

PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL

September 2025

Ordinary Council Meeting

Attachments

2:00 PM Thursday 18 September 2025

Council Chambers, 17 Burrawan Street, Port Macquarie

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

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BUDGET VARIATIONS - AUGUST 2025

Section	Fund	Project	Project Description	OP Ref	Capital/ Operating	Division	Full Year Original Budget	Full Year Current Budget	Actuals to August 2025	New Yearly Proposed Budget - August 2025	Movement	Funding Source	Funding Source Category	EFFECT ON FUNDING POSITION
Grants & Other Funding														
To recognise the grant funding for Port Macquarie Planning Control Review Project.														
Description:	Grant funding from Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.													
Landuse Planning	General	42535	Port Macquarie Planning Control Review	1.1.1 LUP 03	Operating	Community Planning & Environment	0	0	0	230,000	-230,000	Grant/Reserve	Materials and Contracts	0
Landuse Planning	General	19191	Operating Grants		Operating		0	0	0	-200,000	200,000	Grant	Grants and Contributions	0
Landuse Planning	General	42300	Urban Growth Management Strategy & Landuse Strategy	1.1.1 LUP 01	Operating		30,000	130,919	0	100,919	30,000	Reserve	Materials and Contracts	0
Total Grants & Other Funding											**230,000**			**0**
Reserve Movements														
Transfer of Reserve Funding required for the Annual Stormwater Renewals Program.														
Description:	This budget variance seeks to carry forward unspent 2024/25 allocation. The funds are needed to meet a 2024/25 commitment which, due to supply delays, will now be fulfilled in the current year.													
Drainage	General	41768	Stormwater Renewal Program	3.4.1 SFD 03	Capital	Community Infrastructure	209,100	209,100	475,889	687,182	-478,082	Reserve	Purchase of Assets	0
Drainage	General	19399	Reserve Funding		Capital		-113,850	-142,559	0	-620,641	478,082	Reserve	Transfer from Restricted Asset	0
Transfer of Reserve Funding required for Settlement Point and Hibbard Ferry Ramp Approaches - Installation of Boom Gates and Safety Upgrades.														
Description:	Council's ferry operations are regulated and must comply with the Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012 and any direct issued by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and SafeWork NSW. This budget is required to fund the necessary works as stipulated in the SafeWork NSW Improvement Notices.													
Ferry Management	General	42568	Settlement Point & Hibbard Ferry Ramp Approaches	TBD	Capital	Community Infrastructure	0	0	0	150,000	-150,000	Reserve	Purchase of Assets	0
Ferry Management	General	19379	Reserve Funding		Capital		-720,000	-219,911	0	-369,911	150,000	Reserve	Transfer from Restricted Asset	0
Transfer of Reserve Funding required for Sewer Pump Station Upgrade Project.														
Description:	Project's overall estimate has changed and the shortfall for the current year is an additional $375,000. Funds are therefore soughts from Sewer Reserve to fund this project.													
Sewerage Services	Sewer	39319	Sewer Pump Station Upgrades	1.3.2 WW 26	Capital	Community Utilities	440,000	440,000	322,128	815,000	-375,000	Reserve	Purchase of Assets	0
Sewerage Services	Sewer	19219	Reserve Funding		Capital		-17,959,770	-20,058,710	0	-20,433,710	375,000	Reserve	Transfer from Restricted Asset	0

BUDGET VARIATIONS - AUGUST 2025

Section	Fund	Project	Project Description	OP Ref	Capital/ Operating	Division	Full Year Original Budget	Full Year Current Budget	Actuals to August 2025	New Yearly Proposed Budget - August 2025	Movement	Funding Source	Funding Source Category	EFFECT ON FUNDING POSITION
Transfer of Reserve funds required to cover costs associated with the maintenance of Bakers Estate, Shelly Beach Corridor, Glenview Park & Lakeside Woods.														
Description:	Council collected these funds under Voluntary Planning Agreements.													
Natural Resources	General	42230	Bakers Estate Maintenance Works	1.1.1 LUP	Operating	Community Planning & Environment	0	0	0	4,640	-4,640	S7.11	Materials and Contracts	0
Natural Resources	General	41830	Shelly Beach Corridor Environmental Management	1.1.1 LUP	Operating		0	0	0	4,930	-4,930	S7.11	Materials and Contracts	0
Natural Resources	General	41720	Glenview Estate Wauchope Maintenance Works	1.1.1 LUP	Operating		0	0	0	9,280	-9,280	S7.11	Materials and Contracts	0
Natural Resources	General	41807	Lakeside Woods Environmental Management	1.1.1 LUP	Operating		0	0	0	6,380	-6,380	S7.11	Materials and Contracts	0
Natural Resources	General	19236	Section 7.11 Funding		Operating		0	0	0	-25,230	25,230	S7.11	Transfer From Restricted Assets	0
Total Reserve Movements											**1,028,312**			**0**

ORGANISATIONAL TOTAL - THIS REVIEW		**1,270,312**
FORECAST FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025		
Original Budget as at 1 July 2025	Balanced	**0**
Plus: Adjustments		
July Review	Balanced	**0**
August Review	Balanced	**0**
FORECAST FOR 30 JUNE 2026	**Balanced**	**0**

Notes:	1	The result shown above is the general fund result. All surpluses/deficits in the water, sewerage and waste funds are transferred to/from reserves.
	2	Reserve are internal restrictions that hold funds for a specific purpose, e.g. The airport has its own reserve and all income and expenditure relating to the airport is credited/debited to that reserve.
	3	Council projects are funded from a variety of funding sources. Below is a definition of the various types of funding that are used to fund projects.
		Revenue - All funds that are generated through rates, annual charges, fees and charges, interest etc. These funds are untied and can be expended on any project that Council considers appropriate.
		Grants - Government grants can either be monetary or otherwise and may be tied or untied. Tied grants are required to be used for a specific purpose such as the construction of a road. Untied grants may be applied for any purpose council considers appropriate.
		Contributions - Contributions are non-reciprocal transfers to Council in the sense that Council is not required to give value in exchange for the contributions directly to the contributor. Examples are contributions given by ratepayers towards capital works in their vicinity.
		Reserves - Reserves are internal restrictions held for a specific purpose, e.g. The airport has its own reserve and all income and expenditure relating to the airport is credited/debited to that reserve.
		S7.11 and S64 Contributions - Section 7.11 of the NSW Environmental and Planning Act (1979) and section 64 of the Local Government Act (1993) provides NSW local government with a formal legal framework for levying developers for the provision of infrastructure, services and amenities - known as developer contributions.
	4	Some projects are funded by multiple funding sources, e.g. a capital project may be funded by s7.11 funds, grants and revenue. The effect on capital column will only show the revenue funding adjustment as the other types of funding will have an income line budget adjustment shown in the report.

Income Statement																				
	2025-26 Original Budget '$000					Carry Overs + Approved Adj YTD '$000					Current Month Adj '$000					2025-26 Full Year Forecast '$000				
	General	Sewer	Waste	Water	Total	General	Sewer	Waste	Water	Total	General	Sewer	Waste	Water	Total	General	Sewer	Waste	Water	Total
Operating Activities Movements																				
Income from continuing operations	**145,663**	**51,306**	**33,747**	**45,303**	**276,019**	**6,167**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6,167**	**200**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**200**	**152,030**	**51,306**	**33,747**	**45,303**	**282,386**
Rates and Annual Charges	62,831	39,152	20,359	8,302	**130,644**					**0**					**0**	62,831	39,152	20,359	8,302	**130,644**
User Charges and Fees	11,548	459	10,951	26,689	**49,647**					**0**					**0**	11,548	459	10,951	26,689	**49,647**
Interest Received	5,721	1,889	893	5,254	**13,757**					**0**					**0**	5,721	1,889	893	5,254	**13,757**
Grants and Contributions - Operating	19,358	0	0	0	**19,358**	180				**180**	200				**200**	19,738	0	0	0	**19,738**
Grants and Contributions - Capital	41,060	9,660	0	4,819	**55,539**	5,987				**5,987**					**0**	47,047	9,660	0	4,819	**61,526**
Other Operating Receipts	5,145	146	1,544	239	**7,074**					**0**					**0**	5,145	146	1,544	239	**7,074**
Expenses from continuing operations	**(127,505)**	**(35,464)**	**(31,066)**	**(36,125)**	**(230,160)**	**(1,450)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(1,450)**	**(225)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(225)**	**(129,180)**	**(35,464)**	**(31,066)**	**(36,125)**	**(231,835)**
Employee Costs	(58,840)	(7,285)	(3,222)	(5,848)	**(75,195)**	35				**35**					**0**	(58,805)	(7,285)	(3,222)	(5,848)	**(75,160)**
Materials and Contracts	(30,797)	(7,556)	(14,422)	(7,711)	**(60,486)**	(1,485)				**(1,485)**	(225)				**(225)**	(32,507)	(7,556)	(14,422)	(7,711)	**(62,196)**
Depreciation	(40,933)	(11,577)	(817)	(13,578)	**(66,905)**					**0**					**0**	(40,933)	(11,577)	(817)	(13,578)	**(66,905)**
Interest Paid	(3,139)	(111)	(464)	0	**(3,714)**					**0**					**0**	(3,139)	(111)	(464)	0	**(3,714)**
Other Operating Payments	(8,256)	(2,680)	(7,904)	(1,970)	**(20,810)**					**0**					**0**	(8,256)	(2,680)	(7,904)	(1,970)	**(20,810)**
Overhead - Internal transfer	15,078	(5,755)	(3,305)	(6,018)	**0**					**0**					**0**	15,078	(5,755)	(3,305)	(6,018)	**0**
Dividend Payment	882	0	(882)	0	**0**					**0**					**0**	882	0	(882)	0	**0**
Loss on Disposal of Assets	(1,500)	(500)	(50)	(1,000)	**(3,050)**					**0**					**0**	(1,500)	(500)	(50)	(1,000)	**(3,050)**
Operating result from continuing operations	**18,158**	**15,842**	**2,681**	**9,178**	**45,859**	**4,717**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4,717**	**(25)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(25)**	**22,850**	**15,842**	**2,681**	**9,178**	**50,551**
Exclude Capital Items	**39,560**	**9,160**	**(50)**	**3,819**	**52,489**	**5,987**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**5,987**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**45,547**	**9,160**	**(50)**	**3,819**	**58,476**
Net Operating Result before Grants and Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	**(21,402)**	**6,682**	**2,731**	**5,359**	**(6,630)**	**(1,270)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(1,270)**	**(25)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(25)**	**(22,697)**	**6,682**	**2,731**	**5,359**	**(7,925)**

Budget Statement																				
	2025-26 Original Budget '$000					Carry Overs + Approved Adj YTD '$000					Current Month Adj '$000					2025-26 Full Year Forecast '$000				
	General	Sewer	Waste	Water	Total	General	Sewer	Waste	Water	Total	General	Sewer	Waste	Water	Total	General	Sewer	Waste	Water	Total
Operating Activities Movements																				
Income from continuing operations	**145,663**	**51,306**	**33,747**	**45,303**	**276,019**	**6,167**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6,167**	**200**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**200**	**152,030**	**51,306**	**33,747**	**45,303**	**282,386**
Rates and Annual Charges	62,831	39,152	20,359	8,302	**130,644**					**0**					**0**	62,831	39,152	20,359	8,302	**130,644**
User Charges and Fees	11,548	459	10,951	26,689	**49,647**					**0**					**0**	11,548	459	10,951	26,689	**49,647**
Interest Received	5,721	1,889	893	5,254	**13,757**					**0**					**0**	5,721	1,889	893	5,254	**13,757**
Grants and Contributions - Operating	19,358	0	0	0	**19,358**	180				**180**	200				**200**	19,738	0	0	0	**19,738**
Grants and Contributions - Capital	41,060	9,660	0	4,819	**55,539**	5,987				**5,987**					**0**	47,047	9,660	0	4,819	**61,526**
Other Operating Receipts	5,145	146	1,544	239	**7,074**					**0**					**0**	5,145	146	1,544	239	**7,074**
Expenses from continuing operations	**(127,505)**	**(35,464)**	**(31,066)**	**(36,125)**	**(230,160)**	**(1,450)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(1,450)**	**(225)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(225)**	**(129,180)**	**(35,464)**	**(31,066)**	**(36,125)**	**(231,835)**
Employee Costs	(58,840)	(7,285)	(3,222)	(5,848)	**(75,195)**	35				**35**					**0**	(58,805)	(7,285)	(3,222)	(5,848)	**(75,160)**
Materials and Contracts	(30,797)	(7,556)	(14,422)	(7,711)	**(60,486)**	(1,485)				**(1,485)**	(225)				**(225)**	(32,507)	(7,556)	(14,422)	(7,711)	**(62,196)**
Depreciation	(40,933)	(11,577)	(817)	(13,578)	**(66,905)**					**0**					**0**	(40,933)	(11,577)	(817)	(13,578)	**(66,905)**
Interest Paid	(3,139)	(111)	(464)	0	**(3,714)**					**0**					**0**	(3,139)	(111)	(464)	0	**(3,714)**
Other Operating Payments	(8,256)	(2,680)	(7,904)	(1,970)	**(20,810)**					**0**					**0**	(8,256)	(2,680)	(7,904)	(1,970)	**(20,810)**
Overhead - Internal transfer	15,078	(5,755)	(3,305)	(6,018)	**0**					**0**					**0**	15,078	(5,755)	(3,305)	(6,018)	**0**
Dividend Payment	882	0	(882)	0	**0**					**0**					**0**	882	0	(882)	0	**0**
Loss on Disposal of Assets	(1,500)	(500)	(50)	(1,000)	**(3,050)**					**0**					**0**	(1,500)	(500)	(50)	(1,000)	**(3,050)**
Operating result from continuing operations	**18,158**	**15,842**	**2,681**	**9,178**	**45,859**	**4,717**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4,717**	**(25)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(25)**	**22,850**	**15,842**	**2,681**	**9,178**	**50,551**
Restricted Asset Movements																				
Transfer from Restricted Assets	28,449	26,362	4,150	43,272	**102,233**	19,116	2,099	181	3,613	**25,009**	653	375			**1,028**	48,218	28,836	4,331	46,885	128,270
Transfer to Restricted Assets	(21,079)	(23,485)	(3,474)	(22,686)	**(70,724)**					**0**					**0**	(21,079)	(23,485)	(3,474)	(22,686)	(70,724)
Net Revenues (Used in)/Provided by in Restricted Assets	**7,370**	**2,877**	**676**	**20,586**	**31,509**	**19,116**	**2,099**	**181**	**3,613**	**25,009**	**653**	**375**	**0**	**0**	**1,028**	**27,139**	**5,351**	**857**	**24,199**	**57,546**
Property, Plant and Equipment Movements																				
Purchase of Assets	(82,177)	(34,940)	(4,050)	(43,340)	**(164,507)**	(23,833)	(2,099)	(181)	(3,613)	**(29,726)**	(628)	(375)			**(1,003)**	(106,638)	(37,414)	(4,231)	(46,953)	(195,236)
Developer Provided Assets	(5,000)	(2,000)	0	(1,000)	**(8,000)**					**0**					**0**	(5,000)	(2,000)	0	(1,000)	(8,000)
Net Revenues (Used in)/Provided by Property, Plant and Equipment Activity	**(87,177)**	**(36,940)**	**(4,050)**	**(44,340)**	**(172,507)**	**(23,833)**	**(2,099)**	**(181)**	**(3,613)**	**(29,726)**	**(628)**	**(375)**	**0**	**0**	**(1,003)**	**(111,638)**	**(39,414)**	**(4,231)**	**(47,953)**	**(203,236)**
Financing Activities Movements																				
Proceeds from Borrowings and Advances	22,388	6,200	0	0	**28,588**					**0**					**0**	22,388	6,200	0	0	28,588
Repayments of Borrowings and Advances	(3,173)	(57)	(174)	0	**(3,404)**					**0**					**0**	(3,173)	(57)	(174)	0	(3,404)
Net Revenues (Used in)/Provided by Financing Activity	**19,215**	**6,143**	**(174)**	**0**	**25,184**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**19,215**	**6,143**	**(174)**	**0**	**25,184**
Net Result (Incl Depreciation)	**(42,434)**	**(12,078)**	**(867)**	**(14,576)**	**(69,955)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(42,434)**	**(12,078)**	**(867)**	**(14,576)**	**(69,955)**
Add Back: Non Cash Items	42,434	12,078	867	14,576	**69,955**					**0**					**0**	42,434	12,078	867	14,576	69,955
Budget Surplus/(Shortfall)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Monthly Investment Review

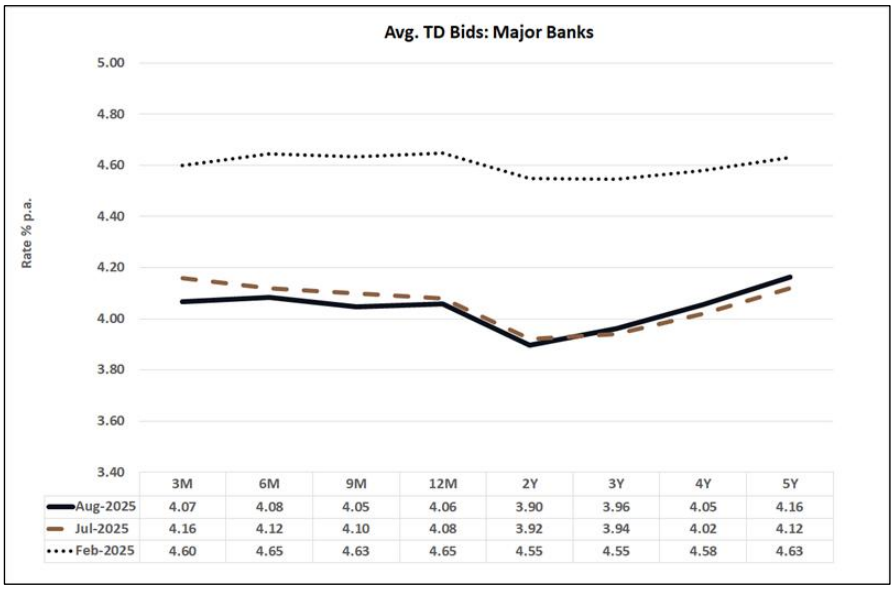
As at 31 August 2025

Arlo Advisory Pty Ltd
ABN: 55 668 191 795
Authorised Representative of InterPrac Financial Planning Pty Ltd
AFSL 246 638
Phone: +61 2 9053 2987
Email: michael.chandra@arloadvisory.com.au / melissa.villamin@arloadvisory.com.au
Level 3, Suite 304, 80 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Market Update Summary

Global equity markets continued to reach new highs over August, despite the ongoing uncertainty with regards to global tariffs and geopolitics. Markets appear to be buoyed by further central bank rate cuts, or expectations of additional cuts in the short-term. Although the risks to growth remain material, the prospect of further policy support (both monetary and fiscal) is likely to provide support to the medium-term growth outlook and valuations.

In the deposit market, over August, at the short-end of the curve (under 9 months), the average deposit rates offered by the domestic major banks fell ~5bp compared to the previous month (July) after the RBA cut official interest rates. At the longer-end of the curve (1-5 years), the average deposit rates remained relatively flat with the market already largely pricing in additional two rate cuts over the next 6-12 months.



	3M	6M	9M	12M	2Y	3Y	4Y	5Y
Aug-2025	4.07	4.08	4.05	4.06	3.90	3.96	4.05	4.16
Jul-2025	4.16	4.12	4.10	4.08	3.92	3.94	4.02	4.12
Feb-2025	4.60	4.65	4.63	4.65	4.55	4.55	4.58	4.63

Source: Imperium Markets

With additional rate cuts and a global economic downturn priced in over the next 6-12 months, investors should consider diversifying and taking an 'insurance policy' against a potentially lower rate environment by investing across 1-5 year fixed deposits and locking in rates close to or above 4% p.a. (small allocation only).

Port Macquarie-Hasting Council's Portfolio Summary

Compliance

Compliance Measure	Within Policy Limits (Y/N)	Reason if Not Compliant
Term to Maturity	Yes – Compliant	n/a
Counterparty	Yes – Compliant	n/a
Credit Quality	Yes – Compliant	n/a

^Compliance measures as per NSW Minister's Order & Council's adopted Investment Policy

Performance

As at 31/08/2025	1m (actual)	1m (% p.a.)	FYTD (actual)	FYTD (% p.a.)
AusBond Bank Bill Index	0.32%	3.84%	0.62%	3.72%
Council's Portfolio^	**0.33%**	**3.90%**	**0.64%**	**3.83%**
Relative Performance	0.01%	0.06%	0.02%	0.11%

^Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings.

Council's Portfolio & Compliance

Asset Allocation

The portfolio is predominately directed to fixed term deposits (89.61%). The remainder of the portfolio is directed to fixed bonds with the Northern Territory Treasury Corporation (3.45%) and the overnight cash account with Westpac (6.94%).

Senior FRNs are currently considered 'expensive' on a historical basis but new issuances should continue to be considered on a case by case scenario. In the interim, staggering a mix of fixed deposits between 12 months to 5 years remains a more optimal strategy to maximise returns over a longer-term cycle.

With additional interest rate cuts and a global economic downturn being priced in over the next 12 months, investors can choose to allocate a small proportion of longer-term funds and undertake an insurance policy against additional rate cuts by investing across 1-5 year fixed deposits or fixed bonds, locking in and targeting yields above 4% p.a.



Term to Maturity

All maturity limits (minimum and maximum) comply with the Investment Policy. Short-Medium Term (1-3 years) assets account for around 31½% of the total investment portfolio, with capacity of around $167m remaining. Future investments should be directed to the 1-5 year horizon as this is where we currently see the best value to maximise returns over a longer-term cycle.



Where there is (counterparty) capacity to invest in attractive 1-5 year investments, we recommend this be allocated to new any remaining attractive fixed term deposits or fixed bonds (refer to respective sections below).

Compliant	Horizon	Invested ($)	Invested (%)	Min. Limit (%)	Max. Limit (%)	Available ($)
✓	0 – 1 year	$237,247,755	54.57%	40%	100%	$197,500,000
✓	1 - 3 years	$137,000,000	31.51%	0%	70%	$167,323,429
✓	3 – 5½ years	$60,500,000	13.92%	0%	40%	$113,399,102
✓	5½ - 10 years	$0	0.00%	0%	10%	$43,474,776
		$434,747,755	**100.00%**			

Counterparty

As at the end of August 2025, Council was within policy limits with each individual ADI. Overall, the portfolio is diversified across the investment grade credit spectrum (rated BBB- or higher).

Compliant	Issuer	Rating	Invested ($)	Invested (%)	Max. Limit (%)	Available ($)
✓	ANZ	AA-	$23,000,000	5.29%	30.00%	$107,424,327
✓	NAB	AA-	$64,000,000	14.72%	30.00%	$66,424,327
✓	North. Territory	AA-	$15,000,000	3.45%	30.00%	$115,424,327
✓	Westpac	AA-	$61,247,755	14.09%	30.00%	$69,176,571
✓	ICBC Sydney	A	$50,000,000	11.50%	20.00%	$36,949,551
✓	ING Bank	A	$73,000,000	16.79%	20.00%	$13,949,551
✓	BOQ	A-	$15,000,000	3.45%	20.00%	$71,949,551
✓	Aust. Military	BBB+	$20,000,000	4.60%	10.00%	$23,474,776
✓	Aust. Unity	BBB+	$5,000,000	1.15%	10.00%	$38,474,776
✓	Bank of Us	BBB+	$6,500,000	1.50%	10.00%	$36,974,776
✓	BankVIC	BBB+	$16,000,000	3.68%	10.00%	$27,474,776
✓	Hume Bank	BBB+	$16,000,000	3.68%	10.00%	$27,474,776
✓	P&N Bank	BBB+	$14,000,000	3.22%	10.00%	$29,474,776
✓	Auswide Bank	BBB	$3,000,000	0.69%	10.00%	$40,474,776
✓	MyState Bank	BBB	$15,000,000	3.45%	10.00%	$28,474,776
✓	State Bank India	BBB-	$38,000,000	8.74%	10.00%	$5,474,776
			$434,747,755	**100.00%**		

In July 2024, ANZ's takeover of Suncorp Bank was formalised, and ratings agency S&P upgraded Suncorp's long-term credit rating to that of its parent company immediately (now rated AA-). Investor's exposure to Suncorp is now reflected under the parent company being ANZ.

Fossil Fuel Investments

What is Council's current exposure to institutions that fund fossil fuels?

Using the following link http://www.marketforces.org.au/banks/compare, based on the Council's investment portfolio balance as at 31/08/2025 (~$435m), we can roughly estimate that ~66% of the investments have some form of exposure.

Council's exposure is summarised as follows:

Counterparty	Credit Rating	Funding Fossil Fuel
ANZ^^	AA-	Yes
NAB	AA-	Yes
NTTC	AA-	Yes
WBC	AA-	Yes
ICBC, Sydney	A	Yes
ING Bank Australia	A	Yes
BoQ	A-	No
Australian Military	BBB+	No
Australian Unity	BBB+	No
Bank of Us	BBB+	No
BankVIC	BBB+	No
Hume Bank	BBB+	No
P&N Bank	BBB+	No
Auswide	BBB	No
MyState Bank	BBB	No
State Bank of India	BBB-	No

Source: https://www.marketforces.org.au/info/compare-bank-table/
^^Reflects the exposure to Suncorp following the takeover by ANZ

Funding Fossil Fuel	Amount	Invested %	Wgt. Avg. Yield % p.a.
Yes	$286,247,755	66%	3.35%
No	$148,500,000	34%	4.64%
Total / Wgt. Avg.	**$434,747,755**	**100%**	**3.79%**

Transition to investments without major exposure to fossil fuels

Council has not made a decision to divest from the current portfolio of investments which have exposure to fossil fuels. To do so would have unfavourable implications to the credit quality, rating and interest income forecasts.

However, where possible, and within the ministerial and policy guidelines, Council will continue to favour newly issued fossil fuel free investment products, providing it does not compromise the risk and return profile.

In time it is Councils intention to move to a more balanced portfolio which has less exposure to fossil fuels, providing it is prudent to do so.

What would be implications on our portfolio credit rating?

By adopting a free fossil fuel policy or an active divestment strategy, this would eliminate the major banks rated "AA-" as well as some other "A" rated banks (e.g. Macquarie and ING). Council would be left with a smaller sub-sector of banks to choose to invest with.

What would be risks and implications on Council's portfolio performance?

Some implications include:

- High concentration risk – limiting Council to a selected number of banks;
- Increased credit/counterparty risk;
- May lead to a reduction in performance (e.g. most of the senior FRN issuances are with the higher rated ADIs);
- Underperformance compared to other Councils which could result in a significant loss of income generated – could be in excess of hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars per annum.

It may actually be contrary to Council's primary objective to preserve capital as the investment portfolio's risk would increase (all things being equal). Council may not be maximising its returns – this is one of the primary objectives written in the Investment Policy.

Credit Quality

The portfolio remains diversified from a credit ratings perspective. The portfolio is mainly directed to the investment grade ADIs (BBB- or higher). There is high capacity to invest in the higher rated ADIs (A or higher).

There remains some capacity to invest with the "BBB" rated ADIs (~$18m remaining as at the reporting date) following the recent ratings upgrade for BoQ (moved up from BBB to A category range). From a ratings perspective, the "BBB" rated banks still generally dominate the number of ADIs issuing deposits within the investment grade space. There has been some signs of appetite growing in the wholesale deposit market as additional lower rated ("BBB" and unrated) ADIs have come to market to raise 'new' money.

Over coming years, we may start to see a more 'normalised' environment where the lower rated banks start to offer higher rates compared to the higher rated banks as the competition for deposits grow. As more of these banks become more competitive for funds, Council may look to allocate additional funds amongst this sector, particularly with those ADIs that are not lending to the Fossil Fuel industry i.e. the more 'ethical' banks.

If there are any attractive deposits being offered in the "BBB" rated sector, we will inform Council to take advantage and invest accordingly. All ratings categories are within the current Policy limits, although we note the "BBB" rated category is approaching maximum limits:

Compliant	Credit Rating	Invested ($)	Invested (%)	Max. Limit (%)	Available ($)
✓	AA Category	$163,247,755	37.55%	100%	$271,500,000
✓	A Category	$138,000,000	31.74%	60%	$122,848,653
✓	BBB Category	$133,500,000	30.71%	35%	$18,661,714
✓	Unrated ADIs	$0	0.00%	5%	$21,737,388
		$434,747,755	**100.00%**		

Performance

Council's performance for the period ending August 2025 is summarised as follows:

Performance (Actual)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year	2 years	3 years
Official Cash Rate	0.30%	0.94%	1.94%	0.62%	4.10%	4.21%	3.94%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	0.32%	0.94%	2.00%	0.62%	4.25%	4.32%	4.00%
Council's T/D Portfolio	0.33%	0.97%	1.94%	0.66%	3.73%	3.47%	3.08%
Council's Bond Portfolio	0.11%	0.33%	0.66%	0.22%	1.27%	1.24%	1.22%
Council's Portfolio^	**0.33%**	**0.94%**	**1.88%**	**0.64%**	**3.62%**	**3.36%**	**3.00%**
Rel. Performance	**0.00%**	**0.00%**	**-0.12%**	**0.02%**	**-0.64%**	**-0.96%**	**-1.00%**

^Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings.

Performance (% p.a.)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year	2 years	3 years
Official Cash Rate	3.60%	3.77%	3.89%	3.72%	4.10%	4.21%	3.94%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	3.84%	3.79%	4.00%	3.72%	4.25%	4.32%	4.00%
Council's T/D Portfolio	4.00%	3.89%	3.88%	3.92%	3.73%	3.47%	3.08%
Council's Bond Portfolio	1.34%	1.31%	1.31%	1.32%	1.27%	1.24%	1.22%
Council's Portfolio^	**3.90%**	**3.79%**	**3.77%**	**3.83%**	**3.62%**	**3.36%**	**3.00%**
Rel. Performance	**0.06%**	**0.00%**	**-0.23%**	**0.11%**	**-0.64%**	**-0.96%**	**-1.00%**

^Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings.

For the month ending August 2025, the total portfolio (excluding cash) provided a solid return of +0.33% (actual) or +3.90% p.a. (annualised), outperforming the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill Index return of +0.32% (actual) or +3.84% p.a. (annualised). The relative 'underperformance' over the past few years has been due to the unexpected aggressive rate hikes undertaken by the RBA following the pandemic period to temper inflation. Whilst this 'underperformance' may continue in the short-term, we do anticipate this to be fairly temporary after the RBA begun its easing cycle with rate cuts delivered in February, May and August. Council should also remind itself it has consistently 'outperformed' over longer-term time periods as demonstrated by the longer-term returns of the overall investment portfolio.

We are pleased that PMHC remains amongst the best performing Councils in the state of NSW where deposits are concerned over longer-term periods (+5yrs). We have been pro-active in our advice about protecting interest income by strategically maintaining a slightly longer duration position. Council has reaped the benefits during the pandemic period (and historically). The portfolio should outperform by undertaking a similar strategy in the long-run.

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Recommendations for Council

Term Deposits

As of August 2025, Council's **deposit** portfolio was yielding 3.86% p.a. (down 3bp from the end of the previous month), with a weighted average duration of ~1.52 years. Where possible, we recommend Council maintains this weighted average duration to optimise returns in the long run.

Please refer to the section below for further details on the Term Deposit market.

Securities

Primary (new) **FRNs** (with maturities between 3-5 years) are expensive on a historical basis but remains an option (particularly for those investors with portfolios skewed towards fixed assets) and should be considered on a case by case scenario. **Fixed Bonds** may also provide attractive opportunities from new (primary) issuances.

Please refer to the section below for further details on the FRN market.

Council's Senior Fixed Bonds

During September 2021, Council placed parcels in NTTC (AA-) fixed bonds as follows:

Investment Date	Maturity Date	Principal	Rate % p.a.^	Remaining Term (Yrs)	Interest Paid
14/09/2021	15/12/2025	$5,000,000	1.10%	0.29	Annually
02/09/2021	15/12/2026	$5,000,000	1.40%	1.29	Annually
07/09/2021	15/12/2026	$5,000,000	1.40%	1.29	Annually
	Totals / Wgt. Avg.	**$15,000,000**	**1.30%**	**0.96**	

^Council received the full rebated commission of 0.25% (plus GST) on the face value of investment on all these parcels (currently totalling $55,000).

We believe these investments were prudent at the time of investment, especially after the rate cut delivered in early November 2020 and the RBA's forward guidance on official interest rates (no rate rises '*until at least 2024*').

The NTTC bonds are a 'retail' offering and not 'wholesale' issuances. Given the lack of liquidity and high penalty costs if they were to be sold/redeemed prior to the maturity date, they are considered to be a hold-to-maturity investment and will be marked at par value ($100.00) throughout the term of investment.

Term Deposit Market Review

Current Term Deposits Rates

As at the end of August, we see value in the following:

ADI	LT Credit Rating	Term	Rate % p.a.
ING Bank	A	5 years	4.25%
NAB	AA-	5 years	4.20%
Westpac	AA-	5 years	4.15%
BoQ	A-	5 years	4.14%
NAB	AA-	4 years	4.10%
ING Bank	A	4 years	4.10%
BoQ	A-	4 years	4.04%
Westpac	AA-	4 years	4.03%
Australian Military	BBB+	3 years	4.07%
NAB	AA-	3 years	4.00%
ING Bank	A	3 years	3.96%
Police CU	Unrated	3 years	3.96%
Australian Military	BBB+	2 years	4.05%
Police CU	Unrated	2 years	3.96%
NAB	AA-	2 years	3.95%
Arab Bank Australia	Unrated	2 years	3.95%

The above deposits are suitable for investors looking to maintain diversification and lock-in a slight premium compared to purely investing short-term.

For terms under 12 months, we believe the strongest value is currently being offered by the following ADIs (*we stress that rates are indicative, dependent on daily funding requirements and different for industry segments*):

ADI	LT Credit Rating	Term	Rate % p.a.
Police CU	Unrated	12 months	4.15%
Westpac	AA-	12 months	4.12%
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	12 months	4.12%
Bank of Sydney	Unrated	12 months	4.12%
NAB	AA-	12 months	4.10%
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	9 months	4.14%
Westpac	AA-	9 months	4.11%
NAB	AA-	9 months	4.10%
Police CU	Unrated	9 months	4.10%
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	6 months	4.20%
Police CU	Unrated	6 months	4.20%
Bank of China Sydney	A	6 months	4.17%
Westpac	AA-	6 months	4.14%
NAB	AA-	6 months	4.10%
Police CU	Unrated	3 months	4.16%
ANZ	AA-	3 months	4.14%
Bank of Sydney	Unrated	3 months	4.14%
NAB	AA-	3 months	4.11%

For those investors that do not require high levels of liquidity and can stagger their investments longer term, they will be rewarded over a longer-term cycle if they roll for an average min. term of 12 months, with a spread of investments out to 5 years (this is where we see current value). In a normal market environment (upward sloping yield curve), investors could earn over a cycle, on average, up to ¼-½% p.a. higher compared to those investors that entirely invest in short-dated deposits.

With additional rate cuts and a global economic downturn priced in over the next 6-12 months, investors should consider allocating some longer-term surplus funds and undertake an insurance policy by investing across 1-5 year fixed deposits and locking in rates close to or above 4% p.a. This will provide some income protection if the RBA decides to continue cutting rates over 2025 and into 2026.

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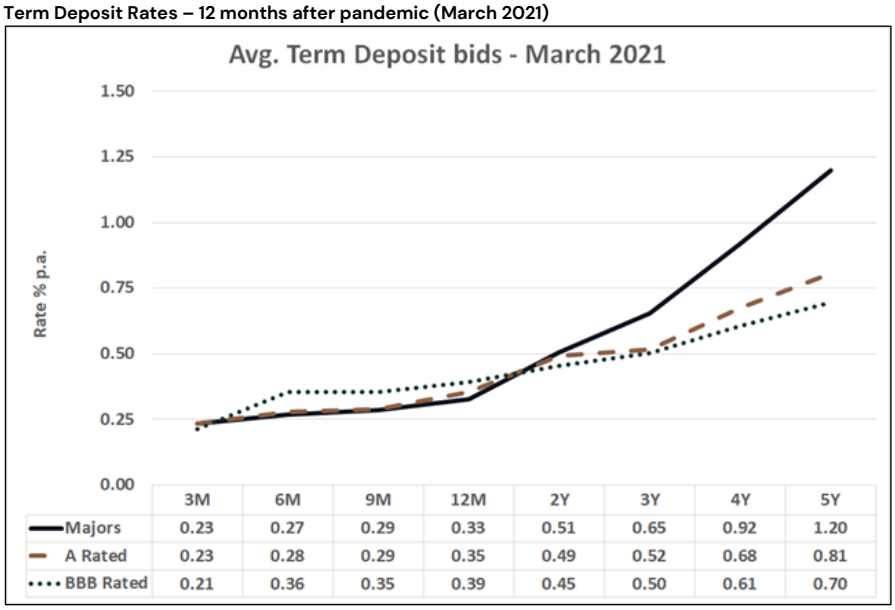
Term Deposits Analysis

Pre-pandemic (March 2020), a 'normal' marketplace meant the lower rated ADIs (i.e. BBB category) were offering higher rates on term deposits compared to the higher rated ADIs (i.e. A or AA rated). But due to the cheap funding available provided by the RBA via their Term Funding Facility (TFF) during mid-2020, allowing the ADIs to borrow as low as 0.10% p.a. fixed for 3 years, those lower rated ADIs (BBB rated) did not require deposit funding from the wholesale deposit. Given the higher rated banks had more capacity to lend (as they have a greater pool of mortgage borrowers), they subsequently were offering higher deposit rates. In fact, some of the lower rated banks were not even offering deposit rates at all. As a result, most investors placed a higher proportion of their deposit investments with the higher rated (A or AA) ADIs over the past three years.

Term Deposit Rates – 12 months after pandemic (March 2021)



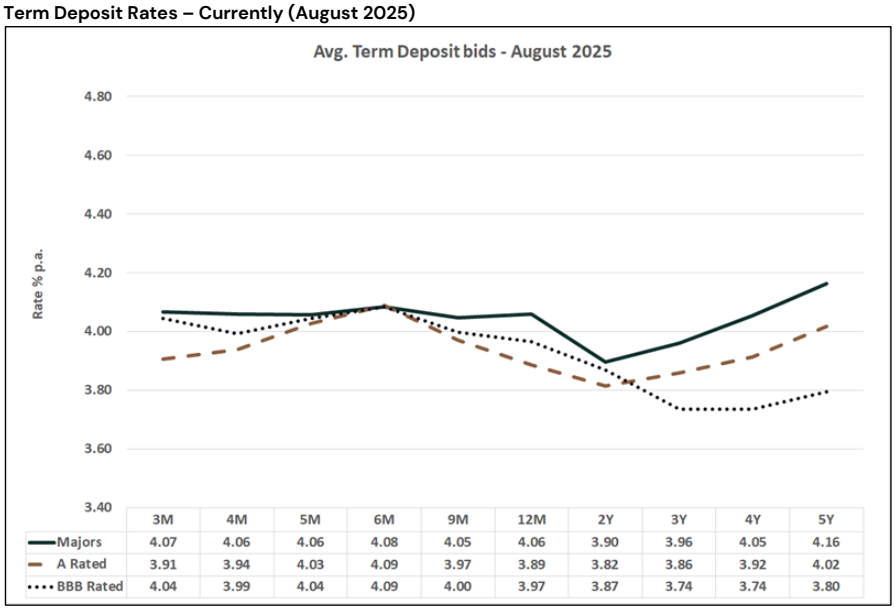
	3M	6M	9M	12M	2Y	3Y	4Y	5Y
Majors	0.23	0.27	0.29	0.33	0.51	0.65	0.92	1.20
A Rated	0.23	0.28	0.29	0.35	0.49	0.52	0.68	0.81
BBB Rated	0.21	0.36	0.35	0.39	0.45	0.50	0.61	0.70

Source: Imperium Markets

The abnormal marketplace experienced during the pandemic is starting to reverse as the competition for deposits slowly increases, partially driven by the RBA's term funding facility coming to an end. In recent months, we have started to periodically see some of the lower rated ADIs ("A" and "BBB" rated) offering slightly higher rates compared to the domestic major banks ("AA" rated) on different parts of the curve (i.e. pre-pandemic environment). Some of this has been attributed to lags in adjusting their deposit rates as some banks (mainly the lower rated ADIs) simply set their rates for the week.

Going forward, investors should have a larger opportunity to invest a higher proportion of its funds with the lower rated institutions (up to Policy limits), from which the majority are not lending to the Fossil Fuel industry or considered 'ethical'. We are slowly seeing this trend emerge, although the major banks always seem to react more quickly than the rest of the market during periods of volatility:

Term Deposit Rates – Currently (August 2025)



	3M	4M	5M	6M	9M	12M	2Y	3Y	4Y	5Y
Majors	4.07	4.06	4.06	4.08	4.05	4.06	3.90	3.96	4.05	4.16
A Rated	3.91	3.94	4.03	4.09	3.97	3.89	3.82	3.86	3.92	4.02
BBB Rated	4.04	3.99	4.04	4.09	4.00	3.97	3.87	3.74	3.74	3.80

Source: Imperium Markets

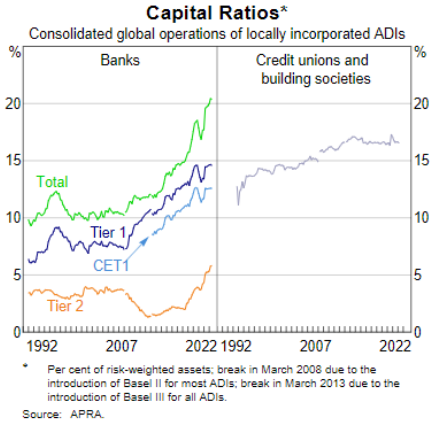
Financial Stability of the Banking (ADI) Sector

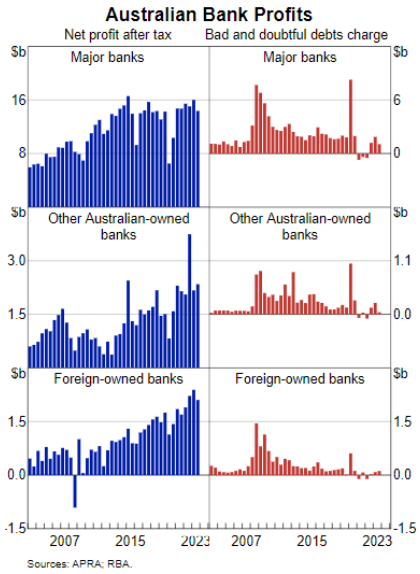
The RBA's latest Financial Stability report of 2024 reaffirms the strong balance sheet across the ADI sector. They noted that the risk of widespread financial stress remains limited due to the generally strong financial positions of most (individual) borrowers. Very few mortgage borrowers are in negative equity, limiting the impact on lenders (ADIs) in the event of default and supporting their ability to continue providing credit to the economy. Most businesses that have entered insolvency are small and have little debt, limiting the broader impact on the labour market and thus household incomes, and on the capital position of lenders (ADIs).

Australian banks (collectively the APRA regulated ADIs) have maintained prudent lending standards and are well positioned to continue supplying credit to the economy. A deterioration in economic conditions or temporary disruption to funding markets is unlikely to halt lending activity. Banks have anticipated an

increase in loan arrears and have capital and liquidity buffers well above regulatory requirements (*see Capita Ratios chart below*). APRA's mandate is to "*protect depositors*" and provide "*financial stability*".

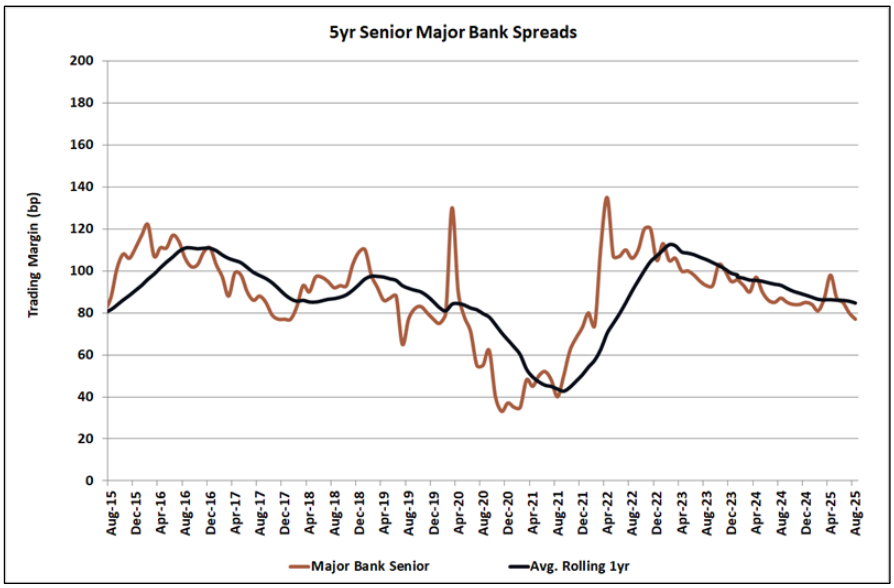
Over the past two decades, both domestic and international banks continue to operate and demonstrate high levels of profitability (*see Australian Bank Profits chart below*), which also includes two stress-test environments being the GFC (September 2008) and the COVID pandemic (March 2020):





Senior FRNs Market Review

Over August, amongst the senior major bank FRNs, physical credit securities tightened up to 3bp at the long-end of the curve. During the month, CBA (AA-) issued a dual 3¼ and 5 year senior security at +67bp and +77bp respectively. Long-term major bank senior securities are looking slightly expensive on a historical basis, noting the 5yr margin has averaged around the +87-90bp level over a cycle (currently around +77bp).



Source: IBS Capital

During the month, outside of CBA, only ING Bank Australia issued a new covered 5yr security (AAA) at +78bp. Amongst the "A" and "BBB" rated sectors, the securities tightened between 3-5bp at the longer-end of the curve.

Overall, credit securities are slightly expensive on a historical basis but remain a good option for diversification purposes. FRNs will continue to play a role in investors' portfolios mainly based on their liquidity and the ability to roll down the curve and gross up returns over ensuing years (in a relatively stable credit environment), whilst also providing some diversification to those investors skewed towards fixed assets.

Senior FRNs (ADIs)	31/08/2025	31/07/2025
"AA" rated – 5yrs	+77bp	+80bp
"AA" rated – 3yrs	+62bp	+65bp
"A" rated – 5yrs	+85bp	+90bp
"A" rated – 3yrs	+72bp	+75bp
"BBB" rated – 3yrs	+120bp	+125bp

Source: IBS Capital

We now generally recommend switches ('benchmark' issues only) into new primary issues, out of the following senior FRNs that are maturing:

- On or before mid-2028 for the "AA" rated ADIs (domestic major banks);
- On or before 2026 for the "A" rated ADIs; and
- Within 6-9 months for the "BBB" rated ADIs (consider case by case).

Investors holding onto the above senior FRNs ('benchmark' issues only) in their last few years are now generally holding sub optimal investments and are not maximising returns by foregoing realised capital gains. In the current challenging economic environment, any boost in overall returns should be locked in when it is advantageous to do so, particularly as switch opportunities become available.

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Senior Fixed Bonds – ADIs (Secondary Market)

With global inflation softening and official interest rates starting to drop progressively, investors may look at some opportunities in the secondary market. We currently see value in the following fixed bond lines (please note supply in the secondary market may be limited on any day):

ISIN	Issuer	Rating	Capital Structure	Maturity Date	~Remain. Term (yrs)	Fixed Coupon	Indicative Yield
AU3CB0314763	Bendigo	A-	Senior	24/10/2028	3.16	4.79%	4.23%
AU3CB0308955	BoQ	A-	Senior	30/04/2029	3.68	5.30%	4.36%
AU3CB0319879	Nova Sco.	A-	Senior	21/03/2030	4.57	5.23%	4.80%

Economic Commentary

International Market

Global equity markets continued to reach new highs over August, despite the ongoing uncertainty with regards to global tariffs and geopolitics. Markets appear to be buoyed by further central bank rate cuts, or expectations of additional cuts in the short-term. Although the risks to growth remain material, the prospect of further policy support (both monetary and fiscal) is likely to provide support to the medium-term growth outlook and valuations.

Across equity markets, the US S&P 500 Index rose +1.91%, whilst the NASDAQ gained +1.58%. Europe's main indices were mixed, with gains in UK's FTSE (+0.60%), whilst France's CAC (-0.88%) and Germany's DAX (-0.68%) both fell.

The July US FOMC minutes showed most officials still prioritising inflation risks over labour market softness. US core CPI came in at consensus at +0.32% m/m in July, to be +3.1% y/y annually. US unemployment rate rose to 4.2% from 4.1% in line with consensus, whilst there was a 0.1% drop in the participation rate from 62.3% to 62.2%.

Canada's July labour market data showed an unexpectedly sharp fall in employment (-40.8k), but there was no change to the unemployment rate at 6.9%, thanks in large part to a 0.2% drop in the participation rate to 65.2%.

As expected, the Bank of England (BoE) cut rates by 25bp at its early August meeting, taking Bank Rate down to 4.00%, the fifth cut in the easing cycle that started a year ago. UK wages growth came in as expected with the key private excluding bonuses at +4.8% y/y vs. +4.8% consensus and +4.9% previously.

The RBNZ cut rates by 25bp to 3.00% as expected, but the dovish tone surprised, with two members voted for a 50bp cut, with the market forecasting a terminal rate of 2.50%.

China published its July inflation data, showing CPI avoiding a return to outright deflation, printing at 0.0% down from 0.1% against an expected -0.1%. In contrast PPI deflation held at its -3.6% June rates - the weakest in two years. Retail sales slowed to +3.7% y/y, industrial production decelerated to +5.7%, whilst new home prices fell -0.31% m/m — the sharpest drop since October.

The MSCI World ex-Aus Index rose +2.60% for the month of August:

Index	1m	3m	1yr	3yr	5yr	10yr
S&P 500 Index	+1.91%	+9.28%	+14.37%	+17.77%	+13.04%	+12.60%
MSCI World ex-AUS	+2.60%	+8.60%	+16.30%	+19.20%	+13.50%	+12.30%
S&P ASX 200 Accum. Index	+3.10%	+7.03%	+14.74%	+13.04%	+12.32%	+9.87%

Source: S&P, MSCI

Domestic Market

The RBA cut the official cash rate by 25bp as expected to 3.60% in its meeting in August, encouraged by a further decline in core inflation and a slight easing in labour market conditions. There were no changes to the unemployment rate or inflation forecasts in the August Statement on Monetary Policy. The RBA has downgraded their longer-term productivity assumptions and now see Australian trend GDP growth at around 2%.

The Q2 wage price index (WPI) printed broadly as expected at +0.8% q/q vs. +0.8% consensus. The annual rate though was slightly stronger at +3.4% y/y vs. +3.3% consensus.

Monthly CPI indicator jumped to +2.8% in July from +1.9% in June, above expectations. The annual trimmed mean also jumped to +2.7% from +2.1%. The outcome of the July indicator was always going to come down to measurement of electricity subsidies and travel prices. Those components drove the surprise.

Employment rose +24.5k in July, with the unemployment rate ticking down 0.1% to 4.2%.

APRA formalised a three-tiered approach for prudential regulation for 'large', 'medium' and 'small' banks. This could allow a more nuanced regulatory approach and see reduced regulatory costs for medium banks.

The Australian dollar gained around +1.07%, finishing the month at US65.38 cents (from US64.69 cents the previous month).

Credit Market

The global credit indices remained relatively flat this month. They remain near the levels seen in early-mid 2022 (prior to the rate hike cycle from most central banks):

Index	August 2025	July 2025
CDX North American 5yr CDS	50bp	51bp
iTraxx Europe 5yr CDS	54bp	53bp
iTraxx Australia 5yr CDS	67bp	69bp

Source: Markit

Fixed Interest Review

Benchmark Index Returns

Index	August 2025	July 2025
Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index (0+YR)	+0.32%	+0.30%
Bloomberg AusBond Composite Bond Index (0+YR)	+0.28%	-0.04%
Bloomberg AusBond Credit FRN Index (0+YR)	+0.46%	+0.43%
Bloomberg AusBond Credit Index (0+YR)	+0.60%	+0.26%
Bloomberg AusBond Treasury Index (0+YR)	+0.24%	-0.23%
Bloomberg AusBond Inflation Gov't Index (0+YR)	+0.83%	+0.03%

Source: Bloomberg

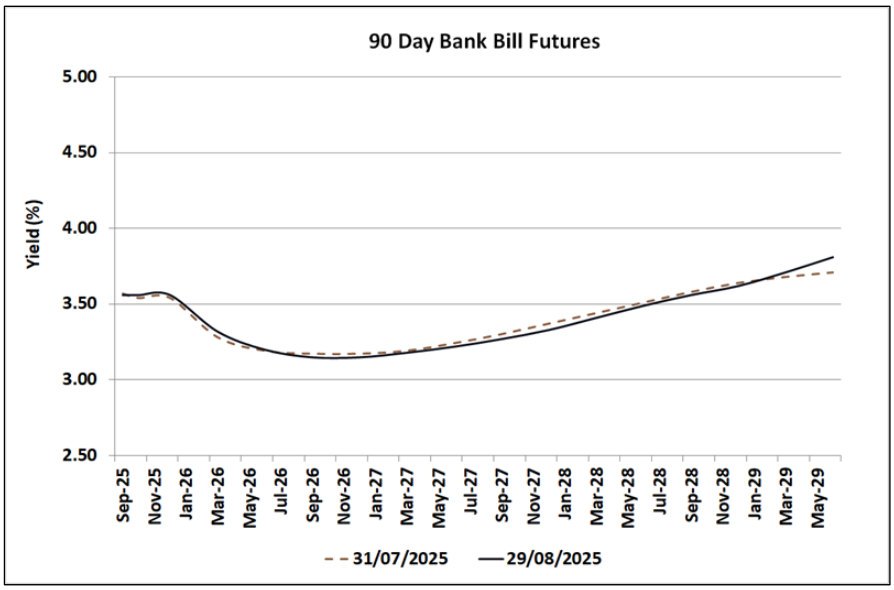
Other Key Rates

Index	August 2025	July 20255
RBA Official Cash Rate	3.60%	3.85%
90 Day (3 month) BBSW Rate	3.57%	3.68%
3yr Australian Government Bonds	3.37%	3.39%
10yr Australian Government Bonds	4.26%	4.26%
US Fed Funds Rate	4.25%-4.50%	4.25%-4.50%
2yr US Treasury Bonds	3.59%	3.94%
10yr US Treasury Bonds	4.23%	4.37%

Source: RBA, ASX, US Department of Treasury

90 Day Bill Futures

Bill futures remained relatively flat this month, consistent with the movement in the bond market:



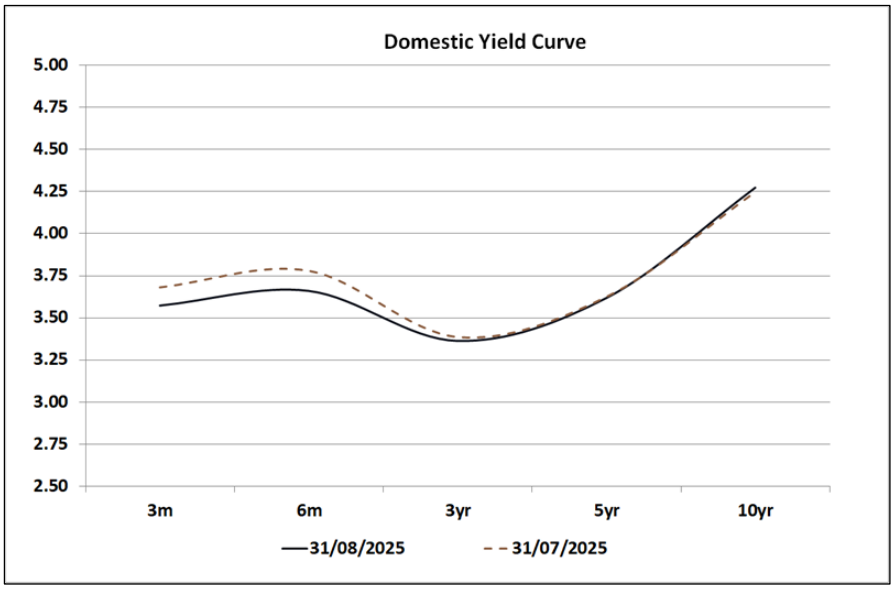
Source: ASX

Fixed Interest Outlook

US Fed chair Powell recently commented "*the balance of risks may be shifting*" (in relation to the Fed's dual mandate) and "*with policy in restrictive territory, the baseline outlook and the shifting balance of risks may warrant adjusting our policy stance*". The market continues to factor at least two rate cuts by the US Fed for the remainder of 2025.

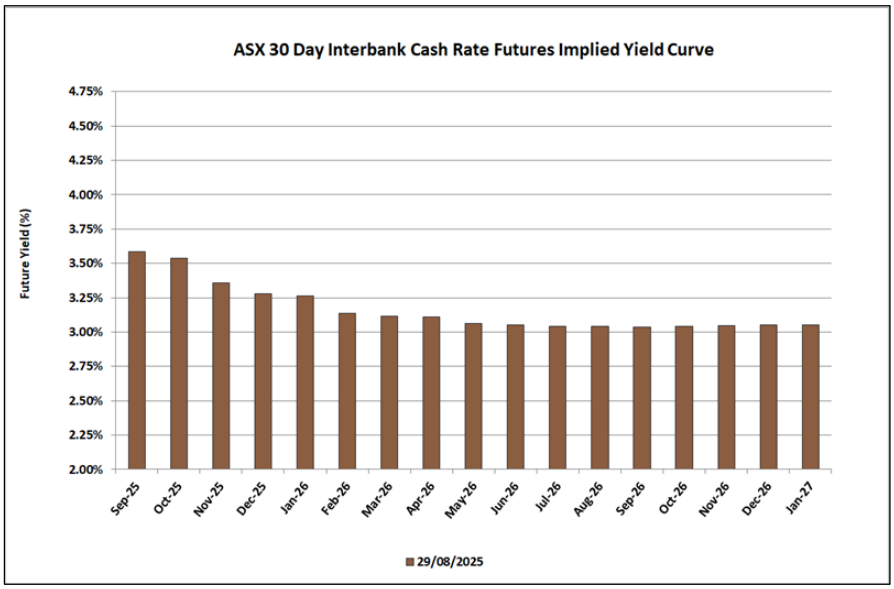
The latest RBA Minutes concluded "*some further reduction in the cash rate over the coming year*" was likely, with the pace of that easing being contingent on the data flow. Inflation is expected to settle close to the mid-point of the target band of 2-3%, and growth remaining subdued with little gains in productivity. This outlook assumes that the cash rate reaches 3%; the RBA notes in their Statement of Monetary Policy (SoMP) that this path for the cash rate "*…is consistent with sustaining balance in the economy, although this assessment is uncertain*".

