



COMMUNITY & CULTURE COMMITTEE

13 May 2025



COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028

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

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

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

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

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

RESPONSIBLE

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

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



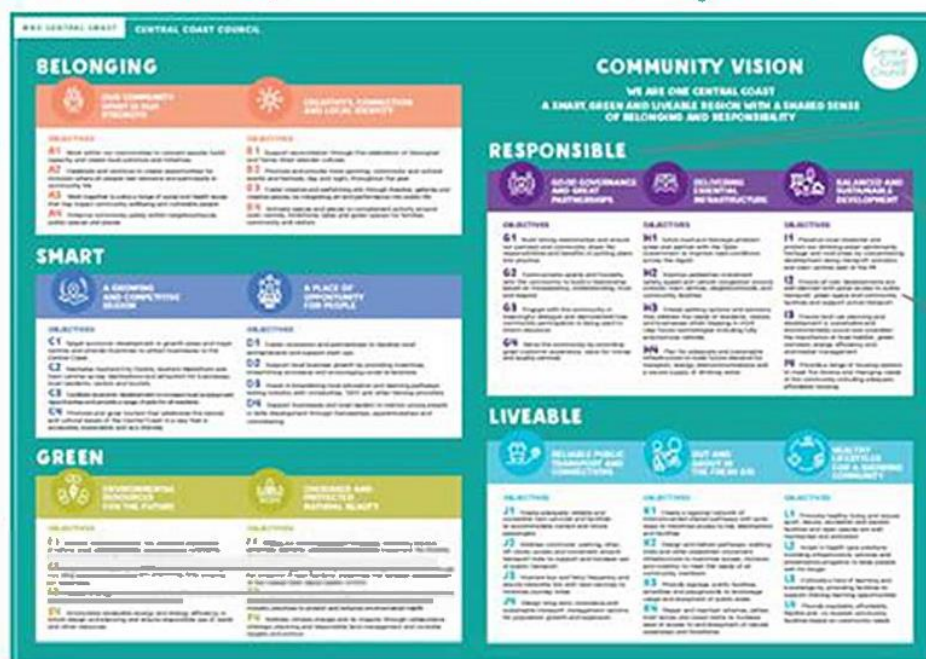
Good governance and great partnerships

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

There are 5 themes, 12 focus areas and 48 objectives

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028 FRAMEWORK

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



Meeting Notice

**The Community & Culture Committee
of Central Coast Council
will be held in the Function Room,
2 Hely Street, Wyong
on Tuesday 13 May 2025 at 5:00pm,
for the transaction of the business listed below:**

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Councillor Margot Castles
Chairperson

1.1 INTRODUCTION: WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY, AND APOLOGIES

WELCOME

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.

RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Item No: 1.2
Title: Disclosures of Interest
Department: Corporate Services

13 May 2025 Community and Culture Committee

Reference: F2025/00482 - D16746904

Chapter 14 of the *Local Government Act 1993* ("LG Act") regulates the way in which the councillors and relevant staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public functions.

Section 451 of the LG Act states:

- "(1) A councillor or a member of a council committee who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the council is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the council or committee at which the matter is being considered must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable.*
- (2) The councillor or member must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting of the council or committee:*

- (a) *at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the council or committee, or*
 - (b) *at any time during which the council or committee is voting on any question in relation to the matter.*
- (3) *For the removal of doubt, a councillor or a member of a council committee is not prevented by this section from being present at and taking part in a meeting at which a matter is being considered, or from voting on the matter, merely because the councillor or member has an interest in the matter of a kind referred to in section 448.*
- (4) *Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to a councillor who has a pecuniary interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting, if:*
 - (a) *the matter is a proposal relating to:*
 - (i) *the making of a principal environmental planning instrument applying to the whole or a significant part of the council's area, or*
 - (ii) *the amendment, alteration or repeal of an environmental planning instrument where the amendment, alteration or repeal applies to the whole or a significant part of the council's area, and*
 - (a1) *the pecuniary interest arises only because of an interest of the councillor in the councillor's principal place of residence or an interest of another person (whose interests are relevant under section 443) in that person's principal place of residence, and*
 - (b) *the councillor made a special disclosure under this section in relation to the interest before the commencement of the meeting.*
- (5) *The special disclosure of the pecuniary interest must, as soon as practicable after the disclosure is made, be laid on the table at a meeting of the council and must:*
 - (a) *be in the form prescribed by the regulations, and*
 - (b) *contain the information required by the regulations."*

Further, the Code of Conduct adopted by Council applies to all councillors and staff. The Code relevantly provides that if a councillor or staff have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed as well as providing for a number of ways in which a non-pecuniary conflicts of interests might be managed.

Recommendation

That Committee members and staff now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration at this meeting.

Item No: 1.3
Title: Art Collection and Art Purchases Policies - For Revocation
Department: Community and Recreation Services



13 May 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2025/00482 - D16807656
Author: Beth Burgess, Unit Manager Community and Culture
Executive: Melanie Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services

Recommendation

That the Committee recommends to Council:

- 1 That the Art Collection Policy be revoked (Attachment 1).***
- 2 That the Policy for Art Purchases be revoked (Attachment 2).***

Report purpose

To seek the Committee's support to revoke two (2) policies of Council which are no longer relevant, and the content is considered to be an internal protocol.

Executive Summary

This report recommends the revocation of two policies: Art Collection Policy (former Gosford City Council) and Policy for Art Purchases (former Wyong Council). This ensures that Council is not held to account for a policy that is outdated or conflicts with current practise.

A review of the policies has determined that the functions outlined in the policy documents are internal protocols for Council employees and as such, the policies are being revoked and replaced with an internal protocol.

Background

In 2023, a Policy Documents Framework was developed to ensure a consistent approach for managing Council's policies, protocols, guidelines, and procedures.

In accordance with this Framework, all policies are being reviewed with the aim to align them with the requirements of the Framework. The alignment process includes the revocation of policies that do not meet the criteria for a Council policy.

Report

This report recommends the revocation of those policies that are no longer serving Council or the community. This ensures that Council is not held to a policy that is outdated or conflicts with current legislation and provides assurance to the community that Council's decisions are based on current and best practice.

A summarised list of reasons for the revocation of these policies includes:

- a) The policies were not revoked at the time of the amalgamation of the former Wyong and Gosford Councils in 2016.
- b) The policies were not revoked when the content changed to a procedure or other internal document.

The following policies are recommended for revocation:

#	Policy Title	Directorate	Business Unit(s)	Reason for Revocation
1	Art Collection Policy	Community and Recreation Services	Community and Culture	The Policy relates to guidelines on the acquisition, de-accession, and ongoing management of the Art Collection for the former Gosford City Council. There is no legal or operational reason for the Policy. The policy has been replaced by an internal protocol.
2	Policy for Art Purchases	Community and Recreation Services	Community and Culture	The Policy relates to guidelines on the acquisition, de-accession, and ongoing management of the Art Collection for the former Wyong Shire Council. There is no legal or operational reason for the Policy. The policy has been replaced by an internal protocol.

Stakeholder Engagement

Internal stakeholder engagement was carried out with the relevant Units across Council responsible for the policies, who provided reasoning for the policies to be revoked.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year or outer years in the LTFP.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

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.

Risk Management


The retention of the policies that are proposed to be revoked would be inconsistent with Council's Policy Documents Framework. The information in the policies may not be current, correct, or applicable.

If relied upon by Council, this may lead to inconsistent or potentially conflicting decision making which may expose Council to reputational, financial, and other risks.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

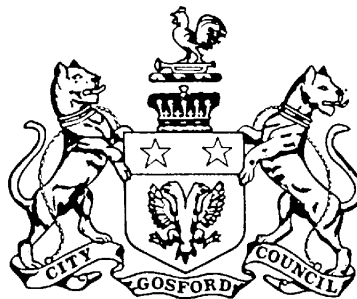
Nil

Attachments

- | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1 |  | Art Collection Policy | ECMD13013842 |
| 2 |  | Policy for Art Purchases | D05367891 |



ART COLLECTION



ART COLLECTION

COMMUNITY GROWTH –CULTURE

POLICY OBJECTIVES

The Gosford City Council maintains a collection of artworks and artefacts that is an artistic statement about the visual arts culture of the Central Coast and its place in the wider national cultural context. The Gosford City Council Art Collection is a resource for the wider community's educational, cultural and intellectual use through exhibition, display or other programs.

This Policy provides Gosford City Council with guidelines on the acquisition, de-accession and ongoing management of the Collection.

The Gosford City Council Art Collection Procedure Manual (Attachment B to this report) expands on this policy and provides procedural guidelines for the management of the Collection.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Gosford City Art Collection will reflect the art and cultural life and aspirations of the people of the Central Coast through the visual arts. The Collections items will represent the diversity of visual culture encompassing a sense of history, people, place and identity. The Collections purpose is to provide and promote a broader understanding of the visual arts culture of the Central Coast and its place contemporarily and historically, in an Australian and International context. In addition the Collection encompasses locally significant artefacts and cultural material gifted through Sister City relationships.

MANAGEMENT

The Collections Committee will be a Committee of Council and will be responsible for making recommendations to Council on implementing the acquisition and de-accession procedures. The Collection will be managed by the Arts and Culture Unit by staff employed at The Gosford Regional Gallery.

The Gosford City Council Art Collection will be divided into 2 categories: Collection items and Non-Permanent Collection item categories. Collection items will be those that satisfy the criteria for selection as laid out in the Collection Policy and that are approved by the Collections Committee. Non-Permanent Collection items will include other items of artwork and artefacts that are presently owned by, or come into the possession of Council but which do not meet the selection criteria for inclusion into the Collection. These Non-Permanent Collection items shall be retained and managed in conjunction with the Collection as long as they are required to meet Council's needs.

COLLECTION

Gosford City Council will acquire works of art for the Gosford City Art Collection which:

- Reflect the visual and cultural life of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous people of the Central Coast.
- Are of Local, Regional, National or International significance.
- Enhance the Gosford City Council Art Collection.
- Build a permanent cultural asset for Gosford City and the Central Coast.
- Contribute to the construction of a Collection of relevance and significance to the publicly owned collections of NSW and Australia generally.
- Are in a good state of preservation or manufacture.

Furthermore:

- Gosford City Council will acquire significant cultural gifts from its Sister Cities, and other cultural gifts and artefacts as deemed appropriate.
- Gosford City Council will not acquire objects for financial reasons but rather for artistic resource building and display reasons.

DE-ACCESSION

Gosford City Council reserves the right to de-access works which are no longer appropriate to the Collection or which do not comply with Council's Art Collection Policy.

LOANS

The Gosford City Council Art Collection will strive to reach as wide an audience as possible. The Collection will be made available for loan internally within Gosford City Council facilities and externally to appropriate organisations.

MECHANISM FOR REVIEW OF THE ART COLLECTION POLICY

This policy is subject to review every three years from the time of adoption.

(Minute No 2009/217 – 7 April 2009)
(Min No 2013/388 - 16 July 2013 - Review of Policies)

ART COLLECTION - PROCEDURE

1. COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

The Gosford City Council will be responsible for ensuring that the Gosford City Council Art Collection is maintained in accordance with industry standards and is appropriately resourced. It will be managed by professionally trained Art Gallery staff with a role of maintaining high standards of collection management and making recommendations on acquisitions and de-accession of artwork to and from the Collection.

The Curator will be primarily responsible for the management and implementation of this policy and the management procedures. The Collection will be kept on display in Council buildings or in temporary storage with a view to providing maximum access and benefit to the community and observing best practice standards in the care of the collection.

To facilitate the management and controlled movement of objects within Council all objects will be tracked through an internal loan system. Other parties following guidelines as outlined in the Outgoing Loan Agreement may be eligible to borrow objects from the Gosford City Council Art Collection.

The Art Collection will be completely catalogued including information such as collection type; accession number; artist name and details; artwork title and medium; description, condition, location and value. The Collection will be digitally photographed.

The Art Collection will be subject to regular valuation and appropriate insurance. The Gosford City Council is responsible for the appropriate resourcing of the Art Collection. An audit of the art collection will be undertaken every two years. This will involve all items on the database being physically sighted by the Curator. The Curator will also check on the items condition and note any actions that may be needed on each item.

While not on internal or external loan all objects will be stored according to industry standard best practice.

The display of the Collection throughout Council facilities will be managed by the Curator. The display of the Collection will ensure the protection of the artist's moral rights. This includes ensuring that the artwork is displayed in an appropriate setting and in a professional manner. While on display all objects will be identified as belonging to the Gosford City Council Art Collection and will be appropriately labelled, including Artist, title, date, medium, source of Acquisition (ie. a Donor's name or Gosford Art Prize Acquisitive prize etc.)

The Curator will be responsible for managing the education process of the Gosford City Council Art Collection Policy and procedures throughout Council. This includes providing necessary training for all staff and Councillors.

The Gosford City Council currently has no purpose-built facility for the exhibition and storage of the Collection. Management of the Collection has to take this situation into account.

The Gosford City Council may pursue partnerships with artists, other galleries and museums, art organisations, societies and collectors to further the aims of the Collection Policy.

2. ACQUISITIONS

The acquisition of artworks, public artworks, Sister City artefacts and locally significant artefacts for the Gosford City Council Art Collection will be made by Council on the recommendation of the Collections Committee. Assessment will be made on the criteria as outlined in the Collection Policy. A majority of four members of the Collections Committee will be required to accept an object into the Collection. Objects not meeting the approval of the Collections Committee may still be retained as Non-Permanent Collection Objects if they fulfil an identified need within Council. Items for assessment for acquisition will normally be presented to the committee at its regular quarterly meeting, however, in some circumstances, where a more immediate response is required all committee members will be contacted and a minimum of four members approval shall be required for approval.

The assessment of items for acquisition will take into account:

- Gosford City Council's ability to appropriately manage the items, including storage requirements and the potential cost of maintenance and conservation.
- Perceived quality of the work
- The existence of other similar works within the Collection

The Gosford City Council Art Collection is not bound to acquire any work or item.

Gosford City Council will consider objects for inclusion in the Collection that are offered for private or public sale, that are commissioned by Council, or are offered for donation to Council.

All offers of donation of artwork or culturally significant material to the Council must be directed to the Curator. The Curator will then research these offers and bring them to the Collections Committee for consideration. Where possible Council officers should not physically accept any object. They should arrange for the Curator to collect the items from the donor. An interim receipt will be issued to the potential donor, stating that the item has been received by Council and is pending approval.

Council departments considering purchasing or otherwise obtaining an artwork or item of cultural significance must refer this to the Curator. The acquisition of items should only be done with the approval of the Collections Committee via the Curator.

All Official gifts of cultural material should be reported to the Curator, who will present them to the Collections Committee.

Certificates of appreciation, plaques and awards will be initially assessed by the Communications Unit and either scanned in to Dataworks or referred to the Collections Committee for consideration.

All items awaiting consideration by the Collections Committee will be registered on the Collection Database as an Interim Receipt, and will be managed by the Curator.

Upon approval the item will be registered as either a Collection or Non-Permanent Collection Object.

The Curator will be responsible for:

- Properly cataloguing, valuing and insuring all acquisitions,
- Considering archival material which relates directly to existing holdings, for example sketches, diaries, correspondence or catalogues.
- Assisting donors to receive the tax incentives offered by the Cultural Gifts Program (CGP). This program is administered by the Committee on Taxation Incentives for the Arts.

3. DE-ACCESSIONS

The de-accession of artworks, public artworks, Sister City artefacts and locally significant artefacts for the Gosford City Council Art Collection will be made by the Collections Committee. Potential de-accession will be assessed quarterly. Items identified for potential de-accession will be presented to the Collections Committee upon the recommendation of the Curator. De-accessions require the unanimous support of all members of the Collections Committee present at any meeting, a minimum of four Committee members. The minutes of these meetings will be reported to Council for its adoption. Council will de-access works which are no longer appropriate to the Art Collection and which do not comply with Council's Art Collection Policy.

Collection items will not be sold, given or disposed of in any way and will remain as part of the Gosford City Council Art Collection permanently unless it falls under the following categories:

- The work does not comply with the current Art Collection Policy of Gosford City Council
- The artwork or artefact is damaged beyond repair.
- The conservation and storage costs are beyond the means of Gosford City Council
- The work is a lesser quality duplicate of an object the Council already owns.
- The work lacks any supporting information to enable proper identification or to establish its relevance to the collection.
- A substantiated request for the return of the object to its owner/donor is received and accepted by the Collections Committee. This could be the return of sacred material to Indigenous peoples etc.

3.1 De-accession Process

- The work identified for removal from the Collection must come before the Collections Committee for consideration with close reference to the criteria stated above.
- The work identified for de-accession will be held for a twelve month "cooling off" period before it is finally disposed of.

In priority order, de-accession of the work must adhere to the following disposal procedure:

- 1 Returned to the donor or family. If after a thorough search this is impossible, the work should be:*
- 2 Transferred to another appropriate institution.
- 3 Sold by public auction where appropriate.
- 4 Used as an education/interpretative tool.
- 5 Destroyed and recycled if appropriate.

* Items acquired under the Cultural Gifts Program will be transferred to another appropriate institute with a similar deductible gift recipient status.

Furthermore

- Staff, volunteers, committee members and their families are prohibited from purchasing, or otherwise obtaining a de-accessioned work.
- Any funds acquired from the sale of the de-accessioned item should be used to acquire relevant objects for the collection.

4. LOANS

The Collection will be exhibited to within industry accepted best practice standards within Gosford City Council buildings and property.

4.1 Internal Loans

Internal loans will be made to Council departments with a view to maximising the exposure of the Collection within public areas. A staff member from each department will be responsible for looking after the objects in their department. Items from the Collection will be lent internally to Council areas with public areas. Non-Permanent Collection Objects will be available to be borrowed for display in non-public areas within Council.

Internally loaned artwork will normally have a two year loan period and will be replaced upon application by the responsible department.

The designated employee from each department will have a list of artworks on loan and copies of internal loan agreements to his/her area provided by the Curator. They will be responsible to periodically check the artworks in their area and to confirm with the Curator that the work remains in good condition.

Artworks on loan can be changed or moved only after consultation with the Curator. Movement of all artworks on loan is to be carried out under instruction from the Curator.

The Curator will check artworks on internal loan at least once per year to make sure they are present and in good order.

Artworks on internal loan will be appropriately labelled.

4.2 External Loans

External loans will be made to external organisations with a goal to providing access to objects from the Collection to a wide audience. These will be for a fixed term and will be assessed by the Curator, having regard for the nature of the work and the environmental and security provisions made by the loan applicant.

External organisations will be required to sign an Outgoing Loan Agreement that will be counter-signed by the Curator. This will include a signed and dated description of each item to be lent to the borrower, the description will include the value of each item, its Catalogue number and any remarks about its current condition.

The Borrower will be responsible for all transport of the items. The Borrower will insure the items during the loan period. The Borrower will acknowledge the Council and the Gosford City Council Art Collection appropriately in all material.

Artworks on loan to the Collection from an external source will have appropriate signage for each item. Signage will include the title of the lending art collection heading, the title of the artwork; the name of the artist; date of making; materials used in its making and recognition of any donor.

The Curator will be responsible for maintaining a register of all outgoing loans and monitoring the agreements.

4.3 Inward Loans

Where appropriate Gosford City Council may accept inward loans for specific purposes. Inward loans are for a fixed term and are documented on a Loans Register. When on display these works will be properly labelled showing the owner of the item where appropriate.

The Gosford City Council Art Collection does not accept permanent or indefinite loans. The conditions of any loan to or from the Collection should be clearly and contractually specified. It must include the proposed term of the loan and define the ownership and responsibilities for conservation, security, insurance and return.

5. COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

5.1 Terms of Reference

The Collections Committee shall consist of the Coordinator Arts and Culture; the Program Team Leader of Gosford Regional Gallery; the Curator; three nominated members of the Community and one nominated member of the Council who will also act as Chair. The Committee will meet quarterly at the Gosford Regional Gallery.

The non Council staff members of the Committee will have a three year term. Each member of the Committee, including Council staff shall have an equal vote.

The Collections Committee will be a Committee of Council, recommendations from the Collections Committee will be forwarded through the Committees minutes to Council for adoption.

Positions for Community member places on the Committee will be advertised in the local press. The three members of the Community will be appointed upon recommendation by the Coordinator Arts and Culture; the Program Team Leader of the Regional Gallery and the Curator.

Highly regarded applicants will have:

- Had participated in the Visual Arts Community on the Central Coast.
- An interest in the improvement and advancement of the Council Art Collection.
- A demonstrated knowledge of Australian Art History.
- A demonstrated knowledge of Visual Art practice on the Central Coast.
- Experience in the Visual Arts at a professional level.

The Position of Council member for the Committee will be advertised internally among Councillors.

Each quarter the Curator will prepare a Collections Committee Report. The Report will contain pending issues in regard to the collection.

A minimum of four Committee members will be required to vote on an issue.

6. NON-PERMANENT COLLECTION OBJECTS

Are those items which come into the possession of Council but do not fall within the Acquisition Policy guidelines; this may include artworks, gifts from Gosford's Sister Cities, other gifts of cultural material and memorabilia. They will come before the Collections Committee for potential acquisition or classification as non-permanent collection objects.

These objects will be managed as part of the Gosford City Council Art Collection, and will be catalogued separately from the main collection. They will be subject to the same controls of movement, auditing and valuations. Council will retain these items whilst there is an identified need for Council to retain the object. It is envisaged that many of these items may be used as decorative pieces within non-public areas of Council facilities. These objects may have a value as educative or interpretative tools, or may be retained for short term displays.

As these items have not been formally acquired for the Collection they will not go through the same de-accession process. As they will have already been assessed by the Collections Committee and found not suitable for the Collection they will be de-accessed on the recommendation of the Curator with the approval of the Coordinator Arts and Culture. They will follow the same disposal procedure as outlined in the De-Accession Policy.

7. INTERIM RECEIPTS

Interim Receipts are objects which are held for a short term, waiting to be assessed by the Collections Committee. Council may or may not have ownership of these items.

They will be listed on the Collection Database as an Interim Receipt and will be stored separately from other items in the Collection.

They will be managed under industry best practice standards as with any other Collection items. In special circumstances they may be used for public display before being assessed.

8. DEFINITIONS**8.1 Accession**

The process of acquiring a new item from a source to the Collection.

8.2 Acquisition

An item that has been made part of the Collection.

8.3 Bequest

To leave items previously privately owned to a collection by a will.

8.4 Cataloguing

A complete descriptive list and the systematic order of items held within a collection.

8.5 Collection

An accumulation of items grouped in a systematic manner with some significant commonality.

8.6 Interim Receipt

An Item or collection of items that have been received by Council and are awaiting assessment.

8.7 Loans

Collection items that have been transferred temporarily into or out of the Collection.

8.8 Non-Permanent Collection

Items that do not have a permanent status within the Collection.

8.9 Provenance

A record of the history of all previous owners of an item within a collection..

8.10 Registration

The official recording of a new item into the Collection Catalogue.

Policy for Art Purchases



POLICY No: WSC026

POLICY FOR ART PURCHASES

© Wyong Shire Council
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2 Hely Street Wyong
PO Box 20 Wyong NSW 2259
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Policy for Art Purchases



AUTHORITY	NAME & TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE
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MANAGER	Julie Vaughan, Manager Community Partnerships and Planning		
DIRECTOR	Maxine Kenyon, Director Community and Recreation Services		
GENERAL MANAGER	Michael Whittaker		
MAYOR (IF APPLICABLE)			

History of Revisions:

Version	Date	TRIM Doc. #
1	13/1/2009	D00897375
2	1/5/2014	D05367891

Policy for Art Purchases

A. POLICY SUMMARY

- A1 Wyong Shire Council's art collection is considered a public collection and therefore requires clear principles, procedures and criteria regarding art purchases, display and management.

B. POLICY BACKGROUND

- B1 Through its strategic documents, programs and capital projects Wyong Council has a commitment to cultural development and performing, contemporary and public art.
- B2 It is the intent of Council to provide a creative and inspiring environment for the community, staff and visitors, stimulate the imagination, increase enjoyment and understanding of public art and support local artists who have achieved standards of excellence.
- B3 Subject to budgetary considerations, Council will annually purchase significant items of art to add to its art collection, display and provide information about the collection in areas viewable by the public and Council staff such as Council buildings, and store and care for the collection in an appropriate manner.

C. DEFINITIONS

- C1 **Annual Plan** means Council's management plan for the delivery of services to the community.
- C2 **Council** means the organisation established to administer Council affairs, operations, policy and strategies.

D. POLICY STATEMENTS

- D1 This policy covers all elected members of the Council, all personnel employed by Council, contractors, consultants, temporary and casual employees, other authorised personnel and members of the public.
- D2 This policy does not confer delegated authority upon any person.
- D3 It is the personal responsibility of all Council employees and agents thereof to have knowledge of, and to ensure compliance with this policy.
- D4 Council will consider acceptance of art gifts such as paintings, sculptures, ceramics, jewellery and photographs without limitations or conditions placed by the donor or artist and only in accordance with the Wyong Council Art Collection criteria.
- D5 Council will exhibit and rotate the art collection in a manner that enhances Council owned facilities with quality, innovative and meaningful art works owned by and accessible to the community and in a manner that is consistent with Council policies, needs and available space.
- D6 Council will manage, store and care for works in the art collection in a manner that is consistent with copyright and moral rights legislation.

Policy for Art Purchases

- D7 From time to time Council may consider donating works of art to organisations or individuals as deemed appropriate.

E. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION – PROCEDURES

- E1 Any purchases for Council's Art Collection are required to be made in accordance with the three Wyong Shire Council Art Collection Criteria:
- **Supporting Local Culture:** The collection includes a balance of Central Coast amateur and professional, emerging and established artists' work with local defined to include Wyong Shire and Central Coast – the collection provides leadership in supporting and celebrating quality local arts and creative enterprise.
 - **Works of Integrity, Quality and Diversity:** A high standard, diverse and unique art collection will communicate corporate values of quality, integrity and innovation and reflects evolving corporate commitment to quality arts and creative industry as well as the diversity potential of local cultural expression.
 - **Investment:** Works purchased are expected to increase in monetary value and ensures the collection is part of Council's asset management system.
- E2 The Mayor and senior officers may select for purchase art work at Central Coast or other arts festivals, exhibitions and events in accordance with E1 from a sub-budget allocation within the Art Collection budget approved in Council's adopted Annual Plan.
- E3 Artwork can be purchased by the Property Services Unit within approved budgets, in consultation with Council's Cultural Planner and approval by the Manager Community Partnerships and Planning.
- E4 Artworks will be considered for acceptance or donation following consultation between Council's Cultural Planner, Manager Community Partnerships and Planning and/or General Manager and include consideration of the artist's track record including awards, exhibitions, critical recognition, social/heritage significance and arts peer advice.
- E5 Council will maintain an inventory of all works of art in its possession in accordance with its Asset Management Policy and Procedure.
- E6 Council will undertake an annual stock take and submit an audit report of the art work in its buildings.
- E7 The administration of the inventory and annual audits will be the responsibility of the Community Planning and Partnerships Unit.
- E8 Council will carry out appropriate maintenance and storage and display storage to its works of art as required.
- E9 Council will manage the Art Collection through appropriate care in storage, maintenance and repairs by suitably qualified and skilled restorers.
- E10 All public display of the Art Collection will be accompanied by information such as labels and fact sheets including the artist's name and work title at a minimum.
- E11 Offers of art work donation will be declined if it is considered the offered work is not consistent with the Wyong Shire Council Art Collection criteria.

Policy for Art Purchases

- E12 Works in the Art Collection can be sold or donated to enable appropriate management of the whole collection.
- E13 Art work is not to be relocated or removed from buildings without the permission of the Civic Property Services Unit (Civic Centre Team Leader).

E.14 Associated documents

- Council's Annual Plan
- Council's Code of Conduct

Item No: 1.4
Title: Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy Update
Department: Community and Recreation Services



13 May 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2025/00482 - D16775900
Author: Belinda McRobie, Section Manager Community Development
Manager: Beth Burgess, Unit Manager Community and Culture
Executive: Melanie Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services

Recommendation

That the Committee notes the update report on the Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy.

Report purpose

This report provides an update on the implementation of the Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy.

Executive Summary

The Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy was adopted by Council on 29 April 2019. An update on the implementation of the Strategy to date is provided below.

Background

In April 2019, Council adopted the Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy (CCA&AHS). The Strategy is a comprehensive plan to address the critical undersupply of affordable housing on the Central Coast. It focuses on the direction, creation and stimulation of housing for three main target groups; very low-income households including those who are homeless, low-income households and low to moderate income households who fit the statutory definition.

The CCA&AHS was developed following extensive research and consultation with over 500 sector informants over 18 months and is structured around three (3) strategic action areas:

- Affordable Housing Partnerships with Community Housing Providers using Council-owned land
- A review and reform of the planning mechanisms that can increase the supply of affordable and lower cost housing
- Prevention and intervention strategies to reduce homelessness and demand on the sector.

The three strategic action areas provide a range of effective policy solutions to address the growing and complex need for affordable and alternative housing within the Central Coast Region.

Affordable housing is a legislated definition to supply housing appropriate for the needs of vulnerable households in the housing market. Thresholds are referenced in the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Housing SEPP 2021. Housing is 'affordable' when very low-, low- and moderate-income households can meet their housing costs and still have sufficient income to pay for other basic needs such as food, clothing, transport, medical care and education. This is generally understood as paying no more than 30% of total household income towards the cost of housing.

There are 27 individual actions contained in the CCA&AHS to guide Council in its response to this critical issue. This report will summarise key advances in the implementation of the Strategy since its establishment in 2020.

Direct creation of Affordable Housing

Actions to create affordable housing partnerships are addressed in strategies 4 to 8 of the CCA&AHS. Staff have delivered on and or commenced work on 4 (four) of these items to date which include the adoption of Council's Affordable Housing Land Proposal, development of a pilot site at 23-25 Ashton Avenue The Entrance, shortlist of 10 land sites for large scale development, Expression of Interest to form a list of preferred Affordable Housing Providers and detailed analysis of land constraints and site modelling.

The Council Affordable Housing Land Proposal (CAHLP) was prepared and endorsed by Council on 27 April 2021 as a framework to select parcels of land suitable for affordable housing developments in partnership with Community Housing Providers on Council owned land. At this same meeting, a trial site was also endorsed at 23-25 Ashton Avenue, The Entrance.

To select a Community Housing Provider with the capacity to develop the trial site, a two-staged procurement process was undertaken consisting of an Expression of Interest followed by a Request for Proposal.

The tender was awarded to Pacific Link Housing and Council endorsed the sale of the site for a nominal fee of \$1. The proponent is committed to construct a multi-tenure development with at least 60% affordable housing. A Development Application has been submitted on the site, which is currently under review by the Development and Assessment Team. It is likely to meet the threshold to be assessed by the Joint Regional Planning Panel. Further updates will be provided to the Committee as they are achieved.

In August 2023, the Council endorsed a further 17 Council-owned land sites for investigation under the CAHLP, including vacant parcels of land and underutilised Council cottages.

In 2023 and 2024, staff commenced a review of the list of sites against the full criteria of the CAHLP as well as a detailed analysis of the restrictions on each parcel. Investigations have included several economic scenarios including title transfer, State government partnerships and meanwhile use on long-term leases.

10 parcels have been identified as suitable for larger-scale development under the CAHLP. Site suitability is determined by either a 400m walking distance to town centres or an 800m walking distance to transport hubs, area of relative affordability and social need, lot size and planning provisions that support maximum yield and favourable economics.

The ten sites are:

- *8 and 10 Manning Road, The Entrance*
- *14 Manning Road, The Entrance*
- *18 Manning Road, The Entrance*
- *20A Manning Road, The Entrance*
- *49 Hammond Road, The Entrance*
- *9, 11, 13 and 15 Yaralla Road, Toukley*
- *20W Yaralla Road and 40 Beachcomber Parade, Toukley*
- *11 Margaret Street, Wyong*
- *3 Margaret Street, Wyong*
- *18 Margaret Street, Wyong*

Further analysis on these parcels has uncovered some constraints on the land that could prohibit development.

In liaison with staff from the Development and Assessment, Strategic Planning and Property and Economic Development Teams, Community Development has been working to resolve issues of land classification, contributions, typography, infrastructure, environmental constraints, flooding, access, overshadowing and heritage conservation. Other impediments include proposed iconic developments and competing political interests.

Staff have also been investigating the feasibility of 'meanwhile use' models on a number of these sites which is an emerging model in affordable housing projects. It involves the short-term utilisation of underperforming assets until they are ready for their primary purpose.

The model has been the subject of an inquiry by the NSW Parliament into more immediate options to address the social housing shortage. While this approach has been considered an innovative response to the creation of temporary housing, there are several planning and legal requirements to overcome on the subject sites.

A procurement pathway is required for the future release of sites to the market for potential providers. The Procurement and Project Management team have recommended a two (2) staged process which includes an Expression of Interest to establish a Recognised Contractors List who are registered Community Housing Providers with the National Regulatory System for Community Housing or the NSW Local Scheme.

This process is underway and will ensure transparency in decision making and procedures in line with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*. This Procurement Plan will guide the release of up to 10 identified sites over the next 10 years. The awarding of individual parcels of land will be via subsequent and separate 'Selective Request for Tender' processes using the Recognised Contractors list at a separate and later stage.

