



Harvest Festival

The first ever Harvest Festival for the Central Coast has been hailed as a success with over 10,000 people attending the two day festival.

The Festival celebrated local produce on the Coast with 25 events held over the June long weekend across the Calga, Somersby, Peats Ridge, Mangrove Mountain, Kulnura and Yarramalong areas.

Building on the success of the Festival, Council is currently working with local stakeholders to establish a regional Harvest Trail.

Central Coast Council

Achievements



Operational Plan Performance

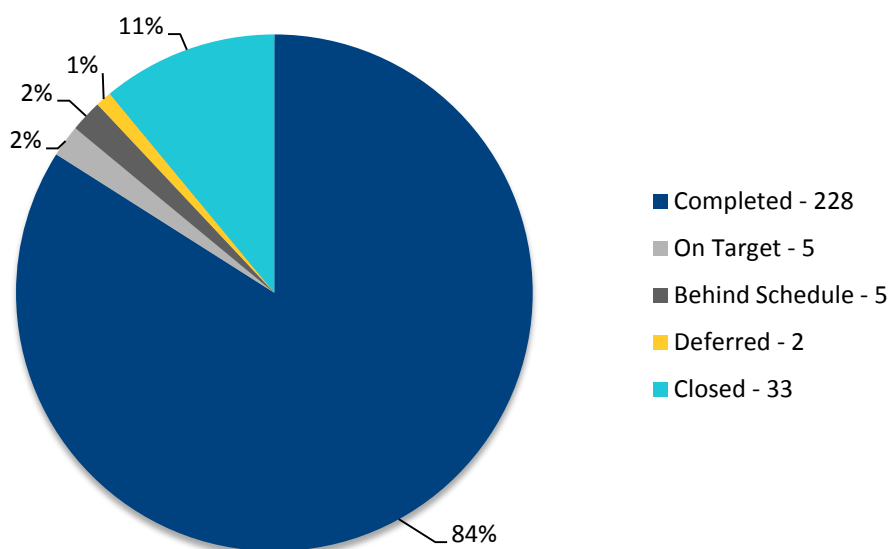
Performance Summary

Council's progress against the Operational Plan for 2016-17 has been assessed with the following status definitions:

Completed	Work is completed / target achieved
On Target	Work is on track as planned / target on track to date
Behind Schedule	Work is behind schedule / target has not been met or is off track to date
Deferred	Work is on hold until further notice
Closed	Action will no longer be reported

The category of Closed refers to actions that focused on the former Gosford City or former Wyong Shire Council. These were discontinued in order to ensure a focus on the broader Central Coast region, for example where a study or strategy needed to be expanded or where implementation of an information technology system was planned. The two actions that were deferred within the Governance and Leadership theme were placed on hold due a change in priorities and will be carried over for completion in 2017-18.

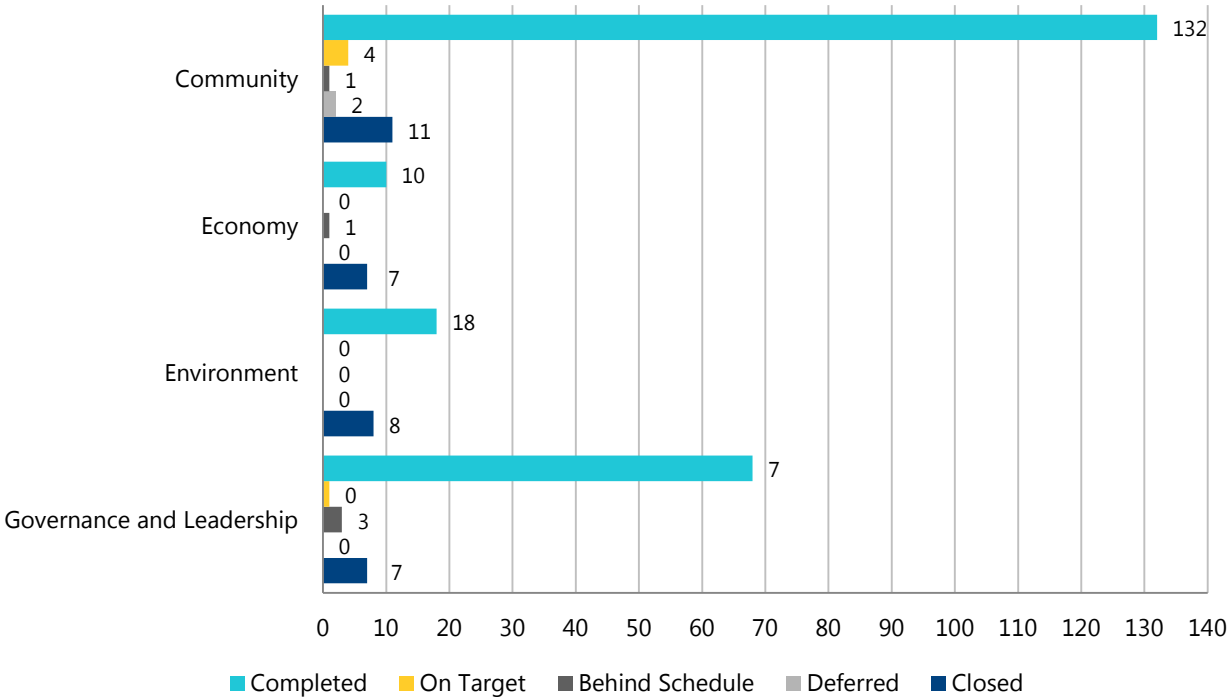
The table below is a summary of the overall progress on the Operational Plan actions / targets for 2016-17.



Quadruple Bottom Line Performance

A total of 273 action and targets formed part of the Operational Plan for 2016-17 and were reported against the quadruple bottom line (QBL). The table and graph below provides a summary on the performance of each QBL theme:

Theme	Completed	On Target	Behind Schedule	Deferred	Closed	Total
Community	68	1	1	0	7	77
Environment	18	0	0	0	8	26
Economy	10	0	1	0	7	18
Governance and Leadership	132	4	3	2	11	152
Total	228	5	5	2	3	273





Love Lanes

A Festival highlighting the hidden gems of Wyong has renewed pride in the area.

More than 4,500 people braved the heat to check out the inaugural Gallery Precinct 2259 Love Lanes Festival – a unique event coordinated by Central Coast Council in partnership with local businesses and community organisations.

