



## **COMMUNITY & CULTURE COMMITTEE**

**09 September 2025**

# Meeting Notice

**The Community & Culture Committee  
of Central Coast Council  
will be held in Function Room 2,  
2 Hely Street, Wyong,  
on Tuesday 9 September 2025 at 5:00pm,  
for the transaction of the business listed below:**

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## Membership

Cr Margot Castles	Chairperson
Cr Trent McWaide	Deputy Chairperson
Mayor Lawrie McKinna	Member
Cr Kyla Daniels	Member
Cr John McNamara	Member
Cr Sharon Walsh	Member
Cr Kyle McGregor	Member
Cr Belinda Neal	Alternate 1
Cr Jane Smith	Alternate 2

Councillor Margot Castles  
**Chairperson**



## ITEM 1.1

### 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.

### APOLOGIES

## ITEM 1.2

### DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Chapter 14 of the *Local Government Act 1993* ("LG Act") regulates the way in which the councillors and relevant Officers 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 now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration at this meeting.***

## ITEM 1.3

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

#### ***Recommendation***

***That the Committee confirms the minutes of the previous Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 8 July 2025.***

#### Summary

Confirmation of minutes of the previous Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 8 July 2025.

#### **Attachments**

1   MINUTES - Community and Culture Committee - 8 July 2025      D16946618



Central Coast Council  
Community & Culture Committee  
Held in Function Room 2  
2 Hely Street, Wyong  
08 July 2025

## MINUTES

### Attendance

#### Members

Cr Margot Castles, Chairperson	Present
Cr Trent McWaide, Deputy Chairperson	Apology
Mayor Lawrie McKinna, Member	Apology
Cr Kyla Daniels, Member	Present (Remotely)
Cr John McNamara, Member	Present
Cr Sharon Walsh, Member	Present
Cr Kyle MacGregor, Member	Present (Remotely)
Cr Belinda Neal, Member	Present

#### Councillor Guest

Deputy Mayor Doug Eaton OAM	Present
Cr John Moulard	Present
Cr Helen Crowley	Present

#### Staff

Mel Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services	Present
Phil Cantillon, Unit Manager Leisure Beach Safety and Community Facilities	Present
Brett Sherar, Unit Manager Open Space and Recreation	Present
Alex Chipchase, Open Space and Recreation Planner	Present
Stephanie Prouse, Section Manager Councillor and Democratic Services	Present
Tess McGown, Civic Support Officer	Present
Kylie Blakely, Civic Support Officer	Present

**Minutes of the Community & Culture Committee Meeting of Council (cont'd)**

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The Chairperson, Councillor Margot Castles, declared the meeting open at 5:06pm

**REPORTS**

**1.1 Introduction: Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, and Apologies**

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5:06pm

The Chairperson gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

The Chairperson noted the apology of Mayor McKinna and Councillor McWaide.

A PROCEDURAL MOTION WAS *MOVED* by Councillor NEAL and *SECONDED* by Councillor MCNAMARA:

***That the Committee approves the request by Councillor Daniels and Councillor MacGregor to attend the Community and Culture Committee Meeting on 8 July 2025 at 5:00pm by audio-visual link because they are unable to attend in person.***

**CARRIED**

FOR: UNANIMOUS

A PROCEDURAL MOTION WAS *MOVED* by Councillor WALSH and *SECONDED* by Councillor MCNAMARA:

***That in the absence of Councillor McWaide, that Councillor Neal as an alternative member, be provided voting rights for the Community and Culture Committee meeting on 8 July 2025 at 5:00pm.***

**CARRIED**

FOR: UNANIMOUS

**1.2 Disclosures of Interest**

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5:09pm

No disclosures of interest were declared.

COUNCILLOR MACGREGOR LEFT THE MEETING AT 17:09 PM DUE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES DURING DISCUSSION OF THIS ITEM, AND AS A RESULT WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM IF HE HAD DISCLOSURES TO DECLARE

Minutes of the Community & Culture Committee Meeting of Council (cont'd)

**1.3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

5:11pm

A MOTION was *MOVED* by Councillor WALSH and *SECONDED* by Councillor MCNAMARA:

**CCC10/25**

***That the Committee confirms the minutes of the previous Community and Culture Committee held on 13 May 2025, with the amendment to Item 1.10 to include:***

- 3 A new memorial policy is to come back to committee following the revoking of the existing policy for Memorials Naming of Council Facilities and Donations of Park Furniture and Trees. The New policy is to focus on memorial trees and public tree planting.**

COUNCILLOR MACGREGOR WAS UNAVAILABLE DURING CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM AND AS A RESULT TOOK NO PART IN VOTING.

**CARRIED**

FOR: UNANIMOUS

**1.4 Items Resolved by Exception**

5:13pm

A MOTION was *MOVED* by Councillor WALSH and *SECONDED* by Councillor NEAL

**CCC11/25**

***That Committee determines the following items on the Agenda will be adopted without debate:***

- a) Item 1.9 - Central Coast Town Crier Support for National Championships - For Endorsement**

COUNCILLOR MACGREGOR RETURNED TO THE MEETING AT 5:15PM DURING CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM

**CARRIED**

FOR: UNANIMOUS

A PROCEDURAL MOTION WAS *MOVED* by Councillor NEAL and *SECONDED* by Councillor MCNAMARA:

***That Item 1.5 - Toukley Community Facilities Masterplan - For Public Exhibition and Item 1.8 Woy Woy Foreshore Masterplan - For Public Exhibition be given precedence in the order of business.***

**CARRIED**

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Minutes of the Community & Culture Committee Meeting of Council (cont'd)

**1.5 Toukley Community Facilities Masterplan - For Public Exhibition**

5:18pm

The Unit Manager of Open Space and Recreation spoke to the 'Toukley Community Facilities Master' presentation.

A MOTION was *MOVED* by Councillor MCNAMARA and *SECONDED* by Councillor NEAL:

**CCC12/25**

***That the Committee:***

- 1 Supports the draft Toukley Community Facilities Masterplan as set out in Attachment 1 to this report.***
- 2 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 Toukley Community Facilities Masterplan. Recommends that Council endorses the draft Toukley Community Facilities Masterplan as set out in Attachment 1 to this report, be placed on public exhibition for a period of 42 days.***

**CARRIED**

FOR: UNANIMOUS

**1.6 Australia Day Award Changes - For Adoption**

6:09pm

*Recommendation*

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- 1 That Council adopts the proposed name changes for the 2026 Award Ceremony being 'Central Coast Community Awards'.***
- 2 That Council adopts the proposed changes to the judging process and panel for the 2026 Award Ceremony.***
- 3 That Council adopts the proposed changes to the format to include the Mayor and Councillors in the 2026 Award Ceremony.***

A MOTION was *MOVED* by Councillor NEAL and *SECONDED* by Councillor MCNAMARA:

**CCC13/25**

***That the Committee defers the 'Australia Day Award Changes - For Adoption' item to the next Community and Culture Committee meeting on 9 September 2025.***

The Motion was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**

FOR: Unanimous

Minutes of the Community & Culture Committee Meeting of Council (cont'd)

**1.7 Draft Grants and Sponsorship Policies - For Public Exhibition**

6.20pm

Recommendation

That the Committee:

- 1 Supports the draft Community Grants Policy and associated Guidelines, as set out in Attachments 1, 3, 4, and 5 to this report, for placement on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
- 2 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 Community Grants Policy and associated Guidelines and Sponsorship Program.
- 3 Recommends to Council that Council endorses the draft Community Grants Policy and associated Guidelines, as set out in Attachments 1, 3, 4, 5 to this report, be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
- 4 Recommends to Council that Council supports and adopts the re-establishment of a Sponsorship Program commencing in 2026-27 financial year.
- 5 Recommends to Council that Council supports and adopts the reduction of the Community Grants program budget by 15% and reallocate this money to the Sponsorship Program from the 2026-27 financial year.
- 6 Recommends to Council that Council supports the draft Sponsorship Program Policy as set out in Attachment 2 to this report and endorses that it be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

A MOTION was MOVED by Councillor NEAL and SECONDED by Councillor WALSH:

**CCC14/25**

**That the Committee:**

- 1 **Defers the 'Draft Grants and Sponsorship Policies - For Public Exhibition' item to the next Community and Culture Committee meeting on 9 September 2025.**
- 2 **Requests a copy of the Draft Grants and Sponsorship policies document with track changes and a copy of the historical financial report.**

The Motion was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**  
FOR: Unanimous



Minutes of the Community & Culture Committee Meeting of Council (cont'd)

**1.8 Woy Woy Foreshore Masterplan - For Public Exhibition**

5:40pm

Unit Manager of Open Space and Recreation and Open Space and Recreation Planner spoke to the presentation 'Woy Woy Foreshore Concept Design'

A MOTION was *MOVED* by Councillor NEAL and *SECONDED* by Councillor WALSH:

**CCC15/25**

***That the Committee:***

- 1 Recommends that Council endorses the draft Woy Woy Foreshore Concept Design Report in Attachment 1 for the purpose of public exhibition for a 42 day period.***
- 2 Notes that a further report will be provided to Council on the outcomes of community consultation following the period of public exhibition.***
- 3 Memorial Park is excluded from the masterplan and it is made abundantly clear that no alterations is made to the Memorial Park as part of this masterplan.***
- 4 Notes that no works can be undertaken on Memorial Park without an approved Heritage Conservation Management plan.***

**CARRIED**

FOR: UNANIMOUS

**1.9 Central Coast Town Crier Support for National Championships - For Endorsement**

*RESOLVED* by *EXCEPTION* on the *MOTION* by Councillor WALSH and *SECONDED* by Councillor NEAL

**CCC16/25**

***That the Committee recommends to Council:***

- 1 That Council supports Mr. Stephen Clarke as officially representing Central Coast Council at annual National Town Criers' Championships.***
- 2 That Council allocates the sum of \$750.00 each calendar year towards expenses for Mr. Clarke to represent Central Coast Council at the Annual National Town Criers' Championship, subject to his on-going role as the Town Crier. The total amount being \$2,250.00.***
- 3 That Council reviews this annual allocation after three (3) years in 2028.***

**Minutes of the Community & Culture Committee Meeting of Council (cont'd)**

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The next meeting is to be held at 5:00pm on Tuesday 9 September 2025 at the Wyong Administration Building.

**The Meeting** concluded at 6:38pm.

UNCONFIRMED

**Item No:** 1.4  
**Title:** Items Resolved by Exception  
**Department:** Corporate Services

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9 September 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2025/00482 - D17042107



### **Recommendation**

***That the Committee determines the items on the Agenda that will be adopted without debate.***

### **Summary**

In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice, items that are dealt with by exception are items where the recommendations contained in the reports in the agenda are adopted without discussion.

**Item No:** 1.5  
**Title:** Draft Grants and Sponsorship Policies - For Public Exhibition - Deferred  
**Department:** Community and Recreation Services

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9 September 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2025/00482 - D17049655  
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:***

- 1 Supports the draft Community Grants Policy and associated Guidelines, as set out in Attachments 1, 3, 4, and 5 to this report, for placement on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.***
- 2 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 Community Grants Policy and associated Guidelines and Sponsorship Program.***
- 3 Recommends that Council:***
  - I. Endorses the draft Community Grants Policy and associated Guidelines, as set out in Attachments 1, 3, 4, 5 to this report, be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.***
  - II. Supports and adopts the re-establishment of a Sponsorship Program commencing in 2026-27 financial year.***
  - III. Supports and adopts the reduction of the Community Grants program budget by 15% and reallocate this money to the Sponsorship Program from the 2026-27 financial year.***
  - IV. Supports the draft Sponsorship Program Policy as set out in Attachment 2 to this report and endorses that it be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.***

### **Report purpose**

To present the Community and Culture Committee with the draft Community Grants Policy and amended associated Grant Guidelines and Sponsorship Program Policy for review, feedback, endorsement and recommendation for public exhibition. The report also seeks endorsement to modify the funding allocation for the existing community grants program and increase the funding allocation for the existing Sponsorship program. This is in consideration of the growing need for an increased sponsorship fund for recurring Central Coast events.

### **Executive Summary**

This report outlines how the Community Grants and Sponsorship programs are proposed to be modified by:

- Reducing the Community Grants Program by 15% and allocating these funds to the Sponsorship Program.

The Policies for Council's Sponsorship Program, Community Grants and their associated guidelines are due for review. The review involved an evaluation to identify areas for improvement that would better enable the program to meet community needs based on staff experience, feedback and engagement with grant applicants and stakeholder feedback. Draft policies have been developed to reflect the proposed changes to improve the Grants and Sponsorship Programs.

### **Background**

At the Community and Culture Committee of 8 July 2025, a request for the history of underspends in the total Grants Program was requested. Below is a table indicating the underspend for the past four (4) years:

Table 1

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Total Grants Budget</b>	<b>Actual Spend</b>	<b>Variance (underspend)</b>
2021/2022	\$900,000	\$648,857	\$251,143
2022/2023	\$900,000	\$727,919	\$172,081
2023/2024	\$900,000	\$783,410	\$116,590
2024/2025	\$900,000	\$656,530	\$243,470

### Community Grants Program

Central Coast Council's Community Grants Program was established in August 2017 with six (6) program areas including:

- Community Support.
- Community Events and Place Activation.
- Community Infrastructure.
- Community Development.
- Social and Creative Enterprise.
- Heritage.

As a result of Council's financial difficulties in 2020 and subsequent service level review, the community grants program was reduced to the three (3) current programs. These are:

- Community Development Grant Program.
- Community Events and Place Activation Grant Program.
- Community Support Grant Program.

These three programs were prioritised due to the significant benefits/outcomes these provide to the broader community. Analysis undertaken indicated a return on investment of 8:1 for Council's Community Grants program. For every dollar allocated through the Community Grants program eight (8) dollars was effectively delivered in positive community outcomes.

The primary focus of the grant programs is to build community capacity with funding allocated to activities that enhance the sustainability of community-based organisations and enable projects that provide demonstrated community benefit aligned with Council's Community Strategic Plan. They were designed to provide seed funding. The intention is to provide support for projects that will continue to become sustainable without reliance on Council's Community Grant funds.

The Community Grants Program funded 137 projects across the Central Coast in the 2023-24 financial year. These applications have involved initiatives by people of all ages and consisted of new initiatives as well as projects with a long history and tradition.

There are a number of applicants within the Community Events and Place Activation program that receive repeat annual funding to deliver significant events on the Central Coast.

Eight organisations that are recurrently funded through this Program (current value \$144,090) are better suited to a multi-year sponsorship program, however due to the ongoing suspension of the Sponsorship program, there has been no other funding source available. These applicants are recommended to move across to a Sponsorship Program if the proposed approach is endorsed.

### Sponsorship Program

As per Council's current Policy for Sponsorship Management, the sponsorship program encompasses funding awarded to external parties by Central Coast Council and sponsorship received from external parties by Central Coast Council.

In 2020, Central Coast Council suspended the formal awarding component of the Sponsorship Program due to financial difficulties, and it remains suspended.

Despite the halt in Council's official program, the Central Coast Academy of Sport is temporarily funded by resolution of Council for three years for the 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years while Council reviews its ongoing approach to Sponsorship.

This report proposes that a Central Coast Council Sponsorship Program be re-established with budget allocated from a financially modified Community Grants Program.

## **Report**

### Community Grants Program

From the 2026-27 financial year, the Community Grants Program budget is proposed to be reduced by 15% and comprise the following programs:

- Community Development Grant Program – one (1) round to open 1 June 2026 up to \$20,000 per application.
- Community Events and Place Activation Program – one round to open 1 June 2026, up to \$20,000 per application.
- Community Support Program – small grant program, open all year round and assessed monthly, up to \$5,000 per application and/or in-kind support. The aim of a modified program would be to reduce reliance on Council allocated grant funding and encourage sustainable income from other sources i.e.: State and Federal grant programs.

In addition, several changes to the community grant program guidelines have been identified that will provide tangible improvements to the program (Attachments 3, 4 and 5). In summary the proposed improvements for the Community Grants Program are as follows:

Include the following as **ineligible** in guidelines:

- Community Support Grant - Infrastructure improvements on Council facilities – recommendation that applications for upgrades to Council owned facilities/ property are not eligible (currently receive significant applications to upgrade community facilities (surf clubs, community centres, community halls etc)).
- Commercial lease subsidies- recommendation that applications applying for commercial lease subsidies are not eligible.
- Research or studies (e.g.- feasibility economic and heritage) are not eligible.
- Digital (e.g., website, application and web-based subscriptions) platform maintenance not eligible.

Include the following **limits** for applications in guidelines:

- Limit applications for Community Support Program per organisation to four (4) applications per year (currently no limit).
- Council general rate subsidy - eligible to apply for one retrospective year in one application per financial year (currently no limit on retrospective time period).
- Community Support Grant - Grant funding for usage of Council facilities (hire and lease fees) – recommendation for organisations or groups to be limited to 50% subsidy for usage hire and lease fees (currently no limit).

Some minor changes to the guidelines have also been identified as follows:

- Reword organisation eligibility requirements.
- Update statement into the guidelines regarding self-sufficiency for organisations.
- Assessment criteria change from five (5) components (Project Outcomes, Budget, Community Support, Sustainability and Capacity) to a proposed three components (Project Plan, Evidence of sound budget, Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies).
- Definition of minor infrastructure amended within the guidelines to a total monetary value of \$7,500.00.

The Policy for Community Grants has been updated to reflect any recommended program changes (Attachment 1).

### Sponsorship Program

The key focus of a Sponsorship Program is on the attraction and growth of events and activities that contribute to the economic growth and vibrancy of the Central Coast and provide a measurable return on investment. This approach aligns with the findings/ recommendations of the draft Central Coast Events Strategy, which is in the process of being developed and will be presented to the committee later in 2025.

Refinement of a proposed Sponsorship Program model, guidelines, application process, assessment criteria, awarding process, reporting and acquittal process can begin once an increased Sponsorship budget is approved, and be reported back to the committee and Council for endorsement later in 2025.

The current Policy for Sponsorship has been updated (Attachment 2) and will need to be reviewed upon completion and adoption of the new Sponsorship program to reflect any currently unaccounted for recommended program changes.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

The review involved an evaluation to identify areas for improvement that would better enable the program to meet community needs based on staff experience, feedback and engagement with grant applicants and stakeholder feedback.

The Governance team were consulted and provided feedback regarding the policy development.



A desktop review of other Council's grants and sponsorship policy and guidelines was undertaken to determine best practice.

### **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.

The Community Grants Program and Sponsorship Program have been modified to meet the funding allocated within the Community and Culture Unit's Operational budget.

Nil bottom line change to existing overall budget.

### **Link to Community Strategic Plan**

Theme 1: Belonging

### **Goal A: Our community spirit is our strength**

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

### **Risk Management**

Community perception of reduced support can be mitigated by providing clear communication that total community funding remains the same, with increased opportunities through the Sponsorship program.

### **Critical Dates or Timeframes**

Endorsement by the committee of the Sponsorship Program including Program model, guidelines, application process, assessment criteria, awarding process, reporting and acquittal process be reported back to the committee for endorsement in November-December 2025.

The recommendations to commence in the 2026-27 financial year.

### **Attachments**

Nil

**Item No:** 1.6  
**Title:** Australia Day Award Changes - For Adoption - Deferred  
**Department:** Community and Recreation Services

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9 September 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2025/00482 - D17049668  
Author: Kristen Schembri, 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 recommends that Council:***

- 1 Adopts the proposed changes to the Awards and to the judging process and panel for the 2026 Award Ceremony and proceeding years.***
- 2 Adopts the proposed changes to the format and to include the Mayor and Councillors in the 2026 Award Ceremony and proceeding years.***

## **Report purpose**

To seek the Committees endorsement to adopt the proposed changes to the Central Coast Council Australia Day Award Ceremonies.

This report was deferred from the Community and Culture Committee meeting of 8 July 2025 to seek further information to ascertain if there was an existing resolution of Council specifically pertaining to the naming of the awards.

Council Officers have completed a search, and no active resolution has been located on this matter.

## **Executive Summary**

In recent years Council Officers have observed the need for a revitalisation to the Australia Day Awards, so they resonate with a broader, more representative cross-section of the Central Coast community. The proposed changes include a name change, judging process change and format changes to promote inclusivity, year-round relevance and improved engagement.

## Background

In recent years, there has been difficulty in gaining nominations for the Awards, with numbers remaining relatively flat or declining.

A review of council records has confirmed that there is no documented history of the name of the awards ever being established through a formal resolution of Council. This indicates that the naming of the awards may have originated through administrative practice or community usage rather than through an endorsed decision of Council.

The Awards focus on recognising and celebrating individuals, groups, and organisations in our community who have made outstanding contributions to the wellbeing, cohesion, and vibrancy of the Central Coast. These Awards acknowledge acts of service, leadership, innovation, and dedication that often go unnoticed, highlighting the impact of those who work tirelessly to support others, foster inclusivity, and create positive change. Whether through volunteering, advocacy, creative initiatives, or everyday kindness, the Awards shine a light on the people who make our community stronger, more connected, and more resilient.

While Council was under administration the process for judging the awards was undertaken by a panel of Senior Executive, the Administrator and Council Officers. Prior to administration, judging was undertaken by the Mayor and a panel of Councillors and Council Officers.

## Report

The following changes are being proposed to the current format of the Award Ceremony:

### 1 Reinvigorate Awards

In recent years we have faced difficulty in gaining nominations for the Australia Day Awards, with numbers remaining relatively flat or declining. The trends we have observed include:

- A significant portion of entries are repeat entries, limiting fresh representation.
- Ambassadors and winners have declined to attend due to other commitments.
- Low engagement rate.
- Limited diversity in nominations.

Changing the name of the Australia Day Awards to Central Coast Community Awards may be beneficial in attracting more nominations by creating a stronger local identity and sense of ownership and local pride within the community. A name that directly references the Central Coast is more relatable and recognisable for residents, making the awards feel more inclusive and relevant to the region. This localised branding can help generate increased interest and awareness, encouraging a broader range of individuals, groups, and organisations to nominate themselves or others. It also allows for greater year-round promotion, which may increase engagement and participation across the community and a chance to reinvigorate

and reimagine the awards, creating a renewed sense of excitement and local pride around them.

The date for the award ceremony would remain the same; being the week leading up to the Australia Day weekend and will form a suite of programmed activities and events that are undertaken by Council to celebrate and recognise our diverse community and this important National Day. These activities include a citizenship ceremony held on Australia Day and other public and family celebrations at key locations across the Central Coast.

## 2 Judging Process and Panel

Nominations for the Awards open mid-year for five (5) weeks and are open to applicants from across the entire Central Coast region, with all nominees having the chance to be named as the prestigious Central Coast Citizen of the Year.

The individual awards span the following categories:

1. Community Group Award.
2. Community Life Award.
3. Senior Citizen Award.
4. Volunteer Award.
5. Young Person Award.

It is proposed that the judging process for the Awards be updated to include a panel comprising the Mayor, two (2) Councillors, and a Council Officer to assess applications and determine the winners for each category, including Central Coast Citizen of the Year.

This change would provide greater transparency, impartiality, and community representation in the selection process. Involving elected representatives in the judging panel ensures that decisions reflect a broad civic perspective and align with community values, while the presence of the Council Officer will ensure that the operational requirements are maintained, for example background checking of nominees. This approach enhances the credibility and integrity of the awards and strengthens public confidence in the fairness and importance of the awards. It also shifts decision-making from being solely Council Officer-led to a more collaborative and representative model.

Council Officers will collate the nominations, ensuring they meet the required eligibility criteria and present them to the panel for determination. Noting that winners will be kept confidential until they are announced during the Awards night.

## 3 Format Change

It is proposed that the Mayor and Councillors participate in the presentation of the awards through the announcement of finalists and winners. It is envisaged that this would significantly enhance the experience for nominees and strengthen the overall impact of the awards. Having the community contributions acknowledged by elected representatives, would elevate the significance of the nomination and reinforce the efforts of nominees.

This approach helps build stronger connections between Council and the community, fostering trust and a shared sense of pride in local achievements. For nominees, being recognised personally by the Mayor or a Councillor can be a deeply meaningful and memorable moment, affirming their contributions and encouraging ongoing community involvement. This not only enhances the ceremony but also encourages civic pride, volunteerism, and a stronger sense of local identity.

Involving civic leaders also increases the profile of the event, attracting greater media interest and providing opportunities to promote the positive work being done across the Central Coast. This visibility can lead to more community engagement and a broader pool of nominations in future years.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

Following Council Officer recommendations based on a review of this year's Award ceremony and anecdotal feedback received from a number of community members over several years, it is proposed that both the name and the process of the awards ceremony be updated. These changes aim to better reflect community expectations, improve engagement, and enhance the overall experience for nominees and attendees. By responding to stakeholder feedback, the awards can evolve to remain meaningful, inclusive, and locally relevant.

### **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 funding for this proposal.

The Australia Day awards has an adopted 2025-26 annual budget of \$24,782 for the event, which includes staffing, venue hire, event expenses, promotion, and marketing materials. This event is funded from the adopted Community and Culture operational budget each year. The proposed changes to the Awards have no bottom line budgetary impacts.

### **Link to Community Strategic Plan**

Theme 1: Belonging

### **Goal E: Environmental resources for the future**

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

**Risk Management**

There is minimal risk to the proposed changes. There may be some nostalgia from previous recipients with the name change of the awards. However, it is felt that the change allows for greater inclusivity, diversity and the ability to promote the Awards in a new way.

**Critical Dates or Timeframes**

Nominations for 2026 Awards are currently open and close on 29 August 2025. To ensure thorough and smooth planning and implementation of the Awards and subsequent ceremony takes place, the judging of submissions would need to be completed by end of November 2025.

**Attachments**

Nil

**Item No:** 1.7  
**Title:** Social Media Policy – Effectiveness Review  
**Department:** Chief Executive Officer's Unit

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9 September 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2004/00064 - D16835494  
Author: Madeleine Evans, Section Manager Communications Engagement and Digital Marketing  
Executive: Nicole Jenkins, Executive Officer Performance and Communications

## **Recommendation**

***That the Committee notes the Social Media Policy effectiveness review.***

## **Report purpose**

This report aims to assess the effectiveness of Central Coast Council's adopted [Social Media Policy](#) (the policy) in guiding Council's social media engagement, ensuring compliance with legal and ethical standards, and providing timely, accurate community education and interaction.

## **Executive Summary**

Council's Social Media Policy establishes a comprehensive framework for the official use of social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), YouTube and LinkedIn. It outlines principles of openness, relevance, accuracy and respect, and provides guidelines for conduct, moderation and risk management. The policy also addresses the distinction between personal and official use of social media by Councillors and Council Officers.

Council's corporate social media channels have over 100,000 combined followers and reach millions of followers and social media users every year. Social media is a valuable communication channel in its own right, but also in driving engagement with other Council platforms, including Council's online community engagement platform [www.yourvoiceourcoast.com](http://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com) and corporate website [www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au).

The policy effectively sets standards and procedures for social media use in the context of Council's high-volume public communications and provides a relevant framework for Council to disseminate regular communication to the community through these channels.

## Background

In 2022, Central Coast Council adopted the Social Media Policy based on the NSW Office of Local Government (OLG) model policy, to revoke the former Wyong Shire Council and Gosford City Council policies and guide its social media presence. In 2024, the policy was renewed and subject to public exhibition from 3 September to 1 October 2024, allowing community input into its development. Three (3) submissions were received during this period, of which one (1) submission provided relevant feedback on the policy which was considered in the final draft presented to Council.

At its ordinary meeting of 10 December 2024, Council considered the draft Social Media Policy for adoption and resolved:

519/24            *That Council adopts the draft Social Media Policy.*

520/24            *That a report of the effectiveness of the Social Media Policy comes back to Council after a period of 6 months.*

This report responds to resolution 520/24.

## Report

### Policy Framework and Principles

The policy articulates clear principles for social media management, and Council implements various controls to ensure their effectiveness, which are outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1:

Principle	Information	Effectiveness Control
Openness	Our social media platforms are places where anyone can share and discuss issues that are relevant to our Council and the community we represent and serve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The majority of Council's posts have comments turned 'on' to allow community discussion, tagging and sharing, which drives engagement and reach of information.</li> <li>Comments are turned 'off' when resourcing of moderation is unavailable, or when there is potential for an increased risk of inappropriate behavioural standards, to ensure this principle is not compromised.</li> </ul>
Relevance	We will ensure our social media platforms are kept up to date with informative content about our Council and community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social media forms a key pillar of all Council's corporate communications plans and campaigns to provide relevant and timely updates to the community about key Council news, projects and initiatives.</li> <li>Council also 'shares' relevant content from key state government agencies, departments and offices as required, when the information is relevant to the Central Coast community.</li> </ul>



Principle	Information	Effectiveness Control
Accuracy	The content we upload onto our social media platforms and any other social media platform will be a source of truth for our Council and community and we will prioritise the need to correct inaccuracies when they occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council business units work closely with the strategic communications team to prepare accurate updates to the community. In any instance where Council identifies errors or inaccuracies in its communication, these are transparently corrected in line with the policy as soon as practicable.</li> <li>Council endeavours to correct misinformation in the comments of its social media posts, in line with the policy and as far as practicable, to ensure this principle is not compromised.</li> </ul>
Respect	Our social media platforms are safe spaces. We will uphold and promote the behavioural standards contained in this policy and our Council's Code of Conduct when using our social media platforms and any other social media platform.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respect, inclusion and decency are non-negotiables on Council communication channels. Council moderates its social media posts and 'hides' or deletes comments as per Clauses 6.5. and 6.6. of the policy and in line with Council's <a href="#">Code of Conduct</a>.</li> <li>As outlined above, where Council cannot resource the moderation of social media comments or considers there to be an increased risk of inappropriate behavioural standards, it will turn 'off' comments to ensure this principle is not compromised.</li> <li>Council publishes and displays its 'house rules' on social media which set the rules and expectations of interacting on Council channels. It is the responsibility of the user to adhere to the house rules and be aware that action will be taken in line with the policy if house rules are not followed.</li> </ul>

### Administrative Structure

The policy designates a Social Media Coordinator responsible for overseeing Council's social media activities – the role of Social Media Coordinator is delegated to the relevant Council officers members per the policy. The policy also outlines procedures for establishing and managing official accounts and delineates responsibilities among Council officers and Councillors.

### Conduct and Moderation

Standards of conduct are specified, prohibiting the dissemination of offensive, misleading, or confidential information, and are clearly displayed on Council's social media channels as 'house rules' as required by the policy, and outlined in Table 1 above. The policy mandates moderation to remove inappropriate content and outlines procedures for handling breaches, and all moderation is undertaken in line with the policy.

Much of Council's resourcing for social comment moderation often goes unseen, and with social media engagement and reach data continuing to track upwards, this trend is likely to continue.

For example, during the 2024-25 financial year, Council saw an 86.2% increase (monthly average) in the number of social media comments from 1,082 comments in financial year 2023-2024 compared to 2,015 comments per month in financial year 2024-2025. During the same period, over 1,500 comments were hidden or deleted due to a breach of house rules in alignment with the policy (i.e., derogatory, offensive, fraudulent, misinformation). Given these increases, Council is reviewing its resourcing levels to maintain effective moderation and responsiveness moving forward.

#### Increased Engagement with Council Channels

Council's social media channels have seen considerable increases in engagement and audience size over the past 12 months and is one of the leading NSW councils in terms of audience size, engagement and reach. Table 2 below demonstrates Council's ability to drive reach and engagement with its online community, with year-on-year statistics (where available) showing significant growth and reach across its key corporate social channels (Facebook and Instagram).

Social media is a valuable communication channel in its own right, but also in driving engagement with other Council platforms, including Council's online community engagement platform [www.yourvoiceourcoast.com](http://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com) (YVOC) and corporate website [www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au). Effective use of social media as a means of redirecting community members to take part in online engagement, or learn more about a topic on Council's website, is a primary function of social media use generally, but specifically within the local government context. Council regularly activates social media campaigns (both organic and paid) to drive traffic toward its community engagement projects on YVOC, Council-run events (website), school holiday programs and activities (website), and more.

Table 2:

2024-2025 Financial year social media data insights			
Channel	Measure	Data	Change
Facebook	Reach	2.4 million	↑ 19.4%
	Content interactions (likes/reactions, comments, shares)	124,000	↑ 50%
	Watch time	98 days	↑ 209%
	Audience	68,030	↑ 9%
Instagram	Reach	240,000	↓ 9%
	Content interactions (likes/reactions, comments, shares)	21,700	↑ 100%
	Audience	16,000	↑ 12%

Channel	Measure	Data	Change
<b>LinkedIn</b>	Impressions (comparable to reach)	342,185	—
	Reactions	5,294	—
	Comments	200	—
	Reposts	77	—
<b>YouTube – Coast Connect</b>	Views	84,084	—
	Watch time	4,200 hours	—
	Subscribers	+320	—
<b>YouTube – Live Stream</b>	Views	16,200	—
	Watch time	5,000 hours	—
	Subscribers	+131	—
<b>Paid Advertising (Facebook &amp; Instagram)</b>	Reach	1.7 million	—
	Impressions	13 million	—
	Amount spent	\$61,000	—
	Landing page views	57,580	—

### Emergency Communication

Council uses its social media channels as key communication channels during emergencies including natural disasters or public health incidents, in line with the framework provided in the policy and relevant emergency communication protocols.

### Personal vs. Official Use

The policy emphasises the importance of distinguishing between personal opinions and official Council positions. It advises Councillors to maintain separate accounts for personal and professional use to avoid confusion, and that all Councillors and Council officers must follow the Code of Conduct when interacting on social media at all times.

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

The Social Media Policy was developed in 2022 by the NSW Office of Local Government in consultation with all NSW councils and informed by advice provided by key NSW Government agencies including the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), the Information and Privacy Commission of NSW, the NSW Ombudsman, Resilience NSW, and the State Archives and Records Authority of NSW. Council undertook public exhibition during the review of the policy in 2024 and considered relevant community feedback into the final version.

During the current review of the Social Media Policy's effectiveness, stakeholder engagement was help with members of the Communications, Media and Digital Marketing teams.

**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.

The work outlined in this report is undertaken under the adopted Operational Plan and does not have further budgetary impacts, assuming no changes to the current model or expectations on its outputs are made.

**Link to Community Strategic Plan**

Theme: Leadership

Goal: LE2: Inclusive and sound decision making to guide the Central Coast into a bright future.

Strategy: LE2.1: Engage and communicate openly and honestly with the community and provide accessible opportunities for the community to be involved and participate in discussions.

**Risk Management**

The policy addresses risks associated with social media use, including:

- Legal liability: Acknowledging the potential for the Council to be held accountable for third-party content on its platforms.
- Reputational damage: Implementing guidelines to prevent the spread of misinformation and inappropriate conduct.
- Privacy concerns: Ensuring compliance with privacy laws and protecting sensitive information.

**Critical Dates or Timeframes**

*Nil.*

**Attachments**

*Nil.*

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

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9 September 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2004/06259 - D16929522  
Author: Phil Cantillon, Unit Manager Leisure Beach Safety and Community Facilities  
Executive: Melanie Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services

## **Recommendation**

***That the Committee recommends that Council:***

- 1 Adopts the Central Coast Council Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 as set out in Attachment 1 to this report.***
- 2 Notes the outcomes of public exhibition as set out in Attachment 2 to this report.***
- 3 Notifies those persons who lodged submissions of Council's decision.***

## **Report purpose**

To provide an update on the outcome of the public exhibition period and to seek adoption of the Central Coast Council Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 (Attachment 1).

## **Executive Summary**

Council resolved at the Ordinary Council Meeting of 27 May 2025 to publicly exhibit the draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy. The draft strategy was placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 5 June 2025 to 3 July 2025. A total of 95 submissions were received during the public exhibition period.

## **Background**

The Draft Central Coast Council Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 was presented to the Community and Culture Committee at the meeting held 13 May 2025 for endorsement to go out on public exhibition.

Council endorsed the recommendations of the Community and Culture Committee at its meeting held 27 May 2025 with the following resolutions:

*CCC6/25, That Council:*

- i. Confirms 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.*
- ii. 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.*

## **Current Status**

The draft Central Coast Council Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 was exhibited from Thursday 5 June to Thursday 3 July 2025, a period of twenty-eight (28) days.

During the exhibition period eighty-eight (88) submissions were received online through the exhibition platform and seven (7) were emailed direct to Council.

The submissions received have been reviewed and a summary is provided in the Consultation Report (Attachment 2).

No changes to the strategy are proposed.

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

### **Public Exhibition of the draft Central Coast Council Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035**

The draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy was developed in consultation with the community to ensure alignment with Council's corporate approach to community engagement and communications, and to reflect the community's values and outcomes about leisure and aquatic services and facilities.