Planning mechanisms to increase supply

Actions items 9 through 17 of the CCA&AHS are designed to increase the supply of affordable housing through levers in the planning system. Work has been undertaken on six (6) of these areas to date through the Central Coast Local Housing Strategy and recent amendments to the Housing SEPP 2021 which supersede the Central Coast Local Environmental Plan 2022. As a result of this work, density opportunities have opened in main centres and some well-located residential areas.

The Central Coast Local Housing Strategy came into effect in 2024 and includes a subchapter on affordable housing with eight (8) explicit actions for affordable housing. The actions are in alignment with those of the CCA&AHS. Preparation of this document included a review of the CCA&AHS to ensure that actions were feasible within the broader planning context.

Council's Local Planning and Policy Team have commissioned a feasibility study for an Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme. The study was funded through a grant provided by the NSW Government's Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund to identify housing contribution rates across targeted centres and suitable areas for value capture. The grant is set to conclude in May this year, and early research suggests that the viability of developments is compromised in a few of the testing markets.

The Local Planning and Policy Team have also been working on a master planning program which complements the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's Transport Oriented Development program and the Low- and Mid-Rise Planning Reforms. While these two State-led policies will deliver more housing diversity close to town centres and transport hubs, the master planning program will seek to achieve similar outcomes in targeted residential areas. Opportunities will be created in the Wyong Town Centre and Gosford Town Centre as well as Erina Fair, Green Point, Westfield Tuggerah, Woy Woy, The Entrance, Narara, Lisarow, Niagara Park, Wyoming, and Ettalong.

Prevention and intervention actions to reduce homelessness

There are nine (9) action items in the CCA&AHS designed to reduce homelessness through prevention and intervention measures. Staff have undertaken work on five (5) of these areas to date which includes membership of the Central Coast Assertive Outreach Taskforce to address street homelessness, delivery of a Transitional Housing Model comprising five Council-owned cottages, the provision of crisis relief resources, equipment, and brokerage to homeless hubs as well as referrals to housing pathways and community education initiatives.

Key definitions, monitoring and reporting

There are four actions within the CCA&AHS that instruct Council to adopt the definition of affordable housing, track success through indicators and housing targets and monitor supply and demand. In 2024, Council commissioned an update to the data contained in the A&AHS in line with the 2021 Census and recent amendments to the planning system. This resulted in an update to the Background Paper and Strategy to reflect the current need. In addition to this, the Central Coast Local Housing Strategy 2024 adopted the statutory definition of affordable housing as contained in the CCA&AHS as well as the relevant housing targets.

Implementation gaps and areas for advocacy

Strategy action item 7 relates to the development of a manufactured home estate for the purpose of emergency accommodation in partnership with a Community Housing Provider. This action is constrained by the availability of land. While a parcel was earmarked in Wadalba as part of the project sites list, further investigation has found that it is pending redevelopment as a sporting facility. It is also not well located, fitting the criteria of the CAHLP. For this action to proceed, Council would need to work with the State Government on the availability of State-owned or Crown Land fitting this purpose.

Strategy action items 10 and 16 are intended to provide a range of lot sizes at subdivision in Greenfield developments. These are subject to further review by the Local Planning and Policy Team and will be addressed through a Residential Land Review. This is a longer-term project as more market maturity is required to see these developments become viable outside of major centres. The current provisions are expected to take 5 to 10 years to be taken up by the market.

Strategy action items 19, 24, and 25 relate to increased funding from the State Government to Specialist Homelessness Services and Community Housing Providers for areas such as head leasing, brokerage, and rental subsidies. In both of these areas Council has limited influence. The last review of homelessness funding with the Department of Communities in Justice took place under the Going Home Staying Home reforms in 2013 and since then there have only been minor adjustments to the package for indexation. In 2026 the Department will be recommissioning its programming and there is a need to conduct a thorough needs assessment to govern the resource allocation for the Central Coast.

Stakeholder Engagement

Expert advice was sought from the following Council departments:

- Local Planning and Policy
- Commercial Property
- Legal Services
- Procurement and Sourcing
- Local Infrastructure and Planning
- Financial Planning and Business Partnering
- Business Economic Development
- Employment and Urban Release.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal has cost financial implications for the current FY and outer years in the LTFP.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The FY adopted budget includes funding for this proposal and the LTFP includes funding for the ongoing impact.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal I: Balanced and sustainable development

R-I4: Provide a range of housing options to meet the diverse and changing needs of the community including adequate affordable housing.

Risk Management

Nil – There are no risks in the Committee receiving this update on the implementation of the Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Nil.

Attachments

Nil.

Item No: 1.5
Title: Draft Public Art Policy and Plan - For Public Exhibition
Department: Community and Recreation Services



13 May 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2025/00482 - D16775871
Author: Belinda McRobie, Section Manager Community Development
Manager: Beth Burgess, Unit Manager Community and Culture
Executive: Melanie Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services

Recommendation

That the Committee recommends to Council:

- 1 That the draft Public Art Policy at Attachment 1 be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days with a further report to be presented after the public exhibition period.***
- 2 That the draft Central Coast Public Art Plan at Attachment 2 be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days with a further report to be presented after the public exhibition period.***

Report purpose

To enable the Committee to consider the draft Central Coast Public Art Policy and associated Plan for the purpose of public exhibition and community consultation.

Executive Summary

The Draft Central Coast Public Art Policy and associated Plan provides a clear, strategic framework to guide the future of public art on the Central Coast—supporting works that reflect our region’s identity, values, and stories.

The Policy and Plan align with the Community Strategic Plan and Council’s broader objectives in placemaking, cultural development, tourism, and community wellbeing - positioning public art as a tool for positive social and economic impact.

The Draft Policy and Plan are informed by consultation with local artists, creatives, stakeholders, and the broader community. The Public exhibition process will ensure transparency and give those involved in its development and the wider community a voice in shaping the final Policy.

Background

The amalgamation of Wyong and Gosford Councils in 2016 brought together two (2) distinct local government areas with unique cultural identities, public art legacies, and community expectations.

Since amalgamation, Council officers have worked to bring together a history of investing in public art whilst maintaining community-focused approaches, supporting grassroots cultural initiatives and smaller scale public art projects often tied to festivals, events, or community development outcomes.

Central Coast Council has sought to harmonise its public art efforts through the development of a region-wide Cultural Plan in 2020 harnessing existing cultural infrastructure including Gosford Regional Gallery, Laycock Street Theatre and The Art House, and through urban renewal initiatives, placemaking programs, and collaborations with developers, artists, and cultural organisations.

As the Central Coast continues to grow, public art plays an important role in shaping the area's identity, enhancing the public realm, and supporting the region's cultural and creative economy. Public art improves our public spaces by enhancing our enjoyment of shared places. It contributes to local identity, tourism, and increased social interactivity that leads to better social outcomes in health, transport, education and community-building.

Public art is art that exists in the public realm and is freely accessible. It may be installed on public or private land, indoors or outside in the elements. It varies greatly in form, size and materials, and can be temporary, installed from as little as a day, or permanent, in the public realm for decades.

In developing a Public Art Policy and Plan for the Central Coast, the following objectives were:

- Ensure that First Nations history and voices are heard.
- Increase community awareness of the power and relevance of public art.
- Design and deliver significant destination public art projects.
- Support community and Council business units to deliver quality ephemeral, temporary or permanent public art projects within the local community.
- Promote quality public art in private developments.
- Sustainably manage the public art collection.
- Support the development of local artists.

The Public Art Policy and Plan will support Council to engage communities, tell stories, evoke conversations, and create a sense of place, embedding a long-term cultural legacy for future generations.

Report

In 2024, Council engaged consultants; Cultural Capital, to develop a Public Art Policy and Plan to provide a forward-thinking approach to public art, spanning from grassroots community-based projects to high-end curated and capital works projects, supporting Council to determine a vision; guiding principles and themes; determine opportunities; advocate, manage risk and public safety for public art.

A three-month Community and internal engagement process informed the development of:

- A ten-year plan that includes:
 - A framework that identifies and invests in the development of all public art projects across the Central Coast.
 - Practical pathways to develop Public Art across the Region.
 - Case Studies that demonstrate best practice and identify opportunities for the development of public art.
 - An implementation action plan including short-, medium- and long-term actions.
- Updated Public Art Policy that refers to internal processes, practices, and tools in developing public art and managing the entire lifecycle of a project.
- Public Art Collection management recommendations.

This Policy and Plan demonstrate Council's commitment to integrating public art in the urban and natural environment to create places that inspire, reflect local identity, and stimulate dialogue, supporting public art that:

- Acts as an important contributor to place-making, local identity, and opportunities for community participation.
- Respects and promotes local Aboriginal cultural heritage, practices, and knowledge.
- Enlivens and enriches public spaces, and reflects and interprets the history, cultural richness, and contemporary aspirations of the Region.
- Demonstrates social, cultural and/or economic benefit to the Central Coast community.
- Reflects quality, innovation, and artistic merit.
- Demonstrates a commitment to best practice through consultation and engagement.
- Ensures relevant training, guidelines, templates, or resources are provided to Council Officials to effectively manage public art commissions, maintenance and deaccessions.
- Supports internal and external stakeholders working collaboratively to support quality works.

Stakeholder Engagement

A robust community engagement phase was undertaken in 2024 and 2025 with over 450 community and internal stakeholders involved:

- Online survey through Your Voice Our Coast.
- Community roundtable workshops.
- Targeted focus groups (internal and external).

The engagement phase identified eight community priorities which were developed by consolidating the overarching themes, issues and ideas that reoccurred throughout the engagement phase.

These include:

- Understand the challenges facing the local creative community.
- Build trust across the diversity of artists and arts organisations operating locally.
- Offer a diverse collection of public art for audiences.
- Celebrate the people, places heritage of the Central Coast.
- Embed inclusivity into arts and culture projects.
- Honour First Nations values.
- Establish a cohesive identity to the Central Coast.
- Align Council practices with best practice models and protocols.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year or outer years in the LTFP.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

No additional budget is required nor sought through this report. All actions within can be funded through existing/future approved operational plan budgets.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 1: Belonging

Goal B: Creativity, connection and local identity

B-B3: Foster creative and performing arts through theatres, galleries and creative spaces, by integrating art and performance into public life.





Risk Management

Overall, there are no major risks to Council in placing the draft Central Coast Public Art Plan on Public Exhibition.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

The draft Central Coast Public Art Plan needs to be exhibited for 28 days to ensure adequate time for the community to provide feedback.

Attachments

- | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1 |   | Draft Public Art Policy | D16801809 |
| 2 |   | Draft Public Art Plan | D16817124 |

Central Coast Council Public Art Policy

Date Adopted: XX/XX/20XX
Revision: X



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1. Policy Objectives

- 1.1. Central Coast Council (**Council**) supports the provision of Public Art across the Local Government Area (**LGA**). The objectives of this Policy are to:
 - 1.1.1. Provide a framework for the accession, implementation, maintenance and deaccession of Public Art within Council-owned or managed assets.
 - 1.1.2. Enrich and enliven public spaces through Public Art that reflects our local identity, culture and place-making.
 - 1.1.3. Provide opportunities for artists, makers, designers, craftspeople to develop locally relevant works and support a thriving creative economy.

2. Policy Scope

- 2.1. This policy applies to the commission, acquisition, installation, maintenance, and/or deaccession of public art within the Local Government Area, where the artwork is:
 - 2.1.1. Located on Council-owned or managed land in the public realm.
 - 2.1.2. Funded or supported by Council directly, including through operational or capital works expenditure, grants, developer contributions (Section 7.11 and 7.12), and/or delivered in partnership with community, private, or government stakeholders.
 - 2.1.3. Initiated by developers or third parties where public art is a planning requirement or condition of development consent.
- 2.2. This Policy applies to the following persons involved in the process of acquiring Public Art, either through commission, direct purchase or donation, or engaged in the ongoing management and maintenance of Council's Public Art Collection:
 - 2.2.1. Council Officials.
 - 2.2.2. Organisations, consultants, contractors, or contingent labour engaged by, or associated with Council who are involved in any procurement or contracting activity, or part thereof, on behalf of, or as agents for, Council.

3. Policy Statement

- 3.1. Public Art is an important contributor to place-making, local identity and community participation across the Central Coast Region.

- 3.2. Council recognises the value of public art in shaping vibrant, inclusive and culturally rich communities and is committed to supporting quality and culturally relevant public art outcomes for the LGA.
- 3.3. Council is committed to integrating Public Art in the urban and natural environment to create places that inspire, reflect local identity and stimulate dialogue. Public art engages communities, tells stories, evoke conversations and create a sense of place, and to embed a long-term cultural legacy for future generations.

4. Public Art Collection

- 4.1. Public Art is the creative work of visual artists, craftspeople, designers, makers, artists working with community members, or performance artists, which exists in the public domain and is freely accessible. It may be installed within the LGA on public or private land, indoors or outside in the elements.
- 4.2. Public Art may take the form of sculptures, murals, temporary or ephemeral installations, integrated architectural or landscape elements, digital or lighting, but excludes forms of unauthorised graffiti; monuments and memorials.
- 4.3. As the Central Coast continues to grow, Public Art plays an important role in shaping the area's identity, enhancing the public realm, and supporting the region's cultural and creative economy.
- 4.4. Council supports Public Art that:
 - 4.4.1. acts as an important contributor to place-making, local identity, and opportunities for community participation.
 - 4.4.2. respects and promotes local Aboriginal cultural heritage, practices, and knowledge.
 - 4.4.3. enlivens and enriches public spaces, and reflects and interprets the history, cultural richness, and contemporary aspirations of the LGA.
 - 4.4.4. demonstrates social, cultural and/or economic benefit to the Central Coast community.
 - 4.4.5. reflects quality, innovation and artistic merit.
 - 4.4.6. demonstrates a commitment to best practice through consultation and engagement.
 - 4.4.7. ensures relevant training, guidelines, templates or resources are provided to Council Officials to effectively manage public art commissions, maintenance and deaccessions.
 - 4.4.8. supports internal stakeholders working collaboratively to support quality works.
- 4.5. Council may produce additional guidelines, toolkits, procedures or forms consistent with the objectives of this Policy responsive to community needs.

5. Procurement, Acquisition and Accession

- 5.1. Acquisition of new public art commissions or infrastructure on Council-owned land or assets will be through a mutually agreed and contracted arrangement between commissioner, asset owner and artist/s.
- 5.2. Donations and bequests as a method of acquiring public art works may be accepted at the discretion of Council and only once an assessment has been undertaken.
- 5.3. Assessments will reference Council's Art Collection Policy and be assessed on artistic merit, suitability of location and cost considerations of accepting the donation, including staff resourcing, installation and ongoing maintenance.

6. Relocation, Removal or Decommission

- 6.1. Consideration of valid reasons for the relocation, removal or decommission of Public Art include:
 - 6.1.1. The building or physical space on which the artwork resides has been demolished or altered such that the work cannot remain.
 - 6.1.2. The artwork has been vandalised or deteriorated to a point that it cannot be restored due to physical, financial or human capital reasons.
 - 6.1.3. The artwork poses an unacceptable safety risk.
 - 6.1.4. The nature of the public space the artwork occupies has changed such that the artwork is incongruous with the space.
 - 6.1.5. The stated life span outlined in agreement has expired.
 - 6.1.6. The artwork is a duplicate.
- 6.2. Relocation, removal or decommission of any artwork is the responsibility of the Commissioner and/or Asset Owner (informing the artist or in consultation with the artist) and must be applied in accordance with Council's Art Collection Policy. Conservation or Valuation may be required for accurate determination.

7. Funding

- 7.1. All Public Art projects commissioned, funded or managed by Council will be resourced through one or more of the following funding sources:
 - 7.1.1. Capital Expenditure (Capex)
 - 7.1.2. Operational Expenditure (Opex)
 - 7.1.3. Developer Contributions i.e., Section 7.11 and Section 7.12 of *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)*

- 7.1.4. State and Federal Government funding and grants
- 7.1.5. Private sector support (e.g. philanthropy, sponsorship, donations and partnerships).
- 7.2. Council Official/s (Commissioner and/or Asset Owner) are responsible for assessing resourcing or monetary commitment as a result of the implementation of this Policy.

8. Copyright

- 8.1. Council will comply with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth) and ensure that it does not infringe on commissioned artists' copyright and moral rights through the display and management of the Art Collection and Public Art. This includes:
- 8.1.1. The right of attribution of authorship; Council will ensure that all artworks on are appropriately labelled.
- 8.1.2. The right of integrity of authorship. Council will ensure that the integrity of works on public display is upheld and that all maintenance schedules are fulfilled and that works in a degraded state do not remain on public display.

9. Responsibilities

- 9.1. Responsibilities for the implementation of this Policy are as follows:

Position	Responsibility
Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead the community in their understanding of and compliance with this Policy. Comply with this Policy.
Executive Leadership Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate, implement and comply with this Policy.
Unit Manager Community and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide guidance to the Executive Leadership Team and other Council staff as required as to the content and implementation of this Policy. Ensure the timely review of this Policy.
Council staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with this Policy. Where required, seek clarification and guidance from the Unit Manager, Community and Culture in relation to compliance with this Policy.

Records management

- 9.2. Staff must maintain all records relevant to administering this Policy in accordance with Council's Information and Records Management Policy and the *State Records Act 1998* (NSW).
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10. Policy Definitions

Accession	is the process of accepting and registering a new acquisition into the collection and its inventory.
Acquisition	is an item that is part of the collection or being considered for the collection.
Art Collection	means the Central Coast Council Art Collection. Any object registered within the collection falls under the Art Collection Policy with regards to management.
Commission	is the requesting of the creation of an artwork based on a specifically developed brief.
Council	means Central Coast Council.
Documentation	is the evidence of an object and can be in the form of photographs of the object, and its related archival documents.
Deaccession	is the lawful process of removing an object from the collection.
Disposal	of an object is the process of transferring legal ownership and physical removal of the object from the organisation's holdings.
Ephemeral Art	refers to artwork intended to be in place for a short timeframe, and one that is generally transitory in its nature and purpose.
Loans	are collection items that have been transferred temporarily into or out of the collection.
Objects	are artworks, artefacts or other items of cultural value considered in relation to this policy. An object may have multiple parts.
Permanent	Intended stay in position for long periods.
Public Art	is artwork that is positioned in, or viewable from, the public domain and may be temporal or permanent. It is an original creative work which is created by artists, craftspeople, designer/makers, artists working with community members, and performance artists.
Public Realm	is an area open to be accessible and used by anyone. Regarding this policy it refers to all public spaces where all people are able to move about freely as opposed to private property which has specific restrictions.
Registration	is the official recording of a new item into the collection catalogue.

Relocation	involves the movement of a Public Artwork from one location to another.
Site-specific	refers to an original work that is developed specifically in response to, and intended to be placed in, a location. Site-specific work is designed for a specific site and loses its meaning and integrity if relocated to another site.
Temporary	Is intended to occupy a place and/or have a presence in the public realm for a limited period of time.

11. Policy Administration

Business Group	Community and Recreation Services
Responsible Officer	Unit Manager Community and Culture
Policy Review Date	Four years from date of adoption unless legislated otherwise.
File Number / Document Number	D16801809
Relevant Legislation	<p>This Policy supports Council's compliance with the following legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Copyright Act 1968</i> (Cth)
Link to Community Strategic Plan	<p>Theme 5: Liveable</p> <p>Goal B: Creativity, connection and local identity</p> <p>B-B3: Foster creative and performing arts through theatres, galleries and creative spaces, by intergrating art and performance into public life.</p>
Related Policies / Protocols / Procedures / Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Art Collection Policy ▪ Central Coast Council Youth Strategy 2019-2024 ▪ Central Coast Development Control Plan 2022 ▪ Central Coast Local Environmental Plan 2022 ▪ Code of Conduct ▪ Community Strategic Plan ▪ Cultural Plan 2020 – 2025 ▪ Information and Records Management Policy ▪ Open Space Strategy 2024-2031 ▪ Public Art Plan 2025 – 2035

12. Policy Authorisations

No.	Authorised Function	Authorised Business Unit / Role(s)
TBA	TBA	TBA

13. Policy History

Revision	Date Approved / Authority	Description Of Changes
1	TBA	TBA



Central Coast Council Public Art Plan

2025 – 2035

Central
Coast
Council



Acknowledgment 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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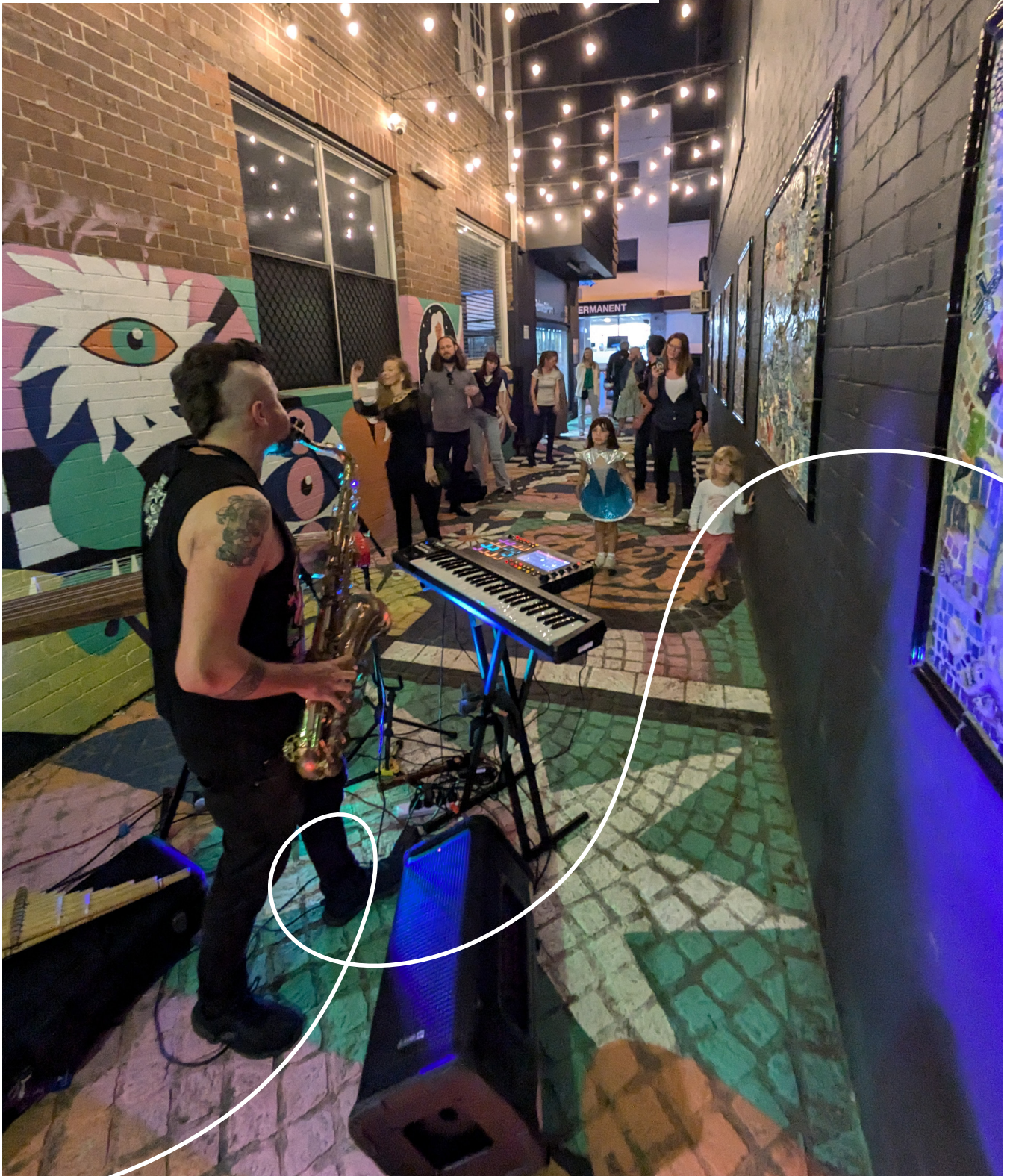
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This public art plan will enable Central Coast Council to celebrate its people, places, history and stories with a thoughtful, interactive and provocative program.

The Central Coast is a place where people, ideas, stories, experiences, arts and culture converge into a revitalised cultural identity.

| 01 Introduction



I Introduction

Purpose

This document is a ten-year public art plan for the Central Coast Council. It marks the beginning of a new decade of creative projects across the entire region. From headland to hinterland, the Central Coast is renowned for its unique sense of place. Here natural features of the local landscape are omnipresent, they inform the early architecture, the lifestyle and the attractions people come here to experience.

Being one of the largest local government areas in Australia presents opportunities and challenges in delivering a cohesive public art program. The Central Coast is made up of smaller towns and villages, each holding a unique sense of place that is highly informed by the Aboriginal, historical, cultural and community offerings. The Coast holds significant sites of cultural heritage, and its Aboriginal community is one of the largest and fastest growing in Australia. This community's storylines, traditions, and knowledge systems form an integral part of a collective identity.

This ten-year public art plan will connect artists to their communities to celebrate the people, places and stories of the Central Coast. Each year, the Coast hosts annual festivals and events celebrating art, music, food and wine, attracting an ongoing influx of tourists and day visitors. These events, as well as the existing cultural infrastructure are opportunities to foster the growth and professional development of local artists, bringing their skills into public art initiatives across the region and embedding a local offering of arts and culture.

Under this plan, public art will be commissioned with a clear purpose, creative framework and governance structure. This plan is a pathway to delivering high quality projects with artistic rigour and positive impact. This plan will enable Council to embrace the region's idiosyncrasies to further enliven the communities that live within.

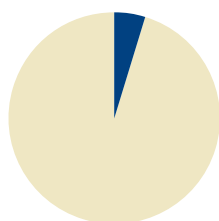
It is time for the Coast to capitalise on a rich and well-loved annual calendar of festivals and events, open up cultural and digital infrastructure, and nurture local artists in order to create a vibrant, culturally rich public realm that reflects and celebrates the stories, people, places and spaces within the region.



I Introduction

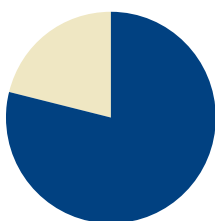
Community Profile

In 2023, the population was estimated to be 351,934, showing a 9.8% increase in the past decade.



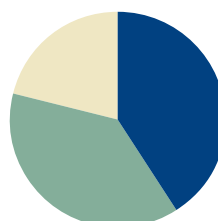
4.9%

The percentage that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island residents represent of the population.



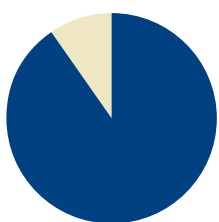
79%

Of the total population, were born in Australia. English is the most prevalent language spoken, but 61.6% of overseas arrivals speaking another language other than English-Mandarin, Nepalese and Tagalog being the predominant tongue.



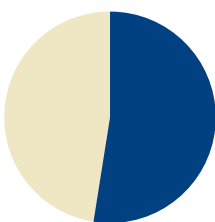
41.1%

Of residents were couples with children, closely followed by child-free families at **37.9%**



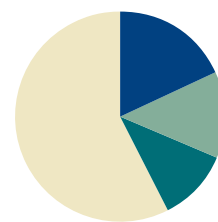
90.5%

A high majority of Central Coasters live and work within the same residential area (90.5%), while 9.5% travel outside their locale for work.



52.6%

Just over half of people working in the Central Coast area depend on cars as their main commuting method. From this, 52.6% used a private car, 25.5% worked at home, 2.2% took public transport, and 1.5% rode a bike or walked.



18.3%

Of the populations age bracket are **parents and Homebuilders aged 35-49**, followed by **Seniors aged 70-84 (13.2%)** and **Young Workforce aged 25-34 (11%)**. These three demographics represent the highest spike in populace growth between 2016 – 2021, signifying a wide breadth of age groups.

*As published in the 2021 census

I Introduction

Population spread across the LGA

Situated along the coast and into the hinterland, people live across a diversity of places in the Central Coast.

The Central Coast is interlocked by two large transport corridors: the Sydney-and-Newcastle Freeway and the Central Coast-and-Newcastle rail line.

High-density areas in this LGA are either located along these routes or are connected to the railway stations by a network of roads services by car, buses, ride-shares and taxis.

The Hinterland is home to approximately 22% of the total population, spread across a significant land mass.

Each township has a captive audience for public art and has some existing public or creative infrastructure.

01 Umina & Ettalong
24,875

02 Woy Woy
12,997

03 Avoca & Kincumber
19,642

04 Gosford
178,136

05 Terrigal
15,089

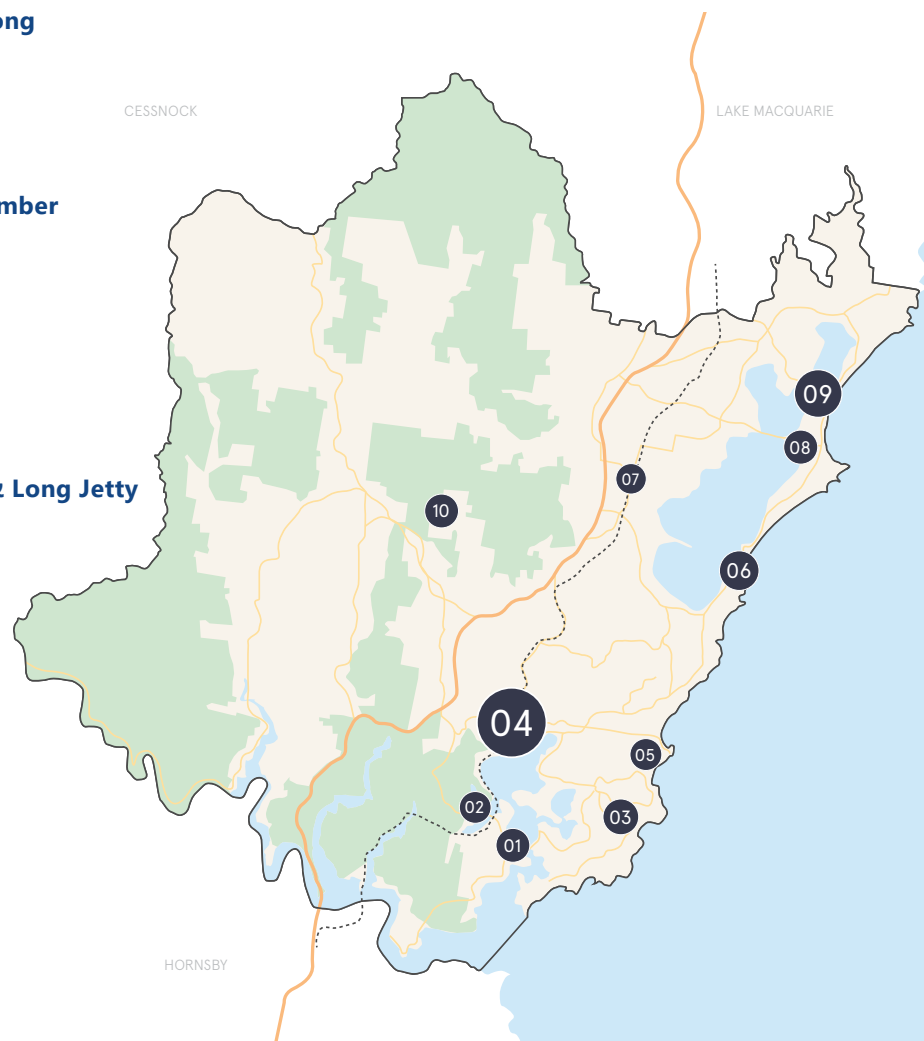
06 The Entrance & Long Jetty
37,974

07 Wyong
4,624

08 Toukley
9,907

09 Budgewoi
3,500

10 Hinterland
44,200 approx



I Introduction

Arts, culture and character

The Central Coast's arts and cultural offering is diverse; it is home to Gosford Regional Gallery, The Art House Wyong, Laycock St Theatre, Peninsula Theatre Woy Woy and commercial and workshop galleries. It hosts over 100 works of public art that vary in condition and quality.

Its annual calendar is abundant with bespoke festivals and events celebrating art, music, food and wine, which attracts tourists and day-visitors all year round.

Creative spaces play a crucial role in fostering the area's independent and grass roots arts community.

The Central Coast is a popular playground for tourists and day visitors, who visit to explore the beaches and national parks, grand bushlands, and interconnected waterways.

Main streets in Gosford, Wyong, The Entrance and Terrigal are important centres and are in need of renewal. These areas are juxtaposed by larger retail blocks in Erina and Tuggerah.

