by ages, gender or location.

Fig 4.13 N=402

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

Key topics for Community Consultation

Thinking about Council's engagement with the community, what sort of issues/topics do you believe they should be consulting the community on?

When asked what issues or topics residents believe should involve community consultation, more than half (57%) cited roads and footpath management, far exceeding any other topics. Other important topics/issues include Council management (incl. financial management), parks/reserves/playgrounds, development applications near you, large scale residential development, rates/cost of living, recreational facilities, community services/facilities and environmental issues.

Comparisons by demographics show females significantly more likely to have suggested community services and facilities, while older residents (70+) are more likely to mention roads and footpath management but less likely to cite recreational facilities.

Topics	N=402		N=402
Roads and footpaths management	57%	General development management	3%
Council management (incl financial management)	16%	Overdevelopment/ overpopulation	3%
Parks, reserves and playgrounds	16%	Infrastructure maintenance	3%
Development applications near you	15%	Parking	3%
Large scale residential development	12%	Waste management	3%
Rates / cost of living	11%	Council's communications	3%
Recreational facilities	11%	Emergency management	2%
Community services / facilities	10%	Water Supply	2%
Environmental issues	10%	All local issues / everything	2%
Drainage / stormwater	7%	Public transport	2%
Waterways eg beaches, lakes	5%	Commercial centre improvement	2%
General maintenance / upkeep	5%	Bike paths	2%
Crime / safety	5%	Tree management	2%
Waste and recycling	5%	Local business	1%
Events and activities	4%	Animal control	1%
Housing affordability	4%	Tourism	1%
Traffic management/ road safety	4%	Libraries, community centres, halls	1%
Long term planning	4%	Other	1%
Housing availability	4 %	Don't know / nothing	1%

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

How interested are you in hearing from Council about the following issues/topics?

75% of residents are interested/very interested in hearing about topics regarding roads and footpaths management, followed by long-term planning, recreational facilities, parks, reserves and playgrounds, and large-scale residential development.

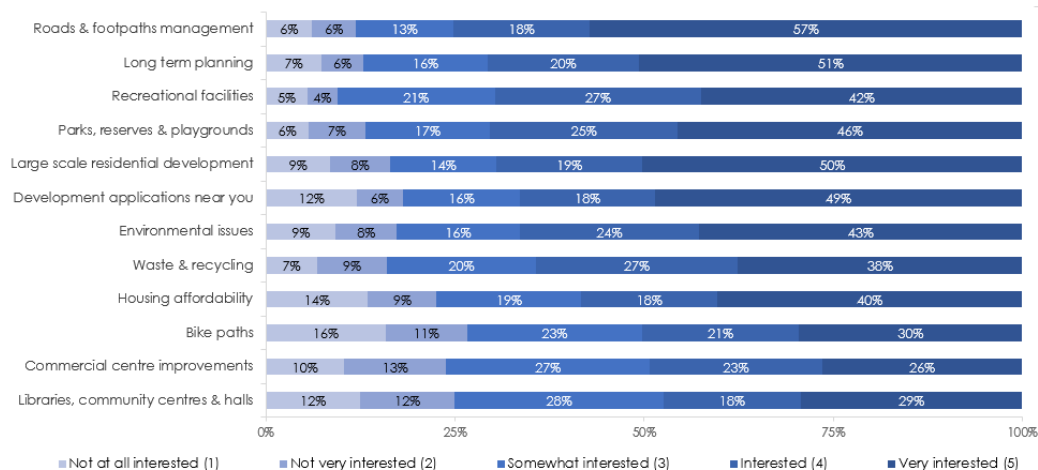


Fig 4.14 N=402

Council encourages the community to learn about, and have their say on plans, strategies, and projects. How important is it for you to have your say about issues impacting:

More than 90% of residents stated that it is important/very important for them to have a say about issues impacting their street and suburb, while only 52% believe it is important/very important to have a say about issues impacting the broader Central Coast LGA. Not surprisingly, 4 in 5 (80%) rated the places they visit regularly as important/very important, while only 34% rated the places they rarely visit as important/very important.

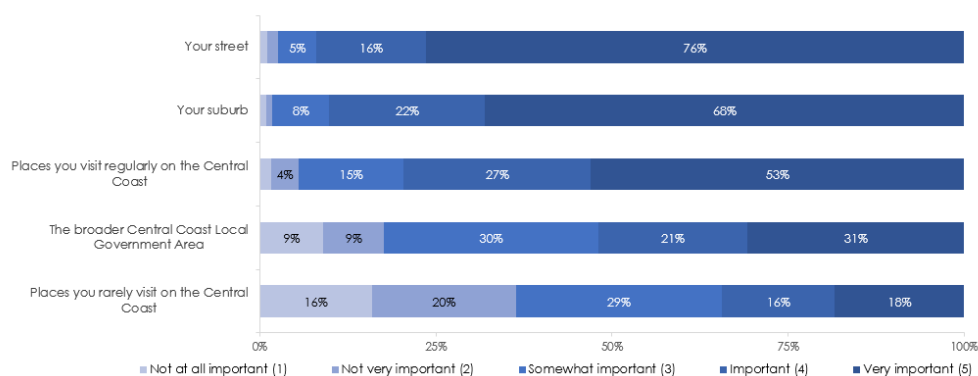


Fig 4.15 N=402

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

In the last 24 months, have you participated in any Council consultation activities, either in person or Online? (If yes), how many consultation activities have you participated in?

28% of residents had participated in at least one Council consultation activity, either in person or online, within the last 24 months. Among those who had participated, 66% stated they had taken part in only 1-2 consultations, 29% in 3-5 consultations, and 5% had participated in more than 6 consultations.

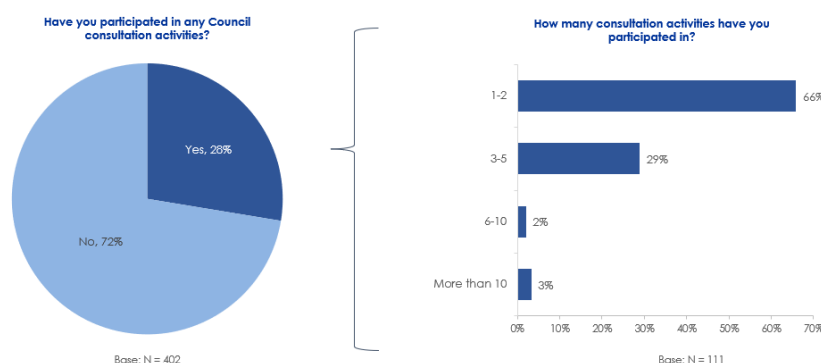


Fig 4.16 N=402

Q2c. (If no), may I ask why you have not engaged in any Council consultation activities?

For those who had not engaged in any Council consultation activities, 41% stated that it was due to a lack of awareness about opportunities to participate and 28% stated that they do not have enough time for participating in Council consultation activities.

