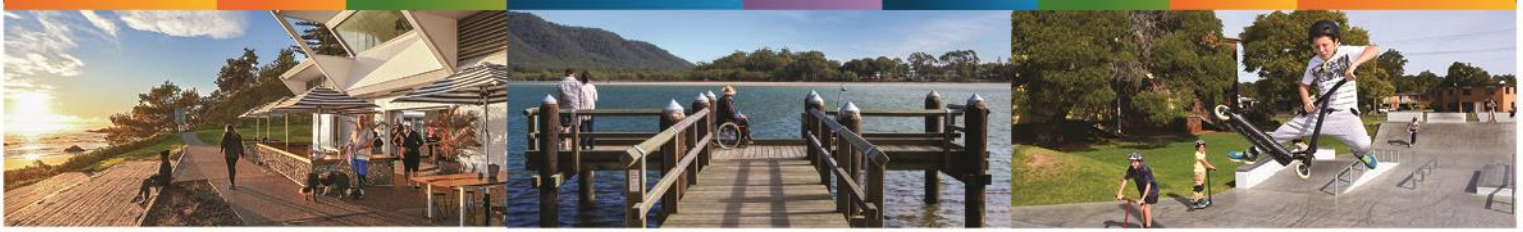




PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS  
COUNCIL



# Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council

## Business Paper

date of meeting: Tuesday 23 July 2024

location: Port Macquarie-Hastings Council  
Function Room

time: 4:00 PM

**Note:** Council is distributing this agenda on the strict understanding that the publication and/or announcement of any material from the Paper before the meeting not be such as to presume the outcome of consideration of the matters thereon.



## PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SPORTS COUNCIL TERMS OF REFERENCE

Adopted: 18 May 2023

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (PMHC) has resolved to appoint a Sports Council, to be known as the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council (the Sports Council). The Sports Council shall comprise of representatives of the sporting clubs and sporting community as appointed by Council.

### 2.0 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council are to:

- Assist in the development, review and monitoring of the Recreation Action Plan 2023-2028 which assists PMHC in the identification for sport and sporting infrastructure.
- Consider the cumulative effects of PMHC's decisions on identification of priorities for sport and sporting infrastructure;
- Provide advice to PMHC on strategic projects and PMHC policies related to, or that may impact on the implementation of the Recreation Action Plan 2023-2028;
- Initiate increased communication between the sporting community and PMHC to ensure that all existing and future needs and requirements of sport are identified and considered;
- Work with PMHC to ensure that sporting and recreation facilities are provided and maintained to an acceptable standard;
- Raise funds and source grants which will assist in furthering the objectives of the Sports Council; and
- Provide input to the setting and review of fees and charges for sporting fields and recreation facilities.

The Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council will not consider:

- Sport and recreation program development.
- Sports club development and capacity building.
- Day-to-day operational management of facilities including sport facility allocations.

### 3.0 MEMBERSHIP

Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council is to be made up of:

- Two Councillors (to be determined by PMHC)
- One representative from the NSW Office of Sport
- Up to 4 staff representatives from PMHC
- Minimum of 8 members, representative of peak bodies and major sporting clubs and associations that utilise PMHC sporting facilities and grounds

Representation to include links with the following groups/categories:

- Women in Sport
- Emerging Sports
- Access for people with Disability

Members will be appointed by Councillors via a Council resolution following a formal nomination process.

Term of appointment will be up to a period of 2 years.



Should there be a need for the Sports Council to continue beyond this time, a re-appointment process will be undertaken for all members in accordance with the selection process outlined in these Terms of Reference.

Specific representatives may be invited to nominate.

Members will be selected to ensure a range of sport codes who represent a range of regions are selected for the Sports Council.

The Chairperson will be appointed by Councillors via a Council Resolution.

Vacancies that occur on the Sports Council will be filled by public advertisement and appointed through a resolution of Council.

Other PMHC staff, Government officers, advisors or individuals may be invited to attend meetings from time to time to provide expert advice, information or presentations in relation to the Sports Council's business.

#### **4.0 CODE OF CONDUCT**

Councillors, PMHC staff and members of this Sports Council must comply with the applicable provisions of PMHC's Code of Conduct in carrying out the functions as PMHC officials. It is the personal responsibility of members to comply with the standards in the Code of Conduct and regularly review their personal circumstances with this in mind.

#### **5.0 REPORTING**

The minutes for each meeting of the Sports Council shall be prepared and distributed to members and published on PMHC's website.

#### **6.0 STAFF**

The Sports Council has no delegated authority to employ or direct staff or consultants.

#### **7.0 FINANCES**

The Sports Council has no delegated authority to expend PMHC monies.

#### **8.0 MEETING FREQUENCY**

The Sports Council will determine its own meeting frequency, however, is expected to commence meeting outside of business hours from July 2023 and meet a minimum of 4 times per year.

#### **9.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Members of this Sports Council must declare any conflict of interest at the start of each meeting or before discussion of a relevant item or topic. Details of any conflict of interest should be appropriately minuted.

Where members or invitees at meetings are deemed to have a real or perceived conflict of interest, it may be appropriate that they be excused from deliberations on the issue where the conflict of interest may exist and this is to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

#### **10.0 MISUSE OF POSITION**

No member can use information obtained through their position on this Sports Council for private purposes or private gain.



## **11.0 REVIEW**

PMHC shall review the Terms of Reference at least every three years. If changes are proposed at least one-month notice in writing of the proposed changes will be forwarded to members of PMHC.



# Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Member	05/10/23	05/12/23	13/02/24	23/04/24
Josh Slade (Chairperson)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Danielle Maltman (Councillor)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barry Spencer, Hastings River District Junior Cricket Association	✓	A		✓
Brad Greenshields, AFL North Coast	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cathy Glover, Hastings Valley District Netball Association	A	A		
Cristi Juffermans, Basketball NSW	A	✓	✓	A
David Stone, NSW Touch Football, TBC	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gregg McDonald, Football Mid North Coast	✓	✓	✓	✓
James Turton, NSW Office Of Sport	✓	✓		✓
Kate Jackson, Cricket NSW	A	✓		✓
Sonia Close, Tennis NSW	✓	✓		A
Simon Thresher Port Macquarie Hockey Association,	A	✓	✓	A
Tim Gumbleton, Group 3 Rugby League Referees Association	✓	✓	✓	✓
Trudi Wilmot, Port Macquarie Little Athletics	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Non-voting</b>				
Melissa Watkins (Director Community Planning and Environment)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Katrina Boulet Recreation and Community Strategy Manager	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lucilla Marshall Group Manager Livable Communities	A	✓	✓	✓
Samantha Thoroughgood (Secretariat Service)	✓	✓	✓	A

**Key:** ✓ = Present  
**A** = Absent With Apology  
**X** = Absent Without Apology

### Meeting Dates for 2024

13	February
23	April
23	July
29	October



# Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council Meeting

Tuesday 23 July 2024

## Items of Business

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## AGENDA

### PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SPORTS COUNCIL

23/07/2024

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**Item: 01**

**Subject: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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"I acknowledge that we are gathered on Birpai Land. I pay respect to the Birpai Elders both past and present. I also extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present."

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**Item: 02**

**Subject: APOLOGIES**

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#### RECOMMENDATION

That the apologies received be accepted.

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**Item: 03**

**Subject: CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council Meeting held on 23 April 2024 be confirmed.



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## **PRESENT**

### **Councillors and Staff:**

Councillor Josh Slade (Chairperson)  
Councillor Danielle Maltman  
Director Community Planning and Environment (Melissa Watkins)  
Group Manager Liveable Communities (Lucilla Marshall)  
Recreation Planning and Projects Team Leader (Katrina Boulet)

### **Community and Business Representatives:**

AFL North Coast, Brad Greenshields  
NSW Touch Football, David Stone  
Football Mid North Coast, Gregg McDonald  
NSW Office Of Sport, James Turton  
Cricket NSW, Kate Jackson  
Group 3 Rugby League Referees Association, Tim Gumbleton  
Port Macquarie Little Athletics, Trudi Wilmot  
Hastings River District Junior Cricket Association, Barry Spencer

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The meeting opened at 4.02pm.

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## **01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

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## **02 APOLOGIES**

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### **CONSENSUS:**

That the apologies received from the following members be accepted:

- Simon Thresher
  - Cristi Juffermans
  - Sonia Close
- 

## **03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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### **CONSENSUS:**

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That the Minutes of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council Meeting held on 13 February 2024 be confirmed.

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**04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

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There were no disclosures of interest presented.

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**05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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CONSENSUS

That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council noted the update provided on the Recreation and Open Space Action Plan which was adopted by Council for public exhibition at the April 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Members requested to encourage any further feedback from their groups via the Have Your Say platform on Council's website.

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**06 SPORTING EVENTS CALENDAR**

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CONSENSUS

That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council noted the Sporting Calendar for upcoming events from 23 April 2024 to 31 July 2024.

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**07 PRESENTATION: GOOD SPORTS PRESENTATIONS  
CHRISTINE SPITERI - SENIOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

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CONSNESUS

That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council noted the presentation provided by Christine Spiteri of Good Sports.

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**08 STANDING ITEM  
REQUESTS FOR PROJECT UPGRADES**

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CONSENSUS

That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council noted the following items were discussed:

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- 
- Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields- PMQ Junior AFL Training will not be able to be held on the field due to the lack of a GECKO Cover. This will be addressed for next season. AUSKICK and Juniors will be able on the field in the opposite direction (modified field)
  - Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields - Confirmed soccer is able to play on the fields
  - Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields - Goal posts are problematic when moving. Is there another option? Staff to review and report back.
  - Rainbow Beach Sporting Field - Drainage issues particularly around containers and AFL posts - Staff to review and report back
  - Findlay Park - Additional Change facilities discussed with the group. Southern end of field 2 is dropping away/slumping. Staff will review and report back.
- 

## **09 GENERAL BUSINESS**

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- Is there a cleaning schedule/arrangement for the GECKO Cover?  
Confirmation that Council will be responsible for this.
- Clarification sought on what maintenance responsibilities are between Clubs and Council. Staff provided response in the meeting
- Feedback received that the new drainage at Wayne Richards Park is working well.
- Proposed Fees and Charges:  
Staff advised the Committee Members that the new proposed Fees and Charges for sporting fields was considered by Council at the April 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting and was adopted as a part of the Draft Operational Plan 2024-2025 and will now go on public exhibition to receive feedback.

Members were encouraged to review and consult with their groups and make a submission.

A copy of the report and links to the fees and charges was sent directly to all members and sporting groups.

Further discussion was had regarding the model used to come up with the draft. Fees including what revenue would be made, Staff suggested that \$2000/venue would potentially be raised.

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The meeting closed at 5.25pm.



## AGENDA

## PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SPORTS COUNCIL

23/07/2024

Item: 04

Subject: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

### RECOMMENDATION

That Disclosures of Interest be presented

### DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST DECLARATION

<b>Name of Meeting:</b>	
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	
<b>Item Number:</b>	
<b>Subject:</b>	
<b>I, the undersigned, hereby declare the following interest:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pecuniary:</b> Take no part in the consideration and voting and be out of sight of the meeting.	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Pecuniary – Significant Interest:</b> Take no part in the consideration and voting and be out of sight of the meeting.	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Pecuniary – Less than Significant Interest:</b> May participate in consideration and voting.	
<b>For the reason that:</b>	
<b>Name:</b>  <b>Signed:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Please submit to the Governance Support Officer at the Council Meeting.</b>	

(Refer to next page and the Code of Conduct)



# AGENDA

## PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SPORTS COUNCIL

23/07/2024

### Pecuniary Interest

- 4.1 A pecuniary interest is an interest that you have in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to you or a person referred to in clause 4.3.
- 4.2 You will not have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision you might make in relation to the matter, or if the interest is of a kind specified in clause 4.6.
- 4.3 For the purposes of this Part, you will have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the pecuniary interest is:
- (a) your interest, or
  - (b) the interest of your spouse or de facto partner, your relative, or your partner or employer, or
  - (c) a company or other body of which you, or your nominee, partner or employer, is a shareholder or member.
- 4.4 For the purposes of clause 4.3:
- (a) Your "relative" is any of the following:
    - i) your parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descendant or adopted child
    - ii) your spouse's or de facto partner's parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descendant or adopted child
    - iii) the spouse or de facto partner of a person referred to in paragraphs (i) and (ii)
  - (b) "de facto partner" has the same meaning as defined in section 21C of the *Interpretation Act 1987*.
- 4.5 You will not have a pecuniary interest in relation to a person referred to in subclauses 4.3(b) or (c)
- (a) if you are unaware of the relevant pecuniary interest of your spouse, de facto partner, relative, partner, employer or company or other body, or
  - (b) just because the person is a member of, or is employed by, a council or a statutory body, or is employed by the Crown, or
  - (c) just because the person is a member of, or a delegate of a council to, a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter, so long as the person has no beneficial interest in any shares of the company or body.

### Non-Pecuniary

- 5.1 Non-pecuniary interests are private or personal interests a council official has that do not amount to a pecuniary interest as defined in clause 4.1 of this code. These commonly arise out of family or personal relationships, or out of involvement in sporting, social, religious or other cultural groups and associations, and may include an interest of a financial nature.
- 5.2 A non-pecuniary conflict of interest exists where a reasonable and informed person would perceive that you could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out your official functions in relation to a matter.
- 5.3 The personal or political views of a council official do not constitute a private interest for the purposes of clause 5.2.
- 5.4 Non-pecuniary conflicts of interest must be identified and appropriately managed to uphold community confidence in the probity of council decision-making. The onus is on you to identify any non-pecuniary conflict of interest you may have in matters that you deal with, to disclose the interest fully and in writing, and to take appropriate action to manage the conflict in accordance with this code.
- 5.5 When considering whether or not you have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter you are dealing with, it is always important to think about how others would view your situation.
- Managing non-pecuniary conflicts of interest**
- 5.6 Where you have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter for the purposes of clause 5.2, you must disclose the relevant private interest you have in relation to the matter fully and in writing as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the non-pecuniary conflict of interest and on each occasion on which the non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises in relation to the matter. In the case of members of council staff other than the Chief Executive Officer, such a disclosure is to be made to the staff member's manager. In the case of the Chief Executive Officer, such a disclosure is to be made to the mayor.
- 5.7 If a disclosure is made at a council or committee meeting, both the disclosure and the nature of the interest must be recorded in the minutes on each occasion on which the non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises. This disclosure constitutes disclosure in writing for the purposes of clause 5.6.
- 5.8 How you manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interest will depend on whether or not it is significant.
- 5.9 As a general rule, a non-pecuniary conflict of interest will be significant where it does not involve a pecuniary interest for the purposes of clause 4.1, but it involves:
- a) a relationship between a council official and another person who is affected by a decision or a matter under consideration that is particularly close, such as a current or former spouse or de facto partner, a relative for the purposes of clause 4.4 or another person from the council official's extended family that the council official has a close personal relationship with, or another person living in the same household
  - b) other relationships with persons who are affected by a decision or a matter under consideration that are particularly close, such as friendships and business relationships. Closeness is defined by the nature of the friendship or business relationship, the frequency of contact and the duration of the friendship or relationship.
  - c) an affiliation between the council official and an organisation (such as a sporting body, club, religious, cultural or charitable organisation, corporation or association) that is affected by a decision or a matter under consideration that is particularly strong. The strength of a council official's affiliation with an organisation is to be determined by the extent to which they actively participate in the management, administration or other activities of the organisation.
  - d) membership, as the council's representative, of the board or management committee of an organisation that is affected by a decision or a matter under consideration, in circumstances where the interests of the council and the organisation are potentially in conflict in relation to the particular matter
  - e) a financial interest (other than an interest of a type referred to in clause 4.6) that is not a pecuniary interest for the purposes of clause 4.1
  - f) the conferral or loss of a personal benefit other than one conferred or lost as a member of the community or a broader class of people affected by a decision.
- 5.10 Significant non-pecuniary conflicts of interest must be managed in one of two ways:
- a) by not participating in consideration of, or decision making in relation to, the matter in which you have the significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest and the matter being allocated to another person for consideration or determination, or
  - b) if the significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises in relation to a matter under consideration at a council or committee meeting, by managing the conflict of interest as if you had a pecuniary interest in the matter by complying with clauses 4.28 and 4.29.
- 5.11 If you determine that you have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter that is not significant and does not require further action, when disclosing the interest you must also explain in writing why you consider that the non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances.
- 5.12 If you are a member of staff of council other than the Chief Executive Officer, the decision on which option should be taken to manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interest must be made in consultation with and at the direction of your manager. In the case of the Chief Executive Officer, the decision on which option should be taken to manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interest must be made in consultation with and at the direction of the mayor.
- 5.13 Despite clause 5.10(b), a councillor who has a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter, may participate in a decision to delegate consideration of the matter in question to another body or person.
- 5.14 Council committee members are not required to declare and manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in accordance with the requirements of this Part where it arises from an interest they have as a person chosen to represent the community, or as a member of a non-profit organisation or other community or special interest group, if they have been appointed to represent the organisation or group on the council committee.



## AGENDA

### PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SPORTS COUNCIL

23/07/2024

#### SPECIAL DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARATION

*This form must be completed using block letters or typed.*

*If there is insufficient space for all the information you are required to disclose, you must attach an appendix which is to be properly identified and signed by you.*

<b>By</b> <i>[insert full name of councillor]</i>	
<b>In the matter of</b> <i>[insert name of environmental planning instrument]</i>	
<b>Which is to be considered at a meeting of the</b> <i>[insert name of meeting]</i>	
<b>Held on</b> <i>[insert date of meeting]</i>	
<b>PECUNIARY INTEREST</b>	
Address of the affected principal place of residence of the councillor or an associated person, company or body <b>(the <i>identified land</i>)</b>	
Relationship of identified land to councillor <i>[Tick or cross one box.]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> The councillor has interest in the land (e.g. is owner or has other interest arising out of a mortgage, lease, trust, option or contract, or otherwise). <input type="checkbox"/> An associated person of the councillor has an interest in the land. <input type="checkbox"/> An associated company or body of the councillor has interest in the land.
<b>MATTER GIVING RISE TO PECUNIARY INTEREST<sup>1</sup></b>	
Nature of land that is subject to a change in zone/planning control by proposed LEP <b>(the <i>subject land</i><sup>2</sup>)</b> <i>[Tick or cross one box]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> The identified land. <input type="checkbox"/> Land that adjoins or is adjacent to or is in proximity to the identified land.
Current zone/planning control <i>[Insert name of current planning instrument and identify relevant zone/planning control applying to the subject land]</i>	
Proposed change of zone/planning control <i>[Insert name of proposed LEP and identify proposed change of zone/planning control applying to the subject land]</i>	
Effect of proposed change of zone/planning control on councillor or associated person <i>[Tick or cross one box]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Appreciable financial gain. <input type="checkbox"/> Appreciable financial loss.

*[If more than one pecuniary interest is to be declared, reprint the above box and fill in for each additional interest]*

**Councillor's Signature:** ..... **Date:** .....

*This form is to be retained by the council's Chief Executive Officer and included in full in the minutes of the meeting*

Last Updated: 3 June 2019



## AGENDA

### PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SPORTS COUNCIL

23/07/2024

#### Important Information

This information is being collected for the purpose of making a special disclosure of pecuniary interests under clause 4.36(c) of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (the Model Code of Conduct).

The special disclosure must relate only to a pecuniary interest that a councillor has in the councillor's principal place of residence, or an interest another person (whose interests are relevant under clause 4.3 of the Model Code of Conduct) has in that person's principal place of residence.

Clause 4.3 of the Model Code of Conduct states that you will have a pecuniary interest in a matter because of the pecuniary interest of your spouse or your de facto partner or your relative or because your business partner or employer has a pecuniary interest. You will also have a pecuniary interest in a matter because you, your nominee, your business partner or your employer is a member of a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter.

"Relative" is defined by clause 4.4 of the Model Code of Conduct as meaning your, your spouse's or your de facto partner's parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descendant or adopted child and the spouse or de facto partner of any of those persons.

You must not make a special disclosure that you know or ought reasonably to know is false or misleading in a material particular. Complaints about breaches of these requirements are to be referred to the Office of Local Government and may result in disciplinary action by the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government or the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

This form must be completed by you before the commencement of the council or council committee meeting at which the special disclosure is being made. The completed form must be tabled at the meeting. Everyone is entitled to inspect it. The special disclosure must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Clause 4.1 of the Model Code of Conduct provides that a pecuniary interest is an interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person. A person does not have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision the person might make in relation to the matter, or if the interest is of a kind specified in clause 4.6 of the Model Code of Conduct.

<sup>2</sup> A pecuniary interest may arise by way of a change of permissible use of land adjoining, adjacent to or in proximity to land in which a councillor or a person, company or body referred to in clause 4.3 of the Model Code of Conduct has a proprietary interest



## AGENDA

### PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SPORTS COUNCIL 23/07/2024

**Item:** 05

**Subject:** BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

<b>Item:</b>	10	<b>Date:</b>	13/02/2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Sporting Fields and Recreation Facilities - Fees and Charges Review 2024/2025 FY		
<b>Action Required:</b>	Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council Committee members to bring feedback from the sporting clubs at the next Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council meeting.		



**Item: 06****Subject: POST EXHIBITION - PROPOSED SPORTING FEES AND CHARGES  
2024/2025****Presented by: Community, Planning and Environment, Melissa Watkins**

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**RECOMMENDATION****That Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council:**

- 1. Note the information contained in the Community Engagement Report - Draft Operational Plan 2024-25.**
- 2. Nominate proposed fees and charges structure/s to be investigated by Council and presented in more detail at a future meeting of Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council.**
- 3. Review collateral education pieces provided to Community and Sport Clubs, discuss additional/ alternative approaches to be undertaken in 2024-25.**

**Executive Summary**

Port Macquarie Hastings Council does not currently charge local sport clubs for sport field ground fee use. In the draft Operation Plan 2024-25, new Sporting Fees and Charges were proposed. The introduction of new Sporting Fees and Charges was a focus area of the community engagement process for the 2024-25 Operational Plan. The responses suggested significant concern regarding the implementation of the new fee structure with specific focus on the Ground Fee - General Use.

Council resolved to remove the Ground Fee - General Use Fees from the 2024-2025 Fees and Charges and determined that there was a need for more comprehensive engagement and education to be undertaken during the 2024-2025 operational year with a view to revisiting the fee structure in the future.

The project, to develop sports field user pay strategy, is identified in the 2024/25 Operational Plan as part of Council's Delivery Program Strategy L 3.2; to provide accessible, adaptable and well-maintained community facilities across the LGA.

We have discussed User Pay fees at the Sports Council meeting on 13 February 2024 and 23 April 2024. A model has not yet been determined and further investigations with the Sports Council is required.

**Discussion**

Council, at its Ordinary Meeting held 18 April 2024 considered a report in relation to the Draft Operational Plan 2024-2025, Fees and Charges, Revenue Policy, and Rating Maps Documents for Public Exhibition and resolved in part to place the draft suite of Integrated Planning and Reporting documents on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 22 April to 20 May 2024.

As part of the public exhibition the Sporting Fees and Charges were nominated as a focus area, with Have Your Say data collated specifically on the introduction on the



## AGENDA

### PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SPORTS COUNCIL

23/07/2024

new fees. The Community Engagement Report - Draft Operational Plan 2024-25 can be found in Attachment 1.

Responses received to the question '*Do you support the proposed introduction of sporting field use fees and charges?*' are as follows:

Yes - 56

No - 177

Unsure - 18

A 321 signature petition to Stop [the] Introduction of Usage Fees for PMHC Sporting Fields and Recreational Facilities was received from Hastings Baseball Incorporated.

A summary of feedback themes to the question '*Do you have any further feedback on these proposed fees and charges?*' are as follows:

#### Financial Sustainability

- Supporters argue that introducing fees for using sports fields will help Council cover maintenance costs sustainably.
- They believe that user pays principle is fair and ensures those who benefit from the facilities contribute towards their upkeep.

#### Financial Burden on Families and Clubs

- Opponents argue that the fees will place an additional financial burden on families, particularly those with children participating in multiple sports.
- They are concerned that the fees will make it harder for clubs to operate and may lead to increased costs for families.

#### Fairness and Equity

- Some believe that it is fair for sports clubs to contribute to the maintenance costs of the fields they use, rather than passing the entire burden onto ratepayers.
- They argue that this approach ensures fairness across the community.

#### Concerns about Maintenance and Facilities

- There are concerns about the current state of maintenance and facilities, suggesting that improvements should be made before introducing fees.

#### Cost Recovery and Efficiency

- Proponents suggest that introducing fees will enable better management of resources and potentially improve the maintenance and facilities.
- They argue that this will prevent misuse of facilities and ensure they are maintained to a higher standard.

#### Council's Responsibility

- Some believe that the maintenance of sports fields is a core responsibility of Council and should be funded through rates.
  - They argue that it is unfair to shift the cost onto sports clubs and families.
- #### Participation, Access, and Wellbeing
- Some believe that charging fees for sports fields will limit access to outdoor activities, particularly for children, which are essential for community health and wellbeing.
  - There is a strong concern that the fees will deter participation in sports, especially among lower-income families.



## AGENDA

### PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SPORTS COUNCIL

23/07/2024

- Critics argue that this will have negative impacts on community health, wellbeing, and social cohesion.

A noted above, identified in the 2024/25 Operational Plan as part of Council's Delivery Program Strategy L 3.2 is the project, to Develop a Sports Field User Pay Strategy.

Through public exhibition responses, direct local sport club, local sport association feedback and Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council feedback, Council heard the following recommendations regarding an alternative Sport Field User Pay structure:

- Fee associated with a specific sport code
- Fee associated with a specific sport season
- Fee applied per member of each sport clubs
- Per facility cost
- Fee of a lower cost per season
- Fees only applied to clubs with over 100 members
- Fee for matches and/or competition only, not training.

Please see table below regarding descriptions and comments regarding example fee structure:

Fee Structure	Example	Comment
Per member charge	\$2 per member/season	Simple structure Additional administration would be required
Fee charged to only clubs of >100 members	Fee - \$1000/season	Simple structure Additional administration would be required
Per sport code charge	Cricket - \$200/season Football - \$500/season	Simple structure
Per sport code charge / facility	Cricket, Stuart Park, Wood Street - \$300/season, Cricket, Lank Bain Sporting Complex - \$100/Season	Complex structure Fee determined by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of fields</li> <li>- Cost of maintenance per year</li> <li>- Supporting infrastructure</li> <li>- Type of sport</li> </ul>
Seasonal charge	Summer user group - \$300 Winter user group - \$600	Simple Structure Additional administration task to reset fees mid year at season change over
Seasonal charge/per facility	Summer user group - Stuart Park - \$400, Winter user group Stuart Park - \$800	Complex structure Fee determined by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of fields</li> <li>- Cost of maintenance per year</li> <li>- Supporting infrastructure</li> <li>- Sport season</li> </ul>



## AGENDA

### PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SPORTS COUNCIL

23/07/2024

Each separate sport facility has a specific charge	Stuart Park - \$800/ season, Kendall Sports Ground - \$200	Complex structure Fee determined by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Number of fields</li><li>- Cost of maintenance per year</li><li>- Supporting infrastructure</li></ul>
--	---	---

#### Community and Sport Clubs Engagement

During the public exhibition engagement period the following 2 documents were made available to the community to inform their feedback responses:

1. Sport Fees and Charges Fact Sheet (Attachment 2)
2. FAQ's - Proposed Sporting Fees and Charges (Attachment 3)

Sport Clubs were informed via the Sport Newsletter. Sport Council member representatives also shared to their affiliate clubs via email and social media. Additional engagement will be undertaken during the 2024/25 year. This will be paired with other projects being undertaken including the Places to Play - Sport Facilities Plan.

#### **Financial and Economic Implications**

Further investigation into proposed fee structure will be undertaken for input to the future budget and fees and charges.

The Financial and Economic implication associated with the introduction of a Ground Use fee is unknown at this stage.

The introduction of a Ground Use fee will increase revenue to Council to support future upgrade and maintenance programs for sporting facilities.

#### **Options**

The Sports Council can choose one of the following actions:

- Nominate proposed fees and charges structure/s to be investigated by Council and presented in more detail at a future meeting of Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council or
- Discuss the proposed fees and charges structures with affiliate sport clubs and provide feedback at future meeting of Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council.

#### **Attachments**

1.  Engagement Report Operational Plan 24/25
2.  Fact Sheet - Sport Fees and Charges
3.  FAQs Sporting Fees and Charges May 24





Draft Operational Plan 2024-25

# Community Engagement Report

May 2024



# Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

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## Engagement Report - **Draft OP2024-25**



# Executive Summary



# Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

## 1.0 Introduction

The Operational Plan 2024-25 outlines how Council will achieve annual priorities outlined in Imagine2050, our Community Strategic Plan.

Council has more than \$358M worth of projects, programs and works planned for the 2024-2025 financial year mapped out in the Draft OP2024-25. The following are proposed inclusions in the Draft OP2024-25: a 0.0% Rate Peg (2024-25); new fees and charges including a proposed sports ground user fee, and the removal of the Town Centre Master Plan component of the Port Macquarie CBD Business Rate.

This report details the engagement and communication activities undertaken during the public exhibition period and the feedback collected. It includes qualitative and quantitative data, as well as key themes identified from free text submissions. This report also explains the methodology used, including using generative artificial intelligence (AI) to capture response themes. Verbatim responses for all feedback are appended.

### 1.1 Engagement

Following the IAP2 matrix for public participation, the level of engagement for the Draft OP2024-25 was *inform to consult*.

Engagement with the community and the collection of feedback and data was completed through a range of channels. Council's Have Your Say (HYS) webpage was the primary platform used between 22 April and 20 May 2024. Community feedback was also collected through several pop-up stalls, dotmocracy, a Facebook Live event, meetings, petitions, emails and group submissions.

Engagement was supported by communication activities. Channels used included email marketing, social advertising, radio, billboard, and other signage. Further data on this is included later in this report.

Council seeks to capture data around demographics to provide insights into the responses gathered and the representation of our community's views. For the Draft OP2024-25, these included questions around age, location and response status as a community member or business owner.

### 1.2 Supporting data from the HYS survey

The top five **Imagine2050 priority areas** highlighted from Council's list were stable infrastructure; transparency; environment protection; quality of life, and affordable living.

In addition to the **Imagine2050 priority areas** that Council highlighted for ranking in order of importance, respondents also included items around infrastructure and amenities; community wellbeing and engagement; environmental sustainability; governance and management; transport and infrastructure; economic development and planning, and cultural and Indigenous inclusion.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

The top 5 **service delivery areas** highlighted from Council's list were roads - maintenance; open spaces and parks; parks maintenance; water, and footpaths.

In addition to the **top 10 service delivery areas** that Council identified as being important, respondents also identified: infrastructure maintenance and upgrades; environmental and sustainability services; transport and infrastructure; community and social services; cultural and recreational services; public facilities and services; economic development and services.

Over 75% of survey respondents do not support the inclusion of a **0.0% Rate Peg** with just over 18% in support of the proposal and just under 5% who were unsure. These statistics are reflected in the sentiment of the comments.

Over 65% of survey respondents do not support the **removal of the TCMP component from the Port Macquarie CBD business rate** with just under 20% in support of the proposal and just under 15% who were unsure. More than 77% of respondents did not support the redistribution of the shortfall to ratepayers across the region, while just over 22% did.

Just over 70% of survey respondents do not support the introduction of **sporting field use fees and charges** with just over 22% in support of the proposal and just over 7% who were unsure. This does not include dotmocracy data, which had 81 people against the introduction, 17 in favour of the introduction and 3 people who were unsure.

### 1.3 Community feedback (non-organisation)

The community also provided feedback on **other topics** via the survey and through other channels. These are included in the summarised themes and de-identified information included in this report.

The themes reflect the diverse range of feedback expressed by the community. They highlight the community's focus on topics such as financial responsibility, infrastructure improvements, equity in service provision, transparency in budgeting, and effective community engagement.

### 1.4 Next steps

Council has legislative requirements for community engagement we need to meet as outlined in the Local Government Act (1993) and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979). Council uses engagement to **support advice and decision making by staff and Councillors**.

Addressing the feedback and concerns highlighted by the community will be crucial for Council in finalising the Operational Plan while ensuring it meets the needs and expectations of residents.

Relevant decision makers should consider the qualitative data provided in the verbatim responses, including the three focus areas along with key themes such as infrastructure and maintenance, governance, and cultural and environmental sustainability.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Proposed changes to the Draft OP2024-25 based on community feedback are not included in this report. They will be detailed in a report to Council that will be considered at the 20 June 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Once adopted, the Operational Plan 2024-25 will help Council to achieve the commitments made in our four-year Delivery Program.

### Responding to feedback

Respondents received an automatic response from Council once they had completed their HYS survey to let them know their feedback had been received.

Respondents have received an update from Council thanking them for their submissions which are being included as part of the Draft OP 2024-25 decision making process. This letter includes the dates and times of the Public Forum and the Ordinary Council Meeting if respondents would like to be involved or follow the proceedings.

Following the decision by Councillors, respondents will receive a detailed response to their submission, which considers the resolution adopted by Councillors to meet Council's requirement to adopt a new budget for the 2024-25 financial year, in line with legislative requirements.



## Engagement Report - **Draft OP2024-25**



# PART 1

## Background Information, Engagement Approach and Supporting Survey Data



# Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

The Operational Plan 2024-25 is our action plan for achieving the priorities that our community have identified, and that are outlined in Imagine2050, our Community Strategic Plan (CSP). Once adopted, the Operational Plan 2024-25 will help us to achieve the commitments made in our four-year Delivery Program.

Between 22 April and 20 May 2024, the following suite of documents were placed on public exhibition:

- Draft Operational Plan 2024-25 (Draft OP2024-25)
- Draft Fees and Charges (including new and increased fees and charges) 2024-25
- Draft Revenue Policy 2024-25
- Draft Rating Maps 2024-25

**Public participation** plays a crucial role in shaping the final Operational Plan 2024-25, ensuring that it reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of our community. Insights gained through community engagement will help us to refine the Draft OP2024-25 and associated documents, making them relevant and reflective of broader our community's collective vision.

Council's engagement is informed by the International Association of Public Participation's (IAP2) Hub and Spoke model and approach, including the IAP2 spectrum and core values, as well as Council's Engagement Strategy. This strategy supports the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework required by the Local Government Act (1993), and engagement required under the Local Government Act and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979) and ensures Council can meet its legislative requirements for community engagement.

**Decisions** are made in Council Chambers via the formal Council Meeting process, as well as by staff under delegated authority of Section 377 of the Local Government Act, which enables Council to operate on a day-to-day basis. Council uses engagement to support both models of decision making.

### 2.1 Focus areas and simultaneous consultation

The consultation this year included questions specific to the following (proposed) three focus areas:

- 0.0% Rate Peg
- Removal of the Town Centre Master Plan (TCMP) levy from the Port Macquarie CBD business rate (and a proposal to redistribute the shortfall to ratepayers across the region).
- Sporting fees and charges for field usage.

### Imagine2050, Community Strategic Plan

Each year during the operational plan engagement, we take the opportunity to check in with the community to see if the key themes in Imagine2050 (our CSP) are still relevant. The CSP



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

will be updated this year in line with the term of elected Councillors. The question included in the Draft OP2024-25 survey this year marks the start of that process.

### Customer experience

We are currently running a Customer Experience engagement project that seeks to understand how the community currently experiences interactions with Council so that we can improve that experience. The Draft OP2024-25 survey also included a rating question around this topic.

### 2.2 Report scope

This report details the engagement and communication activities undertaken during the public exhibition period and the response data collected. It includes qualitative and quantitative data and key themes identified from free text submissions. Verbatim responses are appended.

Proposed changes to the Draft OP2024-25 based on community feedback are not included in this report. They will be detailed in a report to Council that will be considered at the 20 June 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.

## 3.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 3.1 Engagement approach

Following the IAP2 matrix for public participation, the level of engagement Draft OP2024-25 and was *inform to consult*. This means we sought to:

- Provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the project.
- Obtain feedback on analysis, alternative and/or decisions.

Our commitment from this process is to:

- Keep the community informed.
- Listen and acknowledge concerns and aspirations.
- Let the community know how their input has influenced decisions made in finalising the document.

Our Have Your Say (HYS) webpage was the primary platform used in this engagement with the majority of feedback submitted via an online survey. The consultation was open between 22 April and 20 May 2024.

Communication activities were undertaken to promote the Draft OP2024-25 and drive audiences to HYS. Channels used included email marketing, social advertising, radio, billboard

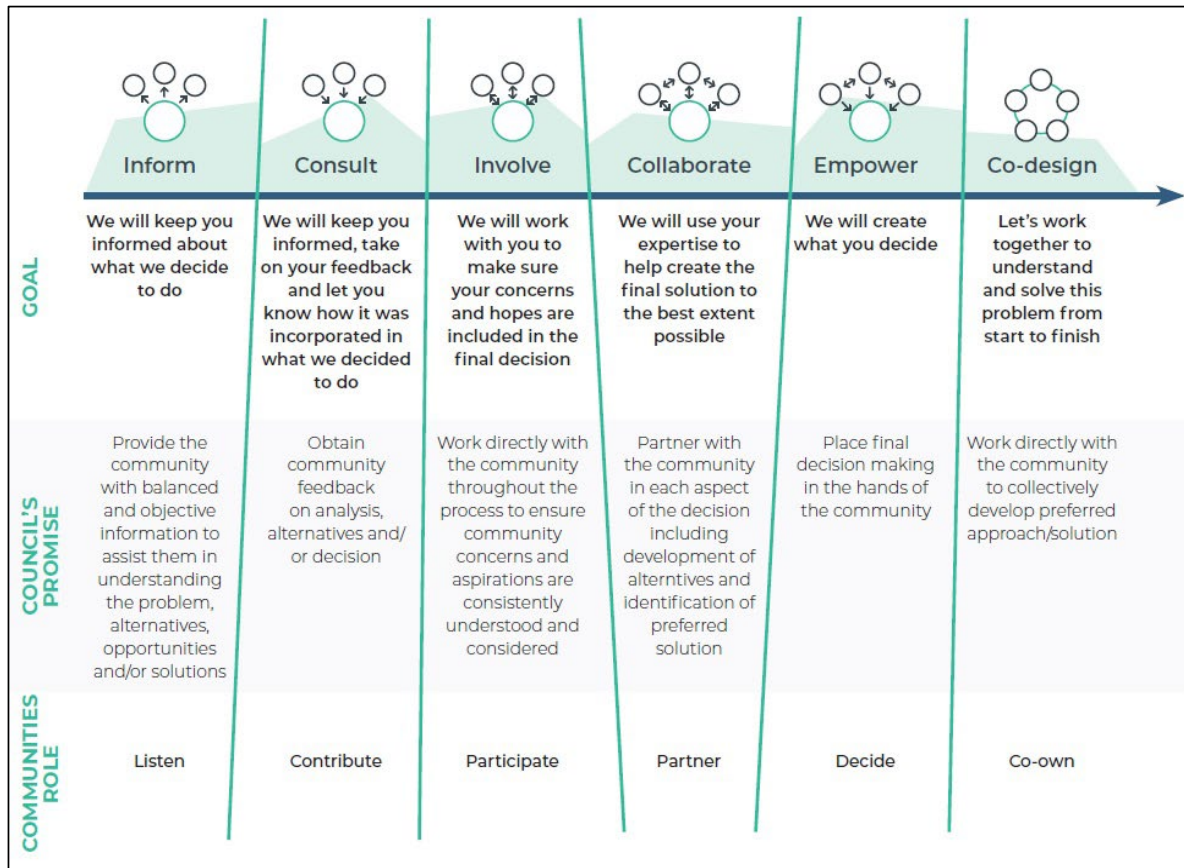


## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

and other signage.

### 3.2 Spectrum of participation

Council undertakes engagement using the industry standard IAP2 Spectrum of Participation which is designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines Council's promise and the community's role in the decision-making process.





## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### 4.0 ENGAGEMENT DATA

#### 4.1 Community feedback

The information presented in this report represents the preferences of those who provided feedback and should not be considered as a voting system.

Community engagement is designed to ensure that a range of perspectives and factors are considered in decision-making. It aims to create an understanding of community needs and preferences while facilitating active participation and dialogue.

There were **3,500 webpage visits**, **251 survey responses** collected through the HYS page and **49 submissions** received by email or other means for this engagement.

HYS survey responses are detailed below, with de-identified verbatim feedback appended.

#### 4.2 Survey content

The HYS survey was designed to collect quantitative and qualitative feedback data across the following:

- Demographics
- Community Strategic Plan: Imagine 2050 priorities
- Council service delivery area priorities
- Customer service experience and access
- 0.0% Rate Peg (understanding and feedback)
- Town Centre Master Plan (removal of levy from CBD business rate)
- Sporting Fees and Charges
- General Draft OP2024-25 feedback.

This data is reported below. Verbatim feedback has been de-identified and appended.

### 5.0 SURVEY DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS

#### 5.1 Survey design

The HYS survey was designed with a mix of specific, tick box questions as well as open form or free-text fields. This enabled us to collect two types of data - quantitative and qualitative.

**Quantitative data** refers to information that can be measured and expressed numerically. This type of data is often used to quantify behaviour, opinions, and other variables, making it possible to perform statistical analysis. This is the graph producing data.

**Qualitative data** refers to non-numeric information that describes qualities, characteristics, and experiences. In this survey, we collect this data through open ended questions that encouraged respondents to tell us more. This data provides in depth insights into people's behaviours, motivations, and emotions.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

We refer to this as verbatim (or word-for-word) feedback in this report.

### 5.2 Data analysis and generative AI

Key themes throughout this report have been identified using generative artificial intelligence (AI). For the purposes of this report, generative AI refers to a system that can create content based on the data that we provide.

Prior to using AI our team would create a code frame (a list of themes) to tag feedback. This manual process is an effective method on smaller, single focused engagement projects (such as local playgrounds). It is not effective for use on engagement projects of this scale.

#### Benefits of using AI

Using AI to analyse large amounts of free text feedback in community engagement reporting offers significant benefits, including:

- Efficiency and speed: AI can process and analyse vast amounts of text data much faster than manual methods.
- Scalability: AI tools can handle large datasets without a loss in performance, making it feasible to analyse feedback from extensive community engagement activities like the Draft OP2024-25.
- Consistency and objectivity: AI provides consistent analysis, reducing the biases that can occur with human interpretation and ensuring uniformity in data evaluation.

#### Considerations in the use of AI

Perception of bias: AI models only work on the data that is inputted and this may be perceived as under-representing marginalised groups or minority views.

Relying solely on AI for community engagement may overlook the importance of human interaction, empathy, and relationship-building in fostering trust and understanding within the community.

Attempts to address this are made through additional instructions. Further analysis of the AI-generated data provided is also undertaken to combat potential bias.

#### Human-centred engagement

AI is a tool that can assist the engagement reporting process. We are committed to human-centred engagement throughout our community across a range of engagement methods.

All themes generated using AI have been reviewed and interrogated to ensure that the sentiment represents the feedback received.

#### Privacy

No identifying information was included when using AI to analyse feedback.



## Engagement Report - **Draft OP2024-25**

Council staff work to a Code of Conduct and in accordance with our legislative requirements. This includes the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW), the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW) and the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW). Further details are outlined in Council's Privacy Statement and Privacy Management Plan Policy.

These are [available on our website](#), along with our Legislative Compliance Policy.



# Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

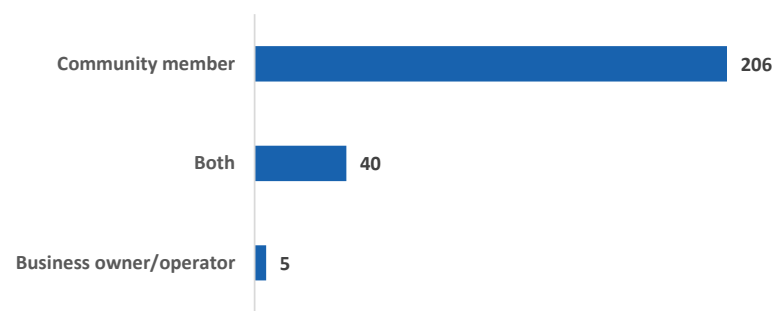
## 6.0 DEMOGRAPHICS AND SUPPORTING DATA

### 6.1 Demographics

Council seeks to capture data around demographics to provide insights into the responses gathered and the representation of our local community’s views.

For the Draft OP2024-25, these included questions around their age, location and status as a community member or business owner.

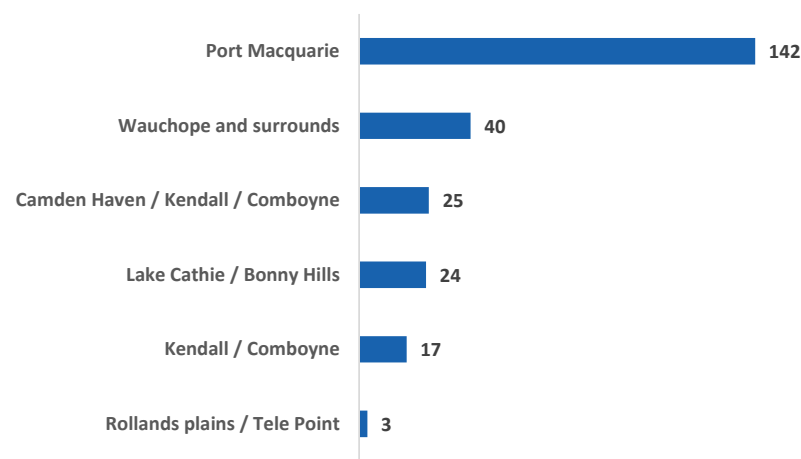
#### Q1. I am responding as:



#### Q2. Age Range

Age Range	<25	26-40	41-60	61-80	>80
Responses	2	50	110	87	2

#### Q3. Postcode / Location

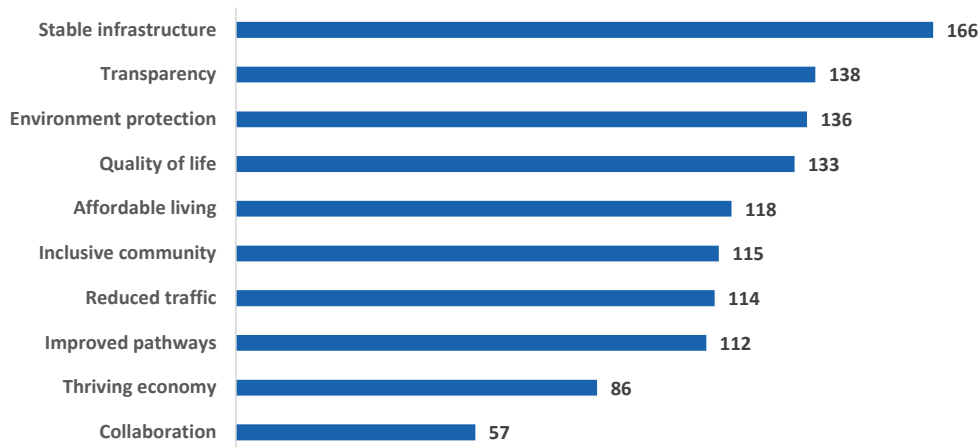




## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### 6.2 Community Strategic Plan: Imagine 2050

**Q4. The Community Strategic Plan: Imagine2050 sets out our community's long-term vision for the future and sits at the top of our planning framework and includes 10 priorities, developed by the community. We'd like to know if these are still relevant to you and our community. Please select your top five priorities.**



**Q5. Are there any priorities not listed here that you would like to add?**

These themes highlight a wide range of priorities that respondents feel are important for the future development and wellbeing of the region, encompassing infrastructure, community engagement, environmental sustainability, governance, and cultural enrichment.

Verbatim responses are in **Appendix 1.0**.

#### Infrastructure and amenities

- Improve and maintain community facilities (e.g., toilets, water bubblers, tables).
- Upgrade street and public spaces (e.g., Koala Street, Camden Head).
- Develop and maintain footpaths, pathways, and cycleways.
- Enhance and maintain sporting infrastructure and facilities.
- Improve and maintain parks, parklands, and recreational areas.
- Upgrade road surfaces and improve roads network.

#### Community wellbeing and engagement

- Enhance community engagement and cultural opportunities.
- Support arts and cultural development.
- Provide opportunities for youth engagement and activities.
- Improve public health facilities and services.

#### Environmental Sustainability

- Implement sustainable development practices.
- Protect biodiversity and coastal environments.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

- Plan for climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Improve water supply security and management.

### **Governance and Management**

- Improve governance and leadership.
- Enhance transparency and community consultation.
- Reduce Council fees and unnecessary bureaucracy.
- Ensure responsible climate policies and disaster mitigation.
- Address climate change impacts and sustainability.

### **Transport and Infrastructure**

- Enhance cycling infrastructure and promote active transport.
- Improve public transport services and infrastructure.
- Plan for future transport needs, including electric vehicles.

### **Economic Development and Planning**

- Support economic development initiatives.
- Ensure balanced housing development and infrastructure.
- Support lifelong learning and community education.

### **Cultural and Indigenous Inclusion**

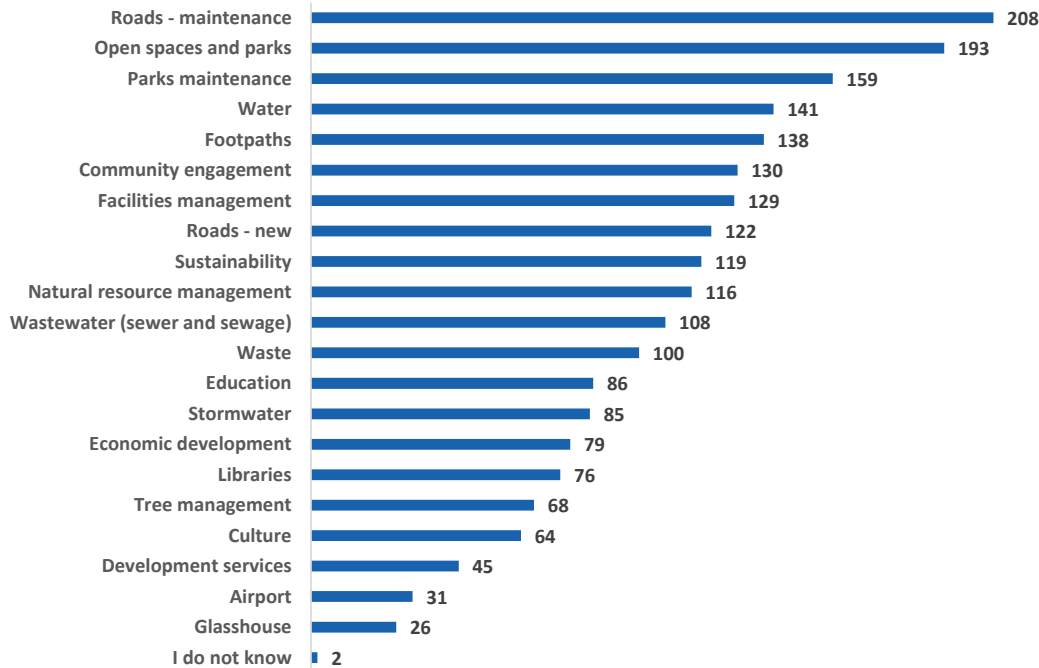
- Promote First Nations cultural inclusion and acknowledge local history.
- Support cultural awareness and diversity.
- Improve arts and cultural offerings and facilities.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### 6.3 Council Service Delivery Areas - Priorities

**Q6. Please select your top ten priority service areas for Council expenditure in the 2024-25 financial year.**



**Q7. Are there any services that you feel are missing here?**

Examples of areas that respondents feel are missing from our service delivery for the 2024-25 financial year are listed below. Verbatim comments are in **Appendix 2.0**.

#### Infrastructure Maintenance and Upgrades

- Floating wharves and dredging for visiting and local boats.
- Street maintenance and improvements.
- Maintenance and renewal of public toilets.
- Rural roads improvement, particularly unsealed roads.

#### Environmental and Sustainability Services

- Climate change resilience and management.
- Green energy transition.
- Environmental and species protection (flora and fauna).
- Support for regenerative agriculture and local food farms.

#### Transport and Infrastructure

- Building separate cycleways to improve safety and promote cycling.
- Infrastructure maintenance and resilience.
- Traffic management improvements (e.g., traffic lights, road widening).



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### Community and Social Services

- Aged care services and support to stay at home longer.
- Disaster management and emergency housing support.
- Support for the arts and mental wellbeing.
- Youth initiatives and facilities for homeless people.

### Cultural and Recreational Services

- Investment in and upgrades to sporting facilities.
- Cultural development and community grants.
- Arts and cultural growth with community inclusion.
- Historic cemetery and cultural heritage management.

### Public Facilities and Services

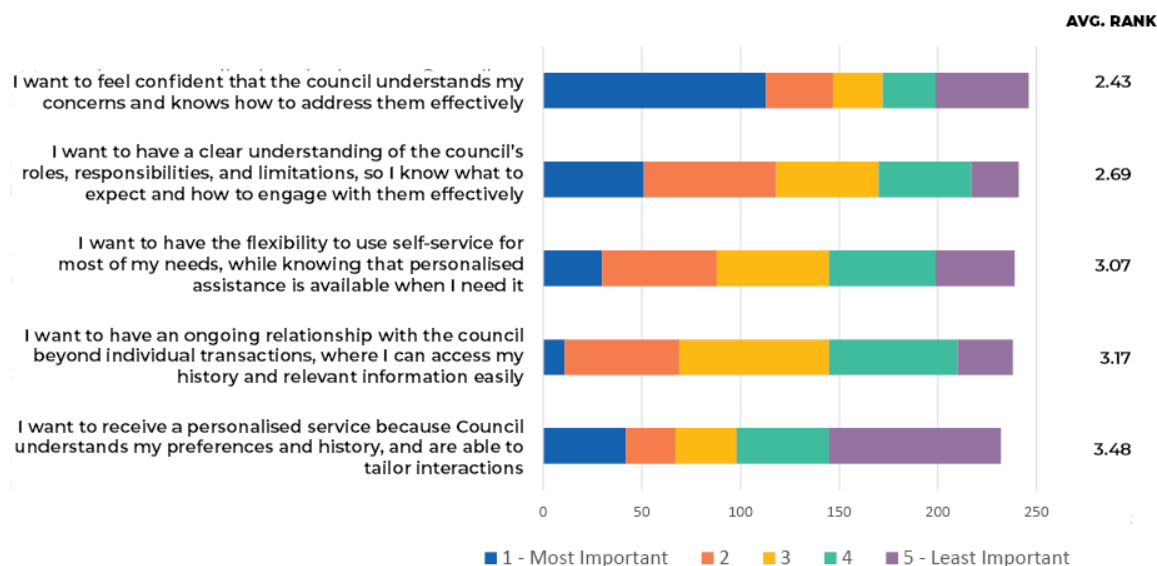
- Soft plastic recycling services.
- Public transport links and improvements.
- Public facilities management and sustainability.
- Support for community gardens and indigenous food supply.

### Economic Development and Services

- Affordable housing initiatives.
- Better air services and transport links.

## 6.4 Customer Experience with Council

**Q. How do these statements reflect the way you want to access Council services in the future? Please rank your responses from most (1) to least important (5)**





## Engagement Report - **Draft OP2024-25**



# PART 2

## Focus Area Feedback (Rate Peg, TCMP, Sporting Fees and Charges)

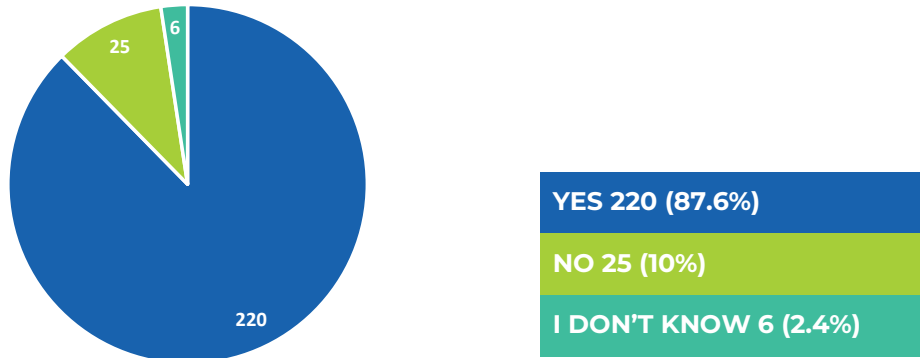


## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

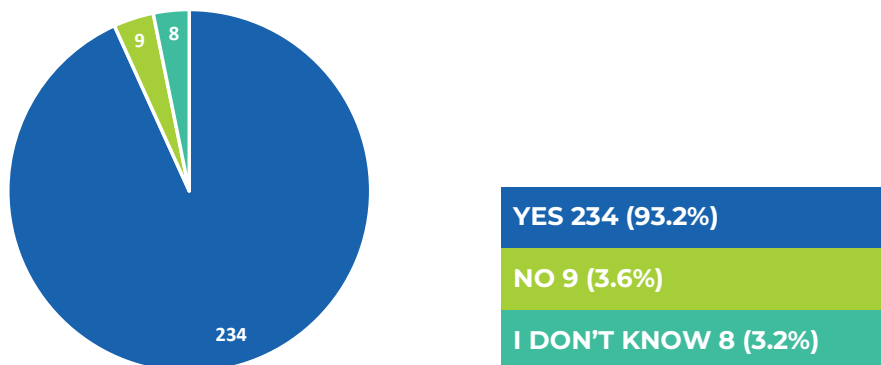
### 7.0 HAVE YOUR SAY DATA 0.0% RATE PEG

#### 7.1 0.0% Rate Peg Survey Responses

**Q9. Are you aware of the proposed 0.0% Rate Peg to be applied in the Draft OP2024-25?**



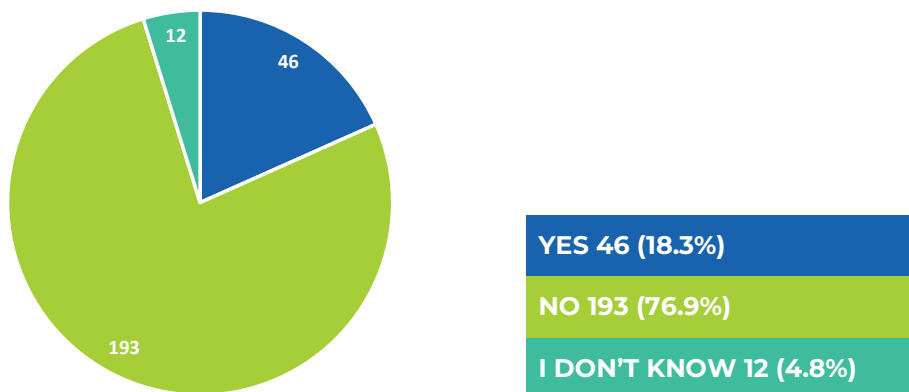
**Q10. Do you understand that if the 0.0% Rate Peg is adopted we will need to reduce our expenditure on some operational services by \$2.7M over the 2024-25 financial year?**



**Q11. Do you support the 0.0% Rate Peg being included in the OP2024-25?**



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25



### 7.2 Feedback themes 0.0% Rate Peg

#### Q12. Do you have additional feedback on the proposed 0.0% Rate Peg?

The following common themes\* have been identified from over 165 comments made in response to this question.

Over 75% of respondents do not support the inclusion of a 0.0% Rate Peg with 18.3% in support of the proposal. These statistics are reflected in the sentiment of the comments.

Verbatim feedback on the 0.0% Rate Peg is in **Appendix 3.0**.

#### Impact on Service Delivery and Infrastructure

- There is widespread concern about the potential reduction in essential services and infrastructure maintenance due to the lack of funds resulting from a 0% rate peg.
- Specific concerns include road maintenance, parks and gardens maintenance, tree and shrub care, and the impact on community facilities like sporting fields and libraries.

#### Affordability and Cost of Living

- Any increase in rates, even a small one, would place an additional financial burden on ratepayers who are already facing a cost of living crisis.
- A \$60 increase per household might seem small, but collectively, it amounts to a significant sum of \$2.7 million in additional revenue for Council.
- There's a belief that keeping rates stable helps both homeowners and renters, as renters may face increased costs if landlords pass on rate increases.
- Council needs to find efficiencies and reduce unnecessary expenditures rather than continually raising rates.

#### Community Grants, Cultural Events, and Arts Funding

- Many respondents expressed concerns about the negative impact on community grants, cultural events, and arts funding. These are seen as vital for community spirit, wellbeing, and economic development.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

- Events like Artwalk are highlighted as important for community engagement and attracting tourists.

### Financial Responsibility and Sustainability

- A common theme is the view that a 0% rate peg is financially irresponsible and short-sighted.
- Concerns are raised about the long-term financial sustainability of Council, with warnings that deferred maintenance and service cuts now could lead to higher costs in the future.

### Alignment with Strategic Plans and Vision

- Feedback frequently references the Community Strategic Plan: Imagine 2050 emphasising the inconsistency of a 0.0% Rate Peg with the community vision.
- Residents stress the importance of aligning budget decisions with long-term community goals and strategic priorities.

### Public Consultation and Representation

- There is criticism regarding public consultation processes and the perceived disconnect between Council decisions and community preferences.
- Some residents feel that Council has not adequately considered the views of ratepayers in its decision-making.

### Economic Impact and Value for Money

- Concerns are voiced about the economic impact of a 0.0% Rate Peg, with arguments that the potential savings to ratepayers are outweighed by the negative effects on community services and facilities.
- There is a sentiment that investing in shared resources and maintaining adequate funding for Council provides better value for money in the long run.

### Safety and Wellbeing Concerns

- Safety concerns related to reduced maintenance of public spaces, including increased fire risks and dangers from overgrown trees and shrubs, are mentioned.
- The impact on community wellbeing, including the loss of recreational spaces and opportunities for community engagement, is also highlighted.