Yields remained flat at the longer-end of the curve this month:



Source: ASX, RBA

Financial markets are factoring up to two (2) additional rate cuts by early-mid 2026, taking the official cash rate down to 3.10%:



Source: ASX

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Investment Report

01/08/2025 to 31/08/2025

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS COUNCIL

Portfolio Valuation as at 31/08/2025

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	02/09/2021	02/09/2025	1.2000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	59,835.62	5,095.89
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	05/09/2023	05/09/2025	5.0500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	249,732.88	21,445.21
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	12/09/2023	12/09/2025	5.0000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	242,465.75	21,232.88
P&N Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	13/09/2022	15/09/2025	4.6500	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	179,884.93	15,797.26
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	19/09/2023	19/09/2025	5.0800	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	241,473.97	21,572.60
P&N Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	19/09/2022	19/09/2025	4.6500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	221,034.25	19,746.58
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	10/10/2022	10/10/2025	4.8400	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	129,685.48	12,332.05
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	16/10/2020	16/10/2025	1.2000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	52,602.74	5,095.89
Westpac	AA-	TD	LOCAL BRANCH	At Maturity	07/11/2024	07/11/2025	4.0000	56,760.00	56,760.00	1,853.64	192.83
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	12/11/2024	12/11/2025	5.2000	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	166,969.86	17,665.75
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	17/11/2020	17/11/2025	1.3000	6,500,000.00	6,500,000.00	66,442.47	7,176.71
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	17/11/2020	17/11/2025	0.8500	3,500,000.00	3,500,000.00	23,392.47	2,526.71
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	03/12/2020	03/12/2025	1.2000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	44,712.33	5,095.89
MyState Bank	BBB	TD	GENERAL	Annual	04/12/2024	04/12/2025	5.1500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	191,184.93	21,869.86
BankVic	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	05/12/2023	05/12/2025	5.3500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	197,876.71	22,719.18

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
P&N Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	05/12/2022	05/12/2025	4.6500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	171,986.30	19,746.58
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	07/12/2020	08/12/2025	1.2000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	43,726.03	5,095.89
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	07/12/2020	08/12/2025	0.9000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	32,794.52	3,821.92
Northern Territory Treasury	AA-	BOND	GENERAL	Semi-Annual	14/09/2021	15/12/2025	1.1000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	11,753.42	4,671.23
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	29/01/2021	29/01/2026	0.9100	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	21,441.10	3,091.51
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	17/02/2025	17/02/2026	4.8600	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	52,195.07	8,255.34
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	02/03/2021	02/03/2026	1.2100	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	24,133.70	4,110.68
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	04/03/2025	04/03/2026	4.7100	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	116,782.19	20,001.37
Suncorp Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	05/03/2024	05/03/2026	4.9000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	120,821.92	20,808.22
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	09/03/2021	09/03/2026	1.2500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	14,212.33	5,308.22
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	16/03/2021	16/03/2026	1.2500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	28,767.12	5,308.22
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	GENERAL	Annual	18/03/2025	18/03/2026	5.0000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	114,383.56	21,232.88
Suncorp Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	23/06/2025	23/03/2026	4.3700	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	41,904.11	18,557.53
BankVic	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	03/04/2024	07/04/2026	4.9500	3,500,000.00	3,500,000.00	71,673.29	14,714.38
Auswide Bank	BBB	TD	GENERAL	Annual	04/04/2023	07/04/2026	4.9000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	60,410.96	12,484.93
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	GENERAL	Annual	05/05/2025	05/05/2026	4.5000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	44,013.70	11,465.75
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	GENERAL	Annual	13/05/2025	13/05/2026	4.5000	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	54,739.73	15,287.67

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
Bank of Us	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	20/05/2024	20/05/2026	5.1200	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	36,471.23	10,871.23
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	26/05/2021	26/05/2026	1.2500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	16,780.82	5,308.22
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	GENERAL	Annual	27/05/2025	27/05/2026	4.5000	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	47,835.62	15,287.67
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	02/06/2021	02/06/2026	1.4000	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	8,726.03	2,972.60
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	02/06/2021	02/06/2026	1.3000	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	8,102.74	2,760.27
Australian Military Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	03/06/2024	03/06/2026	5.2500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	64,726.03	22,294.52
Australian Unity Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	11/06/2025	11/06/2026	4.2900	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	48,189.04	18,217.81
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	23/06/2021	23/06/2026	1.3200	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	12,657.53	5,605.48
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	23/06/2021	23/06/2026	1.3200	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	12,657.53	5,605.48
Suncorp Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	24/06/2025	24/06/2026	4.1900	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	39,604.11	17,793.15
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	25/06/2025	25/06/2026	4.1500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	38,657.53	17,623.29
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	26/07/2021	27/07/2026	1.2000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	5,753.42	5,095.89
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	28/07/2021	28/07/2026	1.3200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	2,531.51	2,242.19
Bank of Us	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	13/08/2024	13/08/2026	4.8500	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	10,098.63	10,098.63
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	20/08/2025	20/08/2026	4.1600	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	6,838.36	6,838.36
Australian Military Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	20/08/2024	20/08/2026	4.7100	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	7,742.47	7,742.47
Westpac	AA-	TD	LOCAL BRANCH	At Maturity	21/08/2025	21/08/2026	3.5500	20,000.00	20,000.00	21.40	21.40

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	04/09/2024	04/09/2026	4.6300	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	114,798.63	9,830.82
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	05/09/2023	07/09/2026	5.0000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	247,260.27	21,232.88
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	23/09/2021	23/09/2026	1.2000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	56,383.56	5,095.89
BankVic	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	11/10/2024	12/10/2026	4.6900	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	167,041.10	15,933.15
Suncorp Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	12/11/2024	12/11/2026	4.9200	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	157,979.18	16,714.52
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	04/12/2024	04/12/2026	4.8000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	178,191.78	20,383.56
Northern Territory Treasury	AA-	BOND	GENERAL	Semi-Annual	07/09/2021	15/12/2026	1.4000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	14,958.90	5,945.21
Northern Territory Treasury	AA-	BOND	GENERAL	Semi-Annual	02/09/2021	15/12/2026	1.4000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	14,958.90	5,945.21
Australian Military Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	10/02/2025	10/02/2027	4.7100	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	130,976.71	20,001.37
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	GENERAL	Annual	18/03/2025	18/03/2027	4.6500	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	63,826.03	11,847.95
BankVic	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	03/04/2024	05/04/2027	4.8500	3,500,000.00	3,500,000.00	70,225.34	14,417.12
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	GENERAL	Annual	28/04/2025	28/04/2027	4.5500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	78,534.25	19,321.92
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	GENERAL	Annual	05/05/2025	05/05/2027	4.2500	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	55,424.66	14,438.36
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	GENERAL	Annual	27/05/2025	27/05/2027	4.2500	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	33,883.56	10,828.77
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	29/05/2024	31/05/2027	5.1200	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	66,630.14	21,742.47
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	03/06/2024	03/06/2027	5.2000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	64,109.59	22,082.19

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
MyState Bank	BBB	TD	GENERAL	Annual	11/06/2025	11/06/2027	4.1000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	46,054.79	17,410.96
MyState Bank	BBB	TD	GENERAL	Annual	23/06/2025	23/06/2027	4.1000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	39,315.07	17,410.96
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	GENERAL	Annual	24/06/2025	24/06/2027	4.1500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	39,226.03	17,623.29
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	25/06/2025	25/06/2027	4.0300	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	37,539.73	17,113.70
Suncorp Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	11/10/2024	11/10/2027	4.6000	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	163,835.62	15,627.40
Australian Military Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	10/02/2025	10/02/2028	4.7300	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	131,532.88	20,086.30
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	17/02/2025	17/02/2028	4.6500	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	7,134.25	7,134.25
Hume Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	04/03/2025	06/03/2028	4.5000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	111,575.34	19,109.59
State Bank of India, Sydney Branch	BBB	TD	GENERAL	Annual	18/03/2025	20/03/2028	4.6500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	42,550.68	7,898.63
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	05/05/2025	05/05/2028	4.0500	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	39,612.33	10,319.18
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	03/06/2024	05/06/2028	5.2600	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	64,849.32	22,336.99
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	23/06/2025	23/06/2028	4.0400	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	38,739.73	17,156.16
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	25/06/2025	26/06/2028	4.0000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	37,260.27	16,986.30
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	24/06/2025	26/06/2028	4.0300	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	38,091.78	17,113.70
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	20/08/2025	21/08/2028	4.0000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	6,575.34	6,575.34
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	17/09/2024	18/09/2028	4.4500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	212,746.58	18,897.26
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	28/02/2024	28/02/2029	5.1300	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	130,006.85	21,784.93

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	04/03/2025	05/03/2029	4.5400	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	112,567.12	19,279.45
Hume Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	13/05/2025	14/05/2029	4.3000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	39,230.14	10,956.16
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	25/06/2025	25/06/2029	4.1000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	38,191.78	17,410.96
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	24/06/2025	25/06/2029	4.1800	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	39,509.59	17,750.68
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	04/09/2024	04/09/2029	4.6700	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	115,790.41	9,915.75
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	17/09/2024	17/09/2029	4.5900	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	219,439.73	19,491.78
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	17/02/2025	18/02/2030	4.7500	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	7,287.67	7,287.67
Hume Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	04/03/2025	04/03/2030	4.6400	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	115,046.58	19,704.11
Hume Bank	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	13/05/2025	13/05/2030	4.5000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	41,054.79	11,465.75
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	27/05/2025	27/05/2030	4.5200	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	36,036.16	11,516.71
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	11/06/2025	11/06/2030	4.3500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	48,863.01	18,472.60
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	23/06/2025	24/06/2030	4.3400	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	41,616.44	18,430.14
Westpac	AA-	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	31/08/2025	31/08/2025	4.1000	30,170,995.29	30,170,995.29	104,742.14	104,742.14
TOTALS								**434,747,755.29**	**434,747,755.29**	**7,123,485.81**	**1,342,676.50**

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Create the most liveable, sustainable and innovative place in Australia

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Create the most liveable, sustainable and innovative place in Australia

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

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Overview

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council is constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and has its principal place of business at:

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
Cnr Lord & Burrawan Streets
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444.

Council's guiding principles are detailed in Chapter 3 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and includes:

- principles applying to the exercise of functions generally by council,
- principles to be applied when making decisions,
- principles of community participation,
- principles of sound financial management, and
- principles for strategic planning relating to the development of an integrated planning and reporting framework.

A description of the nature of Council's operations and its principal activities are provided in Note B1-2.

Through the use of the internet, we have ensured that our reporting is timely, complete and available at minimum cost. All press releases, financial statements and other information are publicly available on our website: www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au .

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Understanding Council's Financial Statements

Introduction

Each year NSW local governments are required to present audited financial statements to their council and community.

What you will find in the Statements

The financial statements set out the financial performance, financial position and cash flows of Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

The format of the financial statements is standard across all NSW Councils and complies with both the accounting and reporting requirements of Australian Accounting Standards and requirements as set down by the Office of Local Government.

About the Councillor/Management Statement

The financial statements must be certified by senior staff as 'presenting fairly' the Council's financial results for the year and are required to be adopted by Council – ensuring both responsibility for and ownership of the financial statements.

About the Primary Financial Statements

The financial statements incorporate five "primary" financial statements:

1. The Income Statement
Summarises Council's financial performance for the year, listing all income and expenses. This statement also displays Council's original adopted budget to provide a comparison between what was projected and what actually occurred.

2. The Statement of Comprehensive Income
Primarily records changes in the fair value of Council's Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

3. The Statement of Financial Position
A 30 June snapshot of Council's financial position indicating its assets, liabilities and "net wealth".

4. The Statement of Changes in Equity
The overall change for the year (in dollars) of Council's "net wealth".

5. The Statement of Cash Flows
Indicates where Council's cash came from and where it was spent. This statement also displays Council's original adopted budget to provide a comparison between what was projected and what actually occurred.

About the Notes to the Financial Statements

The Notes to the Financial Statements provide greater detail and additional information on the five primary financial statements.

About the Auditor's Reports

Council's financial statements are required to be audited by the NSW Audit Office.

In NSW the auditor provides 2 audit reports:

1. an opinion on whether the financial statements present fairly the Council's financial performance and position, and
2. their observations on the conduct of the audit, including commentary on the Council's financial performance and financial position.

Who uses the Financial Statements?

The financial statements are publicly available documents and must be presented at a Council meeting between seven days and five weeks after the date of the audit report.

The public can make submissions to Council up to seven days subsequent to the public presentation of the financial statements.

Council is required to forward an audited set of financial statements to the Office of Local Government.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413 (2c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*

The attached general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the *Local Government Act 1993* and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on dd MMMM yyyy.

[Mayor]
Mayor
dd MMMM yyyy

[Councillor]
Councillor
dd MMMM yyyy

[GeneralManager]
Chief Executive Officer
dd MMMM yyyy

[ResponsibleAccountingOfficer]
Responsible Accounting Officer
dd MMMM yyyy

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Original unaudited budget 2025 $ '000		Notes	Actual 2025 $ '000	Actual 2024 $ '000
	Income from continuing operations			
121,907	Rates and annual charges	B2-1	**122,578**	118,803
48,186	User charges and fees	B2-2	**47,803**	47,259
7,038	Other revenues	B2-3	**8,149**	8,680
18,205	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	B2-4	**15,089**	17,183
66,961	Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	B2-4	**92,780**	132,080
11,114	Interest and investment income	B2-5	**15,263**	14,041
–	Other income	B2-6	**5,567**	2,343
273,411	**Total income from continuing operations**		**307,229**	340,389
	Expenses from continuing operations			
71,850	Employee benefits and on-costs	B3-1	**74,979**	64,601
59,571	Materials and services	B3-2	**76,558**	63,274
3,029	Borrowing costs	B3-3	**614**	236
20,757	Other expenses	B3-5	**8,733**	10,377
3,050	Net loss from the disposal of assets	B4-1	**6,787**	11,436
158,257	**Total expenses from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets**		**167,671**	149,924
115,154	**Operating result from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets**		**139,558**	190,465
59,851	Depreciation and impairment of non-financial assets	B3-4	**62,164**	61,302
55,303	**Operating result from continuing operations**		**77,394**	129,163
55,303	Net operating result for the year attributable to Council		**77,394**	129,163
(11,658)	**Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes**		**(15,386)**	(2,917)

The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Net operating result for the year – from Income Statement		**77,394**	129,163
Other comprehensive income:			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequent to operating result			
Gain (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6	**150,157**	123,663
Impairment (loss) reversal / (revaluation decrement) relating to IPPE due to natural disaster	C1-6	**31,874**	19,911
Total other comprehensive income for the year		**182,031**	143,574
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to Council		**259,425**	272,737

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	**40,295**	33,578
Investments	C1-2	**204,077**	198,077
Receivables	C1-4	**31,148**	30,103
Inventories		**736**	725
Contract assets and contract cost assets	C1-5	**19,143**	13,241
Other		**1,348**	143
Total current assets		**296,747**	275,867
Non-current assets			
Investments	C1-2	**208,500**	198,500
Receivables	C1-4	**55**	1,065
Inventories		**598**	598
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)	C1-6	**3,260,753**	2,990,820
Total non-current assets		**3,469,906**	3,190,983
Total assets		**3,766,653**	3,466,850
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	C3-1	**33,627**	30,551
Contract liabilities	C3-2	**11,990**	18,472
Borrowings	C3-3	**3,320**	6,315
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	**16,589**	16,663
Provisions	C3-5	**212**	–
Total current liabilities		**65,738**	72,001
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	C3-3	**56,371**	11,800
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	**1,292**	1,028
Provisions	C3-5	**3,634**	1,828
Total non-current liabilities		**61,297**	14,656
Total liabilities		**127,035**	86,657
Net assets		**3,639,618**	3,380,193
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		**1,845,598**	1,768,204
IPPE revaluation surplus		**1,794,020**	1,611,989
Council equity interest		**3,639,618**	3,380,193
Total equity		**3,639,618**	3,380,193

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Statement of Changes in Equity
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 Accumulated surplus $ '000	2025 IPPE revaluation surplus $ '000	2025 Total equity $ '000	2024 Accumulated surplus $ '000	2024 IPPE revaluation surplus $ '000	2024 Total equity $ '000
Opening balance at 1 July		**1,768,204**	**1,611,989**	**3,380,193**	1,639,041	1,468,415	3,107,456
Net operating result for the year		**77,394**	**–**	**77,394**	129,163	–	129,163
Other comprehensive income							
Gain (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6	**–**	**150,157**	**150,157**	–	123,663	123,663
Impairment reversal relating to IPPE due to natural disaster	C1-6	**–**	**31,874**	**31,874**	–	19,911	19,911
Other comprehensive income		**–**	**182,031**	**182,031**	–	143,574	143,574
Total comprehensive income		**77,394**	**182,031**	**259,425**	129,163	143,574	272,737
Closing balance at 30 June		**1,845,598**	**1,794,020**	**3,639,618**	1,768,204	1,611,989	3,380,193

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

IPPE revaluation surplus
The Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE) revaluation surplus is used to record increments and decrements in the revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Original unaudited budget 2025 $ '000		Notes	Actual 2025 $ '000	Actual 2024 $ '000
	Cash flows from operating activities			
	Receipts:			
121,907	Rates and annual charges		**121,891**	117,045
48,186	User charges and fees		**46,875**	47,783
11,114	Interest received		**15,105**	13,840
85,166	Grants and contributions		**66,796**	94,094
7,038	Other		**34,718**	27,625
	Payments:			
(71,850)	Payments to employees		**(74,800)**	(64,991)
(59,572)	Payments for materials and services		**(83,227)**	(84,202)
(3,029)	Borrowing costs		**(668)**	(690)
–	Bonds, deposits and retentions refunded		**(84)**	(3,623)
(20,756)	Other		**(17,742)**	(15,139)
118,204	**Net cash flows from operating activities**	G1-1	**108,864**	131,742
	Cash flows from investing activities			
	Receipts:			
–	Proceeds from sale of IPPE		**297**	850
105,532	Sale of investments		**198,077**	154,963
	Payments:			
(213,452)	Payments for IPPE		**(128,020)**	(146,115)
(62,827)	Purchase of investments		**–**	–
–	Acquisition of term deposits		**(214,077)**	(142,520)
(170,747)	**Net cash flows from investing activities**		**(143,723)**	(132,822)
	Cash flows from financing activities			
	Receipts:			
59,360	Proceeds from borrowings		**59,691**	–
	Payments:			
(6,817)	Repayment of borrowings		**(18,115)**	(6,802)
52,543	**Net cash flows from financing activities**		**41,576**	(6,802)
–	**Net change in cash and cash equivalents**		**6,717**	(7,882)
37,333	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		**33,578**	41,460
37,333	Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	C1-1	**40,295**	33,578

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

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A About Council and these financial statements

A1-1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements were authorised for issue by Council on dd MMMM yyyy. Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements in cases where critical information is received from public submissions or where the OLG directs Council to amend the financial statements.

The material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations, the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act) and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (Regulation), and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. Port Macquarie-Hastings Council is a not for-profit entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and certain classes of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the Council and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are set out below:

i. fair values of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment – refer Note C1-6
ii. tip remediation provisions – refer Note C3-5
iii. employee benefit provisions – refer Note C3-4.

Significant judgements in applying the Council's accounting policies

i. Determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific and whether the contract is within the scope of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and / or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* – refer to Notes B2-2 – B2-4.
ii. Projected Section 7.11 Commitments - Council has used significant judgement in determining future Section 7.11 income and expenditure in Note G4.

Monies and other assets received by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

The Consolidated Fund
In accordance with the provisions of Section 409(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, all money and property received by Council is held in the Council's Consolidated Fund unless it is required to be held in the Council's Trust Fund.

The Consolidated Fund has been included in the financial statements of Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.
Cash and other assets of the following activities have been included as part of the Consolidated Fund:

- general purpose operations
- water service
- sewerage service
- waste management service
- broadwater
- sanctuary springs

The Trust Fund
In accordance with the provisions of Section 411 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, a separate and distinct Trust Fund is maintained to account for all money and property received by Council in trust which must be applied only for the purposes of, or in accordance with, the trusts relating to those monies. Trust monies and property subject to Council's control have been included in these reports.

continued on next page ...

A1-1 Basis of preparation (continued)

A separate statement of monies held in the Trust Fund is available for inspection at the council office by any person free of charge.

Volunteer services

Council relies on volunteer services in three primary areas, The Glasshouse, the library and in our community inclusion section. Volunteer services are recognised in the income statement where the fair value can be measured reliably and the services would have been purchased had they not been donated.

New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2025 reporting period. Council has not applied any pronouncements before its operative date in the annual reporting period beginning 1 July 2024.

As at the date of authorisation of these financial statements Council does not consider that any of these new (and still to be applied) standards and interpretations are likely to have a material impact on the Council's future financial statements, financial position, financial performance or cash flows.

New accounting standards adopted during the year

The following new standard is effective for the first time at 30 June 2025:

- **AASB 2022-10** ***Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities.***

"*Accounting policy information is material if, when considered together with other information included in an entity's financial statements, it can reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements*."

In applying the new requirements, Council has after taking into account the various specific facts and circumstances applied professional judgement to ensure it discloses only material accounting policies as opposed to significant accounting policies throughout these financial statements.

B Financial Performance

B1 Functions or activities

B1-1 Functions or activities – income, expenses and assets

Income, expenses and assets have been directly attributed to the following functions or activities. Details of those functions or activities are provided in Note B1-2.

	Income		Expenses		Operating result		Grants and contributions		Carrying amount of assets	
	2025	2024	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024
	$ '000	$ '000	**$ '000**	$ '000	**$ '000**	$ '000	**$ '000**	$ '000	**$ '000**	$ '000
Functions or activities										
Leadership & Governance	**–**	74,484	**–**	27,663	**–**	46,821	**–**	–	**55,270**	88,985
Your Community Life	**–**	8,154	**–**	30,957	**–**	(22,803)	**–**	12,573	**382,468**	366,423
Your Business and Industry	**–**	7,730	**–**	9,841	**–**	(2,111)	**–**	244	**53,447**	55,070
Your Natural and Built Environment	**–**	250,021	**–**	142,765	**–**	107,256	**–**	136,446	**3,273,969**	2,956,372
Other	**–**	–	**–**	–	**–**	–	**107,869**	–	**1,499**	–
Total functions and activities	**–**	340,389	**–**	211,226	**–**	129,163	**107,869**	149,263	**3,766,653**	3,466,850

B1-2 Components of functions or activities

Details relating to the Council's functions or activities as reported in B1-1 are as follows:

Leadership and Governance

Council is trying to achieve a collaborative community that works together and uses opportunities for community participation in decision making that is defined as ethically, socially and environmentally responsible.

The result will be

- A community that has the opportunity to be involved in decision-making
- Open, easy, meaningful, regular and diverse communication between the community and decision makers
- Partnerships and collaborative projects, that meet the community's expectations, needs and challenges

Your Community Life

Council is trying to achieve a healthy, inclusive and vibrant community.

The result will be

- Community hubs that provide access to services and social connections
- A safe, caring and connected community
- A healthy and active community that is supported by recreational infrastructure
- A strong community that is able to identify and address social issues
- Community participation in events, programs, festivals and activities

Your Business and Industry

The Port Macquarie - Hastings region is a successful place that has a vibrant, diversified and resilient regional economy for people to live, learn, work, play and invest.

The result will be

- A strong economy that fosters a culture supportive of business and ensures economic development of the region
- Townships, villages and business precincts that are vibrant commercial, tourism, recreational and/or community hubs
- A region that attracts investment
- Partnerships that maximise economic return and create an efficient and effective business environment

Your Natural and Built Environment

A connected, sustainable, accessible community and environment that is protected now and into the future.

The result will be

- Effective management and maintenance of essential water, waste and sewer infrastructure
- A community that is prepared for natural events and climate change
- Sustainable and environmentally sensitive development outcomes that consider the impact to the natural environment
- Accessible transport network for our communities
- Infrastructure provision and maintenance that meets community expectations and needs
- Well planned communities that are linked to encourage and manage growth
- Accessible and protected waterways, foreshores, beaches and bushlands
- An environment that is protected and conserved for future generations
- Renewable energy options that are understood and accessible by the community

B2 Sources of income

B2-1 Rates and annual charges

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Ordinary rates		
Residential	**48,527**	47,905
Farmland	**2,477**	2,474
Business	**7,761**	8,465
Other	**(5)**	–
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	**(1,444)**	(1,445)
Rates levied to ratepayers	**57,316**	57,399
Pensioner rate subsidies received	**787**	788
Total ordinary rates	**58,103**	58,187
Special rates		
Broadwater special rate	**117**	117
Sanctuary springs special rate	**40**	39
Rates levied to ratepayers	**157**	156
Total special rates	**157**	156
Annual charges (pursuant to s496, 496A, 496B, 501 & 611)		
Domestic waste management services	**18,966**	17,649
Water supply services	**8,716**	8,298
Waste management services (non-domestic)	**961**	894
Sewerage services	**35,646**	33,565
Stormwater drainage	**879**	865
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	**(1,824)**	(1,798)
Annual charges levied	**63,344**	59,473
Pensioner annual charges subsidies received:		
– Water	**324**	288
– Sewerage	**343**	403
– Waste management services	**307**	296
Total annual charges	**64,318**	60,460
Total rates and annual charges	**122,578**	118,803

Council has used 2022 year valuations provided by the NSW Valuer General in calculating its rates.

Material accounting policy information

Rates and annual charges are recognised as revenue at the beginning of the rating period to which they relate. Prepaid rates are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period.

Pensioner rebates relate to reductions in rates and certain annual charges for eligible pensioners' place of residence in the local government council area.

Pensioner rate subsidies are received from the NSW Government to provide a contribution towards the pensioner rebates and are recognised within the underlying revenue item based on their substance.

B2-2 User charges and fees

	Timing	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Specific user charges (per s502 - specific 'actual use' charges)			
Waste management services (non-domestic)	1	**9,612**	10,999
Water supply services	1	**23,991**	22,529
Sewerage services	1	**1,478**	1,526
Onsite effluent	2	**379**	361
Reclaimed water	2	**356**	391
Total specific user charges		**35,816**	35,806
Other user charges and fees			
(i) Fees and charges – statutory and regulatory functions (per s608)			
Planning and building regulation	2	**3,279**	2,438
Private works – section 67	2	**110**	119
S 611	2	**133**	128
Section 68 permits	2	**1,206**	913
Total fees and charges – statutory/regulatory		**4,728**	3,598
(ii) Fees and charges – other (incl. general user charges (per s608))			
Cemeteries	2	**461**	314
Animal registration	2	**38**	149
Certificate income	2	**541**	467
Health	2	**253**	81
Transport and communications	2	**4,902**	5,497
Water meter installations	2	**677**	639
Water supply fees	1	**181**	157
Other		**206**	551
Total fees and charges – other		**7,259**	7,855
Total other user charges and fees		**11,987**	11,453
Total user charges and fees		**47,803**	47,259
Timing of revenue recognition for user charges and fees			
User charges and fees recognised over time (1)		**35,257**	35,211
User charges and fees recognised at a point in time (2)		**12,546**	12,048
Total user charges and fees		**47,803**	47,259

Material accounting policy information

Revenue arising from user charges and fees is recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers and generally the payment terms are within 30 days of the provision of the service or in some cases such as caravan parks, the customer is required to pay on arrival or a deposit in advance. There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns.

Where an upfront fee is charged such as joining fees for the leisure centre the fee is recognised on a straight-line basis over the expected life of the membership.

Licences granted by Council are all either short-term or low value and all revenue from licences is recognised at the time that the licence is granted rather than over the term of the licence.

B2-3 Other revenues

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Administration	**461**	318
Caravan parks	**274**	268
Environment	**311**	399
Ferries	**708**	811
Fines	**200**	204
Housing and community amenities	**146**	113
Insurance claims recoveries	**705**	139
Legal fees recovery – other	**168**	49
Recreation and cultural facilities	**206**	187
The Glasshouse	**1,748**	1,856
Waste management revenues	**2,380**	3,386
Water supplies	**184**	273
Other	**658**	677
Total other revenue	**8,149**	8,680
Timing of revenue recognition for other revenue		
Other revenue recognised over time	**2,952**	2,667
Other revenue recognised at a point in time	**5,197**	6,013
Total other revenue	**8,149**	8,680

Material accounting policy information for other revenue

Where the revenue is earned for the provision of specified goods / services under an enforceable contract, revenue is recognised when or as the obligations are satisfied.

Statutory fees and fines are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received or when the penalty has been applied, whichever occurs first.

Other revenue is recorded when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever occurs first.

B2-4 Grants and contributions

	Notes	Operating 2025 $ '000	Operating 2024 $ '000	Capital 2025 $ '000	Capital 2024 $ '000
General purpose grants and non-developer contributions (untied)					
Financial Assistance Grant					
Current year allocation					
Financial assistance		**1,799**	467	**–**	–
Payment in advance - future year allocation					
Financial assistance		**6,133**	9,917	**–**	–
Amount recognised as income during current year		**7,932**	10,384	**–**	–
Special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)					
Cash contributions					
Airport		**–**	202	**9**	39
Bushfire and emergency services		**–**	10	**13,809**	10,297
Community services and education		**82**	185	**–**	–
Economic affairs		**–**	2	**–**	–
Floodplain management		**–**	44	**–**	–
Health		**125**	154	**–**	–
Housing and community amenities		**376**	927	**–**	8
Library		**257**	251	**–**	–
LIRS interest subsidy		**–**	5	**–**	–
NSW rural fire services		**470**	411	**–**	–
Recreation and culture		**326**	10	**5,699**	4,092
Recreation and culture		**83**	–	**–**	–
Stormwater		**–**	–	**28**	–
Roads and bridges		**178**	–	**–**	–
Sewerage (excl. section 64 contributions)		**–**	–	**855**	149
Street lighting		**156**	153	**–**	–
Transport (roads to recovery)		**2,349**	1,827	**–**	–
The glasshouse		**–**	–	**–**	239
Transport (other roads and bridges funding)		**350**	451	**15,728**	65,677
Transport for NSW contributions (regional roads, block grant)		**1,932**	1,896	**–**	–
Other		**274**	4	**–**	2,530
Waste management		**1**	–	**–**	–
Non-cash contributions					
Dedications – subdivisions (other than by s7.4 and s7.11 – EP&A Act, s64 of the LGA)		**–**	–	**23,871**	27,001
Other		**–**	–	**218**	522
Assets acquired at less than fair value	C1-6	**–**	–	**5,126**	4,000
Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)		**6,959**	6,532	**65,343**	114,554
Total grants and non-developer contributions		**14,891**	16,916	**65,343**	114,554
Comprising:					
– Commonwealth funding		**10,386**	12,613	**4,578**	1,823
– State funding		**2,335**	2,079	**31,766**	81,730
– Other funding		**2,170**	2,224	**28,999**	31,001
		14,891	16,916	**65,343**	114,554

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B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Developer contributions

	Notes	Operating 2025 $ '000	Operating 2024 $ '000	Capital 2025 $ '000	Capital 2024 $ '000
Developer contributions: (s7.4 & s7.11 - EP&A Act, s64 of the LGA):	G4				
Cash contributions					
S 7.11 – contributions towards amenities/services		**198**	267	**–**	–
Other developer contributions		**–**	–	**27,437**	17,526
Total developer contributions – cash		**198**	267	**27,437**	17,526
Total developer contributions		**198**	267	**27,437**	17,526
Total contributions		**198**	267	**27,437**	17,526
Total grants and contributions		**15,089**	17,183	**92,780**	132,080
Timing of revenue recognition					
Grants and contributions recognised over time		**–**	–	**22,318**	72,734
Grants and contributions recognised at a point in time		**15,089**	17,183	**70,462**	59,346
Total grants and contributions		**15,089**	17,183	**92,780**	132,080

Unspent grants and contributions

Certain grants and contributions are obtained by Council on the condition they be spent in a specified manner or in a future period but which are not yet spent in accordance with those conditions are as follows:

	Operating 2025 $ '000	Operating 2024 $ '000	Capital 2025 $ '000	Capital 2024 $ '000
Unspent funds at 1 July	**10,695**	12,142	**204,851**	212,713
Add: Funds recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	**6,138**	10,220	**2,611**	24,100
Add: Funds received and not recognised as revenue in the current year	**435**	22	**3,509**	9,138
Less: Funds recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	**(10,211)**	(11,689)	**(5,110)**	(8,860)
Less: Funds received in prior year but revenue recognised and funds spent in current year	**(21)**	–	**(10,389)**	(32,240)
Unspent funds at 30 June	**7,036**	10,695	**195,472**	204,851

Material accounting policy information

Grants and contributions – enforceable agreement with sufficiently specific performance obligations

Grant and contribution revenue from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised as or when control of each performance obligations is transferred.

The performance obligations vary according to the agreement but include milestones, submission of acquittals etc. Payment terms vary depending on the terms of the grant, cash is received upfront for some grants and on the achievement of certain payment milestones for others.

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B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Performance obligations may be satisfied either at a point in time or over time and this is reflected in the revenue recognition pattern. Point in time recognition occurs when the beneficiary obtains control of the goods / services at a single time (e.g. completion of the project when a report / outcome is provided), whereas over time recognition is where the control of the services is ongoing throughout the project (e.g. provision of community health services through the year).

Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

Capital grants

Capital grants received by Council under an enforceable contract for the acquisition or construction of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment to identified specifications which will be under Council's control on completion are recognised as revenue as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project.

For acquisitions of assets, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council.

Developer contributions

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council has obligations to provide facilities from contribution revenues levied on developers under the provisions of sections 7.4, 7.11 and 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

While Council generally incorporates these amounts as part of a Development Consents Order, such developer contributions are only recognised as income upon receipt by Council, due to the possibility that individual development consents may not be acted upon by the applicant and, accordingly, would not be payable to Council.

Developer contributions may only be expended for the purposes for which the contributions were required, but Council may apply contributions according to the priorities established in work schedules for the contribution plan.

Other grants and contributions

Assets, including cash, received from other grants and contributions are recognised at fair value when the asset is received. Council considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard.

Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

B2-5 Interest and investment income

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Interest on financial assets measured at amortised cost		
– Overdue rates and annual charges	**554**	531
– Overdue user fees and charges	**228**	121
– Cash and investments	**14,481**	13,389
Total interest and investment income	**15,263**	14,041

B2-6 Other income

	Notes	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Room/Facility Hire		**1,584**	1,531
Other		**4**	–
Other			
Found assets	C1-6	**3,979**	812
Total other		**3,979**	812
Total other income		**5,567**	2,343

B3 Costs of providing services

B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Salaries and wages	**58,994**	49,935
Travel expenses	**1,285**	1,362
Employee leave entitlements (ELE)	**9,617**	8,469
Superannuation	**7,527**	6,328
Workers' compensation insurance	**2,897**	2,056
Fringe benefit tax (FBT)	**79**	55
Payroll tax	**1,206**	783
Training costs (other than salaries and wages)	**350**	451
Other	**96**	107
Total employee costs	**82,051**	69,546
Less: capitalised costs	**(7,072)**	(4,945)
Total employee costs expensed	**74,979**	64,601

Material accounting policy information

All employees of the Council are entitled to benefits on retirement, disability or death. Council contributes to various defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans on behalf of its employees.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Council participates in a defined benefit plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, however, sufficient information to account for the plan as a defined benefit is not available and therefore Council accounts for its obligations to defined benefit plans on the same basis as its obligations to defined contribution plans, i.e. as an expense when it becomes payable – refer to Note E3-1 for more information.

B3-2 Materials and services

	Notes	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Raw materials and consumables		**49,235**	35,977
Contractor costs		**15,036**	16,051
Consultancy costs		**687**	867
Audit Fees	F2-1	**150**	128
Insurance		**2,653**	2,475
Electricity		**5,242**	4,865
Street lighting		**1,329**	1,290
Telephones		**462**	374
Bank charges and fees		**405**	393
Valuation fees		**270**	281
Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses	F1-2	**315**	323
Legal expenses:			
– Legal expenses: other		**774**	250
Total materials and services		**76,558**	63,274

B3-3 Borrowing costs

	Notes	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
(i) Interest bearing liability costs			
Interest on loans		**529**	990
Total interest bearing liability costs		**529**	990
Total interest bearing liability costs expensed		**529**	990
(ii) Other borrowing costs			
Fair value adjustments on recognition of advances and deferred debtors			
– Remediation (tip) liabilities	C3-5	**85**	(754)
Total other borrowing costs		**85**	(754)
Total borrowing costs expensed		**614**	236

B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets

Depreciation and amortisation			
Plant and equipment, furniture and fittings		**3,527**	3,647
Land improvements (depreciable)		**271**	268
Infrastructure:	C1-6		
– Buildings and other structures		**6,248**	7,742
– Other structures		**289**	–
– Roads, bridges and footpaths		**17,031**	16,436
– Other road assets		**2,369**	2,553
– Stormwater drainage		**3,806**	3,732
– Water supply network		**12,447**	11,798
– Sewerage network		**10,589**	9,936
– Other open space/recreational assets		**5,201**	4,805
Other assets		**329**	305
Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration assets:			
– Cairncross tip remediation asset	C1-6	**57**	80
Total depreciation and amortisation costs		**62,164**	61,302
Impairment / revaluation decrement of IPPE			
Infrastructure:	C1-6		
– Buildings		**14**	–
– Open space/ recreational assets		**(6,649)**	6,522
– Roads, bridges and footpaths, other road assets		**(27,722)**	(22,602)
– Stormwater drainage		**–**	(3,831)
– Water supply network		**2,483**	–
Total gross IPPE impairment / revaluation decrement costs		**(31,874)**	(19,911)
Amounts taken through revaluation reserve	C1-6	**31,874**	19,911
Total depreciation and impairment for non-financial assets		**62,164**	61,302

Material accounting policy information

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation and amortisation are calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives.

Impairment of non-financial assets
Council assets held at fair value that are not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash flow, and that are deemed to be specialised, are not tested for impairment since these assets are assessed on an annual basis to ensure that the carrying amount is not materially different from fair value and therefore an impairment loss would be captured during this assessment.

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B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets (continued)

Other non-financial assets that do not meet the criteria above are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units).

Impairment losses for revalued assets are firstly offset against the amount in the revaluation surplus for the class of asset, with only the excess to be recognised in the Income Statement.

B3-5 Other expenses

	Notes	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Impairment of receivables	C1-4	**289**	–
Donations, contributions and assistance to other organisations (Section 356)		**196**	332
Contributions/levies to other levels of government			
– Emergency services levy (includes FRNSW, SES, and RFS levies)		**1,630**	1,732
Total other expenses		**8,733**	10,377

B4 Gains or losses

B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets

	Notes	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Gain (or loss) on disposal of property (excl. investment property)			
Proceeds from disposal – property		**425**	122
Less: carrying amount of property assets sold/written off		**(655)**	(112)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		**(230)**	10
Gain (or loss) on disposal of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6		
Proceeds from disposal – plant and equipment		**297**	728
Less: carrying amount of plant and equipment assets sold/written off		**(243)**	(399)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		**54**	329
Gain (or loss) on disposal of infrastructure	C1-6		
Less: carrying amount of infrastructure assets sold/written off		**(2,255)**	(5,699)
Less: carrying amount of WIP written off		**(4,356)**	(6,076)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		**(6,611)**	(11,775)
Gain (or loss) on disposal of investments	C1-2		
Less: carrying amount of financial assets sold/redeemed/matured		**(198,077)**	(142,520)
Proceeds from disposal/redemptions/maturities – financial assets		**198,077**	142,520
Gain (or loss) on disposal		**–**	–
Net gain (or loss) from disposal of assets		**(6,787)**	(11,436)

B5 Performance against budget

B5-1 Material budget variations

Council's original budget was adopted by the Council on 20 June 2024 and is not required to be audited. The original projections on which the budget was based have been affected by a number of factors. These include state and federal government decisions, including new grant programs, changing economic activity, environmental factors, and by decisions made by Council.

While these General Purpose Financial Statements include the original budget adopted by Council, the Act requires Council to review its financial budget on a quarterly basis, so it is able to manage the variation between actuals and budget that invariably occur during the year. Port Macquarie-Hastings Council completes a monthly review of budgets which is presented to Council.

Material variations of more than 10% between original budget and actual results or where the variance is considered material by nature are explained below.

Variation Key: **F** = Favourable budget variation, **U** = Unfavourable budget variation.

$ '000	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2025 -------- Variance --------		
Revenues					
Capital grants and contributions	66,961	92,780	25,819	39%	F
Rates and annual charges	121,907	122,578	671	1%	F
User charges and fees	48,186	47,803	(383)	(1)%	U
Operating grants and contributions	18,205	15,089	(3,116)	(17)%	U
Interest and investment revenue	11,114	15,263	4,149	37%	F
Other revenues	7,038	8,149	1,111	16%	F
Other income	–	5,567	5,567	∞	F
Expenses					
Employee benefits and on-costs	71,850	74,979	(3,129)	(4)%	U
Materials and services	59,571	76,558	(16,987)	(29)%	U
Borrowing costs	3,029	614	2,415	80%	F
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	59,851	62,164	(2,313)	(4)%	U
Other expenses	20,757	8,733	12,024	58%	F
Net losses from disposal of assets	3,050	6,787	(3,737)	(123)%	U
Statement of cash flows					
Cash flows from operating activities	118,204	108,864	(9,340)	(8)%	U
Cash flows from investing activities	(170,747)	(143,723)	27,024	(16)%	F
Cash flows from financing activities	52,543	41,576	(10,967)	(21)%	U

C Financial position

C1 Assets we manage

C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Cash assets		
Cash at bank and on hand	**10,323**	12,708
Deposits at call	**29,972**	20,870
Total cash and cash equivalents	**40,295**	33,578

C1-2 Financial investments

	2025 Current $ '000	2025 Non-current $ '000	2024 Current $ '000	2024 Non-current $ '000
Debt securities at amortised cost				
Term deposits	**199,077**	**198,500**	193,077	183,500
Government and semi-government bonds	**5,000**	**10,000**	5,000	15,000
Total financial investments	**204,077**	**208,500**	198,077	198,500
Total cash assets, cash equivalents and investments	**244,372**	**208,500**	231,655	198,500

C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
(a) Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments		
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	**452,872**	430,155
External restrictions	**(385,089)**	(367,464)
Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions	**67,783**	62,691
External restrictions		
External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:		
Water fund	**90,292**	91,032
Sewer fund	**23,156**	27,417
Developer contributions:		
General fund	**94,993**	87,379
Water fund	**82,046**	66,932
Sewer fund	**31,082**	26,248
Specific purpose unexpended grants:		
General fund	**20,606**	34,316
Waste fund	**–**	1
Sewer fund	**3,337**	423
Unexpended contributions	**343**	247
Deposits and bonds	**7,912**	7,912
Crown Reserves	**495**	285
Broadwater special rate	**2,058**	–
Sanctury springs special rate	**53**	32
Waste management	**28,716**	25,240
Total external restrictions	**385,089**	367,464

Cash, cash equivalents and investments subject to external restrictions are those which are only available for specific use by Council due to a restriction placed by legislation or third-party contractual agreement.

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
(b) Internal allocations		
Internal allocations		
At 30 June, Council has internally allocated funds to the following:		
Operational reserves		
Committed works	**861**	4,807
Employees leave entitlement	**3,747**	3,750
Office building and equipment	**1,335**	(185)
Plant replacement	**5,093**	4,500
Working capital	**2,640**	7,111
Quarantined funds		
Environmental levy	**1,206**	1,346
Onsite effluent	**1,623**	1,507
Surf clubs	**900**	835
Tourism and industry promotion	**1,908**	1,653
Roads and infrastructure		
Depot Works	**2,632**	2,829
The glasshouse	**434**	457

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C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments (continued)

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Ferries	**943**	1,063
Infrastructure priorities	**285**	285
Major building renewals	**258**	131
Ocean Drive Duplication	**6,226**	6,226
Playing fields	**300**	300
PM town centre masterplan	**2,084**	2,168
Road environmental works	**100**	100
Regional road infrastructure	**613**	613
Strategic Priorities Reserve	**160**	160
Strategic Risk Reserve	**1**	1,036
Transport infrastructure renewal	**2,320**	2,420
William Street Carparking	**3,391**	3,391
Works associated with developments	**30**	30
Council business units		
Airport	**3,814**	2,205
Property investment	**301**	309
Coastal and estuary management		
Canal maintenance	**363**	308
Lake Cathie dredging	**9**	9
Lake Cathie Remediation - Enforceable Undertaking	**37**	37
Town beach sand nourishment / 4WD access points	**248**	177
Other		
Business Improvement Initiatives	**2,779**	3,224
Council election	**1**	501
Covid-19 Relief Measures	**262**	262
Cultural activities	**3**	3
Planning Studies	**221**	115
Work Health & Safety Initiatives	**398**	283
Total internal allocations	**47,526**	53,966

Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions may be internally allocated by resolution or policy of the elected Council.

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
(c) Unrestricted and unallocated		
Unrestricted and unallocated cash, cash equivalents and investments	**20,257**	8,725

C1-4 Receivables

	2025 Current $ '000	2025 Non-current $ '000	2024 Current $ '000	2024 Non-current $ '000
Rates and annual charges	**8,944**	**41**	7,610	405
Interest and extra charges	**886**	**–**	656	72
User charges and fees	**11,186**	**–**	9,906	509
Government grants and subsidies	**2,007**	**–**	2,342	–
Accrued interest on term deposits	**5,435**	**–**	5,122	–
Net GST receivable	**2,869**	**–**	3,576	–
Other	**227**	**14**	1,263	79
Total	**31,554**	**55**	30,475	1,065
Less: provision for impairment				
Rates and annual charges	**(37)**	**–**	(37)	–
User charges and fees	**(369)**	**–**	(335)	–
Total provision for impairment – receivables	**(406)**	**–**	(372)	–
Total net receivables	**31,148**	**55**	30,103	1,065

Material accounting policy information

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

Impairment
Impairment of financial assets measured at amortised cost is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis.

When estimating ECL, Council considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on Council's historical experience and informed credit assessment, and including forward-looking information.

Council uses the simplified approach for trade receivables where the expected lifetime credit losses are recognised on day 1.

When considering the ECL for rates and annual charges debtors, Council takes into account that unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold.

Credit losses are measured at the present value of the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract, and the cash flows expected to be received. This is applied using a probability weighted approach.

Council writes off a receivable when there is information indicating that the debtor is in severe financial difficulty and there is no realistic prospect of recovery, e.g. when the debtor has been placed under liquidation or has entered into bankruptcy proceedings.

None of the receivables that have been written off are subject to enforcement activity.

Where Council renegotiates the terms of receivables due from certain customers, the new expected cash flows are discounted at the original effective interest rate and any resulting difference to the carrying value is recognised in profit or loss.

C1-5 Contract assets and Contract cost assets

Contract assets

	2025 Current $ '000	2025 Non-current $ '000	2024 Current $ '000	2024 Non-current $ '000
Dept of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities & Regional Development	**2,334**	**–**	856	–
Dept of Industry, Science, Energy & Resources	**61**	**–**	61	–
Other	**1,945**	**–**	383	–
Roads and Maritime Services	**31**	**–**	392	–
Transport for NSW	**10,406**	**–**	9,665	–
User Fees and Charges	**1,914**	**–**	1,884	–
Deferred Developer Contributions	**2,452**	**–**	–	–
Total contract assets	**19,143**	**–**	13,241	–

Material accounting policy information

Contract assets represent Councils right to payment in exchange for goods and services the Council has transferred to a customer when that right is conditional on something other than the passgae of time.

Contract assets arise when the amounts billed to customers are based on the achievment of various milestones established in the contract and therfore the amounts recognised as revenue in a given period do not necesarily coincide with the amounts billed to or certified by the customer. Once an invoice or payment claim is raised or the relevant milestone reached, Council recognises a receivable.

Impairment of contract assets is assessed using the simplified expected credit loss model where lifetime credit losses are recognised on intial recognition.

C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2024			Asset movements during the reporting period													At 30 June 2025		
	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals [1]	Additions new assets	Reinstate-ment costs for impaired assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	Impairment loss / revaluation decrements (recognised in equity)	Impairment reversal (recognised in equity)	WIP transfers	Adjustments and transfers	Acquired at less than fair value (Note B2-4)	Found assets (Note B2-6)	Revaluation decrements to equity (ARR)	Revaluation increments to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000
Capital work in progress	201,362	–	201,362	44,747	53,018	–	(4,356)	–	–	–	(47,658)	43	–	–	–	–	247,156	–	247,156
Land	342,661	–	342,661	–	2,076	–	(655)	–	–	–	376	(85)	–	–	–	3,232	347,605	–	347,605
Plant, equipment, furniture and fittings	68,714	(44,530)	24,184	23	957	–	(243)	(3,527)	–	–	1,980	–	–	–	–	–	70,383	(47,011)	23,372
Land improvements	26,521	(2,261)	24,260	3	–	–	–	(271)	–	–	607	–	–	–	–	733	27,939	(2,607)	25,332
Infrastructure:																			
– Buildings and other structures	306,721	(132,121)	174,600	154	490	–	(190)	(6,537)	(14)	–	975	–	5,078	–	–	5,463	314,378	(139,291)	175,087
– Roads, bridges and footpaths	1,043,953	(369,803)	674,150	2,289	12,221	13,774	(1,388)	(17,031)	–	27,722	20,848	11	–	3,839	(1,291)	60,046	1,132,676	(337,486)	795,190
– Other road assets (including bulk earthworks)	250,684	(30,815)	219,869	–	1,289	–	(96)	(2,369)	–	–	1,851	1	–	–	(219)	14,706	235,032	–	235,032
– Buildings	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
– Stormwater drainage	339,955	(111,843)	228,112	–	2,505	–	(11)	(3,806)	–	–	1,087	(12)	–	140	(441)	40,128	373,491	(105,789)	267,702
– Water supply network	957,767	(350,135)	607,632	135	2,488	–	(174)	(12,447)	(2,483)	–	4,466	–	–	–	–	14,992	988,428	(373,819)	614,609
– Sewerage network	669,324	(232,929)	436,395	167	5,040	–	(253)	(10,589)	–	–	10,467	–	–	–	–	10,903	701,425	(249,295)	452,130
– Open space / recreational assets	121,266	(67,435)	53,831	270	967	3,675	(142)	(5,201)	–	6,649	5,001	–	48	–	–	1,900	138,990	(67,058)	71,932
Other assets	10,125	(8,850)	1,275	–	289	–	–	(329)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	10,453	(9,213)	1,240
– Tip asset	4,290	(1,801)	2,489	–	1,934	–	–	(57)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6,224	(1,858)	4,366
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	4,343,343	(1,352,523)	2,990,820	47,788	83,274	17,449	(7,508)	(62,164)	(2,497)	34,371	–	(42)	5,126	3,979	(1,951)	152,108	4,594,180	(1,333,427)	3,260,753

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

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C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

	At 1 July 2023			Asset movements during the reporting period													At 30 June 2024		
By aggregated asset class	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals [1]	Additions new assets	Reinstate-ment costs for impaired assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	Impairment loss / revaluation decrements (recognised in P/L)	Impairment loss / revaluation decrements (recognised in equity)	Impairment reversal (recognised in equity)	WIP transfers	Adjustments and transfers	Acquired at less than fair value (Note B2-4)	Found assets (Note B2-6)	Revaluation decrements to equity (ARR)	Revaluation increments to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000
Capital work in progress	170,442	–	170,442	47,475	71,588	–	(6,076)	–	–	–	–	(81,728)	64	–	–	(403)	–	201,362	–	201,362
Land	332,823	–	332,823	–	2,385	–	(17)	–	–	–	–	265	(930)	4,000	–	–	4,134	342,661	–	342,661
Plant, equipment, furniture and fittings	66,154	(42,530)	23,624	–	3,655	–	(399)	(3,647)	–	–	–	1,229	(276)	–	–	–	–	68,714	(44,530)	24,184
Land improvements	16,780	(2,124)	14,656	–	747	–	(72)	(268)	–	–	–	8,126	–	–	–	–	1,069	26,521	(2,261)	24,260
Infrastructure:																				
– Buildings and other structures	287,042	(118,416)	168,626	316	25	–	(127)	(7,742)	–	–	–	1,591	1,206	–	–	–	10,706	306,721	(132,121)	174,600
– Roads, bridges and footpaths	959,123	(375,709)	583,414	4,664	5,701	9,181	(2,859)	(16,436)	–	–	22,602	33,999	–	–	–	–	33,884	1,043,953	(369,803)	674,150
– Other road assets (including bulk earthworks)	229,977	(27,376)	202,601	982	1,201	–	(295)	(2,553)	–	–	–	7,160	–	–	–	–	10,774	250,684	(30,815)	219,869
– Stormwater drainage	321,114	(108,743)	212,371	38	6,263	–	(522)	(3,732)	–	–	3,831	2,661	–	–	–	–	7,202	339,955	(111,843)	228,112
– Water supply network	894,891	(324,087)	570,804	14	5,097	–	(1,642)	(11,798)	–	–	–	15,117	77	–	812	–	29,152	957,767	(350,135)	607,632
– Sewerage network	618,046	(211,881)	406,165	1,311	9,216	–	(122)	(9,936)	–	–	–	8,726	(77)	–	–	–	21,111	669,324	(232,929)	436,395
– Open space / recreational assets	105,398	(51,579)	53,819	511	967	1,089	(156)	(4,805)	–	(6,522)	–	2,854	–	–	–	–	6,074	121,266	(67,435)	53,831
Other assets	9,766	(8,485)	1,281	–	285	–	–	(305)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	10,125	(8,850)	1,275
Tip assets	4,290	(1,720)	2,570	–	–	–	–	(80)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4,290	(1,801)	2,489
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	4,015,846	(1,272,650)	2,743,196	55,311	107,130	10,270	(12,287)	(61,302)	(10,270)	(6,522)	26,433	–	64	4,000	812	(403)	124,116	4,343,343	(1,352,523)	2,990,820

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

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C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Useful lives of IPPE

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Asset Category	Useful lives
Plant, equipment, furniture and fittings	5 to 30
Land	Infinite
Land improvements	10 to 100
Infrastructure:	
– Buildings and other structures	5 to 100
– Roads, bridges and footpaths	15 to 90
– Bulk earthworks	Infiinite
– Stormwater drainage	40 to 300
– Water supply network	10 to 200
– Sewerage network	10 to 200
– Open space / recreational assets	5 to 100
– Other infrastructure	10 to 100
Other assets	3 to 100
Tip assets	20

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

Revaluation model

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are held at fair value. Comprehensive valuations are performed at least every 5 years, however the carrying amount of assets is assessed by Council at each reporting date to confirm that it is not materially different from current fair value.

Water and sewerage network assets are indexed at each reporting period in accordance with the Rates Reference Manual issued by Department of Climate Change, energy, the Environment and Water.

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation are credited to the IPPE revaluation surplus. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognising profit or loss relating to that asset class, the increase is first recognised as profit or loss. Decreases that reverse previous increases of assets in the same class are first charged against IPPE revaluation reserve to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the class; all other decreases are charged to the Income Statement.

Land under roads

Land under roads is land under roadways and road reserves including land under footpaths, nature strips and median strips.

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired before 1 July 2008 in accordance with AASB 1051.

Land under roads acquired after 1 July 2008 is recognised in accordance with the IPPE accounting policy.

Crown reserves

Crown reserves under Council's care and control are recognised as assets of the Council. While ownership of the reserves remains with the Crown, Council retains operational control of the reserves and is responsible for their maintenance and use in accordance with the specific purposes to which the reserves are dedicated. Where the Crown reserves are under a lease arrangement they are accounted for under AASB 16 Leases, refer to Note C2-1.

Improvements on Crown reserves are also recorded as assets, while maintenance costs incurred by Council and revenues relating to the reserves are recognised within Council's Income Statement.

C2 Leasing activities

C2-1 Council as a lessee

Council has leases over a range of assets including land and buildings. Information relating to the leases in place and associated balances and transactions is provided below.

Terms and conditions of leases

Buildings

Environmental Laboratory

Council leases a laboratory for the purpose of undertaking environmental testing. The lease is for five (5) years, and has a renewal option of two further terms each of five (5) years.

The costs associated with the environmental laboratory lease are not considered material to the financial statements.

Land

Council leases a number of parcels of land from the Crown for various purposes. Most of these leases have no termination date and can be cancelled at any time at the discretion of the Minister. These leases are considered short term leases, so are exempt from AASB 16 recognition and measurement.

Other Crown Land

Council leases a parcel of land in Laurieton for the purpose of a Home and Community Care Centre for the frail, aged and disabled. The lease is for 40 years and there is provision for Council to apply for an extension to the lease as long as the use of the property remains unchanged.

The costs associated with this lease are not considered material to the financial statements.

Extension options

Council includes options in the building leases to provide flexibility and certainty to Council operations and reduce cost of moving premises; the extension options are at Council's discretion. At commencement date and each subsequent reporting date, Council assesses where it is reasonably certain that the extension options will be exercised

Leases at significantly below market value – concessionary / peppercorn leases

Council has a number of leases at significantly below market for land and buildings which are used for:

- Water pipelines and storage
- Child care centre
- Radio repeater station
- Community hall

The leases are generally between 2 and 20 years and require payments of a maximum amount of $1,000 per year. The use of the right-to-use asset is restricted by the lessors to specified community services which Council must provide, these services are detailed in the leases.

Council does not believe that any of the leases in place are individually material from a Statement of Financial Position or performance perspective.

Material accounting policy information

At inception of a contract, Council assesses whether a lease exists – i.e. does the contract convey the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration?

Exceptions to lease accounting

Council has applied the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. Council recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Leases at significantly below market value / Concessionary leases

Council has elected to measure the right of use asset arising from the concessionary leases at cost which is based on the associated lease liability at initial recognition.

C3 Liabilities of Council

C3-1 Payables

	2025 Current $ '000	2025 Non-current $ '000	2024 Current $ '000	2024 Non-current $ '000
Payables				
Goods and services	**5,131**	**–**	11,874	–
Accrued wages and salaries	**298**	**–**	309	–
Accrued expenses	**16,590**	**–**	7,051	–
Deposits and retentions	**7,828**	**–**	7,912	–
Prepaid rates	**3,598**	**–**	3,315	–
Other	**182**	**–**	90	–
Total payables	**33,627**	**–**	30,551	–

Current payables not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
The following liabilities, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.		
Payables – security bonds, deposits and retentions	**4,272**	4,394
Total payables	**4,272**	4,394

Payables
Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to Council prior to the end of financial year that are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

C3-2 Contract Liabilities

	Notes	2025 Current $ '000	2025 Non-current $ '000	2024 Current $ '000	2024 Non-current $ '000
Grants and contributions received in advance:					
Unexpended capital grants to construct Council controlled assets	(i)	**10,815**	**–**	17,541	–
Unexpended operating grants received prior to performance obligation being satisfied (upfront payments) – AASB 15	(ii)	**435**	**–**	–	–
Total grants received in advance		**11,250**	**–**	17,541	–
User fees and charges received in advance:					
Upfront fees - Ferry tickets, Glasshouse tickets	(iii)	**735**	**–**	821	–
Other		**5**	**–**	110	–
Total user fees and charges received in advance		**740**	**–**	931	–
Total contract liabilities		**11,990**	**–**	18,472	–

Notes

(i) Council has received funding to construct assets including sporting facilities, roads, bridges and other infrastructure. The funds received are under an enforceable contract which require Council to construct an identified asset which will be under Council's control on completion. The revenue is recognised as Council constructs the asset and the contract liability reflects the funding received which cannot yet be recognised as revenue. The current proportion of the revenue is expected to be recognised in the next 12 months.

(ii) The contract liability relates to grants received prior to the revenue recognition criteria in AASB 15 being satisfied since the performance obligations are ongoing.

(iii) Upfront fees for ferry tickets, private works, water meter installations and glasshouse tickets do not meet the definition of a performance obligation and therefore the funds received are recorded as a contract liability on receipt and recognised as revenue over the expected average valid life.

Revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Grants and contributions received in advance:		
Funds to construct Council controlled assets	**39,749**	40,075
Funds received prior to performance obligation being satisfied (upfront payments) – AASB 15	**4**	–
User fees and charges received in advance:		
Deposits received in advance of services provided (e.g. Glasshouse deposits)	**740**	762
Total revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period	**40,493**	40,837

Material accounting policy information

Contract liabilities are recorded when consideration is received from a customer / fund provider prior to Council transferring a good or service to the customer, Council presents the funds which exceed revenue recognised as a contract liability.

C3-3 Borrowings

	2025 Current $ '000	2025 Non-current $ '000	2024 Current $ '000	2024 Non-current $ '000
Loans – secured [1]	**3,320**	**56,371**	6,315	11,800
Total borrowings	**3,320**	**56,371**	6,315	11,800

(1) Loans are secured over the general rating income of Council.
Disclosures on liability interest rate risk exposures, fair value disclosures and security can be found in Note E1-1

(a) Changes in liabilities arising from financing activities

	2024		Non-cash movements				2025
	Opening Balance $ '000	Cash flows $ '000	Acquisition $ '000	Fair value changes $ '000	Acquisition due to change in accounting policy $ '000	Other non-cash movement $ '000	Closing balance $ '000
Loans – secured	18,115	**41,576**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**59,691**
Total liabilities from financing activities	18,115	**41,576**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**59,691**

	2023		Non-cash movements			2024
	Opening Balance $ '000	Cash flows $ '000	Acquisition $ '000	Fair value changes $ '000	Other non-cash movement $ '000	Closing balance $ '000
Loans – secured	24,917	(6,802)	–	–	–	18,115
Total liabilities from financing activities	24,917	(6,802)	–	–	–	18,115

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C3-3 Borrowings (continued)

(b) Financing arrangements

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Total facilities		
Total financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:		
Bank overdraft facilities [1]	**500**	500
Purchase cards	**500**	500
Total financing arrangements	**1,000**	1,000
Drawn facilities		
Financing facilities drawn down at the reporting date are:		
– Bank overdraft facilities	**–**	–
– Purchase cards	**169**	63
Total drawn financing arrangements	**169**	63
Undrawn facilities		
Undrawn financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:		
– Bank overdraft facilities	**500**	500
– Purchase cards	**331**	437
Total undrawn financing arrangements	**831**	937

Breaches and defaults
During the current and prior year, there were no defaults or breaches on any of the loans.

Security over loans
Council loans are secured over future cash flows.

Bank overdrafts
The bank overdraft of Council is secured by a registered first mortgage over the income of the Council.

(1) The bank overdraft facility may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

C3-4 Employee benefit provisions

	2025 Current $ '000	2025 Non-current $ '000	2024 Current $ '000	2024 Non-current $ '000
Annual leave	**5,725**	**–**	4,912	–
Sick leave	**1,720**	**–**	2,497	–
Long service leave	**9,144**	**1,292**	9,254	1,028
Total employee benefit provisions	**16,589**	**1,292**	16,663	1,028

Current employee benefit provisions not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
The following provisions, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.		
Provisions – employees benefits	**8,019**	5,365
	8,019	5,365

Material accounting policy information

Employee benefit provisions are presented as current liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position if Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur and therefore all annual leave and vested long service leave (or that which vests within 12 months) is presented as current.

Short-term obligations
Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service) are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave and accumulating sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations
The liability for long-service leave and annual leave that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

On-costs
The employee benefit provisions include the aggregate on-cost liabilities that will arise when payment of current employee benefits is made in future periods.

These amounts include superannuation, payroll tax and workers compensation expenses which will be payable upon the future payment of certain leave liabilities which employees are entitled to at the reporting period.

C3-5 Provisions

	2025 Current $ '000	2025 Non-Current $ '000	2024 Current $ '000	2024 Non-Current $ '000
Asset remediation/restoration:				
Asset remediation	**212**	**3,634**	–	1,828
Total provisions	**212**	**3,634**	–	1,828

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C3-5 Provisions (continued)

Description of and movements in provisions

	Other provisions	
	Asset remediation $ '000	Total $ '000
2025		
At beginning of year	**1,828**	**1,828**
Changes to provision:		
– Revised discount rate	**(139)**	**(139)**
Unwinding of discount	**85**	**85**
Additional provisions	**2,072**	**2,072**
Revised CPI rate	**–**	**–**
Total other provisions at end of year	**3,846**	**3,846**
2024		
At beginning of year	2,582	2,582
Changes to provision:		
– Revised discount rate	(546)	(546)
Unwinding of discount	92	92
Revised CPI rate	(300)	(300)
Total other provisions at end of year	1,828	1,828

Nature and purpose of provisions

Asset remediation
The asset remediation provision represents the present value estimate of future costs Council will incur to restore, rehabilitate and reinstate the tip and quarry as a result of past operations.