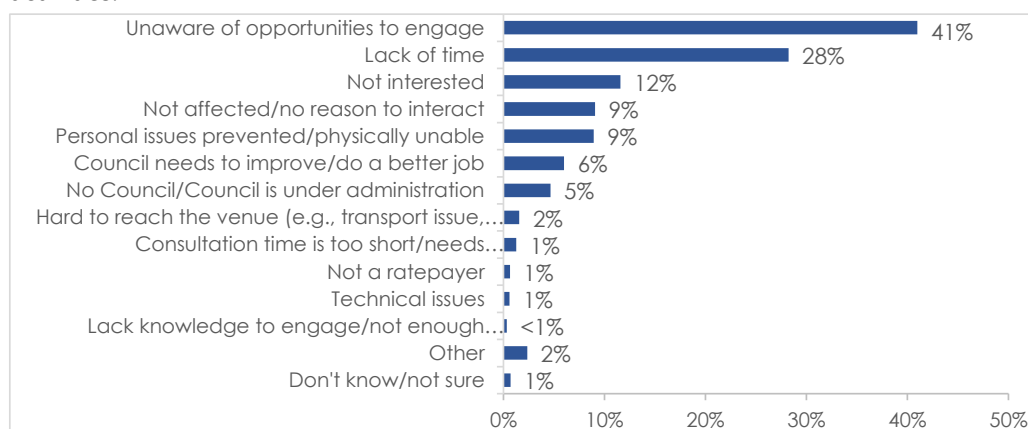


Fig 4.17 N=291 (those have not participated in any consultation activities)

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

Are you aware Council consults with the community via this method? Have you participated in this consultation method?

64% of residents are aware of community meetings as a Council consultation method, followed by public forum/hearing (52%) and public exhibition (45%).

Regarding the level of participation, 14% stated that they had participated in community meetings. Noticeably, although 26% are aware of surveys via the Your Voice/Our Coast Website, only 14% had participated in this consultation method. Younger residents (18-34) are more likely to have participated in surveys via Your Voice/Our Coast website and in workshops/focus groups.

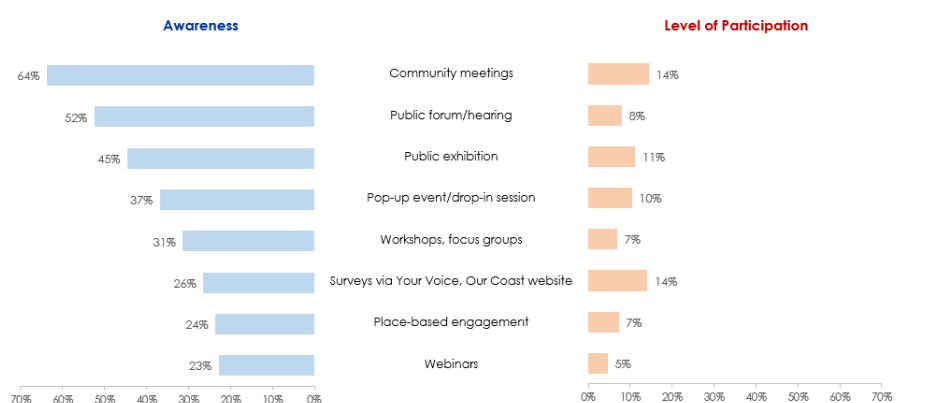


Fig 4.18 N=402

Please rate how effective this method is in terms of consulting with the community.

Two thirds of residents believe community meetings are at least somewhat effective in consulting with the community. Pop-up event/drop-in sessions appear to be more effective for those who speak a language other than English at home.

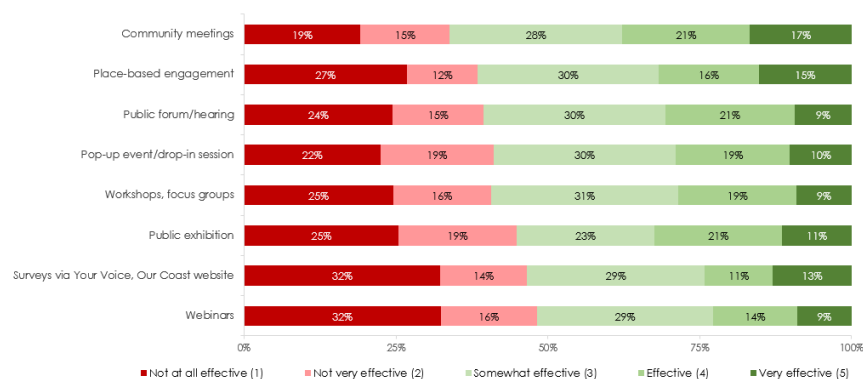


Fig 4.19 N = 402

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

Development Applications

Prior to this call, were you aware of Council's consultation process re development applications?

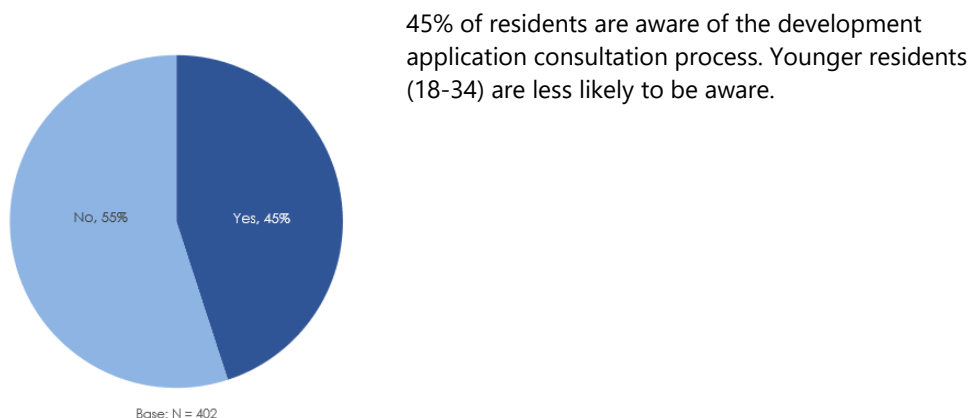


Fig 4.20 N=402

How supportive are you of this strategy when consulting with the community regarding development applications?

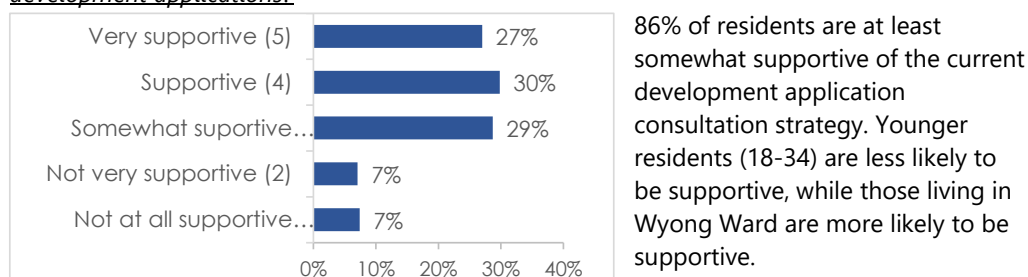


Fig 4.21 N=401

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

Can you think of anything else Council should be doing when consulting with the community regarding development applications?

Almost half of residents had no additional suggestions for improving the current development application consultation process.

For those who provided suggestions, the most common ideas centred on improved communication channels (e.g., mail, social media and emails/SMS), with 23% making suggestions about more updates through various channels.