For the Leisure and Aquatic Strategy initial community feedback on current service provision, quality and improvement opportunities were collected between 8 April 2024 and 13 May 2024 as part of the biennial Leisure Centres and Pools Satisfaction Survey.

To assist with finalising the draft document, Council also sought further feedback from the community and stakeholders via public exhibition of the draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 from 5 June to 3 July 2025, a period of twenty-eight (28) days.

Community themes from the public exhibition included:

- Strong support for the development of a new facility in the northern area.
- Support for enhancing and upgrading existing aquatic facilities.
- Community preference for prioritising upgrades at Gosford Olympic Pool.
- Requests to maintain the existing Wyong Olympic Pool, whilst also progressing with plans for a new facility in the northern area.
- A desire for greater representation of water polo in the strategy and in future planning.

Council officers have reviewed and considered all the submissions and responded to each of the written submissions, with no required changes to the draft Strategy. Outcomes of the Public Exhibition of the draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy are continued in the Consultation Report – Leisure and Aquatic Strategy (Attachment 2).

### **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: Place

Goal: PL3: Healthy and balanced lifestyles where people have access to essential amenities and services.

Strategy: PL3.1: Provide and maintain community facilities, spaces and services to enjoy sport, leisure and recreation.

## **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 |
| 2   | Leisure and Aquatic Strategy Engagement - Consultation Report | D17015897 |





Central  
Coast  
Council

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



## Acknowledgement of Country

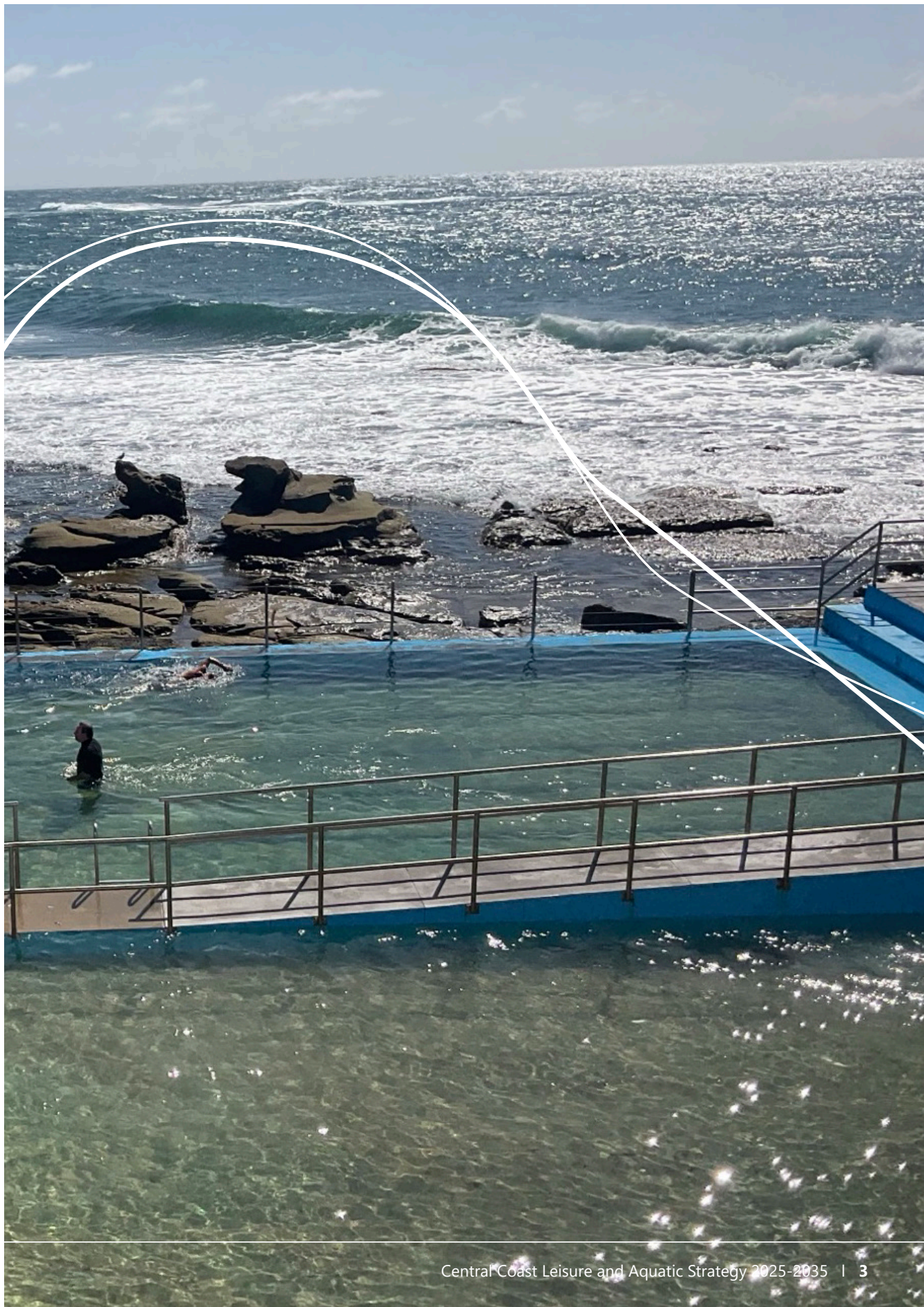
We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We pay our respects to Darkinjung country, and Elders past and present.

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:

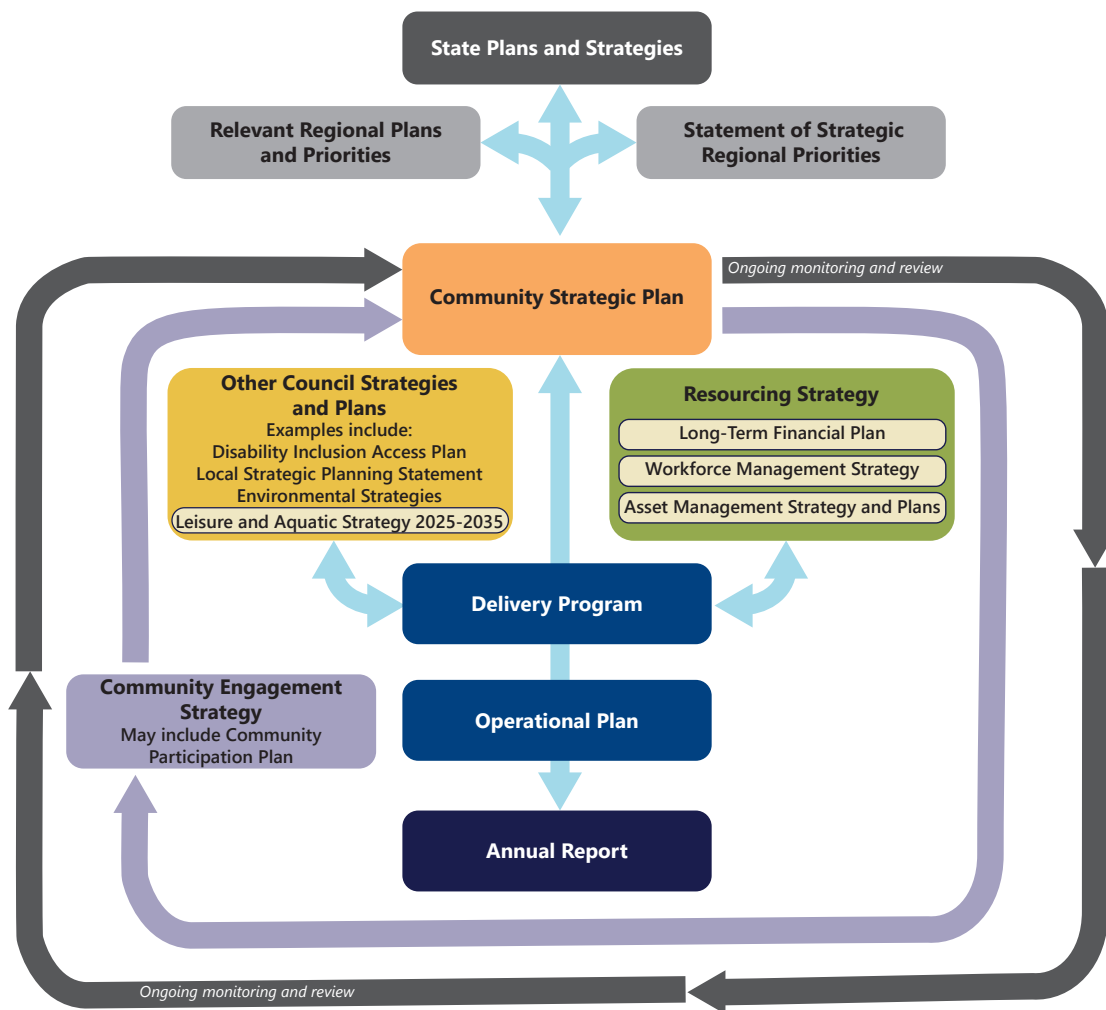
- Commercial pools
- Private gyms
- Operational models



### 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

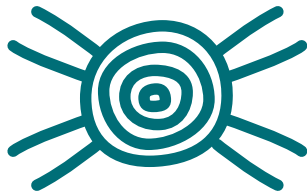
The largest growth is expected in age cohorts above 70 years, with the **70-84 years** cohort expected to experience an increase of 17,601 people between 2021 and 2046.

#### 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%**



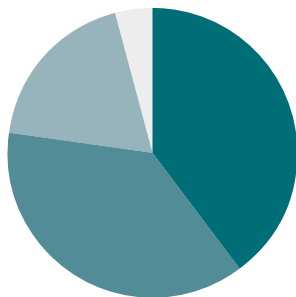
**Speak a language other than English**

**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**

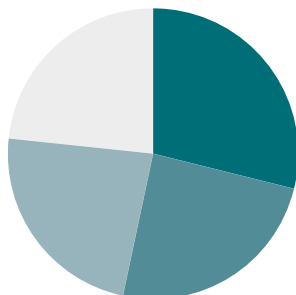
**22.6%** of dwellings are medium or high density

**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.

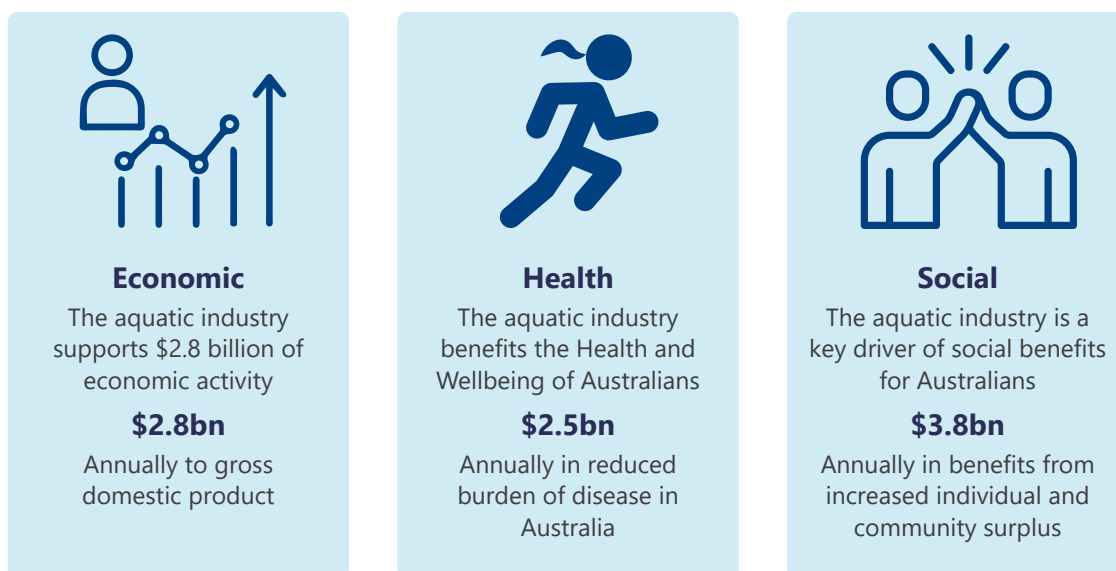


Figure 1: Summary of the Royal Life Saving Australia report into aquatic industry value

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 Australia<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> 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

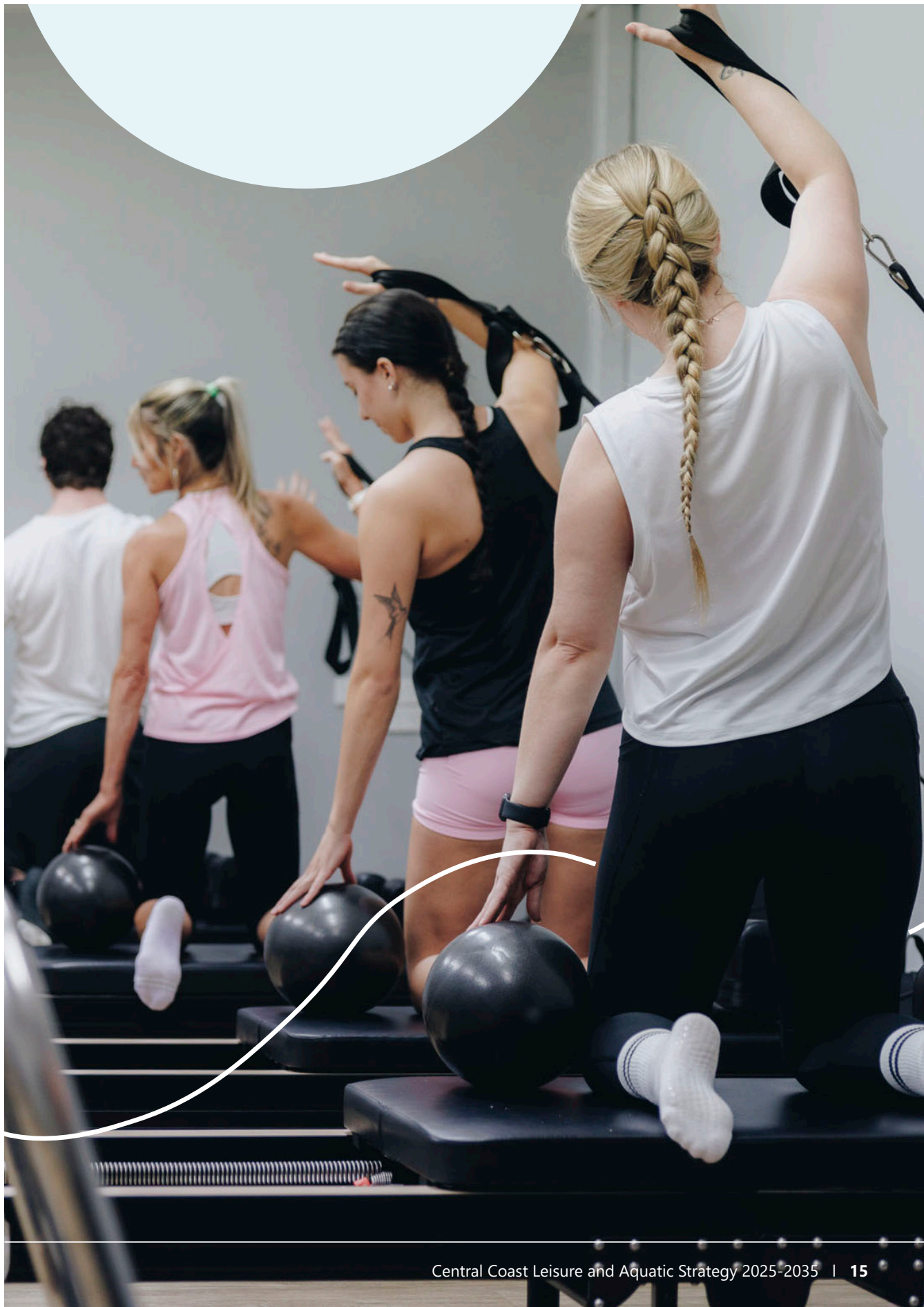
Leisure and Aquatic facilities assist to reduce health care cost through reduction in disease and illness associated with lack of physical activity and social interaction and providing local employment and investment opportunities.



### 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 exercise<sup>2</sup>.**

#### 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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:

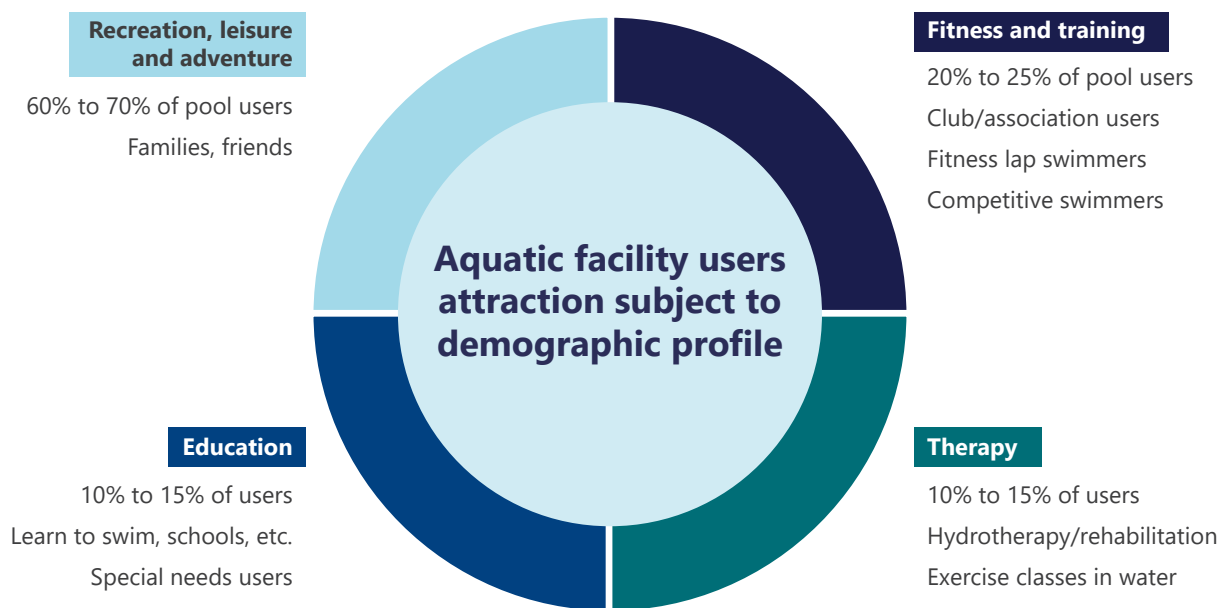


Figure 2: Main Aquatic and Leisure Facility User Markets

#### 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:

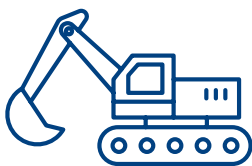
1. Health and Fitness memberships
2. Learn to Swim enrolments.

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 Australia<sup>1</sup>

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 2035<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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"> <li>Indoor heated 50m pool</li> <li>Leisure and warm water pools</li> <li>Outdoor Splash Park and waterslide</li> <li>Spa, steam room and sauna</li> <li>24-hour gym</li> <li>Two (2) full sized indoor sport courts</li> <li>Creche</li> <li>Café and BBQ facilities</li> <li>Hearing loop</li> <li>Accessible toilet/ changeroom</li> <li>Accessible platform lift</li> <li>Submersible water wheelchairs for hire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn to swim programs</li> <li>Swim squads</li> <li>Lap and recreational swimming</li> <li>Water polo club</li> <li>Hire for events and carnivals</li> <li>Gym and group fitness</li> <li>Basketball/ Netball/ Futsal</li> </ul>

### 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"> <li>Outdoor heated 50m pool</li> <li>Indoor heated 25m pool</li> <li>Indoor heated rehabilitation pools</li> <li>Outdoor toddler pool</li> <li>Modern change-room facilities</li> <li>Grandstand</li> <li>Cafe and swim shop</li> <li>BBQ and picnic area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn to swim program</li> <li>Aqua fitness classes</li> <li>Squad coaching program</li> <li>Lap and recreational swimming</li> <li>Pools and spaces for hire for events and carnivals</li> </ul>
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"> <li>Outdoor 50m pool</li> <li>Wading pool</li> <li>Amenities centre</li> <li>Tennis and netball courts</li> <li>Sportsground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swim squads</li> <li>Entrance and Wyong water polo clubs, games and training - club rooms</li> <li>Lap and recreational swimming</li> <li>Hire for events and carnivals</li> <li>Swim wall</li> </ul>
41,000 (2046)	39,000		
High growth	Trend - Increasing		

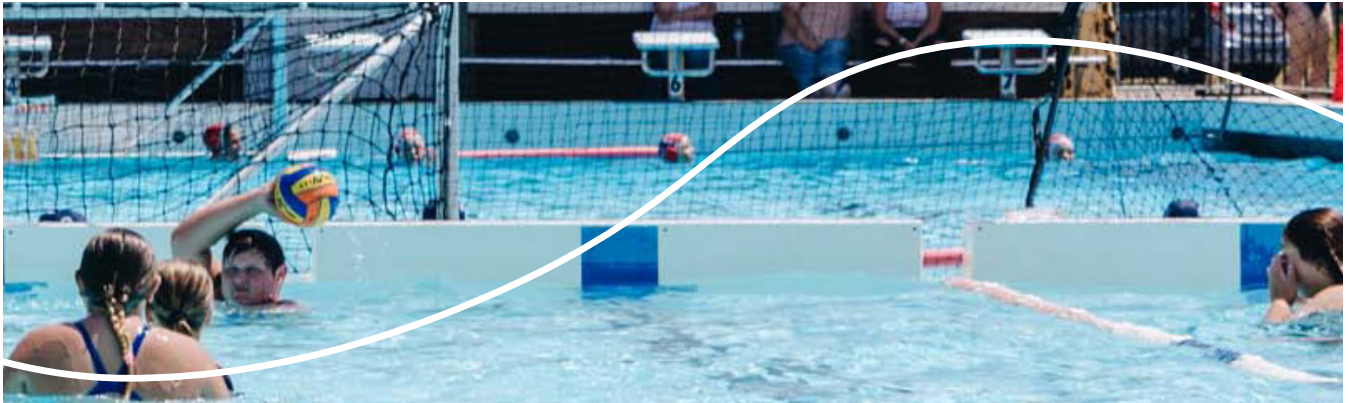
## Current Limitations and Future Opportunities

### 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"> <li>Indoor 25m heated pool</li> <li>Warm water/ swim lesson pool</li> <li>Outdoor toddlers pool</li> <li>Meeting room</li> <li>Kiosk</li> <li>BBQ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn to swim program</li> <li>Swim squads</li> <li>Lap and recreational swimming</li> <li>Hire for events and carnivals</li> <li>Aqua fitness</li> <li>Swimming club</li> </ul>
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"> <li>Outdoor 50m pool</li> <li>Outdoor 22m lap pool</li> <li>Wading pool</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carnivals</li> <li>Lap swimming/walking</li> <li>Aquatic play</li> <li>Winter and summer swim clubs</li> </ul>

## 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"> <li>Four (4) basketball courts</li> <li>Meeting rooms</li> <li>Trampoline area</li> <li>Dance studio</li> <li>Martial arts studio</li> <li>Cafe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basketball, Wheelchair basketball</li> <li>Soccer</li> <li>Martial arts</li> <li>Roller derby</li> <li>Netball</li> <li>Volleyball</li> <li>Table tennis</li> <li>Trampolining</li> <li>Dance</li> </ul>
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"> <li>Two (2) Sports courts</li> <li>Gym – 24 hr</li> <li>Group fitness</li> <li>Three (3) squash</li> <li>Cycle studio</li> <li>Meeting rooms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group fitness classes</li> <li>Personal training</li> <li>Pilates classes</li> <li>Basketball/Netball</li> <li>Badminton</li> <li>Volleyball</li> <li>Squash</li> <li>Judo</li> <li>Dance</li> <li>School holiday activities</li> <li>Hire for events and carnivals</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• 50 metre pool</li> <li>• Heated leisure pool</li> <li>• Hydrotherapy pool</li> <li>• Creche</li> <li>• Café</li> <li>• Swim shop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn to swim program</li> <li>• Squad program</li> <li>• Adult fitness and swim classes</li> <li>• Gym and Fitness (One Mingara)</li> </ul>

## 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"> <li>• Two (2) Sports halls</li> <li>• Gym - upstairs</li> <li>• Music room</li> <li>• Tennis courts</li> <li>• Program room</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basketball, Wheelchair basketball</li> <li>• Outdoor Netball</li> <li>• Pickleball</li> <li>• Gym</li> <li>• Fitness classes</li> <li>• Boxing</li> <li>• Outdoor tennis</li> </ul>



### 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"> <li>Multi-purpose indoor venue with four (4) championship-sized basketball courts</li> <li>Grandstand - up to 1,000 people</li> <li>Air-conditioned mezzanine with kitchen facilities</li> <li>Café</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basketball</li> <li>Referee training and pathways</li> <li>Volleyball</li> <li>Netball</li> <li>Pickleball</li> <li>Events - expos, computer markets, book fairs and trade shows</li> </ul>

### 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.

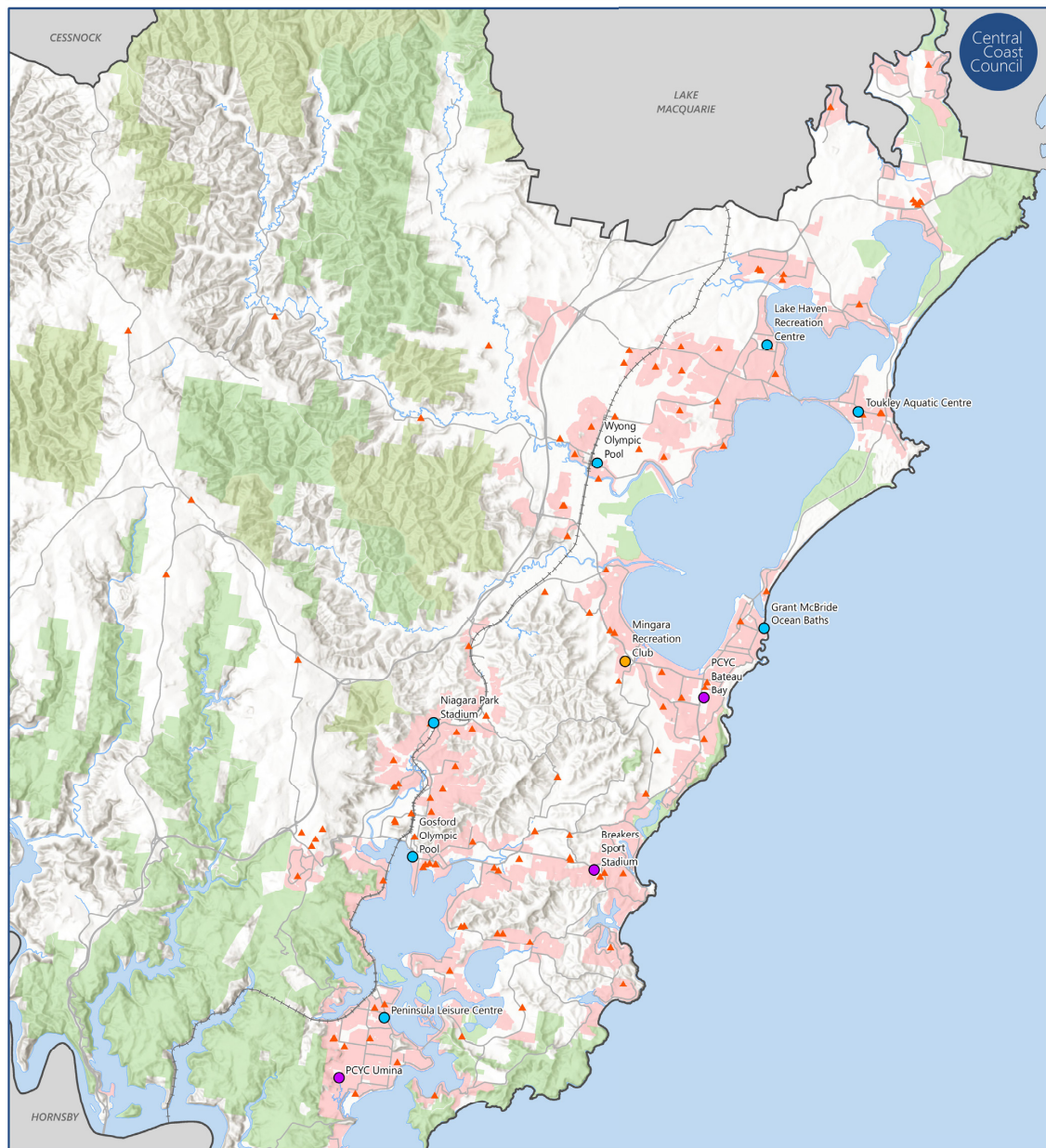
#### Facility Summary

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"> <li>Gymnastics hall</li> <li>Seven (7) boxing rings</li> <li>Gym equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gymnastics</li> <li>Boxing</li> <li>Trampolining</li> <li>Martial arts</li> <li>Archery</li> </ul>



**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  
 Date: 25/03/2025  
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 Sources: © Central Coast Council, Esri, GeoScience Australia, NASA, NOAA, USGS  
 Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

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



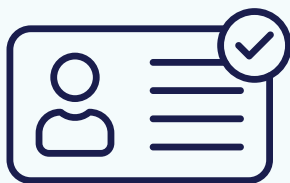
Facilities for warm water exercise, water polo and school swimming carnivals and full accessibility are required as they are less likely to be offered by private providers.

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**

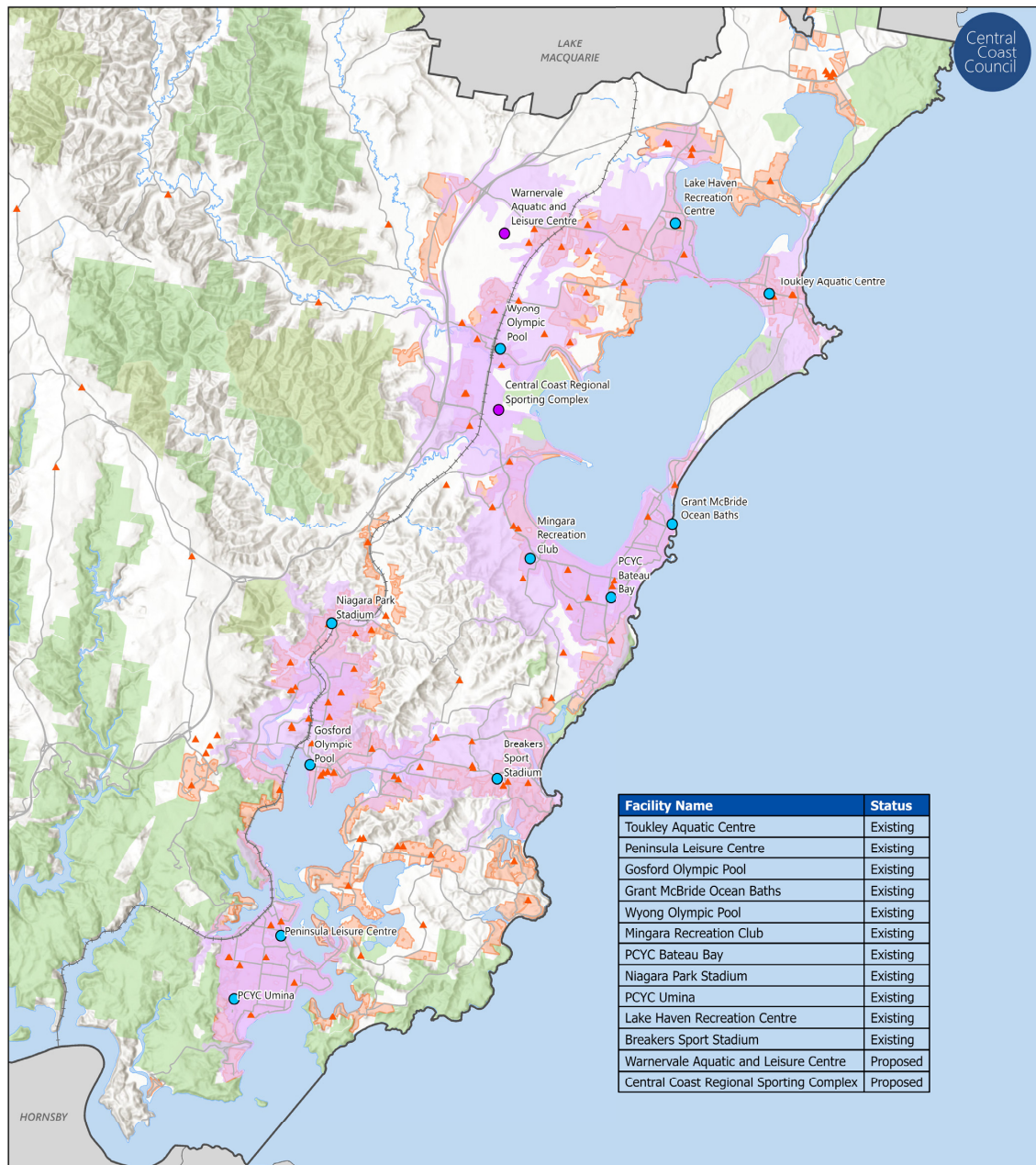


**Quality and Function**



**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  
Date: 27/03/2025  
Scale: 1:100,000  
Paper size: A4  
Source: © Central Coast Council, Esri, Geoscience Australia, NASA, NGA, USGS  
Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

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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><b>Convenient Location</b> Easily accessible for the local community</p>	 <p><b>Diverse Amenities</b> Includes hydro pools, heated pools, outdoor pools and saltwater baths</p>	 <p><b>Facility Usage Options</b> Recreational swimming, training, and learn-to-swim programs</p>	 <p><b>Expert Instructors and Friendly Staff</b> Supportive and approachable team members</p>
 <p><b>Group Fitness and Aquatic Classes</b> A variety of sessions for all skill levels</p>	 <p><b>Family-Friendly Features</b> Toddler pools, child-friendly areas, creche</p>	 <p><b>Opening Hours</b> Times to suit different schedules</p>	 <p><b>Additional Services</b> 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><b>Facility Upgrades</b> Update ageing infrastructure to create a more modern and enjoyable space</p>	 <p><b>Water Play Enhancements</b> Introduce or improve interactive water play features for all ages</p>	 <p><b>Increased Maintenance</b> Ensure consistent upkeep and cleanliness of facilities</p>	 <p><b>Extended Operating Hours</b> All year-round access and more evening classes for different schedules</p>
 <p><b>Upgraded Amenities</b> Improve change rooms, toilets and other essential facilities</p>	 <p><b>Better Parking</b> Expand or optimise parking spaces for easier access</p>	 <p><b>More Seating</b> Additional seating areas for spectators and visitors</p>	 <p><b>Improved Accessibility</b> Enhance facilities to better accommodate people of all abilities and backgrounds</p>
 <p><b>General Refresh</b> 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**

<b>Service Hierarchy</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Facilities</b>
<b>Local</b> 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"> <li>• Ability to provide limited program water combined with leisure water.</li> <li>• Limited dry/gym facilities.</li> </ul>	Wyong Olympic Pool Grant McBride Ocean Baths
<b>District</b> 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"> <li>• Ability to separate program and leisure water.</li> <li>• Larger dry/gym facilities.</li> </ul>	Gosford Olympic Pool Toukley Aquatic Centre Lake Haven Recreation Centre Niagara Park Stadium Breakers Stadium PCYC Umina PYCY Bateau Bay
<b>City-Wide</b> 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"> <li>• More extensive program and leisure water.</li> <li>• Consideration of indoor 50m pool and complementary warm water pool.</li> <li>• Increased gym and program space.</li> <li>• Additional complimentary amenities, food and beverage.</li> </ul>	Peninsula Leisure Centre Mingara Aquatic Centre Proposed new leisure and aquatic facility – Northern region
<b>Regional</b> 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"> <li>• Extensive and varied program leisure water and attractions</li> <li>• Inclusion of indoor 50m pool and separate warm water pools.</li> <li>• Wellness/health club and extensive program room inclusions.</li> <li>• Complementary services and amenities, crèche, food and beverage.</li> </ul>	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
<b>Breakers Stadium</b>			
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
<b>PCYC Bateau Bay</b>			
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
<b>PCYC Umina</b>			
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
<b>Mingara Aquatic Centre</b>			
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.



