

Central Coast Council

Annual Report

2017-18



Central
Coast
Council

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Bouddi Coastal Walk

The eight kilometre Bouddi coastal walk runs from Putty Beach to MacMasters Beach. Boasting beaches, boardwalks and birdlife, it's known as one of the most beautiful central coast walks.

Central Coast Council

Part 1: Introduction





Message from the Mayor

Jane Smith

Message from the Mayor

I am pleased to be able to present the first Annual Report that covers the end of the Administration period of Council and the new era of the first elected Central Coast Council.

It is a privilege to represent the Central Coast community and guide our region of over 335,000 people and growing. We have a significant budget that we have to spend prioritising in the areas the community want us to and we have delivered. This year we have spent \$541 million in essential services and \$207.9 million in capital works projects with our top spending areas of roads, transport and drainage, water and sewer, open space and recreation, waste management and coastal management.

This prioritising of spending ensures we can create a 'smart, green and liveable region with a shared sense of belonging and responsibility.' That is the vision of the first ever Community Strategic Plan (CSP) we have adopted which establishes a clear roadmap for where the Coast will go in the next ten years. It is a culmination of 18 months of extensive consultation with more than 36,000 ideas and opinions received during its development. Our focus will be to enhance the unique relaxed and natural lifestyle on the Coast as well as grow jobs, tourism and economic development.

We have managed this by delivering major community events with record attendance by visitors and locals – including Chromefest, King of Concrete Championship, The Lakes Festival and the Harvest Festival. We also had the unique privilege of hosting the Queen's Baton Relay on the Coast for the first time. The Central Coast is now a destination of choice for many thanks to our new tourism website and campaign being activated across NSW and Australia.

Enhancement of our natural areas is a key priority and has advanced this year with a new Tuggerah Lakes boardwalk, more funding for Clean4Shore and a facelift for Copacabana, Umina and Soldiers Beaches. We delivered reusable coffee cups to local businesses which were taken up in record numbers reducing waste to landfill as well as other new key e-waste recycling initiatives.

This year we delivered 68 projects to the value of \$25 million to promote healthy living and create a liveable region by providing quality sport, leisure, recreation, aquatic facilities and open space areas that are well maintained and activated. Some highlights include the \$1.48 million Koolewong Boat Ramp and Foreshore Upgrade, Banjo's Skate Park at Terrigal with \$500,000 funding from the Federal Government, started stage 1 construction of the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex in Tuggerah and completed a \$200,000 redevelopment of Mitchell Park at Narara including a half basketball court and all age play spaces..

Roads are key to connecting communities and this year we invested \$78 million directly into our 2,000 kilometre road network across the Coast. Key projects delivered include Harbour Street Bateau Bay, Tumbi Creek Road Berkeley Vale, Chain Valley Bay Road, Wattle Tree Road in Holgate, Everglades Main Drain in Umina Beach and The Ridgeway at Lisarow.

We are committed to consulting with our community on issues that matter to them and to deliver openness and transparency in decision-making. We have set up Advisory Committees to maximise community participation in important decisions and continue to live stream Council meetings. We are leading the way in proactive release of information to the community. We get out and talk to our community at pop-up stalls and information sessions and actively encourage feedback.

More funding is coming to our region than ever before through strong partnerships and collaboration with our State and Federal Government. This means we can deliver even more services and infrastructure that our growing community need.

I thank our dedicated staff ably led during this time by Acting CEOs Rob Noble, Brian Bell and Brian Glendenning as well as my fellow Councillors for their commitment to creating a vibrant and sustainable Central Coast. I also welcome our new CEO Gary Murphy.

Jane Smith
Mayor



Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Gary Murphy

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

This Annual Report is the opportunity to inform the community about how Central Coast Council is delivering on the vision to create a vibrant and sustainable Central Coast.

As the incoming Chief Executive Officer, I can see that Council's achievements for the financial year ending 2017-18 demonstrate a forward focus in its positioning as a new regional and significant local government organisation in New South Wales.