7% mentioned that Council needs to listen to and respond to community feedback.

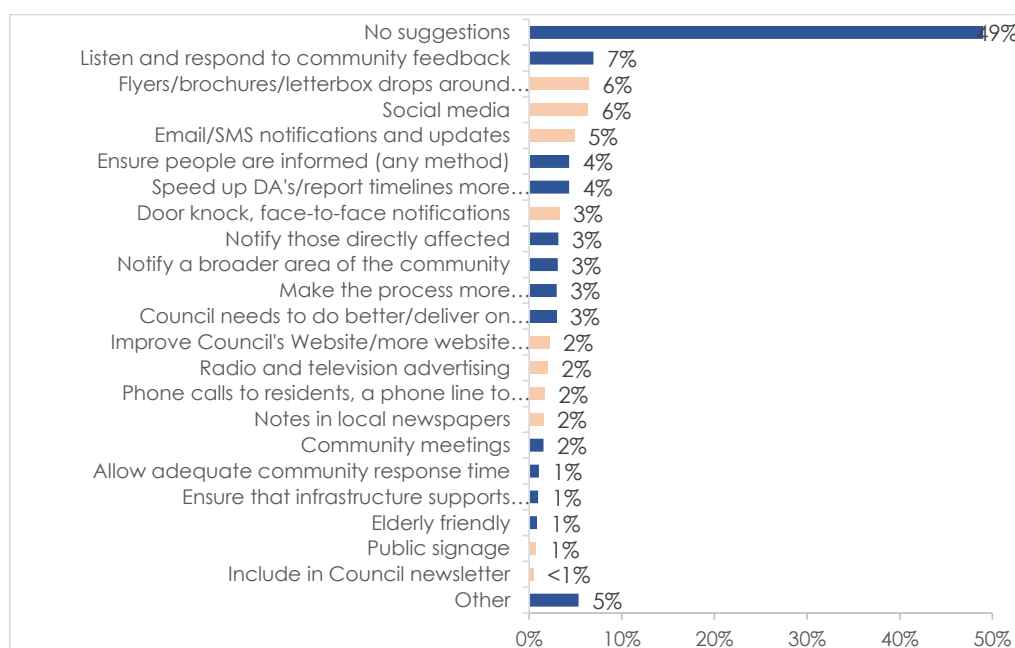


Fig 4.22 N=402

Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings report.

5. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Stage One Consultation

Following stage one consultation, Council officers collated and analysed all feedback received. In response to the feedback, the following changes were incorporated into the draft Community Engagement Strategy prior to public exhibition.

- Update to some language use in the strategy to be more community centric.
- Formatting was updated to ensure the document could be easily read
- Additional updates to consistency of language around confidentiality and privacy
- Commitment to First Nations Engagement Strategy

5.2 Stage Two Public Exhibition

Following public exhibition of the draft Community Engagement Strategy, Council officers collated and analysed the feedback received and report from external engagement consultants who undertook the phone surveys. In response to the feedback, the following improvements will be made and implemented.

- Plain English version available.
- Timing and constraints in participation noted.
- Short and concise surveys.
- Multimodal activities and preference for place-based engagement noted.
- Preference for place-based engagement activities
- Increase in face-to-face engagement activities.
- Increase accessibility options and expansion of diverse voices.
- Better and more targeted promotion.

Draft Community Engagement Strategy

Including Community Participation Plan

Central
Coast
Council



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We pay our respects to Darkinjung country, and Elders past and present.

We recognise the continued connection to these lands and waterways and extend this acknowledgement to the homelands and stories of those who also call this place home.

We recognise our future leaders and the shared responsibility to care for and protect our place and people.



Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Central Coast Council is committed to proactively engaging with the community and key stakeholders on major issues and plans affecting the future of the region and activities that have significant impact on the community. Council staff conduct a great number of engagement activities each year to better inform Council's decision-making process.

This strategy helps improve the experience of all participants involved in community engagement to achieve best outcomes. I am pleased that it also incorporates a revised Community Participation Plan to provide a single, cohesive document for the community.

As you will read, this strategy identifies our key focus areas for the next four years and considers ways to deliver more inclusive, accessible and meaningful engagement with the public, particularly First Nations people and equity-deserving communities.

Council recognises the value to be gained by seeking to engage with the community - it helps strengthen the relationship between Council and the public, and shapes Council's policies, programs, and services to meet the diverse needs of the region.

I believe that by genuinely carrying out community engagement, the community has an opportunity to shape and influence the development and delivery of quality Council facilities and services which meet community needs and aspirations, ultimately contributing to the realisation of a better region.

Guided by this comprehensive strategy, Council looks forward to engaging with members of the community to help shape positive change now and into the future.

David Farmer

Chief Executive Officer Central Coast Council
June 2024

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Introduction



Guiding Council's decisions

Engaging with our community is essential if we are to make informed decisions that reflect community priorities. Accessible, genuine and consistent engagement builds trust between Council, our community and stakeholders.

This Community Engagement Strategy outlines how we will ensure our community is aware of ways to participate in decision-making and have a say on the way we deliver services.

The strategy also outlines:



The opportunities for our community and stakeholders to provide input on our activities are as vast as the range of services and infrastructure we provide. This strategy is designed to give clear guidance on what the community can expect when participating in our decision-making process.

Background

Since Central Coast Council was formed in 2016, our organisation has gone through significant change. Throughout this journey, our community engagement team has led the organisation through a fundamental cultural shift, aimed at improving the way we engage with our community to better influence decisions that impact their lives.

This progressive shift has been underpinned by our Engagement Framework, first adopted in 2017, and supported by a program to build staff skills across departments, and to create a culture of engagement across our organisation.

As a result, we are now engaging more than ever. Our community continues to seek greater access to information and transparency in decision-making, and wants to play an active role in shaping the future of the region.

We want to keep empowering our community as our organisation moves into a new direction.

This strategy serves as a refreshed point of reference and benchmark, providing consistent and reliable guidance to ensure we continue to hear our community's voices. It is community participation that will help us make balanced and sustainable decisions for the future of Council and the region.

Legislation

This strategy is guided by NSW Government legislation and also links directly with many of Council's other plans, policies and strategies. Recent changes to Section 402A of the Local Government Act 1993, which requires each NSW council to develop and implement a four-year Community Engagement Strategy, has been a primary consideration in the development of this strategy.

In this context, the principles of our existing Engagement Framework have now been incorporated into this strategy to create a single, cohesive document and one point of reference for our staff and community. The strategy also incorporates information on how the community can get involved in local and region-wide land use planning to meet requirements under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

Key legislation informing this Strategy includes:

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
- *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*
- *Crown Land Management Act 2016*
- *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*
- *Water Management Act 2000*

In addition to this document, we also have a dedicated Engagement and Education Strategy for Council's water and sewer service, which sets out how we will engage, communicate, educate and continue to improve our water and sewer services.