Central Coast Council

Community



Community

This theme relates to community wellbeing, social connection, feeling included and valued, and having a sense of community and cultural vitality. This theme responds to the many aspects of living in and being part of our community with a focus on public safety, local history, culture and diversity, access and participation, and health and wellbeing.

Highlights

Bato Yard

Bato Yard, the biggest skate park on the Coast, was officially opened this year, providing a top facility for skateboarding, BMX and scooter riding, and roller blading and skating.

The Yard has been built to competition standard and includes a competitive street area and two competitive bowls, with a smaller bowl aimed at learner and intermediate riders. The premier facility also delivered three major competitions, drawing in many national and international riders:

- YMCA's Skate Park Leagues competition was open to riders aged 12 – 25 years and included the four categories skate, scooter, BMX and wheelies (for amputees and people in wheelchairs) to compete in. The NSW regional competition saw the best riders on the Coast compete for the champion of the region and gain a spot in the national final.
- The Kings of Concrete competition saw more than 70 riders from the Coast, around Australia and overseas compete for \$5,000 in prize money and a wildcard entry into the Bondi Bowl-a-Rama, the peak world bowl competition that celebrates skateboarding and attracts international pro-riders
- The Kings of Street competition, hosted by Shredability, included the four categories open, ladies, under 16s and under 12s, with a \$5,000 prize pool. The competition was held over the afternoon and into the night, with the Yard able to cater for night-time riding.

The Art House Opening

The Art House was officially completed and opened this year, providing a premier arts venue for the Central Coast. The \$12.7 million facility has allowed the old Memorial Hall in Wyong to be transformed into a state of the art facility featuring a 500 seat theatre, 130 seat studio space, meeting rooms, exhibition space, and a café/bar.

Long Jetty Boat Ramp and Carpark Upgrade

In September 2016, a new boat ramp and carpark upgrade was completed at Saltwater Creek Reserve in Long Jetty. The \$1.1 million upgrade includes a new and improved boat ramp, a new car park with boat and trailer parking, and realignment of the shared pathway to improve safety.

The completed works complement the already popular Reserve, making it easier to launch your boat into Tuggerah Lakes, ensuring an all-round enjoyable experience with the regional play space, mini BMX track, barbecues and picnic facilities, and free Wi-Fi also available.

Swadling Reserve Upgrade

An impressive \$281,000 makeover was completed at Swadling Reserve in Toowoomb Bay this year, making the reserve more accessible for visitors.

The works included replacement of the six smaller shelters with eight larger ones, installation of barbecues, upgrade of the amenities building, restoration of the play space, additional parking with concrete paths for easier access to the shelters and a viewing platform overlooking the beach.



163
Summer Reading
Challenge participants



1,106
Library events held

The new upgrade provides for a more enjoyable experience, which is a popular place for summer barbecues, family gathering, weddings and small events.

Library Activities

Libraries play an important and positive role in bringing people together to connect and learn. Over the year a range of events, programs, and activities, catering to all different age groups, was provided.

3D Printing Workshops

As skills in the workforce become more technology based, Council libraries offered workshops on 3D printing, coding and gaming. The workshops provided participants with new and relevant skills that will be invaluable in the future workplace.

Summer Reading Challenge

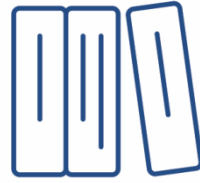
Over the summer school holidays, a Summer Reading Challenge was held with 163 young book lovers participating. The competition was open to children aged 5 – 16 years, and has been running nationally for five years, with 48,819 children taking part across Australia. This year's theme was Heroes and Villains.

Author Events

Throughout the year, there were visits from well-known and popular Authors:

- A local Author Expo was held at Erina Library, with 20 authors sharing their stories to attendees
- Melina Marchetta, Author of *Looking for Alibrandi* visited Kincumber Library to talk about her new book *Tell the Truth, Shame the Devil* to 109 people

- Children's author, Louise Park, visited three local primary schools to share her writing journey and creative writing tips
- Sarah Wilson, author of *I Quit Sugar*, visited Erina Library where 240 attendees heard how she did it
- Tim Macartney-Snape, mountaineer, explorer and author, visited Erina Library where 100 attendees heard about his adventures
- Kim Kelly, author of six novels exploring Australia and its history, shared her stories at Kincumber Library with 63 attendees
- Masterchef, Julie Goodwin tempted the Kincumber Library crowd of 110 with her new cookbook
- Local author and former high school teacher, Chris Monaghan, visited Bateau Bay Library to talk about his dynamically thrilling tales and his upcoming novel based on the life of a female pharaoh
- Andrew Patterson visited Tuggerah Library to share his debut novel *Harry's World* and his experience as a Detective Sergeant in the Police Force
- Ian Whybrow, author of the acclaimed children's book series *Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs*, visited Erina Library to share how he created Harry with 51 attendees
- NSW Australian of the Year, Deng Adut, told his refugee story to 275 attendees at Erina Library
- Graeme Innes, author and lawyer, who has been blind since birth, visited Kincumber Library where 90 attendees heard about his life and challenges
- Bestselling author, Peter Watt, spoke about his life and writings at Erina Library with 129 attendees
- Laura Bloom, author of *The Cleanskin*, joined 64 guests at Kincumber Library to tell stories of her writing



224 Short Story entries

Youth Portrait Competition

This exciting intergenerational competition was designed to connect our youth and seniors of the community through art.

Young people were invited to sit and interview a senior of their choice and create a portrait of them that helps tell their story. The incredible portraits were then put on display at Erina Library.

Borrowing Periods Align

The alignment of library services commenced with borrowing periods streamlined across the two former Councils.

Library members are now able to borrow a book, magazine or DVD for the same amount of time from any of the 13 branches across the Central Coast. The new borrowing periods were determined based on feedback from the community, and are:

- Magazines and popular titles (Fast Reads) – one week
- All other items – three weeks

Further planned improvements include an integrated management system that will allow members to check the catalogue, borrow, reserve and return items to any Central Coast branch. The system will also provide access to a greater range of resources and be able to use all library services using one card.

International Games Day

Libraries are not just a place to borrow books; they also connect people through events such as International Games Day.

Gosford and Lake Haven Library joined over a thousand libraries around the world, where participants could explore adventure games, secret decoding games, and the latest tabletop games through fun and entertaining activities.

The international event has been running for eight years and is supported by the Australian Library and Information Association, American Library Association and Nordic Game Day.