### Staffing and Corporate Overheads

- Feedback includes concerns about the management of corporate overheads and staffing levels, with calls for efficiency improvements and appropriate resourcing for Council projects.

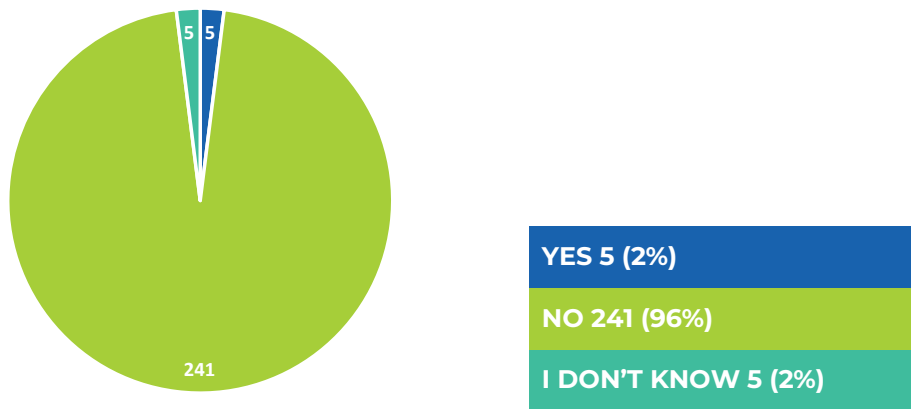
*\* Generative AI was used in the identification of these key themes.*

## 8.0 HAVE YOUR SAY DATA TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

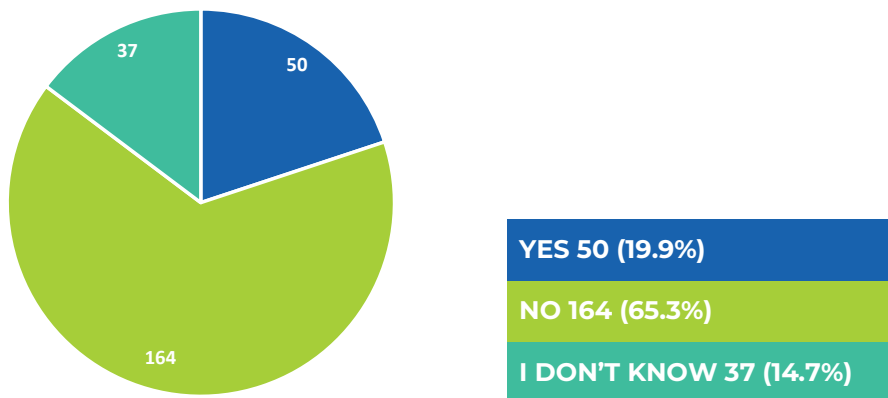
### 8.1 Town Centre Master Plan Survey Responses

**Q13. I own or operate a business and am subject to paying the TCMP component of the Port Macquarie CBD Business Rate.**



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**Q14. I support the removal of the TCMP component from the Port Macquarie CBD Business Rate.**



## 8.2 Feedback Themes TCMP Rate Removal

**Q15. Do you have any other feedback on the removal of the Town Centre Master Plan component?**

Feedback presents a balance between the perceived fairness of cost distribution and the importance of maintaining high service levels in the CBD. Proponents of removing the levy emphasise financial relief and equitable cost-sharing, while opponents highlight the direct benefits to CBD businesses and the potential negative impact on service quality and community pride.

Verbatim feedback is in **Appendix 4.0**



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### Equity and Fairness

- Residents and businesses in areas like Wauchope, Laurieton, and others should not shoulder the cost of maintaining Port Macquarie's CBD, which they do not directly benefit from.
- The proposal to remove the levy is seen by some as a politically motivated decision that benefits a small group of businesses at the expense of the broader community.
- There is a sentiment that all ratepayers should share the costs equitably if the levy is removed.

### Financial Relief for Businesses

- Removing the levy would provide economic relief to businesses, especially small ones struggling with rising costs.
- The levy's removal is perceived to make doing business in the CBD more affordable.

### General Rate Funding

- Some argue that maintaining the CBD should be funded through general rates to distribute costs more equitably among all ratepayers, as everyone benefits from a well-maintained CBD.
- There has been confusion about the levy's purpose and outcomes, leading to dissatisfaction among those who paid it.

### Service Redistribution

- If the levy is removed, some believe services provided by the levy should cease, ensuring fairness across all business areas.
- Some suggest that better management and diligence of existing resources could address maintenance needs without the levy.

### User Pays Principle

- Businesses in the CBD benefit directly from the enhanced services funded by the levy, such as increased foot traffic and commercial opportunities. It is fair for these businesses to contribute to the costs.
- The levy ensures that those who benefit the most from the improvements help fund them.

### Maintenance and Service Levels

- There is concern that removing the levy will lead to reduced maintenance and upkeep of the CBD.
- The TCMP levy has historically funded significant improvements, maintaining a high standard of service that might not be achievable through general rates alone.

### Economic and Social Impact

- A well-maintained CBD attracts visitors and supports local businesses, fostering community pride and enhancing tourism.
- Removing the levy and redistributing costs across all ratepayers could unfairly impact those who do not directly benefit from the CBD enhancements.

### Commitment to Current Standards

- Maintaining the levy ensures consistent funding for the CBD, preventing potential service reductions and supporting ongoing improvements.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

- The community expects a certain standard in the CBD, supported by the levy, and removing it could undermine these expectations and lead to dissatisfaction.

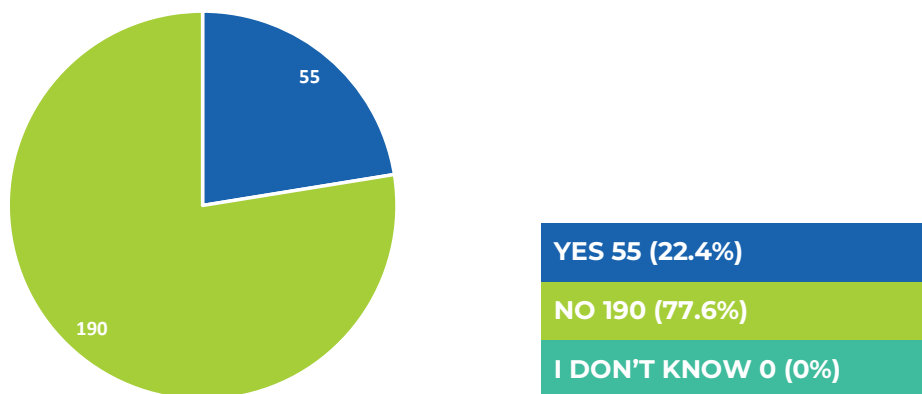
### Transparency and Communication

- Improved communication and transparency about how the TCMP levy funds are used could address some concerns and build broader support for maintaining the levy.
- Some suggest adjusting the levy rate rather than removing it entirely, balancing the financial burden more equitably.

### Compromise Solutions

- Focusing on essential services like street sweeping and footpath cleaning could be a middle ground, retaining some benefits of the levy while addressing cost concerns.

### Q16. I support the redistribution of the shortfall to ratepayers across the region.



### 8.3 Feedback Themes TCMP Rate Redistribution

#### Q17. Do you have any other feedback on the proposal to redistribute the shortfall in TCMP rates to ratepayers across the region?

The majority of responses directly oppose such redistribution and advocate for maintaining the current user-pays system. Responses from who support the proposal tend to focus on the benefits of the TCMP and the role of a vibrant CBD in community life, rather than explicit support for redistributing the costs across all ratepayers.

Common themes identified are listed below. Verbatim feedback is in **Appendix 5.0**

#### Fairness and Equity

- Many respondents feel it is unfair to redistribute the TCMP rate shortfall to all ratepayers, especially those in rural and outlying areas who do not benefit from the Port Macquarie CBD improvements.

#### Economic and Financial Concerns



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

- There is concern about the potential financial impact, with worries about increased rates across the board if the TCMP rates are removed.
- Respondents highlight that (residential) rates are already high and additional increases would be burdensome, particularly in the current economic climate.

### Support for User-Pays Principle

- Advocates for maintaining the user-pays principle, where businesses that benefit directly from the services continue to bear the costs.
- There is opposition to the idea that general ratepayers should subsidise services that primarily benefit businesses in the CBD.

### Efficiency and Fiscal Responsibility / Alternative Funding Solutions

- Council should find efficiencies, cut unnecessary costs, or secure alternative funding to manage the shortfall.
- Suggestions include applying for grants, implementing a second property rate, and finding other ways to raise funds without increasing general rates.
- Some propose reducing the frequency or scope of certain services in the CBD to manage costs.

### Benefits of a Vibrant CBD

- Some respondents recognise the value of a well-maintained town centre for attracting visitors and supporting the local economy, advocating for businesses to continue paying the TCMP rates.
- There is acknowledgment that the TCMP rates were initially agreed upon as beneficial for the community and businesses.

### Equitable Distribution of Services

- Respondents from rural areas and other town centres express concern that they will be subsidising services that they do not use, calling for equitable investment across all areas within the LGA.
- Specific local needs, such as footpaths and safety improvements, are highlighted as priorities that should not be overlooked in favour of the CBD.

### Community Consultation and Transparency

- There is appreciation for the community consultation process and a call for transparent communication and detailed justifications for any proposed changes.
- Respondents emphasise the need for listening to key stakeholders, including local businesses and residents, in the decision-making process.

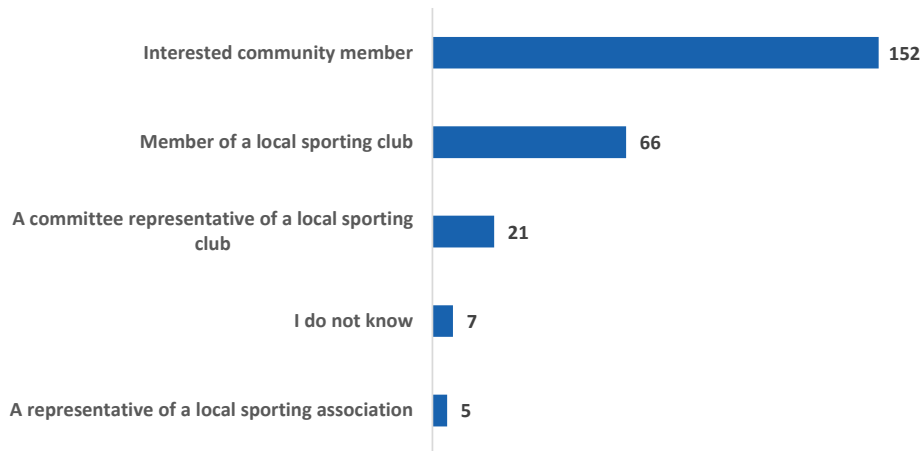
## 9.0 HAVE YOUR SAY DATA SPORTING FEES AND CHARGES

### 9.1 Sporting Fees and Charges Survey Responses

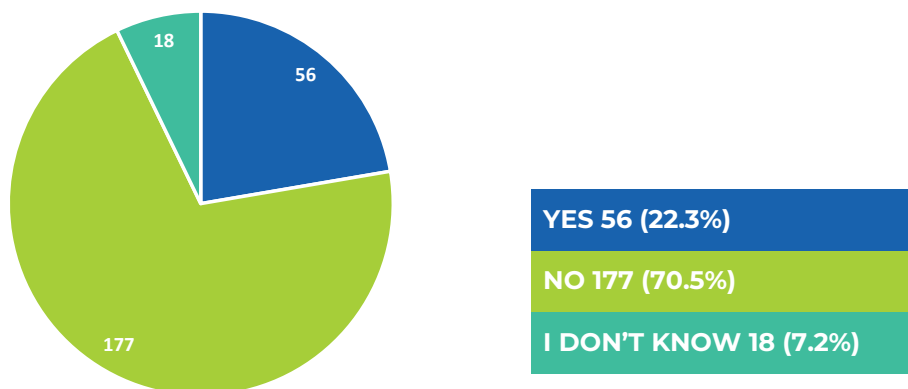
**Q18. I am responding as:**



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25



### Q19. Do you support the proposed introduction of sporting field use fees and charges?

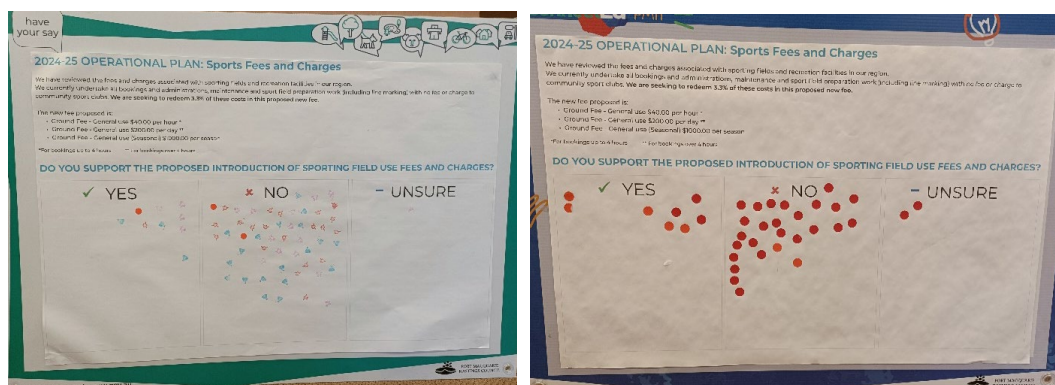


### 9.2 Dotmocracy

During our pop-up engagements we asked community members to share their thoughts on this question using a dotmocracy board. This involves the use of stickers or stamps to vote for the supported option. The tool is a standalone piece giving a visual representation of the feelings of those who attended on the day. This data is not included in the pie chart count above.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25



Total dotmocracy data: Yes: 17; No: 81; Unsure: 3

### 9.3 Feedback Themes Proposed Fees and Charges

#### Q20. Do you have any further feedback on these proposed fees and charges?

The debate over the proposed new fees for using sports fields highlights a significant divide. Proponents argue for financial sustainability and the user pays principle, while opponents are concerned about the financial burden on families and clubs, reduced participation in sports, and the negative social impacts on the community.

Verbatim feedback on this subject is in **Appendix 6.0**

#### Financial Sustainability

- Supporters argue that introducing fees for using sports fields will help Council cover maintenance costs sustainably.
- They believe that user pays principle is fair and ensures those who benefit from the facilities contribute towards their upkeep.

#### Financial Burden on Families and Clubs

- Opponents argue that the fees will place an additional financial burden on families, particularly those with children participating in multiple sports.
- They are concerned that the fees will make it harder for clubs to operate and may lead to increased costs for families.

#### Fairness and Equity

- Some believe that it is fair for sports clubs to contribute to the maintenance costs of the fields they use, rather than passing the entire burden onto ratepayers.
- They argue that this approach ensures fairness across the community.

#### Concerns about Maintenance and Facilities

- There are concerns about the current state of maintenance and facilities, suggesting that improvements should be made before introducing fees.

#### Cost Recovery and Efficiency



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

- Proponents suggest that introducing fees will enable better management of resources and potentially improve the maintenance and facilities.
- They argue that this will prevent misuse of facilities and ensure they are maintained to a higher standard.

### Council's Responsibility

- Some believe that the maintenance of sports fields is a core responsibility of Council and should be funded through rates.
- They argue that it is unfair to shift the cost onto sports clubs and families.

### Participation, Access, and Wellbeing

- Some believe that charging fees for sports fields will limit access to outdoor activities, particularly for children, which are essential for community health and wellbeing.
- There is a strong concern that the fees will deter participation in sports, especially among lower-income families.
- Critics argue that this will have negative impacts on community health, wellbeing, and social cohesion.

## 10.0 HAVE YOUR SAY GENERAL FEEDBACK

In addition to sharing feedback on specific topics, respondents also submitted feedback on the Draft OP2024-25 more broadly. Feedback received here that re-emphasises that previously shared in specific questions about the proposed 0.0% Rate Peg, the TCMP rate removal/redistribution and the sporting fees and charges has not been repeated here. Verbatim comments on these subjects have been included in relevant appendices.

Overall, the consolidated feedback underscores the community's desire for improved infrastructure, sustained support for cultural and community initiatives, enhanced environmental and sustainability efforts, financial prudence, and transparent, effective communication.

Verbatim feedback, which includes comments on specific Draft OP2024-25 reference numbers and identifies specific projects, is included in **Appendix 7.0**

### Community Grants

- Community groups play a vital role in supporting local initiatives and maintaining facilities.
- Without these grants, community projects will cease, undermining interaction, ownership, and a sense of belonging.

### Ferry Fees

- Some residents of the North Shore are opposed to ferry fare increases, arguing that such costs should be spread across all ratepayers, as the ferry is a road-like facility.
- Ferry users feel that they are being burdened by increasing fees and that this is impacting their quality of life.

### Libraries and Community Halls



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

- These facilities are essential for community connection, education, and entertainment. Continued support is crucial.

### Cultural Initiatives and Reconciliation

- More efforts are needed to support reconciliation, truth-telling, and education about Aboriginal people and local history.
- Building cultural competence and normalising First Nations initiatives can reduce racism.
- Council should ensure representation and apply cultural safety and equity principles.
- Clear allocation of funds for cultural initiatives is needed. Improving First Nations people's voices in Council decisions and engagement is essential.

### Infrastructure and Maintenance

- There is a pressing need for improved cycling infrastructure for safety and to encourage green commuting.
- Addressing traffic congestion at key intersections, especially near the hospital, is crucial.
- Development needs to keep pace with infrastructure capacity to avoid overloading existing roads and facilities.
- Improved pathways are necessary to accommodate the ageing population using walkers and mobility scooters.

### Environmental and Sustainability Initiatives

- Council's sustainability strategy and policy appear to have stalled. This should be a top priority, including disaster resilience and planning.
- Protecting koalas is vital for the region's biodiversity and tourism. Efforts should be made to prevent further habitat loss and ensure their survival east of the Pacific Highway.
- Coastal Management Plan More funds are needed to complete the Coastal Management Plan.

### Financial and Budget Concerns

- Concerns are raised about reduced services due to budget cuts. Transparency and accountability in budgeting and spending are crucial. The community needs clear information on how funds are allocated and the impact of budget cuts.
- Airport Investment: some concerns about financial losses associated with the airport and whether it is a worthwhile investment.

### Engagement and Communication

- Effective communication and engagement with the community are essential. Council should make it easier for residents to find information and get involved in decision-making processes.
- Improved communication platforms and strategies are needed to ensure broader community involvement and transparency in Council activities.



Engagement Report - **Draft OP2024-25****PART 3****Community Groups, Organisations,  
Businesses and Non-Have Your Say  
Submissions**



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### 11.0 SUBMISSIONS FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS, BUSINESSES AND OTHER

A total of 49 submissions were received from methods other than the HYS survey. These submissions are typically on behalf of associations, businesses, community, and sporting groups. One petition has been received as part of this group of submissions.

A 321 signature petition to *Stop [the] Introduction of Usage Fees for PMHC Sporting Fields and Recreational Facilities* was received from Hastings Baseball Incorporated. This is noted in this report but (on account of being received after the public exhibition closing date) will be addressed separately, and in line with our petitions policy.

The following identified groups made submissions in this manner. We acknowledge that other groups may be represented in the survey feedback. All feedback is treated equally, regardless of the source.

- Wauchope Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Camden Haven Community Council Action Team (CCAT)
- Bonny Hills Progress Association
- Lake Cathie Progress Association
- Revive Lake Cathie
- Northshore Progress Association
- Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association
- Koala Conservation Australia
- Greenbourne Nursery
- Port FC
- King and Campbell
- Kendall to Kew Shared Pathway

Feedback from these groups and other community feedback is summarised below, where appropriate, verbatim feedback is in **Appendix 8.0** and **Appendix 9.0**. We have not included verbatim responses from feedback that cannot be de-identified or relates to private businesses, addresses or persons. This information will be available to Council and Councillors to consider when finalising the Draft OP2024-25.

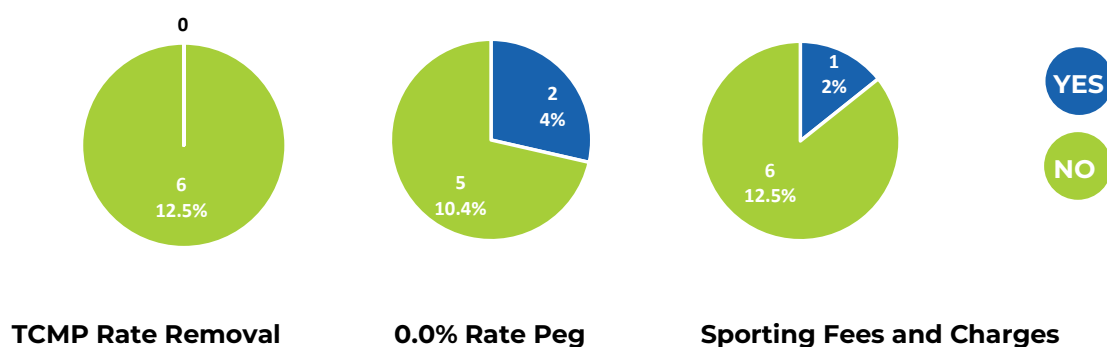
This feedback is being shared with Council's key decision makers and Councillors. These submissions are not included in the appendices as they include identifying information. Publishing personal information would be in breach of the legislation and policies Council follows to maintain peoples' privacy.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### 11.1 Focus Area Sentiment

The following key themes have been identified from the 49 submissions received outside of the Have Your Say survey. Where the feedback relates to one of the three focus areas (rate peg, TCMP, sporting fees) this has been included in the relevant appendix for that focus area.



Figures shown in charts above are quantity of responses for or against each focus area received via these submissions.

### 11.2 Community Feedback (non-organisation)

These themes reflect the diverse range of concerns, suggestions, and opinions expressed by the community in their feedback on the Draft OP2024-25. They highlight the community's focus on financial responsibility, infrastructure improvements, equity in service provision, transparency in budgeting, and effective community engagement. Addressing these concerns will be crucial for Council in finalising the Operational Plan while ensuring it meets the needs and expectations of residents. Verbatim feedback is in **Appendix 8**.

#### 0.0% Rate Peg

- Some residents support a rate freeze, appreciating the potential savings and suggesting that reducing services is not the best way to find effectiveness improvements.
- Others oppose a rate freeze, expressing concerns over its impact on Council services, including potential cuts to essential programs like the Community Grants program.

#### Infrastructure and Public Safety

- Specific Infrastructure Requests made for various infrastructure improvements, such as additional street lighting on Lighthouse Road West, timely completion of projects like the Tacking Point Lighthouse ramp, and improved lighting on the Breakwall.
- Concerns about ongoing issues like the treatment plant odour problem and the need for better maintenance and signage on the Coastal Walk.

#### Sporting Fees and Charges

- Strong opposition to the proposed introduction of user pays fees for sports ground usage, citing their regressive nature and the financial strain they would place on active community members, especially low-income families.

#### Transparency and Accountability in Budgeting



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

- Calls for greater transparency in the service area budgets with one submission questioning how environmental levy funds are allocated and if the funds are being spent on non-environmental projects.
- Suggestions for reallocating budget funds to support specific community needs, such as purchasing deer-proof tree guards for volunteer groups.

### Strategic Planning and Environmental Sustainability

- Local Environmental Plan (LEP) Review: Concerns over the outdated LEP and calls for its review to incorporate new information on environmental conservation and align with housing development pressures.
- Questions about the availability and implementation of an Environmental Sustainability Action Plan.

### Active Transport

- Advocacy for more funding and prioritization of active transport projects, including additional shared pathway proposals beyond the currently funded pathways.

### Community Engagement and Consultation

- Emphasis on the need for Council to review and respond to submissions, making necessary changes to the Draft Operational Plan based on community feedback.

### Governance

- Concerns about the potential long-term impacts of Council decisions on the community and calls for responsible governance and fiscal management.

## 11.3 Wauchope Chamber of Commerce and Industry Feedback

### Oppose 0.0% Rate Rise

- The Wauchope Chamber of Commerce believes a 0.0% rate rise is not a sound business decision. Small, regular rate increases aligned with inflation are more manageable and help maintain expected service levels.
- Advocate for a realistic rate rise to avoid larger increases in the future and to ensure long-term financial health and service delivery.

### Support for Sporting Clubs

- Oppose charging clubs for the use of sporting fields. These facilities are community assets, providing green space and recreational opportunities for everyone. Fees could deter participation and negatively impact community health and engagement.
- Charging for sporting field use could reduce sporting activity, leading to fewer visitors and economic downturns in related businesses such as food, accommodation, and retail sectors.

### Town Centre Master Plan Rate

- Oppose shifting the cost of superior Port Macquarie Town Centre services to all ratepayers. Wauchope and Camden Haven residents should not fund additional services for Port Macquarie that are not provided to their own town centres.
- Ratepayers expect current Council services and community support to continue. The proposed rate structure should ensure the sustainability of these services.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### 11.4 Camden Haven Community Council Action Team (CCAT) Feedback

#### Crucial Projects for 2024/25

- **B2B Pathway:** Ensure continuous funding for further stage completion, regular maintenance, and additional infrastructure such as benches, watering stations, and public art.
- **Creek2Creek (Queens Lake) Trail:** Allocate further funds for repairs, regular maintenance, and final connections to the B2B pathway.
- **Camden Head REI Land and Lookout Masterplan:** Budget for community meetings and the development of a masterplan for the REI Land, addressing traffic congestion and enhancing the popular beach area.
- **Camden Haven Ocean Sewage Outfall:** Secure enough funding to extend the outfall pipes to sea and explore the use of recycled water for irrigation at Pilot Beach.

#### Additional Projects for Financial Support

- **Dunbogan River Baths:** Request funding for repairs and upgrades to match North Haven Baths standards.
- **Vince Inmon Grandstand:** Seek cultural heritage funding for a large outdoor TV, public art, and heritage elements celebrating Vince Inmon.
- **Laurieton Town Centre Master Plan:** Obtain funds to work on detailed planning in one precinct.
- **Laurieton Memorial Baths:** Require maintenance upgrades and community engagement for a masterplan.
- **Dunbogan Dingy Facility:** Consider funding for a design that complements the B2B pathway and supports sailor access.

### 11.5 Bonny Hills Community Council Action Team (CCAT) Feedback

As a community organisation representing the residents of Bonny Hills and regularly interacting with Council, we provide the following feedback.

We request that Council reassess the Draft OP2024-25 to find less intrusive ways to offset the impact of the 0% rate peg, ensuring that essential services and community standards are maintained.

#### Lack of Implementation of Community Priorities

- There is no evidence that the priorities set out in the Bonny Hills Community Plan, particularly the Bonny Hills Reserves Master Plan adopted by PMHC in July 2022, have been included in Draft OP2024. This is highly disappointing.

#### Impact of 0% Rate Peg

- The decision by four of the eight Councillors to approve a 0% Rate Peg for 2024/25, instead of the allowable 4.6%, has reduced Council's income by \$2.7M. This decision lacks financial justification and necessitates reductions in several key services.
- The reduced funding will adversely affect the environment (less tree and shrub maintenance), natural recreational areas (less mowing of parks and garden



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

maintenance), and community activities (reduced funding for arts, library, and community hall maintenance, and the complete discontinuation of Community Grants).

### Exploring Alternative Financial Solutions

- We urge Council to explore alternative ways to maintain financial sustainability, such as evaluating the additional income generated by the 50 new fees proposed in the Draft OP2024-25.

### Effect on Residents and Tourism

- Reduced services will impact both residents and holidaymakers critical to the Mid North Coast economy. Lower standards could drive visitors to other destinations, negatively affecting the local economy.

### 11.6 Lake Cathie Progress Association Feedback

We request that Lake Cathie projects be considered and included in the 24/25 Operational Budget. Lake Cathie has experienced faster-than-expected growth according to the Urban Management Strategy 2017 - 2036 and requires urgent assistance to complete various projects.

### Population Growth

- It was anticipated that by 2036, the combined population of Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills would be 9898. However, the census two years ago recorded a combined population of 7341, with Lake Cathie alone at 4296. Post-census developments, including Gem Life, are set to meet the projected population target about 10 years earlier than expected.

### Lake Cathie Foreshore Master Plan

- Several items from the Lake Cathie Foreshore Master Plan remain incomplete and urgent. (A list of specific items in the master plan has been submitted)

### Footpaths and Bike Lanes

- The lack of footpaths and bike lanes poses a safety hazard, especially along the busy Ocean Drive. This is crucial for the health and fitness of residents, particularly the aging population.

### Traffic Management

- Several major housing estates and over-50s precincts have been built, along with a new nursing home. Ocean Drive urgently needs the planned traffic lights and roundabouts to be installed and operational.

### Parking

- The Lake Cathie Foreshore Reserve Master Plan promised additional parking, which has not commenced. This is causing issues for local businesses and residents, particularly during peak periods.

### Middle Rock Road

- Needs resurfacing to ensure emergency vehicle access to the beach.

### Lighting



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

- Better lighting is required on Ocean Drive between Pozieres Retirement Village and Lake Cathie Oval (Cathie Straight) and between Evans Street and Oxley Street (bridge side).

### Jonathon Dixon Reserve Carpark

- Requires complete resurfacing, not just pothole filling. The toilets in the reserve need to be included in Council's Service Plan for regular cleaning.

### Ocean Drive

- Consider updates between Miala Street roundabout to Kenwood Drive, Lake Cathie.

### 11.7 Revive Lake Cathie Feedback

Revive Lake Cathie Inc. fully supports the submission from the Lake Cathie Progress Association towards the Draft OP2024-25.

### Urgent Need for Parking and Foreshore Plan Completion

- The completion of the previously agreed Lake Cathie Foreshore Plan (Stages 1 & 2) and the provision of additional parking are urgently needed due to the rapid growth in housing developments and the increase in visitor numbers.

### Long-standing Requests

- Over many years, LCPA's submissions to Council have consistently requested that these issues be addressed in Operational Plans. These requests are also emphasized in the Lake Cathie CCAT Plan, approved by PMHC in 2021.

### Financial Revenue Consideration

- Given the significant financial revenue generated from new developments in the area, it is essential that the community sees these pressing issues being addressed promptly.

We urge PMHC to prioritise these needs to support the rapidly growing Lake Cathie community.

### 11.8 Northshore Progress Association

Key themes from the NSPA are summarise below. The full submission is in **Appendix 9.0**

- **Unfair and Discriminatory Charges:** The community views the proposed ferry fare increases as unfair, singling out ferry users when other road network users are not subject to similar charges.
- **Excessive Fare Increases:** Specific fare increases, particularly for weekly tickets, are highlighted as being disproportionately high, making them unaffordable for many families.
- **Economic and Social Impact:** High ferry costs are seen as detrimental to local businesses and social connections, potentially leading to social isolation, and decreased local commerce.
- **Recommendations for Fairer Pricing:** Suggestions include maintaining the current weekly ticket process, allowing residents to buy concession tickets for visitors, and increasing charges for heavy vehicles to reflect their actual usage of space on the ferry.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### 11.9 Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association Feedback

#### Valued Relationship and Tourism Programs

- The Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association values its relationship with Port Macquarie Hastings Council and the inclusion of tourism programs in the draft One Year Operational Plan 2024-2025.

#### Opposition to 0% Rate Peg

- The Association opposes the 0% Rate Peg, as it will lead to service reductions and financial challenges for future Councils.
- The Association has concerns about aspects of the draft Plan that may negatively impact short-term and long-term economic prosperity and social cohesion.

#### Town Centre Master Plan Levy

- The Association opposes discontinuing the Town Centre Master Plan levy and the operation of the Town Centre Master Plan Committee, emphasizing the Town Centre's importance for the visitor economy.

#### Destination Management Plan and Brand Implementation

- The Association requests the inclusion of an action to review and implement the local Destination Management Plan and the ongoing implementation of the new destination brand.

#### Ferry Charges and Sporting Fees

- The Association opposes the increase in ferry charges and the inclusion of fees for community use of halls and sporting fields, highlighting the negative impact on community access and wellbeing.

### 11.10 Koala Conservation Australia

#### A note from Council providing context to this submission.

At the 16 November 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting, Councillors resolved the following:

- Request the Chief Executive Officer consider for inclusion in the draft 2024-2025 Operational Plan, a collaborative joint-project between Port Macquarie-Hastings Council and Koala Conservation Australia to pursue an Urban koala population survey program.

#### Summary of submission

The loss of koalas is a critical issue affecting our local identity, environment, economy, and social fabric. Immediate intervention is required. The 2024-2025 Operational Plan is an opportunity for Council to implement nature-positive solutions and mitigate wildlife impacts.

KCA supports working collaboratively with Council to achieve positive outcomes for local koalas and other wildlife.

#### Significance of Koalas



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

- Koalas and wildlife are vital to the Port Macquarie Hastings Council area, driving nature-based tourism and contributing to the local economy.
- Koalas are nearing extinction due to habitat loss, disease, and threats from road strikes and dog attacks, requiring immediate action.

### Operational Plan Recommendations

- Increase funding for habitat protection and connectivity, implement tighter development controls, and enhance community education on conservation efforts.

### Support for Collaborative Projects

- Advocate for more funding to support collaborative projects addressing the wildlife crisis and the ecological emergency.

### Legislative and Funding Improvements

- Work with Council to address areas for improvement identified in the Independent Review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

### Call for Immediate Action

- The 2024/2025 Operational Plan is a critical opportunity for Council to implement solutions to protect koalas and wildlife, requiring urgent intervention and collaboration.

### 11.11 Greenbourne Nursery Feedback and Petition

The primary goal of the petition (389 signatures) is to reconstruct and asphalt the entire car park [located for safety, particularly for elderly customers who struggle with navigating potholes. We understand there are many other roads and car parks needing work, but we feel this is a top priority to prevent serious injury. We would love for it to be upgraded to match the western end (IGA) with allocated parking spaces and garden beds, which we would be happy to plant and maintain.

- **Aesthetic Appeal** As the gateway to the Mid North Coast, the car park's condition impacts first impressions, and the petitioners want it to be inviting and beautiful.
- **Long-standing Issue** The issue of the car park's condition has been ongoing for almost 17 years, with both current and previous owners discussing it with Council.
- **Ineffective Repairs** Patch-ups every two years are insufficient due to unsealed areas causing water damage and creating a mushy pit, with noticeable ground movement.
- **High Traffic and Customer Complaints** The car park operates 7 days a week and receives daily customer complaints about its poor condition, highlighting its high traffic and usage.
- **Omnicare Risk Assessment.** Omnicare has deemed the car park high risk and will not bring their buses until it is assessed as safe, indicating serious safety issues.

### 11.12 Port FC Feedback

The club requests clarification on proposed fees for sports ground use.

- 1) The Sports Fees & Charges form states a flat \$1000 per season. Is this per club or per field?



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

2) The Fees and Charges document shows the below charges on pages 63 & 64

- Ground Fee - General use (Seasonal): \$1000 per season. Per club or per field?
- Canteen and change room use: \$500 per season
- Lighting \$7 per pole per hour? Is this instead of or as well as the current per hour charge?

### 11.13 King and Campbell Feedback

King and Campbell have made 8 submissions on behalf of others/clients. These submissions focus on strategic land use planning and significant infrastructure design and development and have been shared with relevant Council divisional staff to be considered in the finalisation of the Draft OP2024-25. These submissions will be considered but are not included in this report due to the extent of identifying factors throughout all submissions.

### 11.14 Kendall to Kew Shared Pathway

The village of Kendall offers numerous services and community organizations that are essential not only to Kendall residents but also to the neighbouring communities of Kew, Lakewood, and nearby estates. Safe access to these services is currently hindered by a narrow, unsafe road. A shared pathway is imperative to ensure safe access for pedestrians and cyclists to various key locations.

This pathway would greatly benefit residents by providing a safer alternative to driving, enhancing accessibility to essential services and community activities.



Engagement Report - **Draft OP2024-25**

# PART 4

## Communication and Engagement Activities



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### 12.0 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



#### Online survey - Have Your Say

An online survey was available for the community to complete from 22 April until 20 May. In addition to general feedback on the Draft OP2024-25 the survey included focus questions on:

- Imagine 2050: Community Strategic Plan themes
- Customer Experience
- Council services
- 0.0% Rate Peg
- Town Centre Master Plan Rate
- Sporting Fees and Charges



#### Fact Sheets

Fact Sheets were created to simplify some of the complex focal areas of the Draft OP2024-25. These were available digitally and in hard copy at our libraries and customer service centres.



#### Pop-up stalls

Five pop-up sessions held throughout the engagement period provided face to face interaction with community members and opportunity for discussion around focus issues. Rain hindered the frequency and attendance at some pop-up stalls, which conducted in at the following locations:

- Laurieton Coles - 9 May 11am-1pm
- Settlement City Shopping Centre 11 May 10am - 2pm
- Lake Cathie Autumn Fair 11 May 11am - 3pm
- Wauchope CBD IGA - 15 May 11am - 2pm
- Stuart Park 18 May 8.30am - 10am (rained out)



#### Facebook Live

By assembling a panel of experts including the CEO and members of the senior leadership team, and broadcasting live to Facebook, we were able to broadly inform the community about the Draft OP2024-25. The event provided the community an opportunity to directly access expert knowledge via a livestream chat.

The [video of the live event](#) has been viewed 4,000 times; there are 83 comments in the chat.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Following the event, we generated a **Frequently Asked Questions** document that provided responses to all questions asked via the Facebook event chat. This was shared via our HYS page. Questions and responses are included in at **Appendix 10**.



### 13.0 COMMUNICATIONS OVERVIEW



#### Communications

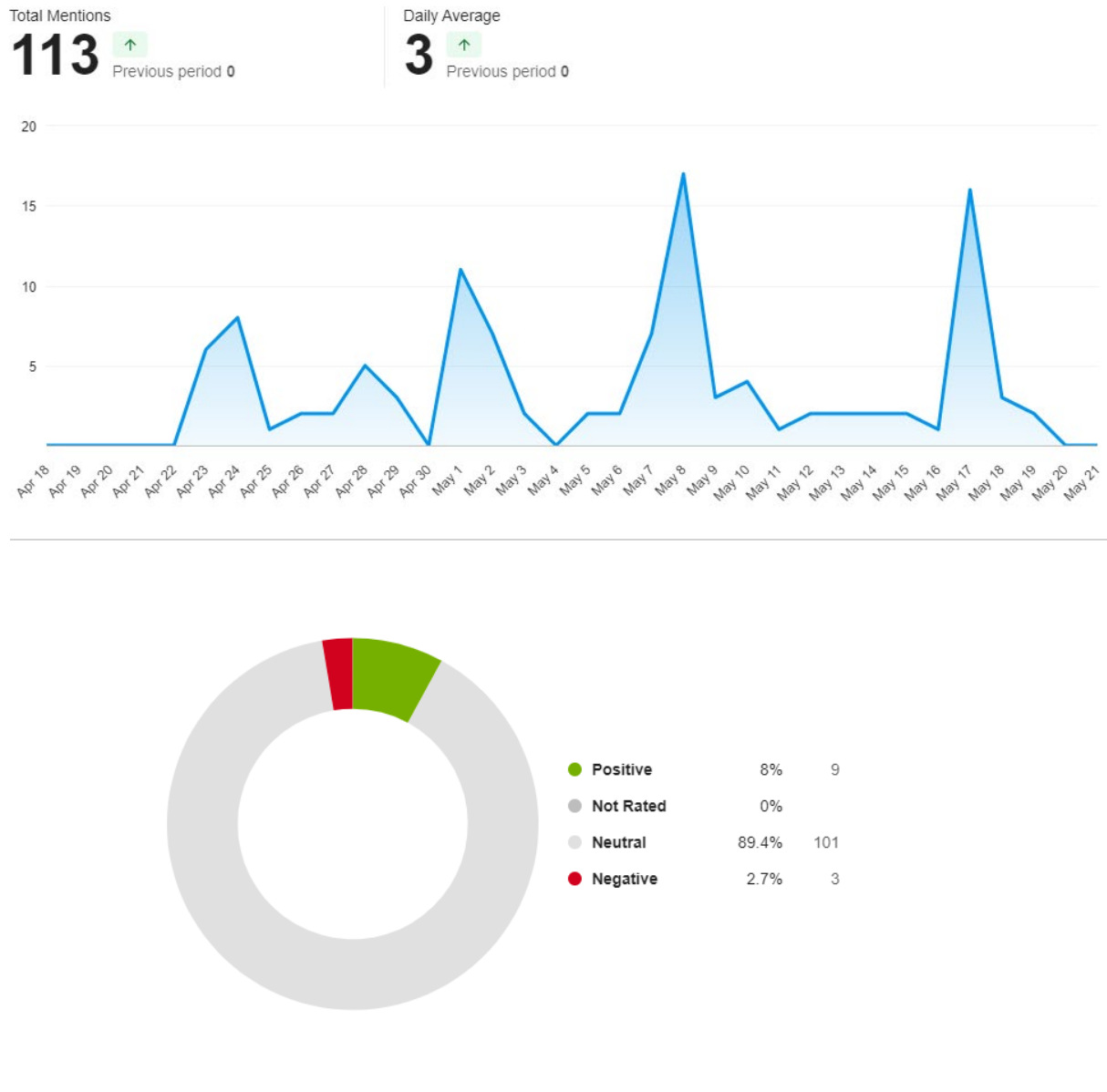
Communications activities were undertaken to promote the Operation Plan and drive audiences to Have Your Say and pop up events. Channels used included media, email marketing, social advertising, website feature and social content (Facebook and Instagram), local radio and television interviews, posters and exhibitions in our libraries and customer service centres.

There were more than 100 mentions of the Draft OP2024-25 between April 18 and May 2020. The sentiment of this coverage was mostly assessed as being neutral by Council's media monitoring service.

Links to radio features are located in **Appendix 11**



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25



A comprehensive plan utilising paid, and organic elements were deployed, including:

- Digital Billboard from Apr 23 – May 19 achieved plays: 11,869 (no additional cost)
- Radio placements scheduled from Apr 23 – May 19 (paid - Triple M)
  - 30 second spots x 52
  - average listener heard ad x 5.4 times over 3 weeks.
  - reaching ~ 63k people across region aged 10+
- Social media channels (paid and organic)
  - Facebook & Instagram posts, Stories, Reels and Facebook Live Q&A (plus promoted posts across Meta placements)
  - 14 x social posts between Apr 23 – May 20
  - 4 event posts promoting pop-up sessions.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

- Good engagement rates achieved across 5 of the posts (2% is considered good)
  - Highest performing for Reach and Impressions: Promoted Post.
  - Highest performing for Engagement: Facebook Live
    - Post reached 5.9k, 83 comments via the Q&A chat
- Paid social media
  - 3 posts promoted (\$50; \$50; \$300)
  - Best performing in terms of spend was the first promoted post
- EDMs and newsletters, including Staff Matters (internal; no additional cost)
- News media coverage (no additional cost)
  - 113 mentions from Apr 23 – May 19
  - Neutral – ~89% (101 stories)
  - Positive – 8% (9 stories)
  - Negative – ~3% (3 stories)
- Collateral to support engagement, including events and face-to-face interactions.

The Communications Report is in **Appendix 12**

### 14.0 CONCLUSION

This report has outlined the engagement and communication activities undertaken during the public exhibition period and the data collected, including qualitative and quantitative data and key themes. The level of engagement Draft OP2024-25 and was *inform to consult* using the HYS webpage as the primary platform between 22 April and 20 May 2024. Communications activities highlighted this method of engagement and feedback was also collected through several pop-up stalls, dotmocracy, a Facebook Live event, meetings, petitions, emails and group submissions.

The proposed inclusions in the Draft OP2024-25 include a 0.0% Rate Peg (2024-25); new fees and charges include a proposed sports ground user fee, and the removal of the Town Centre Master Plan component of the Port Macquarie CBD Business Rate.

**Imagine2050 priority areas** were ranked in order of importance. The top five priorities identified from Council's list were stable infrastructure; transparency; environment protection; quality of life, and affordable living. Respondents also included items around infrastructure and amenities; community wellbeing and engagement; environmental sustainability; governance and management; transport and infrastructure; economic development and planning, and cultural and Indigenous inclusion.

The top five **service delivery areas** highlighted from Council's list were roads - maintenance; open spaces and parks; parks maintenance; water, and footpaths. In addition to the **service delivery areas** that Council identified as being important, respondents also identified: infrastructure maintenance and upgrades; environmental and sustainability services; transport and infrastructure; community and social services; cultural and recreational services; public facilities and services; economic development and services.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Over 75% of survey respondents do not support the inclusion of a **0.0% Rate Peg** with just over 18% in support of the proposal and just under 5% who were unsure. These statistics are reflected in the sentiment of the comments.

Over 65% of survey respondents do not support the **removal of the TCMP component from the Port Macquarie CBD business rate** with just under 20% in support of the proposal and just under 15% who were unsure. More than 77% of respondents did not support the redistribution of the shortfall to ratepayers across the region, while just over 22% did.

Just over 70% of survey respondents do not support the introduction of **sporting field use fees and charges** with just over 22% in support of the proposal and just over 7% who were unsure. This does not include dotmocracy data, which had 81 people against the introduction, 17 in favour of the introduction and 3 people who were unsure.

The community also provided feedback on several **other topics** via the survey and through other channels. They highlight the community's focus on topics such as financial responsibility, infrastructure improvements, equity in service provision, transparency in budgeting, and effective community engagement.

### 15.0 NEXT STEPS

Council has legislative requirements for community engagement it needs to meet outlined in the Local Government Act (1993) and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979). Council uses engagement to **support advice and decision making by staff and Councillors**.

Addressing the feedback and concerns highlighted by the community will be crucial for Council in finalising the Operational Plan while ensuring it meets the needs and expectations of residents.

Relevant decision makers should consider the qualitative data provided in the verbatim responses.

Proposed changes to the Draft OP2024-25 based on community feedback are not included in this report. They will be detailed in a report to Council that will be considered at the 20 June 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Once adopted, the Operational Plan 2024-25 will help Council to achieve the commitments made in our four-year Delivery Program.

There have been **communications with respondents** by Council throughout the process.

Respondents received an automatic response from Council once they had completed their HYS survey to let them know their feedback had been received.

Respondents have received an update from Council thanking them for their submissions which are being included as part of the Draft OP 2024-25 decision making process. This letter includes the dates and times of the Public Forum and the Ordinary Council Meeting if respondents would like to be involved or follow the proceedings.



## Engagement Report - **Draft OP2024-25**

Following the decision by Councillors, respondents will receive a detailed response to their submission, which considers the resolution adopted by Councillors to meet Council's requirement to adopt a new budget for the 2024-25 financial year, in line with legislative requirements.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### APPENDIX 1: Other Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Themes Verbatim Feedback

#### Verbatim Feedback: Other Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Themes

Leadership and governance

Koala Street upgrade- linkages and safety

Fair and equitable rating

Encourage cycling and less motor vehicle use via connected routes a trial of free public transport plus a park and ride trial.

future planning/growth

Number of and Improved community facilities. Eg toilets, water bubblers and tables. Community Tables is a massive aspect allways overlooked by our council. Recently completed a massive upgrade to town green and there's about 3 tables. So often the tables are taken first and there are the seats everyone no one uses.

a vibrant community with lots of ways for people to stay healthy and engaged - sports, arts and culture etc.

Footpaths

Supporting local organisations such as sporting associations who promote both mental and physical health.

No fees for sporting grounds

Roads network

Sporting Infrastructure

Youth opportunities

Less Green encroachment in our public spaces. We are blessed with lots of protected environment, councils job is to minimise developers destroying these areas completely but also give the public spaces to use. The lack of maintenance or the encroachment of scrub in public use spaces, reducing use and views while the need for more openness in the areas grows is bad planning and management.

Vegetation encroachment, removal of public views, lack of consultation, Please improve our public recreation areas in Camden head and also our public pathways and walkways

maintaining parks



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### Street Upgrades

Maintenance of parklands; where zoned recreational then creating and maintaining recreational areas and local views attracting tourists and visitors to the area.

### Balanced planning of housing needs and environment protection

### Affordable sporting

### Holistic Development

Improved cycling infrastructure and improved and increased public transport services

### Better roads

I am really disappointed that there is no plan to tar seal the existing dirt roads within the Port Macquarie Hastings Municipality. I would like to see Council commit to tar sealing 10km of existing dirt road every year. This can easily be accommodated with in the massive budget. In a decade, 100km of existing dirt road would then be tar sealed. This is huge and would benefit the many many residents who live "west of the donut". Not everybody lives in Port Macquarie! Or on the coast, either! The dirt roads are an embarrassment for such a wealthy Council. It is time to do more than an annual re-grading.

Cycle/gofer pathways allowing children to safely get to/from school and cyclists and the elderly/disabled to move about the community more easily

Future sustainability of council - include the need to plan to cope with climate change and to work to have minimal impact by reducing carbon footprint.

A responsible climate policy which helps to mitigate climate change.

acting on and acknowledging climate change

Water Supply Security, port council is providing more water distribution/ usage but has not increased water supply / storage. You can only divide the pie so many time before you have nothing left. Council needs to plan/design and construct by raising existing water storage dam walls.

Acknowledgement of the climate crisis, disaster mitigation and education for the public on crisis planning

Improvement to the forshore areas from Flynns Beach to Lighthouse Beach including the restoration of the walkway at Nobby's , access to Shelley Beach northern end from Kenny Walk.

Town enteries such as the airport road, Hastings River Drive from the Pacific H'way to town, timely maintenance of the medians and verges from the Clifton Drive to the M1 Motorway



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Do something about the Lake Road and Hospital roundabouts NOW

Maintain the gardens and reserves outside of the main town centre.

NO OVERPASS from Houston Mitchell Drive onto the M1 Motorway which is only wanted by a few squeaky hinges from the Bonny Hills/ Lake Cathie area who should learn to drive properly.

Improved roads and road surface

Electrification and Energy Efficiency

Hastings sporting facilities are 40 years off the pace, Growing population =Growing junior numbers with no room for expansion on our Hastings fields. Council should be ashamed of what they offer our community.

Services eg library

Electrification of the community. Investment in community infrastructure (not just stable)

Slower growth until infrastructure can cope, roads, water, sewerage

Upkeep of public spaces - the drainway between Matthew Flinders Drive and Hart Street for one example. Pathways are overgrown, there are a couple of large dead gumtrees and weeds are rife.

Working well with state government.

Future plans for drought protection (additional water storage) guven our ever expanding population.

Hospital parking

Boosting not for profit vlubs within the community

Improved public transport

Improved Sports fields with modern infra-structure . ( Current standard of sports field, particularly cricket infrastructure is totally inadequate compared with other towns in New South Wales and other states.

Indigenous culture

Improved health of the community

Better Healthcare

Arts and Community



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Arts and culture! There is a severe lack of support and funding to improve the arts environment in our town. More art equals more tourists/visitors to our town which equals more cash injected into our town!

Better Roads

I'd be happy to put a tick next to the remaining 5 options on this list.

Mowing dog park at queens lake .

Mowing of verges

Laurieton cbd upgrade

Coles expansion

Support of non-Council Halls

Wauchope town centre is in need of a clean up. Don't see the streets swept or paths cleaned anymore. So.eareas area disgrace.

A stable population

Improved infrastructure WELL BEFORE approving building plans.

NO MORE BUILDINGS until appropriate infrastructure is in place. eg. Roads before increases in traffic. Water security before increased population. Get these types of things in place before making an assessment on how many houses can be built in each area. At present, it looks very much like the reverse methodology is used.

Camden haven are rate payers too, we need to be heard for what happens ;locally in our area, port macquarie have absolutely totaly different needs to us, and we shouldnt have to pay for them

Nightlife!

Resilience to future change/disruption/disaster

Permanent neighbourhood centre in Wauchope, Tip based reuse/recycling workshops/Centre, evening library opening hours for Wauchope and Laurieton, disabled toilets in all of Wauchope's parks including Rocks Ferry, Bain, Andrews etc

Proposed rate freeze

There needs to be consideration in new subdivisions to have wider roads as it is ridiculous in the new estates with the narrow roads and vehicles parked on both sides a fire truck or an emergency vehicle cannot get in. The marrow streets in Thrumster are ridiculous with such narrow streets..



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

In regards to stable infrastructure- this should include flood planning, potential damming of either Kindee or Mt Seaview which then would flood mitigate the district but also provide a water resource for our growing community.

Arts and Cultural offerings and opportunities for local / regional artists

Free use of sporting Facilities

Road use (ie the ferries) uniformity

Maintaining our Assets

Commitment to long term sustainable management.

Arts and cultural development

Sustainable and environmentally sound development

Please acknowledge that Imagine 2050 is the future. In it by 2050 there would be fewer privately owned vehicles and more shared transport. So, immediately, the number of car parking spaces in Seymour Street Laurieton was reduced. In 2023 NOT 2050. PLEASE HAVE OUR COUNCIL STAFF ACT SENSIBLY.

Yes: More support for the Arts especially to improve Mental Health!!

Economic Development; Reduce Council waste; Reduce unnecessary Council bureaucracy.

Sustainability

Thriving First Nations cultural inclusion and history acknowledgement

For pathways I would like more cycle pathways. Since the Googik path was built (which wasn't done by Council) no new pathways have been constructed. Painted green lanes on existing roads and through car parking spaces does not count in my opinion.

Maintenance of council assets, roads, footpaths, garden beds. Shade trees

How can Council work with farmers and other levels of government to improve practices and develop systems for supporting life by ensuring that water is stored initially in the soil and that any water running off is crystal clear, and not polluted and running into our rivers and other waterways?

Environmental Sustainability

Yes, we don't want continued expansion of poorly designed housing communities without green space and appropriate infrastructure. Sovereign Hills is a disgrace.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Environmental protection is my top priority and feeds into other points eg cycleways, better public transport, greening the community with more street trees and reducing vegetation removal

Traffic planning for the future, which includes modes of transport for the future, E-bikes, scooters, light rail etc. Leave light rail corridors for Wauchope - Port Macquarie and Camden Haven to Port. More walking and bicycle paths and Public Transport.

biodiversity and coastal plans

The new pool

a reduction in overall council spending

Bicycle lanes for safe cycling routes

Road improvements, parking

Listening. Councillors are not listening to the informed majority

Reduced council fees. Increase in school availability and reduce overcrowding.

Hospital roundabout needs traffic lights

More sporting infrastructure

A more cycle friendly infrastructure

Remove all graffiti, Cleanliness of the City, Increase CCTV monitoring sporting grounds in wauchope

planning for climate change i.e. community battery, protection of habitat, more EV chargers,

Larger house lot sizes, rates increases to at least match CPI, larger set backs with landscaping between developments and the road,

Open spaces maintenance

Create an access Committee once again

Lobby for Wrights Road Roundabout Improvement

Arts and Communitu

Stop cutting down trees in identified Koala areas for housing and road developments.

Sustainable and affordable energy

Support for lifelong learning



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Good health

Equity and consideration of smaller communities

Encourage healthy lifestyles for the next generation active transport, cycle ways

Climate emergency - reinstate climate emergency declaration, sustainability working group, investigate suitable site for solar PV farm to meet PMHC needs, complete Koala plan of management mapping, exercise jurisdiction when koala mapping coincides with private native forestry and land clearing approved by LLS, get rid of zombie developments.

1. Transparency and collaboration are the critical “how” features/priorities, to achieve the critical “what” priorities above

2. Climate security: that is, the community/economy have the capacity to meet basic needs in face of projected climate change impacts. Food, water, energy, housing.

Transparency and cohesiveness in working together

I want Council to adhere to its Imagine2050 Community Plan, which so much money and time was spent on. None of the proposed changes align with it.

Sport for all, not only those who can afford to pay.

Cultural awareness

Guess this would be under inclusive community but; Mental health inclusion DV support



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### APPENDIX 2: Missing Council Services Verbatim Feedback

#### Verbatim Feedback - Missing Council Services

Proper floating wharves and dredging for visiting and local boats

Laurieton Pool Infrastructure and repair.

weed control, overgrowth, views.

Street Maintenance overall

Follow the zoning of the areas and create and maintain public spaces for the benefit of the community following community consultation.

Yes, please tar seal the dirt roads.

Soft plastic recycling

Building cycleways separate to road shoulder. Shoulder cycleways are frequently parked in without policing. Drivers frequently don't give safe space. Adequate and safe cycleways would promote children and adults to choose this mode of transport, greatly reducing congestion on roads, improving traffic flow and also promote healthy living and reduce emissions

Aged care services (staying at home longer)

Investment / upgrade sporting facilities.

I don't think so

Specifically sharps disposal

Inclusion of education is misleading as when most think of education they think of schools and colleges and these are state funded

Improvement to cricket fields

Arts and Culture

Upgrade/Beautification to laurieton cbd. This would attract mor businesses

Rural services

Public toilets need renewal in Bain Park. They are disgusting for visitors to the area.

yes, services that listen to camden haven and our needs, we require our own servey, not all roads lead to rome port macquarie its rude



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### Infrastructure Maintenance/Resilience

Affordable housing, interagency work with all levels of government, local business and community groups

Build a bridge over to the North Shore before it gets any dearer. Traffic lights at the roundabout on the highway at Wrights Road, going up to the hospital. Widen Lake Road and possibly traffic lights there as well. Aquatic Centre and Ocean Pool urgently needed as has been hanging around for about 7 years.

### Inclusiveness and accessibility

### Community grants and cultural development

Yes, The Arts for mental wellbeing especially

Maintenance - the entry to Port Macquarie is abysmal and a real embarrassment for us locals to explain to visitors - the green colourbond fence along Oxley Highway is way past its use by date.

I would love to see Council working together with Aboriginal groups to identify areas of Council land which might be able to be managed by those groups. As we face an uncertain future we need to be focusing on food security for our region into the future. Supporting the Community Gardens is great, and how do we also look to our indigenous and locally occurring "food supply" and begin to understand, support and develop that potential for the entire community?...

### Climate change resilience and management

### Green energy transition

### Economic development without population increase

### Environmental and species protection (both flora and fauna)

### noxious weed control

### Cycling's paths for safe cycling commuter routes

### Rural roads improvement, particularly unsealed

### Better air services

### Sporting field upgrades. Your focus on this area is a joke

### Cycleways

I'd just like to emphasize that we need more shared pathways



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Maintenance of road shoulders on main arterial roads (eg. clearing of overgrowth). RMS needs to give PMHC a budget to maintain these areas.

We used to win Tidy Town Awards -no way could we could win an award now!!!! Historic Cemetery is an example of good management.

Facilities management, natural resource management, sustainability, libraries, education, and culture are also priorities

Public transport links

Disaster management

Emergency housing and support

Youth initiatives

Equity and consideration of smaller communities.

Promotion of health active lifestyles for current and next generation

Koala corridor management

Shared pathways to make LGA more bike and walker friendly, secure dwellings for homeless and houseless people, facilities for homeless and houseless people eg showers, toilets, shared kitchens

I don't think most ppl will understand what many of these service areas mean, how much money is being spent on them, or the relative needs in different areas.

Supporting regenerative agriculture and local food farms

Artistic and cultural growth with maximum community inclusion and benefit (not JUST the glasshouse)



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### APPENDIX 3: 0.0% Rate Peg Verbatim Feedback

#### Verbatim Feedback 0.0% Rate Peg

When the community is crying out for a continuation or improvement to levels of service, to have a 0.0% rate peg, and restriction levels of service to account for this loss of income doesn't make sense. how is this good governance? what is the rationale for this? The council elected body has already cost shifted the level of service from the Port CBD to other rate payers, as the businesses in the Port CBD benefit from that, why do residents in Key have to pay for this? what is the rationale? how is this equitable? PLEASE include the recommended 4.6% rate peg, providing sustainable financial management, otherwise be transparent, and outline the Special Rate Variation impact that will be needed in the future, to return to sustainable financial management.

This proposal is short sighted and done in the interests of political point scoring. The block voting is disgraceful and they should hang their head in shame at such a legacy they will leave the community on-going. This may seem like a small impact now but the catch up and financial hole they will leave is massive.

With rising costs and high cost of construction and living, council needs to be able to afford a budget that they can afford to do what they need to do to manage Port Macquarie overall.

As a CPA and business owner with considerable financial expertise in both the government and private sectors, I am writing to express my profound concern regarding the council's decision to apply another 0.0% rate increase for the upcoming 2024-25 fiscal year. This decision, which follows a similar freeze two years ago, appears to be driven more by short-term political considerations than by a sustainable long-term vision for our community.

Foregoing the 4.6% rate increase, as recommended by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), will result in a significant revenue shortfall of approximately \$2.7 million. This decision directly impacts the council's ability to maintain, let alone improve, the essential services and infrastructure upon which our community relies. The draft operational plan details reductions in various critical areas including road resealing and maintenance, parks and gardens maintenance, and community grants. Such cuts compromise the quality of life in our community and could potentially lead to higher future costs due to deferred maintenance. Even if the items detailed are changed to other areas, the fact remains that council services, somewhere, will suffer as a result of this irresponsible decision.

Moreover, it is crucial to acknowledge that the benefits of a rate freeze disproportionately favor property owners, who may not represent the demographic most in need of financial relief right now. This approach to managing cost of living pressures overlooks tenants and other non-property owning residents who also contribute to our community's vibrancy.

This decision, I believe, is not only financially imprudent but also misaligned with the council's stated mission to provide excellent services and infrastructure. It overlooks the essential balance needed between financial sustainability and quality service delivery. A



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

responsible rate increase, aligned with IPART's recommendations, would allow for continued investment in our community's infrastructure and services without compromising future financial stability. I urge the council to reconsider this decision and adopt a more responsible financial strategy that ensures both the present and future well-being of our community.

We should leverage tourism to pay for services, via non-resident parking fees.

I'm sure there are internal areas the council could rescue costs, or other areas to be considered for reduced maintenance. Why not ask rate payers what our priorities are and where we would rather lose maintenance or funding? You can't just stop maintenance on parks as that is a major factor in our area.