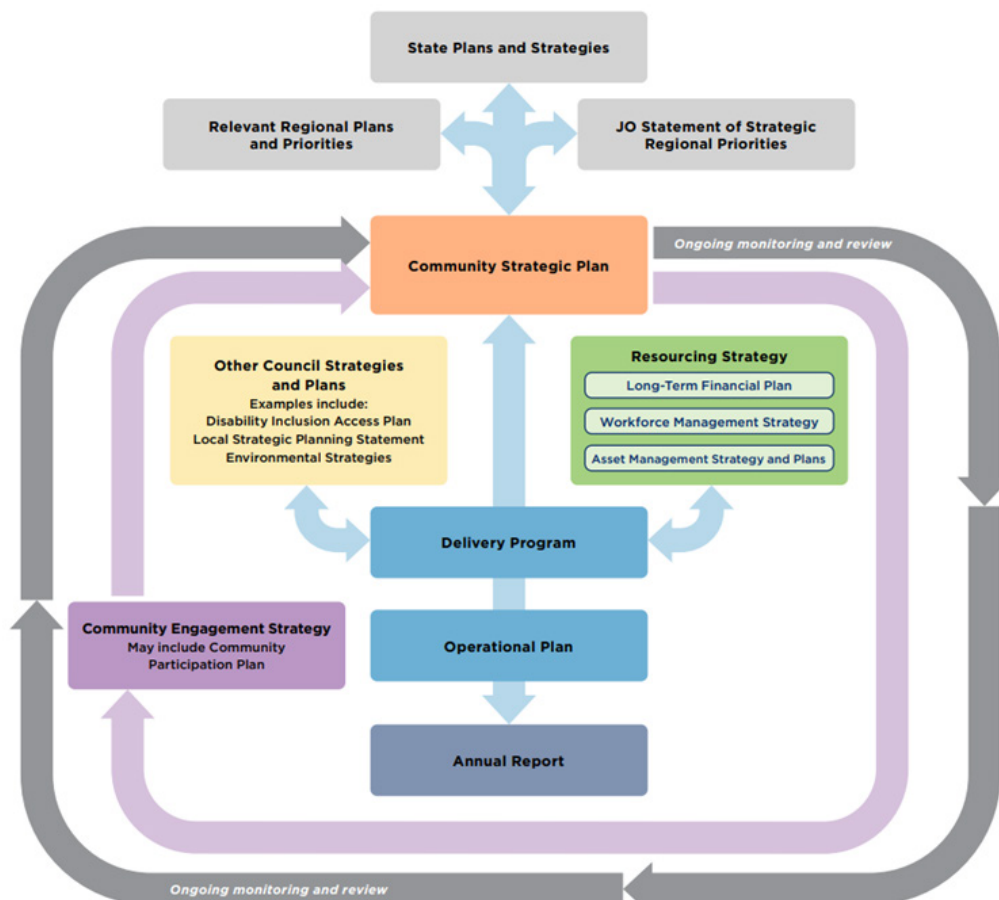
Integration with our plans and strategies

Engaging with our community is essential when we develop strategies, plans and policies.

These documents are part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework that all NSW Councils are required to follow under the *Local Government Act 1993*. This framework underpins how we plan at Council and is fundamentally based on community desires and aspirations for the future.

We engage at every level of planning, from the overarching long-term Community Strategic Plan and our four-year Delivery Program, down to individual projects in our yearly Operational Plan. Our community has influence across a broad spectrum of Council activities.

Ongoing engagement with our community also helps up advocate in regional, state and federal planning matters, as well as in local place-based planning.



Our community





Community snapshot

A strong and positive relationship with our community is vital to a happy and inclusive region for all.

As a council serving a large population, we interact with thousands of individuals and groups every year. Our population is also growing and changing, bringing new challenges and opportunities to ensure we plan a future that supports our entire community.

Our region boasts a diverse population profile, with residents across various age groups. We also have a significant population of families and retirees, who are attracted by the coastal lifestyle and proximity to Sydney. Seasonal fluctuations see many holidaymakers and visitors come to the Coast, bringing economic value to the region. Our diversity creates an opportunity to hear from a range of voices whenever we engage.

Population
346,596

**Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander
population: 4.9%**



Source: profile.id using 2021 Census data

Disability

There are around 22,000 people on the Central Coast (about 6.4% of us) who need help in their day-to-day lives due to disability



Top three age groups

60-64 years – 6.5%

55-59 years – 6.5%

50-54 years – 6.4%

A LANGUAGE
OTHER THAN
ENGLISH SPOKEN
AT HOME

12.3%

Households

Couples with children: 27.1%

Couples without children: 25.8%

One parent families: 12.8%

Group household: 2.8%

Lone person: 26%

Other: 5.5%



Workforce participation



Not in work:
4.7%



Working
full time:
50.1%



Working
part-time:
33.4%



Unpaid work
and care:
69.4%

Education

Completed year
12 and/or tertiary
training: 61.6%

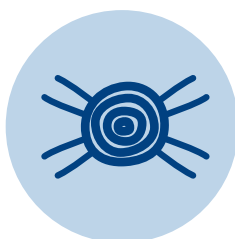


Our stakeholders

With such a large population and demographic diversity, we need to understand who makes up our community, and how they may be affected by the decisions we make. We have identified some key stakeholder groups often involved in our community engagement activities.



**Central Coast residents
and ratepayers**



**Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander communities and
individuals**



People with a disability



**Culturally and
linguistically diverse
communities (CALD)**



Tourists and visitors



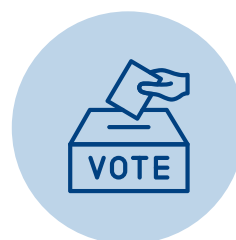
Local business community



**Community groups and
organisations**



**Council's advisory committees and
community reference groups**



Elected representatives



Government agencies including Transport for NSW, the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Hunter Central Coast Development Corporation, NSW Health, Department of Education, Office of Local Government, Destination NSW, NSW Office of Sport, Crown Lands.

Our principles and commitments



Our approach

Our commitment to community engagement is deeply rooted in the belief that those affected by decisions have the right to participate in the decision-making process.



Our principles and commitments underpin our approach to community engagement and are interconnected with our Customer Experience Framework.

Our approach reflects the social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights.

Principle	Commitment
Respect and transparency: Engagement is genuine and purposeful.	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consult when needed and use the information gathered in a meaningful way respect your time and listen to you engage at a level that is appropriate to the possibility to influence share the responsibility, trust and transparency.
Access and inclusion: It is easy to access and participate in engagement.	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> seek a diversity of views and perspectives provide feedback to the community as to how their input contributed to decision-making endeavour to identify and remove barriers to participation use a range of opportunities and techniques to encourage participation, and increase awareness and understanding for all who may be affected by or interested in the outcome work in partnership with relevant community groups, state and federal government, local government partners, and / or other stakeholders internally within Council.
Clarity: Engagement is clear and simple.	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have genuine and open dialogue with the community clearly communicate the intention, scope and outcomes of the consultation use plain language and avoid jargon to provide clear explanation make information available in accessible formats.
Accountability and improvement: Engagement is continually evaluated and improved.	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> seek to maintain consistent standards and levels of quality share results internally and work together to avoid duplication and consultation fatigue evaluate engagement efforts and consistently seek to learn and improve practice.
Capacity: Engagement is for everyone.	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> build the community's capacity to contribute, by educating and empowering both the community and staff so that they may participate in meaningful, two-way collaboration.