Short Story Competition

The Short Story Competition received 224 entries.

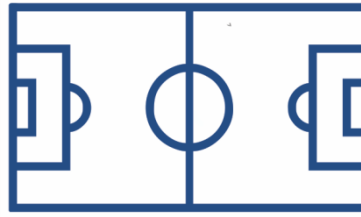
The competition is in its fifth year and aims to boost the profile of creative writing on the Coast while providing a platform for hopeful authors to be discovered and celebrated.

Stories (up to 1500 words) could be entered under one of the four categories; Junior (5-8 years), Primary (9-12 years) Young Adult (13-17 years) and Adult (18+ years). The winners in each category were:

- Junior – Chase McGarvey for Silent Voice
- Primary – Mackenzie Easson for Storms, Shadows and Sacrifices
- Young Adult – Holly Hunter for Candace
- Adult – Sarah Webber for The Crimson

Mann Street History Books

A three volume reference book detailing much of the previously unknown history of Mann Street's buildings, businesses and people is now available at Gosford Library.



73

Sporting Fields

After 16 years of research and with the help of Council grants, local historians Pamela Williams and John Lewis recently completed the first volumes of *Mann Street Gosford in the Age of Steam 1881–1960*.

The first three publications cover Paul's Corner to Georgiana Terrace and both sides of Mann Street between Erina Street and Faunce Street, detailing the when and where of Mann Street's buildings, who owned them, the people who lived there, and the businesses that were the lifeblood of the town in its formative years.

The two historians are already working on further volumes that will detail from Gosford Park through to Racecourse Road.

Love Lanes Festival

Laneways in Wyong came to life in February with the inaugural event, Love Lanes Festival. Three laneways were transformed into vibrant and exciting areas with interactive street performers, food stalls, kids and teenage zones, and live entertainment.

- Robley's Lane featured aerial circus performance *La Toosh Tunes*, a licensed bar area, and an outdoor cinema
- Alison Road offered tastings from Wyong's local favourites, delicious street food and retail stalls all under the twinkling lights of the piazza. The main stage included a great line up of bands as well as a dining area and chill out zone with bean bags and cushions for festival-goers to sit back and enjoy the show

- Bakers Lane had visitors mesmerised by the live art activation pieces, with the Musicians Making a Difference stage providing live entertainment all evening. The Whoosh Kids Zone had activities to keep the kids entertained including a jumping castle, face painting, balloon art, craft activities, and yard games, while the Teenagers Zone included a free rock climbing wall, skate ramp and games area.

The festival saw 4,500 people attend, showcasing the unique character of Wyong and providing a fun and exciting atmosphere for the community.

Sports Field Upgrades

Over the year a number of sport field upgrades were completed, making sure the community continue to enjoy the winter and summer sport seasons. The works include:

- Resurfacing of the synthetic cricket wickets and rejuvenation of the playing fields at McKillop Oval, Kariong Oval and Ettalong Oval.
- New drainage and irrigation for Gavenlock Oval, Rogers Park, Chittaway Oval, and Baker Park. The new sub-soil drainage which will allow playing surfaces to recover much quicker after periods of rain, significantly reducing ground closures and helping to maintain a quality playing surface for the entire season. These works were completed in partnership with Central Coast Football - who contributed \$140,000 to the projects.
- New multi-purpose courts at Tunkuwallin Oval. The new courts will be used by the Summerland Point and Gwandalan sporting clubs and caters for basketball, netball and handball, as well as an overflow carpark.



25
Harvest Festival
events held for over
250,000
people

Harvest Festival

Another inaugural festival kicked off this year, celebrating local produce on the Coast and the picturesque rural and mountain areas. The Harvest Festival was held over the June long weekend, with 25 events held across Calga, Somersby, Peats Ridge, Mangrove Mountain, Kulnura and Yarramalong.

Council worked with local farmers, businesses, social entrepreneurs and innovators to plan the program of events which included bush tucker walks, fruit tree and nut tree pickings, tastings from local farmers, mountain bike tours, farm tours, barn dance, cooking classes.

Over 10,000 people attended the two day festival with many locals and visitors embracing the opportunity to see another side of what the Central Coast has to offer.

San Remo BMX Track

The long-awaited BMX track at San Remo was officially opened, with some of Australia's best riders demonstrating their skills and testing the track.

The track has been reshaped to BMX Australian competition standards to enable hosting of major events and competitions.

The \$300,000 upgrade includes an eight lane competition style barrel gate, four straights coated in crushed granite, asphalt on the berms, as well as a downhill starting ramp, turf between tracks and around the facility, and additional car parking.

The on-site skate area was also upgraded with an increased plaza-style area and quarter pipe.

These works were completed in partnership with the San Remo Neighbourhood Centre to reactivate the area and make this a high quality facility.



24
Skate Parks

Pet Care

Bringing home a furry friend is a very rewarding and joyous occasion, but it also comes with great responsibility. To help pet owners with this responsibility, a free microchipping day was held during the year where residents could visit the Animal Care Facility in Charmhaven and have their pet microchipped and registered at no cost.

Microchipping is an important part of pet ownership, with over 45% of the dogs and cats that come into the Animal Care Facilities not microchipped, making it difficult to reunite them with their owners and then possibly needing to be rehomed.

Improvements to the Animal Care Facility in Charmhaven were also undertaken, with the roof in the main building replaced, security fencing and system upgraded, air conditioning installed, and retaining walls built. The \$85,000 upgrade provides a safer and more comfortable accommodation for the animals, as well as enhanced amenities for the staff that operate the facility.

Stronger Communities Fund

Ten major projects to improve community services, facilities and deliver new infrastructure received their share of \$9 million in funding through the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund.

Community members were asked to vote on what they wanted to see funded from thirty eligible projects, with Council endorsing the following ten projects:

- Disability Matters – improved accessibility to natural spaces across the Coast: \$800,000
- Access and inclusion upgrades to community facilities across the Coast: \$580,000
- San Remo BMX facility – new amenities: \$640,000



80

Seniors Festival
events held



73

Youth Programs
Delivered
31,800

- Peninsula Leisure Centre, Woy Woy – starting blocks and electronic timing system: \$135,000
- Foreshore stabilisation – Brisbane Water Foreshore, adjacent to Elfin Hill Road Reserve, Green Point: \$470,000
- Playground renovation/upgrade – Niagara Park Children’s Centre and Umina Child Care Centre: \$122,500
- Alan Davidson Oval, Wyoming – drainage and irrigation system installation: \$349,000
- Austin Butler Oval and Woy Woy Tennis Courts – shared amenities redevelopment: \$900,000
- Avoca Beach Foreshore protection works (Stage 1): \$2.8 million
- Terrigal CBD – traffic flow and pedestrian movement improvements: \$2.2 million

These projects are spread right across the Coast and will provide long-term social and economic benefits to the community.