Why a rate peg when we are growing so fast....the proposal to add fees to sporting activities to keep the rate peg is a nonsense!

This will only bring future hardship when you realise you need to increase I. The future which will be more substantial than an initial small increase I think it is misleading to report the rate peg and not note that the change to the CBD master plan will increase people's rates.

I don't support this as the infrastructure needs to be maintained and shouldn't be cut back. Council shouldn't try and solve people's cost of living when they don't help themselves. In saying that the Council needs to take a good look at their spending and employment. Higher and independent audit to assess all council spending and employment. I'm sure cost could be reduced massively.

Do not suppose as with the rise in cost is service delivery and price of materials it would mean that it would put the area into a negative financially and many projects would not be possible. Not good financial management I do not believe that Arts grants or community funding should be included in the areas to be affected.

Be put on hold while cost of living is so high.

Some Councillors insisted on developing the Blueprint which talks to 'enhancing our region for now and for generations to come'. The rate freeze and associated foregone revenue will put our Council behind in delivering for now and compound challenges for future generations.

Why not have a small rate peg. You will have to do one later anyway.

This is just taking from Peter to give to Paul. If you do a 0.0% rate peg now, we will probably have to pay for it later. I don't support reduced spending on the areas mentioned, they are important and council are already lacking in maintenance of roads, parks etc.

If council projects are consistently maintained there should be no need for extra funding to keep up with maintenance, but people do not need higher rates they need someone to help them get ahead for a while not financially ruin them.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

If council didn't spend so much on unnecessary items we would have more money for the necessary things. Council need to budget just like households do and sometimes you can't afford to "beautify" things when roads need updating or sewer/water need done first. These are needs and council seem to waste money on things I don't feel are a NEED.

Not increasing rates is only going to hurt the broader community moving forward.

It seems like a shortsighted, nonsensical approach and makes me question the capacity of the council to do the best for our community. I don't think the balance is right, the rates are essentially being shifted to those who cannot afford by other means such as the sports ground fees which will impact large families with young children more than any other demographic

I believe that if you can afford a house you can pay more on rates. I have a mortgage and would not mind paying a bit extra if it means community based organisations do not have to foot the bill to use our parks and grounds.

This proposed rate peg goes against Council recommendations and will ultimately be setting up the next Councilors to introduce a SRV which will be a bigger "punch" to the community. For as little as \$60 additional per household per year, this is a negligible amount and the Councilors that pitch this as a "relief" measure is unjust as it isn't actually helping those in dire circumstances e.g. homeless or those who need to steal as they would unlikely be paying rates to begin with and Councilors would be better off creating other measures to address these inequalities. Plus \$60 a year isn't what "breaks the bank".

This rate peg is only going to affect variable costs such as maintenance. This is financial mismanagement from the Councilors who support this motion. Especially considering we have low rates compared to surrounding/ similar sized councils. Of which Kempsey has recently raised theirs by 40% through an SVR.

For such a beautiful town like PMAC, I'd happily pay an additional \$60 per year so I can live somewhere well maintained and serviced.

I strongly disagree with the 0.0% rate peg as I understand the financial impact this will have to Council services. As the cost of everything continues to increase, Council will have to provide less services if the rate increase is not brought in. This severely impacts the operations of Council and it's services which I feel the Mayor and Councillors should have no say in.

Most of Councils money would come from Grants. We trust in the CEO to reduce spending and perhaps wages if staff can't meet targets. Ratepayers can't be expected to keep forking out every year. Developer contributions could be increased as they put a lot of financial burden on new infrastructure for the shire.

We need to maintain services and maintenance. Council like all business needs to be more efficient and productive. Would support if council improves productivity and efficiency.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Absolute craziness. Other than for purely political reasons, I cannot fathom how council feels they can freeze rates. With inflation at all time highs, prices for EVERYTHING is increasing, from materials, to labour costs, to electricity to keep the lights on - literally everything. As a rate payer this just blows my mind.

The PMHC rates are very expensive already particularly compared to Sydney Council rates. A zero increase is welcomed.

4 out of 8 Councillors approved this motion in Feb 2024 without any financial justification. Such a motion was rejected in 2021 because, as was said at the time "This is not the time to reduce services". When is? Yet the 2024 Fact Sheet clearly shows \$2.7M of cuts to services have been listed because of the unnecessary 0% Rate Peg decision. None of this reduction in services would have been needed if the Councillors adopted the 4.6% allowable increase of Special and Ordinary Rates. "Why? .. why are we doing it? I don't get it.. how is this going to help port Macquarie? I'm a homeowner and the proposition of saving \$60 to forego all the services the councillors are talking about is ridiculous.

How can any rationale person look at this and say that for the sake of \$60 I'd like you to subtract nearly \$3 million in services.

Instead, please take my \$60 and put it to work fixing our roads, helping homeless people and doing good in the community. Council listens to feedback and has done great work over the past few years, in Port Macquarie and surrounds

Don't go backwards for the sake of us homeowners who can afford homes, rates etc. I was at the homelessness event recently and saw some real need in our community. Take the superficial savings and put them towards need in our community.

I think it's irresponsible that our mayor and some councilors are driving this proposal, as it does not reflect the views of the community who elected them. It will save me about \$2.20 per week but will have a massive impact on our community.

This is a growing region and we need to ensure that council is resourced to maintain a level of services. This decision will negatively impact our region for years to come and the people who live here, very disappointing and short sighted of some of our elected members putting our council and community in this difficult position.

Apply a 2% increase.

The wording of the proposal says that it is "\$2.7 million of additional funds". why does expenditure need to decrease if it is additional funds which we don't have currently and have operated almost a whole financial year without it? A 0 rate peg will put council behind. It will mean that the council has failed since it will not be providing certain services, maintenance and activities that normally it would have. I am totally against council losing the opportunity to put up the rates. WE NEED a rate rise to maintain our beautiful community. It does not have to be 4.6% but at least an increase! We want our city to continually be serviced and renewed and improved ALL THE TIME and we KNOW it costs.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Port Macquarie must stay forefront not lagging. PLEASE KNOW my vote will not be for a council that is not driving forward to grow our city.

I believe the council should take additional time considering all of the possible retrenchment options for expenditure in light of the rates peg, rather than reducing important infrastructure and community programs. Other councils across NSW have successfully managed road maintenance, developed pathways and shared cycleways, and supported community programs with a lower budget.

Short sighted decision which will have longer term impacts given compounding impacts in future years.

As President of Port Macquarie Junior Cricket I cannot understand why rates would not be increased by the rate peg and then fees and charges implemented that will significantly impact community sports clubs. The proposed fees and charges will have a significant impact on the financial position and sustainability of our club, which has limited income sources. Very few ratepayers would have an issue with rates increasing by the rate peg and that increase would not impact on a parent's decision regarding participation by their child in junior sport. However, by not applying the rate peg and increasing fees and charges pertaining to sports fields, clubs such as ours will have to significantly increase our registration fees which may then result in some parent's choosing not to register their child for junior sport. This would be a highly undesirable outcome and one that could have been easily avoided by simply applying the rate peg like the majority of other councils in NSW.

This is a terrible idea, there is no need for it in the present day market. Cost of living is normalising and this will just cause problems in providing the operations we require as a community due to limited funds. Also it will mean the council will need to raise rates higher in the following years to come which will be worse for residents. It's better to increase rates by the CPI amounts each year than a high increase over a couple of years. This is the worst idea proposed in this operational plan and will cause problems going forward.

There are already many neglected areas and an increasing population placing demands on stretched services, why on earth would you freeze rates? If you want to save money, work more efficiently. It would be a terrible mistake!

Why should one person decide to put our council in irresponsible financial position?

Don't do it! Short term gain will equal long term pain. Costs are going up, a reduced income with inflation will compound to a future council disaster as well as a break down in responsibility to collect income which may result in poorer relations with other tiers of government when we require a bail out which may end up in an administrator again.

While no one likes paying rates, the negative consequences of a 0.0% rate peg materially outweighs the minor additional cost to each rate payer that the rate rise would cause.

Council services cannot be maintained or improved without a rate rise. The proposed 0.0% Rate Peg is short sighted and not in the best interests of the broad church of our community members. In my opinion it would be an economically reckless decision by



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

council to proceed with this proposal and set a difficult and unviable path for Council fiscal management in subsequent years.

This is an absolutely terrible and highly irresponsible idea. This will damage service provision and harm future council's ability to do their job. Please DO NOT do this.

This is a populist idea with zero benefit and will cause loss to the community note no other council in NSW is proposing a zero rate peg!

Council number one priority is to always deliver basic services for rate payers and not take on more debt. Also rate pegging is only effective for a short time, its is a good time to review how councils non basic services have increased such as Community grants and Community activities and cultural events these sure be reduced. 0.0% Rate Peg identified reductions seems to fair and across the board.

I'm a dual property owner. The rate increase is necessary to undertake essential maintenance and improvement for our town for all residence. It's a small amount of money for residence owners who are the least impacted by the cost of living crisis in our community. Improving services helps those most in need. Our council needs to act in the best interests of all citizens and the future of our town. Decisions should not be made for political benefit or popularity.

The rate peg is a ludicrous decision and the Mayor and the three other councillors who voted for this need to step down. The mayor used her casting vote to ensure a rate peg was not voted in, despite a very detailed report from Council staff advising against it and highlighting the impacts should the rate peg stay. This decision highlights the lack of business knowledge and if such a decision was made outside of a government department, the person would be asked to step down citing their lack of fundamental business understanding.

Make sure expenditure is not wasted!! Cameron st and King Creek Rd broke up within days/weeks of reconstruction. King creek bridge not being raised higher enough to meet old king cr/ King creek intersection and west side holiday cabin levels.

I'm an Age Pensioner and receive 26 fortnightly payments per year. My Council rates combined with simultaneous water rates completely takes four of my fortnightly pension payments. I can't afford any more. A 4.6% rise would cost me over \$110, not the measly \$60 being touted.

If the buffer was absorbed by the previous rate freeze, services will certainly be lost by further rate freezes. In the not too distant future, even with savage cuts in services, the council will require to set a 25% increase in rates - there will be no other option. I can hear that future outcry from here - other councils are realising the consequences of accommodating rate freezes. It's best to just follow the inflation rate to prevent future rates shock (at a minimum). It is important for those that have voting powers in this decision, to understand the future implications of unnecessarily freezing rates (at any time).



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The argument for the 0% Rate Peg I've heard put forward is that it will provide cost of living relief to the LGA. I've also heard it results in relatively low benefits per person in real dollar terms. Firstly, people and businesses who are paying these rates tend to be property owners and are therefore generally not in the lowest income categories where a vast majority of people are likely renting. Landlords who receive the benefit of the rate peg are highly, and I reiterate the word highly, unlikely to pass on that benefit to their tenants. Therefore, the purported cost of living relief is not flowing to those who most need it. Secondly, my professional interactions with Council lead me to believe they struggle to attract and retain staff, particularly in the infrastructure delivery, operation and maintenance spaces. Spending cuts to staffing will make it even harder to deliver with even lower budgets. Lastly, the services that will be potentially cut to accommodate the 0% Rate Peg are really critical to a region that is growing.

The cost of services and materials required by Council to deliver their services are increasing with inflation like all other costs. So not only will budgets be limited, those budgets are procuring less of the same as costs increase. The impact is twofold. The people who rely most heavily on these services are those on the lowest incomes who are also the most likely to see no direct financial benefit from the 0% Rate Peg. The general public perception of Council's ability to deliver critical services is already poor. I don't say that because I believe it - I know Council staff put a lot of skill and effort into their services - I say that because many people are ignorant to what goes into delivering the services and so they see one pothole and all of the sudden Council are incompetent in their eyes. Perception is perception whether it's based on facts or not. Pulling back on critical service spending will only exacerbate the public's poor perception and in a year's time people will have forgotten about the 0% Rate Peg and will just think that Council have gotten slack. All in all, I believe this 0% Rate Peg is an extremely poor decision and just screams gross financial incompetence and mismanagement. It makes absolutely no sense to a region in high need of infrastructure improvements to manage a population that is expected to grow substantially well into the future.

Absolute madness, do you people understand economics? Anyone that proposes a rate freeze simply doesn't understand the process of good governance.

NO, NO, NO... The 0% rate peg is a highly retrograde proposal and WILL have short-term and long-term negative consequences on the social and economic fabric of our Community. No business or commercial organisation with ageing infrastructure and a high expectation of delivering critical social services would contemplate such a move.

I moved to Port Mac from Sydney in Oct 2023 due to cost of living pressures. It seems likely that many under 40's will increasingly turn to regional areas for housing opportunities and affordable lifestyles. How will PMHC meet the needs of a rapidly growing population if they freeze their rates? Costs are soaring across the board. A 0% rate peg will severely limit Council's ability to deliver essential services and infrastructure, increase pressure on its staff and resources, and create a backlog of projects that are needed to meet demand.



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Think of the mess council was in when money was redirected from roads etc to the construction of the Glasshouse. Where is the benefit of deferring repairs and upkeep when costs will rise and delaying will just increase the subsequent back log that will be created? Things are tough now. Deferring the inevitable will just make things tougher in the future for a mere fraction of the council's budget and income. I don't see the logic behind the suggestion.

Having no rates increase might give short term gain but will result in longer term pain. We need to be fiscally responsible and transparent and continue to invest in our Community - that means a raise in rates by at least CPI. We will go backwards if we reduce spending on these items, must not cut back

This would have negative long-term impacts on the community. It's hard enough trying to get things sorted now - heaven knows what it'll be like if you're short of funds. It must be very difficult for future planning when there is such a small unsupportive group of councillors. It is disappointing when political and personal feelings get in the way of the common good of the whole community. There should be an increase to at least keep up with cost of living rises and inflation. I don't want to see a situation where short term gain comes at the expense of the long term benefit of our community other LGA's have gone this route and have paid, and/or are paying, the cost of such shortsightedness.

This rate peg is a false economy. Rate payers are only saving \$60. The \$2.7m could be used to maintain infrastructure and provide services to rate payers without a loss of service. Infrastructure is only going to deteriorate in the next 12 months and will cost more to maintain and repair. It could also become dangerous if trees and roads are not maintained. I agree that there should be a halt on hiring consultants but staff positions should be filled to maintain customer service and the functioning of the council. Community grants should be kept as well as community activities and cultural events. This keeps a sense of community.

Don't know who's idea this one was but it shows bad management, poor leadership and should not be allowed to make decisions on Council matters. I would rather pay an individual small rate increase than have funding cut in other areas resulting in less services provided for the community.

The policy is too short term in nature and damaging in both short and long term

I understand the need to index rates and to adopt a reasonable increased rate peg rate to provide improved SERVICES TRADITIONALLY PROVIDED BY COUNCIL. I think it is very irresponsible of our Council to be suggesting this, we want GOOD services available.

Spend more on other town centres in our community.

An increase in rates is needed to maintain services. People, especially children & the elderly, should not have to pay to use a sporting facility or community hall. This rate peg is hiding the truth as the cost of other services such as garbage collection & use of public facilities is rising more than the difference between the zero peg & average rate increase with other councils.



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Rates are a simple and administratively simple way to raise rates. The 0.0% may sound attractive and yes the community desires lower rates but the alternative that is being proposed is not better. If we as a community determine we want these services and facilities rates are the effective way to fund these.

A rate peg now will mean a harder hit on ratepayers in the future. The proposal to make savings through abolishing community grants is a double negative as community groups generally contribute well beyond the value of a grant when they receive one. Cutting back on spending on parks, gardens and community infrastructure will have a negative impact on community members wellbeing.

It's a stupid idea. It should not go ahead. No community can function on that. Use the 4.6% rate peg. If rate peg is implemented outline where the expenditure be cut.

Whilst there are some reductions listed that are valid in terms of corporate over-spending but removing funding to arts and cultural services and removing the community grants is not viable. This community is built on these groups who rely on access to funding to continue.

The council has plenty of money in surplus there is absolutely no need to drag anymore out of the community or to cut spending. Council just needs to spend more wisely and stop wasting money.

A Rate Freeze would have a significant impact on Council's finances, staffing and service delivery in the short and long term. It continues to baffle me how the same Councillors who want to spend money on several major new projects, and as we continue to make headway on improving roads, footpaths, parks, water and sewerage systems and infrastructure in general, also want to reduce the amount of money Council needs to complete this work. In my opinion, it was an ill-conceived election promise by people who should know better.

Prefer increased rates and increased services.

Good to make council more efficient In Laurieton, Lakewood , Queens Lake area , Henry Kendal reserve and Dog Park , West Haven already have over 6 weeks mowing imagine if the norm is 8 weeks ...Our area would suffer more than it does now We should be looking to rejuvenate Laurieton not letting it get worse.

There is very poor support of Rural residents already. If rates do not increase then Rural areas will be more ignored. Rural areas are increasingly under pressure from urban residents visiting swimming spots and non-Council facilities eg Rollands Plains Recreation Reserve

It's about time. This is 20 years overdue. It should be a minus 20% rate peg.

Why do you say this: A 0.0% Rate Peg will reduce rate revenues by \$2.7M? Why is council being so dishonest and deceptive? This statement is basically saying that you will get \$2.7 million less than last year. You know this is not true, but it is the impression you give to the rate payer by making the statement in this manner. Your rate revenue will basically remain



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the same as last year from all the existing properties, but will in fact still increase from any new developments, so you will still get some increase.

Rate payers are still paying far too much to council. It is time council learns to budget with much less and learns to make priorities. For example. You could close down some parks for 12 months, then reopen them the following year and close others. Such a system would be appropriate with less used facilities.

Households have to make tough decisions all the time due to lack of income. If you people don't have the skills to do this, perhaps you are in the wrong occupation. You cannot expect to get pay increases or rate increases every year. Too many of you are simply out of touch with the real world.

Inform the public correctly, we are left out by lack of info, easy to find info and simplistically explained, again, rude GO BACK TO SYDNEY I do not support cuts to services.

Increase the rate a bit- is there not a middle ground to be found by increasing the rate somewhat and reducing spend a little.

Why is this set to zero when inflation is running quite high. Will there be a major rate hike in following years to compensate?

It's very bad news for the ongoing provision of Council Services.

This is white-anting already stretched Council services, reflects poorly on Team Pinson's financial incompetence by not attracting or investing in future services. PMHC has significant a low socio economic demographics e.g. number of pensioners, retirees, low paid aged care workers etc who rely on free and accessible public services.

This is a huge mistake with ramifications well into the future.

Ratepayers need a range of services provided by Council. Without any increase to annual rates, a lot of these services will not be able to be provided. If this were to happen, I envisage that Council will receive a number of complains about this. Residents can't have it both ways, if we need services, they have to be paid for.

My wife and I support the increase.

A short term freeze in rates will result in a long term increase in cost of services and future higher rate hikes. It only serves the councillors looking to be elected as a platform to stand on.

If money wasn't wasted on stupid things and Council got back to roads, sewage, water, rubbish, parks and gardens, instead of other less important things. Then when these are all up to good functioning standard, then deal with the other stuff.

We are struggling day to day with the current cost of living. Power bills are excessive also. We can't also have rates go up so I am fully supportive of the 0.0% rate peg.



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The measures will only make gains in the short term however the community will suffer in the long term as lack of maintenance of key assets and infrastructure, cultural and community support with negatively impact Port Macquarie as a thriving cultural centre. With the loss of support for local community and arts sector, may force those in the creative sector to leave the region and business/Government investment diverted to other regions.

Increasing the rates is the fairest way to provide funding for our area. We desperately need our current services to be improved as we are just not maintaining them. Please do not freeze our rates.

I do not support the rate peg for 2024-25. It will reduce current services and limit future options for Council. Ratepayers will be subjected to larger increases in future years as a direct result of this poor decision. I don't think the decision has been well enough explained to us.

No cuts to funding if there are increases look at in house not services This is quite possibly the most financially irresponsible decision council could make. I do not support a reduction in key council services to fund a 0.0% rate peg. The implications of such a decision would have far reaching impacts on future councils and communities. I am strongly against the 0.0% rate peg.

Cost cutting is ridiculous for a council that is essentially providing ongoing services to a growing regional tourist destination. With high inflation and ongoing price rises any rate freeze will have ongoing compound impacts on services. I would rather pay more than the original proposed rate rise rather than no rise. Rate rises not cuts = improved services.

Reduced expenditure does not necessarily mean reduced operational services. Where efficiency can be improved it should be. I have watched (some) council employees working at the Laurieton Sports Oval who must have had training at moving slowly without falling over. Get efficient operational supervisors who lead by example and reward them accordingly - and get rid of the dead wood.

I am opposed to the following cuts:

- Community grants \$200,000. Community Grants will not be available in the 2024 25 budget.
- Community activities and cultural events. Community activities and events will be reduced by \$150,000.

This would discontinue funding for Arts Mid North Coast partnership, community events, community programs and the installation of public art. This is detrimental for our community and community spirit. We now understand more and more how mental Health can improve by doing things together, having fulfillment to attend events like facilitated by Mid Coast Arts and having mentors conduct workshops that include participation by people of all abilities. I cannot believe that the Council wants to CUT supporting the Arts.



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Council would be foolish to forego available rate revenue to achieve a minimal and negligible per property rate reduction. The necessary reduction of service standard from the 0.0% rate peg would be a terrible result. In particular the Council would be doubly foolish to allow the ongoing CBD works to be curtailed and existing works to be allowed to fall into disrepair. The vast majority of CBD ratepayers have agreed to pay the additional CBD Special Rate and continue to support the CBD Special Rate to fund quality CBD improvements. Council should not pander to the few disaffected and disinterested property owners who oppose the CBD Special Rate and who are vastly in the minority. I disagree strongly with this proposed 0.0% rate peg outcome.

Ridiculous financial decision! As you know. But 4 Councillors are following ideology not ideas!

I believe this is a terrible idea for our community in the long term and pray that it doesn't happen.

If a 0.0% peg is to be introduced, apply it only to concession card holders. Having a rate freeze will be detrimental to the Port Macquarie Hastings community as funding to vital infrastructure and services will be cut. It is important to keep up with the increased cost of living. Having a rate freeze will put services and maintenance further behind. Having a rate freeze will not help our community grow.

The idea of applying a rate peg will only increase the amount of work required in the future, which will require or lead to a larger rate increase in the following year.

A few points to highlight :

1). The maintenance of our existing roads should not be delayed it will only create a bigger problem next year.

2) The introduction of user pay into the use of sporting fields will have a significant negative impact on the health and well being of our community. We need to actively promote and encourage the all community members especially the young and elderly to participate/use our parks and sporting facilities. It is proven that participating in sports has a big impact on both the physical and mental health of the participants, with the cost of living increases, increasing the cost to participate in sports is a serious mistake which will impact the well being of our community - DON'T DO IT.

3) Council with the Government needs to prioritise the Lake Road/Wrights Road debacle - its already a nightmare, and even if something was decided to be done today it would be at least a couple of years before construction could provide any relief. Meanwhile more houses are being constructed on the subdivisions along the old highway and at Sovereign Hills which will only further exacerbate the issues, I would expect gridlock in the next couple of years.

Don't kick the can down the road. Be responsible adults.



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While the idea of a 0.0% rate peg might be appealing to ratepayers in the short term, it is not a sustainable or practical way forward. To ensure continued service delivery, infrastructure maintenance, and financial health, the council must consider modest and reasonable rate increases that align with economic conditions and community needs.

The 0.0% rate peg will ensure the community's expectations for high quality services will not be met.

Beware of the compounding effect of NOT adopting the Tribunals 4.6% Rate Peg for 2024 - 25.

I want to be proud of living in the Port Macquarie Hastings region, rather than embarrassed by the gradual decline in services and facilities provided by council. I am prepared to pay for being proud of where I live and I am certain that for the lowly price of \$1 per week, the majority of people in our region would choose pride over ongoing embarrassment.

What is stopping council from setting an objective for everyone of the entire Port Macquarie Hastings region being a region of excellence, rather than a cut price council where services are cut and diminished and the gap between excellence and ordinary becomes ever wider. The banner at the opening of your OP25 states councils mission is: "To provide excellent services and infrastructure to our community". It is hard to see how the proposed cuts to services as a direct result of adopting the 0% Rate Peg, aligns with this Mission.

Please councillors, put dogma aside, rethink this 0% rate peg and start to unify both council and the community on the longer term and far more rewarding goals of EXCELLENCE and PRIDE. Make residents proud to say they live in the Port Macquarie Hastings region.

Not increasing rates this year will result in council playing catchup in future years. It would not a large increase in rates and all homeowners need to chip in to make sure that council can function effectively. I watched the council meeting where the document was put forward from the finance team outlining why there should be a rate increase. It appears the mayor and CEO did not want to take onboard the recommendation from the report that was produced by council or understand the impact of a 0 rate peg increase.

This is the second rate peg in 3 years. It is a ridiculous notion to reduce overall funding when inflationary pressures and wage rises means a 0% peg is more like a -5% reduction. This is only a thing because Major Pinson is using her casing vote in a 4-4 deadlock. She has said on the record she will not run for Council again and her behaviours are irresponsible given she will not be around to see the ramifications of this decision. This rate peg is in direct opposition to Councils vision to be the most liveable, sustainable and innovative place in Australia as per the Imagine 2050 plan. Cutting community events, cutting community grants and the consistent brain drain within council from the already poor workplace culture is not going to do anyone any favours. I read in the finance managers report a few months ago that the councils enterprise agreement wage rise is something like \$2.6m if I remember correctly. So this with inflation means everything is going in reverse before you even start with reducing services.



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I think Council needs to reduce staff and get rid of the dead wood which would then save money. A proper time and motion study needs to be undertaken.

I think Council needs to reduce staff and get rid of the dead wood which would then save money. A proper time and motion study needs to be undertaken

Critical Services and infrastructure needs to be paid for by residents. We cannot afford to allow our region to slide backwards when we currently have issues with (some) roads, footpaths and bridges.

I am most concerned about the 0.0 % peg. Council needs to deliver a full range of services and cannot afford to drop any further services. The decision by some councilors to hold this position is a short term political outcome that will only make future council decisions that much harder. Future councils may have increase rates by larger amounts to cope.

I find the 0% rate pegging irresponsible and irrational. In future years we will need to increase our rates to cover the services neglected. 0% is not in line with other progressive and responsive Local Governments. Please reverse this decision.

I don't see how this 0.0% rate peg serves our community going forward. We have to think sustainably - a small saving now that impacts delivery of services or requires dipping into reserves and thus potentially has significant impact on Council's financial position into the future does not appeal to me at all. I do not support Council making this decision and I'm worried those who do support it perhaps don't understand the big picture impacts.

It is an ill advised move with major ramifications for future projects and ability for council to provide services. The compounding negative effect this poor choice will have will impact future generations, well beyond the elected positions of the current councillors. Our kids and grandkids will still be paying for this choice if it goes through. Don't do it

Sustainable increases are fine. What we don't want is the council to try and make up for the funding deficit in the future by increasing high and medium density living zones, especially along the coast, as a way of increasing the number of increasing revenue

I will pay more to maintain and enjoy a clean, green and not overpopulated town

We want more open space, not townhouses and high-rises.

This seems unrealistic and unreasonable, considering costs increasing everywhere. For council to support the community, it would be far better to provide better services. Services that often get cut in scenarios like this are those that improve the quality of life in the area.

This is a wrong move. Council would have a backlog of works from our recent flooding and ongoing heavy rainfall. This decision will push those works back. I have heard some councillors saying they are providing cost of living help. IMO this is cynical. The \$60 'saving' will be taken up with extra costs for sport field use, ferry increases and other increased costs.



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Council needs to maintain momentum in dealing with the above mentioned backlogs. A 0% rate peg puts us further behind.

WE elect government to provide us with quality services, which we understand we have to pay for. \$60 /year is affordable. Small government means cuts in services which does not allow for quality of life. Many of the small community organisations depend on the community grants. I understand that a lot of households are struggling. Perhaps we can make a discount for households who are finding it difficult.

### Rate Peg Impact

Issue: The plan includes a 0.0% rate peg, significantly lower than the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's approved 4.6% rate peg. This results in a \$2.7 million reduction in operating revenue for 2024-25 .

Concern: To manage this shortfall, the council needs to reduce expenditures on essential services such as maintenance of parks, gardens, community infrastructure, and roads. This might lead to decreased service quality and community dissatisfaction."

Based on the Fact Sheet:-

The following issues are of concern to Bonny Hills Landcare, these relate to the proposed cutback to Council "maintenance " due to 0.0% rate increase (ie rate freeze).

- Firstly regarding Council "maintenance " of parks and gardens, the proposed change is to extend the current 6 weeks cycle to 8 weeks. During 2023 into 2024, when regular mowing was deferred due to ongoing periods of heavy rain, grass in parks at Bonny Hills grew unchecked to often unacceptably high levels. Note the community favours Rainbow Beach park at its main surfing beach. This situation posed a real risk to community (and tourists) using parks. Will this risk due to extended mowing cycle become the norm in 2024/2025 ?
- Secondly regarding Council "maintenance " of trees and shrubs, apparently the proposed change is to not attend to 18% of priority trees. In recent years there has been an increase in storms with prolonged heavy rains and strong winds (eg damage to the Christmas Tree in Port Central).

It seems that (priority) trees could likely be so affected in 2024/2025. Will this present a risk to the community due to unsafe trees?

If current Councillors are not standing for re-election they should remove themselves from the vote.

The proposed 0% rate peg will only hinder us. And the targets of the Imagine 2050 cannot then be met. Our community will suffer.

The further 'recruitment freeze' and brain drain that has already occurred within council departments, leaving inexperienced people in charge and overworked



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Cutting specialised consultants by Council (such as in sustainability education) will disappear and is critical in our schools - directly supports the Environmental vision.

Community events like Art Walk could be cut and cultural events. Community grants would be lost (which is often one of the few ways local Not for Profits such as our Community Gardens can afford to put in necessary improvements)

Road maintenance will be cut...we cannot afford that. Gardens/parks - maintenance of trees and shrubs. Strongly disagree with this proposal. It is a very short sighted proposal. There should be no rate increases of any magnitude, people can not magically pull additional money out of thin air - council needs to restrain and reduce spending across the board and have realistic budgets.

I don't agree with reducing rates at the expense of the community, or it's future impacts on PMHC region.

A political stunt before the elections. Pinson block controls everything. I disagree with the rate reduction motion which will cause current and future problems. I am appalled that this motion could be passed by the mayor using her casting vote when she does not intend to be involved in council in the next term thus relinquishing responsibility for her flawed decision-making.

The cost of services available eg administrative, cemetery, fields and facilities will be passed onto the community including families. Some increases and new charges are significant, so there is no real saving! Council seems to be shrinking away from their responsibilities and role in the community.

There is no way good governance and director plus councillor fiduciary responsibility would support a 0% rate peg. It needs to be more. It depends on what would be cut. I don't need my rates increase they are already more expensive than previous councils I have lived in with less services in small bins, smaller land size and reduced opportunities for schools.

A 0.0% rate peg is short sighted and will result in a loss of services and facilities which will have to be caught up at a future date and will then result in a lot more financial hardship and pain for rate payers. Don't cut services.

Strongly disagree. The resulting reduction in services and maintenance is not a good outcome for the community. What evidence is there that they will be recommenced into the future. Once gone there is less chance of them being reinstated.

There needs to be greater clarity on how council is spending money in a way that rate payers can easily understand. I think the budget for the Glasshouse is too high and should be further reduced. I receive no benefit from the glasshouse where I also have to pay for all the services it provides.

Most people will say NO, Hard times. But if it is used for road and infrastructure I don't mind a small rate peg.



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Removing the rate peg and introducing an active person tax is unfair and not a good strategy for the long term development of a healthy and cohesive community

0% rate peg is irresponsible. It will just 'kick the can down the road' with the reduced spending resulting in bigger increases required later on. I would not vote for any current Councillors in support of this

It's idiotic

I prefer to have services funded adequately and I'm happy for rates to be raised for this to be possible.

Services provided by council are essential for maintaining all aspects of the LGA. by not increasing the rates services delivery is reduced. I'm concerned that a 0.0% rate peg will leave council in a position whereby in the future rates will need to be increased beyond the recommendations of IPART. A \$60 increase to rates is not huge just over \$1 per week. I don't feel the cost of living crisis will be addressed with this minimal amount when other fees will be added to families budgets eg. the council fee on sporting fields will be filtered down to families by way of their fees and subs for games. Our recreational areas and parks will not be able to be used for part of the time if the schedule for maintaining moves from 6 to 8 weeks. The LGA needs to be an active vibrant community with free spaces for families to utilize, gather, exercise, and play. Reduced maintenance of these spaces may impact on the users of these recreational areas.

The 0.0% rate peg is an out of touch, populist bid that will have both immediate and long term repercussions for council.

It is ridiculous to go ahead with it, with rising costs on services and materials if it is not done now a much larger rate will need to be implemented. Seems to be a political promise rather than good business sense.

The rate peg needs to be applied to keep up with the rising costs. If the Rate Peg is approved it will need a special rate levy the next time to catch up.

PMHC has many areas that need servicing and this will not happen if funds are not available. For example: Sporting Fields must be provided free to all residents of our LGA, libraries, parks and gardens must be maintained!!!!!!

The Rate Peg will disadvantage most PMHC Operations and the only benefit will be the people who pay rates. People renting properties will not see any advantage.

The cuts mentioned in the flyer seem to be clawing back money from areas that least can afford the loss like:

- Sporting fields rely often on families, young people and those that volunteer time to worker towards a healthier community. Obviously clubs will need to increase the fees, membership or charge to play. This puts the burden back on community.



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- Maintenance and gardens, once again this results in our environment within our communities looking unloved, not appealing look for visitors, community use, possible fire and snake issues, at present more areas need to be had and more frequent not less.
- Stopping the community grants and activities and cultural events hits the community once again as a lot of groups rely on these funds to help them to over the services to out community. Will reduce the relaxation and community spirit and wellbeing that comes from attending events.
- Maintenance on council properties need to be maintained not reduced otherwise in very short time the cost to repair damage or maintain will be excessive.
- Maintain trees and shrubs that are over grown, dangerous or sick need to be maintained for the communities safety and wellbeing.
- A backlog of road maintenance and resealing already exists so why would you cut this back , needs to be maintained and increased.
- Corporate overheads this needs to be looked at on individual bases, some projects can benefit from out sorcesing, to ensure projects are not held up or that the staffing cost to do in-house out blow the external contractor.

When you take away the corporate overhead and then not replace staff in specific roles this will result in PMHC becoming clogged with overflow of projects being completed within this OP or even its future OP. Work already undertaken could possibly be wasted due to stall in completion date.

As a community by either the current rate increase by \$60 or even half \$30 would enable PMHC to be maintain its momentum moving forward with maintenance, current periodic workers, enable new workers in areas mentioned. It is more acceptable to community to have this increase rather than next year needing to have an even bigger increase.

Community and the Arts are vital to mental health and overall wellbeing for the whole community. Cutting costs in these areas would be detrimental in so many ways.

The cost cutting measures will significantly impact on rate payers i.e. decreased maintenance of parks, green spaces and playgrounds - mowing cycle from 6 to 8 weeks - increased risk of snakes, fleas, rats etc., decreased use by families, children and community members. Also decreases the visual appeal of the entire community to both locals and visitors to our community - lifeblood of our town, the economic impact will be significant and will result in decreased safe use of these public green spaces and needed areas. Tree and shrub maintenance program is already significantly behind - danger to the community, rate payers properties - homes, fences, cars etc as shown in recent storm, wind events. Also decreases visibility on many roads and intersections significantly decreasing visibility for drivers and pedestrians. Road resealing and maintenance essential - many roads require ongoing maintenance - cost to Council to reimburse residents for damage to cars would be increased. Neglecting building maintenance now will only increase costs to repair additional damage caused to buildings due to neglect - a higher cost for future years. DECREASED CORPORATE SPENDING THROUGH SAVINGS AND INCREASED COUNCIL EFFICIENCY ARE WELCOMED.



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Council has a huge area to manage with many existing challenges and sometimes unexpected challenges including natural disasters. The services that have been earmarked for cut back will definitely be a disservice to our community and to the natural environment that Council is responsible for. Council has a responsibility to maintain and build on work that has been done not cut back resources. The Rate Peg is unrealistic and would be disastrous for so many. It is an extremely divisive proposal.

By not keeping up with the CPI and the increased costs of construction and associated materials, along with increased wages, etc., (the list goes on) by way of increasing rates, future years rates will involve a much higher increase just to keep up with needed expenses.

The proposal to have no increase in rates is shortsighted by councilors that proposed and endorsed it. It looks like a political tactic for the next election and will be detrimental to the community and businesses in our community through revenue shifting to higher user charges and cessation or deferment of important services. Don't do it.

This proposal is foolish. Council should stick to the job of services and not try and deal with the cost of living. I don't know one home owner that \$60 a year will make any difference to their yearly budget. It is non home owners that are feeling the cost of living pressures the most. This proposal is discriminating to non home owners, shame on the council.

It is a wrong decision

This is a ridiculous proposal. Community members should be able to trust council to make basically responsible decisions. I am disgusted that so many community members have had to waste their time trying to understand councils finances, when Councillors are elected to do just this.

Team Pinson councillors should never have much such a silly and populist campaign promise. And when they had yet more info once elected, they should have taken it on the chin and had the tough conversation with their voters.

It looks to me like most ppl have seen through the populist politics, and are speaking up against a rate freeze. But likewise it looks like team pinson councillors are committed to a rate freeze no matter what.

I hope the community gets the win on this one

The cuts mentioned in the flyer seem to be clawing back money from areas that least can afford the loss like:

- Sporting fields rely often on families, young people and those that volunteer time to worker towards a healthier community. Obviously clubs will need to increase the fees, membership or charge to play. This puts the burden back on community.

Maintenance and gardens, once again this results in our environment within our communities looking unloved, not appealing look for visitors, community use, possible fire and snake issues, at present more areas need to be had and more frequent not less.



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Maintenance on council properties need to be maintained not reduced otherwise in very short time the cost to repair damage or maintain will be excessive.

Maintain trees and shrubs that are over grown, dangerous or sick need to be maintained for the communities safety and wellbeing.

A backlog of road maintenance and resealing already exists so why would you cut this back, needs to be maintained and increased.

Corporate overheads this needs to be looked at on individual bases, some projects can benefit from out sourcing, to ensure projects are not held up or that the staffing cost to do in-house out blow the external contractor.

When you take away the corporate overhead and then not replace staff in specific roles this will result in PMHC becoming clogged with overflow of projects being completed within this OP or even into future OP. Work already undertaken could possible be wasted due to stall in completion date.

While a \$60 saving per household might seem appealing, it's essential to consider the broader impact on our community. Individually, \$60 might cover a case of beer, but collectively, this amounts to \$2.7 million in lost revenue for the council. Although we do not yet know what, this reduction in funds would necessarily lead to cuts in services, unless savings are to be spent

The collective pool of money, when used effectively, creates far more value than the sum of its parts. By contributing to these shared resources, we ensure a vibrant, well-maintained community that benefits everyone. Investing in our community through these services enhances our quality of life in ways that far exceed the value of individual savings. Thus, maintaining adequate funding for the council is not just about preserving services, but about fostering a thriving community that we all can enjoy and benefit from.

All of the implications listed in the 0.0% Rate Peg fact sheet are inconsistent with the Imagine2050 Vision. Council's Rate Peg proposal is reckless and in contrast to its own Community Strategic Plan. Recruitment and Consultant freezes do not deliver 'innovation'. Not maintaining roads, parks and trees to the usual standard does not make this place more 'liveable', and stripping away cultural events, arts and community grants is not 'sustainable'. These are ways to deliver the opposite of what the Community Strategic Plan intends. Why was all that money spent consulting rate payers if Council just ignores what they said?

False economy. Buying votes? The cost of everything (labour, materials, all goods & services) is increasing. Additional funds (rates increases) are required to cover such costs. Council's proposals to ( a) increase ferry fares (b) increase DA application fees and other associated



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fees and (c) impose fees for the use of sporting fields/facilities is "selective discrimination". Spread the (inevitable) increased costs across the whole LGA and increase rates.

It feels very much like a "false bargain" to offer no rate rises in exchange for neglecting road and park maintenance and cutting art and community funding. Port Macs art scene has been growing with a large amount of creatives having moved into the area in the past few years. This creative growth was captured beautifully at the recent Northern Exposure exhibition. AMNC has been amazing at nurturing the local artists and supporting projects that have a great positive impact on our community. Cutting funding would be a huge step backwards. Artwalk unites the community and attracts tourists helping Port Mac and its many businesses, yet the creatives, many of whom do not break even from this event, are now facing cuts. Our thriving arts scene is an important aspect of what draws people to Port Macquarie! The arts are vital for community. They bring people together, boost well-being, and benefit the economy. I understand that cuts may need to be made in these times, but I think that cutting arts funding so drastically will have a negative effect on creatives, the wider PM area and voter confidence.

### FROM GENERAL OP FEEDBACK

Please include the 4.6% rate peg, otherwise the ratepayers will just be slugged with a special rate variation in future years to maintain the level of service.

The rate freeze should not go ahead. \$60 across an entire year for residents is affordable.

The 0% rate peg will obviously reduce current services and probably reduce opportunities for grants from other levels of government. It will certainly impact on our preparedness for climate change related disasters.

The idea is stunning in its madness. I strongly oppose any increase for residents and would like the above issues to be implemented to make it a fairer system for other North Shore ferry users.

I'm happy to have a rate increase to fund the \$2.7m shortfall of funds due to inflation. Not to pay for 1 town centre out of the many in the LGA. The proposed reduction in key service delivery to support a 0.0% rate peg is an unacceptable mitigation strategy that will have significant impacts on all community members. Please protect the current reserves and level of services provided to the community.

It looks like a great Budget, except for the loss of \$2.7 million.

I'm not interested in a council diminishing regional services by putting short term political promises ahead of long term financial risk and ongoing impact of services in the region. It's an irresponsible action and puts a rapidly growing region at risk of having underwhelming finances to meet its future demands.

If council chooses not to raise rates to the maximum permitted then it should consider a lower% rate and not raise costs and fees to ratepayers at all or at least by less



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An increase in rates now will prevent larger increases in future

Stop this nonsense of a rate peg.

I wish that we would have a rate increase to improve our community and not be failing in some areas just to offer 0 rate rise

This whole situation is so wrong, I just do not understand the motivation for the Team Pinson councillors to drive this agenda. It makes me feel betrayed, angry, sad, frustrated, and I wish each of them would justify their actions, saving me \$2.20 per week is not a good enough reason."

Please include the 4.6% rate peg, otherwise the ratepayers will just be sluggish with a special rate variation in future years to maintain the level of service.

It is clear PMHC has been dealt a difficult scenario: 4 Councillors determine no increase is allowed in rates, so do the numbers with less income than is allowable. But then do 50 new fees, including the sports ground user fee, big increases in some existing fees, reduction of roads, parks and tree maintenance services and nil/zero Community Grants in 24/25 all necessary to "balance the books"? CCAT Groups are also again left out of the planning process. That has to stop or they may as well be disbanded.

No rate peg Lake Rd remains the immediate priority issue.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide input. Thank you to all the hard-working staff from Council. The rate freeze will cripple PMHC's ability to meet the needs of its growing population in the face of rising costs across the board. nil. Don't cheat this LGA by cutting back.. It just redirects the pain. Sooner or later it will hurt us financially through lost tourism, lost special events when facilities are not to standard, lost public confidence and disgruntled LGA citizens and ratepayers. Short-sighted to do this. As a community we will be going backwards. A misguided election promise by the Mayor to win votes, but not considering the long term financial sustainability of serving the community in a way that's fit for purpose. Rate freeze during period of higher inflation doesn't make sense and serves no purpose other than being seen as being nice to ratepayers. When inflation is up so is cost of services and we must continue to fund them, not cut back on them.

I totally disagree with rate freeze proposal

The rate freeze should not go ahead. \$60 across an entire year for residents is affordable.

I don't think council does enough to maintain already so I do not support the 0.00% Rate Peg for 2024-25.

The average residential ratepayer would benefit from just \$60 if the rate freeze proceeds, however, if the rate freeze is not recouped through higher future rate increases, there will be a \$33 million impact over 10 years on council services. In my opinion, the proposed rate freeze will mean a cut back in essential core services, puts future major projects in doubt, will



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see the reduction of staff who provide those services and the compounding effect will hurt us even more for many years to come. Council must be financially sustainable for the benefit of the entire community. Don't be fooled into thinking a rate freeze is a good thing. In the short term perhaps, but not for the long-term future of the LGA. Good to increase rates for better services.

The 0% rate peg will obviously reduce current services and probably reduce opportunities for grants from other levels of government. It will certainly impact on our preparedness for climate change related disasters.

I'm happy to have a rate increase to fund the \$2.7m shortfall of funds due to inflation. Not to pay for 1 town centre out of the many in the LGA. The proposed reduction in key service delivery to support a 0.0% rate peg is an unacceptable mitigation strategy that will have significant impacts on all community members. Please protect the current reserves and level of services provided to the community.

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Reduced maintenance will surely mean deterioration in roads and parks. How is this ever caught up with into the future? We need ongoing maintenance not a break for a year because of fund cutting measures.

It makes no sense to not fund community grant exercises or continue to maintain roads. A lack of infrastructure maintenance just increases the cost over time.

An increase in rates now will prevent larger increases in future

Stop this nonsense of a rate peg.

Just increase the rates, the fairest way to across the board!

Council draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan based on 0.0% rate increase (i.e., rate freeze). According to the Fact Sheet for Op Plan this will reduce Council services, especially for "maintenance" such as parks and reserves these being the responsibility of Council. The community expects Council to provide such services to a reasonable level. Noted that on Op Plan page 37, most recent community surveys (2022) show low satisfaction; only 30% for roads maintenance and 64% for footpaths maintenance!

C1.1 includes several areas to miss out with the proposed rebate peg / freeze cutting services. Is there a list of the roads, parks, footpaths, tree Management that will be affected by this



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freeze? L3.2 this is also being affected by the rate peg/freeze, extra charges. Has an audit been done to show the community the ongoing impact of the lost of funds to these areas?

### OTHER INPUTS (DIRECT EMAIL) VERBATIM FEEDBACK ON 0.0% RATE PEG

I've tried to provide my 10 cents-worth about your proposed rates freeze on Have Your Say page it nowhere can I find anything relevant. Do you not want people to comment? Why not make it easy and just provide a link? You could even email it to all ratepayers. I despair. And, for what it's worth, I think a rate freeze is a mad idea. It's hard enough to get anything done now because you're understaffed and underfunded.

Dear Councillors, I am very concerned at the current proposal before council to have a 0% rate rise in forthcoming financial year. I understand that there will be no community grants issued in the next year, seemingly as a result of the council's stated view that they should be concentrating on roads and sewers. This is a very narrow view of the community services that councils generally provide around the state and Port Macquarie has been no exception. Over the years the community grants enable a wide variety of different activities to be available to sections of the community not just focused on sport. Council currently supports a number of cultural facilities such as the Mac Adams Centre and the local library which provides services for a range of community groups at affordable rate which are notably not available at the Glasshouse. I fear that these services are now under threat by the short sighted of decision to peddle a populist message around zero rate rise for the next financial year. I think most community members realise that as inflation goes up the cost of council go up in this 0% rate rise will inevitably lead to financial constraints with council and then difficult decisions about which facilities and activities to fund. So I would encourage council to reject this proposal and instead except that a sensible level of right rise as will always be necessary to maintain the standard of community services we expect to be delivered by the council. Everyone understands that roads and sewers are a core responsibility, but I think most community members expect considerably more than this from their council.

Could you please provide information on the current allocation of rates towards these areas and discuss any plans for future enhancements? I believe that prioritizing these issues in our budget will not only improve our quality of life but also ensure the safety and sustainability of our community for years to come. Engaging with the council on these matters is of great importance to me. I am eager to see our community develop and thrive, safeguarded by proactive measures and enhanced facilities. I look forward to your response and to understanding more about how our rates can be utilized effectively for these critical needs. Thank you for considering this request. I am looking forward to your detailed response

I do not support a rate freeze as while it may have a little benefit initially. I feel the ongoing effects on services will be ongoing and onerous and will amount to short term gain = long term pain

Please note my opposition to the specific element of the plan being the reduction in income from the proposed 0.00% Rate Peg for 2024-25, and removal of the Town Centre Master Plan component of the Port Macquarie CBD Business Rate. I do not believe Council can afford the resulting loss of income this year and in future years. This is being proposed when high rates



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of CPI mean that even a rate increase will not keep up with increased costs. The Councillors will do ongoing damage to Council facilities due to reduced maintenance activity. Council would be better placed looking at moving out of on-core activities and to make operational savings first before reducing income.

Does the plan include pegging of rates for twelve months. If yes, how much in total will ratepayers save

I would like to lodge my formal objection to council proceeding with all and any of the current component parts of the Draft Integrated Planning and Reporting documents for 2024 / 2025. I am particularly opposed to the rate freeze, the treatment of the TCMP Rate and the proposed allocation of the bulk of the water and Sewer Dividend to the extinction of the TCMP loan. Councils recommended treatment of these matters amounts to what I consider long term financial Armageddon and places our community at high risk of an SRV in the coming years. When councillors vote on this matter in the days ahead I would remind them to vote according to their Oath when they took office: "I swear that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of Port Macquarie - Hastings LGA If any councillors are in doubt as to the likely long term financial impact of their fiscal irresponsibility it is recommended that they re-read the excellent staff report on this subject from the Ordinary Council Meeting on 15/02/24 - Agenda item 10.16 It is also recommended that councillors 1. once more review the strong concerns of the PMHC Audit Risk and Improvement Committee external voting members of the negative impact of a rate freeze on the long term financial sustainability of Council operations. 2. Remind themselves that as Councillors they are required under legislation & OLG guidance to ENSURE the financial sustainability of council. 3. Re-read the previous independent expert advice from April 2022 in relation to a rate freeze in 2022-2023 noted that whilst a 1 year rate freeze could potentially be managed in the short term via use of internal reserves, rate freezes for a longer period of time were concerning & would place pressure on future financial sustainability. Any councillor who votes for a rate freeze as presented and now on exhibition is voting for long term financial Armageddon and a return to the dark days of the Glasshouse disaster. Please vote and act responsibly and reject this Trump - like short term madness.

Please reconsider this proposed fee introduction. It's not necessary or a good idea for this town.

I SUPPORT a RATE freeze. Thank you

Zero rate increase as proposed by Council is supported. Staff-identified offsets need revision by Councillors because effectiveness improvements need to be found. Reducing services is not the best way. What CHANGES to the Plan have been made as a result of all the public submissions?

Firstly, I would like to express my opposition to the 0.0% rate peg. As a pensioner, I am very conscious of cost-of-living pressures, but I also want to ensure that Council's services to the community are not curtailed by this rate peg. The list of programs and projects to be affected by the rate freeze, as proposed by Council staff, is disturbing, particularly the canceling of the Community Grants program. As a volunteer for a community group that



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benefitted from this program several years ago, I can attest that it is a vital program to support volunteer organizations that provide enormous benefit to the community through a range of services and activities. In particular, they provide many opportunities for retirees to contribute to improving the quality of life for many people in our Local Government Area.

I think the rate freeze is a mad idea. It's hard enough to get anything done now because you're understaffed and underfunded.



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### APPENDIX 4: Town Centre Master Plan Removal of levy from CBD Business Rate Verbatim Feedback

#### Verbatim Feedback Town Centre Master Plan: Removal of levy from CBD Business Rate

Where is the equity in this decision? They pay extra, for extra Maintenance, which makes the land and associated business more attractive, to which they reap the benefits? Basic user pays principal, what is the rationale to cost shift to every other rate payer? Where is the equity in that? What is the resident in Kew's benefit for paying the higher rate, for port CBD maintenance?

This rate is the envy of many other councils and was set up in agreement of the business owners at the time. It enabled many wonderful improvements that now will no longer be able to be done. The community is now financially worse off and will see rates increase because of it. All done in the interests of a small few and for more political point scoring. These businesses benefit from the increased services and now the ratepayer will bear that cost.

The majority of the funds spent have mainly been on the foreshore and benefits everyone the same as any other parks and gardens and should be funded by the general rate not a levy on a small number of property and/or business owners in the CBD.

Another irresponsible decision.

If you're going to increase fees for a small group it's only fair to increase them at a smaller rate across everyone. Shops and businesses already struggle to pay their rising costs.

I support the removal as I don't believe this expense should fall on business. I don't support the removal, these businesses should fund this area as they get the tourism business in the area. If they don't like it relocate to a different location.

This rate was to help revitalise the town area and bring people into town to enrich the businesses there. Removing the levy will mean dirtier footpaths and less upkeep on the town area. We have already seen the playground not well maintained even though not long completed.

The TCMP levy has supported place improvements to the CBD over many years. Indeed many other regional centres have envied this system. I support a continuation of the businesses contributing to and having a say in how these monies are spent.

I don't use the town centre. If businesses directly benefit from it then they should pay for it and pass it on to the customers who appreciate it.

If council spend money cleaning up these areas it's only fair the businesses have to help cover this fee as opposed to rate payers who aren't profiting from this area. If you have a business anywhere else you have to clean it or pay someone else to clean it. Why should these businesses get free cleaning/maintenance?



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The town Centre appears to be the only area that is maintained I think they should pay a fee to utilize this higher level of maintenance. Alternatively all areas of the region can receive better maintenance with no focus on the Centre and therefore no fee would be logical

If you want to spend an in proportionate amount on the cbd compared to other parts of the council area then I'm happy for the business that benefit from it to pay a little extra.

I do not know enough to make an informed opinion about this.  
If the fee is removed, I hope the services that these businesses receive stop as well. You can't have it both ways.

The Town Centre masterplan component also hugely benefits the businesses in this area and means our CBD is presentable. I would Presume one for Wauchoope and Laurieton would give the funds for improvements for these CBD's.

If businesses are in the Town Centre area they should pay the TCMP.

No. The Town Centre businesses should pay their way.

Is it appropriate for businesses in one part of the LGA to pay for improvements around it, or all ratepayers share the cost even though they do not live or work in that precinct?

Why? Again, why? Why should businesses in Wauchoope or Lake Cathie, etc have to pay for the upkeep of Port Mac CBD? If you're spreading the rate around, you should also spread around the CBD maintenance .. I know exactly why, and it's corruption. This mayor and her sidekicks are corrupt, and I voted for her 4 years ago

The CBD businesses receive a higher level of services than other areas of the town, they should pay for the services they receive. also noting by the location, they experience the benefits of tourism and increased visitation, commercial benefits not experienced by other businesses.

As long as this can be put back in place should the need arise --- there is a fear that the quality of the CBD streets and facilities will deteriorate This is NOT desirable

If this plan is removed the town centre will have a reduction in maintenance and repair, funding won't be available for this. Town centre is where most visitors to the area come, if this area goes into disrepair because of the removal of this plan it may not be able to be reintroduced from backlash by businesses. Better to keep the plan in place.

Those who benefit most should continue to pay. Suggesting that we should freeze rates, increase the amount of our rates that goes to extra cbd work, but we won't lose any services/works in the community assumes none of your ratepayers can do math!

It would be a mistake. The TCMP component makes sense and is beneficial. The big end of town enjoyed its special position and took a role in creating the vision they wanted



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This is a vital element in the presentation of our local CBD area. Removal of the TCMP potentially sets a low expectation of the standard aesthetic we should be aiming for. If we want to attract custom, encourage tourism and develop a sense of pride in our community, the TCMP should not be removed.

It is inappropriate to expect all of PMHC rate payers to cover the cost of the TCMP and the businesses that benefit should pay for the extra services that they receive.

The TCMP is supported by the majority of the chamber of commerce.

Keep the Funding of street sweeping and footpath cleaning/sealing program and just remove the other services provided, nobody wants them. The biggest problem killing the CBD is parking, this should be the main priority for council.

The Town Centre is an important area for our town. Business benefit from the increasing use of the area.

Businesses benefit from natural and council landscape. Amount of council expenditure to construct and maintain area should be paid by those that directly benefit!!

If this TCMP component is removed, then all other Town Centres (Laurieton and Wauchope) should receive the same level of service as the PM CBD, which we know won't happen and therefore the businesses in PM CBD should continue to pay this component

This one is really simple - if your business operates out of the Town Centre then your business is benefitting directly from being in that prime location and the additional amenities, public awareness and accessibility that comes along with that.

How disconnected to the community is this council? To cut a voluntary committee of Professional people who are willing to freely give there time to Lobby state and federal government to raise funds for the port CBD is completely insane!

Prior to the establishment of the Town Centre Master Plan levy, Port Macquarie's Town Centre was in a very poor condition. The town centre represents the social hub of our community and as such, is a space that all our community and visitors needs be proud. Adjust the rate levy if necessary but RETAIN for future economic and social cohesion and prosperity.

I think small business owners, who are all struggling under increased cost of living pressures, should not have to pay additional rates. However I do feel that large retail corporations such as Woolworths, Kmart etc should certainly have to contribute their fair share based on profits.

Make my choice based on the need of the wider community to take collective responsibility for the whole LGA. I do this on the basis that in the longer term the wheel will turn so that other areas of the LGA will receive their share of the investment to make this a more thriving and liveable community.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Doing business is hard enough. We should be making it easier for small business to thrive. That way we all benefit.

If a business chooses the prime location they should be paying the fees as more customers are attracted to the area. HOWEVER they should have the ability to participate in discussions and have a say in works that are carried out regarding upgrades

My issue is that superior rates are being paid for cleaning maintenance and landscaping for the benefit of the Town Centre in Port Macquarie. This does NOT benefit any other rate payers or businesses in other townships within the LGA. It is unreasonable to expect all rate payers and businesses to cover what is essentially an added extra that benefits no one outside the PMQ town centre. Either leave the payment structure as is, or stop paying for superior services. Let the PMQ Town Centre businesses make that decision if need be, but don't pass on costs to Laurieton or Wauchope. That is not fair.

Why should business owners in other areas such as Wauchope and Laurieton and residents in general have to shoulder these additional costs? TCMP should be retained

Another clear example of Certain Councillors with vested interest, lining their own pockets and expecting everyone else accross the community to pay for them. If you cut the amount spent on maintenance to it or spend the same amount on our other town centres, maybe then consider it.

Don't remove it

There was never any clear indication about what this service actually did or was supposed to do. Just an impost on property owners which needed to be passed on wholly or in part to tenants. I would really like to see who was on this committee & the outcomes they achieved.

There are other CBDs, albeit smaller than PM, in the Council area. Assuming special rates don't apply to the businesses in these locations then it is reasonable to argue that they shouldn't apply in Port Macquarie.

Why should other areas pay for a service that is of no benefit

This is a step backwards. Councillors had already agreed to reduce the amount collected over the next few years to assist businesses that pay this additional rate to pay off the current loan before this decision was rescinded. It's short-sighted, it's appealing to a minority of businesses and will cut the extra services and infrastructure the Port CBD currently benefits from.

In two minds as bigger business should pay more than smaller shops but in some ways the area generates alot of revenue and visitors I feel the businesses in Port CBD shouds continue to pay this as they are the ones benefiting from tourist trade . Laurieton community would not benefit from this. Wauchope & surrounding areas are not responsible for Port Macquarie town centre and should not be responsible for these charges. (This may also see a reduction in maintenance service levels in the Port Macquarie CBD, should the redistribution across other rate categories not occur.) This may or may not be true. Perhaps you need to look at the workforce and expect employees to work a little more diligently to get particular tasks done in a set amount of time. Those who can't or choose not to perform at the expected level might be better off in other employment. I think this is the real solution to some of your shortfalls.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Leave Camden haven rate payers out of this, it does nothing for us. Businesses in PM CBD are specifically advantaged by this plan and should be prepared to contribute in some way. It will involve increased charges to other areas of the LGA.

Disgraceful, and unfairly impacts on Wauchope, already economically devastated

A well presented, beautiful town centre promotes pride in the community, enhances tourism and visitor numbers and encourages businesses, building operators to elevate their own standards. If council slowly raises the standard and makes incremental improvements to the town centre it will benefit all. (this does not include unsustainable costly planting arrangements on Gordon St Historic Cemetery)

Business should contribute.

Businesses benefit from maintenance and upkeep of the CBD and they are also able to access tax incentives and rebates that regular residents don't. It should not be removed. The TCMP rate needs to remain so the service levels can be maintained in the CBD.

That's a lot of money to take away from other Council responsibilities throughout the LGA. In combination with the 0% rate peg, it appears ludicrous. I don't understand this decision and I can see no justification for it. I think this absurdity needs to be explained to the wider community.

I do not support the entire lga having to fund the higher level of services for town centre businesses. This should remain the financial responsibility of town centre businesses only. That rate for the Town Master plan was put in there for a reason. I cannot see a valid reason for it to be removed now and then let all rate payers pay the bill.

Council would be foolish to remove this Special Rate.

Another ridiculous financial decision! Particularly when the majority of TCMP contributors are happy with the deal!

We need to have a vibrant Town Centre for the benefit of our community as well as our visitors.

The business owners agreed to this and should not expect the community to take on this debt.

I believe the only people that can be in support of this are the town centre businesses seeking to distribute their cost over everyone else. I believe it is Major Pinson listening to her people (ie. these business owners) and not the general citizens that has us in this position to begin with. Combine this with a 0% rate peg and the fix Major Pinson and her team has to reduce her economic pain of redistributing this TCMP cost is to make sports teams pay for field usage.

If I had a business in the CBD of Port Macquarie (I am guessing it does not apply to Wauchope and Laurieton?) I would like to see the revenue raised applied to improvements - e.g. cleaning the dirty footpaths and gutters and some beautifying of the centre - fairy lights in ALL trees not just the trunks of some palm trees.

I cannot understand why ratepayers need to support local businesses by paying extra rates when I know that people in Camden Haven have had to fundraiser to pay for their own footpath!