Spectrum of public participation

The International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2) Spectrum has six levels of engagement that correspond to the community's increasing level of influence on decision-making. We use the IAP2 Spectrum to help us to determine the appropriate level of input from the community and the role the community will have in the decision-making process.

INCREASING LEVEL OF COMMUNITY IMPACT 					
INCREASE LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT 					
INFORM	EDUCATE	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PURPOSE: Goal					
To provide the community with information to assist their understanding of the issue, problem, opportunities or solutions.	Provide the community with the knowledge and skills to enable them to make an informed decision.	To obtain feedback and information about attitudes, opinions and preferences that assist Council in its decision-making processes.	To work on an ongoing basis with the community to ensure their concerns, ideas and hopes are listened to and understood.	To partner with the community in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives, sharing of resources, and the discovery of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the stakeholders.
PURPOSE: Our commitment					
We will keep you informed.	We will equip you with an understanding of the issues.	We will listen to you, acknowledge your concerns and hopes, and provide feedback on how your input influenced the decision.	We will give you a role in shaping the project, and input into decisions, which will be visible throughout the process.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions, and incorporate this into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
PURPOSE: Methods					
Council's websites Social media E-news Advertisements Public notices Signs Letters Flyers Rates Newsletters Letterbox drops	Information sheets Online resources Workshops Webinars	Your Voice, Our Coast website Public exhibitions Pop-up events and drop-in sessions Workshops Focus groups Community meetings Surveys Stakeholder interviews School engagement Place-based engagement Public forums Public hearings	Project steering groups Working groups and community reference groups Deliberative processes Council committees and advisory group	Community partnerships Co-design workshops	Referendums

Adapted from: IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation and AA1000SE

Engagement in practice



There is no one-size-fits all approach when it comes to engaging with our community, and we use a diverse range of methods to help us reach and hear from those who are affected by a plan, strategy or project. The following outlines how we typically plan and deliver engagement, and the methods we use.

The engagement process

- 1. Defining the project**
- 2. Identifying key stakeholders**
- 3. Planning engagement**
- 4. Carrying out engagement (can be in multiple stages)**
- 5. Outcomes of engagement reported to the community**
- 6. Council decision**
- 7. Council decision reported to the community**
- 8. Evaluate effectiveness of engagement**



Our methods

We tailor how we share information and engage depending on the project or issue, and how much the community can get involved. We may use a single method for simple engagement, or a variety of methods for more complex engagement.

Level of engagement	Method	What is it?
Inform	Council's websites, social media, e-news	Regular email newsletters and updates about Council activities, events, and opportunities for engagement.
	Advertisements, public notices, signs, letters, flyers, rates newsletters, letterbox drops	Information published in local newspapers, on our website, and through other channels to inform the community about important decisions, consultations, and developments.
	Customer service centre and libraries	Locations for the community to seek information about projects that are open for community feedback and receive help with submitting feedback.
Educate	Information sheets, online resources, workshops, webinars	Various methods to educate the community on specific issues. Depending on the subject matter these methods may include a hard copy information sheet that includes key facts, interactive online-resources (such as water and sewer educational games) or an in-person workshop or webinar with Council staff or subject matter experts.
Consult	Your Voice, Our Coast website	Our online engagement hub, allowing our community to view current engagement opportunities, make formal submissions, take surveys, use interactive mapping and ideas boards.
	Public exhibitions	An official process with a set timeframe when a draft document is released for consultation and feedback. Feedback can be provided through a submission form, email or letter.
	Pop-up events and drop-in sessions	Informal opportunities where our community can speak to our staff and have their say about projects, plans or works. Pop-ups are face-to-face, and drop-ins can be virtual or face-to-face.
	Workshops, focus groups and community meetings	Structured forums where community members can discuss issues, voice concerns, and provide feedback on specific projects or proposals. These can be virtual or face-to-face.
	Surveys	Surveys and feedback forms on various topics to gauge public opinion, assess community needs, and understand preferences. These surveys can be online, offline and telephone. We also conduct surveys to gauge customer satisfaction of our services.
	Stakeholder interviews	One-on-one interviews to gain in-depth insight from community members. These can be done via phone, virtually or in person.
	School engagement	Workshops and other activities in schools to ensure we hear from school-aged young people.

Level of engagement	Method	What is it?
Consult	Place-based engagement	A holistic engagement approach where a local community can discuss and provide feedback on several Council projects and plans based on a geographic area. We use a combination of digital and face-to-face engagement methods.
	Public forums	May be prior to each Ordinary Meeting of Council to hear oral submissions from members of the community on items of business to be considered at the meeting. Public forums may also be held prior to Extraordinary Council Meetings and meetings of Committees of the Council.
	Public hearings	Public hearings may be held as part on an inquiry or other regulatory process and the public can hear details of submissions and ask questions of responsible authorities in a public forum.
Involve	Project steering groups, working groups and community reference groups	Established for major projects and initiatives, involving community members, stakeholders, and experts. These groups offer ongoing input and advice on specific issues or developments.
	Deliberative processes	An approach to decision-making where community members engage in active dialogue, exchange of ideas, and collaborative decision-making.
	Council committees and advisory groups	Formal committees of Council where community participants and experts help Council strategically plan a range of focus areas.
Collaborate	Community partnerships	Collaborations with community organisations, non-profits, and local businesses to promote community engagement and deliver services more effectively.
	Co-design processes	A human-centred research approach to identify pain points and develop innovative solutions.
Empower	Referendums	Voters are asked to answer 'yes' or 'no' to a particular question or questions. Voting in referendums is compulsory for enrolled voters. A referendum is required to change the number of Councillors, or ward structure, for example.

Risks and opportunities

We want engagement to be consistent, simple and help people both understand an issue and participate. While engaging with the community on every issue is not always possible, we strive to ensure the community is well-informed about highly impactful issues, plans and projects.

This relies on us providing the necessary information for community members to form opinions and understand how we make decisions. We also recognise that a range of risks can arise, limiting the success of engagement. We look for opportunities to overcome these when we plan engagement.

These can include:

- **Communities and stakeholders with divergent or conflicting issues.** We seek to engage those affected, understand different and competing needs or expectations, so that we can determine a balanced and appropriate response.
- **Lack of balance between weak and strong stakeholders.** We plan engagement and use accessible and inclusive methods so all voices have an equal opportunity to be heard.
- **Difficulty engaging hard-to-reach groups.** We aim to create targeted and accessible engagement activities so we can hear from those who have barriers to participation. Methods may include one-on-one interviews, partnerships with community organisations or service providers, and working with Council's advisory committees.
- **Engagement fatigue.** Where possible, we combine engagement activities based on a theme or geographic location to create a more holistic and efficient way for our community to participate, for example, our place-based engagement model.

- **Lack of trust in Council.** We refer to our principles when planning engagement, continue to evaluate and improve the way we engage, and be transparent in our decision-making.

By understanding these risks, planning engagement early and adhering to our principles, we aim to overcome or limit the impact of these challenges.

Balanced Decision Making

We do our best to plan and deliver services to meet the needs and aspirations of our community. Alongside community feedback, we also need to consider technical and environmental constraints, cost, safety and sustainability when making decisions.