NSW Seniors Festival

Central Coast senior citizens took part in a range of events and activities as part of the NSW Seniors Festival.

From stand-up paddle boarding to cupcake decorating, Council compiled a fun-filled calendar of events featuring more than 80 events. Highlights included the Grandma Moses Art Exhibition, Central Coast Seniors Short Film Session and an Alison Homestead Buffet Breakfast.

For 59 years, the NSW Seniors Festival has been the largest festival for seniors in the Southern Hemisphere. Previously known as NSW Seniors Week, the festival presents an ideal opportunity for seniors to celebrate their age and share their wisdom and experience.

Harmony Day

Harmony Day is a time to reflect on the importance of inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging. It encourages people to participate in their community and to respect different cultures and religions.

Harmony Day is a national celebration, with Council hosting the annual event at the Memorial Park in The Entrance.

The Harmonic Forest was lit up as the sun went down, with 12 large trees glowing in a variety of colours to reflect the cultural diversity of the Central Coast and symbolise cohesion, community and harmony. Visitors were given the chance to create lanterns such as birds, fruits and flowers to hang in the trees and light up the night.

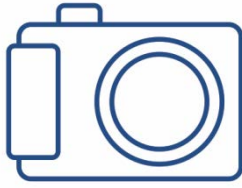
The event also featured live entertainment and a parade of cultures, led by the Chinese Lion.

National Youth Week

This year’s Youth Week was celebrated with a wide range of events, organised by young people for young people.

Highlights from the week include the Comedy for Cause Fundraiser, where comedians from the Sydney and Melbourne International Comedy Festival performed, raising money for Musicians Making a Difference youth programs, and the popular GOATS (Going Off At The Swamp) Festival was back with live bands, market stalls, show bags, cultural performances, art, animals and rides.

Youth across the Central Coast were able to share ideas, show off their talents, join in on the local events, and celebrate their contribution to the community.



675 Exposure Photo Competition entries

Exposure Photo Competition

In its fifth year, Council's annual photographic competition added a new award to the mix.

The competition is open to amateur and emerging photographers and with its huge popularity with young people the Emerging Young Talent award was introduced for photographers under 24 years of age.

A total of 675 entries were received from talented photographers from the Coast and around Australia, with David Magro from Gosford taking out first place for his show-stopping image Field of Stars. Other winners include:

- Second prize overall – Rosie Wood (Berkeley Vale)
- Third prize overall – Ainsley Martlew (Ettalong)
- Emerging young talent – Faith Cass (Umina Beach)
- Highly Commended in Postcards of the Coast – Nicole Wells (Point Claire)
- Highly Commended in Through the generations – Ann Evans (Hamlyn Terrace)
- Highly Commended in The natural world – Matthew Bendt (Long Jetty)
- Highly Commended in A picture tells a thousand words – Raimee Carroll (Hamilton)

Autism Swim Program

Popular aquatic recreational facilities, Peninsula Leisure Centre (PLC) and Gosford Olympic Pool (GOP), now boast a number of highly-skilled instructors qualified to teach children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to swim.

Certified with national water safety and swimming specialists, Autism Swim, instructors at the PLC and GOP now have the tools and techniques to help children with ASD as young as two years of age, become confident and capable in the water.

In addition to enhancing personal safety, swimming offers many other benefits for young people with ASD and their families. These include:

- Fulfilment of sensory needs in a low stimulation environment
- Gross Motor output - an essential self-regulation tool for individuals with ASD
- Increased coordination, mobility and balance
- Cognitive benefits (including increased communication skills) through skill development
- Increased fitness, joint stability, muscle strength and tone
- Assistance in training body sensation, body awareness, joint position, spatial awareness and posture control
- Increased confidence through skill development and a positive social outlet.

Regional Arts and Health Seminar

Some of the Central Coast's most experienced planners, researchers and arts practitioners took part in a Regional Arts and Health Seminar this year, providing an opportunity to showcase best practice in the field of arts and health, while also establishing a strong network of professionals across the Central Coast.

The seminar included presentations from a range of professionals, each bringing a different perspective on the role that art can play in a various health settings.

Play Spaces

Central Coast families can now enjoy a number of upgrades to playgrounds and play spaces that were completed over the year, including major upgrades at The Entrance, Berkeley Vale and Narara Valley.

The play space upgrade at The Entrance includes a larger play area, multiple climbing stations, tunnels, a seated merry-go-round, an in-ground trampoline and the classic old favourite, hopscotch. It also has synthetic grass mounds and a rock climbing wall and slide, all surrounded by spongy soft fall. There's also plenty of seating for parents, who can watch their kids play against the picturesque backdrop of the Pacific Ocean.

The new look play space at Berkeley Park, off Bundilla Parade (near the traffic lights), had the deteriorating play equipment removed and replaced with natural elements, creating a space for children to play, climb and use their playful imaginations.

While over in Kurraba Parade, a district play space was built to complement the existing facilities and local services. The new play space includes junior and senior climbing units, swings, see-saw, spinning toys, a large shelter with seating, and a sports wall that can cater for basketball and soccer.

The new Narara Valley Precinct Park offers plenty of nature play opportunities and grassed areas, along with modern play equipment and sculptures to enjoy, with the \$306,000 park funded from the sale of the area's old community hall.

Other upgrades over the year include:

- Cheero Point Road, Cheero Point – play space upgrade
- Broadwater Park, Kincumber - new fitness equipment
- Ross Park, Avoca Beach - new fitness equipment
- Trafalgar Avenue, Woy Woy - play space upgrade
- Dean Avenue, Kanwal - play space upgrade
- Mulloway Road Reserve, Chain Valley Bay North - play space upgrade
- Tuesday Street Reserve, Tuggerawong - play space upgrade
- Gwandalan Lioness Park - play space upgrade.

Woy Woy Oval Mural

A new eye-catching mural depicting unity and our local sporting history can be seen at Woy Woy Oval.

Measuring 36 metres long and three metres high, the installation is made up of 24 colour printed steel panels that, when constructed, feature a pelican symbol surrounded by approximately 100 original photographs of the Peninsula's sport culture over the past 65 years.