Material accounting policy information

Provisions are recognised when Council has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount has been reliably estimated.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required on settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. The discount rate used to determine the present value reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as a borrowing cost.

Asset remediation – tips

Council is required by law to restore the tip site at Cairncross at the end of its useful life in 2056. The costs that Council will incur relate to environmental monitoring, maintenance etc. The provision is based on Council maintaining its current management approach which involves each cell being capped as it is filled. The amounts required have been discounted to present value at an interest rate equivalent to the risk-free cost of borrowing to Council.

Close-down and restoration costs include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure, and the removal of residual materials and remediation of disturbed areas. Estimated close-down and restoration costs are provided for in the accounting period when the obligation arising from the related disturbance occurs, whether this occurs during the development or during the operation phase, based on the net present value of estimated future costs. Provisions for close-down and restoration costs do not include any additional obligations which are expected to arise from future disturbance. The cost estimates are calculated annually during the life of the operation to reflect known developments, e.g. updated cost estimates and revisions to the estimated lives of operations, and are subject to formal review at regular intervals.

The ultimate cost of environmental remediation is uncertain and cost estimates can vary in response to many factors, including changes to the relevant legal requirements, the emergence of new restoration techniques, or experience at other locations. The expected timing of expenditure can also change, for example in response to changes in quarry reserves or production rates. As a result, there could be significant adjustments to the provision for close down and restoration and environmental clean-up, which would affect future financial results.

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C3-5 Provisions (continued)

Other movements in the provisions for close-down and restoration costs, including those resulting from new disturbance, updated cost estimates, changes to the estimated lives of operations, and revisions to discount rates, are capitalised within infrastructure, property, plant and equipment. These costs are then depreciated over the lives of the assets to which they relate.

D Council structure

D1 Results by fund

General fund refers to all Council activities other than water and sewer. All amounts disclosed in this note are gross i.e. inclusive of internal charges and recoveries made between the funds. Assets and liabilities shown in the water and sewer columns are restricted for use for these activities.

D1-1 Income Statement by fund

	General 2025 $ '000	Water 2025 $ '000	Sewer 2025 $ '000
Income from continuing operations			
Rates and annual charges	79,286	8,080	35,212
User charges and fees	19,471	26,374	1,958
Interest and investment revenue	6,862	6,198	2,203
Other revenues	7,734	185	230
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	14,390	324	375
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	66,472	15,528	10,780
Other income	5,567	–	–
Total income from continuing operations	199,782	56,689	50,758
Expenses from continuing operations			
Employee benefits and on-costs	60,116	5,521	9,342
Materials and services	41,569	16,545	18,444
Borrowing costs	614	–	–
Other expenses	8,733	–	–
Net losses from the disposal of assets	6,356	178	253
Total expenses from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	117,388	22,244	28,039
Operating result from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	82,394	34,445	22,719
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	35,961	15,339	10,864
Operating result from continuing operations	46,433	19,106	11,855
Net operating result for the year	46,433	19,106	11,855
Net operating result attributable to each council fund	46,433	19,106	11,855
Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	**(20,039)**	**3,578**	**1,075**

D1-2 Statement of Financial Position by fund

	General 2025 $ '000	Water 2025 $ '000	Sewer 2025 $ '000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	24,724	11,672	3,899
Investments	98,055	79,472	26,550
Receivables	19,236	9,203	2,709
Inventories	736	–	–
Contract assets	16,762	1,914	467
Other assets	1,348	–	–
Total current assets	160,861	102,261	33,625
Non-current assets			
Investments	100,180	81,194	27,126
Receivables	42	9	4
Inventories	598	–	–
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	2,070,885	677,218	512,650
Total non-current assets	2,171,705	758,421	539,780
Total assets	2,332,566	860,682	573,405
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	31,445	829	1,353
Contract liabilities	8,653	–	3,337
Borrowings	1,320	–	2,000
Employee benefit provision	15,510	(254)	1,333
Provisions	183	–	29
Total current liabilities	57,111	575	8,052
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	56,371	–	–
Employee benefit provision	1,051	145	96
Provisions	3,634	–	–
Total non-current liabilities	61,056	145	96
Total liabilities	118,167	720	8,148
Net assets	2,214,399	859,962	565,257
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus	1,197,002	359,509	289,087
IPPE revaluation surplus	1,017,395	500,453	276,172
Total equity	2,214,397	859,962	565,259

D2 Interests in other entities

D2-1 Interests in joint arrangements

(ii) Joint operations

	Principal activity	Place of business	Interest in ownership 2025	2024
(a) Council is involved in the following joint operations (JO's)				
Name of joint operation:				
Upgrade of Maria River Road	Joint Operation - between Port Macquarie Hastings Council and Kempsey Shire Council	Port Macquarie	**48%**	48%

Unanimous consent is required between both parties in decision making and the direction and relevant activities of the project.

The joint arrangement has the same year end as Council.

Maria River Road Upgrade
Maria River Road is a length of road linking the NSW coastal towns of Crescent Head and Port Macquarie via the Settlement Point Ferry at Port Macquarie. The road is situated within two local government areas, with the southern 11.7km of unsealed road in the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area (LGA) and the northern 12.7km of unsealed road within the Kempsey LGA.

A joint application for funding to seal the remaining unsealed section of Maria River Road was made by Kempsey Shire Council (KSC) and Port Macquarie Hastings Council (PMHC) under the Fixing Local Roads scheme. On July 9th, 2020, it was announced that the application was successful and funding of $17.011M was awarded by Transport for NSW for the abovementioned project.

Material accounting policy information
Council has determined that it has only a joint operation.

Joint operations
In relation to its joint operation, where the Council has the rights to the individual assets and obligations arising from the arrangement, the Council has recognised:

- its assets, including its share of any assets built
- its liabilities, including its share of any liabilities incurred jointly
- its share of the grant received
- its expenses, including its share of any expenses incurred jointly.

These figures are incorporated into the relevant line item in the primary statements.

E Risks and accounting uncertainties

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Council.

Council's objective is to maximise its return on cash and investments whilst maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and preserving capital. The finance team manages the cash and investments portfolio with the assistance of independent advisors. Council has an investment policy which complies with the s625 of the *Local Government Act* and the Ministerial Investment Order. The policy is regularly reviewed by Council and a monthly investment report is provided to Council setting out the make-up performance of the portfolio as required by local government regulations.

Council does not engage in transactions expressed in foreign currencies and is therefore not subject to foreign currency risk.

Financial risk management is carried out by the finance team under policies approved by the Councillors.

The fair value of receivables, loans, investments and financial liabilities approximates their carrying amount.

The risks associated with the financial instruments held are:

- Market risk – interest rate risk – the risk that movements in interest rates could affect returns
- liquidity risk – the risk that Council will not be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- credit risk – the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument, resulting in a financial loss to the Council.

Council manages these risks by diversifying its portfolio and only purchasing investments with high credit ratings or capital guarantees. Council also seeks advice from independent advisers before placing any cash and investments.

(a) Market risk – interest rate and price risk

	2025	2024
	$ '000	$ '000
The impact on the result for the year and equity of a reasonably possible movement in the price of investments held and interest rates is shown below. The reasonably possible movements were determined based on historical movements and economic conditions in place at the reporting date.		
Impact of a 3.68% movement in interest rates		
– Equity / Income Statement	**1,888**	672

(b) Credit risk

Council's major receivables comprise rates, annual charges, user charges and fees.

Council manages the credit risk associated with these receivables by monitoring outstanding debt and employing stringent debt recovery procedures.

The credit risk for liquid funds and other short-term financial assets is considered negligible, since the counterparties are reputable banks with high quality external credit ratings.

There are no significant concentrations of credit risk other than Council has significant credit risk exposures in its local area given the nature of Council activities.

The level of outstanding receivables is reported to Council's executive team on a monthly basis. The balances of receivables that remain within initial trade terms (as detailed in the table) are considered to be of high credit quality.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the carrying amount of each class of receivable in the financial statements.

Council makes suitable provision for doubtful receivables as required.

There are no material receivables that have been subjected to a re-negotiation of repayment terms.

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E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

Credit risk profile

Receivables – rates and annual charges

Credit risk on rates and annual charges is minimised by the ability of Council to recover these debts as a secured charge over the land – that is, the land can be sold to recover the debt. Council is also able to charge interest on overdue rates and annual charges at higher than market rates which further encourages payment.

	Not yet overdue	overdue rates and annual charges < 5 years	≥ 5 years	Total
	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000
2025				
Rates and annual charges (excl. water billing)	**2,676**	**3,412**	**–**	**6,088**
Water billing	**2,694**	**203**	**–**	**2,897**
2024				
Rates and annual charges (excl. water billing)	3,353	4,662	–	8,015
Water billing	3,691	260	–	3,951

Receivables - non-rates and annual charges and contract assets

Council applies the simplified approach for non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets to provide for expected credit losses, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision at inception. To measure the expected credit losses, non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

The loss allowance provision is determined as follows. The expected credit losses incorporate forward-looking information.

	Not yet overdue	Overdue debts 0 - 30 days	31 - 60 days	61 - 90 days	> 91 days	Total
	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000
2025						
Gross carrying amount	**3,784**	**23,861**	**2,413**	**7,859**	**3,850**	**41,767**
Expected loss rate (%)	**0.00%**	**0.00%**	**0.00%**	**0.00%**	**20.80%**	**1.92%**
ECL provision	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**801**	**801**
2024						
Gross carrying amount	–	4,140	396	136	1,792	6,464
Expected loss rate (%)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.80%	5.77%
ECL provision	–	–	–	–	373	373

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E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

(c) Liquidity risk

Payables and borrowings are both subject to liquidity risk; that is, the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due.

Council manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels, and by maintaining an adequate cash buffer. Payment terms can be extended, and overdraft facilities drawn upon in extenuating circumstances.

Borrowings are also subject to interest rate risk: the risk that movements in interest rates could adversely affect funding costs. Council manages this risk through diversification of borrowing types, maturities and interest rate structures.

The finance team regularly reviews interest rate movements to determine if it would be advantageous to refinance or renegotiate part or all of the loan portfolio.

The timing of cash flows presented in the table below to settle financial liabilities reflects the earliest contractual settlement dates. The timing of expected outflows is not expected to be materially different from contracted cashflows.

The amounts disclosed in the table are the undiscounted contracted cash flows for non-lease liabilities and therefore the balances in the table may not equal the balances in the Statement of Financial Position due to the effect of discounting.

	Weighted average interest rate	Subject to no maturity	payable in: ≤ 1 Year	1 - 5 Years	> 5 Years	Total cash outflows	Actual carrying values
	%	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000
2025							
Payables	**0.00%**	**–**	**33,627**	**–**	**–**	**33,627**	**33,627**
Borrowings	**4.70%**	**–**	**3,320**	**11,759**	**44,613**	**59,692**	**59,691**
Total financial liabilities		**–**	**36,947**	**11,759**	**44,613**	**93,319**	**93,318**
2024							
Payables	0.00%	–	27,146	–	–	27,146	27,146
Borrowings	4.70%	–	7,046	10,321	3,039	20,406	18,115
Total financial liabilities		–	34,192	10,321	3,039	47,552	45,261

E2-1 Fair value measurement

The Council measures the following asset and liability classes at fair value on a recurring basis:

– Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

Fair value hierarchy

All assets and liabilities measured at fair value are assigned to a level in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly

Level 3: Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability

The table below shows the assigned level for each asset and liability held at fair value by Council:

		Fair value measurement hierarchy					
		Level 2 Significant observable inputs		Level 3 Significant unobservable inputs		Total	
		2025	2024	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024
	Notes	**$ '000**	$ '000	**$ '000**	$ '000	**$ '000**	$ '000
Recurring fair value measurements							
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6						
Plant, equipment, furniture and fittings		**–**	–	**23,372**	24,184	**23,372**	24,184
Land		**128,922**	127,693	**218,683**	214,968	**347,605**	342,661
Land improvements		**–**	–	**25,332**	24,260	**25,332**	24,260
Buildings and other structures		**572**	578	**174,515**	174,022	**175,087**	174,600
Roads, bridges and footpaths		**–**	–	**795,190**	674,150	**795,190**	674,150
Other road assets (incl. Bulk earthworks)		**–**	–	**235,032**	219,869	**235,032**	219,869
Stormwater drainage		**–**	–	**267,702**	228,112	**267,702**	228,112
Water and sewerage networks		**–**	–	**1,066,739**	1,044,027	**1,066,739**	1,044,027
Open space and recreational assets		**–**	–	**71,932**	53,831	**71,932**	53,831
Other assets		**–**	–	**1,240**	1,275	**1,240**	1,275
Tip assets		**–**	–	**4,366**	2,489	**4,366**	2,489
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		**129,494**	128,271	**2,884,103**	2,661,187	**3,013,597**	2,789,458

Valuation Techniques

The following table summarises the quantitative information relating to the significant unobservable inputs used in deriving the various level 3 asset class fair values.

	Valuation technique/s	Unobservable inputs (including ranges used)
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		
Operational Land	Market approach	Price per square metre
Community Land	Land values obtained from the NSW Valuer-General	Land value, land area, level of restriction

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E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

	Valuation technique/s	Unobservable inputs (including ranges used)
Land under roads	Market -based direct comparison	Extent and impact of use, market cost of land per square metre, restrictions. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and current market conditions.
Buildings (including swimming pools and other recreational buildings	Cost approach	Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset using componentisation, asset condition, remaining lives and residual value Rates per m2 used were between $3,000 and $6,000
Other Structures	Cost approach	Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset, asset condition, remaining lives, residual value
Roads (including bridges, footpaths, bulk earthworks) and other similar assets.	Cost approach	Asset condition, remaining lives using componentisation Unit rates per m2 or length varied from $11 to $25,800
Stormwater drainage	Cost approach	Asset condition, remaining lives using componentisation Unit rates per m2 or length varied from $8 to $64,100
Water supply and sewerage network infrastructure	Cost approach	Asset condition, remaining lives using componentisation Unit rates per m2 or length varied from $205 to $14,450
Other infrastructure	Cost approach	Asset condition, remaining lives using componentisation
Tip assets	Cost approach	Environmental legislation, timing of expected cash outflows, asset condition
Library books	Cost approach	Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset, asset condition, remaining lives, residual value
Other - art works	Market/Cost approach	Market approach if information readily available. The level of appreciation of the asset, current replacement / replication cost of equivalent asset, asset condition
Heritage collections	Cost approach	Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset using componentisation, asset condition and remaining lives Rates per m2 used were between $3,000 and $6,000

E3-1 Contingencies

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but their knowledge and disclosure is considered relevant to the users of Council's financial report.

LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED

(i) Third party claims

The Council is involved from time to time in various claims incidental to the ordinary course of business including claims for damages relating to its services.

Council believes that it is appropriately covered for all claims through its insurance coverage and does not expect any material liabilities to eventuate.

(ii) Section 7.11 Plans

Council levies Section 7.11 and S64 Contributions upon various development across the Council area through the required Contributions Plans.

As part of these Plans, Council has received funds for which it will be required to expend the monies in accordance with those plans.

As well, these Plans indicate proposed future expenditure to be undertaken by Council, which will be funded by making levies and receipting funds in future years or where a shortfall exists by the use of Council's General Funds.

These future expenses do not yet qualify as liabilities as of the Reporting Date, but represent Councils intention to spend funds in the manner and timing set out in those Plans.

(iii) Statewide Limited

Council is a member of Statewide Mutual, a mutual pool scheme providing liability insurance to local government.

Membership includes the potential to share in either the net assets or liabilities of the fund depending on its past performance. Council's share of the net assets or liabilities reflects Council's contributions to the pool and the result of insurance claims within each of the fund years.

The future realisation and finalisation of claims incurred but not reported to 30 June this year may result in future liabilities or benefits as a result of past events that Council will be required to fund or share in respectively.

Defined benefit plan

Council participates in a Defined Benefit Plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, named The Local Government Superannuation Scheme – Pool B (the Scheme) which is a defined benefit plan that has been deemed to be a 'multi-employer fund' for purposes of AASB119 Employee Benefits for the following reasons:

– Assets are not segregated within the sub-group according to the employees of each sponsoring employer.

– The contribution rates have been the same for all sponsoring employers. That is, contribution rates have not varied for each sponsoring employer according to the experience relating to the employees of that sponsoring employer.

– Benefits for employees of all sponsoring employers are determined according to the same formula and without regard to the sponsoring employer; and

– The same actuarial assumptions are currently used in respect of the employees of each sponsoring employer.

Given the factors above, each sponsoring employer is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers, and hence shares in the associated gains and losses (to the extent that they are not borne by members). As such Council does not believe that there is sufficient reliable information to allow each sponsoring employer to account for its proportionate share of the defined benefit obligation, sub-group assets and costs associated with the sub-group in the same way as it would for a single employer sponsored defined benefit plan.

Description of the funding arrangements.

Pooled Employers are required to pay future service employer contributions and past service employer contributions to the Fund.

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E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

The future service employer contributions were determined using the new entrant rate method under which a contribution rate sufficient to fund the total benefits over the working life-time of a typical new entrant is calculated. The current future service employer contribution rates are::

Division B	1.9 times member contributions for non-180 Point Members; Nil for 180 Point Members*
Division C	2.5% salaries
Division D	1.64 times member contributions

* For 180 Point Members, Employers are required to contribute 9.0% of salaries for the year ending 30 June 2025 (increasing to 9.5% in line with the increase in the Superannuation Guarantee) to these members' accumulation accounts, which are paid in addition to members' defined benefits.

The past service contribution for each Pooled Employer is a share of the total past service contributions of $20.0 million for 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024, apportioned according to each employer's share of the accrued liabilities as at 30 June. Given the funding position of the Fund as at 30 June 2024, it was recommended to cease these past service contributions effective 1 January 2025.

The adequacy of contributions is assessed at each triennial actuarial investigation and monitored annually between triennials.

Description of the extent to which Council can be liable to the plan for other Council's obligations under the terms and conditions of the multi-employer plan

As stated above, each sponsoring employer is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers and hence shares in the associated gains and losses.

However, there is no relief under the Fund's trust deed for employers to walk away from their defined benefit obligations. Under limited circumstances, an employer may withdraw from the plan when there are no active members, on full payment of outstanding additional contributions. There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of the Council.

Description of any agreed allocation of a deficit or surplus on:
1. wind-up of the plan

There are no specific provisions under the Fund's trust deed dealing with deficits or surplus on wind-up.
2. withdrawal from the plan

There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of an employer.

The amount of employer contributions to the defined benefit section of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and recognised as an expense for the year ending 30 June 2025 was $294,521.50. The last valuation of the Scheme was performed by fund actuary, Richard Boyfield, FIAA as at 30 June 2024.

The expected contributions to the Fund by Council for the next annual reporting period is $271,017.36.

The estimated employer reserves financial position for the Pooled Employers at 30 June 2025 is:

Employer reserves only *	$millions	Asset Coverage
Assets	2,197.6	
Past Service Liabilities	2,092.0	105.0%
Vested Benefits	2,130.4	103.2%

* excluding member accounts and reserves in both assets and liabilities.

Based on a Past Service Liabilities methodology, the share of any funding surplus or deficit that can be attributed to Council is 1.19%.

The key economic long term assumptions used to calculate the present value of accrued benefits are:

Investment return	6.0% per annum
Salary inflation *	3.5% per annum
Increase in CPI	2.5% per annum

* Plus promotional increases

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E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

The contribution requirements may vary from the current rates if the overall sub-group experience is not in line with the actuarial assumptions in determining the funding program; however, any adjustment to the funding program would be the same for all sponsoring employers in the Pooled Employers group.

CONTINGENT ASSETS

Infringement notices/fines

The income received as a result of Council issuing infringement notices is followed up and collected by the Infringement Processing Bureau.

Council's revenue recognition policy for such income is to account for it as revenue on receipt. Accordingly, at year end, there is a potential asset due to Council representing issued but not received infringement notices.

Due to the limited information available on the status, value and duration of outstanding notices, Council is unable to determine the value of outstanding income.

F People and relationships

F1 Related party disclosures

F1-1 Key management personnel (KMP)

The aggregate amount of KMP compensation included in the Income Statement is:

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Compensation:		
Short-term benefits	**2,450**	1,796
Post-employment benefits	**308**	157
Other long-term benefits	**244**	151
Total	**3,002**	2,104

Other transactions with KMP and their related parties

Council has determined that transactions at arm's length between KMP and Council as part of KMP using Council services (e.g. access to library or Council swimming pool) will not be disclosed.

Nature of the transaction	Ref	Transactions during the year $ '000	Outstanding balances including commitments $ '000	Terms and conditions	Impairment provision on outstanding balances $ '000	Impairment expense $ '000
2025						
Purchase of Goods	3	**–**	**–**	30 Day Payment of invoices	**–**	**–**
Fees and Charges	4	**–**	**–**	In accordance with Council's fees and charges	**–**	**–**
2024						
Purchase of Goods	3	–	–	30 Day Payment of invoices	–	–
Fees and Charges	4	–	–	In accordance with Council's fees and charges	–	–

3&4 Council has numerous transactions with the Hastings Co-operative including the rental paid to Council for a outdoor eating approval and a car lease franchise at the airport. In addition, Council purchased goods such as Gas, Oil, Cement, Herbicide, Sleepers, Fuel, Sprayer etc. from the Co-op. One of Council's KMP's is a director of this company.

F1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
The aggregate amount of Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses included in materials and services expenses in the Income Statement are:		
Mayoral fee	**129**	105
Councillors' fees	**173**	195
Other Councillors' expenses (including Mayor)	**13**	23
Total	**315**	323

F2 Other relationships

F2-1 Audit fees

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
During the year, the following fees were incurred for services provided by the auditor of Council, related practices and non-related audit firms		
Auditors of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council - NSW Auditor-General:		
Audit and other assurance services		
Audit and review of financial statements	**140**	128
Total Auditor-General remuneration	**140**	128
Other audit and assurance services	**10**	–
Remuneration for audit and other assurance services	**10**	–
Total audit fees	**150**	128

G Other matters

G1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information

(a) Reconciliation of Operating Result

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Net operating result from Income Statement	**77,394**	129,163
Add / (less) non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	**62,164**	61,302
Non-cash capital grants and contributions	**(29,215)**	(31,523)
(Gain) / loss on disposal of assets	**6,787**	11,436
Works in progress expensed	**–**	–
Unwinding of discount rates on reinstatement provisions	**(54)**	(454)
Movements in operating assets and liabilities and other cash items:		
(Increase) / decrease of receivables	**(69)**	(4,003)
Increase/(decrease) in provision for doubtful debts	**34**	–
(Increase) / decrease of other current assets	**(1,205)**	(43)
(Increase) / decrease of inventories	**74**	(28)
(Increase) / decrease of contract assets	**(5,902)**	(1,987)
Increase / (decrease) in payables	**(6,743)**	(337)
Increase / (decrease) in other accrued expenses payable	**9,528**	(3,927)
Increase / (decrease) in other liabilities	**291**	(4,790)
Increase / (decrease) in contract liabilities	**(6,482)**	(23,390)
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefit provision	**190**	623
Increase / (decrease) in other provisions	**2,072**	(300)
Net cash flows from operating activities	**108,864**	131,742

(b) Non-cash investing and financing activities

Dedications	**24,089**	27,523
Assets acquired at less than fair value	**5,126**	4,000
Total non-cash investing and financing activities	**29,215**	31,523

G2-1 Commitments

Capital commitments (exclusive of GST)

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Property, plant and equipment		
Plant and equipment	**–**	305
Road infrastructure	**–**	33,261
Sewerage and water infrastructure	**–**	15,875
Total commitments	**–**	49,441

Details of capital commitments
Council's commitments are for the purchase/construction of roads, water, sewer, parks and other infrastructure.

G3-1 Events occurring after the reporting date

Events that occur after the reporting date of 30 June 2025, and up to and including the date when the financial report is "authorised for issue" have been taken into account in preparing this financial report.

There are no known events occuring after the reporting date that would have a significant effect on the financial report.

G4 Statement of developer contributions

G4-1 Summary of developer contributions

	Opening balance at 1 July 2024	Contributions received during the year			Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2025	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
		Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other					
	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000
Roads	36,355	2,681	–	–	1,278	–	–	40,314	–
Parking	2,524	64	–	–	87	–	–	2,675	–
Open space	18,165	1,911	–	–	642	(465)	–	20,253	–
Community facilities	21,256	1,645	–	–	751	(2,238)	–	21,414	–
Other	2,061	–	–	–	70	–	–	2,131	–
Administration levy	–	198	–	–	–	(198)	–	–	–
S7.12 levies	2,081	377	–	–	73	–	–	2,531	–
S7.11 contributions – under a plan	82,442	6,876	–	–	2,901	(2,901)	–	89,318	–
Total S7.11 and S7.12 revenue under plans	82,442	6,876	–	–	2,901	(2,901)	–	89,318	–
S7.11 not under plans	775	14	–	–	40	–	–	829	–
S7.4 planning agreements	4,162	496	–	–	137	–	–	4,795	–
S64 contributions	93,180	18,688	–	–	3,223	(1,912)	–	113,179	–
Total contributions	180,559	26,074	–	–	6,301	(4,813)	–	208,121	–

Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, local infrastructure contributions, also known as developer contributions, are charged by councils when new development occurs. They help fund infrastructure like parks, community facilities, local roads, footpaths, stormwater drainage and traffic management. It is possible that the funds contributed may be less than the cost of this infrastructure, requiring Council to borrow or use general revenue to fund the difference.

G4-2 Developer contributions by plan

	Opening balance at 1 July 2024	Contributions received during the year			Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2025	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
		Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other					
	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000
S7.11 contributions – under a plan									
Developer contribution by plan									
Roads	36,355	2,681	–	–	1,278	–	–	40,314	–
Parking	2,524	64	–	–	87	–	–	2,675	–
Open space	18,165	1,911	–	–	642	(465)	–	20,253	–
Community facilities	21,256	1,645	–	–	751	(2,238)	–	21,414	–
Other	2,061	–	–	–	70	–	–	2,131	–
S7.12 levies	2,081	377	–	–	73	–	–	2,531	–
Administration levy	–	198	–	–	–	(198)	–	–	–
Total	82,442	**6,876**	**–**	**–**	**2,901**	**(2,901)**	**–**	**89,318**	**–**

G4-3 Contributions not under plans

Contributions not under plan									
Roads	384	14	–	–	27	–	–	425	–
Open space	391	–	–	–	13	–	–	404	–
Total	775	**14**	**–**	**–**	**40**	**–**	**–**	**829**	**–**

End of the audited financial statements

H1 Statement of performance measures

H1-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results

	Amounts 2025 $ '000	Indicator 2025	Indicators 2024	Indicators 2023	Benchmark
1. Operating performance ratio					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses [1,2]	(8,310)	(3.88)%	4.09%	4.04%	> 0.00%
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions [1]	214,449				
2. Own source operating revenue ratio					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding all grants and contributions [1]	199,360	64.89%	56.15%	61.33%	> 60.00%
Total continuing operating revenue [1]	307,229				
3. Unrestricted current ratio					
Current assets less all external restrictions	105,865	2.20x	1.67x	1.32x	> 1.50x
Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities	48,157				
4. Debt service cover ratio					
Operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation [1]	54,468	2.91x	9.95x	5.01x	> 2.00x
Principal repayments (Statement of Cash Flows) plus borrowing costs (Income Statement)	18,729				
5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage					
Rates and annual charges outstanding	9,834	7.46%	6.91%	5.57%	< 10.00%
Rates and annual charges collectable	131,838				
6. Cash expense cover ratio					
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits	437,872	27.00 months	28.05 months	32.92 months	> 3.00 months
Monthly payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	16,220				

(1) Excludes fair value increments on investment properties, reversal of revaluation decrements, reversal of impairment losses on receivables, net gain on sale of assets and net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method and includes pensioner rate subsidies

(2) Excludes impairment/revaluation decrements of IPPE, fair value decrements on investment properties, net loss on disposal of assets and net loss on share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method

H1-2 Statement of performance measures by fund

$ '000	General Indicators [3] 2025	General Indicators [3] 2024	Water Indicators 2025	Water Indicators 2024	Sewer Indicators 2025	Sewer Indicators 2024	Benchmark
1. Operating performance ratio							
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses [1, 2] / Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions [1]	**(9.72)%**	0.70%	**8.69%**	11.91%	**2.69%**	7.72%	> 0.00%
2. Own source operating revenue ratio							
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions [1] / Total continuing operating revenue [1]	**59.52%**	48.01%	**72.04%**	75.26%	**78.02%**	75.61%	> 60.00%
3. Unrestricted current ratio							
Current assets less all external restrictions / Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities	**2.20x**	1.67x	**177.85x**	38.61x	**4.18x**	15.28x	> 1.50x
4. Debt service cover ratio							
Operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation [1] / Principal repayments (Statement of Cash Flows) plus borrowing costs (Income Statement)	**1.26x**	5.70x	∞	∞	∞	∞	> 2.00x
5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage							
Rates and annual charges outstanding / Rates and annual charges collectable	**11.11%**	6.62%	**0.00%**	15.67%	**0.00%**	5.63%	< 10.00%
6. Cash expense cover ratio							
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits / Monthly payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	**26.04 months**	13.55 months	∞	90.60 months	∞	26.75 months	> 3.00 months

(1) - (2) Refer to Notes at Note G5-2 above.
(3) General fund refers to all of Council's activities except for its water and sewer activities which are listed separately.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Independent Auditor’s Reports:

Independent Auditor's Report

Please uplift Council's Audit Report PDF (opinion) for inclusion in the GPFS report (via the Home screen).

continued on next page ...

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Independent Auditor’s Reports: (continued)

Independent Auditor's Report

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Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Create the most liveable, sustainable and innovative place in Australia

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

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Background

i. These Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared for the use by both Council and the Office of Local Government in fulfilling their requirements under National Competition Policy.

ii. The principle of competitive neutrality is based on the concept of a 'level playing field' between persons/entities competing in a market place, particularly between private and public sector competitors.

Essentially, the principle is that government businesses, whether Commonwealth, state or local, should operate without net competitive advantages over other businesses as a result of their public ownership.

iii. For Council, the principle of competitive neutrality and public reporting applies only to declared business activities.

These include **(a)** those activities classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as business activities being water supply, sewerage services, abattoirs, gas production and reticulation, and **(b)** those activities with a turnover of more than $2 million that Council has formally declared as a business activity (defined as Category 1 activities).

iv. In preparing these financial statements for Council's self-classified Category 1 businesses and ABS-defined activities, councils must **(a)** adopt a corporatisation model and **(b)** apply full cost attribution including tax-equivalent regime payments and debt guarantee fees (where the business benefits from Council's borrowing position by comparison with commercial rates).

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- NSW Government Policy Statement, *Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government*
- Division of Local Government Guidelines, *Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality*
- The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting
- Sections 3 and 4 of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's (DCCEEW) *Regulatory and assurance framework for local water utilities, July 2022*

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the operating result and financial position for each of Council's declared business activities for the year,
- accord with Council's accounting and other records; and
- present overhead reallocation charges to the water and sewerage businesses as fair and reasonable.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on dd MMMM yyyy.

[Mayor]
Mayor
dd MMMM yyyy

[Councillor]
Councillor
dd MMMM yyyy

[GeneralManager]
Chief Executive Officer
dd MMMM yyyy

[ResponsibleAccountingOfficer]
Responsible Accounting Officer
dd MMMM yyyy

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Income Statement of water supply business activity

for the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Income from continuing operations		
Access charges	**8,080**	7,671
User charges	**25,477**	24,288
Fees	**897**	844
Interest and investment income	**6,198**	5,198
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	**324**	288
Other income	**185**	1,130
Total income from continuing operations	**41,161**	39,419
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**5,521**	5,273
Materials and services	**16,545**	15,649
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	**15,339**	12,159
Net loss from the disposal of assets	**178**	1,644
Calculated taxation equivalents	**–**	199
Total expenses from continuing operations	**37,583**	34,924
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	**3,578**	4,495
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	**15,528**	12,576
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	**19,106**	17,071
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**19,106**	17,071
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	**(895)**	(1,124)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**18,211**	15,947
Plus opening retained profits	**339,334**	323,132
– Taxation equivalent payments	**–**	199
Less:		
– Corporate taxation equivalent	**895**	1,124
– Surplus dividend paid	**–**	(1,068)
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
Closing accumulated surplus	**358,440**	339,334
Return on capital %	**0.5%**	0.7%
Subsidy from Council	**–**	23,800
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**18,212**	15,947
Less: capital grants and contributions (excluding developer contributions)	**(15,528)**	(12,576)
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	**2,684**	3,371
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	**1,342**	1,686

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Income Statement of sewerage business activity

for the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
Income from continuing operations		
Access charges	**35,212**	33,124
User charges	**1,819**	1,526
Fees	**139**	112
Interest and investment income	**2,203**	2,193
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	**375**	495
Other income	**230**	133
Total income from continuing operations	**39,978**	37,583
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**9,342**	6,995
Materials and services	**18,444**	17,271
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	**10,864**	10,197
Net loss from the disposal of assets	**253**	220
Calculated taxation equivalents	**–**	250
Total expenses from continuing operations	**38,903**	34,933
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	**1,075**	2,650
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	**10,780**	11,468
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	**11,855**	14,118
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**11,855**	14,118
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	**(269)**	(663)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**11,586**	13,455
Plus opening retained profits	**276,203**	262,868
– Taxation equivalent payments	**–**	250
Less:		
– Corporate taxation equivalent	**269**	663
– Surplus dividend paid	**–**	(1,033)
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
Closing accumulated surplus	**288,058**	276,203
Return on capital %	**0.2%**	0.5%
Subsidy from Council	**–**	18,487
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**11,586**	13,455
Less: capital grants and contributions (excluding developer contributions)	**(10,780)**	(11,468)
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	**806**	1,987
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	**403**	994

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Income Statement of waste management business activity
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025 Category 1 $ '000	2024 Category 1 $ '000
Income from continuing operations		
Annual charges	**19,411**	18,047
User charges and fees	**10,785**	11,617
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	**308**	296
Interest and investment income	**78**	78
Other income	**2,546**	3,503
Net gain from the disposal of assets	**(9)**	–
Total income from continuing operations	**33,119**	33,541
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**3,799**	2,893
Materials and services	**20,851**	15,678
Borrowing costs	**95**	(738)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	**741**	751
Calculated taxation equivalents	**–**	31
Debt guarantee fee (if applicable)	**–**	8
Other expenses	**6,618**	8,313
Net loss from the disposal of assets	**(9)**	99
Total expenses from continuing operations	**32,095**	27,035
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	**1,024**	6,506
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	**1,024**	6,506
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**1,024**	6,506
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	**(256)**	(1,627)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**768**	4,879
Plus accumulated surplus	**47,841**	42,286
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	**–**	31
– Debt guarantee fees	**–**	8
– Corporate taxation equivalent	**256**	1,627
Add:		
Less:		
– Dividend paid	**–**	(990)
Closing accumulated surplus	**48,865**	47,841
Return on capital %	**2.9%**	15.5%
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**768**	4,879
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	**768**	4,879
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	**384**	2,440

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Statement of Financial Position of water supply business activity
as at 30 June 2025

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Contract assets and contract cost assets	**1,914**	1,997
Cash and cash equivalents	**11,672**	7,801
Investments	**79,472**	75,960
Receivables	**9,203**	5,289
Total current assets	**102,261**	91,047
Non-current assets		
Investments	**81,194**	74,203
Receivables	**9**	482
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	**677,218**	661,122
Total non-current assets	**758,421**	735,807
Total assets	**860,682**	826,854
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Payables	**829**	–
Employee benefit provisions	**(254)**	1,290
Provisions	**–**	1,068
Total current liabilities	**575**	2,358
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefit provisions	**145**	82
Total non-current liabilities	**145**	82
Total liabilities	**720**	2,440
Net assets	**859,962**	824,414
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**359,509**	339,334
IPPE revaluation surplus	**500,453**	485,080
Total equity	**859,962**	824,414

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Statement of Financial Position of sewerage business activity
as at 30 June 2025

	2025 $ '000	2024 $ '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Contract assets and contract cost assets	**467**	30
Cash and cash equivalents	**3,899**	2,671
Investments	**26,550**	26,009
Receivables	**2,709**	2,483
Total current assets	**33,625**	31,193
Non-current assets		
Investments	**27,126**	25,408
Receivables	**4**	234
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	**512,650**	486,492
Total non-current assets	**539,780**	512,134
Total assets	**573,405**	543,327
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Contract liabilities	**3,337**	423
Payables	**1,353**	–
Borrowings	**2,000**	–
Employee benefit provisions	**1,333**	556
Provisions	**29**	1,063
Total current liabilities	**8,052**	2,042
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefit provisions	**96**	31
Total non-current liabilities	**96**	31
Total liabilities	**8,148**	2,073
Net assets	**565,257**	541,254
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**289,087**	276,203
IPPE revaluation surplus	**276,172**	265,051
Total equity	**565,259**	541,254

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Statement of Financial Position of waste management business activity
as at 30 June 2025

	2025 Category 1 $ '000	2024 Category 1 $ '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	**1,945**	1,247
Investments	**13,242**	10,891
Receivables	**3,490**	5,311
Total current assets	**18,677**	17,449
Non-current assets		
Investments	**13,530**	13,103
Receivables	**–**	85
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	**39,239**	37,150
Total non-current assets	**52,769**	50,338
Total assets	**71,446**	67,787
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Payables	**736**	–
Borrowings	**174**	168
Employee benefit provisions	**961**	692
Total current liabilities	**1,871**	860
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	**–**	174
Employee benefit provisions	**66**	38
Provisions	**3,846**	1,828
Total non-current liabilities	**3,912**	2,040
Total liabilities	**5,783**	2,900
Net assets	**65,663**	64,887
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**47,720**	47,841
IPPE revaluation surplus	**17,943**	17,046
Total equity	**65,663**	64,887

Note – Material accounting policy information

A statement summarising the supplemental accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the special purpose financial statements (SPFS) for National Competition Policy (NCP) reporting purposes follows.

These financial statements are SPFS prepared for use by Council and the Office of Local Government. For the purposes of these statements, the Council is a non-reporting not-for-profit entity.

The figures presented in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria of relevant Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and Australian Accounting Interpretations.

The disclosures in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act), the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (Regulation) and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

The statements are prepared on an accruals basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, fair value of non-current assets. Certain taxes and other costs, appropriately described, have been imputed for the purposes of the National Competition Policy.

The Statement of Financial Position includes notional assets/liabilities receivable from/payable to Council's general fund. These balances reflect a notional intra-entity funding arrangement with the declared business activities.

National Competition Policy

Council has adopted the principle of 'competitive neutrality' in its business activities as part of the National Competition Policy which is being applied throughout Australia at all levels of government. The framework for its application is set out in the June 1996 NSW Government Policy statement titled 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government'. *The Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality* issued by the Office of Local Government in July 1997 has also been adopted.

The pricing and costing guidelines outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard for disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, and returns on investments (rate of return and dividends paid).

Declared business activities

In accordance with *Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality,* Council has declared that the following are to be considered as business activities:

Category 1 – business activities with gross operating turnover more than $2 million

a. Port Macquarie-Hastings Water Supply

Comprising the whole of the operations and assets of the water supply systems servicing the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council area, which is established as a separate Special Rate Fund. As the total annual operating revenues exceed $2,000,000, it is defined as a "Category 1" Business activity.

b. Port Macquarie-Hastings Sewerage Services

Comprising the whole of the operations and assets of the sewerage reticulation and treatment systems servicing the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council area, which is established as a separate Special Rate Fund. As the total annual operating revenues exceed $2,000,000, it is defined as a "Category 1" Business activity.

c. Port Macquarie-Hastings Waste Management Services

Comprising the whole of the operations and assets of the waste management service carried out by the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, which is established as a separate Special Rate Fund. Waste management comprises domestic waste management as well as commercial waste operations. As the total annual operating revenues exceed $2,000,000, it is defined as a "Category 1" Business activity.

Taxation equivalent charges

Council is liable to pay various taxes and financial duties. Where this is the case, they are disclosed as a cost of operations just like all other costs. However, where Council does not pay some taxes, which are generally paid by private sector businesses, such as income tax, these equivalent tax payments have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities and are reflected in special purpose finanncial statements. For the purposes of disclosing comparative information relevant to the

continued on next page ...

Note – Material accounting policy information (continued)

private sector equivalent, the following taxation equivalents have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities (this does not include Council's non-business activities):

Notional rate applied (%)

Corporate income tax rate – **25%** (2023: 25%)

Land tax – the first $1,075,000 of combined land values attracts **0%**. For the combined land values in excess of $1,075,000 up to $6,571,000 the rate is **$100 + 1.6%**. For the remaining combined land value that exceeds $6,571,000 a premium marginal rate of **2.0%** applies.

Payroll tax – **5.45%** on the value of taxable salaries and wages in excess of $1,200,000.

In accordance with DCCEEW's regulatory and assurance framework, a payment for the amount calculated as the annual tax equivalent charges (excluding income tax) must be paid from water supply and sewerage business activities.

The payment of taxation equivalent charges, referred to in the regulatory and assurance framework as a 'dividend for taxation equivalent', may be applied for any purpose allowed under the Act.

Achievement of substantial compliance to DCCEEW's regulatory and assurance framework is not a prerequisite for the payment of the tax equivalent charges; however the payment must not exceed $3 per assessment.

Income tax

An income tax equivalent has been applied on the profits of the business activities. Whilst income tax is not a specific cost for the purpose of pricing a good or service, it needs to be taken into account in terms of assessing the rate of return required on capital invested. Accordingly, the return on capital invested is set at a pre-tax level – gain/(loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts, as would be applied by a private sector competitor. That is, it should include a provision equivalent to the relevant corporate income tax rate, currently 25% (2023: 25%).

Income tax is only applied where a gain from ordinary activities before capital amounts has been achieved. Since the taxation equivalent is notional – that is, it is payable to the 'Council' as the owner of business operations – it represents an internal payment and has no effect on the operations of the Council.

Accordingly, there is no need for disclosure of internal charges in the SPFS. The rate applied of 25% is the equivalent company tax rate prevalent at reporting date.

Local government rates and charges

A calculation of the equivalent rates and charges for all Category 1 businesses has been applied to all assets owned, or exclusively used by the business activity.

Loan and debt guarantee fees

The debt guarantee fee is designed to ensure that Council business activities face 'true' commercial borrowing costs in line with private sector competitors. In order to calculate a debt guarantee fee, Council has determined what the differential borrowing rate would have been between the commercial rate and Council's borrowing rate for its business activities.

(i) Subsidies

Government policy requires that subsidies provided to customers, and the funding of those subsidies, must be explicitly disclosed. Subsidies occur where Council provides services on a less than cost recovery basis. This option is exercised on a range of services in order for Council to meet its community service obligations. The overall effect of subsidies is contained within the Income Statements of business activities.

(ii) Return on investments (rate of return)

The NCP policy statement requires that councils with Category 1 businesses 'would be expected to generate a return on capital funds employed that is comparable to rates of return for private businesses operating in a similar field'.

Funds are subsequently available for meeting commitments or financing future investment strategies. The rate of return is disclosed for each of Council's business activities on the Income Statement.

The rate of return is calculated as follows:

Operating result before capital income + interest expense

continued on next page ...

Note – Material accounting policy information (continued)

Written down value of I,PP&E as at 30 June

As a minimum, business activities should generate a return equal to the Commonwealth 10 year bond rate which is 4.16% at 30/6/25.

(iii) Dividends

Council is not required to pay dividends to either itself as owner of a range of businesses, or to any external entities.

A local government water supply and sewerage business is permitted to pay annual dividends from their water supply or sewerage business surpluses. Each dividend must be calculated and approved in accordance with DCCEEW's regulatory and assurance framework and must not exceed 50% of the relevant surplus in any one year, or the number of water supply or sewerage assessments at 30 June 2025 multiplied by $30 (less the payment for tax equivalent charges, not exceeding $3 per assessment).

In accordance with DCCEEW's regulatory and assurance framework, statement of compliance and statement of dividend payment, dividend payment form and unqualified independent financial audit report are submitted to DCCEEW.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

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Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

SPECIAL SCHEDULES
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Create the most liveable, sustainable and innovative place in Australia

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Special Schedules
for the year ended 30 June 2025

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Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Permissible income for general rates

	Notes	Calculation 2024/25 $ '000	**Calculation 2025/26 $ '000**
Notional general income calculation [1]			
Last year notional general income yield	a	59,660	**59,296**
Plus or minus adjustments [2]	b	532	**578**
Notional general income	c = a + b	**60,192**	**59,874**
Permissible income calculation			
Percentage increase	d	4.60%	**4.10%**
Plus percentage increase amount [3]	f = d x (c + e)	2,769	**2,455**
Sub-total	g = (c + e + f)	**62,961**	**62,329**
Plus (or minus) last year's carry forward total	h	14	**3,678**
Sub-total	j = (h + i)	**14**	**3,678**
Total permissible income	o = k + n	62,975	**66,007**
Less notional general income yield	l	59,296	**63,231**
Catch-up or (excess) result	m = k – l	3,678	**2,776**
Carry forward to next year [6]	p = m + n + o	3,678	**2,776**

Notes

(1) The notional general income will not reconcile with rate income in the financial statements in the corresponding year. The statements are reported on an accrual accounting basis which include amounts that relate to prior years' rates income.

(2) Adjustments account for changes in the number of assessments and any increase or decrease in land value occurring during the year. The adjustments are called 'supplementary valuations' as defined in the *Valuation of Land Act 1916 (NSW)*.

(3) The 'percentage increase' is inclusive of the rate-peg percentage, and/or special variation and/or Crown land adjustment (where applicable).

(6) Carry-forward amounts which are in excess (an amount that exceeds the permissible income) require Ministerial approval by order published in the *NSW Government Gazette* in accordance with section 512 of the Act. The OLG will extract these amounts from Council's Permissible income for general rates Statement in the financial data return (FDR) to administer this process.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2025

Asset Class	Asset Category	Estimated cost to bring assets to satisfactory standard	Estimated cost to bring to the agreed level of service set by Council	2024/25 Required maintenance [a]	2024/25 Actual maintenance	Net carrying amount	Gross replacement cost (GRC)	Assets in condition as a percentage of gross replacement cost				
		$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	1	2	3	4	5
Buildings	Buildings	–	–	1,892	1,397	156,152	282,069	4.2%	41.9%	37.3%	15.1%	1.6%
	Sub-total	**–**	**–**	**1,892**	**1,397**	**156,152**	**282,069**	**4.2%**	**41.9%**	**37.3%**	**15.1%**	**1.5%**
Other structures	Other	–	–	470	41	4,932	7,981	31.9%	55.8%	12.1%	0.3%	0.0%
	Sub-total	**–**	**–**	**470**	**41**	**4,932**	**7,981**	**31.9%**	**55.8%**	**12.1%**	**0.3%**	**0.0%**
Roads	Roads	7,264	–	5,474	8,658	331,684	473,848	22.5%	55.2%	19.2%	3.0%	0.1%
	Bridges	6,570	–	3,324	686	242,435	317,834	15.0%	76.4%	4.4%	3.5%	0.6%
	Footpaths	–	–	2,868	163	221,071	314,191	3.4%	68.7%	27.9%	0.0%	0.0%
	Other road assets (incl. Bulk earthworks)	–	–	1,039	472	235,032	261,834	4.4%	83.5%	9.8%	1.9%	0.3%
	Sub-total	**13,834**	**–**	**12,705**	**9,979**	**1,030,222**	**1,367,707**	**12.9%**	**68.7%**	**16.0%**	**2.2%**	**0.2%**
Water supply network	Water supply network	11,664	–	5,026	5,077	626,731	1,008,781	27.6%	49.7%	18.0%	2.5%	2.3%
	Sub-total	**11,664**	**–**	**5,026**	**5,077**	**626,731**	**1,008,781**	**27.6%**	**49.7%**	**18.0%**	**2.5%**	**2.2%**
Sewerage network	Sewerage network	8,581	–	7,648	7,407	459,092	714,940	19.8%	45.5%	27.0%	5.3%	2.4%
	Sub-total	**8,581**	**–**	**7,648**	**7,407**	**459,092**	**714,940**	**19.8%**	**45.5%**	**27.0%**	**5.3%**	**2.4%**
Stormwater drainage	Stormwater drainage	16,813	–	1,877	1,204	267,702	373,491	27.0%	53.1%	10.9%	6.6%	2.4%
	Sub-total	**16,813**	**–**	**1,877**	**1,204**	**267,702**	**373,491**	**27.0%**	**53.1%**	**10.9%**	**6.6%**	**2.4%**
Open space / recreational assets	Swimming pools	–	–	208	198	10,060	15,437	49.5%	26.0%	5.0%	16.7%	2.8%
	Other open space / recreational assets	–	–	3,229	2,697	56,941	115,572	24.2%	41.0%	33.1%	1.6%	0.1%
	Sub-total	**–**	**–**	**3,437**	**2,895**	**67,001**	**131,009**	**27.2%**	**39.3%**	**29.8%**	**3.4%**	**0.3%**
	Total – all assets	**50,892**	**–**	**33,055**	**28,000**	**2,611,832**	**3,885,978**	**19.2%**	**55.0%**	**20.0%**	**4.3%**	**1.5%**

(a) Required maintenance is the amount identified in Council's asset management plans.

Infrastructure asset condition assessment 'key'

#	Condition	Integrated planning and reporting (IP&R) description
1	Excellent/very good	No work required (normal maintenance)

continued on next page ...

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2025 (continued)

2	**Good**	Only minor maintenance work required
3	**Satisfactory**	Maintenance work required
4	**Poor**	Renewal required
5	**Very poor**	Urgent renewal/upgrading required

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2025

Infrastructure asset performance indicators (consolidated) *

	Amounts 2025 $ '000	Indicator 2025	Indicators 2024	Indicators 2023	Benchmark
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio					
Asset renewals [1] / Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	65,180 / 60,498	107.74%	92.21%	64.97%	> 100.00%
Infrastructure backlog ratio					
Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard / Net carrying amount of infrastructure assets	50,892 / 2,611,832	1.95%	2.83%	3.94%	< 2.00%
Asset maintenance ratio					
Actual asset maintenance / Required asset maintenance	28,000 / 33,055	84.71%	93.70%	99.29%	> 100.00%

(*) All asset performance indicators are calculated using classes identified in the previous table.

(1) Asset renewals represent the replacement and/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2025

Infrastructure asset performance indicators (by fund)

	General fund		Water fund		Sewer fund		Benchmark
$ '000	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024	
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio							
Asset renewals [1] / Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	**186.34%**	115.06%	**0.00%**	14.06%	**0.00%**	76.03%	> 100.00%
Infrastructure backlog ratio							
Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard / Net carrying amount of infrastructure assets	**1.98%**	3.12%	**1.90%**	1.59%	**1.90%**	3.72%	< 2.00%
Asset maintenance ratio							
Actual asset maintenance / Required asset maintenance	**76.13%**	89.69%	**101.01%**	100.00%	**96.85%**	100.00%	> 100.00%

(1) Asset renewals represent the replacement and/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government

Circular to Councils

Subject/title	2025-26 Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants) – Advance Payment
Circular Details	GC154 / 23 June 2025 / A961669
Previous Circular	GC153 / 28 June 2024 / A864741
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Finance Managers
Contact	Sarah Gubb EO / 02 4428 4142 / grantscommission@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information

What's new or changing?

The Commonwealth Government has announced an advance payment of the preliminary FY 2025-26 Financial Assistance (FA) Grants, representing approximately 50% of the amount councils are entitled to.

Further adjustments to the remaining payment will take into account:

- the determination by the Commonwealth Treasurer of the final adjustments for FY 2024-25
- the Local Government Grants Commission's (the Commission) final recommendations for FY 2025-26

The Commission will advise councils of their final recommendations after the Commonwealth advises the amount of the final adjustment.

What will this mean for council?

- The advance payment amount, as set out in the following link, will be paid to councils without delay: Advance Payment Schedule.

T 02 4428 4100 TTY 02 4428 4209, E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
www.olg.nsw.gov.au

- A media release advising of the Commonwealth's decision to make an advance payment can be found here: Councils to receive $1.7 billion in funding early | Ministers for the Department of Infrastructure.
- The balance of the grants will be paid in quarterly instalments during 2025-26
- The first quarterly instalment is expected to be paid to councils in mid-August 2025, with subsequent instalments in November 2025, February 2026 and May 2026
- All councils will be advised by letter of individual estimated entitlement for the 2025-26 FA Grants

Key points

- The grants are paid under the provision of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1993* (Commonwealth).
- The allocation of approximately 50% is less than in recent years. This is a reminder to Councils that the total amount of the annual FA Grant, and whether and when an advance payment is made, is determined by the Federal Government and Councils should not depend on these funds to balance their financial statements in future.
- The NSW Grants Commission is yet to determine allocations for the 2025-26 financial year.
- The advance payment allocations have been determined on the basis of the allocations for FY 2024-25.

Where to go for further information

- Please contact Sarah Gubb, Executive Officer, at grantscommission@olg.nsw.gov.au if you require any further information.