When we will engage

Engagement is an intentional process with the specific purpose of working across organisations, stakeholders, and communities to shape decisions or actions in relation to a problem, opportunity or outcome. There are numerous reasons we engage.

- **Project engagement:** We seek community views and input into plans, strategies and projects. This engagement can occur as a separate stage before the draft document or design is placed on public exhibition for further feedback.
- **Community outrage or frustration:** We may engage in response to an issue or proposal if the community has indicated they have significant concerns, or when issues have not been adequately considered.
- **Community satisfaction:** We regularly seek insights into our performance in the delivery of key services, for example customer satisfaction surveys and recent service experience surveys. This ongoing feedback ensures our services meet community needs and is part of our Customer Experience Strategy.
- **Council resolution:** The elected Council may decide to change its services, regulations or initiate a major development, and we seek the community's view on the matter.
- **Statutory engagement:** Our engagement activities are often a requirement under legislation, such as the Local Government Act 1993, and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
- **Regulatory engagement:** We engage on how much we should charge for rates, and water and sewer services. This engagement forms part of our regular submissions to the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), which determines the final prices.

When we won't engage

Engagement is not done on every project undertaken by Council. We do not engage on projects where:

- There is no scope for community influence.
- Public health and safety are at risk.
- We are responding to an emergency.
- A matter is strictly confidential or commercially sensitive.
- Legal constraints.

Place-based engagement

From time to time, we engage in targeted geographical areas, or 'places'. During these activities, we encourage the community to learn about and have their say on plans, strategies, and projects from across departments, providing a 'one-stop-shop' experience. Multiple departments come together to have conversations with locals on planning, parks, facilities, environmental initiatives and roads projects, to name a few. Engagement is both online and face-to-face, allowing everyone to get involved.

Our place-based model emerged from community feedback - a desire to tell us what mattered about their local area in a time and place convenient to them. It helps us understand community goals, aspirations and priorities so we can work across Council departments and, where possible, with other government agencies, to deliver a more cohesive and collaborative approach to planning, projects and services.

Closing the loop

Once we have sought and received feedback from the community and made a decision, it is important to go back to our community and explain the nature of feedback we received and how it was used to come to a decision. The reason this is so important is that often there are many perspectives and ideas put forward from our community on any specific issue. We must weigh up this community input and use it to take a course of action. Naturally, not everyone will agree with our decisions, however communicating how feedback was used provides greater transparency and also acknowledges the efforts of those who provided feedback.

Depending on the project, we aim to report back on engagement outcomes by updating the Your Voice, Our Coast project pages, publishing engagement reports or snapshots, and contacting participants and registered stakeholders with the outcomes. An overview of engagement outcomes is also included in reports for Council meetings.



Roles and responsibilities



Our key plans are guided by our community, in particular our Community Strategic Plan. This document is a ten-year plan that captures community aspirations and social, economic and environmental priorities. The below table outlines how the Mayor, Councillors, the CEO and staff will work together to ensure we engage on this important plan and activities under our Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

Role	Responsibilities
Mayor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as the spokesperson for Council to promote engagement on key strategic plans, including developing the Community Strategic Plan. Together with the Chief Executive Officer, ensure adequate opportunities and mechanisms for engagement between Council and the local community. Promote partnerships between Council and key stakeholders.
Mayor and Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote engagement on key strategic plans, including supporting and participating in community engagement for the development of the Community Strategic Plan. Participate in the development of Integrated Planning and Reporting documents, including the Community Strategic Plan. Endorse the Community Strategic Plan on behalf of the community and approve the remaining component Integrated Planning and Reporting documents. Participate in community engagement activities alongside Council staff, while observing the Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy.
Chief Executive Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee preparation of the Community Strategic Plan and Integrated Planning and Reporting documents and endorsement by the elected Council. Ensure that community members are given enough information to participate in the Integrated Planning and Reporting process in a meaningful way.
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with and support the Chief Executive Officer in the development of the strategy and plans to engage the community. Implement the Community Engagement Strategy and provide timely advice to the Chief Executive Officer on community views.

Source: Integrated Planning and Reporting Handbook 2021,
NSW Office of Local Government



Our focus areas



Our focus areas

We have developed key areas we will focus on in the next four years:

Timely engagement:

- continue to engage with the community effectively at the right time, and where there is room for influence
- avoid engagement prior to the December and January holiday period where possible
- incorporate community feedback where feasible.

Internal collaboration and processes:

- use internal working groups, and define project scopes and objectives
- collaborate with experts and cross-functional teams
- continue to integrate websites and social media platforms to provide a central source of information
- regular monitoring and updating of internal processes and procedures to ensure best practice.

Updating communication and engagement channels:

- explore new ways, both virtual and offline, to improve community engagement and adapt to changing community needs to provide a central source of information.

Closing the feedback loop:

- provide regular updates and information on how community input influenced decision-making
- provide updates to stakeholders as projects, plans and strategies progress, including when matters go to Council, and when adopted.

Leadership and organisational culture:

- support leaders in fostering a culture of engagement and support staff to deliver quality engagement across our teams.

External partnerships:

- collaborate with neighbouring councils and government agencies, and partner with them to engage on shared projects.

Diverse approaches:

- continue to use a variety of engagement methods and employ diverse approaches to ensure engagement is inclusive and accessible.

First Nations:

- develop a First Nations Engagement Framework, which is also a commitment in our First Nations Accord.

Customer service reviews:

- continue to conduct regular customer experience research, to understand satisfaction levels and pain points among participants in various engagement activities.

Staff training and skill development:

- provide staff with up-to-date tools, resources and training to enhance community engagement skills, and reward staff achievement.

Place-based engagement:

- continue to deliver place-based engagement to understand the specific goals, aspirations and priorities of local communities to inform planning and service delivery.

Evaluation and continuous improvement:

- employ a variety of methods for the community and our staff to reflect and report on engagement experiences
- use feedback to evaluate engagement activities and outcomes to inform how we can keep improving
- carry out ongoing research to understand barriers to the community's ability or desire to engage with us.

Measuring the success of engagement



Measuring the success of engagement

We measure the success of engagement by asking ourselves these questions:



Were activities and outcomes aligned with the objectives and principles of this strategy, as well as the specific objectives in our project-based engagement plans?



Were all those affected by a decision reached and given the opportunity to have their say?



Was the feedback we received relevant, and were we clear in what we were asking and why?



What feedback did we receive from the community about their engagement experience?



Were participation numbers sufficient in the context of the project?



Were participants informed of the outcome?

Engaging on local and regional land use planning (Community Participation plan)



Effective planning shapes the future of the Central Coast while ensuring we protect the things that are most valued by our community. It is more important than ever to make sure we have the right balance of housing, infrastructure and services, while facilitating employment opportunities and looking after our beautiful environment.

This is a big task – made even bigger by the large geographic area we are responsible for. Community participation is essential to inform how we make planning decisions within the legislative framework in which we operate.

What is our Community Participation Plan (CPP)?

The Central Coast Community Participation Plan is designed to make community participation in planning matters easier and clearer for the community.