More than 1,200 primary school children from Woy Woy Public School, Umina Beach Public School and St John the Baptist Catholic School united on Woy Woy Oval to create the pelican symbol. American artist Daniel Dancer sketched the pelican on the grass, outlining where the children had to pose, and photographed the image from a 25 metre high cherry picker. Local graphic designer, Katherine Close, was also commissioned to create the final artwork.

The pelican was chosen to symbolise unity as they fly, feed and converge in groups all over the Coast's foreshores, in the same way that our community unites in sporting arenas, like Woy Woy Oval, to watch or participate in a variety of sporting activities.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

A \$13 million upgrade to the Wyong South Waste Water Treatment Plant was completed this year, ensuring that Council is able to effectively and efficiently operate as the Central Coast population grows.

Upgrade works on the treatment plant include the emptying, maintenance and refitting of all mechanical and electrical components in the four aeration tanks, new decanters on two tanks, construction of a new electrical room, inlet structure and odour control system. The new system is up and running with residents already noticing the reduced odour.



566

Gosford Art and Ceramic Competition entries

Road Upgrades

Road and drainage upgrades were carried out across the Central Coast this year, with more than \$70 million delivered to improve road accessibility and safety. Some of these works include:

- Lakeside Parade, The Entrance – this \$1.4 million upgrade includes road pavement renewal and drainage improvements. The upgrade complements a number of recent street upgrades by Council in the immediate area including Ashton Ave, Campbell Ave, part of Oakland Ave, the southern end of Lakeside Parade and part of View Street
- Audie Parade, Berkeley Vale – the completion of the \$2.2 million project will help alleviate flooding and has improved road pavement and accessibility of residents
- Old Gosford Road, Wamberal – completion of more than \$652,000 worth of progressive construction works, including kerb and gutter, footpath and drainage improvements
- Goorama Avenue, San Remo – completion of the fifth and final stage of a \$1.5 million upgrade to road pavement and intersections, as well as stormwater drainage
- Murray Street, Booker Bay – completion of a \$1.2 million road and drainage upgrade between Eastern Road and Flathead Road
- Tumby Road, Tumby Umbi – \$559,000 upgrade of Tumby Road, between Bellevue Road and Woodbury Lane, with works involving pavement strengthening, sealing and asphaltting to provide a smoother and longer-lasting road surface.
- Kanangra Drive, Gwandalan – completion of a \$3.5 million upgrade including road widening, provision of two police enforcement bays, road resurfacing, and installation of road safety barriers.

Council will continue to improve the Coast's road and drainage networks in 2017-18 with a \$71 million set to be delivered for roads, transport and drainage projects.

Gosford Art and Gosford Ceramic Competition

The annual competition, offered artists the opportunity to showcase their talents in a competition recognised across Australia.

The popular competition is in its 17th year and has grown considerably in reputation and prestige. Today it enjoys widespread recognition as a significant national art prize, with artists competing for a prize pool of \$24,000. This year over 566 entries were received from over 420 artists, with over 70% of those artists from the Central Coast. The winners for this year were:

- Winner of the Gosford Art Prize: Bronwyn Van De Graaff – Cactus
- Second Place: Geoff Harvey – North Lismore View from my House
- Highly Commended: Rew Hanks – The Captain and his Bunnies
- Highly Commended: Mark Middleton – Manganvi Trail
- Winner of the Gosford Ceramic Prize: Clodagh Blackburn – Space Rocks

Future Council High School Forum

The Future Council annual forum was held for local high school students to develop an understanding of how Local Government works, and gain insight into the skills and knowledge required to make decisions that affect those in their local community.

The forum allows students to role play a mock Council meeting in the Council Chambers. Students play the parts of Councillors or community stakeholders and debate local issues, voting on these issues from a community perspective, looking at their importance and relevance to the community, and explore environmental, social, and economic issues in a format that is engaging and colourful.



175,000
Visits to Gosford Gallery

This year students debated and discussed community gardens, light rail between Gosford and The Entrance, plastic bag ban, shark culling introduction, coastal erosion, rezoning of endangered ecological communities, illegal dumping of mulch, changes to residential waste services, and the development application for Coast Chill Music Festival.

Wyong Alive – The Story so Far

This year the Wyong Alive – The Story so Far book was released, recognising the community members who shared their stories as part of a year-long campaign that highlighted the vast array of activities, places, traditions and personalities that make up the community.

The Wyong Alive campaign was run over the 2015-16 year, and each month brought to life the stories of everyday people doing what they love best, all shared through the Wyong Alive website and various mainstream and social media channels.

The book collates all these stories and showcases the vibrant and diverse characters and places within the community.

Shared Pathway Links

Central Coast residents were encouraged to get on their bikes, with the completion of shared pathways in Magenta and on The Peninsula.

The first stage of the Magenta shared pathway was completed, providing 1.5 kilometres of pedestrian and cycle path from Evans Road in Noraville to the Red Gum Forest car park on Wilfred Barrett Drive. The project will continue in 2017-18 and once completed will stretch for 5.5 kilometres from Noraville to The Entrance North and ultimately connect 32 kilometres of linked pathways from Tuggerah Station to Blue Haven.

Three new sections of pathway were completed on The Peninsula adding 0.5 kilometres to the existing network. The new pathway is located along parts of Memorial Avenue, Barrenjoey Road and Uligandi Street in Ettalong and Blackwall. This adds almost 160 kilometres of pathways across the Central Coast.

Gosford Gallery

Gosford Gallery hosted two national exhibitions this year, *Behind the Lines* and *Bare*, showcasing political humour and portraits of Australia's most recognisable faces in their undress.

Behind the Lines presented the humour of this year's best political cartoons, and celebrates the role of political cartooning in Australia, highlighting the power that drawings have in contributing to our daily political and social discourse. Eighty three works were exhibited from 33 cartoonists, including Cathy Wilcox, Alan Moir, Chris Taylor and David Rowe.

Bare included elements of nakedness with portraits of personalities including Germaine Greer, Ian Thorpe and Billy Slater. The exhibition included 59 portraits, with visitors seeing the subjects in a completely new way.



Lakes Festival

The Festival sees competitors take part in three massive sporting events – Colour Ya World, TriWyong and the Saltwater Festival (Stand Up Paddle Boarding). There is something for everyone in the nine day program designed to entertain, delight and educate the community about one of the Coast's greatest natural assets.