The financial result of an operating surplus follows the integration of the two former Councils' finances. This is a testament to the work of Council staff to create a sustainable and resilient organisation for the future of the coast community.

Essential service delivery together with a program of improvement, continued alongside the ongoing transition to single processes, technology systems and procedures for the organisation. Council staff remained focussed on bringing innovation into what they do and how they do it for the community, with an awareness of the opportunity that a new regional Council has to make effective changes that will benefit the community.

The largest community engagement exercise of 2017-18 saw the generation of over 36,000 ideas and opinions contribute to the Central Coast's first ever Community Strategic Plan. This plan will now drive everything we do and we will report progress back to the community in our next Annual Report.

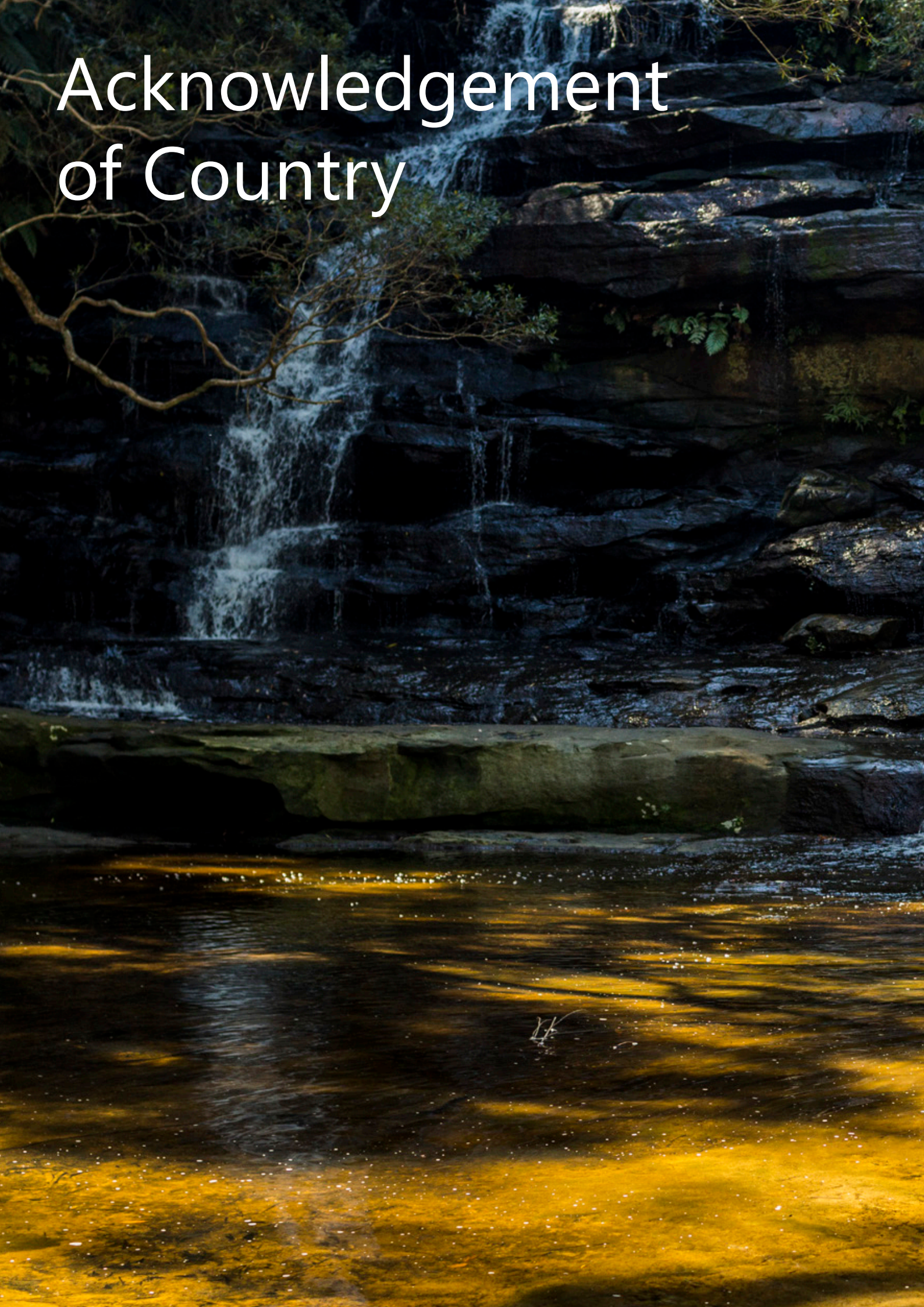
From this consultation it is clear our community highly values the services Council provides through our extensive assets portfolio – our roads, bridges, community buildings, recreational facilities and natural asset management. Protection and enhancement of the coast's natural environment is very important to our community as it is one of the reasons why people love to live on the Coast and also why they want to visit here too.