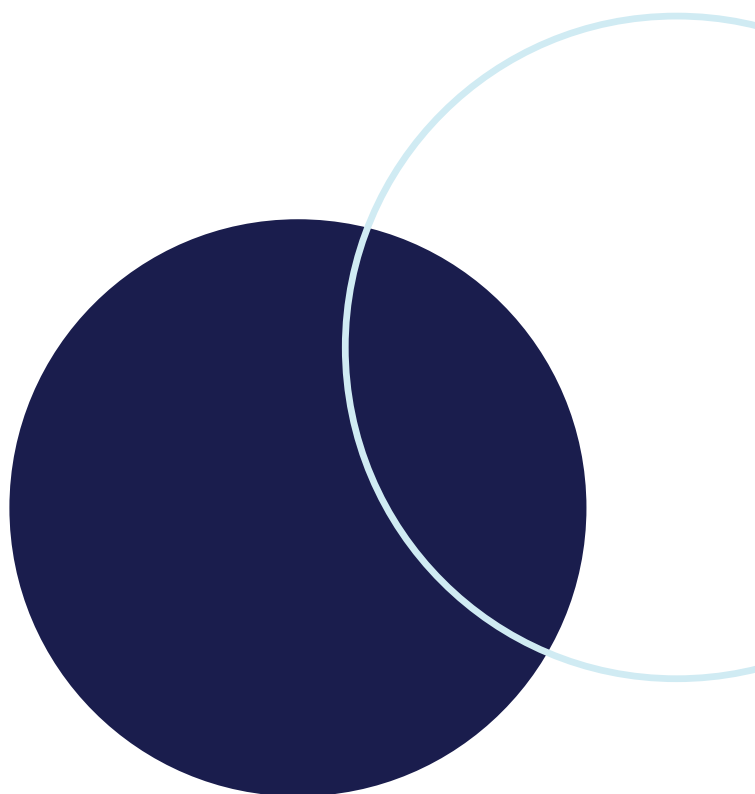
## 11. Appendix

### 11.1 Potential competitors to each facility

#### Action Plan

Facility	Type	Drive distance (km)	Travel time (mins)	Suburb
<b>Gosford Olympic Pool</b>				
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
<b>Peninsula Leisure Centre</b>				
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
<b>Toukley Aquatic Centre</b>				
Norah Head Water Fitness Centre & Swim School	Swim centre	2.9	6	Norah Head
Northlakes Swim Centre	Swim centre	5.4	8	Budgewoi
<b>Grant McBride Ocean Baths</b>				
Little Coasties Swim School	Swim centre	1.2	4	North Wyong
<b>Wyong Olympic Pool</b>				
North Wyong Aqua Centre	Swim centre	3.8	8	North Wyong
5 Star Swim School Tuggerah	Swim centre	4.3	12	Tuggerah
<b>Breakers Indoor Sports Stadium</b>				
CC Hoops Basketball Central Coast	Sport centre	7.1	9	Kincumber
Gosford Gymnastics & Erina Kindergym	Sport centre	5.5	9	Holgate
<b>Lake Haven Recreation Centre</b>				
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
<b>Niagara Park Stadium</b>				
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
<b>PCYC Bateau Bay</b>				
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
<b>PCYC Umina Beach</b>				
Peninsula Leisure Centre	Sport centre	4.3	8	Woy Woy





## Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035

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April 2025





Central Coast Council

# Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2030

Consultation Report

August 2025

Central  
Coast  
Council

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

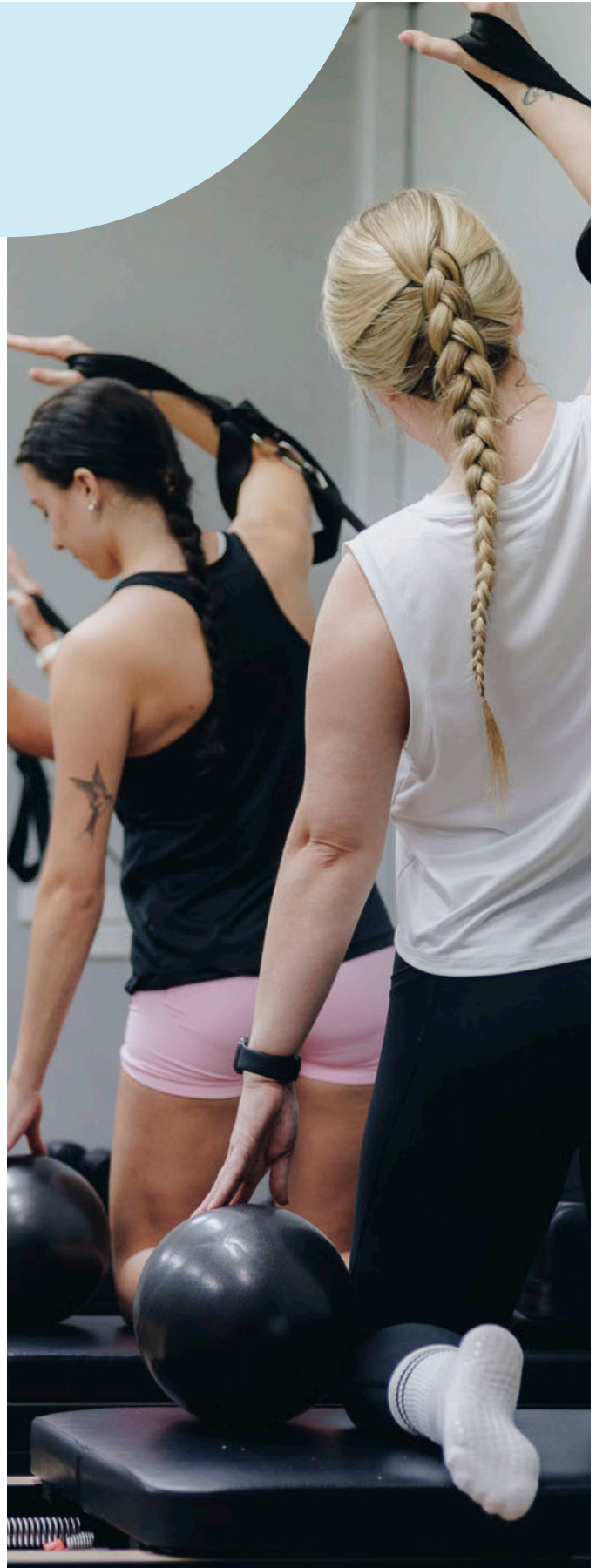
Council has developed a draft Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 to guide the future of leisure and aquatic services and facilities across the Coast.

This is a 10-year framework with a focus on infrastructure upgrades, asset management and program expansion - designed to support active lifestyles, improve community wellbeing and maximise participation opportunities.

The draft strategy was informed through:

- Community engagement via Leisure and Aquatic centre customer satisfaction surveys
- Industry trends analysis
- Demographic trend analysis
- Facility audits (challenges and future opportunities)

At the Community and Culture Committee meeting on 13 May 2025, the draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy was endorsed to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days. This consultation report details the engagement activities and feedback received during the exhibition period and next steps.



## 2. Engagement Approach

### 2.1 Purpose of Engagement

The purpose of engagement was to:

- Inform the community about the draft strategy, including its guiding principles, strategic directions and action plans for each facility.
- Consult the community to gather their feedback on the draft strategy.
- Provide a range of opportunities for community members and stakeholders to share their feedback, including face-to-face and online.

### 2.2 Our Engagement Strategy

Consultation has been designed in accordance with Central Coast Council's Community Engagement Strategy.

The Community Engagement Strategy is available to view [here](#).

### 2.3 How we consulted

#### Consultation methods

##### Online submission form

All residents and stakeholders could make a written submission via the online submission form on [yourvoiceourcoast.com](https://yourvoiceourcoast.com).

A copy of the online submission form can be found in **Appendix A**. Detailed survey results are available in the What We Heard section.

**88 online submissions were submitted.**

##### Written submissions

All residents and stakeholders could make a written submission via email, handwritten submission forms provided at the pop-up events, or via post.

**7 submissions were received via email.**

##### Pop-up events

Two pop-up events were held on:

- Monday 16 June 4.30-6.30pm  
– **56 conversations**
- Wednesday 18 June 9-11am  
– **30 conversations**

### Promotion of activities

We carried out promotion of the public exhibition to ensure the community and stakeholders were aware of the opportunity to participate.

A copy of the media release and promotional activities can be found in **Appendix C and D**.



#### Your Voice Our Coast Website

[www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/leisure-and-aquatic-strategy](http://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/leisure-and-aquatic-strategy)

For the exhibition period  
(5 June – 3 July)

- **2,170** views
- **1,623** visitors
- **43** project followers
- **574** downloads of the draft strategy
- **116** downloads of the draft strategy 'simple versions'



#### Media Release/Web News

Issued 5 June

[Have your say on the future of the Coast's leisure and aquatic facilities](#)



#### Coast Connect eNews

Issued 11 June

[The future of our facilities](#)

Delivered to **19,267** recipients



#### Coast Connect Print in Coast Community News

Issued 12 June

Readership of **60,000**



#### Social Media

##### Facebook

- Posted June 10 – **13,964** views
- Posted June 27 – **2,953** views

##### Instagram

- Posted June 10 – **636** views
- Posted June 27 – **895** views

##### LinkedIn

- Posted June 10 – **513** views

##### Meta paid

- Reach of **9,243** and **23,136** impressions



#### Leisure Centres eNews

Issued 26 June

**Draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 now on exhibition**

Delivered to **11,663** subscribers



#### Stakeholder Email

Issued 27 June

Distributed to **69** key stakeholders who help deliver, supply, maintain or regularly use facilities



#### Digital Facility Slide

Displayed at Council's leisure and aquatic facilities



#### Flyer

- Distributed at Council's leisure and aquatic facilities
- Handed out during pop-up events



#### A3 poster

Distributed internally and externally to Council facilities

### 3. What we heard

Council sought feedback from the community between **Thursday 5 June and Thursday 3 July 2025**.

The overall feedback collected during consultation revealed a mixed response, with support for the strategy varying based on factors such as type of facility user and primary facility. Wyong Olympic Pool users were most likely to not support the strategy, Gosford Olympic Pool users were most likely to be unsure, and Peninsula Leisure Centre users were most likely to support the strategy.

#### 3.1 Method 1 – Online submission form

A total of **88** online submissions were received on the Your Voice Our Coast webpage during the exhibition period.

The online submission form included a total of 21 questions. To view the questions asked in the form, see Appendix A.

##### 3.1.1 Who we heard from

Figure 1: Gender of respondents

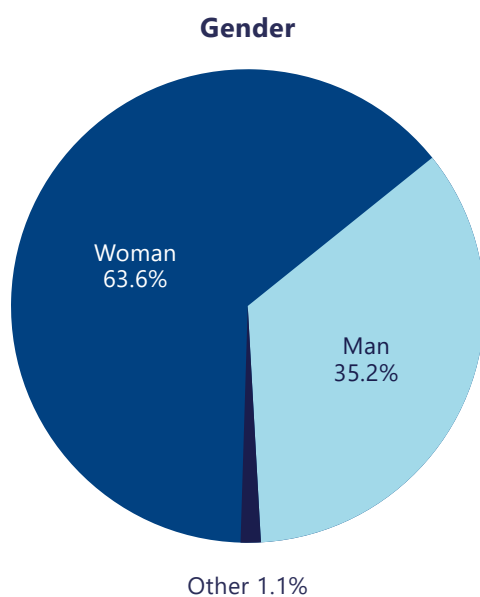


Figure 2: Age group of respondents

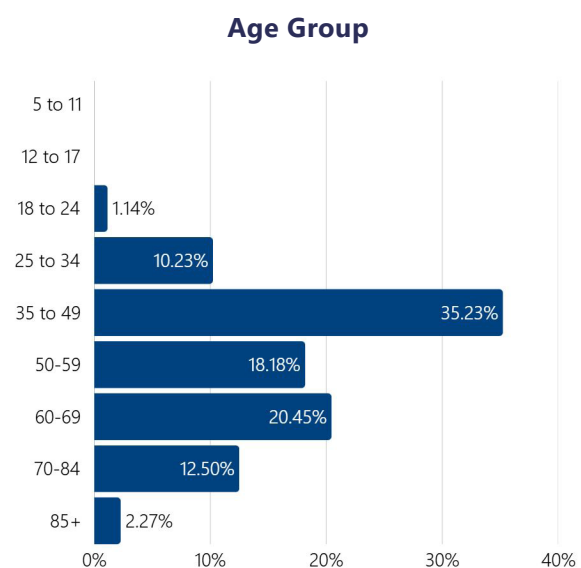


Figure 3: Respondents who live with disability

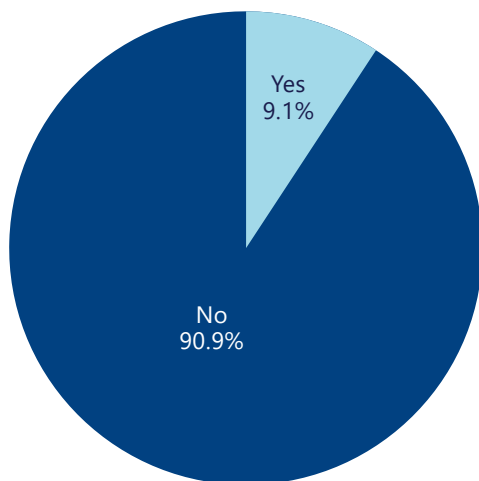
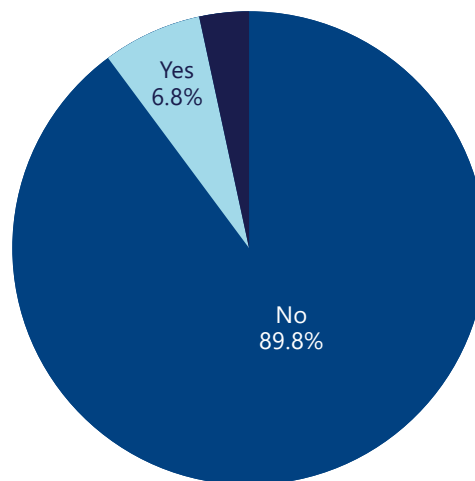
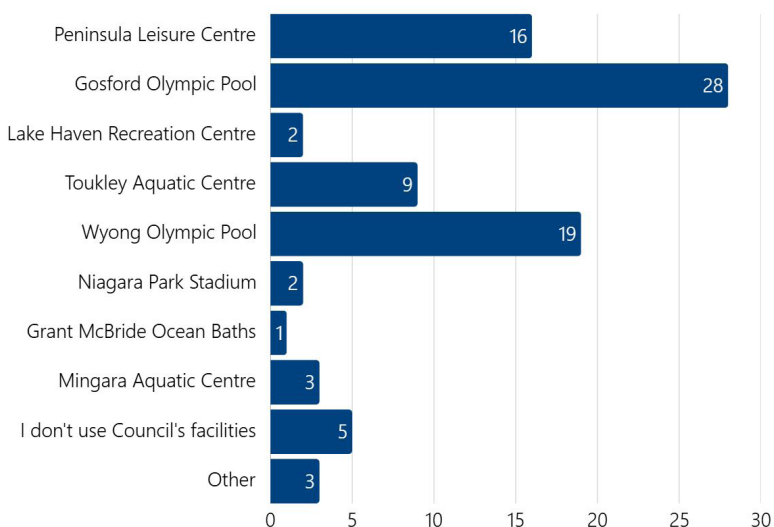
**Are you a person living with disability?**

Figure 4: Respondents who identify as ATSI

**Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander****3.1.2 Respondent's connection to Leisure and Aquatic Centres**

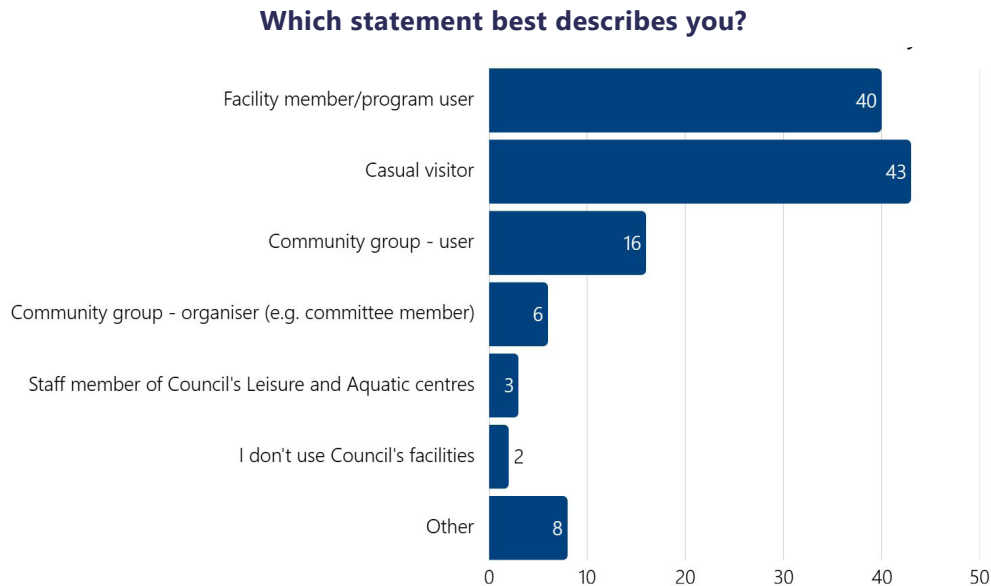
We heard the most from users who visit Gosford Olympic Pool (28), Wyong Olympic Pool (19) and Peninsula Leisure Centre (16).

Figure 5: Facility respondents visit most regularly

**Which Facility do you visit most regularly?**

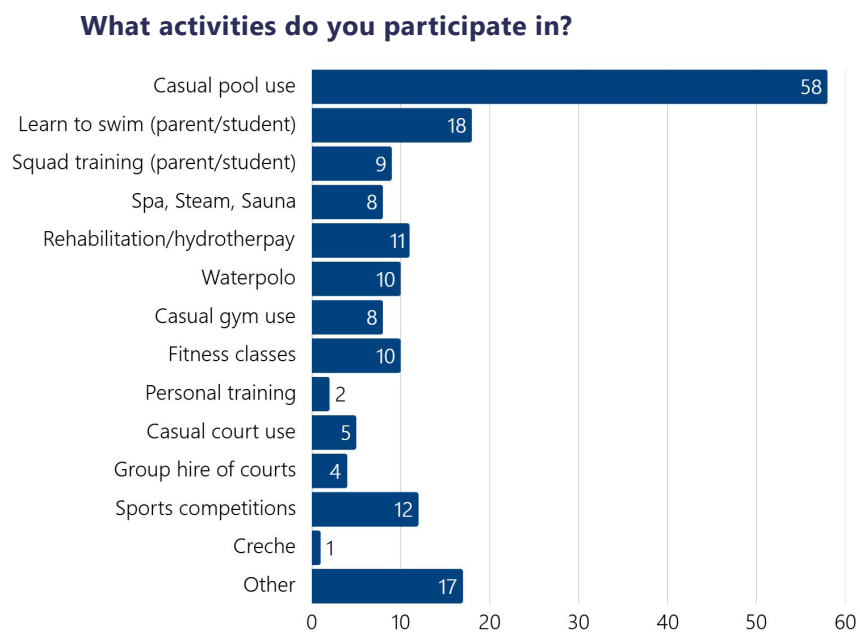
The most common type of facility users were facility members/program users (40), casual visitors (43) and community group users (16).\*

Figure 6: Type of facility user



The most common type of activities respondents participated in were casual pool use (58), Learn to Swim (18) and Sports competitions (12).\*

Figure 7: Activities respondents participate in



\*Note: as the selection of multiple options was allowed, totals exceed 88.

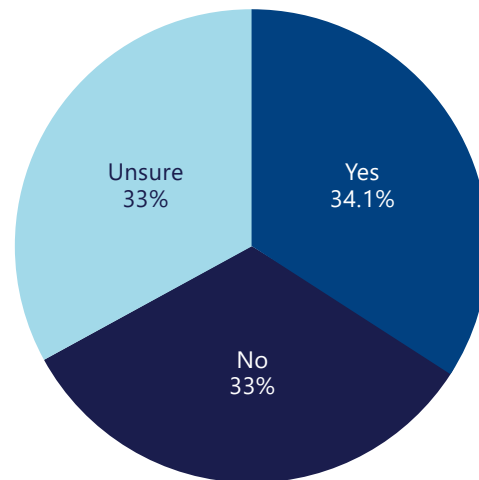


### 3.1.3 Support for the strategy

Support for the strategy was split between yes, no and unsure.

Figure 8: Respondents support for the strategy

#### Do you support this strategy?



From the below graph, we can see that support for the strategy varies noticeably based on which facility the respondent visits most regularly. For example:

- Users of Wyong Olympic pool were more likely to be unsupportive of the strategy due to the long-term proposal for the decommissioning of the pool once a new facility is built.
- Users of Gosford Olympic Pool were more likely to be unsure of their support for the strategy as they would like to see upgrades be made sooner.
- Users of Peninsula Leisure Centre were supportive of proposals for bathroom, gym facilities and parking upgrades.

Figure 9: Support for strategy based on facility



**Respondents who supported**

the strategy noted reasons such as:

- Supporting the proposed new leisure and aquatic facility in Warnervale
- Supporting Gosford Olympic Pool and Peninsula Leisure Centre upgrades
- Supporting the strategic improvement of Council's facilities into the future

**Respondents who did not support**

the strategy noted reasons such as:

- The proposed closure of Wyong Olympic Pool once a new facility in Warnervale is built, due to the value it brings to the local community and its proximity to public transport.
- Wanting Wyong Olympic Pool to be maintained as well as a new facility in Warnervale.
- Wanting Gosford Olympic Pool upgrades to be made sooner.
- A need to clarify timelines and costs.

**Respondents who were unsure** if they supported the strategy noted reasons such as:

- The strategy does not consider the growth of water polo as a sport.
- Gosford Olympic Pool upgrades need to be made sooner.
- Questions around timeline and where funding will come from.

**A note about sampling bias:** The online submission form was 'opt-in', which means participants proactively sought to complete the surveys as opposed to a sample or respondents being selected to reflect and represent the population makeup of the Central Coast community more accurately.



### 3.2 Method 2 – Pop-up events

We sought feedback from the community on the strategy through two pop-up events held during the exhibition period. The pop-up events included hard copies and snapshots of the strategy, a post-it note activity board to identify challenges and opportunities and interactive games for kids.

Peninsula Leisure Centre (PLC) and Lake Haven Recreation Centre (LHRC) were chosen as they were indoor facilities (i.e. not weather dependent) and covered each end of the Central Coast.

The first pop-up was held at PLC on Monday 16 June 4.30-6.30pm. We had 56 conversations with facility users and 33 post-it notes were added to the activity board. Challenges identified for PLC included parking, comfort in sports halls, inadequate space (e.g. hydro pool, fitness rooms, grandstand during carnivals). Opportunities included more gym space for fitness rooms, reformer pilates, taking advantage of outdoor space and ice baths/recovery rooms.

The second pop-up was held at LHRC on Wednesday 18 June 9-11am. We had 30 conversations and 16 post-it notes were added to the activity board. Challenges identified for LHRC included accessibility to the second floor, no child-minding facilities and squash court space. Opportunities included utilisation of the outdoor areas, a lift to the second floor, new gym equipment.

Across both pop-ups, wider challenges identified for Leisure and Aquatic Centres across the Central Coast included not having one facility with 'everything', travel time to facilities, and lack of heating at Wyong pool. Wider opportunities included a new facility in the north, more facilities/space for group sports (e.g. water polo, netball) and maintaining Gosford Olympic Pool's 'charm'.

To view a full list of the post-it note comments, see Appendix B.





### 3.3 Sample of comments from consultation

Below is a sample of verbatim comments respondents provided via the online submission form.

#### Wyong Pool

"Reconsider the closure of Wyong pool it would effect a large number of local residents"

"Wyong pool is a wonderful facility in the right location for locals. Not everything needs to be focused on the newer development areas. Leave it where it is, refurbish it and let locals and schools continue to enjoy the wonderful facilities."

"Wyong pool is equitable and for community benefit. It's a disgrace that Council now wants to decommission the pool which is one of the VERY few public facilities available to people in the immediate Wyong community. It's right by the train station so obviously accessible to people in Warnervale from the train station there, but with much better train timetable. It's disgraceful that Wyong is continually over looked yet rotten old Gosford keeps getting funded for new things - white elephant library anyone?. Do better!!!!"

"With the growth in the north and a plan to decommission Wyong pool and build a new one is poor vision. This area in the north requires 2 aquatic facilities as there are no further facilities, 50 metre in length until arriving at Swansea area. Progressive planning would upgrade Wyong site, keep it as an outdoor facility, heat it and then have it accessed by many more people all year around. Currently the waterpolo community cannot access this facility for 6 months of the year when it could be utilised all year around. To replace such a fabulous outdoor facility with an indoor facility is a travesty. Wyong pool is one of the most popular green spaces for bbq and aquatic fun for families and is a cost effective day out for families in this region. Access to transport to the new facility will also be a barrier to many families. There will be no facility between Gosford and Warnervale that is easily accessed."

#### Gosford Olympic Pool

"The Gosford Olympic Pool (GOP) requires work for improved safety, accessibility and participation that are quite feasible and economic to be achieved in 2025/2026. These works should not be scheduled for a later date."

"Gosford Olympic Pool was built through community fund raising and a proud residents achievement but has shamefully been let deteriorate as other centres developed so that it has been left behind in maintenance and upgrading so much so that the change rooms were a disaster and horrible and I didn't want to go back"

"I live not far from the Gosford Olympic Pool and am a frequent user of the facility. Having read with great interest the Leisure and Aquatic Strategy, I see with substantial concern that it is proposed to reorient the grandstand to face Brisbane Water. While the view is lovely, the direction the grandstand will face is due west. Users of the grandstand in summer, with swimming being a summer sport, will be subjected to heat and glare while at a swimming event... the decision to deliberately change the grandstand to face west at a cost of \$55M, is ill advised at best."



### Unsure about strategy

"The strategy hasn't provided enough information on how Council is going to support the community and its growth. I have strong concerns that Council refer to the area as North and South and forget that there is 3 distinct area of the coast, with the growth in the population. Wyong is now considered the middle of the Coast and by closing the Wyong Pool with a new facility at Warnervale, they are taking away resources from a large part the community..."

"This isn't a strategy. It's a collection of current information without a clear plan. It does say specifically what the plan is for the facilities or how much it will cost. I can't support it or not support it, there is not enough information."

### Supportive of strategy

"The community deserves up to date and engaging facilities that encourage healthy lifestyles for all to enjoy."

"Upgrading these locations and perhaps building new ones that support growth is a great idea. The upgrade of the Wyong facility would be beneficial for the area, considering the high growth of the area."

"Gosford Olympic Pool is well overdue for a refurbishment. It is in a prime location and has the potential to be amazing with a new complex. With a new facility in this location it would bring in a lot of new users"

"We love Toukley pool and are excited for the community space to get some much needed attention and upgrades. We support the plan and agree the Wyong pool should be replaced for a northern facility. This especially considering the master plan for Charmhaven redevelopment and the housing plans at Warnervale."

"At least the north end is getting new aquatic centre very much needed"



### 3.4 Key findings from consultation

- Some opposition for the closure of Wyong Olympic Pool due to its community value and accessibility by transport.
- Calls to both keep Wyong Olympic Pool and build new facility in Warnervale.
- Calls from the water polo community that the strategy should identify opportunities to support the growth of water polo as a sport.
- Desire for upgrades at Gosford Olympic Pool to be made sooner.
- Support for a new facility in Warnervale.
- Support for facility upgrades across the facilities.

A full list of themes raised throughout consultation and Council's response to these themes can be found in **Section 4**.



## 4. Council's Response

Due to the large volume and variety of content contained within community feedback, not every issue or theme was able to be included and responded to in the following table, however all feedback has been read and will be considered by the project team.

Theme	Summary of theme / Example of comment	Council's response
Wyong Olympic Pool	Do not close the pool. It is highly valued by the local community and accessible by public transport	The strategy recommends rolling renewal work and upgrades as outlined in the Council Capital Works Program for the existing Wyong Olympic Pool. The existing Wyong Olympic Pool is nearing the end of its useful life. It is faced with challenges such as ageing infrastructure and ongoing maintenance requirements, low participation levels across programs and services, and a reduced appeal due to its seasonal operation and lack of heating. 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.
	Keep Wyong pool in addition to a new facility in Warnervale	The strategy recommends rolling renewal work and upgrades as outlined in the Council Capital Works Program for the existing Wyong Olympic Pool. Council will commence long-term planning and design for a new facility in the northern growth area. Maintaining and operating Wyong Pool, in addition to a new facility in Warnervale is not financially viable.
Gosford Olympic Pool	The upgrades to Gosford Pool need to be made sooner	Under the strategy, the redevelopment of Gosford Olympic Pool is a high priority with rolling renewal work and upgrades as outlined in the Council Capital Works Program.
User group representation	The strategy should identify opportunities to support the growth of water polo as a sport	Council's leisure and aquatic facilities benefit many sports and activities including water polo, who utilise the pools. The strategy is intended to focus on the facility renewal, upgrades and development, rather than a specific activity. Sports and user groups will be fully consulted with any designs of redeveloped and new facilities.
	Water polo should be mentioned in the strategy	
Timelines and costs	The timelines, costs and funding sources for upgrades are unclear.	The strategy is a 10-year plan and timelines have been provided under short term, medium term and long-term actions for each facility. The costings have been provided based on the current data, concepts and information available.



## 5. Next Steps

Stakeholders and users of Council's leisure and aquatic facilities will be consulted with any designs of the redevelopment of existing facilities or in the development of new facilities, to ensure they meet the leisure and aquatic needs of the community.



## 6. Appendices

### Appendix A – Online submission form

#### Submission form - Draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy

01. First Name <small>Required</small>	
02. Last Name <small>Required</small>	
03. Email address <small>Required</small>	
04. Address <small>Required</small>	

05. What statement best describes you? <small>Required</small>	
Select all that apply	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Facility member/program user
<input type="checkbox"/>	Casual visitor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community group - user
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community group - organiser (e.g. committee member)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff member of Council's Leisure and Aquatic centres
<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't use Council's facilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

06. What community group/s are you involved in? <small>Required</small>

07. What facility do you visit most regularly? <small>Required</small>
Select one answer only

	Peninsula Leisure Centre
	Gosford Olympic Pool
	Lake Haven Recreation Centre
	Toukley Aquatic Centre
	Wyong Olympic Pool
	Niagara Park Stadium
	Grant McBride Ocean Baths
	Mingara Aquatic Centre
	Breakers Stadium
	PCYC Bateau Bay
	PCYC Umina Beach
	I typically don't use Council's facilities
	Other

08. What activities do you participate in? <small>Required</small>	
Select all that apply	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Casual pool use
<input type="checkbox"/>	Learn to swim (parent/student)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Squad training (parent/student)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spa, Steam, Sauna
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rehabilitation/hydrotherapy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Casual gym use
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fitness classes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal training



	Casual court use
	Group hire of courts
	Sports competitions
	Creche
	Other

09. Do you support this strategy? <small>Required</small>	
Select one answer only	
	Yes
	No
	Unsure

10. Why do you support the strategy?	
Skip this question if your answer to question 'Do you support this strategy?' is not "Yes"	

11. Why don't you support the strategy?	
Skip this question if your answer to question 'Do you support this strategy?' is not "No"	

12. What makes you unsure?	
Skip this question if your answer to question 'Do you support this strategy?' is not "Unsure"	

13. Is there anything you believe we have missed in the strategy?

14. Please provide any further comments on the strategy

### About you

We ask these questions to better understand our community's needs and ensure we are hearing from a range of people. This helps us see who is getting involved (and who might be missing), ensure we are meeting the needs of different groups, and helps us report transparently on how representative the feedback is.

Your answers are private and used for the purposes of this consultation.  
For more information, view our privacy statement.

15. Gender
Select one answer only
<input type="checkbox"/> Woman
<input type="checkbox"/> Man
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/> Other

16. Age
Select one answer only
<input type="checkbox"/> 5-11
<input type="checkbox"/> 12-17
<input type="checkbox"/> 18-24

	25-34
	35-49
	50-59
	60-69
	70-84
	85 and over

17. Do you identify as living with a disability?	
Select one answer only	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure

18. Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?	
Select one answer only	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say

19. Language spoken at home other than English	

20. Country of birth	
Select one answer only	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Australia
<input type="checkbox"/>	United Kingdom

<input type="checkbox"/>	New Zealand
<input type="checkbox"/>	Philippines
<input type="checkbox"/>	India
<input type="checkbox"/>	South Africa
<input type="checkbox"/>	China
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ireland
<input type="checkbox"/>	Netherlands
<input type="checkbox"/>	United States of America
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

We will automatically add you to our list of interested participants to receive updates on the progress of this project. Select the checkbox below to opt-out.

21. Do not keep me updated on the progress of this project.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes

## Appendix B – Pop-up activity results

**Activity:** What challenges and opportunities do you see for our Leisure and Aquatic Facilities over the next 10 years?



### Peninsula Leisure Centre

#### PLC challenges

- Comfort in sports hall
- More space needed, change room upgrades in pool area
- Car parking at PLC
- Car parking at PLC
- Pool area gets hot in summer
- Pedestrian safety along the side walkway. Needs a railing to stop kids from running onto the road
- Not enough space in the grandstand during carnivals
- Hydro pool always full (Aquafit, LTS, kids splashing)
- Need more parking at PLC
- Minimal space n group fitness classes
- More accessible change rooms needed
- Not enough space in gym/fitness rooms
- No playspace
- Bigger showers needed with more space for families/children
- Too many of the same classes at 5:30pm
- Winter weekend hours too short



<b>PLC opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More gym space for group fitness</li> <li>- Reformer pilates</li> <li>- More yoga and reformer pilates</li> <li>- PLC outdoor space – look at opportunities to take advantage of the space</li> <li>- Separate spa and sauna spaces for male/female</li> <li>- New playspace</li> <li>- More parking</li> <li>- Reformer pilates</li> <li>- Recovery room</li> <li>- Adults only hydro pool for rehab (strictly enforced no splash zone)</li> <li>- Outdoor pool or extra pool</li> <li>- Ice baths/cold plunge</li> <li>- More gym space</li> <li>- Classes not at a good time for 9-5 workers</li> </ul>
<b>Wider challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not one facility with 'everything' e.g. gym, swim, karate, capacity for a diverse range of user groups</li> <li>- Travel time to facilities</li> <li>- Wyong pool is freezing</li> <li>- Wyong pool is so cold!</li> </ul>
<b>Wider opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need a facility in the North</li> <li>- Gosford Olympic Pool – maintain its 'charm'</li> <li>- More facilities/space for group sports (waterpolo, netball, etc.). Support a new facility in the North</li> <li>- Gosford Olympic Pool – integrate any development with the waterfront</li> <li>- Another facility is needed near Woy Woy. PLC is always busy.</li> </ul>

<b>Lake Haven Recreation Centre</b>	
<b>LHRC challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to second floor = lift</li> <li>- Needs a lift</li> <li>- Outdoor area has old rusting equipment. Could use this space.</li> <li>- No child-minding facilities</li> <li>- Squash courts space</li> <li>- No bathroom upstairs</li> </ul>
<b>LHRC opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creche and more classes. Utilise the group rooms, outdoor area, courts more for classes.</li> <li>- Run morning teas</li> <li>- Use the outdoor space</li> <li>- Water fountain upstairs</li> <li>- Lift at LHRC</li> <li>- Creche. More range of classes.</li> <li>- Creche</li> <li>- Ice baths, saunas</li> <li>- Equipment – hip thrush machine, abduction and adduction machine</li> </ul>
<b>Wider opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New aquatic facilities like in the south.</li> </ul>

## Appendix C – Media Release

### Have your say on the future of the Coast's leisure and aquatic facilities

Central Coast Council is inviting the community to provide feedback on the draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035, on public exhibition from Thursday 5 June to Thursday 3 July 2025.

The draft strategy sets a clear, 10-year framework to guide the future of the Coast's key leisure and aquatic services and facilities. It focuses on infrastructure upgrades, asset management and program expansion, designed to support active lifestyles, improve community wellbeing and maximise participation across all ages and abilities.

Central Coast Council Director Community and Recreation Services, Melanie Smith said the strategy has been informed by existing data, community feedback and population growth projections.

"This draft strategy is about making sure we have the right services and facilities in the right places to support the Central Coast's growing and changing population," Ms Smith said.

"By 2036, more than 414,000 people are expected to call the Coast home. Our leisure and aquatic centres need to reflect the broad and evolving needs of our residents, across all ages, backgrounds, abilities and interests.

"We've developed the draft strategy using feedback from our regular surveys and now we're asking the community – have we got it right? Your input during this public exhibition will help shape the final strategy."

The strategy applies to some of the region's most well-used facilities, including the Peninsula Leisure Centre, Gosford Olympic Pool, Lake Haven Recreation Centre, Toukley Aquatic Centre, Wyong Pool and Niagara Park Stadium.