Brett Whitworth
Deputy Secretary, Local Government

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
Appendix A

General Purpose Component

Expenditure Allowance

Expenditure Functions	State ave cost per capita
Recreation and cultural	$261.67
Admin and governance	$300.86
Education and community	$70.33
Roads, bridges, footpaths and aerodromes	$260.06
Public order, safety, health and other	$226.98
Housing amenity	$80.97

Recreation and cultural			Pop <SS = relative disadvantage Pop >SS = 0 ATSI <SS = 0 ATSI >SS = relative disadvantage
Disadvantage Measure	LGA measure	State Std (SS)	Weighted DF%
Population	90,835	66,237	0.0%
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander %	6.3	3.4%	86.8%

Admin and governance			
Disadvantage Measure	LGA measure	State Std	Weighted DF%
Population	90,835	66,237	0.0%

Education and community			
Disadvantage Measure	LGA measure	State Std	Weighted DF%
Population	90,835	66,237	0.0%

Roads, bridges, footpaths and aerodromes			
Disadvantage Measure	LGA measure	State Std	Weighted DF%
Population	90,835	66,237	0.0%
Road Length	1,333	1,184	5.0%

Public order, safety, health and other			RTD <SS = 0 RTD >SS = relative disadvantage Env <SS = 0 Env >SS = relative disadvantage
Disadvantage Measure	LGA measure	State Std	Weighted DF%
Population	90,835	66,237	0.0%
Rainfall, topography and drainage index	188%	161%	9.9%
Environment (Ha of environmental lands)	95,642	57,330	1.9%

Housing amenity			
Disadvantage Measure	LGA Std	State Std	Weighted DF%
Population	90,835	66,237	0.0%

Isolation Allowance

Outside the Greater Statistical Area	Yes

Local Government Grants Commission 2025-26 Financial Assistance Grants

Pensioner Rebate Allowance

PR <SS = relative disadvantage (+ allowance) PR >SS = relative advantage (- allowance)	
LGA % Pensioner Rebates (PR) Res Props:	26.1%
State Standard (SS) % PR	13.7%

Revenue Allowance

Revenue Allowance CV <SS = relative disadvantage (+ allowance) CV >SS = relative advantage (- allowance)	
No. of Urban Properties:	38,578
Standard Value Per Property:	$764,243
Council Value (CV):	$427,292

No. of Non-urban Properties:	1,155
Standard Value Per Property:	$1,637,417
Council Value (CV):	$990,994

Relative Disadvantage Allowance

Unsealed roads; Isolation; Population Decline	$3,029
Special Submission/other adjustments	$0

Total General Purpose Grant	**$8,176,871**

Local Roads Component

Population:	90,835
Local Road Length (km):	1,271
Length of Bridges on Local Roads (m):	3,865

Road/Population Allowance:	$3,624,748
Bridge Length Allowance:	$403,647
Local Roads Total:	**$4,028,395**

Total Grant	**$12,205,266**

Quarterly Instalments Payable in 2025-26

	August 2025	
GPC	$1,036,694.00	
LRC	$480,397.00	$1,517,091.00
	November 2025	
GPC	$1,036,694.00	
LRC	$480,397.00	$1,517,091.00
	February 2026	
GPC	$1,036,694.00	
LRC	$480,397.00	$1,517,091.00
	May 2026	
GPC	$1,036,694.00	
LRC	$480,397.00	$1,517,091.00
	TOTAL	
GPC	$4,146,776.00	
LRC	$1,921,588.00	$6,068,364.00

2025-26 FA Grants Quarterly Installment Payment Schedule		1st Instalment
	GPC	93149055
	LRC	38289913
	TOTAL	131438968

	2nd Instalment
GPC	93149055
LRC	38289913
TOTAL	131438968

	3rd Instalment
GPC	93149055
LRC	38289913
TOTAL	131438968

	4th Instalment
GPC	93149056
LRC	38289913
TOTAL	131438969

GPC	**372596221**
LRC	**153159652**
TOTAL	**525755873**

Councils	Population	Recommended General Purpose Entitlement	Recommended Local Roads Entitlement	1st Instalment	Recommended General Purpose Entitlement	Recommended Local Roads Entitlement	2nd Instalment	Recommended General Purpose Entitlement	Recommended Local Roads Entitlement	3rd Instalment	Recommended General Purpose Entitlement	Recommended Local Roads Entitlement	4th Instalment	Total Recommended General Purpose Entitlement	Total Recommended Local Roads Entitlement	Total Total Payments
Albury (C)	58,317	814,994.00	253,952.00	1,068,946.00	814,994.00	253,952.00	1,068,946.00	814,994.00	253,952.00	1,068,946.00	814,994.00	253,952.00	1,068,946.00	3,259,976	1,015,808	4,275,784
Armidale Regional	29,646	714,796.00	392,979.00	1,107,775.00	714,796.00	392,979.00	1,107,775.00	714,796.00	392,979.00	1,107,775.00	714,796.00	392,979.00	1,107,775.00	2,859,184	1,571,916	4,431,100
Ballina (S)	47,935	555,477.00	252,221.00	807,698.00	555,477.00	252,221.00	807,698.00	555,477.00	252,221.00	807,698.00	555,477.00	252,221.00	807,698.00	2,221,908	1,008,884	3,230,792
Balranald (S)	2,219	573,975.00	226,729.00	800,704.00	573,975.00	226,729.00	800,704.00	573,975.00	226,729.00	800,704.00	573,975.00	226,729.00	800,704.00	2,295,900	906,916	3,202,816
Bathurst Regional	44,939	731,257.00	337,574.00	1,068,831.00	731,257.00	337,574.00	1,068,831.00	731,257.00	337,574.00	1,068,831.00	731,257.00	337,574.00	1,068,831.00	2,925,028	1,350,296	4,275,324
Bayside	185,880	628,359.00	199,116.00	827,475.00	628,359.00	199,116.00	827,475.00	628,359.00	199,116.00	827,475.00	628,359.00	199,116.00	827,475.00	2,513,436	796,464	3,309,900
Bega Valley (S)	36,593	879,202.00	351,394.00	1,230,596.00	879,202.00	351,394.00	1,230,596.00	879,202.00	351,394.00	1,230,596.00	879,202.00	351,394.00	1,230,596.00	3,516,808	1,405,576	4,922,384
Bellingen (S)	13,278	516,551.00	158,210.00	674,761.00	516,551.00	158,210.00	674,761.00	516,551.00	158,210.00	674,761.00	516,551.00	158,210.00	674,761.00	2,066,204	632,840	2,699,044
Berrigan (S)	8,666	592,327.00	245,118.00	837,445.00	592,327.00	245,118.00	837,445.00	592,327.00	245,118.00	837,445.00	592,327.00	245,118.00	837,445.00	2,369,308	980,472	3,349,780
Blacktown (C)	438,843	1,976,576.00	635,204.00	2,611,780.00	1,976,576.00	635,204.00	2,611,780.00	1,976,576.00	635,204.00	2,611,780.00	1,976,576.00	635,204.00	2,611,780.00	7,906,304	2,540,816	10,447,120
Bland (S)	5,454	844,206.00	515,407.00	1,359,613.00	844,206.00	515,407.00	1,359,613.00	844,206.00	515,407.00	1,359,613.00	844,206.00	515,407.00	1,359,613.00	3,376,824	2,061,628	5,438,452
Blayney (S)	7,767	337,063.00	146,656.00	483,719.00	337,063.00	146,656.00	483,719.00	337,063.00	146,656.00	483,719.00	337,063.00	146,656.00	483,719.00	1,348,252	586,624	1,934,876
Blue Mountains (C)	78,891	1,124,338.00	227,172.00	1,351,510.00	1,124,338.00	227,172.00	1,351,510.00	1,124,338.00	227,172.00	1,351,510.00	1,124,339.00	227,172.00	1,351,511.00	4,497,353	908,688	5,406,041
Bogan (S)	2,407	567,530.00	246,451.00	813,981.00	567,530.00	246,451.00	813,981.00	567,530.00	246,451.00	813,981.00	567,531.00	246,451.00	813,982.00	2,270,121	985,804	3,255,925
Bourke (S)	2,349	861,067.00	328,409.00	1,189,476.00	861,067.00	328,409.00	1,189,476.00	861,067.00	328,409.00	1,189,476.00	861,067.00	328,409.00	1,189,476.00	3,444,268	1,313,636	4,757,904
Brewarrina (S)	1,408	689,842.00	222,993.00	912,835.00	689,842.00	222,993.00	912,835.00	689,842.00	222,993.00	912,835.00	689,842.00	222,993.00	912,836.00	2,759,368	891,973	3,651,341
Broken Hill (C)	17,541	824,697.00	73,863.00	898,560.00	824,697.00	73,863.00	898,560.00	824,697.00	73,863.00	898,560.00	824,697.00	73,863.00	898,560.00	3,298,788	295,452	3,594,240
Burwood	43,346	150,873.00	46,650.00	197,523.00	150,873.00	46,650.00	197,523.00	150,873.00	46,650.00	197,523.00	150,873.00	46,650.00	197,523.00	603,492	186,600	790,092
Byron (S)	37,826	305,168.00	208,728.00	513,896.00	305,168.00	208,728.00	513,896.00	305,168.00	208,728.00	513,896.00	305,168.00	208,728.00	513,896.00	1,220,672	834,912	2,055,584
Cabonne	13,897	524,516.00	352,527.00	877,043.00	524,516.00	352,527.00	877,043.00	524,516.00	352,527.00	877,043.00	524,516.00	352,527.00	877,043.00	2,098,064	1,410,108	3,508,172
Camden	141,133	478,699.00	303,070.00	781,769.00	478,699.00	303,070.00	781,769.00	478,699.00	303,070.00	781,769.00	478,699.00	303,070.00	781,769.00	1,914,796	1,212,280	3,127,076
Campbelltown (C)	188,303	1,212,114.00	321,341.00	1,533,455.00	1,212,114.00	321,341.00	1,533,455.00	1,212,114.00	321,341.00	1,533,455.00	1,212,114.00	321,341.00	1,533,455.00	4,848,456	1,285,364	6,133,820
Canada Bay (C)	92,255	301,750.00	102,057.00	403,807.00	301,750.00	102,057.00	403,807.00	301,750.00	102,057.00	403,807.00	301,750.00	102,057.00	403,807.00	1,207,000	408,228	1,615,228
Canterbury-Bankstown	385,242	1,266,803.00	456,856.00	1,723,659.00	1,266,803.00	456,856.00	1,723,659.00	1,266,803.00	456,856.00	1,723,659.00	1,266,803.00	456,856.00	1,723,659.00	5,067,212	1,827,424	6,894,636
Carrathool (S)	2,767	728,991.00	395,827.00	1,124,818.00	728,991.00	395,827.00	1,124,818.00	728,991.00	395,827.00	1,124,818.00	728,991.00	395,827.00	1,124,818.00	2,915,964	1,583,308	4,499,272
Central Coast	354,803	3,473,800.00	759,829.00	4,233,629.00	3,473,800.00	759,829.00	4,233,629.00	3,473,800.00	759,829.00	4,233,629.00	3,473,800.00	759,829.00	4,233,629.00	13,895,200	3,039,316	16,934,516
Central Darling (S)	1,767	848,557.00	273,154.00	1,121,711.00	848,557.00	273,154.00	1,121,711.00	848,557.00	273,154.00	1,121,711.00	848,557.00	273,154.00	1,121,711.00	3,394,228	1,092,616	4,486,844
Cessnock (C)	69,352	890,810.00	312,103.00	1,202,913.00	890,810.00	312,103.00	1,202,913.00	890,810.00	312,103.00	1,202,913.00	890,810.00	312,103.00	1,202,913.00	3,563,240	1,248,412	4,811,652
Clarence Valley	56,037	1,260,577.00	633,865.00	1,894,442.00	1,260,577.00	633,865.00	1,894,442.00	1,260,577.00	633,865.00	1,894,442.00	1,260,577.00	633,865.00	1,894,442.00	5,042,308	2,535,460	7,577,768
Cobar (S)	4,015	771,262.00	293,759.00	1,065,021.00	771,262.00	293,759.00	1,065,021.00	771,262.00	293,759.00	1,065,021.00	771,262.00	293,759.00	1,065,021.00	3,085,048	1,175,036	4,260,084
Coffs Harbour (C)	81,248	863,510.00	382,051.00	1,245,561.00	863,510.00	382,051.00	1,245,561.00	863,510.00	382,051.00	1,245,561.00	863,510.00	382,051.00	1,245,561.00	3,454,040	1,528,204	4,982,244
Coolamon (S)	4,613	441,989.00	221,047.00	663,036.00	441,989.00	221,047.00	663,036.00	441,989.00	221,047.00	663,036.00	441,989.00	221,047.00	663,036.00	1,767,956	884,188	2,652,144
Coonamble (S)	3,871	533,977.00	279,375.00	813,352.00	533,977.00	279,375.00	813,352.00	533,977.00	279,375.00	813,352.00	533,977.00	279,375.00	813,352.00	2,135,908	1,117,500	3,253,408
Cootamundra-Gundagai Re	11,424	635,415.00	263,561.00	898,976.00	635,415.00	263,561.00	898,976.00	635,415.00	263,561.00	898,976.00	635,415.00	263,561.00	898,976.00	2,541,660	1,054,244	3,595,904
Cowra (S)	12,680	589,351.00	246,415.00	835,766.00	589,351.00	246,415.00	835,766.00	589,351.00	246,415.00	835,766.00	589,351.00	246,415.00	835,766.00	2,357,404	985,660	3,343,064
Cumberland	252,399	928,310.00	305,084.00	1,233,394.00	928,310.00	305,084.00	1,233,394.00	928,310.00	305,084.00	1,233,394.00	928,310.00	305,084.00	1,233,394.00	3,713,240	1,220,336	4,933,576
Dubbo Regional	56,997	1,293,970.00	588,637.00	1,882,607.00	1,293,970.00	588,637.00	1,882,607.00	1,293,970.00	588,637.00	1,882,607.00	1,293,970.00	588,637.00	1,882,607.00	5,175,880	2,354,548	7,530,428
Dungog (S)	9,905	329,743.00	165,440.00	495,183.00	329,743.00	165,440.00	495,183.00	329,743.00	165,440.00	495,183.00	329,743.00	165,440.00	495,183.00	1,318,972	661,760	1,980,732
Edward River	8,411	694,045.00	259,031.00	953,076.00	694,045.00	259,031.00	953,076.00	694,045.00	259,031.00	953,076.00	694,045.00	259,031.00	953,076.00	2,776,180	1,036,124	3,812,304
Eurobodalla (S)	41,142	868,947.00	287,479.00	1,156,426.00	868,947.00	287,479.00	1,156,426.00	868,947.00	287,479.00	1,156,426.00	868,947.00	287,479.00	1,156,426.00	3,475,788	1,149,916	4,625,704
Fairfield (C)	212,210	1,013,098.00	287,718.00	1,300,816.00	1,013,098.00	287,718.00	1,300,816.00	1,013,098.00	287,718.00	1,300,816.00	1,013,098.00	287,718.00	1,300,816.00	4,052,392	1,150,872	5,203,264
Federation	13,075	762,606.00	390,003.00	1,152,609.00	762,606.00	390,003.00	1,152,609.00	762,606.00	390,003.00	1,152,609.00	762,606.00	390,003.00	1,152,609.00	3,050,424	1,560,012	4,610,436
Forbes (S)	9,295	619,678.00	329,608.00	949,286.00	619,678.00	329,608.00	949,286.00	619,678.00	329,608.00	949,286.00	619,678.00	329,608.00	949,286.00	2,478,712	1,318,432	3,797,144
Georges River	161,593	535,476.00	186,913.00	722,389.00	535,476.00	186,913.00	722,389.00	535,476.00	186,913.00	722,389.00	535,476.00	186,913.00	722,389.00	2,141,904	747,652	2,889,556
Gilgandra (S)	4,305	490,165.00	229,694.00	719,859.00	490,165.00	229,694.00	719,859.00	490,165.00	229,694.00	719,859.00	490,165.00	229,694.00	719,859.00	1,960,660	918,776	2,879,436
Glen Innes Severn	8,978	506,502.00	225,158.00	731,660.00	506,502.00	225,158.00	731,660.00	506,502.00	225,158.00	731,660.00	506,502.00	225,158.00	731,660.00	2,026,008	900,632	2,926,640
Goulburn Mulwaree	33,112	608,741.00	306,682.00	915,423.00	608,741.00	306,682.00	915,423.00	608,741.00	306,682.00	915,423.00	608,741.00	306,682.00	915,423.00	2,434,964	1,226,728	3,661,692
Greater Hume (S)	11,582	572,470.00	355,700.00	928,170.00	572,470.00	355,700.00	928,170.00	572,470.00	355,700.00	928,170.00	572,470.00	355,700.00	928,170.00	2,289,880	1,422,800	3,712,680
Griffith (C)	27,340	744,435.00	260,847.00	1,005,282.00	744,435.00	260,847.00	1,005,282.00	744,435.00	260,847.00	1,005,282.00	744,435.00	260,847.00	1,005,282.00	2,977,740	1,043,388	4,021,128
Gunnedah (S)	13,392	525,677.00	274,555.00	800,232.00	525,677.00	274,555.00	800,232.00	525,677.00	274,555.00	800,232.00	525,677.00	274,555.00	800,232.00	2,102,708	1,098,220	3,200,928
Gwydir (S)	4,893	544,316.00	376,660.00	920,976.00	544,316.00	376,660.00	920,976.00	544,316.00	376,660.00	920,976.00	544,316.00	376,660.00	920,976.00	2,177,264	1,506,640	3,683,904
Hawkesbury (C)	68,704	393,188.00	290,000.00	683,188.00	393,188.00	290,000.00	683,188.00	393,188.00	290,000.00	683,188.00	393,188.00	290,000.00	683,188.00	1,572,752	1,160,000	2,732,752
Hay (S)	2,861	468,091.00	138,353.00	606,444.00	468,091.00	138,353.00	606,444.00	468,091.00	138,353.00	606,444.00	468,091.00	138,353.00	606,444.00	1,872,364	553,412	2,425,776
Hills (S)	215,612	724,349.00	370,423.00	1,094,772.00	724,349.00	370,423.00	1,094,772.00	724,349.00	370,423.00	1,094,772.00	724,349.00	370,423.00	1,094,772.00	2,897,396	1,481,692	4,379,088
Hilltops	19,300	890,570.00	476,670.00	1,367,240.00	890,570.00	476,670.00	1,367,240.00	890,570.00	476,670.00	1,367,240.00	890,570.00	476,670.00	1,367,240.00	3,562,280	1,906,680	5,468,960
Hornsby (S)	154,834	504,275.00	239,435.00	743,710.00	504,275.00	239,435.00	743,710.00	504,275.00	239,435.00	743,710.00	504,275.00	239,435.00	743,710.00	2,017,100	957,740	2,974,840
Hunters Hill (M)	14,062	59,371.00	20,062.00	79,433.00	59,371.00	20,062.00	79,433.00	59,371.00	20,062.00	79,433.00	59,371.00	20,062.00	79,433.00	237,484	80,248	317,732
Inner West	190,939	646,705.00	218,987.00	865,692.00	646,705.00	218,987.00	865,692.00	646,705.00	218,987.00	865,692.00	646,705.00	218,987.00	865,692.00	2,586,820	875,948	3,462,768
Inverell (S)	18,080	713,278.00	379,442.00	1,092,720.00	713,278.00	379,442.00	1,092,720.00	713,278.00	379,442.00	1,092,720.00	713,278.00	379,442.00	1,092,720.00	2,853,112	1,517,768	4,370,880
Junee (S)	6,458	345,069.00	154,667.00	499,736.00	345,069.00	154,667.00	499,736.00	345,069.00	154,667.00	499,736.00	345,069.00	154,667.00	499,736.00	1,380,276	618,668	1,998,944
Kempsey (S)	31,718	773,229.00	320,696.00	1,093,925.00	773,229.00	320,696.00	1,093,925.00	773,229.00	320,696.00	1,093,925.00	773,229.00	320,696.00	1,093,925.00	3,092,916	1,282,784	4,375,700
Kiama (M)	23,173	206,859.00	71,512.00	278,371.00	206,859.00	71,512.00	278,371.00	206,859.00	71,512.00	278,371.00	206,859.00	71,512.00	278,371.00	827,436	286,048	1,113,484

Ku-ring-gai	128,362	420,511.00	192,155.00	612,666.00	420,511.00	192,155.00	612,666.00	420,511.00	192,155.00	612,666.00	420,511.00	192,155.00	612,666.00	1,682,044	768,620	2,450,664
Kyogle	9,582	560,805.00	507,895.00	1,068,700.00	560,805.00	507,895.00	1,068,700.00	560,805.00	507,895.00	1,068,700.00	560,805.00	507,895.00	1,068,700.00	2,243,220	2,031,580	4,274,800
Lachlan (S)	6,113	1,053,248.00	580,514.00	1,633,762.00	1,053,248.00	580,514.00	1,633,762.00	1,053,248.00	580,514.00	1,633,762.00	1,053,248.00	580,514.00	1,633,762.00	4,212,992	2,322,056	6,535,048
Lake Macquarie (C)	221,859	2,195,150.00	475,108.00	2,670,258.00	2,195,150.00	475,108.00	2,670,258.00	2,195,150.00	475,108.00	2,670,258.00	2,195,150.00	475,108.00	2,670,258.00	8,780,600	1,900,432	10,681,032
Lane Cove (M)	42,566	150,656.00	48,686.00	199,342.00	150,656.00	48,686.00	199,342.00	150,656.00	48,686.00	199,342.00	150,656.00	48,686.00	199,342.00	602,624	194,744	797,368
Leeton (S)	11,438	624,051.00	178,102.00	802,153.00	624,051.00	178,102.00	802,153.00	624,051.00	178,102.00	802,153.00	624,051.00	178,102.00	802,153.00	2,496,204	712,408	3,208,612
Lismore (C)	43,783	743,477.00	329,495.00	1,072,972.00	743,477.00	329,495.00	1,072,972.00	743,477.00	329,495.00	1,072,972.00	743,477.00	329,495.00	1,072,972.00	2,973,908	1,317,980	4,291,888
Lithgow (C)	20,740	642,491.00	213,981.00	856,472.00	642,491.00	213,981.00	856,472.00	642,491.00	213,981.00	856,472.00	642,491.00	213,981.00	856,472.00	2,569,964	855,924	3,425,888
Liverpool (C)	254,905	959,599.00	410,170.00	1,369,769.00	959,599.00	410,170.00	1,369,769.00	959,599.00	410,170.00	1,369,769.00	959,599.00	410,170.00	1,369,769.00	3,838,396	1,640,680	5,479,076
Liverpool Plains (S)	7,670	438,888.00	232,895.00	671,783.00	438,888.00	232,895.00	671,783.00	438,888.00	232,895.00	671,783.00	438,888.00	232,895.00	671,783.00	1,755,552	931,580	2,687,132
Lockhart (S)	3,474	411,104.00	229,319.00	640,423.00	411,104.00	229,319.00	640,423.00	411,104.00	229,319.00	640,423.00	411,104.00	229,319.00	640,423.00	1,644,416	917,276	2,561,692
Lord Howe Island (Bd)	445	45,313.00	-	45,313.00	45,313.00	-	45,313.00	45,313.00	-	45,313.00	45,313.00	-	45,313.00	181,252	-	181,252
Maitland (C)	98,163	917,310.00	259,586.00	1,176,896.00	917,310.00	259,586.00	1,176,896.00	917,310.00	259,586.00	1,176,896.00	917,310.00	259,586.00	1,176,896.00	3,669,240	1,038,344	4,707,584
Mid-Coast	98,582	2,105,823.00	915,904.00	3,021,727.00	2,105,823.00	915,904.00	3,021,727.00	2,105,823.00	915,904.00	3,021,727.00	2,105,823.00	915,904.00	3,021,727.00	8,423,292	3,663,616	12,086,908
Mid-Western Regional	26,214	748,090.00	421,310.00	1,169,400.00	748,090.00	421,310.00	1,169,400.00	748,090.00	421,310.00	1,169,400.00	748,090.00	421,310.00	1,169,400.00	2,992,360	1,685,240	4,677,600
Moree Plains (S)	12,816	873,530.00	490,493.00	1,364,023.00	873,530.00	490,493.00	1,364,023.00	873,530.00	490,493.00	1,364,023.00	873,530.00	490,493.00	1,364,023.00	3,494,120	1,961,972	5,456,092
Mosman (M)	29,253	99,472.00	37,792.00	137,264.00	99,472.00	37,792.00	137,264.00	99,472.00	37,792.00	137,264.00	99,472.00	37,792.00	137,264.00	397,888	151,168	549,056
Murray River	13,562	922,679.00	500,039.00	1,422,718.00	922,679.00	500,039.00	1,422,718.00	922,679.00	500,039.00	1,422,718.00	922,679.00	500,039.00	1,422,718.00	3,690,716	2,000,156	5,690,872
Murrumbidgee	3,658	546,391.00	279,180.00	825,571.00	546,391.00	279,180.00	825,571.00	546,391.00	279,180.00	825,571.00	546,391.00	279,180.00	825,571.00	2,185,564	1,116,720	3,302,284
Muswellbrook (S)	16,817	486,594.00	152,920.00	639,514.00	486,594.00	152,920.00	639,514.00	486,594.00	152,920.00	639,514.00	486,594.00	152,920.00	639,514.00	1,946,376	611,680	2,558,056
Nambucca Valley	20,986	522,373.00	208,213.00	730,586.00	522,373.00	208,213.00	730,586.00	522,373.00	208,213.00	730,586.00	522,373.00	208,213.00	730,586.00	2,089,492	832,852	2,922,344
Narrabri (S)	12,796	837,969.00	409,294.00	1,247,263.00	837,969.00	409,294.00	1,247,263.00	837,969.00	409,294.00	1,247,263.00	837,969.00	409,294.00	1,247,263.00	3,351,876	1,637,176	4,989,052
Narrandera (S)	5,687	574,770.00	267,149.00	841,919.00	574,770.00	267,149.00	841,919.00	574,770.00	267,149.00	841,919.00	574,770.00	267,149.00	841,919.00	2,299,080	1,068,596	3,367,676
Narromine (S)	6,432	521,737.00	247,874.00	769,611.00	521,737.00	247,874.00	769,611.00	521,737.00	247,874.00	769,611.00	521,737.00	247,874.00	769,611.00	2,086,948	991,496	3,078,444
Newcastle (C)	176,860	1,670,896.00	299,556.00	1,970,452.00	1,670,896.00	299,556.00	1,970,452.00	1,670,896.00	299,556.00	1,970,452.00	1,670,896.00	299,556.00	1,970,452.00	6,683,584	1,198,224	7,881,808
North Sydney	72,909	239,114.00	77,569.00	316,683.00	239,114.00	77,569.00	316,683.00	239,114.00	77,569.00	316,683.00	239,114.00	77,569.00	316,683.00	956,456	310,276	1,266,732
Northern Beaches	270,772	887,128.00	367,360.00	1,254,488.00	887,128.00	367,360.00	1,254,488.00	887,128.00	367,360.00	1,254,488.00	887,128.00	367,360.00	1,254,488.00	3,548,512	1,469,440	5,017,952
Oberon	5,604	348,735.00	164,607.00	513,342.00	348,735.00	164,607.00	513,342.00	348,735.00	164,607.00	513,342.00	348,735.00	164,607.00	513,342.00	1,394,940	658,428	2,053,368
Orange (C)	44,610	615,391.00	203,756.00	819,147.00	615,391.00	203,756.00	819,147.00	615,391.00	203,756.00	819,147.00	615,391.00	203,756.00	819,147.00	2,461,564	815,024	3,276,588
Parkes (S)	14,236	740,367.00	362,770.00	1,103,137.00	740,367.00	362,770.00	1,103,137.00	740,367.00	362,770.00	1,103,137.00	740,367.00	362,770.00	1,103,137.00	2,961,468	1,451,080	4,412,548
Parramatta (C)	274,956	1,058,719.00	341,030.00	1,399,749.00	1,058,719.00	341,030.00	1,399,749.00	1,058,719.00	341,030.00	1,399,749.00	1,058,719.00	341,030.00	1,399,749.00	4,234,876	1,364,120	5,598,996
Penrith (C)	228,661	1,253,348.00	445,550.00	1,698,898.00	1,253,348.00	445,550.00	1,698,898.00	1,253,348.00	445,550.00	1,698,898.00	1,253,348.00	445,550.00	1,698,898.00	5,013,392	1,782,200	6,795,592
Port Macquarie-Hastings	90,835	1,036,694.00	480,397.00	1,517,091.00	1,036,694.00	480,397.00	1,517,091.00	1,036,694.00	480,397.00	1,517,091.00	1,036,694.00	480,397.00	1,517,091.00	4,146,776	1,921,588	6,068,364
Port Stephens	78,906	887,442.00	217,324.00	1,104,766.00	887,442.00	217,324.00	1,104,766.00	887,442.00	217,324.00	1,104,766.00	887,442.00	217,324.00	1,104,766.00	3,549,768	869,296	4,419,064
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regi	66,855	602,643.00	456,148.00	1,058,791.00	602,643.00	456,148.00	1,058,791.00	602,643.00	456,148.00	1,058,791.00	602,643.00	456,148.00	1,058,791.00	2,410,572	1,824,592	4,235,164
Randwick (C)	144,598	471,470.00	169,993.00	641,463.00	471,470.00	169,993.00	641,463.00	471,470.00	169,993.00	641,463.00	471,470.00	169,993.00	641,463.00	1,885,880	679,972	2,565,852
Richmond Valley	23,892	642,413.00	267,480.00	909,893.00	642,413.00	267,480.00	909,893.00	642,413.00	267,480.00	909,893.00	642,413.00	267,480.00	909,893.00	2,569,652	1,069,920	3,639,572
Ryde (C)	139,047	461,676.00	161,459.00	623,135.00	461,676.00	161,459.00	623,135.00	461,676.00	161,459.00	623,135.00	461,676.00	161,459.00	623,135.00	1,846,704	645,836	2,492,540
Shellharbour (C)	81,566	698,578.00	182,176.00	880,754.00	698,578.00	182,176.00	880,754.00	698,578.00	182,176.00	880,754.00	698,578.00	182,176.00	880,754.00	2,794,312	728,704	3,523,016
Shoalhaven (C)	110,803	1,347,605.00	608,286.00	1,955,891.00	1,347,605.00	608,286.00	1,955,891.00	1,347,605.00	608,286.00	1,955,891.00	1,347,605.00	608,286.00	1,955,891.00	5,390,420	2,433,144	7,823,564
Silverton (VC)	35	5,713.00	-	5,713.00	5,713.00	-	5,713.00	5,713.00	-	5,713.00	5,713.00	-	5,713.00	22,852	-	22,852
Singleton	25,639	371,237.00	231,019.00	602,256.00	371,237.00	231,019.00	602,256.00	371,237.00	231,019.00	602,256.00	371,237.00	231,019.00	602,256.00	1,484,948	924,076	2,409,024
Snowy Monaro Regional	22,292	1,111,786.00	466,916.00	1,578,702.00	1,111,786.00	466,916.00	1,578,702.00	1,111,786.00	466,916.00	1,578,702.00	1,111,786.00	466,916.00	1,578,702.00	4,447,144	1,867,664	6,314,808
Snowy Valleys	14,955	756,621.00	235,370.00	991,991.00	756,621.00	235,370.00	991,991.00	756,621.00	235,370.00	991,991.00	756,621.00	235,370.00	991,991.00	3,026,484	941,480	3,967,964
Strathfield (M)	48,495	148,142.00	50,313.00	198,455.00	148,142.00	50,313.00	198,455.00	148,142.00	50,313.00	198,455.00	148,142.00	50,313.00	198,455.00	592,568	201,252	793,820
Sutherland (S)	238,614	807,213.00	345,651.00	1,152,864.00	807,213.00	345,651.00	1,152,864.00	807,213.00	345,651.00	1,152,864.00	807,213.00	345,651.00	1,152,864.00	3,228,852	1,382,604	4,611,456
Sydney (C)	237,278	793,657.00	241,028.00	1,034,685.00	793,657.00	241,028.00	1,034,685.00	793,657.00	241,028.00	1,034,685.00	793,656.00	241,029.00	1,034,685.00	3,174,627	964,113	4,138,740
Tamworth Regional	65,908	1,057,941.00	728,660.00	1,786,601.00	1,057,941.00	728,660.00	1,786,601.00	1,057,941.00	728,660.00	1,786,601.00	1,057,941.00	728,658.00	1,786,599.00	4,231,764	2,914,638	7,146,402
Temora (S)	6,023	426,189.00	223,857.00	650,046.00	426,189.00	223,857.00	650,046.00	426,189.00	223,857.00	650,046.00	426,189.00	223,857.00	650,046.00	1,704,756	895,428	2,600,184
Tenterfield (S)	7,081	602,522.00	269,581.00	872,103.00	602,522.00	269,581.00	872,103.00	602,522.00	269,581.00	872,103.00	602,522.00	269,581.00	872,103.00	2,410,088	1,078,324	3,488,412
Tibooburra (VC)	95	12,829.00	-	12,829.00	12,829.00	-	12,829.00	12,829.00	-	12,829.00	12,829.00	-	12,829.00	51,316	-	51,316
Tweed (S)	99,793	1,220,300.00	488,746.00	1,709,046.00	1,220,300.00	488,746.00	1,709,046.00	1,220,300.00	488,746.00	1,709,046.00	1,220,300.00	488,746.00	1,709,046.00	4,881,200	1,954,984	6,836,184
Upper Hunter (S)	14,408	557,229.00	332,224.00	889,453.00	557,229.00	332,224.00	889,453.00	557,229.00	332,224.00	889,453.00	557,229.00	332,224.00	889,453.00	2,228,916	1,328,896	3,557,812
Upper Lachlan (S)	8,875	531,128.00	309,163.00	840,291.00	531,128.00	309,163.00	840,291.00	531,128.00	309,163.00	840,291.00	531,128.00	309,163.00	840,291.00	2,124,512	1,236,652	3,361,164
Uralla (S)	6,096	311,360.00	158,119.00	469,479.00	311,360.00	158,119.00	469,479.00	311,360.00	158,119.00	469,479.00	311,360.00	158,119.00	469,479.00	1,245,440	632,476	1,877,916
Wagga Wagga (C)	68,951	1,083,309.00	565,286.00	1,648,595.00	1,083,309.00	565,286.00	1,648,595.00	1,083,309.00	565,286.00	1,648,595.00	1,083,309.00	565,286.00	1,648,595.00	4,333,236	2,261,144	6,594,380
Walcha	2,990	305,655.00	160,012.00	465,667.00	305,655.00	160,012.00	465,667.00	305,655.00	160,012.00	465,667.00	305,655.00	160,012.00	465,667.00	1,222,620	640,048	1,862,668
Walgett (S)	5,497	848,161.00	390,063.00	1,238,224.00	848,161.00	390,063.00	1,238,224.00	848,161.00	390,063.00	1,238,224.00	848,161.00	390,063.00	1,238,224.00	3,392,644	1,560,252	4,952,896
Warren (S)	2,593	371,050.00	174,979.00	546,029.00	371,050.00	174,979.00	546,029.00	371,050.00	174,979.00	546,029.00	371,050.00	174,979.00	546,029.00	1,484,200	699,916	2,184,116
Warrumbungle (S)	9,239	821,757.00	419,876.00	1,241,633.00	821,757.00	419,876.00	1,241,633.00	821,757.00	419,876.00	1,241,633.00	821,757.00	419,876.00	1,241,633.00	3,287,028	1,679,504	4,966,532
Waverley	72,857	240,772.00	71,374.00	312,146.00	240,772.00	71,374.00	312,146.00	240,772.00	71,374.00	312,146.00	240,772.00	71,374.00	312,146.00	963,088	285,496	1,248,584
Weddin (S)	3,608	345,706.00	173,149.00	518,855.00	345,706.00	173,149.00	518,855.00	345,706.00	173,149.00	518,855.00	345,706.00	173,149.00	518,855.00	1,382,824	692,596	2,075,420
Wentworth (S)	7,804	699,838.00	299,389.00	999,227.00	699,838.00	299,389.00	999,227.00	699,838.00	299,389.00	999,227.00	699,838.00	299,389.00	999,227.00	2,799,352	1,197,556	3,996,908
Willoughby (C)	79,634	264,057.00	97,464.00	361,521.00	264,057.00	97,464.00	361,521.00	264,057.00	97,464.00	361,521.00	264,057.00	97,464.00	361,521.00	1,056,228	389,856	1,446,084
Wingecarribee (S)	53,552	496,951.00	319,234.00	816,185.00	496,951.00	319,234.00	816,185.00	496,951.00	319,234.00	816,185.00	496,951.00	319,234.00	816,185.00	1,987,804	1,276,936	3,264,740
Wollondilly (S)	59,782	365,516.00	240,281.00	605,797.00	365,516.00	240,281.00	605,797.00	365,516.00	240,281.00	605,797.00	365,516.00	240,281.00	605,797.00	1,462,064	961,124	2,423,188
Wollongong (C)	221,894	2,442,475.00	418,754.00	2,861,229.00	2,442,475.00	418,754.00	2,861,229.00	2,442,475.00	418,754.00	2,861,229.00	2,442,475.00	418,754.00	2,861,229.00	9,769,900	1,675,016	11,444,916
Woollahra (M)	55,175	180,098.00	69,156.00	249,254.00	180,098.00	69,156.00	249,254.00	180,098.00	69,156.00	249,254.00	180,098.00	69,156.00	249,254.00	720,392	276,624	997,016
Yass Valley	17,647	332,011.00	241,595.00	573,606.00	332,011.00	241,595.00	573,606.00	332,011.00	241,595.00	573,606.00	332,011.00	241,595.00	573,606.00	1,328,044	966,380	2,294,424
	8478905	**93,149,055.00**	**38,289,913.00**	**131,438,968.00**	**93,149,055.00**	**38,289,913.00**	**131,438,968.00**	**93,149,055.00**	**38,289,913.00**	**131,438,968.00**	**93,149,056.00**	**38,289,913.00**	**131,438,969.00**	**372,596,221.00**	**153,159,652.00**	**525,755,873.00**

Financial assistance grants 2025-26

Local Government Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants) help local councils deliver services to their communities. The Australian Government determines the pool of FA Grants available, and this is paid annually to councils by the NSW Government based on recommendations from the Local Government Grants Commission.

The Commission uses a refined model to direct funding to councils with the greatest relative disadvantage. This is typically rural and remote councils with limited revenue capacity.

This funding is untied and paid to NSW's 128 councils, as well as the Lord Howe Island Board, and the Village Committees of Silverton and Tibooburra.

The NSW Local Grants Commission consists of four members appointed for maximum terms of five years.

The current membership of the Commission is:

Linda Scott – Chair

Brett Whitworth – Deputy Chair

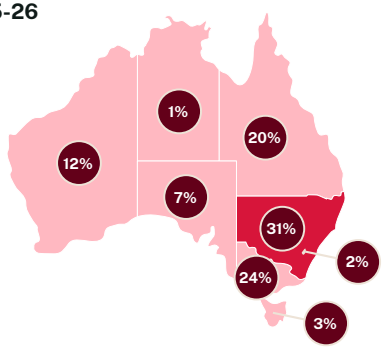
Leanne Barnes PSM OAM – Commissioner

Jason Hamling – Commissioner

The Commission has started the process of reviewing the formula for the allocation of FA Grants. This will open for consultation later in the 2025-26 financial year.

In June 2025, the Australian Government paid approximately 50% of the 2025-26 grants in advance. The remainder of the grant allocation will be paid in quarterly instalments.

Financial Assistance Grant Distribution for 2025-26



National Total
$3.45 billion

NSW Total
$1.052 billion

General Purpose Component
$744 million

Local Roads Component
$307 million

Funds allocated to NSW are based on the National Principles as part of Federal legislation, being the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995.

Total Grant Calculation

The FA Grant comprises two components: the General Purpose Component (GPC) and the Local Roads Component (LRC). Grant distribution is based on operational expenditure, not capital works. While 65% of the state's population lives in metropolitan councils, they receive only 25% of the grant funding. The remaining funds are distributed to regional, rural, and remote councils.

General Purpose Component (GPC)

The GPC allocation is based on council expenditure and is also subject to a minimum grant per capita. In 2025-26, that amount is $26.34.

Compared to 2024-25, in 2025-26 the range to which an individual council's annual GPC can vary will be a maximum increase of 6% or a maximum decrease of 4%.

Range of general purpose grants	$468,454 - $27,412,231
Population of NSW (as of 30 June 2024)	8,478,330
Average per capita general purpose grant	$429.64
Highest per capita general purpose grant	$3,804.04
Minimum per capita general purpose grant	$26.34

Local Roads Component (LRC)

The LRC is allocated so that local government entities can preserve their road assets. As much as possible, allocations are based on the relative needs of each local government entity's expenditure on roads.

Local road length in NSW	149,463 km
Bridge length (>6m) in NSW	176,834 M
Average local roads grant/km	$2,400,403
Highest local roads grant/km	$7,417,072
Lowest local roads grant/km	$163,870

NSW Local Government Grants Commission (02) 4428 4100 grantscommission@olg.nsw.gov.au

Local Government Grants Commission

Reference: A971400

Clr Adam Roberts
Mayor
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

By email: mayor@pmhc.nsw.gov.au
cc: ceo@pmhc.nsw.gov.au
council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au

20 August 2025

Dear Clr Roberts,

With apologies, please accept this amended notification letter replacing the version sent on 18 August 2025, with my apologies for any inconvenience and confusion this may have caused. The amount reported for the 2024-25 general purpose component in the table below was incorrect. However, all other details were accurate, and the error does not affect the payment of any funds to Council.

Thank you for your Council's engagement with the NSW Grants Commission in order to support the allocation of the Commonwealth Government's Federal Assistance Grants. As your new Chair of the NSW Local Government Grants Commission's (Commission), alongside the Deputy Chair and Commissioners, we appreciate the local government sector's commitment to preserving the integrity of this important grant allocation process.

In accordance with our policy of providing information to councils about the way the Commission calculates financial assistance grants (FA Grants), please find attached a summary of Council's 2025-26 estimated FA Grants entitlement **(Appendix A)**.

2025-26 Estimated entitlements

The Federal Government's FA Grants total estimated entitlement for 2025-26 is $3.45 billion and is made up of $2.39 billion for the general purpose component (GPC) and $1.06 billion for the local roads component (LRC). The national estimated entitlement for 2025-26 increased by $170 million to account for final adjustments to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and population shares for the year.

T 02 4428 4100 TTY 02 4428 4209 E grantscommission@olg.nsw.gov.au
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Local Government Grants Commission

The national GPC is distributed across the states and territories on a population basis. Therefore, NSW received 31.52% or $744 million in the GPC, which represents a 4.65% increase on last year's final figure. The LRC is based on a historical formula. NSW's share of the total national road funding is a fixed 29% share, or $307 million, which represents a 5.2% increase. The total 2025-26 FA Grants estimated entitlement for NSW is $1.052 million.

External factors impacting the GPC pool of funds in NSW

During recent years, NSW communities and councils have been faced with a number of challenges including devastating climate disasters and a substantially reduced CPI. In 2021, the CPI has continued to trend towards previously average levels of about 3.5% to 4% over the past two years. But further fluctuations cannot be ruled out.

Council's 2025-26 FA Grants estimated entitlement, compared to the 2024-25 final entitlement is as follows:

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council				
Year	General Purpose	Local Roads	Total	
2024-25 final	$7,711,172	$3,951,569	$11,662,741	Change
2025-26 est	$8,176,871	$4,028,395	$12,205,266	4.7%

The NSW Schedule of Payments (**Appendix B**) and the 2025-26 Fact Sheet (**Appendix C**) is also enclosed for Council's information.

Impact of advanced payments

The Commonwealth Government made an early payment of the 2025-26 estimated FA Grant entitlement. In June 2025, all councils were paid 50% of the estimated entitlement for 2025-26 in advance, as calculated at that point in time. This has resulted in the quarterly instalments for 2025-26 being reduced and will be paid in quarterly instalments in August 2025, November 2025, February 2026 and May 2026.

The Commission continues to be concerned about the unpredictability that the practice of advance payments creates. Long-term and annual budgeting forecasts are subject to changes, and annual financial reporting can often be skewed. Councils are advised not to rely on either the availability of future advance payments or the value of those advances if received.

Challenges in fairly distributing the GPC funds

As councils will be aware, the Commission is required to adhere to the National Principles which mandate a per capita payment based on population growth/decline. This inhibits the full application of the Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation (HFE) Principle to distribute the grants based on greatest relative need.

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It is also the policy of the NSW Government to explore opportunities to direct grants to communities with the greatest relative need. The Commission has had regard to these policies in allocating the grants.

Resuming the annual negative floor on the GPC
The Commission has been investigating ways to direct funds to councils with greatest relative need. Information about the methodology review and subsequent transition has been provided to councils, including about the recommendations for model refinements. **The Commission commenced the pathway out of transition, resuming the negative floor in 2025-26 as previously advised to councils.** It is no longer sustainable to protect those councils with greatest relative advantage. The pathway out of transition is essential to distribute the GPC more fairly, allowing greater application of the HFE, consistent with the National Principles and NSW policy.

There is no guarantee that a council will receive an increased FA Grant each year. There are a number of changing variables, including a council's changing measure of relative disadvantage compared to the state average measure and the size of the total FA Grant pool.

The Commission is proposing to review the methodology for 2026-27. This will include consultation with the sector and key stakeholders, and the Commission encourages Council's input during this process.

I would ask that this letter please be tabled at the next Council meeting.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact the Commissions Secretariat on (02) 4428 4142 or grantscommission@olg.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Linda Scott
Chair
Local Government Grants Commission

Enc:
- Council Entitlement
- 2025-26 Fact Sheet
- NSW Schedule of Payments

T 02 4428 4100 TTY 02 4428 4209 E grantscommission@olg.nsw.gov.au
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
www.olg.nsw.gov.au

Loan Repayments for Financial Year 2025/2026

Loan #	Purpose	Year Drawndown	Term of Loan	Interest Rate	Original Balance	Oustanding Balance as at 01/07/2025	Repayments due for 6mths ending 31/12/2025		Repayments due for 6mths ending 30/06/2026	
							Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2016.1	Waste Management - Kew Transfer Stn	2016	10yrs	3.440%	$1,500,000	$174,074	$86,289	$3,002	$87,785	$1,506
2016.8 LR	Stormwater	2016	10yrs	3.270%	$1,730,000	$200,765	$99,520	$3,463	$101,246	$1,737
2018.1	Bridge Replacement	2018	10yrs	3.930%	$3,350,000	$1,145,378	$181,668	$22,568	$185,455	$18,781
2018.2	Stormwater Renewal	2018	10yrs	3.930%	$1,000,000	$341,904	$54,229	$6,737	$55,360	$5,606
2018.3	Footpath Construction	2018	10yrs	3.930%	$500,000	$170,952	$27,115	$3,368	$27,680	$2,803
2020.2	Roadworks	2020	10yrs	2.120%	$2,252,500	$1,185,665	$112,987	$12,602	$114,251	$11,339
2020.3	Natural Resource - Various	2020	10yrs	2.120%	$147,500	$77,641	$7,399	$825	$7,481	$743
2021.1	Regional Sporting Complex Construction	2021	10yrs	2.150%	$1,500,000	$938,184	$73,667	$10,085	$74,458	$9,294
2021.2	Timber Brides Renewals and Repairs	2021	10yrs	2.150%	$1,200,000	$750,603	$58,803	$8,218	$59,722	$7,299
2023.1	Purchase Tuffins Lane	2023	10yrs	6.270%	$1,375,000	$1,100,000	$68,750	$33,128	$68,750	$31,466
2023.2	Airport Parallel Taxiway	2023	10yrs	6.270%	$3,620,000	$2,896,000	$181,000	$87,216	$181,000	$82,841
2025.1	Drainage Stormwater	2025	20yrs	5.700%	$410,000	$410,000	$5,599	$11,645	$5,760	$11,485
2025.2	Transport Roadworks	2025	20yrs	5.700%	$48,300,170	$48,300,170	$659,635	$1,371,888	$678,569	$1,352,955
2025.3	Sewerage Thrumster WWTP	2025	20yrs	5.700%	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$27,314	$56,807	$28,098	$56,023
				Totals	**$68,885,170**	**$59,691,336**	**$1,643,974**	**$1,631,553**	**$1,675,615**	**$1,593,877**

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Debt Recovery Policy

Document Control

Content Manager Record No.:

Action	Version	Completed by	Completion Date	Approved by	Approval Date	Review Date
Reviewed	V0X	Debt Recovery Specialist	10/06/2025	Council	DD/MM/YY	20/06/2028

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PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a fair, transparent, and consistent approach to recovering outstanding debts owed to Port Macquarie-Hastings Council. This includes, but is not limited to, unpaid rates, water charges, and sundry debtor accounts. The policy ensures compliance with the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and promotes the long-term financial sustainability of the Council.

2. Statement

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (PMHC) is committed to the principles and standards that guide Council's debt recovery practices, ensuring they are carried out fairly, respectfully, and in accordance with legislative and industry requirements. In doing so, Council is committed to:

- Treating all customers fairly, consistently, and with sensitivity to their circumstances;
- Ensuring confidentiality and the protection of personal information in all debt-related matters;
- Where genuine financial hardship is identified, Council will refer individuals to its Hardship Policy and consider appropriate support or alternative arrangements.
- Clear and accessible information will be provided regarding payment obligations, available options, and consequences of non-payment.
- Upholding the highest ethical and professional standards, including compliance with legislation and guidelines.
- Identifying outstanding balances early to support debtors in addressing their obligations before debts become unmanageable.

3. Scope

The Policy applies to the recovery of:

- General rates and annual charges
- Water usage and sewerage charges
- Sundry debtor invoices

Exclusions: This policy does not apply to fines or penalties issued under State legislation (e.g. parking fines), which are administered via Revenue NSW.

4. Recovery of Outstanding Amounts

4.1 Rates and Charges Notice

Rates notices are issued by 1 August each year in accordance with Section 562 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Rates instalment notices are issued 30 days before each instalment is due.

Section 562(3) of the Local Government Act defines that rates and annual charges may be paid by a single instalment by 31 August or by quarterly instalments.

If payments are made by quarterly instalments, the instalments are payable as follows:

Instalment 1 - Due 31 August
Instalment 2 - Due 30 November
Instalment 3 - Due 28 February
Instalment 4 - Due 31 May

If the whole or part of an instalment is not paid within 10 business days of the due date, then a Reminder Notice will be issued, which will request payment within no less than 14 days of the mailing notice on the reminder.

Rates and Charges not paid by the due dates are considered outstanding.

4.2 Water charges

Water Charges are invoiced periodically throughout the year, based on metered usage. Payment terms are specified on the Water Bill and amounts not paid by the due date are considered overdue.

If the Water Bill is not paid within 10 business days of the due date, then a reminder notice will be issued. Reminder notices will be issued in the form of a Reminder Letter and will request payment within no less than 14 days of the mailing date on the reminder notice.

4.3 Accounts Receivables

Sundry debtor invoices are generated as charges are incurred for various Council services (e.g. facility hire, waste tipping). Standard payment terms are 30 days from invoice date (14 days for rentals).

Monthly statements will be issued to provide ongoing reminders of outstanding balances and payment is expected within 14 days. Accounts overdue by more than the payment terms are considered to be outstanding.

Council reserves the right to refuse credit or future arrangements where there is a history of default. A stop of service may be put in place until the account is paid.

4.4 Payment Arrangements

Debtors may at any time, make an arrangement to pay off their outstanding Rates and Charges, Water or Sundry Debtor account by regular payments, subject to the following guidelines:

- Payment arrangements may be weekly, fortnightly, or monthly
- Written confirmation will be sent to the account holder, documenting the details of their payment arrangement.
- Payment Arrangements for Rates and Water accounts must clear all arrears and current charges by the 30th of June that financial year
- Payment Arrangements for Sundry Debtor accounts must not exceed six (6) months

- At the discretion of the Debt Recovery Specialist, accounts that are not able to be paid by the 30th of June, may be approved to be paid in full within 12 months
- Interest will continue to accrue on outstanding amounts
- Payments will be applied towards outstanding amounts in the order in which they became due
- Council reserves the right to refuse a future payment arrangement for individuals or accounts with a history of repeated defaults
- Arrangements will be monitored for compliance and defaulted arrangements or failure to meet agreed terms may result in reinstated recovery actions without further notice

4.5 Legal Action – Referral to Debt Collection Agency

Following the expiration of the period specified on the reminder notice or statement, Council will refer all assessments and accounts where the amount overdue is greater than $500.00 and no arrangement has been made to pay the overdue amount, to its external debt collection agency.

Legal proceedings may include:

- Reminder or Demand Letter
- Lodgement of a Statement of Claim
- Obtaining a Judgment
- Enforcement orders (e.g. writ, garnishee, property seizure, rent order, bankruptcy proceedings)
- Sale of land for unpaid rates (subject to Council resolution)

All reasonable legal and enforcement costs incurred by Council in the recovery of overdue amounts will be charged to the ratepayer and will remain a debt recoverable against the property or sundry debtor account until paid.

In cases of not-for-profit organisation, charities and unincorporated community groups, the Chief Financial Officer retains discretion in relation to the manner of which outstanding debts are recovered.

5. Third Party Reporting

Council will not supply private credit agencies with information regarding legal action it has taken in the recovery of overdue rates. However, Council recognises that judgement details are supplied to credit agencies by NSW Courts.

If a debtor requests proof that the debt owed to Council has been paid a letter will be issued by Council confirming payment has been made. Such letter will only be issued if all overdue debts have been paid.

Further, if a debtor requests a Notice of Discontinuance or Consent Orders to finalise the judgement at the Court, Council will require **all** overdue debts to be paid in full. If this requirement is met, Council's Debt Collection Agency will assist the debtor to process a Notice of Discontinuance at the debtor's cost.

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

6. Other Items

6.1 Interest on Overdue Rates and Charges

Council will charge interest on outstanding Rates and Charges, including Water and Sundry Debtor accounts that remain unpaid after they become due and payable in accordance with Section 566 of the Act.

Interest accrues on a daily basis.

Accrued interest is, for the purpose of its recovery, is taken to be a charge which is due and payable.

6.2 Write-Offs

Rates and Water accounts will not be considered for write-offs under this policy, as they are a charge against the land.

Write-offs for Accounts Receivable will be in accordance with the delegations of Council and will be assessed by their ability to be recovered.

6.3 Pensioner Accruals

Council will not allow any pensioners to accrue their rates as a debt against their property or estate.

6.4 Hardship

Where a debtor is experiencing financial hardship, this policy is to be read in conjunction with Council's Hardship Policy.

6.5 Privacy and Confidentiality

All debtor information will be handled in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW) and Council's privacy management policies.

6.6 Review of Decisions

Debtors may request a formal review of decisions made under this policy. Reviews will be conducted by a senior officer not involved in the original decision-making process.

7. References and Related Documents

Council will comply with all relevant legislation, including:

Local Government Act, 1993 (NSW)
Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
Local Court Act 2007
Civil Procedure Act 2005
Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 2005

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act, 1998
Council's Code of Conduct
Council's Hardship Policy
Office of Local Government Debt Management and Hardship Guidelines, November 2018
ASIC & ACCC Debt Recovery Guidelines

8. Definitions

Term	Definition
Act	Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
Council	Port Macquarie Hastings Council
Default	A failure by the debtor to abide by the terms and conditions agreed under a payment arrangement for the payment of outstanding Rates and Charges or sundry debtor account
Debtor:	Any individual or entity with a financial obligation to Council. This includes, but is not limited to, ratepayers (those liable for general rates and annual charges), water account holders (those billed for usage and sewerage), and sundry debtors (those who receive invoices for various Council services such as waste tipping, facility hire, etc.).
Interest	The fee charged by Council, expressed as a percentage, on Rates and Charges (including water and Accounts Receivable) that remain unpaid after the due date Interest Rate made in accordance with Section 566 of the Local Government Act 1993
Judgment and Default Judgment	Court order for the payment of money, including any order for payments of costs
External Debt Recovery Agency	An organisation engaged by Council to recover a debt owed to Council
Payment Arrangement	An agreement entered into by Council and a Debtor for the payment of outstanding rates, charges and fees under an agreed instalment payment arrangement plan
Ratepayer	The person liable for payment of Rates and Charges for the property in accordance with section 560 of the Local Government Act, 1993

Sundry Debtor Account	An account issued by Council for a charge or service
Write Off	Debt deemed unrecoverable and removed

9. Support Services

Ratepayers or account holders, may find the following organisations of assistance:

ASIC's Moneysmart
www.moneysmart.gov.au/managing-your-money/managing-debts

Legal Aid NSW
www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/get-legal-help/fina-a-service
Telephone: (02) 6885 4233

Community Legal Centres NSW
www.clcnsw.org.au/find-legal-help
Telephone: 1300 888 529

Centrelink
www.centrelink.gov.au
Telephone: 13 63 57

The Salvation Army (Moneycare)
www.salvos.org.au
Telephone: 1300 371 288 or 02 6881 8280

National Debt Hotline operated by Financial Counsellors Association of NSW
www.fcan.com.au
Telephone: 1800 007 007

10. Responsible Officer

For more information on the Debt Recovery Policy and its associated documents please contact the Debt Recovery Specialist or the Manager Revenue Accounting on (02) 6581 8111 or via email council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au.

Council reserves the right to amend this policy from time to time.

have your say

Draft Debt Recovery Policy

Engagement Report

August 2025 | Version 1.0



PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

Background

The Draft Debt Recovery Policy establishes a fair, transparent and consistent approach to recovering outstanding debts owed to Council.

The policy applies to the recovery of: general rates and annual charges; water usage and sewerage charges and; sundry debtor invoices. It does not apply to fines or penalties issued under State legislation, e.g. parking fines, which are administered via Revenue NSW.

ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Engagement approach

Port Macquarie-Hastings 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.

Following the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) matrix, the level of engagement for this proposal ranged from 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 design.

Our Have Your Say webpage was the key platform used in this engagement with feedback submitted via an online survey and direct email between 21 July and 18 August 2025.

Engagement activities

have your say

HYS

The following graph summarises user activity during the exhibition period.



PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Project highlights	
Total visits to HYS page	28
Informed visitors/downloaded policies	8
Aware visitors	23
Engaged visitors/submissions	0

Communications

Have Your Say e-newsletter. Sent to 5,102 people on 25 July 2025

Policy updates

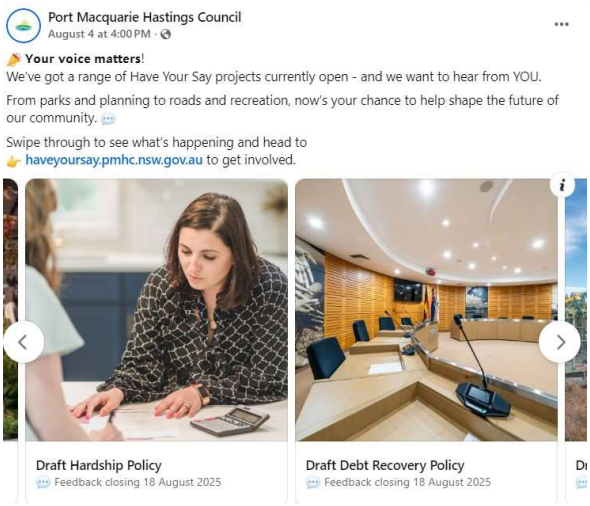


Having strong, well-thought-out policies means Council can be transparent, accountable, and make decisions that are based on consistent principles and in the best interest of the community. They are important guidelines for how we do business.

We have a number of policies on exhibition over the coming weeks:

- Draft Volunteering Policy (Closes: 30 July 2025)
- Draft Code of Meeting Practice (Closes: 1 August 2025)
- Draft Hardship Policy (Closes: 18 August 2025)
- Draft Debt Recovery Policy (Closes: 18 August 2025)
- Draft Planning Agreement Policy (Closes: 20 August 2025)
- Draft Works in Kind and Developer Works Deed Policy (Closes: 20 August 2025)

4 August 2025 Facebook post



RESULTS SUMMARY

While 28 registered Have Your Say subscribers visited this page, and eight people downloaded the Draft Debt Recovery Policy, no submissions were received.

NEXT STEPS

The planning proposal will be finalised and reported to the September 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting where the elected Councillors will consider it for adoption.

For information about Council meetings, agenda items, reports and minutes, please visit our webpage **www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/Council-meetings/Agendas-and-minutes**

This Engagement Report, and any updates, will be published on the Have Your Say page for public reference.

Port Macquarie Hastings Council
BIRPAI COUNTRY

pmhc.nsw.gov.au
Email **council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au**
PO Box 84 Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Tel **02 6581 8111**
Socials **@pmhcouncil**

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Hardship Policy

Document Control

Content Manager Record No.:

Action	Version	Completed by	Completion Date	Approved by	Approval Date	Review Date
Reviewed	V01	Debt Recovery Specialist	11/06/2025	Council	DD/MM/YY	DD/06/2028

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PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

1. Purpose

Council recognises that from time to time a ratepayer may have difficulty in paying their rates, water and other charges. The purpose of this policy is to provide fair, compassionate, and consistent assistance to ratepayers experiencing genuine financial hardship. The policy outlines Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's approach to supporting customers in managing their financial obligations with empathy and respect.

2. Statement

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (PMHC) is committed to ensuring that all ratepayers, especially those facing genuine financial difficulty, are treated with empathy and fairness, and are given every opportunity to fulfill their financial obligations in a way that is manageable for them.

Council is committed to:

- Providing flexible payment options or deferrals tailored to individual circumstances
- Ensuring fairness, equity, and privacy in all assessments
- Promoting transparency and statutory compliance in all hardship decisions
- Supporting ratepayers through collaborative, respectful communication.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to ratepayers within the Port-Macquarie Hastings Local Government Area who provide evidence that they are experiencing genuine financial hardship. In certain circumstances, Council officers may consider extending this policy to certain related fees.

This policy provides a framework for responding to applications from ratepayers experiencing genuine hardship with the payment of their rates and charges in accordance with the NSW Local Government Act 1993 ("the Act") and the NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

The property for which the hardship application applies must be categorised as "Residential" or "Farmland" and may not be classified as Non Rateable.

4. Hardship

Financial hardship is defined as a situation where an individual or entity is unable to meet their financial obligations due to circumstances beyond their control, or that payment when due, would cause them hardship. Hardship may be temporary or long-term and may arise from:

- Loss of income or employment
- Illness or injury
- Domestic violence
- Natural disasters
- Family breakdown
- Death in the immediate family
- Other unforeseen circumstances

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

5. Hardship Eligibility, Application and Assistance

5.1 Hardship Eligibility

To be eligible for assistance, applicants must:

- Be the property owner or a spouse/part owner, or account holder and responsible for payment.
- The property must be categorised as “Residential” or “Farmland”.
- The property to which the hardship application relates must be the applicant’s principal place of residence, where they are currently residing.
- Provide evidence of genuine financial hardship.
- Be willing to work with a financial counsellor.
- Resolve to have accounts paid within a two (2) year timeframe.

Council will consider applications for assistance in accordance with the following principles:

- Council will individually assess cases of financial hardship.
- Council will not reduce rates or annual charges but will consider alternative available approaches to dealing with cases of financial hardship.
- Council will consider a scheme of periodical payments outside the due dates in cases of hardship or extenuating circumstance.

5.2 Applications for Hardship

Applications for Hardship relief must be made using the **Hardship Relief Application Form**, which is available on Council’s website: www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au.

Hardship applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of the Debt Recovery Specialist, Manager Revenue Accounting, and a Group Manager outside of Finance.

All hardship applications shall be determined in accordance with Council delegations.

Hardship conditions may be approved for up to a maximum period of up to two (2) years from the date the application is received. This may involve establishing payment arrangements over a maximum two (2) year repayment term and suspending formal debt recovery actions for the same duration for successful applicants. After this time, hardship eligibility will be reassessed.

All hardship applicants shall be advised in writing of Council’s decision within 50 days of receipt of the application.

Privacy will be maintained in accordance with the NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998.

5.3 Supporting Documentation

The application must be accompanied by supporting documentation, which may include, but is not limited to:

- Written explanation of financial hardship
- Recent bank statements for all accounts held by the applicant
- Income and expenditure details
- Copy of any loan/s documentation

- Copy of the applicant's Income, or Income Statement from Centrelink
- A letter from a recognised financial counsellor, financial planner confirming financial hardship
- A letter from a medical professional confirming medical conditions causing hardship

Applicants may be asked to attend an interview to further assess the circumstances.

5.4 Assistance Available

The Hardship Panel will review and consider applications on a case-by-case basis and pending the individual circumstances, may provide one or more of the below options for relief:

- **Periodical Payment Arrangements for overdue Rates and Charges** (Section 564)

  Council may offer formal Payment Plans to allow ratepayers to make periodic payments for overdue amounts. The payment schedule may be weekly, fortnightly, or monthly, with all amounts payable in full by June 30 of the current financial year. This may be extended for up to two (2) years from the date of application, for successful applicants.

- **Write-off or Reduction of Interest**

  Under Section 567 of the Act, Council may agree to pause, waive or write off interest and associated costs accrued due to overdue rates or water accounts if:

  - The ratepayer was unable to pay on time due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness or financial distress).
  - The accrued interest causes undue hardship

  Eligibility criteria includes:

  - The ratepayer must have a history of good payment, or the default was due to temporary circumstances such as illness.
  - The ratepayer has complied with payment arrangements under Section 564.
  - The ratepayer is experiencing genuine hardship, and this can be demonstrated.

- **Waiving or Reducing Payment Increases due to Land Revaluation** (Section 601)

  Section 601 of the Act allows ratepayers to apply for rate relief if a new valuation causes financial hardship in the first year of application.

  Council will not approve applications based solely on an increase in valuation and views the waiving of rates due to revaluation as generally unfair to other ratepayers. In these cases, ratepayers will be directed to the Valuer General for further action and encouraged to apply under the objection provisions of the Valuation of Land Act 1916.

- **Death of a Spouse**

  Applies to ratepayer's who have suffered a recent bereavement of their spouse and as a consequence overlooked the payment of their quarterly rate instalment account.

In the event of late payment Council may exercise discretion in acceptance of the payment under an instalment plan and may write off accrued interest incurred in accordance with delegations

- **Natural Disaster Provision**

  In the event that the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area (LGA) is officially declared a natural disaster area by the relevant authority, Council will suspend the accrual of interest on overdue Rates and Water Accounts for a period of three (3) months from the date of declaration.

  This measure is intended to provide immediate financial relief to affected ratepayers and will be automatically applied.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in writing.

6. Cancellation of Hardship Arrangements

A hardship arrangement may be cancelled if the ratepayer:

- Fails to comply with their payment plan
- No longer owns the land
- Advises Council that financial hardship no longer applies or
- Provides false or misleading evidence of financial hardship to Council.

7. Appeal or Dispute Resolution

If an applicant is not satisfied with the decision, they can lodge a written objection, which will be reviewed by the Chief Financial Officer and responded to in writing.

8. Legislation and Related Documents

- Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act, 1998
- PMHC Debt Recovery Policy
- PMHC Privacy Management Plan
- PMHC Complaints Policy
- Office of Local Government Debt Management and Hardship Guidelines, November 2018
- Financial Hardship Application Form

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

9. Definitions

Term	Definition
Act	Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
Council	Port Macquarie Hastings Council
Customer	Ratepayer or Debtor
Default	A failure by the debtor to abide by the terms and conditions agreed under a payment arrangement for the payment of outstanding Rates and Charges or sundry debtor account
Debtor	Any individual or entity with a financial obligation to Council. This includes, but is not limited to, ratepayers (those liable for general rates and annual charges), water account holders (those billed for usage and sewerage), and sundry debtors (those who receive invoices for various Council services such as waste tipping, facility hire, etc.).
Interest	The fee charged by Council, expressed as a percentage, on Rates and Charges that remain unpaid after the due date Interest Rate Made in accordance with Section 566 of the Local Government Act 1993
Payment Arrangement	An agreement entered into by Council and a Debtor for the payment of outstanding rates, charges and fees under an agreed instalment payment arrangement plan
Ratepayer	The person liable for payment of Rates and Charges for the property in accordance with section 560 of the Local Government Act, 1993
Write Off	Debt deemed unrecoverable and removed

10. Support Services

Ratepayers or debtors suffering financial hardship or require legal support, may find the following organisations of assistance:

- ASIC's Moneysmart
  www.moneysmart.gov.au/managing-your-money/managing-debts
- Legal Aid NSW
  www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/get-legal-help/fina-a-service
  Telephone: (02) 6885 4233
- Community Legal Centres NSW
  www.clcnsw.org.au/find-legal-help
  Telephone: 1300 888 529
- Centrelink
  www.centrelink.gov.au
  Telephone: 13 63 57

- The Salvation Army (Moneycare)
  www.salvos.org.au
  Telephone: 1300 371 288 or 02 6881 8280
- Lifeline
  www.lifeline.org.au
  Telephone: 1300 798 258
- National Debt Hotline operated by Financial Counsellors Association of NSW
  www.fcan.com.au
  Telephone: 1800 007 007

11. Responsible Officer

For more information on the Hardship Policy and its associated documents please contact the Debt Recovery Specialist or the Manager Revenue Accounting on (02) 6581 8111 or via email council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au.

Council reserves the right to amend this policy from time to time.

~~**Authorised by:** Executive~~
Authorised date: 11/05/2023
Effective date: 11/05/2023
Next review date: 11/05/2025
File Number: D2023/150405

Payment of Late Rate Instalment Due to Death of Ratepayer's Spouse Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

The policy provides assistance to ratepayers who have suffered a recent loss of a spouse and may be suffering financial hardship as a result.

2. POLICY STATEMENT AND SCOPE

The policy applies to ratepayer's who have suffered a recent bereavement of their spouse and as a consequence overlooked the payment of their quarterly rate instalment account.

In the event of late payment Council may exercise discretion in acceptance of the payment under an instalment plan and may write off accrued interest incurred in accordance with delegations.

Writing off of accrued interest (Section 567)

Council may write off accrued interest on rates or charges if in its opinion:-

a) The person was unable to pay the rates or charges when they became due and payable for reasons beyond the persons control, or
b) The person is unable to pay the accrued interest for reasons beyond the person's control, or
c) Payment of the accrued interest would cause the person hardship.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES

The Rates & Revenue Coordinator is responsible and accountable for the implementation and communication of this Policy.