We have a responsibility to deliver the objectives of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) including the promotion of orderly and economic use of land, facilitating ecologically sustainable development and promoting social and economic wellbeing. Community participation refers to how we will engage with our community in our work under the EP&A Act.

The NSW Government requires Council to prepare a CPP to identify how and when we will inform and engage with our community as we carry out our planning functions.

How to participate in planning matters

There are a number of ways to get involved in planning matters:

- Make a formal submission to a proposal.
- Visit Council's Administration Centre, website or libraries to access public exhibition documents.
- Contact a Council officer if you require further information.

Role of exhibition

There are several factors that influence the type and level of community participation carried out during the planning and assessment process. These factors may include the nature, size and potential impact of the project. We will use a variety of notification methods to ensure the community is informed of planning projects and to outline opportunities to participate.

How we will notify

This table outlines planning functions and how we will notify the community.

	Written notification or letter	Newspaper advertisement	Central Coast Council website	Physical notice displayed on site
Draft Community Participation Plan	N	N The <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2005</i> was permanently amended in April 2020 to remove requirements for newspaper advertising in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.	Y	N
Draft local strategic planning statements	N		Y	N
Planning proposals for local environmental plans subject to gateway determination	N		Y	N
Draft development control plans	N		Y	N
Draft contribution plans	N		Y	N
Application for development consent (other than for complying development certificate, for designated development or for State significant development)	Y *	N	Y	N
Application for development consent for designated development	Y	Y	Y	Y
Application for modification of development consent that is required to be publicly exhibited by the regulations	Y	Y	Y	N
DA – application for development consent for State significant development	Advertisement of State Significant development is managed by the NSW Department of Planning.			

* There are some instances where notification of a Development Application may not be required. This is generally for minor amendments that do not affect a site. Please contact us or visit our website for further advice.

Consideration of submissions

The purpose of advertising proposed development is to enable the community to participate in the planning process through submissions. We have a duty to consider all submissions received during the assessment process.

For a submission to be recognised as an individual submission it must be unique and distinctive. For example, form letters and petitions will be treated as one unique submission. Similarly, a single submission signed by 10 individuals or identical submissions received from the same address will be counted as one unique submission.

Once submissions are considered, any concerns raised through this process may be conveyed to the applicant for response. Notice of the application's determination will be provided to every individual who makes a submission. In the case of submissions with multiple signatories, the notification will be extended to the first signatory.

Re-notifications/re-advertisement

Where an applicant makes amendments to their application before a determination is reached, we may re-notify or re-advertise the application if, in the opinion of Council, the environmental impact of the development has significantly increased.

To qualify as a submission, the submission must:



be in writing by email or letter



be submitted within the nominated exhibition time period



reference the application, policy or plan being exhibited



be based on planning grounds in support or objection of the proposal

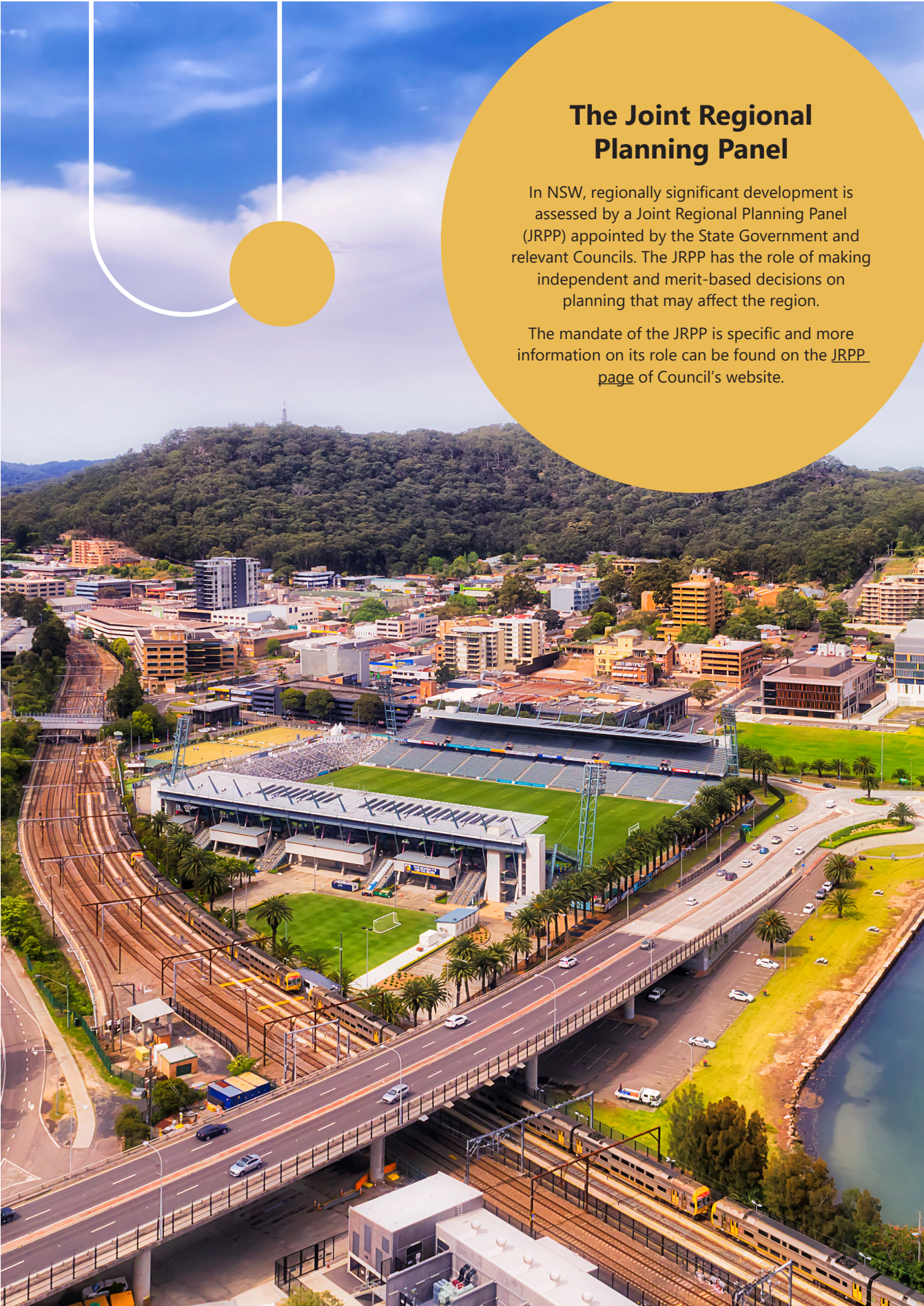


include the name, address and daytime telephone of the author

Submissions must be lodged with Council by 5pm on the final day of the exhibition period.

Submission process for development applications



An aerial photograph of a city landscape. In the foreground, a multi-lane highway bridge spans a river. Below the bridge, several train tracks run parallel to the road, with a train visible. To the left of the tracks is a large, modern stadium with a green field and tiered seating. The city extends into the background, with various buildings and a large, forested hill in the distance. The sky is blue with some clouds. A large yellow circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

The Joint Regional Planning Panel

In NSW, regionally significant development is assessed by a Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP) appointed by the State Government and relevant Councils. The JRPP has the role of making independent and merit-based decisions on planning that may affect the region.