Mayor Lawrie McKinna said the Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 is an important step in planning for a healthy, connected and active community.

"Our leisure and aquatic facilities are part of everyday life for so many people in the region, whether it's learning to swim, shooting hoops, joining a local club or catching up with friends," Mayor McKinna said.

"We want to make sure our facilities continue to meet community needs and aspirations. This is your chance to help shape what these spaces look like now and into the future."

### Have your say

View the draft strategy and provide your feedback from Thursday 5 June to Thursday 3 July at **[yourvoiceourcoast/leisure-and-aquatic-strategy](https://yourvoiceourcoast/leisure-and-aquatic-strategy)**

Alternatively, drop by one of our pop-up events to chat with the project team and share your feedback:

- Peninsula Leisure Centre: Monday 16 June, 4.30-6.30pm
- Lake Haven Recreation Centre: Wednesday 18 June, 9-11am

The Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 aligns with the Community Strategic Plan and supports Council's goal of creating well-maintained, activated spaces that enhance quality of life, encourage healthy lifestyles and strengthen social connections.

Feedback received during the public exhibition period will directly inform the final strategy to be considered for adoption by Council.

For more information, search '**leisure and aquatic strategy**' at **[centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](https://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)**

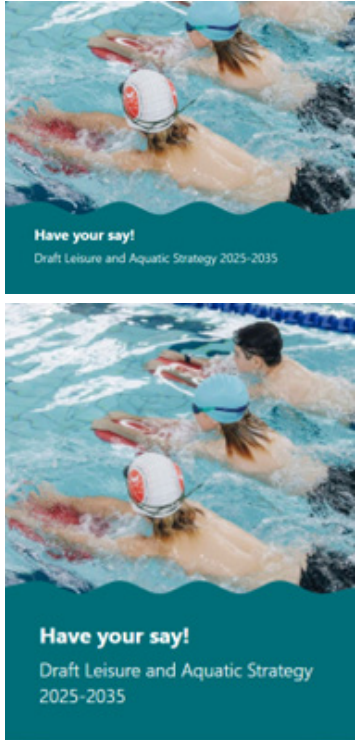


ENDS

View all Central Coast Council's recent media releases at [www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)

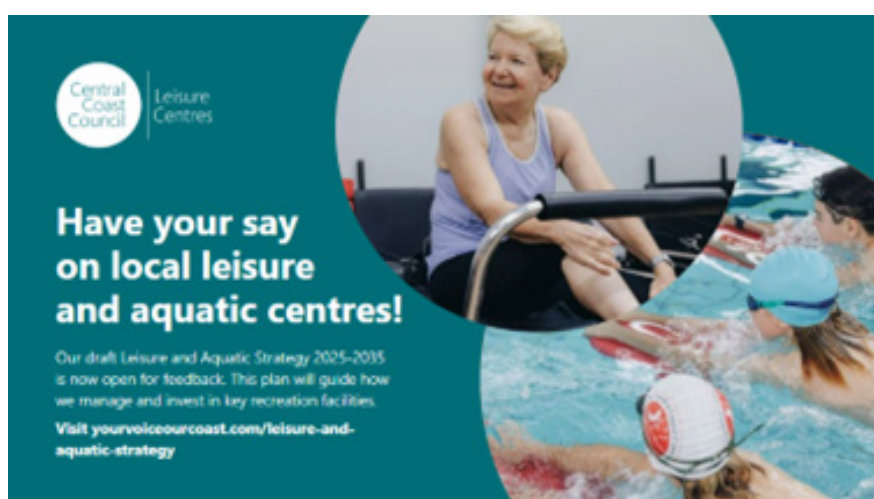
To keep up to date with Council's breaking news like/follow our Facebook and Twitter pages

## Appendix D – Promotional activities

Channel	Copy	Image
Facebook	<p>Help shape the future of leisure and aquatic facilities on the Central Coast! Council's draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 is a 10-year plan to upgrade key facilities, manage assets and expand programs that support active, healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>We're asking the community – have we got it right?</p> <p>Your feedback will help finalise the strategy.</p> <p>Open for feedback until 3 July.</p> <p>Attend a pop-up session or complete the survey online.</p> <p>View the draft and have your say: <a href="https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/leisure-and-aquatic-strategy">https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/leisure-and-aquatic-strategy</a></p>	
Instagram	<p>Help shape the future of leisure and aquatic facilities on the Central Coast! Council's draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 is a 10-year plan to upgrade key facilities, manage assets and expand programs that support active, healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>We're asking the community – have we got it right?</p> <p>Your feedback will help finalise the strategy.</p> <p>Open for feedback until 3 July.</p> <p>Attend a pop-up session or complete the survey online.</p> <p>To view the draft and have your say, head to the link in bio.</p>	
LinkedIn	<p>Our draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 is now on exhibition.</p> <p>It sets a clear, 10-year framework to guide infrastructure upgrades, asset management and program delivery across some of the region's most well-used leisure and aquatic facilities.</p> <p>With our population projected to exceed 414,000 by 2036, now is the time to ensure we're investing in the right services, in the right places.</p> <p>Provide your feedback by 3 July via survey or in person at one of Council's pop-up events.</p> <p><a href="https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/leisure-and-aquatic-strategy">https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/leisure-and-aquatic-strategy</a></p>	

<p><b>Meta paid</b></p>	<p>Help shape the future of leisure and aquatic facilities on the Central Coast! Council's draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 is a 10-year plan to upgrade key facilities, manage assets and expand programs that support active, healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>We're asking the community – have we got it right?</p> <p>Your feedback will help finalise the strategy.</p> <p>Open for feedback until 3 July.</p> <p>Attend a pop-up session or complete the survey online.</p> <p><b>Button:</b></p> <p>Have your say today! <a href="https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/leisure-and-aquatic-strategy">https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/leisure-and-aquatic-strategy</a></p>	
<p><b>Coast Connect eNews</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy on exhibition</b></p> <p>Help shape the future of leisure and aquatic facilities on the Central Coast! Council's draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 is open for community feedback until 3 July.</p> <p>Have your say &gt;</p> <p><a href="https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/leisure-and-aquatic-strategy">https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/leisure-and-aquatic-strategy</a></p>	
<p><b>Coast Connect print</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy on exhibition</b></p> <p>Help shape the future of leisure and aquatic facilities on the Central Coast! Council's draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 is a 10-year plan to upgrade key facilities, manage assets and expand programs that support active, healthy lifestyles. We're asking the community – have we got it right?</p> <p>Open for feedback until 3 July.</p> <p>Have your say by searching '<b>leisure and aquatic strategy</b>' at <a href="https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com">yourvoiceourcoast.com</a></p>	

Flyer

Digital  
facility  
slide



A3 poster





**Stakeholder  
email**

**Draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 now on exhibition**

Central Coast Council's draft Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 is now open for feedback, and we'd like to hear from the people who help deliver, supply, maintain or regularly use these facilities.

The strategy sets out a 10-year plan to upgrade key facilities, manage infrastructure and expand programs that support active, healthy lifestyles across the Central Coast. With the region's population expected to grow beyond 414,000 by 2036, it's important we plan for the future, and get it right.

This strategy covers a wide range of Council-owned and managed facilities, including:

**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

Each facility has its own action plan, including specific priorities and timeframes. These were informed by feedback from the community and user groups, industry and demographic trends and facility audits.

To learn more about what's proposed for your local centre, check out the 'Our Leisure and Aquatic Centre Plans' section in the draft strategy.

**Open for feedback until Wednesday 3 July**

Whether you regularly hire space, deliver services, maintain equipment or supply essential goods – we want to hear from you! You know how these facilities run day to day, and your feedback will help shape a strategy that's practical, well-prioritised and ready for the future. Share your thoughts via the online survey.

**Review now**

**Item No:** 1.9  
**Title:** Memorials in Public Places Policy - For Public Exhibition  
**Department:** Community and Recreation Services

---



9 September 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2010/00542 - D16980910  
Author: Brett Sherar, Unit Manager Open Space and Recreation  
Executive: Melanie Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services

## Recommendation

***That the Committee recommends that Council:***

- 1 Endorses the draft Memorials in Public Places Policy, as outlined in Attachment 1 to this report, to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 42 days.***
- 2 Notes that a further report will be provided on the outcomes of the community consultation following the period of public exhibition.***

## Report purpose

The purpose of the Memorials in Public Places Policy (the Policy) is to seek Council's endorsement to place the draft Memorials in Public Places Policy on public exhibition for a minimum of 42 days.

## Executive Summary

The Memorials in Public Places Policy seeks to provide an option for people wishing to place a memorial in memory of a friend or family member who has passed away.

The Policy seeks to accommodate memorial requests with the placement of trees in areas that would benefit from this type of memorial.

## Background

On the 27 May 2025, Council revoked the Policy for Memorials, naming of Council Facilities and donations of Park Furniture. This policy was revoked due to the volume of requests being received to place memorial bench seats in high profile, open space areas that impact the useability of these spaces by the community.

The majority of requests for memorial placements are for bench seats in high profile, public areas that inhibit pedestrian traffic and that already have adequate seating and require ongoing maintenance.

## **Report**

Based on the outcome of a presentation provided to the Community and Culture Committee on 13 May 2025, a draft Policy for Memorials in Public Places has been developed for consideration of the Committee to recommend to Council that the Policy to be placed on public exhibition for 42 days. The draft Policy is attached to this report (Attachment 1).

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

The Policy was prepared in consultation with Council officers in Open Space and Recreation, the Cemeteries Unit, Engineering Services Unit and Governance.

The Community and Culture Committee was engaged via a presentation on 13 May 2025 where guidance was provided that informed the development of the attached draft Policy.

## **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 does not include funding for this proposal and the amount will need to be included in a future Quarterly Budget Review.

## **Link to Community Strategic Plan**

Our Leadership - The systems, processes and partnerships that ensure genuine community participation, financial stewardship and excellent service deliver to our community.

Goal - LE3: Exceptional service delivery to our community through adequate resources (people, equipment, and systems).

Strategy - LE3.1: Serve the community by providing great customer service, value for money and quality services.

**Risk Management**

People who would prefer the previous memorials such as bench seats in public places may not support the new Policy direction and seek Council to continue to allow the installation of bench seats

**Critical Dates or Timeframes**

*Nil.*

**Attachments**

1   Draft Memorials in Public Places Policy      D16980905

## Central Coast Council

### Memorials in Public Places Policy

Date Adopted: XX/XX/20XX  
Revision: 2



DRAFT



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## 1. Policy Objectives

- 1.1. This Policy outlines Council's approach to dealing with requests for memorials for individuals on land under the care and control of Central Coast Council (**Council**).
- 

## 2. Policy Scope

- 2.1. This Policy applies to land under Council's care control and management, including community, recreation, and road reserves.
  - 2.2. This Policy does not apply to applications for re-naming of Council assets.
  - 2.3. This Policy does not include roadside tributes. Refer to the *Roadside Tributes Policy* for further information.
  - 2.4. This Policy does not include applications for recognition of specific groups or non-individual memorials. These applications require the submission of an appropriate development application with Council.
  - 2.5. This Policy does not include war memorials and recognition of service personnel. These applications will be referred to the Returned Services League for its consideration.
- 

## 3. Policy Statement

- 3.1. Council recognises the need for public amenities and facilities, including parks and reserves across the local government area (**LGA**). Council's parks and reserves are primarily provided and maintained for recreational use or environmental protection.
- 3.2. Council considers that the cemeteries provided by Council and other providers in the LGA are the most appropriate places for commemorating a loved one.
- 3.3. Overall, Council does not support the construction of visible memorials in its parks and reserves or alongside footpaths.
- 3.4. However, Council recognises the importance that memorials may serve as a statement of grief and love from the bereaved and to commemorate the deceased.
- 3.5. Council may approve a public memorial in accordance with the approved procedure set out in this Policy.
- 3.6. This Policy replaces any previous approval processes regarding the installation of a memorial. Existing memorials or plaques cannot be used as a precedent for future approvals.

- 3.7. Council's values have been embedded in the development, review and implementation of this Policy to achieve consistent decision-making and appropriate resolution of ethical dilemmas even when there are no rules to follow.
  - 3.8. Council will consider written applications for the placement of memorials on public open spaces under the care, control, and management of Council.
  - 3.9. Determination of applications will be provided under delegation by the relevant unit manager.
- 

#### 4. Eligibility

- 4.1. Council will only consider a request for a memorial in public spaces for the person who is nominated if the following criteria is met:
    - 4.1.1. The nominee is a deceased person.
    - 4.1.2. The nominee is an individual.
  - 4.2. Council will not consider memorial requests for animals.
- 

#### 5. Assessment Procedure

- 5.1. Memorial placements on a Council memorial tree in public spaces will only be approved for:
  - 5.1.1. Community Memorial Trees - Council provides community memorial trees at multiple locations within the LGA.
  - 5.1.2. Community Memorial Tree applications are to be made with Council's Cemeteries Manager.
  - 5.1.3. A Community Memorial Tree leaf (plaque) with the information of the deceased person will be installed on the selected tree.
- 5.2. Public trees can be requested as a memorial.
  - 5.2.1. Applicants will be provided with a selection of sites for the planting of a tree.
  - 5.2.2. Council will provide a list of appropriate trees from Council's Greener Places Strategy suitable for the site selected. Alternative trees will not be accepted as the tree choices provided have been determined as the most suitable to be planted in public spaces.
  - 5.2.3. Upon planting of an approved memorial tree a memorial plaque will not be provided. However, a certificate of recognition of the deceased person will be issued to the applicant upon request.

- 5.2.4. Council accepts no responsibility or obligation for loss of the public tree after the maintenance period of three months from the date of planting.
- 5.3. Council will not support applications for memorial furniture.
- 5.4. Unauthorised new and existing memorials will be removed.

---

## 6. Memorials Procedure

- 6.1. Applications must be in writing and addressed to the Chief Executive Officer.
- 

## 7. Cost

- 7.1. The cost and provision of the plaque (leaf) for a Community Memorial Tree placement will be the responsibility of the applicant. The cost is as per Council's annually adopted Fees and Charges Schedule
  - 7.2. The cost for the provision and planting of a public tree will be the responsibility of the applicant and will be full cost recovery determined at the time of application.
  - 7.3. Works will only commence once the complete costs of the memorial have been received by Council.
  - 7.4. All works are to be carried out by Council employees or Council approved contractors.
  - 7.5. Council will co-ordinate the purchase and installation.
  - 7.6. Applicants may fund the replacement cost of a damaged or dead public tree after the maintenance period has expired, should they wish to install a replacement public tree.
- 

## 8. Responsibilities

### **Compliance, monitoring and review.**

- 8.1. The following staff have identified roles under this Policy:
  - 8.1.1. Manager, Open Space and Recreation Unit
  - 8.1.2. Manager, Cemeteries
- 8.2. **Relevant Asset Managers**
  - 8.2.1. Coordination of requests and actions under this Policy.
- 8.3. **Open Space and Recreation Unit**
  - 8.3.1. Review of this policy.

#### Records management

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

## 9. Policy Definitions

<b>Act</b>	means the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> (NSW).
<b>Community Memorial Trees</b>	means a steel, sculptural tree located in public spaces in multiple locations (within the local government area) with leaf shaped plaques to accommodate inscriptions.
<b>Public Tree</b>	means a live tree planted in a location chosen from several locations provided by Council and being a species considered appropriate from Council's Greener Places Strategy suitable for the site selected.
<b>Council</b>	means Central Coast Council.
<b>Individual(s)</b>	means a single human being, as distinguished from a group.
<b>Road reserves</b>	means the area between property boundaries that can be made up of road, verges, cycle lanes, footpaths and other areas constructed for public travel.



## 10. Policy Administration

<b>Business Group</b>	Community and Recreation Services
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Unit Manager Open Space and Recreation
<b>Associated Procedure (if any, reference document(s) number(s))</b>	N/A
<b>Policy Review Date</b>	Four years from date of adoption unless legislated otherwise
<b>File Number / Document Number</b>	D16740280
<b>Relevant Legislation (reference specific sections)</b>	This Policy supports Council's compliance with the following legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Government Act 1993</li> </ul>
<b>Link to Community Strategic Plan</b>	Theme 1: Belonging  <b>Goal A: Our community spirit is our strength</b>  B-A2: Celebrate and continue to create opportunities for inclusion where all people feel welcome and participate in community life.
<b>Related Policies / Protocols / Procedures / Documents (reference document numbers)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Information and Records Management Policy</a> (D14025241)</li> <li><a href="#">Code of Conduct</a> (D16000605)</li> </ul>

## 11. Policy Authorisations

No.	Authorised Function	Authorised Business Unit / Role(s)
TBA	Approval of memorials in open spaces	Council

## 12. Policy History

Revision	Date Approved / Authority	Description Of Changes
1	9 April 2018 Resolution: 265/18	New policy created
2	TBA	Periodic review of policy, changes made include moving into the new template and clarifying the scope of the policy



**Item No:** 1.10  
**Title:** Community Engagement Report - Outcomes of the Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations Expressions of Interest (EOI)  
**Department:** Chief Executive Officer's Unit

---

9 September 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2025/00482 - D16982984  
Author: Madeleine Evans, Section Manager Communications Engagement and Digital Marketing  
Executive: Nicole Jenkins, Executive Officer Performance and Communications

## Recommendation

***That the Committee recommends that Council:***

- 1 Notes the outcomes, insights and analysis of the Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations Expressions of Interest (EOI).***
- 2 Endorses the nine (9) 'actions' as outlined within this report.***

## Report purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the findings from the recent expressions of interest (EOI) engagement activity which aimed to connect community groups and organisations with Council. The analysis and insights in this report provide actions and recommendations that can enhance Council's engagement with community groups and organisations, both generally and for special interest purposes, while increasing engagement with groups and organisations in each Ward and across the broader local government area (LGA).

## Executive Summary

Central Coast Council's Community Engagement Team ran an expression of interest (EOI) engagement activity, '[Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations](#)', between 11 June and 9 July 2025. The EOI invited established community groups and organisations to join Council's community engagement database to:

- strengthen Council's connection with community stakeholders,
- improve engagement practices,
- gain an enhanced understanding of the types of community groups and organisations across the Central Coast, and
- ensure inclusive participation in decision-making processes.

## 1.10 Community Engagement Report - Outcomes of the Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations Expressions of Interest (EOI) (cont'd)

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Council received 143 responses/EOIs from a diverse range of community groups across the LGA. The analysis provided in the Community Engagement Report - Connecting with Community Groups EOI Analysis - August 2025 (Attachment 1) shares insights into the types of groups who responded, their areas of interest, the geographic distribution of groups and organisations, feedback on past engagement experiences and requests/suggestions for engagement methods in the future.

Key themes identified within the analysis include the request for clear and early communication, early collaboration with community groups and organisations, and stronger relationships between Council and community groups.

### Background

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 29 April 2025, it was resolved:

651/25

*That Council:*

- 9 *Calls for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from interested community groups that actively participate in Council's engagement program and that a further report be received by Council on the outcomes of that EOI process and methods to engage with community representative groups.*

This report and the Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations EOI respond to this above-mentioned resolution of Council.

### Report

Central Coast Council's 'Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations' EOI engagement activity yielded valuable data from a broad and diverse range of established community groups and organisations across the Central Coast LGA. Council's Community Engagement Team collated and analysed the data presented in (Attachment 1). The following information provides a summation of these analyses and insights.

#### Key themes from respondents

- Broad representation: A broad range of group types responded to the EOI. The most EOIs came from sports/recreation clubs (37), health and wellbeing organisations (33), and environmental/sustainability groups (21). The least represented groups were LGBTQIA+ (1), business support (5), and local history/heritage groups (6).

## **1.10 Community Engagement Report - Outcomes of the Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations Expressions of Interest (EOI) (cont'd)**

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- Areas of interest: Top priorities among respondents were community and wellbeing (124), Council facilities and services (78), and planning and development (61).
- Previous engagement: 83% of groups had prior interaction with Council, mainly through Council facility use, grants or consultations. This indicated limited reach beyond Council's existing networks and provides an opportunity to improve breadth of engagement in future – an action is provided within this report to address this.

### Key engagement and communication requests from respondents

- Clear, consistent communication via email, newsletters and social media.
- Early involvement in planning and transparent, timely updates throughout project lifecycles.
- Increased opportunities for collaboration and co-design on Council projects.
- Frustrations with some past engagement, citing lack of transparency and responsiveness.

### Ward-based analysis

- Highest number of respondents: Gosford West Ward (27) and Wyong Ward (21).
- Lowest number respondents: The Entrance Ward (7).
- Common group types across Wards: Sports and recreation, health and wellbeing, environmental/sustainability.
- Top areas of interest across Wards: Community and wellbeing, Council facilities and services, parks and recreation.

**1.10 Community Engagement Report - Outcomes of the Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations Expressions of Interest (EOI) (cont'd)**

Ward	EOIs	Top 3 group types	Top 3 areas of interests
<b>Gosford West Ward</b>	27	other (mainly Progress/Resident Associations) (7), health and wellbeing club (6), sports or recreation club (6)	community and wellbeing (24), Council facilities and services (14), parks and recreation (13)
<b>Gosford East Ward</b>	20	environmental or sustainability group (6), sports or recreation club (6), other (5)	community and wellbeing (6), Council facilities and services (5), parks and recreation (5)
<b>The Entrance Ward</b>	7	other (3), sports or recreation club (2), environmental or sustainability group (1)	community and wellbeing (6), Council facilities and services (5), parks and recreation (5)
<b>Budgewoi Ward</b>	13	environmental or sustainability (4), health and wellbeing (3), sports or recreation club (3)	community and wellbeing (11), parks and recreation (8), Council facilities and services (7)
<b>Wyong Ward</b>	21	environmental or sustainability (5), health and wellbeing (5), sports or recreation club (4)	community and wellbeing (18), council facilities and services (11), parks and recreation (10)
<b>All EOIs</b>	143	sports or recreation club (37), health and wellbeing clubs (33), environmental or sustainability groups (21)	community and wellbeing (124), Council facilities and services (78), planning and development (61)

The full list of responses – categorised via Ward-based analysis, including example comments (verbatim) – are provided in the Community Engagement Report - Connecting with Community Groups EOI Analysis - August 2025 (Attachment 1), and a simple format version is provided at (Attachment 2).

Gaps identified

- Of the 5 Wards, the EOI recorded a lower number of respondents from within The Entrance and Budgewoi Wards.
- Regarding areas of interest – LGBTQIA+ groups and organisations, and those interested in waste and water & sewer services, also recorded lower rates of response.



## 1.10 Community Engagement Report - Outcomes of the Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations Expressions of Interest (EOI) (cont'd)

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### Insights, analysis and associated actions

This EOI engagement activity has provided an enhanced, data-informed understanding of the broad and diverse range of community groups across the Central Coast. Key insights from the analysis of this data have identified that consistent communication, engaging early with a focus on collaboration, and building relationships, are key areas of focus for future community engagement with Council projects. More information is provided on these focus areas below.

### Consistent communication

Respondents requested clearer, more consistent communication that is relevant to their identified areas of interest. 45% of groups specifically mentioned email correspondence as a preference, with other proposed methods of communication including newsletters, phone calls, face-to-face meetings and social media.

- Action 1: Council will proactively notify community groups of engagement projects related to their interests and service areas via email and continue to explore other avenues for communication in future community engagement projects.
- Action 2: Council will run an 'always-on' engagement campaign via YourVoiceOurCoast.com for community groups and organisations to sign up to be part of the engagement database.

### Engaging early and collaborating

Most respondents expressed a desire for Council to engage community groups and organisation early and have opportunities to be more closely consulted (i.e., collaborate, co-design and partnership models of engagement).

- Action 3: Council will identify opportunities for pre-consultation with respondents. This may include early conversations with identified respondents on key projects to help shape the engagement activity; increased opportunities for focus groups on projects which align with areas of interest (for example, environmental or sustainability); or engaging identified groups in various Wards for place-based engagement initiatives relevant to their area.
- Action 4: In response to this focus area, and to address the gaps identified in the engagement activity data outlined above, Council will conduct further research on community groups and organisations on the Central Coast to identify 'hard-to-reach' stakeholders or those unaware of the EOI, and proactively contact these stakeholders to provide information about connecting with Council through this database, and potential benefits from doing so.

## **1.10 Community Engagement Report - Outcomes of the Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations Expressions of Interest (EOI) (cont'd)**

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### Building relationships

Most respondents expressed a desire to enhance their relationships with Council and Councillors – a focus area which lends itself to both increased communication and early engagement/collaboration focus areas above. Some respondents specifically requested increased access to Councillors for attendance at their group/organisation's meetings and events, or to liaise with on matters directly.

- Action 5: To enhance Council's relationship management with respondents, Consultation Manager software will be integrated with Council's engagement platform, 'YourVoiceOurCoast.com', for 100% of Council community engagement projects post software implementation. The implementation of this software will allow Council to better build and track relationships with identified community groups and organisations and aim for continuous improvement in this regard. The software will develop and implement a single-source database to be used to contact residents in ways they have requested and on matters that align with their identified areas of interest.
- Action 6: The information supplied in the 'Community Engagement Report - Connecting with Community Groups EOI Analysis - August 2025' (Attachment 1), notably the Ward-based analyses, may be used as reference material for Councillors to consider when seeking to engage directly with community members within their Ward, or other Wards across the Central Coast local government area (LGA). A copy of the engagement report will be provided to Councillors via The Hub, following the establishment of a new 'community engagement' channel on The Hub which will be undertaken by Civic Support.
- Action 7: Council will request a list of events, meetings and activities of respondent groups and organisations that Councillors may wish to attend. Once respondents have provided this information, it will be collated and provided to Councillors via The Hub – this list will aim to be provided back to Councillors within 3 months.
- Action 8: Council will proactively provide the names and official contact details of Central Coast Councillors to the respondents who identified that they would like to be able to contact Councillors.
- Action 9: Council's Engagement Team can provide annual updates to Councillors on the status of the community engagement database and any identified trends in data provided by respondents. Councillors may request further information about the respondents via the App, noting that Council will only provide data to Councillors that respondents have consented to being provided.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

Council's Community Engagement Team ran an expression of interest (EOI) engagement activity, 'Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations', between 11 June and 9 July 2025. The EOI invited established community groups and organisations to join Council's community engagement database to strengthen Council's connection with community stakeholders, improve engagement practices, gain an enhanced understanding of the types of community groups and organisations across the Central Coast, and ensure inclusive participation in decision-making processes. Council received 143 responses/EOIs from a diverse range of community groups across the LGA.

Council's Engagement Team also conducted internal consultation prior to the public engagement activity with key internal stakeholders including the Communications Team, Community Development Team and senior leaders.

### **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: Leadership

Goal: LE2: Inclusive and sound decision making to guide the Central Coast into a bright future.

Strategy: LE2.1: Engage and communicate openly and honestly with the community and provide accessible opportunities for the community to be involved and participate in discussions.

### **Risk Management**

This report, inclusive of identified actions and recommendations, acts as risk mitigation to real or perceived erosion of trust and transparency between Council and the community on matters relating to community engagement. Through enacting these recommendations and actions, Council can further progress its goal to build a relationship based on trust,

## 1.10 Community Engagement Report - Outcomes of the Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations Expressions of Interest (EOI) (cont'd)



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transparency and respect, and use community participation and feedback to inform decision making.

### Critical Dates or Timeframes

*Nil.*

### Attachments

- |   |   |           |
|---|---|-----------|
| 1 | <a href="#"></a> Community Engagement Report - Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations - August 2025                    | D17046975 |
| 2 | <a href="#"></a> Community Engagement Report - Connecting with Community Groups EOI Analysis - August 2025 - Simple Format Version | D17046951 |



Central Coast Council

## Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations

EOI analysis report

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August 2025

Central  
Coast  
Council

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## 1. Background

Between 11 June and 9 July 2025 Central Coast Council invited expressions of interest (EOI) from established community groups and organisations to join Council's database of groups who actively participate in its community engagement programs.

We asked community groups and organisations to share who they are, what matters most to them and how we can connect more effectively. By developing a consolidated list of community groups, Council can ensure that the right people are informed and involved in decisions that affect them - helping Council deliver more responsive, inclusive and community-led outcomes.

A copy of the EOI questions asked can be found in Appendix A.

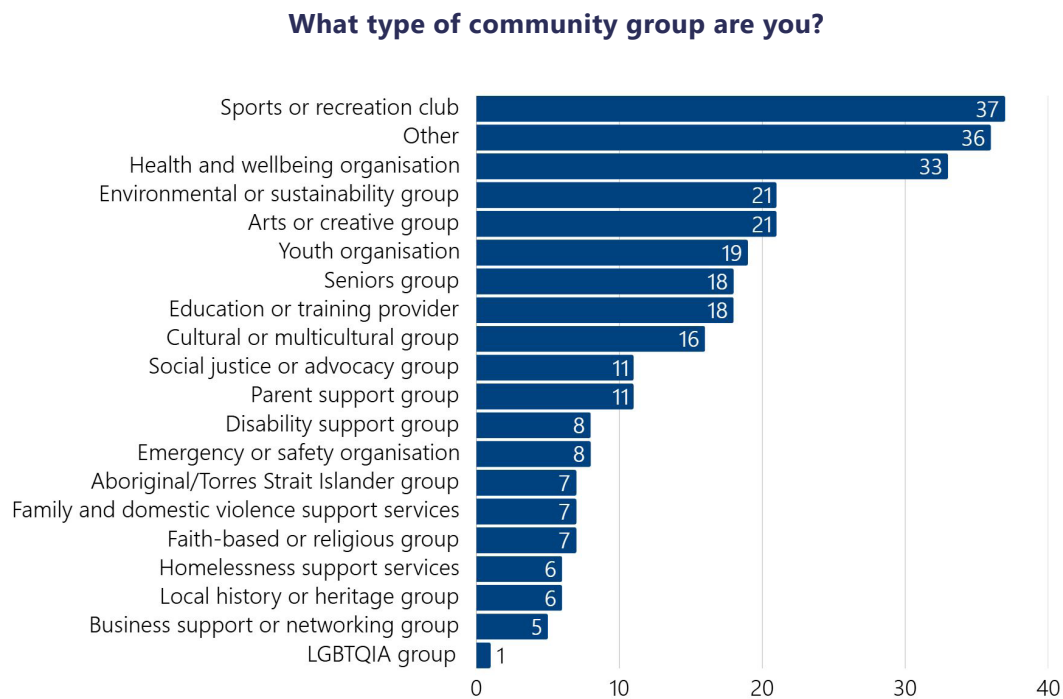


## 2. Analysis

### 2.1 Type of community group

A total of 143 expressions of interest were received. We heard from a wide range of community groups, with the most common being sports or recreation clubs (37), health and wellbeing clubs (33) and environmental or sustainability groups (21). The types of groups we heard the least from were LGBTQIA+ groups (1), business support or networking groups (5) and local history or heritage groups (6) (See figure 1).

Figure 1: What type of community group are you?



\*Totals do not equal 143 as respondents could select multiple options

### 2.2 Community group service areas

A majority of groups serviced the entire LGA (98). 25 groups serviced NSW and 20 groups serviced nationally/internationally.

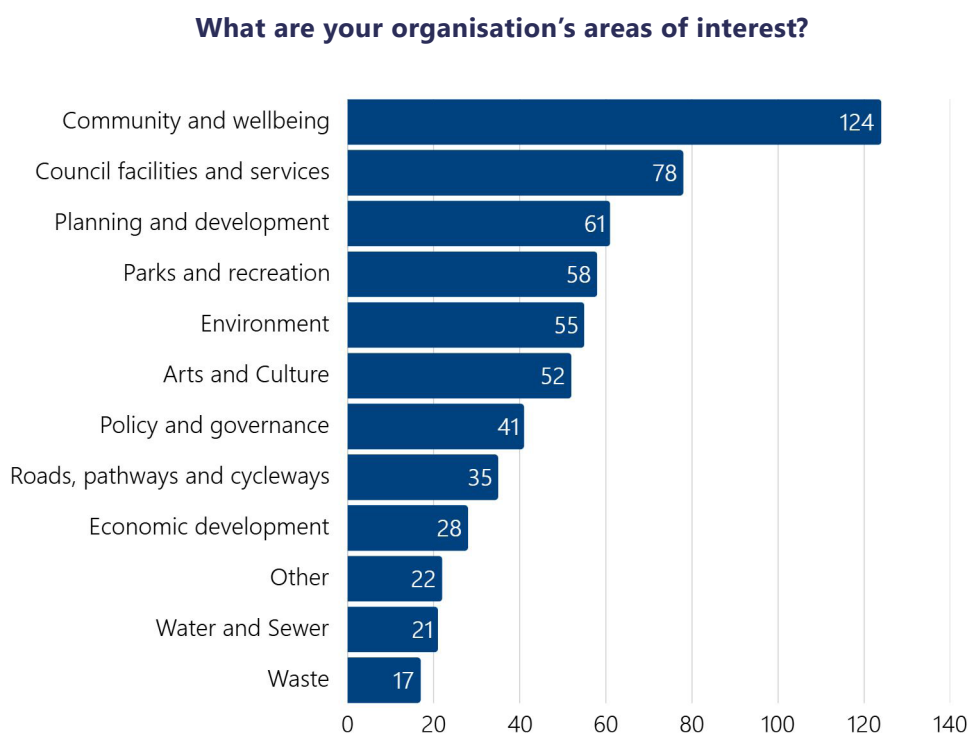
Of those who serviced specific suburbs, the most common were Umina Beach (13), Kariong (11), Woy Woy (11) and Point Claire (10). A full list of suburbs that community groups service can be found in Appendix B.

When broken down into wards, we received the most EOIs from groups who serviced suburbs in the Gosford West Ward (27), Wyong Ward (21), and Gosford East Ward (20).

## 2.3. Areas of interest

The top areas of interest related to Council's services were community and wellbeing (124), Council facilities and services (78) and planning and development (61). The least common areas of interest were waste (17), water and sewer (21) and economic development (28) (see figure 2).

Figure 2: What are your organisation's areas in interest?



\*Totals do not equal 143 as respondents could select multiple options

## 2.4. Experiences engaging with Council

Most groups (83%) have previously engaged with Council. Of these respondents, some had engaged through utilising Council owned facilities or land, applying or receiving grant funding from Council or had previously participated in Council's engagement programs.

The high number of EOIs from groups who have already engaged with Council suggests that awareness of the EOI may not have reached far outside of our existing stakeholders/communication channels.

Future iterations of the EOI will implement additional strategies and methodologies to better reach groups and organisations who do not already engage with Council. This may include the distribution of physical signage, flyers and EOI forms, and undertaking research to identify existing community groups and contact them directly. Implementation of refined and targeted stakeholder engagement strategies to 'go where the community are' will help form new relationships between Council and the community, with the aim to improve the reach of future engagement activities.



## 2.5. Key themes and comments

- Community groups told us they want **clearer, more consistent communication**, especially via email, newsletters, social media, and direct contact.
- They're seeking **earlier, more transparent engagement** and opportunities to attend relevant Council meetings and events.
- Many expressed an **interest in collaborating with Council** and appreciated the chance to be more involved.
- At the same time, some **voiced frustration with past engagement efforts**, particularly around **transparency and communication**. We acknowledge these concerns and are committed to making meaningful improvements.



