

Central Coast Council

Annual Report 2016-17

Central
Coast
Council

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Playspaces

Recreation facilities such as playgrounds, contribute to the physical, mental and social development of the community and the general health and wellbeing of the region.

About this Report

Purpose of this Report

This 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 since its formation on 12 May 2016 to 30 June 2017 and details the progress made against the 2016-17 Operational Plan.

Report Structure

The Annual Report includes information on the region, the organisation and workforce, as well as specific information required under legislation.

Council's performance against the 2016-17 Operational Plan is structured around the quadruple bottom line of Community, Environment, Economy, and Governance and Leadership.

Audited financial statements are required to be included as part of the Annual Report, however, for the 2016-17 reporting period Central Coast Council has been granted an extension to 31 December 2017. This extension was requested by Council and granted by the NSW Office of Local Government and supported by the Audit Office of New South Wales.

All values reported in the Annual Report are based on draft financial information as the audit of the 2016-17 financial statements (from 13 May 2016 to 30 June 2017) has not been completed in time for inclusion in the Annual Report. The audited financial statements will be completed by the 31 December 2017 and included as an addendum to this Report.

Further Information

The Annual Report is intended to provide a snapshot of our activities and achievements during the year to a diverse range of stakeholders.

For further information visit:



centralcoast.nsw.gov.au



CentralCoastCouncil



@CCoastCouncil



@centralcoastcouncil
@thisisthecentralcoast

Contact Us

Your comments and suggestions are valuable because they highlight opportunities for us to improve the quality of our services, plans and reports.

If you would like to comment or require additional information regarding this report, please contact us:


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In person: 2 Hely Street
In writing: PO Box 20
Wyong NSW 2259

Acknowledgement of Country



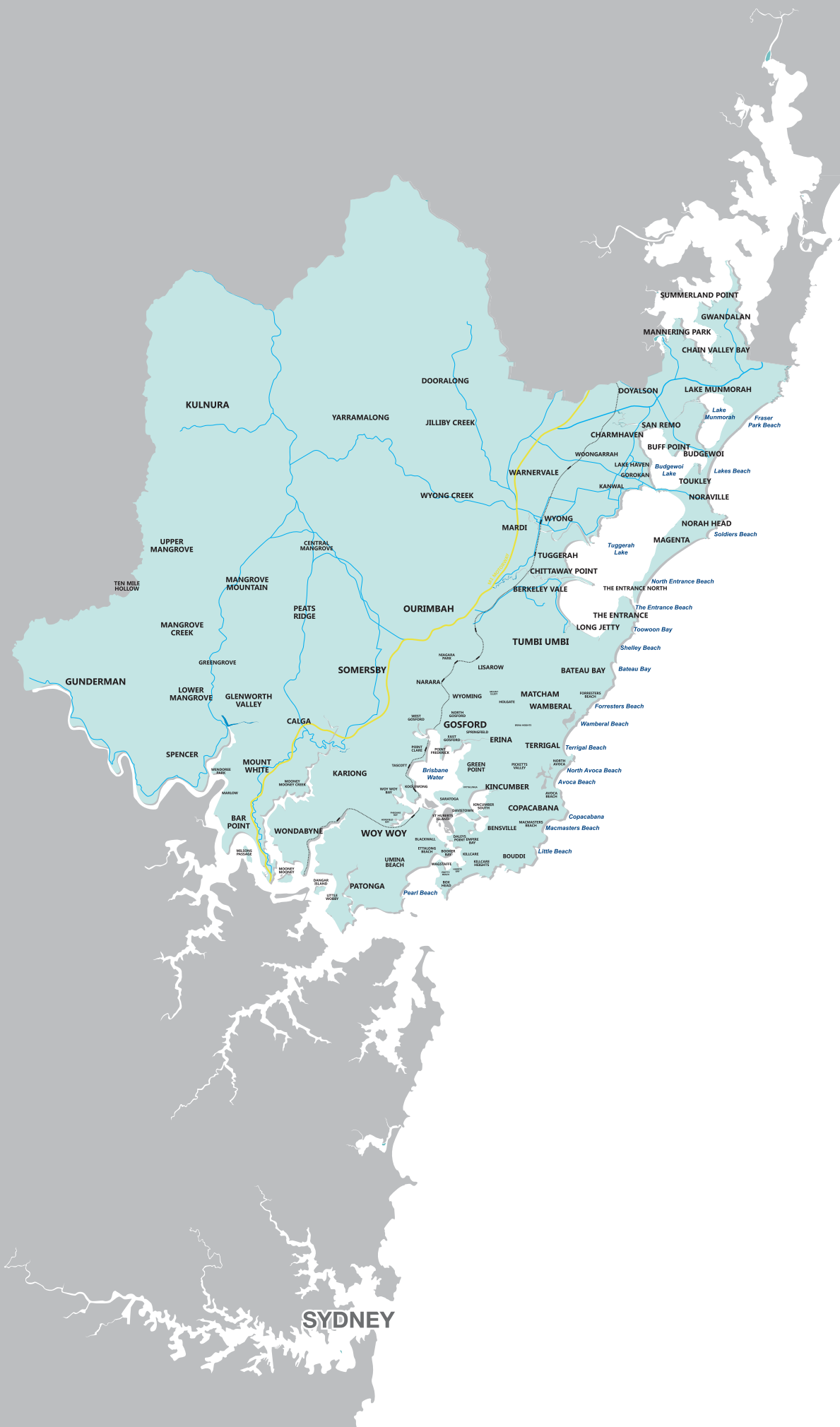
A photograph of a waterfall cascading over dark, layered rock formations into a pool of water. The water is white and frothy as it falls, creating a small pool at the bottom. The rocks are dark and wet, with some moss visible. The background is dark and shadowed, suggesting a forest setting. The overall mood is serene and natural.

