



Patonga

The tranquil sea-side village of Patonga, sometimes written on early maps as "Betonga", meaning "oyster" in Aboriginal, is the most southerly beach on the Central Coast.

Central Coast Council

Part 2: About Council



Councillor's Role

Election of Councillors

The Central Coast Local Government Area (LGA) has five electoral areas or Wards – Budgewoi, Gosford East, Gosford West, The Entrance and Wyong. Three Councillors are elected for each Ward, with a total of 15 Councillors elected to represent the Central Coast Community.



In September 2017 the first Local Government elections for the Central Coast LGA were held, with 15 fifteen Councillors elected to serve a three year term. The Mayor is elected by the Councillors and serves for two years. The Deputy Mayor is also elected by the Councillors and may serve for the mayoral term or a shorter term.

The Role of Councillors

As the community's representatives the role of a Councillor is to:

- Be an active and contributing member of the governing body
- Make considered and well informed decisions as a member of the governing body
- Participate in the development of the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework
- Represent the collective interests of residents, ratepayers and the local community
- Facilitate communication between the local community and the governing body

- Uphold and represent accurately the policies and decisions of the governing body
- Make all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform the role of a Councillor.

The development of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2018-19 is an example of the Councillors role at work, with their priorities for the next three years identified and presented. These priorities have been developed in consideration of the community's aspirations and objectives outlined in the Community Strategic Plan.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct sets the minimum requirements of conduct for Council Officials. The Code is prescribed by the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and has been developed to assist Council officials to:

- Understand the standards of conduct that are expected of them
- Enable them to fulfil their statutory duty to act honestly and exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence
- Act in a way that enhances public confidence in the integrity of local government.

In carrying out their functions, Councillors, Administrators, members of staff, independent conduct reviewers, members of Council Committees, including a conduct review Committee, and delegates of Council must comply with the applicable provisions of the Code of Conduct. It is the personal responsibility of Council Officials to comply with the standards in the Code and regularly review their personal circumstances with this in mind.

Failure by a Councillor to comply with the standards of conduct will constitute misconduct, with the *Local Government Act 1993* providing a range of penalties that may be imposed on Councillors for misconduct, including suspension or disqualification from civic office.

Council Meetings

Council Meetings are the key decision making mechanism for Council, with Ordinary Meetings of Council held on:

- The second Monday of the months of February to December at the Gosford chamber, commencing at 6:30pm
- The fourth Monday of the months of February to November at the Wyong chamber, commencing at 6:30pm

All Ordinary Meetings of Council, excluding confidential sessions and meetings closed to the public, are open to the public and are recorded and webcast on Council's YouTube channel.

The Code of Meeting Practice facilitates and guides the effective, open and orderly conduct of Council meetings.

Committees and Advisory Groups

Central Coast Council has a number of committees and advisory groups where Councillors, community members and other stakeholders provide advice and feedback on specific issues. These committees and advisory groups include:

Catchments and Coast Committee – Brisbane Water and Gosford Lagoons

This Committee is responsible for promoting linkages and co-operation between the community, Council, State and Federal Governments, and other key stakeholders in the development and the implementation of coastal, estuarine, catchment and floodplain management plans for Brisbane Water and Gosford Lagoons.

Catchments and Coast Committee – Tuggerah Lakes

This Committee is responsible for promoting linkages and co-operation between the community, Council, State and Federal Governments, and other key stakeholders in the development and the implementation of coastal, estuarine, catchment and floodplain management plans for Tuggerah Lakes.

Coastal Open Space System Committee

This Committee is responsible for providing advice and feedback on championing biodiversity conservation outcomes with the broader community of the Central Coast, providing advice and feedback to Council on the development and implementation of the COSS Strategy for the Central Coast including the expanding COSS.

Employment and Economic Development Committee

This Committee is responsible for providing advice and feedback on employment and sustainable economic development initiatives of Council and ensuring alignment with the Community Strategic Plan.

Gosford Central Business District and Waterfront Advisory Committee

This Advisory Committee is responsible for providing advice and feedback on initiatives to promote and appropriately develop and activate the Gosford Central Business District and waterfront.

Heritage Advisory Committee

This Committee is responsible for providing advice and feedback on matters relating to natural, historic and Aboriginal cultural heritage, and monitoring the implementation of Council's heritage strategy in line with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage guidelines.