Below is a sample of verbatim comments from the EOIs

#### **Clear and consistent communication**

*"Council could keep us better informed by sharing more targeted updates about projects that align with our interests—like cycling, accessibility, and inclusion. A regular email newsletter, early notice of consultations, and a clear contact person would help us stay involved. Tools like an online project map or occasional briefings for community groups would also make it easier for us to follow progress and contribute meaningfully."* - Sports and Recreation club

*"Sharing project updates through regular email communications, community newsletters, and social media posts targeted at youth and community organisations. Invitations to participate in relevant focus groups, workshops, or consultation sessions, especially those related to youth engagement, outdoor spaces, infrastructure, and community wellbeing, would also help ensure our cadets have a voice in shaping local initiatives that affect them."* – Youth organisation

*"To keep our group better informed about projects related to our interests, it would be valuable to have a designated contact person within Council whom we can approach for clarification or to request meetings when more complex issues arise. While general email updates are appreciated, they often lack the specificity required to address the unique concerns of our group. Establishing a dedicated liaison role within Council, someone familiar with community group interests, would significantly enhance communication and engagement."* – Youth organisation

*"...Council can keep our group better informed about projects related to our interests by providing regular, clear, and timely communication through dedicated channels. This could include: Direct email updates to key contacts within our group Inclusion in relevant stakeholder meetings or briefings Access to project timelines and key milestones Opportunities to provide input during planning or consultation phases A designated Council liaison officer for consistent communication Maintaining open lines of communication and involving us early in the process will help ensure our group remains engaged, informed, and able to contribute meaningfully to projects that impact tennis and community sport in the region."* – Sports and recreation club

#### **Early involvement and collaboration**

*"Engage with our group earlier in a project to allow us to assist in looking at the best way to engage our local community."* - Progress Association

*"Updates on what's in the works consultation that reflects a collaborative approach"* – Business support/networking group

*"We welcome regular updates via email and would appreciate being included in early-stage consultations for projects relevant to our focus areas (e.g. community infrastructure, parks, youth programs, and social services). It would also be helpful to receive tailored notifications through Your Voice Our Coast, invitations to stakeholder briefings or roundtables, and opportunities to collaborate on place-based planning or co-designed initiatives. We're keen to build strong, consistent communication channels with relevant Council teams to ensure local voices are heard and community needs are reflected in decision-making."* – Neighbourhood centre/community hub

*"Would be good for the club to be invited to more council meetings to ensure we can provide the best experience for our community"* – Sports and Recreation Club

*"Early involvement and consultation on plans for infrastructure or planning changes that will impact the peninsula. We are happy to be canvassed for our views on priorities of different projects. Keen to have visibility on budget allocated to Peninsula projects & services."* – Residents Association

#### **Frustration with previous engagement efforts**

*"Unfortunately, there is a strong perception within the community that existing public consultation has been largely a 'box ticking exercise' and that council is not serious in taking on board the feedback and submissions made by rate payers and our own Association"* – Progress Association

*"CCC. in our opinion deliberately try and operate in secrecy and only release limited information to L>G>A> constituents on a "when it's done" policy. CCC. have a very poor information system with many community members unable to contact different sections in council. E.g., we as a group get many domestic barking dog complaints however find it difficult to convey these to appropriate persons in council."*

### 3. Ward-based analysis

While some EOI respondents represent a geographical area that encompasses large parts of, or the whole Central Coast, from a Ward-based perspective, we heard the **most** from community groups in **Gosford West Ward** and the **least** from community groups in **The Entrance Ward**.

Across each Ward, the types of community groups we heard from and areas of interest were consistent. While varying slightly in order of frequency:

- The top 3 community groups were in the areas of environment or sustainability; sports or recreation; and health and wellbeing clubs.
- The top 3 areas of interest were community and wellbeing; Council facilities and services; and parks and recreation.

Ward	Number of EOIs	Top 3 types of groups	Top 3 areas of interest
<b>Gosford West Ward</b>	27	other (mainly Progress/ Resident Associations) (7), health and wellbeing club (6), sports or recreation club (6)	community and wellbeing (24), Council facilities and services (14), parks and recreation (13)
<b>Gosford East Ward</b>	20	environmental or sustainability group (6), sports or recreation club (6), other (5)	community and wellbeing (6), Council facilities and services (5), parks and recreation (5)
<b>The Entrance Ward</b>	7	other (3), sports or recreation club (2), environmental or sustainability group (1)	community and wellbeing (6), Council facilities and services (5), parks and recreation (5)
<b>Budgewoi Ward</b>	13	environmental or sustainability (4), health and wellbeing (3), sports or recreation club (3)	community and wellbeing (11), parks and recreation (8), Council facilities and services (7)
<b>Wyong Ward</b>	21	environmental or sustainability (5), health and wellbeing (5), sports or recreation club (4)	community and wellbeing (18), council facilities and services (11), parks and recreation (10)
<b>All EOIs</b>	143	sports or recreation club (37), health and wellbeing clubs (33), environmental or sustainability groups (21)	community and wellbeing (124), Council facilities and services (78), planning and development (61)



### 3.1. Gosford West Ward

Council received 27 EOIs from community groups who service specific suburbs in The Gosford West Ward.

#### Key themes:

- Inform groups about relevant grants or initiatives
- Inform groups of development plans which may affect their area
- Periodic meetings with community organisations and Council staff/Councillors
- Council staff to attend community group meetings and receive feedback directly
- Improved access to information and usability of tools such as the DA tracker
- Email notifications or direct calls about projects related to their interests
- Early involvement in consultation and plans impacting the area
- Groups to be invited to Council meetings

#### Example comments:

*"Email us information. It would be good to meet with the West ward councillors."*

*"We would love to invite Councillors to visit and talk with our elders."\**

*"Early involvement and consultation on plans for infrastructure or planning changes that will impact the peninsula. We are happy to be canvassed for our views on priorities of different projects. Keen to have visibility on budget allocated to Peninsula projects & services."*

*"Engage with our group earlier in a project to allow us to assist in looking at the best way to engage our local community."*

*"We welcome this initiative of council to embrace, understand and hopefully consult more with groups in the community that it serves".*

\* Please note some comments are represented in multiple Wards due to community groups with broader geographical spread.

Areas of interest	count
Community and wellbeing	24
Council facilities and services	14
Parks and recreation	13
Environment	10
Planning and development	10
Roads, pathways and cycleways	9
Policy and governance	8
Arts and Culture	7
Economic development	6
Waste	5
Water and Sewer	5
Other	5
Type of community group	count
Other (mainly Progress Associations)	7
Health and wellbeing organisation	6
Sports or recreation club	6
Environmental or sustainability group	5
Seniors group	4
Cultural or multicultural group	3
Arts or creative group	3
Faith-based or religious group	3
Emergency or safety organisation	3
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander group	2
Youth organisation	2
Disability support group	2
Education or training provider	2
Business support or networking group	2
Local history or heritage group	1
Parent support group	1
LGBTQIA group	0
Homelessness support services	0
Family and domestic violence support services	0
Social justice or advocacy group	0

### 3.2. The Entrance Ward

Council received 7 EOIs from community groups who service specific suburbs in The Entrance Ward.

#### Key themes:

- Engaging early and in a timely manner
- Direct invitation to be consulted on matters relevant to their interests
- Inform groups about grants and developments in their area
- Preference for email, phone and face-to-face communication

#### Example comments:

*"By providing timely information about what is being exhibited, what is being planned, and undertaking meaningful public consultation so everyone has a chance to participate. Additionally timely responses to submissions and correspondence would represent a significant improvement on current practices."*

*"Direct invitation to [provide feedback on] matters that impact our facilities and region, not excluding our club or assuming others are representing on our behalf, even though we have no knowledge of these events."\**

*"Council grants, developments in area, improvements to facilities. Via email."*

*\* Please note some comments are represented in multiple Wards due to community groups with broader geographical spread.*

Type of community group	count
Other (residents group, not-for-profit)	3
Sports or recreation club	2
Environmental or sustainability group	1
Seniors group	1
Arts or creative group	1
Local history or heritage group	1
Cultural or multicultural group	0
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander group	0
Youth organisation	0
Health and wellbeing organisation	0
Disability support group	0
Education or training provider	0
LGBTQIA group	0
Homelessness support services	0
Family and domestic violence support services	0
Faith-based or religious group	0
Social justice or advocacy group	0
Emergency or safety organisation	0
Parent support group	0
Business support or networking group	0
Areas of interest	count
Community and wellbeing	6
Council facilities and services	5
Parks and recreation	5
Environment	3
Planning and development	3
Economic development	2
Waste	2
Water and Sewer	2
Arts and Culture	1
Policy and governance	1
Roads, pathways and cycleways	1
Other	0

### 3.3. Gosford East Ward

Council received 20 EOIs from community groups who service specific suburbs in The Gosford West Ward.

#### Key themes:

- Direct communication that is clear and concise
- Email notifications about projects related to community group's interests
- Communication via newsletters
- Interest in and desire for more support with applying for grants
- Suggestion for the community groups register to be made publicly available, to assist groups with making contacts between themselves
- Suggestion for regular meetings with Council staff

#### Example comments:

*"It would be great to have a regular meeting with representatives of the various groups and council staff to identify common issues and critical issues"*

*"By communicating with us when there are issues which affect our local area. We have a very close relationship with our newly elected Ward Councillors."*

*"We have developed good contacts with various Council staff on current projects. We are always interested to learn about new Council projects or developments which may be of interest to our area. This could occur via email or Council newsletters."*

*"It would be great to have a regular meeting with representatives of the various groups and council staff to identify common issues and critical issues."*

*"We are keen to maintain a good working relationship with Council officers and are always happy to discuss any matters of mutual interest".*

Type of community group	count
Environmental or sustainability group	6
Sports or recreation club	6
Other	5
Seniors group	3
Health and wellbeing organisation	3
Cultural or multicultural group	2
Youth organisation	2
Faith-based or religious group	2
Social justice or advocacy group	2
Emergency or safety organisation	2
Business support or networking group	2
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander group	1
Disability support group	1
Arts or creative group	1
Education or training provider	1
Local history or heritage group	1
Parent support group	1
LGBTQIA group	0
Homelessness support services	0
Family and domestic violence support services	0
Areas of interest	count
Community and wellbeing	6
Council facilities and services	5
Parks and recreation	5
Environment	3
Planning and development	3
Economic development	2
Waste	2
Water and Sewer	2
Arts and Culture	1
Policy and governance	1
Roads, pathways and cycleways	1
Other	0

### 3.4. Wyong Ward

Council received 21 EOIs from community groups who service specific suburbs in Wyong Ward.

#### Key themes:

- Email notifications about projects related to community group's interests
- Invitation for Council staff and Councillors to visit community groups and speak about local issues
- Face-to-face meetings preferred
- Perception in areas of the community that engagement has been a 'box ticking exercise'
- One community group from the Wyong ward mentioned feeling overlooked by Council

#### Example comments:

"We feel that we are overlooked here, west of the M1. We realise that we have a smaller population, but the natural and farming environments are extremely important and need to be protected. We thank Council for its support with the Harvest Festival and would like to make the Mountain Districts even more popular to visitors. Thank you for this opportunity to register with Council. We look forward to working together."

"Our primary focus is anything directly affecting postcode 2258 and nearby surrounding areas. In addition LGA wide matters are also important including proposed rate increases, proposed cuts to service heritage related issues like retaining the existing Gosford Library building. Our Association also supports other similar groups when important issues arise that impacts the whole of the Central Coast. Unfortunately, there is a strong perception within the community that existing public consultation has been largely a 'box ticking exercise' and that council is not serious in taking on board the feedback and submissions made by rate payers and our own Association"

"Council can keep our group better informed about projects related to our interests by providing regular, clear, and timely communication through dedicated channels. This could include: Direct email updates to key contacts within our group Inclusion in relevant stakeholder meetings or briefings Access to project timelines and key milestones Opportunities to provide input during planning or consultation phases A designated Council liaison officer for consistent communication Maintaining open lines of communication and involving us early in the process will help ensure our group remains engaged, informed, and able to contribute meaningfully to projects that impact tennis and community sport in the region."

Type of community group	count
Environmental or sustainability group	5
Health and wellbeing organisation	5
Sports or recreation club	4
Other	4
Cultural or multicultural group	3
Youth organisation	3
Seniors group	3
Arts or creative group	3
Parent support group	3
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander group	2
Disability support group	2
Education or training provider	2
Faith-based or religious group	2
Emergency or safety organisation	2
Homelessness support services	1
Family and domestic violence support services	1
Social justice or advocacy group	1
Local history or heritage group	1
Business support or networking group	1
LGBTQIA group	0
Areas of interest	count
Community and wellbeing	18
Council facilities and services	11
Parks and recreation	10
Environment	8
Planning and development	8
Policy and governance	6
Arts and Culture	5
Economic development	5
Waste	5
Roads, pathways and cycleways	4
Water and Sewer	4
Other	4

### 3.5. Budgewoi Ward

Council received 13 EOIs from community groups and organisations who service specific suburbs in Budgewoi Ward.

#### Key themes:

- Preference to be communicated with via email, phone and face-to-face meetings
- Regular, clear, timely communication
- Desire for Councillors to meet with community groups

#### Example comments:

*"Councillors should be made to attend community group meetings and personally inform people of the business happening in Council."*

*"Our new Councillors have used ours and other pages to run surveys on issues in the community e.g., potholes. We would be happy to assist."*

*"We would love to invite Councillors to visit and talk with our elders."\**

*"Direct invitation to [provide feedback on] matters that impact our facilities and region, not excluding our club or assuming others are representing on our behalf, even though we have no knowledge of these events"\**

*"We welcome regular updates via email and would appreciate being included in early-stage consultations for projects relevant to our focus areas (e.g. community infrastructure, parks, youth programs, and social services). It would also be helpful to receive tailored notifications through Your Voice Our Coast, invitations to stakeholder briefings or roundtables, and opportunities to collaborate on place-based planning or co-designed initiatives. We're keen to build strong, consistent communication channels with relevant Council teams to ensure local voices are heard and community needs are reflected in decision-making."*

\*Please note some comments are represented in multiple Wards due to community groups with broader geographical spread.

Type of community group	count
Environmental or sustainability group	4
Health and wellbeing organisation	3
Sports or recreation club	3
Other	3
Youth organisation	2
Social justice or advocacy group	2
Cultural or multicultural group	1
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander group	1
Disability support group	1
Arts or creative group	1
Education or training provider	1
Homelessness support services	1
Family and domestic violence support services	1
Parent support group	1
Seniors group	0
LGBTQIA group	0
Faith-based or religious group	0
Emergency or safety organisation	0
Local history or heritage group	0
Business support or networking group	0
Areas of interest	count
Community and wellbeing	11
Parks and recreation	8
Council facilities and services	7
Environment	6
Planning and development	6
Arts and Culture	5
Policy and governance	4
Economic development	3
Waste	3
Water and Sewer	3
Other	3
Roads, pathways and cycleways	2

## 4. Next steps

The information received through this EOI will help Council's Engagement Team keep community groups informed, engage relevant groups early and build relationships between Council and community groups.

As adopted in Council's current Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2025-26, consultation manager software will be integrated with Council's engagement platform, Your Voice Our Coast, for 100% of Council community engagement projects post software implementation. This software will allow Council to develop and implement a single-source database for all community engagement projects and refine stakeholder communication preferences – supporting our strategic approach to improving and personalising community and stakeholder engagement initiatives.

### 4.1. Consistent communication

Community groups told us they want clearer, more consistent communication that is relevant to their identified areas of interest. When asked how Council can keep their group better informed, 64 groups specifically mentioned email correspondence. The Engagement Team will use the information gathered through this EOI to notify community groups of engagement projects related to their interests and service areas via email. Other proposed methods of communication included newsletters, phone calls, face-to-face meetings and social media. The Engagement Team will explore these options and consider their effective implementation ongoing.

### 4.2. Engaging early and collaborating

A key theme arising from the EOI was a desire for Council to engage community groups early and provide adequate time for groups to get involved. Many groups would like to be more closely consulted and engaged in the early stages of planning and receive updates through the lifecycle of a project.

The Engagement Team will utilise the information gathered through the EOI process to advise project teams when in the early planning stage of a project on identifying relevant community groups for early engagement and encourage targeted consultation with these groups.

Community groups also expressed a desire to move beyond the 'consultation' model of engagement and instead collaborate, co-design and form partnerships on decision-making that affect various parts of the community. While not every engagement project can be approached in this way, providing increased opportunities to collaborate can build trust and enhance engagement with the community.

### 4.3. Building relationships

Through consistent communication, early engagement and collaboration, the Engagement Team can work towards building stronger relationships with community groups and increase trust and transparency.

As noted in 4.0. Next Steps above, consultation manager software will be integrated with Council's engagement platform, Your Voice Our Coast, for 100% of Council community engagement projects post software implementation. The implementation of this software will allow Council to better build and track relationships with identified community groups and organisations, and aim for continuous improvement in this regard.

The information supplied in this report, notably the Ward-based analyses, is reference material for Councillors to consider when seeking to engage directly with community members of their Ward, or other Wards across the Central Coast local government area (LGA).



## 4.4. Recommendations

Several recommendations for the next iteration of the EOI have been identified to improve the process. These include:

- Keeping the EOI form open continuously – an ‘always on’ engagement campaign to encourage improved relationships with community groups and organisations on the Central Coast;
- Conducting further research on community groups and organisations on the Central Coast to identify ‘hard-to-reach’ stakeholders or those unaware of the EOI;
- Following the above recommendation, proactively reaching out to groups directly to advise that Council is seeking to enhance its community engagement through the ongoing EOI program; and,
- Minor modifications to the form questions for clarity purposes.

## 4.5. Conclusion

The Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations page and EOI form will remain open continuously on YourVoiceOurCoast.com. This will allow community groups to complete the EOI when it is convenient for them – as opposed to inviting EOIs for a restricted amount of time. The EOIs will then be reviewed, collated and updated into our database on a quarterly basis. Updates can be provided to Council annually or as requested.

EOI data collected to date will inform Council’s approach to engaging with community groups and organisations, and strategies to engage with groups from whom we have found hard to reach. This may include groups in The Entrance and Budgewoi Ward, LGBTQIA+ groups, groups who have not previously engaged with Council, and groups who are interested in waste and water & sewer. With this information, we can endeavour to seek out these groups by researching and undertaking direct communications. Council will aim to increase the reach of this project by advertising the EOI more broadly via posters, flyers and paid social media campaigns, for example.

Finally, minor improvements will be made to the EOI form to improve data clarity in future. This includes capturing communication preferences more clearly, creating a method to capture which Ward groups are operating in, and the option for groups to opt-in to receive communications for Council activities outside the scope of engagement.



## 5. Appendix

### 5.1. Appendix A – EOI form questions

#### Registration form - Community groups and organisations

Organisation contact details	
01. Organisation name <small>Required</small>	
02. Organisation email <small>Required</small> Can be personal email if there is no organisation email	
03. Organisation phone number <small>Required</small> Can be personal number if there is no organisation phone number	
04. Primary contact name <small>Required</small>	
05. Primary contact position/role	
06. Primary contact email	
07. Primary contact phone number	
08. Website and/or social media (if applicable)	

About your organisation	
09. What type of community group are you? (can select multiple) <small>Required</small>	
Select all that apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural or multicultural group	<input type="checkbox"/> Arts or creative group
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander group	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports or recreation club
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental or sustainability group	<input type="checkbox"/> Education or training provider
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQIA+ group
<input type="checkbox"/> Seniors group	<input type="checkbox"/> Homelessness support services
<input type="checkbox"/> Health and wellbeing organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Family and domestic violence support services

<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability support group	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faith-based or religious group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social justice or advocacy group	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent support group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency or safety organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Business support or networking group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local history or heritage group	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:		

10. Please provide a brief description of your group's purpose and activities Required

--

11. What are your organisation's areas of interest? (Can select multiple) Required

We will notify you about engagement projects related to your interests

Select all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Arts and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning and development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community and wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy and governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Council facilities and services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roads, pathways and cycleways
<input type="checkbox"/>	Economic development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waste
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water and Sewer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parks and recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:		

12. What areas do you primarily service?			
Select all that apply			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Central Coast - entire LGA	<input type="checkbox"/>	National
<input type="checkbox"/>	Central coast - certain suburbs	<input type="checkbox"/>	International
<input type="checkbox"/>	NSW	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:		

13. What suburbs do you service? <small>Required</small>					
Skip this question if you have not selected either "Central coast - certain suburbs" in question 'What areas do you primarily service?'					
Select all that apply					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alison	<input type="checkbox"/>	Canton Beach	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doyalson North
<input type="checkbox"/>	Avoca Beach	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cedar Bush Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Durren Durren
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bar Point	<input type="checkbox"/>	Central Mangrove	<input type="checkbox"/>	East Gosford
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bateau Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chain Valley Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Empire Bay
<input type="checkbox"/>	Berkeley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charmhaven	<input type="checkbox"/>	Erina
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blackwall	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cherro Point	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ettalong Beach
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chittaway Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forresters Beach
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue Haven	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chittaway Point	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fountaindale
<input type="checkbox"/>	Booker Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cogra Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frazer Park
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bouddi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Colongra	<input type="checkbox"/>	Freemans
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box Head	<input type="checkbox"/>	Copacabana	<input type="checkbox"/>	Glenning Valley
<input type="checkbox"/>	Budgewoi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daleys Point	<input type="checkbox"/>	Glenworth Valley
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buff Point	<input type="checkbox"/>	Davistown	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gorokan
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bushells Ridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dooralong	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gosford
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calga	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doyalson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Green Point

	Greengrove		Little Jilliby		Pearl Beach
	Gunderman		Little Wobby		Peats Ridge
	Gwandalan		Long Jetty		Phegans Bay
	Halekulani		Lower Mangrove		Picketts Valley
	Halloran		MacMasters Beach		Point Clare
	Hamlyn Terrace		Magenta		Point Frederick
	Hardys Bay		Mangrove Creek		Point Wolstoncroft
	Holgate		Mangrove Mountain		Pretty Beach
	Horsfeild Bay		Mannering Park		Ravensdale
	Jilliby		Mardi		Rocky Point
	Kangy Angy		Marlow		San Remo
	Kanwal		Matcham		Saratoga
	Kariong		Mooney Mooney		Shelly Beach
	Kiar		Mount Elliot		Somersby
	Killarney Vale		Mount White		Spencer
	Killcare		Narara		Springfield
	Killcare Heights		Niagara Park		St Huberts Island
	Kincumber		Norah Head		Summerland Point
	Kingfisher Shores		Noraville		Tacoma
	Koolewong		North Avoca		Tascott
	Kulnura		North Gosford		Terrigal
	Lake Haven		Ourimbah		The Entrance
	Lake Munmorah		Palm Grove		Toowoona Bay
	Lemon Tree		Palmdale		Toukley
	Lisarow		Patonga		Tuggerah

	Tuggerahwong		Warnervale		Wybung
	Tumbi Umbi		Watanobbi		Wyoming
	Umina Beach		Wendoree Park		Wyang
	Upper Mangrove		West Gosford		Wyang Creek
	Wadalba		Wisemand Ferry		Wyangah
	Wagstaffe		Wondabyne		Yarramalong
	Wallarah		Woongarra		Yattalunga
	Wamberal		Woy Woy		
	Other:				

#### Understanding your relationship with Council

14. Has your organisation previously engaged with Council? Required

Select one answer only

	Yes		No		Unsure
	Other:				

15. Please describe briefly how you have previously engaged with Council

Skip this question if your answer to question 'Has your organisation previously engaged with Council?' is not "Yes"

--

16. How can Council keep your group better informed about projects related to your interests?

--



17. Please provide any further comments

## 5.2. Appendix B – Community groups by suburb table

Suburb	Count	Suburb	Count	Suburb	Count
Umina Beach	13	Avoca Beach	5	Kulnura	4
Kariong	11	Budgewoi	5	Lake Haven	4
Woy Woy	11	Canton Beach	5	Lake Munmorah	4
Point Clare	10	Gorokan	5	Mount Elliot	4
Pearl Beach	9	Hamlyn Terrace	5	Norah Head	4
Blackwall	8	Hardys Bay	5	Noraville	4
Davistown	8	Kanwal	5	Peats Ridge	4
Ettalong Beach	8	Lisarow	5	Phegans Bay	4
Terrigal	8	Lower Mangrove	5	Pretty Beach	4
West Gosford	8	Mangrove Creek	5	Springfield	4
Kincumber	7	Narara	5	Tuggerah	4
Koolewong	7	Niagara Park	5	Upper Mangrove	4
Saratoga	7	North Gosford	5	Wamberal	4
Somersby	7	Ourimbah	5	Warnervale	4
Tascott	7	Picketts Valley	5	Wyoming	4
Booker Bay	6	Point Frederick	5	Wyong Creek	4
Central Mangrove	6	Toukley	5	Other	4
Copacabana	6	Wagstaffe	5	Bateau Bay	3
East Gosford	6	Yattalunga	5	Blue Bay	3
Erina	6	Buff Point	4	Bouddi	3
Gosford	6	Calga	4	Cedar Bush Creek	3
Green Point	6	Daleys Point	4	Charmhaven	3
Mangrove Mountain	6	Doyalson	4	Glenworth Valley	3
Patonga	6	Doyalson North	4	Gwandalan	3
San Remo	6	Empire Bay	4	Jilliby	3
St Huberts Island	6	Halekulani	4	Killcare	3
Wyong	6	Horsfield Bay	4	Long Jetty	3
Yarramalong	6	Killcare Heights	4	MacMasters Beach	3

Suburb	Count	Suburb	Count	Suburb	Count
Mooney Mooney	3	Magenta	2	Halloran	1
Mount White	3	Mannering Park	2	Killarney Vale	1
North Avoca	3	Matcham	2	Little Wobby	1
Shelly Beach	3	Palm Grove	2	Mardi	1
Spencer	3	Palmdale	2	Marlow	1
Summerland Point	3	Point Wolstoncroft	2	Ravensdale	1
The Entrance	3	Toowoona Bay	2	Tacoma	1
Wadalba	3	Tuggerahwong	2	Tumbi Umbi	1
Wallarah	3	Wondabyne	2	Watanobbi	1
Blue Haven	2	Wyongah	2	Wendoree Park	1
Box Head	2	Bar Point	1	Wisemand Ferry	1
Bushells Ridge	2	Berkeley	1	Woongarra	1
Chain Valley Bay	2	Chittaway Bay	1	Wybung	1
Cherro Point	2	Chittaway Point	1	Alison	0
Fountaindale	2	Cogra Bay	1	Frazer Park	0
Gunderman	2	Colongra	1	Freemans	0
Holgate	2	Dooralong	1	Glenning Valley	0
Kangy Angy	2	Durren Durren	1	Kiar	0
Lemon Tree	2	Forrester's Beach	1	Kingfisher Shores	0
Little Jilliby	2	Greengrove	1	Rocky Point	0

## Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations

### *EOI analysis report*

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## 1. Background

Between 11 June and 9 July 2025 Central Coast Council invited expressions of interest (EOI) from established community groups and organisations to join Council's database of groups who actively participate in its community engagement programs.

We asked community groups and organisations to share who they are, what matters most to them and how we can connect more effectively. By developing a consolidated list of community groups, Council can ensure that the right people are informed and involved in decisions that affect them - helping Council deliver more responsive, inclusive and community-led outcomes.

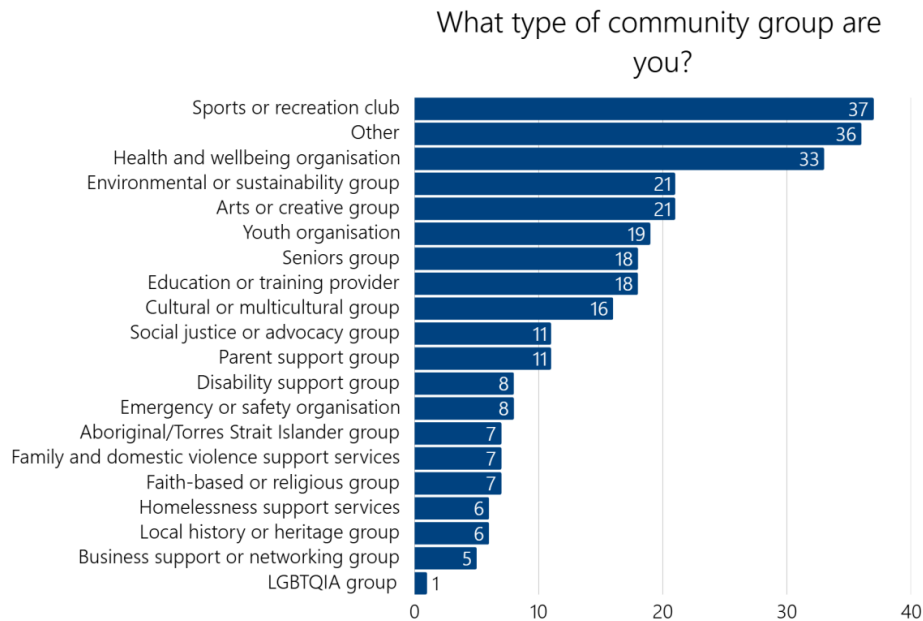
A copy of the EOI questions asked can be found in Appendix A.

## 2. Analysis

### 2.1. Type of community group

A total of 143 expressions of interest were received. We heard from a wide range of community groups, with the most common being sports or recreation clubs (37), health and wellbeing clubs (33) and environmental or sustainability groups (21). The types of groups we heard the least from were LGBTQIA+ groups (1), business support or networking groups (5) and local history or heritage groups (6) (See figure 1).

Figure 1: What type of community group are you?



\*Totals do not equal 143 as respondents could select multiple options

## 2.2. Community group service areas

A majority of groups serviced the entire LGA (98). 25 groups serviced NSW and 20 groups serviced nationally/internationally.

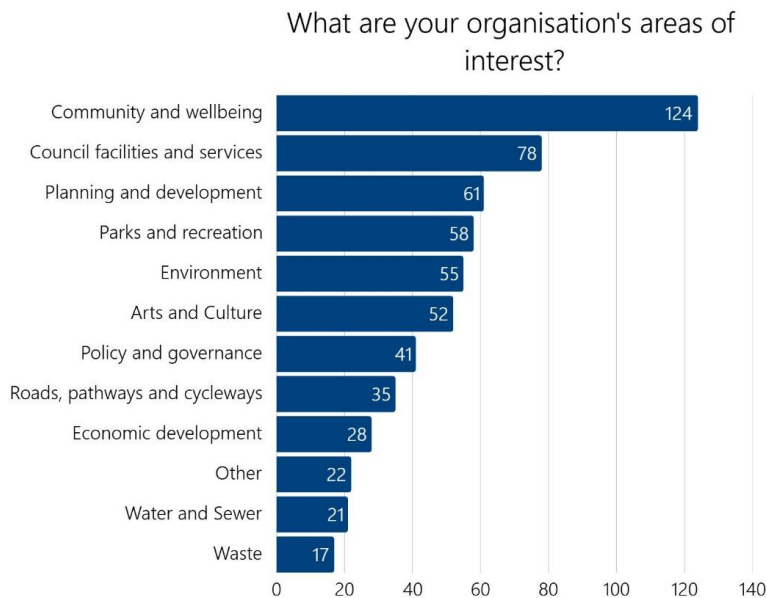
Of those who serviced specific suburbs, the most common were Umina Beach (13), Kariong (11), Woy Woy (11) and Point Claire (10). A full list of suburbs that community groups service can be found in Appendix B.

When broken down into wards, we received the most EOIs from groups who serviced suburbs in the Gosford West Ward (27), Wyong Ward (21), and Gosford East Ward (20).

## 2.3. Areas of interest

The top areas of interest related to Council's services were community and wellbeing (124), Council facilities and services (78) and planning and development (61). The least common areas of interest were waste (17), water and sewer (21) and economic development (28) (see figure 2).

Figure 2: What are your organisation's areas in interest?



\*Totals do not equal 143 as respondents could select multiple options

#### 2.4. Experiences engaging with Council

Most groups (83%) have previously engaged with Council. Of these respondents, some had engaged through utilising Council owned facilities or land, applying or receiving grant funding from Council or had previously participated in Council's engagement programs.

The high number of EOIs from groups who have already engaged with Council suggests that awareness of the EOI may not have reached far outside of our existing stakeholders/communication channels.

Future iterations of the EOI will implement additional strategies and methodologies to better reach groups and organisations who do not already engage with Council. This may include the distribution of physical signage, flyers and EOI forms, and undertaking research to identify existing community groups and contact them directly. Implementation of refined and targeted stakeholder engagement strategies to 'go where the community are' will help form new relationships between Council and the community, with the aim to improve the reach of future engagement activities.

#### 2.5. Key themes and comments

- Community groups told us they want **clearer, more consistent communication**, especially via email, newsletters, social media, and direct contact.
- They're seeking **earlier, more transparent engagement** and opportunities to attend relevant Council meetings and events.
- Many expressed an **interest in collaborating with Council** and appreciated the chance to be more involved.



- At the same time, some **voiced frustration with past engagement efforts**, particularly around **transparency and communication**. We acknowledge these concerns and are committed to making meaningful improvements.

*Below is a sample of verbatim comments from the EOIs*

#### **Clear and consistent communication**

*"Council could keep us better informed by sharing more targeted updates about projects that align with our interests—like cycling, accessibility, and inclusion. A regular email newsletter, early notice of consultations, and a clear contact person would help us stay involved. Tools like an online project map or occasional briefings for community groups would also make it easier for us to follow progress and contribute meaningfully." - Sports and Recreation club*

*"Sharing project updates through regular email communications, community newsletters, and social media posts targeted at youth and community organisations. Invitations to participate in relevant focus groups, workshops, or consultation sessions, especially those related to youth engagement, outdoor spaces, infrastructure, and community wellbeing, would also help ensure our cadets have a voice in shaping local initiatives that affect them." – Youth organisation*

*"To keep our group better informed about projects related to our interests, it would be valuable to have a designated contact person within Council whom we can approach for clarification or to request meetings when more complex issues arise. While general email updates are appreciated, they often lack the specificity required to address the unique concerns of our group. Establishing a dedicated liaison role within Council, someone familiar with community group interests, would significantly enhance communication and engagement." – Youth organisation*

*"...Council can keep our group better informed about projects related to our interests by providing regular, clear, and timely communication through dedicated channels. This could include: Direct email updates to key contacts within our group Inclusion in relevant stakeholder meetings or briefings Access to project timelines and key milestones Opportunities to provide input during planning or consultation phases A designated Council liaison officer for consistent communication Maintaining open lines of communication and involving us early in the process will help ensure our group remains engaged, informed, and able to contribute meaningfully to projects that impact tennis and community sport in the region." – Sports and recreation club*

#### **Early involvement and collaboration**

*"Engage with our group earlier in a project to allow us to assist in looking at the best way to engage our local community." - Progress Association*

*"Updates on what's in the works consultation that reflects a collaborative approach" – Business support/networking group*

*"We welcome regular updates via email and would appreciate being included in early-stage consultations for projects relevant to our focus areas (e.g. community infrastructure, parks, youth programs, and social services). It would also be helpful to receive tailored notifications through Your Voice Our Coast, invitations to stakeholder briefings or roundtables, and opportunities to collaborate on place-based planning or co-designed initiatives. We're keen to build strong, consistent communication channels with relevant Council teams to ensure local voices are heard and community needs are reflected in decision-making." – Neighbourhood centre/community hub*

*"Would be good for the club to be invited to more council meetings to ensure we can provide the best experience for our community" – Sports and Recreation Club*

*"Early involvement and consultation on plans for infrastructure or planning changes that will impact the peninsula. We are happy to be canvassed for our views on priorities of different projects. Keen to have visibility on budget allocated to Peninsula projects & services." – Residents Association*

**Frustration with previous engagement efforts**

*"Unfortunately, there is a strong perception within the community that existing public consultation has been largely a 'box ticking exercise' and that council is not serious in taking on board the feedback and submissions made by rate payers and our own Association" – Progress Association*

*"CCC. in our opinion deliberately try and operate in secrecy and only release limited information to L>G>A> constituents on a "when it's done " policy. CCC. have a very poor information system with many community members unable to contact different sections in council. E.g., we as a group get many domestic barking dog complaints however find it difficult to convey these to appropriate persons in council."*

### 3. Ward-based analysis

While some EOI respondents represent a geographical area that encompasses large parts of, or the whole Central Coast, from a Ward-based perspective, we heard the **most** from community groups in **Gosford West Ward** and the **least** from community groups in **The Entrance Ward**.

Across each Ward, the types of community groups we heard from and areas of interest were consistent. While varying slightly in order of frequency:

- The top 3 community groups were in the areas of environment or sustainability; sports or recreation; and health and wellbeing clubs.
- The top 3 areas of interest were community and wellbeing; Council facilities and services; and parks and recreation.

Ward	Number of EOIs	Top 3 types of groups	Top 3 areas of interest
Gosford West Ward	27	other (mainly Progress/Resident Associations) (7), health and wellbeing club (6), sports or recreation club (6)	community and wellbeing (24), Council facilities and services (14), parks and recreation (13)

Gosford East Ward	20	environmental or sustainability group (6), sports or recreation club (6), other (5)	community and wellbeing (6), Council facilities and services (5), parks and recreation (5)
The Entrance Ward	7	other (3), sports or recreation club (2), environmental or sustainability group (1)	community and wellbeing (6), Council facilities and services (5), parks and recreation (5)
Budgewoi Ward	13	environmental or sustainability (4), health and wellbeing (3), sports or recreation club (3)	community and wellbeing (11), parks and recreation (8), Council facilities and services (7)
Wyong Ward	21	environmental or sustainability (5), health and wellbeing (5), sports or recreation club (4)	community and wellbeing (18), council facilities and services (11), parks and recreation (10)
All EOIs	143	sports or recreation club (37), health and wellbeing clubs (33), environmental or sustainability groups (21)	community and wellbeing (124), Council facilities and services (78), planning and development (61)

### 3.1. Gosford West Ward

Council received 27 EOIs from community groups who service specific suburbs in The Gosford West Ward.