Central Coast Council

We acknowledge the traditional
owners of the land and pay our
respects to Elders past and
present

Central Coast Local Government Area

NEWCASTLE



SYDNEY

Central Coast

Vision: A vibrant and sustainable Central Coast

Where We Live

The Central Coast local government area (the Central Coast) covers 1,651 square kilometres and is located on the New South Wales east coast, between Sydney and Newcastle.

The Central Coast is a growing residential area with affordable housing, great education facilities, a powerful business sector, with ease of access to public transport and arterial road networks including the M1 Motorway and Pacific Highway.

This provides the perfect lifestyle to live, work and play.

Who We Are

The Central Coast was originally inhabited by Aboriginal people with over 7,000 aboriginal sites registered (source: Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council).

European settlement began in the 1820s, with early industries including lime-burning, timber-getting and ship building.

The first local government, the District Council of Brisbane Water, was constituted in 1843 with the Shire of Erina established in 1906. Growth was minimal until the 1860s, aided by the establishment of several shipyards and citrus orchards. Further progress took place in the 1880s and 1890s, spurred by the opening of the railway line and the expansion of tourism. The opening of the Great Northern Railway in the late 1880s created a much closer link to Sydney, allowing local tourism and other industries to flourish.

In 1947, the Gosford Shire Council and Wyong Shire Councils were formed from Erina Shire, Woy Woy Shire and Gosford Municipal Council. At this time, over the combined former Gosford and Wyong local government areas, the residential population was approximately 20,000.

Significant development occurred post World War II, aided by improved road access and the expansion of metropolitan Sydney.

The population continued to grow rapidly from the 1960s to the 1980s, rising from 50,000 in 1960, to about 85,000 in 1970 and then to 191,000 in 1986. The City of Gosford was proclaimed in 1980. As agriculture and horticulture began to decline and the region developed commuter, holiday and retirement centres, the population continued to increase, rising from about 229,000 in 1991 to nearly 285,000 in 2001. Growth continued from 2001, although at a slower rate, with the population increasing to about 308,000 in 2011.

On the 12 May 2016 the former Gosford Local Government Area and former Wyong Local Government Areas were amalgamated by the New South Wales (NSW) Government, resulting in the formation of Central Coast Council.

Today the Central Coast is one of the fastest growing regions in NSW, with the third largest population in NSW and the ninth largest in Australia, with 335,309 people.

Where We Work and Study

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

A large proportion of the regions workforce is made up of local residents, with 25% of residents commuting outside the region for work. Our unemployment rate is 6% and youth unemployment rate is 17.3% (Labour Market Information Portal April 2017).

Over 5.5% of residents attend university, TAFE or another form of higher education. The Central Coast is home to the University of Newcastle, with the Central Coast Campus at Ourimbah, three TAFE campuses at Gosford, Ourimbah and Wyong, and numerous community colleges across the region.

There are 11 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.

Where We Play

The Central Coast offers a wide range of lifestyle activities and places to enjoy from sports and recreation, natural spaces, to arts, culture and community programs.

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

Across the Central Coast there are 76 sporting facilities catering to winter and summer sport, 24 skate parks and 4 BMX tracks with varying features for all different skill levels, and 737 kilometres of shared pathways for cycling and pedestrian use.

Central Coast Stadium boasts picturesque views over Brisbane Water with a wide-range of sporting and community events, including the NRL and National A-League football matches.

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

The Central Coast has outstanding natural beauty ranging 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 a range of bush walks, camping grounds and facilities and other outdoor activities. Our lakes and beaches are a great way to get out and enjoy a range of water sports and activities, with numerous community events and festivals, such as the Lakes Festival, held in celebration of our natural wonders.

Belonging to the Central Coast means living in an inclusive community with our arts, cultural and community programs providing opportunities to meet new people and express an artistic or cultural flair and our community and cultural facilities forging and strengthening 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.