The following Council officers are responsible for the adherence, monitoring compliance and ensuring this policy is reviewed and updated to meet external compliance:

- Rates & Revenue Coordinator; and
- Group Manager, Financial Services

4. REFERENCES

Making Council Policy
Local Government Act 1993 (NSW), as amended
Local Government Regulations 2021 (NSW)

5. DEFINITIONS

Chief Executive Officer - A 1st tier management position and titled as such
Director - A 2nd tier management position and titled as such
Group Manager- A 3rd tier management position and titled as such
Council officer - A member of Council staff

6. PROCESS OWNER

Group Manager, Financial Services

7. AMENDMENTS

Changes that have been made in reference to the last version (25/05/2021) include:

- Update of year in reference to the Local Government (General) Regulations.

have your say

Draft Hardship Policy

Engagement Report

August 2025 | Version 1.0



PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

Background

Council recognises that from time to time a ratepayer may have difficulty paying their rates, water and other charges.

The Draft Hardship Policy outlines Council's approach to ratepayers within the Port-Macquarie Hastings Local Government Area in managing their financial obligations with empathy and respect. Essentially, it provides a framework for responding to applications in accordance with the NSW Local Government Act 1993 ("the Act") and the NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

At the July Ordinary Council meeting it was also proposed that Council rescinds the Payment of Late Rate Instalment Due to Death of Ratepayer's Spouse Policy, and incorporate it into the Draft Hardship Policy.

ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Engagement approach

Port Macquarie-Hastings 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.

Following the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) matrix, the level of engagement for this proposal ranged from 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:

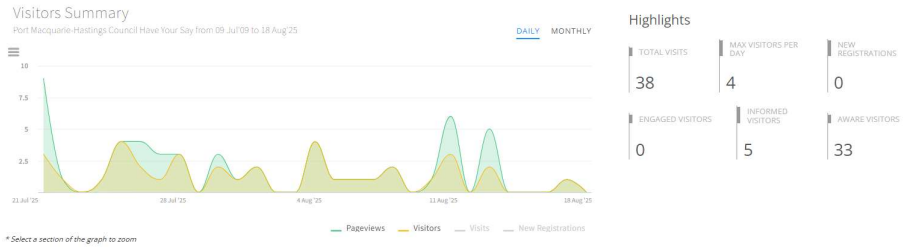
- Keep the community informed.
- Listen and acknowledge concerns and aspirations.
- Let the community know how their input has influenced decisions made in finalising the design.

Our Have Your Say webpage was the key platform used in this engagement with feedback submitted via an online survey and direct email between 21 July and 18 August 2025.

Engagement activities

HYS

The following graph summarises user activity during the exhibition period.



Project highlights	
Total visits to HYS page	38
Informed visitors/downloaded policies	5 (5 downloaded Draft Hardship Policy, 0 downloads of Draft Payment of late Rate Instalment Due to Death of Ratepayer's Spouse Policy)
Aware visitors	33
Engaged visitors/submissions	0

Communications

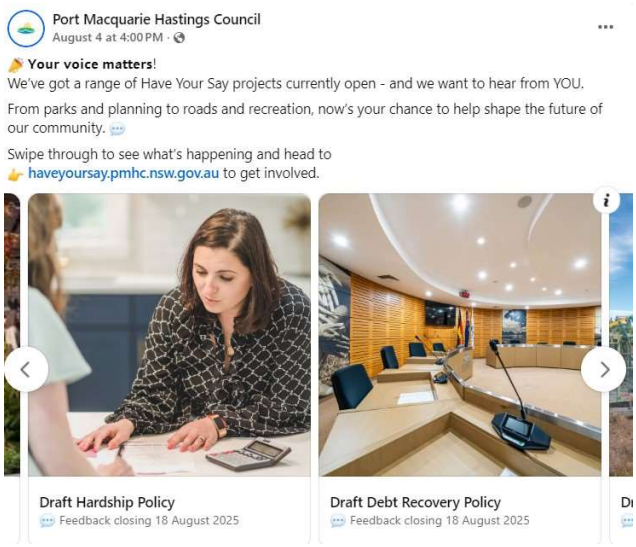
Have Your Say e-newsletter. Sent to 5,102 people on 25 July 2025



3

Communications

4 August 2025 Facebook post



RESULTS SUMMARY

While 38 registered Have Your Say subscribers visited this page, and five people downloaded the Draft Hardship Policy, no submissions were received in regard to the Draft Hardship Policy and Draft Payment of late Rate Instalment Due to Death of Ratepayer's Spouse Policy.

NEXT STEPS

The Draft Hardship Policy will be finalised and reported to the September 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting where the elected Councillors will consider it for adoption.

For information about Council meetings, agenda items, reports and minutes, please visit our webpage **www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/Council-meetings/Agendas-and-minutes**

This Engagement Report, and any updates, will be published on the Draft Hardship Policy Have Your Say page for public reference.

Port Macquarie Hastings Council
BIRPAI COUNTRY

pmhc.nsw.gov.au
Email **council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au**
PO Box 84 Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Tel **02 6581 8111**
Socials **@pmhcouncil**

Port Macquarie-Hastings Integrated Transport Plan Progress Update

Reporting Period: 1 September 2024 - 31 August 2025

This report provides a 12-month progress update on the implementation of the Integrated Transport Plan (ITP), adopted in August 2024. The plan contains 110 strategic actions aimed at creating a more connected, efficient and sustainable transport network for our community. It also serves as a strategic tool to guide investment across the region and support advocacy for identified transport improvements. Working in partnership with Transport for NSW (TfNSW), this annual update demonstrates progress on our key transport priorities while providing transparency on implementation timelines and outcomes achieved to date.

Integrated Transport Plan Vision

We have a well-connected, safe, accessible and sustainable transport system that helps create great places, positively contributes the health and wellbeing of our community and a strong economy, while protecting our natural environment and unique character of our towns and villages.

Overall Progress

Indicative timing & priority	# Totals Actions	# Actions programmed for 2024-25	Status 2024-25
Total Actions	**110***	57	●
Short Term	60	38	●
Short Medium	27	12	●
Medium Term	23	7	●

*Total includes ITP actions and sub-actions

Progress has been made on the 57 actions planned for 2024-25. This represents 52% of the 110 strategic actions in the ITP being commenced, which are scheduled for delivery across short, short-medium and medium-term timeframes in partnership with TfNSW. As a high-level strategic document addressing complex and large-scale transport infrastructure improvements, progress is necessarily incremental and measured over multiple years rather than annual completion targets. This means many actions are scheduled to commence in later years of the plan.

Port Macquarie Hastings Council (Council) is actively progressing actions within our direct control and available resources, with notable progress in active transport initiatives. These include the Beach-to-Beach connection, adoption of the Walking and Cycling Plan, duplication of Ocean Road and the commencement of traffic modelling to assess future transport infrastructure and network needs in response to forecast population growth and housing targets. Council also continues to advocate to the State Government for investment in the broader network improvements our community needs (i.e. Oxley Highway Corridor, Wrights Road and Lake Road intersections).

The collaborative nature of this plan means sustained progress depends on ongoing partnership coordination, funding alignment, and the practical timeline required for major infrastructure development.

Performance Snapshot - Mode Shift KPIs and Targets

Mode Shift Target		Current (%) of trip method	Target (%)	Preferred Trend
	Walking	3.3%	6.1%	↑
	Cycling	0.5%	1.4%	↑
	Public Transport	0.7%	2.3%	↑
	Car (Driver)	93.0%	87.4%	↓

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021). These figures will be updated when new data becomes available following the next Census in August 2026.

Key Achievements

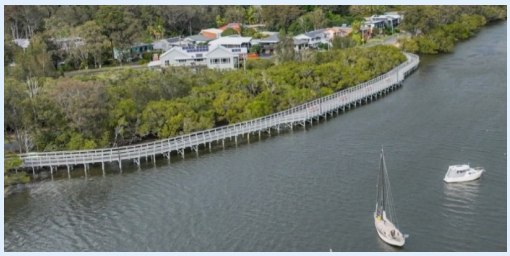
✓	Council adopted the Walking and Cycling Plan in May 2025, following extensive community consultation. As a sub-plan to the ITP, it aims to deliver a safer and more connected active transport network. It establishes a prioritised project list based on community need, safety deficiencies and connectivity gaps to guide Council investment decisions and strengthen advocacy for external funding to deliver identified improvements.
✓	The duplication of Ocean Drive between Matthew Flinders Drive and Greenmeadows Drive, designed to increase traffic capacity along this corridor, will be completed in the 2025-26 financial year. This investment, which includes pedestrian and cycleway infrastructure, is jointly funded through a NSW Government grant and Council.
✓	TfNSW have advised the draft Oxley Highway Business Case is in the final stages of quality assurance testing. A briefing will be provided to Council when completed.
✓	The NSW Government has committed $20 million for design and delivery of improvements to the Oxley Highway/Pacific Highway interchange at Port Macquarie: Stage 1 - Western side to Billabong Drive and Stage 2 - Eastern side to Service Centre (*subject to funding*)
✓	Council completed traffic modelling in June 2025 to identify infrastructure needs resulting from forecast population growth and additional housing under the Thrumster Structure Plan and the Sancrox and Fernbank Creek Structure Plan.
✓	Council commenced the Area Wide Traffic Study to update the local government area (LGA) traffic model and evaluate future infrastructure and network improvements, taking into account different land use scenarios.
✓	Council delivered Beach to Beach Stage D3 (from Tip Road to 22 The Boulevarde) and Stage D5 (a complex boardwalk suspended above the water between 28 and 33 The Boulevard). This $3.65 million investment provides an 8.3 km continuous shared path from the North Haven break wall to the Dunbogan Reserve, enhancing connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.
✓	Council is progressing the design and environmental approvals for the duplication of Lake Road between Ocean Drive and Chestnut Road. When constructed it will result in the full duplication of Lake Road delivering significant improvements in traffic flow, safety, and accessibility for all road users, including pedestrians and cyclists.
✓	Completion of the $2.4 million upgrade of the intersection at Gordon and Horton Streets. The project supports the growing population by facilitating improved traffic flow into the CBD and pedestrian accessibility. It also includes upgraded infrastructure - new street lighting, additional stormwater drainage and new pedestrian crossings to enhance safety and efficiency.
✓	Council received ($443,296 inclusive of $57,821 contingency) to undertake a detailed design of a shared pathway between the Health and Education Precinct (HEP) and Port Macquarie Town Centre under the Get NSW Active grant program.
✓	Partnership and collaboration with Transport for NSW continues to strengthen.



Lighthouse Plaza (June 2025)



Greenmeadows Dr Intersection (June 2025)



Beach to Beach (August 2025)



Gordon Street/ Horton St Intersection

Risks & Challenges

⚠	**Funding availability**: Strategic transport infrastructure plans are in place, such as the Integrated Transport Plan and the Walking and Cycling Plan. However many actions are unfunded and reliant on future grant opportunities or progression by the NSW Government.
⚠	**Public transport uptake:** Public transport uptake remains low, highlighting the need for behavioural change and service improvements. Increasing the proportion of infill development to at least 40% over the next 20 years, as outlined in Council's Living and Place Strategy, will be critical to supporting this shift. Concentrating growth within established urban areas enables more efficient public transport networks by increasing population density near existing services, reducing travel distances, and making frequent, reliable services more viable and cost-effective.
⚠	**Congestion hotspots:** continue in key corridors and intersections (e.g. Oxley Highway, Lake Road, Wrights Road).
⚠	**Coordination across agencies** is essential to maintain momentum and avoid duplication.
⚠	**Delivery timelines:** Given the complexity of large scale transport infrastructure projects, indicative delivery timelines may need to be adjusted to reflect detailed planning, funding cycles, and technical requirements. Addressing complex and large-scale transport infrastructure improvements requires a phased approach, with progress occurring gradually over the medium to long term.
⚠	**Active transport solutions:** Limited funding available to deliver identified network improvements.

Upcoming Priorities for 2025-26

↑	Progressing a Council-led Area Wide Traffic Study to provide an updated LGA traffic model
↑	Lake Road Duplication, Ocean Drive to Chestnut Road detailed design
↑	Council led detailed design of HEP to Port Macquarie Town Centre Shared Pathway under Get NSW Active grant program
↑	Oxley Highway Corridor Business finalisation by TfNSW and briefing to Council
↑	Progressing Port Macquarie Parking Precinct Plan
↑	Continued advocacy to the State Government for investment in key projects including Wrights Road Roundabout, Lake Road and King Creek intersections, as well as the broader network improvements our community needs

ITP Key Focus Areas and Progress

Major works and creative initiatives proposed for delivery and highlights are set out below.

Priority 1 - Reducing Congestion + improve the movement of people & freight

Responsibility: TfNSW and Council — Time frame: Short-medium term

Target Outcome	Proposed solutions	Highlights 2024-25
Reduce congestion through the key corridors (Lake Road, Ocean Drive, Oxley Highway, Hastings River Drive) through a variety of methods, including road infrastructure upgrades and improved active and public transport alternatives	Finalise Oxley Highway Business Case for Oxley Highway Futures Growth Program	TfNSW have advised the draft Oxley Highway Business Case is in the final stages of quality assurance testing. A briefing will be provided to Council when completed.
	Wrights Road and Lake Road intersection Upgrades preferred options	For the Oxley Highway Corridor, TfNSW has committed to designing and delivering upgrades to the Oxley Highway/Pacific Highway interchange at Port Macquarie, including increased storage capacity on the northbound off-ramp to improve traffic flow and congestion.
	Oxley Highway King Creek Road Intersection upgrade	TfNSW is progressing the King Creek/Oxley Highway intersection design.
	End of trip facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at key locations	Walking and Cycling Plan adopted by Council in May 2025 providing a detailed road map and priority framework for delivering active transport connections across the LGA network.
	Cyclist and pedestrian connections through the key corridors	

Priority 2: Active transport and micromobility - healthy streets visions

Responsibility: TfNSW and Council — Time frame: Short-medium term

Target Outcome	Proposed solutions	Highlights 2024-25
Enhance current transport infrastructure through	Embed Healthy Streets Assessment and methodology at key locations to improve safety,	Walking and Cycling Plan adopted by Council in May 2025 providing a detailed road map and priority framework for delivering active

Priority 2: Active transport and micromobility - healthy streets visions		
Responsibility: TfNSW and Council		Time frame: Short-medium term
Target Outcome	**Proposed solutions**	**Highlights 2024-25**
streetscape upgrades to improve accessibility, safety and community connection, while supporting diverse transport modes	walking and cycling access, reduce congestions and improve liveability and character	transport connections across the LGA network.

Priority 3: Active transport and micro-mobility - active transport connections		
Responsibility: Council		Time frame: Short-medium term
Target Outcome	**Proposed solutions**	**Highlights 2024-25**
Safe and accessible walking and cycling routes connecting key destinations across the region	Construct remaining stages of Beach-to-Beach Shared Pathway between North Haven Break Wall and Pilot Beach	Stage D5 of the Beach-to-Beach Shared Pathway was delivered 2025-26, completing a continuous 0.16 km route to Dunbogan Reserve. Stage D3 - 0.33 km distance, Tip Road to 22 The Boulevarde was completed in 2023-24.
	Deliver Schools-to-Schools path connection from Kendall to Laurieton	Design for the Schools-to-Schools path between Kew and Kendall is complete; remaining design to Laurieton is progressing under the Wastewater Diversion Scheme in 2025-26.
	Implement ITP identified active transport and micro mobility corridors	Ocean Drive duplication includes a shared path and is expected to be completed by late 2025. Council received a 2025-26 Get NSW Active grant for the detailed design of a shared pathway between the Health and Education Precinct and Port Macquarie Town Centre.
	Improve walking and cycling route connectivity within Wauchope	Walking and Cycling Plan adopted in May 2025. It is noted that although the Wauchope Get NSW Active grant application was unsuccessful, a commitment remains to future improvements.

Priority 4: Improving road safety		
Responsibility: TfNSW and Council		Time frame: Short to medium term
Target Outcome	**Proposed solutions**	**Highlights 2024-25**
Safer roads through improved infrastructure and intersection design, reducing accidents and encouraging safer travel	Finalise strategic designs for interim and long-term upgrades, including future grade separation, and secure funding for delivery for Houston Mitchell Drive-Pacific Highway intersection.	TfNSW has finalised the Houston Mitchel Drive intersection modelling. Options for short term works are expected to be completed shortly with long-term intersection design and cost options expected to follow.

Priority 4: Improving road safety		
Responsibility: TfNSW and Council		Time frame: Short to medium term
Target Outcome	**Proposed solutions**	**Highlights 2024-25**
	Deliver the Pacific Highway-Oxley Highway Interchange upgrade to increase capacity on the northbound off-ramp.	The NSW Government has committed $20 million to the design and delivery of improvements to the Pacific Highway and Oxley Highway Interchange to improve road safety, efficiency and increase capacity. These works will provide additional storage capacity of the northbound Pacific Highway off ramp.
	Upgrade Oxley Highway at King Creek Road to improve safety and reduce congestion	The upgrade of King Creek Road at its intersection with the Oxley Highway is progressing, with funding allocated this year for property acquisition and relocation of services. Transport for NSW is aiming to finalise detailed designs and cost estimates by October 2025, in preparation for a construction grant application.
	Improve priority intersections across the LGA, including Hastings River Drive, key local roads in Port Macquarie, (i.e. Ocean Drive corridor)	Completed the $2.4 million upgrade of the Gordon and Horton Streets intersection, improving traffic flow into the CBD, pedestrian accessibility, and safety through new lighting, drainage, and crossings.

Priority 5: Catering for growth		
Responsibility: TfNSW and Council		Time frame: Short to medium term
Target Outcome	**Proposed solutions**	**Highlights 2024-25**
Public and active transport networks are planned, designed and constructed to cater for growth and sustainable development	Deliver the Thrumster Street upgrade and extension to support improved connectivity	GHD traffic modelling completed in June 2025 for growth scenarios - Thrumster (Area 13) and Sancrox/Fernbank Creek Structure Plans.
	Finalise modelling of additional local road transport links between Lake Road and the Health and Education Precinct as part of the business case for develop for Oxley Highway, Wrights Road / Lake Road upgrade	TfNSW have advised the draft Oxley Highway Business Case is in the final stages of quality assurance testing. A briefing will be provided to Council when completed. Council continues to advocate on behalf of the community for NSW Government investment in upgrades to this key corridor.
	Review traffic modelling in the Local Government Area to ensure modelling remains current and best informs transport solutions	Commenced the Area-Wide Traffic Study to update the LGA traffic model and guide future infrastructure planning based on land use scenarios.

Attachment A - ITP Action Progress Report

This section outlines the progress made by Council and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) on the 110 actions identified in the Integrated Transport Plan (ITP) over the past 12 months. As a strategic document, many of the major projects and solutions are designed for multi-year delivery, with progress occurring incrementally. Timeframes are indicative and are classified as short-term, short–medium term, medium-term, and long-term, meaning several actions are scheduled for future delivery, subject to funding availability. These are noted as 'scheduled later.'

Responsibility for delivering the 110 actions is shared between Council and TfNSW, with 21 actions jointly led, 75 led by Council, 14 led by TfNSW plus an additional 2 requiring input from other parties (such as Department of Health, National Parks and Wildlife Services and Department of Education). *Sub-actions are shown in italics* in the table below.

KEY - Progress Status

✓	Completed	●	Progressing as Scheduled	●	Scheduled later	●	Action Deferred
Implementation of the ITP's active transport objectives is now guided by the detailed Walking and Cycling Plan (May 2025), which provides prioritised project sequencing based on connectivity, equity and safety criteria to inform funding strategies. These actions are shown marked *							

KEY - Timing (proposed scheduling of actions)

ST	Short term	S-M	Short-medium term	M	Medium term	L-T	Long term

ITP Community Category and Progress Status

Category	Abbreviation
Reducing Congestion and Improve the Movement of People and Freight	Congestion and Movement
Active Transport and Micromobility	Active Transport
Road Safety	Road Safety
Public Transport and Ride Sharing	Public Transport and Ride Sharing
Education/ Education (cultural)	Education / Education (cultural)
Technical System Improvements	Technical System



2024-25 ITP Action Progress Summary

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
1.1.0	Oxley Highway	S-M	Develop and deliver pedestrian connections and separated cycle way along the Oxley Highway Corridor from the Health and Education Precinct to Port Macquarie City Centre including connections across the Oxley Highway between Hastings River Drive and Wrights Road	Active Transport	Joint	Council successfully received a 2025-26 Get NSW Active grant to undertake detailed design of an active mode corridor between the Health and Education Precinct and the Port Macquarie Town Centre. A majority of this project will be delivered in-house to reduce costs and improve efficiency in delivery. TfNSW are also working on the preliminary design of an on-road cycleway between HEP and the City Centre (predominantly northern side). This project will complement the Get NSW Active grant by delivering a dedicated on-road cycle lane and improving pedestrian safety through the separation of walking and cycling paths.	
1.1.1		*S*	*Design of cycle way and pedestrian connections along Oxley Highway Corridor*	*Active Transport*	*Joint*	See above comment	
1.1.2		*S*	*Delivery of cycle way and pedestrian connections along Oxley Highway from Widderson Street to Hastings River Drive*	*Active Transport*	*Joint*	See above comment	
1.1.3		*M*	*Delivery of cycle way and pedestrian connections along Oxley Highway from Wrights Road to Widderson Street*	*Active Transport*	*Joint*	See above comment Council delivered 375m shared path - Oxley Highway - Widderson Street to Fernhill Road	
1.2.0	Oxley Highway	S-M	Provide services and infrastructure to provide attractive alternative travel modes along Oxley Highway	Public Transport and Ride Sharing	Joint		

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
1.2.1		*S*	*Develop and deliver end of trip facilities for Pedestrians and Cyclists at key locations including Port Macquarie CBD and Health and Education Precinct to support active transport use. Facilities may include showers, bike lockers, seats and water fountains**	*Active Transport*	*Council*		
1.2.2		*S*	*Investigate options and undertake a business case, including concept design and estimates, for a bus interchange and/or park and ride share facilities to support increased services between the Health and Education Precinct, CBD and surrounding residential areas*	*Public Transport and Ride Sharing*	*Council*	Following the completion of the TfNSW led 16 Cities Service Improvement Program, 2020, Council wrote to the NSW Government requesting a trial of increased bus service frequencies earlier in the year. A response from TfNSW is pending.	
1.2.3		*S*	*Following a positively endorsing business case, deliver bus interchange and/or park and ride share facilities nearby to the Health and Education Precinct or otherwise determined location*	*Public Transport and Ride Sharing*	*Joint*		
1.3.0	Oxley Highway	S	Manage the Oxley Highway for growth, congestion, safety and operational concerns between the Oxley Highway / Pacific Highway interchange and Hastings River Drive	Congestion and Movement	TfNSW	This action has partially commenced, as it is linked to sub-action 1.3.1 - refer to comment below.	
1.3.1		*S*	*Completion of the final business case/s for Oxley Highway Future Growth Program*	*Congestion and Movement*	*TfNSW*	TfNSW is progressing the final business case for the Oxley Highway, which they have advised they will brief Council upon its completion.	
1.3.2		*S-M*	*Oxley Highway upgrades including Wrights Road, Lake Road, Phillip Charley and local network links, Wrights*	*Congestion and Movement*	*TfNSW*	Council continues to advocate on behalf of the community for NSW Government investment in upgrades to key corridors,	

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
			Road – Lake Road Upgrade: Commence implementation of preferred option at each location			including the Oxley Highway, Wrights Road, and Lake Road. This advocacy aligns with the Councillors' four-year strategic priorities outlined in Council's Delivery Program 2025–2029.	
1.3.3		*S*	*Pacific Highway – Oxley Highway Interchange Upgrade to provide additional Capacity on the North Bound Off Ramp and complement works associated with the proposed Service Centre*	*Road Safety*	*TfNSW*	The NSW Government has committed $20 million to the design and delivery of improvements to the Pacific Highway and Oxley Highway Interchange to improve road safety, efficiency and increase capacity. These works seek to provide safety and capacity improvements and provide additional storage capacity to the northbound Pacific Highway off ramp.	
1.3.4		*S*	*Develop options to improve road safety for students and pedestrians between Widderson Street and Findlay Avenue*	*Road Safety*	*TfNSW*	Council successfully received a 2025-26 Get NSW Active grant to undertake detailed design of an active mode corridor between the Health and Education Precinct and the Port Macquarie Town Centre, which will include the section of shared path between Widderson Street and Findlay Avenue. TfNSW are also working on the preliminary design of an on-road cycleway between HEP and the City Centre (predominantly northern side). This project will complement the Get NSW Active grant by delivering a dedicated on-road cycle lane and improving pedestrian safety through the separation of walking and cycling paths.	
1.3.5		*M*	*Provision of entry and/or exit ramps to/from the Oxley Highway on the eastern side of Carlie Jane Drive to*	*Congestion and Movement*	*TfNSW*		

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
			reduce traffic congestion at John Oxley Drive and Sovereign Drive				
1.3.6		*M*	*Upgrade the Oxley Highway / Hastings River Drive / Gordon Street / Ocean Drive intersection to increase turning capacity for right turn lanes*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Council*		
1.4.0	Oxley Highway	S	Manage the Oxley Highway for growth, congestion, safety and operational concerns between the Oxley Highway / Pacific Highway interchange and Wauchope	Congestion and Movement	TfNSW	This action has partially commenced, as indicated by its linkage to sub-action 1.4.1 - refer to comment below.	
1.4.1		*S*	*Deliver intersection upgrade for the Oxley Highway at King Creek Road to improve road safety and traffic congestion*	*Road Safety*	*TfNSW*	The upgrade of King Creek Road at its intersection with the Oxley Highway is progressing, with funding allocated this year for property acquisition and relocation of services. TfNSW expects the design phase and cost estimates to be finalised by October 2025, enabling a stronger case to submit an application for construction phase funding.	
1.4.2		*S*	*Monitor new development at Thrumster and Sancrox to consider need for any active transport crossings of Pacific Highway and Oxley Highway, to ensure local connectivity to town centres*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Joint*	Council finalised traffic modelling in June 2025 to assess the effect of population growth forecast in Thrumster, Sancrox, and Fernbank Creek Structure Plans. The modelling identified critical infrastructure needs under various greenfield development scenarios.	
1.4.3		*S-M*	*Enhance the resilience of the Oxley Highway corridor west of Wauchope to the impacts of natural disasters*	*Road Safety*	*TfNSW*	TfNSW have been undertaken ongoing remediation and upgrade works, in response to landslips and to enhance resilience of the Oxley Highway corridor. Nine project sites have been completed to date, three projects	

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
						are in progress and one is in the planning stage.	
2.1.0	Health and Education Precinct	S	Develop Precinct Plans to coordinate and inform transport infrastructure and network development starting with the Health and Education Precinct (Health and Education Precinct)	Congestion and Movement	Council		
2.2.0	Health and Education Precinct	S-M	Provide additional transport links between Lake Road and the Health and Education Precinct to reduce congestion on the Oxley Highway and surrounding road network	Congestion and Movement	Joint	This action has partially commenced, as indicated by its linkage to sub-action 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 - refer to comments below.	
2.2.1		*S*	*Finalise modelling of additional local road transport links between Lake Road and the Health and Education Precinct*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Joint*	The modelling of additional local road transport links between Lake Road and the Health and Education Precinct has been undertaken be TfNSW, culminating in the preparation of several concept designs for supporting alternative access to the HEP.	
2.2.2		*S*	*Following business case development, deliver a link from Highfields Court or the Hospital through to Merrigal Road to provide additional access for the Hospital and/or Health and Education Precinct consistent with priority identified in business case*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Joint*	The sub-action is an outcome of 2.2.1 above. In June 2025, Council re-established a collaboration with TfNSW and NSW Health (Mid North Coast Local Health District) to improve local access to the Health and Education Precinct and Port Macquarie Base Hospital. The project is currently on hold, pending outcomes of the Port Macquarie Base Hospital Masterplan which is currently under preparation and being led by the Mid North Coast Local Health District.	

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
2.2.3		*M*	*Following business case development, undertake investigations and planning for a connection between Geebung Drive and Kingfisher Road connection consistent with timing identified in business case*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Joint*	TfNSW has undertaken modelling of additional local road transport links between Lake Road and the Health and Education Precinct (HEP). This work has informed the development of high-level concept designs, which explore both this proposed link connection and several alternative access options aimed at improving pedestrian, public transport and private vehicle travel to and from the HEP.	
2.3.0	Health and Education Precinct	S	Provide additional pedestrian connections and active transport links to the Health and Education Precinct including missing link from Geebung Road to Charles Sturt University along Googik Track and potential upgrade to public parking area at Kingfisher Drive to cater for increased use.	Active Transport	Council	Detailed designs, land acquisitions and environmental approvals have been completed for the provision of an extension to the Googik Track to Major Innes Dr via Kingfisher Drive.	
2.3.1		*S*	*Complete missing links along the Googik Track and precinct from Geebung Drive to Charles Sturt University**	*Active Transport*	*Council*		
2.3.2		*S*	*Investigate for upgrades to the public parking area at Kingfisher Drive to service the Googik track, including planning for project management, land acquisition and civil works to support pedestrian access to the HEP and surrounds**	*Active Transport*	*Council*		
3.1.0	Port Macquarie	S	Plan and deliver traffic signals at the intersection of Buller Street and Hollingworth Street	Road Safety	Council	Funding has been allocated towards the completion of the Stage 1 Westport stormwater upgrade project in 2025-26.	

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
						These works are required to be completed in advance of the upgrade and signalisation of this intersection.	
3.2.0	Port Macquarie	S	Delivery of the sealing of Maria River Road to enhance road access to the North Shore community.	Road Safety	Council	Initial site establishment and construction laydown works are complete, with environmental approvals completed. Construction is expected to commence in 2025-26. Funding is provided through the NSW Government's Fixing Local Roads program.	
3.3.0	Port Macquarie	S	Undertake planning to consider feasibility of north-south connection between Hastings River Drive and the Oxley Highway	Congestion and Movement	Council		
3.4.0	Port Macquarie	S	Develop and deliver separated cycle ways to improve connections for cyclists within Port Macquarie, including the delivery of a separated cycle way to link Pacific Drive to the Coastal Walk and an active transport corridor along Lighthouse Road*	Active Transport	Council	Council has completed a concept design for a separated cycle way to link Pacific Drive to the Coastal Walk and an active transport corridor along Lighthouse Road.	
3.5.0	Port Macquarie	S-M	Undertake planning and detailed design for the upgrade of Koala Street between Kennedy Drive and Ocean Drive, including active transport link*	Active Transport	Council		
4.1.0	Hastings River Drive	M	Upgrade the Boundary Street / Hastings River Drive intersection to include additional turning capacity to accommodate for development of the Airport Precinct	Congestion and Movement	Council	Detailed designs have been completed for the upgrade the Boundary Street / Hastings River Drive intersection to including additional turning capacity to accommodate the development of the Airport Precinct. Council has an active 2025-26 project to progress land acquisitions associated with	

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
						this upgrade to support readiness for construction once funded. Hastings River Drive (Hughes Place to Boundary Street) is also identified as one of the Councillors four year Strategic Priority Areas in Council's Delivery Program 2025-29.	
4.2.0	Hastings River Drive	S	Duplicate Hastings River Drive between Boundary Street and Hughes Place, including cyclist facilities, to reduce congestion and provide for traffic growth	Congestion and Movement	Council	Council has completed detailed designs and obtained environmental approvals for this project. Council is progressing land acquisition for duplication between Boundary Street and Hughes Place. The project aims to increase traffic capacity and reduce congestion, with cyclist facilities included. The Hastings River Drive upgrade / duplication project is also identified as one of the Councillors four year Strategic Priority Areas in Councils 2025-29 Delivery Program	●
4.3.0	Hastings River Drive	S-M	Plan for and deliver upgrades to key Hastings River Drive intersections between Aston Street and Clifton Drive to improve capacity, enhance pedestrian safety and provide for growth	Congestion and Movement	Council	2025-26 sees the allocation of funding to undertake the construction of the signalised pedestrian crossing on Hastings River Drive near Aston Street.	●
4.3.1		*S*	*Undertake planning and detailed design for intersection upgrades on Hasting River Drive between Aston Street and Clifton Drive*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Council*	The 2026 Area Wide Traffic Study, commenced in August 2025 will undertake a holistic assessment of the Port Macquarie-Hastings local transport network, identifying capacity constraints and prioritising intersections for upgrade based on a range of factors including travel time, road hierarchy and safety.	●

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
						Hastings River Drive intersections have been included in the package of works for assessment.	
4.3.2		*S-M*	*Deliver intersection upgrades on Hastings River Drive between Aston Street and Clifton Drive*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Council*		
5.1.0	John Oxley Drive	S	Develop Precinct Plans to coordinate and inform transport infrastructure and network development for the John Oxley Drive Corridor to reduce congestion and provide for growth. This will include: - Duplication of John Oxley Drive - Kingfisher Drive to The Ruins Way - Plan and design duplication of John Oxley Drive from The Ruins Way to the Oxley Highway exit ramp	Congestion and Movement	Council	Detailed designs for the duplication of John Oxley Drive - Kingfisher Drive to The Ruins Way have been completed.	
5.1.1		*S*	*Deliver the duplication of John Oxley Drive - Kingfisher Drive to The Ruins Way*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Council*	Detailed designs have been completed for the upgrade of John Oxley Drive between Kingfisher Drive and Major Innes Drive. 2025-26 sees the allocation of funding to progress land acquisitions associated with this project to enable it to reach 'construction ready' status.	
5.1.2		*S*	*Plan for and undertake the detailed design for the duplication of John Oxley Drive from The Ruins Way to the Oxley Highway exit ramp*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Council*	Detailed designs have been completed for the upgrade of John Oxley Drive between Kingfisher Dr and Major Innes Drive. Council is progressing land acquisition for corridor expansion between Ruins Way and Wrights Road.	

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
5.2.0	John Oxley Drive	S	Deliver an active transport connection(s) from Thrumster to Health and Education Precinct*	Active Transport	Council	Detailed designs, environmental approvals and land acquisitions have been completed for the provision of a new off-road shared path between Major Innes Drive and the Googik Track via Charles Sturt University (CSU) and Kingfisher Drive. This is aimed at enhancing connectivity to and from the Health and Education Precinct. The Walking and Cycling Plan has identified and prioritised further linkages as required to deliver an active transport connection(s) from Thrumster to Health and Education Precinct.	
5.2.1		*S*	*Deliver an active transport connection from Oxley Highway, Port Town centre to Health and Education Precinct*	*Active Transport*	*Council*	Council successfully received a 2025-26 Get NSW Active grant to undertake detailed design of an active mode corridor (i.e. shared pathway) between the Health and Education Precinct and the Port Macquarie Town Centre.	
5.2.2		*M*	*Determine from where then deliver a transport connection from Thrumster to the Oxley Highway**	*Active Transport*	*Council*		
6.1.0	Lake Road	S-M	Provide an active transport link, including separated cycleway where feasible, along Lake Road between the Health and Education Precinct and Ocean Drive	Active Transport	Council	This action has partially commenced, as indicated by its linkage to sub-action 6.1.1 - refer to comment below.	
6.1.1		*S*	*Plan and undertake detailed design of an active transport link along Lake Road to connect the Health and Education Precinct and Ocean Drive*	*Active Transport*	*Council*	The Lake Road duplication project includes a shared path design. The current phase involves detailed design, environmental approvals, and land acquisition.	

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
6.1.2		*S*	*Develop and deliver a separated cycle way along Lake Road between the Health and Education Precinct and Ocean Drive*	*Active Transport*	*Council*		
6.1.3		*M*	*Work with NPWS to improve the Googik Track (Workshop Trail and Erics Trail - Linking Lake Road to Kingfisher Drive through Lake Innes Nature Reserve) shared path connection for off-road unsealed pedestrian and cycling connections*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Multiple*	A detailed design and land acquisitions have been completed for the extension of the Googik track to Major Innes Road via Kingfisher Drive.	
6.2.0	Lake Road	S	Duplicate Lake Road (Stage 3) between Ocean Drive to Chestnut Road to reduce congestion and provide for growth	Congestion and Movement	Council	Detailed designs are underway in 2025-26. This action has partially commenced, as indicated by its linkage to sub-action 6.2.1 - refer to comment below.	
6.2.1		*S*	*Undertake detailed design, investigations and land acquisition, including obtaining approvals for the duplication of Lake Road (Stage 3)*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Council*	Council is progressing the duplication of Lake Road between Ocean Drive and Chestnut Avenue via the completion of detailed designs and environmental approvals in 2025-26. Land acquisitions associated with this project are progressing to schedule, including the revocation of land from the Lake Innes Nature Reserve from the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Lake Road duplication project is also identified as one of the Councillors four year Strategic Priority Areas in Council's Delivery Program 2025-29.	
6.2.2		*S*	*Construction for the duplication of Lake Road (Stage 3)*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Council*		

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
6.3.0	Lake Road	M	Upgrade Lake Road at the intersection with Jindalee and Fernhill Roads (Stages 2) to reduce congestion and improve industrial area access.	Congestion and Movement	Council		
6.3.1		*S*	*Complete detailed design and land acquisition, including obtaining approvals, for the Upgrade of Lake Road at the intersection with Jindalee and Fernhill Roads (Stage 2)*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Council*	A concept design has been previously prepared for the Upgrade of Lake Road at its intersection with Jindalee and Fernhill Roads.	
6.3.2		*M*	*Construction for the Upgrade of Lake Road at the intersection with Jindalee and Fernhill Roads (Stage 2)*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Council*		
6.4.0	Lake Road	M	Plan, design and construct the Ocean Drive / Lake Road intersection to increase turning capacity	Congestion and Movement	Council	This upgrade is part of the broader Lake Road Stage 3 project. The current phase includes detailed design, environmental approvals, and land acquisition.	
7.1.0	Ocean Drive	S	Plan for a Separated/Off Road Cycle link from Port Macquarie to Lake Cathie *	Active Transport	Council	The Walking and Cycling Plan, 2025 has conceptually identified routes for the proposed separated off road cycle route between Port Macquarie and lake Cathie.	
7.2.0	Ocean Drive	M	Install a shared path on one side of the Ocean Drive corridor through Port Macquarie by upgrading the current path and infill of unconnected shared paths.	Active Transport	Council	The duplication of Ocean Drive between Matthew Flinders Drive and Greenmeadows Drive, is scheduled for completion in the 2025-26 financial year. The upgrade is designed to increase traffic capacity and flow. It also includes a shared path on the western side contributing broader improvements to the active transport network. In addition an active transport path between Hastings River Drive and Lake Road is ranked third in the network prioritisation	

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
						assessment outlined in the Walking and Cycling Plan (2025). This high ranking positions the Ocean Drive corridor as a priority for future active transport grant applications.	
7.3.0	Ocean Drive	M	Install a shared path on one side of the Ocean Drive corridor through Lake Cathie and Bonny Hills*	Active Transport	Council		●
7.4.0	Hastings River Drive	M	Upgrade road shoulders for the entire length of Hastings River Drive outside the urban area to support active transport use*	Active Transport	Council		●
7.5.0	Ocean Drive	M	Upgrade road shoulders for the entire length of Ocean Drive outside the urban area to support active transport use including North Haven to Bonny Hills, and Lake Cathie to Port Macquarie*	Active Transport	Council		●
7.6.0	Ocean Drive	M	Upgrade Ocean Drive though the Lake Cathie urban areas.	Congestion and Movement	Council	Council has previously completed high-level concept design for the upgrade of Ocean Drive through the Lake Cathie urban areas. These plans will be used to guide future detailed designs.	●
7.7.0	Ocean Drive	M	Develop criteria for future bypassing of Ocean Drive of coastal townships, including Bonny Hills, North Haven and West Haven, and undertake business case assessments	Congestion and Movement	Council		●
7.8.0	Ocean Drive	M	Investigate, plan and design the intersection upgrade for Ocean Drive and Kew Road, Laurieton to improve safety	Road Safety	Council		●

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
7.9.0	Ocean Drive	S	Investigate, Plan and Design the upgrade of Ocean Drive and Koala Street, Port Macquarie to improve congestion and safety	Congestion and Movement	Council	This intersection is an identified intersection survey site in the Area Wide Traffic Study which commenced in August 2025. This work will provide a high-level assessment of intersection performance across the network. Future detailed investigation, planning and design of any upgrades would be considered at the completion of the Study and assessed and prioritised against other LGA priorities.	
8.1.0	Pacific Highway	S	Houston Mitchell Drive – Pacific Highway Intersection Upgrade to improve road safety	Road Safety	TfNSW	This action has partially commenced, as indicated by its linkage to sub-action 8.1.1 - refer to comment below.	
8.1.1		*S*	*Complete strategic options and designs for interim and longer-term upgrades of the Houston Mitchell Drive - Pacific Highway intersection*	*Road Safety*	*TfNSW*	TfNSW has finalised the Houston Mitchel Drive intersection modelling. Options for short term works are expected to be ready shortly with long-term intersection design and cost options expected to follow.	
8.1.2		*S*	*Obtain funding and deliver preferred upgrade strategy for the Houston Mitchell Drive - Pacific Highway intersection.*	*Road Safety*	*TfNSW*		
9.1.0	Camden Haven and Dunbogan (Beach to Beach)	S-M	Implement remaining stages of Beach-to-Beach Shared Path between North Haven Break Wall and Pilot Beach, prioritising connection of Dunbogan to Laurieton	Active Transport	Council	Construction of Stage D3 and D5 of the Beach-to-Beach Walkway are completed. The remaining stages D8, D10, D11 (between North Haven Break Wall and Pilot beach) are unfunded and will need to be future projects, including assessment and prioritisation having regard to other proposed active transport links across the	

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
						LGA as outlined in the Walking and Cycling Plan.	
10.1.0	West Haven/Kew /Kendal	S-M	Deliver the Schools-to-Schools path connecting from Kendall to Laurieton	Active Transport	Council	This action has partially commenced, as indicated by its linkage to sub-action 10.1.1 - refer to comment below.	
10.1.1		*S*	*Undertake planning and detailed design of the Schools-to-Schools path*	*Active Transport*	*Council*	Detailed design for the highest priority sections of the Schools-to-Schools shared pathway is complete between Kew and Kendall. The remaining detailed design work between Kendall and Laurieton is progressing under the Kew to Camden Haven Wastewater Diversion Scheme and is scheduled for delivery in 2025-26.	
10.1.2		*S-M*	*Construct priority Schools to Schools path stages, commencing with Kew to Laurieton, then Kew to Kendall*	*Active Transport*	*Council*		
11.1.0	Thrumster	S-M	Deliver the Thrumster Street Upgrade and Extension to support improved connectivity and access to the local and state road network in the Thrumster, Fernbank Creek and Sancrox area	Congestion and Movement	Council		
11.1.1		*S*	*Plan and design the Thrumster Street Upgrade and Extension in line with predicted development*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Council*		
11.1.2		*M*	*Deliver the Thrumster Street upgrade in line with predicted development*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Council*		

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
12.1.0	Airport	S	Plan and prepare feasibility and concept design for alternative flood free access to the Port Macquarie Airport	Congestion and Movement	Joint	The 2045 Airport Master Plan adopted by Council on 21 August 2025 contains an initiative to plan and construct a flood free access road at some point in the period 2025 to 2030. Funding will likely be a combination of airport reserve and grants.	
12.2.0	Airport	S	Duplicate Boundary Street connection between the Airport and Hastings River Drive	Congestion and Movement	Council	A Social Impact Assessment (SIA) was completed in June 2025. While the assessment identified social benefits, including improved flood resilience, emergency access, and regional connectivity, it also highlighted unresolved community concerns around stormwater management, property access, land acquisition, and noise impacts. As a result, further targeted consultation and technical updates (e.g., flood modelling, noise and vibration assessments) are required before the project can progress to Development Application stage. Council is currently reviewing the SIA recommendations and planning additional engagement to address these concerns and determine next steps.	
13.3.0	Region Wide	S-M	Investigate and develop alternative travel solutions to reduce single occupant vehicle trips	Congestion and Movement	Joint	This action is partially being addressed through the 2026 Area Wide Traffic Study. The Study will provide an updated LGA traffic and identify infrastructure needs under different land use scenarios. It is noted that land use change is recognised as the most effective lever for reducing single	

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
						occupant vehicle trips. Detailed solutions are not being explored at this stage.	
13.3.1		*S*	*Obtain funding to develop and deliver new bus infrastructure facilities to support the implementation of the 16 Regional Cities Services Improvement Program priority actions. This includes service-related initiatives, supporting infrastructure targeting high-need communities and potential trials for on demand services*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Joint*	New bus shelters delivered in 2024-25 included new facilities at Kendall Railway Station and on Gordon Street, Port Macquarie. These locations align with service priority areas identified in the 16 Cities Service Improvement program. Additionally, a new shelter as also planned to be constructed in 2025-26 on The Ruins Way, aligning with the 16 Cities Pacific Drive, Ruins Way linked route.	
13.3.2		*S*	*Investigate suitable ride-sharing opportunities and platforms. Promote and share information on the use of Ride Hailing and Shared Transportation across the LGA*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Joint*		
13.3.3		*S-M*	*Improve local bus service and taxi service connection with passenger rail and aviation services and access to multimodal public transport*	*Congestion and Movement*	*TfNSW*		
13.3.4		*S*	*Support the integration of emerging transport modes through trials (such as the e-scooter trials), partnerships, collaboration, and a fit for-purpose regulatory framework. Review trials of such technology from other local government areas*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Joint*		
13.3.5		*S*	*Develop and implement a behavioural change strategy, including an advertising campaign to influence customers to use active and public*	*Education*	*Joint*		

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
			transport modes and encourage ride sharing across the Port Macquarie-Hastings to reduce unnecessary trips				
13.3.6		*M*	*Review public transport interchanges across the region to minimise walking distances between services (examples include interchanges at major town centres and high use precincts)*	*Public Transport and Ride Sharing*	*Joint*		
13.4.0	Region Wide	S-M	Parking planning for the Port Macquarie CBD and other priority areas	Congestion and Movement	Council	This action has partially commenced, as indicated by its linkage to sub-action 13.4.3.	
13.4.1		*S*	*Develop internal guidance collateral that will provide guidance and protocol on the appropriateness, location, size and facilities of commuter car parks*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Council*		
13.4.2		*S*	*Trial traffic and parking management plans at select schools with the aim to develop a template that can be used for schools across the LGA*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Multiple*		
13.4.3		*S*	*Starting with the Port Macquarie CBD, develop Place-Based Parking Plans (PPPs) to tailor parking management and improvements to suit the needs of individual locations*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Council*	Council is developing a tailored parking plan for the Port Macquarie Town Centre and a reusable template for other areas, addressing accessibility, land use, and parking demand.	
13.4.4		*S*	*Engage with the development industry, property owners and the community to ensure private parking contributes to outcomes in a centre, location or destination*	*Congestion and Movement*	*Council*		

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
13.5.0	Region Wide	S	Support EV promotion through the development of Council EV Infrastructure Policy and where business cases identify - plan for and deliver such supporting infrastructure.	Congestion and Movement	Council	Council adopted the electric vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Policy in March 2025. It has also developed a draft Site Selection Procedure and is actively working to introduce new EV charging sites across the LGA.	
13.6.0	Region Wide	S-M	Investigate and implement new technology to efficiently manage and improve our transport network, reduce unnecessary trips and encourage increased uptake of alternative transport options.	Congestion and Movement	Council		
13.6.1		*S*	*Investigate the use of technology in improving transport and connectivity, such as wayfinding maps, parking sensors, smart phone app integration, variable message signage, location of mid-journey / end-of trip facilities and bicycle sharing systems and micro-mobility opportunities*	*Technical Systems Improvements*	*Council*		
13.6.2		*S-M*	*Deliver walking improvements across the transport network, including lighting and smart technology to improve safety and visibility.*	*Active Transport*	*Council*		
13.6.3		*S-M*	*Trial the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology as an alternate data collection tool to support parking enforcement, data collection and for use as part of education to provide better parking turnover (availability), coverage and service across the region*	*Technical Systems Improvements*	*Council*		

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
13.7.0	Region Wide	S-M	Review and amend Council's Development Control Plan to control access to local freight corridors and priority roads by residential properties; protect important local freight corridors for future transport alignment and avoid the encroachment of incompatible land uses and development	Congestion and Movement	Council		
13.8.0	Region Wide	S	Provide cultural wayfinding signage to encourage nonvehicle trips whilst supporting cultural awareness and outcomes	Education	Council		
13.8.1		*S*	*Work with local Aboriginal communities and Local Aboriginal Land Councils to develop appropriate visual acknowledgements of Country along walking and cycling routes*	*Education*	*Council*		
13.9.0	Region Wide	S-M	Embed and Implement the Healthy Streets Assessment and methodology at key locations across the LGA to improve our local streets safety, walking and cycling access, reduce congestion and improve liveability and character	Active Transport	Council	This action has partially commenced, as indicated by its linkage to sub-action 13.9.1 - refer to comment below.	
13.9.1		*S*	*Undertake a Healthy Streets Assessment at suitable sites*	*Active Transport*	*Council*	A Healthy Streets Assessment was undertaken for Hastings Street, Wauchope, in December 2023. The assessment provides a baseline understanding of how the street supports walking, cycling, and public transport use. Key issues identified include: • High traffic speeds and lack of mid-block and priority crossings	

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
						• Absence of dedicated cycling infrastructure and cycle parking • Limited shade, seating, and lighting, particularly in the middle and northern sections • No public drinking water access and minimal public seating • Inadequate footpath coverage and walking space in some sections The assessment provides a valuable baseline for future upgrades and can be used to evaluate the impact of proposed improvements.	
13.9.2		*S-M*	*Implement adopted Healthy Streets actions at suitable sites or as part of general project delivery to pilot changes to street use and transport outcomes*	*Active Transport*	*Council*	Refer to above comment - pilot project undertaken for Hastings Street, Wauchope.	
13.10.0	Region Wide	S	Develop a long-term vision of a coastal shared path connecting Port Macquarie, Lake Cathie, Bonny Hills and North Haven*	Active Transport	Council		
13.11.0	Region Wide	S	Review traffic modelling in the Local Government area in 2026. Consideration to include but not limited to alternate routes bypassing Bonny Hills, and alternative access to the airport/access between the Oxley Highway corridor and Hastings River Drive	Congestion and Movement	Council	This action is being addressed through the 2026 Area Wide Traffic Study, initiated in August 2025. The Study includes modelling of alternate routes such as the Bonny Hills bypass, improved airport access, and connections between the Oxley Highway corridor and Hastings River Drive. A bypass evaluation framework will guide future decisions.	

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
13.12.0	Region Wide	S	Pursue government funding for projects in this plan in line with priorities.	Congestion and Movement	Council	Council has a dedicated grants team that actively identifies funding opportunities and supports project teams to secure government investment. Funding bids are planned to align with our Councillors four year Strategic Priority Areas where possible, as identified in Councils Delivery Program 2025-29. TfNSW investment in Transport Infrastructure aligns with State Government investment frameworks and established project determination, review, assessment and management processes.	
13.13.0	Region Wide	S	Undertake a risk assessment of the resilience of corridors, including but not limited to Comboyne Road corridor, to the impacts of natural disasters	Congestion and Movement	Council		
14.0.0	Wauchope	S-M	Improve walking and cycling route connectivity within Wauchope	Active Transport	Council	This action has partially commenced, as indicated by its linkage to sub-action 14.1.1.	
14.1.1		*S-M*	*Connect the north-south shared path on Cameron Street from the Hastings River to Blackbutt Drive*	*Active Transport*	*Council*	Council was not successful in its 2025-26 Get NSW Active funding grant application for the Wauchope Pedestrian Crossing Program of Works (a nominated set of mid-block crossings detailed designs). However, a commitment remains to improve walking and cycling infrastructure in Wauchope and future funding opportunities to support active transport connections in the area will be pursued.	

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
14.1.2		*S-M*	*Connect using a shared path on High Street west of Blackbutt Drive to the existing Allan Road on-road route*	*Active Transport*	*Council*		
14.1.3		*S-M*	*Connect using a shared path between Timbertown Estate and Yippin Creek to the town centre*	*Active Transport*	*Council*		
14.2.0	Wauchope	M	Plan and deliver inter-town / village bicycle routes in the Wauchope area, primarily along roads that provide connectivity between urban areas and involve a combination of state, regional and local roads *	Active Transport	Joint		
14.2.1		*M*	*Upgrade road shoulders on the Oxley Highway between Port Macquarie and Wauchope where feasible and deliverable.**	*Active Transport*	*TfNSW*		
14.3.0	Wauchope	M	Review traffic modelling in the Wauchope area to aid in the design of works to improve network functionality and traffic flow along key corridors including High Street, Blackbutt Road and Cameron Street	Congestion and Movement	Council	This action is being addressed through the 2026 Area Wide Traffic Study, which includes modelling of key corridors in Wauchope.	
14.4.0	Wauchope	M	Complete the remaining stages of the Beechwood Road upgrade to provide for future development needs and enhanced flood resilience	Congestion and Movement	Council	Council has currently funded the construction of Beechwood Road Stage 6 upgrade works, which involves the realignment and raising of the section Beechwood Road between 84 Beechwood Road to the Waugh Street intersection. Works being undertaken will support future development and improve flood resilience. The project is jointly funded through a $5 million grant from the Australian	

WBS Action #	Corridor/ Area	Timing	Action & Sub-Action	Community Category	Who	Comment	Status
						Government's Bridge Renewal Program (BRP6 – Yippin Creek Bridge), a $6 million grant from the NSW Government's Accelerated Infrastructure Fund (AIF-Beechwood Road Yippin Creek Flood Free), and additional Council contributions. Detailed design and land acquisitions are in progress, with construction activities scheduled to commence in the 2025-26 financial year.	

AUTHORISATION AND DELEGATION

PRESCRIBED TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES AND REGULATION OF TRAFFIC

Roads Act 1993
Road Transport Act 2013

On behalf of Transport for NSW, I, Josh Murray, Secretary of the Department of Transport:

a) **REVOKE** the instrument of 31 October 2011 titled "*Roads and Maritime Services – Delegation to Councils*"; and

b) **REVOKE** the instrument of 12 December 2023 titled "*Instrument of Delegation and Authorisation – Traffic Management and Pedestrian Works – Temporary Delegation to Councils No.2"*; and

c) **DELEGATE** under section 3I(1) of the *Transport Administration Act 1988* and all other enabling powers, the functions set out in **Schedule 1** to the delegates set out in **Schedule 2**, subject to the conditions and limitations set out in **Schedule 4**; and

d) **AUTHORISE** those delegates, under section 3I(2) of the *Transport Administration Act 1988*, to sub-delegate the functions set out in **Schedule 1** to the persons set out in **Schedule 3**; and

e) **AUTHORISE** the delegates set out in **Schedule 2**, under section 122(b) of the *Road Transport Act 2013***,** to install or display (or interfere with, alter, or remove) any prescribed traffic control device required to give effect to the carrying out of traffic control work except where indicated as restricted in the Transport for NSW *"Traffic Signs Register"*, subject to the conditions and limitations set out in **Schedule 4**; and

f) **CONSENT**, under s.87(4) of the *Roads Act 1993,* to the construction, installation, maintenance, repair, removal, or replacement of a portable traffic control light used temporarily by a delegate in the context of carrying out road work or traffic control work, subject to the conditions and limitations set out in **Schedule 4**; and

g) **DIRECT** that failure to comply with the conditions and limitations set out in **Schedule 4** renders the prescribed traffic control device authorisation and delegation inoperative with respect to the functions exercised.

Note: the authorisation at (e) above is referred to in this Instrument as "the prescribed traffic control device authorisation".

This Instrument commences on 1 August 2025 and continues in force until revoked.

Josh Murray
Secretary
Department of Transport

Date: 21/07/2025

SCHEDULE 1 – FUNCTIONS

(a) The functions and powers of Transport for NSW under section 115(2) of the *Roads Act 1993* to regulate traffic on a public road for purposes other than those set out in in that section.

(b) The power to establish and operate a special event parking scheme for a road under Part 8, Division 3 of the *Road Transport (General) Regulation 2021.*

SCHEDULE 2 – DELEGATES

A council constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

SCHEDULE 3 – SUB-DELEGATES

The general manager of a council, or an employee of the council.

SCHEDULE 4 – CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Note: Reference to a delegate in this Schedule includes reference to a sub-delegate.

1. Scope of Authorisation and Delegation

A delegate must not exercise a function listed in Schedule 1 of this Instrument and may not use the prescribed traffic control device authorisation:

(a) outside its local government area as constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993*;

(b) on a road or part of a road classified as a Freeway, Controlled Access Road, Tollway, or Transitway; or

(c) on any road identified with the 'Administrative Category' of 'State' in the '*Schedule of Classified Roads and Unclassified Regional Roads*' (as published and amended from time to time by Transport for NSW), except with the written consent of Transport for NSW

Note: The prescribed traffic control device authorisation allows delegates to install, display, etc. those devices and extends to the engagement of third parties (such as developers, road construction contractors, etc.) to install and display any such devices as a consequence of a delegate's decision and approval under this Instrument.

2. Local Transport Forum

(a) A delegate must convene a Local Transport Forum to which a representative from each of the following is invited to attend:

(i) the delegate

(ii) Transport for NSW

(iii) NSW Police Force

(iv) The local Member(s) of NSW Parliament

(v) The operator of any public passenger service likely to be affected by traffic control work proposed by the delegate

(b) A delegate may invite any other person to attend the Local Transport Forum.

(c) A delegate may seek technical advice from the Local Transport Forum regardless of whether this Instrument is being used.

(d) The Local Transport Forum is to provide advice to the delegate on any matter put before it for advice.

(e) A delegate must consider any advice provided by the Local Transport Forum.

3. Mandatory prior referral of some proposals

(a) A delegate must refer to the Local Transport Forum any proposal to exercise a function listed in Schedule 1 of this Instrument or to use the prescribed traffic control device authorisation where that proposal would:

for a period exceeding **6 months**:

(i) restrict or prohibit passage along a road of any persons, vehicles, or animals; or

(ii) compel or prevent a turn from one public road to another public road;

or

for a period exceeding **24 hours**:

(iii) prevent, impede, or hinder the safe or efficient operation of a public passenger service; or

(iv) prevent access to a public transport station, stop, wharf, or service; or

(v) remove or render less effective any bus priority measure.

(b) Following consideration of advice provided by the Local Transport Forum, the delegate may proceed with the proposal unless the Transport for NSW representative advises the meeting of the Local Transport Forum that Transport for NSW will be submitting a Statement of Concern within seven (7) days.

(c) If a Statement of Concern has been provided to the delegate in accordance with clause (b) above, the delegate may not exercise the relevant function until a further seven (7) days after it has circulated to the members of the Local Transport Forum, a written response addressing the Statement of Concern and setting out the delegate's reasons for proceeding to exercise the function.

4. Keeping of records

(a) The proceedings of the Local Transport Forum must be recorded and made public as soon as practicable.

(b) A post facto record of any use of the prescribed traffic control device authorisation (excluding any instance that has already been the subject of prior referral per condition 3) must be tabled at the Local Transport Forum as soon as practicable and no later than three (3) months after the fact.

5. Coordination

(a) A delegate must consult any public passenger service operator – either directly or via the Local Transport Forum – before exercising any function listed in Schedule 1 of this Instrument or using the prescribed traffic control device authorisation where it is likely to affect the operation of a public passenger service provided by that operator.

(b) Details of such consultation undertaken outside of the Local Transport Forum must be tabled at the Local Transport Forum as soon as practicable.

(c) A delegate must give not less than seven (7) days' notice to NSW Police Force and Transport for NSW – either directly or via the Local Transport Forum – before regulating traffic under this Instrument for the purposes of a public event.

6. References

(a) A delegate must use the NSW Design of Roads and Streets Manual (TS 00066, as amended from time to time) as a primary reference when exercising a function listed in Schedule 1 of this Instrument or using the prescribed traffic control device authorisation.

(b) Use of a portable traffic control light or R4-212n roadwork speed limit sign under this Instrument must be in accordance with the Transport for NSW Traffic Control at Work Sites Manual (TS 05492, as amended from time to time).

7. Preservation of head of power

Notwithstanding this Instrument, Transport for NSW reserves all and any rights and powers, including to:

(a) Direct a public authority under clause 8I of Schedule 1 of the *Transport Administration Act 1988*, or alter or remove, or direct the alteration or removal of any prescribed traffic control device, under Part 5.3, Division 2 of the *Road Transport Act 2013*; and

(b) Carry out road work in accordance with Part 6 of the *Roads Act 1993;* and

(c) Carry out traffic control work on any public road, including exclusive power to carry out or consent to the construction, erection, installation, maintenance, repair, removal or replacement of a traffic control light under section 87 of the *Roads Act 1993*; and

(d) Regulate traffic under Part 8 of the *Roads Act 1993.*

(e) Revoke or withdraw this delegation, authorisation, or any component of it at any time with respect to any or all delegates.

Transport for NSW

23 July 2025

RE: 2025 Authorisation and Delegation Instrument for councils

Dear General Manager,

I am pleased to enclose a copy of Transport's 2025 Authorisation and Delegation Instrument for Councils. Commencing on August 1, this will replace the existing 2011 Delegation to Councils and 2023 Temporary Delegation to Councils.

For several years now Transport has trialled increased devolution to local government to expedite the management and improvement of our streets. The potential for further devolution is a major theme of Local Government input into the current review of the Roads Act.

Many NSW Councils have used the Temporary Delegation to streamline delivery of routine works such as parking management and pedestrian safety improvements. Councils have also taken advantage of the ability to sub-delegate approval responsibilities to staff.

Following careful monitoring of the Temporary Delegation, Transport has developed the 2025 Authorisation and Delegation Instrument.

The 2025 Instrument further extends the scope for Councils to independently manage local streets. It implements a number of recommendations of the NSW Bus Industry Taskforce, including renaming Local Traffic Committees. These will become 'Local Transport Forums' to reflect the need to focus on all transport modes, especially bus services. Councils will have discretion to refer matters to their Local Transport Forum for advice, but this will be mandatory only for more significant proposals.