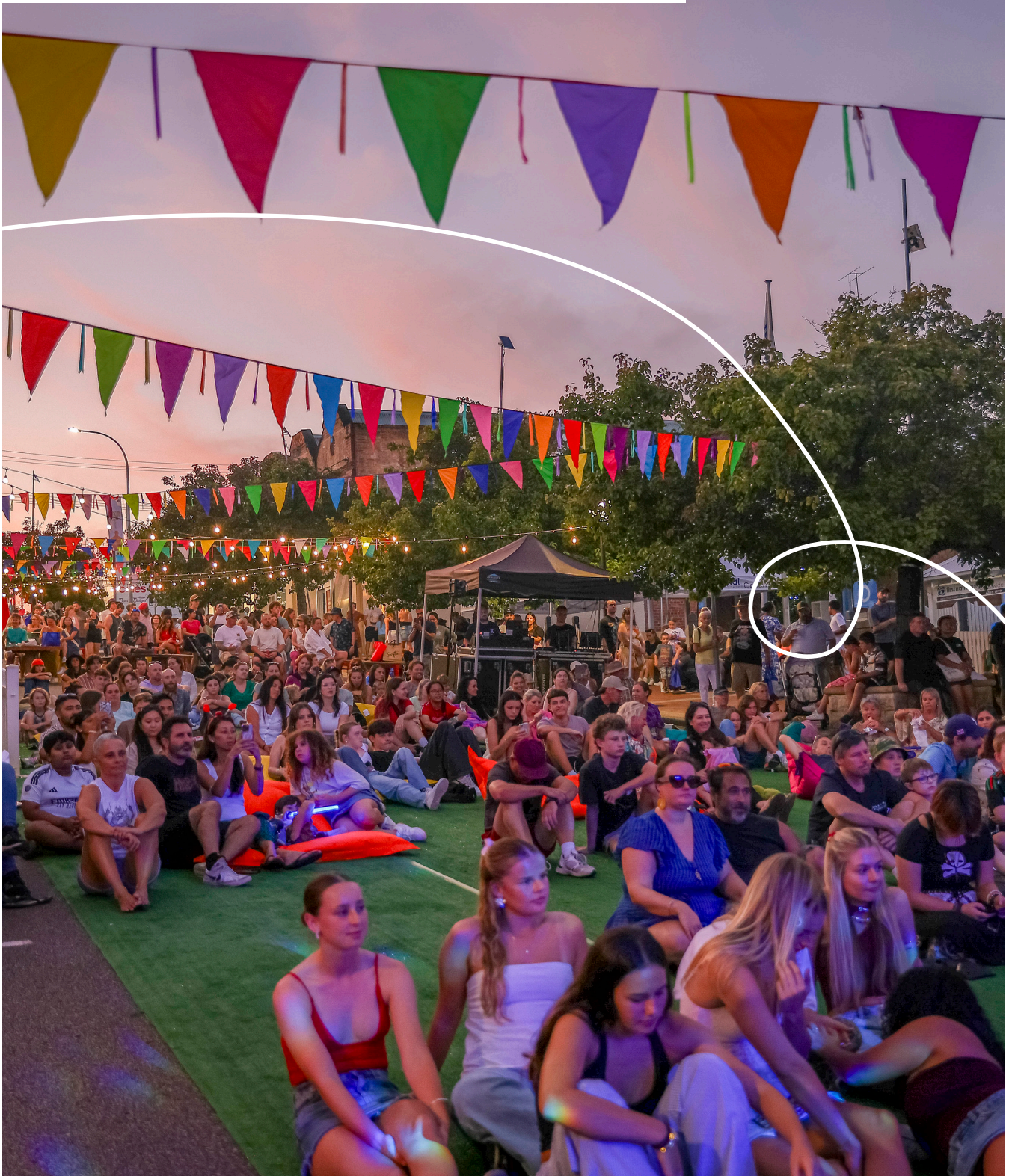
The region can nurture growth in its public art offering and creative industries sector, by connecting its existing creative infrastructure. Almost every space, event program or festival is an opportunity to engage local artists in some way. Engagements can be short term such as workshops, public programs or temporary installations, as well as longer term; residencies, annual programming and permanent installations.

Artists in the Central Coast want to be put to work, they are skilled and professional practitioners. This Plan details opportunities for artists in Chapter 04.



'Ideas can be generated with Community, and an artist can then lead the project, rather than placing all the onus on the artist to generate a singular idea.'
– Community member

| 02 Engagement



I Engagement

Engagement Overview

Key points from the engagement phase are highlighted in this chapter. The key findings have been shaped and refined into community priorities then further developed into actions.

The engagement phase was designed to understand:

- the community's appetite, priorities and aspirations for public art
- the challenges and opportunities facing the local artistic community
- the perspectives of the local Aboriginal community
- areas of improvement throughout the process of initiating and delivering public art
- the existing arts and cultural offering locally
- the current management of the public art collection

The engagement phase for the public art plan included the following methods:

- Online survey through Your Voice Our Coast
- Community roundtable workshops
- Targeted focus groups (internal and external)

Overall, 401 people were involved in the community engagement phase:

- 331 people completed the survey
- 20 people participated in roundtable workshops
- 50 people participated in focus groups



I Engagement

Community responses

Between 26 February and 18 March 2024, the local community provided input into the development of the public art plan.



331

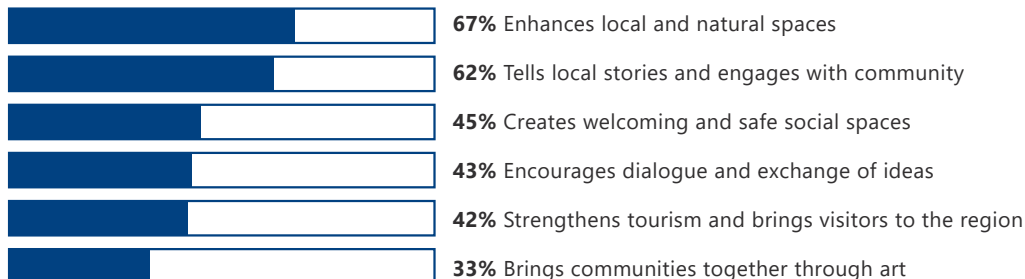
Community members participated in the survey



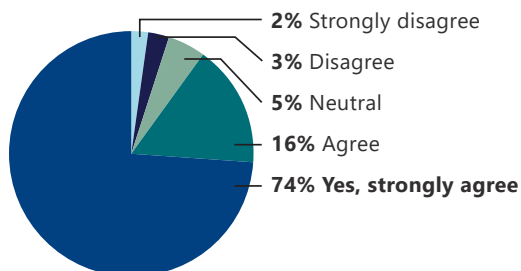
1/3

One third of respondents work in the creative industries

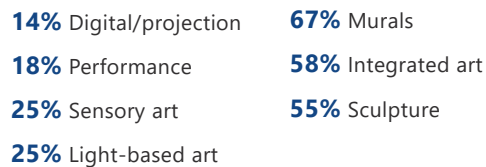
Respondents shared their most important reasons for public art:



Does the community want to see more public art across the coast?



What types of public art does the community want across the coast?



I Engagement

Community priorities: What public art can do for the Central Coast

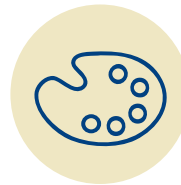
These priorities have been developed by consolidating the overarching themes, issues and ideas that re-occurred throughout the engagement phase. They cover the breadth of the commissioning process, from project inception, to working with and engaging artists, consultation, delivery, handover and collection management. Each priority should be considered equally when commissioning public art in the Central Coast LGA.



Understand the challenges facing the local creative community



Build trust across the diversity of artists and arts organisations operating locally



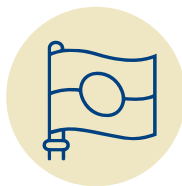
Offer a diverse collection of public art for audiences



Celebrate the people, places and heritage of the Central Coast



Embed inclusivity into arts and culture projects



Honour First Nations values



Establish a cohesive identity to the Central Coast



Align Council practices with best practice models and protocols

| 03 Public Art Framework



I Public Art Framework



Introducing the framework

This chapter details a framework to inspire future public art projects. The framework uses the public art priorities from the engagement phase as its foundation. It is directly informed by the needs expressed by the community and local artists, what they need to make their best work for the Central Coast LGA.

The framework includes:

A creative theme:

The theme of 'Convergence' encourages consideration toward how public art can represent the intersection of local people, history, culture, community and places. It encourages collaboration between artist, site, commissioner, and community. The theme provides a creative starting point for artists to consider when make new work. This creative theme should be highlighted in artist briefs, and artists encouraged to interpret the theme as relevant to their work and the project. This singular, but broad theme allows for all projects to contribute to a cultural identity through the public art program.

Project principles:

The principles ensure projects are commissioned with integrity, and meet the public art priorities throughout all stages of initiation, creation, delivery and handover.

This framework should be included and referred to in documentation and planning for every public art project in the Central Coast LGA.

The creative theme and public art principles can inform the selection criteria to evaluate competitive processes to award artists public art projects and evaluate public art outcomes.

I Public Art Framework

Creative theme

This theme acts as a creative umbrella, a starting point for all public art across the Central Coast. The theme 'convergence' paves a way forward for creative cohesion as the public art collection continues to grow and evolve over time.

Convergence

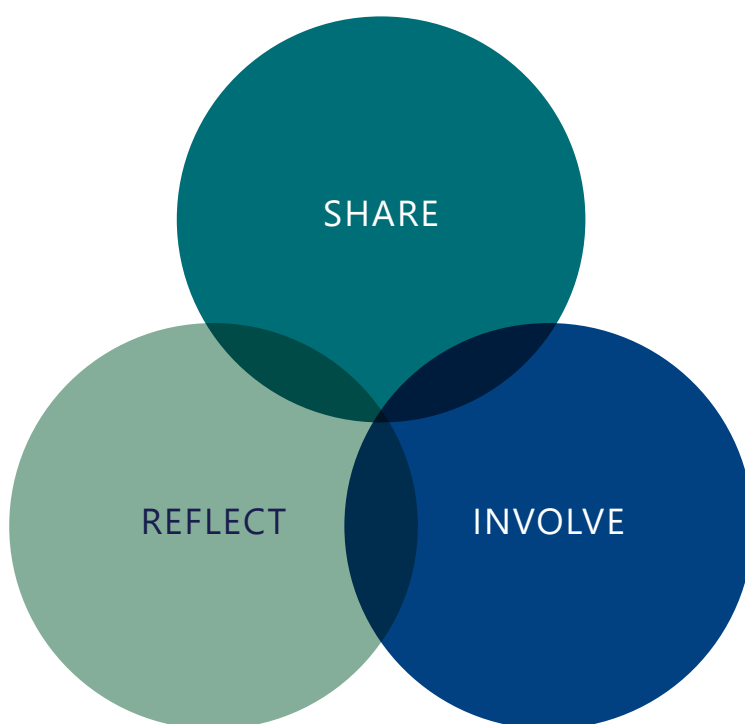
The Central Coast public art program is where stories and ideas converge with people and places.



I Public Art Framework

Project principles

These three principles guide the delivery of successful public art projects. They highlight community and artistic values and establish how each project sits within a larger collection of public art. These principles can also be used to guide the initiation, implementation and evaluation of public art projects.



SHARE

Responsibility for public art projects is shared between Council staff, external commissions, community and artists through a clear definition of roles. The Public Art Collection is accessible to visit in person and available on digital platforms.

REFLECT

Each public art project will be of its times; reflecting the practices, trends and issues of the day on the Central Coast. The Council's Public Art Collection reflects contemporary ideas of place, people and identity over time.

INVOLVE

Expand public art stakeholders to the local community through inclusive and collaborative models of commissioning and consultation. Involve local creative practitioners in one or more stages of the commissioning process.

| 04 Opportunities



I Opportunities

Public Art opportunities

These categories identify how a public art project can be seeded and connected to local people and place.



Renew Newcastle, 2008

Initiatives

Initiatives are defined as any event or happening in the region that can support public engagement with creative marking.

Examples include festivals, public programs, live music, and open studios.

Initiatives are important occurrences in local contexts because they can be grassroots, experimental and connect artists to community.

Initiatives can be considered as a sway to seed creative projects and support artists outside of permanent creative outcomes



Diana Baker Smith, She Speaks in Sculpture, 2022, UTS Gallery Sydney

Commissions

Commissions involve one or more parties funding a specific outcome from any artist, or artist collaboration. They require a project plan including a timeline, budget and procurement model and an intended site.

Commissions can be temporary or permanent and considered for any public space, or public and private property.

Commissions can enliven cities and become landmarks for locals and tourists.



Marilyn Russell and Aunty Esme Timbery, Movement of Shells, Movement of Time, 2023 Sydney

Infrastructure

Integration of public art into infrastructure is a powerful way to bring storytelling and creative ideas to as large scale.

Infrastructure projects can be integrated: an artist's work is embedded into the architecture seen here. They can also be standalone projects such as a designed playground for teenagers or seniors. They are usually permanent, and can involve collaborations between artists and communities.

These projects can powerfully enhance the experience of functional spaces and utilise build budgets for great impact.

I Opportunities

Initiatives



Socially engaged art projects

Harriet Body, Yours, 2021 Goulburn Regional Art Gallery



Main street renewal

Renew Newcastle, 2008



Festivals

Sydney Streets Festival, City of Sydney, 2023



Co-design

Megan Cope, Oyster Shucking Workshop at Magenta House, 2023



Subsidised creative spaces

Creative Spaces, Toukley



Ecological interventions

Sidney McMahon and Annie McKinnon, The Garden of 1000 Years, 2016 Parramatta City Council



Activated laneways

Public Disco, Alley-oop, Vancouver, 2017



Art trail

Beka Ceramics by Karen Bothmann, Murwillumbah

I Opportunities

Case study

Initiatives: Murwillumbah Arts Trail

Murwillumbah is a 5 minutes' drive from Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre and a 96 kilometres drive from Southern Cross University's Lismore campus. The area's major drawcard is the Murwillumbah Arts Trail (The Trail). Highlights include:

- **Open-studio and Meet the Artist** events to connect artisans with prospective buyers and provide insights into their practices, which encompass painting, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, glasswork, jewellery, chalk-art and street art.
- **Events calendar at M-Arts Precinct**, a cultural hub in the refurbished Murwillumbah Meatworks industrial building.
- **Exhibitions, performances, and demos** at galleries, pop-up shops, historical venues, and cafes across Murwillumbah and surroundings areas.
- **Free and ticketed workshops** for fibre-looping, still-life painting, and ceramics courses for creating vases, mugs, pitchers and other small sculptures.
- **Community website with an Interactive Map Trail** to keep people updated with various activities, artists listing, and events happening across 30+ arts events and spaces in the Murwillumbah CBD and surrounds.

The Arts Trail was established by artist Annie Long. With funding support from the Country Arts Support Program and Tweed Council, long engaged local artists, curators and property owners to help transform underutilised buildings and arts spaces and studios. Today the initiative is run by Creative Caldera Incorporated and continues to expand across the Northern Rivers region.

The Northern Rives spans 20,732 square kilometres. As a dispersed event, the Trail empowers regional communities to cross-pollinate between towns, which generates local drive tourism and civic harmony. The Trail presently receives funding from Tween Shire Council, with support from Tweed Tourism.



I Opportunities

Case study

Initiatives: Inner West Main Street Revitalisation

In 2023, Inner West Council opened a callout for community and local businesses to pitch their creative ideas for a major grant program to revitalise local main streets.

The Council allocated \$7.5 million to the initiative, covering \$1.5 million for each ward within the LGA. A very clear and simple five stage process was promoted on the Council website, from local community pitching their ideas, to the final stage of project delivery. As each stage closed, the Council website updated this to ensure community knew where the program was up to any given moment.

Street furniture, art works, decorations and infrastructure would all be covered in the grant program, and Council committed to delivering the projects in each ward.

This revitalisation project is yet to be completed but is a good example of Council motivating local communities and businesses to self-determine what they believe they need, and a clear avenue to fund these needs.

The outcomes for the revitalisation are clear: to improve occupancy rates, regular activations and events, and involve residents in increased activity. With reasonable budgets allocated, and an open process, this is a strong encouragement for local places to be defined

and improved by local people. It also connects local businesses to local creatives, encouraging them to hatch ideas and work together.

The process, an open call out for ideas and projects, shows an arm's length approach from Council in this case study.



I Opportunities

Commissions



Sculpture

Claudia Comte, Five Marble Leaves, Boston 2022



Facade

Re Right Collective, SHIMMER, 2023 Randwick City Council



Landmark

Michael Parekowhai, The World Turns, 2012



Projections

Vincent Namatjira: Indigenous All Stars, installation view for Enlighten Festival, 2024



Mural

Ash Keating, West Park Proposition 2012, Melbourne City 2022



Performance

Diana Baker Smith, She Speaks in Sculpture 2022, UTS GalleryYears, 2016 Parramatta City Council



Light art

Bill FitzGibbons, Light Channels, 2006



Temporary commissions

Olafur Eliasson, Ice Watch, Paris, 2015

I Opportunities

Case study

Commissions: Diana Baker Smith at UTS Gallery

She Speaks in Sculpture was a civic legacy exhibition by artist Diana Baker Smith that celebrated *Growth Forms*, a public artwork created by Margel Hinder, one of Australia's most revered sculptors. The exhibition involved choreographers, sound artists, cinematographers, and costume designers who worked with Smith to re-envision *Growth Forms*' epic journey throughout the years:

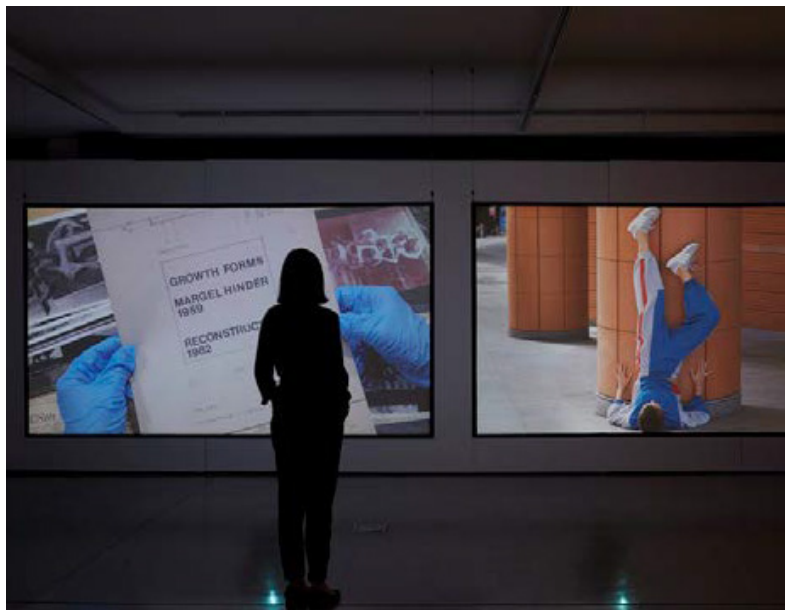
- Government architect Peter Johnson initially commissioned Hinder in 1959. The site-specific work was never meant to be moved. Yet the work was relocated several times due to Sydney's urban progress.
- In 1980 Hinder's sculpture was cut into pieces to sell as scrap metal. A passer-by noticed the destroyed work and notified Hinder and the Art Gallery of New South Wales, who intervened to salvage the remnants.
- *Growth Forms* was eventually conserved and donated to UTS. The work is currently displayed at the UTS Tower.

In 2022, Hinder's legacy was honoured through this exhibition, which spanned photography, video, performance and text.

Smith featured a video of dancers, documentation photographs and videos also portrayed the sculpture being handled, torched, waxed and contorted during its relocation and conservation.

UTS Gallery curator, Stella Rosa McDonald, provided a historical account of the work and how this informed Smith's own practice, which is devoted to feminist art theory and unearthing unsung moments in Australian art history.

UTS Gallery houses a collection of 850 artworks, including a suite of sculptures and site-specific installations. The project, which functions as both a love story on Hinder's sculpture and a testament to the enduring civic value, community buy-in and artistic vision that goes into the commissioning, presentation and preservation of an iconic piece of public art.



I Opportunities

Case study

Commissions: The World Turns, Michael Parekowhai

Perched on the lawn alongside the Brisbane River is New Zealand artist Michael Parekowhai's five-meter bronze sculpture *The World Turns*. It was unveiled in 2012 and had a AUD\$1 Million budget allocation. Parekowhai was awarded the Queensland Premiere's Sculpture Commission financially supported by Queensland Government's art+place Queensland Public Art Fund and the Queensland Art Gallery Foundation. For the work, Parekowhai, who is of Maori descent, pays ode to Brisbane River's eco-habitat, which has a long history of providing sustenance, transportation, and spiritual guidance to the Aboriginal Turrbal and Jagera communities.

'The World Turns' is composed of three bronze-casted, life-sized elements:

- A colossal elephant whose world has been turned upside down, as signified by its forehead, which is thudded onto the ground, its legs up in the air.
- A small water rat grooming its fur and tail as it turns away from the elephant, unbothered by its topsy-turvy stance.
- An empty chair beckoning viewers to take a seat and contemplate the work and the surrounding landscape.

The water rat, or 'kuril' in Turrbal language, is considered by Aboriginal people as a caretaker of the land upon which the artwork and galleries rest. In this work, the rat is in its rightful place as caretaker, unlike the upturned elephant, which symbolises colonialist rule. By integrating the chair, Parekowhai highlights the vital role that audiences play in encountering art and reminds us that the world continues to turn and rivers will keep flowing.

Parekowhai received accolades for the work's craftsmanship and cultural impact, which was informed by his consultations and site visits with local Elders. However, it raised questions in the media about the selection of a non-Australian artist and the ways in which Aboriginal stories are presented. This prompted the galleries to explain that the Commissioning committee comprised of the indigenous community, Arts Queensland, Events Queensland, Tourism Queensland, and Queensland Art Gallery, who all voted unanimously to greenlight the design.



I Opportunities

Infrastructure



**Sports
surface**

ATMOperation, Spark Pavilion, Shenzhen Chia, 2021



**Pavement
finishes**

Savannah College of Art and Design, Chroma, 2017



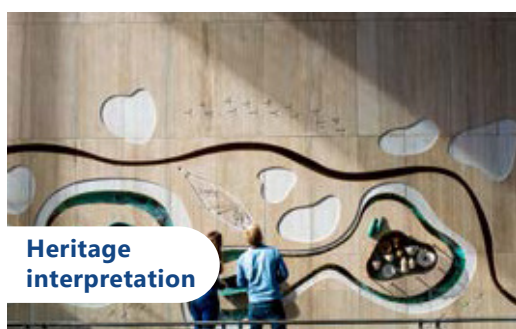
Integrated

Movement Of Shells, Movement OF Time, WestConnex, 2023



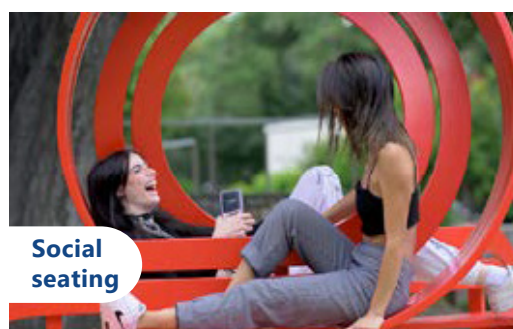
Playgrounds

Mike Hewson, St Peters Fences, 2020House, 2023



**Heritage
interpretation**

Leanne Watson, Badu Baraya, Parramatta Square 20222022



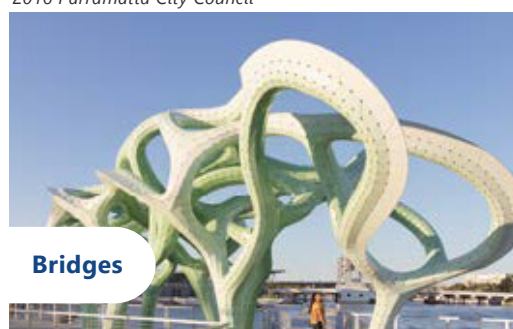
**Social
seating**

Jeppe Hein, Modified Social Benches, New York, 2016Years, 2016 Parramatta City Council



**Digital
placemaking**

Nicole Foreshew, Born in Darkness Before Dawn 2013, Australian Museum Sydney



Bridges

Marc Fornes and Theverymany, Form of Wander, Florida, 2018

I Opportunities

Case study

Infrastructure: Movement of time, Movement of shells

This integrated facade artwork for the WestConnex M4-M5 Link Tunnels Ventilation Building was a collaborative between indigenous Australian artists Marilyn Russell, her mother Aunty Esme Timbery (Bidjigal women from La Perouse) and CM Plus architects, Cultural Capital curator Cathy Drew worked closely with the artists to bring the narrative of their connection to country to life.

The starrie shells placed in unified formation signify women, the long-standing tradition of shellwork and its cultural and family significance. The flow of water across the centre of the design signifies the Timbery's family connection to saltwater, the flow of tides, oceans and connection to country. It also unifies the male and female symbology.

This project demonstrates the potential of integrated public artwork on large scale infrastructure projects. These projects provide an opportunity to commission artworks at a significant scale that respects and acknowledges First Nations culture while contributing to the placemaking, cultural identity and urban fabric of the local area.



I Opportunities

Case study

Infrastructure: St Peters Fences Playground

St Peters Fences Playground is a 750 square metre play space assembled from band-crafted materials salvaged from recently demolished homes. Created by Mike Hewson, known for his innovative and absurd exploration of urban architectural environments, the playground is framed by a collection of climbable brick fences with various designs that showcase the cultural diversity of immigrant families in the area.

To contextualise locality in the project's concept design, Hewson initiated research, engagement and co-designing processes in collaboration with local adult residents, historians, and school children, as follows:

- Inspired by St Peters' urban history, Hewson collected archival photographs and online maps to study images of suburban homes that were demolished due to motorway and airport infrastructure developments since the 1980s.
- Hewson worked with Inner West locals to salvage and meticulously replicate domestic motifs and designs.
- During the development phase, Hewson ran workshops with young students at St Peters Public School where they brainstormed ideas to incorporate into the park's design.

Commissioned by Transurban & WestConnex Public Art Program in partnership with Inner West Council, the project uses creative ingenuity and resourcefulness to reimagine conventional ideas of what playgrounds can look and behave like.

The final work is a sturdy and charming wonderland that is a beacon for sustainable design and neighbourhood legacy. Not only has it become a destination for architecture fans and a social hub for adults and children to stage entertainment activities, but it's also a space for inclusive, accessible and imaginative play, with sports for wheelchair access.



| 05 Recommendations



I Recommendations

Implementing the public art plan

This implementation plan connects the public art plan to the community priorities listed below.

Community Priorities

1. Understand the challenges facing the local creative community
2. Build trust across the diversity of artists and arts organisations operating locally
3. Offer a diverse collection of public art for audiences
4. Celebrate the people, places and heritage of the Central Coast
5. Embed inclusivity into arts and culture projects
6. Honour First Nations values
7. Establish a cohesive identity for the Central Coast
8. Align Council practices with best practice models and protocols

Timeframe

Short 1-3 years

Medium 3-5 years

Long 5+ years

Opportunity: Embed local Aboriginal knowledge and voices

Actions	Community priorities	Stakeholders		Time Frame
		Lead	Support	
A1. Identify opportunities to develop Aboriginal-led projects in conjunction with Aboriginal Elders and community	4, 6	All Units	Community and Culture	Medium
A2. Integrate permanent Commissions or Infrastructure connecting culture, people and place to Darkinjung Country	4, 6, 7	Procurement and Project Management	Community and Culture	Long
A3. Appoint Aboriginal representatives to the Public Art Advisory Panel	6, 8	Community and Culture		Short

| Recommendations

Opportunity: Establish best practice processes and protocols

Actions	Community priorities	Stakeholders		Time Frame
		Lead	Support	
B1. Incorporate Public Art portfolio into existing FTE or seek additional funding to employ a Public Art Officer	1, 2, 8	Community and Culture	People and Culture	Short
B2. Develop Public Art Guidelines that establish how to deliver on the commissioning, acquisition and management of public art in the LGA	2, 8	Community and Culture	Procurement and Project Management	Short
B3. Develop a Public Art Policy to establish parameters for the development, acquisition and management of Public Art in the LGA	2, 8	Community and Culture	Strategic Planning Facilities and Asset Management	Short
B4. Establish public art assets registers in EMu Collections Management System and IPS	8	Community and Culture	Facilities and Asset Management	Short
B5. Establish a public art assets management plan template to ensure all works are appropriate and effectively maintained	8	Community and Culture	Facilities and Asset Management	Medium
B6. Establish a Public Art Advisory Panel to advise on matters relating to Public Art across the region	1, 2, 8	Community and Culture	Governance, Risk and Legal	Short
B7. Review current procurement practices and increase opportunities for local artists, i.e. incorporate relevant pre-qualification process for local artists	2, 3, 8	Procurement and Project Management	Community and Culture	Short
B8. Undertake a public art audit at least every 5 years to identify clear processes and procedures for the ongoing management and maintenance of existing and commissioned works	8	Community and Culture	Facilities and Asset Management	Medium
B9. Review current asset management structures to implement consistent and dedicated public art asset maintenance processes across all asset management teams	8	Facilities and Asset Management	Community and Culture	Medium
B10. Establish Project Management Group for all major infrastructure projects that include Public Art with representation across relevant Council Units	2, 8	Procurement and Project Management	All Units	Medium

| Recommendations

Opportunity: Increase art in public realm

Actions	Community priorities	Stakeholders		Time Frame
		Lead	Support	
C1. Enact Public Art development provisions in the Central Coast Development Control Plan 2022 and the Gosford City Centre Development Control Plan 2018		Development Assessment	Community and Culture	Short
C2. Review existing public art development provisions in the Central Coast Development Control Plan 2022 for adoption across the LGA		Strategic Planning	Development Assessment/ Community and Culture	Medium
C3. Investigate opportunities for Section 7.11 and 7.12 Contributions to fund relevant 'Public Domain Infrastructure' including permanent Public Art projects		Community and Culture	Local Infrastructure and Planning	Medium
C4. Investigate grant opportunities that assist private property owners to connect with local artists		Community and Culture		Medium
C5. Seek grants, donations or sponsorship to commission Public Art		All Units	Finance	Medium
C6. Review development provisions in the Development Control Plan (DCP) signage chapter and support initiatives for developers with construction sites in high traffic areas to cover their hoardings in art by local artists, or historical images relevant to the area		Strategic Planning	Development Assessment/ Community and Culture	Medium

| Recommendations

Opportunity: Meaningful place-based public art offerings

Actions	Community priorities	Stakeholders		Time Frame
		Lead	Support	
D1. Invest or support in main street renewal in high traffic town centres i.e. Gosford, The Entrance and Terrigal	3, 4	Community and Culture	Strategic Planning	Medium
D2. Investigate simplified development approval pathways in key town centres to increase ephemeral and temporary public art offerings	2, 3, 8	Community and Culture	Development Assessment	Short
D3. Deliver landmark commissions that align with major Council projects, ensuring that public art works are contextually appropriate, site specific and sensitive to the environment	2, 3, 7	Procurement and Project Management	All Units	Long
D4. Develop masterplans that identify place-based artwork and heritage interpretation opportunities in key hubs and locations	2, 4, 7, 8	Strategic Planning	All Units	Long
D5. Commission light installations to improve perceptions of safety in key transport hubs i.e. artist briefs that respond to the NSW Transport Safer Cities Her Way key findings	3, 7	Community and Culture	Procurement and Project Management	Medium
D6. Deliver annual ephemeral or temporary place-based works that align with annual events or festivals	3, 4	Community and Culture	Leisure Beach Safety and Community Facilities	Short
D7. Identify integrated art or design opportunities within new or upgraded open spaces and sporting facilities i.e. plexi-pave sports surfacing	2, 3, 5	Open Space and Recreation	Procurement and Project Management/ Community and Culture	Short
D8. Identify opportunities for new or upgraded regional or district playgrounds to incorporate integrated public art and prioritise local artists	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	Open Space and Recreation	Procurement and Project Management/ Community and Culture	Medium

| Recommendations

Opportunity: Identify pathways for artists

Actions	Community priorities	Stakeholders		Time Frame
		Lead	Support	
E1. Provide ongoing professional development opportunities for local artists i.e. mentorship, residences, public programming and workshops	1, 2	Community and Culture		Short
E2. Review current practices and processes to ensure equitable participation and access for local artists to public art opportunities i.e. targeted support for artists living with a disability; artists who identify as culturally and linguistically diverse; young and emerging artists	1, 2, 5	Community and Culture	Leisure Beach Safety and Community Facilities	Medium
E3. Provide opportunities for local artists to deliver art trails that align and connect with community	1, 2, 3, 4	Community and Culture	Tourism and Marketing	Medium

Community outreach

Actions	Community priorities	Stakeholders		Time Frame
		Lead	Support	
F1. Deliver workshops, panels or forums that connect local community and Council to leading artists, policy makers and industry leaders	1, 2, 8	Community and Culture	All Units	Short
F2. Deliver training and/or awareness for internal staff and community that advocates best practice for working with artists	2, 8	Community and Culture, People and Culture	All Units	Short
F3. Utilise digital infrastructure that connects audiences to our collection, with a key aim of increasing awareness and value for public art	3, 8	Community and Culture	Tourism and Marketing	Medium
F4. Provide relevant co-design opportunities that are inclusive and meaningful to community	3, 8	Community and Culture	Open Space and Recreation	Short



Central Coast Public Art Plan

Central Coast Council

2 Hely St / PO Box 20 Wyong NSW 2259

P 02 4306 7900

W centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

ABN 73 149 644 003

May 2025

Cultural Capital, an independent consultancy supported the development of this plan.

Item No: 1.6
Title: Draft Busking Policy - For Adoption
Department: Community and Recreation Services



13 May 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2025/00482 - D16801329
Author: Marie Lentini, Section Manager Events and Placemaking
Manager: Beth Burgess, Unit Manager Community and Culture
Executive: Melanie Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services

Recommendation

That the Committee:

- 1 Supports the draft Busking Policy, as set out in Attachment 1 to this report.**
- 2 Refers the draft policy to Council for adoption, noting that as this Policy does not represent a significant change to existing service delivery or community impact, public exhibition is not required.**

Report purpose

To enable the Committee to review the Busking Policy which has been updated to align with Council's revised Policy template.