We are also proactive in fostering a lively cultural scene with events such as Harmony Day, NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) celebrations, Australia Day events, and citizenship ceremonies.

Fast Facts



335,309 Population (ERP June 2016)
 (339,500 Forecast population NSW DP&E, 2016)

415,050 Projected residents by 2036
 (NSW DP &E, 2016)

3rd Largest LGA in NSW **6th** Largest LGA in Australia

22.2% of population aged **<17** and **27.1** are **60+**

42 Median age
3.8% Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander

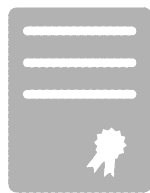


14.6% of the population born overseas with
6.2% from a Non-English speaking background



5.5%

Attend university, TAFE or another form of higher education



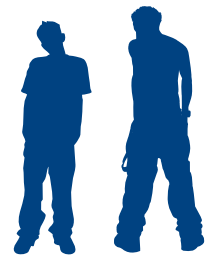
42%

Hold qualifications



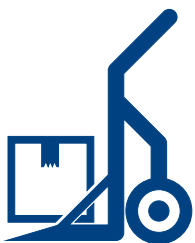
6%

Unemployment rate (NSW 5%) (LMIP September 2017)



17.3%

Youth unemployment (NSW 11.7%) (LMIP September 2017)



Largest Employers by Industry

Healthcare & Social Assistance, Retail Trade, Construction, Accommodation and Food Services



22,045

Local businesses (June 2016)



115,443

Local jobs (June 2016)



25%

Commute outside region to work



41,500+

Dwellings needed to meet population by 2036 (NSW DP & E, 2016)



2.49

Average household size



\$1,256

Median weekly household income (NSW \$1481)

*Unless stated information is sourced from ABS 2016 Census

Highlights



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 is closed and will no longer be reported on

Community	Environment
<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion and opening of Bato Yard, a regional skate park at Bateau Bay, and The Art House, a premier arts venue in Wyong • Construction and upgrade of play spaces across the Coast from Woy Woy to Gwandalan • Delivery of fun and vibrant events including Love Lanes Festival, Harvest Festival, Harmony Day, Coast Connect Day and NSW Seniors Festival. 	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of 18 Environmental Education Programs to increase community knowledge in waste reduction and sustainable lifestyle choices • Completion of Long Jetty foreshore works, improving water quality and preventing further erosion and pollutants from entering into our lake system • Improved ecological health of Lake Munmorah, Tuggerah Lake North, and Tuggerah Lake Central from grade C to grade B.
<p>Looking Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan to improve access to information and support community activities for people living with a disability • Continued engagement and development of the Community Strategic Plan • Launch of the inaugural event <i>SportsFest</i>, a festival of traditional and non-traditional sports and recreational games for both team and individual participation. 	<p>Looking Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise the \$3 million funding provided by the Federal Government to carry out Tuggerah Lakes and Catchment projects that will improve water quality, enhance nearshore areas for recreational use, reduce pollutant loads to the estuary, control invasive species in ecologically sensitive areas, and educate the community about the estuary • Development of new bush fire prone land map to support development assessment and help mitigate bush fire risk in the Central Coast Local Government Area • Development of a Recreation Strategy for Natural Areas to better promote and utilise natural areas throughout the Central Coast.
<p>Performance Against Operation Plan</p>	<p>Performance Against Operation Plan</p>
<p>  69  1  1  1  5 </p>	<p>  18  0  0  0  8 </p>

Economy	Governance and Leadership
<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commenced construction of the Tuggerah Regional Sports Complex, a major sporting facility that will create local jobs and boost tourism Reached approval of over 3,500 development applications worth over \$1.2 billion to the local economy Launched the <i>#This is the Life</i> campaign to promote the Central Coast and help deliver new social and economic outcomes. 	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commenced live broadcasting of Council meetings, with residents able to watch the proceedings via Council's YouTube channel Launched an online mapping tool to inform and keep residents to date of road projects happening in their area. Held Leadership Pop-ups, where senior Council staff met with residents to answer questions, concerns and hear ideas
<p>Looking Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist new tourism company AFFINITY to deliver tourism and marketing services that will attract more visitors to the region Upgrade of town centres and public domains areas in Terrigal, The Entrance, Toukley, and Wyong Commence an expression of interest for the licensing of mobile food vans to improve the local economy and activate un-serviced areas 	<p>Looking Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commencement and induction of the newly elected Councillors who will represent the five wards across the Central Coast Continued alignment of Council's processes, policies and systems to ensure effective and efficient service delivery Commencement of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee to review aspects of Council's operations, including risk and financial management, fraud control, governance, and compliance.
Performance Against Operational Plan	Performance Against Operational Plan
 <p>10 0 1 0 7</p>	 <p>133 2 3 2 12</p>

*Highlights from 12 May 2016 to 30 June 2017