Getting the balance right will be one of Central Coast Council's challenges as it plans for the future growth on the coast.

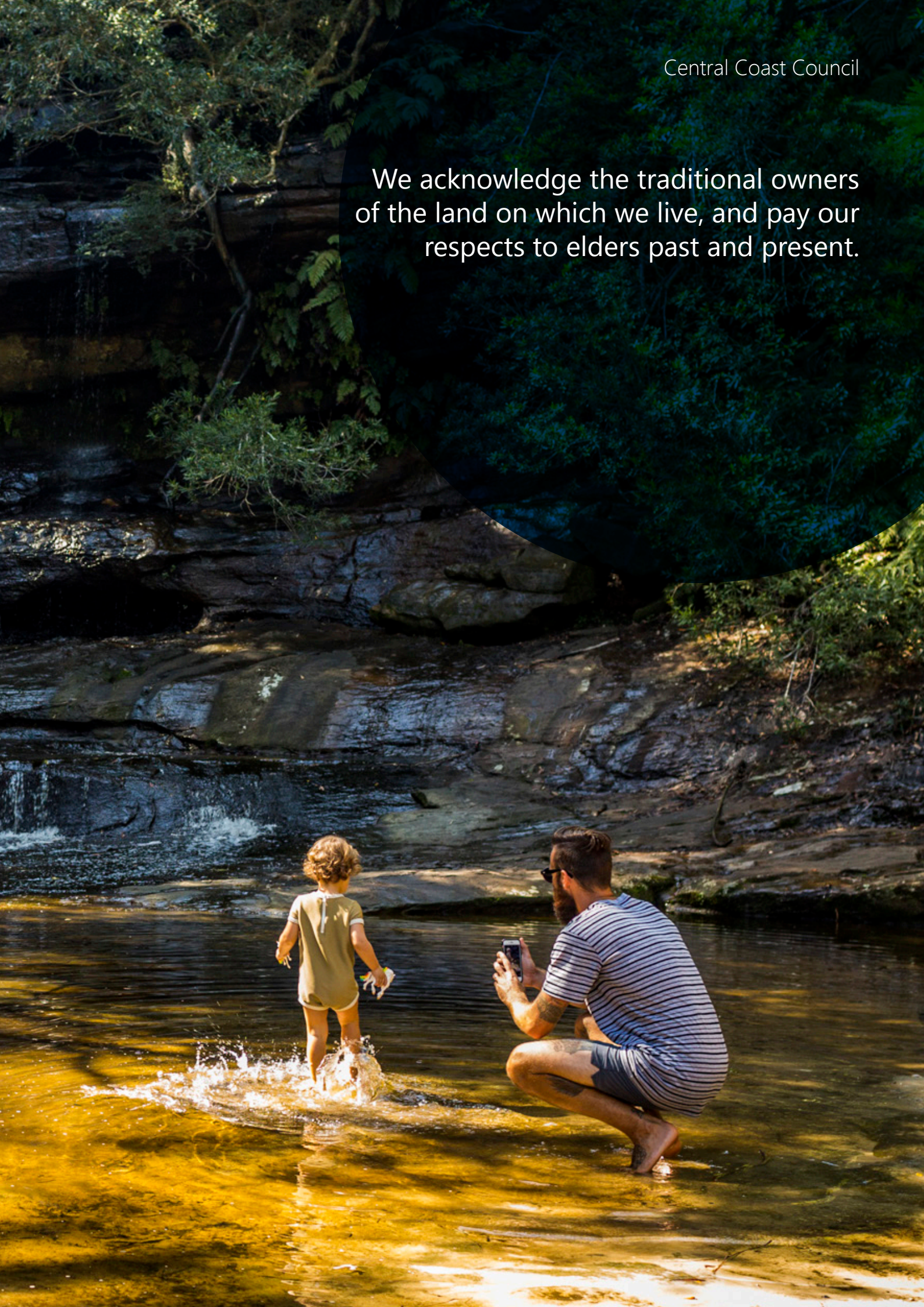
Gary Murphy
Chief Executive Officer

Appointed 2 July 2018

Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge the traditional owners
of the land on which we live, and pay our
respects to elders past and present.



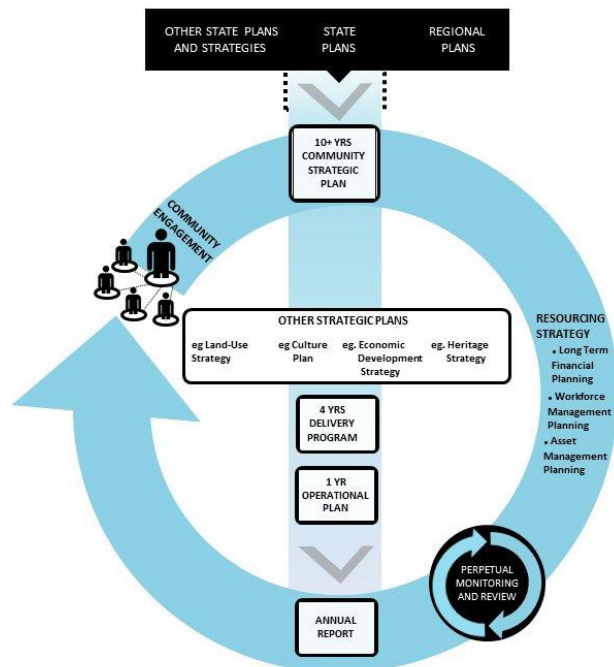
About this Report

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework promotes integration with community based objectives, informed by state-level plans and cascading down through to Council for implementation.

IP&R necessitates a 'whole-of-council' approach to long, medium and short term planning and is comprised of the following key elements:

- Community Strategic Plan
- Resourcing Strategy
- Delivery Program
- Operational Plan
- Quarterly Progress Reports
- Annual Report
- End of Term Report.



Purpose of this Report

The Annual Report is the key method for Council to maintain accountability and transparency with the community and is prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government Regulation 2005*.

This Annual Report provides a comprehensive account of Central Coast Council's performance from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and details the progress made against the 2017-18 Operational Plan.

The audited financial statements for the 2017-18 reporting period are required to be included in this Annual Report. Council has sought and been granted an extension by the NSW Office of Local Government to 30 November 2018. As this Annual Report will be adopted in line with the legislated date of 30 November 2018, the audited financial statements for 2017-18 will subsequently form an addendum to this Report once they are adopted by Council.

It should be noted that all financial information, disclosed in this Annual Report are drawn from draft, unaudited results. Readers should therefore be mindful that the financial information contained within this Report is subject to review and adjustment as part of the audit process.

Report Structure

The Annual Report includes information on the region, the organisation and Councillors, as well as specific information required under legislation including the audited financial statements.

Council's performance against the 2017-18 Operational Plan is structured around the quadruple bottom line of Community, Environment, Economy, and Governance and Leadership.