The mandate of the JRPP is specific and more information on its role can be found on the [JRPP page](#) of Council's website.

Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan notification requirements

Local Environmental Plans are the main environmental planning tool developed by a local planning authority to shape the future of communities and ensuring local development is done appropriately. An LEP sets the planning framework for a local government area.

The Central Coast Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2022 and Central Coast Development Control Plan (CCDCP) 2022 came into force on 1 August 2022. The CCDCP contains Chapter 1.2 Notification of Development Proposals. Chapter 1.2 identifies the requirements for the notification and advertising of development and other applications.

This chapter may be amended from time to time to reflect changes to legislation or as a result of community feedback when sought.

Planning instruments and minimum exhibition timeframes

This table outlines the planning functions, strategies and minimum exhibition timeframes as set out in Schedule 1 of the EP&A Act.

The number of days in an exhibition period are calendar days, not business days.

Note: As stated in the EP&A Act, if the exhibition period is due to close on a weekend or a public holiday we may extend the exhibition to finish on the first available work day. The period between 20 December and 10 January (inclusive) is excluded from the calculation of a period of public exhibition.

Project timelines

Exhibition timeframes are often just one part of a project's timeline, and some projects can take multiple years from conception and planning, to completion. It is important to know that your feedback is considered and referenced throughout the entire timeline of a project, even if it was provided at the start of the project.

Planning instrument	Minimum exhibition timeframe
Draft Community Participation Plan (this document)	28 Days
Draft local strategic planning statements Local strategic planning statements are a 20-year planning vision, including land use, infrastructure and sustainability objectives that demonstrate how a Council will meet the community's needs into the future.	28 Days
Planning proposals for local environmental plans subject to gateway determination Planning proposals may be initiated by Council or submitted by applicants seeking an amendment to the Central Coast Local Environmental Plan or State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP). The notification process will vary based on the size and complexity of the proposal.	Various
Draft development control plans Development Control Plans provide detailed planning and design guidelines to support the planning controls in local environmental plans. The Central Coast Local Environmental Plan 2022 and Central Coast Development Control Plan 2022 came into force in August 2022.	28 Days

Planning instrument	Minimum exhibition timeframe
Draft contribution plans Development Contribution Plans are contributions that refer to the money collected from developments to help maintain and build new infrastructure across the Central Coast, such as playgrounds, community facilities and local roads.	28 Days
Application for development consent (Development application/DA) A development application is a formal application to Council for permission to carry out a new development. There are multiple levels of development types, each with different requirements. Specific information is found under Central Coast Development Control Plan 2022 - Chapter 1.2 Notification of Development Proposals.	14 days (to 21 days for certain land uses)
Application for development consent for designated development Designated development refers to developments that are high-impact developments (e.g. likely to generate pollution) or are located in or near an environmentally sensitive area (e.g. a coastal wetland)	28 Days
Re-exhibition of any amended application for certain land uses	21 Days
Review of determination	14 Days
Environmental impact statement (EIS) obtained under Division 5.1 An EIS prepared for development under Part 5 of the EP&A Act for certain development such as state significant development.	28 Days
Environmental impact statement obtained under Division 5.2 State significant infrastructure includes major transport and services development such as rail and road infrastructure, pipelines and development in National Parks.	28 Days
Local approvals policy A local approvals policy sets out the requirements for activities which require approval under Section 68 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> . It also establishes exemptions for which certain activities do not require application under Section 68 and relevant criteria that must be satisfied for each activity.	A Local Approvals Policy or amendment to an existing Local Approvals Policy is to be exhibited for a minimum of 28 days and submissions accepted for a minimum of 42 days from commencement of the exhibition period.
Non-statutory strategic planning matters There are a number of non-statutory planning matters that still require adequate public exhibition as part of Council's commitment to community engagement. These projects, studies and documents may include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector studies (e.g., new housing or economic development studies). • Masterplans and place plans. • Precinct or centre studies/plans (e.g. Public domain plans). 	28 days (not legislated)



JUNE 2024

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Central Coast Council

Existing Gosford Library Building REVIEW PANEL

Date Adopted: XX/XX/20XX

Revision: X



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1. MEMBERSHIP

- Councillors as determined by Council.

Management and/or staff from the relevant Council business Units to attend as required.

2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

The Central Coast Council Existing Gosford Library Review Panel is responsible for leading a review into the proposed demolition of the Gosford Library building with support from relevant Council Officers. The review will assess the following heads of consideration:

- a) Heritage value
- b) Community opportunities for the building's ongoing use,
- c) Works required to allow the intended use and estimated costs
- d) Ongoing maintenance and depreciation costs
- e) Disability access
- f) Environmental impacts of its preservation or demolition
- g) The impacts of retention or demolition on the long term use of Kibble Park, in the context of ongoing urban consolidation in Gosford.
- h) Safety by design principles
- i) Parkhouse retention/demolition
- j) Any other compliance/constraints

The Panel will review existing documentation and specialist reports and work with relevant Council officers to inform the recommendations for the March 2025 Council report.

3. MEETINGS

It is envisaged that the Panel will be required to meet a minimum of three times prior to the development of the report to the March 2025 Council meeting.

Agenda and Responsible Officers will be assigned at the first meeting.

All meetings will be conducted in accordance with Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice.

4. SCOPE

To assess the demolition or retention of the soon to be disused Council library building against the following heads of consideration, (including reviewing specialist reports or advice):

- a) Heritage value
- b) Community opportunities for the buildings ongoing use,
- c) Works required to allow the intended use and estimated costs
- d) Ongoing maintenance and depreciation costs
- e) Disability access
- f) Environmental impacts of its preservation or demolition
- g) The impacts of retention or demolition on the long term use of Kibble Park, in the context of ongoing urban consolidation in Gosford.
- h) Safety by design principles
- i) Parkhouse retention/demolition
- j) Any other compliance/constraints

The Panel will act with fairness and equity, and not be seen as favouring any outcome.

The panel will produce a report to be considered at the March Ordinary Council Meeting addressing each of these heads of consideration.

5. PANEL MEMBERS' NON-ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Panel members are expected to attend all panel meetings where possible.

6. CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson will be a nominated Councillor.

7. SECRETARY

There is no secretary, as Business Services staff will service the meeting.

8. MEETING PLACE

A suitable meeting place and facilities will be made available by Council for the conduct of all Panel meetings.

9. AGENDA

All agendas will be distributed three business days prior to the meeting date.

10. MINUTES

Minutes of all panel meetings will be kept in the Corporate Information electronic filing system of Council.

The minutes shall contain:

- a) Description of the meeting, date, time and venue at which the meeting was held,
- b) A list of persons present,
- c) Notation of adoption of minutes from previous the meeting,
- d) Whether there was business arising from the minutes,
- e) Notation of reports, correspondence and recommendations,
- f) Items of general business,
- g) Time meeting closed, date and venue for next meeting.

The Panel Business Paper will be prepared in a format aligned to Council's Business Paper.

11. TERM

The Panel will cease to operate following the consideration by Council of recommendations regarding the demolition of the existing Gosford Library building.