Executive Summary

This policy provides a framework to support and encourage vibrancy throughout the Central Coast Local Government Area (LGA). This policy has been in place for several years, with minor amendments made with regard to wording and alignment with Council's updated Policy template.

Background

The Busking Policy, endorsed by Council in 2018, provides the community with guidelines on how to engage in these activities across the Central Coast LGA. The purpose of this policy is to inform and support the community, while encouraging interest, opportunity, and vibrancy throughout the LGA.

No significant changes have been made to this policy and guidelines, with the amendments outlined in the report below.

Report

The Busking Policy aims to encourage activities that enhance the vibrancy of the Central Coast by providing opportunities for diverse voices to be heard through public performance. It seeks to promote public safety and comfort, protect property, and ensure the safety of both buskers and the public. Additionally, the policy supports the rights of buskers to express themselves artistically.

The content held within the Busking Policy will remain consistent with the current version, with minor amendments of wording along with Council's updated Policy template.

The statutory obligations and compliances remain unchanged, though are articulated in a simplified fashion to benefit Council's customers and the community.

Stakeholder Engagement

Internal Stakeholders – Governance was consulted on multiple occasions whilst the Policy was being updated, with all feedback being incorporated.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year or outer years in the LTFP.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The FY adopted budget includes the impact for this proposal.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 1: Belonging

Goal B: Creativity, connection and local identity

B-B4: Activate spaces and places to complement activity around town centres, foreshores, lakes and green spaces for families, community and visitors.



Risk Management

There is no significant risk to Council or the customers as the proposed Policy does not make significant changes to the current Policy.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Nil

Attachments

1   Busking Policy - Final DRAFT D16144008

Central Coast Council Busking Policy

Date Adopted: XX/XX/XXXX
Revision: 3



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1. Policy Objectives

- 1.1. The objectives of this Policy are to:
 - 1.1.1. encourage activities that contribute to the vibrancy of the Central Coast and provide opportunities for alternative voices to be heard through public performance;
 - 1.1.2. promote public safety and amenity, the protection of property and to help ensure the safety of Buskers and the public; and
 - 1.1.3. support the rights of Buskers to express themselves in an artistic manner.
-

2. Policy Scope

- 2.1. This policy identifies the conditions that apply to all buskers undertaking busking activities on community land within the Central Coast Council Local Government Area and seeks to encourage and support the rights of individuals to express themselves through public performance.
 - 2.2. This policy covers personnel employed by Central Coast Council (Council), any person or organisation contracted to or acting on behalf of Council, any person or organisation employed to work on Council premises or facilities and all activities of the Council.
 - 2.3. This policy does not confer any delegated authority upon any person. All delegations to staff are issued by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
 - 2.4. This policy applies to all community land within the Central Coast Local Government Area.
-

3. Policy Statement

- 3.1. All Buskers (or people wishing to undertake busking) on community land within the Central Coast Local Government Area must apply for approval under section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- 3.2. All applicants must apply for approval to busk in person and acknowledge and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this policy and the *Busking Guidelines*, as updated from time to time.
- 3.3. Council can issue a "Busking Approval Card" to any member of the public who completes the busking approval application and agrees to the terms and conditions set out in the *Busking Guidelines*.
- 3.4. Details of Buskers holding Busking Approval Cards will be entered into a register of approvals granted by Council, in accordance with sections 133(2) and 113(5) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

- 3.5. Buskers with Busking Approval Cards are covered for public liability in accordance with Council's *Community Public and Products Liability* scheme while the busker complies with the terms and conditions of the Busking Guidelines attached to this policy.
- 3.6. Council's *Community Public and Products Liability* scheme is limited to \$20 million for any one occurrence, and the busker is responsible for the first \$1,000 of each property loss claim. The liability scheme does not cover loss or damage to the busker's personal items.
- 3.7. Groups are limited to a maximum of five members (each member of the group must hold a valid busking approval card). This is to ensure that pedestrians can move freely through the busking location and to prevent crowd crush.
- 3.8. Buskers are not to use dangerous implements that may pose a risk or potential hazard to any person or member of the public.
- 3.9. Animals are not to be used in any act whether in an active or passive form.
- 3.10. The following acts are not considered as buskers and will not be issued an approval:
 - 3.10.1. balloon sculptors
 - 3.10.2. tarot card/palm/fortune readers
 - 3.10.3. aerosol artists
 - 3.10.4. face painting artists
 - 3.10.5. masseurs

4. Responsibilities

Compliance, monitoring and review

- 4.1. Suspected breaches or misuse of this policy are to be reported to the Chief Executive Officer. Alleged breaches of this policy shall be dealt with by the processes outlined for breaches of the Code of Conduct, as detailed in the Code of Conduct and in the Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct.
- 4.2. For further information on breaches of and compliance with busking approvals, please see the Busking Guidelines.

Reporting

- 4.3. Staff must maintain all records relevant to administering this policy in a recognised Council recordkeeping system.

Records management

- 4.4. Staff must maintain all records relevant to administering this protocol in accordance with Council's [Information and Records Management Policy](#).
- 4.5. This policy will be reviewed at least once every term of Council.

5. Policy Definitions

Authorised person	means an appropriately delegated employee of Central Coast Council or a police officer
Busker	means a person who entertains in a public place by playing a musical instrument, dancing, singing, clowning, juggling, or performing acts of a similar nature with the intention of receiving donations from members of the public.
Busking Approval Card:	means an Approval Card issued under this policy
Busking policy	means this document and any annexure to this document
Community land	means all public land is either community land or operational land under the Local Government Act 1993. Busking is permitted on community land with Council approval (section 68)
Council	means Central Coast Council, being the organisation responsible for the administration of Council affairs and operations and the implementation of Council policy and strategies
Dangerous implement	means any object that because of the way it is used, or its design or construction poses a risk, hazard, or a potential risk or hazard, to the safety or welfare of a member of the public or any person handling the object This includes chain saws, spikes, fire, saws, swords, spears, knives, bicycles, and sharp implements.
Performance	means an entertainment event that substantially involves the demonstration of an artistic skill including playing a musical instrument, theatre, dancing, singing, clowning, juggling or other similar performance skills
Soliciting of funds	means the act of asking, begging, seeking, or requesting money or goods from members of the public

6. Policy Administration

Business Group	Community and Recreation Services
Responsible Officer	Unit Manager Community and Culture
Associated Procedure (if any, reference document(s) number(s))	N/A
Policy Review Date	Four years from date of adoption unless legislated otherwise.
File Number / Document Number	D16144008
Relevant Legislation (reference specific sections)	<p>This Policy supports Council's compliance with the following legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> (NSW) ▪ <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> (NSW)
Link to Community Strategic Plan	<p>Theme 4: Responsible</p> <p>Goal D: A place of opportunity for people</p> <p>B-A1: Work within our communities to connect people, build capacity and create local solutions and initiatives.</p>
Related Policies / Protocols / Procedures / Documents (reference document numbers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Busking Guidelines ▪ Code of Conduct ▪ Equity, Diversity and Respect Policy ▪ Information and Records Management Policy ▪ Delegations Register

7. Policy Authorisations

No.	Authorised Function	Authorised Business Unit / Role(s)
Nil	Nil	Nil

8. Policy History

Revision	Date Approved / Authority	Description Of Changes
1	26 March 2018 Min. No 205/18	New policy adopted. Original approval authority details: This policy identifies the conditions that apply to all Buskers undertaking busking on community land within the Central Coast Local Government Area and seeks to encourage and support the rights of individuals to express themselves through public performance.
2	26 June 2020	Minor administrative updates. Allocated a policy number. Updated format, paragraph numbering and headings to the 2020 accessible CCC template. Minor clarifications to Definitions section. Inserted standard heading 'Compliance, monitoring and review' (to refer to breaches, Busking Guidelines and standard paragraphs on policy review and recordkeeping).
3	TBA	Updated to new policy template. Minor administrative updates and alignment with Busking Guidelines.

Item No: 1.7
Title: Draft Flag and Street Banner Policy - For Adoption
Department: Community and Recreation Services



13 May 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2025/00482 - D16806825
Author: Marie Lentini, Section Manager Events and Placemaking
Manager: Beth Burgess, Unit Manager Community and Culture
Executive: Melanie Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services

Recommendation

That the Committee:

- 1 Supports the draft Flag and Street Banner Policy, as set out in Attachment 1 to this report.***
- 2 Refers the draft policy to Council for adoption, noting that as this Policy does not represent a significant change to existing service delivery or community impact, public exhibition is not required.***
- 3 Recommends to Council that the existing Flying of Flags Policy be revoked, as it has been consolidated into the Flag and Street Banner Policy.***

Report purpose

To enable the committee to review the Flag and Street Banner Policy, which has been updated to align with Council's revised Policy template.

Executive Summary

The policy provides a framework to support and encourage vibrancy throughout the Central Coast Local Government Area (LGA). This policy has been in place for several years, with minor amendments made to the wording and alignment with Council's updated Policy template.

Background

The Flag and Street Banner Policy has been in place for several years providing the community with guidelines on how to engage in these activities across the Central Coast LGA. The purpose of this policy is to inform and support the community, while encouraging interest, opportunity, and vibrancy throughout the LGA.

No significant changes have been made to this policy, with the amendments outlined in the report below.

Report

The purpose of this policy is to inform and support the Central Coast Council's Street Banner program designed to promote interest and vibrancy throughout the Central Coast LGA. The objectives of this policy are to:

- define the current locations of banner infrastructure available across the Central Coast,
- establish the purpose of street banners,
- outline the conditions of use for the banner sites,
- outline the administration of the banner program and sites, and
- outline how flags should be flown in accordance with relevant legislation and state and federal government protocols.

The content held within the Flag and Street Banner Policy will remain consistent with the current version, with minor amendments of wording and alignment with Council's updated Policy template. The statutory obligations and compliance remain unchanged, though are articulated in a simplified fashion to benefit Council's customers and the community.

The Flying of Flags Policy was previously a separate policy, and this has now been consolidated into one Policy.

The following policy is recommended for revocation:

#	<i>Policy Title</i>	<i>Directorate</i>	<i>Business Unit(s)</i>	<i>Reason for Revocation</i>
1	Flying of Flags Policy	Community and Recreation Services	Community and Culture	The Policy content has now been incorporated into the Flag and Street Banner Policy.

Stakeholder Engagement

Internal Stakeholders – Governance was consulted on multiple occasions whilst the Policy was being updated, with all feedback being incorporated.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year or outer years in the LTFP.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The FY adopted budget includes the impact for this proposal.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 1: Belonging

Goal B: Creativity, connection and local identity

B-B4: Activate spaces and places to complement activity around town centres, foreshores, lakes and green spaces for families, community and visitors.

Risk Management

There is minimal risk to Council or the customers as the proposed Policy does not make significant changes to the current Policy.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Nil

Attachments

1   Flag and Street Banner Policy Final Draft D16215961

Central Coast Council Flag and Street Banner Policy

Date Adopted: XX/XX/XXXX
Revision: 2



DRAFT

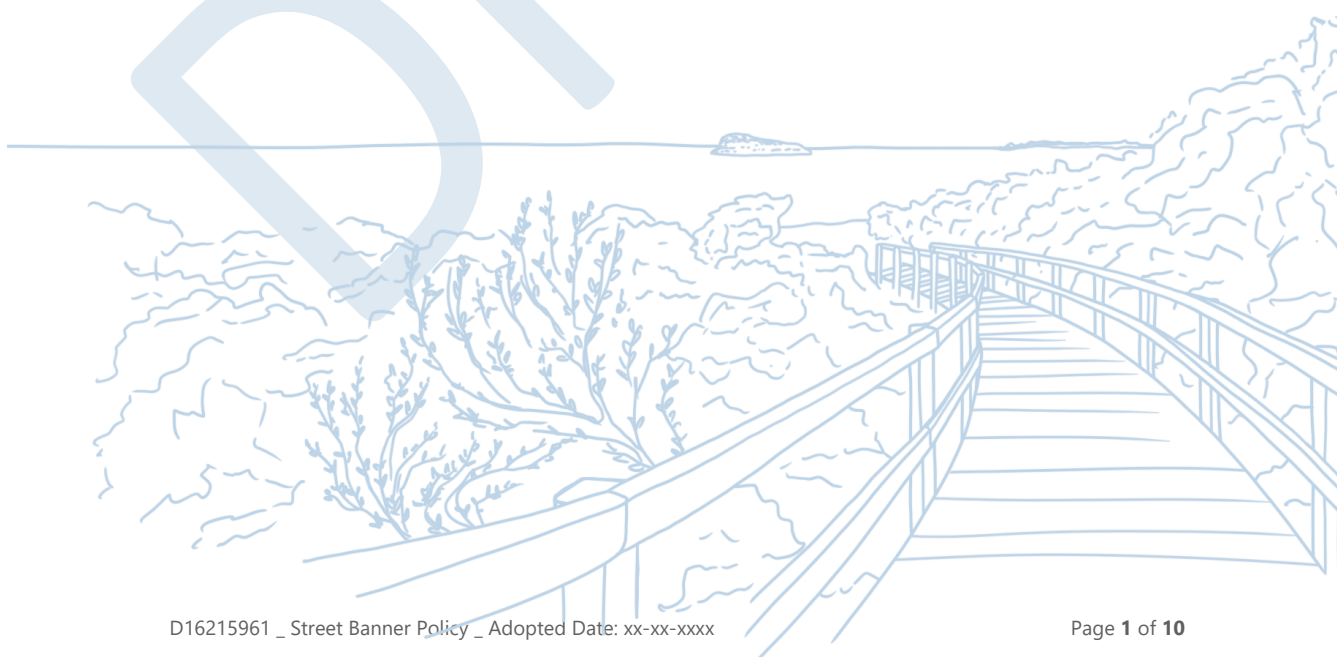


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1. Policy Objectives

- 1.1. To establish the requirements for the flying of official flags on Central Coast Council (Council) owned or operated buildings or property.
- 1.2. To inform and support the Central Coast Council's Street Banner program, designed to promote interest and vibrancy throughout the Central Coast Local Government Area (LGA) by:
 - 1.2.1. providing guidance for the flying of official flags on flag poles
 - 1.2.2. defining the current locations for banner infrastructure available across the Central Coast
 - 1.2.3. establishing the purpose of street banners
 - 1.2.4. outlining the conditions of use for flags and banner sites
 - 1.2.5. outlining the administration of the banner program and sites.

2. Policy Scope

- 2.1. This Policy applies to all official flags and banners flown on Council owned or operated sites as well as all groups or external organisations approved to use the banner sites when not in use by Council.

3. Policy Statement

- 3.1. Flags flown in response to Council's governance responsibilities will be flown in accordance with relevant legislation and state and federal government protocols in force at the time.
- 3.2. Central Coast Council control a range of banner sites across the LGA. Many of these are in highly visible areas and therefore are desirable locations for promotional purposes.

4. Flags and Street Banners

Flying of the Flags

- 4.1. Flags flown on flag poles and banner infrastructure situated on Council buildings or property will be flown in accordance with State and Federal protocols with the order of precedence generally for all flag flying events as follows: Australian Flag, State Flag, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags (equal).
- 4.2. The Australian National Flag, the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flags may be displayed on Council's banner infrastructure in equal proportions and upon application by local community groups. Applications are

to consider compliance requirements in accordance with State and Federal Protocols.

Street Banner Program

- 4.3.** The Street Banner program is designed to:
- 4.3.1. promote significant events, festivals, tourism, civic or community programs, as well as major economic development or sporting events of public interest throughout the LGA
 - 4.3.2. visually enhance the streetscape of the Central Coast
 - 4.3.3. create a sense of community and sense of place for visitors and residents
 - 4.3.4. foster inclusivity and community connection
 - 4.3.5. stimulate local economic activity.

Street Banner pole locations

- 4.4.** The twelve (12) banner pole locations installed by Central Coast Council are as follows:
- Umina Town, Centre – West St, Umina
 - Ettalong Town Centre – Ocean View Rd & Picnic Parade, Ettalong
 - Woy Woy Town Centre – The Boulevarde, Woy Woy
 - Terrigal Town Centre – The Esplanade & Scenic Highway, Terrigal
 - Gosford Town Centre – Mann St & Donnison St, Gosford
 - Brian McGowan Bridge, Gosford
 - Long Jetty Town Centre – The Entrance Rd, Long Jetty
 - The Entrance Town Centre – The Entrance Rd & Marine Pde, The Entrance
 - The Entrance Bridge – The Entrance
 - Toukley Town Centre – Main Rd & The Village Green, Toukley
 - Wyong Town Centre – Pacific Highway & Alison Rd, Wyong
 - Tuggerah Straight – Pacific Highway, Tuggerah

Banner stand locations

- 4.5.** The current eight (8) roadside banner stands installed by Central Coast Council and available for hire, are located as follows:
- West Gosford - Central Coast Hwy opposite Hely St
 - Gosford Waterfront - Masons Pde
 - Woy Woy - Rogers Park Crescent, Ocean Beach Rd and McMasters Rd
 - Forresters Beach - The Entrance Rd

- Erina - corner of Avoca Dr and The Entrance Rd
- Kincumber - corner Davies St and Avoca Dr
- Wyong – Apex Park
- Long Jetty – Saltwater Creek Park

Conditions of use of banner infrastructure

- 4.6.** Council currently operates an annual calendar of events for all locations, with preference given to initiatives that fall under the direct control of Council, including:
- 4.6.1. Council-run events, activations, and campaigns
 - 4.6.2. the celebration of Christmas
 - 4.6.3. the acknowledgement of Anzac Day, Australia Day, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week
 - 4.6.4. brand Identity of the town centres.
- 4.7.** Where practical and relevant, Council will utilise official campaign designs to align with significant campaigns.
- 4.8.** Community organisations are required to make application for the use of Council's banner infrastructure for the following purposes:
- one-off or annual events or initiatives that are sponsored by Council.
 - one off or annual events or initiatives of significant community interest.
- 4.9.** Applications will not be considered for events that do not fall under one of the categories provided in Clause 4.8.

Application for the use of Council Banner infrastructure

- 4.10.** Banner application forms are available on Council's website and at Council's Customer Service Centres.
- 4.11.** Applications will be assessed by Council based on the following criteria:
- level of community interest and/or significance of event or initiative
 - the event or initiative is accessible and inclusive to the whole community
 - relevance to the site location
 - availability of nominated locations within the calendar.
- 4.12.** Fees associated with the hire of Council's banner infrastructure will be in accordance with Council's annually adopted Fees and Charges Schedule.
- 4.13.** Applications must be submitted at least three (3) months before the intended installation date.

- 4.14. Council reserves the right to refuse any application that is not consistent with this policy, or the design specifications outlined within the [Street Banner Guide](#).
- 4.15. Banner allocations are subject to availability and the submission of an application does not guarantee use of sites unless approval is provided by Council in writing.

Design approval and production

- 4.16. All banner guidelines, advice and design and production specifications are presented within the [Street Banner Guide](#). Banner designs are subject to Council approval.
- 4.17. Council reserves the right to reject any banner design that does not comply with this policy, the [Street Banner Guide](#), or is considered unsuitable. Council is the final arbiter of what constitutes unsuitable.
- 4.18. Once designs are approved by Council, the Hirer can proceed with production.
- 4.19. Banners remain the property of the Hirer and Council does not take responsibility for any lost, stolen, or damaged banners.

Installation and deinstallation

- 4.20. Council will manage installation and deinstallation of banners, in accordance with the [Street Banner Guide](#), and any requirements outlined in the [Ausgrid Network Standard 183](#).
- 4.21. The costs associated with infrastructure maintenance, installation and deinstallation of banners are outlined in Council's annual fees and charges.
- 4.22. Hirers are required to make appropriate arrangements with Council to deliver their banners to the nominated Council site on a working day at least seven (7) days prior to installation.
- 4.23. It should be noted that the installation of Banners may be delayed due to heavy traffic, inclement weather conditions, or the high number of banners to be installed as well as any other external factor outside of Council's control. In consideration of these matters Hirers should allow up to an additional five (5) days from the intended installation date.
- 4.24. Hirers are responsible for collecting their banners from the nominated Council site as soon as they have been removed. Council will not be held responsible for any uncollected banners. Banners not collected within one month after their de-installation may be disposed of by Council without any cost reimbursement to the hirer.

Roles and responsibilities relating to external Hirers

- 4.25. Council is responsible for:
- Maintaining the schedule of banner campaigns across all sites
 - Providing advice, guidance, and specifications to external applicants
 - Assessing external applications
 - Approving all banner designs prior to production

- The coordination, installation and deinstallation of banners
- The maintenance of banner pole infrastructure

4.26. Hirers are responsible for:

- Submission of an application to use Council owned banner sites
- The design of banners
- Providing Council with reasonable time to approve designs, and make any reasonable requested amendments to designs
- The cost and coordination of banner production to specifications
- The cost and coordination of any cleaning, maintenance or re-manufacturing required on banners upon their return after deinstallation
- To make the appropriate arrangements with Council to collect all banners at the end of the hire period.
- Council will not be held responsible for any damages to the flags as a result of inclement weather events or general wear and tear over time.

5. Policy Responsibilities

Compliance, monitoring and review.

- 5.1.** The *Flag and Street Banner Policy* will be reviewed at least once during the four-year term of a newly elected Council.
- 5.2.** It is the personal responsibility of all Council employees and agents thereof to have knowledge of, and to ensure compliance with this policy.

Reporting

This policy is managed by Section Manager Placemaking and Events, and any non-compliance with this policy will be reported to Unit Manager Community and Culture.

Records management

- 5.3.** Staff must maintain all records relevant to administering this Policy in accordance with Council's [Information and Records Management Policy](#), and the State Records Act 1998

6. Policy Definitions

Banner	means a material item bearing a distinctive graphic design installed on Council-owned and/ or operated infrastructure across town centres and open spaces.
Banner pole	means a Council-owned and/ or operated vertical banner pole
Banner stand	means a Council-owned and/ or operated road site horizontal banner infrastructure

Council	means Central Coast Council
Hirer	means any external organisation seeking use of Council-owned banner sites at locations outlined in this document
LGA	means Central Coast Local Government Area
Policy	means Central Coast Council's Flag and Street Banner Policy

7. Policy Administration

Business Group	Community and Recreation Services
Responsible Officer	Unit Manager Community and Culture
Associated Procedure (if any, reference document(s) number(s))	Street Banner Guide
Policy Review Date	This Policy will be reviewed at least every four years.
File Number / Document Number	D16215961
Relevant Legislation (reference specific sections)	<p>This Policy supports Council's compliance with the following Legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)</i> ▪ <i>Flags Act 1953 (Cth)</i>
Link to Community Strategic Plan	<p>Theme 1: Belonging</p> <p>Goal A: Our community spirit is our strength</p> <p>B-A2: Celebrate and continue to create opportunities for inclusion where all people feel welcome and participate in community life.</p>
Related Policies / Protocols / Procedures / Documents (reference document numbers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information and Records Management Policy ▪ Code of Conduct ▪ Ausgrid Network Standard 183 - Installation of Private Attachments on Ausgrid Poles ▪ The Australian Flags Booklet, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet ▪ Flags and Emblems of New South Wales, Premier's Department of New South Wales

8. Policy Authorisations

No.	Authorised Function	Authorised Business Unit / Role(s)
Nil	Nil	Nil

9. Policy History

Revision	Date Approved / Authority	Description Of Changes
1	11 October 2022 Minute No.: 177/22	New policy adopted to inform Council's Street Banner program to promote interest and vibrancy throughout Central Coast LGA.
2	TBA	Minor review, new policy template.

Item No: 1.8
Title: Draft Central Coast Council Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 - For Public Exhibition
Department: Community and Recreation Services



13 May 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2025/00482 - D16807665
Author: Phil Cantillon, Unit Manager Leisure Beach Safety and Community Facilities
Executive: Melanie Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services

Recommendation

That the Committee:

- 1 Supports the draft Central Coast Council Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 as set out in Attachment 1 to this report.**
- 2 Recommends to Council that the draft Central Coast Council Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035, as set out in Attachment 1 to this report, be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.**
- 3 Notes that following the exhibition period, a report will be presented to Council on the outcome of the exhibition seeking Council's adoption of the Central Coast Council Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035.**

Report purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 for the Committee's consideration and subsequent endorsement of Council to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

Executive Summary

The Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 (the Strategy) provides a 10-year priority plan to guide the future of leisure and aquatic services and facilities across the Central Coast. With a focus on infrastructure upgrades, asset management and program expansion, the Strategy is designed to support active lifestyles, improve community wellbeing and maximise participation and social inclusion opportunities. By improving facilities and services, it aims to create inclusive, accessible, and engaging spaces where people of all ages and abilities can connect, stay active, and thrive.

The Strategy provide various short, medium and long-term actions with a priority plan. An investment of \$10.594 million of Capital renewals are planned in the four-year Capital Program, across existing facilities to continue to provide high quality leisure, aquatic, and recreation services across the Coast. The Strategy also provides recommendations for new and upgraded facilities to ensure services and facilities meet the needs of a diverse and growing population of the Central Coast. A number of current infrastructure assets are reaching the end of their lifecycle, and are unable to provide contemporary modern facilities in the future.

Background

Central Coast Council currently owns ten leisure and aquatic facilities, in addition to Mingara Aquatic Centre, which was partly funded by the former Wyong Shire Council. The facilities provide important recreational swimming, lap swimming, aquatic fitness and water safety/learn to swim opportunities for residents on the Coast. The facilities also provide gym, fitness, and sporting opportunities. Many facilities are reaching the end of their lifecycle and are unable to provide contemporary modern facilities and services in the future. A Strategy is required to plan and provide services and facilities for the diverse and growing population, to support the physical health and mental wellbeing of residents, while also addressing ageing infrastructure.

Report

The Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 (the Strategy) provides a 10-year priority plan to guide the future of leisure and aquatic services and facilities across the Central Coast, with a focus on infrastructure upgrades, asset management and program expansion, the Strategy is designed to support active lifestyles, improve community wellbeing and maximise participation opportunities. By improving facilities and services, it aims to create inclusive, accessible, and engaging spaces where people of all ages and abilities can connect, stay active, and thrive.

Developed through in-depth research, operational insights and community consultation, this Strategy considers the upgrades and renewal of existing facilities while planning for future needs. It examines population growth, evolving demographics and emerging trends in participation and facility use, to ensure services remain accessible and relevant. Additionally, the Strategy highlights the critical role these centres play in strengthening community wellbeing and social connections across the Coast.

This strategy provides a sound basis for decision making to deliver a network of fit-for purpose leisure and aquatic centres that maximise liveability, health, and wellbeing outcomes for the whole community in line with Council's vision and goals.

Central Coast Council has made substantial long-term investments in its leisure and aquatic centres, with over \$19.2 million spent on renewals and upgrades of facilities since the

amalgamation in 2016. Focusing on upgrading ageing infrastructure, improving services and the overall quality of facilities, these improvements have been delivered through a combination of Council funding and external grants.

Some of the highlighted projects delivered include new heat and ventilation system at Peninsula Leisure Centre (\$4.4M), accessibility improvements at Niagara Park Stadium (\$2.8M), roof replacement at Lake Haven Recreation Centre (\$1M), new water splash park at Peninsula Leisure Centre (\$1M), new heat and ventilation system at Toukley Aquatic Centre (\$600K), new gym and fitness equipment at Lake Haven and Peninsula Leisure Centre (\$600K) and a range of changing room upgrades to all facilities during this period including Gosford Olympic Pool, Wyong Olympic Pool and The Grant McBride Ocean Baths.

The Strategy includes the below leisure and aquatic facilities.

Leisure and Aquatic Facilities:

- Peninsula Leisure Centre
- Mingara Recreation Centre (Operated by Mingara, The Aquatic Centre was partly funded by the former Wyong Shire Council)

Aquatic Facilities:

- Gosford Olympic Pool
- Wyong Olympic Pool
- Toukley Aquatic Centre
- Grant McBride Ocean Baths

Leisure Facilities:

- Lake Haven Recreation Centre
- Niagara Park Stadium
- Breakers Stadium (Council owned, operated under a community lease)
- PCYC Bateau Bay (Council owned, operated under a community lease)
- PCYC Umina Beach (Council owned, operated under a community lease)

Significant investment is required in aquatic and leisure facilities to ensure they address the needs of a diverse and growing population. Recognising that leisure and aquatic activities continue to evolve over time, the strategy has been developed to ensure that our future provision of facilities and the services offered address current and future unmet aquatic and leisure needs.

The Strategy has been developed having regard to a number of influences, including:

- Relevant national, state, and local policies, plans and strategies
- Demographic data and population forecasts
- Sport and physical activity participation trends
- Community and stakeholder consultation results
- Facility demand assessment
- The realistic capacity of Council and stakeholders to implement actions

Current Challenges and Future Opportunities

Age and condition of facilities

The most significant challenge for the Central Coast is the age of outdoor pool facilities. The current facilities' average age is over 42 years and ranges from 20 to 70 years. As a consequence, many of the facilities are not fit for the purpose of addressing community needs and reaching the end of their serviceable lives. Industry benchmarks suggest the outdoor 50-metre pools are at an age that warrants consideration for planning and scheduling of complete renewal (general lifecycle for leisure and aquatic facilities is 50 years). As shown in Table 1 below, our leisure and aquatic facilities vary in age, with some serving the community for over 50 years, well beyond the outdoor pool industry benchmark.

Table 1. Leisure and Aquatic Facilities with built year and age (as of 2025).

Facility	Built Year	Years Old
Gosford Olympic Pool	1955	70 years (20 years over Pool industry Pool benchmark)
Wyong Olympic Pool	1960	65 years old (15 years over Pool industry benchmark)
Grant McBride Ocean Baths	1965	60 years (No industry benchmark for ocean baths)
PCYC Bateau Bay – Council owned, operated under lease	1978	47 years
Toukley Aquatic Centre	1979	46 years
Lake Haven Recreation Centre	1986 Centre redeveloped in 2009	39 years
Breakers Stadium – Council owned, operated under lease	1993	32 years
Mingara Aquatics/Pool	1996 Centre has received a variety of redevelopments of gym/fitness/recreation activities over the years	29 years
Niagara Park Stadium	1999	26 years
PCYC Umina – Council owned, operated under lease	2001	24 years
Peninsula Leisure Centre	2005	20 years

As a result, the future direction for the delivery of leisure and aquatics services through the Leisure and Aquatic Strategy has been driven by ageing assets, increasing operational and renewal costs.

Changing Population and Community Expectations

The impact of the Central Coast's population characteristics on the future provision of leisure and aquatic facilities means:

- The large and rapidly growing population will place pressure on Council to ensure access to high-quality, modern, and accessible leisure and aquatic facilities.
- The area's relatively older population profile, with age cohorts 70 years+ projected to be the fastest-growing group through to 2046, will lead to a greater demand for warm water pools to support hydrotherapy and rehabilitation-based programs and services.
- There will be an undersupply of sport courts across the region with population growth, as indoor sports become more popular and utilisation increases, with some facilities already at capacity.
- In areas with high population of young people, there will be an increased demand for access to learn to swim program pools, gym/fitness, recreation swimming, and leisure/adventure water facilities such as slides, inflatables, indoor and outdoor water play areas.
- Catchments with a higher level of disadvantage are likely to have a greater price sensitivity, leading to increased demand for affordable activities and greater need for access to learn to swim programs.
- A large proportion of residents (52.9%) are in the most active age group (5 to 49 years), suggesting ongoing demand for fitness swimming, health and wellness and all year-round facility access.

Strategic Directions

The Strategy incorporates four (4) strategic directions that have been developed after analysis of the economic, social, recreation, community development and environmental opportunities presented by each site. These strategic directions are:

- Facility Upgrades – Compliance with Healthy and Safety Regulations: Ensure all leisure and aquatic facilities meet Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) standards through regular maintenance. This includes improving accessibility, addressing safety hazards, and modernising infrastructure to create a safe and inclusive environment.
- Asset Management Plan: Continue to implement a proactive approach to facility maintenance and operational improvements to ensure facilities are maintained in a safe, functional, and sustainable way. Operational improvements to be highlighted annually with necessary upgrades incorporated into Council's Capital Program.
- Sports Court Development and Upgrades: Enhancing and expanding sports courts to improve accessibility, functionality, and community engagement. This includes upgrading existing courts, developing new multi-use spaces, improving lighting, and surfacing and partnering with local sports organisations to maximise usage and funding options.
- Redevelopment of Ageing Infrastructure: As leisure and aquatic facilities on the Coast approach the end of their lifecycles, the redevelopment of existing structures and the addition of new facilities will be essential to ensure increased community benefit and support continued community growth.

Strategy Actions

The Strategy concludes with action plans for each site. Actions align with Council's identified regional enabling projects, Council's four-year delivery plan and proposed pipeline of projects in the long-term financial plan. The key actions are summarised below and will guide site specific redevelopment plans over the ten years and ensure a coordinated approach to facility management, improving accessibility, service delivery and alignment with community needs.