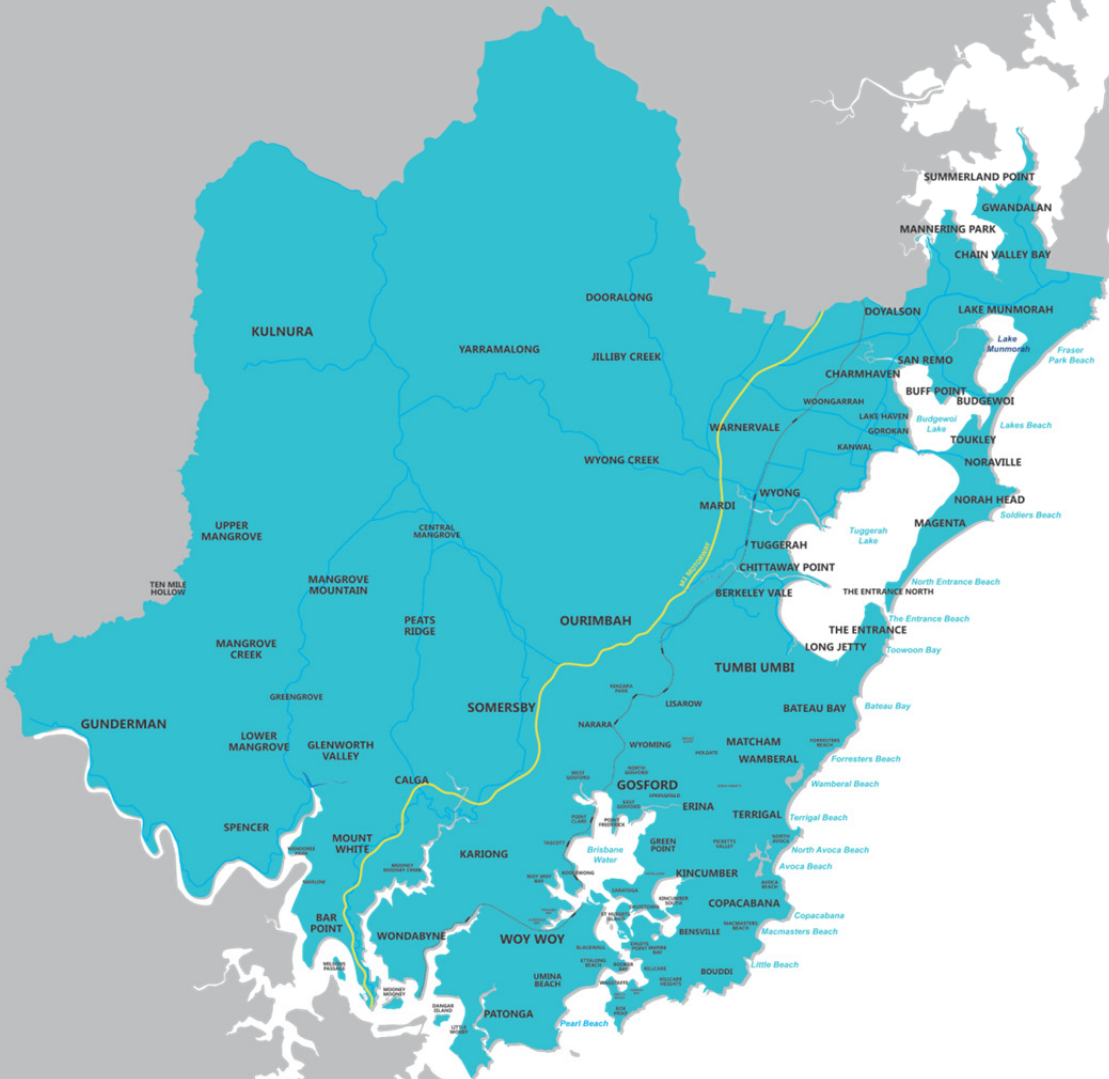


Central
Coast
Council

LIFEGUARD

Central
Coast
Council

NEWCASTLE



SYDNEY

About the Central Coast

Location

The Central Coast is located on the coast of New South Wales, 90 kilometres north of the Sydney Central Business District (CBD), and 80 kilometres south of the Newcastle CBD.