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

I think the TCMP component sounds like a wise idea that meant those with a prime business location in Port Macquarie CBD were particularly involved in its upkeep

I do not see how the removal of a fee that benefits the town centre, shifting the cost onto the entire local government area benefits anyone but the businesses within the port CBD. Will the CBDs of Laurieton, Comboyne, Wauchope, Long flat, Kew, Kendall, Bonny Hills, Lake Cathie receive the same level of Improvements, street sweeping, beautification works as the Port Macquarie town centre? Having the fee provided local benefit to those businesses, attracting people to the CBD to spend money in those businesses. It is a code of doing business. The only fair option if the fee is removed, is to reduce the services to that of the other town centres, which will likely impact the local economies, reducing foot traffic in the area and cause dereliction like other towns on the coast have seen once investment has stopped.

There's a question of equity that remains in unresolved. Is it fair for business that don't directly benefit from this to pay for improvements that benefits others via improved amenity, traffic flow and increased spends due to dwell time and usage?

I haven't been provided with enough information to make an informed decision. How much do businesses currently pay? What is the social and economic return on investment?

The town centre is just maintained at the moment. It is fair that businesses that benefit from town centre placement, and often impact on the town centre, contribute

Why is council even considering this?? Again, this is a cynical decision (IMO). More cost-shifting back to ratepayers (remember that \$60 relief we were getting from the rate peg? - this is further evidence that that figure is not real). The businesses within the TCMP have historically been comfortable with the levy - what's changed?

Abolition of the Town Centre Master Plan (TCMP) Issue: The council proposes abolishing the TCMP component of the Port Macquarie CBD Ordinary Business Rate, redistributing the shortfall across all ordinary rate sub-categories.

Everyone uses the CBD, we should all be responsible for that. Good work has been done, but those that benefit the most should continue to contribute more. CBD businesses already pass this cost onto customers.

Read the book on the subject and you will better understand the terms of reference. The TCMP needs to continue

The town centre businesses benefit from the TCMP and I feel it is not an unfair payment.

The Council is responsible for the overall look and town amenities. Business should be responsible for the upkeep and cleanliness of their premises which includes the footpaths directly in front of their shops.

Again this should be core business of the Council. Disgusting that it needs special rates for it.

I believe the town centre businesses have benefited greatly by the past system partly because having some skin in the game encourages engagement but I am not totally against this being a community shared expense.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Business in the CBD have benefits due to their location. Businesses would have chosen a CBD location due to their potential profitability of their business due to high clientele traffic in the area. It would seem unfair to remove the business rate and redistribute the shortfall across the region to those who would get no benefit at all from this charge. businesses have capacity of absorbing their costs through the business planning, which no doubt includes passing on to their clients through increase costs which would be in place at present.

Recent upgrades to the CBD will be unable to be maintained in an adequate standard and new improvements will be delayed. The special rate has been crucial in implementing a better than average maintenance regime and an improvement of the area that would otherwise be unobtainable. It makes no sense to end this agreement.

The TCMP Levy has allowed many improvements to the CBD without impacting on the general rate. I feel services will be reduced as the general rate will be under pressure to provide the tasks that are allocated from the existing Levy. The people currently paying the levy for the CBD receive the majority benefit from these improvements.

The Town Centre Master Plan levy has been responsible for many improvements to the CBD. Abolition of this levy will see a deterioration in our well maintained CBD. One example is the maintenance of our Footpaths, Town Green and Gardens - this will still need to happen but will be a drain on the general rate. The levy has been instrumental in the improvement of the Footpaths, the footbridge and the new Fishermens Wharf.

Business in the CBD generate income from encouraging community and visitors to come to relax, shop, eat out, socialise and enjoy the area. By maintaining this rate those who benefit financially from the increase in community and visitors are fairly paying towards the upkeep.

Business who benefit directly from the Town Centre facilities should pay a higher rate and residential and farmland holders should pay less of the increase as they have minimal compared to businesses and the tourism industry operators.

This looks like a political tactic by councilors who proposed it and supported it. We are a major tourist and holiday destination. Visitors expect our Town Centre to be presentable, functional and inviting. To maintain this, it is quite appropriate for businesses and accommodation venues that benefit from this activity fund it proportionally more by higher rates than to remove it and redistribute the revenue burden to all rate payers in the LGA.

Does the council know not all residents of our council area visit town, access these shops, go to the town green. The business should pay as it supports their business

I feel this is very unfair to residents and businesses from other communities than Port Macquarie. I think it is fair for businesses in the CBD to pay more for their location and services

This is another ridiculous team pinson election promise. There has already been extensive community engagement on this, the community's answer was no then, why are team pinson continuing to push this?

As a community by either the current rate increase by \$60 or even half \$30 would enable PMHC to be maintain its momentum moving forward with maintenance, current periodic workers, enable new workers in areas mentioned. It is more acceptable to community to have this increase rather than next year needing to have an even bigger increase.

Well, this is all about cost-shifting.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

So if we are increasing rates for ordinary rate-payers with the 'Town Centre Master Plan' redistribution, it's not actually accurate to call the 0.0% Rate Peg a 0.0% Rate Peg, right? This seems confusing. Is that the idea?

The TCMP was the most unfair decision by council to apply a levy on the CBD rate payers when the funds have not all been spent in the CBD. The council were not transparent at the original meeting of the CBD rate payers it was agreed by council to have a 10% levy for 10 years and the amount would be shown separately on the rate notices. This did not occur. The TCMP should have finished years ago and the levy was removed from rate notices which hid what was really happening. We have the highest CBD rates anywhere and the council should be able to manage. The extra services that we supposedly get haven't been costed and explained to us, leaving us feeling that council is not transparent with its charges.

### OTHER INPUTS (DIRECT EMAIL) VERBATIM FEEDBACK ON TCMP RATE REMOVAL

I am particularly opposed to the rate freeze, the treatment of the TCMP Rate and the proposed allocation of the bulk of the water and Sewer Dividend to the extinction of the TCMP loan.

The TCMP rate has been levied upon a very small number of ratepayers of the LGA (since 1993), it was simply inequitable, many tenants have increased costs over competitors literally across the road from them.

All LGA ratepayers particularly all Business zone (Industrial eg Lake Rd , commercial eg Settlement City ) ratepayers benefitted significantly by TCMP works creating Port Macquarie as a desirable place to live & run businesses , the significant extra TCMP rate levied on minority of ratepayers was / has been inequitable

All LGA ratepayers funds (including those paying the extra TCMP rate) were used by Council on ALL of the LGA Town Centres, e.g., Wauchope, Laurieton, etc.

All residential zone ratepayers without doubt socially & financially (property values ) benefit from TCMP works on ALL LGA Town Centres

All residential zone ratepayers without doubt socially & financially (property values) benefit from TCMP works on ALL LGA Town Centres.

Fairness & parity in deciding TCMP rates (if any) must be adopted by Council, many ratepayers including my wife & our entities have paid our dues (inequitably) to TCMP since 1993.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Please note my opposition to the specific element of the plan being the reduction in income from the proposed removal of the Town Centre Master Plan component of the Port Macquarie CBD Business Rate.

Council must look to the broader ratepayers to support all Town Centres social amenities, attractiveness, business enhancements, property values. If TCMP rates were applied across all LGA ratepayers, the % increase I believe would be tiny; if TCMP rate was applied to all LGA Business ratepayers again I believe very small increase across a larger number of ratepayers.

I do not believe Council can afford the resulting loss of income this year and in future years. This is being proposed when high rates of CPI mean that even a rate increase will not keep up with increased costs.

I find this most confusing. Council, apparently had a loan of \$1.2M for the Town Center Master Plan, which was pushed through at recent council meeting to repay, to whom was not made clear. Therefore the Businesses must not have been footing the bill for cleaning in front of their shops, outdoor dining areas in Town Green, street sweeping etc. the resident ratepayers have. So now Council is proposing that all residential rate payers pay extra for the cleaning maintenance of Town Center along with our regular payments of Council Rates, while they pull in thousands of dollars in Developers fees. The fairest plan would be to put a levy on developers as they take advantage of our clean city along with an environmental levy to maintain our existing Koala areas.

Council must look to the broader rate payers to support all Town Centres social amenities, attractiveness , business enhancements , property values , if TCMP rates were applied across all LGA ratepayers the % increase I believe would be tiny \$\$ , if TCMP rate was applied to all LGA Business ratepayers again I believe very small \$\$ increase across a larger number of ratepayers

Fairness & parity in deciding TCMP rates (if any ) must be adopted by Council , many ratepayers including my wife & our entities have paid our dues (inequitably) to TCMP since 1993



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### APPENDIX 5: Town Centre Masterplan Rate Redistribution Verbatim Feedback

#### Verbatim Feedback Town Centre Masterplan Rate Redistribution

Please detail the reasoning for distribution of this rate and justification for this unequitable decision?

What a disgrace!

The levy is approx 38% of the business rate and if it was spread across the whole general rate, it would only be a very small proportion of the general rate ie. 1% or less instead of 270 rate payers paying for an entire community  
With an ageing population and discounted rates for pensioners this increase our already excessive rates

I don't think ratepayers should cover this cost.

Rate payers shouldn't cover these costs. When business owners directly profit from the area being improved and maintained

How can you redistribute yet have a 0% rate rise?

Use the shortfall to fund other much needed projects

I think it's fair that ratepayers in the Laurieton area contribute to local needs like footpaths on ocean drive. Kids are almost being hit on their bikes and scooters - when a child dies, will the council see a cost benefit then?

I think it's fair that ratepayers in the Laurieton area contribute to local needs like footpaths on ocean drive. Kids are almost being hit on their bikes and scooters - when a child dies, will the council see a cost benefit then?

As a rural tax payer, I hate my rates funding this. The town centre looks fine, spend the money elsewhere.

Ratepayers in the region are suffering enough. Why should we pay this fee when the businesses are gaining something out of it?

Second property rate for people with additional homes in the area. This may also assist with the rental crisis.

I do not know enough to make an informed opinion about this.

If the businesses in the Port CBD want extra services and special treatment, they can pay for it. Otherwise, this needs to be implemented for every other town centre in our LGA.

I definitely do not support a shortfall to all residents. Many residents never go to Port CBD. I personally may only use it once a year, less than a tourist.

The other CBD's Like Wauchope and Laurieton should be equally treated moving forward where CBD rates are used to better our CBD's. If this happened then shortfalls might be considered appropriate to most ratepayers in the shire.

Should not happen, totally unfair



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Council needs to move away from the proposed "user pays" system which the draft plan is aiming at doing. ALL costs should be distributed EQUALLY to ALL rate payers across the region.

But, given all ratepayers funds are used across the LGA as Council sees fit. how did this TCMP get approved in the first place?

What a joke

These are commercial businesses, who should be paying council for the services they receive. I do not expect as a ratepayer to have to pick up the tab for these huge organisations, like SUBWAY, SPECSAVERS etc to receive additional services , again very disappointed that our mayor and Team Pinson have made this decision

There is too much focus on the CBD when it doesn't reflect enough of the Hastings need. So I do not support redistribution of 1% to all rate payers

Why are you ceasing this - we should be continually looking to increase and grow and design a better TC --- We all need to contribute --- if you raise the rates then more can be allowed for TC maintenance, improvement, management and development

Rates are already high so further increases to rate payers would not be taken nicely. Businesses thrive in this area due to increased visitors especially in the holidays. The TCMP rates can be absorbed by these businesses.

It makes no sense!

Not fair or equitable.

This only benefits CBD Business, not rate payers. Keep the Funding of street sweeping and footpath cleaning/sealing program and just remove the other services provided, nobody wants to pay for them nor needs them.

Keep TCMP in place. The villages and rural rate payers should not have to pay more to make up for this shortfall

The Town Centre Master Plan rates need to stay, particularly based on the user pays system that council is consistently citing as reasons for increases. These additional rates enable our town centre and CBD to remain vibrant, thereby attracting locals and tourists alike and business owners reap sufficient profit to pay these additional costs.

A lot of ratepayers do not use that area!! More so these days due to cost of living increases. Should be user pays area!!

Why should all ratepayers have to make up this shortfall when those who benefit from it are those who are in the PM CBD?

If I read this correctly, whilst there is a proposal for a rate freeze, this redistribution will cause a ripple effect which would result in a regional rate increase.

It should therefore not be up to rate payers from the rest of the LGA to fork out additional rates to cover the removal of this business rate when the additional services that this rate covers provides a real benefit to the business. Business is competitive and if you want to give your business a leg up by positioning yourself in the Town Centre, then you need to pay for that privilege. That's simply the cost of doing business.

Comboyne , Long Flat, Camden Haven, Tele Point, Wauchope. What benefit do they get?



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

We need a new council!

Doesn't seem appropriate for ratepayers to foot this bill when there are other areas that are more beneficial to the community as a whole

If a business can't afford rates it can't afford to be in business

I agree with the concept of TCMP as a user pays strategy

Perhaps spend less on it or put the same effort into our other town centres.

There should be no shortfall as this service is useless & should be scrapped

We need our businesses to be successful wherever possible and all ratepayers benefit from businesses in one or more of our towns and villages. Therefore the fairest system is for all to contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of our towns.

This is not acceptable. For ratepayers who utilise the Wauchope and Laurieton CBDs more often than Port Macquarie should not be required to fund the Port CBD improvements.

You would need to list all the tasks that are currently carried out. Then take these to the business owners to see if they have any possible solutions for some of these tasks. Or perhaps they will tell you some tasks could be done less often. Cut back on how often you do some things. Surely some of them are unnecessary. eg. From a different context. Why deliver mail 5 days a week if it can be done 2 or 3 days a week, saving time, money and resources.

Why are poorer parts of the LGA subsidizing Port Macquarie businesses, we're subsidizing multinationals such as Rydges, Mercure, The Beach House Hotels, and Port Central Shopping Centre?

If there is a redistribution it should be redistributed to beautifying other town centres and villages within the LGA

Businesses benefit from maintenance of the CBD - especially big Corporations with larger profits should be able to contribute more towards the community.

The TCMP rate needs to remain so the service levels can be maintained in the CBD.

Apart from a small group who will be organised to support this, we know that most people will not make any submission on the operational plan, or even know about the TCMP. They will notice, only when the lack of maintenance across the LGA causes them a problem. When this happens, they will blame Council staff. Think about it. Can we please see detailed justification for this proposal? I can't see that it makes any sense at all.

I live in Beechwood, if I'm paying towards beautification and upgrades for a town centre, I would want it to be for my town or Wauchope not Port Macquarie.

Another financially irresponsible decision!!!

No, only that I am very disappointed on how Council is trying to one way or another have the increase in costs sound acceptable, while essential services like supporting community and Mental Health (like Arts in all its forms) will be cut.

Make no changes to the CBD Special Rate.

No. But I DO like the way the questions have been written! :)



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

The businesses that will profit from an enhanced town centre should be contributing most, but part of the expenditure should be spread across the community as it is a benefit that we will use as well

If the TCMP component is to be removed, then the 4.6% rate peg for 2024 - 25 as per the Tribunal, must be adopted in full.

People in outlying areas who do not regularly go to the town centre and use the facilities should not be asked to pay for this. Neither should the residents who also don't use these facilities. The average person in our Council area would not want to pay this. Thank goodness this is going to community consultation otherwise it is Major Pinson and her donors getting their way to improve their own business profits.

Businesses need to pay for their own extra services, not the ratepayers!

I do not see how the removal of a fee that benefits the town centre, shifting the cost onto the entire local government area benefits anyone but the businesses within the port CBD. Will the CBDs of Laurieton, Comboyne, Wauchope, Long flat, Kew, Kendall, Bonny Hills, Lake Cathie receive the same level of Improvements, street sweeping, beautification works as the Port Macquarie town centre? Having the fee provided local benefit to those businesses, attracting people to the CBD to spend money in those businesses. It is a code of doing business. The only fair option if the fee is removed, is to reduce the services to that of the other town centres, which will likely impact the local economies, reducing foot traffic in the area and cause dereliction like other towns on the coast have seen once investment has stopped.

If paying these additional rates, I would expect to have a far more significant (as a community) say in how the rates are invested in the Town Centre.

Again, this is a cynical decision in cost-shifting

People out bush are missing out on services due to the planned rate freeze and now should support businesses in Port Macquarie. This is a double whammy for people in rural areas.

Concern: This redistribution could result in an approximate 1% increase in the average rate paid by all ratepayers, affecting both residential and business communities. Residents might be worried about the fairness and impact of this rate adjustment.

Unacceptable

This proposal will impact on ratepayers in outlying villages and rural areas who depend more on their local centres. Again, the residential and farmland ratepayers will pay more under what is presented as a "rate freeze"

Listen to the key stakeholders, the chamber of commerce and the tourism body Council should not make residents pay short falls. If over spending has occurred look at ways to raise funds or amend projects costing above cost fees.

You guys have no plan on Port Macquarie moving forward. It's a joke. I'm sure a large portion, if not all, ratepayers benefit from the town centre master plan and should contribute to this.

If you aren't willing to redistribute ferry fees across all ratepayers then why should other items have this occur?



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Council needs to make up the shortfall through efficiencies and Council cutbacks on waste.

Council should reconsider its priorities

I would prefer the status quo but am indifferent on this

Our CBD is a really important source of community amenity and pride, benefiting businesses who are located centrally. TCMP has worked well, not sure why we would remove it.

To redistribute the costs would be unfair rate payers who would get no benefit at all from the CBD an added burden when a 0.0% rate peg is proposed.

Just seems ridiculous to end something that has been happening for so long with such a huge benefit to the community.

Again the rates will be impacted on due to the Town Centre Master Plan Levy has been scrapped. Many projects will not be seen as a priority as there will be no budget.

The CBD property owners benefits from the TCMP and therefore should subsidise the improvements to this area. It was agreed many years ago that the rate was a good initiative and helped support the CBD businesses. Community hubs, villages or main shopping in other areas within LGA need to be maintained and improved so PMHC needs to look at how this is also funded into the future.

Business who benefit directly from the Town Centre facilities should pay a higher rate and residential and farmland holders should pay less of the increase as they have minimal compared to businesses and the tourism industry operators.

It is inappropriate for businesses that pay rates and residents that pay rates in the more distant parts of the LGA to be funding this resultant shortfall.

First the council pays off their dept that they signed up and agreed to. There are empty shops in town as the private owners of these buildings are charging too much rent.

Wauchope and Laureiton already said NO to this in the extensive 2022 KPMG engagement. KPMG arent cheap. Why pay for expensive independent engagement if Council will just ignore it?

Why should wauchope and Laurieton etc pay for PMQ TCMP to receive better services than wauchope and Laureiton receive?

Business in the CBD generate income from encouraging community and visitors to come to relax, shop, eat out, socialise and enjoy the area.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### APPENDIX 6: Sporting Fees and Charges Verbatim Feedback

A small contribution will help with maintenance

We currently pay for it in our rates, so why should it be paid for again. It's also used to try to bring money to the town and this would be seen as a deterrent

Community building activities should be reduced in cost such as sports clubs and less community building activities should pay more, clubs selling alcohol.

I agree in a yearly fee for the use of sporting fields however it should not be a huge amount; the sporting clubs don't make much money as it is. A daily rate should only be considered as a once off fee; our local sporting clubs should be able to have a small yearly fee for whatever their required use in the year.

Penny pinching and short sighted.

These charges will only coarse further hardship to our community targeting those who participate in sport, sport is a crucial for community togetherness and Mental health, your proposal will only see the sporting clubs increase their fees to cover it forcing some families to choose not to participate in sport.

As a council you are obligated to ensure community engagement and this proposal will only force some to walk away and lesson our community. Sport is essential for a Healthy Mind, body, soul and community.

Do not bring this proposal in!!!!

This change could be the deciding factor on whether a family can afford for their child to play sport. Sport is expensive for families and the change in eligibility for active kids vouchers has further impacted on the expenses. Obesity is real. Technology is part of life and anything we can do to keep our kids active should be supported. The cost of living crisis is being felt and this fee only compounds that impact for families.

There need to be a broader consultation with sporting groups. There are some very large groups that can absorb the new fees, however, smaller groups will struggle with the raise. (Little Athletics have about 260 members only compared to some of the bigger sporting groups - but has probably one of the biggest field marking jobs!!!). There are also some that have both summer and winter comps meaning that they will have two lots of fees over the year (Port touch for example). With, for example, Port Junior Rugby Union, this club does not actually take any registrations as we support the clubs with managing a junior comp (Pirates, Vikings, Kempsey, Wauchope). Our canteen profits pay for refs fees and lights. This club cannot support another \$1,000 fee. With no club house, the set up of a canteen each night is labor intensive. Also with one of the smallest storage rooms at Stuart Park, the need to store all our eskies and food items is very problematic. This fee seems a little excessive.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Pirates Rugby union could possibly see the value, as training is on three nights a week as well as approx 8 home games a year.

Definitely don't support the council should be encouraging sporting and exercise. This is the councils job to complete this.

Sporting clubs are not for profit organisations so any charges would have to be forwarded to families. Many have already had to remove kids from sport due to cost of living. Sports clubs have also contributed to the grounds as far as working bees, lighting etc. We already pay rates to cover these expenses. Without these sporting groups we are likely to have more issues of kids with nothing to do that leads to youth problems. Much more important than all the cultural waste of money on useless statues. Keep our kids fit.

This proposed fee for sporting field usage is absolutely wrong! Field access at best is already limited with Council not managing it correctly, sports can't get access all the time and double bookings made. If the service and access was going to improve and facilities improvements made to make them all weather then maybe this would be an option. We are so far behind in sporting facilities compared to other regional centres like Coffs and Tamworth - our kids deserve better! I 100% disagree with charging sporting clubs extra for something that is already below standard.

I pay netball fees, football fees, futsal fees as well as school carnival fees x 4. These fees are not cheap. Children need to train and have access to fields outside of formal game days. Children are encouraged to be healthy and exercise. You are adding a barrier to this. Save elsewhere.

I do not believe this to be a fair or just decision for individuals, families, schools or sporting organisations. With the cost of living being so high for many I would not agree with an additional cost being added to an area - sport - that has such a profound impact on mental well-being, community and connectedness.

For some families this is their only avenue for children to participate in sport. Putting a charge adds to an already tight budget due to the cost of living.

Clubs are run by volunteers on the smell of an oily rag. Schools and sporting organisations don't have the money to hire spaces that should be free.

I understand hiring Regional Stadium, indoor spaces, lake Cathie stadium, and paying for a fee for lights but charging the same rate for every club no matter what facilities are there? I don't think that's ok. That is what rates are for. Imagine the difference between port Little As with 250 members and Camden Haven little A's with probably under 40 members.

It's totally abhorrent

I feel this is one of the most mismanaged parts of Council. Council has received copious amounts of money for ground hire/use from Touch Football NSW for years and has done nothing to improve the infrastructure OR drainage around Tuffins Lane. I would like to know



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where this extra money has gone. Losing the Junior Competition has cost businesses thousands of dollars as a result. To now throw usage fees on a community who have already tightened their financial belts due to interest rate rises is ludicrous. Many families are already struggling to pay sporting fees (including insurances). This proposal could stop children from playing sport altogether.

It is a well known fact that society is less healthy than previous generations due to physical inactivity. Restricting the use on sporting fields will have a long term effect on health as well.

Council should reconsider this idea and perhaps stop funding campaigns driven by Councillors and their personal interest (breakwall and open lake Cathie being two prominent examples) and wasting ratepayers money.

These should only be charged to sporting organisations, general members of the community should be able to use the sports fields free of charge.

Need understanding around how this money will be spent to benefit and improve current/new facilities.

The sport I play in Wauchope is baseball and I know that the fields are predominantly maintained by Hastings baseball not the council, and they have been waiting to have draining fixed for a number of years because council didn't spend the money effectively, then when they were going to fix it again they then spend the money on other sporting groups so we are still waiting and it's clear council do not know how to spend money fairly across organizations so I'm assuming the bigger sporting organizations will then get even more funding paid for by us, so no this is not acceptable to make them pay fees when you can't be trusted to spend effectively and fairly.

The association I am affiliated with undertakes all field maintenance at their own expense. I see no reason why we should pay council just to take bookings on our behalf.

As a mother of 3 children who all play multiple sports the cost is high enough, charging sporting groups and schools increases the cost of every activity my children do and therefore costs me a lot more. Clubs currently already pay excessive fees for lights to use these fields.

This will add to costs of anyone playing sport as clubs/associations will just pass on costs to player registrations. To some families in lower socio-economic groups this could prevent their children actually playing sports. The payment model itself seems quite flawed as it seems a sport based at one sports field will pay \$1000 per season while a sport that plays at a large number of fields like cricket (which has minimal impact on playing surfaces) might be paying 15 (fields) x \$1000= \$15000.

I pay my rates and never go to the library but I am happy to financially support that facility (no user pay there) and I'm sure many feel the same about sports fields and their value to our community.

As a community we need to be encouraging social interactions and sporting clubs play a big part. Sporting clubs provides opportunities for people to develop friendships, interact with



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others from varying backgrounds, become part of a team, and develop a strong sense of belonging and sense of purpose. Communities that participate in sport and recreation develop strong social bonds, are safer places and the people who live in them are generally healthier and happier than places where physical activity isn't a priority. Sport and recreation builds stronger, healthier, happier and safer communities.

Absolutely atrocious this is even being discussed! It's hard enough as a parent and a coach with the cost of living let alone this crap!!

In all honesty what do kids in this town have other than sport? ZERO because the council got rid of EVERYTHING

Small clubs cannot afford these fees

In relation to the Blackbutt Park sporting fields located in Wauchope. I believe there should not be an increase in the use of sporting fields for local sporting clubs especially when there is little to no maintenance done by the PMHC. I am led to believe that all maintenance done to these fields, especially the baseball diamonds which are located here, is all completed by the volunteers from respective clubs to allow games to be played and funding for the maintenance of these grounds comes from their own pockets. The new fences even had to be approved by PMHC but they never helped to erect them. Again volunteers got it done. Raising the fees to rent the grounds, I believe, is unacceptable considering it will result in higher registration fees along with everything else in this day and age. People suppose to play sport for enjoyment and keep active but if fees go up then there will be no sports and the ground won't be played on and therefore lead to closing the fields as a result of no sports being played then no fees for PMHC and up go the bills for ratepayers etc to cover for the losses. Also it doesn't sound fair to charge additional fees for the hire of the sporting fields when there is little to no maintenance completed by PMHC especially when it states that is what the fees go towards.

Our rates cover this cost. This is unfair to slug families who are already struggling to cover this cost that should be included in our rates that we already have to pay. Sporting clubs already cover the cost of a lot of things council should be covering already. This is unfair and just another money grab because other councils do it they felt it was a good opportunity to get more money. Exercise is SO important and should be able to be accessible to everyone. We already pay enough for sign up to the sport. I am a working full-time parent and with the cost of living I will no longer be able to afford sport as I don't qualify for the NSW active voucher either.

It's important that council supports the community to be active and healthy. Applying these rates will add more barriers for families and individuals to play sport.

I pay enough rates to you as it is so why should the parents have to pay more so their children can enjoy sporting activities with their teammates. Kids need sport, the flow-on from the proposed fee will see more kids missing out.



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This will negatively impact sporting groups that are already struggling after Covid. Don't do it.

I believe that imposing charges on clubs and schools for field usage is unacceptable. These organisations operate on a non-profit basis, serving the community and run by its members. However, the condition of soccer fields, like Findlay Park, is subpar and poses safety hazards due to insufficient maintenance such as top dressings that would enhance the fields year after year, improving their ability to drain and preventing damage to the fields.

Local fields are integral to youth development, offering them not only a recreational outlet but also contributing to their physical, mental, and social well-being. Already burdened by existing sports participation fees, families would face further financial strain if additional facility charges were introduced. The council's role should be to support the community and its proposed fees and charges for sporting fields and recreational facilities indicate a lack of care or consideration for local residents.

I would rather see this charge be shared by all ratepayers. Sporting clubs will pass on this fee to the individuals who sign up with the club. Lots of other people in the community benefit from well-maintained sporting fields. Everyone should wear the cost. It's part of belonging to a community.

The model proposed isn't logical, nor was it supported by the Sports Council as has been implied. A better model supported by clearly communicated benefits to the sports community may get support, but this model is very unlikely to get support.

I think these proposed fees will really affect families with the active kids vouchers being discontinued. Clubs will simply forward the fees and we will have fewer kids playing sport. It's going to affect the smaller community clubs such as Camden Haven & Wauchope but large clubs with more money in Port won't be as affected. We already have the challenge of keeping numbers in clubs and travel. Please think of an alternative that doesn't impact the smaller clubs in the wider district.

This fee will ultimately have to be passed onto the members of sporting clubs which are voluntary run in most cases, give cheap entertainment to economically vulnerable groups, and help with community spirit. The parks are used by all so I don't see why you should just charge clubs which are providing a community service. Will you start charging a fee to children's playgrounds, sitting in the park next as these too require maintenance.

We should not be passing costs like this that clearly impact local clubs and those wanting to be involved in sports. However, it would be informative to know the rates of comparing councils and their fee structure and how our proposed fee structure compares with this.

You are potentially coming in too hot with these changes and should instead start small, e.g., \$10 an hour, and then slowly increase over the next x years.

Maintenance of Parks and Sports Fields is a core local council responsibility, and this is just cost-shifting to local volunteer sports clubs. These costs, if approved, will simply be passed



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onto player registrations, and the families from lower socio-economic communities will be most affected. Similarly with schools, the more affluent schools already have their own sporting fields; it will be the state schools serving lower socio-economic communities who will need to use the PMHC sports fields and pay these fees. Sports tourism will also suffer as costs of hosting carnivals will increase and make us non-competitive with our neighboring Kempsey and Mid North Coast Councils, who don't charge for the use of sporting fields. For a Vets Cricket Carnival over four days, it will add \$3,200 in ground costs. Such carnivals bring over 200 persons to our LGA, who spend over \$100,000 for the duration of a 4-day carnival. Regarding fees for using change rooms, HRDJCA already pay for the cleaning of Wayne Richards change rooms during the cricket season, so I'm assuming if PMHC are going to start charging fees for their use, they will also pick up the costs of cleaning the facility.

I understand that Council supports all sporting codes and strives to bring sporting events to our LGA, but they should not have to wear the cost of everything. Clubs in our area are so entitled to their "home grounds," so therefore should be responsible for paying for the use. The use of these fields is a privilege, not a right.

Having strong community teams and groups is essential for all age groups. We should be encouraging increased activity as a whole. Any further costs that make this less accessible to people of any age should be avoided.

There is no sliding scale on usage, really. In the Strategic Plan etc., access to sport and a healthy outdoor lifestyle is highly listed. Putting these fees onto sporting groups, especially smaller ones, makes it more and more expensive for families to participate, reducing the liability of the area. I appreciate that big venues that generate income, like Rugby League in Port Macquarie, can cover larger fees, but there needs to be balance to the infrastructure provided. For example, Tuffins Lane, Vince Immon, Lake Cathie, Tele Point, and many playing fields in villages, are provided very little infrastructure, and in many ways, no way to charge spectators. Sports like Athletics, schools, etc., are not big enough to cover the large fees. It should not be the case that small clubs are likely to incur \$20 or \$50 per person fee on top. This is a public service that rates really are applied for. I think it is fair if the sport is making money from spectators, then you can charge a larger fee. If the sport is a community benefit, has no spectators, and is under 100 memberships (for example), then fees and charges should be minimal to encourage people to join a club and get into a healthy lifestyle.

There is absolute outrage within the community sporting club of which I am the vice president. The club is now the largest team-based sporting club on the Mid North Coast with over 800 members. All players within our club are ratepayers, or their parents are ratepayers. In the middle of an obesity epidemic, PHMC is proposing to introduce a user-pays system for field use. As a health professional and former PD/H/PE teacher, this goes against EVERYTHING governments, health industry professionals, sporting associations, etc., have been working on to reduce the burden of the obesity crisis we are facing in this country. The research and evidence are clear: everybody, including PHMC, should be working towards reducing the barriers to participation in sport for a healthier, happier population. The more barriers, the less likely people are to become involved in sport. Financial reasons are a huge barrier to participation in sport; the more it costs, the less likely people are to participate. The proposed sporting fee leaves sporting clubs and schools no choice but to pass this new fee



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back onto its members/pupils through increased registration fees. I find it totally outrageous that a local primary school was billed just under \$1,000 to hold their cross country carnival at Wayne Richards Oval recently. These kids' parents are already ratepayers and our future generation. Everybody, including PHMC, should be doing EVERYTHING it can to reduce costs and barriers to participation in sport, not INCREASING them. The proposed fees and charges need to be distributed evenly across ALL ratepayers and not just targeted at sporting associations and schools. ALL ratepayers will reap the benefits of a fit, healthy, happy population.

Our Baseball Association albeit small in numbers compared to some other sports currently spends thousands of dollars every year on marking and maintenance of our playing fields.

A \$1000 to use fields that we the baseball fraternity built and developed and maintain is totally unreasonable.

With the government reducing the active kids vouchers and conditions to access the vouchers we are already seeing a rising cost in playing fees across all sports. Whilst there is an acknowledgment that our society is becoming more and more obese, governing bodies seem to be hell bent on making it more unaffordable for exercise participation.

Basketball has to pay fees to cover costs I would expect outdoor sporting groups to do the same, this should not be covered under rates.

You should be encouraging sports clubs and related services. They create business activity for local businesses and other interested parties. Therefore, Council should provide these facilities free of charge as part of the rates we already pay.

Yes, many Councils have adopted this User Pays charge/fee. But is it necessary to punish clubs and groups who have to now pay these extra fees who must then pass it on to the users (many families with children)? The Fact Sheet doesn't say how much these fees will raise, but it does state it "will cover 3.3% of the current average cost for Council to manage and maintain a sporting facility". Is this amount of income worth the cost to the community?

Clubs barely have enough money as is.

Our fields need more maintenance, if this is the model to maintain them then what's a few extra \$\$.

The local sporting groups are struggling to maintain member numbers as costs rise. Without enough members, there's no clubs and a reduced need for sporting fields but Council will still have the cost of maintaining grounds all year round. The sports club already pays fees, and I know at Wauchope Baseball Club members maintain the diamond and grounds as best as they can and I see no need to ask this club to pay more. The health of your community should be taken into account, not just the dollar figures. Sport is one of the best ways to bring together a community, make people feel connected, welcomed, and it's great for mental health.



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We are charging community organisations these new fees and for Council services we are reducing fees for big businesses in the CBD and ratepayers are picking up the tab. I find it very difficult to understand why our elected reps, who should have the community's interests as their top priority, are making these decisions.

I run the Kendall Touch Football competition and the introduction of the sporting field fees and charges will probably lead to the collapse of our competition. We have run at a loss since Covid hit, and it is only through contributions by sponsors and myself that the competition still exists. Our insurance premiums have risen sharply. As in most other sports, player numbers are declining, so we have a smaller number of teams that we can charge to play. The additional \$1,500 per season plus the bond will mean we would have to charge each team an extra \$300 per season (a 60% increase on our current charges). Our comp is played by many young locals, many in school or doing apprenticeships. In addition, our region is in the lower socio-economic bracket. I believe the costs of our oval should be borne by the wider community.

Will result in an increase in player registration cost which will further reduce participation in sport by children and adults.

These fees will make it very difficult for working families to access weekend sport for their children.

Most of these sporting clubs are run by volunteers, and do not bring in enough revenue to cover these costs. This means that the costs would be put onto players which is extremely unfair. If the fields were maintained to a high standard prior to this increase, it would be understandable to place a cost on it but the fields lack maintenance as it is, and the council finds it fair to charge for use when most of the sporting fields in the area are below par.

Clubs already pay fees and contribute to grounds maintenance and often to difficulty of current council plans. Sport currently is already extremely expensive to participate in and the fields are open to everyone to use outside of organised sport committees.

I would only consider increased cost to individuals and committees using the fields for maintenance if there was substantial improvement to field maintenance, including drainage for wet weather and plans for drought.

We need to encourage a maximum of people, families, and children to be active - we understand that there need to be some fees and charges. Keeping them to a minimum would be great too. Fundraising by clubs, working bees organized by Council with Council equipment where club members contribute, working jointly with club members may help too.

It is imperative that the council doesn't place inequitable access limitations on residents who should have the ability to access exercise and health facilities. There is a growing concern around health issues such as obesity nationwide, which has significant implications for our healthcare system. Additionally, the proposed fee for the sport-focused facility unjustly



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affects families and community groups who foster social connections and mental well-being, both of which contribute to the overall betterment of our community.

See earlier comment in relation to the decision to not implement the rate peg.

This will reduce the sports/members and teams for every sport/club that use the fields. Imagine parents having to pay their kids' sport field charges as well as their own. The cost would be too high that they would likely remove themselves from the sports clubs. This proposal will cause reductions in local sports.

Sporting facilities are important for the community and sense of belonging. If the savings created by a levy were put back into community sport and involvement (and not frittered away on 'admin'), it could be justifiable.

We will need to increase any opportunity to gain revenue to keep up basic services.

Annual sporting fees are a significant obstacle to community sport participation - particularly outside the default junior sports of soccer, netball, etc. As a member of a sporting club, I know that our association is responsible for the expensive infrastructure required for our sport (Baseball). We are confined to one field across the Hastings area, lack drainage which leads to one of our diamonds becoming unplayable after rain, have inadequate lighting to play outside daylight hours and get little support from Council (beyond mowing). Adding a sporting field charge will make our sport more expensive and be a further obstacle to its growth. Fees are currently around \$300 for the season, of which the majority goes to the sport's parent bodies. The cost of personal equipment is significant, and a further charge will have a significant impact in circumstances where there are no additional services or support being offered by Council.

Not all sporting clubs or users are in a position to afford this. Imposing fees will be passed on to individual participants in a variety of ways. Many families struggle with the costs of providing sporting gear, registrations/insurances, etc. Most families want access to facilities for both adults and children that are not cost prohibitive. Imposing sporting field fees and charges may impact some families and potentially impact mental, social, and physical well-being.

Look to other councils and learn.

Council is providing too many sporting fields and new complexes. More sharing of grounds, make them multi-use and not single-use only. Most of the fields are empty 50% of the time. Council budget reflects this growing problem.

These proposed increases are ludicrous and will mean that the PMHC will deny many local clubs the ability to carry on. These proposed increases will mean membership rates will need to be increased. These increased membership rates will mean many families will be unable to afford it and will have to pull their kids out of the sports they love and need. We already know the impact that social media has on our young people's mental health and well-being, so effectively these proposed increases will force kids back to their devices instead of the sports fields.



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User should pay!!

Use of sporting fields at no cost will bring more sporting events to the city and will benefit all users and residents.

I understand the concerns of the sporting clubs, but as a community member who does not use these facilities I feel the clubs should contribute in some way to the upkeep of the facilities.

The fees table, in some instances, doesn't specify if it's a charge for a one-day use or not. New charges in the Stadium section - are they on top of existing charges? Basketball stadium, for example, already charges \$1900-\$3600 for expos and events. "Ground fee" is an ambiguous charge and deserves clarity.

What a disgraceful thing to do to a community!! This is core infrastructure that our community needs! Sport helps build a happy and healthy community, it connects the community and builds friendships and pride in our community! To impose such fees on our community only highlights how disconnected council is with the community!!

Affordable access to sport is a vital component of community and individual well-being.

Schools will have to increase costs to families for general school usage. What guarantee does council give that quality of sporting fields will improve with these fees - currently it is poor.

If the introduction of this fee means families have to pay more to play sport, then what is the financial, social, psychological or health benefit? It's contrary to the idea of not increasing general rates so families can save money. We, the people of this LGA ultimately own the facilities and the easiest and best way of maintaining them is through our rates and council.

As long as there is continued reinvest in upgrading existing, and building new sporting facilities

Increase rates if needed, all residents should share the cost

For the good of the community at large there needs to be some user pays system in place. As the cost of living is rising so rapidly it seems reasonable that there be commensurate increases across the board to deal with possible shortfalls.

As long as the fees are fair and transparent, I support the fees.

To charge for our children, grandchildren and all ratepayers in general, to use sporting facilities, [decision makers] should resign today. I would not trust them to take my dog for a walk. The Council should be ashamed of themselves for proposing it, any council member supporting it, should be voted out of office.

I don't understand why not-for-profit sporting communities should pay fees to use the fields - they will have to pass it on to their members. Will there be a refund when the fields aren't available for use due to council doing maintenance at the wrong time resulting in the fields



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being unusable for weeks after the season was meant to start, or similarly when lines aren't marked on the fields for the games? Or when the drainage is poor and fields aren't usable because the water isn't clearing away. Given the proposed rate freeze and resulting reduction in services to make up for it, I don't see how these tasks will be able to be completed in a timely manner given they aren't now.

It's unfair and these not-for-profit clubs will not be financially viable and will go under, they are a service to the community and we need them. Users should pay, and it's not like these are heavy charges.

Questions Raised: 1. Is PMHC aware that a number of our sports grounds were donated for purposes of sport, e.g., Stuart Families and Westport High School donated Findlay Park? 2. Has PMHC considered the impact of fees on Sports tourism? 3. How will the use of a sporting ground be managed when used by various users in the same sport, e.g., Cricket comprises, Seniors, Juniors and Veterans Associations sharing the same facility for the season? Will each group be charged the required fee? 4. Will training facilities e.g., Cricket nets be subject to a charge? 5. Will fees be charged for Netball courts and for School usage? 6. Will fees be increased from year to year? 7. Is Council aware of the impact of the fees on the cost of living on families currently struggling to provide their kids with the opportunity to play the sport of their choice, e.g., cricket? 8. When will the proposed late booking fee apply?

With obesity on the increase this is just another reason for people not to be active. As I said previously, a small increase in rates, spent effectively is far better.

Traditionally in Australia sporting clubs and associations have been the heartbeat of the community. These sporting clubs provide a vital opportunities of people of all ages and particularly youth for engagement, healthy activities and friendships. With the increased rates of childhood obesity, mental health epidemic, increasing rates of isolation amongst members of the community it is absolutely illogical council wishes to place any additional barrier to sporting participation, particularly financial. Yes the fees and charges may be aiming to increase and improve the facilities but the cost of participation has already become difficult for many clubs and associations and their members. These are also public spaces within the community that are often subject to weather interruptions and not to mention dog poo on almost every sporting field from off leash dog walkers (does payment guarantee there won't be several large piles of dog excrement on the field each time it is rented?).

For the sake of a long term vibrant and healthy community, I would highly recommend looking to support sporting clubs and community associations and not putting any additional financial burden upon them.

Fees and charges if introduced will inevitably mean an increased cost to participants and thus be a disincentive to participate. However, Council should be doing everything possible to encourage community members of all ages to participate in sporting activity of some form. The benefits for both physical and mental health are well documented and one of the biggest problems with the health system generally is that approximately 95% of government funding is allocated to treatment and only 5% to prevention. Council has an opportunity to



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not only be seen to be doing the right thing in this regard but to be doing the right thing. And to attempt to justify the proposal to apply fees and charges by arguing that 7 out of 10 neighbouring LGAs do charge a fee is a highly floored argument. To use a cliché, 'two wrongs don't make a right'. I also find a certain contradiction between the proposal to move away from a 'user pays' approach for businesses within the PM CBD but move to a 'user pays' approach for the users of sports fields and recreational facilities. In both cases the benefits are potentially for all and therefore I believe it is appropriate that the costs in both cases should fall to all ratepayers.

It's not fair to add the extra fees onto the families of people playing sport. Life is hard enough at the moment with the cost of living. Let's not make it worse.

If these facilities are not used council still has to provide the upkeep it's all a part of our rates so why should the local sporting clubs that are struggling financially anyway through cost rises pay more.

When you consider the number of Associations using all our sporting venues (over different seasons) the amount of money Council will collect will be far greater than what is being put forward. The details behind this proposal are not clear or transparent. For e.g. Hastings Senior Cricket utilizes 16 venues and therefore will pay \$16 000 per season. Hastings Junior Cricket will also pay \$16 000. That's \$32 000 already collected. When you add Rugby League, Rugby Union, Football, Baseball, Touch Football & Oz Tag Senior and Junior Clubs the final figure collected each year is now hundreds of thousands of dollars. This has to be clarified. There is too much uncertainty about this proposal. If a third or half a season is washed out, will sporting clubs be reimbursed? The MNC Senior and Junior Cricket Councils will also have to pay a few grand each, every season for their Rep Games as they are different Associations to the Hastings. (Or they'll just play their games in Kempsey and Taree).

Cricket doesn't have the participation numbers that Football and Touch Footy has, so the impact on their player rego fees will increase substantially more to cover the costs, as compared to the smaller increases of sports with larger player numbers. There's no equity here across the sports. With the constant rise of Insurance, sporting equipment and clothing, travel and registration (and the loss of Active Kids Vouchers) we can't allow this to proceed.

Families from a lower socio-economic background will be hit hardest with any and every price rise and they need their kids to escape their surroundings and join others on the playing field where they are treated as equals. For their physical and mental health, we can't make exercise and team sports only available to those who can afford it.

Slugging struggling families with more fees to pay in order for their kids to participate will cause fewer kids to play sport. This will have long term detrimental affects on children's health and wellbeing! With fewer numbers local sport clubs will cease to operate. I am shocked that a council would even consider such a fee. Shows how little our council cares for kids!



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In two minds on this- as community clubs are already stretched for resources with many volunteers- would need to pass on this rate rise to our sporting community. Also do not understand how the fees will be shared and:

- a. where will the fees go
- b. will they be quarantined to our area
- c. what accountability will there be for fees collected.
- d. Eg for fields that are used by many clubs- how do you propose allocating the \$1000 fee. Is it evenly across say cricket or football clubs?

how are you going to administrate this, need much more information.

Our rates should handle the costs.

People using the sporting fields already pay these costs whilst paying rates and encouragement needs to happen to get people to use these fields for good health reasons.

Maintenance - an average of \$30,000 per facility, per year... There is no reason why council could not explore the possibility of clubs contributing TIME and EFFORT towards the maintenance of sporting fields. Please do NOT cry out OHS or WHS (or any new acronym) to block/reject/ignore discussion. Club members have done a huge amount to maintain the hockey complex for over 20 years and much has been achieved with volunteer work groups over this period of time.

In the long run, for example, it would cost considerably more for clubs to mow their own fields than it would if council started charging for these tasks. Clubs should be consulted and given opportunities to participate in these types of programs knowing that in the long run, they will have to charge players more to be involved if council starts charging fees because we ALL KNOW that these fees are then likely to double or triple over the next 10 years.

Surely other clubs could have more say and involvement in maintaining the fields that they regularly use.

Don't just state or think .... these things can't be done or they would be too hard. Think .... how could these things be implemented if necessary.

Stop mismanaging rate payers dollars on ego junk maintenance

Pay like any other service that requires

Bad news for the ongoing vitality of local sports.

The population is dying from chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity etc caused by lack of affordable or inclusive exercise opportunities. Clubs are run by volunteers who are already fundraising for basics such as travel costs to attend competitions. The sports facilities in Wauchope are close to non-existent, or below acceptable safe standards e.g. lack of female toilets/changing rooms - sexual harassment??? The fact sheet states that council does not currently charge for field use, which is incorrect. Sporting clubs do currently pay fees for



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using grounds! And just because other councils charge their residents, is no reason for PMHC to follow. Do your own homework and what is right for your LGA! I also think your factsheet misleads people as it only refers to ground fees and not all the other fees that apply such as use of changerooms, kitchen, lightning fees, etc. Are these fees included in the seasonal ground fee cost or separate? Please be more transparent!

Clubs/groups that regularly use fields (exclusively) for training and games should pay fees to help cover maintenance, however I feel that the rates do not accurately reflect the services provided, given that council regularly close fields after rain or even based on predicted weather, do not clean toilets/change rooms regularly, do not maintain fences that are in need of replacement, unsafe walking paths/steps or appropriate amount of parking for fields, to name a few. I also do not think it is appropriate to introduce new fees in such a short time frame as winter clubs are in the middle of their season and have not been able to include these costs within their budget. Any change should not start until next financial year to allow enough time and consideration by clubs. Charges should be based on exclusive use, and likely additional maintenance that is required, etc. don't think its appropriate to charge a sports team \$400 to use a field for 3 hours of training, particularly when other community members are still able to use part of the field and don't need to pay. Also, if this team is associated with a club that has regular use of the field (season) there should be no/minimal additional costs associated. e.g. a representative team. If Clubs are willing to undertake certain maintenance themselves such as cleaning, then they should receive a discount, or not have to pay the cleaning, use of changerooms, kitchen etc fees. Obviously ground maintenance is specific and would need to be completed by council employees.

Council should not be expected to foot the entire bill to maintain these facilities. This practice is normal in most other councils across the state.

As a member of a small club/Association that does a lot of the maintenance to our fields. I can't see the justification of the fees proposed. It would be fairer if we had to have user pays. It be charged per head. I strongly disagree with the proposed Fees & Charges.

A flat \$1000 dollar seasonal fee is unfair, clubs have vastly different membership numbers and should not all be expected to pay the same amount, across 4 teams we will play 23 games on our field. While I'm supportive of an introduction of fees and acknowledge that it is only 3% clubs are already starting to see a decline in numbers because of the cost of living. We have 101 members this year: affiliation and insurance will cost us \$13880 + lights + uniforms \$2000 + balls and training equipment \$3000 = \$18,880 (+ lights). If we got 100% registrations paid, which is unexpected, we are at \$17500. A fairer fee that reflects usage would be supported.

Sporting clubs charge a lot to us families, surely they can contribute - even if the seasonal fee is halved, they surely can contribute that much towards the maintenance.

These clubs are NFP organisations that have a small amount of volunteers doing a huge commitment to keep them running. This includes endless fundraising to make ends meet. By charging a fee, it is just more money and therefore work that they need to put in. Some clubs will not be able to survive doing this.



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It is a bad idea to tax and discourage sport

I am President of the Mid North Coast Veterans Cricket Association and as I have stated earlier in my feedback I firmly believe that the introduction of the proposed user pays system will have a negative impact on both the physical and mental well being of our community. By placing a hold on a rate rise and then try to regain some of that lost revenue through applying a user pay will have a significant impact on sporting clubs and sporting field users across our community. We are going through a cost of living crisis at the moment and to say we will hold back a rate increase but then attempt to get some of the money back through user pays is a huge step in the wrong direction. These costs will have to be passed onto the people participating, so parents may then need to choose between what sports (and how many) their children can participate in. Well over half of our membership are aged over 60 so any increase in cost may/will impact on how many times they can participate. How can you put a price on the physical and mental health of our community, Council should be promoting the benefits of sporting activities to the whole community not just those who participate, one of the main goals of Veterans Cricket is to get the old blokes out of the house and give them an opportunity to play cricket and connect socially. We call it our Men's Shed in the field. Kids playing sport is great for their emotional and social skills as well as their physical health - which helps to provide a happy community - surely that is something Council should be trying to achieve.

If the fees and charges are introduced then there must be a commensurate commitment to maintain and improve these facilities to a standard agreed with those same sporting clubs. Again let us take PRIDE in providing first class sporting fields for both our residents and visiting clubs. Top class facilities will provide the opportunity to attract top class events with consequent positive economic and social benefit to our region.

Just because other councils have introduced this measure does not make it correct. It seems to me this is a direct fix to the increased costs from the town centre levy that Council proposes everyone pays. It means every family with children participating in sport will pay more. One has to assume just about every child one time or another participates in sport. All this will do is increase cost of living pressures on families and reduce sporting participation.

It's Disgraceful that Council would even consider charging a fee! Are we not trying to keep the community healthy, keep children and youth connected and keep the grounds available to all.

I support it if the maintenance levels are increased. I don't support it if maintenance levels will not change. Maintaining facilities is already a borderline operation, right? Why not just keep the rates up with the cost of living? We know many of our local sporting organisations rely on Council's community grants too. There will be a demise in families enjoying sport. This will eat into our "sustainable and high quality of life for all"

It's the essence of our community, most sporting teams already run on donations from local businesses and sponsorship. These hire fees will be passed on directly to families who are



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already paying for maintenance services. Why should we be paying twice?? Not for profit organisations and schools should be exempt from these fees.

As per my comments before, get the workers performing efficiently. The cost of providing these services may well reduce significantly. AND PLEASE DO NOT ENGAGE CONSULTANTS to gauge their performance - surely you have (probably younger) bright and enthusiastic staff in these areas who can drive change. Obviously top management will need to drive this and protect the "change drivers" who will not be appreciated by the (slow/non performers).

The users of these facilities have already paid their rates. Council provides services to Community. This is one of them.

Sporting fields should be available to be used by sporting clubs and all members without additional costs to the clubs and which will then be passed on to sport club members which are often families. Rates are already collected from rate paying residents and it would be an expectation that some of these funds are allocated to the maintenance of sporting fields and facilities to service the community. It is a councils obligation to provide usable outdoor spaces to improve the health and wellbeing of its community members.

The Council should be providing use of sports fields to encourage our young people to participate in sports and make participation affordable for families.

Those fees should fees and charges should be coming from our rates. Sport is central to the health of the LGA. A 0% rate freeze has led to this proposal.

An extra charge never is appealing, but I take the point that most other council areas do have an equivalent fee. I only hope this wouldn't leave clubs & their volunteer leaders stressed about finances.

I have just read a news article that says that parents of school age children pay approximately \$845 in after-school activity fees. The addition of fees to cover some of the shortfall from the proposed 0.0% rate rise is poor. Yes, large commercial events should pay however, school-based sports and activities continue to pay no fees.

Yes, suck it up council. Maintaining sports grounds for social and physical activity is core business. Just get on with doing your job with the resources you have.

It would be good if engagement took place with clubs around this. Generally I support but all clubs aren't resourced the same. Any changes need to reflect that.

The cost-shifting continues. This decision, if implemented, will have a detrimental impact on many children having access to sporting fields - where they can participate in socially-organised sporting events, mix with their peers, stay healthy and enjoy a sport they love. There will certainly be a mental health impact too. This is another wrong decision.

Physical activity provides a significant health benefit to the community. We should make access to sporting facilities as equitable as possible. Fees will make it accessible for the rich



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but not the poor. Better health outcomes benefit the whole community and the health budget.

Concerns about Sporting Fees and Their Impact on the Community A significant issue within the Draft Operational Plan 2024-25 for the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council is the potential impact of sporting fees on the community, particularly for youth and families. Here are some key points and concerns to address:

- **Increased Sporting Fees:** The plan indicates a need to balance the budget by reducing expenditures, which could lead to higher fees for accessing sports facilities and programs.

- **Higher Participation Costs:** Increased fees can make sports and recreational activities less accessible to families, especially those with limited financial resources. This could reduce youth participation in sports, negatively impacting physical health, mental well-being, and community engagement.
- **Barrier to Entry:** For many families, additional costs might become a barrier to enrolling their children in sports programs, leading to a decline in participation rates. This could also impact local sports clubs, which rely on participation fees to maintain operations and facilities.
- **Impact on Youth Development:** Sporting activities play a crucial role in the holistic development of young people
- **Physical Health:** Regular participation in sports is essential for maintaining physical health, preventing obesity, and reducing the risk of chronic diseases. Increased fees could deter participation, leading to poorer health outcomes for the community's youth.
- **Social Skills and Teamwork:** Sports are instrumental in teaching young people important life skills such as teamwork, discipline, and leadership. Higher fees could limit access to these developmental opportunities, especially for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Community Well-being:** Sports and recreational activities contribute significantly to the overall well-being of the community:
- **Community Cohesion:** Sports events and activities foster a sense of community and belonging. Higher fees could reduce participation in these activities, weakening community bonds and social cohesion.
- **Crime and Anti-Social Behavior:** Engaging youth in sports can reduce crime rates and anti-social behavior by providing positive outlets for energy and creativity. Increased fees could limit these opportunities, potentially leading to higher incidences of such behaviors.

**Recommendations** To address these concerns and advocate for the community effectively, consider the following actions:

- **Subsidies and Scholarships:** Propose the introduction of subsidies or scholarships for low-income families to ensure that all children have access to sports programs, regardless of their financial situation.



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- **Community Partnerships:** Encourage partnerships with local businesses and organizations to sponsor sports programs, reducing the financial burden on families and ensuring the sustainability of these programs.
- **Alternative Funding:** Explore alternative funding sources, such as grants or community fundraising events, to offset the costs of maintaining sports facilities and programs without increasing fees.
- **Advocacy for Youth:** Emphasize the importance of investing in youth sports as a preventive measure for health issues and as a means of building a stronger, more cohesive community.

Additional costs to family

This is a tort.

If Council wants to meet its VISION obligations to be the most sustainable and livable, thriving place in Australia, then do not increase fees for those that are trying their utmost to be healthy and connected. This will only prevent participation! And given the 0% rate peg, community grants would disappear, making it harder for sporting clubs to survive! You need to focus on running clubs that aren't registered and regularly using and promoting running on council land. You are very inconsistent with your obligations.

User pays principle is fine

A bloated council with an enormous payroll, with a huge mid management, and very few on the ground workers that need support to maintain the area for the community.

This is a basic council service to be provided at as low a cost as possible. Increased costs will largely affect young people and families as clubs and schools will have to pass costs on.

I play a number of sports as do my family members. It would cost us too much to play and would have to stop some. This is not fair on our children. This will stop kids wanting to play sports as parents can't afford it. Stop increasing fees for parents unless you can have wages increase to pay for all this.

We are a non for profit sporting organisation. Council will close our field given any opportunity. [Redacted] is more focused on protecting the cricket pitch than letting a winter sport utilize the field they are rightly allowed to use.

The cost of running a sporting club with teams from u6 through to seniors has increased significantly. We can't afford to lose any more revenue. Maybe this is what council wants??

Council already refuse to maintain Oxley oval. Have a look at the damage still visible from the iron man several years ago. It's a joke.

The proposed fees will need to be passed onto individual users from their respective associations or clubs. This would place more financial burden on people in tough economic times. Perhaps if the rate peg wasn't frozen then the cost of the upkeep of grounds could be found.



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The cost of sports fields should be spread across all rate payers. If the users have to pay this will have a negative impact in participation which will also have negative social and health impacts as sport has huge health benefits. The poorer members of the community will suffer. The proposed fees will increase how much families will need to pay which will lead to a decrease in the number of kids being able to participate in sports.

User pays. This includes visitors for teams and other inter city, group carnivals.

This will hurt community sport like nothing else. Council provides little to no support for community sporting groups, it really is disgusting how council approaches them. I really don't understand how we have one of the highest rates in NSW but council wants more money.

I am not only a local member of a sporting club but also a parent of 4 children. I have requested help to pay for multiple registration fees and 2 of my children are not even involved yet. How does putting extra strain on families who already struggle with living expenses and giving an outlet for not just children to have a healthy wellbeing and lifestyle but also in my case choosing who gets to play sport? In my case I would put my children first but I also know that would affect my own mental health. Don't add more stress to families who are already struggling to keep kids in sport by making more of a financial burden to them.

Families are struggling now.

Money keeps getting redirected from new Wauchope sporting fields. Just another instance where money will be used to improve Port fields from Wauchope cash.

This is a tax on the active when you are removing a rate peg. It will negatively impact lower socioeconomic families who benefit most from engaging with all walks of life through sport and benefit from living a healthy lifestyle. This is a very poor idea.

There has been little financial input to Wayne Richards Park in many years. The facilities remain the same. Potential storage units welded shut. No assistance to sporting clubs to collaborate to gain new resources such as scoreboards or fencing. The master plan remains dormant. Clubs such as AFL work solely with volunteers trying to maintain the grounds and improve them. Sports such as AFL would be financially impacted by the introduction of a fee. We are not as financially strong as other sports in the region due to building our popularity in the community. Introduction of a fee would require commitment from council that it will go back into the ground resources and improvement, not the larger community.

Really the amount won't make that much difference to the cost involved in maintaining these spaces. A user pay system does make sense though.

We are encouraging sport in our Region, particularly junior sport. We must continue to facilitate sport in our Region. Parents are under pressure in these difficult times and we need to ensure that children are able to be involved in healthy lifestyle activities without



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impacting on the household budget. Sport ensures that all members of the Community get involved.

All sporting fields should be provided free to encourage all outdoor activities, especially children's sports, which are so beneficial to community health. These activities are usually operated by non-profit organisations. Parents already under financial pressure should not have to decide whether their children can participate based on their current fiscal position.

Sporting and recreation facilities are the heart of communities for majority of children, young adults, and others for maintaining health and wellbeing, companionship, community connection, and interaction. Charging this fee will increase costs to small clubs, families, and individuals. Bigger events are very different and need to be charged. Consideration of obtaining funding from state and federal governments could be considered.

Community sporting fields and recreational facilities are invaluable community resources which are often utilized by organizations operated by volunteers who are already donating their time, energy, skills, and resources for the benefit of the local community. This is especially important in engaging local children and youth to become contributing valuable members of our local community. Community members of all ages benefit from these facilities. The cost to Council of not providing these facilities to the community will exacerbate the local youth and social issues including vandalism, graffiti, and anti-social behavior as many sporting organizations and recreational activities organizations cannot afford these excessive fees. Young children and youth engaged in these sporting and recreational organizations develop into well-rounded community members who contribute to our community as engaged, motivated adults, and this will impact future generations in years to come.

These expenses should be part of the parks and gardens budget. Parents of children playing sport do not need any more expenses in their lives.

Community sporting clubs have struggled through the 2019 bushfires, the disruptions due to COVID-19, and the serious weather changes and flooding in recent years. It is reckless of councilors to impose this additional charge as a response to their own political tactic to freeze rates. This is effectively shifting what should be a community-shared cost to target revenue-raising and cost recovery on clubs which are largely made up of families of children under 15 years of age. Children should not bear the burden of these sorts of council decisions.

User pays runs through most of our society.