Transport recognises the diversity of NSW Councils. Those who wish to take advantage of the streamlined processes are welcome to do so, but this is not obligatory. Transport representatives will continue to attend Local Transport Forums and can provide advice on any matter. Please note, however, that Transport will no longer vote on proposals because Council is ultimately responsible for decisions taken on its network.

The 2025 Instrument is a significant reform, and Transport will support Councils in its implementation. Detailed Guides and online resources will be regularly updated, and we will continue to offer expertise and skills development for Council officers through forums such as the Active Transport Community of Practice.

For more information, please visit the Delegations and traffic committees web page. If you have any further questions, please contact delegated_works@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely,

Josh Murray
Secretary

231 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000
PO Box K659, Haymarket, NSW, 1240

(02) 8202 2200
transport.nsw.gov.au

Transport for NSW

A guide for councils using the Authorisation and Delegation Instrument

Prescribed Traffic Control Devices and Regulation of Traffic

July 2025

transport.nsw.gov.au

NSW GOVERNMENT

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Transport for NSW

Introduction

This guide is a reference for councils and others who use the 2025 Authorisation and Delegation Instrument. It is intended to promote a consistent understanding of what can be a complicated mix of legislation, regulation, and practice.

For simplicity, the *Authorisation and Delegation – Prescribed Traffic Control Devices and Regulation of Traffic* is referred to as 'the Instrument'.

This guide addresses the following questions:

- Why does Transport authorise and delegate?
- What powers are being authorised and delegated?
- Why would council use the Instrument?
- What are Local Transport Forums and how should they operate?
- What kinds of works need to be coordinated with Transport and others?

For the most up-to-date information and references, please refer to Transport's website.

Why does Transport authorise and delegate?

Councils manage most of the roads and streets on which the people of NSW live, work, and play. These streets perform many functions. They may be the quiet streets of a residential neighbourhood, busy corridors for the movement of goods and people, or the venues for events, commemorations, and celebrations.

Councils in NSW are well-placed to manage local roads, responding to the needs and aspirations of their community. By extending some of its own powers to councils, Transport enables councils to manage streets more efficiently.

The Instrument itself serves two purposes: It authorises councils to use the signs, markings, and devices that appear in the *Road Rules 2014* and are known as 'prescribed traffic control devices'; and it allows council to 'regulate traffic' on an unclassified road for purposes that go beyond roadwork, such as closing a road to allow an Anzac Day march.

It is important to note that councils already have powers to carry out road work and traffic control work, and to regulate traffic while doing so. The Instrument provides powers to use the most common 'prescribed' devices, but in many cases, council will not need to use it.

This version of the Instrument reinforces the principle that the functions of Transport delegated to councils by the Instrument may be exercised with wide discretion. It does not seek to limit council's powers under the *Roads Act 1993* on unclassified roads (for instance the ability to carry out traffic control work under s87), nor to second-guess decisions made by councils under authority or delegation. The focus of the Instrument is to facilitate coordination and knowledge sharing, while taking a risk-based approach to proposals and works that might affect road safety, public transport, or the operation of the classified road network.

Legal context

Please note that this section is not to be taken as legal advice. Users should seek their own legal advice.

The legal framework for the Instrument is found across the *Transport Administration Act 1988*, the *Roads Act 1993*, and the *Road Transport Act 2013*.

The ***Transport Administration Act 1988*** establishes Transport and sets out its broad functions across all legislation relating to the management of roads and traffic across NSW. It authorises Transport to delegate some of its functions to councils (and for councils to further sub-delegate).

This Act defines the term '*traffic control facility*' to includes all signs, markings, structures or devices that advise or warn a driver; all signs, markings, structures, or devices that compel a road user to do (or not do) something; and any bridge or underpass for pedestrian use. Refer to the

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Glossary for a full definition.

The ***Roads Act 1993*** sets out and divides responsibilities and road management functions between Transport and other roads authorities such as councils.

Part 6 of the Act provides that "*traffic control work*" – which is work involving a "*traffic control facility*" – may be carried out by Transport on any public road, transitway, and any road or road related area used by motor vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, or animals, and including road shoulders, nature strips, and other road adjacent areas (whether a public road or not).

An appropriate roads authority (usually council) may carry out those works on unclassified roads and all the other road related areas mentioned above, unless Transport has notified the roads authority that it intends to carry out works on that road or road related area (s87).

Part 8 of the Act provides Transport with a broad power to regulate traffic (i.e. restrict or prohibit passage along a road) for any purpose. Roads authorities may regulate traffic in a more limited set of defined circumstances – such as to give effect to traffic control work under Part 6 – or to give effect to some other function authorised or required by any legislation.

While councils have powers under s87 to carry out traffic control work, there are circumstances which arise commonly outside of that scope, and where the delegation to *regulate traffic* in the Instrument can assist councils.

Street markets or marches, for example, are not '*traffic control work*' or road work for which the *Roads Act 1993* ordinarily allows councils to regulate traffic. To regulate traffic for a purpose that isn't permitted by the defined circumstances in the Act (such as to open a road for a street parade, market, or similar), a council would need to apply to Transport for approval, advertise the proposal for 28 days, and forward any submissions to Transport before it may do so. By using the Instrument – and in doing so exercising Transport's power to regulate traffic for any purpose – no advertising or approval is necessary and only the conditions of use of the Instrument need to be followed.

The ***Road Transport Act 2013*** establishes and governs road transport law in NSW. While the *Roads Act 1993* allows for the building of traffic control facilities, signs, lines, structures etc., Part 5.3 of the *Road Transport Act 2013* requires that a person hold appropriate authority from Transport to install, display, interfere with, alter, or remove a '*prescribed traffic control device*'. Unauthorised use of a device is subject to penalties, and Transport may order the unauthorised device to be removed and recover any expenses in doing so.

Some traffic control facilities are not 'prescribed' and do not require the authorisation provided by the Instrument. Speed cushions are one example. However, many other works, such as installing a roundabout, will involve installing a '*prescribed traffic control device*' - which is a device that a road user must obey under the road rules – or they may be liable for a fine. All regulatory signage, and some markings, devices, and structures are '*prescribed traffic control devices*'. Refer to the Glossary for a full definition.

This Instrument provides councils with Transport's authorisation to use prescribed traffic control devices, subject to the stated conditions in Schedule 4.

Finally, the power to establish and operate special event parking schemes delegated through provision (c) of the Instrument arises from the *Road Transport (General) Regulation 2021*, which sits under the *Road Transport Act 2013*.

Understanding the Instrument

The Instrument is a single consolidated document that replaces the Delegation to Councils (issued in 2011) and Temporary Delegation to Councils No.2 (issued in 2023), which are now no longer in force. The Instrument can be summarised as follows.

Clause **(c)** delegates Transport's power to regulate traffic for any purpose, subject to Schedule 4.

Clause **(c)** also delegates the power to establish and operate a special event parking scheme, subject to Schedule 4.

Clause **(e)** provides authorisation in writing for the use of prescribed traffic control devices (regulatory signs, lines, markings, etc.), subject to Schedule 4.

Note: The authorisation given under clause (e) of the Instrument is referred to throughout Schedule

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4 as the 'prescribed traffic control device authorisation'. For clarity, the authorisation allows delegates to install, display, etc. those devices and extends to the engagement of third parties (such as developers, road construction contractors, etc.) to install and display any such devices as a consequence of a delegate's decision and approval under the Instrument.

Clause **(d)** enables councils to sub-delegate the functions and powers of the Instrument to their general manager or staff. Councils should set up their own instruments for this purpose to ensure the appropriate staff are carrying out functions lawfully.

Clause **(f)** provides consent for the temporary use of portable traffic control lights in accordance with Transport's Traffic Control at Work Sites Manual.

Clause **(g)** clarifies that non-compliance with any of the conditions and limitations in Schedule 4 means that the Instrument does not apply. In such a situation, any authority or delegation under the Instrument to exercise the function is taken not to have been given, and councils may be liable to the consequences of acting without authority or delegation.

The following subsections are structured and numbered in accordance with the conditions and limitations set out in Schedule 4 of the Instrument.

Where can council use the Instrument? *(Condition 1)*

Condition 1: Scope of Authorisation and Delegation

A delegate must not exercise a function listed in Schedule 1 of this Instrument and may not use the prescribed traffic control device authorisation:

(a) outside its local government area as constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993*;

(b) on a road or part of a road classified under the *Roads Act 1993* as a Freeway, Controlled Access Road, Tollway, or Transitway; or

(c) on any road identified with the 'Administrative Category' of 'State' in the '*Schedule of Classified Roads and Unclassified Regional Roads*' (as published and amended from time to time by Transport for NSW), except with the consent of Transport for NSW.

Councils may only perform functions under the Instrument in their own local government area and generally on unclassified roads (often referred to as 'local' roads). Note that in some cases (e.g. some light rail or bus corridors) classification may vary across the road or across different levels of the road.

Further, the roads listed in (b) above aside, the classified roads on which councils are not permitted to use the Instrument are those that have been administratively classified as 'State Roads' – which may not necessarily be all classified roads. Road classification may be confusing due to the use of both statutory classifications (under the *Roads Act 1993*) and administrative classifications. Statutory classifications define the status of roads for the purposes of the *Roads Act 1993*, while administrative classifications set out "who is responsible for the road" for the purpose of operational management, including where the NSW Government takes over the responsibility and funding of more significant roads (i.e. 'State Roads').

The Schedule of Classified Roads and Unclassified Regional Roads is available online, as is a comprehensive map of NSW road network classification.

The Instrument may only be used by councils on State Roads if *written consent* from Transport has been obtained. The Local Transport Forum may be the appropriate starting point for such consent to be obtained – the Transport representative on the Local Transport Forum may act as a point of contact for consent to be sought. It must be noted however that Transport consent in this situation is required from Transport itself – not from Local Transport Forum. The Local Transport Forum may still review the proposal, but formal Transport consent is a prerequisite before council can use this Instrument on State Roads.

Traffic signals

Under section 87 of the *Roads Act 1993*, the construction, erection, installation, maintenance, repair, removal, or replacement of a traffic control light may not be carried out otherwise than by or

with the consent of Transport. The Instrument does not provide that consent except in relation to portable traffic control lights (see clause [f]).

When using the Instrument, councils should engage with Transport – either directly or via the Local Transport Forum – in advance of undertaking any works that are likely to affect the operation of a traffic signal.

Prior engagement with Transport will ensure that unintended negative consequences for traffic signal operations are avoided.

How does the Local Transport Forum work? *(Condition 2)*

Condition 2: Local Transport Forum

(a) A delegate must convene a Local Transport Forum to which a representative from each of the following is invited to attend:

  (i) the delegate

  (ii) Transport for NSW

  (iii) NSW Police Force

  (iv) The local Member(s) of Parliament

  (v) The operator of any public passenger service likely to be affected by traffic control work proposed by the delegate

(b) A delegate may invite any other person to attend the Local Transport Forum.

(c) A delegate may seek technical advice from the Local Transport Forum regardless of whether this Instrument is being used.

(d) The Local Transport Forum is to provide advice to the delegate on any matter put before it for advice.

(e) A delegate must consider any advice provided by the Local Transport Forum.

One of the longstanding conditions of Transport's delegation of powers is that local roads authorities convene a body where proposals can be discussed, reviewed, and coordinated. This guide explains how Local Transport Forums (previously known as Local Traffic Committees) should operate and sets out the proposals they may or must consider.

The Local Transport Forum replaces the Local Traffic Committee. The change of name reflects its function and focus as an advisory body dedicated to technical advice, information sharing, and coordination on matters related to transportation, movement, and accessibility. It is not an approval body, nor does it make decisions.

The Local Transport Forum is not a committee as defined and understood in the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Function and responsibilities

Functions of the Local Transport Forum include:

- collaboration between agencies involved in transport management
- advice on street design, infrastructure, and traffic control facilities
- coordination of planned events and activities
- advice and information sharing on transport plans, policy, and management
- ensuring a public record of decisions relating to roads and streets

There is no voting at the Local Transport Forum, as councils are exclusively responsible for decisions they take on their roads. Members and attendees are to provide advice in good faith, share information, and coordinate activities and plans. Council is obliged to consider any advice provided by the Local Transport Forum, but any decisions – and the exercise of an authorised or

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delegated function itself – are the sole responsibility of council regardless of the advice of the Local Transport Forum.

Membership

The Local Transport Forum is convened by council. Council's role is that of both *proponent* and *decision-maker.* Council is the representative for all community interests (residents, businesses, etc.) and responsible for all road users – including public transport – and road safety.

There are three further mandatory invitees to every meeting of the Local Transport Forum:

- Transport for NSW

  responsible for collaborative coordination and provision of advice regarding state-level interests (public transport, operation of state road network operation and safety, guidance and standards, etc.)

- NSW Police Force

  responsible for provision of advice related to Police expertise, such as public safety, event management, highway patrol, enforcement, etc.

- the local Member(s) of NSW Parliament

  responsible for provision of advice regarding community interests (residents, businesses, etc.)

It is also mandatory to invite the operator of any public passenger service likely to be affected by a proposal to carry out traffic control work to any meeting where that proposal is being reviewed. Most commonly, this will be local bus operators. Depending on local context and service density, it may be beneficial for councils to issue a standing invitation to public passenger service operators in their area. It is the responsibility of the relevant operator to attend and/or to return feedback to council if otherwise unable to attend. Failure to do so when appropriately invited does not prevent council from proceeding with a proposal.

Multiple representatives may be invited where proposals affect more than one state electorate or Police Area Command. Council is also encouraged to invite any other person who may add technical expertise and value to the Local Transport Forum. Examples include – but are not limited to – road safety practitioners, urban designers, planners, local advocacy groups (such as those for mobility-impaired residents, cyclists, pedestrians, etc.), representatives from Local Health Districts or schools, and other subject matter experts as relevant.

A quorum for a meeting of the Local Transport Forum is one representative in attendance from each of council and Transport.

Administration

The Local Transport Forum is administered by council, which may decide the frequency and format of meetings.

Attendees must be:

- provided with the meeting agenda at least seven (7) calendar days in advance of the meeting (unless otherwise agreed by members)
- afforded the opportunity to review meeting minutes prior to finalisation
- be provided with a copy of the finalised meeting minutes

The meeting agenda must:

- include sufficient information to review any proposals or items submitted for advice
- clearly distinguish between items referred for advice, tabled for-information-only, and raised for general discussion

The meeting minutes must clearly record:

- invitees and attendance
- items discussed
- key advice provided

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- any for-information-only records or reports tabled

Referring proposals for advice *(Condition 3)*

Condition 3: Mandatory prior referral of some proposals

(a) A delegate must refer to the Local Transport Forum any proposal to exercise a function listed in Schedule 1 of this Instrument or to use the prescribed traffic control device authorisation where that proposal would:

for a period exceeding **6 months**:

(i) restrict or prohibit passage along a road of any persons, vehicles, or animals; or

(ii) compel or prevent a turn from one public road to another public road;

or

for a period exceeding **24 hours**:

(iii) prevent, impede, or hinder the safe or efficient operation of a public passenger service; or

(iv) prevent access to a public transport station, stop, wharf, or service; or

(v) remove or render less effective any bus priority measure.

(b) Following consideration of advice provided by the Local Transport Forum, the delegate may proceed with the proposal unless the Transport for NSW representative advises the meeting of the Local Transport Forum that Transport for NSW will be submitting a Statement of Concern within seven (7) days.

(c) If a Statement of Concern has been provided to the delegate in accordance with clause (b) above, the delegate may not exercise the relevant function until a further seven (7) days after it has circulated to the members of the Local Transport Forum a written response addressing the Statement of Concern and the delegate's reasons for proceeding to exercise the function.

Conditions 3(a)(i-ii) of the Instrument are intended to capture proposals that '*regulate traffic*' as defined in the *Roads Act 1993*. Aside from interfering with the common law right of passage on a public road, proposals that regulate traffic may create challenging outcomes – both positive and negative – and must be referred to the Local Transport Forum for coordination, input, and advice.

NOTE

'***Regulate traffic***' is a technical term that is formally defined in the *Roads Act 1993*. It means "*restrict or prohibit the passage along a road of persons, vehicles, or animals*". If a proposal does not prohibit or restrict passage, it is not regulation of traffic.

For the purposes of the Instrument, 'restrict passage' should be understood to mean a partial constraint that does not constitute prohibition or prevention of passage (such as passage only during particular times or for particular purposes). Most commonly, this is by way of compelling or preventing a turn by road users from one public road to another public road (where passage along the road is retained but can only be undertaken if approached/accessed in a specific way, or at a specific time).

For clarity, works that may affect vehicle speed or road capacity (e.g. speed cushions, roundabouts, reductions in road lanes, changes to parking controls, etc.) do not constitute restrictions or prohibitions on passage and are not regulation of traffic.

Given the critical importance of public transport in NSW, conditions 3(a)(iii-v) apply the same obligation of mandatory prior referral to the Local Transport Forum to any proposals that have the potential to negatively affect the operations of public passenger services. Please note that there are some existing legislative protections (such as s144B of the *Roads Act 1993*) for other parts of the broader rail and transport network which also must be complied with.

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The following table provides examples of different types of common works and proposals to aid practitioners in understanding what must be referred to the Local Transport Forum in advance of implementation. Further information can be found on Transport's website.

Examples
1. Council develops a traffic calming proposal for a residential neighbourhood that would prevent left turns into some side streets. The proposal uses physical changes and No Left Turn signs. This is a restriction on passage along those roads. It **must be referred** to the LTF prior to implementation.
2. Council proposes to install a roundabout at a four-way intersection with speed cushions on approach to improve road safety. All turn movements are maintained and reducing vehicle speed does not constitute a restriction on passage, so prior referral to the LTF is **optional** at the discretion of council.
3. Council proposes to trial preventing motor vehicle access along a side street every weekday during lunch hours to provide space for tables and chairs for local restaurants. The proposal prohibits passage of vehicles along the road and thus 'regulates traffic', but the trial is only for 6 months, so prior referral to the LTF is **optional** at the discretion of council.
4. Council proposes to install a series of kerb islands with street trees in the kerbside lane to beautify a local shopping area. Changes to parking arrangements – including adjustments to permissive parking times and No Stopping zones – are also implemented. Parking is reduced but the changes do not restrict or prohibit passage along the road. Prior referral to the LTF is **optional** at the discretion of council.
5. Council is working with a private event organiser planning an on-street charity running event. The event will require preventing motor vehicle access along a number of different roads through town – including the main street on which a bus service operates. Prohibiting passage of vehicles along the roads is regulation of traffic, and there is a direct negative effect on operations of the bus service, but traffic controls are in place for less than 24 hours, so prior referral to the LTF is **optional** at the discretion of council. Council is, however, obliged to consult with the operator of the bus service at least 7 days' prior.
6. Council is hosting a food & drink festival along the main street of town that will involve preventing motor vehicle access for 3 days. The proposal prohibits passage of vehicles along the roads and thus 'regulates traffic'. It will also prevent access to bus stops and efficient operation of bus services. The traffic regulation is in place for less than 6 months, but the effects on public transport operations last for more than 24 hours. As a result, it **must be referred** to the LTF prior to implementation.
7. Council proposes to ban trucks and buses from using a side street to reach an industrial estate. This is a prohibition of passage. It **must be referred** to the LTF prior to implementation.
8. Council proposes to enable contra-flow movement for bicycles on an existing one-way road. The proposal includes narrowing of the carriageway and shifting of kerbside parking to enable installation of concrete kerbing to create a separated bicycle lane and improve safety. The proposal does not restrict or prohibit passage along the road. Prior referral to the LTF is **optional** at the discretion of council.
9. Council proposes to install a central median that compels left turns when entering from side streets. This is a restriction on passage. It **must be referred** to the LTF prior to implementation.
10. Council proposes a safety and amenity-focused revitalisation of a local high street. The design involves footpath widening and the installation of kerb blisters and raised pedestrian crossings. There will be some loss of parking and a reduction in the road carriageway width from 4 lanes to 2-3. None of these changes – including the reduction in lanes/road capacity for motor vehicles – constitute 'regulation of traffic' because they do not restrict or prohibit

passage along the road. Prior referral to the LTF is **optional** at the discretion of council.

Temporary regulation of traffic and events

The Instrument now allows some temporary 'regulation of traffic' to be undertaken without prior referral to the Local Transport Forum. This could be a brief closure for a street party or small event, or longer duration changes such as making a street one-way or 'closing' it at one end.

Council may use the Instrument to hold events on the public road that require the 'regulation of traffic', such as an Anzac Day event or a local market. Where public events or activities are held, it is a condition of the Instrument that NSW Police and Transport are given seven days' notice. (This is consistent with the notification requirement in s166 of the *Liquor Act 2007*).

Councils may wish to trial changes to the roads in their community – reducing the need for expensive modelling, allowing solutions to be trialled and modified, and ensuring the community and road users understand proposed permanent changes. The Instrument authorises councils to regulate traffic for up to six months without mandatory prior referral to the Local Transport Forum. (Should such a change be successful, it must be referred to the LTF if the intention is to continue beyond six months).

To safeguard public transport, the six-month period is reduced to 24 hours where a proposal prevents or hinders safe or efficient operation of a bus service, prevents access to a public transport stop, or removes or renders less effective any bus priority measure (refer to condition 3[a][iii-v]).

Alternatively, for select events or activities, councils can forgo the Instrument and the Local Transport Forum and use their existing legal powers under s115(2)(f) of the *Roads Act 1993* where a permit has been issued under s144 for a 'road event', including:

- Filming projects (as set out in the *Local Government Act 1993)*
- Neighbourhood activities (as defined in the *Roads Regulation 2018*)
- Speed contests (such as a race – Police approvals under other legislation will be required)

Section 166 of the *Liquor Act 2007* also allows regulation of traffic for events, performance space, and dining without using the Instrument and without referral to the Local Transport Forum.

NOTE

The *Roads Act 1993* uses the term 'regulation of traffic' to refer to restrictions or prohibitions on passage – what most people call a 'road closure'. This is *not* the same thing as 'closing a road' under Part 4 of the *Roads Act 1993*, which is the process of *extinguishing* a road to allow it to be sold or amalgamated. Councils don't need to use the lengthy Part 4 process for everyday changes to their local roads, such as closures to keep through-traffic of quieter streets.

Assessing the impacts of proposals

Members of the Local Transport Forum must have sufficient information to reasonably assess proposals and provide informed advice.

Councils should consider the potential effects of any change on amenity, safety, and access across the broader network for all road users and should make the assessment available to the Local Transport Forum. Professional judgement or other appropriate methods may be used to do this – taking into account considerations such as local conditions, scale, and whether the proposal is temporary, permanent, or a trial. A formal traffic model or plan may be used where appropriate but is not required.

Testing and trialling temporary changes is an increasingly common method to assess both network impacts and community sentiment and has proven effective in local area traffic management schemes, active transport projects, placemaking, and urban revitalisation initiatives. It may be preferable to take this approach in many situations. Guidance is contained in Appendix A.5 of the NSW Design of Roads and Streets Manual.

For proposals to regulate traffic, councils must provide the Local Transport Forum with:

- Sufficient detail to allow members to understand and assess the proposal

- If applicable (as required by condition 5), details of consultation with affected public passenger service operators undertaken outside of the Local Transport Forum

Statements of Concern

When a proposal is discussed at the Local Transport Forum, any attendee may provide feedback and suggestions on design, technical aspects, general policy, or planning considerations. Members should seek to resolve any concerns or uncertainties during this discussion.

For proposals for which prior referral to the Local Transport Forum is mandatory and where Transport continues to hold concerns following discussion, Transport may indicate that it intends to file, within seven days, a formal Statement of Concern. Other members may express views and raise issues, which Transport will consider, but the Statement of Concern itself may only be filed by Transport.

A Statement of Concern details Transport's concerns, reasoning, and any request(s) for mitigation(s) or alternative action(s). It might relate to an entire proposal or to a specific aspect of its design or location. It must be submitted within seven (7) calendar days, during which time council is not delegated or authorised to implement the proposal. If no Statement of Concern is issued during this time– perhaps due to further discussion and resolution by the parties – council may proceed.

Once received, council must consider the issue(s) raised in a Statement and circulate a written response to all Forum members. It must address the issue(s) raised and either (a) detail the amendments proposed in response or (b) set out council's reasons for proceeding without amendment. Seven (7) calendar days after issuing its response, council may proceed with the proposal.

A Statement of Concern does not oblige council to change or withdraw a proposal, but it does place both Transport's comments and council's response on the public record, which is particularly important where safety concerns are noted. It also provides a time window for further discussion and escalation of significant issues.

Refer to the Appendix for a flowchart that includes the steps associated with a Statement of Concern.

The Statement of Concern process only applies to those proposals for which prior referral to the Local Transport Forum is mandatory. Records tabled for-information-only and proposals referred to the Local Transport Forum at the discretion of council are not subject to the Statement of Concern process. Concerns relating to those matters may be resolved through discussion.

Keeping records *(Condition 4)*

Condition 4: Keeping of records

(a) The proceedings of the Local Transport Forum must be recorded and made public as soon as practicable.

(b) A post facto record of any use of the prescribed traffic control device authorisation (excluding any instance that has already been the subject of prior referral per condition 3) must be tabled at the Local Transport Forum as soon as practicable and no later than three (3) months after the fact.

Proceedings of the Local Transport Forum must be made publicly available online in an easily accessible manner as soon as practicable and must include:

- meeting agenda
- meeting minutes
- any formal records of use of the prescribed traffic control device authorisation (including those circulated to members out-of-session)
- the entirety of any Statements of Concern submitted by Transport for NSW under condition 3 of Schedule 4 of the Instrument
- the entirety of any council response to a Statement of Concern under condition 3 of Schedule 4 of the Instrument

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Additional information may be included at the discretion of council.

For the purposes of condition 4(b) of Schedule 4 of the Instrument, a post facto record of any use of the prescribed traffic control device authorisation must include:

- type
- specific location
- date

Additional information may be included at the discretion of council.

Where a meeting of the Local Transport Forum is not scheduled to be held within three (3) months, a record of use of the prescribed traffic control device authorisation must be circulated directly to all members of the Local Transport Forum. The record must be made publicly available online and forms part of the records of the Forum, even if it has not met.

Coordination with Transport, public transport operators, and Police *(Condition 5)*

Condition 5: Coordination

(a) A delegate must consult any public passenger service operator – either directly or via the Local Transport Forum – before exercising any function listed in Schedule 1 of this Instrument or using the prescribed traffic control device authorisation where it is likely to affect the operation of a public passenger service provided by that operator.

(b) Details of such consultation undertaken outside of the Local Transport Forum must be tabled at the Local Transport Forum as soon as practicable.

(c) A delegate must give not less than seven (7) days' notice to NSW Police and Transport for NSW – either directly or via the Local Transport Forum – before regulating traffic under this Instrument for the purposes of a public event.

The requirement for consultation in condition 5(a) applies to any function listed in Schedule 1 of this Instrument or use of the prescribed traffic control device authorisation likely to affect the operation of a public passenger service (note: while this may commonly be buses, it applies to any public passenger service, including rail, light rail, metro, and ferry). Practitioners must use professional judgement and take advice as to whether a proposal is likely to affect a public passenger service.

At bus stops, considerations may include whether adequate draw-in and pull-out length is preserved, or whether the design of the kerbside environment ensures ramps can be fully deployed for mobility impaired passengers. On-street designs should ensure turning paths are clear, hazardous merges are not required by drivers, bus priority is maintained or improved, and traffic calming devices are appropriately designed for bus operation.

Engagement with operators may be undertaken directly or through the Local Transport Forum. When undertaken directly, sufficient detail must be given to the operator to allow reasonable assessment of any proposal, and at least seven (7) calendar days should be allowed for feedback before council proceeds. Details of any direct consultation undertaken outside of the Local Transport Forum must be tabled as a record at the Local Transport Forum as soon as practicable.

It is the responsibility of the operator to return feedback to council. Failure to comment when invited to do so does not prevent council from proceeding.

Regular bus services may be identified through Transport's online Bus Route Map or on advice of Transport. Design references such as the Bus Priority Toolbox are available through the NSW Design of Roads and Streets Manual.

References *(Condition 6)*

Condition 6: References

(a) A delegate must use the NSW Design of Roads and Streets Manual (TS 00066, as amended from time to time) as a primary reference when exercising a function listed in Schedule 1 of this Instrument or using the prescribed traffic control device authorisation.

(b) Use of a portable traffic control light or R4-212n roadwork speed limit sign under this Instrument must be in accordance with the Transport for NSW Traffic Control at Work Sites Manual (TS 05492, as amended from time to time).

The NSW Design of Roads and Streets Manual (DORAS) is a valuable reference for design, engineering, and planning practitioners. It offers guidance on network planning, understanding street and road environments, identifying issues and design solutions, typical design parameters, and application of the Safe Systems approach.

DORAS provides extensive and convenient references to applicable guidance, manuals, technical standards, and policy documents. It recognises that that no two contexts and street environments are the same and offers guidance for councils that may wish to adopt local street design guides to reflect local aspirations and conditions.

DORAS provides references and links to many other adopted Transport Standards where relevant, such as the NSW Supplement to AS 1742 Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, the NSW Supplement to Austroads Guide to Road Design, Delineation and Pavement Marking, the Cycleway Design Toolbox, and the Pedestrian Crossing Guideline. The Transport Standards Portal can be used to access these tools. DORAS also provides references to scores of other resources available to practitioners from legislation to examples of international best practice.

DORAS must be used as a primary reference for practitioners using the Instrument.

Transport's reserve powers *(Condition 7)*

Condition 7: Preservation of head of power

Notwithstanding this Instrument, Transport for NSW reserves all and any rights and powers, including to:

(a) Direct a public authority under clause 8I of Schedule 1 of the *Transport Administration Act 1988*, or alter or remove, or direct the alteration or removal of any prescribed traffic control device, under Part 5.3, Division 2 of the *Road Transport Act 2013;* and

(b) Carry out road work in accordance with Part 6 of the *Roads Act 1993;* and

(c) Carry out traffic control work on any public road, including exclusive power to carry out or consent to the construction, erection, installation, maintenance, repair, removal or replacement of a traffic control light in accordance with section 87 of the *Roads Act 1993;* and

(d) Regulate traffic under Part 8 of the *Roads Act 1993.*

(e) Revoke or withdraw this delegation, authorisation, or any component of it at any time with respect to any or all delegates.

The Instrument does not affect Transport's (nor council's) rights and powers under legislation.

Council continues to have powers to undertake road work under s71 of the *Roads Act 1993,* to undertake traffic control work on unclassified roads under s87 of the *Roads Act 1993*, and to regulate traffic under s115 to complete those works. Transport retains the power to carry out traffic control work on any road, and to regulate traffic for any purpose.

In cases where, despite best efforts, Transport and council cannot agree on a proposed course of action, options for Transport or the Minister for Roads to issue a direction to a roads authority or public authority under legislation are not affected by this Instrument.

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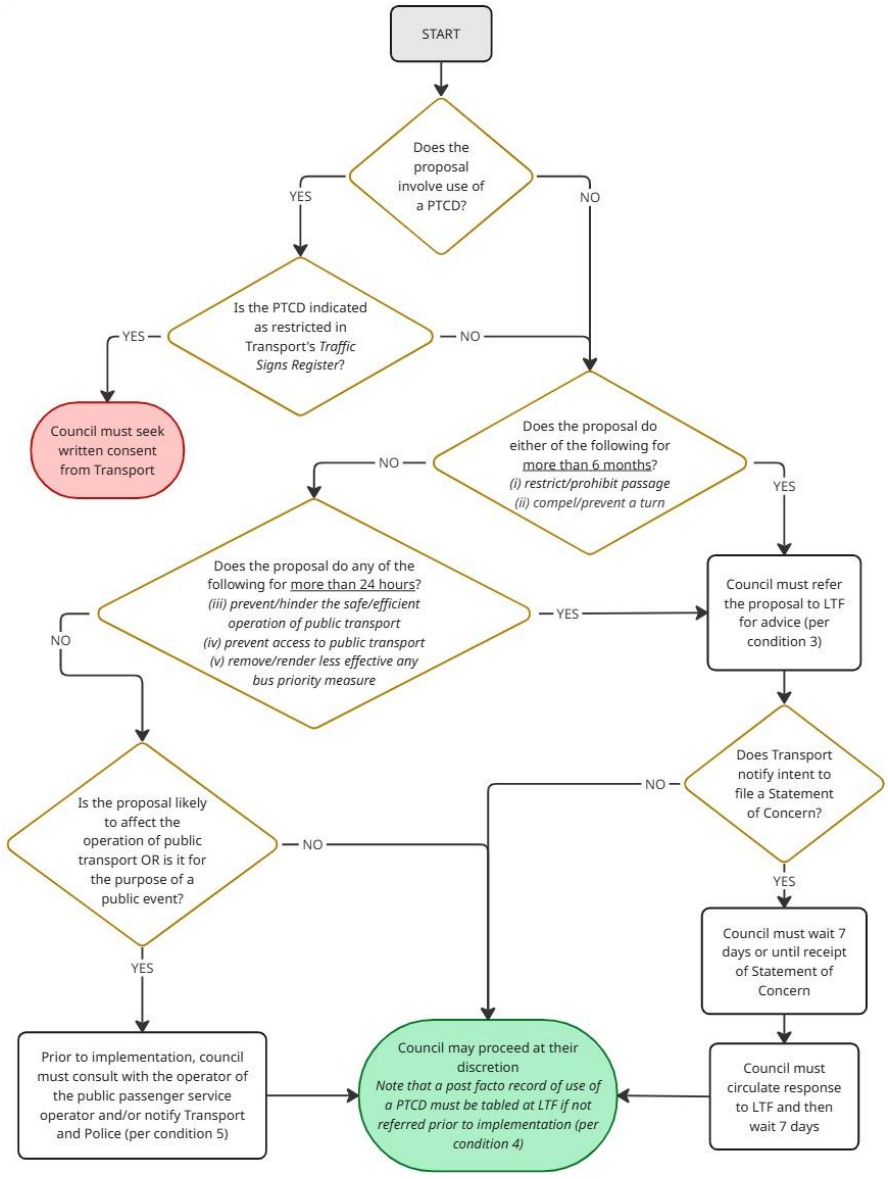
Appendix

Exercising an authorised or delegated function

The following process applies to any function exercised using the Instrument. It assumes that the proposed function is otherwise eligible and compliant with Schedule 4.



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Glossary

'Authorisation and Delegation Instrument' or 'Instrument'	Abbreviated reference to '*Authorisation and Delegation – Prescribed Traffic Control Devices and Regulation of Traffic*'; the instrument that is the subject of this guide.
the/this guide	Abbreviated reference to this document; 'Guide to Authorisation and Delegation – Prescribed Traffic Control Devices and Regulation of Traffic'.
DORAS	Abbreviated reference to the NSW Design of Roads and Streets Manual (TS 00066).
local road	Abbreviated reference to the portion of NSW's road network that is: • within the local government area of the relevant council; and • not classified as a Freeway, Controlled Access Road, Tollway, or Transitway; and • not identified with the 'Administrative Category' of 'State' in the 'Schedule of Classified Roads and Unclassified Regional Roads' (as published and amended from time to time by Transport for NSW)
LTF	Abbreviated reference to the Local Transport Forum.
'meeting' of the Local Transport Forum	Reference to a session of the Local Transport Forum. Meetings can be held physically, digitally, or via correspondence.
portable traffic control light	Approved traffic signals that are transportable and not permanently installed. For the purposes of the Authorisation and Delegation Instrument, 'portable traffic control light' is understood and used as per 'portable traffic signal' in Transport's Traffic Control at Work Sites Technical Manual (TS 05492, as amended from time to time).
prescribed traffic control device	A sign, signal, marking, structure, or other device to direct or warn traffic on a road (or part of a road) that is prescribed by the statutory rules of the *Road Transport Act 2013* for the purposes of this definition. Refer to the *Road Transport Act 2013*. For the purposes of this definition, the *Road Transport (General) Regulation 2021* prescribes traffic control devices of a kind mentioned in the *Road Rules 2014*. Examples of a prescribed traffic control device:

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	  *NOTE: 'Prescribed traffic control device' is commonly confused with 'traffic control device' or 'traffic control facility'.* *'Prescribed traffic control device' is the term which relates to the regulatory signs, signals, markings, etc. of which contravention is an offence. It is 'prescribed traffic control devices' that are the subject of provision (e) of the Instrument (the 'prescribed traffic control device authorisation').*
prescribed traffic control device authorisation	Abbreviated reference to the authorisation issued through provision (e) of the Authorisation and Delegation Instrument.
proposal	Abbreviated reference to the intended exercise by council of a function enabled by the Authorisation and Delegation Instrument.
PTCD	Abbreviated reference to 'prescribed traffic control device'.
public event	For the purposes of the Authorisation and Delegation Instrument, 'public event' means any market, gathering, performance, festival, march, celebration, commemoration, or similar held on a road, whether organised by a delegate or another party, and open to the public to attend.
public passenger service	The transport, by a motor vehicle, vessel, aircraft, train, or other vehicle prescribed by the regulations of the *Passenger Transport Act 2014* for the purposes of this definition, of passengers within, or partly within, New South Wales for a fare. Refer to the *Passenger Transport Act 2014*. For the purposes of the Authorisation and Delegation Instrument; • A passenger service under the *Point to Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicles) Act 2016* is excluded • A passenger service that operates without collection of a fare is included
regular bus service	As identified on Transport's online Bus Route Map or on advice of Transport.
regulate traffic	To restrict or prohibit the passage along a road of persons, vehicles, or animals. Refer to the *Roads Act 1993*.
restrict or prohibit passage	For the purposes of the Authorisation and Delegation Instrument: • '*Restrict*' means a partial constraint, such as passage only during particular times or for particular purposes (e.g. 'local access only') • '*Prohibit*' means to bar or prevent passage, such as a mid-block

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	traffic filter For clarity, compelling or preventing a turn from one public road to another is a restriction on passage. A reduction in vehicle speed or road capacity does not constitute a restriction on passage.
road and road related area	A road is an area that is open to or used by the public and is developed for, or has as one of its main uses, the driving or riding of motor vehicles. Refer to the *Road Rules 2014*. A road related area is any of the following: • an area that divides a road • a footpath or nature strip adjacent to a road • an area that is not a road and that is open to the public and designated for use by cyclists or animals • an area that is not a road and that is open to or used by the public for driving, riding, or parking vehicles Refer to the *Road Rules 2014*.
road event	Means a speed contest or such other activity as may be prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition. Refer to the *Roads Act 1993*. For the purposes of this definition, the *Roads Regulation 2018* also prescribes filming projects within the meaning of the *Local Government Act 1993* and neighbourhood activities as defined in s79.
road work	Includes any kind of work, building or structure (such as a roadway, footway, bridge, tunnel, road-ferry, rest area, transitway station or service centre or rail infrastructure) that is constructed, installed or relocated on or in the vicinity of a road for the purpose of facilitating the use of the road as a road, the regulation of traffic on the road or the carriage of utility services across the road, but does not include a traffic control facility. Refer to the *Roads Act 1993*. To ***carry out road work*** includes to carry out any activity in connection with the construction, erection, installation, maintenance, repair, removal or replacement of a road work. Refer to the *Roads Act 1993*.
roads authority	A person or body that is, by or under the *Roads Act 1993*, declared to be a roads authority and, in relation to a particular public road, means the roads authority for that road. Refer to the *Roads Act 1993*.
special event parking scheme	Where the whole, or a part of, a road has been set aside as a special event parking area. Refer to the *Road Transport (General) Regulation 2021*. A special event parking area is the network of roads in an area with — (a) a special event parking area sign on each road into the area, and (b) an end special event parking area sign on each road out of the area. Refer to the *Road Rules 2014.*
traffic control device	A traffic sign, road marking, traffic signals, or other device, to direct or warn traffic on, entering, or leaving a road. Refer to the *Road Rules 2014*.

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	Examples of a traffic control device:   *NOTE: 'Traffic control device' is commonly confused with 'traffic control facility' or 'prescribed traffic control device'.* *'Prescribed traffic control device' is the term which relates to the regulatory signs, signals, markings, etc. of which contravention is an offence. It is 'prescribed traffic control devices' that are the subject of provision (e) of the Instrument (the 'prescribed traffic control device authorisation). 'Traffic control devices' may already be installed and used by councils without relying on the Instrument.*
traffic control facility	Means— (a) traffic control lights on roads or road related areas, and equipment used in connection with traffic control lights, or (b) any sign, marking, structure or device containing or relating to a requirement or direction, contravention of which is an offence arising under— (i) this Act or the regulations, or (ii) any other Act, regulation or by-law prescribed for the purposes of this subparagraph, or (c) any other sign, marking, structure or device that is intended to promote safe or orderly traffic movement on roads or road related areas or to warn, advise or inform the drivers of vehicles, or pedestrians, of any matter or thing in relation to vehicular or pedestrian traffic or road conditions or hazards, or (d) any bridge or subway or other facility for use by pedestrians over, across, under or alongside a road or road related area, or (e) any other thing prescribed as a traffic control facility by the regulations. Refer to the *Transport Administration Act 1988*. For the purposes of (b)(ii) above, the *Transport Administration (General) Regulation 2018* prescribes the road transport legislation within the meaning of the *Road Transport Act 2013,* which includes the *Road Rules 2014*. *NOTE: 'Traffic control facility' is commonly confused with 'traffic control device' or 'prescribed traffic control device'.* *'Prescribed traffic control device' is the term which relates to the regulatory signs, signals, markings, etc. of which contravention is an offence. It is 'prescribed traffic control devices' that are the subject of provision (e) of the Instrument (the 'prescribed traffic control device authorisation).*
traffic control light	For the purposes of the Authorisation and Delegation Instrument, 'traffic control light' is understood and used as per 'traffic signal' in the *Road Rules 2014*.

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traffic control work	Includes any activity in connection with the construction, erection, installation, maintenance, repair, removal or replacement of a traffic control facility. Refer to the *Roads Act 1993*.
traffic signal	Bicycle crossing lights, B lights, overhead lane control signals, pedestrian lights, T lights, traffic arrows, traffic lights, or twin red or yellow lights. Refer to the *Road Rules 2014*.
Transport	Abbreviated reference to 'Transport for New South Wales'.



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NSW GOVERNMENT

OFFICIAL

INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION AND AUTHORISATION

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND PEDESTRIAN WORKS
TEMPORARY DELEGATION TO COUNCILS
Roads Act 1993
Road Transport Act 2013

On behalf of Transport for NSW, I, Rob Sharp, Secretary of the Department of Transport:

a) **DELEGATE** under section 3I(1) of the *Transport Administration Act 1988* (the 'Act') and all other enabling powers, the functions set out in **Schedule 1** to the councils set out in **Schedule 2**, and

b) **AUTHORISE** those delegates, under section 3I(2) of the Act, to sub-delegate the functions set out in **Schedule 1** to the persons set out in **Schedule 3**,

subject to the conditions set out in **Schedule 4**.

A failure to comply with the conditions set out in **Schedule 4** renders the delegation inoperative with respect to the works being undertaken.

In addition, I **AUTHORISE** under section 122(b) of the *Road Transport Act 2013*, the councils set out in **Schedule 2,** to install or display (or interfere with, alter or remove) any prescribed traffic control device as set out in the TfNSW "*Traffic Signs Database*" and indicated as "*Delegated to Council for Authorisation – Yes*", required to give effect to this delegation, including any portable traffic control lights, but NOT any internally illuminated traffic control device.

This delegation and authorisation commences on the date it is made and will continue in force until 30 June 2026 unless revoked earlier.

Rob Sharp
Secretary
Department of Transport

Date: 24 February 2023

SCHEDULE 1 - FUNCTIONS

The functions and powers of Transport for NSW under section 115(2) of the *Roads Act 1993* to regulate traffic on a public road for purposes other than those set out in section 115(3), being the following types of pedestrian works:

- Works to enable alfresco dining on a road (where there is no change to the number of continuous travel lanes)
- Continuous footpaths
- Converting existing pedestrian (zebra) crossings to raised pedestrian ('wombat') crossings
- Mid-block treatments to manage vehicle speed including road humps, road cushions, chicanes and slow points
- Pedestrian crossings
- Pedestrian refuges
- No Stopping controls at intersections
- Kerb buildouts to reduce intersection crossing distance or manage vehicle speed (where there is no change to the number of continuous travel lanes)
- Kerb modifications for footpath improvements or tree planting (where there is no change to the number of continuous travel lanes)
- Associated changes to kerbside parking necessary to implement the proposal and to offset any parking impacts.

SCHEDULE 2 - DELEGATES

A council constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

SCHEDULE 3 – SUB-DELEGATES

The general manager of a council, or an employee of the council.

SCHEDULE 4 - CONDITIONS

1. A delegate or its sub-delegates may only exercise the functions in schedule 1:

   (a) On public roads within the local government area under the *Local Government Act 1993* for which the delegate is the roads authority;
   (b) On unclassified roads with a speed limit of 50km/h or less;
   (c) Not on or within 50 metres of a directly adjacent road on which a regular light rail service operates;
   (d) Not on a road or intersection, or within 10 metres of a road or intersection, on or through which a regular bus service operates;
   (e) Not within 100 metres of traffic lights; and
   (f) Not on a road to which a clearway applies.

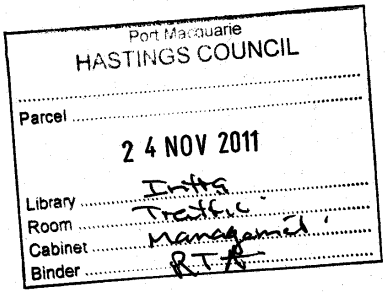
2. Delegates must use any relevant Transport for NSW established standards, specifications and Technical Directions, and the relevant Austroads guidelines and Australian Standards when designing and implementing the selected pedestrian works. Any novel designs or works where there are no established standards, technical directions or guidelines are to be dealt with under existing processes and are not subject to this delegation.

3. Delegates must submit a record of the works undertaken to TfNSW and NSW Police for information and reporting purposes. In the case of a new pedestrian crossing the record of works must include a copy of a road safety audit.

24-11- 11 028

I

Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services



The General Manager
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
PO Box 84
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444

Dear Sir

Re: New Delegation to Councils – Regulation of Traffic

As you would be aware, the Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA) was replaced by Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) on 1st November 2011. This change has necessitated the issuing of a new Delegation to council to regulate traffic.

Attached is the Roads and Maritime Services Delegation to your council which allows council to regulate traffic, as set out in the document, on Local and Regional Roads within its area of operations.

While this new delegation replaces the previous RTA document, it remains unchanged in practical terms. Some important aspects of the Delegation continue to be:

- Council's requirement to obtain the advice of the NSW Police, Roads and Maritime Services and the local State Member of Parliament prior to exercising their Delegated powers. This is usually carried out through a Local Traffic Committee.
- The ability for Council to sub-delegate approval powers, thus streamlining the process.
- The requirement of council to approve not only the installation but also the removal of devices covered by the Delegation.

Further, as all RTA traffic related documents which were current on 1st November 2011 still apply until they have either been replaced by a Roads and Maritime Services document or superseded, the RTA document *A Guide to the Delegation to Councils for the Regulation of Traffic (including the operation of Traffic Committees)* remains the primary reference document on the operation of the Delegation.

Roads & Maritime Services

Level 16, 101 Miller Street, North Sydney NSW 2060 | Locked Bag 928, North Sydney NSW 2059 | DX10516 Sydney
T 02 8588 4369 | **F** 02 8588 4164 | **E** craig_moran@rta.nsw.gov.au | **www.rms.nsw.gov.au**

Roads and Maritimes Services would also like to remind councils that it has a web page devoted to the Delegation and Local Traffic Committees which can be accessed at www.rta.nsw.gov.au/doingbusinesswithus/guidelines/trafficcommittees.html

Should you have any questions on the Delegation document or the guidelines, you should contact Mr Bob O'Keefe on 8588 5621.

Yours sincerely

21/11/2011

Craig J Moran
General Manager
Traffic Management

ROADS AND MARITIME SERVICES

DELEGATION TO COUNCILS

REGULATION OF TRAFFIC

TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT

DELEGATION - SECTION 50

I, **PETER DUNCAN**, Chief Executive of Roads and Maritime Services ("RMS") pursuant to Section 50 of the *Transport Administration Act 1988* and all other enabling powers delegated by instruments of delegation to councils dated 23 February 2009 ("the delegation") HEREBY REVOKES the delegation and DELEGATES to the councils constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993* listed in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 respectively ("delegates") the functions of RMS set out in Schedule 3 ("the functions") subject to the limitations set out in Schedule 4 and authorises delegates to sub-delegate the functions to the persons in Schedule 5 ("sub-delegates") subject to the limitations in Schedule 4.

Dated this 31 day of October 2011.

The SEAL of ROADS AND MARITIME SERVICES was hereunto affixed in the presence of:) **L. S.**

SIGNED

Peter Duncan
Chief Executive
Roads and Maritime Services

ROADS AND MARITIME SERVICES THE SEAL

SCHEDULE 1

(Delegates)

The Council of the Municipality of Ashfield
Auburn Council
Bankstown City Council
The Council of the Shire of Baulkham Hills
Blacktown City Council
Blue Mountains City Council
The Council of the City of Botany Bay
Burwood Council
Camden Council
Campbelltown City Council
City of Canada Bay Council
Canterbury City Council
Fairfield City Council
Hawkesbury City Council
Holroyd City Council
The Council of the Shire of Hornsby
The Council of the Municipality of Hunters Hill
Hurstville City Council
Kogarah Municipal Council
Ku-ring-gai Council
Lane Cove Council
Leichhardt Municipal Council
Liverpool City Council
Manly Council
Marrickville Council
Mosman Municipal Council
North Sydney Council
Parramatta City Council
Penrith City Council
Pittwater Council
Randwick City Council
Rockdale City Council
Ryde City Council
Strathfield Municipal Council
Sutherland Shire Council
The City of Sydney
Warringah Council
Waverley Council
Willoughby City Council
Woollahra Municipal Council

SCHEDULE 2

(Delegates)

A council other than those listed in Schedule 1 constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993*

SCHEDULE 3

(Functions)

The exercise of all the functions of RMS under:

1 Division 2 of Part 8 (Regulation of traffic by roads authorities) of the *Roads Act 1993*.

2 Division 1 of Part 4 (Traffic control devices) of the *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999*.

3 Division 2 of Part 5 (Special event parking schemes) of the *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Regulation 1999*.

SCHEDULE 4

(Limitations)

1. A council and its sub-delegate must not exercise a function:

   (1) Outside the area constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993* for which council is the council, or

   (2) On a road classified as a Freeway, Controlled Access Road, Tollway, Transitway or those roads classified under the *Roads Act 1993,* which are indicated as State Roads in the *Schedule of Classified Roads and State and Regional Roads* published on the RMS internet website (except where exercising a function in respect of portable traffic control light signals).

2. A council and its sub-delegate may only exercise a function in respect of any prescribed traffic control device (defined in clause 131 of the *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Regulation 1999* for the purposes of section 50 of the *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999*) being –

   (1) any prescribed traffic control device contained in RMS's *Traffic Signs Database* located on its internet website and indicated as *"Delegated to Council for Authorisation – Yes"*, and

   (2) any portable traffic control lights,

   and under no circumstances, that is, despite (1) above, will a council or its sub-delegate be permitted to exercise a function in respect of any internally illuminated traffic control device.

3. A council and its sub-delegate must not exercise a function in respect of the following signs:

   - Permissive parking signs
   - No Parking signs
   - No Stopping signs

   on any public road or road or road related area (or any part thereof), which falls within a 1 km radius of any train station listed in RMS's document published on its internet website, titled *Schedule of Nominated Train Stations,* and which has current unrestricted parking, without the approval of RMS.

4. (1) A council listed in Schedule 1 and its sub-delegate must not exercise a function in respect of the following activities including the referral of the matter to the Local Traffic Committee until a Traffic Management Plan, which must include an assessment of the impact of the exercise of the function and proposed measures to ameliorate such impact, has been approved by RMS:

(a) The prohibition of the passage of traffic on a public road or road or road related area to any one or more of the following classes of traffic:

- pedestrians
- vehicles
- motor vehicles

by physical means or regulatory signs (whether a prescribed traffic control device or otherwise) or both;

(b) the installation or display of the following traffic control signs on roads or road related areas:

- No Right Turn
- No Left Turn
- No Entry
- No Turns
- Left Turn Only
- Right Turn Only
- No Trucks
- No Buses
- No Pedestrians

or the installation or display of any other sign or road marking prohibiting or compelling a turning movement;

(c) changing a two-way street into a one-way street or reversing the direction of a one-way street;

(d) the construction of a median strip including a painted island which prevents a turn by a vehicle at the intersection of public roads or roads or road related areas;

(e) reduction in the number of traffic lanes on a public road or road or road related area by physical means or regulatory signs (whether a prescribed traffic control device or otherwise) or both.

(2) A Traffic Management Plan is not required if council certifies to RMS in writing that a No Trucks or No Buses traffic control sign is to be erected solely for the purpose of protecting a road from damage by the passage of motor vehicles.

5. A council and its sub-delegate must not exercise a function in respect of portable traffic control light signals unless:

   (1) the signals are used in connection with the carrying out of road work on public roads as authorised by the *Roads Act 1993*; and

   (2) no fixed equipment or fixed cables are used.

6. A sub-delegate must not exercise a function in respect of Division 2 of Part 8 (Regulation of Traffic by Roads Authorities) of the *Roads Act 1993*.

7. A council or its sub-delegate must not exercise a function until they have notified the Commissioner of Police and RMS of any decision taken to exercise a function except where:

   (1) the advice of the Local Traffic Committee is unanimous; and

   (2) the council or its sub-delegate propose to follow such advice.

8. Where a council or its sub-delegate has notified or should have notified the Commissioner of Police and RMS of a decision to exercise a function, the council or its sub-delegate must not exercise a function for a period of fourteen (14) days from the date of notification.

9. Where an appeal has been made to the Chairperson of a Regional Traffic Committee in respect of a decision taken by a council or its sub-delegate to exercise a function, a council or its sub-delegate must not exercise the function until the Chairperson of the Regional Traffic Committee determines the appeal.

10. Where the Chairperson of the Regional Traffic Committee has determined an appeal, the council and its sub-delegate must not exercise the function in respect of which an appeal has been made, otherwise than in accordance with the determination of the Chairperson.

11. Before installing or displaying a prescribed traffic control device, a council and its sub-delegate must authorise installation or display (or interference with, alteration or removal) of the device in writing in accordance with section 51 of the *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999*.

12. A council or its sub-delegate shall keep a record of installation, display, alteration or removal of a traffic control device. Such a record must include the following:

    - Type and location of the traffic control device;
    - Time and date of completion of installation, display, alteration or removal of the traffic control device.

13. Where a council or its sub-delegate wishes to exercise a function in respect to a "Roadwork Speed Limit" traffic sign (Speed Series (R4) Sign No. R4-212 contained in RMS's *Traffic Signs Database* located on its internet website, the following conditions apply:

(1) When the installation period of a 'Roadwork Speed Limit' sign is to be for 6 working days or less:
   a) authorisation of the use of the 'Roadwork Speed Limit' sign must be carried out by council or a sub-delegate who holds a current Traffic Control at Worksites certificate issued by RMS; and
   b) the nearest office of RMS is to be notified in writing of Council's intention to implement a roadwork speed limit prior to works commencing; and
   c) the nearest Police Station is to be notified in writing of Council's intention to implement a roadwork speed limit prior to works commencing.

(2) When the installation period of a 'Roadwork Speed Limit' sign is to be for more than 6 working days:
   a) authorisation of the use of the 'Roadwork Speed Limit' sign must be carried out by council or a sub-delegate who holds a current Traffic Control at Worksites Certificate issued by RMS, and
   b) the nearest office of RMS is to be notified in writing of Council's intention to implement a roadwork speed limit 7 days prior to works commencing; and
   c) the nearest Police Station is to be notified in writing of Council's intention to implement a roadwork speed limit 7 days prior to works commencing.

(3) The need for a 'Roadwork Speed Limit' sign shall be determined in accordance with the document, "*Traffic Control at Worksites*" Version 3.1 dated April 2006 (RTA Publication No 03.290) issued by the former Roads & Traffic Authority of NSW;

(4) 'Roadwork Speed Limit' signs shall be installed in accordance with the "*Traffic Control at Worksites*" document (as already referred to);

(5) Records maintained by a council and its sub-delegate in respect to a 'Roadwork Speed Limit' sign must include:

   a) council's or its sub-delegate's written authorisation of the installation [The sub-delegate's Traffic Control at Worksites Certificate number must be shown.],
   b) the location,
   c) the installation time and date, and
   d) the removal time and date.

(6) The 'Roadwork Speed Limit' sign is to be removed as soon as practicable after the road works have been completed.

14. A council and its sub-delegate must not exercise a function in respect to any of the roads within Sydney Olympic Park including the roads that are coloured mauve on the drawing marked "Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Sydney Olympic Park, Drawing Number HS-J-L-006" dated 29 May 2001 and deposited in the Office of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority (being all the roads referred to in section 41 of the *Sydney Olympic Park Authority Act 2001*).

SCHEDULE 5

(Sub-delegates)

1 A councillor.

2 The general manager.

3 An employee of the council.

GYDE

Port Macquarie Civic Heart Master Plan

Engagement Outcomes Report

Submitted to AJC
by Gyde Consulting

20 August 2025

gyde.com.au

Acknowledgment of Country

Gyde Consulting acknowledges and pays respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples past, present, Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We recognise the deep and ongoing connections to Country – the land, water and sky – and the memories, knowledge and diverse values of past and contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities.

Gyde is committed to learning from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the work we do across the country.

Towards Harmony by Aboriginal Artist Adam Laws.



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GYDE

1. Project Overview

The Port Macquarie City Heart Master Plan will enhance Port Macquarie's role as a vibrant cultural and social hub.

The City Heart Master Plan project is to develop an integrated Port Macquarie City Heart Master Plan, identifying suitable development sites for new residential dwellings envisaged under Councils Local Strategic Planning Statement.

The Plan will detail appropriate planning control and master-planning to ensure Port Macquarie is connected regionally and locally, with a distinctive city heart comprising green and blue landscapes.

The project supports a place-based approach to planning, including better integration of land use and regional development and/or renewal.

The purpose of the project is to positively impact housing supply in the City Heart Precinct, unlocking identified development parcels in the local housing scheme.

The project aims to also activate the city centre through arts, culture, and events, supporting the city heart as the principal activity centre for business, retail and entertainment.

The City Heart Master Plan will expediate planning and uplift planning capabilities, promoting the City Heart as a destination, encouraging a night-time economy, and providing long-term and short-term accommodation that caters for a large and diverse living and working population.

The project will reinforce the role of Port Macquarie as cultural hub and a central gathering place where events and festivals can be held. A place to meet for residents, visitors and workers, with shops, commercial enterprises, cafes and restaurants and a thriving incubator of arts and culture.

Community and stakeholder engagement will be central to the development of a new Master Plan for Port Macquarie.

This Engagement Outcomes report outlines our approach in engaging with the wider community, local businesses, interest groups and key stakeholders to understand community aspirations and priorities for the future of the Port Macquarie city centre.

GYDE

2. Engagement Approach

The following communications methods have been used to engage stakeholders and the community in the development of the Port Macquarie City Heart Master Plan.

AJC and Gyde undertook a program of engagement with the wider Port Macquarie community, local businesses, interest groups and stakeholders as well as with Port Macquarie Hastings Council and government agencies. Our program was developed in alignment with the Port Macquarie Hastings Council Community Participation Plan and guided by the following principes:

- **Open** – invite a broad range of people to participate and get involved
- **Meaningful** – encourage participation and produce meaningful outcomes that will be directly reflected in the Port Macquarie City Heart Master Plan
- **Timely** – consult the community early and with plenty of time to respond, to inform the development of the Master Plan
- **Inclusive** – ensure that everyone has the opportunity to provide their feedback through a range of forums
- **Clear –** make complex, strategic information clear and easy to understand by a wide audience.

The community and stakeholder engagement program was designed to:

- engage a broad cross-section of the community in how they value and utilise the Port Macquarie city centre and what they would like to see in the future
- encourage community collaboration in designing a future for Port Macquarie city centre
- encourage participation and engage the community and stakeholders in identifying aspirations, priorities and future outcomes for Port Macquarie

To elicit a wide range of views and inputs into the preparation of the master plan, the following key stakeholders and groups were consulted:

- Business Port Macquarie
- Previous Town Centre Master Plan Members
- Wider Community

The following table provides an outline of the overarching activities undertaken gain important community and stakeholder feedback to inform the development of the Master Plan.

Method		Purpose
	**Advertising**	The Port Macquarie City Heart Master Plan project and World Café Session were advertised on Council's Have Your Say page on its website. Physical postcards were sent out across the City Heart project area. Downloadable postcards were available on the website with supporting information including mapping. A QR code was included on the postcard directing recipients to the Have Your Say page.
	**Community enquiries**	Community and interested stakeholders were able to contact Council for information about the Master Plan via survey or email via Council's Have Your Say page.
	**Project webpage**	Information about the project was made publicly available on the Have Your Say webpage, hosted by Council.
	**Social media and Council collateral**	The engagement was advertised across Council's social media, inviting community members to view the website for more information about the project, complete the survey and attend the World Café session.
	**Community survey**	A community survey was made available on the Have Your Say page, advertised on the community postcard and the QR code was promoted at the World Café session allowing the community to provide feedback at any time throughout the project.
	**Stakeholder meetings and briefings**	Meetings were held with key stakeholders including the previous Town Centre Master Planning Group providing information about the development of the Master Plan and seeking feedback on the key priorities. Business Port Macquarie were briefed on the development of the Master Plan.
	**World Café**	A World Café session was held on Thursday 12 June 2025 at the Westport Club. Members of the community and stakeholders were invited to share their view on their vison, values and suggestions for the City Heart. Materials provided at the session were designed to encourage participation across a range of topics and ideas sharing on future priorities for the City Heart.