Renewal/Improvements

- A total of \$10.594M of Capital renewals are planned in the four-year Capital Program, across existing facilities to continue to provide high quality leisure, aquatic, and recreation provision across the Coast. Depreciation in 2024-25 for Council operated leisure, pool and recreation facilities is approximately \$3.233M per year.

New/Upgrade

- Significant redevelopment of Gosford Olympic Pool is proposed at the existing site to provide a new modern aquatic facility, with improved configuration of grandstand and pools (approximate cost \$30-35M, cost to be indexed annually).
- New leisure and aquatic centre to be provided in the northern region, which will provide an indoor heated swimming facility and health and fitness facilities (approximate cost \$40-45M, cost to be indexed annually).
- An increase in the supply of sport courts across the Central Coast is required, with proposed six (6) new courts at the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex at Tuggerah (approximate cost \$35M, cost to be indexed annually).
- Upgrade Toukley Aquatic Centre with new entrance, façade and outdoor water play as part of Toukley Community Facilities Master-planning (approximate cost \$4.9M, cost to be indexed annually).
- Investigations into the feasibility of a two (2) court expansion at Niagara Park Stadium (first priority) and Lake Haven Recreation Centre (second priority) to provide adequate court supply across the region in the future (business case dependent).
- Investigations into the extension of gym and fitness facilities (first priority) and car parking (second priority) at Peninsula Leisure Centre, to provide future supply (business case dependent).

Rationalisation

- Once a new and modern leisure and aquatic facility is built in the northern region, it is proposed that operating of the seasonal and unheated Wyong Olympic Pool will cease. This will also allow for the expansion of other recreational activities across the Baker Park Precinct, as part of the Master-planning for the area.

A mid-term review of the Strategy will occur in year five, with annual implementation plan reviews to allow Council to adapt to changing community needs. This approach ensures the strategic direction for leisure aquatic services remains responsive to the needs of the community.

Stakeholder Engagement

External Stakeholders – Every two years, Council conducts a Leisure Centres and Pools Satisfaction Survey as part of our commitment to continually improve our service delivery. Council receives feedback from approximately 600 to 700 community members of the Central Coast as part of the Customer Satisfaction Survey. Residents completed 600 surveys between 8 April 2024 and 13 May 2024. The survey captured resident's perspectives on what matters most to people on the Central Coast when it comes to the leisure and aquatic services Council provides.

Information from the survey was analysed to understand what our community values about the current leisure services and what more we can offer to improve these services. Data from the Leisure Centres and Pools Customer Satisfaction Survey 2024 is presented in the Strategy, including feedback from the community what they think of, and want from Central Coast leisure centre and pool services.

Internal Stakeholders – The draft Strategy was circulated to Facilities Asset Management, Open Space and Recreation and Strategic Planning Unit Managers for initial review and comment. Further engagement will occur internally for feedback when the Strategy goes to public exhibition. All projects are in Council's Long Term Financial Plan, which Finance and Facilities Asset Management have overview on. Projects are subject to the adoption of the annual Operational Plan and Budget.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year but impacts outer years in the LTFP. The LTFP includes an allowance for the ongoing impact.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The FY adopted budget includes the impact for this proposal.

- All renewal projects are included and approved in Council's four-year Capital program.
- New and upgrade projects are included in Council's Long Term Financial Plan, however at this stage it has not been approved by Council. External funding opportunities will be sought for these projects.
- Developer Contributions funding can be utilised for significant regional and local facilities that look to cater for population growth and further leisure and aquatic demand.
- There will be significant depreciation impacts with any new and upgraded leisure and aquatic facilities.

Other Impacts

- The redevelopment of Gosford Olympic Pool as part of the wider Gosford Waterfront plans, which should be coordinated as a program of upgrades rather than a standalone project.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 5: Liveable

Goal L: Healthy lifestyle for a growing community

L-L4: Provide equitable, affordable, flexible and co-located community facilities based on community needs.


Risk Management

- Doing nothing, means that existing facilities will continue to deteriorate, as they are at the end of their lifecycle. This will impact on the ability to operate the facilities and potential lost revenue.
- There is criticism from the community that Gosford Olympic Pool and Wyong Olympic Pool are in poor condition and that there is an urgent need to replace these facilities, which is a key theme in customer satisfaction surveys.
- There will be a shortage of sport court provision as the population grows, which will result in all current facilities being at capacity for sport court usage.
- There could be community requests to keep Wyong Olympic Pool, however the centre is 65 years old, has low patronage, and only provides seasonal and unheated provision. New provision in Warnervale would provide modern facilities, whilst the existing site could provide additional recreation space to meet the needs for other activities within the Baker Park Masterplan.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Nil

Attachments

1  Central Coast Council Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 D16809218



Central
Coast
Council

Central Coast Council Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035

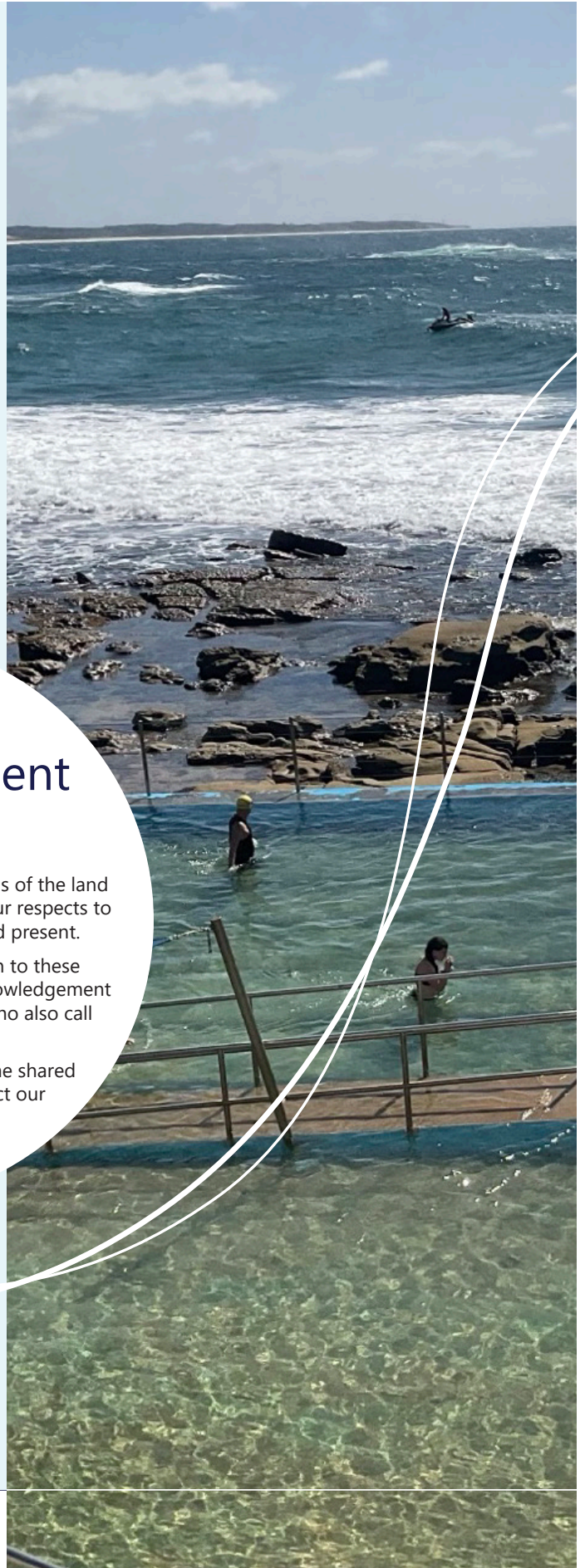


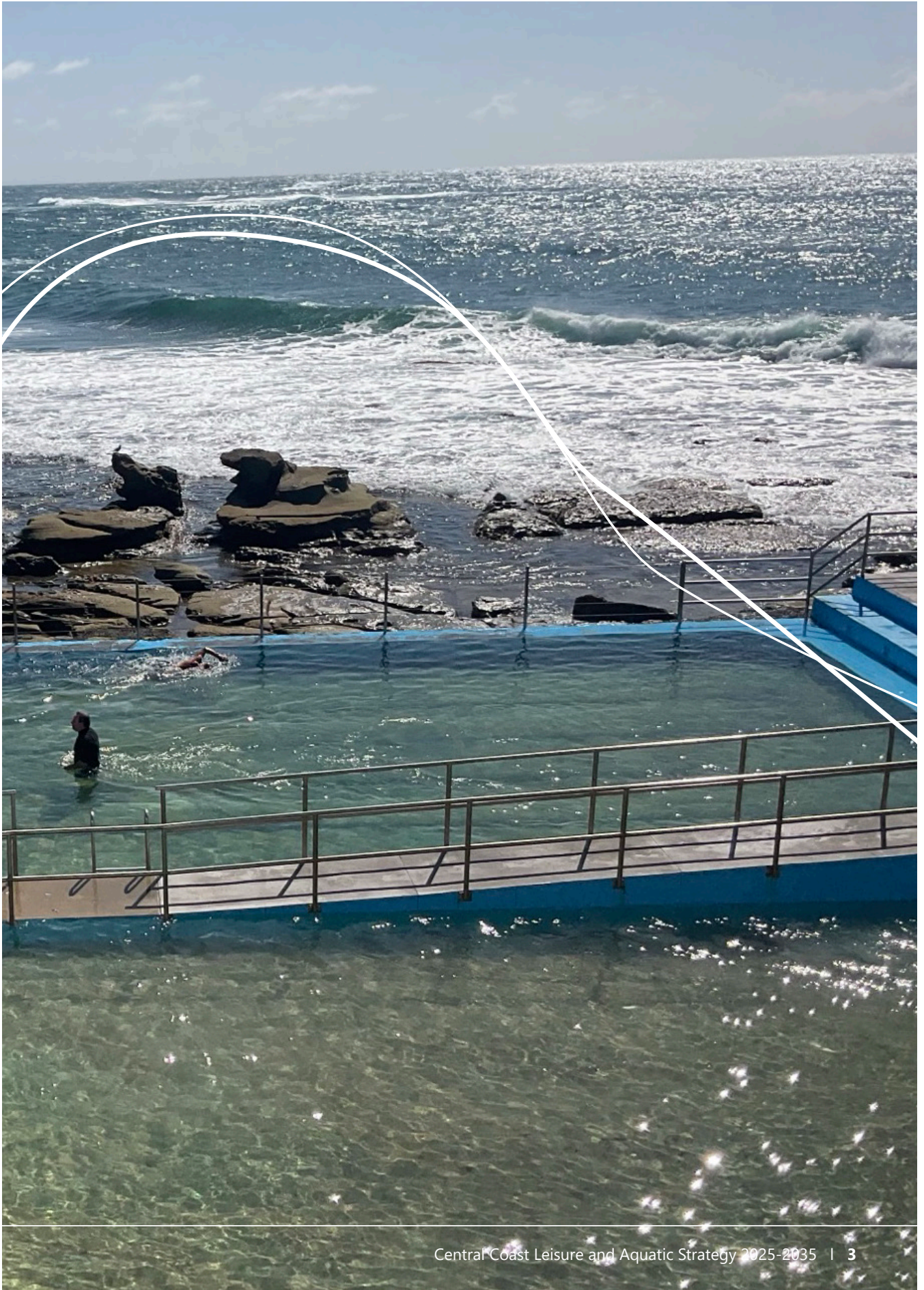
Acknowledgement of Country

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.





Mayors Message



Participation in sport and fitness has always been a big part of my life and it's an important part of community life on the Central Coast.

Our leisure and aquatic centres are more than places to swim or exercise, they're much-loved community hubs that support healthy lifestyles, provide opportunities for social connection and create a sense of belonging.

Council's Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 sets out our long-term vision to guide the future planning, development and management of our facilities across the region.

It provides a 10-year framework for our 10 leisure and aquatic centres, outlining priorities for improving infrastructure, expanding programs and ensuring our facilities remain safe, inclusive and welcoming for everyone.

This strategy also describes how we will fund important upgrades to existing centres and equipment and how we will plan for more fitness and leisure opportunities as our population grows.

The Strategy marks an important step towards strengthening the spaces that bring us together, promoting wellbeing and enriching community life for the next decade. It supports our shared vision for inclusive, active, and connected communities that reflect the interests of all ages and abilities.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in the engagement activities that contributed to the development of this strategy. As we plan for the future, we'll continue working closely with residents to ensure our leisure and aquatic facilities continue to meet community needs and expectations.

Lawrie McKinnon
Mayor

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With a population of over 351,000, the Central Coast offers its residents a diverse range of recreational opportunities across the natural and built environment.

In addition to various sporting and recreational facilities, parks, gardens, open spaces and reserves, access to leisure and aquatic centres on the Coast plays a vital role in supporting the health and wellbeing of the community.

Council recognises the importance of these facilities in supporting physical and mental health within the community, by offering safe and healthy environments for people to come together to exercise and build social connections.

1. Introduction

Our Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 (the Strategy) provides a 10-year priority plan to guide the future of leisure and aquatic services and facilities across the Coast. With a focus on infrastructure upgrades, asset management and program expansion, the Strategy is designed to support active lifestyles, improve community wellbeing and maximise participation opportunities. By improving facilities and services, it aims to create inclusive, accessible and engaging spaces where people of all ages and abilities can connect, stay active and thrive.

Developed through in-depth research, operational insights and community consultation, this Strategy considers the upgrades and renewal of existing facilities while planning for future needs. It examines population growth, evolving demographics and emerging trends in participation and facility use to ensure services remain accessible and relevant. Additionally, the Strategy highlights the critical role these centres play in strengthening community wellbeing and social connections across the Coast.

This strategy provides a sound basis for decision making to deliver a network of fit-for-purpose leisure and aquatic centres that maximise liveability, health and wellbeing outcomes for the whole community in line with Council's vision and goals.

1.1 Why have a Leisure and Aquatic Strategy?

At Central Coast Council, our vision is to:

Promote healthy living and ensure sport, leisure, recreation and aquatic facilities and open spaces are well maintained and activated to support healthy lifestyles for a growing community (One – Central Coast, Community Strategic Plan – L1 Objective).

Central Coast Council currently owns ten leisure and aquatic facilities, in addition to Mingara Aquatic Centre, which was partly funded by the former Wyong Shire Council. The facilities provide important recreational swimming, lap swimming, aquatic fitness and water safety/learn to swim opportunities for residents on the Coast. The facilities also provide gym, fitness and sporting opportunities.

Central Coast Council has made substantial long-term investments in its leisure and aquatic centres, with over \$19.2 million spent on renewals and upgrades of facilities since the amalgamation in 2016. Focusing on upgrading ageing infrastructure, expanding services and improving the overall quality of facilities, these improvements have been delivered through a combination of Council funding and external grants. Some of these facilities are nearing the end of their useful life and many do not meet the identified needs for contemporary facilities to support health and wellbeing outcomes. Significant investment is required in leisure and aquatic facilities to ensure facilities address the needs of a diverse and growing population.

Recognising that leisure and aquatic activities continue to evolve over time, this strategy has been developed to ensure that our future provision of facilities and the services offered address current and future unmet leisure and aquatic needs.

The development of the Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 focuses on supporting the physical health and mental wellbeing of residents while also addressing ageing infrastructure and future growth.

1.2 What does this Strategy cover?

The Central Coast community has leisure and aquatic facilities located across the Coast which provide a combination of indoor and outdoor pools and health and fitness services. An overview of these types of facilities as well as the facilities Council offers are included below.

Leisure and Aquatic Facilities

A leisure and aquatic facility is a multipurpose venue combining fitness and aquatic amenities to offer a comprehensive range of recreational, exercise, and wellness activity catering to diverse community needs.

Aquatic Facilities

A specialised venue featuring swimming pools and water-based amenities that provide opportunities for recreation, exercise, swimming instruction and aquatic sports in a safe and accessible environment.

Leisure Facilities

A venue designed to support physical wellbeing and recreation through exercise equipment, sport, fitness classes and training spaces, promoting health, social interaction and an active lifestyle.

Council currently supports leisure and aquatic services through the provision of two leisure and aquatic facilities, four aquatic facilities, and five leisure facilities (three are owned by Council and managed with a community lease).

Leisure and Aquatic Facilities:

- Peninsula Leisure Centre
- Mingara Aquatic Centre
(Operated by Mingara, partly funded by the former Wyong Shire Council)



Leisure Facilities:

- Lake Haven Recreation Centre
- Niagara Park Stadium
- Breakers Stadium (Council owned, operated under a community lease)
- PCYC Bateau Bay (Council owned, operated under a community lease)
- PCYC Umina Beach (Council owned, operated under a community lease)



Aquatic Facilities:

- Gosford Olympic Pool
- Wyong Olympic Pool
- Toukley Aquatic Centre
- Grant McBride Ocean Baths

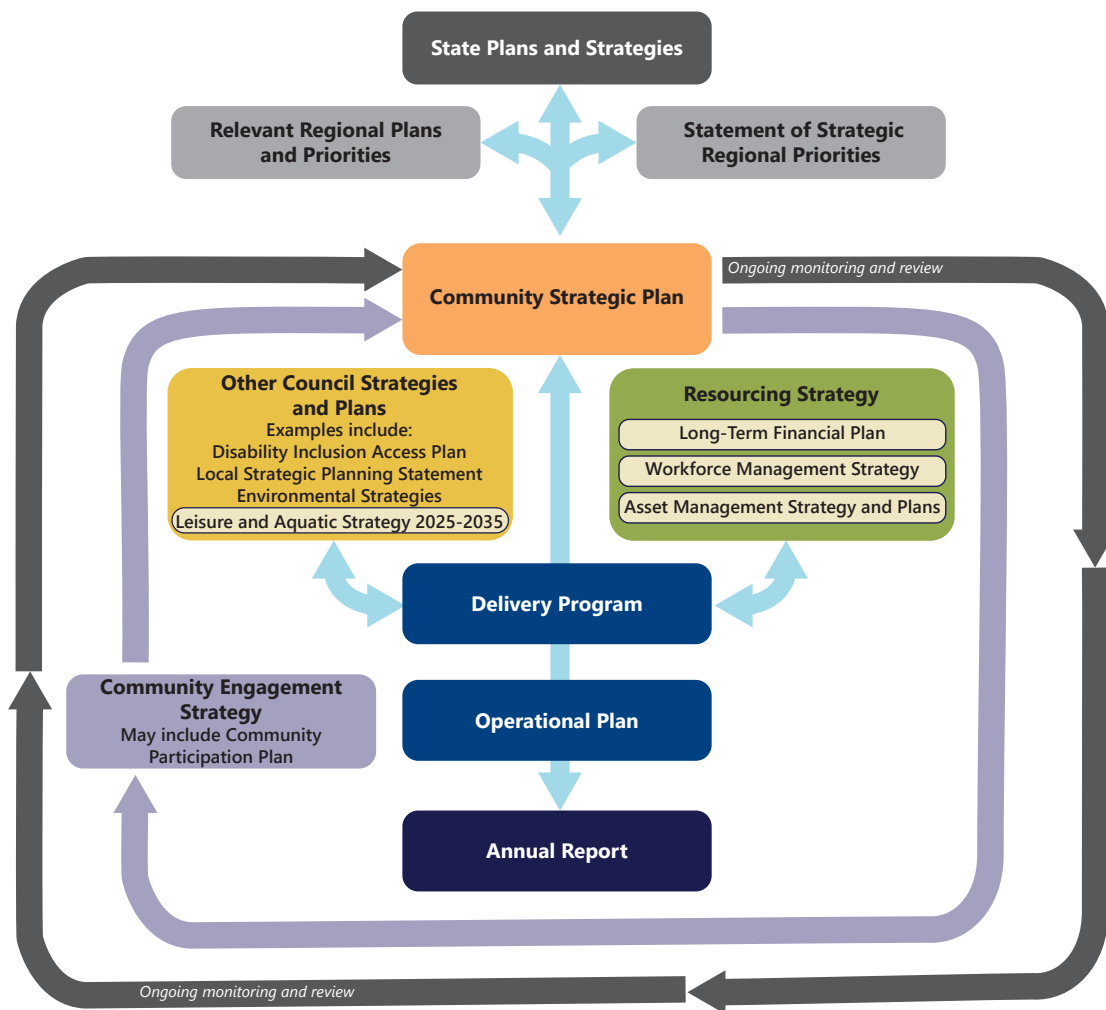
The strategy does not cover:

- Commercial pools
- Private gyms
- Operational models

1.3 Strategic context

Council has a number of service planning and strategic documents that are pivotal to the planning and delivery of leisure and aquatic facilities on the Central Coast. Working within the hierarchy of these ensures the Leisure and Aquatic Strategy is consistent with these adopted policies and plans.

The graphic below illustrates the Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 placement within the broader Council context:



The Leisure and Aquatic Strategy contributes to all five themes of the One – Central Coast, Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028: Belonging, Smart, Green, Responsible and Liveable. At the heart of One – Central Coast is the vision that we are one Central Coast – a smart, green and liveable region with a shared sense of belonging and responsibility. To achieve this, we must remove barriers to inclusion and equal opportunity, encourage community participation, and strengthen community health and wellbeing. These ambitions form the core mission of the Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035.

2. Our Coast

This section provides the population and demographic characteristics of the Central Coast community. These characteristics will influence the leisure and aquatic services and facilities needed for the community into the future.



Our Population



400,878

Estimated population
in 2041

351,934

Central Coast population
in 2023



18%

are less than
15 years of age



22.2%

are aged 65 years
and older

Median age (years)

Central Coast 43

NSW 39



24.1%

of workers who live in the
area travel outside of the
Central Coast for work

Our Growing Communities

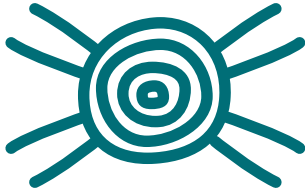
The largest growth is expected in age cohorts above 70 years, with the **70-84 years** cohort expected to experience an increase of 17,601 people between 2021 and 2046.

39.2% growth

This is followed by 13,370 people for the **85 years and over** cohort

128.3% growth

The largest population growth is estimated to be in the Tuggerah, Wyong and Warnervale planning catchments. This suggests there will be increasing demand for additional services and facilities in these surrounding areas.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population

Central Coast 4.9%

NSW 3.4%



Born overseas

Central Coast 16%

NSW 29%



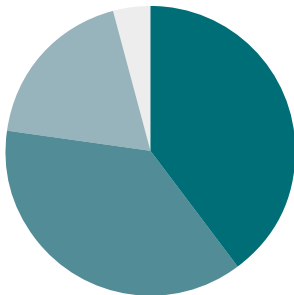
Speak a language other than English

Central Coast 7%

NSW 27%

84 different languages spoken at home – most widely spoken includes Mandarin, Spanish and Filipino/Tagalog.

Our Households



Household type

- Couples with children
- Couples without children
- One parent families
- Group household

94,861 families

Average household size **2.46 people**

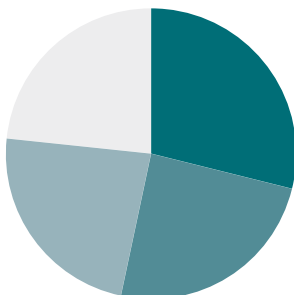
22.6% of dwellings are medium or high density

33.3% of residents fully own their home

32.6% have a mortgage

26.4% are renting

Our Employment and Household Incomes



Income by households (per week)

- low income <\$886
- lower to middle income \$887 to \$1,824
- middle to upper income \$1,825 to \$3,134
- high income earners \$3,135+

Top 3 industries of employment

Health care & social assistance

Construction

Retail trade

140,478 jobs on the Central Coast

Median weekly household income **\$1,534**

Unemployment rate **4.7%**

Our Leisure and Aquatic Centres at a Glance



9

Council owned Leisure
and Aquatic centres



1

Ocean bath



14

Council owned
indoor sports
courts

On the Central Coast from July 2023 to 30 June 2024, we had:



1,248,700

Visitors across Council's
six leisure centres and
pools*



41,280

Learn to swim
sessions conducted



3,536

Group fitness
classes delivered

**includes Peninsula Leisure Centre, Gosford Olympic Pool, Wyong Olympic Pool, Toukley Aquatic Centre
Lake Haven Recreation Centre and Niagara Park Stadium*



3. Benefits, Values and Trends in Leisure and Aquatic Facilities

3.1 Benefits of sport and recreation infrastructure

In 2021, Royal Life Saving Australia engaged Price Waterhouse Coopers Consulting (PWC) to investigate the value of the aquatic industry. The Social, Health and Economic Value of the Australian National Aquatic Industry report (July 2021) found the **industry's total benefit to be \$9.1 billion annually in economic, health and social benefits.**

The following graphic provides a summary of the key economic, health and social benefits.

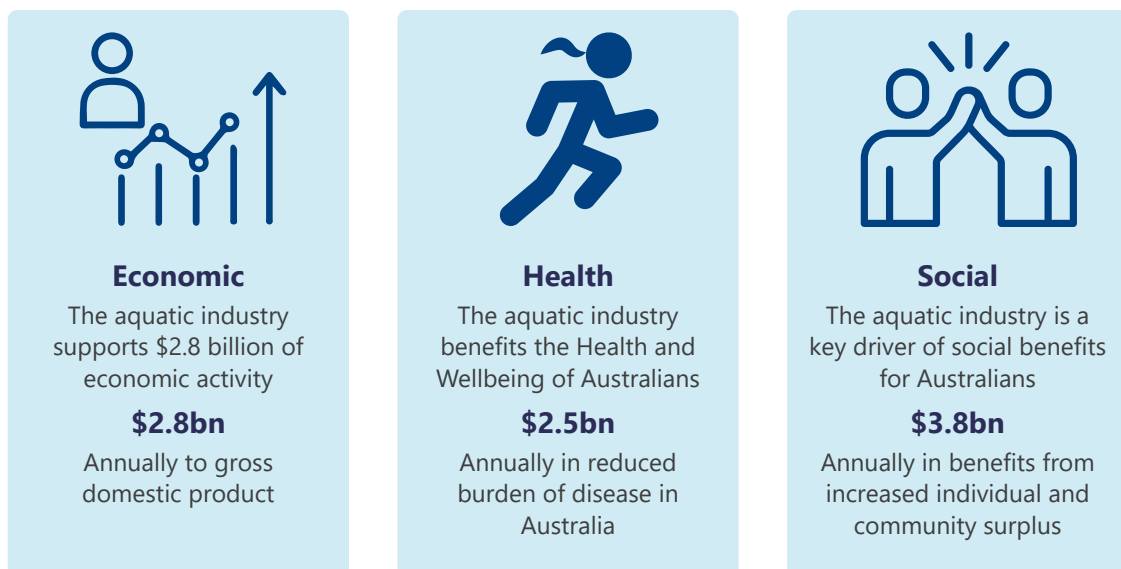


Figure 1: Summary of the Royal Life Saving Australia report into aquatic industry value

Source: The Social, Health and Economic Value of the Australian National Aquatic Industry (2021) by the Royal Life Saving Society Australia and PWC.



The aquatic industry provides a social return on investment of \$4.87 for every dollar spent operating an aquatic facility in a capital city or \$2.18 in regional Australia¹.

¹ The Social, Health and Economic Value Of Aquatic Industry, Royal Life Saving Australia (Pricewaterhouse Coopers), 2021

3.2 The importance of leisure and aquatic facilities

Our aquatic, leisure, parks, sport and recreation facilities are critical for community health and wellbeing, developing valuable social networks and contributing to the liveability of communities. Benefits of leisure and aquatic facilities include:



Improving Health and Wellbeing

Leisure and aquatic facilities encourage active lifestyles, helping to reduce the risk of obesity and lifestyle-related illnesses. An active lifestyle contributes to general wellbeing, productivity and performance. Research shows that the benefits of physical activity extend to mental health, community wellbeing and social capital.



Building Community Connections and Pride

These spaces strengthen community connections by promoting social interaction, inclusivity and a sense of belonging among diverse groups. By bringing people together they help strengthen social bonds, create a sense of identity and pride in the community.



Developing Water Safety Skills and Confidence

Leisure and aquatic facilities provide vital water safety education, helping individuals develop essential swimming skills and confidence in the water. These programs reduce the risk of drowning, promote safe aquatic recreation and equip people with lifelong skills for enjoying water environments responsibly.



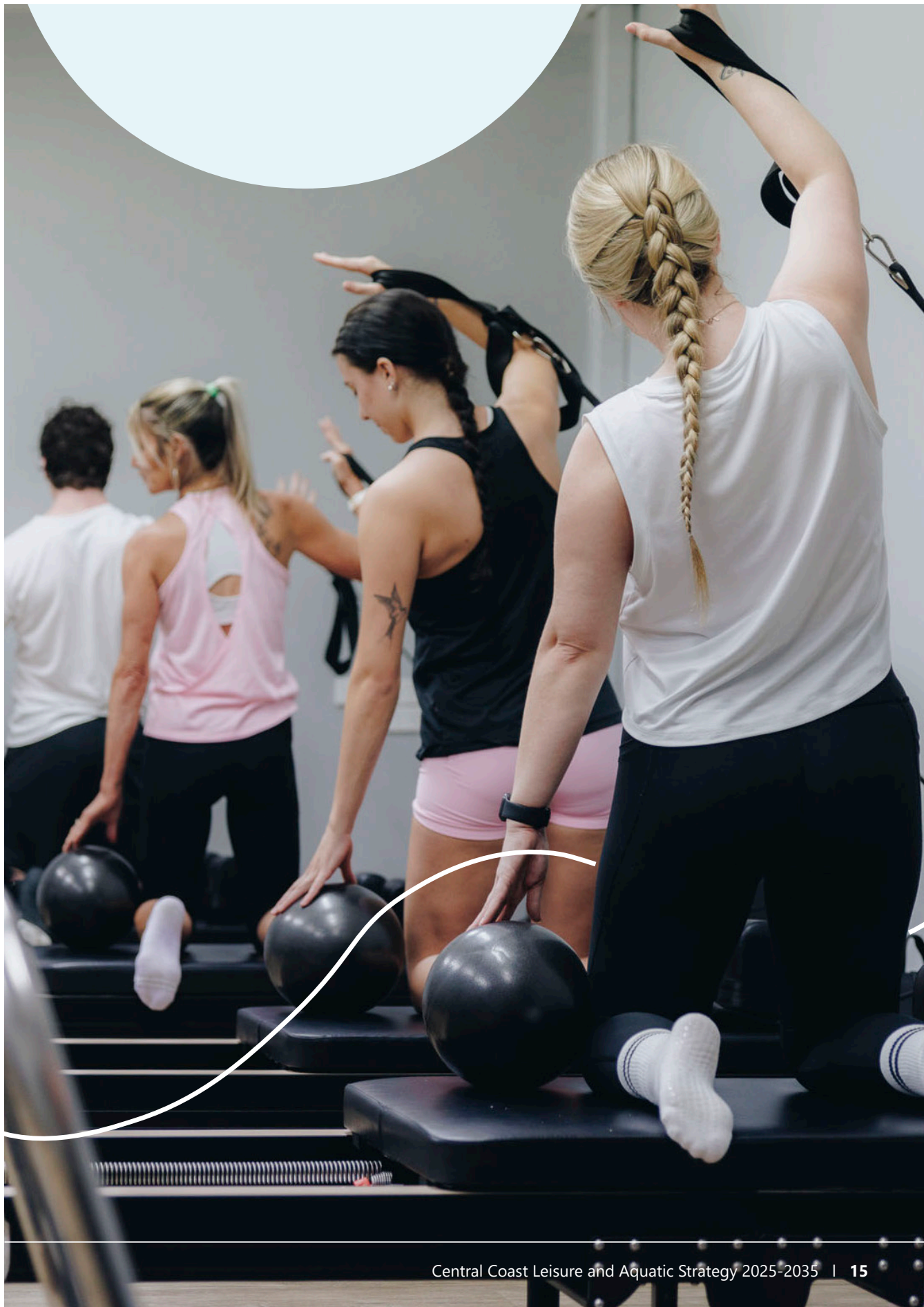
Supporting Economic Growth and Lowering Healthcare Costs

Leisure and Aquatic facilities assist to reduce health care cost through reduction in disease and illness associated with lack of physical activity and social interaction and providing local employment and investment opportunities.



Enhancing Environmental Sustainability

Well-designed leisure and aquatic facilities support sustainable urban planning by encouraging active transport which helps to reduce temperature, mitigate urban heat island effects, improve air quality ecosystems and biodiversity.



3.3 Leisure and aquatic facility trends

Aquatic facilities are among the most popular locations in Australia for active recreation, across all age groups. Approximately 5 million Australians either swim or use aquatic facilities for aqua aerobics, hydrotherapy and other aquatic exercise².

Industry trends

As a whole, the leisure industry employs more than 50,000 people with a turnover of \$1.3 billion and 263 million visitors per annum. There are approximately 1,900 leisure facilities in operation around Australia, most of which are owned and run by more than 650 local councils, managed in house or by external management organisations. Central Coast's eleven leisure and aquatic centres are a part of the leisure industry.

Users are focusing on group fitness and other group training mechanisms. Leisure and aquatic trends have continued with high participation for children in swim schools and adults are engaging in leisure swimming, aerobics and new types of emerging programs.

Sport and Recreation Trends

- A gradual ageing of the population.
- Flexibility in the times when people recreate.
- Increased variety in leisure options.
- Constraints to leisure participation.
- Changing employment structures, trading and work hours.
- Aquatic areas usually require financial subsidy whilst health and fitness usually profitable.
- Different people want different activities.
- Provision of high standards and quality of facilities and services.
- Desire for activities to be affordable.
- Recognition of strong links between physical activity and health.
- Expectations of equity and access.
- Technology developments and impacts.
- More sustainable and eco-friendly infrastructure.