Central Coast Council

Environment



Environment

This theme relates to valuing and appreciating the natural environment, and ensuring environmental protection and the sustainable use of resources. This theme responds to the many aspects of caring for our natural environment, with a focus on biodiversity, access to natural areas, responsible resource use, minimising pollution, and promoting the benefits of the natural environment.

Highlights

Long Jetty Foreshore Works

As part of the Federal Government's National Landcare Programme, Long Jetty foreshore works were carried out this year, improving the water quality and foreshore accessibility for residents and visitors.

The works included filling in and grassing a marshy section of foreshore, sand nourishment and construction of a sandstone rock wall, planting Swale to filter the stormwater and construction of a Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT). Wooden chairs and picnic benches were also installed to complement the works, providing an area where the community can get together and enjoy the local environment.

World Wetlands Day

To mark World Wetlands Day, Council reminded residents on what they can do to help conserve and care for the lakes.

World Wetlands Day is an international celebration to increase public awareness of the vital functions wetlands play in the environment and to promote conservation and the wise use of wetlands.

Tuggerah Lakes, a 1,620 ha catchment, needs constant care. The wetlands around the lake include Porters Creek Wetland, Tuggerah Swamp, Toukley Wetland, and Tumbi Creek Wetland, and act as a filter and purify the water before entering the lakes, removing contaminants such as phosphorus and nitrogen.

However everyone has a part to play and the little things we do today can make a big difference in the future, such as washing the car on the lawn or use a professional car wash, picking up pet droppings and dispose of them in the red bin and composting grass clippings.

For more information on how to volunteer and help conserve our lakes go to:

www.loveourlivinglakes.com.au or
www.wyong.nsw.gov.au/environment/landcare.

Killarney Vale Wildlife Protection

Educational signs were installed on Killarney Vale foreshore, providing information about the birds and other wildlife that inhabit the area.

Landcare volunteers carried out rehabilitation works on the foreshore and installed the signage to educate the community about the wildlife within the area and provide useful tips on what the community can do to help preserve the sensitive ecosystem.

A 200m boardwalk was also constructed over the foreshore providing added protection for the birds, worms, molluscs and aquatic insects that are there.

The Lakes Festival

The Lakes Festival included a massive 10 days of events and activities, celebrating and embracing the Coast's greatest natural asset.



30
Lakes Festival
events with
45,000
participants

Over 30 events and activities were carried out, with the opening weekend alone including sporting events Colour Ya World, TriWyong, and Saltwater Festival (Stand Up Paddle Boarding); Light up the Lake free concert and fireworks at The Entrance with headline act Thirsty Merc; Brunch by the Lake with free breakfast, activities and entertainment at The Entrance Memorial Park.

The Festival entertained, delighted, and educated the community, with highlights including:

- Kayak tours of Ourimbah Creek – where the community discovered why healthy streambanks are vital for the health of our estuaries
- Outdoor Cinema – families headed down to Colongra Bay Reserve to laugh the night away watching Karate Kid 2.
- Band on a Floating Device – hosted by Star 104.5 on Mackenzie Reserve in Budgewoi, the night included local bands playing live music on a barge
- Splash N Dash – a day of fun water activities on Canton Beach foreshore
- Long Jetty Sunset Cinema – the screening of cult Studio Ghibli anime classic *Ponyo*, with live music, face painting, and food stalls
- Lighthouse Folk Festival – a music festival featuring some of Australia’s best musicians such as Paul Kelly and Charlie Owen
- Long Jetty Street Festival – a street festival celebrating all things music, art, food and culture
- Pedal to Paddle – a leisurely bike ride along the southern shore of Tuggerah Lake with an ecology expert teaching about the estuary, followed by a paddle kayak across The Entrance Channel to Terilbah Island.

The Lakes Festival was also winner of the RH Dougherty Award for Innovation in Special Events.



210
Garage Sale Trail sites

Coastal Zone Management Plan

Council’s plan for managing the impact of storms and erosion along the southern and northern coastlines achieved positive outcomes with the Gosford Beaches Coastal Zone Management Plan gazetted and the Wyong Coastal Zone Management Plan reviewed and publicly exhibited this year.

The Gosford Beaches Coastal Zone Management Plan has been formally certified by the State Government and clearly outlines the responsibilities of land owners and government to ensure the long-term amenity of public beaches and the protection of private properties.

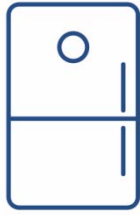
The Wyong Coastal Zone Management Plan was also reviewed and publicly exhibited this year, with consideration of feedback underway. Once adopted by Council, the plan will be submitted to the Minister of Environment for certification, providing improved information about coastal hazards.

The gazettal of these plans will mean that Council can apply for State Government funding to help manage coastal hazards and other issues effectively.

The development of these plans is a result of Council, the community, land owners and State Government working together to ensure the Coast’s unique and beautiful coastline is protected and enjoyed for generations to come.

Waste Initiatives

Over the year a number of waste initiatives were held, helping residents to recycle and reduce the amount of waste ending up at landfills.



5,091
Fridges collected
in Buyback Program



32
Green Living Workshops

Second Hand Saturday

Second Hand Saturday encourages residents on the Central Coast to hold a garage sale to sell, swap or give away their pre-loved goods.

Residents registered their garage sales with free promotion and advertisement on Council's website of those households participating, providing a great opportunity to reuse and recycle goods, whilst also getting out and about and meet the neighbours.

Garage Sale Trail

Garage Sale Trail, another reuse and recycle initiative, was also carried out this year.

Garage Sale Trail is an Australia Wide event where thousands of garage sales happen on the one day and residents can buy, sell, haggle, barter, recycle and reuse unwanted treasures.

Council welcomed community groups, charities, sellers, buyers and creators to register for the Central Coast region, and encouraged residents to hit the streets in search of a treasure, stopping thousands of unwanted goods and items ending up in Central Coast landfills.

Fridge Buyback

The Fridge Buyback initiative allows residents to have their unwanted or old working fridge or freezer collected and receive a \$25 rebate for it. The collected whitegoods are then degassed and the metal recycled.

Run under the State Government's Energy Saving Scheme, the initiative is an easy way for residents to have their unwanted fridges or freezers collected and disposed of in an approved and environmentally friendly way.

For more information and to book a collection, visit www.fridgebuyback.com.au

Waste Wise Workshops

Waste Wise Workshops provide practical and hands-on advice to help the whole family reduce, reuse and recycle food waste.