Areas of interest	count
Community and wellbeing	24
Council facilities and services	14
Parks and recreation	13
Environment	10
Planning and development	10
Roads, pathways and cycleways	9
Policy and governance	8

Arts and Culture	7
Economic development	6
Waste	5
Water and Sewer	5
Other	5
<b>Type of community group</b>	<b>count</b>
Other (mainly Progress Associations)	7
Health and wellbeing organisation	6
Sports or recreation club	6
Environmental or sustainability group	5
Seniors group	4
Cultural or multicultural group	3
Arts or creative group	3
Faith-based or religious group	3
Emergency or safety organisation	3
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander group	2
Youth organisation	2
Disability support group	2
Education or training provider	2
Business support or networking group	2
Local history or heritage group	1
Parent support group	1
LGBTQIA group	0
Homelessness support services	0
Family and domestic violence support services	0
Social justice or advocacy group	0

Key themes:

- Inform groups about relevant grants or initiatives
- Inform groups of development plans which may affect their area
- Periodic meetings with community organisations and Council staff/Councillors
- Council staff to attend community group meetings and receive feedback directly
- Improved access to information and usability of tools such as the DA tracker
- Email notifications or direct calls about projects related to their interests
- Early involvement in consultation and plans impacting the area
- Groups to be invited to Council meetings

Example comments:

"Email us information. It would be good to meet with the West ward councillors."

""We would love to invite Councillors to visit and talk with our elders.""\*

"Early involvement and consultation on plans for infrastructure or planning changes that will impact the peninsula. We are happy to be canvassed for our views on priorities of different projects. Keen to have visibility on budget allocated to Peninsula projects & services."

"Engage with our group earlier in a project to allow us to assist in looking at the best way to engage our local community."

"We welcome this initiative of council to embrace, understand and hopefully consult more with groups in the community that it serves".

\* Please note some comments are represented in multiple Wards due to community groups with broader geographical spread.

### 3.2. The Entrance Ward

Council received 7 EOIs from community groups who service specific suburbs in The Entrance Ward.

Type of community group	count
Other (residents group, not-for-profit)	3
Sports or recreation club	2
Environmental or sustainability group	1
Seniors group	1
Arts or creative group	1
Local history or heritage group	1
Cultural or multicultural group	0
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander group	0
Youth organisation	0
Health and wellbeing organisation	0
Disability support group	0
Education or training provider	0
LGBTQIA group	0
Homelessness support services	0
Family and domestic violence support services	0
Faith-based or religious group	0
Social justice or advocacy group	0
Emergency or safety organisation	0
Parent support group	0
Business support or networking group	0
Areas of interest	count
Community and wellbeing	6
Council facilities and services	5
Parks and recreation	5
Environment	3
Planning and development	3
Economic development	2
Waste	2
Water and Sewer	2

Arts and Culture	1
Policy and governance	1
Roads, pathways and cycleways	1
Other	0

Key themes:

- Engaging early and in a timely manner
- Direct invitation to be consulted on matters relevant to their interests
- Inform groups about grants and developments in their area
- Preference for email, phone and face-to-face communication

Example comments:

"By providing timely information about what is being exhibited, what is being planned, and undertaking meaningful public consultation so everyone has a chance to participate. Additionally timely responses to submissions and correspondence would represent a significant improvement on current practices."

"Direct invitation to [provide feedback on] matters that impact our facilities and region, not excluding our club or assuming others are representing on our behalf, even though we have no knowledge of these events."\*

"Council grants, developments in area, improvements to facilities. Via email."

\* Please note some comments are represented in multiple Wards due to community groups with broader geographical spread.

### 3.3. Gosford East Ward

Council received 20 EOIs from community groups who service specific suburbs in The Gosford West Ward.

Type of community group	count
Environmental or sustainability group	6
Sports or recreation club	6
Other	5
Seniors group	3
Health and wellbeing organisation	3
Cultural or multicultural group	2
Youth organisation	2
Faith-based or religious group	2
Social justice or advocacy group	2
Emergency or safety organisation	2
Business support or networking group	2
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander group	1
Disability support group	1
Arts or creative group	1



Education or training provider	1
Local history or heritage group	1
Parent support group	1
LGBTQIA group	0
Homelessness support services	0
Family and domestic violence support services	0
<b>Areas of interest</b>	<b>count</b>
Community and wellbeing	6
Council facilities and services	5
Parks and recreation	5
Environment	3
Planning and development	3
Economic development	2
Waste	2
Water and Sewer	2
Arts and Culture	1
Policy and governance	1
Roads, pathways and cycleways	1
Other	0

## Key themes:

- Direct communication that is clear and concise
- Email notifications about projects related to community group's interests
- Communication via newsletters
- Interest in and desire for more support with applying for grants
- Suggestion for the community groups register to be made publicly available, to assist groups with making contacts between themselves
- Suggestion for regular meetings with Council staff

## Example comments:

"It would be great to have a regular meeting with representatives of the various groups and council staff to identify common issues and critical issues"

"By communicating with us when there are issues which affect our local area. We have a very close relationship with our newly elected Ward Councillors."

"We have developed good contacts with various Council staff on current projects. We are always interested to learn about new Council projects or developments which may be of interest to our area. This could occur via email or Council newsletters."

"It would be great to have a regular meeting with representatives of the various groups and council staff to identify common issues and critical issues."

"We are keen to maintain a good working relationship with Council officers and are always happy to discuss any matters of mutual interest".

### 3.4. Wyong Ward

Council received 21 EOIs from community groups who service specific suburbs in Wyong Ward.

Type of community group	count
Environmental or sustainability group	5
Health and wellbeing organisation	5
Sports or recreation club	4
Other	4
Cultural or multicultural group	3
Youth organisation	3
Seniors group	3
Arts or creative group	3
Parent support group	3
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander group	2
Disability support group	2
Education or training provider	2
Faith-based or religious group	2
Emergency or safety organisation	2
Homelessness support services	1
Family and domestic violence support services	1
Social justice or advocacy group	1
Local history or heritage group	1
Business support or networking group	1
LGBTQIA group	0
Areas of interest	count
Community and wellbeing	18
Council facilities and services	11
Parks and recreation	10
Environment	8
Planning and development	8
Policy and governance	6
Arts and Culture	5
Economic development	5
Waste	5
Roads, pathways and cycleways	4
Water and Sewer	4
Other	4

Key themes:

- Email notifications about projects related to community group's interests
- Invitation for Council staff and Councillors to visit community groups and speak about local issues
- Face-to-face meetings preferred
- Perception in areas of the community that engagement has been a 'box ticking exercise'
- One community group from the Wyong ward mentioned feeling overlooked by Council

Example comments:

"We feel that we are overlooked here, west of the M1. We realise that we have a smaller population, but the natural and farming environments are extremely important and need to be protected. We thank Council for its support with the Harvest Festival and would like to make the Mountain Districts even more popular to visitors. Thank you for this opportunity to register with Council. We look forward to working together."

"Our primary focus is anything directly affecting postcode 2258 and nearby surrounding areas. In addition LGA wide matters are also important including proposed rate increases, proposed cuts to service heritage related issues like retaining the existing Gosford Library building. Our Association also supports other similar groups when important issues arise that impacts the whole of the Central Coast. Unfortunately, there is a strong perception within the community that existing public consultation has been largely a 'box ticking exercise' and that council is not serious in taking on board the feedback and submissions made by rate payers and our own Association"

"Council can keep our group better informed about projects related to our interests by providing regular, clear, and timely communication through dedicated channels. This could include: Direct email updates to key contacts within our group Inclusion in relevant stakeholder meetings or briefings Access to project timelines and key milestones Opportunities to provide input during planning or consultation phases A designated Council liaison officer for consistent communication Maintaining open lines of communication and involving us early in the process will help ensure our group remains engaged, informed, and able to contribute meaningfully to projects that impact tennis and community sport in the region."

### 3.5. Budgewoi Ward

Council received 13 EOIs from community groups and organisations who service specific suburbs in Budgewoi Ward.

Type of community group	count
Environmental or sustainability group	4
Health and wellbeing organisation	3
Sports or recreation club	3
Other	3
Youth organisation	2
Social justice or advocacy group	2

Cultural or multicultural group	1
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander group	1
Disability support group	1
Arts or creative group	1
Education or training provider	1
Homelessness support services	1
Family and domestic violence support services	1
Parent support group	1
Seniors group	0
LGBTQIA group	0
Faith-based or religious group	0
Emergency or safety organisation	0
Local history or heritage group	0
Business support or networking group	0

Areas of interest	count
Community and wellbeing	11
Parks and recreation	8
Council facilities and services	7
Environment	6
Planning and development	6
Arts and Culture	5
Policy and governance	4
Economic development	3
Waste	3
Water and Sewer	3
Other	3
Roads, pathways and cycleways	2

Key themes:

- Preference to be communicated with via email, phone and face-to-face meetings
- Regular, clear, timely communication
- Desire for Councillors to meet with community groups

Example comments:

"Councillors should be made to attend community group meetings and personally inform people of the business happening in Council."

"Our new Councillors have used ours and other pages to run surveys on issues in the community e.g., potholes. We would be happy to assist."

"We would love to invite Councillors to visit and talk with our elders."\*

"Direct invitation to [provide feedback on] matters that impact our facilities and region, not excluding our club or assuming others are representing on our behalf, even though we have no knowledge of these events"\*

"We welcome regular updates via email and would appreciate being included in early-stage consultations for projects relevant to our focus areas (e.g. community infrastructure, parks, youth programs, and social services). It would also be helpful to receive tailored notifications through Your Voice Our Coast, invitations to stakeholder briefings or roundtables, and opportunities to collaborate on place-based planning or co-designed initiatives. We're keen to build strong, consistent communication channels with relevant Council teams to ensure local voices are heard and community needs are reflected in decision-making."

\*Please note some comments are represented in multiple Wards due to community groups with broader geographical spread.

#### 4. Next steps

The information received through this EOI will help Council's Engagement Team keep community groups informed, engage relevant groups early and build relationships between Council and community groups.

As adopted in Council's current Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2025-26, consultation manager software will be integrated with Council's engagement platform, Your Voice Our Coast, for 100% of Council community engagement projects post software implementation. This software will allow Council to develop and implement a single-source database for all community engagement projects and refine stakeholder communication preferences – supporting our strategic approach to improving and personalising community and stakeholder engagement initiatives.

##### 4.1. Consistent communication

Community groups told us they want clearer, more consistent communication that is relevant to their identified areas of interest. When asked how Council can keep their group better informed, 64 groups specifically mentioned email correspondence. The Engagement Team will use the information gathered through this EOI to notify community groups of engagement projects related to their interests and service areas via email. Other proposed methods of communication included newsletters, phone calls, face-to-face meetings and social media. The Engagement Team will explore these options and consider their effective implementation ongoing.

##### 4.2. Engaging early and collaborating

A key theme arising from the EOI was a desire for Council to engage community groups early and provide adequate time for groups to get involved. Many groups would like to be more closely consulted and engaged in the early stages of planning and receive updates through the lifecycle of a project.

The Engagement Team will utilise the information gathered through the EOI process to advise project teams when in the early planning stage of a project on identifying relevant

community groups for early engagement and encourage targeted consultation with these groups.

Community groups also expressed a desire to move beyond the 'consultation' model of engagement and instead collaborate, co-design and form partnerships on decision-making that affect various parts of the community. While not every engagement project can be approached in this way, providing increased opportunities to collaborate can build trust and enhance engagement with the community.

#### 4.3. Building relationships

Through consistent communication, early engagement and collaboration, the Engagement Team can work towards building stronger relationships with community groups and increase trust and transparency.

As noted in 4.0. *Next Steps* above, consultation manager software will be integrated with Council's engagement platform, Your Voice Our Coast, for 100% of Council community engagement projects post software implementation. The implementation of this software will allow Council to better build and track relationships with identified community groups and organisations, and aim for continuous improvement in this regard.

The information supplied in this report, notably the Ward-based analyses, is reference material for Councillors to consider when seeking to engage directly with community members of their Ward, or other Wards across the Central Coast local government area (LGA).

#### 4.4. Recommendations

Several recommendations for the next iteration of the EOI have been identified to improve the process. These include:

- Keeping the EOI form open continuously – an 'always on' engagement campaign to encourage improved relationships with community groups and organisations on the Central Coast;
- Conducting further research on community groups and organisations on the Central Coast to identify 'hard-to-reach' stakeholders or those unaware of the EOI;
- Following the above recommendation, proactively reaching out to groups directly to advise that Council is seeking to enhance its community engagement through the ongoing EOI program; and,
- Minor modifications to the form questions for clarity purposes.

#### 4.5. Conclusion

The Connecting with Community Groups and Organisations page and EOI form will remain open continuously on [YourVoiceOurCoast.com](https://YourVoiceOurCoast.com). This will allow community groups to complete the EOI when it is convenient for them – as opposed to inviting EOIs for a restricted amount of time. The EOIs will then be reviewed, collated and updated into our database on a quarterly basis. Updates can be provided to Council annually or as requested.



EOI data collected to date will inform Council's approach to engaging with community groups and organisations, and strategies to engage with groups from whom we have found hard to reach. This may include groups in The Entrance and Budgewoi Ward, LGBTQIA+ groups, groups who have not previously engaged with Council, and groups who are interested in waste and water & sewer. With this information, we can endeavour to seek out these groups by researching and undertaking direct communications. Council will aim to increase the reach of this project by advertising the EOI more broadly via posters, flyers and paid social media campaigns, for example.

Finally, minor improvements will be made to the EOI form to improve data clarity in future. This includes capturing communication preferences more clearly, creating a method to capture which Ward groups are operating in, and the option for groups to opt-in to receive communications for Council activities outside the scope of engagement.

## 5. Appendix

### 5.1. Appendix A – EOI form questions

#### Registration form - Community groups and organisations

##### Organisation contact details

01. Organisation name **Required**

02. Organisation email **Required**

Can be personal email if there is no organisation email

03. Organisation phone number **Required**

Can be personal number if there is no organisation phone number

04. Primary contact name **Required**

05. Primary contact position/role

06. Primary contact email

07. Primary contact phone number

08. Website and/or social media (if applicable)

About your organisation

09. What type of community group are you? (can select multiple) **Required**

Select all that apply
<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural or multicultural group
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander group
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental or sustainability group
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth organisation
<input type="checkbox"/> Seniors group
<input type="checkbox"/> Health and wellbeing organisation
<input type="checkbox"/> Disability support group
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts or creative group
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports or recreation club
<input type="checkbox"/> Education or training provider
<input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQIA+ group
<input type="checkbox"/> Homelessness support services
<input type="checkbox"/> Family and domestic violence support services
<input type="checkbox"/> Faith-based or religious group
<input type="checkbox"/> Social justice or advocacy group
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency or safety organisation
<input type="checkbox"/> Local history or heritage group
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent support group
<input type="checkbox"/> Business support or networking group

<input type="checkbox"/> Other <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 600px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>
---

10. Please provide a brief description of your group's purpose and activities Required

11. What are your organisation's areas of interest? (Can select multiple) Required

We will notify you about engagement projects related to your interests

Select all that apply
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture
<input type="checkbox"/> Community and wellbeing
<input type="checkbox"/> Council facilities and services
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic development
<input type="checkbox"/> Environment
<input type="checkbox"/> Parks and recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning and development
<input type="checkbox"/> Policy and governance
<input type="checkbox"/> Roads, pathways and cycleways
<input type="checkbox"/> Waste
<input type="checkbox"/> Water and Sewer
<input type="checkbox"/> Other <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 600px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>

12. What areas do you primarily service?

Select all that apply
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Coast - entire LGA

<input type="checkbox"/>	Central coast - certain suburbs
<input type="checkbox"/>	NSW
<input type="checkbox"/>	National
<input type="checkbox"/>	International
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="text"/>	

13. What suburbs do you service? **Required**

**Skip this question if**

- you have not selected either "Central coast - certain suburbs" in question What areas do you primarily service?

Select all that apply

Select all that apply
<input type="checkbox"/> Alison
<input type="checkbox"/> Avoca Beach
<input type="checkbox"/> Bar Point
<input type="checkbox"/> Bateau Bay
<input type="checkbox"/> Berkeley
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackwall
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Bay
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Haven
<input type="checkbox"/> Booker Bay
<input type="checkbox"/> Bouddi
<input type="checkbox"/> Box Head
<input type="checkbox"/> Budgewoi
<input type="checkbox"/> Buff Point
<input type="checkbox"/> Bushells Ridge
<input type="checkbox"/> Calga
<input type="checkbox"/> Canton Beach
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Bush Creek

<input type="checkbox"/> Central Mangrove
<input type="checkbox"/> Chain Valley Bay
<input type="checkbox"/> Charmhaven
<input type="checkbox"/> Cherro Point
<input type="checkbox"/> Chittaway Bay
<input type="checkbox"/> Chittaway Point
<input type="checkbox"/> Cogra Bay
<input type="checkbox"/> Colongra
<input type="checkbox"/> Copacabana
<input type="checkbox"/> Daleys Point
<input type="checkbox"/> Davistown
<input type="checkbox"/> Dooralong
<input type="checkbox"/> Doyalson
<input type="checkbox"/> Doyalson North
<input type="checkbox"/> Durren Durren
<input type="checkbox"/> East Gosford
<input type="checkbox"/> Empire Bay
<input type="checkbox"/> Erina
<input type="checkbox"/> Ettalong Beach
<input type="checkbox"/> Forresters Beach
<input type="checkbox"/> Fountaindale
<input type="checkbox"/> Frazer Park
<input type="checkbox"/> Freemans
<input type="checkbox"/> Glenning Valley
<input type="checkbox"/> Glenworth Valley
<input type="checkbox"/> Gorokan
<input type="checkbox"/> Gosford
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Point
<input type="checkbox"/> Greengrove
<input type="checkbox"/> Gunderman

<input type="checkbox"/> Gwandalan
<input type="checkbox"/> Halekulani
<input type="checkbox"/> Halloran
<input type="checkbox"/> Hamlyn Terrace
<input type="checkbox"/> Hardys Bay
<input type="checkbox"/> Holgate
<input type="checkbox"/> Horsfeild Bay
<input type="checkbox"/> Jilliby
<input type="checkbox"/> Kangy Angy
<input type="checkbox"/> Kanwal
<input type="checkbox"/> Kariong
<input type="checkbox"/> Kiar
<input type="checkbox"/> Killarney Vale
<input type="checkbox"/> Killcare
<input type="checkbox"/> Killcare Heights
<input type="checkbox"/> Kincumber
<input type="checkbox"/> Kingfisher Shores
<input type="checkbox"/> Koolewong
<input type="checkbox"/> Kulnura
<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Haven
<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Munmorah
<input type="checkbox"/> Lemon Tree
<input type="checkbox"/> Lisarow
<input type="checkbox"/> Little Jilliby
<input type="checkbox"/> Little Wobby
<input type="checkbox"/> Long Jetty
<input type="checkbox"/> Lower Mangrove
<input type="checkbox"/> MacMasters Beach
<input type="checkbox"/> Magenta
<input type="checkbox"/> Mangrove Creek



<input type="checkbox"/> Mangrove Mountain
<input type="checkbox"/> Mannering Park
<input type="checkbox"/> Mardi
<input type="checkbox"/> Marlow
<input type="checkbox"/> Matcham
<input type="checkbox"/> Mooney Mooney
<input type="checkbox"/> Mount Elliot
<input type="checkbox"/> Mount White
<input type="checkbox"/> Narara
<input type="checkbox"/> Niagara Park
<input type="checkbox"/> Norah Head
<input type="checkbox"/> Noraville
<input type="checkbox"/> North Avoca
<input type="checkbox"/> North Gosford
<input type="checkbox"/> Ourimbah
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Grove
<input type="checkbox"/> Palmdale
<input type="checkbox"/> Patonga
<input type="checkbox"/> Pearl Beach
<input type="checkbox"/> Peats Ridge
<input type="checkbox"/> Phegans Bay
<input type="checkbox"/> Picketts Valley
<input type="checkbox"/> Point Clare
<input type="checkbox"/> Point Frederick
<input type="checkbox"/> Point Wolstoncroft
<input type="checkbox"/> Pretty Beach
<input type="checkbox"/> Ravensdale
<input type="checkbox"/> Rocky Point
<input type="checkbox"/> San Remo
<input type="checkbox"/> Saratoga

<input type="checkbox"/> Shelly Beach
<input type="checkbox"/> Somersby
<input type="checkbox"/> Spencer
<input type="checkbox"/> Springfield
<input type="checkbox"/> St Huberts Island
<input type="checkbox"/> Summerland Point
<input type="checkbox"/> Tacoma
<input type="checkbox"/> Tascott
<input type="checkbox"/> Terrigal
<input type="checkbox"/> The Entrance
<input type="checkbox"/> Toowoon Bay
<input type="checkbox"/> Toukley
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuggerah
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuggerahwong
<input type="checkbox"/> Tumby Umbi
<input type="checkbox"/> Umina Beach
<input type="checkbox"/> Upper Mangrove
<input type="checkbox"/> Wadalba
<input type="checkbox"/> Wagstaffe
<input type="checkbox"/> Wallarah
<input type="checkbox"/> Wamberal
<input type="checkbox"/> Warnervale
<input type="checkbox"/> Watanobbi
<input type="checkbox"/> Wendoree Park
<input type="checkbox"/> West Gosford
<input type="checkbox"/> Wisemand Ferry
<input type="checkbox"/> Wondabyne
<input type="checkbox"/> Woongarrah
<input type="checkbox"/> Woy Woy
<input type="checkbox"/> Wybung

<input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming
<input type="checkbox"/> Wyong
<input type="checkbox"/> Wyong Creek
<input type="checkbox"/> Wyongah
<input type="checkbox"/> Yarramalong
<input type="checkbox"/> Yattalunga
<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<div></div>

## Understanding your relationship with Council

14. Has your organisation previously engaged with Council? **Required**

Select one answer only
<input type="radio"/> Yes
<input type="radio"/> No
<input type="radio"/> Unsure
<input type="radio"/> Other
<div></div>

15. Please describe briefly how you have previously engaged with Council

## Skip this question if

- your answer to question Has your organisation previously engaged with Council? is not "Yes"

16. How can Council keep your group better informed about projects related to your interests?

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17. Please provide any further comments

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## 5.2. Appendix B – Community groups by suburb table

Suburb	Count
Umina Beach	13
Kariong	11
Woy Woy	11
Point Clare	10
Pearl Beach	9
Blackwall	8
Davistown	8
Ettalong Beach	8
Terrigal	8
West Gosford	8
Kincumber	7
Koolewong	7
Saratoga	7
Somersby	7
Tascott	7
Booker Bay	6
Central Mangrove	6
Copacabana	6
East Gosford	6
Erina	6
Gosford	6
Green Point	6

Mangrove Mountain	6
Patonga	6
San Remo	6
St Huberts Island	6
Wyong	6
Yarramalong	6
Avoca Beach	5
Budgewoi	5
Canton Beach	5
Gorokan	5
Hamlyn Terrace	5
Hardys Bay	5
Kanwal	5
Lisarow	5
Lower Mangrove	5
Mangrove Creek	5
Narara	5
Niagara Park	5
North Gosford	5
Ourimbah	5
Picketts Valley	5
Point Frederick	5
Toukley	5
Wagstaffe	5
Yattalunga	5
Buff Point	4
Calga	4
Daleys Point	4
Doyalson	4
Doyalson North	4
Empire Bay	4
Halekulani	4
Horsfeild Bay	4
Killcare Heights	4
Kulnura	4
Lake Haven	4
Lake Munmorah	4
Mount Elliot	4
Norah Head	4
Noraville	4
Peats Ridge	4
Phegans Bay	4

Pretty Beach	4
Springfield	4
Tuggerah	4
Upper Mangrove	4
Wamberal	4
Warnervale	4
Wyoming	4
Wyong Creek	4
Other	4
Bateau Bay	3
Blue Bay	3
Bouddi	3
Cedar Bush Creek	3
Charmhaven	3
Glenworth Valley	3
Gwandalan	3
Jilliby	3
Killcare	3
Long Jetty	3
MacMasters Beach	3
Mooney Mooney	3
Mount White	3
North Avoca	3
Shelly Beach	3
Spencer	3
Summerland Point	3
The Entrance	3
Wadalba	3
Wallarah	3
Blue Haven	2
Box Head	2
Bushells Ridge	2
Chain Valley Bay	2
Cherro Point	2
Fountaindale	2
Gunderman	2
Holgate	2
Kangy Angy	2
Lemon Tree	2
Little Jilliby	2
Magenta	2
Manning Park	2



Matcham	2
Palm Grove	2
Palmdale	2
Point Wolstoncroft	2
Toowoona Bay	2
Tuggerahwong	2
Wondabyne	2
Wyongah	2
Bar Point	1
Berkeley	1
Chittaway Bay	1
Chittaway Point	1
Cogra Bay	1
Colongra	1
Dooralong	1
Durren Durren	1
Forrester's Beach	1
Greengrove	1
Halloran	1
Killarney Vale	1
Little Wobby	1
Mardi	1
Marlow	1
Ravensdale	1
Tacoma	1
Tumbi Umbi	1
Watanobbi	1
Wendoree Park	1
Wisemand Ferry	1
Woongarra	1
Wybung	1
Alison	0
Frazer Park	0
Freemans	0
Glenning Valley	0
Kiar	0
Kingfisher Shores	0
Rocky Point	0

**Item No:** 1.11  
**Title:** Rugby League World Cup 2026 - Request for Proposal Training Venue  
**Department:** Community and Recreation Services

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9 September 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2024/01732 - D16984825  
Author: Brett Sherar, Unit Manager Open Space and Recreation  
Executive: Melanie Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services

## Recommendation

***That the Committee recommends that Council:***

- 1 Endorses the submission of a formal proposal to host a Base Training Camp, at the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex in Tuggerah, for international teams participating in the Rugby League World Cup 2026.***
- 2 Considers the options for financial contribution and supports the recommendation of a \$31,246.05 (50%) fee reduction as outlined in Option B of this report.***

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## Report purpose

This report seeks to obtain Council's support to attract hosting rights as an official Training Venue for the Rugby League World Cup 2026 (RLWC2026) taking place in Australia and Papua New Guinea between October and November 2026 – final dates pending confirmation by the National Rugby League (NRL).

## Executive Summary

This report summarises key details from the Request for Proposal (Attachment 1) regarding training venues submitted to Central Coast Council (CCC) by the Australian Rugby League Commission and National Rugby League Ltd (NRL) and recommends Council officers make an application to be a host training venue.

Having successfully hosted training camps for Team Germany (FIFA 2023), Asian Champions League teams from Japan, Malaysia, China and Thailand and Covid based exclusion camps for the New Zealand Warriors and the Melbourne Rebels, the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex (CCRSRC) is recognised for its pitch integrity and service excellence when hosting international and elite teams.

## **1.11 Rugby League World Cup 2026 - Request for Proposal Training Venue (cont'd)**

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These training camps contribute meaningfully to our Community Strategic Plan and meets our objectives to attract significant sporting events to our region.

### **Background**

Council first contacted the NRL in August 2024 and expressed interest for the CCRSRC and the Industree Group Stadium (newly named Polytec Stadium) in Gosford to be considered as Training Venues for the 2026 Rugby League World Cup. Polytec Stadium has subsequently withdrawn their interest due to the exclusive use periods that would impact their contractual obligations to the Central Coast Mariners.

In June 2025, Council received the ARLC's Request for Proposal (RFP) Training Venues. A submission was required by 8 July 2025 (Attachment 2). Given the short timeframe, the RFP was submitted on the basis that, should the ARLC be seeking funding to offset whole or partial Fees and Charges, that additional time would be required to submit a report for Council's consideration. The ARLC expressed their interest to pursue possible support and have extended the deadline to 30 September 2025.

A similar submission has been tendered to Rugby World Cup Australia (RWCA) to host international training teams for the Men's Rugby World Cup (Union) event to be held in October/November 2027. This submission is still under consideration by the RWCA with an outcome expected in late 2025. At the Ordinary Council Meeting held in February 2025, Council endorsed the recommendation to offset 50% of the Fees and Charges as value-in-kind with a maximum exposure of \$41,973.78 for an eight week hire term.

### **The Event**

The RLWC 2026 will be contested by a total of 26 teams comprising ten men's, eight women's and eight wheelchair teams from both the Northern and Southern hemispheres. Matches will be staged across Australia and Papua New Guinea in October/November 2026.

Men's teams that have qualified, as of June 2025, are Australia, England, New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Lebanon, with a further two teams pending qualification. Women's qualifying teams consist of Australia, New Zealand, England, Wales, Samoa, Papua New Guinea and France, with one team still pending qualification. Wheelchair nations qualified as of June include Australia, England, France, Wales, New Zealand and the USA, with a further two teams pending qualification.

The Men's and Women's tournament will be played through three rounds of the Group Stage, followed by Semi-Finals and the Final over a five-week period. The Wheelchair tournament will run concurrently with the Men's and Women's across a 14–16-day period.

## **Report**

Council officers recommend the use of the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex (CCRSRC) situated at 20 Lake Road, Tuggerah, as the preferred venue proposed to host international teams for training purposes during the RLWC 2026.

The complex meets most of the requirements for a training venue as described by Rugby World Cup Australia (RWCA):

- Training Field/s dimensions (premier field # five and rotational field # two proposed) : the playing field/s must be of an international size in accordance with the Rugby League International Laws of the game, including the following dimensions – 100m length goal line to goal line plus 8m in-goal at each end with full length equalling 116m; 68m width from touch line to touch line and a 3-5m grass perimeter around the field to allow for safe run-off.

Fields must be capable of withstanding heavy use during the tournament period and actively maintained to endure the proposed length of occupation (five weeks). A complete coverage of natural turf is required with a cutting height range of between 35-50mm.

The CCRSRC can meet these obligations.

- Exclusive use of the venue is required from ten days prior to the commencement of the tournament (mid-October: date to be confirmed) and up to conclusion of the tournament (mid-November: date to be confirmed). To ensure the best possible conditions for the Teams, the allocated fields (#two and #five) will not be used for external bookings for up to four weeks prior to the first date of occupation.

The CCRSRC can meet these obligations.

- Branding – there is no specific requirement for training venues to be 'clean/free of all advertising', however, consideration to tournament partners and the desire to avoid conflicting promotion, advertising or marketing is expected. As a result, the ARLC reserves the right to cover messaging or branding at training venues should there be a perceived conflict of interest.

The CCRSRC can meet these requirements.

- As with previous submissions at this level, the CCRSRC does not have all the ancillary infrastructure as outlined in the RFP. This has already been communicated with the ARLC and we expressed our willingness to work with the ARLC to procure temporary infrastructure, at their cost, to provide for the additional facilities and services including (but not limited to) medical rooms and control stations, media hospitality, security, Wi-Fi, furniture and equipment, etc.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

Council was required to maintain confidentiality about the condition of the Request for Proposal for the Rugby League World Cup until the end of July and as such minimal stakeholder engagement was undertaken.

#### Internal:

Unit Manager: Open Space and Recreation,

Unit Manager: Customer Marketing and Economic Development, and

Section Manager: Marketing and Visitor Economy.

#### External:

Polytec Stadium, Kath Casey (Venue Manager).

### **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 does not allow for the ongoing impact and will need to be updated in the next review.

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

The FY adopted budget includes funding for this proposal.

The determination of support to any of the options outlined below, would apply to the 2026-27 Financial Year.

It is anticipated that a successful bidder will be appointed for the duration of the tournament – five weeks – and the venue is likely to host more than one Team across the course of the tournament (but never at the same time) and for varying lengths of stay.

Fees and Charges have been calculated on the current adopted Fees and Charges for 2025/26 plus a projected increase of 5% for the 2026/27 financial year.

#### Projected Fees and Charges to ARLC for the hire of the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex (CCRSRC) in Tuggerah

<b>2026 Exclusive Hire Period</b>	<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Total to be charged to ARLC for the duration of Hire (incl GST)</b>	<b>Equates to weekly hire charge of:</b>
Mid Oct to Mid Nov (dates to be confirmed)	5	\$ 62,492.10	\$ 12,498.42

## 1.11 Rugby League World Cup 2026 - Request for Proposal Training Venue (cont'd)

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### Inclusions:

- Field Hire: premier field # five and secondary field # two,
- Floodlighting: to both/either fields estimated twice per week,
- Line Marking: to both fields undertaken once a week,
- Installation of posts and supply of post pads (unbranded) to both fields,
- Field preparation and maintenance costs (amortisation applied per period),
- Central Park (for installation of temporary infrastructure),
- Hard surface courts (for coach drop off/pick up and officials parking),
- Built amenities environment including changerooms,
- External amenities – 28 additional toilets,
- Events office – excluding personal fitout,
- Kiosk – excluding personal fitout,
- Storage (4m x 6m),
- P1 and P2 parking areas (for media, suppliers, other),
- Existing support equipment (limited – tables, chairs, whiteboards, scoreboard, etc),
- Council's administration fee,
- Amenities cleaning and consumables,
- Council Officer overtime – up to 20 hours per week and
- Waste removal services.

### Exclusions:

- Temporary Infrastructure
- Ancillary Services

### Options for Financial Consideration from Council

Option A	ARLC is invoiced 100% for the Fees and Charges as outlined in the table.
Option B	ARLC is invoiced at 50% for the Fees and Charges as outlined in the table. Council agrees to offset 50% of the Fees and Charges as value-in-kind with a maximum exposure of \$ 31,246.05 for a five week hire term. <b>Recommended.</b>
Option C	ARLC is invoiced at 20% for the Fees and Charges as outlined in the table. Council agrees to offset 80% of the Fees and Charges as value-in-kind with a maximum exposure of \$ 49,993.68 for a five week hire term.
Option D	ARLC is not invoiced for any Fees and Charges as outlined in the table. Council agrees to offset 100% of the Fees and Charges as value-in-kind with a maximum exposure of \$ 62,492.10 for a five-week term.

To increase our likelihood of attracting RLWC2026 participating teams to our region, our recommendation is for Council to endorse at least a 50% reduction in Fees and Charges (Option B).



## 1.11 Rugby League World Cup 2026 - Request for Proposal Training Venue (cont'd)

The proposed hosting of teams is expected to attract a minimum participation of 40 pax (team participants and management) per day during the 5 week term. This excludes media and supporters' attendance. With an anticipated average spend of \$ 184.00 (*Destination NSW economic data as at December 2024*) per person, per day, a possible visitor spend of \$ 257,600 can be attributed to this event.

### Event Impact Summary

Central Coast Council area - Modelling the effect of \$257,600 from a Sports and Recreation Event with State significance

	Output (\$)	Value-added (\$)	Local Jobs (annual jobs)
Direct impact	206,080	91,928	1.2
Industrial impact	110,029	47,310	0.3
Consumption impact	105,389	52,341	0.5
Total impact on Central Coast Council area economy	421,498	191,578	2

Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2025. Compiled and presented in *economy.id by.id* (informed decisions).

### Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme: Our Place

Goal: PL3: Healthy and balanced lifestyles where people have access to essential amenities and services.

Strategy: PL3.1: Provide and maintain community facilities, spaces and services to enjoy sport, leisure and recreation.

### Risk Management

#### Legal

Preferred candidates will be issued with a User Agreement for review and comment by Council's Legal team.

The General Terms and Conditions related to this submission, and as outlined in the RFP (cl 5.1), are not onerous on Council.

Council officers deem the submission of this Proposal to carry a low risk to Council

### Critical Dates or Timeframes

## 1.11 Rugby League World Cup 2026 - Request for Proposal Training Venue (cont'd)

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The deadline for the submission of this Proposal is Tuesday, 30 September 2025.

The Proposal will remain valid for a period of no less than 180 days from the submission date.



The evaluation period and the announcement of preferred candidates has yet to be determined by the ARLC.

### Options

1. Council proceeds with the submission of a proposal to the Australian Rugby League Commission (and NRL), without financial support, for the hire of the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex. All fees and charges to be borne by the Australian Rugby League Commission.
2. Council proceeds with submission of a proposal to the Australian Rugby League Commission (and NRL), with financial support as proposed herein, for the hire of the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex. A percentage of fees and charges to be determined as a reduction of total charges to attract appointment.

**Recommended.**

### **Attachments**

- |   |   |           |
|---|---|-----------|
| 1 |  Rugby League World Cup 2026 Training Venue Request for Proposal                                       | D16984998 |
| 2 |  2026 Rugby League World Cup - Response by CCC to Australian Rugby League Commission - Training Venues | D16985002 |



**Australian Rugby League Commission  
(ARLC) 2026 Rugby League World Cup  
Training Venue**

**Request for Proposal (RFP)**

**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**



## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. About 2026 RLWC RFP

This Request for Proposal (**RFP**) document contains information regarding the requirements for a Team Training Venue for the 2026 Rugby League World Cup (**RLWC2026**). The Australian Rugby League Commission (**ARLC**) (**Tournament Management**) have been granted the rights by the International Rugby League (**IRL**), as the owner of the Rugby League World Cup, to stage the 2026 Rugby League World Cup.