Facility trends

Over the past decade, there has been a greater emphasis on the development of a variety of water spaces within aquatic centres, including:

- Program pools are designed for learn to swim and a variety of aquatics programs
- Warm water pools used for rehabilitation and therapy, have become one of the highest use spaces within public aquatic and leisure centres
- Water play including large, enclosed slides, water jets and other leisure play opportunities.
- Health and fitness programming have also advanced with a greater emphasis on programs for older adults and a much broader range of opportunities, including Pilates, Yoga and Boot Camp.

² Clearinghouse for Sport, AusPlay: Sports and physical activity reports, 2020

Facility trends indicate several common success factors for leisure and aquatic centres:



One-stop-shop



Reduce operating losses



Programmable
spaces



Community/social
hub

Successful and sustainable contemporary aquatic and leisure facilities are also community destinations and meeting points for various physical and social activities.



3.4 Market attractiveness

Successful and sustainable contemporary aquatic and leisure facilities are also community destinations and meeting points for a range of physical and social activities. There are four distinct key user markets that need to be attracted to a facility if it is to achieve high use and sustainable operations. These are outlined in the graphic below:

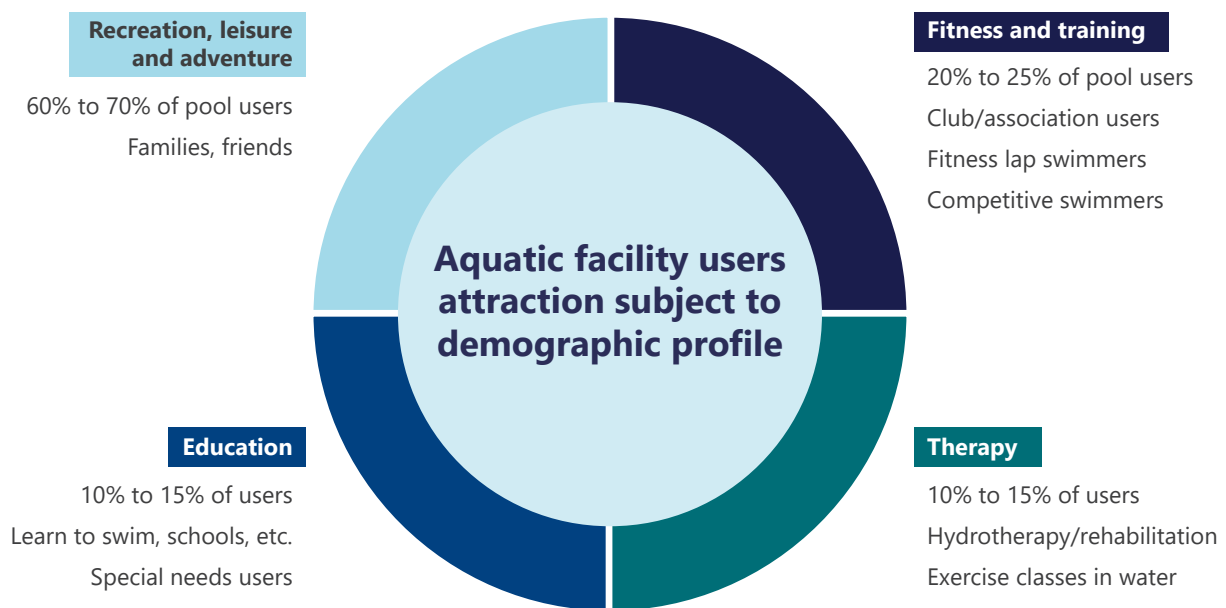


Figure 2: Main Aquatic and Leisure Facility User Markets

Business Drivers

Industry trends highlight two key business drivers that contribute to the bottom-line operating performance of aquatic and leisure centres. These business drivers, match services provided by the commercial market, primarily because there is an operating surplus (profit) to be made. The two key business drivers are:

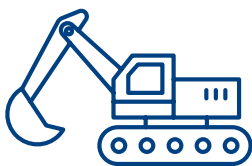
1. Health and Fitness memberships
2. Learn to Swim enrolments.

It is therefore critical to ensure facility developments, particularly the gym, group exercise rooms, learn to swim pools, warm water pools and supporting amenities, are correctly planned and sized to maximise the performance of these areas. This can offset operating deficits incurred by other activity areas.



Insights from Royal Life Saving Society Australia¹

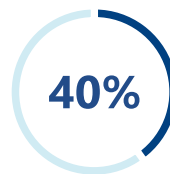
The research by PWC on behalf of the Royal Lifesaving Social found that:



The average Australian public pool was built in 1968



\$8 billion is needed to replace these public pools



Forty percent of all public pools in Australia will reach the end of their functional lifespan by 2030



A further \$3 billion will be needed to replace public pools ending their lifespan by 2035¹

¹ The Social, Health and Economic Value Of Aquatic Industry, Royal Life Saving Australia (Pricewaterhouse Coopers), 2021

4. Leisure and Aquatic Facilities on the Central Coast

4.1 Our leisure and aquatic centres

Council has a number of leisure and aquatic facilities located across the Coast which provide a diverse range of indoor pools, community spaces and health and fitness facilities. A summary of the leisure and aquatic centres and their facility components are provided below.

Peninsula Leisure Centre (Built in 2005 – 20 years old)

The Peninsula Leisure Centre, located in Woy Woy on the Central Coast, opened in October 2005, replacing the existing Woy Woy Memorial Pool, and offers a range of indoor aquatic and sports facilities. Peninsula Leisure Centre is the most southern aquatic, sports and fitness facility with the largest annual visitations of Council venues. Since 2016 \$7.23 million has been spent on renewals and upgrades to Peninsula Leisure Centre.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	Attendance	Facility components	Services offered
43,000 (2021) 44,000 (2046) Low growth	450,000 - 550,000. Trend - increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor heated 50m pool Leisure and warm water pools Outdoor Splash Park and waterslide Spa, steam room and sauna 24-hour gym Two (2) full sized indoor sport courts Creche Café and BBQ facilities Hearing loop Accessible toilet/ changeroom Accessible platform lift Submersible water wheelchairs for hire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn to swim programs Swim squads Lap and recreational swimming Water polo club Hire for events and carnivals Gym and group fitness Basketball/ Netball/ Futsal

Current Limitations and Future Opportunities

Challenges:

- The facility is nearing full capacity for gym, swimming and sports court usage.
- Access to parking is challenging at peak times and may be impacting participation growth.
- The facility is now 20 years old, and infrastructure is starting to show signs of ageing.

Opportunities:

- There are opportunities for facility improvements and innovation including expanding Health and Fitness Centre to accommodate current and future demand.
- Enhancing energy efficiency presents a key opportunity for improvement.



Gosford Olympic Pool (Built in 1955 – 70 years old)

Gosford Olympic Pool was constructed in stages from 1954 and opened in 1955 and is one of the Central Coast's most used swimming pools with over 240,000 visits annually at its peak. As it nears end of life, a redevelopment of existing components will allow it to better serve the south and west of the Coast. A total of \$1.43 million has been invested in renewals and upgrades at Gosford Olympic Pool since 2016.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	Attendance	Facility components	Services offered
66,000 (2021)	200,000-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor heated 50m pool Indoor heated 25m pool Indoor heated rehabilitation pools Outdoor toddler pool Modern change-room facilities Grandstand Cafe and swim shop BBQ and picnic area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn to swim program Aqua fitness classes Squad coaching program Lap and recreational swimming Pools and spaces for hire for events and carnivals
79,000 (2046)	240,000		
Relatively high growth	Trend - increasing		

Current Limitations and Future Opportunities

Challenges:

- The facility requires ongoing maintenance due to its ageing infrastructure which may lead to increased costs and potential service disruptions with any extensive repairs.
- Accessibility remains a concern, particularly regarding parking, entry points and pool access, which may limit inclusivity for all users.

Opportunities:

- The development of a new facility as part of the Gosford Waterfront planning offers an opportunity to upgrade amenities and better meet community needs.
- Future improvements can be made to address accessibility challenges, ensuring a more inclusive and user-friendly experience for all visitors.



Wyong Olympic Pool (Built in 1960 – 65 years old)

The Wyong Olympic Pool, a 50-metre seasonal and unheated outdoor pool with a wading pool, is a community hub offering recreational swimming, squad coaching, and water polo. The northern region catchment has the highest percentage population growth (92%) through to 2046 than any of the existing pool locations with 44,000 people estimated to be in the 5km catchment. As it nears end of life, a redevelopment will allow it to better serve the north of the Coast, all year round with a contemporary service offering. Since 2016, over \$906,000 has been invested in renewals and upgrades at Wyong Olympic Pool.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	Attendance	Facility components	Services offered
21,000 (2021)	4,000-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor 50m pool Wading pool Amenities centre Tennis and netball courts Sportsground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swim squads Entrance and Wyong water polo clubs, games and training - club rooms Lap and recreational swimming Hire for events and carnivals Swim wall
41,000 (2046)	39,000		
High growth	Trend - Increasing		

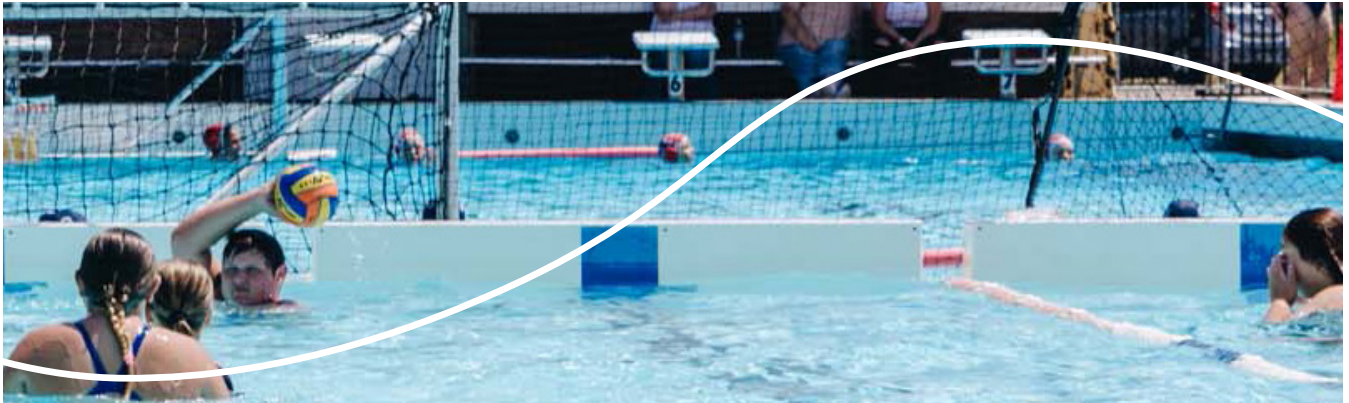
Current Limitations and Future Opportunities

Challenges:

- The facility requires ongoing maintenance due to its ageing infrastructure which may lead to increased costs and potential service disruptions.
- The pool's seasonal operation (October to April) and lack of heating limit its usage, reducing its appeal and accessibility for year-round patrons.
- Low current participation levels across programs and services, and is weather dependent.

Opportunities:

- Replacing the existing centre with a modern, year-round facility in a more accessible location would attract a larger, more diverse demographic, increasing participation and sustainability.



Toukley Aquatic Centre (Built in 1979 – 46 years old)

Toukley Aquatic Centre offers a range of aquatic programs and amenities for all ages and abilities. Featuring a heated indoor swimming pool, swimming programs and group classes, the centre provides a welcoming space for exercise, rehabilitation and leisure. Toukley Aquatic Centre has received \$1.3 million in renewals and upgrades since 2016.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	Attendance	Facility components	Services offered
28,000 (2021)	115,000-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor 25m heated pool Warm water/ swim lesson pool Outdoor toddlers pool Meeting room Kiosk BBQ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn to swim program Swim squads Lap and recreational swimming Hire for events and carnivals Aqua fitness Swimming club
31,000 (2046)	140,000		
Low growth	Trend - increasing		

Current Limitations and Future Opportunities

Challenges:

- The facility experiences high demand during peak times, making it difficult to accommodate all users, particularly for hydrotherapy and learn to swim programs.
- Due to its small local catchment area, the centre has a limited user base.
- The facility is ageing, and its condition requires ongoing maintenance, which can impact the experience for visitors and lead to higher operational costs.

Opportunities:

- Upgrading facility with modern design and amenities can improve its overall look and functionality, making it more appealing to the community.
- Enhancing energy efficiency presents a key opportunity for improvement.

Grant McBride Ocean Baths (Built in 1965 – 60 years old)

The Grant McBride Ocean Baths, formerly "The Entrance Ocean Baths," is a heritage-listed ocean pool complex at the southern end of The Entrance Beach, constructed between 1938 and 1965, and renamed in 2018 to honour Grant McBride. The ocean baths are free to use and open year-round (subject to maintenance and cleaning) and supervised with various patrolled hours throughout the season. Since 2016 over \$140,000 has been spent on renewals and upgrades to Grant McBride Ocean Baths.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	Attendance	Facility components	Services offered
22,000 (2021) 24,000 (2046)	80,000- 100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor 50m pool Outdoor 22m lap pool Wading pool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carnivals Lap swimming/walking Aquatic play Winter and summer swim clubs

Current Limitations and Future Opportunities

Challenges:

- The facility has limited parking which can create congestion and make access difficult, especially during peak times.
- As pools rely on tidal movements for refilling, water levels and quality can vary, impacting usability.
- Without heating, the facility is mainly suitable for warm weather use, reducing year-round recreational opportunities.

Opportunities:

- As a free to use facility, it provides an accessible and affordable recreational opportunity for the community.
- Its unique coastal location enhances its appeal, offering scenic views and a natural swimming experience that differs from standard pools.
- As a heritage listed site, the facility holds cultural and historical significance.





Niagara Park Stadium (Built in 1999 – 26 years old)

The stadium catchment is forecast to grow from 55,700 to 67,700 by 2046 which will continue to increase the demand for court sports. There are approximately 700 Basketball NSW members using Niagara Park now, along with volleyball, futsal, indoor hockey, netball and table tennis competitions and significant school use. A total of \$3.4 million has been invested in renewals and upgrades at Niagara Park Stadium since 2016.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	Attendance	Facility components	Services offered
38,000 (2021)	115,000-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four (4) basketball courts Meeting rooms Trampoline area Dance studio Martial arts studio Cafe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball, Wheelchair basketball Soccer Martial arts Roller derby Netball Volleyball Table tennis Trampolining Dance
45,000 (2046)	135,000		
Average	Trend -		
growth	stable		

Current Limitations and Future Opportunities

Challenges:

- The leisure centre faces peak demand during the evenings and weekends, often reaching full capacity, which limits access for all users.
- The facility does not meet the requirements needed to host national sporting events, restricting its potential to attract larger competitions.
- Off-peak usage during the day is low, leading to underutilised spaces and resources.

Opportunities:

- The centre has the opportunity to attract more major events to the Coast, boosting visibility and revenue.
- Expanding the size and capacity of the facility could help meet both current and future community needs.



Lake Haven Recreation Centre (Built in 1986 - 39 years old, redeveloped in 2009)

Lake Haven Recreation Centre offers a variety of health and fitness opportunities. The Recreation Centre is serving the largest population base of the Council owned indoor court facilities with 91,000 people in the broader 10km catchment. Since 2016, \$2.7 million has been invested in renewals and upgrades at Lake Haven Recreation Centre.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	Attendance	Facility components	Services offered
62,000 (2021)	105,000-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two (2) Sports courts Gym – 24 hr Group fitness Three (3) squash Cycle studio Meeting rooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group fitness classes Personal training Pilates classes Basketball/Netball Badminton Volleyball Squash Judo Dance School holiday activities Hire for events and carnivals
71,000 (2046)	125,000		
Average growth	Trend - stable		

Current Limitations and Future Opportunities

Challenges:

- As the facility is situated at the back of a shopping centre, visibility and foot traffic is reduced, making it more difficult to attract new members and casual visitors.
- Accessibility remains a concern, particularly regarding the second floor of the facility and parking, which may limit inclusivity for all users.
- Strong competition from numerous low-cost local gyms and fitness centres makes it difficult to differentiate offerings and retain long-term members.

Opportunities:

- Future improvements can be made to address accessibility challenges, ensure a more inclusive and user-friendly experience for all visitors.
- Expand facilities to accommodate a wider range of programs can attract a broader audience and encourage repeat visits.

Mingara Aquatic Centre - One by Mingara (Partly funded capital investment)

The Mingara Aquatic Centre plays a key role in meeting demand around Tumby Umbi and Berkeley Vale. The previous Wyong Shire Council contributed to the capital costs of the Mingara Aquatic Centre indoor swimming pool, although Council has no involvement in the operating of the facility.

Facility Summary

Site and Facilities	
Facility components	Services offered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 metre pool Heated leisure pool Hydrotherapy pool Creche Café Swim shop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn to swim program Squad program Adult fitness and swim classes Gym and Fitness (One Mingara)

PCYC Bateau Bay – Council owned, operated under lease (Built in 1978 - 47 years old)

The stadium services 60,000 people in its 10km catchment and currently offers court programs mainly aimed at youth, beginners and social competition.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	Attendance	Facility components	Services offered
43,000 (2021) 45,000 (2046) Low growth	13,000 per annum approx.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two (2) Sports halls Gym - upstairs Music room Tennis courts Program room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball, Wheelchair basketball Outdoor Netball Pickleball Gym Fitness classes Boxing Outdoor tennis



Breakers Stadium – Council owned, operated under lease (Built in 1993 - 32 years old)

With 2,622 Basketball NSW members at Breakers stadium and use by other indoor sports, Basketball NSW state the stadium is at capacity. Central Coast Basketball which operates from the stadium currently report up to 3,000 registered members playing on a weekly basis.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	Attendance	Facility components	Services offered
45,000 (2021) 49,000 (2036) Low growth	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-purpose indoor venue with four (4) championship-sized basketball courts Grandstand - up to 1,000 people Air-conditioned mezzanine with kitchen facilities Café 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball Referee training and pathways Volleyball Netball Pickleball Events - expos, computer markets, book fairs and trade shows

PCYC Umina – Council owned, operated under lease (Built in 2001 - 24 years old)

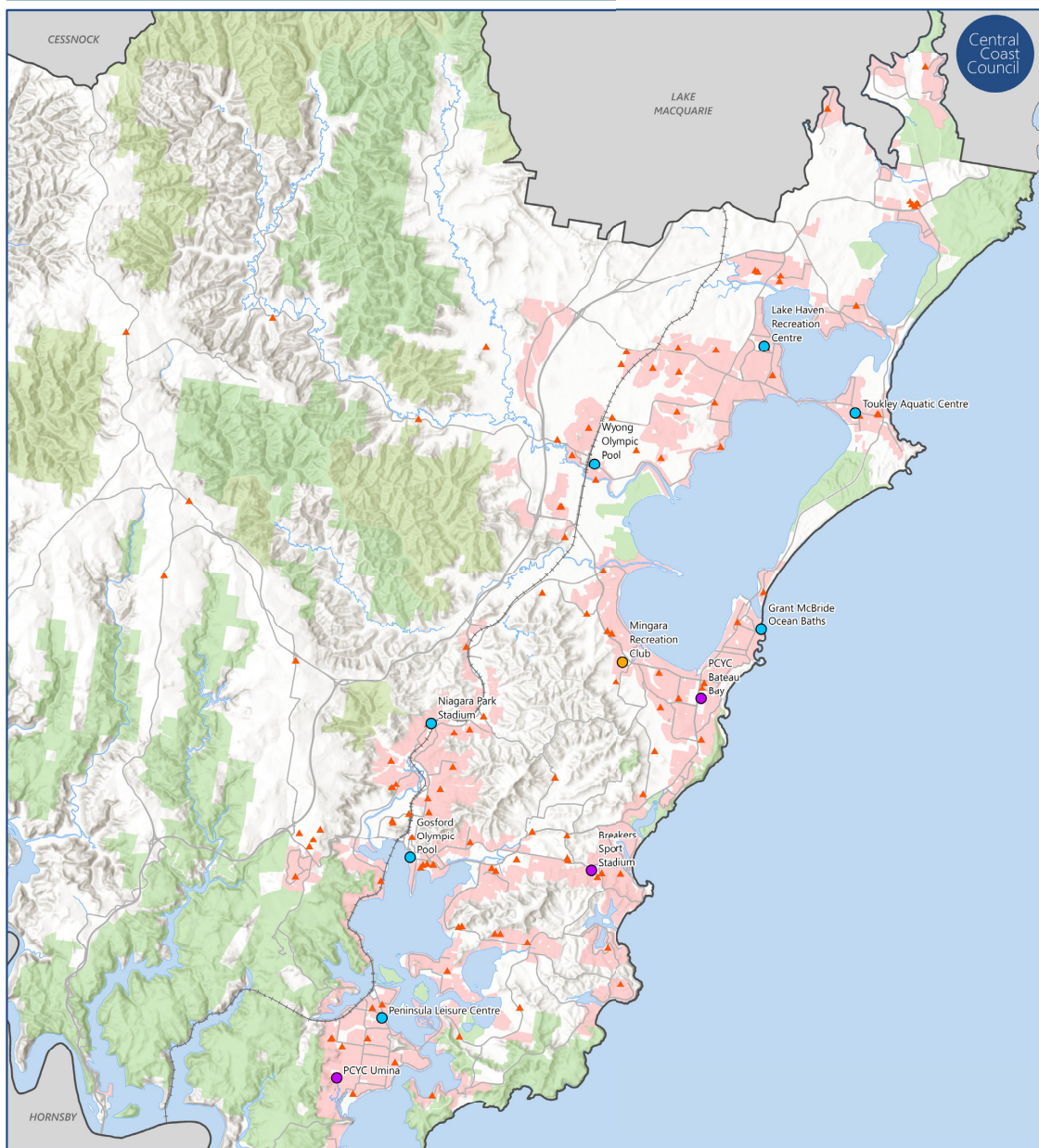
Umina Beach PCYC predominately operates as Gymnastics and Boxing venue with each activity in their own buildings.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	Attendance	Facility components	Services offered
39,000 (2021) 40,000 (2046) Low growth	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gymnastics hall Seven (7) boxing rings Gym equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gymnastics Boxing Trampolining Martial arts Archery

Map 1. shows the locations of Council owned leisure and aquatic facilities. This includes all ten facilities that are included in this strategy, as well as Mingara Aquatic Centre, which was partly funded by the former Wyong Council.

Central Coast Council - Location of Council Leisure and Aquatic Facilities



Legend

- Council owned and operated facilities
- Council owned, operated under a lease
- Privately operated - Joint venture with Council
- ▲ Schools
- Major Roads
- +++ Railway Lines
- Residential Zones
- State Forests
- NPWS Reserves
- Waterways and Ocean



Prepared by: Geospatial Information Team
 Project: PRJ_000547 Map reference: Map1
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 Paper size: A4
 Sources: © Central Coast Council, Esri, Geoscience Australia, NASA, NOAA, USGS
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4.2 Non-Council owned leisure and aquatic facilities

In addition to Central Coast Council's leisure and aquatic facilities, there are a number of privately-operated swim schools and health and fitness centres that service the community. These privately owned facilities are located across the local government area (LGA) and are available to varying degrees to the general public. A list of potential competitors for each of the Council owned facilities is shown in Appendix 1.

Furthermore, there are leisure and aquatic facilities located outside of the Central Coast LGA in neighbouring areas which are also used by Central Coast residents, making up the regional network of facilities.

4.3 Demand for leisure and aquatic centres on the Coast

The importance of access to leisure and aquatic facilities for formal and informal recreation uses will only increase as population growth and changing demographic profiles drive greater demand for diverse and inclusive programs that promote health, wellbeing and community connections.

Population Distribution

The impact of the Coast's population characteristics on the future provision of leisure and aquatic facilities means:

- The large and rapidly growing population will place pressure on Council to ensure access to high-quality, modern and accessible leisure and aquatic facilities.
- The area's relatively older population profile, with age cohorts 70 years+ projected to be the fastest-growing group through to 2046, will lead to a greater demand for warm water pools to support hydrotherapy and rehabilitation-based programs and services.
- In areas with high population of young people, there will be an increased demand for access to learn to swim program pools, recreation swimming, and leisure/ adventure water facilities such as slides, inflatables, indoor and outdoor water play areas.
- Catchments with a higher level of disadvantage are likely to have a greater price sensitivity, leading to increased demand for affordable activities and greater need for access to learn to swim programs.
- A large proportion of residents (52.9%) are in the most active age group (5 to 49 years), suggesting ongoing demand for fitness swimming, health and wellness and all year-round facility access.

Future Population Growth

Between 2021 and 2046 the Central Coast population is predicted to grow substantially with 40,000 residents (an increase of 11.4%) expected to be living on the Coast by 2036 and a total population of 412,500 by 2046.

Growth in estimated demand for aquatic activities will be greatest in the northern region with an additional 5,280 participants in Wyong, and Gosford an additional 3,320 from 2021 to 2046. There is strategic justification for a new 'regional' aquatic and leisure facility in the Warnervale-Wyong Growth Area. The existing Wyong Olympic Pool is nearing its end of its useful life. With the northern region having the highest percentage population than any of the existing pool locations, Council will need to commence the long-term planning and design for a new facility in the growth area.

Potential participation for indoor court sports is estimated to grow in all catchments through to 2046. Basketball is projected to continue to have the highest potential participation of indoor court sports, and therefore new sport courts will be needed across the region.

Emerging sports

Participation in Pickleball is growing and there is some unmet demand for indoor courts for this activity. There is also significant growth in more social and modified sports for older adults and people with a disability living on the Central Coast, such as "walking" sports, soft tennis, table tennis and badminton.



Proposed Developments

Future leisure and aquatic facility developments would consider the catchment areas and influence the future and complementary role, service and facilities across the Coast. A range of facility development options were considered by Council to inform the strategic directions of this strategy.

Proposed new Warnervale Aquatic and Leisure Centre

The development of a new facility on the north of the Coast could service the north of the LGA with year-round swimming lessons, lap swimming, carnivals, therapy, aquatic play, and a range of indoor sports, to suit one of the youngest population profiles on the Central Coast. This facility was identified as needed in former Wyong Shire Council days and subsequently in Central Coast Council, with varying feasibility studies completed.

The Greater Warnervale Structure Plan 2021 –2041 includes an “indoor recreation centre with aquatic facilities and indoor sport courts” within the Warnervale Village precinct. The centre is noted as featuring aquatic, indoor sport, and health and fitness components. The plan states that the centre “will have broader regional demand beyond the Warnervale District.” The project would be part funded under development contributions. The project has been identified as a key enabling project for the region in 2024.

Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex, Tuggerah – Stage 2 - New sports courts

The second stage of the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex proposes an indoor sports centre in the centre of the precinct. Stage 2 includes a six-court multi-purpose indoor facility. Previous business cases have been completed, and the project has been identified as a key enabling project for the region in 2024.

4.4 Our leisure and aquatic centre provision

Central Coast Council Aquatic Facility Provision

The southern area of Central Coast is serviced by two indoor aquatic facilities with Gosford Olympic Pool and Peninsula Leisure Centre attracting over 650,000 visits per year.

The north of the Coast is serviced by the relatively smaller Toukley Aquatic Centre and the seasonal outdoor Wyong Olympic Pool attracting a combined 136,000 annual visitations. Although high growth is expected across the Coast in the next 10 years, aquatic provision will be in high demand in the north which a facility in Warnervale can address.

Industry benchmarks suggest the outdoor 50-metre pools are at an age that warrants consideration for planning and scheduling of complete renewal (general lifecycle for leisure and aquatic facilities is 50 years). The current facilities' average age is over 42 years and ranges from 20 to 70 years. As a consequence, many of the facilities are not fit for the purpose of addressing community needs and reaching the end of their serviceable lives. As shown in Table 1 below, our leisure and aquatic facilities vary in age, with some serving the community for over 50 years, well beyond the outdoor pool industry benchmark.

Table 1 - Leisure and Aquatic Facilities with built year and age

Facility	Built Year	Years Old
Gosford Olympic Pool	1955	70 years (20 years over Pool industry Pool benchmark)
Wyong Olympic Pool	1960	65 years old (15 years over Pool industry benchmark)
Grant McBride Ocean Baths	1965	60 years (no industry benchmark for ocean baths)
PCYC Bateau Bay – Council owned, operated under lease	1978	47 years
Toukley Aquatic Centre	1979	46 years
Lake Haven Recreation Centre	1986 Centre redeveloped in 2009	39 years
Breakers Stadium – Council owned, operated under lease	1993	32 years
Mingara Aquatics/Pool	1996 Centre has received various redevelopment of gym/fitness/recreation activities over the years	29 years
Niagara Park Stadium	1999	26 years
PCYC Umina – Council owned, operated under lease	2001	24 years
Peninsula Leisure Centre	2005	20 years

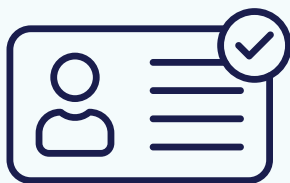
Facilities for warm water exercise, water polo and school swimming carnivals and full accessibility are required as they are less likely to be offered by private providers.

Map 2 shows that most of the Central Coast Council community lives within driving distance of an aquatic facility, but that there are key gaps in provision. These include Terrigal, Warnervale, Lake Haven, and northern areas such as Lake Munmorah. Although not a Council owned and managed facility, the Mingara Aquatic Centre plays a key role in meeting demand around Tumby Umbi and Berkeley Vale.

Indoor Sports Court Provision

There are 14 Council owned indoor sport courts in the Central Coast, 2 commercial venues with 4 small courts offering social competitions and a number of schools with indoor courts providing limited public access. An additional 6 indoor courts are proposed for the Regional Sport and Recreation Complex in Tuggerah, which will bring the total of Council owned courts to 20.

It is important to recognise that the size, mix of facility components and associated capacity of any leisure and aquatic sites can vary significantly. When planning for future leisure and aquatic centres it is recommended to focus on the following key principles rather than simply a quantity-based provision standard:



**Distribution and
Access**

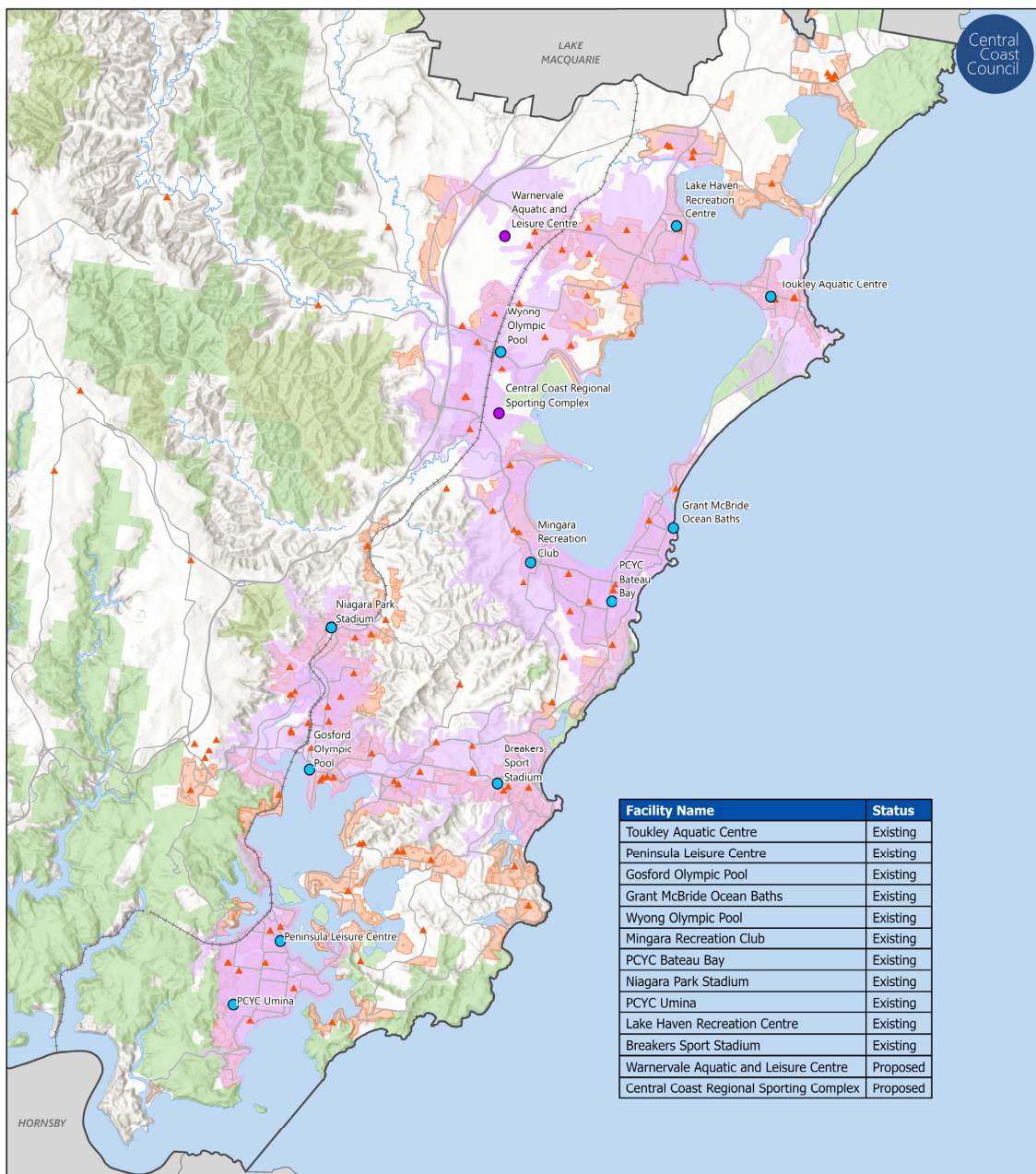


**Quality and
Function**



Size and Capacity

Central Coast Council - Existing & Proposed Leisure & Aquatic Facilities, 5km catchment



Legend

Leisure and aquatic facilities

- Existing
- Proposed
- 5km catchment
- ▲ Schools

Railway Lines

Major Roads

Residential Zones

State Forests

NPWS Reserves

Waterways and Ocean

0 2.5 5 10 km



Prepared by: Geospatial Information Team
 Project: P93_000047 Map reference: Map2
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5. Community Engagement

5.1 Central Coast Leisure Centres and Pools Customer Satisfaction Survey

Every two years, we conduct our Leisure Centres and Pools Satisfaction Survey as part of our commitment to continually improve our services delivered to the community. Our priority is to focus on what matters most to people on the Central Coast when it comes to the leisure and aquatic services Council provides.