The Central Coast Council area is bounded by Lake Macquarie City Council and Cessnock City Council in the north, Hawkesbury City Council in the west, and by Hornsby Shire Council, Ku-ring-gai Council and Northern Beaches Council in the south.

History

The original indigenous inhabitants of the Central Coast of NSW have lived in the area for many thousands of years. Many culturally significant and spectacular rock art sites can be found in the hills around the district, with the local Hawkesbury sandstone providing the perfect canvas for these ancient artworks. The local environment provided fish and shellfish, small mammals and reptiles, and native fruits and edible roots. Middens can be found around Brisbane Water and Tuggerah Lakes, consisting mainly of discarded shell and bone, evidence of past Aboriginal hunting, gathering and food processing.

European settlement in the Gosford area began in 1823 when James Webb received a grant of land at The Rip near Blackwall. Settlement of the Wyong district began with Jonathan Cape taking up land in the area adjoining Jiliby Creek in 1825. Early industries included shell gathering for lime burning, ship building, timber, cattle and crop farming. In the 1880s, lowland planting of citrus fruit, for which the district became famous, began near Saratoga, followed by larger scale plantings in the hinterland and in the Wyong area.

The railway reached Wyong and Gosford in 1887 from Newcastle, and the completion of the Hawkesbury River Railway Bridge in 1889 helped local agriculture and tourism to expand. Major land subdivision began in the 1880s along the rail corridor in the south and spread to other coastal areas in the 1910s-1920s.

The building of the Pacific Highway through the Central Coast in the 1920s and 1930s helped to encourage agricultural, residential and tourism growth. Since the 1960s, the Central Coast has seen significant growth in population and housing development.

Local government in the district dates back to 1843. On January 1, 1947, Gosford Shire and Wyong Shire Councils were formed out of Erina Shire, Woy Woy Shire and Gosford Municipal Council. Gosford became a city on January 1, 1980.

On 12 May 2016, the former Gosford City Council and former Wyong Shire Council were dissolved and Central Coast Council was created.

Work and Study

Around 22,000 businesses are registered within the Central Coast, with top employment sectors being health care and social assistance, retail trade, accommodation and food services, and construction.

The unemployment rate for the Central Coast is 5.9% and youth unemployment rate is 16% (Labour Market Information Portal July 2018).

Currently about 31% of the working population commute outside the region for work. The Smart Work Hub in Gosford provides an alternative space for workers to conduct business and avoid lengthy travel times to and from their office. Offering a fully functional environment for business people, entrepreneurs and other likeminded individuals to network, create and do business.

Over 5.6% of residents attend university, TAFE or another form of higher education. The University of Newcastle includes a campus on the Central Coast, located at Ourimbah, with over 4,000 students enrolled each year (University of Newcastle Annual Report 2017). The Central Coast also offers three TAFE campuses at Gosford, Ourimbah and Wyong, and numerous community colleges across the region.

There are 11 Council libraries located across the Coast providing learning and education opportunities for all ages, through a variety of events, programs and activities such as Library Lovers Day, author talks and book launches, story-time for infants, young adult and adult book clubs, and other games in school holidays.

Lifestyle

The Central Coast offers a wide range of lifestyle activities and places to enjoy. It is a region of outstanding natural beauty from beaches to ridgetops and wetlands to woodlands.

Much of the region is covered by bushland, providing a scenic backdrop to urban development and offering numerous bush walks, camping grounds and facilities and other outdoor activities. The lakes and beaches are a great way to get out and enjoy various water sports and activities, with many community events and festivals (such as the Lakes Festival) held in celebration of these natural wonders.