Workshops on composting and worm farming were held with participants taking home a free worm farm or compost bin so they could get started straight away.

Green Living Workshops

As part of National Recycling Week, Green Living Workshops and waste facility tours were held educating the community on ways to minimise waste at home, work or school.

The Green Living Workshops included learning on how to make a kitchen garden without spending a cent, discovering water wise ways to grow plants, setting up backyard chickens, finding out how to compost and set up a worm farm, learning how to love your leftovers, and saving money by op-shopping.

Waste facility tours of Woy Woy Landfill and Buttonderry Waste Management Facility included learning about the recycling process.

Primary School Environment Award Program

The Primary School Environment Award Program encourages students to consider stormwater issues in and around their school.

This year's theme, *the drain is just for the rain*, got students thinking about the impact waste has in their local environment as well as the bigger picture of marine debris and how all drains lead to the ocean.



802 Landcare Volunteers

Students also took part in hands-on activities including waste audits, litter removal, education campaigns and beach clean-ups.

This year's winning schools include:

- Chertsey Primary School
- Holgate Public School
- Mannering Park Public School
- Warnervale Public School

National Landcare Week

As part of National Landcare Week Council hosted a number of events celebrating the amazing work Landcare, Bushcare, Coastcare, Dunecare, Tidy Towns and Friends of Cemeteries volunteers do in the community to restore and improve the local environment.

Floating Landcare and Bushcare's Major Day Out events were held visiting various sites and offering participants a taste of what Landcare and Bushcare is all about.

Bluetooth Technology Water Monitoring

New water monitoring technology was implemented this year providing a much safer and cost-effective way to monitor the water quality in Wyong River.

Automatic data loggers with Bluetooth technology are now used to test and record the water quality every hour, with Council officers downloading the data once a week.

The previous data loggers required Council officers to access the information manually which meant getting in a boat to physically plug into the equipment and collect the information.

The new technology means that problems can be identified, investigated and corrected more quickly, ensuring a better outcome for the environment.

Tuggerah Lakes Report Card

An annual Report Card rating the health of the Tuggerah Lakes Estuary saw improvement this year, moving from grade C to grade B.

The Report Card rates the ecological health of the estuary, grading from A to E, with A being excellent and E being very poor. This year's Report Card shows Lake Munmorah, Tuggerah Lake North and Tuggerah Lake Central have all gone up a grade, from grade C to grade B.

This is a great achievement and is a result of working together with Landcare volunteers and the community to remediate black ooze hotspots throughout the estuary, improve foreshore areas and reduce and collect pollutants from entering the lake.



Development Approvals

A milestone number of development applications have been approved since Council's amalgamation with over 3,500 applications approved this year, an overall investment of over \$1.2 billion to the local economy.

Economy



Economy

This theme relates to economic vitality and local employment with a focus on revitalising city and commercial centres, developing skills and knowledge, links between home and work, services and facilities. This theme responds to the many aspects of what makes a diverse and robust economy.

Highlights

Tuggerah Regional Sport Complex

Construction of stage one of the Tuggerah Regional Sport and Recreation Complex commenced this year, with the contract awarded to Norths Construction.

Once completed, the \$24 million sporting complex will include a premier ground with nine playing fields, cricket pitches, public amenities, canteen facilities, store rooms and parking.

The regional facility will position Central Coast as a destination of choice for major sporting events, with economic benefits that will flow onto the community through tourism and local jobs.

This project was made possible with \$10 million in funding provided through the Federal Government's National Stronger Regions Fund.

Stage one is anticipated to take 12 to 18 months to complete, with the final stage dependent on funding to include construction of an indoor sporting centre incorporating six basketball courts, amenities, sporting officers, a kiosk and a 3,000 seat grandstand.

Tourism Central Coast

This year Council announced the successful appointment of Affinity as the new organisation to deliver tourism and marketing, and industry services to the Central Coast.

Tourism is a significant industry on the Central Coast employing over 12,500 people and generating over \$900 million a year for the regional economy.

Affinity has secured a two year contract with an immediate focus on a membership participation program and securing partners for a new marketing campaign that will assist local tourism operators and other businesses to bring more visitors to the Coast.

This is the Life

A new and exciting marketing campaign, *This is the Life*, was launched during the year to promote the Central Coast and help positively change perceptions of the region.

The campaign was launched after research showed that outside the area there is a view the Coast is a bit of a sleepy hollow with not much to offer except beaches.

The Central Coast has changed a lot over the past 20 years and is a more vibrant place with cafes, restaurants, festivals and a growing cultural scene, but perceptions have not kept up with reality.

By sharing stories about the people and places that make the Central Coast so great, it will help to change the way people think about the region and deliver new social and economic outcomes.

The campaign resulted in:

- 83 local businesses signed on to the Partner Program to support the campaign
- Over 112,800 Unique Web visits in the nine months of the campaign.
- Over 9,000 followers on social media

Follow the campaign on Instagram [@thisisthecentralcoast](#), use the hashtag #thisisthelife and share what you love about the Coast. Read the remarkable stories at www.thisisthecentralcoast.com.au.



3,598

Development Applications

Development Application Milestone

This year also saw a milestone in the number of development applications approved since Council's amalgamation, with over 3,598 applications approved this year.

A combination of increased investment and decreased assessment times has resulted in an overall investment of over \$1.2 billion to the local economy.

The developments will provide new housing options and greater business and commercial opportunities to the Coast, helping to meet future population demands.

Back to Business Week

Back to Business Week is a NSW Department of Industry initiative celebrating small to medium businesses and the critical role they play in local communities.

During this year's Back to Business Week Council held two workshops to help Central Coast business to leverage the world of social media and harness innovation for business benefit.

The *Leveraging Social Media and Innovation? Just do it!* workshops were presented by creativity and innovation expert Christina Gerakiteys, who presented on how businesses can use social media to attract new and existing customers and how to incorporate innovation and improvement into a business without spending big.



105%

Smart Work Hub
utilisation increase

Smart Work Hub

The Gosford Smart Work Hub is located in the heart of the Gosford Central Business District.

The Hub offers access to state of the art technology designed primarily to offer commuters, home based businesses and start up enterprises a collaborative, supportive and innovative co-working space.

Members of the Hub are provided access to a range of enterprise development tools to support the establishment and expansion of their enterprise.