Sporting and recreation facilities are the heart of communities for the majority of children, young adults, and others for maintaining health and wellbeing, companionship, community connection, and interaction. Charging this fee will increase costs to small clubs, families, and individuals. Bigger events are very different and need to be charged. Consideration of obtaining funding from state and federal governments could be considered.

This seems like a simple user-pays approach.



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I believe this to be very wrong, especially in light of the recent changes/discussions/decisions/meetings/dissolving of the Camden Haven Sports Management Committee (355). I think anyone who knows about or is involved in the Camden Haven sporting clubs would also disagree with these fees being charged to our clubs. They are at least 5-7 times more than club fees paid for years, not to mention the proposed grandstand/canteen/meeting room fees. It is predominantly hard-working families with children who volunteer their time to provide these community sporting opportunities, who already have to pay increasing sports association fees and currently get less government support via active kids vouchers, who would be carrying the load of these new fees. All rate payers benefit from owning property in vibrant active communities so this load should be shared.

So a person who walks a dog at Wayne Richards Park every day pays nothing, but Council hits families trying to keep their kids fit and healthy by playing sport pay more. Does not sound fair to me. Bad idea. If this gets approved, lower-income families will pull their kids out of organized sport, making them more vulnerable to obesity and delinquency. That's a lose-lose for the whole community and is not making our area more 'liveable'. Everyone should pay the same for our green spaces and facilities, however they use them.

Such a proposal is "selective discrimination". People who like to play sport shouldn't be discriminated against financially. It could lead to fewer people playing sport. What next Council - charging to use the library, for example? Any imposition of costs for using sports fields and facilities is unconscionable.

If art and community halls require maintenance/upkeep and are rented out to the community, I believe there should be no difference for sporting fields. I do believe that they should in part be subsidized for all smaller organizations and groups that are not making a profit.

### GENERAL OP FEEDBACK

Do not bring these fees in, you will slowly kill our community spirit.

I strongly disagree with the Sports Fee etc Proposal. I also strongly disagree with Arts and community grants not being maintained. Greater discussion and clarity around these issues and their potential impact of what is proposed by council needs to be discussed / made transparent to all members of the community.

We should not be increasing revenue to cover a rate freeze by dipping into community sports pockets. Most, if not all, are volunteer run not for profits who barely cover costs of facilitating kids playing sport.

In principle a small charge per participant for each local sports association may be manageable. The model proposed isn't. To get support for any model PMHC needs to outline to the sports community what the benefits are. If there will be no clear change to current facility provision and maintenance then support is very unlikely.



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I am extremely concerned about the impact of this on my family in the future. My children all play multiple sports and enjoy a healthy lifestyle. There are no fees in Taree or Kempsey and this may push children to other sporting clubs if they live in the middle ground.

Making sporting clubs pay for fields will kill sport.

Please do not increase sporting fees, clubs will struggle to find members as cost rise too much to cover this cost.

No to introduction of sport field charges.

I haven't cared about what the council does, but charging sporting organisations to use public facilities will make me actually vote, and get others to as well.

We should not be increasing revenue to cover a rate freeze by dipping into community sports pockets. Most, if not all, are volunteer run not for profits who barely cover costs of facilitating kids playing sport.

Read previous comment council can't be trusted to spend fairly and are already taking top dollar for rates so how about they get review and taught how to budget so your existing funds can be spent correctly not just ask others for more money, I say no to charging sporting clubs to use fields that's your issue to maintain not theirs, you will kill clubs that are barely struggling to stay afloat as is.

Families are doing it tough enough, this will be another fee that hits their purse strings. As a Hastings rate payer I already pay high fees and have my rubbish picked up fortnightly, 3 tip tickets have turned to 2. Nothing but reductions. Let the kids have a run, fight a bit of obesity, and look somewhere else for funds.

I wish that we would have a rate increase to improve our community and not be failing in some areas just to offer 0 rate rise

PMHC does not charge a fee for field hire for many of our sporting fields and recreational facilities across our region. 7 of our 10 neighbouring Local Government Areas do charge a hire fee in various capacities. This should not be a justification of imposing a fee for the access of exercise and health related facilities. In fact, PMHC should be proud that they support equitable access to recreational sporting facilities for the community, not restricting them financially in an already difficult financial climate.

No extra fees for sporting fields please

Crazy idea to think of charging sporting groups for using sporting grounds.. Not all sporting clubs have money to spend on the hiring of grounds. Insurance, equipment and uniforms are expensive enough let alone another fee. Sporting grounds keep the community connected, keep the youth, children and adults healthy. Keeping the children off the streets and engaged in a community activity. We should continue to support our local sporting groups, especially in the lower income areas. People using these facilities will respect them.



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We have plenty of new families and older members moving into this beautiful area. Surely there should be enough money in these new residents to continue to support free sporting facilities. The Council is committed to these new building estates but should consider where the children, youths and younger adults can go that will not cost them any more money.

Sport is extremely important in a community. Charging not-for-profit clubs will see clubs fold as people won't be able to afford to participate. What happens to these fields then? Clubs already help maintain and mark fields maybe some more shared maintenance with some mowing being able to be done by club members may be an answer rather than charging fees.

Don't put the cost of living up for families who are already struggling to give kids opportunities let alone themselves in the sporting world. There is next to no funding or scholarships to even apply to get them involved, and if you do decide to do this, money needs to come from council to support these families in need to help their 5 year old son play 1 season of football, or their 8 year old daughter who wants to play netball, or the 16 year old who needs to play touch to keep up his ball skills for a possible selection at the State team. Think smart council and make the effort for families who are already struggling with daily living expenses.

### OTHER INPUTS (DIRECT EMAIL) VERBATIM FEEDBACK ON SPORTING FEES & CHARGES

I do not support this model. The effects of this cost impacting on lower income families and their children's access to playing sports. Our wonderful community has wonderful facilities (thank you!) that should be able to be accessed by all! (Who could be our next big star/export!)

Please note that I fundamentally disagree with the proposal to charge community sporting clubs general ground fees. Community sports clubs are run by volunteers with minimal budgets and are unable to afford these charges. As a council rate payer I believe that we are already paying for these charges as part of our rates each month. We need to encourage more residents and children to play community sports and get active, and these additional charges will just be passed on to families further compromising their strained budgets.

Please reconsider this proposed fee introduction. It's not necessary or a good idea for this town.

I am making a submission in relation to the proposed introduction of User Pays Fees for Sports Ground Usage. I strongly disagree with this proposal. Not only is it a regressive tax on the active people in this Council, but it also sets a precedent for the potential future increases or expansion of user pays fees for active people or for fees for other community services that should also be provided as a free service, such as the library... Over the last 20 years there has been significant growth in the population of Port Macquarie and yet this growth has not been closely matched by the expansion of sports grounds. On top of this, the majority of capital investment at the current sports grounds has been via grant funding, that in many cases, has been secured by the clubs that use those grounds.



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I appreciate that Regional Councils are always short of cash, but you only have to compare Port Macquarie with Coffs Harbour to realise that our Council does not see the value of investment in sports facilities in Port Macquarie in order to attract events that would generate income, and could contribute to operational costs and further development.

Additionally, there is no way the Council could guarantee that the income obtained from a user pays system would be reinvested in the facilities that provided the income. Based on historical record, there is a high likelihood that this income would not be reinvested in facilities where it is generated but more likely go towards footpaths or community BBQs where no income is obtained.

An applied ground usage fee will be passed on by the clubs directly to the members. There is no way this could be absorbed by the clubs. Lower income families would then be most detrimentally affected. Along with ever increasing insurance and other overhead costs it is becoming harder and harder for low income families to afford to partake in club sports...let alone the other cost of living challenges that some people are facing.

Living an active life, mixing with other kids from a diverse backgrounds in a safe and inclusive environment like the sports field should be a right and not a privilege. The more expensive sports club fees become, the more this right is being withdrawn, particularly for families that have multiple children. I believe strongly that Council should be drawn into contributing to this segregation, even if other Council's are doing it.

The operational cost of maintaining outdoor sports facilities should be a community cost (everyone pays). Users, get the greatest benefit and more inclusion should be encouraged, not discouraged. However, everyone benefits to some extent by the benefit of having maintained green space in our community. It is essential infrastructure, just like roads and sewer.

If additional funds are needed these should be sourced through development contributions. Just like engineering infrastructure that needs to grow with the population, so should growth in the population contribute to the cost of developing and maintaining community facilities, such as sporting infrastructure.

I'm tempted to go on but, I won't. I don't agree with a tax on the active, particularly a tax that will affect team sports most and lower income families greatest. Team sport is lubricant that facilitates community integration. If some families cannot afford to take part, what other avenues are there for them to integrate on a level playing field.

Sports and recreation play a crucial role in fostering community well-being and active lifestyles. I would like to see more of our rates directed towards improving the accessibility and quality of sports fields within our region. This includes not only maintaining existing facilities but also expanding access to ensure all community members can benefit from these resources.

I'm 73 so don't use the sporting fields except if I'm watching my grandchildren or I am walking across the fields. When I drive past I'm always pleased to see the space utilized. Who



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is going to be the fee collector when a couple of children are practicing goal throwing? I feel there should be no charge for the use of fields as most participants pay rates, their parents or landlords do. In a time when we complain about obesity, fees will only make this worse. What if the sport groups can't afford it & fold.....will we feel better? I have already seen some teams fold due to lack of numbers because of high registration fees. DON'T make it worse.

Will I next see entry to beaches; after all PMHC pays for lifeguards for some beaches. Will I be expected to pay to walk on footpaths? I hope not. I also hope sporting groups will not be made to pay for the use of grounds. Sure, it is a cost. But so are gardens, lookouts, street lighting, footpaths, etc.

Let's encourage our sporting people. You never know, maybe 1 day PMHC may be able to talk with pride about a sportsperson that excels.

So what if some other local councils charge for them. Let PMHC be 1 of the 1's that doesn't charge.

Council has proposed that there be no increase in Council rates for the 2024/25. In order to achieve that it is proposing the imposition of fees for previously free use of sporting fields/facilities, along with an increase in fees for building applications and associated requirements AND an increase in ferry fees for the Settlement Point and Hibbard ferries. I totally disagree with this "selective" fee charging and fee increases. What will Council consider charging for next year - borrowing books, playing in playgrounds, sitting on a park bench? As a community we should share the (ever increasing) costs, not have groups singled out to for a "user pays" burden. These fee increases should not go ahead, and Council should allow greater time for community consultation about its Draft Operational Plan.

I would like to express my opposition to the 0.0% rate peg. As a pensioner I am very conscious of cost of living pressures, but I am also wanting to ensure that Council's services to the community are not curtailed by this rate peg. The list of programs and projects to be affected by the rate freeze, as proposed by Council staff is disturbing, particularly the cancelling of the Community Grants program. As a volunteer for a community group which benefitted from this program several years ago, I can attest that it is a vital program to support volunteer organisations who provide enormous benefit to the community through a range of services and activities. In particular they provide many opportunities for retirees to contribute to improving the quality of life for many people in our Local Government Area.

Rate Freeze I think the rate freeze is a mad idea, Its hard enough to get anything done now because your understaffed and underfunded.



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### APPENDIX 7: Operational Plan Feedback by Theme Verbatim Feedback

#### 7.1 Verbatim Feedback - Community Grants

It's disappointing to see that the rate freeze will result in the abolition of community grants and other cultural activities and activations. Although not large in terms of budget, I believe these are key positive connectors of Council to the community and play a key role in community connection and activation.

So many community groups rely on these and because councillors are pushing for a rate freeze, these groups will suffer.

This is a terrible idea, do not do this as services will suffer. These are important for a vibrant community.

It is very important to keep funding for community groups, as these make up a vital part of our local network.

These grants support cultural, charitable, sporting and social endeavours and thus improve quality of life for residents and should not be axed.

Community grants \$200,000 Community Grants will not be available in the 2024 25 budget. Community activities and cultural events \$150,000 Community activities and events will be reduced by \$150,000. This would discontinue funding for Arts Mid North Coast partnership, community events, community programs and the installation of public art. As mentioned before this is disastrous. Council should put more into Arts and Culture. It has been proven that it is so good to improve Mental Health and Wellbeing, At my age, I have participated in several events organized by Mid North Coast Health and mentored by fantastic people and felt so much better afterwards. Please keep this funding going. Should community grant funding be cut due to the rate freeze it will impact all sorts of community activities and events.

Council needs to ensure that community grants are fairly distributed amongst all groups within the council area.

Community groups have long been the grassroots of organizing and supporting their local communities through groups, community hall activities, cultural events, sporting events, improving amenities of their locality to remove council community grants would be lost for these events to take place, these smaller, local events go hand in hand with what council provides on a larger scale.

Many community groups survive because of community grants. If those grants disappear, so too can those community groups. Often, community groups are a major benefit to society because they provide tremendous value for the small investment received.



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Local government should support local community organisations, such as our Community Gardens where connections strengthen the wellbeing of the community, including vulnerable and disparate members of society.

I am opposed to there being no community grants offered by Council. Often State or Federal Government grants are out of reach of local community groups as they rely on volunteers and do not have the administrative capacity to write the lengthy applications.

The Arts and community funding is hit very hard in this plan. I can't help but feel there are other areas within council where money could be spared, areas that would affect less people. Proposed cuts threaten a flourishing arts scene, where will this end? Arts Mid North Coast (AMNC) is vital for creatives. Existing halls and venues lack support & are outdated. A small amount of money to help rally community support (perhaps in exchange for cheap/free room hire for a limited time) would do wonders. Artwalk unites the community and attracts tourists (artists contribute significantly). Please help support those who help make our community more appealing and vibrant. A low cost way to support artists is to hold another "Open Studios" day which was incredibly popular with creatives, tourists and the broader community a few years ago. There are many low cost ways to reap huge benefits for community engagement if council can think outside the box. For example, the price it would cost to pay someone like myself to lead a project such as this is probably similar to prematurely replacing a set of overpriced office desks. Many new residents/voters chose to move to Port Macquarie for its arts and music scene. It has been growing significantly over the past 5 years, what a shame if it were to go backwards. Strong arts scene fosters social cohesion, safety, and civic engagement. Investing in the arts benefits the entire community. Cutting funding weakens our sense of community spirit, harms mental health, and stops the many economic benefits to our region.

It is important that the budget for Community Grants is maintained.

Rollands Plains Community Group members work hard to help maintain facilities at the Reserve. Grants to help volunteers work more safely and effectively are needed. A recent grant application for roller shutters to replace difficult heavy metal shutters was rejected. Council workers frequently use these facilities as do visitors from Hastings Town areas. We need more support from PMHC.

Our community of Bonny Hills has actively sought grants in recent years which have enhanced infrastructure, community events and cultural experiences. Without these grants we now look at such projects ceasing and so the community interaction and subsequent sense of ownership and belonging is undermined. How can council justify taking away these benefits? These actions are not those of a council who is supposed to care for the communities they serve. Would really like to see this progress so that we can apply for appropriate grants to support the development.



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### 7.2 Verbatim Feedback - Ferry Fees

The ferries are a logical extension of the road network and to single out a specific group of users for additional charges for the use of the 'road network' is unfair and discriminatory. To use an analogy, I'm not aware of the Council charging residents or road users separate, specific charges for the use and maintenance of any of the road bridges crossing rivers within the LGA. There are numerous examples on the Council's public web site noting where the Council has spent significant sums to remediate / rebuild bridges for small and large communities. Why are ferry users treated differently? The proposed ferry increases range from 3.3% to 56.7% since May 2023. The proposed increase for the weekly tickets, which increased from \$10 to \$15 on 1 July 2023 (a 50% increase) and now from \$15 to \$16.00 (6.7%) represents a staggering 56.7% since last year. Many families here have more than one car and cannot afford to buy the annual tickets, so the weekly tickets are financially a better option. The trucks need to be charged more in line with Council's user pay system. A double semi takes up 8 car spots which equates to \$64.00 each way with the new pricing – yet it is only proposed to charge these vehicles \$26 – that's a \$38 potential loss of revenue for Council. There is no "friends and family concession" category. The new charges mean they will have to pay \$16 to visit us. Our friends and family have said the high cost of the ferry fees means they will be visiting less often – in effect social isolation is being forced upon us. Every one of us on the north shore want to support local business, yet the new charges are making it impossible to do this. The return fare for a tradie with his ute and trailer will be \$32.00 ... and that's before they do anything. RECOMMENDATIONS The weekly ticket price of \$15 remain the same All residents be allowed to purchase the 'Concession Ticket Book – Cars' and give these to their visitors for use on the ferry, without requiring a concession sticker on their car. If a trailer was attached, 2 tickets would be required. Increase the proposed costs for casual heavy vehicles on the Ferry. The current and proposed fees for Trucks (semi-trailer / articulated) do not reflect the opportunity cost of the vehicle spaces used by these trucks Council's vision is to provide the most liveable, sustainable and innovative place in Australia and is underpinned by six strategic themes. The theme "resilience" cites "we are a diverse and inclusive community where everyone is valued and accepted for who they are ..." The proposed fee increases CERTAINLY do not make us feel inclusive – these increases SOCIALLY ISOLATE our community. The theme "connected" talks about "Moving around and between our towns, villages and neighbourhoods and to places further afield is convenient and trouble-free, no matter how we choose to get there". For us on the north shore it not convenient and trouble free for friends, family and tradesmen due to impost of the fees. Please ensure accountability when using rates and taxes!!

This is our access to our community, extended family, we get penalised for using it. This needs to be taken over by Transport NSW. Can you please explain why road users in other areas of the Hastings are not charged additional fees based on the works done to maintain an essential service in their areas? Using the same methodology, 50 Rawdon Island Households should be paying \$600,000 each to pay for the \$30M bridge repair (but this would be ludicrous to even suggest as it is an essential access point for their homes - no different to the ferries).



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Please advise which other PMHC residents within 6km of the Council Chambers will be charged extra to go to or from their home every day? Please advise which other PMHC residents are paying \$375 PER CAR to PMHC for an annual pass to go to and from their home to go shopping or to work in Port Macquarie? This \$375 per car is in addition to the PMHC rates. Council rates are based on the principle of shared costs across the entire council area. This is the most equitable method for all residents.

The idea is stunning in its madness. I strongly oppose any increase for residents and would like the above issues to be implemented to make it a fairer system for other North Shore ferry users.

Once again the Ferries or more importantly the North Shore residents are being held to ransom with the proposed increase in fees. I note there is NO increase for visitors only the residents. The fee structure needs to be overhauled, actual residents should be provided with 1 concession sticker free with their rates, it is totally unfair that there is a \$106 difference between a yearly and a concession and monthly tickets. We keep hearing the Mayor say people are doing it hard with her reference to not increasing the rates, yet she's happy to increase our only way to travel. You don't have to have a concession ticket on your car to use a weekly or monthly ticket and the same should apply to the green tickets, we should be able to give these to family and friends to use,. Who in our LGA has to pay \$16 in order to have a visitor to their home? There is no discount for seniors? There cannot be a continued year in, year out increase to use 'our road' I strongly oppose any increase for residents and would like the above issues to be implemented to make it a fairer system for other North Shore ferry users.

The Facebook live edition I viewed recently contained a glaring error in that council has increased ferry fees in the last few years and not 'since 2015' as stated. The ferry is a continuation of a road network and should be treated as such. If council wants to maintain and increase its level of road maintenance, why the rate peg? You would think that to increase road maintenance works council would require a continuance of its funding stream (rates) to cover those works?

Spread ferry costs amongst all ratepayers to reduce the cost to residents to zero. It is a road like all others and should be freely accessible as such.

North Shore residents should not have to pay the proposed ferry fare increases (or quite frankly any ferry fares at all)! Like repairs and maintenance for other "facilities" throughout the LGA, costs should be spread across the ratepayer base.

### 7.3 Verbatim Feedback - Libraries and Community Halls

Community groups work so very hard to create positive projects around our Shire. They need Council's support and collaboration. Their work helps Council reach its own goals. Libraries connect our community. They are a gateway to information for all ages and groups. Community Halls can also be hubs to connect, assist, entertain and enhance community life. Our parks and gardens connect, educate, entertain and provide solace. The heart of our



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community is all these things for all age groups and is the reason why people love living here and want to live here. Each needs Council's continued support and even more so in these challenging times.

### 7.4 Verbatim Feedback - Cultural Initiatives and Reconciliation

The current business structures do not support First Nations businesses locally!! There is no Aboriginal procurement targets at all. This shows the council is behind!! All state and federal governments have Aboriginal procurement targets and implement Aboriginal procurement policies. This needs to be looked at closely and implemented!! This then supports the economic development for First Nations communities and businesses and will ensure equality and support close the gap targets. This work is outside of Aboriginal land council which seems to be the only stakeholders mentioned. Strong Spirit Aboriginal Services recently did some Aboriginal women in business initiatives that were highly successful and something the council should be collaborating on and supporting.

Arts Mid North Coast as the peak body for arts and cultural development in the region, provides a diverse range of projects and programs supporting creative industries and amplifying the work of Mid North Coast artists to reach beyond their LGA. PMHC has been a long term member of this organisation and for a small investment of approx \$16K in membership fees - AMNC delivered approx \$82K of projects and programs in the PMHC LGA in 23/24. By leveraging on the funding AMNC receives from Create NSW annually, PMHC are able to provide programs for their creative sector with minimal staffing resources required. Investing in this 'soft infrastructure' to support local creatives in their art/business development goes a long way in ensuring Port Macquarie is a thriving, cultural place that residents and visitors enjoy.

Without the funding things like Arts Mid North Coast cannot function and it is the backbone of our creative arts sector! The investment was made years ago to establish the Glasshouse, with no creative sector or community cultural activities it's build is useless to our local community? I have attended numerous development courses Arts Mid North Coast offer being full-time self-employed in the visual arts this has been invaluable!!!

One item of concern is the minimal amount approved for the New Years Eve Fireworks. This is such a much looked forward to event, \$1000 is an inadequate contribution to an event that attracts people from all over our Region.

The cultural initiatives that are mentioned are not clear. There should be more initiatives that support reconciliation. There is still a lot more to do across this region to support reconciliation, truth telling and education about Aboriginal people and the history of this area. NSW Government departments are doing more in this space unfortunately more than local council. The more normalised First Nations initiatives are and the more we can build cultural competence the less racism will exist.

Improving First Nations People's voices when it comes to Council decisions and engagement.



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### 7.5 Verbatim Feedback - Infrastructure and Maintenance

Roads and infrastructure should not be facing funding cuts that's just incredibly backward thinking by council. A small reduction in park maintenance could be acceptable but if council listened to feedback with specifically their newest park projects in the last 3-4 years from myself at all it would've saved maintenance costs. All well and good to ask the community for feedback but we aren't listened to.

Stop wasting money on Jetblaster. Trucks and car run over it and hole back in a few hours. Fix hole properly the first time and stop wasting money. The hit mix truck worked much better.

Traffic congestion needs to be addressed as a top priority and sporting fields need to be looked at for better drainage or all weather surfaces, a regional city our size should have facilities like Coffs does.

Road maintenance is not being looked after, you're happy to accept all these new developments but are not keeping up with the infrastructure.

Support maintenance of our infrastructure by increasing their budgets. Our roads are in shocking condition and have not been looked after for over 15 years. New infrastructure is great, but there is a shortfall of supporting those who have to then maintain these roads, footpaths and pipe networks.

Development west of hospital roundabout must include estates having more than one access point to main roads. And there needs to be a solution for access via main roads. Even to the consideration of services being spread to other areas. Only that the plan is a good one albeit short of some activities and projects that should be continued or put in place had there been a rate increase! -

Current road access into Port Macquarie CBD and surrounding urban areas is inadequate to cope with the increased usage. Growth and development for our area is largely a positive thing, unfortunately, Council seems not to have been ahead of the development and in fact seems to be behind the eight ball with poor evidence of any forward planning and little or no discernable contingency plans.

The Lake Road from Oxley Hwy to Ocean dr must be urgently duplicated. This has now become a major road, it is a nightmare and to get worse if no action is taken quickly.

Who is responsible for the supervision of council/contractor designs and construction of roads etc that fail within days weeks of completion of works or shortfalls in design. Happy to meet with the responsible parties over the design of King Creek bridge replacement to get an insight of how the final outcome was achieved and who and why it was signed off on?

Fill the potholes asap.

No. Road maintenance needs to be improved. Many roads are falling apart and take a very long time to get repaired properly. Even when they are repaired it is often done poorly. Also



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better planning on maintenance. For example, The Boulevard in Dunbogan was resurfaced (between Bay St and 17 The Boulevard) and then the Beach to Beach work was done which has destroyed the new work and only been patched up, not repaired correctly.

I've seen some new paths being constructed, but I'm surprised to see non-existent paths for pedestrian access to various neighbourhood shopping precincts (eg to and from Lighthouse Beach, and between Lakewood and Laurieton). I often see people in mobility scooters and motorised wheelchairs (or on foot) forced to use a busy road to get to where they are going. Wherever there is a busy road, a suitable footpath should be parallel to that road to alleviate the risk of injury and practicality of access.

More needs to be done pruning trees, removing dead ones in a timely manner and keeping weeds and shrubs under control. It's disappointing to see be hampered by a lack of funding. Having experienced firsthand the dramatic improvement in driving experience on Ocean Drive through Bonny Hills and North Haven it is sad to see this work delayed.

The roads are terrible, potholes everywhere, and the grass on the side of the highway is so tall you can't see cars coming.

Maritime Lane is becoming extremely busy. There are/will be over 100 ratepayers/residents living on the lane and requiring vehicular access most residents needing access often more than once per day. Hopefully some of our feedback will be considered.

I've already said enough about council plans. You need more people who think creatively to achieve more with less. Sighhh, typical council fluff, to be seen giving community a say, when you already drawn it all up. Fix potholes on country roads - out of Port Macquarie. I don't think council does enough to maintain already so I do not support the 0.00% Rate Peg for 2024-25. Boulevard has been dug up/fixed so many times in the last few years it is a joke. Some planning is needed. It is constantly under stop/go works.

Development west of hospital roundabout must include estates having more than one access point to main roads. And there needs to be a solution for access via main roads. Even to the consideration of services being spread to other areas. Only that the plan is a good one albeit short of some activities and projects that should be continued or put in place had there been a rate increase!

We are not in a position to reduce the maintenance for the roads in the PMHC area. Our roads are currently not in good condition. Fix our roads properly - not just spray a bit of fill which comes out the moment a vehicle drives over it.

Improving the roads into town from Wauchope (off the highway travelling north too) and from Laurieton.

The Lake Rd section between Ocean Drv and Oxley Hwy is severely congested in peak periods. The Ocean Drv duplication I fear will be for nothing as it will only fast traffic movement to the Ocean Drv / Lake Rd lights. The eastern section of Lake Rd needs to be fast tracked to have duplication done. I would also like to see the council request / pressure the



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NSW government install an overpass at Lake Rd Oxley Hwy roundabout to relieve peak time traffic.

Several years ago, I made a submission in relation to the playground equipment located on the reserve on Ocean Drive North Haven. The reserve has a nickname called "Bunny's Corner". It is a sharp corner with a reserve with toilets and a 25 year old playground that is still taped up from the floods in 2021. It is an eye-sore and to this day, it is still taped up so no children can use the playground equipment. Could you please advise the current status or plans for this playground?

We need more focus on cycle infrastructure and perhaps public transport. If we get more bike lanes and separate bike paths it will take hundreds of cars off the road for schools alone. Then it will get workers out of their cars as well. A great cycle network is a great tourist attraction and asides from the Googik track which Council did very listen to assist with but spruiks all the time this area doesn't have any cycle network. How about cycle links between Port and Lake Cathie. How about alongside the new Ocean Drive duplication. How about along Koala Street.

Firstly regarding Council "maintenance " of parks and gardens, the proposed change is to extend the current 6 weeks cycle to 8 weeks. During 2023 into 2024, when regular mowing was deferred due to ongoing periods of heavy rain, grass in parks at Bonny Hills grew unchecked to often unacceptably high levels. Note the community favours Rainbow Beach park at its main surfing beach. This situation posed a real risk to community (and tourists) using parks! Will this risk due to extended mowing cycle become the norm in 2024/2025 ? Secondly regarding Council "maintenance " of trees and shrubs, apparently the proposed change is to not attend to 18% of priority trees. In recent years there has been an increase in storms with prolonged heavy rains and strong winds (eg damage to the Christmas Tree in Port Central). It seems that (priority) trees could likely be so affected in 2024/2025. Will this present a risk to the community due to unsafe trees ?

The coast road duplication is a great project, however we need a bypass road from near the wrights road roundabout to the coast road so that the traffic can be removed from the oxley and lake rds. Fix the hospital traffic black spot.

Cycle lanes please.

Schools, roads and parks are important. Traffic into Port is bad, schools are minimal and parks are few or under repair .

No more subdivisions until the roads can cater to the traffic. Fix the hospital traffic black spot.

The town needs another arterial road to the highway, The town is growing and the facility's aren't keeping up .Even with the rates going up.

NEEDS to be a pathway from Koala St to the bike tracks. It is a disaster waiting to happen that people dangerously drive these roads at speeds as well as kids trying to get to the bike track or any sports training at Wayne Richard's park. There is absolutely no way of a child



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that can get down this road without being on the road and a car come flying around a bend to take them out. The same for when the children are riding bikes to and from school from Ocean Dr to Koala St. Shouldn't take an accident or a death to fix this issue which has clearly been outdated for so long. Better roads for a start!

More effort is required to beautify the city including the outer city parks and road gardens. The entry and exits to the city need significant work. The traffic is becoming horrendous at times and something needs to be done or we will become gridlocked, especially in the mornings and afternoons.

An increase in maintenance funding is desperately required for open spaces and the road network.

WRIGHTS ROAD INTERSECTION AND LAKE ROAD, OXLEY HIGHWAY AND SHERWOOD ROAD PORT MACQUARIE ARE THE WORST INTERSECTIONS IN PORT MACQUARIE. IT IS VERY DISAPPOINTING - UNBELIEVABLE THAT \$111 + MILLION HAS BEEN SPENT ON THE OCEAN DRIVE UPGRADE WHICH HAS RIPPED THE HEART AND SOULS OUT OF THE LIGHTHOUSE BEACH AND DAHLSFORD AREAS.

More detail of the amenities upgrade in Jonathan Dixon Reserve entails would be appreciated. In this same area two other items require attention the damaged Viewing Platform which has been unable to be used for several years now due to storm damage, this is missed by locals and visitors, how long before this will be repaired? The carpark to access Jonathan Dixon Reserve is a mixture of gravel and dirt, weather, vehicles and rain cause this area to breakdown very quickly. This is safety hazard as this is the entrance and exit to the footpath in JDR, anyone elderly, children, wheelchairs, walkers, prams, bikes and pedestrians have to navigate between the holes, mud, and dirt. Could this be fixed as part of the amenities upgrade?

Maintaining a safe, inclusive environment and infrastructure is important to all. Reducing spending on these areas could compromise safety, community amenity and aesthetics of the spaces.

Many of our Community sporting fields are in very poor condition due to poor drainage, hard surfaces and years the cumulative years of soft management. I strongly recommend an assessment of all fields be made with an action plan to make them more resilient to the impacts of climate change in our community.

This is such an important initiative. There is limited/minimal infrastructure in place for cycleways and unsafe conditions on roads, particularly Lake Road for green commuting. We are proud facilitators of the Iron Man, but we have embarrassing and unsafe cycling infrastructure. It would be wonderful to see this prioritized across the city to reduce traffic and car dependence.

A strategy is needed to build new and maintain existing pathways in all of the places having regard to the age profile of residents.



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Dedicated cycling tracks for uptake of ebikes to reduce emissions from cars/buses and to improve health and fitness of residents.

We need a link from SCAS area to ocean drive. Start planning something and stop stalling.

The traffic situation at the hospital roundabout is ridiculous. Something needs to be done to ease the congestion, or developments need to stop being built that side of Port. Our infrastructure can't keep up with the demands of the ever-growing population.

This is another terrible idea and completely unfair to expect other local ratepayers to subsidize these businesses. Most councils go broke because of airports, stop wasting our money. Only 3% growth in the number passengers and your SERVICE BUDGET SUMMARY shows a loss of \$9.34 for every passenger that travels. These are terrible outcomes, cut your loss and realize most people drive here. The only people who want this service is business people.

Why is council still pouring money into this sinkhole. Council has lost millions of dollars and it just keeps getting worse, be brave and admit it's a nightmare. Cut your losses and sell this donkey, you might get some money back on land value and a nice apartment block to collect rates on.

### 7.6 Verbatim Feedback - Environmental and Sustainability Initiatives

Rollands Plains rd is a fire hazard waiting to happen. also a danger to drivers of kangaroos jumping out in front of you from the very long grass.

Coastal areas are overgrown, planted out by the inexperienced local groups, Council needs to clear some of the worst effected areas so that people can enjoy the use the areas for recreation.

There's a thoroughly unreflective focus on economic development, conventionally conceived, at the expense of broader quality of life and environment considerations. Need to support sustainable development which includes protecting our environment and supporting renewable energy, PMHC failed miserably in quality of life/wellbeing measurements ranking 148 out of 500+ Australian LGAs.

EV charging stations are needed in Wauchope.

The Environment is our most precious jewel in our area, or any area. Tourism depends on a clean and healthy environment. Our lives are blessed when we breathe clean air, recreate with clean water, eat healthy food.

Natural resource management is vital for the maintenance and protection of this LGAs greatest asset.

There is nothing specific - no strategy for assisting threatened species, no strategies for seriously tackling the climate emergency - the major threat to endangered species.



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Koala protection: We don't need to lose more of this. The grass around Port needs currently more frequently. Not less.

Needs to be reversed. We should be protecting what is important. Koalas are our region's no 1 tourism ambassadors. We need to ensure that they will not be extinct by 2030 east of the Pacific Highway.

### 7.7 Verbatim Feedback - Financial and Budget Concerns

Council need to investigate more income generating services and separating some non-core services to be outsourced to existing organizations in the community.

Council need to focus a little more on the surrounding areas rather than all the focus being on Port Macquarie. The smaller towns struggle for recognition and funding.

I'm not sure if it is included in your interpretation of the OP but please ensure spending - whether funded by state grant or not - but please ensure Laurieton 2050 expenditure is relevant to now and not spent frivolously - eg Seymour Street road painting which added nothing to safety or road use enjoyment, whilst providing no road use delineation to help the poor old drivers in our area.

Poorly run council still not able to budget properly.

Get back to basic core business and get rid of the airy fairy stuff and there will be more money to go around.

Funds submitted by development applications need to be spent - not kept in long term deposits! For example, trucks delivering soil, etc. to new developments are responsible for the damage to many roads and streets.

Community Voice a loss of \$1,969,965 that's 18 people costing \$109,442.5 a person and Community Activation is even worse a loss of \$1,293,086 that's 6 people costing \$215,514.33 a person. These programs need to be reduced in size and scale based on council's budget reduction priorities.

### 7.8 Verbatim Feedback - Engagement and Communication

Have I missed progress on the outline of the traffic/parking plan for the CBD?

I am still waiting to hear back from an email lodged 3 weeks ago.

Council is not very connected to the broader community.....staff (apart from the library staff) seems remote and quite difficult to contact. It is great when entire community programs



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like the Arts Walk are implemented. I would love to see a much more lively and vibrant Community Engagement from this Council

I think Council needs to really focus on their community consultation - as I find the whole process of both the hold on the rate rise and the user pay system has been poorly handled with minimal detail.

I'd like to see something more outcomes focused than hosting 4 forums etc. That feels weak.

Council needs to ensure democratic involvement via feedback from ratepayers and the proposed reduction of the number of councillors should not be tolerated, fewer councillors = more ratepayers per councillor!

Creating vibrant town centre and public places requires the maintenance and upkeep of gardens, parks, trees, funding community projects etc. Satisfaction with creating a sense of place and community involvement requires open and transparent communication between PMHC and communities in a user-friendly and timely manner.

Communications on Page 133 has the wrong definition. Can you please amend to last year's definition: This service is responsible for external and internal communications to ensure that both the community and Council employees are well informed about the Council-related matters that are important and/or impact their life and/or work.

Community needs to see items on action / CCAT/Town and Village plans how and where fitting into the OP for 4/25 and future years. Who is responsible for advocating for these actions to be added to OP? Dates for first Abe to be interacting for actions on OP and PMHC contact person for various actions, this is not clear.

Community engagement and communication platforms used by PMHC are at times difficult to find, return to, needs an easier go-to page to follow what's on. The challenge for PMHC is finding ways to communicate with all the community not just the Facebook warriors, those that read digital media, attend meetings etc. Supporting local community groups with combined communication strategies, shared platforms and helping to show the broader community that council is listening. Encouraging individuals to contact their local community groups to feed information, advocate and to combine issues for more efficiencies with local area. Transparency of undertakings and reports is important to show the community accountability.

### 7.9 Verbatim Feedback - Transparency and Governance

More transparency is needed.

Council seems to be corrupt and Team Pinson especially. There is a lack of transparency, our independents are having to do extra work to keep the community informed even while they are targeted for doing this.



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The original OP is good, the new additions are bad ideas and should have been thoroughly checked with the community and communicated to the community better. As listed previously. Transparency

The whole community (not just interested stakeholders) need transparency in relation to what is being proposed to address the significant regional population growth, mushrooming housing developments and commercial enterprises and how they will impact future council decisions.

Transparency on decision making is important. Please continue to provide information on decision making and planning.

This current council is SO far out of step with the community. Just because a certain GROUP made political promises in their campaign, times change and they obviously aren't listening to the community. Hopefully in the September LGA election a large broom goes through and we get a decent council that is inclusive with the community.

Considering we pay one of the highest rates in any NSW LGA, the failure of Council, under the current Mayor, to manage resources efficiently, is shocking. I'd really like an independent accountant to go through the financial records, to highlight the waste and misuse of resources, caused by bad management and poor decision making. It appears the use of the casting vote has been used only to support and push through items that suit that side of the party, there needs to be a better solution that involves an independent individual who doesn't have strong ties to either side of what appears to be a very divided council.

"Every councillor during their term should hang their hat on a project that has improved the economic development of the town."



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### APPENDIX 8: Verbatim Feedback from Submissions received through other channels (non-HYS responses)

#### Verbatim Feedback: Community member submissions

##### PROPOSED SOLUTION TO SAFETY ISSUES REGARDING CYCLE ACCESS TO WAYNE RICHARDS CYCLE PUMP TRACK

I hereby submit the following proposal as a solution to a serious safety issue concerning children accessing Wayne Richards Park and, specifically, the Pump Track.

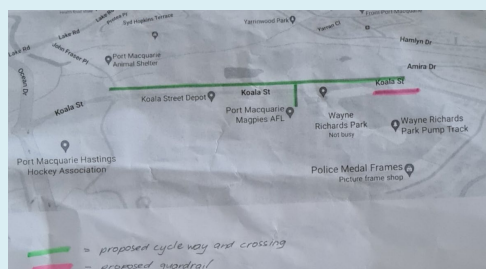
While the bicycle Pump Track is an excellent facility, it is not accessible SAFELY by cycle. Children trying to access the facility on their bicycles, are forced to ride on Koala Street, which has no cycleway or footpath. It is only a matter of time before a child is hurt or killed. Even children trying to do the right thing (that is, trying to follow road rules) are forced to take risks in order to traverse and/or cross Koala Street. It is extremely dangerous. If a child is injured, or worse, it is highly likely that Council will be held accountable, since Council built this facility for children to use.

However, this problem could be remedied relatively easily with a short cycleway, a pedestrian crossing/refuge to Wayne Richards Park, and a safety guardrail, as outlined in the following proposal:

1. The existing cycleway, which runs from Ocean Drive to the first roundabout in Koala Street, be extended along the northern side of Koala Street, past the sewerage works to Shearer Street.
2. A pedestrian crossing/refuge, from the cycleway to Wayne Richards Park, be constructed to provide safe access to Wayne Richards Park.
3. A guardrail be erected on the southern side of Koala Street, opposite Shearer Street, to stop children trying to cross at this extremely dangerous blind corner.

#### In support of this proposal, I attach the following:

#1 - Map of Koala Street showing proposed cycle track, pedestrian crossing and guardrail.





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#2 - Photo of Koala Street Roundabout, looking East



#3 - Photo of Koala Street/Shearer Street corner, looking West



#4 - Photo of Koala Street, opposite Wayne Richards Park, looking East



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#5 - Photo of Koala Street, Sewerage Works, looking West



#6 - Photo of Koala Street, Opposite Shearer Street, looking West



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I would welcome the opportunity to speak to a member of Council about this proposal.

The increasing frequency and intensity of natural events such as floods and fires have heightened my concern about our community's preparedness and resilience. I request that a greater portion of our rates be committed to enhancing flood and fire mitigation strategies. This should include upgrading infrastructure, supporting emergency services more robustly, and implementing comprehensive community awareness programs.

Could you please provide information on the current allocation of rates towards these areas and discuss any plans for future enhancements? I believe that prioritizing these issues in our budget will not only improve our quality of life but also ensure the safety and sustainability of our community for years to come.

Engaging with the council on these matters is of great importance to me. I am eager to see our community develop and thrive, safeguarded by proactive measures and enhanced facilities. I look forward to your response and to understanding more about how our rates can be utilized effectively for these critical needs.

Thank you for considering this request. I am looking forward to your detailed response.

Hello, I'm [a young community member] and I like playing basketball with my friends, I would like to know if you could replace the mini soccer field at the park on Howell Avenue in Innes Lake area. I have spoken with other kids around the area and we would like a half court basketball court at this park if possible? Any help you could provide to make this happen would be greatly appreciated!



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### Improvements to Lighthouse Road West.

For some years now I have been pleading with Council to expedite its plans to make Lighthouse Road, from where it starts at the junction with Pacific Drive, through to where it was improved several years ago with curbing, footpath and new pavement, making it safer for ALL users.

I have been assured both by Staff and Councillors, that this issue would be addressed in the 2024/25 budget.

I would like to reiterate what I have been saying, that this is one of the most important roads in the town as it leads to what is arguably our premier tourist attraction, and yet it is still without curbing, footpaths or a decent road surface.

Surely 2024/25 is the time to include an amount in the Council budget which will enable it to bring this section of road up to current day safety standards for such a road, much used by ratepayers and visitors alike.

Councillor, this is to express my concerns regarding the past years increases & future increases of fees to access our homes via the car ferry. This decision troubles many residents, including myself & household. The continual increase of ferry fees impose an unjust financial burden for residents to access to their homes.

Furthermore, the fee increase including relatives, visitors, and service providers exacerbates the situation, raising serious doubts about equity and fairness, not to mention the detrimental impact on community mental health. This impact of financial burden on the already financial burdened residents will only cause more stress and less money in the wallets that they need to pay for essential food, medical & caring for family.

Council are deliberately causing a disadvantage to residents who use the car ferry & more particularly those who are not in a financial situation to purchase a yearly pass.

If the need is to increase the car ferry fees then increase them for all large vehicles B Doubles and Truck & Dogs to at least how many car spaces they take up (between 6&8 spaces) up to \$50 or \$60 & leave all other fees as is. It is imperative that you seek a more sustainable solution for funding and maintaining community infrastructure to ensure the well-being and financial stability of all residents.

I would like to lodge my formal objection to council proceeding with all and any of the current component parts of the Draft Integrated Planning and Reporting documents for 2024 / 2025.

I am particularly opposed to the rate freeze, the treatment of the TCMP Rate and the proposed allocation of the bulk of the water and Sewer Dividend to the extinction of the TCMP loan.



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Councils recommended treatment of these matters amounts to what I consider long term financial Armageddon and places our community at high risk of an SRV in the coming years.

When councillors vote on this matter in the days ahead I would remind them to vote according to their Oath when they took office:

"I swear that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of Port Macquarie - Hastings LGA

If any councillors are in doubt as to the likely long term financial impact of their fiscal irresponsibility it is recommended that they re read the excellent staff report on this subject from the Ordinary Council Meeting on 15/02/24 - Agenda item 10.16

It is also recommended that councillors:

1. Once more review the strong concerns of the PMHC Audit Risk and Improvement Committee external voting members of the negative impact of a rate freeze on the long term financial sustainability of Council operations.
2. Remind themselves that as Councillors they are required under legislation & OLG guidance to ENSURE the financial sustainability of council.
3. Re read the previous independent expert advice from April 2022 in relation to a rate freeze in 2022-2023 noted that whilst a 1 year rate freeze could potentially be managed in the short term via use of internal reserves, rate freezes for a longer period of time were concerning & would place pressure on future financial sustainability.

Any councillor who votes for a rate freeze as presented and now on exhibition is voting for long term financial Armageddon and a return to the dark days of the Glasshouse disaster.

Please vote and act responsibly and reject this Trump - like short term madness.

I am writing to express my profound concern regarding the recent implementation and future increases of toll fees for accessing our homes via the car ferry crossing. This decision has deeply troubled many residents, myself included, as it resembles coercion due to the unilateral imposition of fees on accessing our own properties. The continual escalation of ferry fees imposes an unjust financial burden that intensifies annually, rendering it increasingly arduous for residents to afford essential access to their homes. Furthermore, the mandatory fee imposition on all individuals, including relatives, visitors, and delivery personnel, exacerbates the situation, raising serious doubts about equity and fairness, not to mention the detrimental impact on community mental health.

While I understand the need for infrastructure funding, the current approach feels disproportionately burdensome and coercive. Therefore, I implore the council to urgently review and reconsider these toll fees. It is imperative that we seek more equitable solutions for funding and maintaining community infrastructure to ensure the well-being and financial stability of all residents.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

Thankyou for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Operational plan. I will keep it simple even though I understand planning and development is a complex issue. My concern is that Council's priority of reduced traffic and quality of life is not achievable with the amount of development being approved within the Shire i.e. Bonny Hills, Thrumster, Wauchope and Beechwood. The traffic congestion entering Port Macquarie and surrounding roads e.g. Oxley Highway is reducing residents quality of life. Wauchope congestion is increasing rapidly. I am unable to see how this is to be managed other than ceasing further development until satisfactory road infrastructure is in place.

Parks and recreation Lighthouse Road West needs an additional street light for public safety.  
- Why has there been no response to my email in February 2024? Is there a system in place which monitors long overdue correspondence?

When will Council complete its assessment of need so that the responsible agency can fix the safety problem? 5 The ramp at Tacking Point Lighthouse Rotary Sunrise/PMHC was announced in January last year. Repeated delays have occurred

When completed it will provide an essential local service and be an example to other communities.

Current status and revised date for completion?

Breakwall lighting continues to be inadequate. The area is unsafe in the evenings. It could be lit to become safe and attractive.

Breakwall restoration should not be an excuse to not address the problem

What are Councils intentions and time frame?

The Coastal Walk could be an international attraction if maintenance and improved signage occurred particularly where tides inhibit walkers on Shelly Beach

Any particular plans for this particular problem?

Environment - Is the EPA still waiting for resolution of the treatment plant odour problem?

In relation to the Operational Plan itself, I make these comments and suggestions:

The Service Budget Summaries are confusing. Eg with Natural Resource Management (NRM) the income doesn't show the environmental levy amount and there is no explanation how the shortfall between income and expenditure is accounted for. This applies to many Service categories and should be made more transparent so that the community knows exactly the source and amount of revenue/income for each.

Levy = Environmental Levy? If so why abbreviate? Council's website defines the environmental levy (or environmental base amount as component of total rate) as



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

A set fee that applies to all properties - the income is used for various environmental projects such as:

1. Rehabilitation of existing green belt areas
2. General support for Landcare, Clean Up Australia and Stream Watch programs
3. Development of vegetation mapping to allow for better assessment of environmental issues and planning
4. Prevention of acid sulphates.

So how is it justified that 48% of the income from this levy is proposed to be spent on playgrounds and sporting infrastructure in the draft Operational Plan ? These are not environmental projects.

Despite the above comment I commend the increases in the NRM budget including the increases to Environmental Volunteers support (NRM 07) and Priority Weeds Control (NRM 09). However, I question the huge increase from last year's budget for illegal track restoration or formalisation (NRM11). As a project coordinator with Port Macquarie Landcare which often undertakes plantings of local native species on disturbed and/or weeded sites on Council managed bushland, under Council's NRM approvals and MOU, we have ongoing issues with feral deer destroying new plantings and requiring deer proof tree guards. I would like to suggest that \$20,000 from NRM11 be set aside to assist volunteer groups purchase deer proof tree guards for planting on sites frequented by feral deer. These tree guards can be re-used once trees have become well established.

Strategic Landuse Planning, Sustainability and Active Transport

### **Strategic Landuse Planning.**

Page 97 under "What We Deliver": "Prepare, review and update PMHC's local environmental plan (LEP) and development control plan (DCP) to ensure planning controls incorporate best practice planning and respond to the changing needs of our community." Yet the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) only refers to "Number of DCP amendments progressed in accordance with agreed annual program." Why isn't progress on reviewing the LEP included in the KPI? The existing LEP is now 13 years old and there has been considerable new information about high environmental conservation values in particular during that time. Given the pressures for new housing development and infrastructure and Council's own Housing for our Future strategy, the Operational Plan should give a clearer indication of the progress towards a new LEP which will be needed to incorporate the necessary land use zoning changes to protect biodiversity.

### **Sustainability (p 110)**

Under Sustainability Reporting, the KPI refers to an Environmental Sustainability Action Plan. I can't find such a plan on Council's website.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### Active Transport.

The only funded projects are the Beach to Beach walk at Camden Haven and the Schools to Schools shared pathway Kendall to Laurieton (p 109). Given so many of Council's planning documents (including Community Strategic Plan) refer to the need for more active transport opportunities, the Operational Plan should identify and fund more shared pathway proposals. Another reason not to freeze the rates.

I have been a resident in Port Macquarie for 22 years and have witnessed its growth over that time I make the following suggestions

1. due to increase population and particularly seasonal visitors PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS should be installed on HORTON TREET AND CLARENCE STREET WILL PROVIDE CERTAINTY AND SAFETY FOR PEDESTRIAN AND VEICLES.

2. I recently witnessed a dog walker allow his dog to deficate (poo) just off footpath middle of town beach. Owner had no regard for others said he forgot a bog and was abusive.

I recommend free dog poo bags be installed under life guard tower on town beach hence no excuse for irresponsible owners.

3 TO ease traffic flow on LAKE RD FROM OCEAN DRIVE widen Lake road westbound to chestnut Road. thus making it two lanes thus helping get traffic off ocean drive quicker thus easing congestion at Koala st roundabout..

Surely someone has thought of this before.

Why traffic lights at Gordon Horton street intersection? Traffic flows in all directions quite well. Collisions there are rare and pedestrians cross safely. Lights are going to cause holdups and inconvenience for nothing.

Thank you - but what about updating your computer system? I have been asking for over 6 years for improvements to the issuing of 10.7 certificates and the reply is that there are corrupt data issues. Corrupt data! Why isn't this important issue on your list?

As both a pedestrian and a cyclist, I find it incredibly difficult and dangerous to cross Lake Rd, anywhere between the Oxley Highway and Ocean Drive in Port Macquarie. Often I have to cycle to the Lake Road /Ocean Drive traffic lights to do so safely. Please explore an effective option before someone gets killed trying to cross.



## Engagement Report - **Draft OP2024-25**

### APPENDIX 9: Organisations and Community Group Submissions

#### 9.1 Wauchope Chamber of Commerce and Industry Submission

These comments are made on behalf of the Wauchope Chamber of Commerce Executive.

The Wauchope Chamber of Commerce strongly believes that the proposed 0.0% rate rise is not a sound business decision or in the best long-term interests of the local ratepayers. To be able to maintain expected service and delivery levels, all businesses understand that they have to keep their charges in line with inflationary moves. Small regular movements in prices/rates are much more palatable than a larger rise in the future. Ratepayers expect that services and community support that the council currently provides, will be continued. It maybe politically expedient to have a zero rate rise but it makes no business sense, so please reconsider this as a realistic action.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

On the fees for playing fields. Wauchope Chamber supports the sporting clubs of the district in opposing the move to charge clubs for the use of fields. Sporting facilities are a community asset and are important to the whole community. They are not only for the short time of a competitive event, but also for the use by any member of the community at other times, for a walk, run, play with the kids etc. Sporting fields also provide green space for the whole community to enjoy as well as create open spaces between residential areas. Charges levied on clubs will have to be passed on to players which will in all likelihood be a disincentive for many to continue playing. The last thing the community needs is for the opportunity to play sport to have a negative impact on not only the youth of the community but all community members. We are certain that council will not be charging individuals or families for using our sporting facilities.

In summary we would support a realistic rate rise and no charges to be made for the use of sporting facilities.

In relation to the charge on the use of the sporting fields it is felt that this could adversely affect the business community due to a potential reduction in sporting activity in the region and hence the number of sporting visitors to the area spending money on food, accommodation, fuel, groceries, souvenirs, etc. Again, this has a flow on effect to the whole community and not just those involved in sporting activities.

The draft operational plan proposes to permanently abolish that PMQ Town Centre rate component and to shift the cost of the superior PMQ services FROM the PMQ Town Centre land owners TO all rate payers, including Wauchope and Laurieton. It should not be for Wauchope and Camden Haven rate payers to fund PMQ Town Centre for it to get superior services that are not provided to Wauchope and Laurieton town centres. Any additional services that are received by the Town Centre should be self-funded.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### 9.2 Camden Haven Community Council Action Team (CCAT) Submission

[We have had a loose discussion and of course think everything is really a priority or we would not have mentioned it. However if we were to break it into Crucial Projects on the boil, ( we can't number them in priority) most important for 24/25, it would be B2B Pathway, Creek2Creek (Queens Lake) Trail, Camden Head RE1 Land and Lookout masterplan, And extending Camden Haven Ocean sewage outfall. As all these things are being addressed right now with funding and must continue to have high value support to have them completed. The other 5 Items are still great for financial support if they fit a funding slot that is different such as culture or sport. If Councillors could ensure our 4 listed Items above are funded.]

Dear Councillors,

From Camden Haven CCAT, We have been asked to put our funding requirements directly to you for consideration for the 2024-25 OP. Then you may make make amendments to the OP where staff may have excluded and you feel fit to add. These are our priority issues and even though some of them are massive funding problems, most require small funding to start the projects, like community consultation and then further funding as projects develop over the years. We welcome your help working collaboratively in our goal to create a connected, accessible user space in the Camden Haven.

In No Particular Order.

- Crk2Crk or Queens Lake Pathway: Further Funds to compliment the repair work already done, regular maintenance and look at making final connections to B2B pathway.
- Dunbogan River Baths: Request to council to have Dunbogan River Baths repaired and upgraded to the same standard of North Haven Baths standard.
- Vince Immon Grandstand: Offer of large outdoor TV, Monitor for scoring, broadcasting and community use. Vince Immon Grandstand public art and History heritage of the playing area in the construction of the grandstand? To celebrate the heritage of Vince Immon. Funding from Cultural Heritage
- Laurieton Town Centre Master Plan: Some funds to work on fine detail in one precinct of the Master Plan
- Laurieton Memorial Baths: Need facility maintenance and upgrades, Community engagement into developing a wants and need masterplan.
- Camden Haven sewage outfall: Council identified the system as a need for renewal for the 2024/25 years, Ensure there is enough funding to take the pipes out to sea not just replace them, could some recycled water be used to irrigate grass lands at pilot beach?
- B2B Pathway Completion: Funding for further stage completion and other infrastructure along the route, such as benches, watering stations and public art.
- Camden Head RE1 Land Master Plan: A Budget for community meetings and a masterplan for the RE1 Land on the headland. Not just the Pilot station Lookout. NB



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

traffic was so bad this Christmas it was a 45 min trip down Pilot Beach road to the parking because of congestion ( a few hundred meters). This is often one of the shires busiest beaches.

- Dunbogan Dingy Facility: Funding consideration for a Dingy facility design in Dunbogan to compliment B2B pathway and give sailors continued access to their Yachts

### 9.3 Lake Cathie Progress Association Submission

We are writing to request Lake Cathie projects to be considered and included in the 24/25 Operational Budget. Lake Cathie has grown faster than expected in the Urban Management Strategy 2017 - 2036 and requires urgent assistance to complete the projects.

It was expected that by 2036 the combined Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills area would have a population of 9898. In the census 2 yrs ago the combined population was recorded at 7341 (Lake Cathie 4296). Since the Census Gem Life will hit the projected target approximately 10 yrs before the forecasted expectation of 2036.

We require urgent action to be taken to complete previous promises under Lake Cathie Foreshore Master Plan

Page 1/3

- Item 1 - Complete
- Item 2 - Unclear
- Item 3 - Complete
- Item 4 - Formalised 90 degree parking - Not started and Urgent
- Item 5 - Complete
- Item 6 - Reconfiguration of Northern Side of Ocean Dr (footpaths drainage etc) Not Started and Urgent
- Item 7/8/9/10 - Completed
- Item 11 - Formalised Carp Parking - Not Started and Urgent
- Item 12 - Off Road car park - Not Started and Urgent
- Item 13/14 - Complete

Page 2/3

- Item 1/2/3/4 - Completed
- Item 5 - Picnic Facilities - Incomplete
- Item 6 - Existing
- Item 7/8 - Incomplete - Revetment wall interim works done on beach and cliff face, awaiting on CMP for remainder to be completed.
- Item 9 - Incomplete
- Item 10/11 Not Started and Urgent



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

LCPA would like to further highlight issues in the Lake Cathie area that need urgent considerations for the growing population.

Lack of footpaths / bike lanes for children and residents is a major issue, Ocean Drive is extremely busy as a main road and is not safe to walk along. Health and fitness is considered a priority particularly for an aging population and the lack of these facilities is something to be considered urgently. Lake Cathie Medical Centre is also a major hub in the area and needs a proper crossing for residents.

Several major housing estates have been built along with two over 50/s precincts and a new nursing home about to open, Ocean Drive is in desperate and urgent need of the traffic lights and roundabouts that have been flagged to be installed and be completed and operational ASAP.

Lake Cathie Foreshore Reserve Master Plan promised extra parking at Lake Cathie which has not started and was noted as part of the 2017-2025 Recreational Plan. This needs to be addressed as per previous correspondence on this matter. The area is growing and during peak periods there is not enough parking to support the Lake Cathie locals let alone tourist overflows. Small Businesses in Lakeview Shopping Centre across from the lake are severely impacted by people parking in their carpark due to lack of parking at the Lake, as real customers cannot access parking.

Middle Rock Road needs resurface so emergency vehicles including fire and 4wd ambulance can access the beach.

Better lighting is required on Ocean Drive between the Pozieres Retirement Village and Lake Cathie Oval (Cathie Straight) and also, between Evans Street and Oxley St (bridge side) Lake Cathie.

Jonathon Dixon Reserve Carpark requires a complete resurface not just filling the potholes in, the toilets in the reserve also need to be put on the Council's Service Plan as they are not cleaned on a regular basis.

Consideration for the Ocean Road update between Miala St roundabout to Kenwood Drive, Lake Cathie.

We look forward to some positive outcomes for the residents of Lake Cathie.



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### 9.4 Revive Lake Cathie Feedback Submission

Revive Lake Cathie Inc would like to support the submission from the Lake Cathie Progress Association towards the PMHC 2024/2025 Operational

The need for parking and completion of the previously agreed Lake Cathie Foreshore Plan's 1&2 is urgently required to be completed due to the rapid growth in housing developments earlier than anticipated in the area and the increase in visitors numbers.

Previous submissions by LCPA to the council over many years have requested this be addressed in Operational Plans, this is also highlighted in the Lake Cathie CCAT Plan approved by PMHC in 2021.

The community needs to see these issues starting to be addressed considering the amount of financial revenue coming to the council from the building of the new developments in our area.

### 9.5 Bonny Hills Progress Association Submission

As a community organisation that regularly interacts with PMHC, and represents the voice of many residents at Bonny Hills, we provide the following feedback on your 24/25 Draft document and associated helpful Fact Sheets.

Firstly, as happened last year, there is no evidence that any of the priorities set out on the Bonny Hills Community Plan, especially the adoption by PMHC in July 2022 of the Bonny Hills Reserves Master Plan, have been accommodated in the 24/25 Draft Operational Plan. That is most disappointing, to put it mildly.

We acknowledge that PMHC has been given a difficult task in developing this Draft Plan because of the decision at the February 2024 monthly Council meeting when four of the eight Councillors voted to approve a 0% Rate Peg for 2024/25 rather than an allowable 4.6% rate peg. That decision, for which we can see no financial justification, has reduced your income by \$2.7M. Hence, you advised the community that reductions of several services were necessary to ensure "your current (and future) financial sustainability is not adversely impacted". That approach may well "balance the books", but we are most concerned that you are adversely impacting key areas of life important to residents and community groups, namely:

- the environment (reduced tree and shrub maintenance),
- the natural fun/recreational areas (less mowing of parks and garden maintenance), and
- community activities (reducing Art funding, library and community hall maintenance, and completely discontinuing Community Grants).



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Are there no other ways to maintain financial sustainability? For example, how much additional income will be generated by the New and Increased Fees you plan to implement? There are 50 (fifty) new fees in the Draft Operational Plan.

It is disappointing that those who live and work in the PMHC area will be impacted with these reduced services. And what about the many holiday makers who come here because of what they see and experience? These visitors are critical to the Mid North Coast economy. They have many options to go elsewhere if the standards you have set previously are downgraded. We therefore ask you to re-assess your Draft 24/25 Operational Plan to find other less intrusive ways to offset the impact of the 0% rate peg if it proceeds.

### 9.6 Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association Submission

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input and comment on the draft One Year Operational Plan 2024-2025.

The Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association's goal is to work with stakeholders to grow visitor-spend across Greater Port Macquarie to ensure a United, Prosperous, and Vital Tourism Sector.

The Association greatly values its relationship with Port Macquarie Hastings Council and the inclusion of Tourism programs in the draft Plan.

There are several aspects of the draft Plan of concern to the Association which we consider detrimental to the short-term and long-term economic prosperity and social cohesion of our community.