Sport and recreation facilities contribute to the physical, mental and social development of the region and to the general health and wellbeing of the community.

The Central Coast Stadium has picturesque views over Brisbane Water with a wide range of sporting and community events, including the National A-League, NRL (National Rugby League) and local matches.

The Olympic pools at Gosford, Wyong and Woy Woy offer swimming activities and classes, with the Peninsula Leisure Centre at Woy Woy, Niagara Park Stadium and the Lake Haven Recreation Centre offering people of all ages a variety of health, lifestyle and leisure facilities.

The Central Coast is an inclusive community with arts, cultural and community programs providing opportunities to meet new people and express an artistic or cultural flair. Community and cultural facilities forge and strengthen social ties that support community needs and aspirations.

The Gosford Regional Gallery is an important cultural and educational resource that hosts local, national and international exhibitions, showcasing a variety of styles in visual art, photography, sculpture and design, from both established and emerging artists.

The Laycock Street Community Theatre in Gosford and The Art House in Wyong provide professional venues for a diverse range of community performances, international shows, bands and touring productions.

A lively cultural scene exists on the Central Coast with events such as Harmony Day, NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee) celebrations, Australia Day events, and citizenship ceremonies.

Central Coast Snapshot



339,196

Population (ERP June 2017)



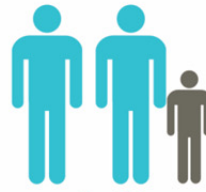
414,615

Projected residents
by 2036
(forecast.id)

3.8%
Aboriginal
Torres
Strait

14.6%
Population
born
overseas

6.2%
Non English
Speaking
Background



2.49

Average household
size



31%

Commute outside region
to work



118,858

Local Jobs
(NIEIR June 2017)



22,480

Local Businesses
(ABS June 2017)



\$1,256

Median weekly household
income (NSW \$1481)
(Greater Sydney \$1745)



3.1%

Attend university



47.6%

Hold qualifications



5.9%

Unemployment rate (LMIP July 2018)

Council is part of your everyday life:



2,176kms
Roads



2,248kms
Water Mains



737kms
Shared Pathways



120
Community
Facilities



11
Libraries



73
Sporting
Fields



55
Boat Ramps



58
Off Leash
Areas



24
Skate Parks



15
Patrolled Beaches



242
Play Spaces



4
BMX Tracks



8
Childcare Centres

Calendar of Events

CARES School Holiday Program
Short Story Competition
Blues and Jazz Festival
NAIDOC Week
National Tree Day
Events

Grandma Moses Art Competition and Exhibition
Local Government Councillor Elections
SportsFest

Composting and Wormfarm Workshops
Lakes Festival
Seniors and Pedestrian Safety
Launch of Reusable Cups Campaign
Coast Shelter Book Drive
Multicultural Services Expo

July

August

September

October

November

December

Central Coast Marine Art Challenge
Bookweek
Country Music Festival

Central Coast Primary Schools Environment Program Presentation
Kids Film Festival
Chromesfest
Bazaar by the Sea
Central Coast Indigenous Talent ID Day

Tuggerah Lakes Short Films Festival
Christmas Tree Lighting in Kibble Park and at The Entrance



Australia Day
Annual Lifeguard
Challenge
Summer Reading
Competition

Clean Up Australia
Day
Tuggerah Lakes Eco
Tours
Flavours by the Sea
Harmony Day

Fatality Free Friday
Child Restraint
Checking Day
Lake Macquarie Eco-
boat Tour
Library Membership
Competition

January

February

March

April

May

June

Breakfast with the
Birds
Library Lovers Day
Queens Baton Relay
Love Lanes Festival
Indigenous Surf Camp

Litter Education
Program
World War II Expo
Seniors Festival

World Environment
Day
Harvest Festival
Green Drinks
Environmental
Educators Network
Night
Launch of Tuggerah
Lakes Estuary multi
touch iBook
Spike Milligan
Exhibition

Photo: Flavours by the sea