In partnership with the IRL, Tournament Management is proud to host RLWC2026 with the world's best male, female and wheelchair players competing alongside each other in a combined tournament for the first time on Australian soil.

The Rugby League World Cup is the pre-eminent showcase of the world's best rugby league nations. First held in France in 1954, the Rugby League World Cup is the second-oldest sporting world cup after the FIFA World Cup. In 2026 it comes to Australia and Papua New Guinea, promising to be the best and most competitive Rugby League World Cup ever staged. Australia has a deep-rooted passion for rugby league and a strong track record of hosting world-class international sporting events. RLWC2026 will be the sport's premier global showcase, offering a powerful platform to inspire the next generation, grow the game internationally, and drive positive social impact through culture and connection.

RLWC2026 will be contested by a total of 26 teams – comprising 10 men's, eight women's and eight wheelchair teams – from both the Northern and Southern hemispheres. RLWC2026 Matches will be staged at first class rugby league venues across Australia and Papua New Guinea.

At the time of writing, the men's teams that have qualified for the tournament are Australia (defending champion), England, New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Lebanon, with a further two teams to qualify to make up a Men's group of ten (10) teams. Women's qualifying teams (at the time of writing) consist of Australia, New Zealand, England, Wales, Samoa, PNG, France with one further team to qualify, making up a Women's group of eight (8) teams. Wheelchair Nations qualified are England, Australia, France, Wales, New Zealand, USA, with a further two teams to qualify to make up the eight (8) teams.

The Men's and Women's tournament will be played from mid-October 2026 through to mid-November 2026. There will be three (3) rounds of the Group Stage, followed by Semi-Finals and Final over a five (5) week period. The Wheelchair tournament will run concurrently with the Men's and Women's tournaments across a 14-16 day period.

Team Training Venues of a high standard are essential to delivering a successful event. Tournament Management is seeking suitable Team Training Venues to support our logistical and operational needs.



### 1.2.Objective of the RFP

Tournament Management is seeking to determine the Team Training Venues available to be utilised by competing teams in the Men's and/or Women's RLWC2026.

Tournament Management is seeking high quality facilities suitable for elite rugby league teams, meeting the following requirements:

- First-class facilities including, but not limited to, a turf rugby league field, field lighting at the appropriate Lux level for night sessions, change rooms, doping control room, media spaces, a secure venue perimeter, high performance gymnasium and recovery facilities and other facilities as outlined in the RLWC 2026 Team Training Venue Requirements (attached as Appendix 1);
- Provision of an experienced facilities manager and team to support operations and logistics, as required;
- High levels of service to participating nations and team management; and
- Ensures the Tournament Management can meet its duty of care obligations.

### 1.3.Scope

This RFP is solely concerned with RLWC2026 team training facilities during the RLWC2026 period (October-November 2026). Any arrangements that may be booked as part of a separate agreement, or through a related third party that is not RLWC2026 is not governed by this RFP and/or any subsequent services agreement entered into as a result.

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## 2. Overall Requirements

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### 2.1.General requirements

Tournament Management is seeking first-class training facilities operated by experienced, dedicated and reputable venue managers.

As noted above, attached as Appendix 1 is the RLWC 2026 Team Training Venue Requirements. This document outlines the requirements of a Team Training Venue host for the RLWC 2026. It includes detailed information about the facilities, operations and key infrastructure requirements to host a competing team, in particular, the quality of the training surface and the standard and suitability of high performance facilities.

It is anticipated that a team would utilise one (1) field, one (1) high performance gymnasium and recovery facilities across a training week. The training schedule for each team will vary based on their specific needs and planning, however it is expected that a maximum of five (5) sessions per week across each facility type would be required. In some circumstances, multiple teams may be based out of the same training facility, with the training schedule to be managed by Tournament Management in consultation with the venue manager. The facility should be provided on an exclusive basis to the RLWC 2026 tournament, although this is negotiable based on final use requirements.

The RLWC 2026 Team Training Venue Requirements document is to be read in conjunction with this RFP, as it provides the relevant information to assist in responding to the RFP.



#### 2.1.1 Service and Management

Tournament Management requires the training venues to be serviced by a dedicated team reporting to an appointed Venue Manager. The following services are required:

- Safety and security personnel;
- Cleaning and waste management;
- Turf management;
- Key contractors on-site or on stand-by (such as electrician, plumber etc.); and
- Issue/incident management and reporting.

#### 2.1.2 Financials

In responding to this RFP, please provide detailed information on costs relating to the provision of the venue facilities, management and operations. Note further information is included in Section 4.4.

### 2.2 Duty of Care

Tournament Management requires the venue managers of a training facility to understand and make provision for all statutory Workplace Health and Safety (WHS), risk management and duty of care obligations that may arise as a result of their engagement. This may include the undertaking of risk assessments or sharing appropriate information with Tournament Management regarding any reasonably foreseeable risk related to the provision of services such as, but not limited to, natural disasters or critical incidents. The venue managers will be expected to consult, cooperate and provide all necessary WHS information with the Tournament Management upon request.

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## 3. RFP Process

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This RFP is subject to the Terms and Conditions detailed below. Responding will involve completing the information gathering sections provided in this document and including any other appropriate information as requested throughout.

Communication will be provided by Tournament Management regarding the next phase following receipt and review of the submitted RFP.

### 3.1 Responding to the RFP

The respondent must use Section 4 of this document to respond to the information requested and need only return a completed copy of the requirements as included in Section 4 (and appendices as may be required). Information must be provided under the relevant section heading and question, and any additional supporting information should be included as an Appendix with reference to the corresponding question in Section 4.

In completing this RFP, the respondent must:

1. Address all the requirements set forth in the RFP;
2. Follow the instructions as provided;





3. Clearly identify any requirements that cannot be satisfied; and
4. Follow the sequential order of the RFP and cross-reference any appendices mirroring the numbering scheme outlined.

The respondent is encouraged to offer advantages beyond what is outlined. If the respondent chooses to offer advantages not specifically requested, those should be identified as "Additional Value Adds" in section 4.5 of the RFP.

The Respondent must immediately issue the ARLC with written notification of any material change:

1. to any information in the proposal;
2. in circumstances which may affect the truth, completeness, or accuracy of any of the information provided about the proposal; and/or
3. which could adversely impact on the ability to comply with the terms of this RFP.

#### 3.1.1 RFP Submissions

The RFP response document is to be emailed to Ian Alker ([ialker@nrl.com.au](mailto:ialker@nrl.com.au)) as a PDF attachment by no later than **5.00pm** (AEST) on **8 July 2025**.

Any pricing or commercial information provided in the RFP response must be outlined in AUD, inclusive of all taxes, imposts and duties, but exclusive of GST. Please include in any pricing proposals and analysis of any value-added services included, offered or proposed and/or alternative pricing models.

#### 3.1.2 RFP Contacts and Queries

The Respondent may seek clarification in relation to this RFP via email. In case of any query with this RFP, please send questions via email to Ian Alker ([ialker@nrl.com.au](mailto:ialker@nrl.com.au)). Tournament Management will endeavor to respond as quickly as possible.

When posing a question, please be as detailed as necessary to ensure the question is clear. Please also ensure a reference to the relevant RFP section/question is included.

### 3.2 Key RFP dates

Currently, a timeline of key dates for this RFP are as follows:

<b>RFP Issue Date</b>	Tuesday 10 June 2025
<b>RFP Closing Date and Time</b>	5:00pm (AEST) Tuesday 8 July 2025

The timeline is indicative only. Tournament Management may adjust the timeline at its sole discretion, at any point. Tournament Management will advise the respondent of a change to the timeline in writing.

### 3.3 Evaluation Criteria

Tournament Management reserves the right to evaluate this RFP in a manner that it deems most appropriate.

The evaluation criteria will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Understanding and ability to meet Tournament Management requirements;



- Service and Management;
- Risk Management; and
- Commercial considerations.

## 4. Information Requested

### 4.1 Company information

No.	Information Required	Vendor Response
1.	Company Name and ABN, ACN	
2.	Key Contact Information	
3.	Australian company HQ details	
4.	Ultimate Parent Company and any Affiliated Companies (Please attach details of corporate and organisational structure)	
5.	Main offices in Australia	
6.	Number of staff located in Australia	
9.	Relevant insurance provisions	
10.	Any recent judicial or legal cases in the last 5 years and relevant outcomes (if applicable)	

### 4.2 Training Venue Services

- Please outline the Training Venue facilities and support services you can provide to Tournament Management and participating RLWC2026 teams/nations. Your response should consider the requirement included in Appendix 1.
- Please provide an overview of previous Training Venue and management services for international and/or elite rugby league teams or similar teams hosted in the previous 3-5 years.

#### 4.2.1 Account Service and Management

Please describe in detail how you manage your clients. This should include but not be limited to:

- information on how you would manage the relationship with Tournament Management and the teams using the facility.
- ensuring a dedicated Venue Manager and required support service team personnel (facility staff, contractors) is provided to manage the planning and operations.
- Details of the staff and contractors to be provided.



#### 4.3 Reporting

Please provide details of any reports to be provided to Tournament Management to ensure the venue is operating as required and notification of any issues that may occur and require attention.

#### 4.4 Commercial Hire Terms

- a) Please outline the hire costs of the facility based on either per day, or week, or a defined longer period (for example it may be for a three-week period during the Group stage) or other as deemed appropriate.
- b) Please include the cost of any additional services that may be required to operate the facility where not included in the hire terms in 4.4a).
- c) In consideration of 4.4 a) and b), the respondent should advise what commercial investment and/or partnership arrangement they may be willing to offer to offset the commercial terms.

#### 4.5 Additional Value Adds

Please outline any additional facility offerings outside of the requirements contained in this RFP submission that could be of benefit to Tournament Management.

#### 4.6 References/Other Clients

Please provide references and other client examples.

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### 5. Terms and Conditions

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#### 5.1 General Terms & Conditions

- a) This RFP is only a request for information about potential products/services and does not commit Tournament Management to any course of action resulting from the receipt of proposals.
- b) Neither this RFP nor the receipt or review of a submission from any respondent creates any binding obligations on Tournament Management in any way.
- c) Respondents acknowledge that the information provided in responding to this RFP is, to the best of their knowledge, true and accurate and provided in good faith.
- d) This RFP does not commit Tournament Management to pay any cost incurred in the preparation or submission of any response to the RFP. Any specifications provided or disclosed by Tournament Management in this document are indicative only. They are not to be deemed final, nor is Tournament Management required to bind itself to such specifications.
- e) The participating respondent is responsible for meeting all costs or expenses incurred by it in participating in the RFP, including in preparing or submitting a response or making a presentation to the ARLC representatives. The respondent will have no claim against the Tournament Management in relation to such costs or expenses. The Tournament Management will not be liable to compensate or reimburse any respondent for any costs or expenses arising from their



participation in the RFP process.

- f) The decision to accept responses to this RFP is at the sole and absolute discretion of the Tournament Management.
- g) The Tournament Management may, in its absolute discretion, waive any of the conditions and/or requirements set out in the RFP in respect of any or all of the respondents.
- h) All decisions made by Tournament Management are final, not reviewable and no correspondence will be entered into.
- i) The Tournament Management reserves the right, at any time during the selection procedure to:
  - i. change any aspect of the RFP,
  - ii. issue any separate amendment or addendum to the RFP (which will become part of the RFP upon issue),
  - iii. refuse to consider any applicants or
  - iv. to withdraw the RFP.

## 5.2 Warranties

- a) Tournament Management makes no representation or warranty that this document provides all the information required by an applicant and encourages respondents to make their own queries and assessments.
- b) The respondent warrant that specifications, capabilities and performance characteristics meet their representations as made in their response to this RFP and in accompanying documentation.
- c) The respondent warrant that they hold a valid Professional Indemnity Insurance, Public Liability Insurance and any other relevant insurance(s) for a value applicable for the level of work required to provide the services specified in this RFP.
- d) In responding to this RFP and submitting a proposal, the respondent warrant, for the benefit of Tournament Management, that:
  - i. The information contained in the submission is accurate and complete;
  - ii. The submission makes allowance for all matters that might impact upon its ability to provide the services and facilities in accordance with its proposal;
  - iii. The respondent has not solely relied upon the information provided by Tournament Management in preparing and submitting its proposal;
  - iv. The respondent has, and will maintain, the necessary skills, qualifications and experience to provide the services and facilities in accordance with its submission;
  - v. The respondent has obtained, or will be able to obtain, all consents, permits or authorities necessary for it to provide and maintain the services and facilities in accordance with its submission;
  - vi. The respondent is not insolvent and there is no unfulfilled or unsatisfied judgement or court



order outstanding against it; and

- vii. The respondent has not relied upon any warranty or representation made by or on behalf of Tournament Management except as expressly provided for within this RFP.
- e) The respondent waives any right to claim damages of any nature based on the selection process, final selection, any communications associated with the selection and/or Tournament Managements evaluation process and this RFP in general.
- f) In responding to this RFP and submitting a proposal, respondent agrees that in the event of a breach of the warranties given in this document, they will indemnify and keep indemnified Tournament Management in respect of any loss, damage, expense, suit, proceeding, claim or cost whatsoever which may be incurred by Tournament Management about the breach.

### **5.3 Validity of proposals**

- a) The respondent's response to this RFP must be accurate at the time of submission and shall remain valid for a period of no less than 180 days from the submission date. Tournament Management will accept the answers given by the respondent in reply to questions raised within this RFP in good faith. In conjunction with discussions, presentations and further clarification, decisions will be based upon these replies, and the information thereby imparted.
- b) By submitting a proposal in the form specified, the respondent is undertaking that their authorised representative(s) have the relevant authority to make the submission and agree that all parts of the submission may be made binding by way of contract.

### **5.4 Confidentiality and Non-disclosure**

- a) This RFP is both confidential and proprietary to Tournament Management, who in their absolute discretion, reserves the right to recall the RFP in its entirety or in part.
- b) The respondent agrees that they will not duplicate, distribute or otherwise disseminate or make available this document or the information contained within it to any party not constrained within Confidentiality agreements.
- c) The respondent must take every care and precaution to ensure that the distribution and sharing of information contained within this RFP remains limited to the nominated personnel within their organisation, and that all materials obtained shall be used solely for the purpose of responding to this RFP.
- d) Access to this RFP or related materials shall not be granted to third parties or subcontractors without Tournament Managements prior written consent.
- e) The respondent must not include or reference this RFP in any publicity, and no results of this RFP process are to be released without Tournament Managements prior consent and approval.

### **5.5 Due diligence and disclaimer**

- a) This RFP is intended to provide the respondent with enough information to build their responses. It



is the Respondent's responsibility to obtain any additional information deemed necessary.

- b) Each respondent must perform their own evaluation of all information and data provided by Tournament Management. Tournament Management makes no representation or warranty regarding any information or data provided by us in this RFP.
- c) Tournament Management will continue to compile additional information, which may or may not be deemed important for the preparation of responses to this RFP. If deemed important, this information will be shared promptly with the respondent.
- d) Tournament Management may take the liberty of speaking to references and checking testimonials.
- e) The respondent is strongly advised to perform any due diligence they deem necessary before the submission of their response. Any assumptions or dependencies should be clearly identified within responses.

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## **APPENDIX 1 – RLWC 2026 Team Training Venue Requirements**

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Please see attached in the RFP email the RLWC 2026 Team Training Venue Requirements as referenced in this RFP document.



Central  
Coast  
Council

# Central Coast Council

## 2026 Rugby League World Cup

### Response to Australian Rugby League Commission RFP - Training Venues

July 2025





## Acknowledgement of Country

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

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

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

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



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## Executive Summary

Strategically located midway between Sydney and Newcastle, the Central Coast is highly accessible, with direct transport links via the M1 motorway, NorthConnex, Newcastle Airport and the Sydney to Newcastle train line. The Gosford CBD is seeing an influx in restaurants, cafés, boutique breweries and accommodation providers moving into the neighbourhood and taking advantage of the great location and growing population.

The Central Coast has a rich diversity of landscapes, ranging from beach to bush, and boasts more than four times the waterfront of Sydney Harbour! While growth is great, the pace is still relaxed and traffic minimal. Combined with a mild, sunny climate, a busy calendar of cultural and sporting events.

Hosting international teams is more than just offering world-class facilities. It requires seamless operations, expert logistical support, and local knowledge. Our professional support staff are experienced and available to assist Tournament Management teams with everything from site operations to support service logistics.

Beyond the event itself, the benefits of hosting a Rugby League World Cup team extend far beyond the tournament period. The economic impact is also significant—major

sporting events bring increased tourism, media exposure and funding for facility upgrades, which will benefit the community for years to come.

Council has demonstrated its ability to deliver the infrastructure, services and operational excellence required for international sporting events. We are confident that our experience, strategic location, and community support, position the Central Coast as a premier destination for international rugby league teams in 2026.

In terms of this response to RFP, our proposal offers the use of the **Central Coast Regional Sporting & Recreation Complex (CCRSRC) situated at 20 Lake Road, Tuggerah NSW**, as a possible base training camp.

We acknowledge the period under consideration for appointment to be mid-October to mid-November 2026 (approximately 5 weeks), with a maximum of 5 training sessions per week. We also acknowledge the Exclusive Use objectives and can commit to this requirement.

We look forward to welcoming the world's best rugby league teams and ensuring the Central Coast plays a key role in the success of the 2026 Rugby League World Cup.



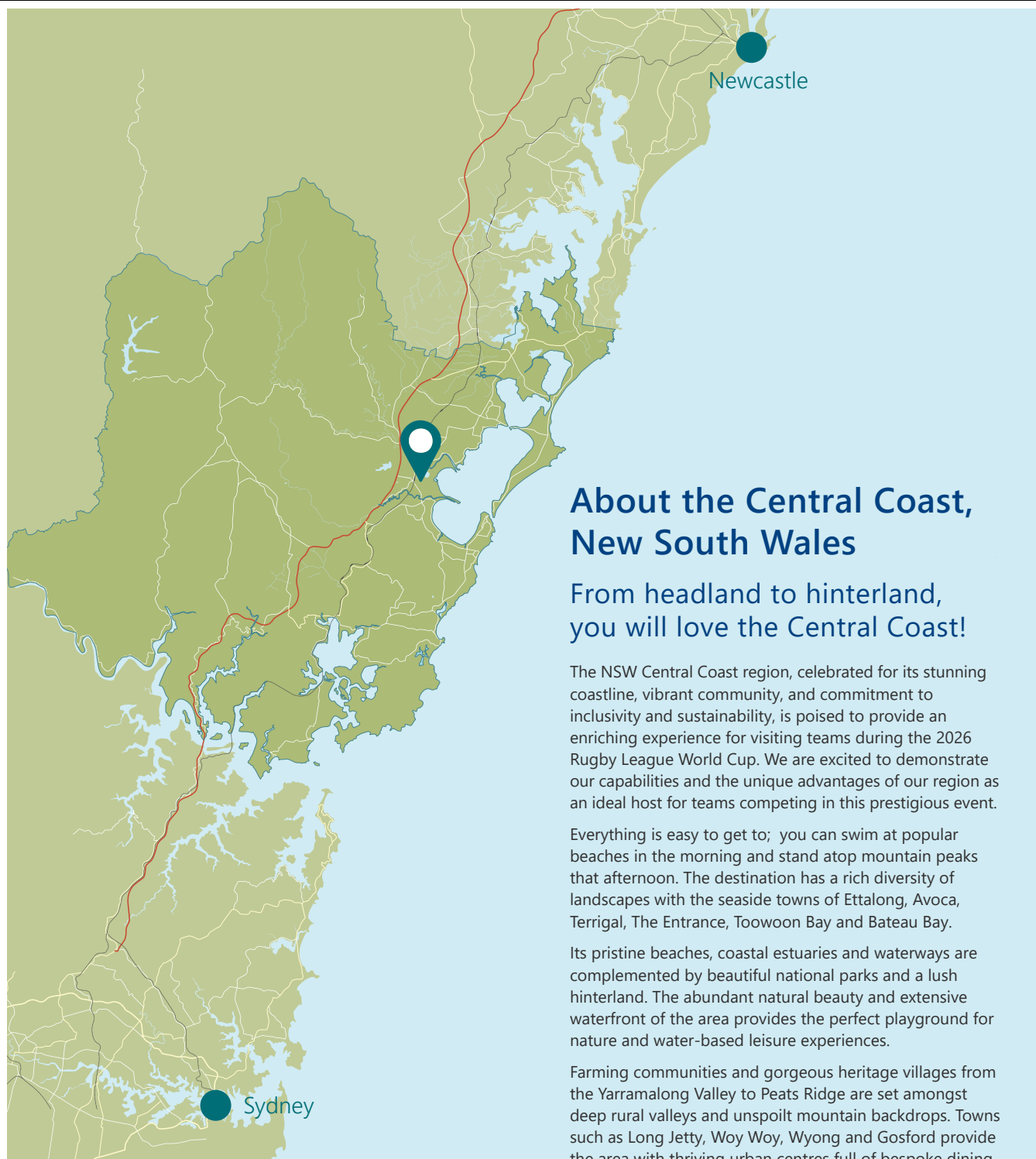
## Company Information

No.	Information Required	Vendor Responses
1	Company Name and ABN, CAN	Central Coast Council ABN 73 149 644 003
2	Key Contact Information	Karen Lightfoot Regional Sports Activation Officer Karen.Lightfoot@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au M : 0436 192 120
3	Australian company HQ details	Local Government, Central Coast NSW region
4	Ultimate Parent Company and any Affiliated Companies	n/a
5	Main offices in Australia	Central Coast Council 2 Hely Street, Wyong NSW 2259 PO Box 20, Wyong NSW 2259 P : 02 4306 7900
6	Number of staff located in Australia	Council Staffing > 2,200
9	Relevant Insurance provisions	Refer Annexure A
10	Any recent judicial or legal cases in the last 5 years	Refer Annexure B

*Noted that # 7 and # 8 are omitted from submission requirements as per page 6, item 4.1*







## About the Central Coast, New South Wales

From headland to hinterland, you will love the Central Coast!




The NSW Central Coast region, celebrated for its stunning coastline, vibrant community, and commitment to inclusivity and sustainability, is poised to provide an enriching experience for visiting teams during the 2026 Rugby League World Cup. We are excited to demonstrate our capabilities and the unique advantages of our region as an ideal host for teams competing in this prestigious event.

Everything is easy to get to; you can swim at popular beaches in the morning and stand atop mountain peaks that afternoon. The destination has a rich diversity of landscapes with the seaside towns of Ettalong, Avoca, Terrigal, The Entrance, Toowoon Bay and Bateau Bay.

Its pristine beaches, coastal estuaries and waterways are complemented by beautiful national parks and a lush hinterland. The abundant natural beauty and extensive waterfront of the area provides the perfect playground for nature and water-based leisure experiences.

Farming communities and gorgeous heritage villages from the Yarramalong Valley to Peats Ridge are set amongst deep rural valleys and unspoilt mountain backdrops. Towns such as Long Jetty, Woy Woy, Wyong and Gosford provide the area with thriving urban centres full of bespoke dining and retail experiences.

Combined with a mild, sunny climate, a busy calendar of cultural and sporting events, it is easy to see why the area has an enviable lifestyle and has long been one of the best-known holiday locations on Australia's east coast. The Central Coast is one of Australia's first certified ECO Destinations and has been awarded 1st Place globally in sustainable destination management in 2024.

-  Central Coast Regional Sporting & Recreation Complex
-  Central Coast local government area
-  M1 motorway
-  Train line

## Training Venue

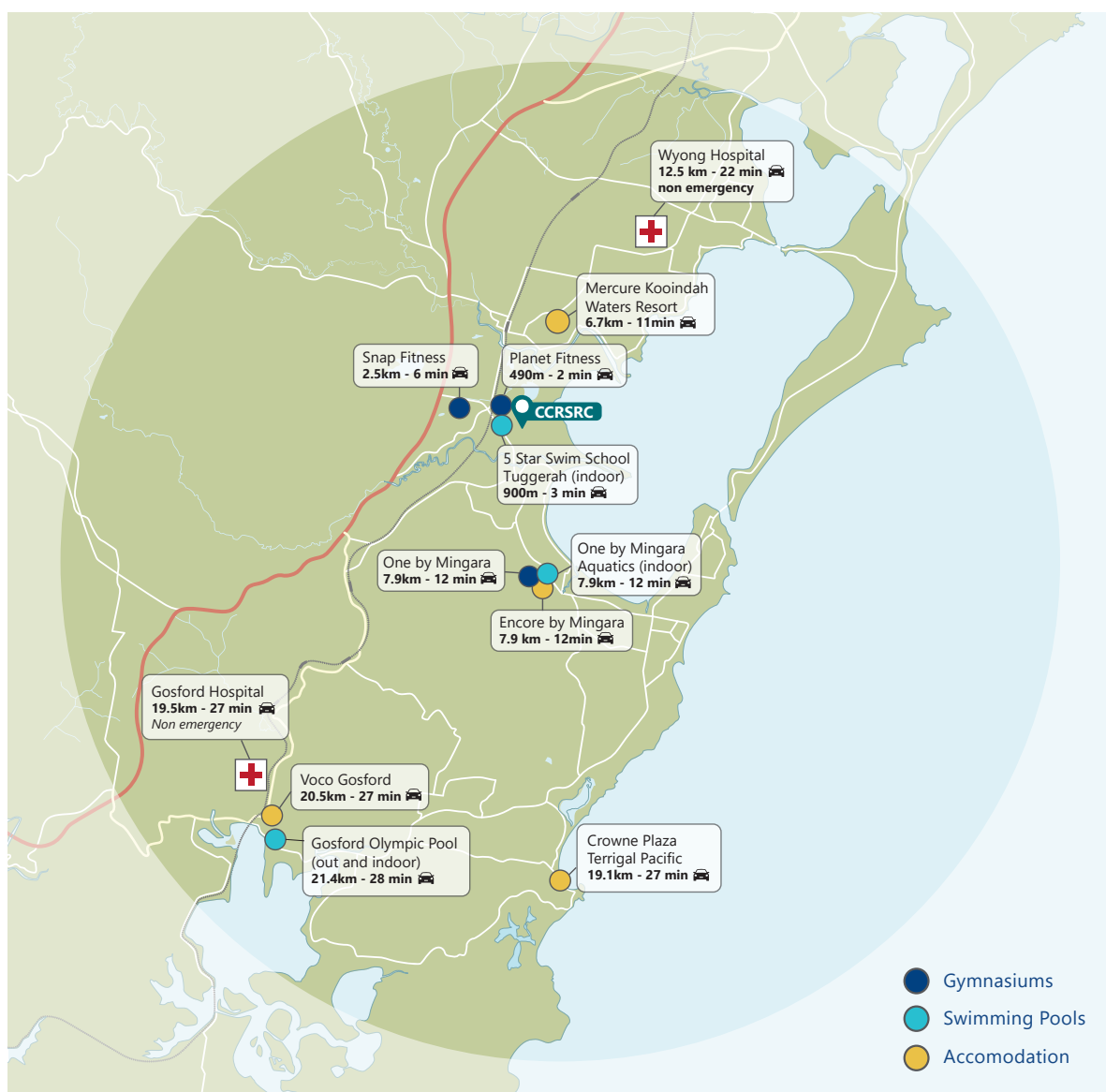
### Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex (CCRSRC) TUGGERAH

The CCRSRC sits on 18.28 hectares of land at Tuggerah and consists of nine playing fields (of which seven are full sized rugby league fields), an amenities building, 2km of shared pathways, hard-surface basketball / netball courts, car parks and bus zones.

It is located close to the M1 freeway with easy access to Sydney and Newcastle and highly rated hotels,

gymnasiums, golf courses, natural waterways, bushland and beaches.

The complex is fully secured on all sides with three sides adjoining protected wetlands and the southern boundary running parallel to Lake Road, housing a few residents and light industrial businesses.





## Field Specifications, Preparation and Floodlighting

The Premier Field (field # 5) is proposed for primary use and additional fields (e.g. field # 2) can be made available for additional training and / or rotation of fields if required.

The turf species used on the Premier Field is Cynodon Dactylon – Santa Ana. All other fields are Cynodon Dactylon – Legend. The Premier Field has been designed as a sand-based field with subsurface drainage and a perched water table, allowing for faster drainage. All other fields are constructed on a soil-based profile, sand slitted with subsurface drainage. The orientation for all fields is 7° east of north.

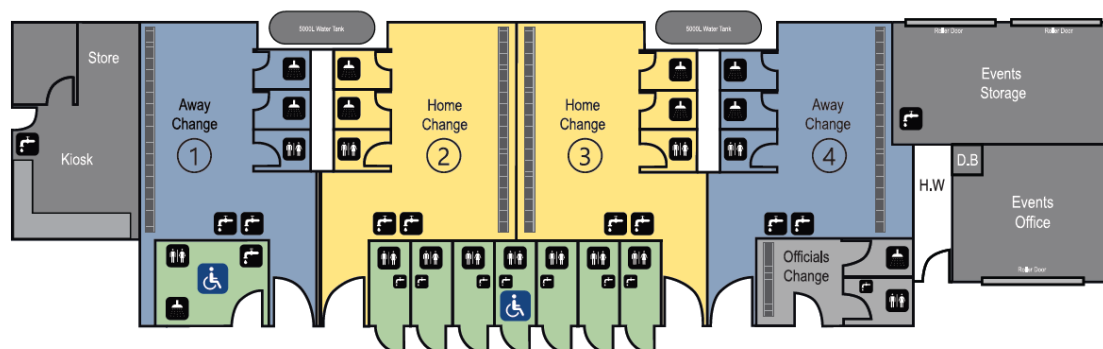
The Premier Field (field # 5) meets the specifications required in accordance with Rugby League International

Laws including 100m goal line to goal line, 8m in-goal at each end equalling full dimensions of 116m x 68m and 5m grass perimeter around the field. Turf cutting height objectives of 35mm – 50mm range can be achieved.

All fields can be fitted with posts (15m), pads and corner posts as required. We acknowledge the line-marking requirements as per your specifications including 10m, 20m, 30m, 40m, 50m, Goal Line, Dead Ball Line and Touch Line – marked in white and 15cm in width.

The Premier Field's floodlighting was last independently audited in 2023 with lux levels averaging 322 across the field. All other fields provide 100lux levels throughout.





### Map Legend

	Amenities		Aluminium Bench		Home Change Rooms
	Ambulant Amenities		Water Storage Units		Away Change Rooms
	Showers		Basins		Public Amenities

## Amenities

The CCRSRC's built environment includes :

- Two home and two away change rooms each with two showers, toilet and basins
- Seven public toilets with one ambulant toilet
- One fully accessible change room, including shower and toilet
- One officials change room, including shower and toilet
- One (small) events office, storage room and a kiosk
- Power supply, hot and cold water

Situated behind the built amenities block are two fitted and plumbed trailer toilet amenities consisting of 14 stalls in each. Stalls are interchangeable male / female.





## Supporting Facilities / Infrastructure

Whilst the CCRSRC is not equipped with additional built facilities, we have successfully procured and installed temporary infrastructure, and Wifi connectivity, to meet the needs of visiting international teams and major sporting tournaments. This includes doping test rooms, offices and meeting rooms, media centres, gymnasium and recovery centre, ticketing offices, medical support rooms, additional storage, etc., including total fitout of all spaces. The CCRSRC has an expansive Central Park area, ideally located with easy access to the Premier Field and built environment.

Power (10amp, 15amp and 3-phase) is available at strategic points throughout the complex including field-side and the Central Park area.

There are twenty portable grandstands, seating approx 50 pax each, that can be situated at strategic points throughout the complex.

The complex is fully accessible, and the hard-surface courts are available for outdoor wheelchair rugby training.





## Parking

The CCRSRC has 448 parking bays including 24 disability bays. Access for team buses can be provided, entering from Lake Road and driving through the complex to drop-off and turn-around on the hard-surface courts area adjoining the Premier Field. The areas can be demarcated for VIP's, media and general public parking. Emergency vehicles can also move east / west along the full extent of the boulevard, providing easy access to all playing fields.

## Commercial Branding

The Complex is entirely clean of commercial advertising and external party branding. The words "Central Coast Council" (with corresponding logo) and / or "Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex" appear on way-finding signage inside, and on entry to, the complex.

## Tournament Branding

Tournament branding may be erected with Council approving installation methods, load bearing, removal and remedial procedures.



## Experience and Testimonials

The CCRSRC has a proven track record of successfully hosting elite international teams and tournaments.

### 2020 / 21 - New Zealand Warriors

#### Long-term base training camp during Covid lockdowns

*The New Zealand Warriors used the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex during our extended stay in 2020. The fields were in very good condition, the facility was tidy and well maintained and we always found the staff from the Central Coast Council to be very accommodating. I would definitely recommend this facility to any other sporting teams that are visiting the Central Coast region in the future.*

**Dan Floyd : Football Operations Manager, NZ Warriors**



### 2021 - Melbourne Rebels

#### Long-term base training camp during Covid lockdowns

*I would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for hosting us over the last seven weeks. The facilities at the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex at Tuggerah have been first class. The quality of the fields, access to storage, amenities, safety, security and service excellence from Council staff, is why I can't recommend the use of these facilities highly enough. We would definitely consider returning for future camps, training programs and using it as a regional base outside of our normal facilities in Melbourne.*

**Baden Stephenson : Chief Executive Officer, Melbourne Rebels**





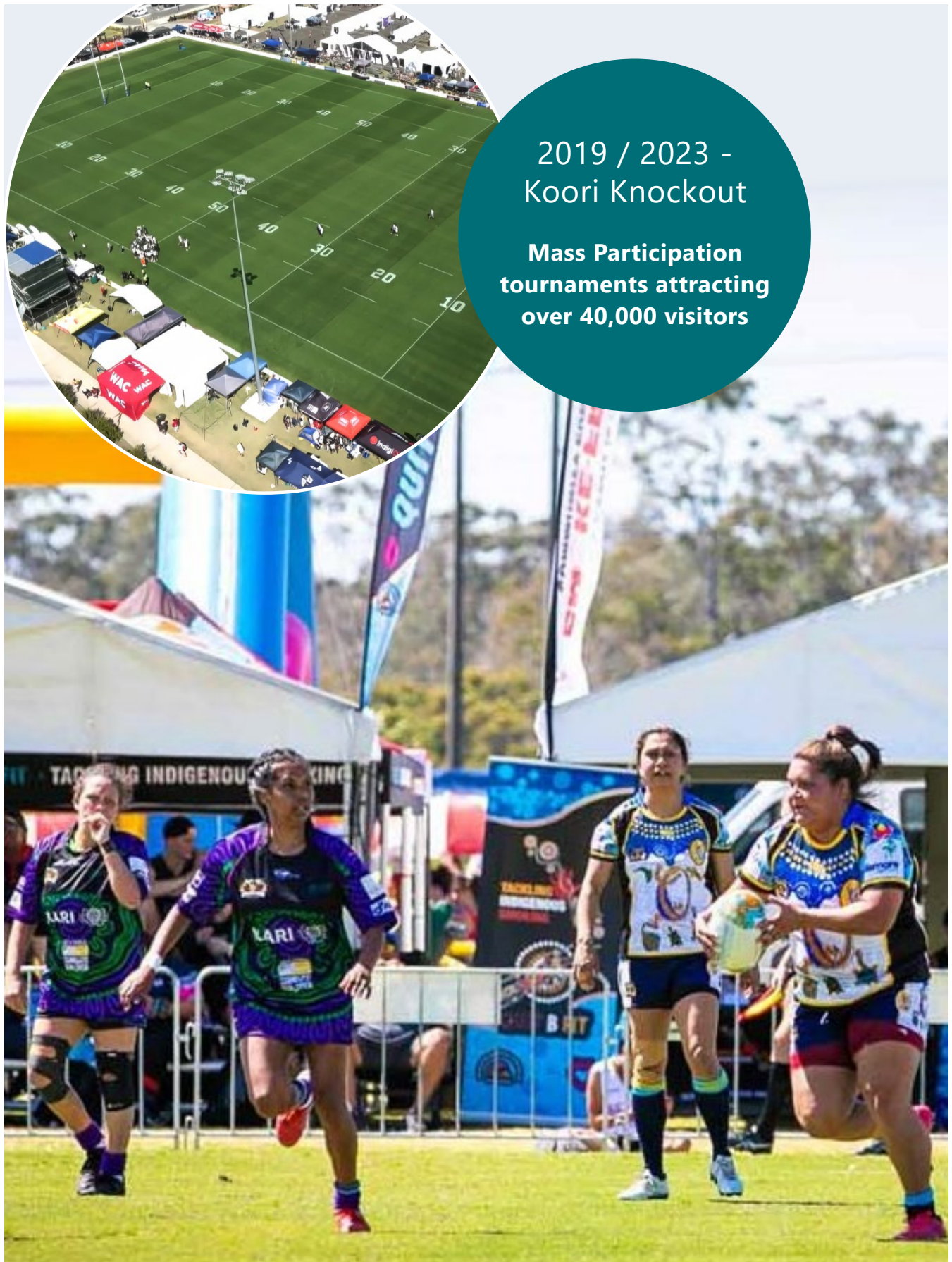
## 2023 - Team Germany

### FIFA Women's World Cup – Base Training Camp

*We, the German Women's National Team, had the privilege of utilizing the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex during our participation in the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023. The facility proved to be an outstanding venue for our daily training sessions. We would like to particularly emphasize that the condition of the playing fields, was excellent. The staff are highly dedicated and professional. The excellent infrastructure, exemplary service and pleasant region allowed us to prepare and focus optimally during our stay. We would return without hesitation.*

**Valentin Rudolph : Team Manager, German Women's National Team**







## 2023 / 2024 / 2025 - Central Coast Mariners – A League

The Central Coast Regional Sporting & Recreation Complex is an amazing facility that has allowed our squad to train on a stadium quality pitch as needed to give our team the best possible preparation heading into A-League competition matches. The complex has also allowed our Academy Mens, Women's and youth teams to train and play pre-season games on a great surface, as well as host tournament style pre-season competitions.