#### **The Association does NOT support:**

1. The 0% Rate Peg;

As stated in the draft Plan "Council will therefore need to reduce expenditure, on maintenance of parks, gardens, community infrastructure, community grants and roads and use part of its reserve funding, to decrease the impact on service delivery and ensure good Governance."

"A considerable component of Council's operating expenses are fixed so the focus needs to be on reduced variable costs to accommodate the 0 0% Rate Peg. This is a temporary measure, and Council will, in readiness for the 2025-26 Operational Plan, identify reductions to mitigate the ongoing impact of a 0 0% Rate Peg in 2024-25."

As confirmed in the document, the 0% rate freeze will lead to a loss of services and necessitate the use of part of its reserve funding which will likely create financial and social challenges for future Councils.

#### **The Association does NOT support:**



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2. The discontinuation of the Town Centre Master Plan levy and operation of the Town Centre Master Plan Committee. The Port Macquarie Town Centre is an important asset for our community and a unique point of differentiation for our visitor economy. The Town Centre Master Plan component of the Port Macquarie CBD Business Rate has been invaluable in improving and presenting this precinct as an area we are now all proud. We would not want the Port Macquarie Town Centre to again go backwards.

Implement the Economic Development Strategy: It is noted there is an action "Implement the Economic Development Strategy" T1.1. There is however not an **equivalent action under** Tourism T1.3 to implement the Destination Management Plan (DMP). Our DMP is guided by Tourism NSW's DMP and Destination North Coast's DMP, and as is the case with our competitor destinations, a vital strategic planning document to drive tourism and destination marketing programs.

It is requested that the inclusion of an action under T1.1 to review and implement the local Destination Management Plan.

It is further noted that the 4-Year Delivery Plan has a project "Implementation of New Destination Brand" which is missing from the draft Operational Plan. Considerable research and resources were used to identify a unique brand identity for Greater Port Macquarie. To capitalise on this work, a project for the ongoing implementation of the destination brand is requested.

The Association does NOT support:

3. The increase in ferry charges.
4. The inclusion of fees and charges for the community use of halls and sporting fields

The proposed increase in Ferry Charges will deter our community and visitors from accessing the North Shore.

Affordable access to our Community Halls and Sporting Facilities aids community cohesion and well-being and benefits the visitor economy.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### 9.7 Greenbourne Nursery - Car Park Petition (389 signatures)

Hi Councillors,

Thanks for taking the time to read my email, I have just read the petition report for item 11.01 and I just wanted to quickly explain what this petition was hoping to achieve:

- Safety Is the number one concern and the reason we need to see this carpark completely re constructed and finished with asphalt to match the western end of the carpark. We have a high percentage of elderly customers who struggle to get around the potholes which form in the existing carpark.
- Omnicare have actually deemed our carpark as high risk and therefore will not bring their buses out until the carpark is deemed safe by their assessor's.
- We are the gateway to the Mid North Coast and the first thing people see when they enter the area, we would love for it to be inviting and beautiful.
- We have been in talks with council about the state of this carpark for almost 7 years – the previous owners of Greenbourne Nursery say they were in talks with council about the state of the carpark for 10 years before that.
- The car park gets patched up every 2 years or so but because of the high side of the carpark not being sealed, water runs under the surface of the existing car park and when it heats up it turns into a mushy pit – you can actually feel the ground moving under your feet.
- We have customers comment on a daily basis about the poor condition of this car park.
- This carpark operates 7 days a week, it is a high traffic area
- We understand that there already many other roads and carparks that also need work in the area but we feel this is a top priority because its only a matter of time before someone falls and is seriously injured.
- We would love for it to be upgraded to match the western end (iga) with allocated parking spaces and garden beds (which we would be happy to plant out and maintain)



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### 9.8 Port FC Submission

Can you please clarify the 2025 proposed fees for Sports Ground use. I have read through the various supplied documents and there are a few different prices listed for various items.

1) The Sports Fees & Charges form states a flat \$1000 per season. Is this per club or per field?

2) The Fees and Charges document shows the below charges on pages 63 & 64

\* Ground Fee - General use (Seasonal): \$1000 per season. Again per club or per field?

\* Canteen and change room use: \$500 per season

\* Lighting \$7 per pole per hour? Is this instead of or as well as the current per hour charge?

"2) The Fees and Charges document shows the below charges on pages 63 & 64

\* Ground Fee - General use (Seasonal): \$1000 per season. Again per club or per field?

\* Canteen and change room use: \$500 per season

\* Lighting \$7 per pole per hour? Is this instead of or as well as the current per hour charge?

### 9.9 Koala Conservation Australia Submission

Koala Conservation Australia (KCA), formerly known as Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, would like to comment on Council's 2024/2025 Operational Plan.

Koalas and other wildlife are a key feature of the environment within the Port Macquarie Hastings Council (PMHC) Local Government Area (LGA) and we are fortunate to have two significant genetically diverse koala populations within our LGA (and another nearby in Kempsey Shire Councils LGA). Our economy thrives from this association, with nature-based tourism a driver of visitation to the area and koalas featured as the number one attraction.

Unfortunately, the koalas in our region are facing near extinction with the populations rapidly declining due to habitat loss and degradation. Our local koalas are displaying signs of stress and disease and are still exposed to significant threats from road strike and dog attack. In over 50 years of caring and rehabilitating wild koalas, numbers have never been so low.

While we continue to care for and rehabilitate koalas that are sick and injured, we are very concerned at their rate of decline and believe that urgent action is required. Mindful of the recent collaboration between KCA and PMHC, and acknowledging the current Council work underway for koalas in mapping and vehicle strike mitigation, we ask for an increase in actions within your Operational Plan to align with the current local environmental extinction we are facing, in particular tighter control of development which leads to clearing of large areas of wildlife habitat in the region.



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KCA would like to see a more funding committed to habitat protection, enhancement and connectivity within the Operational Plan. We would like to encourage support for community engagement and education of our residents in how they could assist at the local level. We invite PMHC to be proactive in their natural resource management and advocate for increased funding to support collaborative projects that address what is now an ecological emergency for wildlife.

With its extensive reach and strong relationships in the wildlife sector, KCA is well positioned to work with the Council to achieve better outcomes for the sector particularly to address areas for improvement related to legislation and funding identified in the Independent Review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 led by Ken Henry.

KCA suggests a collaborative approach between the Council and KCA would provide a strong foundation for the sector, underpinned by wildlife expertise working within government regulatory frameworks. We consider this approach would optimise nature-positive solutions and would position PMHC as a leader in wildlife, nature and koala conservation.

The loss of koalas is a contemporary environmental issue for NSW, however, for the Port Macquarie Hastings region, it is much more; koalas are synonymous with our local identity, our environmental fabric, our economic foundations and our social norms. We cannot lose them and we must work harder and faster than ever before to arrest the situation we find ourselves in.

We are confident that, like KCA, PMHC view koalas and other wildlife as core environmental assets and acknowledge that intervention is required. However, we contend that timing is critical.

The Council's Operational Plan provides a timely opportunity for a proactive review of nature-positive solutions as recognised in the Henry Review, within our region and provides Council with the opportunity to play an essential role in addressing increasing impacts and demands on all wildlife.

KCA would like to extend its support to work collaboratively with PMHC to achieve beneficial outcomes for our local koalas and other wildlife in the region.



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### 9.10.0 North Shore Progress Association Submission

On behalf of the north side community, I am writing to voice our opposition at the proposed ferry increases, currently outlined in the proposed Fees and Charges document, annexed to the Draft 24/25 operational plan.

As we have already voiced on more times than we can count, the ferries are a logical extension of the road network and to single out a specific group of users for additional charges for the use of the 'road network' is unfair and discriminatory. I am not aware of the Council charging residents or road users separate, specific charges for the use and maintenance of any of the road bridges crossing rivers within the LGA.

There are a number of key points I'd like to make in this submission:

1. As you can see from the spreadsheet below, the ferry increases range from 3.3% to 56.7%
2. The proposed increase for the weekly tickets, which increased from \$10 to \$15 on 1 July 2024 (a 50% increase) and now from \$15 to \$16.00 (6.7%) represents a staggering 56.7% increase since May 2023. Many families here have more than one car and cannot afford to buy the annual tickets, so the weekly tickets are a better option for them.
3. The standard full fare for trucks needs to be increased to reflect Council's user pay system. A double semi takes up 8 car spots (as they span two lanes) which equates to \$64.00 each way with the new pricing – yet it is only proposed to charge these vehicles \$26 – that's a \$38 potential loss of revenue for Council.
4. There is no "friends and family concession" category. The current single return fee means they will have to pay \$16 to visit us. Our friends and family have said the high cost of the ferry fees means they will be visiting less often – in effect social isolation is being forced upon us.
5. Every one of us on the north shore want to support local business, yet the new charges are making it impossible to do this. The return fare for a tradie with his ute and trailer will be \$32.00 ... and that's before they do anything.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

To mitigate the impacts of the ferry charges, I would like to make the following recommendations:

1. The weekly ticket process remain the same
2. All residents be allowed to purchase the 'Concession Ticket Book – Cars' and give these to their visitors for use on the ferry, without requiring a concession sticker on their car. If a trailer was attached, 2 tickets would be required.
3. Increase the proposed costs for standard full fares for casual heavy vehicles on the Ferry. The current and proposed fees for Trucks (semi-trailer / articulated) do not reflect the opportunity cost of the vehicle spaces used by these trucks

The NSPA has been working separately and with Council since July 2023, to highlight inequities of the State Government funding ferry services to some councils and not others. On 3 May 2023, the MLC MP Cate Farehrmann posed questions in State Parliament



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

about these inequities and responses are due on 24 May 2024. Here is the link to these excellent questions and many thanks to Councillor Edwards for making this happen [2080 - Transport - VEHICLE FERRY SERVICES \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/2080-VEHICLE-FERRY-SERVICES)

### Proposed Residents/Ratepayers Fares

PROPOSED FERRY FARE INCREASE COMPARISON 27 APRIL 2024

TICKET PRICES COST AS AT MAY 2023		CURRENT TICKET PRICE AS AT MAY 2024		PROPOSED INCREASES FOR FY24/25		TOTAL INCREASE % OVER 2 YEARS (SINCE 2023)
CONCESSION PRICES (FOR RATEPAYERS)		CONCESSION PRICES (FOR RATEPAYERS)		CONCESSION PRICES (FOR RATEPAYERS)		
TICKET TYPE	COST	COST	% INCREASE FROM 1 JULY2023	COST	% INCREASE FROM 2024	
Annual resident sticker	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	0.0%	\$ 62.00	3.3%	3.3%
Annual resident pass - car	\$ 350.00	\$ 375.00	7.1%	\$ 388.00	3.5%	10.6%
Weekly pass - Cars	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00	50.0%	\$ 16.00	6.7%	56.7%
Monthly pass - cars	\$ 30.00	\$ 35.00	16.7%	\$ 36.00	2.9%	19.5%
Concession ticket book - Cars (25 tickets ; 1 ticket per trip)	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00	25.0%	\$ 25.00	0.0%	25.0%
Concession ticket book - Motorcycles (25 tickets; 1/2 ticket per trip)	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00	25.0%	\$ 25.00	0.0%	25.0%
Concession ticket book - Truck (>4t GVM) (25 tickets; 3 tickets per trip)	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00	25.0%	\$ 25.00	0.0%	25.0%
Concession ticket books- semi trailer, dog trailer, articulated vehicle (25 tickets; 4 tickets per trip)	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00	25.0%	\$ 25.00	0.0%	25.0%
Annual resident pass - motorcycle	\$ -	\$ 185.00	New category from FY23	\$ 194.00	4.9%	4.9%
Annual resident pass - Trucks >4t GVM Approx. 2t payload	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00		\$ 1,242.00	3.5%	3.5%
Annual resident pass - Semi-trailer, Dog-Trailer, Articulated Vehicle	\$ -	\$ 1,625.00		\$ 1,682.00	3.5%	3.5%
Monthly pass - motorcycles	\$ -	\$ 18.00		\$ 18.00	0.0%	0.0%
Monthly resident pass - Trucks >4t GVM Approx. 2t payload	\$ -	\$ 110.00		\$ 114.00	3.6%	3.6%
Monthly resident pass - Semi-trailer, Dog-Trailer, Articulated Vehicle	\$ -	\$ 145.00		\$ 150.00	3.4%	3.4%
Weekly pass - motorcycles	\$ -	\$ 7.00		\$ 8.00	14.3%	14.3%
Weekly resident pass - Trucks >4t GVM Approx. 2t payload	\$ -	\$ 40.00		\$ 42.00	5.0%	5.0%
Weekly resident pass - Semi-trailer, Dog-Trailer, Articulated Vehicle	\$ -	\$ 55.00		\$ 58.00	5.5%	5.5%

### Standard Full Fares



Engagement Report - **Draft OP2024-25**

STANDARD FULL FARES (FOR NON RATE PAYERS)		STANDARD FULL FARES (FOR NON RATEPAYERS)		STANDARD FULL FARES (FOR NON RATEPAYERS)		TOTAL INCREASE OVER 2 YEARS (SINCE 2023)
TICKET TYPE	COST	COST	% INCREASE	COST	% INCREASE	
Cars Annual Ticket	\$ -	\$ 1,050.00		\$ 1,087.00	3.5%	3.5%
Cars Monthly Ticket	\$ 100.00	\$ 110.00	10.0%	\$ 114.00	3.6%	13.6%
Cars Weekly Ticket	\$ 40.00	\$ 45.00	12.5%	\$ 46.00	2.2%	14.7%
Single trip – Motorcycle	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.00	50.0%	\$ 3.00	0.0%	50.0%
Single trip – Car	\$ 6.00	\$ 8.00	33.3%	\$ 8.00	0.0%	33.3%
Single trip – Caravan/Trailer (additional fee to car)	\$ 6.00	\$ 8.00	33.3%	\$ 8.00	0.0%	33.3%
Single trip – Truck (>4t GVM)	\$ 12.00	\$ 15.00	25.0%	\$ 15.00	0.0%	25.0%
Single trip – Truck (Semi trailer/Articulated)	\$ 18.00	\$ 25.00	38.9%	\$ 26.00	4.0%	42.9%
Pedestrians and Cyclists	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -		0.0%

Many thanks and I look forward to your feedback.

Regards

KERRY FOX | PRESIDENT, NORTH SIDE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

### 9.10.1 Kendall to Kew Shared Pathway

We would like to offer our continuing support for the Kendall to Kew portion of the Schools to Schools pathway included in the Draft 2024/5 Operational Plan.

As included in our comments for the 2023/4 operational plan we repeat the following points in favour of this important transport path for our villages.

#### **Kendall/ Kew Shared Pathway**

The village of Kendall offers a huge number of services and community organisations. It is imperative that these services and organisations be safely accessed not only by Kendall residents but by the wider communities of Kew, Lakewood and beyond. This includes increased populations of estates in Kew (Links Estate and the Laurieton Resort) as well as Fairwinds Estate and Monterey - over 55s Community at Kendall. At present the only access to and from Kendall and Kew is via a narrow road which is unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists. The building of a shared pathway is imperative.

Safe access is required for the following businesses and places:-

- Kendall Post Office – the postcode 2439 covers not only Kendall – but the areas of Lakewood and Kew. Residents of these areas need safe access to the post office and the banking and services it provides



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

- Kendall Public School- the intake area of the school includes Kew and Lakewood. Students living along Kendall Road need to access the school but at present are not able to ride bikes or walk to school safely.
- Camden Haven High School – Students from Kendall are unable to ride bikes to high school. The provision of a pathway would provide safe access.
- Kendall Community Centre - the Centre is a hub of activities providing Government services etc Includes, yoga, pilates, Kendall Music Exchange
- The Meeting Place – Each Thursday dozens of people meet for coffee and a chat. A pathway would provide safer access for patrons and volunteers.
- Bendigo Bank at Kendall – one of the few banking services available in the district.
- Kendall Railway Station – many residents of Kendall, Kew and Lakewood rely on train travel. At present the station can only be safely accessed by road.
- Kendall Showground – Many activities are based at the showground. :- Mens' Shed, TAG group, Pony Club, Boxing Group, Kendall Blues Football club , Monthly Sunday Markets as well as camping facilities where a shared pathway would allow campers access to Kew and Lakewood without using the overcrowded road.
- The new Monterey over 55s village – is connected to Kendall village with a pathway. Extending this to Kew would allow residents safe access to the facilities at Kew and Lakewood without having to drive.
- Kendall Tennis club –(tennis and pickle ball) over 400 members use the facilities of the Tennis Club. Many of these are young people who need to be driven to the courts. A pathway would allow players and coaches safe access the courts.
- Kendall Services and Citizens Club – pathway access would allow patrons the choice of travel to and from the club
- Kendall Skate Park- about to be moved across the road from present position at OpShop to old tennis courts site, needs cycle access for young people from Kew/ Lakewood
- Kendall Community OP Shop – provides a service to many locals many of whom would benefit from not having to drive.

Other facilities based at Kendall include:-

- Bookends – the leading second hand book shop in the Hastings, located next to Kendall Hall.
- Kendall Garden Club – up to 60 members attend meetings once a month
- Kendall Community Boatshed Kayakers meet several times a week and as kayaks are stored at the shed a pathway would allow kayakers foot and bike access
- Country Womens' Association – meet in Kendall
- Kendall Heritage Society
- Kendall Kettles Craft Group

Kind regards

Ian Oxenford for Kendall to Kew Shared Pathway



# Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

## APPENDIX 10: FAQs - Draft OP 2024-25 Facebook Live event - 2 May 2024

### FAQs - Draft OP 2024-25 Facebook Live | 2 May 2024

Community Engagement for the Draft Operational Plan 2024-25 (Draft OP 2024-25) included a 1-hour Facebook Live session on 2 May 2024. A panel of senior Council staff, and subject matter experts, fielded a range of questions. These questions and others that we received on the night are responded to below. We have grouped questions into categories for ease of reading and to reduce repetition.

The Draft OP 2024-25 is on public exhibition until 11:59pm on Monday 20 May 2024. Head to our [Have Your Say](#) page to submit your feedback or call our customer service team on 6581 8111.

#### Panel Members

- Dr Clare Allen, CEO
- Lucilla Marshall, Group Manager Community Voice (facilitator)
- Blayne West, Group Manager Community Infrastructure Project Delivery
- Duncan Coulton, Executive Manager Strategy
- Michael Cosgrove, Executive Lead Finance & Commercial Operations
- Cameron Hawkins, Group Manager Utilities Plan and Design

The responses to all the posed questions have now been collated to assist the community with their submissions.

#### 0.0% Rate Peg

**In the 0% Rate Peg fact sheet, there is no reason why this decision was made. To pay for this \$2.7M foregone revenue the community pays with a reduction in services such as longer periods in lawn care, no Community Grants.**

The decision to implement a 0.0% rate peg began in December 2023. Councillors requested advice on the impact that the rate peg would have on the Operational Plan 2024-25. In February 2024, we provided a report detailing the financial impacts and likely mitigations.

Councillors then requested that Council prepare the Draft OP 2024-25 based on a 0.0% rate peg. This would mean there would be no overall increase in rate revenue. You can review the reports referenced on the Council Meeting - Agenda and Minutes page on our website. You will need to search for the following Ordinary Council Meetings:

- **15 February 2024** - Ordinary Council
- **Item:** 10.16
- **Subject:** IMPACTS AND OPTIONS IN RELATION TO A PROPOSED RATE FREEZE FOR 2024-2025

You can [watch Councillors debate and resolve this item](#) on our Council Meeting YouTube channel (jump to 2:06:00 for this item)

**It appears that Council has had to compile the 24/25 OP with reduced income due to the proposal not to increase rates by the allowable 4.6%. Are all the reductions in services listed on the Fact Sheet to claw back \$2.7M necessary?**

1 - FAQs: Draft OP2024-25 Facebook Live Q&A 2 May 2024



Link: [Council Meeting Video](#)



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### FAQs - Draft OP 2024-25 Facebook Live | 2 May 2024

The Risk Appetite Statement adopted by Council in December 2023 directs our actions in relation to financial sustainability. The statement says: "Council will not tolerate ongoing failures to meet key financial performance ratios without any adequate resolution planning".

This means the impact of a 0.0% rate peg on the budget needs to be mitigated. The pool of money available to fund the impact further reduces when you look at Council's fixed and variable costs over the next 12 months. To be compliant with our statement and address the impact of the 0.0% rate peg, we have looked at how the \$2.7 million revenue impact can be offset by a reduction in spending.

The revenue impact is operational in nature and from the General Fund. This means the expenditure reduction must also be operational and from the General Fund. This is shown on page 11 of the Draft OP 2024-25.

The council needs to identify \$2.7 million in savings to mitigate the impact of the 0.0% rate peg in 2024-25. The Rate Peg Fact Sheet outlines the proposed reductions to minimise the impact on services in 2024-25.

These proposed reductions are a temporary measure for 2024-25 only.

We will look at permanent ongoing reductions in the 2025-26 Operational Plan, to mitigate the ongoing impact of a 0.0% Rate Peg in 2024-25 if the rate peg is approved.

For road and parks maintenance, staff have identified sufficient short-term reserves to offset the impact of these mitigations. This will enable current maintenance services levels to substantially continue into 2024-25.

**How does Council address concerns that the rate freeze primarily benefits property owners, rather than renters or those less financially secure within our community?**

**What measures are in place to ensure that the broader community's needs are met, especially those who might not benefit directly from a freeze in property rates?**

Rates are levied on residential, commercial and farmland property owners. By reducing the costs for those property owners, this may result in the costs being passed on through a reduction in rental fees.

Compared to the 4.6% rate peg, a rate peg of 0.0% would result in a saving of approximately \$60 for an average residence per year.

**Can Council detail the specific impacts of the budget cuts on community services and infrastructure maintenance?**

In preparing the Draft OP 2024-25, staff have identified reductions to the budgeted operating expenses within the General Fund. This is to mitigate the impact of a 0.0% rate peg, as outlined in the table below:

2 - FAQs: Draft OP2024-25 Facebook Live Q&A 2 May 2024





Engagement Report - **Draft OP2024-25****FAQs - Draft OP 2024-25 Facebook Live | 2 May 2024**

Mitigation	Amount	Description
Freeze on recruitment	\$650,000	A freeze on hiring staff to specific roles within Council would be used to reduce expenditure by \$650,000.
Corporate Overhead savings	\$200,000	A reduction in discretionary spending, including on consultants and professional services.
Road resealing and maintenance	\$650,000	The Sealed Roads Repairs Program would be impacted by \$650,000 or around 13% of the road resealing and maintenance budget. This corresponds to a reduction of around ten (10) kilometres of road resealing or two (2) kilometres of asphalt resurfacing.
Parks and gardens maintenance	\$350,000	Parks and gardens maintenance would be impacted by \$350,000 or around 8% of the parks and gardens maintenance budget. This impacts Council's ability to maintain existing service levels for mowing across the LGA (i.e., a six (6) week mowing cycle would be an eight (8) week mowing cycle).
Tree and shrub maintenance	\$250,000	Tree and shrub maintenance would be reduced by \$250,000 or around 18% of the tree and shrub maintenance budget. This corresponds to a reduction of around 144 priority trees not being maintained across the LGA.
Building maintenance	\$250,000	Building maintenance will be impacted by \$250,000 across nine (9) sites having reduced asset maintenance including Libraries, Community Halls, and amenities. This represents around 9% of the building maintenance budget.
Community grants	\$200,000	Community Grants will not be available in the 2024-25 budget.
Community activities and cultural events	\$150,000	Community activities and events will be reduced by \$150,000. This would discontinue funding for Arts Mid North Coast partnership, community events, community programs and the installation of public art.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,700,000</b>	

**How does Council justify these reductions in services to residents who are already observing a decline in the upkeep of public amenities?**

Our approach is guided by the risk appetite statement adopted in December 2023. The statement outlines our tolerance and approach to financial sustainability. It says: "Council will not tolerate ongoing failures to meet key financial performance ratios without any adequate resolution".

This means to address the impact of the 0.0% rate peg on our services and activities, we need to find reductions of \$2.7m to balance this out. Because the impact is in the Operating and General Funds revenue, we must look offset reduced funding in these areas. This is shown on page 11 of the Draft OP 2024-25 and further details are available in the Rate Peg Fact Sheet.

3 - FAQs: Draft OP2024-25 Facebook Live Q&amp;A 2 May 2024





## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### FAQs - Draft OP 2024-25 Facebook Live | 2 May 2024

#### **Sporting Fees & Charges (and other recreation related questions)**

**What will the sporting fees and charges be used for? Are we getting additional services for this charge?**

The intention is that the funding contributed to each sports facility will be applied back to that facility for future upgrades / maintenance works.

The fee and fee model has not yet been set. We are seeking community feedback on this.

The fees do not bring in a large sum of money. It will take several years to build up funding for minor updates, let alone significant upgrades.

**I am concerned that the proposed 0.0% rate peg is going too far and leading to adverse decisions such as the new Sport Grounds fee on junior sporting clubs use of community assets. Council should be promoting physical activity in our current and future generations not fiscally discouraging it through fees on sports ground use. Why is this proposed?**

The mitigation measures include a reduction in some of our maintenance. We will look at the overall need and prioritise how we use this fee. This is particularly relevant to our sporting ground use in line with safety issue considerations.

**Please explain how the introduction of increased levies to sporting clubs for hire of field access and canteen facilities will improve facilities.**

The intention of the fee is the "user pays" system. This assists in providing funds to those facilities in the future. We have several facilities that need maintenance. This fee will go towards revenue to support those facilities going forward.

**Will sports fees to clubs be refunded when grounds are unavailable due to weather? Why should clubs pay for facilities that are unavailable?**

Council still accumulates costs for sporting facilities when it rains, including for staffing/line marking/maintenance, etc. The fee will also be accumulated over time to support improvements. Some of these improvements will take years to recoup.

**Will we see an increase in staffing for grounds maintenance?**

Not at this stage. Staffing will stay at the same level. This is because the fees will only support 3.3% of current costs of maintenance. We are also managing escalating future, as well as an increasing numbers of fields and spaces to maintain.

**Will Council be looking to increase sports ground availability by sourcing new facilities as the current allocations are not adequate for participation numbers. Laurieton specific but I am sure relevant across the region.**

4 - FAQs: Draft OP2024-25 Facebook Live Q&A 2 May 2024





## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### FAQs - Draft OP 2024-25 Facebook Live | 2 May 2024

We are always looking at community needs as part of our future planning. We've recently finished the Rainbow Beach Sporting Facilities. This allowed us to share the load on our sporting facilities across the region. We are in the final stages of design and development for Thrumster which will commence within the next financial year. Within the next few months we will have the new Vince Inmon grandstand completed. Supporting our future sporting groups is something we are always considering.

#### **Why can't you remove the sporting fees and community hall fees from the Operational Plan engagement? Can we have separate discussions on these issues?**

The fees are part of the overall integrated planning reporting process. The operational plan sits in conjunction with the operating budget. This means we can't separate it because legislation requires us to present the fees and the budget as part of the process.

#### **Is there any plan to use the increase in revenue from higher levies for use of sporting fields to make fields more accessible & better utilised?**

Council looks to accumulate costs over time to support improvements. This includes accessibility and increase usage. We know it will take a long time to accumulate funds to support any changes. We are always developing plans and strategies to improve the accessibility of our facilities, and how much and how frequently they're used.

#### **What is proposed to be included in the Wayne Richards sporting complex?**

The next stages of the Wayne Richards Sporting complex are based on the 2012 Master Plan. It includes additional fields where the current Council depot is, an athletic track and other amenities including parking and change rooms. A draft design will be developed over the next 12 months. We will engage with the community before finalising the design.

#### **How has the Camden Haven community benefited from the dis-banded "Sport and Rec" committee to be wholly run by council's sport and rec department?**

We are supporting the management of the Laurieton Sports Complex/Vince Inmon. There has also been extensive work within this space. These include the development of the new grandstand, canteen, change facilities and fit out, and long jump track. New cricket nets will be available soon. The Netball Courts were also installed in the last few years.

#### **More difficult for bookings, less availability, less flexibility and now increased fees to clubs. The committee worked well for 30 + years and result now is just further disadvantaged.**

The new booking system is in its first year. It will assist in managing the use of the site and provide better oversight of availability.

### Ferry Fees

**How can Council justify ferry rate increases of over 56% over just 2 years. \$16 is more than some of the city tolls and we are using a ferry to go 5 minutes across the water.**

5 - FAQs: Draft OP2024-25 Facebook Live Q&A 2 May 2024





## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### FAQs - Draft OP 2024-25 Facebook Live | 2 May 2024

**It is totally unjust to continually increase the ferry fees, no one else in our LGA has fees imposed on them and their families to access their homes.**

**How does the increasing ferry fees align with the Council's strategies to provide effective and efficient services to the community, and manage assets so that current and future community needs can be met in an affordable way?**

The ferry service is operated at a cost to Council each year. Prior to 2023-24 it cost more than \$800,000 per year.

Council resolved in 2023 to progressively reduce the operating loss of the ferry service. It also resolved to fund the ongoing increased Hibbard Ferry operating hours (slightly earlier start in the morning and later finish in the evening Mon-Fri) through an increase to fares. Increases were made for almost all ferry fares in 2023-24. This was in line with the report to Council and decision of Council.

Until 2023-24, no increases to resident concessional fares had occurred since 2015. This was despite operating costs increasing. Residents of the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA receive significant reductions from the full fare through these concessions.

For 2024-25, fare increases (typically in the order of CPI) are outlined in the Fees and Charges. The increases are expected each year. This is to ensure the rising operating costs are at least covered through user charges. Lower value transactions received at the ferry need to round to the nearest dollar for cash handling purposes. This means the increase may be lower or higher than the CPI in that year.

The fare was increased from \$10 to \$15 in 2023-24. This was to improve relativity between the fares on offer. The proposed fare for resident car/utility weekly tickets is \$16. This is a \$1 increase from the 2023-24 fare. The proposed fare for resident weekly tickets is just above \$1 per trip if returning on the ferry each day over the week.

We are continuing to advocate our position on ferry services strongly with the NSW Government. Council would like to see the transfer ferry services management to the NSW Government or for Council to receive funding support to reduce the financial burden. There is inequity across NSW as most vehicular ferries are operated by the NSW Government free of charge to users.

### Feedback Timeline & Council Process

**How is all the feedback collated after the exhibition close date and is there enough time for Councillors to consider the feedback before the June 20 meeting?**

We have a process in place to centralise feedback and seek responses from subject matter experts. We hold Councillor briefings throughout the process.

**As it proceeds to the Councillors for voting, I'm curious whether the Mayor's casting vote will be counted for these plans?**

6 - FAQs: Draft OP2024-25 Facebook Live Q&A 2 May 2024





## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### FAQs - Draft OP 2024-25 Facebook Live | 2 May 2024

The casting vote may be used at the discretion of the chairperson where there is an equality of votes on an item. If a casting vote is used it must be counted and it will be used to determine the outcome of the item. Council considered a report at the April 2024 Ordinary Council meeting which provided additional information on the use of the casting vote. This report can be found [here](#).

- Ordinary Council Meeting: 18 April 2024
- Item: 10.06
- Subject: USE OF THE CASTING VOTE



### Accessibility

#### What areas are going to be improved for disabled community?

All our designs are now reviewed from a disability and access perspective. This is so that we can ensure that all community members can enjoy the spaces we develop. An example of an upcoming project is the Tacking Point Accessible walkway. It is out for tender and will be finished this year. This will provide a fully accessible walkway up to the lighthouse.

#### Will council be looking at bringing back an accessibility committee?

The Council has no plans to bring back the Access Committee. However, we have begun conversations with the local community of people living with a disability about priority issues facing them. It is hoped that a new group, once established, will be able to provide a voice for people living with a disability to Council and other entities.

### Roads and traffic

**What happened to that Road Planned in 2022 for traffic near the roundabout, never heard anything after that, there was 3 proposed options.**

**What are we going to do about traffic coming in from the highway? The roundabout at the hospital (and the one at lake road) can't cope as it is. An increase in population will only intensify the issue.**

In reference to the Oxley Highway (the Wrights Road and Lake Road intersections): This is a Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) project. TfNSW undertook consultation with the community in 2021. Further updates on this matter should be directed to TfNSW - [Oxley Highway proposed intersection upgrades | Your Say Transport for NSW](#)

#### Will there be expansion of Lake Road?

The duplication (widening) of Lake Road between Ocean Drive and Chestnut Road is currently in planning. There is an allocation in the Draft OP 2024-25 to continue the planning and detailed design. As part of this Council will need to continue discussions with National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) regarding the impacts of the widening.

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Links: [18 April Council Report](#)

[Oxley Highway](#)



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### FAQs - Draft OP 2024-25 Facebook Live | 2 May 2024

The design will be finalised once the land revocation has been concluded. The full construction of this section is currently unfunded. It will be undertaken in future years subject to funding. It will likely require grant funding from the NSW and Australian governments to support this project.

#### **What is happening with Maria River Road and mitigation drain on Munday's Lane?**

We are committed to achieving the sealing of Maria River Road in 2025. We are currently seeking environmental approvals, which are necessary to progress to construction. Early works will include drainage and culvert replacement. Work at the Munday's Lane intersection with Maria River Road will be in line with similar drainage treatment along the works corridor.

Find out more on our [project webpage](#).

#### **Economic Development, Population Growth and Destination Marketing**

##### **What's council doing to attract big business to set up here to provide more jobs for the projection in population?**

At the forefront of our planning is making sure that we have employment land secured. This needs to be throughout our region. This land needs to be in the appropriate centres right across our region not just in Port Macquarie. The key to attracting big business is contingent on having the right infrastructure. This can be provided by Council or NSW Government investment. We continue advocating strongly to make sure Port Macquarie Hastings Council is considered for these investment opportunities.

##### **Why do we need to grow so much?**

Our population is made up of the number of people that are born here, migrate here or leave our LGA. The region is sustained by migration. There are significantly more people coming here than there are leaving. It is forecast that our region will grow by an additional 25,000 people by 2041.

Historically we've grown faster than the forecast that we have worked towards. This is fuelled by more people moving to our region. We need to cater for this and consider where people are going to live and work.

##### **In the light of the Bonza collapse, will there be any petition to government to keep airlines flying in/out of Port? So important to keep us connected.**

We continue to closely monitor developments in relation to Bonza. Council will continue to communicate with the community as we learn more about the future of Bonza.

The Port Macquarie airport team regularly engages with airlines regarding opportunities to fly in and out of Port Macquarie. The team will continue to advocate for local services that benefit the community and tourism for our region.

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Link: [Project Webpage](#)



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### FAQs - Draft OP 2024-25 Facebook Live | 2 May 2024

**How can local businesses get more involved to help shape the future branding of Port Macquarie, making sure that all different types of businesses get the opportunity to be part of it. Ensuring visitors and locals know there is more to Port than what people already know?**

#### Opportunities for Businesses in Councils Destination Branding

As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance our region's appeal, we introduced our latest destination branding campaign: "Where Time Does Wonders." This initiative aims to elevate our area from just a holiday destination to a vibrant year-round lifestyle hub, offering diverse experiences across the LGA.

#### Ways Your Business Can Get Involved:

1. Listing on Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW): By creating a listing on ATDW, your business will gain visibility on our official destination website, [portmacquarieinfo.com.au](http://portmacquarieinfo.com.au). This exposure will allow potential visitors to discover what your business has to offer.
2. Special Offers via Partnership Program and/or Free guides: We are excited to feature your special offers through the current tourism campaigns partnership program. This is an excellent opportunity to be part of a professional tourism campaign and a platform which showcases your unique offerings and attracts more customers.
3. Visit [portmacquarieinfo.com.au](http://portmacquarieinfo.com.au) and sign up for our e-newsletters to stay informed about these opportunities and other ways to be featured. Together we can make our region a must-visit lifestyle destination.

### Footpaths & Cycle Paths

**Are we getting a Cycle way along the full length of Koala St? Desperately needed for people to ride bikes safely to work, school and parks.**

We are currently completing the Walking and Cycling Review to consider the priority needs for Active transport (walking and cycling) across the LGA. This will inform the prioritisation of active transport infrastructure. Please see [Walking and Cycling Review](#) for more information.

#### How many kilometres of pathway did you install last year?

In terms of our path network, it is approximately 228km. These paths represent about 1.3% of the network. Note - this does not include new pathways from developments.

Footpaths	Status	Length (m)	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Stewart St	Completed	110	
Bonny Hills	Completed	244	
Oxley Highway	Completed	588	
Pacific Drive	Completed	635	
Lake Road	Completed	404	

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Links: [Port Macquarie Info](#)

[Walking and Cycling Review](#)



Engagement Report - **Draft OP2024-25****FAQs - Draft OP 2024-25 Facebook Live | 2 May 2024**

B2B D3	Under construction (nearing completion)	410	
Owen/Burrawan Streets	Completed	450	690
Roma Street/Bangalay Drive	Completed	100	
		<b>2941</b>	

**When will the school-to-school pathway in Laurieton be complete?**

This project is in the current Operational Plan 2023-24 and will carry through to the coming OP2024-25. This is for detailed design of missing sections (see pages 109 and 169 in the Draft OP2024-25).

The construction of these works is unfunded. As part of the detailed design, we will be seeking environmental approvals to have the projects ready for construction. We will likely seek grant funding for these works in future years and consider it within Council's future Operational Plans.

**Lake Cathie requires footpaths urgently especially Ocean Drive. Ocean drive is a hazard. A safe pathway on the main road would allow residents to safely walk/shop and have an active lifestyle. A lot of development approved here without investing it back into Lake Cathie. Can you let us know if this is proposed?**

**Can we get a foot/cycle path from start of Thrumster St down John Oxley Drive to Sovereign Place Shopping Centre as it's dangerous walking on side of the road?**

This is being considered in the Walking and Cycling Review. The review saw consultation undertaken with community through many workshops, including Lake Cathie.

Please see the [Walking and Cycling Review](#) for more information.

Once completed, works will be prioritised and funding sought for priority projects.

We are also undertaking Thrumster/Sancrox/Fernbank traffic study to consider the road network and wider connectivity. This includes considering the upgrade of Thrumster Street. This upgrade is currently included in our Area 13 (Thrumster) Contributions plan and this investigation work will inform the final design of these works, including path connectivity.

**Is there a plan for safer cycling path from Bonny Hills to Port Macquarie along the length of Ocean Drive. It is often precarious driving with a peloton of pedallers.**

A Walking and Cycling review is being concluded. We understand this is a priority from initial feedback. As part of the Integrated Transport Plan, we are also considering the wider road connectivity between our town centres, including Ocean Drive. We are also looking at the road profile in this area, including safe cycling opportunities and road widening. The ITP will go on public exhibition in the coming months.

**Can PMHC work with NSW Nat Parks to extend the Googik track, an incredible asset.**

10 - FAQs: Draft OP2024-25 Facebook Live Q&A 2 May 2024



Link: [Walking and Cycling Review](#)



## Engagement Report - Draft OP2024-25

### FAQs - Draft OP 2024-25 Facebook Live | 2 May 2024

We are actively working with National Parks and Wildlife Services on the Googik track design and other projects such as the Lake Road Upgrade and Lighthouse Road Upgrade.

The Integrated Transport Plan will consider connectivity in this area, including the Googik track areas surrounding the Health and Education Precinct (HEP) area and the Cathie straight, as well as the walking and cycling review. We expect a draft of these documents to go to public exhibition in the coming months.

#### Can we get more dog beaches down in the Camden Haven?

We did a review of our dog beaches a couple of years ago, where we looked at what could be possible in the Camden Haven from a dog beach perspective. It's quite limited due to the number of National Parks down there.

We considered South Beach, however, accessibility and community engagement did not support this. We will continue to look at more opportunities in the Camden Haven, whether that's dog beaches or dog parks. At this point in time we have not identified another site.

### Water and Wastewater

#### Will the ocean outfall for the Camden Haven sewage be extended into the ocean and not left on the beach?

Yes. The intent is that a new ocean outfall will extend into the ocean. Detailed planning work and investigations will be undertaken. This is to understand the ocean currents and seabed as you extend from the beach. These actions are listed on page 118 Camden Haven WWTP – Effluent Outfall (Reference WAE 06) in the Draft OP 2024-25.

### Lake Cathie

#### Can we just open Lake Cathie up for good and take all the sand out instead of a bucket load don't see the point in spending all the money on a band aid when the money spent on it could have already been solved.

Lake Cathie operates under a standard operating procedure that looks at identifying several triggers that we need to hit when Council manages and mitigates flood inundation risk in Lake Cathie.

The intermittent open and close of the lagoon is to manage this system from a flood mitigation perspective. This is so we don't inundate our sewer system and inundate low-lying properties.

We have once reached our 1.6metre level - which is the trigger that enables us to look at a berm scrape.

The idea is to scrape the top of the berm to remove sand. This will allow the water higher than 1.6 to slowly, go out to the ocean.

11 - FAQs: Draft OP2024-25 Facebook Live Q&A 2 May 2024





## Engagement Report - **Draft OP2024-25**

### APPENDIX 11: Communications: Radio Mentions and Links



**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 19 · 07:58 AM

### [NEWS BULLETIN](#)

to Hubble's small device, broadband and separate app subscriptions required. *Port Macquarie* Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*. The *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 18 · 07:47 PM

### [The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 19th 2024 5:47 AM](#)

model at the right price up to 25% of Windows laptops now at Harvey Norman, *Port Macquarie*, Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*. The *operational plan* details the key Community projects and services. Council will deliver over the next 12

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 18 · 03:26 AM

### [The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 18th 2024 1:26 PM](#)

your needs. That's what bread in bills. I see Brenton builds.com.. *Port Macquarie* Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*. The *operational plan* details the key Community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12 months. As

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○



**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 17 · 08:31 PM

[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 18th 2024 6:31 AM](#)

weekday are those from 3 right before Triple M's Rush hour double zero. *Port Macquarie-Hastings Council* invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12 months

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

**2GF Radio • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 17 · 07:26 PM

[2GF Radio at May 18th 2024 5:26 AM](#)

's draft 2024 2025 *operational plan*. The *operational plan* sets out the projects and initiatives that Council will undertake in the next financial years to achieve strategies in the delivery program and Community strategic plans alongside the *operational plan*. Public comment is

operational plan,Port Macquarie

Neutral ○

**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 17 · 07:36 AM

[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 17th 2024 5:36 PM](#)

the team at Hastings great metal commerce street well hope Port Mcquarry Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*. The *operational plan* details the key Community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12 months. As a region,

operational plan,Port Macquarie

Neutral ○



**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 17 · 06:25 AM

**[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 17th 2024 4:25 PM](#)**

service Plunkett's Terry White can mark pharmacy we are dedicated to care. *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver Over the next 12

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Positive 

**ABC Mid North Coast NSW Radio • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 16 · 09:30 PM

**[Mid and North Coast Rural Report](#)**

you Chris and Laura their group manager of project delivery for *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Council let's find out what's happening with the markets mirrors couldn't once built well Bellingen Markets on Saturday growth so it's faster Sunday. We've got the law written Riverwalk

Port Macquarie,operational plan

15.2k Reach

Neutral 

**ABC Coffs Coast FM • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 16 · 09:28 PM

**[Breakfast with Fiona Poole](#)**

news on the other side we're going to talk about the mummified head in Grafton forensic Egyptologist joining us on air currently 15 degrees in *Port Macquarie* heading for a top of 23 on the coast I'm Nikita Jager with ABC News Geoscience Australia says a tremor that residents felt

operational plan,Port Macquarie

10.5k Reach

Negative 



**ABC Mid North Coast NSW Radio • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 16 · 09:25 PM

### [BREAKFAST WITH CAMERON MARSHALL](#)

, I couldn't tell you. At the moment, I know we have got other works planned across the network. I think our draft *operational plan* is currently out for public feedback at the moment, and in that there we have included some design progression for works on Lake Road and Lighthouse

operational plan,Port Macquarie

Neutral ○

**ABC Coffs Coast FM • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 16 · 08:28 PM

### [ABC Coffs Coast Local News with News Team](#)

for more rural news. Right now, though, it is time for the latest local news. It's half past six. MUSIC  
Currently 15 degrees in *Port Macquarie*, heading for a top of 23 on the coast. I'm Nikita Jager with ABC News. Geoscience Australia says a tremor that residents felt near Taree

Port Macquarie,operational plan

10.5k Reach

Neutral ○

**Port Macquarie News (Print version) (Licensed by Copyright Agency) • Emily Walker**  
Editorial | AU | May 16 · 07:31 PM

### [Concerns about rate freeze impact](#)

February *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Council meeting, a motion was put forward to include a 0.0 per cent rate peg (a rate freeze) for the 2024- ...

Port Macquarie,Operational Plan,operational plan

13.4k Reach

Neutral ○



**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 15 · 10:16 PM

**[BREAKFAST WITH STRAWNY](#)**

. Please call 13 18 12 or visit [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au) and donate today. *Port Macquarie* Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its Draft *Operational Plan*. The *Operational Plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12 months. As

Port Macquarie,Operational Plan

Neutral ○

**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 15 · 11:55 AM

**[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 15th 2024 9:55 PM](#)**

\$989 plus \$50 gift card more in store and online at Harvey Norman now. *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12 months

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 15 · 07:45 AM

**[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 15th 2024 5:45 PM](#)**

active at home and in your community showrooms in Kempsey, *Port Macquarie*, Taree, Foster and online. *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will

Port Macquarie,operational plan,port Macquarie

Positive ●



**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 14 · 03:26 AM

**[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 14th 2024 1:26 PM](#)**

, *Port Macquarie* Performing Arts Triple M, Mid North Coast and the numerous bronze sponsors head to business, Porton Quarry.com DOT. are you for more? Information *Port Macquarie* Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*. The *operational plan*

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

**Instagram • Unknown**  
Instagram | ZZ | May 13 · 03:44 AM

The Draft *Operational Plan* 2024-25 is our action plan for the next financial year. It identifies the projects and activities planned for 2024-25. These activities help action the commitments made in the four-year delivery plan and support our 10-year strategy, Imagine 2050. It

Operational Plan,Port Macquarie

Neutral ○

**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 12 · 01:36 AM

**[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 12th 2024 11:36 AM](#)**

and water cans exclusive to water club members and Sunday only red Co exclusions apply *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○



The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown  
Radio | AU | May 12 · 12:54 AM

[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 12th 2024 10:54 AM](#)

your way in this week sale and Sunday 40 Winks Port home zone. *Port Macquarie* poor Macquarie Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Positive 

The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown  
Radio | AU | May 10 · 07:25 AM

[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 10th 2024 5:25 PM](#)

the part of the name baker valley wallace strait maxville port mcquarie hastings council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan* the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services council will deliver over the next 12 months as a region we'

port macquarie,operational plan,Port Macquarie

Neutral 

The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown  
Radio | AU | May 10 · 06:20 AM

[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 10th 2024 4:20 PM](#)

and everything in between race into white Motors Horton quarry Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12 months as a region we're

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral 



**Port Macquarie News (Print version) (Licensed by Copyright Agency) • Ruby Pascoe**  
Editorial | AU | May 10 · 05:27 AM

### [Proposed rate mreeze](#)

... have their say PORT MACQUARIEHASTINGS COUNCIL RUBY PASCOE OUR *Port Macquarie*-Hastings councillors are urging the community to have their ...

Port Macquarie,Operational Plan

13.4k Reach

Neutral ○

**Port Macquarie News (Print version) (Licensed by Copyright Agency) • Emily Walker**  
Editorial | AU | May 10 · 05:18 AM

### [Clubs have their say on ground fees on ground fees](#)

WALKER SPORTING clubs in the *Port Macquarie*-Hastings have until May 20 to have their say on proposed sports fees and charges. The proposed ...

Operational Plan,Port Macquarie

13.4k Reach

Neutral ○

**The Great Lakes Advocate (Licensed by Copyright Agency) • Staff Reporters**  
Editorial | AU | May 09 · 08:00 AM

### [Council releases proposed activities for 2024-25 financial year](#)

... Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). Competitors in a *Port Macquarie* triathlon were surprised to see a koala crossing the race ...

Operational Plan,Port Macquarie

2.78k Reach

Neutral ○



**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 08 · 09:37 AM

**[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 8th 2024 7:37 PM](#)**

your own brand cricket available now at Harvey Norman, ER, I see you. *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12 months

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 08 · 08:22 AM

**[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 8th 2024 6:22 PM](#)**

leader this kids on triple m. Mother's Day celebration. Third Rock, *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12 months as

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

**ABC Mid North Coast NSW Radio • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 07 · 09:45 PM

**[ABC Mid North Coast NSW Radio at May 8th 2024 7:45 AM](#)**

to have your company this morning on the wireless well for *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Council has a concern The community will be blindsided by the impacts of the proposed rate freeze the council's draft *operational plan* for the coming financial year is currently on public display

Port Macquarie,operational plan

15.2k Reach

Neutral ○



**ABC Mid North Coast NSW Radio • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 07 · 09:30 PM

[\*\*ABC Mid North Coast NSW Radio at May 8th 2024 7:30 AM\*\*](#)

that of course is the Beatles and Lady Madonna on ABC mid North and Coffs Coast used time half-past 7 only 16 degrees in *Port Macquarie*, heading for a top of 23 on the coast good morning Nikita Jaeger with ABC news police have renewed an appeal for information. 5 days after the

operational plan,Port Macquarie

15.2k Reach

Neutral ○

**The Coff Coast's 105.5 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 07 · 09:03 PM

[\*\*MOFFEE FOR BREAKFAST\*\*](#)

police a call if you have any information or dashcam footage from near the Surf Club or Orlando Street on May 2nd. The draft *operational plan* for *Port Macquarie* Hastings Council is out on public exhibition and it's asking a pretty important question whether or not to adopt a rate

operational plan,Port Macquarie

Neutral ○

**NBN Port Macquarie • Marina Trajkovich**  
TV | AU | May 07 · 08:09 AM

[\*\*NBN TV - Port Macquarie News\*\*](#)

but also make sure that if the organization was going to bring through a rate increase that that was fully justified. Council's draft *operational plan* is currently on public exhibition with locals invited to give feedback by May 20. Marina Trykovich, NBN News. Around 800 people

operational plan,Port Macquarie

Neutral ○



**Prime7 Port Macquarie • Samantha Crowe**  
TV | AU | May 07 · 08:02 AM

[Prime7 Local News](#)

divided over a proposed rate freeze for the *Port Macquarie* Hastings region. Some say it's necessary to ease cost of living pressures, while others claim the income cut will cripple council spending. Samantha Crowe joins us live now from *Port Macquarie* Hastings Council, and Sam,

operational plan,Port Macquarie

Neutral ○

**Councillor Rachel Sheppard • Councillor Rachel Sheppard**  
Facebook | ZZ | May 07 · 02:30 AM

SAY The four non-aligned *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Councillors are concerned the community will be blindsided by the service delivery impacts of a proposed rate freeze. A rate freeze will impact *PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS COUNCIL'S* current draft *operational plan*, which sets out the

Operational Plan,operational plan,Port Macquarie,PORT MACQUARIE

358 Reach

Neutral ○

**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 05 · 02:35 AM

[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 5th 2024 12:35 PM](#)

anywhere listener is here, download the new app now and listen for free. *Port Macquarie* Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*. The *operational plan* details the key Community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○



The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown  
Radio | AU | May 03 · 08:46 AM

[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 3rd 2024 6:46 PM](#)

animal Hari pet but is the pet loving destination for the weekend pet procession. *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown  
Radio | AU | May 03 · 07:20 AM

[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 3rd 2024 5:20 PM](#)

you and click on Advertise local. We'll do it you won't regret it. *Port Macquarie* Hastings Council in invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*. The *operational plan* details the key Community projects and services. Council will deliver over the next 12 months.

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown  
Radio | AU | May 02 · 08:42 AM

[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 2nd 2024 6:42 PM](#)

no self-serve machines here just old-fashioned face-to-face service *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12 months as

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○



**2PM Radio 531 • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 02 · 01:58 AM

[\*\*2PM Radio 531 at May 2nd 2024 11:58 AM\*\*](#)

use Force and Agnes care and Lifestyle, Donnelly House, Horton Street, *Port Macquarie*, your local leaders in age, care and disabilities. Pope Mccorry, Hastings Council's draft *operational plan* for next financial year is now on public

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

**2PM Radio 531 • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 01 · 10:10 PM

[\*\*2PM Radio 531\*\*](#)

tailored support for NDIS participants. Mid-North Coast Super Network Local News. Good morning, I'm John O 'Callaghan. *Port Macquarie* Hastings Council's draft *operational plan* for next financial year is now on public exhibition and they are inviting feedback from sporting clubs.

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

**Prime7 Port Macquarie • Unknown**  
TV | AU | May 01 · 10:47 AM

[\*\*Prime7 Port Macquarie at May 1st 2024 8:47 PM\*\*](#)

resulted in a search warrant conducted at 7:30 yesterday morning. Another price rise is likely for *Port Macquarie* ferry users, triggering a call from residents for a better *operational plan*. Now there's a push for the State Government to take over from council in running the

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○



**Prime7 Port Macquarie • Unknown**  
TV | AU | May 01 · 09:22 AM

**[Prime7 Port Macquarie at May 1st 2024 7:22 PM](#)**

resulted in a search warrant conducted at 7:30 yesterday morning. Another price rise is likely for *Port Macquarie* ferry users, triggering a call from residents for a better *operational plan*. Now there's a push for the State Government to take over from council in running the

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | May 01 · 04:21 AM

**[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 1st 2024 2:21 PM](#)**

of experience, not just south-west rocks, Port Mccall, re. Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*. The *operational plan* details the key Community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12 months. As a region, we're setting

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | Apr 30 · 11:54 PM

**[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at May 1st 2024 9:54 AM](#)**

retailer so You cannot as us you're betting experts Harvey Norman *Port Macquarie* business *Port Macquarie* presents the 2024 coastline greater *Port Macquarie* business awards you're invited to attend. *Port Macquarie's* Premier business event celebrating our local shining stars in

operational plan,Port Macquarie

Neutral ○



**ABC Mid North Coast NSW Radio • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | Apr 30 · 10:25 PM

[ABC Mid North Coast NSW Radio at May 1st 2024 8:25 AM](#)

plan for the year. The council's draft *operational plan* includes \$13 million for national disaster and bushfire recovery work another \$30 million to Bridge replacement programs and less than 12 months after launching the *Port Macquarie* to Melbourne route 3 times a week. Regional

operational plan,Port Macquarie

15.2k Reach

Neutral ○

**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | Apr 29 · 08:24 AM

[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at April 29th 2024 6:24 PM](#)

dental to book an emergency dental appointment sundial dental for Gentle Dental Care. *Port Macquarie* Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Positive ●

**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | Apr 29 · 01:41 AM

[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at April 29th 2024 11:41 AM](#)

1298.1 stocks last hurry, offers end 30 of the April at Harvey Norman. *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12 months

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○



NBN Coffs Harbour • Unknown  
TV | AU | Apr 28 · 08:08 AM

[NBN TV - Coffs Harbour News](#)

ramp. Thankfully, a group of campers were not too far away, wading out into the water and dragging the boat ashore. *Port Macquarie* Hastings sporting clubs have slammed Council's proposal to charge locals for using playing fields. Residents say the change could cripple smaller

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown  
Radio | AU | Apr 27 · 07:10 AM

[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at April 27th 2024 5:10 PM](#)

the snake but much, much more open 9 a.m. every day we'll see you *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12 months as a

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown  
Radio | AU | Apr 27 · 02:26 AM

[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at April 27th 2024 12:26 PM](#)

drive *Port Macquarie* or Sovereign Hill's .com.au iron man Australia returns to *Port Macquarie*. Sunday 5 May joined the fund sheer on the incredible athletes as they complete a 3.8 km swim, 180 km bike ride and 42.2 km run before crossing the iron man finish line at *Port Macquarie*

operational plan,Port Macquarie

Neutral ○



**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | Apr 26 · 06:22 AM

**[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at April 26th 2024 4:22 PM](#)**

. Big weekend flee continues when manly take on special and her 3 Third Rock. *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

**Councillor Rachel Sheppard • Councillor Rachel Sheppard**  
Facebook | ZZ | Apr 25 · 11:05 PM

-question1#tool\_tab Fact sheets and *Operational plan* <https://haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/draft-operational-plan-2024-25> \*\*these are my views alone and not that of council or other councillors. *Port Macquarie* Hastings Council Mayor of *Port Macquarie* Hastings Council Paddy Cat

Operational plan,Port Macquarie

349 Reach

Neutral ○

**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | Apr 24 · 03:24 AM

**[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at April 24th 2024 1:24 PM](#)**

now 1298.1 stocks last how offers and 30 of the April at Harvey Norman. *Port Macquarie*-Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12 months

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○



**2PM Radio 531 • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | Apr 23 · 10:28 PM

**[2PM Radio 531 at April 24th 2024 8:28 AM](#)**

and lifestyle delivering person-centred tailored support for NDIS participants today Callahan, *Port Macquarie-Hastings Council* resolved at the recent ordinary meeting of Council to place the raft *operational plan* and budget on public exhibition, allowing for feedback on a range

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

**2RE Radio • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | Apr 23 · 08:29 PM

**[2RE BREAKFAST WITH ANTHONY ZANOS](#)**

planned to go ahead at Tally, Foster, Bingham, Olga, and Scramble locations. *Port Macquarie Hastings Council* staff will be at Lawrence and today as part of the consultation of the draft *operational plan 2024-2025* done for the abelartan at Shopping Centre from 11am until 1pm. And

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○

**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | Apr 23 · 07:20 AM

**[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at April 23rd 2024 5:20 PM](#)**

and then see solar at the settlers in roundabout on Hastings River drive, *Port Macquarie-Hastings Council* invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12

Port Macquarie,operational plan

Neutral ○



**The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | Apr 23 · 04:19 AM

[The Mid North Coast's 106.7 Triple M at April 23rd 2024 2:19 PM](#)

member event is on now exclusion seasons is a important quarry Hastings Council invites you to provide feedback on its draft *operational plan*, the *operational plan* details the key community projects and services Council will deliver over the next 12 months as a region we're

operational plan,Port Macquarie

Neutral ○

**ABC Mid North Coast NSW Radio • Unknown**  
Radio | AU | Apr 22 · 09:30 PM

[ABC Mid North Coast NSW Radio at April 23rd 2024 7:30 AM](#)

and family caregivers in first and foremost, preventing delirium or managing it. Kempsey Shire Council says its draft budget an *operational plan* hinges on the outcome of the special rate variation request. The Council has applied to the independent pricing Regulatory Tribunal for

Port Macquarie,operational plan

15.2k Reach

Neutral ○



## Engagement Report - **Draft OP2024-25**

### APPENDIX 12: Communications Report





PORT MACQUARIE  
HASTINGS COUNCIL

# Draft Operational Plan 2024-25

## Digital Media Report















**Apr 23 – May 20, 2024**



## Campaign Inclusions

- 14x Social posts between Apr 23 – May 20, plus 4x Event posts promoting pop-up sessions
- Facebook & Instagram posts, Stories, Reels and Facebook Live Q&A (plus promoted posts across Meta placements)
- Digital Billboard and Radio placements scheduled from Apr 23 – May 19



DATE ↓	POSTS 14	IMPRESSIONS 87,26K	REACH AVG. 3,18K	ENGAGEMENT 418	ENGAGEMENT 0,94%	REACTIONS 211	COMMENTS 160
17 May 14:12	 Only four more days to Ha... Port Macquarie Hastings Council Promoted Operational Plan 2...	57,07K	21,69K	86	0,4%	31	33
14 May 10:03	 Council is seeking communit... Port Macquarie Hastings Council Community Engagement an... +4	1,3K	792	20	2,53%	7	12
14 May 10:03	 Council is seeking communit... Port Macquarie Hastings Council Community Planning and En... +4	795	699	49	7,01%	9	36
14 May 10:01	 Council is seeking communit... Port Macquarie Hastings Council Reel Community Planni... +4	-	679	25	3,68%	22	0
13 May 16:47	 Port Macquarie Hastings Council Story Operational Plan 20...	188	188	-	-	-	0
13 May 14:45	 The Draft Operational Plan 2... Port Macquarie Hastings Council Liveable Communities +4	1,42K	935	23	2,46%	21	2
13 May 14:44	 The Draft Operational Plan 2... Port Macquarie Hastings Council Reel Community Engag... +4	-	409	15	3,67%	14	0
13 May 14:41	 The Draft Operational Plan 2... Port Macquarie Hastings Council Operational Plan 2024-25 +4	795	669	12	1,79%	11	0
2 May 18:59	 Responding to the communit... Port Macquarie Hastings Council Operational Plan 2024-25	6,05K	5,96K	116	1,95%	35	73
1 May 14:10	 Operational Plan 2024-25 ... Port Macquarie Hastings Council 2024 +1	2,58K	2,47K	14	0,57%	9	1
26 Apr 12:03	 We've put our 12-month draf... Port Macquarie Hastings Council Promoted Operational Pl...	4,52K	2,31K	17	0,73%	17	0
26 Apr 10:40	 We've put our 12-month draf... Port Macquarie Hastings Council Promoted Operational Pl...	7,84K	3,33K	18	0,54%	15	3
24 Apr 14:48	 Port Macquarie Hastings Council Operational Plan 2024-25	1,05K	928	7	0,75%	7	0
23 Apr 16:15	 We're coming to Laurieton to... Port Macquarie Hastings Council Liveable Communities +1	3,65K	3,52K	16	0,45%	13	0

Social Media Posts

- 14 posts across multiple channels (a combination of Facebook & IG feed posts, and Stories)
- 4 Facebook events created to promote pop-ups
- Good engagement rates achieved across 5 of the posts (2% is considered good)
- Highest performing for Reach and Impressions: Promoted Post.
- Highest performing for Engagement

Facebook Live

Analysis on next page

**Impressions** - The number of times the post/story was shown in a person's feed.  
**Engagements** - The reactions, comments, saves and shares on a post. Clicks are not included.  
**Reach** - The number of people that saw the post/story in their feed  
**Engagement rate** - Total engagements as a percentage of the impressions.