Mangrove Mountain and Spencer Advisory Committee

This Advisory Committee is responsible for providing advice and feedback on matters relating to the Mangrove Mountain landfill site and the illegal dumping at Spencer, including recommendation and actions for implementation.

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

This Committee is responsible for providing independent assurance and assistance on risk management, control, governance, internal audits, organisational performance and external accountability responsibilities.

Status of Women Advisory Group

This Committee is responsible for advocating and raising awareness of issues that affect women on the Central Coast and promoting local networks and events that celebrate women in the community.

Gosford Foundation Trust Management Committee

This Trust Management Committee is responsible for providing advice and feedback on how the Trustee should deal with Trust assets, the acceptance of gifts of cash and property, the distribution of cash and property, and other matters provided for in the Trust Deed.

Protection of the Environment Trust Management Committee

This Trust Management Committee is responsible for providing advice and feedback on how the Trustee should deal with Trust assets, the acceptance of gifts of cash and property, the distribution of cash and property, and other matters provided for in the Trust Deed.

Councillor Statutory Reporting Information

Councillor Overseas Visits

During the reporting period a Council delegation visited Edogawa, Japan which comprised of the following Councillor representatives:

- Mayor, Jane Smith
- Deputy Mayor, Chris Holstein
- Councillor, Richard Mehrtens

The purpose of the visit was to sign the Sister City agreement and continue to build on the Sister City partnership through cultural exchange, tourism and other opportunities.

Key highlights of the visit included:

- An address at the Edogawa City Office (Council Chambers)
- Tree planting ceremony at Goyosen Park
- Signing ceremony for affirmation of Sister City relationship
- Celebrations for signing of the agreement and Sister City relationship
- Visit to Sugo-Bunka Center Hall (Performing Arts Centre)
- Edogawa Furusato Festival

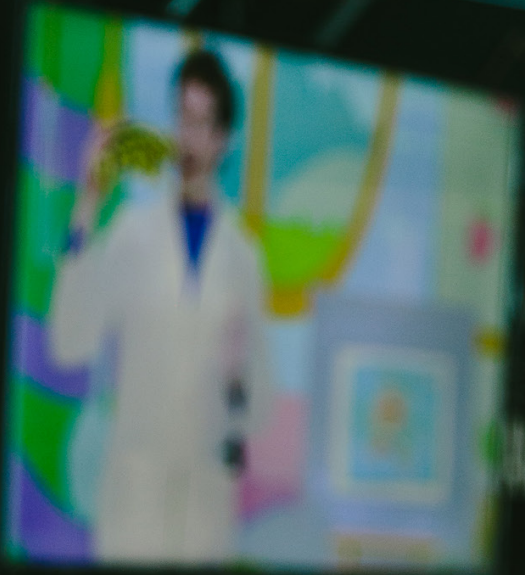
Councillor Fees and Expenses

Central Coast Council has an adopted Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy which has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, and complies with the Office of Local Government's Guidelines for the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to Mayors and councillors in NSW. The Policy ensures accountability and transparency in the reimbursement of expenses incurred by Councillors and enables the reasonable and appropriate provision of facilities to assist Councillors to carry out their civic duties.

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors also receive an annual fee which is determined by the NSW Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

Details of these expenses incurred during this reporting period are provided below.

Councillor Expenses		
(i)	Councillors office equipment	\$42,782
(ii)	Telephone	\$1,329
(iii)	Conferences and seminars	\$11,077
(iv)	Training	\$13,137
(v)	Interstate visits	Nil
(vi)	Overseas visits	\$6,885
(vii)	Expenses of spouse, partner or other person	Nil
(viii)	Expenses for provision of care	\$956
Total Costs		\$76,166



Central
Coast
Council

Your Councillors

Budgewoi Ward



Councillor Greg Best

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Independent



Councillor Jillian Hogan

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Labor



Councillor Doug Vincent

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Labor

Gosford West Ward



Deputy Mayor Chris Holstein

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Independent



Councillor Troy Marquart

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Liberal



Councillor Richard Mehrtens

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Labor

Gosford East Ward



Councillor Rebecca Gale Collins

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Liberal



Mayor Jane Smith

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Independent



Councillor Jeff Sundstrom

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Labor

The Entrance Ward



Councillor Lisa Matthews

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Labor



Councillor Bruce McLachlan

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Independent



Councillor Jilly Pilon

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Liberal

Wyong Ward



Councillor Chris Burke

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Liberal



Councillor Louise Greenaway

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Independent



Councillor Kyle MacGregor

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Labor