Council continually reviews leisure and aquatic services to meet the changing needs of the community, including how people want to use the state-of-the-art indoor and outdoor facilities and enjoy a range of program experiences. The information that the community provides helps inform Council's operational plans to ensure our leisure and aquatic facilities are meeting the needs of our diverse community.

Council receives feedback from approximately **600 to 700 community members** of the Coast as part of the Leisure Centres and Pools Customer Satisfaction Survey.

What you told us

Leisure Centres and Pools Customer Satisfaction Survey 2024

To ensure our leisure and aquatic facilities pools are fit for purpose and meet community needs and expectations, Council conducted the Central Coast Leisure Centres and Pools Satisfaction Survey from 8 April to 13 May in 2024. Over 600 people participated in the community engagement process to help us shape the future of our leisure and aquatics facilities on the Coast.

Key Findings

Leisure and Aquatic facilities are highly valued by the community, they are recognised as important community assets that support the health, wellness and recreation needs of residents.



What you like about our Leisure and Aquatic Facilities:

 <p>Convenient Location</p> <p>Easily accessible for the local community</p>	 <p>Diverse Amenities</p> <p>Includes hydro pools, heated pools, outdoor pools and saltwater baths</p>	 <p>Facility Usage Options</p> <p>Recreational swimming, training, and learn-to-swim programs</p>	 <p>Expert Instructors and Friendly Staff</p> <p>Supportive and approachable team members</p>
 <p>Group Fitness and Aquatic Classes</p> <p>A variety of sessions for all skill levels</p>	 <p>Family-Friendly Features</p> <p>Toddler pools, child-friendly areas, creche</p>	 <p>Opening Hours</p> <p>Times to suit different schedules</p>	 <p>Additional Services</p> <p>Kiosk, café, diving blocks and other on-site amenities</p>

"Availability of one stop shop... gym, swim, sauna, steam rooms and kids play"

(Peninsula Leisure Centre customer - Leisure and Aquatic Survey 2024, Central Coast Council).

What could be improved at our Leisure and Aquatic Facilities:

 <p>Facility Upgrades</p> <p>Update ageing infrastructure to create a more modern and enjoyable space</p>	 <p>Water Play Enhancements</p> <p>Introduce or improve interactive water play features for all ages</p>	 <p>Increased Maintenance</p> <p>Ensure consistent upkeep and cleanliness of facilities</p>	 <p>Extended Operating Hours</p> <p>All year-round access and more evening classes for different schedules</p>
 <p>Upgraded Amenities</p> <p>Improve change rooms, toilets and other essential facilities</p>	 <p>Better Parking</p> <p>Expand or optimise parking spaces for easier access</p>	 <p>More Seating</p> <p>Additional seating areas for spectators and visitors</p>	 <p>Improved Accessibility</p> <p>Enhance facilities to better accommodate people of all abilities and backgrounds</p>
 <p>General Refresh</p> <p>Update aesthetics and infrastructure to create a more inviting environment</p>			

"The pool is showing signs of its age and needs some general maintenance and a serious update"

(Gosford Olympic Pool customer - Leisure and Aquatic Survey 2024, Central Coast Council).

6. Our Vision, Guiding Principles and Framework

6.1 Vision

We are committed to creating vibrant, inclusive and sustainable leisure and aquatic facilities that enhance community wellbeing, promote health and foster social connections. Our vision is to create a network of high quality, accessible, diverse and inclusive facilities that cater to all ages, abilities and backgrounds – encouraging active lifestyles, fostering community pride and enhancing the natural and built environment. Through innovation, sustainability and strong partnerships, we will create welcoming and adaptable spaces that support recreation, skill development and lifelong participation.

Together we will shape a healthier, more connected and resilient community for generations to come.



6.2 Guiding principles for leisure and aquatic facilities

Our guiding principles will ensure the future planning, provision and maintenance of aquatic, indoor sport, gym, leisure and recreational facilities across the Coast meet the needs of our community both now and in the future.

These principles will enable the creation of an active, safe, healthy, vibrant and liveable community.



Equitable

Create a network of leisure and aquatic facilities offering a wide range of programs and services to cater to the diverse needs of the community. These spaces will provide opportunities for recreation, fitness and wellness, ensuring accessibility for all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds.



Accessible

Ensure accessibility into, around and within activity spaces for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, with inclusive programs that meet the diverse needs of the community.



Responsible and Sustainable

Ensure future improvements are cost-effective and designed to maximise community use and long-term viability. Major upgrades to be carefully planned in alignment with Council's Asset Management Plan to extend facility lifespan and improve construction efficiency. Future developments will support ongoing reinvestment in community facilities and services.



High Quality

Facilities will be modern, well equipped and designed to provide high quality experiences that align with community expectations. Continuous improvements will be made to enhance safety, accessibility and overall user satisfaction, supporting both recreational and health focused leisure and aquatic activities.



Innovative and Adaptable

Differentiate our facilities by embracing innovation in design, technology and programming to offer unique and modern recreational experiences. Ensure that the spaces remain dynamic, adaptable and forward-thinking to meet evolving community needs.



Community-Focused

Leisure and aquatic facilities will offer a broad range of facilities and activities that encourage fitness, recreation and social interaction. Improvements to centres will enhance flexible programming and space usage, providing diverse opportunities for health and wellness.



7. Our Leisure and Aquatic Facilities Framework for the Coast

Best practice facility planning follows a hierarchical classification system for community infrastructure. The hierarchy considers what each facility is designed for, the level of service it should provide, the people it serves and how it connects with the broader network of community spaces.

A well-integrated network of high quality leisure and aquatic facilities is essential to providing complementary services in areas with the highest population growth and demand. The future network of Council owned leisure and aquatic centres will be based upon:

- Council's provision rate aligning with similar NSW local government benchmarks
- Maintaining a geographically balanced distribution of existing Council owned leisure and aquatic centres
- Fulfilling Council's obligation to support local aquatic facilities, programs and services that meet community needs
- Conducting extensive research and consultation

The Facility Hierarchy will support Council in directing investment toward the maintenance and renewal of the community assets and infrastructure. It will also promote equitable distribution and accessibility of various facility types across the Coast.

The following table outlines the service hierarchy for leisure and aquatic facilities on the Central Coast, aligning with industry standards for catchment sizes.

Table 2. Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Facilities Hierarchy

Service Hierarchy	Description	Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Facilities
Local 10,000 to 40,000 Catchment Population	Smaller in size and scale and intended to address local community needs. Key attributes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to provide limited program water combined with leisure water. • Limited dry/gym facilities. 	Wyong Olympic Pool Grant McBride Ocean Baths
District 40,000 to 70,000 Catchment Population	Services a cluster of communities/suburbs from its immediate surrounding catchment, with a mix of local training or social use and inter-club competition. Key attributes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to separate program and leisure water. • Larger dry/gym facilities. 	Gosford Olympic Pool Toukley Aquatic Centre Lake Haven Recreation Centre Niagara Park Stadium Breakers Stadium PCYC Umina PYCY Bateau Bay
City-Wide 70,000 to 100,000 Catchment Population	Services the entire city catchment and incorporates high quality and high capacity facilities, that support recreation, leisure and adventure, fitness and training, education and therapy activities. Key attributes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More extensive program and leisure water. • Consideration of indoor 50m pool and complementary warm water pool. • Increased gym and program space. • Additional complimentary amenities, food and beverage. 	Peninsula Leisure Centre Mingara Aquatic Centre Proposed new leisure and aquatic facility – Northern region
Regional 100,000 to 150,000 Catchment Population	Premier venue that has an important role in attracting and supporting events competitions, and elite athlete development that cannot be provided at the city-wide, district, and local level. Key attributes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive and varied program leisure water and attractions • Inclusion of indoor 50m pool and separate warm water pools. • Wellness/health club and extensive program room inclusions. • Complementary services and amenities, crèche, food and beverage. 	Sydney Olympic Park Facilities

8. Our Plan

Our population is growing. By 2046, the Central Coast's population will grow by 18% and reach 412,502 people creating ongoing demand for leisure and aquatic services as well as expanded and new facilities to meet the increased number of users. The following strategic directions have been developed after analysis of the economic, social, recreation, community development and environmental opportunities presented by each site.

8.1 Strategic Directions

The strategic directions for leisure and aquatic facilities and services across the region provided by Council are outlined below.

8.1.1 Strategic Direction 1: Facility Upgrades – Compliance with Health and Safety Regulations

Ensure all leisure and aquatic facilities meet Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) standards through regular maintenance. This includes improving accessibility, addressing safety hazards and modernising infrastructure to create a safe and inclusive environment.

8.1.2 Strategic Direction 2: Asset Management Plan

Continue to implement a proactive approach to facility maintenance and operational improvements to ensure facilities maintain safe, functional and sustainable. Operational improvements to be highlighted annually with necessary upgrades incorporated into Council's Capital Program.

8.1.3 Strategic Direction 3: Sports Court Development and Upgrades

Enhancing and expanding sports courts to improve accessibility, functionality and community engagement. This includes upgrading existing courts, developing new multi-use spaces, improving lights and surfacing and partnering with local sports organisations to maximise usage and funding opportunities.

8.1.4 Strategic Direction 4: Redevelopment of Ageing Infrastructure

As leisure and aquatic facilities on the Coast approach the end of their lifecycles, the redevelopment of existing structures and the addition of new facilities will be essential to ensure increased community benefit and support continued community growth.



9. Our Leisure and Aquatic Centre Plans

Based on the consultation, key findings and strategic directions provided in this strategy, a number of actions for each facility have been identified, taking into consideration operational costs, maintenance requirements, renewal schedules and redevelopment options.

Our Leisure and Aquatic Centre Plans recognise the need for more contemporary offerings at each of the leisure and aquatic centres, with improvements and developments reflecting the Leisure and Aquatic Facilities Framework. These plans focus on achieving the best community outcomes for our leisure and aquatic centres, staging of works over a 10-year period, and modernising existing facilities as they reach end of asset life.

Enhancing Council-Operated Facilities

The key actions for Council operated facilities are summarised below and will guide site specific redevelopment plans and ensure a coordinated approach to facility management, improving accessibility, service delivery and alignment with community needs.

Renewal/Improvements

- A total of \$10.594 million of Capital renewals are planned in the 4-Year Capital Program, across existing facilities to continue to provide high quality leisure, aquatic and recreation provision across the Coast. Depreciation in 24/25 for Council operated leisure, pool and recreation facilities is approximately \$3.233 million per year.

New/Upgrade

- Significant redevelopment of Gosford Olympic Pool is proposed at the existing site to provide a new modern aquatic facility, with improved configuration of grandstand and pools (approximate cost \$30-35million).
- New leisure and aquatic centre to be provided in the northern region, which will provide an indoor heated swimming facility and health and fitness facilities (approximate cost \$40-45 million).
- An increase in the supply of sport courts across the Central Coast is required, with proposed six (6) new courts at Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex at Tuggerah (approximate cost \$35 million).
- Upgrade Toukley Aquatic Centre with new entrance, façade and outdoor water play as part of Toukley Community Facilities Master-planning (approximate cost \$4.9 million).
- Investigations into the feasibility of two (2) court expansions at Niagara Park Stadium (first priority) and Lake Haven Recreation Centre (second priority) to provide adequate court supply across the region in the future (business case dependent).
- Investigations into the extension of gym and fitness facilities (first priority) and car parking (second priority) at Peninsula Leisure Centre, to provide future supply (business case dependant).

Rationalisation

- Once a new and modern leisure and aquatic facility is built in the northern region, the operating of the seasonal and unheated Wyong Olympic Pool will cease. This will also allow for the expansion of other recreational activities across the Baker Park Precinct, as part of the Master-planning for the area.



Action plans

Each action plan identifies the key actions that will guide further work to be undertaken to implement the Leisure and Aquatic Facilities Strategy. The detailed implementation of the strategy will require additional work to address specific issues, including the preparation of business cases and feasibility assessments and more detailed planning and assessment at the local level to determine the best response to identified issues. The implementation of this strategy will be considered within the context of Council's overall priorities and the competing demands of other areas and strategies within Council.

All projects in the action plans are included in Council's Long Term Financial Plan/10-year Capital Pipeline, which is approved every four years as part of Council's Capital Program. Project costs provided, will need to be indexed annually, due to the expected Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases.

Priority Rating

Actions have been assigned a priority rating based on:

- **High:** essential actions that are critical to strategy implementation.
- **Medium:** important in responding to a future need, may include prerequisite work for a low priority action.
- **Low:** an identified future need that will improve aquatic facilities but is a lower priority overall.
- **Ongoing:** recurring actions that support implementation and continue throughout the life of the strategy.

Timeframes

The timeframes for implementing actions are:

- **Short** – 1-4 years
- **Medium** – 5-7 years
- **Long** – 8-10 years or more

9.1 Peninsula Leisure Centre

Future Direction

With the facility currently serving a population of 43,000 within a 5km catchment, the modernisation of existing support infrastructure and provision of creche, fitness and court space will continue to stay in high demand.

Given the location, strong population catchment, and the largest annual visitations of Council venues, the Peninsula Leisure Centre will be maintained with rolling renewal works and upgrades as outlined in the Council Capital Works Program to provide a fully contemporary leisure centre that offers the full spectrum of facilities to maximise market attractiveness.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Ensure the facility is proactively maintained and identify operational improvements for review on an annual basis.	Annual renewal works included in Council's Capital Program. Business improvements via customer surveys, industry trends and staff feedback, and funded via operational budget.	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Renew the main changing room amenities for the pool hall.	\$1,400,000 – 2025/2026 Capital Works Program	High	Short
3. Renew and replace playspace equipment.	\$225,000 – 2025/2026 Capital Works Program	High	Short
4. Replace and upgrade fitness and gym equipment.	\$330,000 – 2026/2027 Capital Works Program	High	Short
5. Renewal and upgrade pools, spa, sauna, steam room.	\$550,000 – 2026/2027 Capital Works Program (\$125,000) and 2027/2028 Capital Works Program (\$425,000)	High	Short
6. Renew the filtration system and equipment at the centre, implementing a rolling program of works.	\$100,000 per year – Total of \$400,000 included in 4-year Capital Works Program until 2028/2029)	High	Short
7. Include ongoing programmed renewals beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on need, asset condition and centre demand.	Program to be further refined and approved beyond Year 4	High	Short
8. Investigate the cost benefit analysis of extending the gym and fitness centre with an additional second floor-level.	Business case dependant	Medium	Short - Medium
9. Investigate the extension of the car parking at the rear of the centre.	Business case dependant	Medium	Medium

9.2 Gosford Olympic Pool

Future Direction

The Gosford pool's local catchment (5km) will grow by 21% through to 2046 with an estimated 79,000 residents. They are also forecast to have the highest likely aquatic participation by 2046. The high growth in middle years and the older population groups support a high level of programming, warm water activities, and group and individual fitness activities being provided.

Gosford Olympic Pool is already one of the Central Coast's most used swimming pools with over 240,000 visits annually. As the aquatic facility approached the end of its lifecycle, a redevelopment of its existing components will be undertaken to enhance its capacity to serve the south and west area of the Coast more effectively.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Prioritise annual renewal works, recognising that the facility is at the end of its lifecycle, and requires replacement.	Annual renewal works included in Council's Capital Program. Business improvements via customer surveys, industry trends and staff feedback, and funded via operational budget.	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Renew the existing carpark to improve access.	\$200,000 – 2026/2027 Capital Works Program	High	Short
3. Renew the 50 metre pool through repairs and repainting.	\$250,000 – 2027/2028 Capital Works Program	High	Short
4. Renew the filtration system and equipment at the centre, implementing a rolling program of works.	\$50,000 per year – Total of \$200,000 included in 4-year Capital Works Program until 2028/2029	High	Short
5. Include ongoing programmed renewals beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on progress of the new facility and asset condition.	Program to be further refined and approved beyond Year 4	High	Medium
6. Replace the existing facility providing equivalent components in a modern design, including reorientating the facility to allow the grandstand to overlook Brisbane Water.	\$30 million (figure to be indexed annually) Project has been identified as a key enabling project for the Central Coast. Reliant on external funding to deliver the project.	High	Medium – Long

9.3 Niagara Park Stadium

Future Direction

Niagara Park Stadium will be maintained and improved with rolling renewal works and upgrades as outlined in the Council Capital Works Program. A key priority will be improving the overall accessibility of the facility to ensure it serves all members of the community.

Additionally, an investigation into the potential for adding more courts to the site will be undertaken to accommodate growing demand. With the catchment area forecast to increase from 55,700 to 67,000, there will be a continued rise in demand for courts and facilities, making these enhancements essential for meeting the needs of the current and future population.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Secure National, State and Regional events for the facility following the completion of accessibility improvements.	Existing operational budget	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Ensure the facility is proactively maintained and identify operational improvements for review on an annual basis	Annual renewal works to be included in Council's Capital Program. Business improvements via customer surveys, industry trends and staff feedback and funded via operational budget.	Ongoing	Continuous
3. Renew the sport court flooring and power supply at the Centre.	\$325,000 – 2025/2026 Capital Works Program	High	Short
4. Include ongoing programmed renewals beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on progress of the new facility and asset condition.	Program to be further refined and approved beyond Year 4	High	Short
5. Investigate the cost benefit analysis of further redevelopment of the Centre in line with Stage 2 plans, with an extension of two (2) new courts to provide further multi-purpose access for the community.	Business case dependent	Medium	Medium

9.4 Lake Haven Recreation Centre

Future Direction

With a strong population catchment, the Centre will be progressively upgraded with rolling renewal works and upgrades as outlined in the Council Capital Works Program.

This Centre will focus on ongoing upgrades, facility expansion and enhanced accessibility, to meet the evolving community needs. Key priorities include optimising sports infrastructure, increasing membership and providing diverse recreational offerings. Aligning with the Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP), efforts will also aim to improve accessibility to provide an inclusive environment for all users. A long-term cost-benefit analysis will inform future redevelopment decisions.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Increase gym and fitness membership through targeted promotional campaigns and explore opportunities to enhance overall facility usage.	Existing operational budget	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Ensure the facility is proactively maintained and identify operational improvements for review on an annual basis.	Annual renewal works to be included in Council's Capital Program. Business improvements via customer surveys, industry trends and staff feedback, and funded via operational budget.	Ongoing	Continuous
3. Install a new lift to improve accessibility to the gym and fitness facilities in alignment with Council's DIAP	\$250,000 – 2025/2026 Capital Works Program	High	Short
4. Replace and upgrade fitness and gym equipment.	\$330,000 – 2027/2028 Capital Works Program	High	Short
5. Upgrade the sport court and surrounding wall.	\$600,000 – 2027/2028 Capital Works Program (\$300,000) and 2028/2029 Capital Works Program (\$300,000)	High	Short
6. Include ongoing programmed renewals beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on progress of the new facility and asset condition.	Program to be further refined and approved beyond Year 4	High	Short
7. Investigate the cost benefit analysis of the redevelopment of the Centre, with the extension of two (2) courts to provide further multi-purpose access for the community.	Business case dependent	Low	Medium

9.5 Toukley Aquatic Centre

Future Direction

A focus for Toukley Aquatic Centre will be on maintaining high operational standards and ensure long-term sustainability. This will involve regular maintenance and annual operational reviews to drive continuous improvements with rolling renewal works and upgrades as outlined in the Council Capital Works Program. Key priorities include upgrading the filtration system, securing funding for the Toukley Community Facilities Masterplan and extending program beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on facility progress and asset condition.

The Centre's development will align with planned upgrades from the proposed Toukley Community Facilities Masterplan, ensuring it meets future community needs and maintains high operational standards for years to come.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Ensure the facility is proactively maintained and identify operational improvements for review on an annual basis.	Annual renewal works to be included in Council's Capital Program. Business improvements via customer surveys, industry trends and staff feedback.	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Renew the filtration system and equipment at the centre, implementing a rolling program of works.	\$30,000 per year – Total of \$120,000 included in 4-year Capital Works Program until 2028/2029	High	Short
3. Seek and secure external funding to progress Toukley Community Facilities Masterplan.	N/A	High	Short
4. Include ongoing programmed renewals beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on progress of the new facility and asset condition.	Program to be further refined and approved beyond Year 4	High	Short
5. Progress Centre upgrades identified in the proposed Toukley Community Facilities Masterplan (Zone 3) including improved configuration of the front entrance, new façade, outdoor plaza and waterplay equipment.	Total cost for Zone three (3) in Toukley Community Facilities Masterplan is \$4,993,000. This includes indoor and outdoor upgrades. Currently unfunded, and reliant on grant funding.	Medium	Short - Medium

9.6 Wyong Olympic Pool

Future Direction

With the significant population growth expected over the next 20 years, maintaining the ageing aquatic facility will require ongoing repair and substantial investment. In the short-term, the pool will undergo rolling renewal work and upgrades as outlined in the Council Capital Works Program.

To meet future demand, a proposed development in the north of a regional sized venue would have a larger catchment than all existing sites (10km) with up to 33,000 aquatic participants by 2046. A facility in the Warnervale area will be crucial to meet unmet demand from North Wyong and surrounds, Hamlyn Terrace, as well as the large projected residential growth within Warnervale itself. Development of the proposed site will be prioritised in the short-term, with a new facility to be developed as part of the long-term capital works plan. Once completed, the existing facility will be decommissioned and developed in line with the Baker Park Master Plan.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Prioritise annual renewal works, recognising that the facility is unheated, at the end of its lifecycle, over 60 years old and a requires replacement.	Annual renewal works included in Council's Capital Program. Business improvements via customer survey's, industry trends and staff feedback, and funded via operational budget.	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Progress with planning for a new modern aquatic and leisure centre in the northern region and Warnervale area. The future leisure and aquatic centre is proposed to offer indoor aquatic facilities, health and fitness facilities, amenities and changing rooms.	Project has been identified as a key enabling project for the Central Coast. Funding is initially sought (\$2.5M) to complete business case, concept plans and feasibility study. Warnervale District Developer Contributions in place to partially fund (27%) new leisure and aquatic provision for: - Land (\$577,307) - Works (\$13.729M)	High	Short
3. Progress with site development for the facility in the northern region as part of Warnervale Education and Business Precinct	External funding will be required with the expected cost to be \$40 million to \$45 million which will also need to be indexed annually.	High	Medium
4. Renew the hardscape surrounding the 50 metre pool and toddlers' pool.	\$60,000 – 2025/2026 Capital Works Program	High	Short
5. Renewal of filtration system and equipment at the Centre with rolling program of works in place.	\$30,000 per year – Total of \$120,000 included in 4-year Capital Program until 2028/2029	High	Short
6. Include ongoing programmed renewals beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on progress of new facility and asset condition.	Program to be further refined and approved beyond Year 4	High	Short



Wyong Pool continued

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
7. Cease pool operations at the existing facility once the new facility is completed as it has reached the end of its lifecycle.	N/A	Medium/ Low	Long
8. Redevelop Wyong Pool site in line with the proposed Baker Park Masterplan, once a new leisure and aquatic provision is built.	N/A	Medium/ Low	Long

9.7 The Grant McBride Ocean Baths

Future Direction

The Grant McBride Ocean Baths provide the region's only year-round outdoor 50 metre pool, meeting the year-round swimming demand and serving as a key community resource. Ongoing maintenance and upgrades will be carried out in alignment with the Council Capital Works Program, ensuring the facility remains in optimal condition.

Key improvements, supported by Federal Government funding, will include facility upgrades, new equipment and improved infrastructure alongside other essential improvements to strengthen the facility's service. Additionally, ongoing programmed renewals will extend beyond the 4-year Capital Program, driven by asset condition and changing community needs.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Ensure the facility is proactively maintained and identify operational improvements for review on an annual basis.	Annual renewal works included in Council's Capital Program. Business improvements via customer surveys, industry trends and staff feedback, and funded via operational budget.	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Complete upgrades following Federal Government funding, including clubhouse renovations, installation of new pumps and a filtration system, addition of shade sails and other associated improvements.	\$310,000 – 2024/2025 Capital Works Program	High	Short
3. Include ongoing programmed renewals beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on asset condition and demand.	Program to be further refined and approved beyond Year 4	High	Short

9.8 Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex

Future Direction

Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex was designed to be built in two stages, with the first and major stage completed in 2019. Council is continuing to progress plans for the second stage of works which will see the development of a multi-purpose indoor complex. Once fully developed, the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex will be the first-of-its-kind facility for the Central Coast region and support key demand for indoor sports courts.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Seek and secure funding to progress six new indoor sport courts at the facility.	N/A	High	Short
2. Progress stage 2 of the Central Coast Regional Sport and Recreation Complex to progress, to deliver six (6) indoor sport courts for community and event usage, amenities and grandstand.	Project has been identified as a key enabling project for the Central Coast. Currently unfunded, and reliant on grant funding, expected cost is \$35 million (figure to be indexed annually).	Medium/ Low	Short - Long

9.9 Leased Facilities and Partly Funded Capital Investment

Given the presence of the PCYC in the Central Coast Community, Council will collaborate closely with the community organisations operating the leased recreation facilities, to ensure facilities are fully maintained and any upgrades provide improved facilities for the community and to help meet future recreation demand across the Coast.

Mingara Aquatic Centre provides residents who are members with an exceptional service offering, and therefore, similar private developments can complement public service provision. Council recognises that Mingara Recreation – One by Mingara plays a key role in providing leisure and aquatic services and meeting demand around Tumby Umbi and Berkeley Vale.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
Breakers Stadium			
1. Work with the community association/organisation to maximise the Basketball facility, and partner with external grant funding opportunities to renew and upgrade the facility.	N/A	Ongoing	Continuous
PCYC Bateau Bay			
1. Work with the community association/organisation to maximise the multi-purpose facility, and partner with external grant funding opportunities to renew and upgrade the facility.	N/A	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Renew the netball court surfacing.	\$400,000 – 2025/2026 Capital Works Program	High	Short
PCYC Umina			
1. Work with the community association/organisation to maximise the multi-purpose facility, and partner with external grant funding opportunities to renew and upgrade the facility.	N/A	Ongoing	Continuous
Mingara Aquatic Centre			
1. Collaborate with Mingara to support the provision of leisure and aquatic services and programs.	N/A	Ongoing	Continuous

10. Implementation and Review

The network of Central Coast leisure and aquatic facilities requires regular review to assess usage and performance against the Strategy vision, progress against Strategy objectives, and the ongoing alignment of actions to Council's objectives.

This strategy provides a well-planned approach to delivering leisure and aquatic services for the community. While Council acknowledges the social benefits of leisure and aquatic facilities, it also acknowledges the challenges of ageing infrastructure, rising costs and environmental impacts of these assets.

The Leisure and Aquatic Facilities Strategy 2025-2035 will be implemented on a priority basis over a 10-year timeframe within available resource allocations.

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation are required to understand effectiveness, identify areas for improvement and learning and enhancing the evidence-base for current and future work in this space.

A mid-term review of the Strategy will occur in year five, with annual implementation plan reviews to allow Council to adapt to changing community needs. This approach ensures the strategic direction for leisure and aquatic services remains responsive to the needs of the community.

Funding will be a critical factor in resourcing the strategy implementation, including, but not limited to, general revenue, developer contributions and grants. Ongoing partnerships and collaboration with a range of internal and external stakeholders will be essential to ensuring implementation of the strategy.



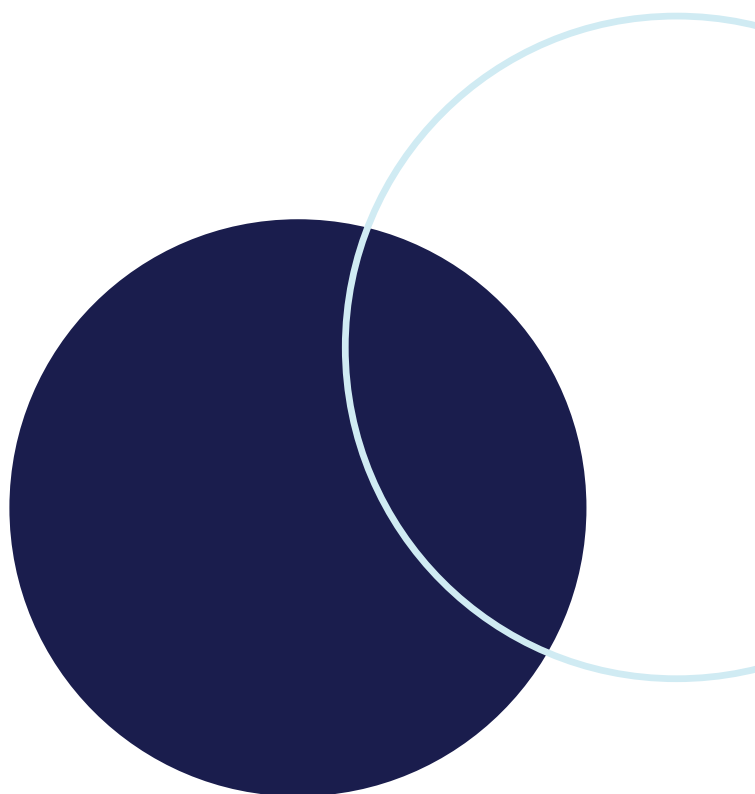
11. Appendix

11.1 Potential competitors to each facility

Action Plan

Facility	Type	Drive distance (km)	Travel time (mins)	Suburb
Gosford Olympic Pool				
Lou's Learn to Swim	Swim centre	4.2	9	Point Clare
5 Star Swim School Erina	Swim centre	6.4	11	Erina
5 Star Swim School Wyoming	Swim centre	5.9	12	Wyoming
Peninsula Leisure Centre				
Engineroom Gym & Temperature Therapy – Woy Woy	Gym	1.9	4	Woy Woy
Plus Fitness 24/7 Ettalong Beach	Gym	2.6	5	Ettalong Beach
Anytime Fitness	Gym	1.6	5	Woy Woy
FitLife AU - Woy Woy	Gym	1.6	5	Woy Woy
Umina Peak Physique	Gym	3.8	6	Umina Beach
First Class Fitness	Gym	5	9	Umina Beach
PCYC Umina Beach	Sport centre	4.3	8	Umina Beach
New Wave Swim Centre	Sport centre	2.6	5	Ettalong Beach
Finnz Swimming Centre	Sport centre	4.9	9	Daleys Point
Toukley Aquatic Centre				
Norah Head Water Fitness Centre & Swim School	Swim centre	2.9	6	Norah Head
Northlakes Swim Centre	Swim centre	5.4	8	Budgewoi
Grant McBride Ocean Baths				
Little Coasties Swim School	Swim centre	1.2	4	North Wyong
Wyong Olympic Pool				
North Wyong Aqua Centre	Swim centre	3.8	8	North Wyong
5 Star Swim School Tuggerah	Swim centre	4.3	12	Tuggerah
Breakers Indoor Sports Stadium				
CC Hoops Basketball Central Coast	Sport centre	7.1	9	Kincumber
Gosford Gymnastics & Erina Kindergym	Sport centre	5.5	9	Holgate
Lake Haven Recreation Centre				
Planet Fitness	Gym	1.3	4	Lake Haven
Anytime Fitness	Gym	1.5	4	Lake Haven
VibeZ 24/7 Fitness	Gym	4.1	8	San Remo
Charmy Indoor Sports	Sport centre	1.6	5	Charmhaven

Facility	Type	Drive distance (km)	Travel time (mins)	Suburb
Niagara Park Stadium				
Flip Out Gosford	Sport centre	6.9	11	West Gosford
Pulse Climbing Gosford	Sport centre	6.6	9	West Gosford
BK's Gymnastics Gosford	Sport centre	3.1	5	Wyoming
G-Force Pole and Fitness	Sport centre	5.6	8	West Gosford
PCYC Bateau Bay				
FBI Swim & Gym	Gym	4.1	7	Forresters Beach
The Rig 247	Gym	2.7	8	Long Jetty
One by Mingara	Gym	4.9	9	Tumbi Umbi
Anytime Fitness The Entrance	Gym	3.5	9	Long Jetty
Plus Fitness 24/7 The Entrance	Gym	4.6	10	The Entrance
PCYC Umina Beach				
Peninsula Leisure Centre	Sport centre	4.3	8	Woy Woy





Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035

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April 2025

Item No: 1.9
Title: Draft Memorandum of Understanding - Central Coast Council and University of Newcastle
Department: Community and Recreation Services



13 May 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2025/00482 - D16813617
Author: Sam Hardie, Economic Development Specialist
Manager: Sue Ledingham, Unit Manager Customer Marketing and Economic Development
Executive: Melanie Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services

Recommendation

That the Committee recommends to Council that the Chief Executive Officer formalise the draft Memorandum of Understanding between Central Coast Council and University of Newcastle at Attachment 1.