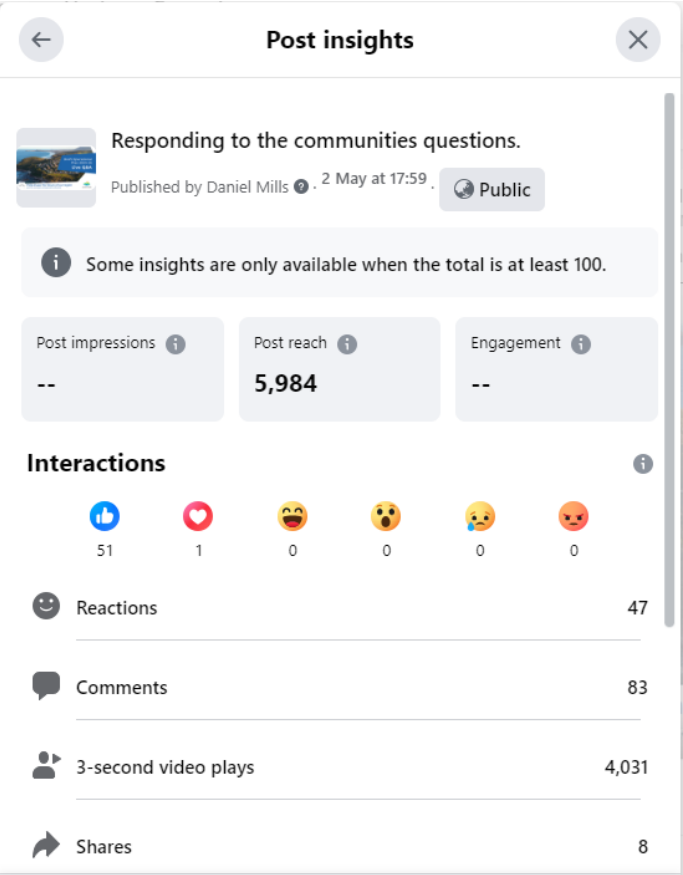
**Reactions** - Reactions to a post. Facebook reactions to shares are not included. Instagram and Twitter support only 'favourite' reactions. Twitter count includes paid ones.  
**Comments** - Comments on a post/story. Facebook comments on shares are not included. Twitter includes paid comments.





Facebook Live Performance

- Post reach 5.9k
- 83 comments logged via the Q&A chat
- Majority of comments related to sporting field fees, followed by infrastructure and development
- This event was supported with a \$100 spend






Post Analysis				
# HASHTAGS	LINK/S	COMPLEXITY	SENTIMENT	TONE OF VOICE
		Low	Neutral	Informative
				Professional
Comment Analysis				
Analysis is based on the 50 most recent comments. View all comments in <a href="#">Engage</a> .				
TOP TOPICS	NO. OF COMMENTS	SENTIMENT	TONE OF VOICE	STYLE
Sporting Fees	9	Mixed	Informative	Formal
Infrastructure and Development	7	Mixed	Engaging	Interactive
Community Engagement	5	Positive	Supportive	Encouraging
Transportation and Traffic	4	Mixed	Responsive	Helpful
Council Decision Making	3	Mixed	Transparent	Open





Paid Social Media Performance

DATE ↓	POSTS		PAID IMPRESS	SPENT	PAID ENGAGE!	COST PER ENK	PAID LINK CLIK	TOTAL CONV...
	3		67,03K	\$400	100	\$4	630	N/A
17 May 3:12		Only four more days to Ha... Port Macquarie Hastings Council Promoted Operational Plan...	54,7K	\$300	45	\$6,67	454	-
26 Apr 1:03		We've put our 12-month draf... Port Macquarie Hastings Council Promoted Operational ...	4,51K	\$50	26	\$1,92	58	-
25 Apr 23:40		We've put our 12-month draf... Port Macquarie Hastings Council Promoted Operational ...	7,82K	\$50	29	\$1,72	118	-

- 3 posts were promoted
- Average CPC of 0.63 (0.51 is considered average)
- Best performing in terms of spend was our first promoted post

**Impressions** - The number of times the post/story was shown in a person's feed.  
**Engagements** - The reactions, comments, saves and shares on a post. Clicks are not included.  
**Reach** - The number of people that saw the post/story in their feed  
**Engagement rate** - Total engagements as a percentage of the impressions.

**Reactions** - Reactions to a post. Facebook reactions to shares are not included. Instagram and Twitter support only 'favourite' reactions. Twitter count includes paid ones.  
**Comments** - Comments on a post/story. Facebook comments on shares are not included. Twitter includes paid comments.






Port Macquarie Hastings Council  
Published by Brandwatch · 17 May at 13:12 ·


Only four more days to Have Your Say

Feedback on our community's Draft Operational Plan 2024-25 ends this Monday, which means there's only four days remaining to submit your feedback.

We want to hear from you about the \$358 million worth of projects, programs and works we have planned for the 2024-2025 financial year. Our final face-to-face pop-up sessions will be held on Saturday 9am at Stuarts Park and Sunday 9am at Laurieton Riverside Markets.... See more



have  
your say

# Draft Operational Plan 2024-25

## Help shape the future of our region

### Last Chance to Have Your Say!

[pmhc.nsw.gov.au/operational-plan](http://pmhc.nsw.gov.au/operational-plan)





HAVEYOUR SAY.PMHC.NSW.GOV.AU

### Draft Operational Plan 2024-25

The Draft Operational Plan 2024-25 is now on Public Exhibition We have ove...

Learn more

 31

 Comment

 Share


33 comments

20 shares



Port Macquarie Hastings Council

Published by Brandwatch · 1 May at 13:10 ·


 Operational Plan 2024-25 Facebook Live Q&A tomorrow


We've put our 12-month draft Operational Plan 2024-25 (OP2024-25) out on public exhibition for community feedback.

On Thursday evening, we're hosting a Facebook Live Q&A so that you can ask, and we can answer, questions about the draft Operational Plan and what's included for the 2024-25 financial year.... See more

have your say


Draft Operational Plan 2024-25

Help shape the future of our region




Live Facebook Q&A

pmhc.nsw.gov.au/operational-plan




PORT MACQUARIE  
HASTINGS COUNCIL



 Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce, Club Lake Cathie and 7 others



 1 comment


 4 shares


 Like


 Comment


 Share




**Port Macquarie Hastings Council**

Published by Brandwatch · 23 April ·

We're coming to Laurieton tomorrow to talk all-things Operational Plan!

You can find us at Laurieton Coles from 11am to 1pm, collecting feedback about what you want to see in the Draft Operational Plan 2024-25.

The information we collect from you will help inform us of our direction over the next 12 months.... See more



have  
your say


**Draft Operational Plan 2024-25**

**Help shape the future  
of our region**

Chat to us in person at

**Coles Laurieton**

**Wednesday 24 April, 11am - 1pm**



13

Like Comment Share


Comment as Port Macquarie Hastings Council

**Port Macquarie Hastings Council**  
Published by Brandwatch · 13 May at 13:40 · 🌐

The Draft Operational Plan 2024-25 is our action plan for the next financial year. It identifies the projects and activities planned for 2024-25.

These activities help action the commitments made in the four-year delivery plan and support our 10-year strategy, Imagine 2050. It also includes our proposed budget and expenditure for the next financial year and details on how we invest in our community.

So what is Council proposing for 2024-25? Here's a list of just some of ... See more



0:02 / 1:23

👍❤️ 11 3 shares

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share

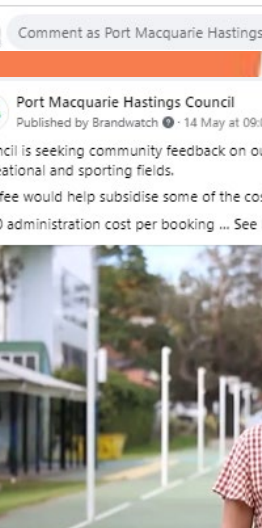
Comment as Port Macquarie Hastings Council

**Port Macquarie Hastings Council**  
Published by Brandwatch · 14 May at 09:02 · 🌐

Council is seeking community feedback on our proposal to introduce a fee for the hire of recreational and sporting fields.

This fee would help subsidise some of the costs associated with field hire such as:

- \$70 administration cost per booking ... See more



0:14 / 1:08

👍❤️ 9 36 comments 4 shares

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share



# Social Media | Community Noticeboards

(sample)

Port Macquarie Noticeboard

Private group · 54.7K members

About

Discussion

Featured

Your items

Members

Media

Ellen Crepaz

Admin · Top contributor · 2 May at 17:06 ·

Tonight at 6pm, Port Macquarie Hastings Council have the Q&A session scheduled for the Draft Operational Plan. This is an ideal opportunity to grasp the direction for 2024. Tune in online through the provided links. As a concerned ratepayer, I've been examining this plan closely, especially given recent council chamber meetings. It's vital that our ratepayer dollars are used wisely by the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.

have your say

Help shape the future of our region

Draft Operational Plan 2024-25 Live Q&A

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

THURS. 2 MAY

Draft Operational Plan 2024-25 Facebook Live Q&A

15 went · 54 interested

Set Up Live Video

4

Like

Comment

Send

Comment as Port Macquarie Hastings Council

Lake Cathie Noticeboard

Public group · 8.4K members

Discussion

Featured

People

Media

Files

Fran Pearce

4 May at 08:15 ·

Worth watching for information about the lake, pathways etc  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/pznfrfcoMQrB3FC/7mibextid=qj20mg>

have your say

Help shape the future of our region

Draft Operational Plan 2024-25 Live Q&A

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Port Macquarie Hastings Council was live.

Published by Daniel Mills · 2 May at 17:59 ·

Responding to the communities questions.

1

Like

Comment

Share

Comment as Port Macquarie Hastings Council

What's On In Wauchope

Private group · 25.0K members

Discussion

Featured

Request or offer help

Members

Media

Files

Shane Stelzer

Top contributor · 17 May at 20:09 ·

Port Macquarie Hastings Council

Published by Brandwatch · 17 May at 13:12 ·

Only four more days to Have Your Say !  
Feedback on our community's Draft Operational Plan 2024-25 ends this Monday, which means there's only four days remaining to submit your feedback.  
We want to hear from you about the \$358 million worth of projects, programs and works we have planned for the 2024-2025 financial year. Our final face-to-face pop-up sessions will be held on Saturday 9am at Stuarts Park and Sunday 9am at Laurieton Riverside Markets.  
If you haven't already seen us in person, we'll be at Stuarts Park until 11am and Laurieton Riverwalk Markets until 1pm to hear your thoughts on our plans for the next financial year. More details about these are available here  
Stuarts Park - <https://brmw.ch/21wRs7>  
Laurieton Riverwalk Markets - <https://brmw.ch/21wRs5>  
For those that can't make it, we're still receiving all your feedback online via our dedicated OP24-25 Have Your Say webpage here: <https://brmw.ch/21wRs6>

have your say

Draft Operational Plan 2024-25 Help shape the future of our region

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Port Macquarie North Shore Group

Private group · 678 members

About

Discussion

Featured

Members

Media

Files

Kerry Fox

20 May at 13:58 ·

TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 24/25  
SUBMISSIONS CLOSE MIDNIGHT TONIGHT (MONDAY 20 MAY)  
Please provide feedback on:  
\*The proposed 0.0% Rate Peg for 24/25 (Rate Freeze)  
\*The removal of the Town Centre Master Plan (TCMP) Rate from the Port CBD  
\*The proposed introduction of Sporting Field Fees and Charges  
Jump on-line and complete the survey to let Councillors and Staff know what you want. Don't say you're not being heard, if you're not having your say. It only takes a few minutes, and you'll also have the option to provide some feedback.  
<https://haveyoursay.pmhcnsw.gov.au/draft-operational-...>

have your say

Draft Operational Plan 2024-25 Help shape the future of our region

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

HAVEYOUR SAY.PMH.C.NSW.GOV.AU

Draft Operational Plan 2024-25

The Draft Operational Plan 2024-25 is now on Public Exhibition We have over \$358M worth of ...

4

Like

Comment

Send

Comment as Port Macquarie Hastings Council



# Digital Billboard

- Scheduled placement: 23 April to 19 May 2024
- Achieved plays = 11,869
- Rotation of creative:





# Radio

- Scheduled placement: 23 April to 19 May
- Triple M Scheduled placement:
  - 11 x 30 sec Workday spots
  - 16 x 30 sec DRIVE spots
  - ROS Bonuses 25
  - Total Spots 52



## Reach & Frequency

- 52 x 30 sec spots
- Over a 3-week period, the average frequency of individuals hearing our commercial was 5.4 times.
- Campaign reach over a 3-week period was 62,920 people on the Mid North Coast aged 10+



DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2024-25

Sports Fees and Charges

FACT SHEET

Current Sports Fees and Charges

Currently, Port Macquarie Hastings Council does not charge a fee for field hire for many of our sporting fields and recreational facilities across our region.

In a review of Fees and Charges associated with field usage, we found that 7 of our 10 neighbouring Local Government Areas do charge a hire fee in various capacities.

Council administers and maintains the booking and hire of local fields. The costs associated to deliver this community service are as follows:

- **Administration** - \$70 per application (with an average 450-500 sport facility bookings per year)
- **Maintenance** - an average of \$30,000 per facility, per year

Council is consulting with the Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council to implement a fee structure for field hire, to commence in the Draft Operational Plan 2024-25.

Proposed Changes

The new fee is proposed as:

Ground Fee - General use	\$40.00	Per hour *
Ground Fee - General use	\$200.00	Per day **
Ground Fee - General use (Seasonal)	\$1000.00	Per season

\* For bookings up to 4 hours      \*\* For bookings over 4 hours

The proposed seasonal Ground fee charge is 3.3% of the average cost for Council to manage and maintain a sporting facility

Why is this important for our community?

The introduction of a Ground fee will increase revenue to Council to support maintenance programs for local sporting facilities.

This fee is an important step in improving local facilities and building capability in our region to attract, grow and retain recreational and sporting events.



To find out more and have your say visit  
[pmhc.nsw.gov.au/operational-plan](https://pmhc.nsw.gov.au/operational-plan)



PORT MACQUARIE  
HASTINGS COUNCIL



## FAQ's - Draft OP2024-25 Proposed Sporting Fees & Charges

We are proposing new sporting fees and charges as part of the Draft Operation Plan 2024-25 as a means of increasing revenue to support maintenance and upgrade programs for our sporting facilities. This proposal is on public exhibition as part of the Draft OP2024-25 community engagement until COB Monday 20 May, 2024.

### Proposed fees

- Ground Fee - General use \$40.00 Per hour \*
- Ground Fee - General use \$200.00 Per day \*\*
- Ground Fee - General use (Seasonal) \$1000.00 Per season

\*For bookings up to 4 hours \*\* For bookings over 4 hours

We have received some additional questions and have prepared this FAQ to assist in the engagement process

### FAQs

#### How is a sporting facility defined in terms of payments?

The sporting facility is the entire venue, not individual fields. For example: Rainbow Beach Sporting Complex; and Tuffins Lane Playing Fields. (Kendall Oval is not a Council managed facility.)

#### Will fees be for training as well as playing matches? Some clubs train and play in different locations.

Fees will be for all ground use. The **seasonal fee** covers both training and competition for the whole season. The fee will be charged to a club for their home ground/s that are used for their training and competition. When a club travels to play an away match, they do not book this facility and therefore are not charged the ground fee. This is taken care of by the home team.

The ground fee - per hour or per day is for non-regular users or one-off events.

#### Will these fees be applicable to Netball Courts?

Yes.

#### Will these fees be applicable to schools? If so has PMHC directly engaged with them? As PMHC would be aware schools with higher socio-economic families tend to have their own sporting fields compared to public schools.

Yes, it is proposed that if sporting fees are adopted that the fees will be applicable to schools and all user groups however, there will be an option to request fee waiver. We are developing a fee waiver policy for all Council fees. If the proposed sporting fees and charges are adopted as part of the Operational Plan 2024-25 then this policy (when adopted) will cover requests to waive these fees.



**FAQ's - Draft OP2024-25 Proposed Sporting Fees & Charges****Will these fees (if adopted) increase from year to year? If so, who will make that decision?**

The fees will be reviewed annually and may be subject to CPI increases. The elected Councillors (of the day) will make a resolution to adopt fee increase. This is part of the annual Operational Plan engagement.

**Has PMHC done costings on the additional administration that will be required to collect these fees?**

The new booking system provides efficiencies that will enable the additional administration required to support the proposed new fee model.

**Has PMHC considered the impact these fees could have on sport tourism events such as school football carnivals or cricket carnivals?**

Key sporting events and sports tourism are required to pay administration fees and bonds. User-pays is a standard across most of NSW.

**Is PMHC aware that several of our sports grounds were donated to PMHC for the purpose of sport to be played on them? For example, The Stuart Family donated Stuarts Park; Westport High School donated Findlay Park.**

Yes, we are aware several of our sporting grounds have been donated however, that does not cover the ongoing maintenance and improvements that have been undertaken at many of our sporting fields over the years. Costs continue to rise with the increase in use and expectations and standards required.

**How will preseason and out of season training be charged?**

Preseason training will be included in the seasonal ground fee charge. Out of season training will not be included in the seasonal ground fee charge and will be charged with the day or hour ground fee rate.

Pre-Season: A short-term allocation of a sports fields not currently in use for other seasonal sport activities or programmed maintenance to a recognised incorporated club for the primary purpose of conducting pre-season training, games, or grading. No designated pre-season period exists; however, Council will endeavour to allocate available facilities for a two-week period prior to the start of a sports season only.

Out of Season: Any dates outside of the designated sports seasonal dates above will be classified as out of season. If access to sports fields and facilities is required, out of season, Council will review the request on a case by case basis and seek to meet applicant's needs. Fields will not be allocated, out of season, if already seasonally allocated to another organisation or if under a scheduled or emergency maintenance program



**Item: 07****Subject: POST EXHIBITION - RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN****Presented by: Community, Planning and Environment, Melissa Watkins**

---

**RECOMMENDATION****That Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council:**

- 1. Note the information contained in this report.**
- 2. Consider two additional projects to be included in the revised Recreation and Open Space Action Plan**

**Executive Summary**

The Recreation and Open Space Action Plan sets the priorities for our recreational and sporting spaces throughout our region. It builds on our commitment to providing parks, sporting fields, and recreation areas with facilities that promote and contribute to the health and wellbeing of our residents and visitors.

At the 13 February 2024 meeting of the Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council, it was resolved:

*That the Sports Council:*

- 1. Note the information provided in this report.*
- 2. Recommend the projects listed be included in the Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2024-2029 to be reported to Council at the March 2024 Council meeting.*

The draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan (Attachment 1) was reported to Council at the Ordinary meeting on 18 April 2024. Council resolved to place the draft Recreation Action Plan 2024-2029 on public exhibition. The plan was subsequently placed on public exhibition from Wednesday, 29 May 2024 to Friday, 28 June 2024. A summary of feedback relating to Sport Facility projects is detailed in this report as well the consideration of additional priority projects.

Once this has been reviewed by the Sports Council a recommendation will be presented to the August Council meeting for adoption.

**Recreation and Open Space Action Plan - Public Exhibition**

The public exhibition period is now complete with the outcomes of the exhibition process discussed below. There is an Engagement Summary Report for this exhibition included as Attachment 2.

There was a total of 585 visits to Council's Have Your Say engagement website page during the exhibition period. A total of 32 Have Your Say submissions were received for the draft Plan with 417 downloads of the draft Plan.

The total level of engagement is noted to be significantly higher than of the previous engagement period of the, now superseded, Recreation Action Plan. The



## AGENDA

### PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SPORTS COUNCIL

23/07/2024

engagement period is tracked weekly, and it was noted that low responses had been collated with one week of the exhibition period remaining. Direct emails were then formulated and sent by the Spaces and Places team. The email was sent to key sport user group contacts for each sport facility within the Port Macquarie Hastings region. Increased feedback was received following this action.

The feedback regarding Sport Facility projects received included:

- Consider additional projects at Port Macquarie Regional Stadium include ball nets and an additional and upgraded canteen, BBQ facility.
- Plan for the new Ocean baths.
- Improve surfaces of sports fields to reduce closures - underground drainage, reshaping etc.
- Upgrades to Fairmont Gardens including field drainage and car park resurfacing.
- Additional sporting infrastructure specifically for over 50 years age group
- Safety concerns regarding amenity buildings; need for additional change rooms and access concerns at facilities like Andrews Park.
- Support for the Port Macquarie Aquatic Centre project.

In response to community and sport club feedback the Sports Council now needs to consider inclusion of the two additional projects into the 2024-2029 Recreation and Open Space Action Plan as short-term priority projects (proposed delivery 2024-2026).

Location	Facility	Project Detail
Port Macquarie	Findlay Park	Field Upgrades
Wauchope & surrounds	Fairmont Garden Sporting Fields	Field Upgrades

Once determined these will be included in the Action Plan for consideration by Council in August 2024.


### Financial and Economic Implications

Projects identified within the 2024 - 2029 Recreation and Open Space Action Plan for immediate delivery in 2023 - 2024 were included within the adopted 2023 - 2024 Operational Plan or have other approved funding sources e.g. grant funding.

Projects identified for short term delivery 2024 - 2026 have been subject to priority review and budget allocation in the adopted 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan. Further short term and all medium-term projects are proposed to be identified in the 10-year Works Program.

It should be noted that there is still a short fall in funding required to meet the desired outcomes of the plan and staff will continue to seek grant funding opportunities.

### Attachments

1.  Draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2024-2029
2.  Engagement Report Recreation and Open Space 2024-2029



# Recreation and Open Space Action Plan

2024-29

# DRAFT





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## Acknowledgement of Country

### **Yii Birrbay Barray**

This is Birpai Country

### **Nyura yii-gu mara-la barray-gu, nyaa-gi, ngarra-gi**

You have come here, to the country to see, listen and remember

### **Gathay Nyiirun Wakulda**

Let's all go together as one

We acknowledge that we are on Birpai country and pay respects to all elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the ongoing connection to the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Region.



## Overview

We recognise the importance of sport and recreation as an integral part of our social fabric, generating community cohesion and attracting visitors to the region. Our region has some fantastic recreational resources including the Port Macquarie Coastal Walk, Port Macquarie Skatepark, many diverse playground across the region, our sporting facilities, and iconic beaches. It is vital that we work with the community to deliver and enhance these services and opportunities.

We need to be well prepared to continue the delivery of an appropriate level of recreational facilities and services into the future. This includes maintaining a commitment to the provision of sports facilities, providing for participation in unstructured activities and a variety of passive and active recreational pursuits.

Due to the increase in facilities and services provided to and required by the community, provision of these opportunities has become more complex. We plan, develop and manage suitable allocation of funding, resources and priorities to ensure all members of the community are offered the opportunity to participate.

The *Recreation and Open Space Action Plan* (the Plan) aims to provide us with the necessary framework to provide for sport and recreation facilities in the short to medium term.





## March 2024 update

This is an updated Plan which reflects current priority projects required to meet community needs along with facilities needed to meet forecast growth in the Port Macquarie–Hastings.

The status of actions identified for delivery in the previous Plans (Recreation Action Plan 2015-25, Recreation Action Plan 2017-25, Recreation Action Plan 2019-25, Recreation Action Plan 2020-25 and Recreation Action Plan 2023-29) is outlined in Appendix 1.

The Plan has been revised to reflect:

- Changing community, Council and state government priorities;
- Changes of uses of recreation spaces during the Covid19 pandemic and the importance of recreation space;
- An assessment of user groups needs today and into the future;
- Opportunities to reduce overall project cost and minimise impact on user groups by aligning project stages where appropriate;
- Condition based asset information, providing clarity as to when assets need to be replaced;
- Likely availability of funding sources and consideration of alternative funding sources; and
- A desire to optimise the use of existing open spaces and recreation facilities.

This updated Plan identifies three timelines for delivery of priority projects:

- Immediate 2023-24
- Short term 2024-26
- Medium term 2026-29







## Review

Each year an annual report which details performance against the agreed outcomes within the Plan will be reported to Council for information.

The Plan will be subject to annual review and it may be necessary to modify the action plan in accordance with changing community needs, financial position of Council, ability to deliver within timeframe and legislative requirements.

The Plan identifies a number of strategic planning actions as immediate priority for this financial year. Further actions or priorities may be included in the annual review of the *Recreation and Open Space Action Plan* following the review and development of these planning documents. A Places to Play Plan will be developed and will include playgrounds, outdoor fitness equipment, outdoor multi-use courts and outdoor volleyball courts.

While much of the responsibility for progressing these priorities will rest with Council, the community and other stakeholders also share this responsibility. Council, its community, land managers and other government agencies each have a role to play. Priorities identified in the Plan may be brought forward should funding opportunities become available such as grant funding.



## Port Macquarie-Hasting Sports Council

In May 2023 Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (PMHC) resolved to appoint a Sports Council, to be known as the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council (the Sports Council). The Sports Council shall comprise of representatives of the sporting clubs and sporting community as appointed by Council.

### Benefits of the Sports Council

- The formation of a Sports Council provides significant opportunities for the clubs to take ownership of the prioritisation of future facility improvements and development in the LGA (Recreation Needs Study 2014)
- Formal, ongoing engagement with key local, regional, and state sport representative
- Implementation of a sports voice from local sport stakeholders with Council
- Transparent consultation to inform sport project priorities
- Early identification of priority projects to support strategic recreation planning

The objectives of the Sports Council are to:

- Assist in the development, review and monitoring of the Recreation Action Plan 2023-28 which assists PMHC in the identification for sport and sporting infrastructure

- Consider the cumulative effects of PMHC's decisions on identification of priorities for sport and sporting infrastructure
- Provide advice to PMHC on strategic projects and PMHC policies related to, or that may impact on the implementation of the *Recreation Action Plan 2023-28*
- Initiate increased communication between the sporting community and PMHC to ensure that all existing and future needs and requirements of sport are identified and considered
- Work with PMHC to ensure that sporting and recreation facilities are provided and maintained to an acceptable standard
- Raise funds and source grants which will assist in furthering the objectives of the Sports Council; and
- Provide input to the setting and review of fees and charges for sporting fields and recreation facilities

At the February 2024 meeting of the Sports Council resolved to recommend the sport projects to be included in the *Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2024-29*.



Immediate priority projects (2023-24)

STRATEGIC PLANNING - Immediate priorities

- Develop Places to Play Plan
- Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan
- Update Memorial Seating Guideline (to be superceded by *Commemorative Naming Policy*)
- Undertake a review of the *Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan*
- Develop Sports Field User Pay Strategy

Location	Facility	Project detail
Camden Haven	Beach to Beach Walkway	Commence Construction
	Kendall Skate Park, Kendall	Commence Relocation
	Kendall Recreation Reserve, Kendall	Play Space Upgrade
	Vince Inmon Sporting Complex, Laurieton	Construction Cricket Nets
	Vince Inmon Sporting Complex, Laurieton	Construction of Grandstand
	Riverview Reserve, North Haven	Play Space Upgrade
	Pilot Beach Reserve, Camden Haven	Play Space Upgrade
Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills	Rainbow Beach Sports Fields, Lake Cathie	Finalise Construction of Stage 1
LGA Wide	Recreation facilities	Accessibility Audit



## Immediate priority projects (2023-24) cont...

Location	Facility	Project detail
Port Macquarie	Port Macquarie Aquatic Facility	Continue Pre-construction Activities
	Port Macquarie Community Centre	Design Development
	Port Macquarie Regional Stadium	Sports Facility Upgrade
	Tacking Point Lighthouse Reserve, Port Macquarie	Accessible Ramp Design and Approvals
	Westport Park, Port Macquarie	Splash Pad Amenities
	Westport Park, Livvi's Place, Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
	Rotary Park, Port Macquarie	Reserve and Play Space Upgrade
	Town Beach Masterplan	Develop Master Plan
	Wayne Richards Park, Port Macquarie	Detailed Design for Stages 3 & 4
	Tuffins Lane Sporting Fields, Port Macquarie	Sport Field Drainage Investigation
Thrumster	Innes Lake Park, Port Macquarie	Outdoor Fitness Equipment
	Various	Beach Tubes - Undertake Investigation
	Thrumster Sports Fields, Thrumster	Finalise Detailed Design and Approvals



## Immediate priority projects (2023-24) cont...

Location	Facility	Project detail
Wauchope & Hinterland	Bain Park, Wauchope	Reserve and Play Space Upgrade
	Beechwood Tennis Facility, Beechwood	Lighting Upgrade
	Landrigan/Andrews Park Sports Field, Wauchope	Develop Master Plan
	Pappinbarra Reserve, Pappinbarra	Multi-Use Court Upgrade
	Old Park, Wauchope	Play Space Upgrade
	Ellenborough Reserve, Ellenborough	Reserve Upgrades
	Landrigan/Andrews Park Sports Field, Wauchope	Hard Surface Multi-Use Courts
	Sancrox Reserve, Sancrox	Multi-Use Court Upgrade



## Short term priority projects (2024-25 and 2025-26)

Location	Facility	Project detail
<b>Camden Haven</b>	Camden Haven Surf Club Building	Building Replacement
	Creek to Creek	Develop Master Plan
	Dunbogan Reserve, Dunbogan	Renewal of Amenities
	Wallace Reserve, Dunbogan	Play Space Upgrade
	Vince Inmon Sporting Complex, Laurieton	Field Upgrades
	Laurie Street Reserve, Laurieton	Play Space Construction
	Kendall Recreation Reserve, Kendall	Amenities Upgrade
<b>Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills</b>	Jonathan Dixon Reserve, Lake Cathie	Viewing Platform Upgrade
<b>Port Macquarie</b>	Amethyst Way Reserve, Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
	Ashdown Reserve, Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
	Greenmeadows Reserve, Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
	Hudson Avenue Park, Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
	Mimosa Park, Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
	North Shore	Floating Pontoon Investigation
	Oxley Oval, Port Macquarie	Sports Facility Upgrade
	Port Macquarie Aquatic Facility	Commence Construction (Stage 1)



## Short term priority projects (2024-26) cont...

Location	Facility	Project detail
<b>Port Macquarie Cont.</b>	Port Macquarie Community Centre	Commence Construction
	Tacking Point Lighthouse Reserve, Port Macquarie	Construction of Accessible Ramp
	Waterlilly Park, Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
	Westport Park, Port Macquarie	Upgrade Amenities
	Dixie Park, Port Macquarie	Sports Field Upgrade
	Wayne Richards Park, Port Macquarie	Sports Lighting Upgrade
	Town Beach Reserve, Port Macquarie	Outdoor Fitness Equipment Upgrade
	Shelley Beach North, Port Macquarie	Beach Access Stairs Upgrade
<b>Telegraph Point</b>	Charlie Watt Reserve, Telegraph Point	Amenities Upgrade
<b>Thrumster</b>	Thrumster Sports Fields, Thrumster	Commence Construction (Stage 1)
<b>Wauchope &amp; Hinterland</b>	Blackbutt Park, Wauchope	Sports Field Drainage
	Fairmont Gardens Sporting Fields, Wauchope	Amenities Upgrade
	Lank Bain Sporting Complex, Wauchope	Develop Master Plan
	Sancrox Reserve, Sancrox	Sport Field Upgrades
	Andrews Park, Wauchope	Nature Play Space Construction



## Medium term priority projects (2026-29)

Location	Facility	Project detail
Camden Haven	Henry Kendall Reserve Dog Park, Laurieton	Furniture Upgrades
	Apex Park, Laurieton	Boating Facility Upgrade - Pontoon
	Laurieton Library, Laurieton	Play Space Upgrade
	Kendall Recreation Reserve, Kendall	Modified Basketball Court
	Kendall Recreation Reserve, Kendall	Kendall Skate Park - Stage 2
Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills	Jonathan Dixon Reserve, Lake Cathie	Amenities Upgrade
	Rainbow Beach	Construct Walkway
	Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields, Lake Cathie	Commence Construction (Stage 2)
	Endeavour Park, Lake Cathie	Play Space Upgrade
	Lake Cathie Library and Community Centre	Design and Construction of Facility
Port Macquarie	Lake Cathie Foreshore	Surf Lifeguard Tower
	North Shore	New Boat Ramp Investigation
	Nottingham Drive Reserve, Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
	Flynns Beach Reserve, Port Macquarie	Reserve Upgrade
	Flynns Beach Reserve, Port Macquarie	Access stairs Upgrade
	Town Green Central, Port Macquarie	Reserve Upgrade

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## Medium term priority projects (2026-29) cont...

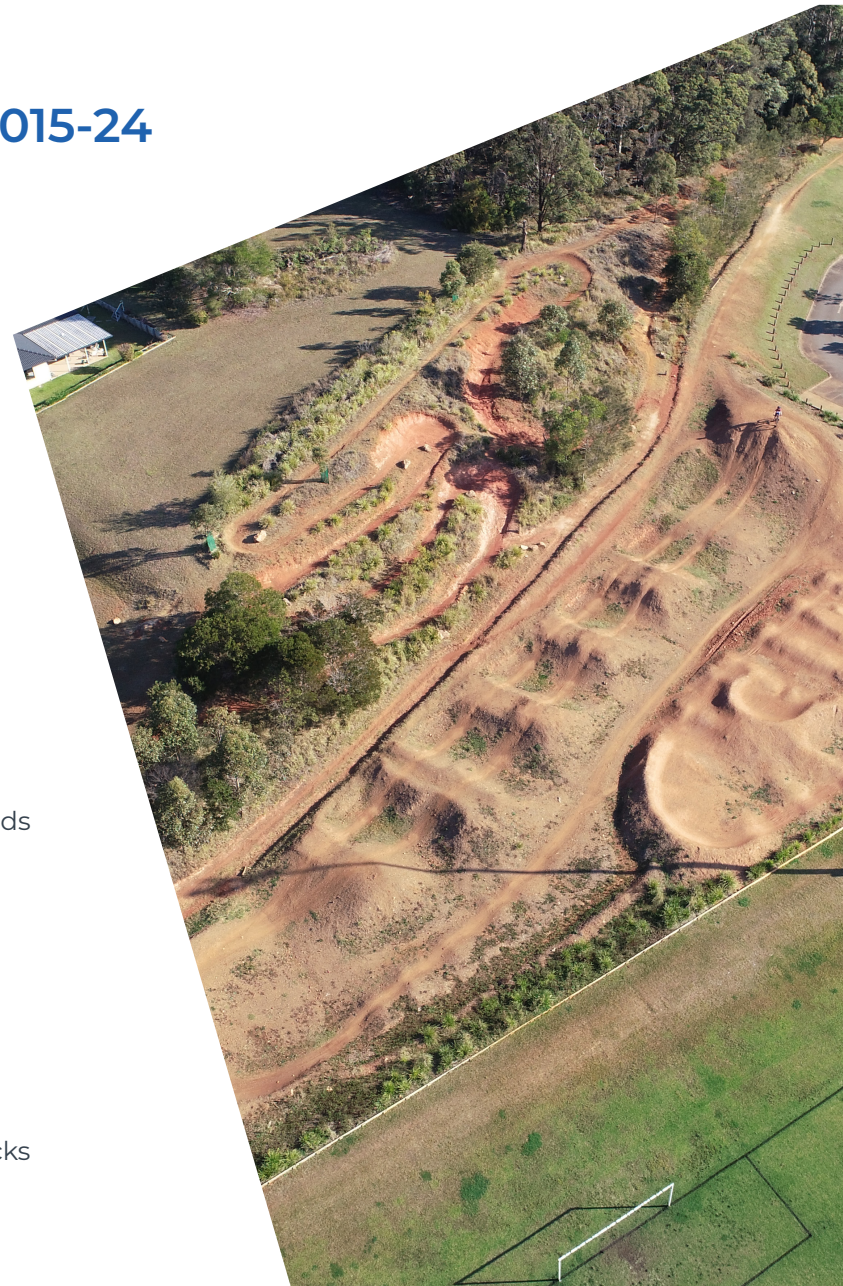
Location	Facility	Project detail
<b>Port Macquarie Cont.</b>	Wayne Richards Park, Port Macquarie	Commence Construction of Stages 3 and 4
	Yarranwood Park, Port Macquarie	Play Space Upgrade
	Findlay Park, Port Macquarie	Sport Lighting Upgrade
	Findlay Park, Port Macquarie	Amenities Upgrade
	Stuart Park Regional Sporting Precinct, Port Macquarie	Cricket Nets Upgrade
	Stuart Park Regional Sporting Precinct, Port Macquarie	Sport Field Upgrades
	Blair Reserve, Port Macquarie	Court Restoration
	Flag Staff Hill, Port Macquarie	Stairs Upgrade
<b>Thrumster</b>	Sovereign Hills Library and Community Centre	Design and Construction of facility
<b>Wauchope &amp; Hinterland</b>	Ellenborough Reserve, Ellenborough	Renewal of Amenities
	Hastings Regional Sports Fields, Wauchope	Construction of Stage One
	Bindi Close, Wauchope	Play Space Upgrade
	Wauchope Indoor Stadium	Amenities Upgrade
	Andrews Park, Wauchope	Construct New Amenities Building
	Blackbutt Park, Wauchope	Develop Master Plan



## Appendix 1 - Completed actions 2015-24

- Construction of Googik Track (Stage 2)
- Establish process for community led sport and recreation improvement projects
- Develop web pages for sporting facilities
- Delivery of Tacking Point Lighthouse Reserve Master Plan (Stage 4)
- Permanent recruitment of Sport and Recreation Officer
- Develop an e-newsletter for sport and recreation groups
- Wauchope Pool refurbishments (stages 1 and 2)
- Develop and implement quarterly audit process for sport/recreational facilities
- Town Beach Kiosk/Marine Rescue Facility upgrade
- Develop a leash free dog exercise park at Henry Kendall Reserve
- Wayne Richards Park, Port Macquarie - Construct Multipurpose Field (Stage 5)
- Finalisation of the Camden Haven Recreational Boating Needs Study
- Hastings River, Port Macquarie - identify site and develop a Concept Plan for a new boating facility
- Expansion of Port Macquarie Indoor Stadium
- Upgrade Town Green East, Port Macquarie
- The site selection process for a new Port Macquarie Aquatic Facility has reconfirmed
- Macquarie Park as the preferred site
- Installation of a recreational boating floating pontoon at Rocks Ferry Reserve

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## Appendix 1 - Completed actions 2015-24 cont...

- Construction of revetment wall to address river bank erosion at Rocks Ferry Reserve
- Development and adoption of the Port Macquarie Coastal Walk Master Plan
- Development and adoption of the Flynns Beach Master Plan
- Development and adoption of the Lake Cathie Foreshore Master Plan
- Provision of sports field flood lighting at Oxley Oval
- Provision of additional sports field flood lighting at Lank Bain Sports Complex
- Construction of Port Macquarie Dog Off-leash Park at Stuart Park
- Construction of the Westport Park segment of the Foreshore walkway
- Upgrade boat launching facility at Bruce Porter Reserve, Laurieton
- Upgrade boat launching facility at Dunbogan Reserve
- Construct new park in Crestwood Estate, Port Macquarie
- Upgrade netball lighting at Laurieton Sports Complex
- Renewal of Scribbly Park Reserve Playground, Lakewood
- Construct new community park in Kew
- Upgrade lighting and cricket net facilities at Kendall Sports Ground
- Flynns Beach Sea Wall - completion of Stage 1
- Upgrade lighting at Oxley Oval to 300 lux for night cricket use
- Construction of new training field at Regional Stadium, Port Macquarie
- Replacement of Settlement Point Playground in Port Macquarie
- Completion of the Stuart Park Regional Sporting Precinct upgrade
- Sports field lighting upgrade completed at Charlie Watt Reserve, Telegraph Point
- Install new sports field lighting at Andrews Park, Wauchope
- Laurieton Sports Complex Amenities upgrade
- North Haven to Bonny Hills Coastal Walk upgrade
- Bonny Hills Reserves Master Plan development
- Construction of Lake Cathie Skate Facility
- Renewal of The Ruins Way Playground
- Town Beach Playground upgrade
- Town Green West Upgrade (excluding playground)



## Appendix 1 - Completed actions 2015-24 cont...

- Provision of drainage at Charlie Watt Reserve, Telegraph Point
- Blackbutt Park Facility Upgrade
- Development of Bain Park Master Plan
- Rocks Ferry Reserve Playground Upgrade (\*note: this facility was severely impacted during the March 2021 flood event)
- Kendall Tennis Court Construction
- Narran Park Playground upgrade
- Bonny Hills Community Hall Reserve Playground upgrade
- Construction of a basketball court at the Lake Cathie Community Hall Reserve
- John Dick Reserve Playground Upgrade
- Port Macquarie Bicentennial Walk
- Construction of a basketball court at Town Beach Reserve
- Construction of the Wayne Richards Park Bike Pump Track
- Westport Park Boat Ramp Facility Upgrade
- Upgrades to the Long Flat Recreation Grounds
- Pioneer Park, Comboyne Reserve Upgrade
- Installation of fitness equipment at Rainbow Beach Reserve
- Oxley Oval cricket nets replacement
- Riverside Playground, North Shore
- Rotary Park Master Plan development
- Town Beach Reserve Amphitheatre developed
- Westport Park, Livvi's Place Playgorund upgrade
- Stuart Park Regional Sporting Precinct lighting upgrade
- Hastings Regional Sports Fields detail design finalised
- Lank Bain Sporting Complex lighting and canteen upgrade
- Queens Lake Boardwalk renewal
- Charlie Watt Reserve Play Space upgrade
- Westport Park boating amenities
- Bellbowrie Reserve upgrade
- Coastal Recreational User Needs Analysis



## Appendix 2 - Removed actions 2022-23

These projects have been removed due to updated priorities identified in strategic planning:

- James Street Reserve Playground Upgrade, Wauchope & Hinterland
- Moroko Park, Pembroke Playground Upgrade, Wauchope & Hinterland
- Cameron Street Reserve Playground Upgrade, Wauchope & Hinterland
- Lighthouse Beach Reserve Playground Upgrade, Wauchope & Hinterland
- Sister City Park Playground Upgrade, Wauchope & Hinterland
- Norrie Reserve, Kendall Playground Upgrade, Camden Haven
- Apex Park, Laurieton Reserve Upgrades, Camden Haven
- Absalom Reserve Play Space Upgrade, Port Macquarie
- Fernbank Creek Boat Launching Facility, Port Macquarie







## Contact us

Council welcomes the opportunity to hear if you have any questions, feedback or if you require a copy of the Plan.

You can contact us regarding this Plan:

**Phone us:**

(02) 6581 8111 (Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm)

**Email us:**

[council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au)

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**Mail us:**

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Number: 1300 555 727

TTY number: 133 677

SMS relay number: 0423 677 767



PORT MACQUARIE  
HASTINGS COUNCIL





Draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan

# Community Engagement Report

4/07/2024



# ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Project name	Draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan		
Project manager	Kat Boulet		
Consultant			
Engagement Officer	Addam Lockley		
Operation Plan #		CM Reference	

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# ENGAGEMENT REPORT

## INTRODUCTION

### Background

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (Council) recognises the pivotal role of sport and recreation in enhancing community connectivity and attracting visitors. Acknowledging these benefits, we are dedicated to providing well-maintained parks, sporting fields and recreation areas that promote the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.

In line with this commitment, Council is currently reviewing the Recreation and Open Space Action Plan (2023-2028) to formulate an updated plan for 2024-2029. This new plan aims to prioritise projects that address current community needs, as well as anticipate future growth in the region. It seeks to enhance existing facilities and develop new ones to meet the evolving demands of a growing population and visitor base.

The Draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2024-2029 outlines key projects and initiatives essential for achieving these goals.

### Engagement approach

Following the International Association for Public Participation IAP2 matrix for public participation, the level of engagement for the concept design was 'inform' to 'consult'. This means we sought to:

- Provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the project.
- Obtain feedback on analysis, alternative models and/or decisions.

Our commitment from this process is to:

- Keep the community informed.
- Listen and acknowledge concerns and aspirations.
- Let the community know how their input has influenced decisions made in finalising the design.

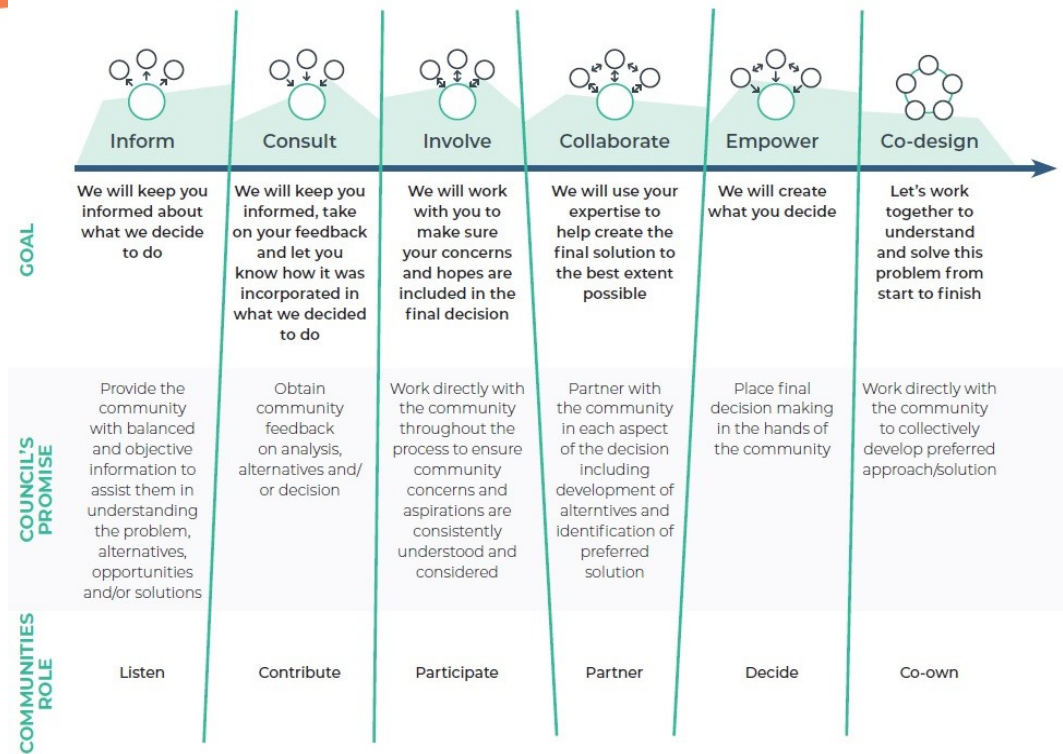
Our Have Your Say webpage was the key platform used in this engagement with feedback submitted via an online survey and through direct email. The consultation was open between Wednesday, 29 May 2024 and Friday, 28 June 2024.

### Spectrum of Participation

Council undertakes engagement using the industry standard IAP2 Spectrum of Participation. It is designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines Council's promise and the community's role in the decision-making process.



# ENGAGEMENT REPORT



## Data analysis and generative AI

Key themes throughout this report have been identified using generative artificial intelligence (AI). For the purposes of this report, generative AI refers to a system that can create content based on the data input.

### Consultation focus

The consultation focus involved key themes to gather community input on the Draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2024-2029.

The key themes were:

**Current Needs Assessment:** Understanding the community's current use and satisfaction with existing recreational facilities, parks, and open spaces. This includes identifying areas where improvements or new facilities are most needed.

**Future Growth Considerations:** Anticipating future population growth and demographic changes to ensure that the plan adequately prepares for increased demand on recreational infrastructure.

**Priority Projects Identification:** Seeking community input on which specific projects should be prioritised within the plan. This could include improvements to existing facilities, development of new play spaces or sports fields, or improvements to accessibility and inclusivity.



# ENGAGEMENT REPORT

**Health and Wellbeing Promotion:** Exploring ways to improve facilities that contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors. This might involve incorporating features that support physical activity, mental health and social interaction.

**Community Cohesion and Visitor Attraction:** Understanding how recreational amenities contribute to community cohesion and attract visitors to the region. This includes identifying opportunities to enhance the overall appeal and accessibility of recreational spaces.

**Sustainability and Environmental Impact:** Considering environmental sustainability in the development and maintenance of recreational facilities. This includes initiatives such as incorporating green spaces, reducing carbon footprint and preserving natural habitats.

**Equity and Inclusivity:** Ensuring that recreational opportunities are accessible to all community members, regardless of age, ability, or background. This involves gathering feedback on how to create inclusive spaces that meet diverse needs.

## ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES, TIMELINES AND RESULTS

### Have Your Say

The data presented below represents the preferences of those who provided feedback and should not be considered as a voting system.

Community engagement is designed to ensure that a range of perspectives and factors are considered in decision-making. It aims to create an understanding of community needs and preferences while facilitating active participation and dialogue.

#### Analysed Data:

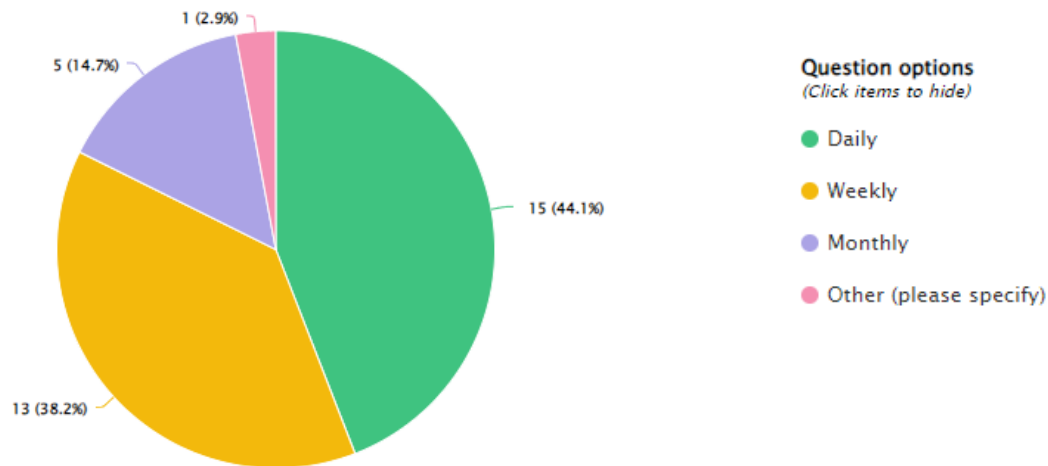
- 585 page visits
- 32 surveys completed
- 417 downloads of the Draft Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2024-2029
- 1 email submission



## ENGAGEMENT REPORT

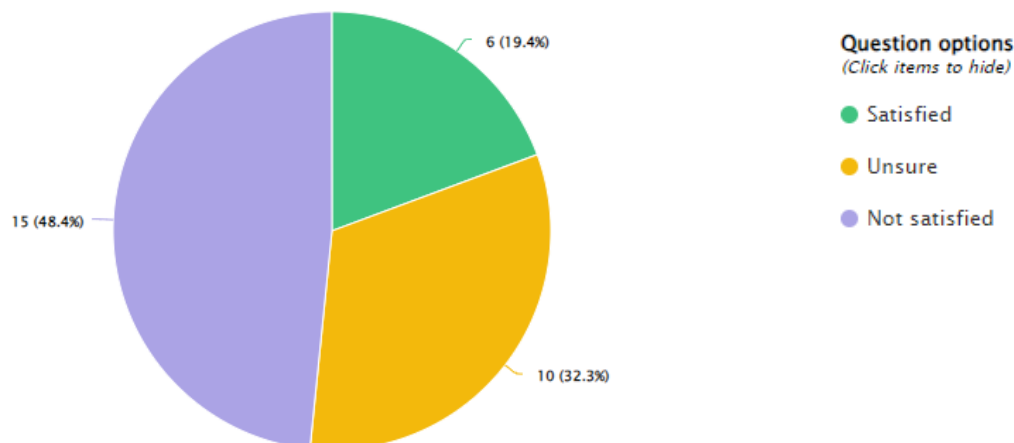
The Have Your Say survey asked the community how often they use recreational spaces and facilities in the Port Macquarie-Hastings region.

The following Chart identified the responses:



The Have Your Say survey asked the community how satisfied they are with the current facilities and amenities available in the recreational spaces in the Port Macquarie-Hastings region.

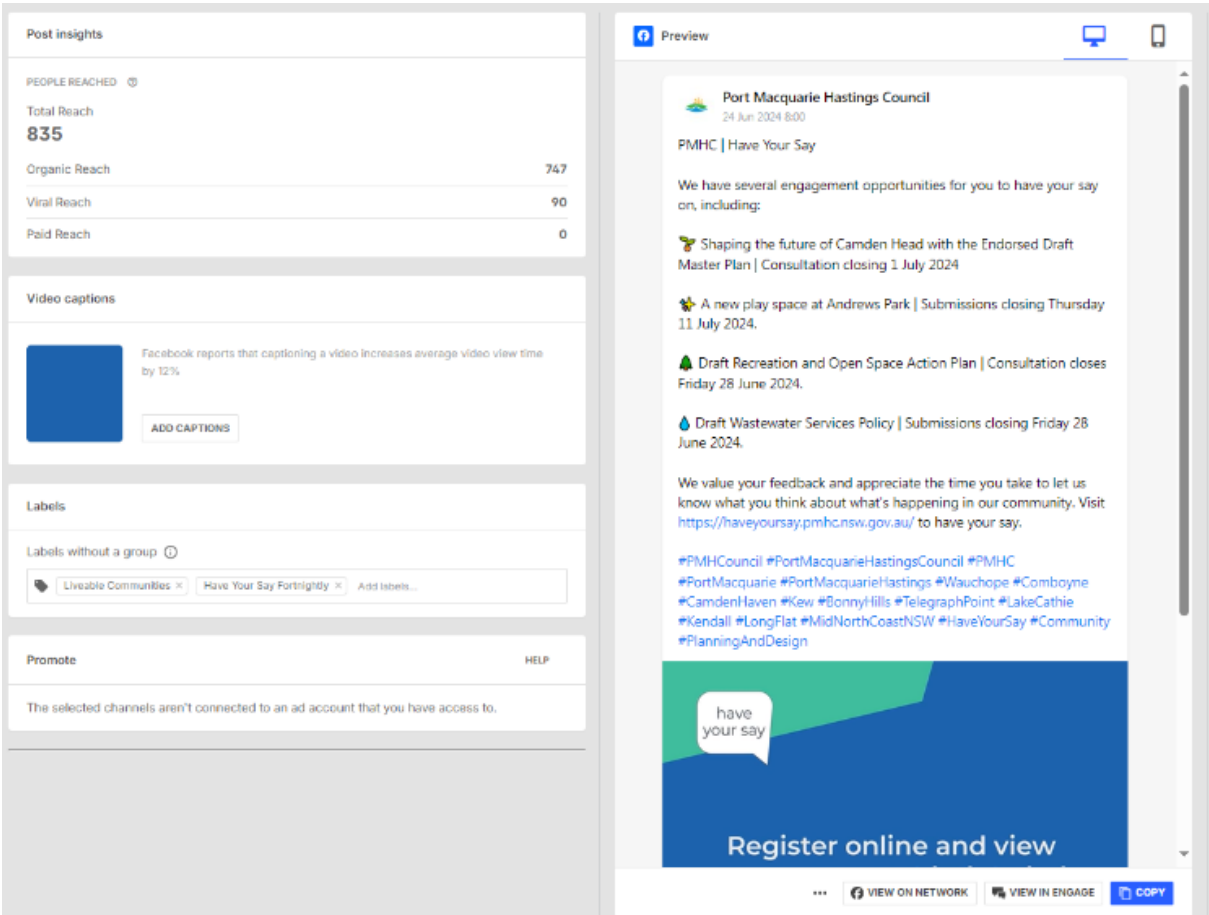
The following Chart identified the responses:





# ENGAGEMENT REPORT

## Communications



## RESULTS SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

The overall findings from the consultation period provided by the community feedback are highlighted as follows:

1. **Focus on Sports Clubs and Tourism:**

Increased investment in new and upgraded facilities for local sports clubs and sports tourism, emphasising direct financial commitment rather than relying solely on grants.

2. **Infrastructure Improvements:**

Requests include more seating, improved drainage in recreational areas for wet weather and upgrades to existing facilities such as the Aquatic Centre.



## ENGAGEMENT REPORT

### 3. Enhancing Recreation for Families:

Community desires include upgraded and expanded public parks tailored for children, including proposals for amenities such as a beach rock pool.

### 4. Sports Field Maintenance and Access:

Concerns voiced over the drainage of sporting fields, advocating for free access to sports facilities and enhanced maintenance strategies so fields are a better standard.

### 5. Community Facilities and Accessibility:

Requests for improved cycle lanes, footpaths and reduced fees for reserving recreational areas to promote broader community use and accessibility.

### 6. Long-term Planning and Infrastructure Upgrades:

Requests for strategic planning aimed at developing additional sports fields and upgrading infrastructure, such as the Hastings Regional Sports Complex and Andrews Park.

### 7. Youth Engagement and Active Transport:

Emphasis on providing safe and accessible activities for youth, alongside initiatives like the Schools-to-Schools pathway from Kendall to Kew.

### 8. Specific Facility Enhancements:

Various specific requests for upgrades, including sensory equipment in parks, expansions like the Crestwood Drive project and new amenities such as off-leash dog parks.

### 9. Diverse Recreational Needs:

Overall, these themes reflect diverse community interests aimed at improving recreational opportunities and facilities across the region, catering to different demographics and recreational preferences.

## NEXT STEPS

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council will review the feedback received and the information identified by the relevant parties will determine the next steps.

Community members will be notified accordingly with any updates or changes.



## ENGAGEMENT REPORT

APPENDIX 1 - Verbatim Feedback: What improvements or additions would you like to see in the parks, sporting fields, and recreation areas within the Port Macquarie-Hastings region to better promote health and wellbeing?