The Hub also offers a range of meeting spaces accommodating everything from board meetings, small meetings with individual clients, video conferences or events for up to 60 people.

Social Enterprise

Launchpad is a key project within Council's Community Enterprise program designed to increase micro business development opportunities across the Central Coast.

Over the last year this program has supported the development and exploration of 24 project concepts spanning aquaculture, waste issues, pathways to employment, innovative tech disruptors, and inspiring approaches to support homelessness and long-term unemployed community members.



Our Staff

Central Coast Council is now one of the largest in Australia, servicing over 335,000 residents. There are over 2,300 employees working at Council with 80% of those living in the Central Coast region.

Central Coast Council

Governance and Leadership



Governance and Leadership

This theme relates to good governance and leadership, regulatory responsibility and accountability, and ensuring our infrastructure is well managed and maintained. This theme responds to our need to ensure that the day-to-day decision making and delivery of services are undertaken with the best interest of the community, both now and in the future.

Highlights

Live Council Meeting Webcasting

For the first time, Central Coast Council meetings were broadcast live via Council's YouTube channel.

Utilising new technology including the installation of fixed cameras in both the Gosford and Wyong Chambers, all residents now have the opportunity to witness what is discussed and decided at council meetings.

This widespread access helps to demystify council processes and offers a transparent, accountable record of proceedings throughout the broader community.

To view a meeting follow the link on Council's website – www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au to Council's YouTube channel.

Capital Works Schedule Online

Council launched an information tool to help residents keep up to date with capital works road projects happening in their area.

The interactive map has a unique pin of each road and drainage project to be carried out within the financial year, outlining its location, description and timeline for the commencement and completion of the project.

Future work will be done to expand the map to include all capital works projects, keeping the community informed and up to date of works in their neighbourhood.

Customer Experience Framework

Council developed a new Customer Experience Framework with the key promises of:

- Simple and easy to interact with us
- The experience is consistent for you
- We'll ask you how we went and what we need to change

Our focus this year was to reinforce customer service expectations and get the basics right to improve the customers' experience.

Every single member of our staff is accountable for good customer service and for ensuring that each customer's experience with Council is a positive one, it is a core element of every staff member's role.

Our brand is our promise to our customers and we will strive to achieve this through being consistent, making it simple and easier and improve how we listen and respond to our customers.

Our Customer Experience Strategy is not an overnight solution; it is the organisation's commitment to continuous improvement in the delivery of a customer service experience that is a very important aspect of our business.



3,300
Residents engaged at
Leadership Pop ups

Leadership Pop Ups

Council leaders and staff were on hand to answer residents' questions, ideas and concerns at a series of pop up engagement stalls held throughout the year.

The pop up program was held at various locations across the Coast and was launched following Council's amalgamation as an opportunity to meet with the community and hear what is important to them.

The feedback received from residents has helped Council to understand areas of focus and prioritise projects.

Community Profile Online Tool

The community profile online tool was upgraded this year to include Central Coast data following Council's amalgamation.

The Central Coast Community Profile is an online tool providing demographic information on population growth, household composition, employment status, industry ranking, and much more.

The user-friendly database is used by Council staff and the community to make evidence based decisions about future planning, service and program development and delivery.

The tool has now been updated to include Central Coast Local Government Area (LGA) information, as well as the former Gosford and Wyong Councils LGA information, the five ward areas and 47 other socio-demographic areas.

Community Engagement Framework

As part of Council's commitment to strengthening the way it relates to its community, a new Engagement Framework was adopted this year.

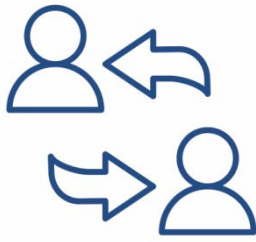
The framework features a diverse range of avenues for the community to have their say on important local issues and move toward a place-based engagement model. It seeks to make families and communities more engaged and connected by fostering a greater sense of neighbourhood.

The framework recognises the community as a valued partner in Council's decision-making processes across planning, major projects and service delivery. A key example of the framework in action is the Leadership Pop-ups that were launched this year.

Social Pinpoint

To engage the online community and encourage participation on location based projects, Council set up an interactive mapping tool.

This provides the community with an opportunity to 'drop pins' on different locations across the Central Coast and add comments for specific projects.



6,200

People engaged on
Community Strategic Plan



20

Community members form
Community Reference Group

Community Strategic Plan

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is a 10 year plan that details the community's vision for the area and identifies social, economic, environmental, and governmental priorities and long term strategies.

Community engagement for the first Central Coast Community Strategic Plan commenced this year with Council inviting the community to have their say on what they love about the Central Coast, what improvements could be made and their ideas to make the area an even better place to live, work and play.

The Central Coast CSP will be the community's voice in what they envision the Coast to be in the future and is what Council's, other levels of government, and other organisations will use to plan and make decisions to achieve that vision.

The first phase of engagement was carried out in 2017 and included a number of activities to ensure all parts of the Coast were reached and people from all walks of life were able to provide input. These activities include pop-up stalls at shopping centres, weekend market events, community events, train stations, schools and libraries, as well as engaging with people online through an interactive map and online survey.

The second phase of engagement is due to commence in late 2017, with the information received during the first phase currently being collated and analysed. The results from the first phase will be used to guide the second phase with more in-depth engagement.

The draft Central Coast CSP will go on public exhibition in April 2018 and will go to Council for adoption in June 2018.

To help shape the future of the Central Coast, jump online and have your say at www.yourvoiceourcoast.com

Community Reference Group

To guide and ensure the Central Coast Community Strategic Plan reflects the needs of the entire community, a Community Reference Group was formed this year. Council went through an extensive Expression of Interest process for community members who have a good understanding of the Coast, are interested in making it better, have an interest in social, economic and/or environmental issues, and have demonstrated links to active community groups. Having members on this Group who are representative of the community is critical to the successful development and delivery of the Central Coast CSP.

The Community Reference Group will meet monthly from August 2017 until April 2018, and will help ensure the information collected from the community engagement activities is accurately interpreted and a CSP that delivers the right outcomes for the community is developed.

Your Voice Our Coast - www.yourvoiceourcoast.com

Your Voice Our Coast is Council's online engagement platform designed to engage with the community on a variety of projects from public exhibitions to surveys and forums across a range of topics.

Top 3 projects:

- Stronger Communities Fund
- Help shape the future of the Central Coast (Community Strategic Plan)
- Engage me – Strengthening our Community Relationships (engagement survey)