GYDE

3. Community Participation

3.1 Have Your Say Web page

Information about the Port Macquarie City Heart Master Plan project was made available on Council's Have Your Say page, including:

- Information about the Port Macquarie City Heart Master Plan
- A community survey
- An invitation for the community to attend the community World Café session.

There were over 1,500 page visits, 364 downloaded documents, and 127 surveys were completed. The Postcard below was viewed or downloaded 174 times and mapping provided 114 times.

A total of 34 participants registered for and attended the World Café event.

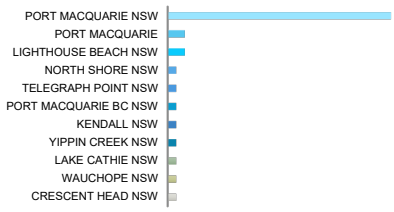




3.2 Community survey

A community survey was designed to seek community feedback on how the City Heart can grow into the future, in a way that is responsible, appropriate and maintains the local character of the Port Macquarie community.

The vast majority of respondents were located in and around the Port Macquarie Area as follows:



The age of respondents included representation across all cohorts, noting lighter representation of those aged 35 and younger.



The community was asked to respond to the following questions. Respondents were required to identify key themes in order of preference.

Responses below are provided in order of preference and frequency, with the top three highlighted:

What do you like best about the Port Macquarie City Heart?

Proximity to the waterfront	83
Walkability and pedestrian-friendly layout	58
The mix of local shops and cafes	45
Clean and well-maintained streets	37
Friendly, community vibe	25
Vibrant public spaces	25
Historical character and charm	23
Public art and cultural features	18
Other	7

What are your favourite reasons to spend time in the city centre?

Enjoying the waterfront views	75
Dining and cafes	74
Leisure walks or exercise	56
Attending events and markets	54
Shopping and retail	49
Socialising with friends/family	44
Accessing services (banks, post office, etc.)	32
People-watching or relaxing outdoors	30
Visiting local attractions or galleries	20
Other	6

What types of housing do you think are appropriate for the city centre?

Apartments above shops	62
Mixed-use developments (residential + commercial)	62
Medium/high-rise apartments	42
Low-rise units	40
Townhouses or terraces	28
Affordable housing	27
Short-term rentals (e.g. serviced apartments)	24
Aged care or senior-friendly housing	16
Student accommodation	13
Other (please specify)	13

What types of activities would you like to see along the waterfront?

Outdoor dining and cafes	77
Live music and entertainment	69
Picnic areas and seating	64
Night markets or evening events	57
Family-friendly play areas	50
Pop-up markets or stalls	49
Art installations and sculptures	41
Water sports (kayaking, paddleboarding, etc.)	30
Fitness equipment or exercise trails	24
Other (please specify)	9

What types of public spaces would you like to see?

Shaded seating areas	77
Wide footpaths and pedestrian plazas	73
Green spaces and small urban parks	71
Outdoor performance spaces	47
Children's playgrounds	44
Community gardens	42
Interactive public art	35
Dog-friendly areas	32
Water features or fountains	30
Other (please specify)	13

What types of events or activities would encourage you to spend time in the city centre?

Food and wine festivals	68
Live music or concerts	62
Art and cultural festivals	57
Weekly farmers' or craft markets	50
Family-focused events	43
Street performances or buskers	33
Community workshops or pop-ups	33
Movie nights or projections	29
Outdoor fitness classes (e.g., yoga, Zumba)	14
Other (please specify)	6

What do you think Port Macquarie should look like in the future? Do you have any examples to share?

This question invited a freeform response with a number of themes emerging and contrasting views on key themes:

<u>Identity</u>

- A discernible identity that uniquely feels like the "beating heart" of Port Macquarie
- Retain the village charm
- Connect to and activate the waters edge

<u>Land use and activity</u>

- Vibrancy, night time activity and more things to do such as night markets
- A mix of uses including retail, commercial, community uses
- A variety of attractions and cultural events including music and festivals
- Inclusion of an ocean pool and safe swimming areas in the river
- Activation of smaller spaces and laneways
- More medium and high density apartments
- More restaurants and other food and beverage outlets by the water

<u>Connectivity and ease of getting around</u>

- Safe, attractive and well-designed footpaths and cycleways to discourage use of cars and enjoyment of active transport
- Traffic calming to encourage slower traffic movement
- Support availability and ease of access to car parking (e.g. multi deck parking)

- Better public transport including at night

Scale of Buildings

- Mixed views with some people desiring more high rise, while others preferred lower to medium rise development

Public spaces

- More inclusive, all ages, all abilities spaces with safe opportunities for kids to play
- Vibrant streets with more activity and public art
- Better connection to and use of the waterfront

Exemplars

- Mandurah, Newcastle (NSW), Queenstown (NZ) suggested as good examples of vibrant places by the water
- Noosa is a good example of a revitalised main street
- Look towards the Netherlands for good examples of streets

3.3 World Café

The World Café was held at the Westport Club on 12 June 2025. Participants were invited to join any of 4 themed tables:

- Theme 1: The City Centre – now and the future
- Theme 2: Public spaces and the waterfront
- Theme 3: Businesses, attractions, events and activities
- Theme 4: Housing and liveability

The event was attended by 34 participants who were directed to move across all tables at designated intervals so as to ensure each participant could provide feedback on each theme. A member of the Council or consultant team was assigned to each table to facilitate and a scribe nominated to record feedback. The summary of feedback provided at each themed table is provided as follows:

Theme 1: The City Centre – now and the future

- Support active transport/ walking with visually appealing public domain with generous footpaths, intuitive connection and a safe and fair balance between pedestrian, cycling and vehicle movement
- Build upon vistas created by street alignments to better connect to the waterfront areas
- Resolve car parking challenges – consider developing a multi deck car park
- Improve the pedestrian qualities of Clarence and Horton Streets as vibrant pedestrian, retail and restaurant streets
- Better public transport to reduce congestion and reliance on cars
- Improve east west connection through the CBD through an improved sense of activation along E/W oriented streets
- Establish more focal nodes within the CBD to create more places of interest and places to meet and socialise
- Reduce traffic speed through CBD to improve safety and amenity for pedestrians
- Unlock economic barriers to development feasibility
- Retain and supplement advanced trees in the CBD for amenity and shading
- Encourage pop up business to occupy vacant retail space in the CBD
- More art walk type events and activation opportunities
- Conserve and celebrate key heritage elements as focal destinations
- Consider additional building height and height to overcome economic feasibility challenges in the centre – at least 10 storeys
- Activate laneways, improve wayfinding, lighting and safety
- Car parking control and archaeological heritage are key constraints to development feasibility in the Port Mac CBD
- Police station site would be ideal for a cultural uses and to establish a integrated heritage precinct
- Improve street furnishings and seating

Theme 2: Public spaces and the waterfront

- Create inclusive public spaces and living opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and walks of life.
- Activate public spaces with events and destinations along the waterfront (e.g covered ‘stage to support performance).
- Promote greater use of Town Green for more events
- More edge activation of public spaces with services like retail, bars, cafes and restaurants.

- Encourage culture and heritage in street performance / artwork / sculptures / cultural centre not precinct.
- Establish a vibrant Fisherman's Wharf entertainment precinct destination at the former Food for Less and car park site adjacent to the waterfront inclusive of restaurants, bars, microbrewery etc.
- Area near footbridge bridge over Kooloonbung Creek – opportunity for a warehouse-style building or experience next to water
- Activate underutilised greenspace / between Gordon and William Street.
- Encourage culture and heritage in street performance / artwork / sculptures / cultural centre
- Maintain open space adjacent to the waterfront
- Establish a safe swimming place in the vicinity of Town Green jetty with cafe activation
- Improve the place making qualities of Oxley Oval Reserve (cnr Pacific Dve and Burrawan) to support increased amenity for growing population
- Oxley and Town Beaches need revitalisation
- Improved lighting / safety, quality and maintenance of pedestrian infrastructure to support active movement of all users of all abilities
- Activation of the water ways to activate waterfront and spaces along the breakwall (e.g. Outrigger canoe regatta)
- More waterfront dining and cafes/restaurants overlooking water
- Water parks and play spaces in town for kids at Town Green or other waterfront location
- Improved access to "Doctors Walk" (Coastal Walk) increased lighting for safety and evening access and wayfinding through town to integrate with these iconic walks
- Improve the place making qualities of existing parks and public spaces
- Honeysuckle precinct in Newcastle represents a good example of development next to water
- Create more opportunities to see, activate and engage with the water's edge

Theme 3: Businesses, attractions, events and activities

- Support the Port Mac CBD's role as the primary commercial and business centre
- More opportunities for night life including entertainment, dining and events to attract and retain younger people.
- Reduce procedural constraints and financial barriers for organised events activations of public spaces
- More local events (e.g. jazz festival, heritage themed events, cinema under the stars, food festivals; pop ups and markets) including a key annual festival / yearly draw card
- Better connectivity between buildings – more seamless activation of streets and public spaces
- Encourage and support local businesses
- Increased sporting events – Ironman / state cup / bowls events.

Theme 4: Housing and liveability

- Provide more housing with greater density in the CBD supported by a range of improved amenities to activate streets and public places
- Support greater inclusion of seniors in housing in the centre to enable sharing of knowledge and history
- More affordable and social housing in CBD
- Opportunities for mixed use and shop top housing of higher density to support amenity and vibrancy
- Better public transport and pedestrian connectivity to support increased population and reduce reliance on cars
- Honeysuckle precinct in Newcastle should be looked at as an example of liveability. Good relationship between residential and public space

3.4 Previous TCMP Members - Workshop

The previous Town Centre Master Plan group members were invited to participate in an online forum to discuss visions, aspirations and challenges associated with the future of the Port Macquarie City Heart. The meeting was attended by 6 participants. A summary of key feedback is provided below:

Challenges

- The current parking rates undermine economic feasibility of development projects
- Height and FSR development standards under the LEP are frequently mismatched causing issues in achieving the full permissible development metrics for individual sites
- Archaeological constraints add cost and uncertainty to development
- The combination of constraints parking, archaeology and current scale and density limitations make projects feasible unless height and FSR is increased
- The Town Centre Mater Plan levy was a good resource but further consideration of equitable funding of LGA wide benefits would have made the model more sustainable
- There are often tension between community values and what is going to be commercially, economic and realistically achievable development outcomes
- The Food for Less/ Woolworths site, Police station site and "holes in the ground" are key priorities for development
- Key entry/ exit roads to and from the City Heart need some focused improvement

Suggestions

- Additional building height and density to align development permissibility with feasible project economics
- Reduce car parking rates in the centre to support development feasibility
- Consider an urban design approach that includes slender towers to 20 storeys
- Investigate ways to derisk archaeological constraints

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4. Conclusion

The Port Macquarie community has provided a range of feedback to input into the development of a City Heart Master Plan, across a range of engagement activities.

While community and stakeholder views differed in the desirable scale for future development, there is clear support for a range of new, diverse and affordable housing options, medium and higher density residential and mixed use development.

The community is generally supportive of ongoing activation and revitalisation across the City Heart, valuing improve nighttime activity, diversity of activities land uses and events.

The community identified a range of opportunities to:

- prioritise good quality development
- improve existing public spaces for enjoyment
- enhance connection to the waterfront.

Development priorities include the vacant sites and holes in the ground; the police station site and the former Food for Less/ car park site at the confluence of Kooloonbung Creek and Hasting River, the latter identified for a possible hospitality destination. These sites are considered to offer great potential for connection to waterfront, as well as for cohesive east west connectivity.

Heritage is a key value among the wide community. Opportunities to conserve and highlight the Port Macquarie's heritage were highlighted for potential to established heritage focused destinations; support community and tourist-oriented endeavours; and celebrate heritage sites and experiences. Acknowledgment and meaningful representation of Aboriginal cultural heritage is an important part of Council's heritage journey.

In considering opportunities to provide much needed housing, improve local services and infrastructure; and support appropriate growth in Port Macquarie, there will be a need to find a balance between varying perspectives and values to ensure that development is realistic, achievable and feasible, and also hitting the right notes on local character, amenity, design quality and place experience.

Guiding future decision making

Community feedback provided during engagement will be an important consideration in determining appropriate development opportunities in the Port Macquarie City Heart.

As the master plan will be prepared with the participation of Council, NSW Government, the community and stakeholders it will provide a sound framework for making development decisions.

Next steps

The Port Macquarie City Heart Master Plan will consider both opportunities for infill residential and commercial growth and diversification within the City Heart, and the potential for broader revitalisation of public space.

While opportunities exist in Port Macquarie for new development and there is significant will among landowners for positive change and improvements, we recognise that there is work to be done to understand for these opportunities can be realised in a manner that is economically feasible and aligns with the aspirations of the City Heart and wider Port Macquarie Hastings community.

The Master Plan team will use the valuable feedback and will seek to find a balance between supporting growth and protecting and building on the qualities that make Port Macquarie unique.

Draft master plan is anticipated for exhibition and feedback in the second half of 2025.

Finalisation is anticipated by the end of 2025

Appendix A – Outcomes of World Café – Table Notes

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Theme 1: The City Centre – now and the future

Table 1

- Visually appealing.
- Soft landscaping in CBD is good.
- Parking in Horton distinguishes from other regional towns and has a calming effect on traffic.
- Vista to water is reflected in street design and orientation
- Town Centre waterfront is valued by community.
- Nice wide footpaths.
- Transporting with wheelchairs, access will be a turn off.
- Pathways and improvements are good.
- Retail is down, can be experienced.
- Port central parking for disabled vans can't get into the parking lot, unload 15-20mins
    - Loading/taxi
    - Ageing population
- Increase residential in CBD,
- High DCP car parking rates are detrimental to development feasibility.
- Police station (King and Campbell) proposals knocked back.
- Police cars taking up car parking in the CBD.
- Difficult to find car parking – disincentive for families wanting to visit CBD.
- Establish "Sunset Parade" and inner circle drop-off area, pedestrian area for set down
- Murals in the CBD are great (Phillips Lane)
- Green areas, street trees.
- Support for the CBD apartment living with high amenity (Potts Point example of high amenity)
- Replan the town
- Peripheral parking in the form of multi deck carpark - pay as you go
- Improve the pedestrian qualities of Horton St as pedestrian street.
- Cars currently dominate the main street.
- Port Central too dominating in relation to the smaller shops near its entrances.
- Town Green carpark is expensive carpark. It was not developed to be a car park, it was planned as a Green Space.
- Not enough use of the waterfront and river areas. CBD does not relate to the waterfront enough.
- People enjoy walking into the CBD.
- Keep the CBD as a main commercial hub – rather than Settlement City. People can meet most life admin and shopping needs in CBD.
- Living in the CBD is ideal for Seniors.
- Better public transport
- More pedestrian friendly
- Attention to footpath instead of car
- Footpaths interrupted by tree roots
- Big playground with café and live performance (i.e. bands).
- Council fee limitations are a disincentive to activation - remove $600 to use the park. Remove barriers (e.g. insurance affects feasibility of events)
- In Europe, every area outside of CBD had a town square or public focus point – no driving.
- Last thing you want is to drive in CBD then drive to Eastport.
- Park the car and walk to Settlement.
- Busways need improvement.
  buses are underutilised.
- People living in the CBD.
- Not walking to work in CBD from Eastport.
- Move away from solo events to more regular weekend family friendly events.
- Need greater utilisation of the waterfront.

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- Woolworths is out of town bringing too much parking. Make this into a resort.
- Need to leave CBD and Settlement City for Woolies grocery shop.
- Upgrade "Little Shack".
- Increase in housing needs supported by retail and parking.
- Redevelopment of the "hole in the ground" will be hindered by the costs of providing car parking
- Eastport area not planned. Lack of focal point, too low in density and bowling club too far away
- Tourist Route should deliver people straight into town.
- There is "no social" focus to tell you are in the beating heart of Port Mac.
- Upper storeys with views provide good amenity for residents
- Only 1 wharf. Need another floating wharf.
- Get boats to stop at the wharfs with shops.
- Amphitheatre in town green.
- CSU students go elsewhere when they graduate and don't keep their knowledge and skills in Port Mac.
- There are people reluctant to walk - "nothing to look at along the way – interesting walks through various precincts (e.g. restaurants, precinct, cultural and shopping precincts etc) encourage walking
- Costs to buy/live in Port Mac are too high when there's not much in town "not first choice to live in Port Mac"
- People can always see the waterfront from the CBD and get there by foot.
- Buffer between the public and private.
- Flat walking - Imperative walking into the lighthouse.
- A dedicated safe waterfront swimming area in the River would benefit families and children
- People don't want to sit and eat on the road – restaurants should be off the road with safe amenable alfresco areas.
- Clarence and Horton Streets need more walking area and restaurants that are easy to get to.
- Horton was always pedestrian focused over cars.
- Walking so important to Port Mac.
- Nightlife needed to attract and sustain young people. Discos, bars, pool rooms affordable dining
- Families are drawn to sports and schools.
- Decrease speeds in CBD streets for pedestrian safety and discourage through traffic
- Separated cycle lanes should be provided rather than just painted on.
- Make it less attractive to drive to CBD.

Table 2

What we like now?

- Relatively flat topography and ease of access
- Well maintained.
- River frontage / access to Hastings River
- Open Space
- Connected Walkway. -including dog walk on leash.
- Established long-living trees.

What should stay the same?

- Children play garden.
  Town Green is enough!
- Fig trees and Norfolk Pines
- Lady Nelson Wharf
- Coffee experiences fronting the Town Green e.g. Chop n Chill

What should be different?

- More seating in Park area.
- More bins and ashtrays.
- "Food for less site" what to do?
- Caravan Parking
- Council parking areas – extra spaces that developers can pay into.
- Vacant CBD space. More opportunities for pop up space.
- Add historical monuments.
- Varying opnions on whereter to grow "up" or "out": E.g more housing/no more housing in CBD.
- More vibrancy in the evening including more art walk type events and activation opportunities
- Site lines

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- Open spaces
- Heritage style
- Wide pathways – accessible (2 and powerwheel chairs)
- Establish a vibrant mini Fisherman's Wharf at the Woolworths owned Food for Less Site
- Police station site would be ideal for a cultural heritage precinct
- Height increases to developments - at least 10 floors (from 5)
- Sight lines refer to DCP 20. Offset uplift in height against design incorporating lines of sight.
- Development challenges include archaeological/heritage constraints and water tables
- Footbridge across Kooloonbung Creek
- Catering for the homeless, not enough housing.
- More residential density – driver for increased population in CBD with greater need for commercial, retail and jobs
- Town green and open space on the river – cover be improved with access for kids in the river.
- Eastport and residential with open space to coast line is a priority for staging implementation.
- Footpath connectivity in Eastport and connecting to other precincts. Opportunities for mixed use and shop top housing
- Activation of open spaces with services like cafes etc.

Theme 2: Public spaces and the waterfront

Table 1

- Emergence of murals
- "Yarning circle"
- Riverwalk from settlement city / Westport needs lighting
- Shared paths - more pedestrian friendly and caters for all abilities and users including (Wheelchairs; prams; walkers bikes
- Continue footpaths to eliminate green walkways
- Need multi storey 'pay as you go' car parking
- Better public transport connectivity
- Greenspace / between Gordon and William Street is underutilised.
- Encourage culture and heritage in street performance / artwork / sculptures / cultural centre not precinct.
- Retain remaining heritage e.g. the foundation works that remain through the glasshouse.
- Maintenance - Museum / court house / St Thomas Church
- Utilise the amphitheatre – host events
- Establish a water play space at Town Green
- Floating wharfs
- Remove fees to use public spaces
- Big events are great but no smaller events in between
- More than just markets
- Covered 'stage' allow community groups, dances, small business open space.
- Walk right to the water without buildings in front is positive – nice to sit in the park and be able to see the water
- More activities such as food festivals; regular pop up food carts. "Plug in areas" eliminate generators
- "Food for less" (Woolworths/ car park) site opportunities to bring vibrancy - Fishermans Wharf vibe
- Establish a dedicated river swimming area.
    - Previous area near Lady Nelson Wharf
    - 'Replacement' of tidal pool
    - Connect to facilities / café.
    - Ideal space around Westport waterfront / Town Green.
- Police station site. Constraints for redevelopment
    - Design for open space
    - Bring heritage / old court house linkage.
- Completion of linkage pathway CBD to Westport- Widening of footpath
- Attractions such as an Art-walk
- Parking and access around town beach needs attention and refresh
- Maintenance needed around the coastal walk.

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- Access to main areas – parking issues. If parking is separated there needs to be points of interest in between to connect.
- Observatory Park – reduce financial and procedural barriers for hosting performances on a regular basis
- Restricted limitation on the use of the amphitheatre. - Too many constraints
- Better connectivity between Oxley/town beach and CBD
- Host 'events' from community groups / schools etc. to provide entertainment
    - In open spaces
    - In glasshouse
    - At old court house
- Council to actively bring in 'sporting' 'larger' events at a state level.
- Westport Park to be used for more than markets - bands / circus is more an after thought.
- Capitalise on the waterfront - underutilised.

Table 2

- Macquarie CBD – great orientation of the streets to the waterfront.
- Costal walks are well used and enjoyed by the community.
- All development must be supported by infrastructure
- Community resistant to development encroaches on waterfront.
- Don't want big box supermarket next to bridge on the Food for Less/ car park site.
- Museum – maritime are a good use of public space. Want them to stay and not be redeveloped.
- Mrs. York's garden is successful and a nice place to be.
- Difficult to create new open space - Protect the open spaces we have hard to make more of it.
- New playground next to observatory – playground with busy streets and no parking could cause safety issues.
- Access, safety as parking is important.
- Important to have car parking to access public space and safe spaces without conflict with vehicles.
- Buildings on St Thomas's church land (hill) with large amounts of open space – this should be protected. Church needs its setting / the space around it.
- Town square in 1980s was a bus stop now a vibrant space on weekends.
- Accessibility seniors to be able to participate meaningfully in public space and share knowledge and socialise – transportation / free bus / shuttle bus (linked)
- Cafes are a good use to complement beach uses - QLD lifeguard clubhouses are an example.
- More activities by the water.
- Eastern section of the tourist walkway deteriorated and needs maintenance.
- Needs more investment. Erosion is an issue.
- Trees on eastern end of town beach. Sheoak trees need to be rejuvenated and supplemented.
- Pedestrian bridge on Buller Street. Connect over the bay near Kooloonbung Creek.
- Restaurants to activate the bridge area.
- Public land the club (RE2 land). Plans of management need to be reviewed
- Ironman – disruptive early in the mornings. Consider resident amenity when activating public space.
- Community likes the town square – working well. There could be better lighting – the coloured lighting was nice.
- Dark patches in lighting along foreshore causing safety issues. More subtle feet level downward lighting supported
- Break wall is popular and needs widening as very crowded.
- Kiosk at Town Beach needs activating. Need to be able to see beach from points of activation like the kiosk.
- Very few opportunities to see and engage with the water's edge despite plentiful water edge.
- Marine rescue building has no commercial kitchen.
- Lighting consultant to consider suitability of lighting.

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- Hay street / Phillips Lane for activation – murals are nice.
- Dead space - lane behind port office.
- Ocean pool – community want this to be built – should look natural – accessibility is important – should be near Town Beach.
- Town Green is great.
- Look at the western side of Lady Nelson Wharf swimming area. Better access and safety for swimming.
- Open space area needed in Eastport like town square. Needs a bit of improvement.
- Oxley Beach needs better parking and access.
- Large park next to football oval (cnr Pacific Dve and Burrawan) has no facilities or place making qualities. Improve this space to cater for new residents. This space relates well to an area suitable for increased density. Could be a new Town Green in Eastport .
- Eastport likely to grow further – open space amenity will likely be further impacted unless improved.
- Coastal walk unsafe for vulnerable people – particularly for women. Lighting is needed – wider footpaths – accessibility for wheelchairs and strollers.
- Area near bridge – opportunity to have a warehouse style building or experience next to water – with restaurants /microbreweries.
- Honeysuckle precinct in Newcastle a good example of development next to water – Newcastle should be looked at as an example of liveability. Good relationship between residential and public space.
- The hole is the ground on Clarence St is a barrier to pedestrian amenity – discourages E/W movement between main CBD, Town Beach and William Street as it feels like activity has "dropped off"
- Observatory Park is good – safety is ok. Provide kids are supervised when they play
- Civic heart – density would be good – height restrictions are unfeasible – 11.5m / 1:1 unfeasible. Height would be suitable in that area.
- Civic heart – legibility is an issue – need to have better movement structure to support intuitive movement and balance between pedestrians and vehicles.
- Ocean baths will help activate Eastport - Parking is needed
- Oxley and Town Beaches need revitalisation.
- McInerny Park near Settlement City functions well – drainage not so good. Floods are a problem in the rains. Drains need improving – can't get to BBQ area and grass becomes muddy. Usability in all weather and times of year need to be considered.
- Seating and shelters are important in public space – features that encourage people to stay a while / linger.
- People need practical and comfortable seating to socialise with back support.
- Clarence Street –festoon lighting – entertainment stage – when is this happening – has it been cancelled? – this would be a street attraction to enhance useability – Other opportunities of activation includes Short Street down to the water – laneway behind boatshed – this may include bollards so it can be closed for events.
- Woolworths site and crown land could be reimagined as a Fishermans Wharf entertainment precinct.
- Preserve and enhance key maritime heritage and establish these places as key destinations in the town- e.g Pilot Cottage. Create a heritage precinct with a nautical/ maritime theme
- Establish a maritime heritage nexus between pilots cottages and boatshed
- Needs concerted planning to retain the heritage cottage and boatshed – these are remnant sites that are considered of great importance.
- Open space – surf museum – support its retention. It's the only one in NSW – great attraction
- Aboriginal involvement is important element of conserving and celebrating heritage
- Enhance historical displays / heritage – this benefits the entire city.
- Heart of town – Port Central – aeroplane in the main arcade is great.
- Aged care – repository of knowledge that needs to be recorded and shared – opportunities for greater inclusion of seniors in housing in the centre to enable sharing of knowledge and history.

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- Fisherman's wharf redevelopment of the Woolworths Food for Less site and adjacent car park– boats / seafood / shop / restaurants

Theme 3: Businesses, attractions, events and activities

Table 1

- Tourism opportunities:
    - Annual jazz festival (maritime theme)
    - Heritage based themed events (age trades / loss trades)
    - Town has based 'facilities' to attract people e.g. school / airport / medical but we need to enhance attraction that we have.
    - Beach facilities / increased holiday attractions.
    - Advertising more broadly.
    - More signage 'wayfinding' electronic!!
- Heart of the Centre (Port Central)
    - Consultation of the headland
    - Strengthening of the Maritime Museum and Surf Museum
- Accessibility – this is key
    - beach access
    - large numbers of aged residents
- Improved lighting / safety
- Attractions that work well
    - Artwalk could complement that Port Macquarie Hastings Tasting Trail
    - Port Mac – The Players Theatre
    - Glasshouse
- Start studded film festival that attracts global stars
- Ritz cinema.
- Nightlight / festival have reduced from what there used to be.
- Share work space in CBD to help activate the vacant retail
- Support pop up spaces in vacant retail tendencies at cheaper rates
- Need a key festival / yearly draw card
- More activations of public spaces
- Historical themed / community family / cinema under the stars
- More Westport concerts to other areas e.g. TAFE!
- Planning policies to assist with small business for better incentives to minimise costs for advertising
- Break wall not to be widened towards the water
- Ironman / state cup do not benefit small business. Some businesses note a reduction on business over the weekend.
- Port Running Festival / includes the state holder when preparing for event.
- Consideration for homeless to have a perm lease with facilities. More affordable housing options and housing diversity in city heart area.
- Keeping in mind of people living in the CBD when introducing events.
- Consideration of safety in the CBD.
- State Govt – Police NSW site in prime position. Potential for other vibrant uses
- More facilitation for small sites to be redeveloped.
- Introduce a community voice medium.
- Council budget for increased Economic development increase. To maintain and enhance the statistics.
- Transparency on rate levy.
- Improved marketing.
- Increased sporting events – Ironman / state cup / bowls events.
- Review of sport field uses to provide better access to retain.
- Dining / coffee – improved community benefit (Eastport)
- Outdoor dining is important – should be reviewed cinema under the stars
- Artwalk should be extended.
- Greater integration of events with local businesses. Sponsorship opportunities.
- Increased waterfront dining options across 7 days. Rock Salt / Beach House

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- Ironman shuts the town off but the event is great for everyone.
- Improved access to "Doctors Walk" (Coastal Walk) increased lighting for safety and evening access.
- Improved 'wayfinding' – maintained viewing platforms (great attraction)
- Glasshouse – pricing! / events need to have more variety / live bands, international/national events.
- More use of Town Green for events
- Improving sporting fields to bring more people into town and consider events to bring people to the town centre. E.g Busk@dusk.
- Outrigger canoe regatta in the river to activate spaces along the breakwall.
- Amphitheatre activated / area behind Port Mac High School.
- Look at sponsorship from NRL – new club to be based e.g. PNG
    - To subsidise the cost / improvements to the regional stadium.
    - Platform to grow our younger footballers / development programs.

Table 2

Brings you to town

- Work
- Entertainment
  - CBD
  - Town green
  - Cafes
  - Port Mac Band Hall (pod). Performance place

Most attractive

- Waterfront
- Cafes
- No highway through town

Complaint / concerns

- Don't have enough cafes/restaurants overlooking water
- Food for Less site – Redevelopment
- Needs high end shopping
- Bands – costs to perform
- No Australia Day events at Town Green
- Improve amenities in open spaces
- Support local
- Covid killed a lot of things
  - need to bring back what Port Mac had
  - need to support local

Benefits

- good dining options
- cinema
- shopping
- not fragmented

How to activate

- not just shopping
- lots of good things that need to connect
- waterpark town green
- bands/music

Port Central

- Tues farmers market increase activation and experience and then people use/ go to Port Central

Need change attitudes

- If good elsewhere okay to bring here but this doesn't support local first. E.g. local bands at Artwalk

Kids

- Water parks
- A lot of ids activities are out of town

What brings you to town

- Glasshouse
- Shopping
- Walk along waterfront
- Work
- Good working distance

Issues

- Footpath / lighting to get out of town
- No bike paths/connectivity
  - Talked about for a long time but nothing has happened.
- Connectivity between businesses

Events

- Night markets

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Not enough

- Dining that doesn't get impacted by cars
- Increased foot park dining/close roads
- Waterfront dining
- Beach/river swimming – safe / designated
- More kid friendly
- Marina not enough dining

Food for less site

- Redevelop
- Wharf dining
- Activation

Hole in ground

- What's happening

Xmart - Maxx Family Fun Centre

- Don't want to eat in car park

What brings you to town

- Events
  - Ironman
  - Touch footy
- Music and Movie nights in town green/Westport
- Cafes/shops

Need

- More major events
- Multi purpose sports field with artificial grounds
- Bigger attractions
- Improve businesses – remove vacancies
- More residential in town but issues with parking
- Better public transport – smaller buses
- Taxis from out of town to CBD
- Need accessible buses and accessible spaces
- Parking spaces need to be wider/bigger for new big vehicles
- Make pubs accessible

Good

- Support local
- More businesses out of CBD and increasing car parking availability for shoppers

Can't lose

- Existing events
- Parking

Old craft site

- Multi storey peaking
  - too far from CBD

Kids

- Westport Water Park
  - Would be good at Flynns /Town Beach/Eastport
- Learn to swim in baths - meshed off area.
- Need good parking close to kids area.

Issues

- Need residential development with no commercial development

Love

- Markets
- Events
- Glasshouse
- Caravan park
  - Iconic
- Walkability
- Beaches

Need

- Affordable and social housing in CBD
- Want unique shopping
- Hop on/off buses CBD to beaches.

Don't lose

- Events

Issues

- Parking inadequate at beaches
  - Visitors
  - Locals coming from further afield (e.g Thrumster) competing for parking

Don't need

- Tidal pool will ruin iconic beaches

Theme 4: Housing and liveability

Table 1

- Like people on the streets – liveability is important
- Support higher densities in CBD, more people in the centre

- Support Residential Falt Buildings that are state Significant Development Sites (SSD) sites and from CBD to Eastport
- Support retail at ground floor
- Like walkable streets – especially York St.
  - Need footpaths
- Logical that ages renters be closer to CBD – affordability and availability is a driving factor for decisions.
- Support pedestrian boulevards.
- Support high-rise car parking – parking is a key issue.
- Westport Park needs better connection through shared paths.
- GoGet car spacing is an option on the street to reduce vehicle use.
- Waterfront areas are prime housing areas but must be walkable with appropriate infrastructure – footpaths especially.
- Need a building height cap to protect waterfront vistas.
  - 50 storeys is high, 12 is ok.
- Develop Settlement City area for uplift.
- Building heights encouraged – max. 20 storeys across the precinct.
- Shop-top housing in CBD is supported.
- Developer costs is an issue preventing renewal.
- Parking requirements made it impossible to develop.
- Geology of CBD makes height difficult.
- William Street buildings at 8 storeys is not supported – creating a wall causing amenity and wind/breeze issues.
- Wide towers with large footprints creating the wall.
- Infrastructure can't support higher densities in CBD.
  - Church St has sewer and stormwater upgrades needed.
  - Infrastructure needs to come first and consider feasibility.
- Access to sunlight important.
- Mix of housing types needed – cater to different people not just retirees.
- Site views restricting views to the church is not necessary.
- Conflict of land uses must be considered – especially impact of residential restricting businesses.
- Southern end of Eastpoint be lower density.
- Building heights traditionally limited to 8 storeys, want more options to go higher.
- Building costs are preventing more/higher developments.
- Unlimited building height supported with high density – P.M should be the first in NSW to adopt policy.
- More supply will reduce affordability.
- Social housing is the main issue, not housing affordability in general.
- P.M should be open as a higher density, high rise city.
- Higher building height in Eastport supported.
- Mid-rise along foreshore supported.
- 12-15 storeys around Civic Heart – will not impact views.
- Waterfront access is important.
- Do not support high-rise buildings fronting foreshore, keep clear access and clear public domain.
- Would like to see better building height transition coming into CBD.
- Empty lots are not encouraged – need to provide development potential.
- Shop-top housing in CBD encouraged.
- Incentives needed to address land fragmentation and amalgamation.
- More housing in CBD needed.
- Settlement City not attractive for growth.
- CBD should attract restaurants and people and it doesn't at the moment.
- Caravan Park needs more activation, same with eat CBD.
- Short St facing creek/water is not attractive.
- 8 storey maximum is supported – use Europe as an example of mid-rise development – lower scale CBD.
- Shadowing of 8-storey buildings height from Eastport to the church.
- Privacy and amenity issues of town houses next to high-rise buildings a common issue in the foreshore areas.
- Transition of building heights is important.
- Need to attract younger people – affordability is the key issue.
- University students pushed to Lake Cathie, prevents them coming to CBD.
- City Heart is disjointed – uses are too spread out.

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- Vehicle parking in CBD prevents people to access services, need to go to alternative locations.
- Target areas for younger people (25-40), Westport good location – 8 storeys
- Walkability to Settlement City needs to be addressed.
- Safety while walking to Settlement City is an issue.
- Terraces in Westport approaching CBD with higher buildings behind.
- Topography should dictate heights, flexibility needed to protect vistas.

Table 2

- Apartment living – CBD
- More residential
- Street activation
  - Amenities, cafes, etc.
  - Draw people into city centre.
- Fix up coastal walk
  - More accessible
  - Trees trimmed
- Footpaths – connectivity. Safety walking as transpeople.
- Zoning – combination of residential and commercial
- FSR, HoB – needs alignment for feasibility
- Planning controls
- Waterfront (town green)
- More activation at Eastport – something like at Town Square.
  - Bring foot traffic. Residential = more foot traffic
    - More people live in area more activated the area is.
- Liveability next to workability
- Passive open space (OS)
- Look at OS near Eastport High.
- Higher density
  - Concerns – negativity was around overshadowing/views blocked.
- Careful to not overdevelop.
- Properties must be accessible – STA properties.
- Parking – for owners & visitors
  - Must have off-street parking for visitors
  - Public transport – trams (Gold Coast), transport into CBD.
- Aesthetics important – designs.
  - Planning controls for design, setbacks, building heights (wedding cake style).
- Roads and footpaths safe for everyone.
- Accessibility
- Road conditions – affect perception & liveability of town.
- Redevelop key vacant sites
- Mix of residential and commercial.
- Balance of high rise & community expectations.
- Accessibility – everyone should have equal access to a home.
- Economic viability – look at planning controls for CBD.
- Drawing people into CBD.
  - Nightlife
- Liveability – raising HoB.
- DCP 20 – height for reducing footprint.
  - Previous DA examples.
    - Ryde
  - Look at going back to something like this.
- Must look at HoB for feasibility – HoB needs to be increased.
- Heritage – overplayed
  - Costly, timely, adds development costs.
- Hole in the ground – need to be developed.
  - Both prime sites.
- Vacant sites – eye sore.
- Mix of residential and commercial.
- High rise
  - Min 10 storeys (start the conversation)
- Sites to look at
  - PM Presbyterian Church site (corner of Munster & William)
  - Anglican Church (corner of Munster & Hay)
  - Opportunities for affordable/boarding sites.
  - Catholic Church site.
  - Food for less
  - Look at planning controls. Viewpoints etc.
  - Courthouse
  - Hole in ground
  - Ken Littles site
  - Police station site.
  - Civic heart for housing.
  - Corner Walters & Park St. Access issues DCP (Munster St)

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- No paid parking, more parking (potentially hole in ground)
- Manage sustainability regulation – adds costs
- Parking
- Civic heart plan
  - 8 storey housing
  - Keep players theatre or relocate
  - Parking
- Engage Department of Housing
- Mix of demographics
- Move boundary
  - Home St to Hill St

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Appendix B – Survey Results

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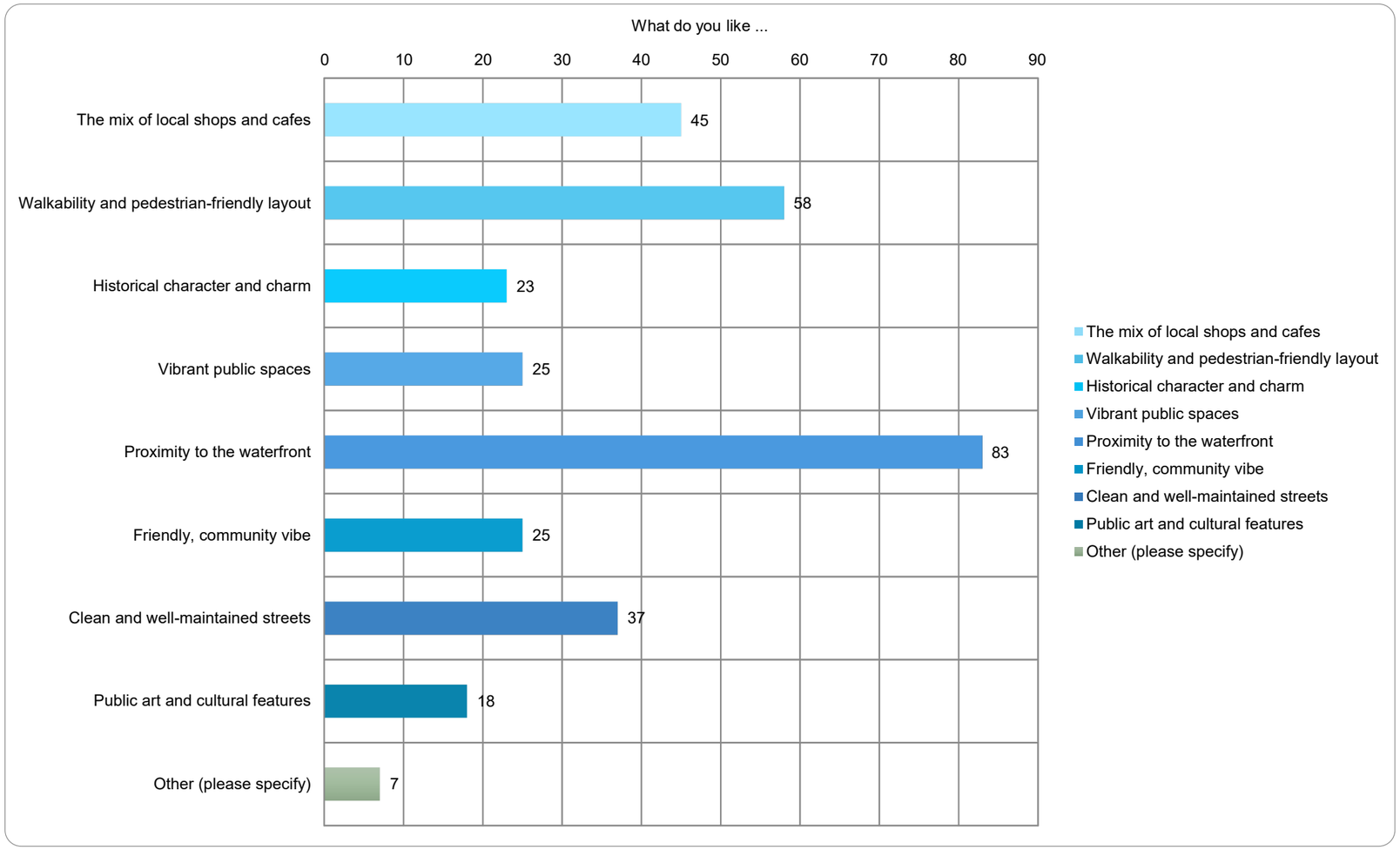
What do you like best about the Port Macquarie City Heart?(Select up to 3 options)	
The mix of local shops and cafes	45
Walkability and pedestrian-friendly layout	58
Historical character and charm	23
Vibrant public spaces	25
Proximity to the waterfront	83
Friendly, community vibe	25
Clean and well-maintained streets	37
Public art and cultural features	18
Other (please specify)	7



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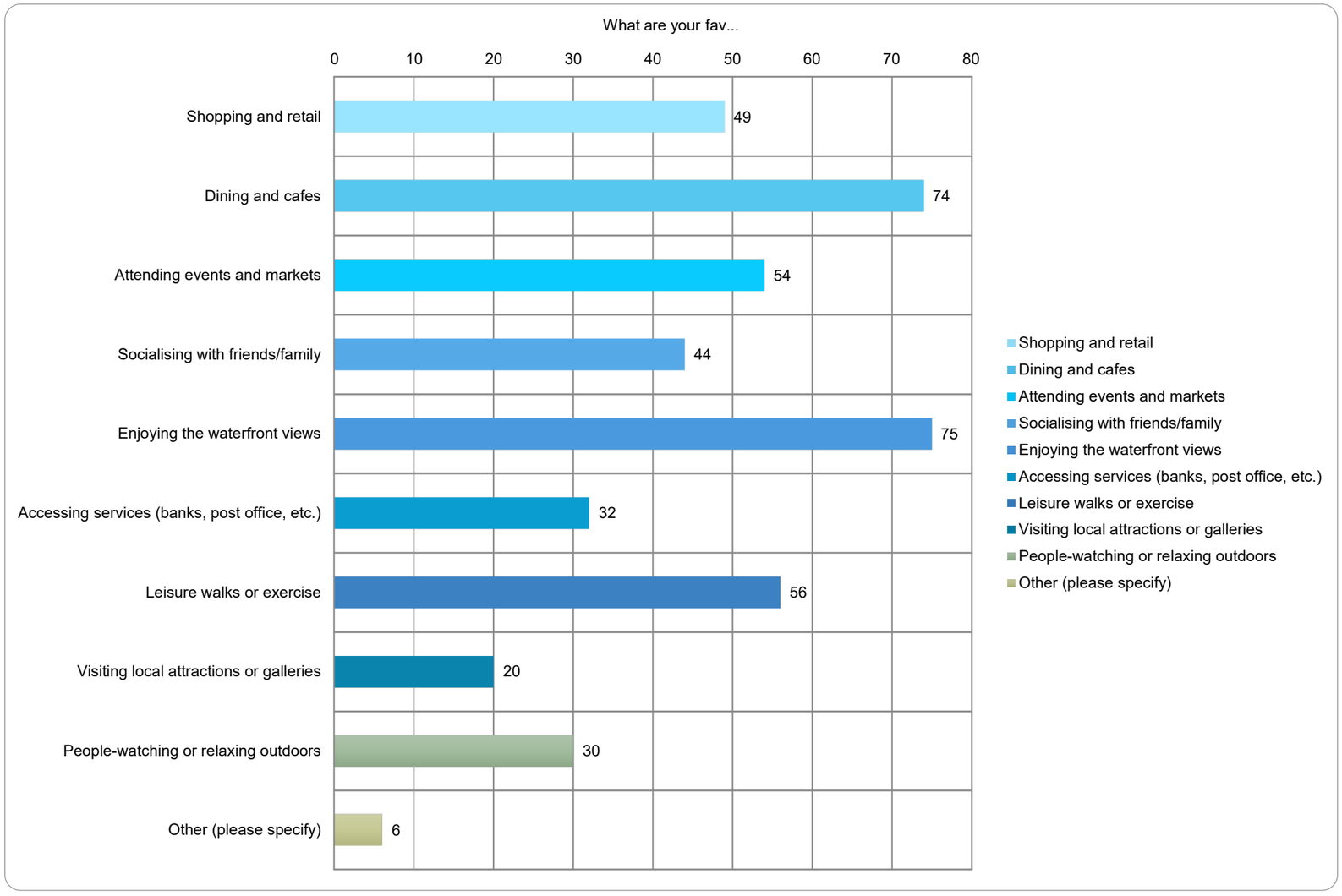
What are your favourite reasons to spend time in the city centre?(Select all that apply)	
Shopping and retail	49
Dining and cafes	74
Attending events and markets	54
Socialising with friends/family	44
Enjoying the waterfront views	75
Accessing services (banks, post office, etc.)	32
Leisure walks or exercise	56
Visiting local attractions or galleries	20
People-watching or relaxing outdoors	30
Other (please specify)	6



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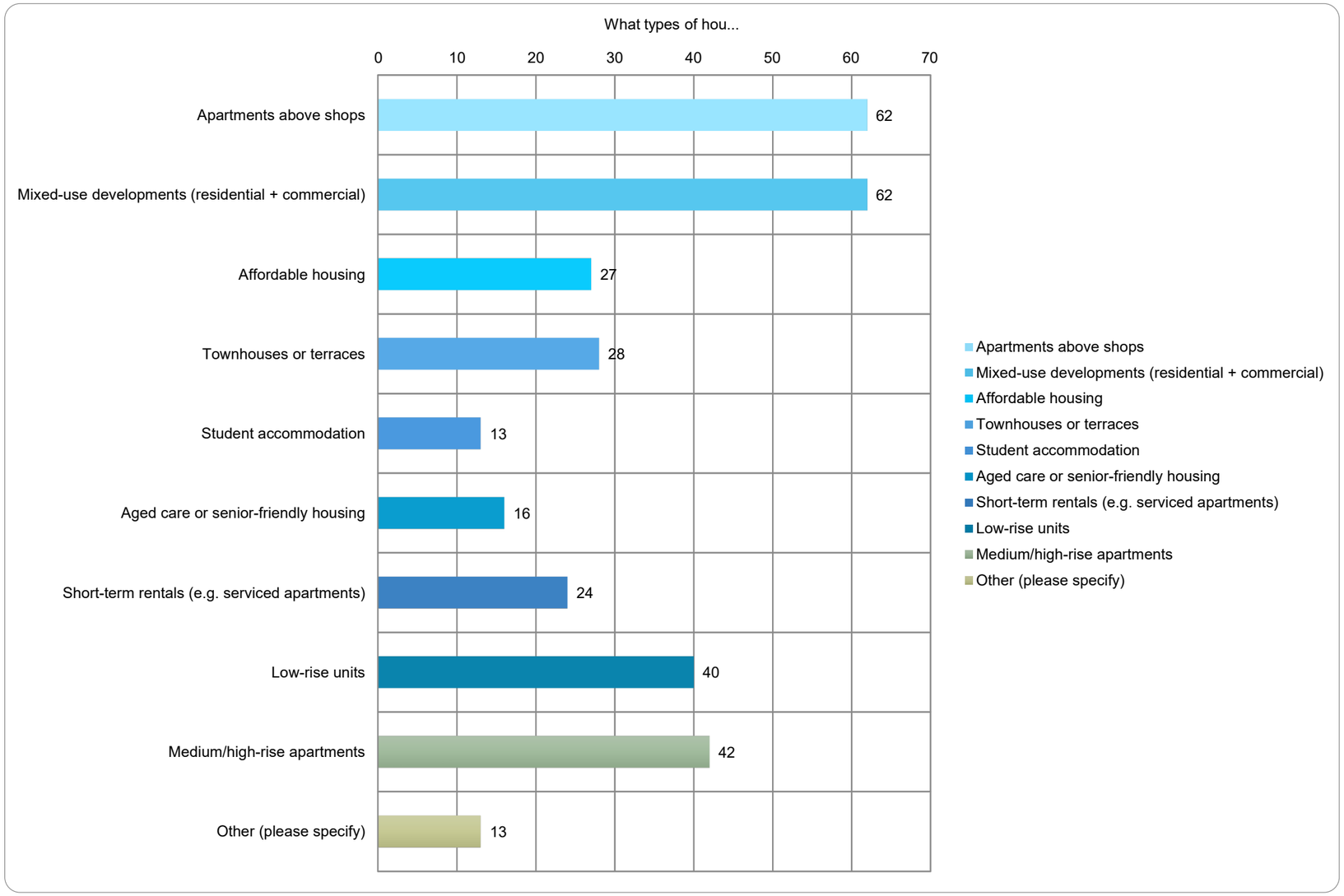
What types of housing do you think are appropriate for the city centre?(Select all that apply)	
Apartments above shops	62
Mixed-use developments (residential + commercial)	62
Affordable housing	27
Townhouses or terraces	28
Student accommodation	13
Aged care or senior-friendly housing	16
Short-term rentals (e.g. serviced apartments)	24
Low-rise units	40
Medium/high-rise apartments	42
Other (please specify)	13



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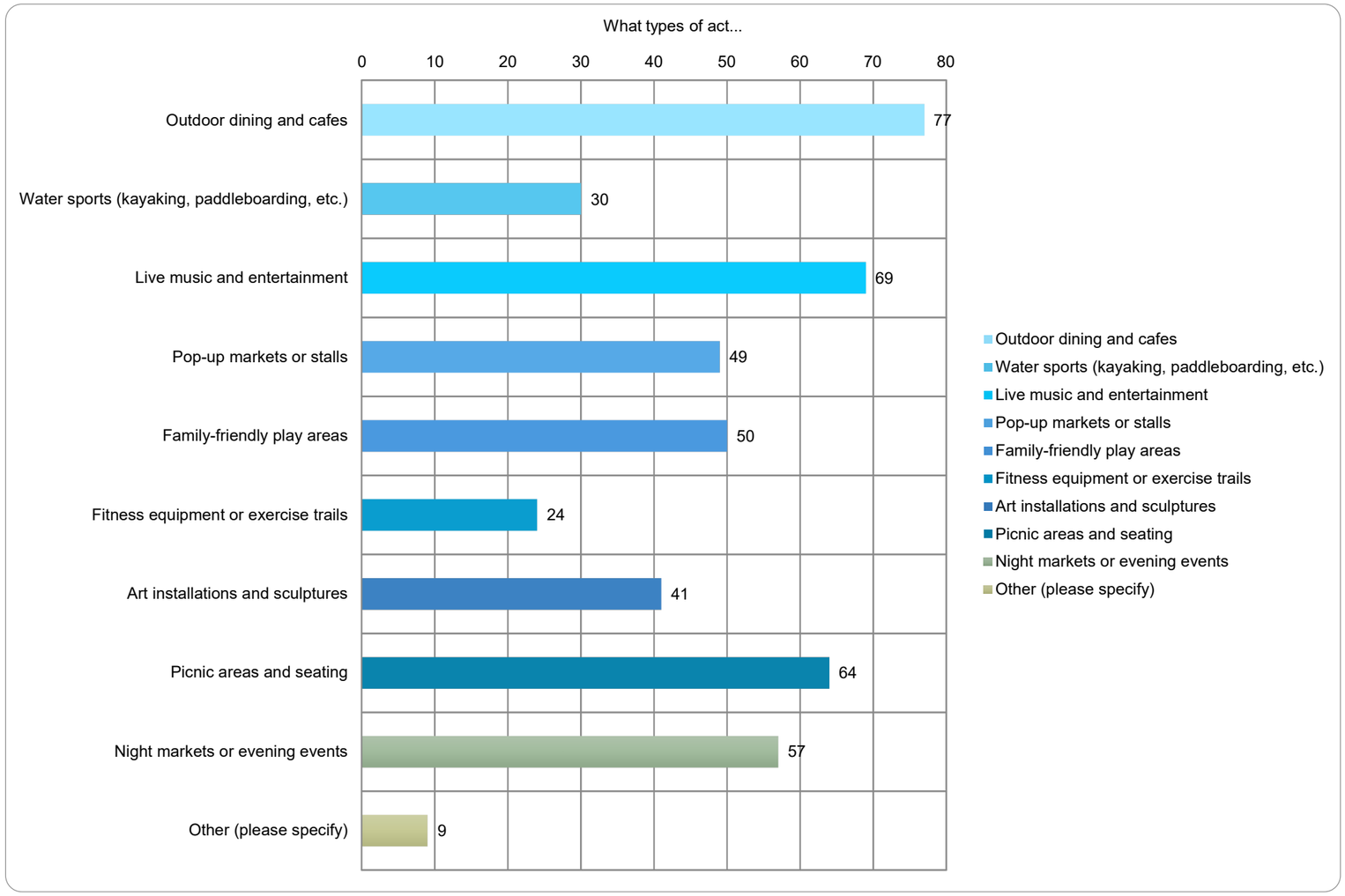
What types of activities would you like to see along the waterfront?(Select up to 5 options)	
Outdoor dining and cafes	77
Water sports (kayaking, paddleboarding, etc.)	30
Live music and entertainment	69
Pop-up markets or stalls	49
Family-friendly play areas	50
Fitness equipment or exercise trails	24
Art installations and sculptures	41
Picnic areas and seating	64
Night markets or evening events	57
Other (please specify)	9



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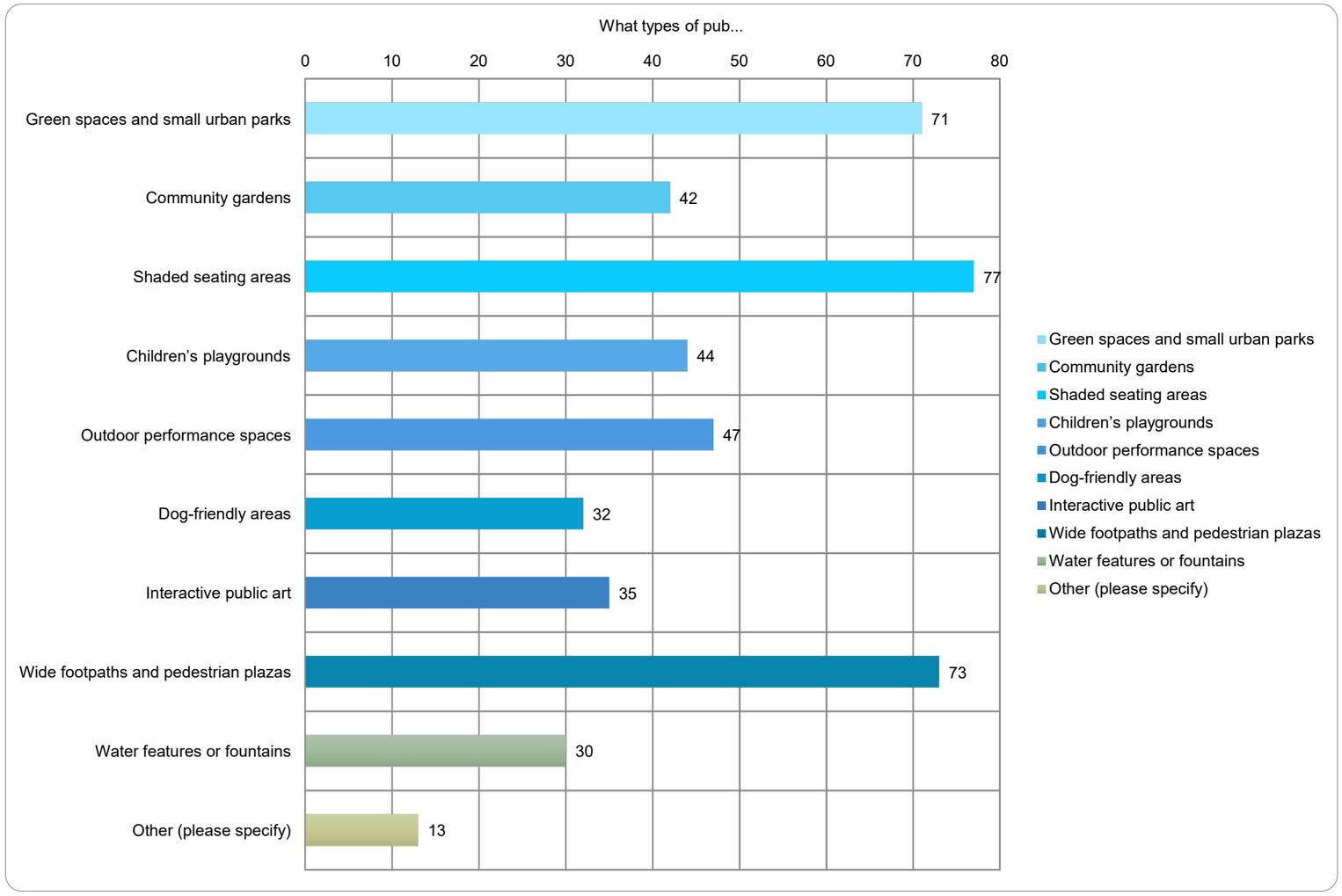
What types of public spaces would you like to see?(Select all that apply)	
Green spaces and small urban parks	71
Community gardens	42
Shaded seating areas	77
Children’s playgrounds	44
Outdoor performance spaces	47
Dog-friendly areas	32
Interactive public art	35
Wide footpaths and pedestrian plazas	73
Water features or fountains	30
Other (please specify)	13



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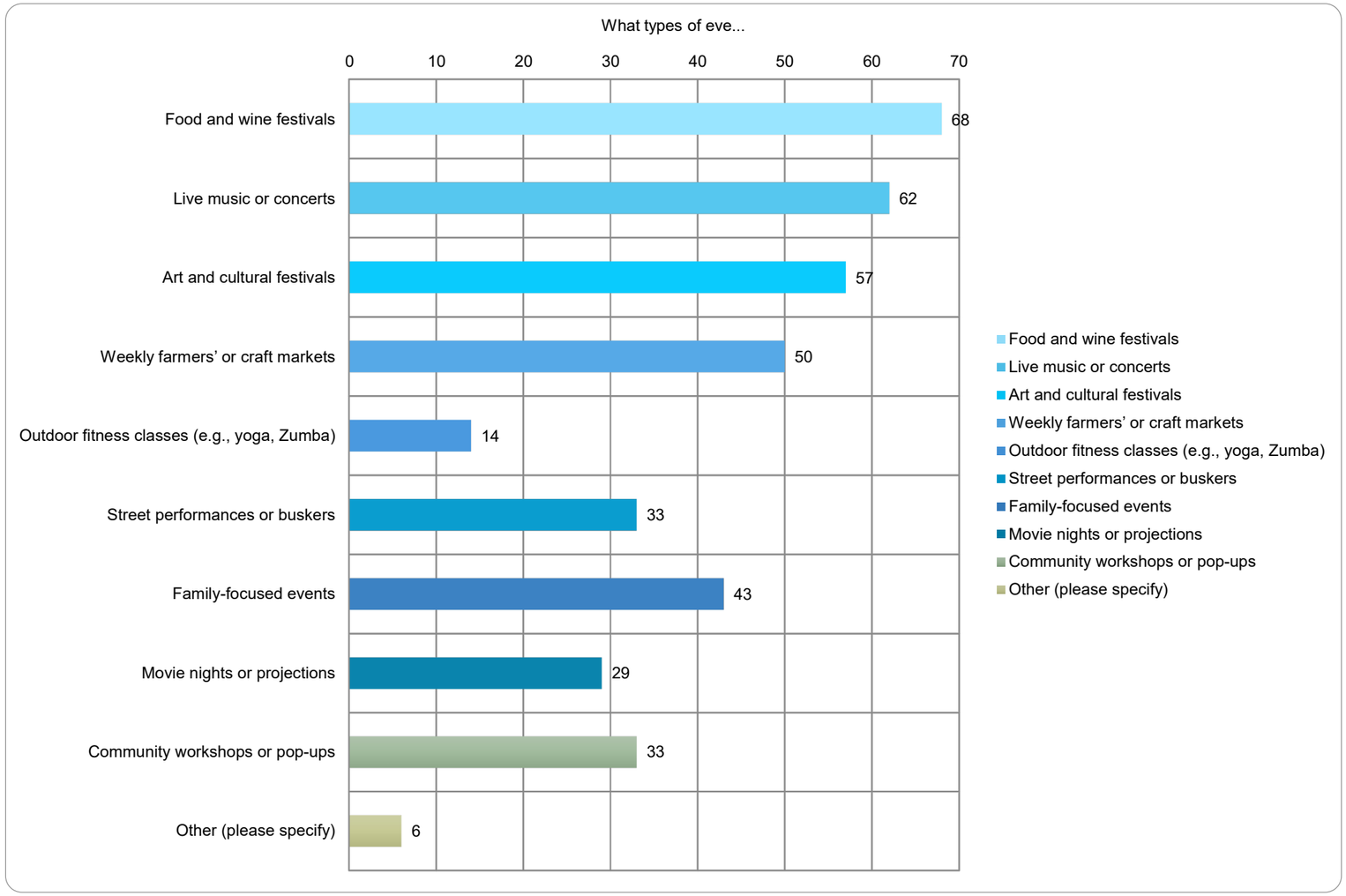
What types of events or activities would encourage you to spend time in the city centre? (Select up to 5 options)	
Food and wine festivals	68
Live music or concerts	62
Art and cultural festivals	57
Weekly farmers' or craft markets	50
Outdoor fitness classes (e.g., yoga, Zumba)	14
Street performances or buskers	33
Family-focused events	43
Movie nights or projections	29
Community workshops or pop-ups	33
Other (please specify)	6



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Port Macquarie Regional City Action Plan

Submissions Summary and Engagement Report

July 2021



NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment |

Acknowledgment of Country

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land, the Birpai people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.