Submission Date	Submission Feedback	Design Impact
5/29/2024 02:57 PM	Feedback: More focus on the needs of sports clubs	No change
	Response: The Recreation and Open Space Action Plan was developed in consultation with the Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council. The priority projects for sport clubs are listed within the Action Plan.	
6/03/2024 12:10 PM	Feedback: Sensory equipment	No change
	Response: noted	
6/06/2024 07:13 PM	Feedback: Need to expand the park at Crestwood dr Port Macquarie add BBQs, sitting, paths, picnic shelters, open space. Start the ocean pool	No change
	Response: Crestwood Park is a local level play space, no additional infrastructure is proposed for this park.  The Ocean Pool (tidal pool) project is a community project, not a Council project.	
6/10/2024 07:15 PM	Feedback: Provide some seating on the Dunbogan southern break wall.	No change
	Response: Each year Council upgrades and replaces park furniture across the LGA. This request will be considered through future upgrades.	
6/11/2024 09:45 AM	Feedback: My suggestion is more off-leash dog parks. Stuarts park is great, but another over on the Eastern side of PMQ would be great. Specifically I am thinking corner of Burrawan and Pacific Drive, or better still, Macquarie Park in the corner to the west side of the netball courts. Area	No change



## ENGAGEMENT REPORT

	<p>appears to be currently under utilised . Somewhat related, and this is not an easy thing to fix I appreciate, but drainage is my suggestion. When we have long periods of wet weather, many of our recreational parks remain water logged for a long time making them less appealing to use.</p> <p>Response: Planning for Off Leash areas is proposed as part of the Places to Play Plan, this is an immediate strategic planning project.</p> <p>Project listed within the ROSAP include drainage upgrades for a number of sport facilities including Blackbutt Park and Vince Inmon Sporting Complex.</p>	
6/11/2024 11:32 AM	<p>Feedback: Some funding specifically allocated for recreation facilities for the over 50s who pay the bulk of the rates.</p> <p>Response: Various forms of active recreation projects support the over 50s demographic of the region. Included in the Action Plan are projects to support free use are upgrades to hard courts at Sancrox Reserve and Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields for tennis and pickleball play and Innes Lake and Town Beach Outdoor Fitness Equipment.</p>	No change
6/11/2024 03:48 PM	<p>Feedback: A park in Flynn's beach. Corner of Ocean and John Street would be a perfect spot to utilise an open spot close to caravan parks and apartment blocks.</p> <p>Response: The vacant block at the corner of Ocean and John St, Port Macquarie is not Council owned.</p> <p>A new Play Space is proposed for Flynn's Beach Reserve</p>	No change
6/11/2024 04:49 PM	<p>Feedback: Further investigation into the need for a beach pool which allows for access by those in wheelchairs, for those that are not strong swimmers, for families with young children and for anyone who does not feel comfortable entering the beach on bad weather days.</p>	No change



## ENGAGEMENT REPORT

	<p>Response: The Ocean Pool (tidal pool) project is a community project, not a Council project.</p> <p>The Port Macquarie Aquatic Centre is a priority sporting infrastructure project for Port Macquarie Hastings Council, the new aquatic centre is designed for accessibility.</p>	
6/11/2024 07:47 PM	<p>Feedback: More for older kids. The riverside park caters to smaller kids but not the bigger kids (this is why we provided feedback to get equipment for that age group). We need to encourage the early teens to be kids rather than leaving them out to cause mischief. Can you add to parks to create extra for them?</p> <p>Response: It is a consideration for all Play Space designs to cater for various age group and endeavours to deliver a suitable space for the community with the available budget.</p>	No change
6/12/2024 01:19 AM	<p>Feedback: More bins</p> <p>Response: Bins are provided at all neighbourhood and regional level spaces as well as all sporting facilities.</p>	No change
6/12/2024 12:20 PM	<p>Feedback: For many years now we have interacted with Council regarding the long gaps between mowing the Waterlily Park on Brindabella Way Port Macquarie. The resources for mowing, edging, blowing and pruning for our park have been reduced over the 11 years we have used the park. It is currently on a 7-week cycle - ridiculous in Summer when it needs mowing weekly or fortnightly, and this directly impacts the park's amenity.</p> <p>Response: Noted, this feedback will be shared for consideration by Councils Parks and Outdoor maintenance team. Mowing is delivered via Council maintenance budget.</p> <p>The Recreation and Open Space Action Plan is focused on projects proposed for new or upgrade of spaces and infrastructure.</p>	No change



## ENGAGEMENT REPORT

6/13/2024 05:04 PM	Feedback: Much better Bike Lanes. Did not see anything in the action plan	No change
	Response: Strategic Project listed as immediate priority - Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan	
6/14/2024 11:22 AM	Feedback: I am glad you are upgrading the Riverview Reserve Playground Equipment and relocating it in North Haven. It has been sitting idle since the floods in 2021. It has not been upgraded for over 22 years so let's hope this happens in 2024. I have asked for the past few years to have a water bubbler installed at North Haven Beach. Unfortunately we have to buy water from the Cafe or take water from the toilets in the toilet block. Also, could another two picnic tables and bbqs be installed on the reserve at the beach?	No change
	Response: At this time North Haven Beach is not Council owned or managed land. A current project in The Plan is focused on the design for the Camden Haven Surf Life Saving Club it will also investigate land tenure and will propose a bubbler as a part of this project.	
6/15/2024 06:27 AM	Feedback: More cycle ways and footpaths	No change
	Response: Strategic Project listed as immediate priority - Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan  Strategic Project listed as immediate priority Undertake a review of the Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan	
6/16/2024 04:48 PM	Feedback: More frequent cleaning and maintenance. Bins are often full or smelly in some parks.	No change
	Response: Noted, this feedback will be shared for consideration by Councils Parks and Outdoor maintenance team. Parks maintenance is delivered via Council maintenance budget.	
6/20/2024 09:59 AM	Feedback: Our LGA has quite a high rainfall and sports fields need to be well drained otherwise	No change



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	<p>we are wasting a lot of resources and getting no community benefit. Our major sporting fields should all have appropriate amenity facilities. The neglect by PMHC to address the road safety and child protection issues with the current amenity building at Andrews Park ( over many years) is really a disgrace.</p> <p>Response: Project listed within the ROSAP include drainage upgrades for a number of sport facilities including Blackbutt Park and Vince Inmon Sporting Complex.</p> <p>Council has recently completed the Landrigan and Andrews Parks Master Plan which proposed a new sport and community accessible amenity building for Andrews Park. This project is listed as a medium term priority project in the ROSAP.</p>	
6/24/2024 07:05 PM	<p>Feedback: At Regional Stadium; Ball catching nets at the northern and southern ends of fields 1 &amp; 2. A canteen/bbq facility in the scoreboard corner. Bird proofing of the existing bbq area. Portable aluminium spectator stands on field 2.</p> <p>Response: Regional Stadium upgrades are priority Sporting Infrastructure Projects for PMHC. The immediate term projects include the replacement of the stadium seating and the fit out of additional change rooms.</p>	No change
6/24/2024 08:23 PM	<p>Feedback: More bike/bmx type facilities like pump tracks, bike parks jump line areas as well as natural surface or surfaced trails linking suburbs/towns. The Camden haven from Kendall to Laurieton is in need of more bike friendly outlets.</p> <p>Response: Pump tracks and off road bike tracks are proposed as part of the Places to Play Plan - this is an immediate strategic planning project.</p> <p>Strategic Project listed as immediate priority - Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan</p>	No change
6/25/2024 08:22 AM	<p>Feedback: Dixie Park - northern end. Fill, level and drain to expand summer six a side competition.</p>	No change



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	Response: This project was considered as part of the development of the ROSAP however was not deemed priority at this time.	
6/25/2024 09:31 AM	<p>Feedback: Sporting fields lack the required infrastructure to support mid to high level competitions. Regionally, state or nationally significant events are awarded to our near neighbours as PMH lack the facilities required to host them. Sporting fields and precincts are fragmented around the LGA. Council needs to consolidate sporting fields to provide a single high level, high calibre, multi-user sporting environment that suits local leagues as well as state / national level events whilst maintaining a raft of satellite precincts that support community, local and regional events. Don't plan for the 'Gold Standard' if you can only deliver the 'Bronze Standard'.</p> <p>Response: Council has completed designs for the following significant sporting infrastructure;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thrumster Sporting Fields - a new 5 football field facility to support primarily football</li> <li>- Hastings Regional Sporting Complex - a new 5 field cricket facility to support cricket, rugby league, rugby union, football and touch football.</li> </ul> <p>Currently funding is available for stage 1 Thrumster Sporting Fields and will start construction in mid 2025.</p> <p>Councils priority Sporting Infrastructure Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Port Macquarie Aquatic Centre</li> <li>2. Regional Stadium Upgrades</li> <li>3. Tuffins Lane Drainage – if feasible</li> <li>4. Thrumster Sporting Fields</li> <li>5. Hastings Regional Sporting Complex</li> <li>6. Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields - Stage 2</li> <li>7. Wayne Richards Stage - 3 &amp; 4 Design</li> </ol>	No change



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6/25/2024 12:08 PM	Feedback: A pump track/bike park in Kendall.	No change
	Response: Pump tracks and off road bike tracks are proposed as part of the Places to Play Plan - this is an immediate strategic planning project.	
6/25/2024 12:45 PM	Feedback: Footpaths/bike paths Kendall to Kew.	No change
	Response: Pump tracks and off road bike tracks are proposed as part of the Places to Play Plan - this is an immediate strategic planning project.  Strategic Project listed as immediate priority - Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan	
6/25/2024 02:56 PM	Feedback: Maintained in the Camden Haven	No change
	Response: Noted, this feedback will be shared for consideration by Councils Parks and Outdoor maintenance team.	
6/25/2024 07:18 PM	Feedback: Better amenities and a wider range of recreational areas	No change
	Response: With over 380 hectares of public open space which includes parks, reserves, beaches and sport facilities, it is essential to have a well-designed plan that outlines a hierarchy of high-quality spaces and places. The strategic planning through the Places to Play Plan ensures a variety of opportunities for diverse experiences but also ensures an equitable distribution of places to play across the region.	
6/25/2024 08:42 PM	Feedback: Greater facilities in the Camden Haven area.	No change
	Response: With over 380 hectares of public open space which includes parks, reserves, beaches and sport facilities, it is essential to have a well-designed plan that outlines a hierarchy of high-quality spaces and places. The strategic planning through the Places to Play Plan ensures a variety of opportunities for diverse experiences but also ensures an equitable distribution of places to play across the region.	



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	The Places to Play Plan separates our LGA into 4 regions. This ensures each region including Camden Haven are focused on separately and ample facilities are available to this community.	
6/25/2024 08:56 PM	Feedback: A Mountain bike trail around Kendall and surrounds	No change
	Response: Pump tracks and off road bike tracks are proposed as part of the Places to Play Plan - this is an immediate strategic planning project.	
6/26/2024 09:01 AM	Feedback: We need a mountain bike precinct in Kendall. Using the state forest would allow easy access for the youth without the need to transport them to Jolly Nose. It would also potentially enhance the town as a tourist attraction which would improve the town financially. We also need a bike pathway to Kendall from Kew to enhance safe active transport for all	No change
	Response: Pump tracks and off road bike tracks are proposed as part of the Places to Play Plan - this is an immediate strategic planning project.  Strategic Project listed as immediate priority - Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan	
6/26/2024 11:44 AM	Feedback: Mountain Bike tracks in Kew, Kendall & Forest.	No change
	Response: Pump tracks and off road bike tracks are proposed as part of the Places to Play Plan - this is an immediate strategic planning project.	
6/26/2024 08:42 PM	Feedback: Include mountain bike area in state forest near Batar Creek Road Kendall.	No change
	Response: Pump tracks and off road bike tracks are proposed as part of the Places to Play Plan - this is an immediate strategic planning project.	
6/27/2024 07:14 PM	Feedback: Car Park upgrades Female facilities (Change rooms) for Football Codes Better sharing & communication between sporting clubs so grounds sharing can be	No change



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	<p>accommodated along with booking system calendar open to all</p> <p>Response: Upgrades to sporting facilities that include additional change rooms are:</p> <p>Vince Inmon Grandstand construction</p> <p>Regional Stadium change room fit-out</p> <p>Findlay Park amenities upgrade</p> <p>Further projects will be nominated through the Places to Plan - Sports Facilities Plan</p> <p>The new Council booking system shows if a facility is booked or available. It cannot show the user group due to confidentiality.</p>	
6/27/2024 09:14 PM	<p>Feedback: Better access and maintenance to the parks and sporting facilities including properly operating amenities</p> <p>Response: Noted</p>	No change



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APPENDIX 2 - Verbatim Feedback: What priorities do you think should be emphasised in the Recreation and Open Space Action Plan (2024-2029) to best meet the needs of both residents and visitors?

Submission Date	Submission Feedback	Design Impact
5/29/2024 02:57 PM	Feedback: Focus on residents more than visitors! Increased focus on sports tourism and the needs of local sports clubs. This means provision of new facilities and significant upgrades to some existing facilities. This requires a commitment from PMHC to invest funds, not just ask for grants	No change
	Response: The majority of projects nominated in the ROSAP are upgrades to existing community facilities. These facilities are available to the community.	
6/03/2024 12:10 PM	Feedback: More seating	No change
	Response: Each year Council upgrades and replaces park furniture across the LGA.	
6/11/2024 09:45 AM	Feedback: As mentioned above, some thought into making recreational areas more usable in wet weather, be that drainage, shelters, semi-indoor areas, covered playgrounds etc.	Additional sport field drainage projects are now proposed
	Response: Further sport field drainage projects are now proposed in the ROSAP.  Park shelters are available at all Neighbourhood and Regional level play spaces. Under cover areas are also proposed for designed for all new sporting facilities amenity building. PMHC do not build rain cover for outdoor play spaces.	
6/11/2024 11:32 AM	Feedback: Definitely the aquatic centre which everyone can use. Also priority for the pétanque piste at Wood St. It has become a place for parents to bring toddlers for bike riding and will very soon not be fit for intended use. Drainage needs attention too. Signage promised and of course not done. Trees to be planted, not done. Make council employees accountable for what they say.	No change



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	Response: A design proposal has been developed for the pétanque piste at Stuart Park. At this stage no funding is yet available for the delivery of this project.	
6/11/2024 03:48 PM	Feedback: Upgrade and increase of public parks for children	
	Response: Currently there are 70 play spaces located across the region. Play Spaces are nominated for upgrade as they reach the end of their useful life.	
6/11/2024 04:49 PM	Feedback: A beach rock pool. there are lots of sporting facilities but nothing at the beach for those not comfortable entering the beach.	No change
	Response: The Ocean Pool (tidal pool) project is a community project, not a Council project.	
6/11/2024 07:47 PM	Feedback: Drainage for sporting fields. We paid for an entire season of footy but could only play 3 games with lack of drainage and rain, rain can't be helped but improved drainage may support more games to occur without ruining the fields.	Additional sport field drainage projects are now proposed in the ROSAP.
	Response: Further sport field drainage projects are now proposed in the ROSAP.	
6/12/2024 01:19 AM	Feedback: FREE use of sporting facilities and funding of community groups/ events to encourage fitness/ activity and less obesity. FREE use of parks etc also promotes a sense of community, no matter what socioeconomic background a group comes from.	No change
	Response: Community use of sport facilities is currently available without a fee. A user pay system structure is proposed and community education will be implemented during 2024/25.  Park spaces are available without a fee by the community.	
6/12/2024 12:20 PM	Feedback: Resourcing the maintenance required to keep parks in usable and enjoyable condition.	No change



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	Response: Noted, this feedback will be shared for consideration by Councils Parks and Outdoor maintenance team. Parks maintenance is delivered via Council maintenance budget.	
6/13/2024 05:04 PM	Feedback: Cycle lanes that don't end just the around the corner into narrow roads like Koala Street.  Response: Strategic Project listed as immediate priority - Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan	
6/14/2024 11:22 AM	Feedback: You provide wonderful recreational facilities but the grounds around them are not maintained. I know it is a resourcing issue so why doesn't Director Fish lobby for more resources for that area of Council. I just find it hard to believe that maintenance of our parks and gardens is not a priority. Council needs an additional team just for the Camden Haven.  Response: Noted, this feedback will be shared for consideration by Councils Parks and Outdoor maintenance team. Parks maintenance is delivered via Council maintenance budget.	No change
6/15/2024 06:27 AM	Feedback: More cycle ways and footpaths  Response: Strategic Project listed as immediate priority - Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan	No change
6/16/2024 04:48 PM	Feedback: I would like to see Council reduce the cost of booking and reserving recreation areas. The \$2000 bond and hourly fees are beyond the means of family and community group users.  Response: The strategic project to Develop Sports Field User Pay Strategy will take place in collaboration with Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council.	No change
6/20/2024 09:59 AM	Feedback: As already stated improved drainage, construction of appropriate amenity facilities. PMHC also need to move forward into the 2024-26 timeframe additional sports fields that cater for a variety of sports eg Hastings Regional Sports Complex, Stage 3 of Wayne Richards. I believe funds should also be allocated for the relocation of	Additional sport field drainage projects are now proposed in the ROSAP.



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	<p>the northern cricket nets at Andrews Park as this is very important in the future implementation of the Andrews Park Masterplan.</p> <p>Response: Councils priority Sporting Infrastructure Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Port Macquarie Aquatic Centre</li> <li>2. Regional Stadium Upgrades</li> <li>3. Tuffins Lane Drainage – if feasible</li> <li>4. Thrumster Sporting Fields</li> <li>5. Hastings Regional Sporting Complex</li> <li>6. Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields - Stage 2</li> <li>7. Wayne Richards Stage - 3 &amp; 4 Design</li> </ol> <p>Further sport field drainage projects are now proposed in the ROSAP.</p>	
6/24/2024 08:23 PM	<p>Feedback: Ease of access for bike related activities and within proximity or similar areas like skate parks, sporting fields and towns</p> <p>Response: Pump tracks and off road bike tracks are proposed as part of the Places to Play Plan - this is an immediate strategic planning project.</p>	No change
6/25/2024 08:22 AM	<p>Feedback: Sporting fields upgrades to cater for growing numbers in junior sports.</p> <p>Response: Councils priority Sporting Infrastructure Projects are as following that will support growing participation in sport.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Port Macquarie Aquatic Centre</li> <li>2. Regional Stadium Upgrades</li> <li>3. Tuffins Lane Drainage – if feasible</li> <li>4. Thrumster Sporting Fields</li> <li>5. Hastings Regional Sporting Complex</li> <li>6. Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields - Stage 2</li> <li>7. Wayne Richards Stage - 3 &amp; 4 Design</li> </ol>	No change
6/25/2024 09:31 AM	<p>Feedback: First and foremost, whilst inter-related, "recreation" activities and "sporting" activities should be defined and treated separately. The Aquatic Center (the "gold standard" version) should be delivered as the number 1 sporting / recreation project in the region. This will be boon for aquatic sports, recreational activities, general tourism, sports tourism and marketing, and the liveability of the region. Updating of and building 'centre of excellence' infrastructure for the Tier 1</p>	No change



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	sports (Rugby codes, Football (Soccer) and Cricket) should be given second priority.	
	<p>Response: Councils priority Sporting Infrastructure Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Port Macquarie Aquatic Centre</li> <li>2. Regional Stadium Upgrades</li> <li>3. Tuffins Lane Drainage – if feasible</li> <li>4. Thrumster Sporting Fields</li> <li>5. Hastings Regional Sporting Complex</li> <li>6. Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields - Stage 2</li> <li>7. Wayne Richards Stage - 3 &amp; 4 Design</li> </ol>	
6/25/2024 12:08 PM	<p>Feedback: Awareness of the need for outlying areas to be considered in the Plan.</p> <p>Response: Noted</p>	No change
6/25/2024 12:45 PM	<p>Feedback: Footpaths/bike paths Kendall to Kew.</p> <p>Response: Pump tracks and off road bike tracks are proposed as part of the Places to Play Plan - this is an immediate strategic planning project.</p> <p>Strategic Project listed as immediate priority - Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan</p>	No change
6/25/2024 02:56 PM	<p>Feedback: Updated park/ bike tracks / footpaths around Kew Kendall We need a bike track in Kendall</p> <p>Response: Pump tracks and off road bike tracks are proposed as part of the Places to Play Plan - this is an immediate strategic planning project.</p>	No change
6/25/2024 07:18 PM	<p>Feedback: Having a wider variety of areas for different purposes that are clean and well maintained</p> <p>Response: This feedback will be shared for consideration by Councils Parks and Outdoor maintenance team. Parks maintenance is delivered via Council maintenance budget.</p>	No change
6/25/2024 08:42 PM	<p>Feedback: Emphasis on recreational areas outside the immediate Port Macquarie area.</p> <p>Response: Noted. Assets are upgraded across the region for various needs including condition, asset life cycle and current activation needs. Sport</p>	No change



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	facilities are considered along side other recreation and park assets.	
6/25/2024 08:56 PM	Feedback: Priority for the kids and big kids	No change
	Response: Noted	
6/26/2024 09:01 AM	Feedback: As above- the youth need a safe and easily accessible activity. The older population also need to be able to exercise in their community	No change
	Response: Various forms of active recreation projects support a broad range of demographic of the region. Included in the Action Plan are projects to support free use are upgrades to hard courts at Sancrox Reserve and Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields for tennis and pickleball play and Innes Lake and Town Beach Outdoor Fitness Equipment.	
6/26/2024 11:44 AM	Feedback: There needs to be more signage for visitors. Especially in the Kew Laurieton Kendall Area. The entrance to Camden Haven from the Pacific Highway through the roundabout to Kew is a disgrace & no one appears wants to accept responsibility.	No change
	Response: In 2020 a town and village signage proposal was developed by PMHC. The signs for various areas has been installed over the last 4 year.	
6/26/2024 08:42 PM	Feedback: Active transport, especially Kendall Kew part of Schools to Schools pathway. Over \$600,000 in 2023/4 Operational Budget but no action, why? Included again in 2024/5 Plan, can we be assured a concept design will happen this time?	No change
	Response: Often planning approvals require projects to be delivered over multiple financial period.	
6/27/2024 07:14 PM	Feedback: Council needs to better acknowledge sporting club/groups when they provide funding or resources to improve sporting grounds out of their own funds or when they apply for grant funding	No change



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	Response: Noted. Projects delivered by own or grant funding is acknowledge in the quarterly Sport Newsletter.	
6/27/2024 09:14 PM	<p>Feedback: ***addition of maintenance and upgrades to Fairmont Gardens sporting facilities/carpark Currently Fairmont gardens is home to the Wauchope soccer club with a playing membership of 420+ people, the fields consist of two full size fields, and two smaller fields, we currently have 37 teams playing and training on this ground during the winter playing season and smaller numbers during the summer 6's comp, the Drainage to the grounds has not been addressed for 20+ years (last time was by the playing membership/volunteers),already this season Fairmont has been closed for at least 5 weeks of the playing and lead up training season without any other playing facilities to utilize once Fairmont is closed..... The carpark currently consists of a roughly 50/50% asphalt to pot hole ratio and is only going to get worse with the continual wet weather and neglect and is causing potential damage to the car owners using the facilities We recently held our Junior gala day last weekend and both the current and old toilet facilities had to be closed at stages during the day because of blockages for the 3rd year straight only the amenities regarding the old clubhouse has been addressed in the planning out to 2029,we had previous been advised that Fairmont gardens was on the rotation for drainage to be complete in the near future but again this has not been addressed in the forward planning</p> <p>Response: Further sport field drainage projects are now proposed in the ROSAP.</p> <p>This feedback will be shared for consideration by Councils Parks and Outdoor maintenance team. Parks maintenance is delivered via Council maintenance budget.</p>	Additional sport field drainage projects are now proposed in the ROSAP.



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APPENDIX 3- Verbatim Feedback: Can you please explain your response to question 5 as to why you are or are not satisfied with current facilities?

Submission Date	Submission Feedback	Design Impact
6/03/2024 12:10 PM	Feedback: I have not been to all the areas	No change
	Response: Noted	
6/06/2024 07:13 PM	Feedback: Need to start the ocean pool and need to expand the park at Crestwood dr	No change
	Response:	
6/10/2024 07:15 PM	Feedback: We have wonderful areas and they are well maintained	No change
	Response: Noted, thank you	
6/11/2024 09:45 AM	Feedback: I think PMQ has some great spaces.	No change
	Response: Noted thank you	
6/11/2024 11:32 AM	Feedback: I am more satisfied than dissatisfied and I am sure about that but of course there is plenty of improvement needed. I.e stupid question	No change
	Response: Noted	
6/11/2024 03:48 PM	Feedback: There could be more parks within residential areas outside the new suburbs	No change
	Response: PMHC, where possible, provide a local play space within 1 km of all residence. Rural areas are supported by neighbourhood sized play spaces in town areas.	
6/11/2024 07:47 PM	Feedback: The toilets at Stuart park are great. The drainage on the ovals not so great. The play equipment is great and older kids can play on the ovals. More family centred play grounds like this with more for older kids would be fantastic!	Additional sport field drainage projects are now proposed in the ROSAP.
	Response: Further sport field drainage projects are now proposed in the ROSAP.	



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6/12/2024 01:19 AM	Feedback: Better facilities needed, particularly in places like Wauchope	No change
	Response: Noted. Assets are upgraded across the region for various needs including condition, asset life cycle and current activation needs. Sport facilities are considered along side other recreation and park assets.	
6/12/2024 12:20 PM	Feedback: see above. There have been times when the grass at the park has been long ALL the school holidays so unusable for kids, when fallen dying trees have not been removed for over 6 months (? dangerous and unsightly), and when adjoining vegetation has not been pruned to keep the edges of the park safe and looking good (encourages weeds).	No change
	Response: Noted, this feedback will be shared for consideration by Councils Parks and Outdoor maintenance team. Parks maintenance is delivered via Council maintenance budget.	
6/13/2024 05:04 PM	Feedback: Cycle lanes are not continuous, and Council have a painted lane at Oxley Beach that ends just around the corner near Town Beach right where the road narrows with parking either side and the cyclist would have to then compete with traffic	No change
	Response: Strategic Project listed as immediate priority - Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan	
6/14/2024 11:22 AM	Feedback: I am unsatisfied with the parks and gardens maintenance provided by PMHC. The Camden Haven is very unkept with one team.	No change
	Response: Noted, this feedback will be shared for consideration by Councils Parks and Outdoor maintenance team. Parks maintenance is delivered via Council maintenance budget.	
6/15/2024 06:27 AM	Feedback: We need more cycle ways and footpaths. Not just for adult cycle riders, but families who want to go on a bike ride together, with a good loop or track that we can ride on	No change



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	Response: Pump tracks and off road bike tracks are proposed as part of the Places to Play Plan - this is an immediate strategic planning project.	
6/16/2024 04:48 PM	<p>Feedback: More frequent cleaning and maintenance is needed. Bins are often full or smelly in some parks. Damaged equipment also remains unrepaired for long periods of time.</p> <p>Response: Noted, this feedback will be shared for consideration by Councils Parks and Outdoor maintenance team. Parks maintenance is delivered via Council maintenance budget.</p>	
6/20/2024 09:59 AM	<p>Feedback: Anyone who travels to other regional centres for major sports carnivals eg Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Tamworth, Bathurst will tell you our sports fields and amenities are well below what is available at these centres. I personally corresponded with PMHC over a number of years indicating sports events such as the NSW State Touch Carnival would be lost if we could only offer Tuffins Lane as a venue. PMHC ignored this advice from myself and others and the results are now there to see.</p> <p>Response: Response: Councils priority Sporting Infrastructure Projects are as following that will support growing participation in sport.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Port Macquarie Aquatic Centre</li> <li>2. Regional Stadium Upgrades</li> <li>3. Tuffins Lane Drainage – if feasible</li> <li>4. Thrumster Sporting Fields</li> <li>5. Hastings Regional Sporting Complex</li> <li>6. Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields - Stage 2</li> <li>7. Wayne Richards Stage - 3 &amp; 4 Design</li> </ol>	No change
6/24/2024 07:05 PM	<p>Feedback: Continuing field closures in wet weather. A lack of consolation in the design of facilities at regional stadium.</p> <p>Response: Further sport field drainage projects are now proposed in the ROSAP.</p>	Additional sport field drainage projects are now proposed in the ROSAP.
6/24/2024 08:23 PM	Feedback: Within Port Macquarie there are great facilities, but the rest of the region is lacking, especially the outer regions, kids have to rely on	No change



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	family to transport them elsewhere to be able partake.	
	Response: Noted. Assets are upgraded across the region for various needs including condition, asset life cycle and current activation needs. Sport facilities are considered along side other recreation and park assets.	
6/25/2024 08:22 AM	Feedback: Some recent progress made with purchase of Tuffins Lane west. But long overdue.	
	Response: Noted	
6/25/2024 09:31 AM	Feedback: The facilities and amenities available across the recreation spaces within the LGA are generally of a high standard; toilets, play equipment, tracks, paths etc. The question didn't ask about the standards of the facilities and amenities of the sport facilities of the region as these are well below par across the LGA.	No change
	Response: Noted. Assets are upgraded across the region for various needs including condition, asset life cycle and current activation needs. Sport facilities are considered along side other recreation and park assets.	
6/25/2024 12:08 PM	Feedback: Whilst the Kendall Skate Park in underway, there is a growing number of young children in Kendall and Kew who need more activities such as the bike track.	No change
	Response: Pump tracks and off road bike tracks are proposed as part of the Places to Play Plan - this is an immediate strategic planning project.	
6/25/2024 12:45 PM	Feedback: Kendall needs a bike path Kendall to Kew to allow safe access for students school to school.	No change
	Response: Strategic Project listed as immediate priority - Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan	
6/25/2024 02:56 PM	Feedback: Not maintained - out dated	No change
	Response: Noted, this feedback will be shared for consideration by Councils Parks and Outdoor	



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	maintenance team. Parks maintenance is delivered via Council maintenance budget.	
6/25/2024 07:18 PM	Feedback: There needs to be more recreational facilities in the Camden Haven region for people who do not reside in the Port Macquarie area	No change
	Response: Noted, this feedback will be shared for consideration by Councils Parks and Outdoor maintenance team. Parks maintenance is delivered via Council maintenance budget.	
6/25/2024 08:42 PM	Feedback: Amenities are always disgusting and usually very low maintained.	No change
	Response: Noted, this feedback will be shared for consideration by Councils Parks and Outdoor maintenance team. Parks maintenance is delivered via Council maintenance budget.	
6/25/2024 08:56 PM	Feedback: We don't have it be be sure or unsire	No change
	Response: noted	
6/26/2024 09:01 AM	Feedback: It is very unsafe and difficult to use bikes as transport or recreation around the Kew Kendall area	No change
	Response: Strategic Project listed as immediate priority - Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan	
6/26/2024 11:44 AM	Feedback: It appears most of the money goes to Bonny Hill & Port Macquarie and the regional LGAS roads infrastructure are suffering.	No change
	Response: Noted. Assets are upgraded across the region for various needs including condition, asset life cycle and current activation needs.	
6/26/2024 08:42 PM	Feedback: Sprts fileds good but need mor eactive transport, see above for Schools to Schools	No change
	Response: Strategic Project listed as immediate priority - Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan	
6/27/2024 07:14 PM	Feedback: The current sporting facilities do not cater for the number of sporting club participants and having to share space has become a burden on clubs & council staff with the inadequate	No change



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	<p>grounds allocation system. Amenities are well beyond economic repair at most sporting fields and there needs to be a greater spend on infrastructure for the future. Space for sporting fields is shrinking with the urban spread and the Council has not invested or sort to find suitable spaces to develop further sporting grounds or precincts this has resulted in the loss of major sporting event and thus revenue for the area due to the lack of suitable sporting areas</p>	
	<p>Response: Councils priority Sporting Infrastructure Projects are as following that will support growing participation in sport.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Port Macquarie Aquatic Centre</li><li>2. Regional Stadium Upgrades</li><li>3. Tuffins Lane Drainage – if feasible</li><li>4. Thrumster Sporting Fields</li><li>5. Hastings Regional Sporting Complex</li><li>6. Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields - Stage 2</li><li>7. Wayne Richards Stage - 3 &amp; 4 Design</li></ol>	



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## APPENDIX 4- Verbatim Feedback: Do you have any other feedback?

Submission Date	Submission Feedback	Design Impact
6/03/2024 12:10 PM	Feedback: Thanks for committing to upgrade the Tennis Facility at Pappinbarra Reserve as a priority this year	No change
	Response: Noted	
6/06/2024 07:13 PM	Feedback: These 2 projects need to be added to the 25/26 action plan	No change
	Response: Noted	
6/11/2024 09:45 AM	Feedback: Thanks for the opportunity to engage.	No change
	Response: Noted	
6/11/2024 07:47 PM	Feedback: I think council does a great job maintaining these facilities. A lot of work goes into it and to see others ruin the hard work is frustrating. Council have managed to continue this great work even with the weather changes. Well done team!	No change
	Response: Noted, thank you	
6/12/2024 01:19 AM	Feedback: The plan to charge for use of sporting grounds etc is counterintuitive when it will only discourage their use and possibly increase obesity. Charging groups to use them may also mean less financial groups,, are restricted in their ability to use facilities. This may mean more young people not using facilities and possibly wandering the streets instead.	No change
	Response: The strategic project to Develop Sports Field User Pay Strategy will take place in collaboration with Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council.	
6/12/2024 12:20 PM	Feedback: we LOVE the park. We just want to enjoy it more and see our neighbours do so too. This builds healthy communities.	No change



## ENGAGEMENT REPORT

	Response: Noted, thank you	
6/13/2024 05:04 PM	<p>Feedback: I cannot understand why Cycling is not addressed as I have been to areas where offroad cycle lanes have been developed and the areas have made a very good level of capital injections into the economy. Townsville is a perfect example that has been studied by Council before, yet this Council continues to waste money on stupid ideas such as at Oxley beach.</p> <p>Response: Strategic Project listed as immediate priority - Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan</p>	No change
6/14/2024 11:22 AM	<p>Feedback: The Parks and Reserves need to be maintained more frequently. Mowing and vegetation removal needs to be completed more than every 4-5 weeks in summer and 10-15 weeks in winter. The grass is above your knees in parts of North Haven at present (14.06).</p> <p>Response: Noted, this feedback will be shared for consideration by Councils Parks and Outdoor maintenance team. Parks maintenance is delivered via Council maintenance budget.</p>	No change
6/16/2024 04:48 PM	<p>Feedback: Cycle paths are few and far between. Families and young children need safer cycle, or even joint pedestrian / cycle links between recreational areas.</p> <p>Response: Strategic Project listed as immediate priority - Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan</p>	No change
6/20/2024 09:59 AM	<p>Feedback: Frankly many long serving sports volunteers in our LGA have little confidence in PMHC to deliver on sporting infrastructure. The Hastings Regional Sporting Complex and the Port Macquarie Swimming Pool are two good examples. The Hasting Regional Sporting Complex was first listed for funding in 2006/07 by the then Hastings Council. In the 2017/18 Operational Plan it was given \$4, 000,000 for Stage 1 Construction(much of these funds later transferred by PMHC to the Ocean Road Duplication). In 2018/19 Operational Plan another \$2, 000, 000 was allocated for construction of the Hastings Regional Sporting Complex for</p>	No change



## ENGAGEMENT REPORT

	<p>construction. Where this money has gone( and various other allocations over the years) who knows but it certainly hasn't gone into construction. With the timeframe for this project being continually pushed back( as have other sports related projects ) it is no wonder many PMHC LGA Residents( especially Wauchope based) have little confidence in PMHC to deliver on these Recreation Plans. I have also noted that PMHC and the NSW Government have locked in an agreement to build an additional 1600 houses in the Beechwood/ Wauchope area over the next few years with the NSW Government providing financial assistance with infrastructure. The Tweed LGA are locked into a similar arrangement and have committed a substantial percentage of the NSW Government funding to additional Sports fields. It would be positive if PMHC did something similar.</p>	
	<p>Response: Councils priority Sporting Infrastructure Projects are as following that will support growing participation in sport.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Port Macquarie Aquatic Centre</li> <li>2. Regional Stadium Upgrades</li> <li>3. Tuffins Lane Drainage – if feasible</li> <li>4. Thrumster Sporting Fields</li> <li>5. Hastings Regional Sporting Complex</li> <li>6. Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields - Stage 2</li> <li>7. Wayne Richards Stage - 3 &amp; 4 Design</li> </ol>	
6/24/2024 08:23 PM	<p>Feedback: As President of the Kendall Mountain Bike Club, we have a community first focus as we would like to see more kids outside with their friends having fun and not needing to be driven elsewhere for them to go outside and 'play' like kids used to. The youth are in desperate need to be out and getting exposed to 'risky play' to help build their self confidence and reduce the high rates of anxiety and depression that is found in kids today. It also reinforces and strengthens community as kids and parents are out more and engaging with others in the community they live in. Most kids have a Bike but nowhere to ride from their house, pathways, bike parks and the like encourages everyone to get out.</p>	No change



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	<p>Response: Pump tracks and off road bike tracks are proposed as part of the Places to Play Plan - this is an immediate strategic planning project.</p> <p>Strategic Project listed as immediate priority - Undertake a review of the 2015 Bike Plan</p>	
6/25/2024 08:22 AM	<p>Feedback: Tuffins Lane drainage options - a more sophisticated method is required to determine the best option.</p> <p>Response: Tuffins Lane Sporting Fields drainage design is currently under investigation.</p>	No change
6/25/2024 09:31 AM	<p>Feedback: The draft plan suggests that a "user pays" model for sports fields be adopted. Considering Councils decision at the June 2024 meeting, should this be removed, updated, discussed further?</p> <p>Response: At the June meeting of Council the proposed fees and charges were removed from the 2024-25 Fees and Charges. Following this removal a comprehensive engagement and education process will be undertaken during the 2024-2025 operational year with a view to revisiting the fee structure in the future.</p>	No change
6/25/2024 08:42 PM	<p>Feedback: Needs to be more recreational areas suited to not only young children, but early teenage. Parks that are engaging in suit, all age groups.</p> <p>Response: Youth recreation infrastructure is considered when designing new and upgrade spaces and places.</p>	No chance
6/26/2024 11:44 AM	<p>Feedback: N/A</p> <p>Response: no response</p>	No change
6/26/2024 08:42 PM	<p>Feedback: no</p> <p>Response: no response</p>	No change
6/27/2024 07:14 PM	<p>Feedback: Female participation in a number of sports has grown yet the amenities are not being provided</p>	No change



## ENGAGEMENT REPORT

	<p>Response: Upgrades to sporting facilities that include additional change rooms are:</p> <p>Vince Inmon Grandstand construction</p> <p>Regional Stadium change room fit-out</p> <p>Findlay Park amenities upgrade</p> <p>Further projects will be nominated through the Places to Plan - Sports Facilities Plan</p>	
6/27/2024 09:14 PM	<p>Feedback: would like to see further consultation directly with clubs from council instead of liaising with representative bodies who may not pass on information of represent individual clubs best interests due to a lack of time....</p> <p>Response: This consultation is undertaken with the Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Council.</p>	No change
6/28/2024 01:06 PM	<p>Feedback: To Whom It May Concern I would just like to submit my feedback in relation to Fairmont Gardens and ask when is this scheduled to be upgraded. Currently the carpark is definitely in very poor condition with numerous amounts of pot holes and the surface of the carpark in very bad condition. It is to the point now that someone is going to fall over and cause themselves an injury. The surface is very uneven and has deteriorated considerable over the past six months due to the weather conditions of late. I would ask that you please prioritise this project. During the soccer season the carpark would have approximately 500 to 700 people use it on a Saturday morning. Also the current carpark doesn't have any lighting. Over the winter season there are teams training with young kids and it has become an issue with them running thru the carpark in the dark to cars.</p> <p>Response: Further sport field drainage projects are now proposed in the ROSAP.</p> <p>This feedback will be shared for consideration by Councils Parks and Outdoor maintenance team. Parks maintenance is delivered via Council maintenance budget.</p>	Additional sport field drainage projects are now proposed in the ROSAP.



## ENGAGEMENT REPORT

6/28/2024 01:08 PM	<p>Feedback: Hello, In response to your recent newsletter email I wanted to put forward some suggestions for recreational spaces. The walking track from Beechtree Cct to Jonas Absalom Dr has two parks that are both in need of an update. It would be great to have some upgraded play equipment as well as some toilets and a bbq space to be provided at some point along the walking track. It would also be great to have some lights put along the track especially in the tunnel areas. Seeing as the tunnel is being extended, it will be even darker going through there once it gets to late afternoon. The two bridges have been updated recently and are much safer for my small children, thank you very much for this.</p> <p>Response: Play equipment is ideally upgraded after 10 years of life however it is not essential. Council undertake inspections of all play spaces twice per year. Council recent adopted the Places to Play - Play Spaces Plan. The Absolum Drive Play Spaces is deemed to be retired when it reaches the end of useful life.</p> <p>This area is categorised as local reserve. In these reserves bbqs and toilets are not installed as the area is supported for short stays.</p>	
6/28/2024 01:11 PM	<p>Feedback: To whom it may concern, I have just been reviewing the Recreation and Open Space Action Plan 2024-29 and I cannot see where the Boom Reserve Playground is scheduled to be upgraded? As per previous correspondence (see below) it was advised it was planned to be upgraded this year? As per my previous correspondence this area is heavily growing with families of small children all within walking distance of the area and this space adequately upgraded would be a fabulous community area for everyone to enjoy regularly. I hope that this space has not been removed from the program &amp; we can expect the standard process of consultation on what the community would like to see occur. If it has been removed I would like to know why. Thank you</p>	Medium term priority - The Boom Play Space



# ENGAGEMENT REPORT

	<p>Response: The Boom Play Space equipment was installed in 2014. Play equipment is ideally upgraded after 10 years of life however it is not essential. Council undertake inspections of all play spaces twice per year; the most recent inspection of The Boom Play Space rated the equipment in a fair condition. The Boom Play Space will be consideration for upgrade within the next 3-4 years.</p>	
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# ENGAGEMENT REPORT

## APPENDIX 5 - Email Submissions

Submission Date	Submission Feedback	Design Impact
6/28/2024 1:32 PM	<p>Feedback:</p> <p>On Page 16 (Appendix 1) of your above Action Plan headed "Completed actions 2015-24" one of the items recorded was "Bonny Hills Reserves Master Plan development". That description could indicate physical work has taken place. But as you would know it refers to Council adopting in July 2022 the plans for upgrading six of the seven reserves at Bonny Hills. Unfortunately, the seventh, Rainbow Beach Reserve, could not be adopted "as the two options put forward could not be agreed on" (reported in Port News July 27, 2022). This specific reserve is the primary meeting and recreation point used by most locals and many visitors/holiday makers. Its playground is not enclosed as most others are these days, putting at risk children running on to the nearby entrance/entry point to the carpark. The entire reserve, including carpark and surrounds are overdue for an upgrade to make this "jewel in the crown of Bonny Hills" safer and appealing as you would expect it to be in 2024.</p> <p>Since 2022 we have waited for progress on both issues – funding for the six reserves signed off plans, and resolving what can be agreed/needs to be done at Rainbow Beach Reserve. After constant questioning via CCAT engagement as to when these actions will happen, we were advised via email dated May 15, 2024:</p> <p><i>The Bonny Hills Reserves Master Plan is a long term concept vision to assist planning for the reserves over the next 10 - 15 years.</i></p> <p><i>Council has currently forecasted a budget allocation for Rainbow Beach Reserve upgrades to take place in the 2026/2027 financial year. The Spaces and Places Team will work with the Bonny</i></p>	<p>Additional projects to be included in ROSAP:</p> <p>Rainbow Beach Reserve upgrades design - short term priority</p> <p>Rainbow Beach Reserve upgrades - - medium term priority</p>



## ENGAGEMENT REPORT

	<p><i>Hills community prior to this budget allocation to undertake planning for Rainbow Beach Reserve prior to this budget allocation. The proposed timeline for this engagement will be during the 2025/2026 financial year.</i></p> <p>Based on this advice, we at least now had some timelines for action. Or so we thought, as there is no mention of these actions in your Action Plan document. Where are they?</p> <p>We therefore seek clarification on when we can expect real actions to take place at these sites. Our current CCAT Actions sheet still records as an objective “to review and update 2012 reserves master plan, including all reserves and linkages between them”. That was 12 years ago. Further delays to these long protracted upgrades is wearing thin on our community, and risks holiday makers not wanting to come back to a rundown and unsafe public area.</p> <p>Our Vice President, has also written to PMHC this week about our concerns at the lack of progress on this issue and made an offer of “partnership” to fast-track resolving the situation. I look forward to hearing some positive news on the reserve upgrades that I can share with local residents shortly.</p>	
	<p>Response: This project will be included in the revised version of the ROSAP.</p>	



## AGENDA

## PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SPORTS COUNCIL 23/07/2024

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**Item:** 08

**Subject:** SPORTING EVENTS CALENDAR

**Presented by:** Community, Planning and Environment, Melissa Watkins

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### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council note the Sporting Calendar for upcoming events from 23 July to 29 October 2024.**

### Discussion:

The Sports Calendar for events from 23 July 2024 until 29 October 2024 is provided here for the information of the Sports Council. It should be noted that the calendar may be subject to change due to summer allocations still being closed and new events that may not be approved.

The calendar is provided for information.

### Attachments

1 [!\[\]\(d3102649f02e825ddb76dc3de0190154\_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(55ca3a38dbb940110628e54e3ea7505d\_img.jpg\)](#) Port Macquarie-Hastings Sports Council Sporting Events Calendar



## Sporting Events Calender for 23/07/2024 - 29/10/2024

ID	VENUE	EVENT	DATE	REPETITIONS
1305	<b>Town Beach Reserve and Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Parkrun</b> Minor public event / function # Attendees: 300	2/12/2023 7:00:00 AM - 28/12/2024 10:00:00 AM	Saturdays
1306	<b>Rocks Ferry Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Parkrun</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 300	2/12/2023 7:00:00 AM - 28/12/2024 10:00:00 AM	Saturdays
1307	<b>Henry Kendall Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Parkrun</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 300	2/12/2023 7:00:00 AM - 28/12/2024 8:00:00 AM	Saturdays
1548	<b>Tuffins Lane Playing Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>St Columba Sports</b> General booking # Attendees: 200	2/02/2024 11:30:00 AM - 20/12/2024 12:30:00 PM	Fridays
1268	<b>Flynns Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>PMBA BODYBOARDING CLUB COMPETITION</b> Minor public event / function # Attendees: 50	4/02/2024 7:00:00 AM - 1/12/2024 4:00:00 PM	Monthly
1290	<b>Town Beach Reserve and Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Port Macquarie Bodyboarding Club Competitions</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 50	4/02/2024 7:00:00 AM - 1/12/2024 4:00:00 PM	Monthly
1291	<b>Lighthouse Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Port Macquarie Bodyboarding Club Competition</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 50	4/02/2024 7:00:00 AM - 1/12/2024 4:00:00 PM	Monthly
1292	<b>Shelly Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Port Macquarie Bodyboarding Club Competition</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 50	4/02/2024 7:00:00 AM - 1/12/2024 4:00:00 PM	Monthly
1293	<b>North Shore Beach</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Port Macquarie Bodyboarding Club Competition</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 50	4/02/2024 7:00:00 AM - 1/12/2024 4:00:00 PM	Monthly
1294	<b>North Haven Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Port Macquarie Bodyboarding Club Competition</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 50	4/02/2024 7:00:00 AM - 1/12/2024 4:00:00 PM	Monthly

Report generated:



## Sporting Events Calender for 23/07/2024 - 29/10/2024

1295	<b>Aqua Reserve / Lake Cathie Beach</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Port Macquarie Bodyboarding Club Competition</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 50	4/02/2024 7:00:00 AM - 1/12/2024 8:00:00 AM	Monthly
1380	<b>Surfing/Bodyboarding Association</b> <b>Bookings</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Long board Surf contest</b> General booking # Attendees: 40	4/02/2024 7:00:00 AM - 1/12/2024 12:00:00 PM	Monthly
1564	<b>Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>FMNC</b> General booking # Attendees: 30	19/02/2024 5:00:00 PM - 30/09/2024 7:30:00 PM	Saturdays
1441	<b>Port Macquarie Regional Sports Stadium</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>NRL School events - Finals</b> General booking # Attendees: 200	21/02/2024 9:00:00 AM - 1/08/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
1505	<b>Rainbow Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Camden Haven Junior Boardriders</b> Minor public event / function # Attendees: 50	25/02/2024 7:00:00 AM - 23/11/2025 12:00:00 PM	Monthly
1509	<b>North Haven Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Monthly Surfing Competition for Community in the Camden Haven</b> Minor public event / function	25/02/2024 7:00:00 AM - 8/12/2024 12:00:00 PM	Monthly
1754	<b>Lake Cathie Sporting Complex</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Lake Cathie Touch Football Association</b> General booking # Attendees: 20	1/03/2024 5:00:00 PM - 20/12/2024 6:00:00 PM	Fridays
1753	<b>Lake Cathie Sporting Complex</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Lake Cathie Touch Football Association</b> General booking # Attendees: 20	5/03/2024 5:00:00 PM - 31/12/2024 6:00:00 PM	Tuesdays
1388	<b>Rainbow Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Surfing Competition</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 50	10/03/2024 7:00:00 AM - 8/12/2024 2:00:00 PM	Monthly
1730	<b>Surfing/Bodyboarding Association</b> <b>Bookings</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Port Macquarie Surfboard Riders 2024</b> General booking # Attendees: 100	10/03/2024 7:00:00 AM - 13/10/2024 3:00:00 PM	Monthly

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## Sporting Events Calender for 23/07/2024 - 29/10/2024

1836	<b>Macquarie Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>FMNC</b> General booking # Attendees: 60	13/03/2024 4:00:00 PM - 25/09/2024 8:00:00 PM	Saturdays
1922	<b>Macquarie Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>FMNC</b> General booking # Attendees: 60	31/03/2024 8:00:00 AM - 26/10/2024 3:00:00 PM	Sundays
1446	<b>Wauchope Indoor Stadium</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>WNA Social Netball Inc.</b> Annual Hire - Community Group # Attendees: 70	3/04/2024 6:00:00 PM - 25/09/2024 9:30:00 PM	Wednesdays
1490	<b>Stuart Park Sports Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Port Macquarie Junior Rugby</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees: 180	5/04/2024 3:00:00 PM - 16/08/2024 10:00:00 PM	Fridays
2215	<b>Lank Bain Sporting Complex</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Wauchope Junior Matches</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees: 400	5/04/2024 4:30:00 PM - 28/09/2024 12:30:00 PM	Fridays & Saturdays
2019	<b>Rainbow Beach Sporting Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>FMNC Matches - LCR</b> General booking # Attendees: 500	5/04/2024 5:00:00 PM - 24/08/2024 6:00:00 PM	Fridays & Saturdays
2020	<b>Findlay Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>FMNC Matches - PSTS</b> General booking # Attendees: 500	5/04/2024 5:00:00 PM - 24/08/2024 6:00:00 PM	Fridays & Saturdays
1466	<b>Oxley Oval</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Vikings Rugby</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees: 100	6/04/2024 7:00:00 AM - 28/09/2024 6:00:00 PM	Saturdays
1529	<b>Stuart Park Sports Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Rugby League Games</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees: 350	6/04/2024 7:00:00 AM - 28/09/2024 4:30:00 PM	Saturdays
1689	<b>Blackbutt Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Hastings Baseball Inc</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees: 220	6/04/2024 8:00:00 AM - 29/09/2024 8:00:00 PM	Saturdays & Sundays

Report generated:



## Sporting Events Calender for 23/07/2024 - 29/10/2024

2015	<b>Vince Inmon Sporting Complex</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>FMNC Matches - CAM</b> General booking # Attendees: 500	6/04/2024 8:00:00 AM - 24/08/2024 6:00:00 PM	Fridays & Saturdays
1501	<b>Wayne Richards Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>AFL Game Day</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees: 150	6/04/2024 9:30:00 AM - 28/09/2024 5:30:00 PM	Saturdays
1474	<b>Vince Inmon Sporting Complex</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Rugby League - Game day</b> General booking # Attendees: 80	6/04/2024 11:00:00 AM - 28/09/2024 10:00:00 PM	Saturdays
1461	<b>Lake Cathie Sporting Complex</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Lake Cathie Raiders Seniors</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees: 250	6/04/2024 12:00:00 PM - 17/08/2024 5:00:00 PM	Saturdays
1580	<b>Wayne Richards Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>AFL Games</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees: 50	7/04/2024 8:00:00 AM - 29/09/2024 6:00:00 PM	Sundays
1596	<b>Tuffins Lane Playing Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Social Cricket Competition</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees: 150	7/04/2024 9:00:00 AM - 29/09/2024 5:00:00 PM	Sundays
1831	<b>Woods Street Sports Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Winter 2024 - Mixed &amp; Mens Oztg</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees: 300	8/04/2024 5:30:00 PM - 30/09/2024 8:00:00 PM	Mondays
2040	<b>Wayne Richards Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>FMNC Matches - PFC</b> General booking # Attendees: 500	12/04/2024 5:00:00 PM - 24/08/2024 5:00:00 PM	Fridays & Saturdays
2041	<b>Dixie Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>FMNC Matches - PUTD1</b> General booking # Attendees: 500	12/04/2024 5:00:00 PM - 31/08/2024 5:00:00 PM	Fridays & Saturdays
2016	<b>Charlie Watt Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>FMNC Matches - WPNX</b> General booking # Attendees: 100	13/04/2024 8:00:00 AM - 24/08/2024 12:00:00 PM	Saturdays

Report generated:



## Sporting Events Calender for 23/07/2024 - 29/10/2024

2149	<b>Lake Cathie Sporting Complex</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Group 3 Under 18's Matches</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees: 500	21/04/2024 9:00:00 AM - 28/07/2024 5:00:00 PM	Sundays
2042	<b>Wayne Richards Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>FMNC Matches - PUTD2</b> General booking # Attendees: 500	26/04/2024 5:00:00 PM - 23/08/2024 8:00:00 PM	Fridays
2017	<b>Fairmont Gardens Sporting Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>FMNC Matches - WAU</b> General booking # Attendees: 500	27/04/2024 8:00:00 AM - 24/08/2024 6:00:00 PM	Fridays & Saturdays
2043	<b>Tuffins Lane Playing Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>FMNC Matches - PUTD3</b> General booking # Attendees: 500	27/04/2024 8:00:00 AM - 24/08/2024 5:00:00 PM	Saturdays
2151	<b>Port Macquarie Regional Sports Stadium</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Group 3 Matches - PMSRLFC</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees: 1000	28/04/2024 8:00:00 AM - 17/08/2024 6:00:00 PM	Saturdays & Sundays
2581	<b>Vince Inmon Sporting Complex</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Camden Haven JRL Matches</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees:	4/05/2024 7:00:00 AM - 3/08/2024 11:00:00 AM	Saturdays
2588	<b>Woods Street Sports Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Port City Breakers Juniors Matches</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees:	4/05/2024 7:00:00 AM - 3/08/2024 2:00:00 PM	Saturdays
2150	<b>Lank Bain Sporting Complex</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Group 3 Matches</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees: 1000	4/05/2024 9:00:00 AM - 25/08/2024 10:00:00 AM	Saturdays & Sundays
1436	<b>Stuart Park Sports Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>NRL School events - Stuarts Park</b> General booking # Attendees: 200	7/05/2024 9:00:00 AM - 28/11/2024 2:00:00 PM	Event
1815	<b>Vince Inmon Sporting Complex</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Camden Haven Touch Football</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees: 80	8/05/2024 5:30:00 PM - 28/08/2024 7:30:00 PM	Wednesdays

Report generated:



## Sporting Events Calender for 23/07/2024 - 29/10/2024

2589	<b>Woods Street Sports Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Port City Breakers Juniors Matches</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees:	10/05/2024 5:00:00 PM - 2/08/2024 10:00:00 PM	Fridays
2152	<b>Port Macquarie Regional Sports Stadium</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Group 3 Matches - PCBRLFC</b> Seasonal Sports field allocation - Matches # Attendees: 1000	11/05/2024 9:00:00 AM - 25/08/2024 6:00:00 PM	Saturdays & Sundays
1546	<b>Woods Street Sports Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>NRL School Events</b> General booking # Attendees:	22/05/2024 8:30:00 AM - 28/11/2024 2:30:00 PM	Wednesdays & Thursdays
1888	<b>Blackbutt Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Bago Small Schools Athletics Carnival</b> General booking # Attendees: 250	27/06/2024 9:00:00 AM - 25/07/2024 3:00:00 PM	Event
2484	<b>Wayne Richards Park</b> Status: <b>Tentative</b>	<b>Paul Kelly Cup Primary School Gala Day</b> General booking # Attendees:	4/07/2024 9:00:00 AM - 25/07/2024 3:00:00 PM	Event
2506	<b>Macquarie Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Lower North Coast 15's Netball Knockout</b> General booking # Attendees: 80	24/07/2024 9:00:00 AM - 24/07/2024 2:30:00 PM	Event
2541	<b>Wayne Richards Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>PSSA Touch Football</b> General booking # Attendees: 50	26/07/2024 12:30:00 PM - 26/07/2024 2:30:00 PM	Event
1325	<b>Vince Inmon Sporting Complex</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Laurieton Public School Sport</b> General booking # Attendees: 100	26/07/2024 1:30:00 PM - 27/09/2024 3:00:00 PM	Fridays
2189	<b>Oxley Oval</b> Status: <b>Tentative</b>	<b>RSPCA Doggy's Day Out</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 150	28/07/2024 7:00:00 AM - 28/07/2024 1:00:00 PM	Event
2447	<b>Stuart Park Sports Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>PMJRU training</b> General booking # Attendees: 50	28/07/2024 9:00:00 AM - 28/07/2024 10:00:00 AM	Event

Report generated:



## Sporting Events Calender for 23/07/2024 - 29/10/2024

2577	<b>Wauchope Indoor Stadium</b> Status: <b>Tentative</b>	<b>Sporting Clinic</b> General booking # Attendees: 30	29/07/2024 6:30:00 PM - 16/09/2024 6:30:00 PM	Mondays
1789	<b>Blackbutt Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>HCH District Athletics Carnical</b> General booking # Attendees: 300	30/07/2024 7:30:00 AM - 30/07/2024 2:30:00 PM	Event
2112	<b>Rainbow Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Australian Shortboard &amp; Bodyboard Titles 2024</b> Minor public event / function # Attendees: 250	31/07/2024 7:00:00 AM - 8/08/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
2168	<b>Town Beach Reserve and Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Australian Shortboard &amp; Bodyboard Titles 2024</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 250	31/07/2024 7:00:00 AM - 8/08/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
2169	<b>Flynns Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Australian Shortboard &amp; Bodyboard Titles 2024</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 250	31/07/2024 7:00:00 AM - 8/08/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
2170	<b>Lighthouse Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Australian Shortboard &amp; Bodyboard Titles 2024</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 250	31/07/2024 7:00:00 AM - 8/08/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
2171	<b>Middle Rock Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Australian Shortboard &amp; Bodyboard Titles 2024</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 250	31/07/2024 7:00:00 AM - 8/08/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
2172	<b>Aqua Reserve / Lake Cathie Beach</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Australian Shortboard &amp; Bodyboard Titles 2024</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 250	31/07/2024 7:00:00 AM - 8/08/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
2173	<b>North Haven Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Australian Shortboard &amp; Bodyboard Titles 2024</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 250	31/07/2024 7:00:00 AM - 8/08/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
1586	<b>Stuart Park Sports Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Rugby 7s Schools tournament high school</b> General booking # Attendees:	31/07/2024 9:00:00 AM - 31/07/2024 3:00:00 PM	Event

Report generated:



## Sporting Events Calender for 23/07/2024 - 29/10/2024

2548	<b>Wauchope Indoor Stadium</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Wauchope Public School Stage 3 Sport</b> General booking # Attendees:	2/08/2024 1:30:00 PM - 20/09/2024 2:30:00 PM	Fridays
2287	<b>Wayne Richards Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Hastings Infants Athletics carnival</b> General booking # Attendees: 300	6/08/2024 8:00:00 AM - 6/08/2024 3:00:00 PM	Event
2518	<b>Tuffins Lane Playing Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>AFL Schools Gala Day</b> General booking # Attendees: 120	6/08/2024 9:00:00 AM - 6/08/2024 3:00:00 PM	Event
2050	<b>Macquarie Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Netball NSW Schools Cup</b> General booking # Attendees: 300	7/08/2024 8:00:00 AM - 7/08/2024 3:00:00 PM	Event
2051	<b>Macquarie Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Netball NSW Schools Cup</b> General booking # Attendees: 300	8/08/2024 8:00:00 AM - 8/08/2024 3:00:00 PM	Event
1734	<b>Stuart Park Sports Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>game semi final</b> General booking # Attendees: 500	11/08/2024 7:30:00 AM - 11/08/2024 8:30:00 PM	Event
2543	<b>Stuart Park Sports Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>High school girls 7s - NSW Rugby</b> General booking # Attendees: 150	13/08/2024 9:00:00 AM - 13/08/2024 3:00:00 PM	Event
2438	<b>Rowing Club Reserve</b> Status: <b>Tentative</b>	<b>3Rivers Minimarathon</b> Minor public event / function # Attendees: 150	18/08/2024 7:00:00 AM - 18/08/2024 3:30:00 PM	Event
2544	<b>Stuart Park Sports Fields</b> Status: <b>Tentative</b>	<b>Hastings Junior Cricket Academy Program</b> General booking # Attendees: 30	18/08/2024 9:00:00 AM - 29/09/2024 12:30:00 PM	Sunday
2511	<b>Blackbutt Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Athletics Carnival Tacking Point PS</b> General booking # Attendees: 300	19/08/2024 8:00:00 AM - 19/08/2024 3:00:00 PM	Event

Report generated:



## Sporting Events Calender for 23/07/2024 - 29/10/2024

2408	<b>Stuart Park Sports Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>PMJRU and NSW Rugby 7s</b> General booking # Attendees: 150	23/08/2024 4:00:00 PM - 27/09/2024 8:00:00 PM	Fridays
1827	<b>Club Reserve Laurieton</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>2024 Laurieton Vintage Motor Club Show and Shine</b> Minor public event / function # Attendees: 300	1/09/2024 7:00:00 AM - 1/09/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
2088	<b>Tuffins Lane Playing Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>School gala day</b> General booking # Attendees: 650	5/09/2024 8:00:00 AM - 5/09/2024 3:30:00 PM	Event
1718	<b>Lighthouse Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Dropknee Sessions</b> Minor public event / function # Attendees: 100	6/09/2024 7:00:00 AM - 7/09/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
2032	<b>North Shore Beach</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Dropknee Sessions</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 100	6/09/2024 7:00:00 AM - 7/09/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
2033	<b>Town Beach Reserve and Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Dropknee Sessions</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 100	6/09/2024 7:00:00 AM - 7/09/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
2034	<b>Flynns Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Dropknee Sessions</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 100	6/09/2024 7:00:00 AM - 7/09/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
2035	<b>Shelly Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Dropknee Sessions</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 100	6/09/2024 7:00:00 AM - 7/09/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
2036	<b>North Haven Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Dropknee Sessions</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 100	6/09/2024 7:00:00 AM - 7/09/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
2052	<b>Macquarie Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Netball NSW Schools Cup</b> General booking # Attendees: 300	11/09/2024 8:00:00 AM - 11/09/2024 3:00:00 PM	Event

Report generated:



## Sporting Events Calender for 23/07/2024 - 29/10/2024

2053	<b>Macquarie Park</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Netball NSW Schools Cup</b> General booking # Attendees: 300	13/09/2024 8:00:00 AM - 13/09/2024 3:00:00 PM	Event
2575	<b>Town Beach Reserve and Park</b> Status: <b>Tentative</b>	<b>SWS Boardriders battle</b> Minor public event / function # Attendees: 60	14/09/2024 9:00:00 AM - 15/09/2024 3:00:00 PM	Event
2277	<b>Rainbow Beach Reserve</b> Status: <b>Tentative</b>	<b>rainbow gold enduro</b> Major event # Attendees: 300	21/09/2024 7:00:00 AM - 21/09/2024 3:00:00 PM	Event
2374	<b>McInherney Park</b> Status: <b>Tentative</b>	<b>Port Macquarie Tri Club 2024/25 Season</b> Multi-venue locations / traversal events # Attendees: 50	22/09/2024 7:00:00 AM - 7/09/2025 9:30:00 AM	Sundays
2426	<b>Town Beach Reserve and Park</b> Status: <b>Tentative</b>	<b>Beach to Brother Trail Running Festival.</b> Major event # Attendees: 500	22/09/2024 7:00:00 AM - 22/09/2024 2:00:00 PM	Event
2319	<b>Findlay Park</b> Status: <b>Tentative</b>	<b>Neami Community Cup</b> General booking # Attendees: 200	9/10/2024 7:00:00 AM - 9/10/2024 4:00:00 PM	Event
1211	<b>Tuffins Lane Playing Fields</b> Status: <b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Lismore Diocesan Touch Football Gala Day</b> General booking # Attendees: 180	22/10/2024 7:00:00 AM - 22/10/2024 3:30:00 PM	Event
1091	<b>Charlie Watt Reserve</b> Status: <b>Tentative</b>	<b>Halloween Dusk 2 Dawn</b> Minor public event / function # Attendees: 200	25/10/2024 3:00:00 PM - 27/10/2024 11:00:00 AM	Event

Report generated:



## **AGENDA**

**PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SPORTS COUNCIL**  
**23/07/2024**

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**Item: 09**

**Subject: STANDING ITEM: REQUEST FOR PROJECT UPGRADES**

**Presented by: Community, Planning and Environment, Melissa Watkins**

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**Requests for Project Upgrades.**

### **Attachments**

Nil



## **AGENDA**

**PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SPORTS COUNCIL**  
**23/07/2024**

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**Item: 10**

**Subject: GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Presented by: Business and Performance, Keith Hentschke**

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### **Attachments**

Nil