Report purpose

To formalise a general Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Partnership Agreement between Central Coast Council (CCC) and the University of Newcastle (UoN).

Executive Summary

It is proposed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), between Central Coast Council (CCC) and University of Newcastle (UoN) is endorsed by Council to work together transparently and cooperatively for the benefit of the wider Central Coast community and it's growing region and improve educational outcomes.

Background

Council has a long-standing relationship with the University of Newcastle. This includes previous and current Memorandums of Understanding, sharing of spaces and the sharing of knowledge and information for the improvement of educational outcomes for Central Coast residents.

In 2014, the former Wyong Shire Council entered into an MoU with the University of Newcastle to support the operation of a Dental Clinic Van on the Central Coast for a period of three (3) years.

Earlier this year, Central Coast Council entered into a five-year MoU with the University of Newcastle for the establishment and operation of the Makerspace in the new Gosford Regional Library.

The University of Newcastle is a member of the Regional Economic Taskforce, in which Council and other members share information on statistics and programs being run to support the Central Coast economy and improve employment outcomes through higher educational opportunities. Through this group, Council staff have previously shared insights into education and skills gaps faced by local businesses and the local workforce to support the university with the development of their curriculums.

The University of Newcastle have worked with Council to share resources including space to host Council events. In April, the University provided a space for Council to host its Marketing Makeover workshops at their Ourimbah campus, in which local businesses attended in-person, to improve their marketing skills. Council has also hosted events at the University's Ourimbah campus including the Sustainable Future Festival.

Council has also supported Central Coast Industry Connect through grants and land for the new manufacturing hub, in which the University have also been a major supporter.

Council staff are currently working with staff from the University to undertake engagement with students on campus for the development of a new Economic Development Strategy and a new Destination Management Plan. Additionally, the University seeks Council's advice on career pathways that would assist the region, which informs their forward curriculum planning.

This MoU is a formal acknowledgement of the ongoing relationship and recognition of the importance of the relationship between Council and the University. The UoN has similar MoU's with Lake Macquarie and Newcastle Councils.

Report

The purpose of the MoU between the UoN and CCC outlines the intent to work together co-operatively and to explore opportunities and synergies that build strategic partnerships to achieve impact in uplifting the community of the Central Coast.

This MoU seeks to build on the existing partnership between the CCC and the UoN, while offering a more strategic path forward with shared operational and partnership priorities.

The key objectives of this Agreement are to:

- a) establish a framework for the continuing joint interaction of the Parties,
- b) explore opportunities and synergies for improving community service delivery, community engagement, student placement, cadetship and graduate

employment opportunities, infrastructure co-investment, partnerships, innovation, and regional research cooperation,

- c) achieve a shared understanding and leverage each organisations' objectives, and
- d) strengthen relationships between both organisations.

Under the new MOU, a framework will be developed for the areas of key collaboration that CCC and UoN will commit to, but are not limited to, including:

- regional advancement
- facilities utilisation
- climate change mitigation
- emerging technologies
- student and staff placement and training
- research, innovation and entrepreneurship
- the circular economy, energy and visitor economy.

Subject to Council's approval, the new MoU will be scheduled to be signed in June 2025 as an ongoing commitment to strengthening our relationship and working together on shared priorities.

Stakeholder Engagement

All areas of collaboration outlined in the MOU are consistent with the policy, evidence, and current positions of Council, widely informed by community engagement and insight.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year or outer years in the LTFP.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

Nil.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

S-D3: Invest in broadening local education and learning pathways linking industry with Universities, TAFE and other training providers.

Risk Management



There are no community, environmental, financial, regulatory or safety risks identified.

This MoU would not affect the recently established MoU between CCC and UoN for the Gosford Regional Library which is due to commence on 1 May 2025 for a period of five (5) years.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Nil.

Attachments

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------|
| 1  | Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - Partnership Agreement | D16813614 |
|  | Central Coast Council (CCC) and University of Newcastle (UoN) | |

Memorandum of Understanding

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL
AND
UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**BETWEEN****CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL AND UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE****Parties**

1. The parties to this Partnership Agreement are:
 - A Central Coast Council (ABN 73 149 644 003) of 2 Hely Street, Wyong NSW 2259; and
 - B University of Newcastle (ABN 15 736 576 735) of University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308(collectively the "Parties").

Shared values

2. The parties undertake this agreement in recognition of the traditional owners of our land, and in the spirit of reconciliation, and acknowledging our commitment to Indigenous engagement, innovation, higher education and cadetship and training opportunities.
3. The parties undertake this agreement acknowledging our shared values, including striving for excellence, equity, engagement and sustainability.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this Agreement is to promote a strong working relationship, effective communication, and collaboration between Central Coast Council and University of Newcastle to deliver tangible outcomes for each organisation and the Central Coast community.

Objectives

5. The objectives of this Agreement are to:
 - a. establish a framework for the continuing joint interaction of the Parties;
 - b. explore opportunities and synergies for improving community service delivery, community engagement, student placement, cadetship and graduate employment opportunities, infrastructure co-investment, partnerships, innovation, and regional research cooperation;
 - c. achieve a shared understanding and leverage each organisations' objectives; and
 - d. strengthen relationships between both organisations

(the "Objectives").

Undertakings

6. The Parties will:

- a. Keep each other informed of key projects, activities and strategies that have the potential to improve individual or joint service provision (including strategic planning activities, and infrastructure and assets utilisation), or any joint projects, activities or investigations of mutual interest within the Central Coast region;
- b. Seek to consult where possible on key collaborative opportunities in areas of mutual interest, including facilities utilisation, climate change mitigation, emerging technologies, student and staff placement and training, research, innovation and entrepreneurship, the circular economy, energy and visitor economy;
- c. Explore opportunities to share information, work collectively to improve regional advancement and opportunity and advocate on issues of mutual interest by leveraging the expertise of each Party. Examples include regional activation and development, research expertise aligned to regional need, state and federal government funding opportunities, emerging technologies and circular economy;
- d. Explore areas for potential efficiencies to be realised through a coordinated or joint approach by the Parties (examples include open data, workforce strategy (education & training, student placements, cadetships, staff exchange), community engagement, sporting and recreational assets, event sponsorships);
- e. Attend quarterly executive briefings to ensure that key issues can be explored, understood and mutually resolved;
- f. Foster effective working relationships at all levels of both organisations and explore staff development opportunities such as workplace exchange;
- g. Understand the changing demographics of our workforces to maximise Work Integrated Learning and ongoing education; and
- h. Endeavour to resolve any disputes or disagreements that arise in a spirit of reasonableness and co-operation.

(the "Undertakings").

Media

7. The Parties will discuss and use best endeavours to agree on the timing and format of the release of any information or public announcements relating to joint investigations, activities, or relevant assets of the other Parties.
8. Subject to Clause 5, each party will provide draft material to the other party for review and approval prior to issuing any public statement, media release or media response in regard to joint activities, investigations, or assets of the Parties.
9. From time to time there may be a need for a party to respond urgently to media enquiries and emergent issues. In these instances, the Parties will use best endeavours to consult with the other Parties before responding, but it is acknowledged that a response may need to be issued prior to receiving approval from all Parties.

Intellectual Property

10. Each party will retain ownership of all existing intellectual property relating to that party's assets, systems, investigations, and models.
11. In the event that the Parties agree to undertake a joint activity or project, each party agrees to grant to the other party a royalty-free licence to use that party's intellectual property for the purposes of any agreed activity undertaken under this Agreement.

Not Binding

12. The Parties agree that this Agreement only expresses the intention of the Parties and is not binding and does not create any legally enforceable obligations between the Parties.

Expenses

13. A party may not commit the other to any cost, expense, or obligation without the written consent of that party.
14. Each party will be responsible for any cost, expense, or obligation necessary to their achievement of the Objectives.

Execution

Signed for and on behalf of
CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL by its
authorised delegate in the
presence of:

Witness

Delegate

Print name

Print name

Signed for and on behalf of
UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE by its
authorised delegate in the
presence of:

Witness

Delegate

Print name

Print name

Item No: 1.10
Title: Memorials, Naming of Council Facilities and Donations of Park Furniture and Trees Policy - For Revocation
Department: Community and Recreation Services



13 May 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2010/00542 - D16806409
Author: Trent Burnham, Section Manager Sports Facilities and Roadside Vegetation
Executive: Melanie Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services

Recommendation

That the Committee:

- 1** *Recommends to Council that the existing Policy for Memorials, Naming of Council Facilities and Donations of Park Furniture and Trees be revoked.*
- 2** *Supports the direction of all applications for memorial placements to the Cemetery Section of Council for consideration under the Community Memorial Tree Program.*

Report purpose

Numerous requests are received annually to have memorial placements in public places. These requests are resource intensive and create a proliferation of seating in public spaces. Feedback from community members also indicates that memorials in public spaces are perceived as depressing and aesthetically unappealing.

For the above reasons, it is requested that the existing Policy for Memorials, Naming of Council Facilities and Donations of Park Furniture and Trees (the Policy) be rescinded.

Background

On 9 April 2018 the Policy for Memorials, Naming of Council Facilities and Donations of Park Furniture and Trees was adopted by Council.

Since that date, Council has received approximately 35 applications per year for memorial seats to be placed in public spaces. The majority of applicants wish to have the seating placed in high profile areas such as Terrigal esplanade, The Entrance esplanade and Avoca Beach esplanade, impacting the useability for the community by creating congestion in very busy pedestrian areas.

1.10 Memorials, Naming of Council Facilities and Donations of Park Furniture and Trees Policy - For Revocation (cont'd)

Whilst an option for a memorial placement should be available to the community, Council also has a responsibility to maintain and protect the intended purpose and aesthetic appearance of public spaces.

Other alternatives could include drafting a Policy document similar to the existing Policy that is less resource intensive and reduces the proliferation of park furniture in high profile areas or the planting of a tree in memory of a deceased that does not include a plaque. Plaques were previously allowed on tree placements but created a trip hazard and increased vandalism. This would reduce the need for eligibility requirements.

Future applications for naming of Council facilities will be managed by Council's Governance Unit.

Report

The approval process for applications for memorial placements are resource intensive for staff to review and process prior to evaluation and progress to Council for consideration. Under the conditions of the Policy, very few (approximately two (2) applications per year) are compliant.

Applications for a leaf to be placed on a Memorial Tree are accepted with no conditions or eligibility required. As refusal of an application under the Policy causes further distress to a grieving applicant, the recommendation for rescission of the Policy would remove the angst caused to applicants by refusal. The direction of applicants to the Memorial Tree placement would offer an alternative and improve customer satisfaction.

The current cost for the purchase and installation of a memorial seat is \$3,344 which precludes applicants without sufficient means. A leaf on a memorial tree is \$940 bringing this within reach of most applicants.

Stakeholder Engagement

Consultation has included discussions with staff in Open Space and Recreation, the Cemeteries Unit, Engineering Services Unit and Governance.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year or outer years in the LTFP.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The FY adopted budget includes the impact for this proposal.

1.10 Memorials, Naming of Council Facilities and Donations of Park Furniture and Trees Policy - For Revocation (cont'd)

Under the Policy, the cost associated with applications for a memorial seat is directly attributed to materials and installation of the seat. However, this does not consider the cost of administration related to the processing of each application, whereas the Community Memorial Tree does not impose the same costs for Council with significantly reduced dependence on staff resources.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

B-A1: Work within our communities to connect people, build capacity and create local solutions and initiatives.

Risk Management


The risk of Council not rescinding the Policy could lead to:

- A proliferation of memorial seating in public open space areas.
- A perception of discrimination being cited by applicants who do not meet the criteria under the Policy.
- Ongoing impacts on staff resourcing. (There are currently over 40 applications awaiting assessment).

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Nil

Attachments

1 	Policy for Memorials, Naming of Council Facilities and Donations of Park Furniture and Trees	D13367915
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POLICY NO: CCC.029

POLICY FOR MEMORIALS, NAMING OF COUNCIL FACILITIES AND DONATIONS OF PARK FURNITURE AND TREES

March 2018

Wyong Office: 2 Hely St / PO Box 20 Wyong NSW 2259 | **P** 02 4350 5555
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E ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au | **W** www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au | ABN 73 149 644 003

POLICY FOR MEMORIALS, NAMING OF COUNCIL FACILITIES AND DONATIONS OF PARK FURNITURE AND TREES

AUTHORITY	NAME & TITLE
AUTHOR	NAME
MANAGER	NAME, Acting Senior Manager Property and Asset Management
DIRECTOR	Mike Dowling, Director Assets Infrastructure and Business
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Brian Glendenning, Acting Chief Executive Officer

History of Revisions:

VERSION	DATE	AMENDMENT DESCRIPTION	TRIM DOC. #
1	March 2018	Creation of Policy	

POLICY FOR MEMORIALS, NAMING OF COUNCIL FACILITIES AND DONATIONS OF PARK FURNITURE AND TREES

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POLICY FOR MEMORIALS, NAMING OF COUNCIL FACILITIES AND DONATIONS OF PARK FURNITURE AND TREES

SUMMARY

1. This Policy sets out the process to be followed when dealing with requests for memorials on Central Coast Council (Council) reserves, donation of park furniture and trees, or naming of Council owned facilities.

POLICY STATEMENT

2. Council will consider written applications for the placement of memorials on public reserves, including community, recreation and road reserves under the care, control and management of Central Coast Council.
3. Council will consider written applications for the donation of park furniture and trees in public reserves.
4. Council will consider written applications for the naming of Council owned facilities.
5. The contents of the written application are set out in the Procedures listed below.
6. Approval for any applications made under clauses 2, 3 and 4 can only be given by Council Resolution and in response to a completed written application.

PURPOSE

7. The purpose of this Policy is:
 - (a) To provide Council with a consistent approach to dealing with requests for memorials on Council reserves, requests to donate park furniture and trees, and naming facilities owned by Central Coast Council.
 - (b) To establish criterion against which to assess and respond to requests for the use of the Council reserves by individuals and community groups for the recognition of valued community members.
 - (c) To define conditions under which Council will accept donations and offers of park furniture, trees and/or other park infrastructure.
 - (d) To ensure that the naming of Council owned facilities is consistent with Central Coast community expectations, relevant legislation and the Geographical Names Board of NSW Guidelines where applicable.

POLICY FOR MEMORIALS, NAMING OF COUNCIL FACILITIES AND DONATIONS OF PARK FURNITURE AND TREES

GENERAL

8. A request for a commemorative memorial will be considered only if the person who is nominated (the nominee) has been deceased for at least six months, was of good repute and not likely to be the subject of controversy and:
 - (a) was widely known and respected within the local community; or
 - (b) had a recognised historical link with the locality or is generally acknowledged as having made a significant contribution to the social, economic, sporting and/or cultural development of the community.
9. Council will not approve requests to commemorate a living person, except in special circumstances, such as providing recognition to a local citizen who has made outstanding contributions to the community over a period of greater than 10 years.
10. Council will not approve requests for the naming of Council reserves, reserve infrastructure or facilities after a person still holding public office.
11. With the exception of historical persons of distant past, naming after a person shall only be approved with the written consent of their immediate family.
12. Names considered offensive or likely to give offence will not be considered.
13. Notwithstanding an approval by the Council under this Policy, Council reserves the right to alter or rescind such approval by resolution of the Council.
14. This Policy should be read in conjunction with Council's Code of Conduct.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION - PROCEDURES

Applications for memorials on Council land or land under the care and control of Council

15. Applications must be in writing and addressed to the Chief Executive Officer marked for the attention of Council's Property and Asset Management unit.
16. Applications must include a supporting statement for the nominee detailing how the nominee meets the conditions as stated in the Policy.
17. All applications should include a site plan indicating the proposed location of the memorial plaque.

POLICY FOR MEMORIALS, NAMING OF COUNCIL FACILITIES AND DONATIONS OF PARK FURNITURE AND TREES

18. The application must be supported in writing by a minimum of three third parties, one of which must be a local community group.
19. The documentation must be validated by Statutory Declaration.
20. In circumstances as determined by Council's Property and Asset Management unit where an application for a memorial plaque is potentially controversial or questionable, the application will be advertised for a period of 21 days to provide opportunity for community comment and feedback for consideration by Council.
21. For park furniture, plaque size will be limited to 150mm by 100mm and will be installed in the concrete base around the park furniture. Wording should follow a simple and standard format and avoid terminology used in the cemeteries. The wording will recognise the nominee and their qualities/attributes or an appropriate phrase outlined in the application.
22. The provision of memorial plaques at the base of trees will not be supported due to the potential trip hazard it presents on public reserves.
23. Evaluation of the appropriateness of the memorial plaque will be made by Council's Property and Asset Management unit in close consultation with the relevant Council asset user(s) and the Governance Unit.
24. All applications and any community feedback received will be given careful consideration by Council's Property and Asset Management unit prior to being presented to Council the via a quarterly Council Report.

Donation of Park Furniture and Trees

25. Applications must be in writing and addressed to the Chief Executive Officer marked for the attention of Council's Property and Asset Management unit.
26. Council will permit the donation of park furniture and trees subject to Council's direction with respect to appropriateness, location, standards of park furniture type and style, or tree species choice.
27. Consideration will need to be given to:
 - (a) infrastructure already at the location;
 - (b) maintaining safe passage for pedestrians and other park users;
 - (c) avoidance of any damage to the natural environment; and
 - (d) ensuring the donation meets with general community expectations for the area.

POLICY FOR MEMORIALS, NAMING OF COUNCIL FACILITIES AND DONATIONS OF PARK FURNITURE AND TREES

28. Due consideration of any Aboriginal connection with the site will also be required to be undertaken by Council.
29. Evaluation of the appropriateness of the donation will be made by Council's Property and Asset Management unit in close consultation with the relevant Council asset user(s) and Governance.
30. In those circumstances where an application to donate park furniture or trees is potentially controversial or questionable as determined by Council's Property and Asset Management unit, the application will be advertised for a period of 21 days to provide opportunity for community comment and feedback for consideration by Council.
31. All applications and any community feedback received will be given careful consideration by Council's Property and Asset Management unit prior to being presented to Council via a quarterly Council Report.

Application for naming facilities owned by Central Coast Council

32. All proposals to name or re-name a facility must be submitted in writing and addressed to the Chief Executive Officer marked for the attention of Council's Property and Asset Management unit.
33. Applications must contain the following details:
 - (a) Name and address of the requester;
 - (b) Sufficient information to clearly identify the facility (description, maps, drawing and any other relevant details); and
 - (c) Reason for the choice of facility, including discussing the origin and significance of the current name to the facility.
34. If the proposal is to commemorate a person, then additional information is required:
 - (a) Dates of birth and death;
 - (b) Association of the person with the facility to be named;
 - (c) Person's association and contribution to the local community;
 - (d) Source of the above information; and
 - (e) Any other relevant supporting documentation.
35. Applications must include a supporting statement for the nominee which detail how the nominee meets the conditions as stated in the Policy.

POLICY FOR MEMORIALS, NAMING OF COUNCIL FACILITIES AND DONATIONS OF PARK FURNITURE AND TREES

36. The application must be supported in writing by a minimum of three third parties, one of which must be a local community group.
37. The documentation must be validated by Statutory Declaration and signed by a Justice of the Peace, Legal Practitioner or Commissioner of Declarations.
38. Proposed use of Aboriginal names for a facility must demonstrate consultation with the Local Aboriginal Lands Council and Council's Indigenous Community Development Worker.
39. In circumstances as determined by Council's Property and Asset Management unit where an application to name or re-name a facility is potentially controversial or questionable, the application will be advertised for a period of 21 days to provide opportunity for community comment and feedback for consideration by Council.
40. Evaluation of the appropriateness of the naming or re-naming of a facility will be made by Council's Property and Asset Management unit in close consultation with the relevant Council asset user(s) and Governance.
41. All applications and any community feedback received will be given careful consideration by Council's Property and Asset Management unit prior to being presented to Council via a quarterly Council Report.

Naming of new facilities owned by Central Coast Council

42. For the avoidance of doubt, any new Council facilities are required to be named in accordance with sections 35 to 44 of this Policy and will require a Council Resolution.

Geographical Names Board

43. When considering a name proposal, Council must assess whether the proposed name needs to be registered with the Geographical Names Board under the *Geographical Names Act 1966*.
44. If Council registers the name with the Geographical Names Board, it will follow the relevant guidelines of the Board and, prior to forwarding a request for naming determination, Council's Property and Asset Management unit will ensure that:
 - (a) The community was consulted on the proposed name;
 - (b) The proposed name is widely supported by the community; and
 - (c) The proposed name has been formally endorsed by Council.

POLICY FOR MEMORIALS, NAMING OF COUNCIL FACILITIES AND DONATIONS OF PARK FURNITURE AND TREES

45. All applications and any community feedback received will be given careful consideration by Council's Property and Asset Management unit prior to being presented to Council via a quarterly Council Report

Cost

46. The applicant is required to meet all costs associated with the purchase, advertisement, delivery, installation and maintenance of the approved park furniture, tree(s) and/or the Council approved plaque.
47. Council's Property and Asset Management unit will contact each applicant and provide an estimate of the costs, which will be also be included in the quarterly Council Report.
48. Works will only commence once:
- (a) a Council Resolution has approved the application; and
 - (b) the complete costs of the donation/memorial has been received by Council.
49. All works are to be carried out by Council employees or Council approved contractors.
50. Council's Property and Asset Management unit will co-ordinate the purchase of the park furniture, tree(s) and plaque, if required.

Maintenance

51. The donated park furniture or tree(s) will be subject to the same level of maintenance as other infrastructure located in the reserve.
52. The donation will remain in place as long as it remains in good working condition and complies with Council standards.
53. Council accepts no responsibility or obligation for repair of damage to, or theft of, the structure.
54. Applicants may re-apply should the park furniture or tree(s) need to be replaced.

REPORT TO COUNCIL

55. Any requests received under this policy will be subject to a quarterly report to Council.
56. Council's Property and Asset Management unit is responsible for the co-ordination of requests, actions under this Policy and for the preparation of the quarterly report to Council.

REVIEW

POLICY FOR MEMORIALS, NAMING OF COUNCIL FACILITIES AND DONATIONS OF PARK FURNITURE AND TREES

57. Council's Property and Asset Management unit will review this Policy every two years.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

58. The following legislation and Council policies affect the operation of this Policy:

- (a) *Local Government Act 1993;*
- (b) *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005;*
- (c) *Geographical Names Act 1966.*
- (d) Council's adopted Code of Conduct.

Item No: 1.11
Title: Draft Roadside Tributes Policy - For Public Exhibition
Department: Infrastructure Services



13 May 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2024/01584 - D16800971
Author: Rachel Jackson, Section Manager, Infrastructure Assessment and Systems
Jeanette Williams, Unit Manager Engineering Services
Executive: Boris Bolgoff, Director Infrastructure Services

Recommendation

That the Committee:

- 1 Supports the draft Roadside Tribute Policy, as set out in Attachment 1 to this report, for placement on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.**
- 2 Recommends to Council that the draft Roadside Tribute Policy, as set out in Attachment 1 to this report, be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.**
- 3 Notes that following the exhibition period, a report will be presented to Council on the outcome of the exhibition seeking Council's adoption of the Roadside Tribute Policy.**

Report purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's input and endorsement to place the draft Roadside Tribute Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. Following the exhibition period, a report will be presented to Council outlining the community feedback received and seek adoption of the Policy.

Executive Summary

Roadside tributes are often placed by grieving family and friends to commemorate lives lost in road trauma. Whilst these tributes serve as markers of remembrance, they can also present safety, maintenance, and community amenity challenges.

To ensure a compassionate and balanced approach, a draft Roadside Tribute Policy has been prepared that provides clear guidelines on the placement, management and duration of roadside tributes on Council's local roads. The draft Policy aims to support a

sympathetic and practical approach whilst not detracting from the amenity of the local area and quality of life by adjacent property owners, residents and the wider community. The draft Policy was scheduled for workshopping with Councillors on 14 April 2025 however due to time constraints on the evening, the policy was deferred for consideration of the Community and Culture Committee. It is proposed that the draft policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days to seek broader community feedback. At the conclusion of the exhibition period, a report will be brought back to Council outlining the community feedback and seek adoption of the policy.

Report

The draft Roadside Tribute Policy has been prepared to provide clear guidelines on how tributes are managed on the local road network. The draft Policy aims to balance the desire of grieving families with public safety, liability, and community expectations.

It is acknowledged that in some cases, fatalities involve individuals who were breaking road rules or engaging in anti-social driver behaviour. While Council remains sensitive to the grief of families, it is also mindful of not inadvertently celebrating dangerous driving behaviours. Conversely, it is recognised that nearby residents are often among the first on the scene of serious crashes, experiencing resulting trauma and distress. It must be considered the placement of any tribute does not cause ongoing distress to those affected. The draft Policy aims to manage roadside tributes that are respectful, safe, and appropriate for all road users, and importantly not detract from the amenity of the local area and quality of life by adjacent property owners and/or residents.

The draft Roadside Tribute Policy provides a sympathetic and practical approach to managing roadside tributes taking in account safety and consideration for all members of the community.

Stakeholder Engagement

Staff interacted with other Councils who have similar policies in managing roadside tributes. Additionally, Staff have liaised with Transport for NSW who manage the state road network and similarly have a policy in relation to management of roadside tributes.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year or outer years in the LTFP.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

Nil

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 1: Belonging

Goal A: Our community spirit is our strength

B-A2: Celebrate and continue to create opportunities for inclusion where all people feel welcome and participate in community life.

Risk Management

There is no discernible risk to Council or customers as a result of this proposed draft policy.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

The draft Roadside Tribute Policy is to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

Attachments

Draft Council Policy - Roadside Tributes

D16654928

Central Coast Council

Roadside Tributes Policy

Date Adopted: XX/XX/20XX

Revision: X



DRAFT

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1. Policy Objectives

- 1.1. This Policy provides advice and guidance to family members and individuals who wish to place a roadside tribute, in memory of a loved one lost due to road trauma on local roads.
 - 1.2. This Policy only applies to roads under the management of Central Coast Council (**Council**).
 - 1.3. The Policy ensures that roadside tributes are placed and maintained in a manner that is safe for all road users while being respectful to grieving families and the broader community.
-

2. Policy Scope

- 2.1. The scope of this Policy includes:
 - 2.1.1. management of the installation, removal, or relocation of roadside tributes.
 - 2.1.2. a consistent approach to ensuring roadside tributes are not located in a position that is hazardous to road users, those visiting a tribute site or adjacent property owners.
 - 2.2. This Policy does not include memorials on Council's public places. Refer to Council's Memorials in Public Places Policy
 - 2.3. This Policy does not include roadside tributes on state roads, such as Central Coast Highway. These should be referred to Transport for NSW for their consideration.
-

3. Policy Statement

- 3.1. While not encouraging the practice, it is recognised as a part of the grieving process for the loss of life of a person involved in road trauma. Council respects wishes and will provide sympathetic advice for those seeking it.
 - 3.2. Council acknowledges the placement of such tributes on its road reserves and aims to assist family members and individuals to place a roadside tribute in an appropriate location based on the conditions set out in this Policy.
 - 3.3. Roadside tributes may include the affixing of items such as flowers or memorabilia within the road reserve.
 - 3.4. Council has powers pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) and *Roads Act 1993* (Roads Act) to regulate the use of its road reserves.
-

4. Placement of Roadside Tributes

- 4.1. Family members or individuals wishing to erect a roadside tribute are required to complete Placement of Roadside Tribute form and submit it to Council. A copy of the form can be found on Council's website.
- 4.2. Roadside tributes may be placed without formal approval but must be registered with Council for record keeping purposes.
- 4.3. Only one tribute per loved one/person is permitted.
- 4.4. Any individual wishing to erect a roadside tribute is encouraged to discuss with the family members, prior to placement.
- 4.5. The roadside tribute must:
 - 4.5.1. consist of frangible materials such as flowers and/or memorabilia.
 - 4.5.2. be secured to prevent dispersion by weather conditions.
 - 4.5.3. be located in a position that does not obstruct pedestrians, or pose a risk to other road users by distracting drivers' attention .
 - 4.5.4. not exceed a height of 500mm and width of 400mm.
 - 4.5.5. not be attached to adjacent private property fencing, unless agreed to by the property owner.
 - 4.5.6. not be constructed of materials that could cause a hazard to road users.
 - 4.5.7. not have lighting or contain fluorescent materials.
 - 4.5.8. not have metal or stone components.
 - 4.5.9. not interfere with the role of any traffic control device i.e. roundabouts, or traffic signals.
- 4.6. The location should not unreasonably detract from the amenity of the local area or seriously detract from the reasonable quality of life expected by adjacent landowners or property owners, with consideration to nearby residents, who may have also experienced trauma.
- 4.7. Noise should be kept to a minimum when visiting the roadside tribute. No loud music or amplification is permitted.
- 4.8. A roadside tribute must not restrict access for utility or emergency services users or prevent appropriate maintenance of a road reserve.
- 4.9. Individuals erecting or visiting a roadside tribute do so at their own risk.

5. Maintenance and Duration

- 5.1. The maintenance of roadside tributes is the responsibility of the family or individual who placed them.
- 5.2. Tributes should be kept in good condition.

- 5.3. If Council deems a tribute is damaged, unsafe, poses a hazard or is unsightly, Council may remove it or request the family to maintain or remove it.
- 5.4. Tributes will be permitted for a period of up to 13 months from the date of placement. Should tributes remain after this period, Council may contact the family to discuss removal or alternative commemoration options.

6. Relocation and Removal

- 6.1. During Council roadworks and/or roadside maintenance, a roadside tribute may need to be moved or relocated. If this is required, Council will aim to contact the family or persons responsible for placing the tribute and advise them of the proposed work and the need to relocate. Consideration will be given on the family's views on how best to reinstall or relocate the tribute.
- 6.2. If there are community concerns regarding a tribute or its location, it may be removed or relocated. These concerns may arise from Council staff, other road authorities or as a result of representations from the public. Council will aim to discuss these concerns with the family to reach agreement regarding the action to be taken, and whether it should be carried out by Council or the family.
- 6.3. Whilst undertaking removal or relocation, Council staff and/or contractors will make every effort to return any materials removed to the family in an appropriate manner, time, and place.

7. Responsibilities

Compliance, monitoring and review

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

Unit Manager Engineering Services or their delegate

- 7.1.1. Maintaining the register of roadside tributes.
- 7.1.2. Reviewing and maintaining this Policy.

Reporting

- 7.2. No additional reporting is required.

Records management

- 7.3. Staff must maintain all records relevant to administering this protocol in accordance with Council's [Information and Records Management Policy](#).

8. Policy Definitions

Council	means Central Coast Council
Individual (s)	means a single human being, as distinguished from a group.

Public Road	<p>means any road that is opened or dedicated as a public road under the <i>Roads Act 1993</i> or any other Act or law and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The land adjoining a road commonly referred to as the road verge or roadside reserve, • A bridge, culvert or causeway; or • A laneway, walkway or cycleway. <p>Does not include a classified road under the control of Transport for NSW such as Central Coast Highway.</p>
Road reserves	<p>means the area between property boundaries that can be made up of road, verges, cycle lanes, footpaths and other areas constructed for public travel.</p>
Roadside Tribute	<p>means an object to commemorate a death on a Council Road which is placed within a road reserve. Tributes may include the affixing of items such as flowers or memorabilia to existing infrastructure or vegetation within the road reserve.</p>

9. Policy Administration

Business Group	Infrastructure Services
Responsible Officer	Unit Manager Engineering Services
Associated Procedure (if any, reference document(s) number(s))	Nil
Policy Review Date	Four years from date of adoption unless legislated otherwise
File Number / Document Number	D16654928
Relevant Legislation (reference specific sections)	<p>This Policy supports Council's compliance with the following legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> ▪ <i>Roads Act 1993</i>
Link to Community Strategic Plan	<p>Theme 1: Belonging</p> <p>Goal A: Our community spirit is our strength</p> <p>B-A2: Celebrate and continue to create opportunities for inclusion where all people feel welcome and participate in community life.</p>
Related Policies / Protocols / Procedures / Documents (reference document numbers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information and Records Management Policy (D14025241) ▪ Code of Conduct (D16000605)

10. Policy Authorisations

No.	Authorised Function	Authorised Business Unit / Role(s)
Nil	Nil	Nil

11. Policy History

Revision	Date Approved / Authority	Description Of Changes
1	17 February 2025	New policy created
2	19 February 2025	Minor review addressing feedback from Council's Governance and Road Maintenance Units
3	28 February 2025	Minor review addressing feedback from Council's Traffic Team