**Darren Dobson : A-League Mens Team Manager,  
Central Coast Mariners FC**

## 2024 - ACL international teams – Malaysia, Thailand, Japan

*I express my heartfelt appreciation for the exceptional facilities provided at the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex in Tuggerah. The pitch was in outstanding condition providing a playing surface that allowed our players to perform at their best. The attention to detail in maintaining the pitch is commendable and reflects a commitment to excellence. I would highly recommend this complex to others.*

**Apple Htaiporn Suwanmethajarn : Logistics Manager,  
Buriram United Thailand**

## 2024 - Team Guangdong (China)

*I highly recommend the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex as an exceptional venue for sports teams and events. The pitches at the complex are outstanding. The Premier field, in particular, is well maintained providing a high-quality playing surface that met all our training requirements. The management and staff of the complex were incredibly accommodating and professional. The location of the complex, nestled in the scenic Central Coast region, offered a serene environment that was conducive to focus and team bonding. I wholeheartedly recommend the complex for any sporting event or team training camp.*

**Lincoln Xue : Tour Manager, Chinese Guangdong  
Women's Team**



## Account Service and Management

Should we be successful in securing a team/teams to train on the Central Coast, Council proposes the appointment of a senior Account Manager, Karen Lightfoot, to this project.

The Account Manager will act as the Concierge between Council and Tournament / Team management with all communications being centralised and directed to relevant stakeholders (internal and external). The Account Manager will also be responsible for the drafting of any Management Plans required to deliver this project including, but not limited to, developing a Safety and Security Plan, working in conjunction with local authorities.

The Account Manager will be supported by senior operational staff responsible for delivering the required conditions of the proposed facility and playing fields.

Karen Lightfoot is an experienced, senior, major events manager having, amongst others, worked with the organising committees of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, 2003 Cricket World Cup and 1995 Rugby World Cup - all in South Africa. She managed the Base Training Camp projects held for the NZ Warriors, Melbourne Rebels and the FIFA Women's World Cup. She has managed the operations, logistics and delivery of events to the regional sporting complex since its opening in 2019. Her expertise and attention to detail will provide Tournament Management, and the incoming Team/s, with service excellence.

Michael Denniss oversees the management and development of Central Coast Councils sporting infrastructure, ensuring high-quality facilities for both community and elite-level sports. He has coordinated operations for major sporting events at Central Coast Regional Sporting Complex and other Central Coast sports facilities, including A-League football matches, National Rugby League training camps, FIFA World Cup training facilities. His expertise ensures playing surfaces meet professional standards for national and international teams. Mick leads a team responsible for sports field maintenance, capital works, and facility upgrades, working with stakeholders to deliver quality turf surfaces ensuring accessible, safe, and sustainable facilities across the regions sporting venues.

Lachlan Rainger brings extensive experience in high-performance sports turf management, having prepared elite playing surfaces at North Sydney Oval and Central Coast Regional sports Complex for regional, state, international and national events. As Crew Leader at Central Coast Regional Sporting Complex, he oversees the maintenance of nine playing fields and four turf wickets, managing Cynodon dactylon (Couch grass) surfaces to professional standards. His expertise includes precision wicket preparation, turf nutrition, and moisture management to ensure peak performance.



## Additional Value Adds

### Promotion

Destination Central Coast and Central Coast Council are excited to extend our comprehensive marketing support to bolster the Rugby League World Cup 2026 and the hosting of team/s within the region. Our commitment is to create a vibrant, engaging, and memorable experience for team members, ensuring that their time in our region is not only enjoyable but also enriching.

### Equipment

We have a range of equipment on site available for use including portable grandstands (20 units seating 50 pax each), mobile electronic scoreboard, public address system (covers the complex for evacuation procedures but can also be isolated to preferred areas for broadcast), crowd control barriers (approximately 420 running metres – 2.26m lengths x 1.10m height), limited 1.8m tables, chairs, witches hats, cable covers, gazebos, player benches, etc.



## Commercial Hire Terms

CCRSRC	RLWC 2026 : Base Training Camp	All Fees & Charges are quoted in AUD \$ and include General Sales Tax	
		Projected Fees & Charges : 2026. Minimum 5-week Hire	Notes
Field Hire	Premier Field # 5	\$3,592.15	Weekly hiring fee including preparation and maintenance
	Sports Field # 2	\$2,843.30	Weekly hiring fee including preparation and maintenance
Floodlights	Premier Field # 5 - 300 lux	\$167.40	Daily fee charged per use
	Sports Field # 2 - 100 lux	\$146.50	Daily fee charged per use
Line Marking, Posts and Pads	Premier Field # 5 Line Marking	\$96.00	Fee charged per occasion - usually once weekly required
	Sports Field # 2 Line Marking	\$96.00	Fee charged per occasion - usually once weekly required
	Posts and Pads - Both fields	n/c	
Open Space Hire	Central Park	\$355.75	Weekly hiring fee
	Hard Surface Courts	\$309.30	Weekly hiring fee for six courts
Built Amenities	Dressing Sheds and Public Toilets	n/c	
	Storage (4m x 6m)	n/c	
	Parking (P1 / P2)	n/c	
	Events Office	n/c	
	Kiosk	\$592.75	Weekly hiring fee
Other Charges	Administration Fee (once off)	\$114.35	Once off
	Cleaning and Consumables	\$1,541.00	Weekly fee charged
	Resources (Ground Staff and Coordinator)	\$90.00	Hourly rate for overtime : dependent on scheduling
	Waste Removal	n/c	

### Exclusions

- Procurement of Temporary Infrastructure and Wifi connectivity
- Deployment of Third Party resources e.g. Security, Traffic Control
- Compensation for Damages to Council assets

## Commercial Investment

Central Coast Council would welcome an opportunity to consider investment to offset part or whole of Council's hiring fees and charges. To achieve this, a report to Council would be required for funding. This report, to be prepared by Council staff, would include an Economic and Social Impact Assessment, highlighting the benefits to the region and providing recommendation for adoption.

Central Coast Council meets in the last week of every month. Between the RFP Issue Date (10 June 2025) and RFP Closing Date (8 July 2025), there was insufficient time to prepare a report for the Council meeting held on 23 June 2025.

## Annexure A - Insurance

### Workers Compensation:

Policy coverage – 30/06/2025  
Reinsurer – Liberty Special Markets  
Level of cover - \$1 mil per claim

### Public liability:

Policy coverage – 30/06/2025  
Insurer – QBE  
Level of cover - \$600,000,000.00

### Professional Indemnity:

Policy coverage – 30/06/2025  
Insurer – QBE  
Level of cover - \$600,000,000.00

### Cyber/Crime Cover:

Policy coverage – 30/06/2025  
Insurer – Chub Insurance  
Level of cover - \$5,000,000.00

### Councillors and Officers Liability:

Policy coverage – 30/06/2025  
Insurer – Zurich Insurance  
Level of cover - \$10,000,000.00

### Public and Products Liability:

Policy coverage – 30/06/2025  
Insurer – QBE  
Level of cover - \$20,000,000.00

### Property:

Policy coverage – 30/06/2025  
Insurer – Factory Mutual Insurance Company  
Level of cover \$1,537,488,238 declared assets

### Casual Hires Liability:

Policy coverage – 30/06/2025  
Insurer – QBE Insurance  
Level of cover - \$20,000,000.00

### Environmental Impairment Liability:

Policy coverage – 30/06/2025  
Insurer – AIG Australia  
Level of cover - \$125,000,000.00

### Motor:

Policy coverage – 30/06/2025  
Insurer – Zurich Insurance  
Level of cover - \$22,895,818.08, \$1,072,260,  
\$30,991,765.00

### Artworks:

Policy coverage – 30/06/2025  
Insurer – XL Insurance Company SE  
Level of cover - \$1,500,000.00

### Marine Hull Commercial:

Policy coverage – 30/06/2025  
Insurer – QBE  
Level of cover – Sum insured \$308,547.00.

### Carriers Liability:

Policy coverage – 30/06/2025  
Insurer – QBE  
Level of cover – \$500,000.00

## Annexure B - Legal

In response to Q10 under 4.1 Company Information:

"On or about 13 April 2023, a break in Council's sewage infrastructure occurred. That break resulted in a sewage spill. Council pleaded guilty and on 20 December 2024, Council was convicted for breaches of section 64(1) (contravention of a licence condition) and 120(1) (pollution of waters) of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)."

James Lenton  
Senior Solicitor  
Legal  
Central Coast Council





## 2026 Rugby League World Cup

### Response to Australian Rugby League Commission RFP - Training Venues

Karen Lightfoot  
Regional Sports Activation Officer  
Open Space and Recreation  
E : Karen.Lightfoot@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au  
M : 0436 192 120

Brett Sherar  
Unit Manager  
Open Space and Recreation  
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P 02 4306 7900  
W centralcoast.nsw.gov.au  
ABN 73 149 644 003

July 2025

**Item No:** 1.12  
**Title:** Memorandum of Understanding - Ongoing Contribution to Football Facilities Upgrades - for CEO Signature  
**Department:** Community and Recreation Services

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9 September 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2008/02015 - D17004979  
Author: Brett Sherar, Unit Manager Open Space and Recreation  
Executive: Melanie Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services

## Recommendation

***That the Committee recommends that Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Memorandum of Understanding in Attachment 1 between Central Coast Council and Central Coast Football.***

## Report purpose

To formalise the ongoing contribution by Central Coast Football (CCF) to football facility upgrades on Central Coast Council sports fields executing an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

In line with the appropriate Delegation of Authority, the Chief Executive Officer is the appropriate signatory to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Attachment 1) between Central Coast Council and Central Coast Football (CCF).

## Executive Summary

The MOU applies to capital works and facility upgrades that align with the shared objectives of improving amenities, building, sports field drainage, lighting and playing surface capacity. It explicitly excludes repairs and maintenance.

The MOU will remain in force for a period of five (5) years from the date of execution, unless terminated earlier by mutual agreement in writing.

## **Background**

Council and CCF have a strong working relationship. CCF acknowledges that Council has limited funding for the provision and improvement of sporting facilities for the community. They have identified that with funding from them, improvements to the facilities they use could provide better experiences for their players and improve access. CCF has requested this MOU to ensure their funding can be utilised to improve Council grounds.

## **Report**

The MOU has been developed to allow for contribution by CCF to be directed toward Council managed grounds where football is the primary user and will be utilised to:

- Improve drainage to increase ground capacity and reduce weather-related closures.
- Enhance lighting and playing surface quality.
- Support new infrastructure projects that directly increase playing or training capacity.

Council will work in partnership with CCF to identify and prioritise projects and provide regular updates to CCF on the progress and impact of funded upgrades. These upgrades will align with Council's strategic priorities.

CCFF expect to contribute a minimum of \$1M over the five-year period (2025-30) towards infrastructure upgrades at football facilities across the region. This amount is calculated on a levy per player and is subject to registration numbers.

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

Engagement to prepare this MOU was with CCF and Open Space and Recreation officers.

## **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.

The CCF funds are on top of Council budget allocation and will be expended directly on projects identified by them.

## 1.12 Memorandum of Understanding - Ongoing Contribution to Football Facilities Upgrades - for CEO Signature (cont'd)

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### Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme: Our Place

Goal: PL3: Healthy and balanced lifestyles where people have access to essential amenities and services.

Strategy: PL3.1: Provide and maintain community facilities, spaces and services to enjoy sport, leisure and recreation.


### Risk Management

The main risk is that an expectation of ownership could create issues with future allocation if the usage requirement of specific fields by CCF is not maintained. This is managed by the Sports Ground Allocation Policy and is included in the MOU.

### Critical Dates or Timeframes

*Nil.*

### Attachments

- |   |   |           |
|---|---|-----------|
| 1  | Memorandum of Understanding - Central Coast Council and Central Coast Football - Ongoing Contribution to Football Facilities Upgrades | D17004962 |
|    |   |           |



## CENTRAL COAST FOOTBALL

ABN: 63 986 212 865

a: Pluim Park, Lot 1, Tuggerah Street, Lisarow NSW 2250  
p: 4362 4300 e: admin@ccfootball.com.au w: ccfootball.com.au

Between  
Central Coast Council  
(ABN 72 360 196 141)  
PO Box 20, Wyong NSW 2259  
("the Council")

And  
Central Coast Football  
(ABN 63 986 212 865)  
Pluim Park, Lot 1, Tuggerah Street, Lisarow NSW 2250  
("CCF")

### For the ongoing contribution to football facilities upgrades

#### 1. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the shared commitment between the Council and CCF to facilitate the upgrade and improvement of football facilities across the Central Coast region. The intent is to support sustainable growth in football participation by enhancing the quality and capacity of infrastructure at existing grounds.

#### 2. Term

This MOU is effective from the date of signing and will remain in force for a period of five (5) years unless terminated earlier by mutual agreement in writing.

#### 3. Scope of the Agreement

This MOU applies to capital works and facility upgrades that align with the shared objectives of improving amenities buildings, sports field drainage, lighting, and playing surface capacity. It explicitly excludes repairs and maintenance.

#### 4. Financial Commitment

4.1 CCF will implement a Facilities Levy commencing in Season 2025 - \$10 per participant initially raising \$165,000, with an annual increase anticipated based on participant numbers.

4.2 CCF expects to contribute a minimum of \$1 million over the five-year period (2025–2030) toward infrastructure upgrades at football facilities across the region, subject to registration numbers.

4.3 Projected annual contributions are expected to grow to approximately \$200,000 per annum by 2030.

4.4 Funds will be directed towards Council-managed grounds where football is the primary user, and used to:

- Improve drainage to increase ground capacity and reduce weather-related closures
- Enhance lighting and playing surface quality
- Support new infrastructure projects that directly increase playing or training capacity

## CENTRAL COAST FOOTBALL

### 5. Roles and Responsibilities

#### 5.1 Central Coast Council will

- Collaborate with CCF on project identification and prioritization
- Provide CCF with Plans, Designs & other information relevant to project investigations
- Include CCF-identified projects in operational plans where appropriate
- Provide regular updates to CCF on the progress and impact of funded upgrades

#### 5.2 Central Coast Football will

- Collect and manage the Facilities Levy funding
- Propose priority projects annually based on identified association need and registration heatmaps
- Provide co-contribution funding to Council upon agreement of scope and delivery timelines
- Coordinate external contractors to complete works when approved by council
- Assist with community engagement and advocacy for facility development

### 6. Project Selection and Approval

Projects will be jointly agreed based on need, impact, and alignment with Council's strategic priorities. A rolling priority list will be developed and reviewed annually. Projects may be initiated by either party and must be jointly endorsed.

### 7. Seasonal allocation commitment

7.1 For any sites where CCF contributes funding, this funding will be considered in the same way as Club funding contributions in the Sports Ground Allocation Policy.

7.2. Council will review its current time-based field allocation limit of 25 hours per week by 30 June 2026. Council will also work closely with CCF to identify actions that will allow increases in carrying capacity.

### 8. Communication

Designated contact officers will be appointed from each organisation to ensure clear and effective communication. Regular progress meetings will be scheduled to monitor project delivery, outcomes, and upcoming priorities.

### 9. Review, Amendment & Termination

8.1 This MOU may be reviewed annually or at the request of either party. Amendments must be made in writing and signed by both parties.


8.2 Either party may terminate this MOU with 30 days' written notice. In such event, outstanding obligations will be resolved in good faith.

### 10. Signatories

Central Coast Council

Central Coast Football

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:  
Date:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Alex Burgin  
Title: Chief Executive Officer  
Date: 23/7/25



**Item No:** 1.13  
**Title:** Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy - update  
**Department:** Community and Recreation Services

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9 September 2025 Community & Culture Committee

Reference: F2025/00482 - D17019147  
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 that Council***

- 1 Notes the updated report on the Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy actions.***
- 2 Endorses the removal of 11 Margaret Street, Wyong from the list of identified sites for Affordable and Alternate Housing, noting that it is required for operational use.***

## Report purpose

This report provides an update on the implementation of the Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy (CCA&AHS).

## Executive Summary

The CCA&AHS, adopted by Council in April 2019, continues to guide the development of affordable and alternative housing across the Central Coast. An update on the implementation of the Strategy since the last report to the Community and Culture Committee in May 2025 is provided below. Additionally, an update on all actions is provided in the table attached to this report (Attachment 1).

## Background

In April 2019, Council adopted the Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy (CCA&AHS). The Strategy is a comprehensive plan which addresses initiatives across the housing continuum, from homelessness through to home ownership, providing pathways for a range of households, from very low through to moderate incomes.

## **1.13 Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy - update (cont'd)**

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The CCA&AHS was developed following extensive research and community consultation and is structured around three (3) strategic themes:

- Affordable Housing Partnerships,
- Planning Mechanisms and Strategies to Increase the Supply of Affordable and Lower Cost Housing, and
- Prevention and Intervention to Reduce Homelessness.

The three strategic themes 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 housing appropriate for the needs of a range of households on low to moderate incomes and is priced so that these households are also able to meet other basic living costs such as food, clothing, transport, education and medical care.

There are 27 actions within the Strategy to respond to this critical issue, with the 'partnerships' arm of the Strategy focusing on the need for the direct creation of Affordable Housing.

### **Report**

Adopted in 2019, the Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy is a ten-year strategy, which has a number of stages over this period. The initial focus was on actions that were most likely to have a practical impact on the supply of affordable housing, including partnership projects on surplus or underutilised Council or other public land, and development and service partnerships to address the growing rate of homelessness. It is acknowledged that when the Strategy was originally developed and endorsed, the housing and community landscape was markedly different, shaped by factors such as the immediate and ongoing impacts of COVID-19, shifting population trends, and changing economic conditions. A review of the Strategy is scheduled in the near future to ensure it continues to reflect the current housing challenges and opportunities, aligns with Council's broader strategic objectives, and responds to the changing needs of our community.

Since the last Community and Culture Committee meeting in May 2025, the following actions have been undertaken as part of the implementation of the Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy (CCAH&AHS):

#### Partnerships (Strategies 4-8)

Affordable Housing site investigations have been completed for the ten land sites endorsed by Council in August 2023. Based on the outcomes of these investigations, the following outcomes are permissible for the below sites:

Title Transfer is recommended for:

### **1.13 Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy - update (cont'd)**

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- 49 Hammond Road, Toukley.
- 18 Margaret Street, Wyong.
- 9, 11, 13, and 15 Yaralla Road, Toukley.
- 20W Yaralla Road and 40 Beachcomber Parade, Toukley.

Meanwhile Use is recommended for:

- 10 Manning Road, The Entrance.
- 20A Manning Road, The Entrance.

Site investigations to ascertain development potential are continuing:

- 3 Margaret Street, Wyong.
- 14 Manning Road, The Entrance.
- 18 Manning Road, The Entrance.

The site at 11 Margaret Street, Wyong is required for operational use and has been removed from the Affordable Housing proposed sites. The site is proposed to be used for parking for additional Council vehicles including Water and Sewer vehicles used to attend worksites.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) process was undertaken between 8 April and 6 May 2025 to establish a Recognised Supplier Contractor List for community housing services. A total of 12 submissions were received. Following evaluation, seven (7) providers have been recommended for inclusion on the panel.

These providers represent a mix of Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 community housing organisations. The tier classification system is based on the scale of operations and the level of regulatory oversight required:

- Tier 1 providers are large-scale organisations managing extensive housing portfolios. They are subject to the highest level of regulatory engagement due to the complexity and risk associated with their operations.
- Tier 2 providers operate at a medium scale, with moderate regulatory requirements.
- Tier 3 providers are smaller organisations with limited housing stock and are subject to the lowest level of regulatory oversight.

This classification ensures that providers are matched to projects according to their capacity and risk profile, supporting effective service delivery and governance.

A Master Service Agreement (MSA); which is a foundational contract between a service provider and Council and outlines the overarching terms and conditions for future service engagements, is currently being finalised. The Procurement team is undertaking a legal review to ensure the agreement aligns with Council's contractual and governance requirements.

Intervention & Prevention (Strategies 18 – 27)

Council is actively investigating options to expand the Transitional and Emergency Housing Model. This includes exploring opportunities within Council-owned Holiday Parks to support the Council resolution to accommodate individuals experiencing homelessness. Options under consideration include the acquisition of existing dwellings or the implementation of a bookings-based model. Engagement with the homelessness sector is ongoing to identify appropriate programming pathways to support a transitional, housing first model.

Council partnered with five (5) key stakeholders; Uniting, NSW Health, Bungree Aboriginal Association, Vinnies Central Coast, and the Central Coast Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service to deliver the Homelessness Connect Day. The event convened over 50 specialist homelessness and community organisations, alongside 10 Health services that provided targeted support to individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness. These services included; ACON, offering support for LGBTQ+ individuals; the PACER team, a collaborative crisis response unit comprising police, paramedics, and mental health clinicians; Breast Screening and Hearing Services, addressing preventative health needs; Safe Haven and Mental Health Services, providing mental health support and safe spaces; the Harm Minimisation Team, offering substance use education and support; Nutrition and Immunisation Services, promoting health and disease prevention; and a General Patients Nurse conducting comprehensive health checks. Approximately 500 individuals attended the event, and Council distributed 300 hampers to those experiencing homelessness or facing housing insecurity.

As part of Homelessness Week 2025, Council officers delivered a creative installation and educational activity titled Home Truths at Gosford Hospital on Friday 8 August 2025. The activity engaged over 250 participants and aimed to raise awareness and understanding of homelessness within the community.

A detailed table outlining the current status of all actions under the CCAH&AHS is provided in (Attachment 1) for reference. This progress update supports transparency and enables ongoing monitoring of implementation milestones.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

Delivery of actions under the CCAH&AHS has involved extensive internal collaboration across key Council departments. Expert advice was sought to ensure a coordinated and informed approach. The Local Planning and Policy team provided guidance on strategic land use and planning controls, while Commercial Property advised on the use and feasibility of Council-owned assets. Legal Services supported the development of contractual frameworks, including the Master Service Agreement, ensuring compliance and risk management. Procurement and Sourcing contributed expertise on supplier engagement and tendering processes. Local Infrastructure and Planning, Finance, Economic Development also all provided support. This cross-departmental engagement has been critical to progressing the strategy in a way that is both practical and sustainable.

## 1.13 Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy - update (cont'd)

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Consultation has occurred with external stakeholders such as Landcom, Homes NSW, local community housing providers and the homelessness sector in the delivery of the actions to date.

### Financial Considerations

#### Financial Year (FY) Implications.

This proposal has cost and revenue financial implications for the current FY and outer years in the LTFP

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

This proposal has cost and revenue financial implications for the current FY and outer years in the LTFP

There is an annual budget of \$249,328 in the 2025-26 operational budget to implement strategies from the CCAH&AHS this year.

### Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme: Our Place - The levers that help our people to live, move and enjoy their life on the Central Coast.

Goal - PL1: Balanced and sustainable urban planning, land development and housing supply.

Strategy - PL1.2: Facilitate and advocate for a range of housing options to meet the diverse and changing needs of the community.


### 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









1  Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy - progress table D17019206







Strategy Action	Progress Update	Current Status	Future Action
Monitoring Progress			
<b>Strategy 1</b> Council adopts definitions and benchmarks for 'affordable housing'.	CC Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy 2020. CC Affordable Housing Land Proposal. CC Local Housing Strategy 2024. CC Regional Plan 2022.		Nil.  Timeframe: complete
<b>Strategy 2</b> Council recognises indicators of supply and demand.	CC Housing Monitor. Partnership with Dept Communities and Justice.		Ongoing monitoring.  Timeframe: ongoing.
<b>Strategy 3</b> Council adopts targets for all income thresholds.	CC Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy 2020. CC Affordable Housing Land Proposal. CC Local Housing Strategy 2024. CC Regional Plan 2022. CC Housing Monitor.		Ongoing monitoring.  Timeframe: complete.
<b>Strategy 27</b> Publish reports, update data and review indicators.	Strategy and Background Reports updated in 2024. CC Housing Monitor developed and available for use..		Ongoing monitoring.  Timeframe: ongoing.
Partnerships using Council-land			
<b>Strategy 4</b> Council will dedicate at least three Council-owned sites for affordable housing partnerships.	CC Affordable Housing Land Proposal. Council Report April 2021 to dedicate 1 parcel.		Shortlist 6 sites through CHALP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 title transfer.</li> <li>2 meanwhile use.</li> </ul> 2 sites identified through Master Planning. Work with Strategic Planning Team. Partnership with HomesNSW or Landcom. Timeframe: ongoing
<b>Strategy 5</b> Council will facilitate a multi-tenure development on Council-owned land.	Expression of Interest and RFP executed. Council report February 2023 to transfer land. Council report November 2022 to develop 1 parcel.		23 to 25 Ashton Avenue, The Entrance. Recommended for State Significant Development by NSW Housing Delivery Authority. Facilitate access during construction period. Progress updates on development. Timeframe: complete & 3+ year development



<p>Strategy 6</p> <p>Council will investigate and dedicate at least a further two sites to affordable housing developments.</p>		<p>Council report August 2023 to investigate 17 parcels.</p> <p>Shortlist of 10 parcels in line with Land Proposal.</p> <p>Expression of Interest Panel of Providers.</p>		<p>Appoint and contracts for Panel of Providers.</p> <p>Desktop analysis of restrictions on sites.</p> <p>Restrictions identified to be resolved.</p> <p>Pathways identified below.</p> <p>Shortlist 6 sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 title transfer.</li> <li>2 meanwhile use.</li> </ul> <p>Stage 2 Expression of Interest.</p> <p>Timeframe: 2+ years</p>
Site 1	49 Hammond Road, Toukley	<p>Nil restrictions on land.</p> <p>Demolition of cottage complete [site cleared].</p>		<p>Engage planning consultant/ Homes/ Landcom.</p> <p>Proceed to Request for Proposal.</p> <p>Resolve informal car parking.</p> <p>Timeframe: 3+ years.</p>
Site 2	18 Margaret Street, Wyong	<p>Section 7.11 contributions.</p> <p>Adjacent flooding precinct.</p> <p>Sewer infrastructure.</p>		<p>Confirm change of use through legal team.</p> <p>Ministerial approval to proceed.</p> <p>Engage planning consultant [drainage].</p> <p>Investigations on contributions underway.</p> <p>Timeframe: 3+ years.</p>
Site 3	11 Margaret Street, Wyong	<p>Section 7.11 contributions.</p> <p>Decommissioned cottage on site.</p> <p>Site is required for operational use.</p>		<p>Not available for affordable housing. Removed from CAHLP.</p> <p>Timeframe: closed.</p>
Site 4	9,11,13 and 15 Yaralla Road, Toukley	<p>Lot 13 &amp; 15 are classified “community” land.</p> <p>Transitional accommodation.</p> <p>Purchased using restricted funds.</p> <p>Section 7.11 contributions on 79/DP20493.</p> <p>Nil red flags on transfer for other parcels.</p>		<p>Central Coast LEP Amendment No.9 complete.</p> <p>Interest in title resolved through LEP.</p> <p>Confirm change of use through legal team.</p> <p>Ministerial approval to proceed.</p> <p>Relocate tenant and demolition of cottage.</p> <p>Consider reducing developable footprint.</p> <p>Investigations on contributions underway.</p> <p>Timeframe: 3+ years.</p>
Site 5	20W Yaralla Road & 40 Beachcomber Parade, Toukley	<p>Provide access for adjoining lots.</p> <p>Sewer infrastructure.</p> <p>Amalgamation with TfNSW owned lot.</p> <p>Decommissioned petrol station.</p> <p>Nil red flags on transfer for whole parcel.</p>		<p>Review site potential Homes/ Landcom.</p> <p>Geo Mapping of soil contamination.</p> <p>Acquisition/ long term lease of adjoining lot.</p> <p>Timeframe: 5+ years.</p>

Site 6	3 Margaret Street, Wyong	Heritage conservation area. Lot amalgamation with 8 Rankens Court, Wyong. Insufficient record keeping on original purchase.		Review through Conservation Management Plan. \$300,000 purchase price with source unknown. Report to Council releasing site to AH. Timeframe: 5+ years.
Site 7	8 & 10 Manning Road, The Entrance	Flood precinct 4 & 3 high hazard. Public acquisition overlay. Section 7.11 contributions [TBC].		Site survey to confirm flood access. Amend LEP through Master planning process. Confirm revenue account in event of sale. Shortlisted site for meanwhile use. Legal advice on meanwhile use. Monitor Tiny Homes DA in Umina. Timeframe: 5+ years.
Site 8	14 Manning Road, The Entrance	Public acquisition overlay. Section 7.11 contributions [TBC]. Transitional accommodation.		Amend LEP through Master planning process. Confirm revenue account in event of sale. Relocate tenant and demolition of cottage. Recommend continuing current use. Timeframe: 5+ years.
Site 9	20A Manning Road, The Entrance	Lot amalgamation with 18 Manning Road, The Entrance. Public acquisition overlay. Section 7.11 contributions [TBC].		Amend LEP through Master planning process. Confirm revenue account in event of sale. Shortlisted site for meanwhile use. Legal advice on meanwhile use. Timeframe: 5+ years.
Site 10	18 Manning Road, The Entrance	Lot amalgamation with 20A Manning Road, The Entrance. Public acquisition overlay. Section 7.11 contributions [TBC]. Transitional accommodation.		Amend LEP through Master planning process. Confirm revenue account in event of sale. Relocate tenant and demolition of cottage. Recommend continuing current use. Timeframe: 5+ years.
Strategy 7 Council will investigate an appropriate site for the development of a manufactured home estate.		Site identified at 85 Jensens Road, Wadalba. Homes NSW conducting land audit. Senior Citizens Village at Tuggerawong.		To be redeveloped as a new Sporting Facility. Model not supported by agency. Site not supported by Council. Timeframe: closed.
Strategy 8 Council will ensure that any partnering agreements include management and maintenance arrangements.		National Regulatory System for Community Housing. NSW Community Housing Local Scheme.		Ongoing monitoring. Timeframe: ongoing.

Planning Interventions			
<p><b>Strategy 9</b></p> <p>Council will investigate opportunities for rezoning developable land that is well located.</p>	<p>Transport Oriented Development and Low to Mid Rise Housing Reforms.</p> <p>Master Planning in Narara Precinct and Ettalong.</p>		<p>Gosford, Woy Woy, Tuggerah, Wyong, Green Point, Erina, The Entrance.</p> <p>Work with Strategic Planning Team.</p> <p>Timeframe: 5+ years.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 10</b></p> <p>Council will seek to zone precincts within well located Greenfield urban expansion areas as R1.</p>	<p>Low to Mid Rise Housing Reforms.</p> <p>Housing SEPP allows single dwellings in R1.</p>		<p>Not in Council's remit.</p> <p>Advocate to the NSW Gov. Dept. of Planning.</p> <p>Must be well located.</p> <p>Timeframe: 10+ years.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 11</b></p> <p>Council will consider permitting Multi dwelling housing in R2 zoning.</p>	<p>Transport Oriented Development and Low to Mid Rise Housing Reforms.</p> <p>LEP Clause is under investigation.</p>		<p>Gosford, Woy Woy, Tuggerah, Wyong, Green Point, Erina, The Entrance.</p> <p>Work with Strategic Planning Team.</p> <p>Timeframe: 5+ years.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 12</b></p> <p>Council will consider a reduction in parking standards for residential flat buildings.</p>	<p>Transport Oriented Development and Low to Mid Rise Housing Reforms.</p> <p>Master Planning in Narara Precinct and Ettalong.</p>		<p>Gosford, Woy Woy, Tuggerah, Wyong, Green Point, Erina, The Entrance.</p> <p>Work with Strategic Planning Team.</p> <p>Timeframe: 5+ years.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 13</b></p> <p>Council will develop a Social Impact Assessment Policy and Guidelines for boarding Houses.</p>	<p>Resolved through Social and Affordable Housing Reforms – boarding houses.</p> <p>Recommendations on the enquiry into Key Worker Housing.</p>		<p>Monitor with Development and Assessment.</p> <p>Work with the NSW Gov. Dept. of Planning.</p> <p>Data sets ordered on local industry x housing affordability.</p> <p>Timeframe: 5+ years.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 14</b></p> <p>Council will investigate a Voluntary Planning Agreement Policy (Affordable Housing).</p>	<p>Transport Oriented Development Scheme.</p> <p>Recommendations on the enquiry into Key Worker Housing.</p>		<p>Inclusionary Zoning. Subject to market viability.</p> <p>Work with the NSW Gov. Dept. of Planning.</p> <p>Timeframe: 10+ years.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 15</b></p> <p>Council will support planning amendments that include a range of typologies in residential flat buildings.</p>	<p>State Environmental Housing Policy 2021.</p>		<p>Subject to market viability in 5 to 10 years.</p> <p>Timeframe: 10+ years.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 16</b></p> <p>Council will support planning amendments that include a range of lot sizes in Greenfield areas.</p>	<p>R1 Zone applied inconsistently across the LGA.</p> <p>Low to Mid Rise Housing Reforms.</p>		<p>Subject to market viability in 5 to 10 years.</p> <p>Residential Zone Review.</p> <p>Work with Strategic Planning Team.</p> <p>Timeframe: 5+ years.</p>

<p>Strategy 17</p> <p>Council will consider the loss of low-cost housing in redevelopment proposals.</p>	<p>Housing SEPP Chapter 2 part 8 &amp; 9.</p>		<p>Not in Council's remit.</p> <p>Advocate to the NSW Gov. Dept. of Planning.</p> <p>Timeframe: closed.</p>
<p>Strategy 18</p> <p>Council will investigate the development of an Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme.</p>	<p>Draft Affordable Housing Contributions Scheme.</p> <p>Feasibility testing identified 1 centre in Gosford.</p>		<p>Planning Proposal and LEP amendment.</p> <p>Working with Strategic Planning Team.</p> <p>Timeframe: 5+ years.</p>
Emergency Housing			
<p>Strategy 22</p> <p>Council will incorporate transitional accommodation within multi-tenure projects.</p>	<p>Consider MOU with providers for a proportion of dwellings.</p>		<p>Subject to funding with State Gov. Homes NSW.</p> <p>Timeframe: 3+ years.</p>
<p>Strategy 22</p> <p>Council will work with the State Government to ensure new public housing is best practice.</p>	<p>Land audit for redevelopment of social housing estates.</p>		<p>Actions identified in Master Planning Program.</p> <p>Work with State Gov. Homes NSW on sites in Lake Haven and Niagara Park.</p> <p>Timeframe: 5 to 10 years.</p>
<p>Strategy 23</p> <p>Council will develop a Transitional Housing Model.</p>	<p>5 cottages are included current portfolio.</p>		<p>Ongoing management and maintenance.</p> <p>Work with other business units to acquire dwellings.</p> <p>Negotiating with Holiday Parks on potential acquisition or programming pathway.</p> <p>Timeframe: complete and ongoing.</p>
<p>Strategy 25</p> <p>Council will seek an accommodation facility for women experiencing domestic violence.</p>	<p>Tier 3 Community Housing Providers included in panel.</p> <p>Consider targeted Request for Proposal on smaller sites.</p>		<p>Subject to funding with State Gov. Homes NSW.</p> <p>Subject to proposal on Stage 2 Expression of Interest.</p> <p>Timeframe: 10+ years.</p>