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1. Introduction

The NSW Government, in collaboration with Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, has developed the Port Macquarie Regional City Action Plan (RCAP). The plan establishes a vision, objectives and actions to guide the growth of Port Macquarie city. The RCAP was developed to provide a framework to manage and shape the city's future growth so it conforms with the requirements of the *North Coast Regional Plan 2036* (Regional Plan).

Development of the RCAP is a priority action of the Regional Plan, which was released in March 2017 by the Minister for Planning. The Regional Plan outlines an ambitious vision for the North Coast to be the best region in Australia to live, work and play thanks to its spectacular natural environment and vibrant communities, and sets out four specific goals to guide that work.

A key finding of the Regional Plan under *Goal 2 – A thriving, inter-connected economy* is that three quarters of growth in population and a majority of housing across the North Coast over the next 20 years will occur in Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Lismore and Tweed. The RCAP will be an important tool to plan for the changes we expect to see in these cities towards 2036. The success of these cities will go a long way towards achieving the vision and goals of the Regional Plan.

The RCAP will:

- ensure planning provisions promote employment growth and greater housing diversity;
- promote new job opportunities that complement existing employment nodes around education, health and airport precincts;
- identify infrastructure constraints and public domain improvements that can make areas more attractive for investment; and
- deliver infrastructure and coordinate the most appropriate staging and sequencing of development.

The Port Macquarie RCAP has been prepared in collaboration with council and reflects a coordinated approach across local and state government planning.

Once finalised, the plan will be implemented through the planning and delivery activities of council and agencies. This will provide ongoing scope for council to work directly with their communities within the framework set out by the plan.

1.1 Port Macquarie Regional City Action Plan Vision and Map

The Port Macquarie Regional City Action Plan area map (Figure 1) illustrates the area to which the RCAP applies too. The Port Macquarie RCAP boundary is located south of the Hastings River, east of the Pacific Highway, north of Lake Innes and west of the Pacific Ocean.

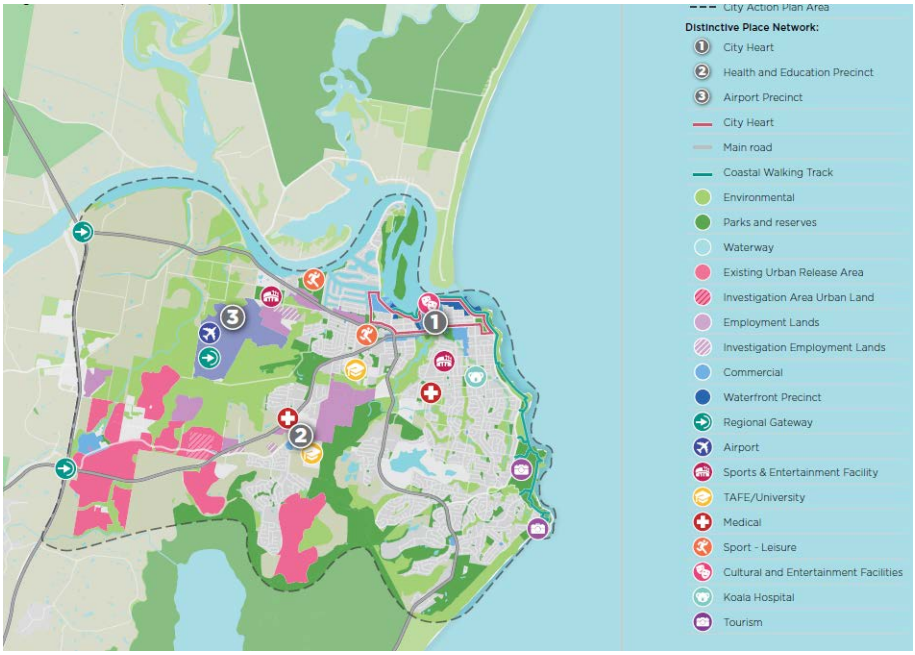


Figure 1: Port Macquarie Regional City Action Plan area map

2. Engagement

Community and stakeholder engagement of the Coffs Harbour RCAP was carried out in March and April 2021. Due to Covid-19, all community engagement activities were conducted via an online platform with the aim to reach the wider Port Macquarie community as well as more in-depth conversations with key stakeholders. Targeted consultation with the Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce, Micro Business Forum, Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association, Charles Sturt University, University of New South Wales, Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council and Mid North Coast Health has also been undertaken to inform the development of the plan.

The feedback gathered through the consultation period will be used to inform the development of the final Regional City Action Plans.

2.1 Overview of engagement activities

The Draft Port Macquarie RCAP 2036 community consultation and engagement consisted of a formal public exhibition period, online community survey, targeted workshops and stakeholder interviews with a total of 240 participants (Table 1).

Under the formal public exhibition period, the Draft Port Macquarie RCAP was made available on the Department's Planning Portal for public and agency comment between 9 March to 30 April 2021. The exhibition period was extended from the original deadline to 30 April 2021 resulting in an exhibition period of 53 days (7.5 weeks).

Cred Consulting was contracted by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to support the public exhibition of the Draft Port Macquarie Regional City Action Plan. Cred Consulting and the Department conducted four targeted workshops, stakeholder interviews and

managed an online survey which was available on the Planning Portal which attracted 208 responses. Survey respondents and workshop participants were asked to provide feedback to ground test the draft RCAP vision and drivers and to prioritise the draft RCAP goals they see as most important for the future of Port Macquarie City.

A paid social media campaign was conducted from 9 March to 30 April 2021 to raise awareness of the RCAP and encourage the community to provide their feedback. Sentiment was mostly neutral/negative. Neutral/negative sentiment is common for campaigns seeking feedback on large-scale development plans, due to perceived risk for overdevelopment. Overall it is considered that the social media campaign performed exceptionally well, exceeding KPI objectives for reach by 770%. Factors that contributed to the campaign's success included having the appropriate budget for geo-location targeting, the use of high quality visual creative, and clear, concise copy. The cost per click was also nearly 54% lower than the 2020 average, making it a cost-effective, as well as high performing, campaign.

Table 1 - Overview of engagement activities

Type	Dates	Details/location	Submissions/participants
Formal public exhibition period	9 March – 30 April 2020	Accessed via Planning Portal	38
Online community survey	9 March – 30 April 2020	Accessed via Planning Portal	208
Invited community workshops	9 March – 30 April 2020	Online video call	16
Invited Government and Agencies workshop	14 and 21 April 2021	Online video call	12
Stakeholder interviews & meetings	14 April – 4 May 2021	Online video call	Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce; Micro Business Forum, Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association; Charles Sturt University; University of New South Wales, Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council; Mid North Coast Health District.
Social media campaign	9 March – 30 April 2020	Facebook Ads	Reach – 104,411 Click throughs – 6,708

2.2 Summary of survey respondents and workshop participants

RCAP vision and drivers: Key Findings

Overall, workshop participants and survey respondents were supportive of the draft Port Macquarie RCAP vision. The natural environment and in particular the river and beaches are important characteristics of Port Macquarie now and the community expressed a strong desire a continuation of the natural environment being intrinsic to the future identify and place character of Port Macquarie

Live

The 'Live' goal was important to participants across all engagement activities, as they value living in a welcoming and happy city that is in balance with the natural environment. Most felt that the key focus for this goal was about keeping people ‘healthy and well’. Through the online survey, this goal was considered, overall, the top priority for 32% of respondents, which was the highest proportion of responses.

A key concern of participants was future growth and overdevelopment in Port Macquarie at the expense of the environment. Housing affordability was an issue, as was the increasing pressure on housing availability within Port Macquarie from future population growth. Although participants were concerned about overdevelopment, they saw delivering a more compact city as a key to healthy living, as well as increasing housing density to provide greater housing diversity.

Work

The 'Work' goal was ranked second as a priority for the draft RCAP by survey respondents (23% or 41 responses). Along with community and stakeholder workshop participants, survey respondents considered this goal important to the future growth of Port Macquarie. Across all activities, participants discussed the importance of this goal for giving young people opportunities and for supporting local business. Tourism and the visitor economy, as well as the local education and health sectors, were the focus of workshop and stakeholder interview discussions.

Across the workshops and interviews, one-quarter of survey respondents confirmed that they felt that no additions were required. Multiple comments suggested the RCAP should include supporting local business to grow regional diversity and resilience, as well as support for the creative community.

Move

The ‘Move’ goal, and the issue of transport, connectivity, and movement to, from and throughout Port Macquarie, was a key discussion point at the community workshops and with stakeholders. Respondents ranked this goal as the third highest when ask which goal was the priority for the draft RCAP (20% or 35 responses). Many participants spoke about the importance of active transport connections and the current lack of adequate walking and cycling infrastructure between the city centre, schools, the university, and hospitals. Respondents considered these important to increasing the ease of movement, as well as contributing to the overall health and wellbeing of residents.

During the engagement period for the draft RCAP, Transport for NSW publicly exhibited a road proposal for potential upgrades to the Oxley Highway that garnered a lot of attention locally. This may have contributed to the focus on transport in RCAP discussions and the survey responses.

Play

The ‘Play’ goal was seen as a priority for only 15% of survey respondents and there was little discussion in the community workshops and stakeholder interviews about this goal. Engagement participants saw the open spaces, natural assets and the welcoming community as the focus for this goal. Most linked liveability with the natural environment, more so than having things to do. Transport and connectivity were also a strong theme that participants discussed in relation to achieving this goal.

Meet

The ‘Meet’ goal was seen as the lowest priority of all for survey respondents. There was also little discussion in the community workshops about it. This goal was, however, the focus of discussions with the Local Aboriginal Land Council, who offered suggestions to improve the objectives, specifically to increase awareness and visibility of the local Aboriginal culture. Several respondents considered this goal and linked its importance to other goals. For example, one participant

commented that 'Work, Play and Move are very important also, but Meet is the most important although we are not going to meet everyone, so local hubs that have room to grow and add to diversity of businesses and experiences are essential'.

Figure 2

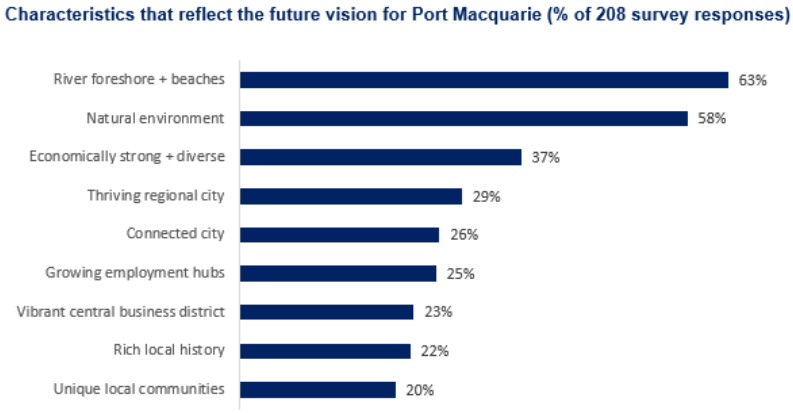
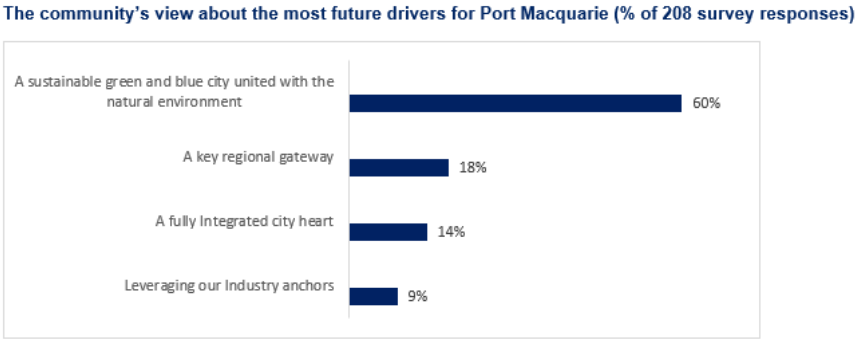


Figure 3



2.3 Summary of submissions

Under the formal public exhibition 38 submissions were received from individuals, community groups and government agencies. Overall there is general support of the Draft Plan. From the submissions that were received there were 30 comments and suggestions regarding the RCAP and 8 submissions which raised concerns with aspects or sections of the RCAP.

The following subsections detail the agency, council and community/interest group submission received and the department's responses. It is noted that a number of general amendments have been made to the Port Macquarie RCAP to response to comments, suggestions and concerns raised during the community consultation and engagement activities. Attachment 1 outlines the detailed changes to the Port Macquarie RCAP.

2.3.1 Government agencies

One Government Agency submission was received from the Department of Education – School Infrastructure NSW. The government agency submission provided comments on the Draft Port Macquarie RCAP and did not object to the plan.

The key matters raised in the submission were:

- recommended that all public and high schools be identified as critical community infrastructure;
- that Collaboration Opportunity No.5 be amended to specifically list Transport for NSW and the Department of Education as key stakeholders; and
- any infrastructure provision within the vicinity of schools should consider pedestrian safety measures such as physical separation kerb outstands and refuges crossings, access for all ages and abilities such as ambulant disabilities and prams.

2.3.2 Community/interest groups

A total of 37 submissions were received from individuals and interest groups including:

- Shelter NSW
- Climate Change Australia
- Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association
- Arts Mid North Coast
- Revive Lake Cathie Inc
- Residents of Heavenly Ridge
- Sancrox Employment Landowners
- Sancrox Proposed Residential Landowners

A detailed submission summary and department response to submissions is located in Attachment 2. The key broad themes raised in the formal submissions during the public exhibition period are summarised in Table 2. A discussion of the key issues raised are discussed in section 3 of this report.

Table 2 - Summary of broad themes raised by community and interest groups

Issues/comment themes	% of submissions
Transport, Traffic, Car Parking and Active Transport	**24%**
Urban Development Issues	**14%**
Infrastructure	**12%**
Housing Affordability	**9%**
Planning, Recognition and Connection to Smaller Centres	**7%**
Health, Ageing and Youth	**7%**
Tourism	**5%**
Environment	**3%**
Climate Change and Sustainability	**3%**
Water Security	**3%**
Impact of Tree Changers	**3%**

3. Key Themes - Response

This section discusses and responds to the key themes identified in formal submissions regarding the Draft Port Macquarie RCAP that were received by the Department during public exhibition.

Transport, Traffic, Car Parking and Active Transport

The need to address transport, traffic, car parking and active transport issues was the most common theme in submission and was raised by 24% of submissions (14 submissions). The main points raised within the submissions included:

- traffic congestion is getting worse and road infrastructure is not keeping up with new development;
- need to ensure effective transport connections between Port Macquarie and the surrounding towns and villages in the LGA;
- need improved and additional pedestrian and cycleways and infrastructure;
- improved public transport;
- more CBD car parking; and
- a number of site specific traffic congestion hot spots and recommended actions to resolve.

Department response

The importance of transport issues is highlighted under Objective 15 – Develop a transport network that delivers a connected Port Macquarie. The matters raised in submissions will also be considered in specific detail with the implementation of Collaboration Opportunity No.5. Objective 15 has been updated to make specific reference to transport options within the city and to the surrounding towns and villages, along with the need to ensure improved traffic, parking, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

Urban development Issues

A number of submission (14% or 8 submissions) raised urban development issues ranging from the location and need for additional unconstrained greenfield urban land, the development of certain key sites, providing infill development with incentives, to keeping the scale of buildings appropriate to maintain Port Macquarie's current character.

Department response

The Port Macquarie RCAP goal 'Live' aims to support housing diversity, supply and affordability while respecting Port Macquarie's history, natural environment and character. This includes supporting Council's intention to prepare a housing strategy to investigate targeted locations or precincts for various housing types assist supply of cost efficient new dwellings. Objective 9 has also been amended to highlight the need for high quality buildings 'that are of a size and scale appropriate to their surroundings and the character of Port Macquarie'.

Infrastructure

A number of submissions (12% or 7 submissions) included comments relating to infrastructure such as the current delivery backlog and specific infrastructure to support resident and tourist needs.

Department response

Objective 1 of the RCAP highlights the importance of aligning the delivery of infrastructure with population and housing growth and the need for Council to develop and implement its Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy, Regional Integrated Transport Strategy, Social Infrastructure Strategy and Smart Community Roadmap.

General discussion

In addition to the three key themes discussed above the remaining submissions including comments focused on a number of other themes as listed above in Table 2.

It is considered that the majority of comments made within the submissions were generally covered by the Draft RCAP that was public exhibited. The Port Macquarie RCAP has been further refined to include additional references to many of these matters, in particular water security, climate change and sustainability, tourism, other centres of the LGA, the environment and heritage.

4. Next steps

The Regional City Action Plan will be implemented through the planning and delivery activities of councils and agencies. Progress will be monitored in conjunction with the wider implementation of the *North Coast Regional Plan 2036* through the North Coast Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committee.

5. Attachments

Attachment 1 – Detailed changes to Port Macquarie RCAP

Section	Changes made
Structure	Move goal has been relocated to before the Meet and Play goals to better reflect the importance of this issue for the community. Move goal descriptor also amended to include reference to active transport options
Vision	The vision has been amended to refer to Port Macquarie as a regional city due to concerns about Port Macquarie becoming a 'metropolitan' city like Sydney or Newcastle.
Vision Map	Le Clos Fernbank Creek Road residential investigation area removed as it is not identified in the North Coast Regional Plan 2036.
Delivery Framework	Framework updated to define short term, medium term and long term delivery for the collaboration areas
Delivery Framework – Table 1: Port Macquarie Regional City Action Plan Collaboration Areas	Collaboration opportunity 5 has been updated to specifically include the Department of Education as a key partner at their request. Tertiary education partners also identified as a key partner due to the importance of the Health and Education Precinct for this matter.
Objective 1	Updated to: • highlight that 40 percent of new housing should be in the form of dual occupancies, apartments, townhouses, villas or dwellings on lots less than 400 square metres by 2036; • Council is to investigate suitable locations for increased housing density and to help housing diversity and affordability for all age groups; and • Investigation of appropriate funding mechanisms to help support the delivery on services and infrastructure required to support growth
Objective 2	Action 2.4 amended and broadened to reference sustainable living by promoting building design principles that respond to Port Macquarie's changing climate and encourage smart electricity, stormwater and waste systems.
Objective 3	Updated to: • reference that affordable housing should be facilitated for all age groups, including young people and students; • Collaboration Opportunity 2 amended to be a short-term action and to reference housing affordability and for all levels of government to collaborate and explore opportunities to help deliver affordable housing and housing affordability

Section	Changes made
Objective 4	Updated to: • Include reference to bushfire as a natural hazard being affected by climate change; • Highlight the need to mitigate climate change and not only adapt; • Include reference to the importance of investigating water management options to maximise water security for the city into the future; • Include mitigation and adaption examples such as installation of water, power and water savings measures; • Include reference to the Strategic Guide to Planning for Natural Hazards in NSW being developed by the NSW Government; • Include reference to new development and infrastructure actively reducing exposure to natural hazards; and • Highlighting the opportunity for Council to potential investigate smart city outcomes through the implementation of its Smart Community Roadmap.
Objective 5	Updated to include reference to sustainable employment and training opportunities for all age groups
Objective 6	Updated to include reference to: • the role of retail precincts in enhancing visitor experiences; • the contribution of the natural environment along with the attractions of the surrounding towns, villages, and countryside to the appeal of Port Macquarie as a visitor destination; and. • Highlighting the opportunities around agri-tourism, village markets and improved visitor signage that can all be maximised to help attract visitors to Port Macquarie and its hinterland.
Objective 7	Updated to: • add Action 7.4 Support and encourage the growth of small business to cater for the local everyday and lifestyle needs of a growing population and changing demographic; and • include reference to the importance of employment lands outside of the RCAP footprint to the development of Port Macquarie.
Objective 8	Amended to include specific reference to creating a pedestrian friendly environment
Objective 9	Updated to: • identify that buildings are of a size and scale appropriate to their surroundings and the character of Port Macquarie; and • that heritage buildings are actively protected, including the development of a heritage or cultural precinct
Objective 10	No change

Section	Changes made
Objective 11	Updated to: • ensure Aboriginal culture is embedded in everyday life; and • include reference to the Aboriginal cultural significance of the Town Green Area in which ancestral remains are present.
Objective 12	No change
Objective 13	Updated to include reference to Westport Park as a best practice playspace example.
Objective 14	Amended to refer to also artisan food and drink premises
Objective 15	Updated to: • simplify and plain English the objective title to developing a transport network that delivers a connected Port Macquarie; • simplify and plain English Action 15.1 to integrate improved and enhanced public and active transport systems to increase connectivity across the city; • highlight the importance of providing more convenient transport options not only within the city but also to the surrounding towns and villages; • supporting public transport networks with appropriate car parking facilities in key locations; • having connected and where possible segregated cycleways with associated end of journey infrastructure; and • that pedestrian facilities should cater for access for all ages and abilities, and any infrastructure provision within the vicinity of schools should in particular consider pedestrian safety measures such as physical separation, kerb outstands and refuge crossings.
Objective 16	No change
Objective 17	Updated to: • Remove reference to investigating river transport for commuters; and • Include reference to Council investigating and supporting changing transport technology such as smart street lighting, parking, traffic management systems and an electric vehicle charging strategy.
Glossary	Include a definition of housing affordability
Figure 7	Remove east – west Kooloonbung Creek Track which is located on private property

Attachment 2 – Submission summary

Submission themes	Submission summary	Department response
Transport, Traffic, Car Parking and Active Transport	Traffic congestion is getting worse	No change to RCAP. To be addressed through Collaboration Opportunity 5 and the preparation of a regional integrated land use and transport strategy
	Need more parking to support town centre	Objective 15 amended to include reference to the provision of car parking
	Roundabouts don't work and need traffic lights	No change to RCAP. To be addressed through Collaboration Opportunity 5 and the preparation of a regional integrated land use and transport strategy
	Need segregated cycleways, greater cycleway connectivity, intermodal transport hubs with facilities for cyclists, end of journey facilities for cyclists	Objective 15 amended to include greater reference to the provision of cycleways and infrastructure
	• Boundary Street needs upgrading • Sherwood Road needs traffic lights • Wrights Road intersection needs fixing • Oxley Highway congestion needs fixing • road verges unkept • Hastings River Drive should be the main traffic entry to take pressure off the Oxley Highway • need a roundabout at the Oxley Highway / John Oxley Drive / Philip Charley Drive; • need a footpath / cycleway along Settlement Point Road to the ferry; • need relief to Lake Road through the industrial area and provision of an alternate route around the industrial area (eg orbital road) is paramount • The duplication of Ocean Drive should be delayed until Lake Road and the lights at the intersection of Lake Road and Ocean Drive are upgraded. Proceeding with the duplication would only deliver traffic faster to a critical area of delay. Improvements needed before any duplication should occur include: o lengthening the left lane slip from Ocean Drive to Lake Road o Provide 4 lanes for the full length of Lake Road between Ocean Drive and the Oxley Highway o Provide an increase in size of Central Road Roundabout to provide two lanes through. o Increase the length of the right turn lanes from Lake Road to Ocean Drive o provide a median strip for the full length of Lake Road to stop right turn movements into businesses, thereby making vehicles use the roundabouts and only having left in and left out to businesses.	No change to RCAP as site specific traffic matters are beyond the scope of the plan and are more appropriately considered in processes such as Collaboration Opportunity 5 and the preparation of a regional integrated land use and transport strategy

Submission themes	Submission summary	Department response
	No more housing until traffic issues fixed	No change to RCAP. To be addressed through Collaboration Opportunity 5 and the preparation of a regional integrated land use and transport strategy
	Need improved public transport, including access to the train station at Wauchope, which will have significant environmental and community benefits	No change to RCAP. To be addressed through Collaboration Opportunity 5 and the preparation of a regional integrated land use and transport strategy
	Need to remove the east-west Kooloonbung Creek Walking Track from the RCAP as it crosses private property	Figure 7 of the RCAP amended to remove the track.
	Need to develop and fund a city wide bicycle infrastructure plan	No change to RCAP. Objective 15 already identifies the need for Council to review its Bike Plan and it is anticipated that this issue will also be addressed through Collaboration Opportunity 5 and the preparation of a regional integrated land use and transport strategy
	Port Macquarie should have an electric vehicle charging strategy	Objective 17 amended to include a recommendation that an electric vehicle charging strategy be prepared
	Sancrox interchange should be identified as the third gateway to the city	No change to RCAP. It is not considered that the Sancrox interchange currently serves this purpose as it does not have direct access to major thoroughfare on the eastern side of the Pacific Highway. Can also be considered in the future through Collaboration Opportunity 5 and the preparation of a regional integrated land use and transport strategy
Urban Development Issues	Scale of buildings needs to remain the same and not have high rise development	Objective 9 amended to include reference to buildings needing to be of a size and scale appropriate to their surroundings and the character of Port Macquarie
	Need more unconstrained land which includes land with scattered timber where no meaningful environmental outcome is possible	No change to RCAP. Identifying additional unconstrained land for development is outside the scope of the RCAP and more appropriately considered by Council in its Local Strategic Planning Statement and Growth Management processes
	Hotels shouldn't be able to build a glass conference room in the middle of town	No change to RCAP as site specific development matters are beyond the scope of the plan

Submission themes	Submission summary	Department response
	The former Food for Less site should become a permanent under cover local growers market	No change to RCAP as site specific development matters are beyond the scope of the plan
	The RCAP should be expanded to include the Sancrox employment area	Objective 7 updated to reference the importance of employment lands in other areas of the LGA in supporting the city. The Pacific Highway is considered to be the current natural western boundary of the city and its urban area for the lifespan of the RCAP to 2036. This matter could be reviewed in the future depending on land use change in the Greater Sancrox Area.
	The RCAP should be expanded to include the Sancrox area west of the southern gateway as a future residential investigation area	No change to RCAP. The Pacific Highway is considered to be the current natural western boundary of the city and its urban area for the lifespan of the RCAP to 2036. Identifying additional potential urban land is also outside the scope of the RCAP and more appropriately considered by Council in its Local Strategic Planning Statement and Growth Management processes
	Need to expand the 'urban forest' and have more greening strategies for the city	No change to RCAP. This issue is addressed under Objective 2
	The centre of Port Macquarie should become a car free pedestrian zone similar to European cities	Objective 8 updated to make reference to the creation of pedestrian friendly environments
Infrastructure	Port Macquarie is suffering from a significant backlog in infrastructure delivery	Objective 1 already addresses the need to plan and provide for the infrastructure required to support Port Macquarie's growth and has been amended to also reference to need to explore appropriate funding models to deliver required services and infrastructure to support growth.
	Should identify all public and high schools as critical community infrastructure on the RCAP maps	Noted. Not considered necessary to identify all schools as critical infrastructure
	Any infrastructure provision within the vicinity of schools should consider pedestrian safety measures such as physical separation, kerb outstands and refuges crossings, access for all ages and abilities such as ambulant disabilities and prams	Objective 15 updated to identify the need to plan for appropriate infrastructure within the vicinity of schools
	An electric vehicle charging strategy for Port Macquarie should be prepared	Objective 17 updated to make reference to the investigation of an electric vehicle strategy

Submission themes	Submission summary	Department response
	Support the delivery of new infrastructure for residents and visitors such as: • proposed tidal pool; • more fish cleaning tables; • man made lagoon ' kids water park; and • new tourist and visitor information where parking for cars and caravans was easier	No change to RCAP as site specific infrastructure matters such as these are beyond the scope of the plan
Housing Affordability	Need more affordable housing particularly for young families and those aged over 55	Objective 1 updated to make specific reference to housing for young families and those aged over 55.
	More land supply and less regulation / taxes are needed to help housing affordability	Noted. No change required as the RCAP already identifies significant housing release areas that are anticipated will be adequate for the life of the plan to 2036 and changes to taxes and regulation are outside the scope of the plan
	Infill development needs incentives such as reduced developer contributions, less parking and heritage restrictions	No change to RCAP as site specific policy matters are beyond the scale of the plan and as it is considered that this matter is most appropriately considered in processes such as Collaboration Opportunity 2
	The RCAP should include measurable targets and outcomes to encourage greater housing choice, diversity and affordability	Objective 1 updated to identify that 40 percent of new housing should be in the form of dual occupancies, apartments, townhouses, villas or dwellings on lots less than 400 square metres by 2036 in accordance with the requirements of the North Coast Regional Plan 2036 and that Council is to investigate suitable locations for increased housing density.
	Support the introduction of more R3 Medium Density Residential zones into regional town centres and encourage that 20% of all new dwellings over the next 20 years be 1 and 2 bedrooms	Objective 1 updated to identify that 40 percent of new housing should be in the form of smaller housing such as dual occupancies, apartments, townhouses, villas or dwellings on lots less than 400 square metres by 2036 and Council is to investigate suitable locations for increased housing density.
	Objective 3 should provide guidance and support to deliver an affordability rental housing target of 5% for low and moderate income households across the region	No change to RCAP as it is considered that this matter is most appropriately considered in processes such as Collaboration Opportunity 2

Submission themes	Submission summary	Department response
	Objective 4 should include an additional objective that DPIE work with Dept of Fair Trading to ensure tenants living in caravan parks have access to affordable housing that is secure and adequate in terms of risk from natural hazards	Noted. No change required as Objective 4 already makes reference to new development (including caravan parks) avoiding areas at high risk from natural hazards
	The Plan should identify the importance of affordable housing for young people and students	Objective 3 Deliver increased opportunities for affordable housing updated to make specific reference to young people and students
Planning, recognition and transport connection to the smaller centres	Need greater accessibility between Wauchope and Port Macquarie	Objective 15 updated to include reference to the importance of providing movement between Port Macquarie and the surrounding towns and villages
	More planning and infrastructure is required to support Lake Cathie	Noted. No change required as Lake Cathie is outside the scope of the RCAP and this matter is more appropriately considered in Council's local planning processes
	Need to acknowledge that affordable housing is also needed in the smaller towns and villages	Noted. No change required as Lake Cathie is outside the scope of the RCAP and this matter is more appropriately considered in Council's local planning processes
	Need to link small towns and villages through employment, education, training and housing not encouraging people to travel out of the area through the 'regional gateway'. Our small towns and villages are hidden and forgotten	Objective 15 updated to include reference to the importance of providing movement between Port Macquarie and the surrounding towns and villages. Objective 6 also updated to reference the importance of the small towns and villages to the appeal of Port Macquarie and tourism
	Need more educational and employment strategies for youth, particularly in Wauchope	While Wauchope is outside the scope of the RCAP, Objective 5 has been amended to address employment and training for all age groups
	Need more recognition of smaller towns and villages in the RCAP	Objective 15 updated to include reference to the importance of providing movement between Port Macquarie and the surrounding towns and villages. Objective 6 also updated to reference the importance of the small towns and villages to the appeal of Port Macquarie and tourism

Submission themes	Submission summary	Department response
Health, Ageing and Youth	Port Macquarie could be a health and ageing hub by: • providing more aged care, health and education jobs; • encouraging state industry relocation; • more low income housing for students; • investment in more university development and health infrastructure (ie. build a new Wauchope hospital)	Noted. No change to RCAP required as these matters are already addressed in Objectives 3 and 5
	Shopping complexes need to be more aged friendly and accommodate all needs	Objective 8 updated to refer to the city heart needing to be accessible to people of all ages and abilities
	The Plan needs to recognise the demographic structure of Port Macquarie and its ageing population and that this is reflected in the range of housing provided, transport and means of travel, community facilities and cultural activities.	Objectives 1, 3, 8 and 14 updated to include additional references to catering for all ages
Tourism	Need greater recognition of the role of the countryside in the towns and villages in attracting tourists to Port Macquarie	Objective 6 updated to reference the importance of the countryside, towns and villages in attracting tourists to Port Macquarie
	Need more businesses, shops and food options to help attract tourists	Objective 8 updated to include reference to the importance of retail precincts
	Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association supports the plan, the city drivers, that Council's plans need to align with the RCAP to maximise funding opportunities	Noted. No change to RCAP required
Environment	Developments identified in the RCAP will impact negatively on the environment, waterways and koala habitat	Noted. No change to RCAP as no new development outside of existing Council plans or policies is included, all development before it can proceed will be subject to environmental assessment and Objective 2 identifies the need for environmentally sustainable city growth
	Greater balance is needed to ensuring commercial outcomes can be delivered instead of always environmental outcomes	Noted. No change to RCAP required as changing the current assessment framework under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* is outside the scope of the RCAP
	Objection to a proposed bicycle pathway / footpath through Yaluma Reserve and these environmental areas need to be protected	Noted. No change to RCAP as site specific matters such as this are beyond the scope of the plan

Submission themes	Submission summary	Department response
Climate Change and Sustainability	Need to deal with and counter act climate change through: • air conditioning in schools • harnessing water run-of • pilot program for solar energy sustainability villages, towns and industries • subsidised planting of koala feed trees and other trees • encourage schools to install water, power and water saving measures through financial contributions, expert involvement and media promotion to educate our children on climate change and sustainability	Objective 4 updated to reference a number of the requested matters and noting that all these issues are likely to be considered in detail when undertaking Collaboration Opportunity 3
	Port Macquarie should develop a 'smart cities' plan that addresses: • smart lighting, smart parking, smart waste, water management, asset tracking and environmental monitoring • development of a digital twin to allow better planning, urban design and engagement • smart traffic management system • smart power grids	
	Objective 4 should be updated to identify the need to mitigate climate change rather than only adapting and make Port Macquarie a zero carbon community over the next 10 years	

Port Macquarie's resilience to climate change can be strengthened in the following ways:

- Establishment of Renewable Energy industrial and residential estates. Different criteria could apply to new and existing estates (Existing estates: commit to 100% renewable electricity within 5 years OR to 100% renewable energy – electricity plus heat – within 10 years)
- Installation of solar panels and solar hot water systems on all Government buildings, and industrial, commercial and residential where practicable
- Longer term outlook when planning any coastal, waterway, canal or river improvement to take account of climate change impacts such as increased storm and flooding intensity / frequency and sea level rise.
- Hardening of essential infrastructure such as communication networks, water supplies, sewer systems, major access routes, roads and bridges from the impacts of drought, bush fires, flooding, storm surges and sea level rise
- Regularly update modelling information for all residents, property and business owners with respect to revised flood, fire, storm surge and sea level rise risk ratings that reflect the rapidly changing impact of climate change. This should include reviewing building and zoning regulations as required to reflect changing risk profiles.
- Regularly update fire control standards regulating distance from trees, building materials, vehicle access etc
- Advocate for greater contingency funding from State and Federal Governments to reflect the increasing impact, frequency and cost of extreme climate change weather events
- Review and improve interagency emergency coordination to extreme weather events - particularly with respects to forecasting, command and control, coordination, logistics, and communication during natural disaster events. Plan, fund and train for a new normal
- Improve the quality of and rapid, seamless access to single source accurate data required by multiple agencies responding to natural disasters
- Improve communication channels with residents and visitors during natural disaster events.
- Learn from the lessons of the last two years of natural disasters, listen to the science and coordinate all levels of Government to rapidly decarbonise our economy.

Submission themes	Submission summary	Department response
	A Long term Energy Strategy and Emissions Tracking should be introduced for Port Macquarie that: • recognises the risk and need for urgent action on emissions due to the climate emergency; • to ensure new development must meet the highest levels of energy efficiency, emissions reduction and environment sustainability; • includes commencement of a local carbon emissions monitoring project • continued promotion and education for recycling, water and energy efficiency and water reduction	
Water Security	Need a new dam for water security	Objective 4 updated to make reference to the investigation of water management options.
	Need to address water security for Port Macquarie and the quantity of water that is being used for agriculture	Objective 4 updated to make reference to the investigation of water management options. The amount of water that can be used for agriculture is however outside the scope of the RCAP
Tree Changers	People from outside the region are moving to Port Macquarie and taking local jobs and driving up house prices	Noted. No change to RCAP required as both the live and work goals already address the need for housing diversity, affordability and employment opportunities to support the growing population
	People are moving to Port Macquarie and trying to change it to be like Sydney	Noted. Objective 9 of the RCAP already identifies the importance of retaining and protecting Port Macquarie's existing character. Objective 9 also amended to include reference to future buildings needing to be of a size and scale appropriate to their surroundings and the character of Port Macquarie
Other	Port Macquarie is a town not a city	RCAP vision amended to identify Port Macquarie as a regional city rather than a metropolitan city.

Submission themes	Submission summary	Department response
	Need greater acknowledgement of the traditional Aboriginal custodians of the land in the RCAP	The traditional Aboriginal custodians are acknowledged in the RCAP vision and in particular Objective 11. Objective 11 also updated to identify the importance of embedding Aboriginal culture in everyday life and the significance of areas like the Town Green where ancestral remains are located.
	State Environmental Planning Policy are often metropolitan centric and have mapping that effects development that needs better ground truthing	Noted. No change required to RCAP. Reviewing SEPPs and ground truthing of maps is outside the scope of RCAP and other more appropriate processes are available to resolve this issue
	Need a low tax and low Government intervention environment to simulate growth	Noted. No change required to RCAP. The tax and regulation systems are outside the scope of RCAP and other more appropriate processes are available to consider these issues
	Vision could be potentially be shortened, particularly if the current version is not endorsed by the broader community	Noted. No change required to RCAP. No concerns were raised regarding the vision throughout the consultation process
	Objective 9 should be amended to make specific reference to actively protecting existing heritage buildings	Objective 9 updated to make reference to actively protecting existing heritage buildings
	Department of Education – State Infrastructure requests to be involved in any strategic planning processes that proposed new urban release areas	Noted. No change to RCAP required
	Department of Education – State Infrastructure requests that Collaboration Opportunity 5 be amended to identify Transport for NSW and the Department of Education as key stakeholders.	Table 1 of RCAP updated for Collaboration Opportunity 5 to identify Transport for NSW and the Department of Education as key stakeholders.
	RCAP delivery framework should clarify the implementation process of the plan	Noted. No change to RCAP required. Delivery of the RCAP will be done by the responsible bodies and implementation will be overseen by the North Coast Regional Plan Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committee

Council-initiated Planning Proposal

Stage 2 - Planning Proposal

Local Environmental Plan (LEP)
Housekeeping Amendments 2025

August 2025 | Version 1.0



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL

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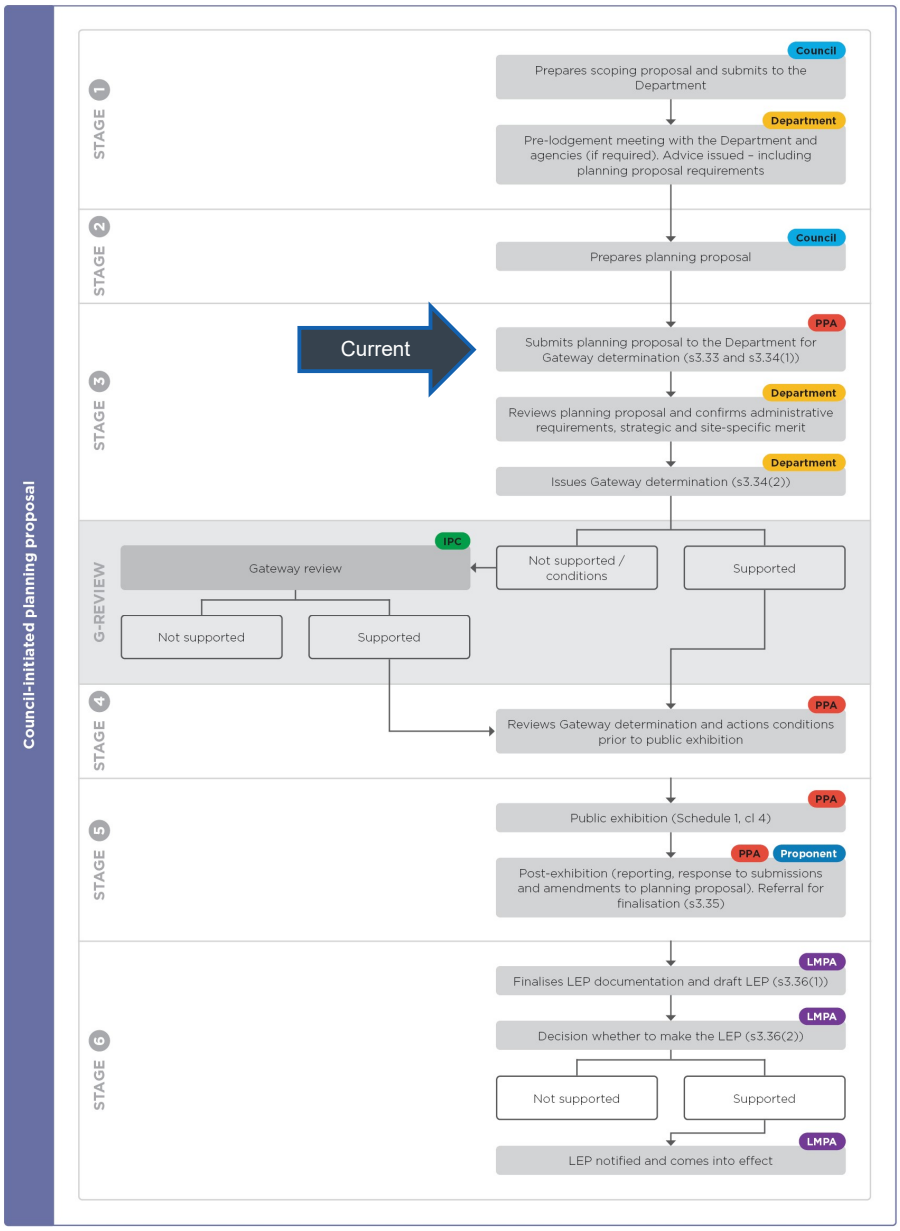
PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

LEP Housekeeping Amendments 2025



Source: *LEP Plan-Making Guide, August 2023*

Introduction

This Planning Proposal has been prepared by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (Council) to amend the *Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011* under section 3.33 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the Act).

Twenty (20) amendments are proposed in this Planning Proposal. The proposed amendments represent Council's ongoing LEP Housekeeping Program and are intended to resolve minor mapping anomalies, update land use tables, refine clause wording, and implement boundary realignments and rezonings. These changes are necessary to ensure Council's LEP remains accurate, effective, and aligned with current strategic land use directions.

Key amendments include:

- expansion of permissible uses in the W1 Natural Waterways zone to include water recreation structures, supporting sustainable recreational and fishing activities,
- refinement of Clause 4.1A to allow greater flexibility for affordable housing developments on smaller lots and accommodate existing dwellings,
- introduction of a new Clause 5.26 – Visually Sensitive Land, to clarify assessment criteria and protect landscape character in designated areas,
- rezoning and boundary realignments for multiple sites across the local government area (LGA) to correct zoning discrepancies, reflect current land ownership and use (including land exchanges with State agencies), and support conservation, infrastructure delivery, and strategic urban growth,
- corrections to mapping layers, including cadastre updates, removal of incorrectly mapped biodiversity elements, and alignment with current subdivision approvals.

These proposed changes are informed by site-specific investigations, past development assessments, strategic land use policies, and State agency consultation. They respond to Council resolutions, infrastructure delivery updates, and land use transitions resulting from land acquisitions, road realignments, and biodiversity management strategies.

Site Details

This Planning Proposal applies to multiple sites across the LGA, including land in King Creek, Beechwood, Thrumster, Port Macquarie, Bonny Hills, Limeburners Creek, and Sancrox. It encompasses both site-specific and LGA-wide amendments, see Figure 1.

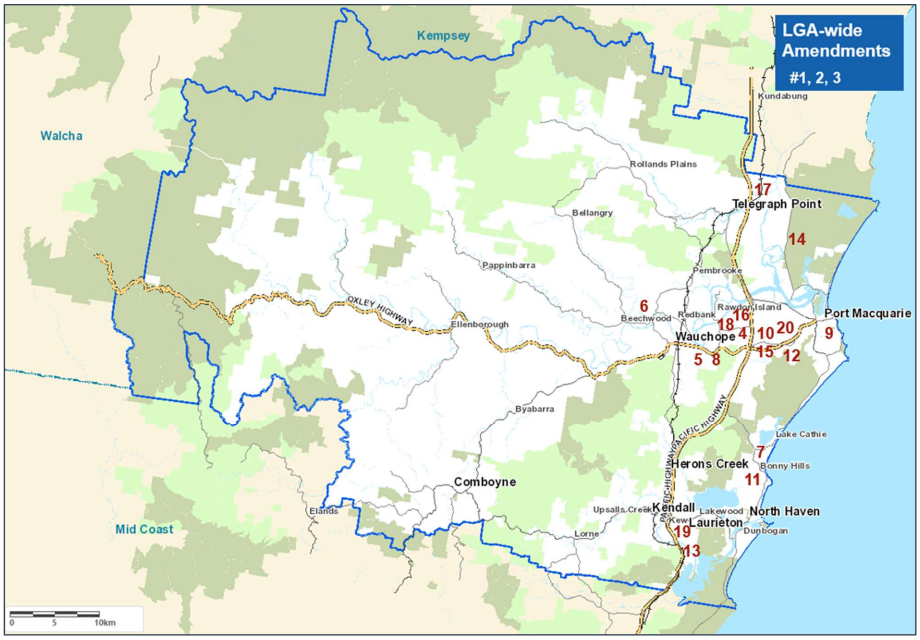


Figure 1: Location of Proposed Amendments

Amendments History

The amendments contained in this Planning Proposal were identified by Council's Strategic Planning team through routine planning activities, input from internal stakeholders, and advice from State agencies highlighting discrepancies and updates required to Council's LEP.

On 19 June 2025, Council endorsed the Scoping Proposal at its Ordinary Meeting and subsequently referred it to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department) for comment.

On 22 July 2025, the Department issued formal advice, focusing on the need to demonstrate consistency with Council's strategic planning framework, including relevant Local Planning Directions, as well as identifying potential constraints, consultation requirements with State agencies, and item-specific matters for consideration (refer to Attachment 1). All matters raised by the Department have been addressed in the assessment of this Planning Proposal.

Part 1 – Objectives or Intended Outcomes

Objective

The Objective of this Planning Proposal is to update the *Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Environmental Plan 2011* (Council LEP) under section 3.33 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the Act) to address twenty housekeeping amendments identified through Council's ongoing LEP Housekeeping Program.

This Objective will be achieved by updating land use tables, refining Clause wording, correcting mapping anomalies, and implementing minor rezonings and boundary realignments. These amendments will ensure that Council's LEP remains accurate and aligned with Council's strategic planning directions.

Intended Outcomes

The Intended Outcomes of the Planning Proposal will be to:

- maintain the accuracy, clarity, and integrity of Council's LEP by resolving minor errors and updating provisions,
- ensure consistency across LEP maps, the NSW Spatial Viewer, and zoning controls by correcting anomalies and aligning with intended land uses and infrastructure delivery,
- support housing objectives by refining provisions to facilitate affordable, diverse housing outcomes, and
- enhance environmental protection by introducing provisions that protect scenic quality, environmentally sensitive areas, and biodiversity through appropriate rezonings.

Part 2 – Explanation of Provisions

Intended Provisions

To achieve the Objective and Intended Outcomes of this Planning Proposal, twenty (20) housekeeping amendments are proposed. These amendments are divided into 4 categories being:

1. **Land Use Table Updates** – 2 items,
2. **New or Updated Clauses** – 2 items,
3. **Boundary Realignment or Rezoning** – 15 items,
4. **Mapping Updates** - 1 item.

Each amendment is minor in nature, administrative or corrective in intent, and does not materially alter the strategic direction of Council's LEP. Collectively, they maintain statutory accuracy, improve usability, and ensure Council's LEP remains up to date with Council's strategic planning framework.

Land Use Table Updates

Item 1 - Amend permissible uses in the R3 Medium Density Residential zone and R4 High Density Residential zone to prohibit low-density housing types and prioritise medium and high-density housing

Application: LGA-wide

Council's *Local Housing Delivery Plan 2024* (the Housing Plan), endorsed by Council on 15 August 2024, is a strategic implementation document under Council's *Living and Place Strategy 2024*. Its purpose is to guide the delivery of approximately 16,000 new dwellings across the LGA by 2046.

The Local Housing Delivery Plan sets out over 40 targeted actions to guide the delivery of 16,000 new dwellings by 2046 across the LGA. These actions are grouped under 5x strategic priorities:

1. Infrastructure to support sustainable growth,
2. Provide diverse housing,
3. Deliver liveable and connected neighborhoods with distinctive character,
4. Create neighborhoods which are safe, sustainable and resilient to natural hazards, and
5. Locate development in well planned growth precincts and infill areas.

The actions are linked to timeframes (Immediate, Short, Medium, Long, Ongoing) and will be implemented through changes to Council's LEP and Development Control Plan, structure plans, and ongoing monitoring.

Under the '*Provide diverse housing*' priority, Action 2b requires that Council implement an 'immediate' action across the whole LGA to:

> *Action 2b - Prohibit Low Density Land Uses such as Dwelling Houses, Dual Occupancies and Secondary Dwellings in zones R3 Medium Density Residential and R4 High Density Residential.*

The intent of Action 2b is to ensure that residential zones earmarked for higher density development are not underutilised by low-yield, land-intensive housing typologies. This action seeks to safeguard the strategic function of the R3 and R4 zones in delivering a significant share of the LGA's 40% medium and high-density housing target.

Prohibiting low-density housing in R3 and R4 zones ensures land is used efficiently to deliver diverse, higher-density housing in walkable, well-serviced precincts, while reinforcing the strategic intent of the zone and deterring inappropriate low-scale development. In review of Council's LEP, Dual Occupancies are already prohibited in both zones. This measure reflects a deliberate policy shift away from detached dwellings as the default housing type in strategic centres and growth nodes, reinforcing the Housing Plan's emphasis on sustainable, diverse, and well-located urban housing.

Proposed Amendment 1

Amend the Land Use Tables for the R3 Medium Density Residential zone and R4 High Density Residential zone to prohibit Dwelling Houses and Secondary Dwellings.

Item 2 - Permit 'water recreation structures' in the W1 Natural Waterways zone to support sustainable recreational fishing

Application: LGA-wide

Part 2 - Land Use Tables of Council's LEP, states that the objectives of the W1 Natural Waterways zone under Council's LEP are:

- *to protect the ecological and scenic values of natural waterways,*
- *to prevent development that would have an adverse effect on the natural values of waterways in this zone,*
- *to provide for sustainable fishing industries and recreational fishing.*

The Land Use Table for the W1 Natural Waterways zone does not permit, even with consent, the development of a 'water recreation structure', which is defined as *a structure used primarily for recreational purposes that has a direct structural connection between the shore and the waterway, and may include a pier, wharf, jetty or boat launching ramp.*

This restriction presents a planning inconsistency as it does not align with the W1 zone's objective to provide for sustainable recreational fishing. The exclusion of water recreation structures, such as boat launching ramps, undermines this objective by limiting necessary access infrastructure for recreational fishing activities. Although 'jetties' are currently permitted, this does not encompass the broader range of structures essential for public water access and recreational use. This creates an anomaly between the zone's stated purpose and the uses it permits.

Furthermore, adjoining LGAs, including Kempsey, Bellingen, and Coffs Harbour, permit 'water recreation structures' in the W1 zone, aligning their planning controls with the practical requirements of recreational and community water access.

Proposed Amendment 2

Amend the Land Use Table for the W1 Natural Waterways zone to permit with consent a water recreation structure land use.

New or Updated Clauses

Item 3 - Amend *Clause 4.1A – Exceptions to minimum lot sizes for certain residential development*, to clarify the intent, allow subdivision with existing dwellings, and exclude the application of this clause in the R3 Medium Density Residential and R4 High Density Residential zones

Application: LGA-wide

Clause 4.1A - Exceptions to minimum lot sizes for certain residential development, states:

> *(1) The objective of this clause is to encourage housing diversity without adversely impacting on residential amenity.*
>
> *(2) This clause applies to development on land in the following zones -*
>
> *(a) Zone R1 General Residential,*
>
> *(b) Zone R3 Medium Density Residential,*
>
> *(c) Zone R4 High Density Residential.*
>
> *(3) Development consent may be granted to a single development application for development to which this clause applies that is both of the following -*
>
> *(a) the subdivision of land into 2 or more lots,*
>
> *(b) the erection of an attached dwelling, a semi-detached dwelling or a dwelling house on each lot resulting from the subdivision.*

In Clause 4.1A practical application, Council's Development Assessment team has advised that this clause is repeatedly misinterpreted by applicants. The intent of Clause 4.1A is to enable subdivision of land into 2 or more lots, with the erection of a dwelling on each lot that also considers an existing dwelling on one lot. The current wording of Clause 4.1A is not clear on this intent. This limits its practical use and restricts opportunities for smaller, more diverse housing types in established lower density residential areas. Updated wording is recommended to enable subdivision and development of land with existing dwellings, allowing for more flexibility in residential development.

Additionally, Clause 4.1A also applies to the R3 Medium Density Residential and R4 High Density Residential. For consistency with Item 1 which aims to prohibit lower density uses in higher density zones, Council's Development Assessment team has further recommended that both these zones be excluded from application of Clause 4.1A.

Wording for an updated Clause 4.1A has been developed to show where the misinterpretation is occurring and provide wording to the public on which to comment on during Stage 5 - Public Exhibition and Assessment, of the LEP Plan-making process. The updated wording is intended to:

- explicitly supporting affordable housing,
- allowing subdivision with existing dwellings, and
- permitting staged subdivision and development with appropriate safeguards, making it more practical for diverse residential outcomes.

Proposed Amendment 3

Amend Clause 4.1A to explicitly support affordable housing, allow subdivision with existing dwellings, and exclude the R3 Medium Density Residential zone and R4 High Density Residential zone from its application.

4.1A Exceptions to minimum lot sizes for certain residential development

(1) The objective of this clause is to encourage opportunities for affordable housing and housing diversity without adversely impacting on residential amenity.

(2) This clause applies to development on land in the following zones—

(a) Zone R1 General Residential,

~~*(b) Zone R3 Medium Density Residential,*~~

~~*(c) Zone R4 High Density Residential.*~~

(3) Development consent may be granted to the subdivision of land to which this clause applies into 2 or more lots if -

(a) as a result of the subdivision, residential accommodation and any other permissible land use (whether existing or proposed) is located on each lot resulting from the subdivision,

(b) where the subdivision is to occur first, a Subdivision Certificate shall not be issued unless the residential accommodation is substantially commenced (as determined by Council) or where a restriction as to user prohibits any dwelling or residential accommodation on the lot other than that approved.

~~*(3) Development consent may be granted to a single development application for development to which this clause applies that is both of the following –*~~

~~*(a) the subdivision of land into 2 or more lots,*~~

~~*(b) the erection of an attached dwelling, a semi-detached dwelling or a dwelling house on each lot resulting from the subdivision.*~~

Item 4 - Introduce a new Clause to provide assessment criteria for mapped Visually Sensitive Land in Sancrox

Application: Multiple properties in Sancrox -

- 181 Sancrox Road, Sancrox - Lot 62 on DP0754434,
- Sancrox Road, Sancrox - Lot 19 on DP1191370, Lot 26 on DP1191370, Lot 1 on DP0124543, Lot 1 on DP1144490, Lot 21 on DP1191370 and Lot 4 on DP1241253.

LEP Maps: Acoustic Controls Map, Coastal Erosion Map, Visually Sensitive Land Map - Sheet CL1_013C

Council's *Acoustic Controls Map, Coastal Erosion Map, Visually Sensitive Land Map*, identifies properties as 'visually sensitive land' in Sancrox adjoining the Pacific Highway (refer to Figure 2). However, Council's LEP does not provide any explanation of the intent of this designation or what specific planning controls apply to development within these mapped areas.

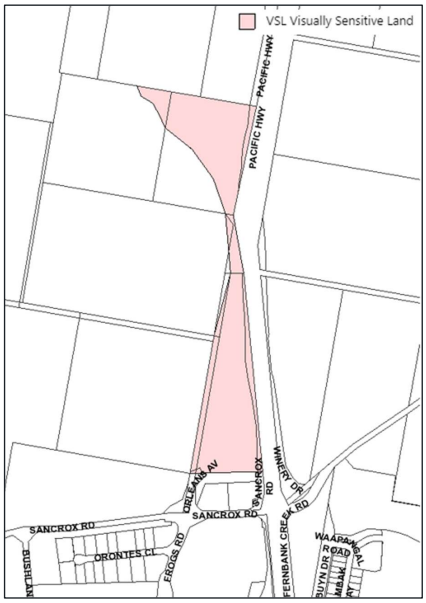


Figure 2 - Visually Sensitive Land

The term "Visually Sensitive Land" is not a standard definition under the *Standard Instrument LEP* and is unique to Council's LEP. This creates ambiguity for applicants and assessing officers, as the existing framework lacks statutory guidance for assessing development in these locations.

To address this gap, a new clause (Clause 5.26) is proposed under Part 5 – Miscellaneous. This clause has been informed by Council's strategic documents and Transport for NSW's *Environmental Impact Assessment Practice Note EIA-N04: Guideline for Landscape Character and*

Visual Impact Assessment. Similar to Item 4, proposed wording for the new clause has been developed to show the intent of the clause and provide wording to the public on which to comment on during Stage 5 - Public Exhibition and Assessment, of the LEP Plan-making process.

This amendment will provide clear planning intent and assessment criteria, ensuring that development within mapped areas respects the visual and landscape character of the Sancrox locality and aligns with Council's broader LEP framework.

Updates to the corresponding map isn't required as it already mapped applicable visually sensitive areas.

Proposed Amendment 4

Insert Clause 5.26 – Visually sensitive land, to protect scenic quality, minimise visual impact, and ensure development is compatible with the surrounding landscape.

Clause 5.26 Visually sensitive land

Note - Visually sensitive land areas are shown on the Visually Sensitive Land Map.

(1) Objectives The objectives of this clause are as follows—

(a) to protect and enhance the scenic quality and visual character of landscapes identified as visually sensitive,

(b) to minimise visual impact by ensuring development is appropriately designed and screened and complements the landscape and surrounding character.

(2) This clause applies to land identified as visually sensitive land.

(3) Development consent must not be granted to development for the purposes of Signage including an advertising structure, a building notification sign or a business identification sign.

Boundary Realignment or Rezoning

Item 5 - Realign zoning boundaries at 32 King Ridge, King Creek to match updated flood mapping and remove dual zoning through existing dwelling

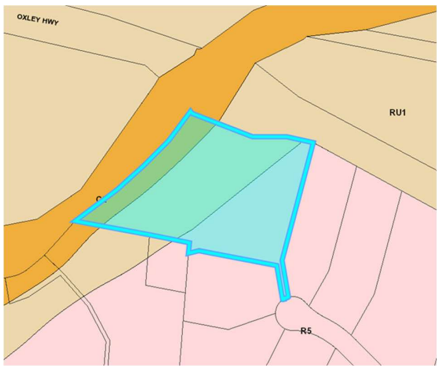
Application: 32 King Ridge, King Creek - Lot 9 on DP1142729

LEP Maps: Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_013B, Lot Size Map - Sheet LSZ_13B

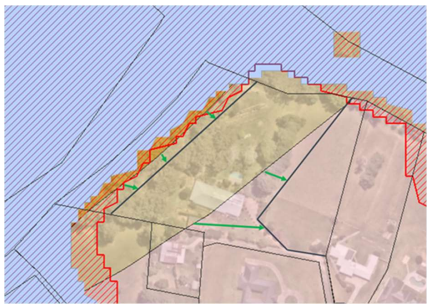
Council is seeking to amend the Land Zoning Map and Lot Size Map for 32 King Ridge, King Creek to address inaccuracies in zoning boundaries that no longer reflect updated flood risk information or the site's intended land use.

The property is currently split-zoned RU1 Primary Production, C2 Environmental Conservation, and R5 Large Lot Residential. The existing RU1 and R5 zone boundary runs directly through the established dwelling, creating impractical planning constraints and limiting development potential. This misalignment stems from outdated flood risk mapping, which no longer represents the site's actual flood hazard profile.

This matter seeks to realign the site's zone boundaries to better align with environmental constraints, remove the dual zoning boundary that runs through the middle of the existing house and allow future development of the site by the landowner. This includes moving the site's western boundary to follow the C2 zone boundary and creating a new boundary moving the boundary line from the centre of the dwelling to the east. This will result in the creation of a balance lot solely within the R5 zone (refer to Figure 3).



Current RU1 Primary Production, C2 Environmental Conservation, and R5 Large Lot Residential zones



Proposed RU1 Primary Production, C2 Environmental Conservation, and R5 Large Lot Residential zones

Figure 3 - Proposed Zone Change

In 2024, Council completed the *Hastings River Flood Study Extension 2024*, a technical update to flood modelling across the Hastings River catchment, prompted by the March 2021 major flooding event. This study applied updated rainfall data, modern hydrologic and hydraulic standards, and climate change projections to model a range of design flood events, including the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF). The resulting maps and models provide detailed, site-specific flood depth,

velocity, and extent information, significantly improving Council's ability to make informed development decisions under the NSW Flood Prone Land Policy.

The updated data identifies a revised flood planning level showing that the northern portion of the proposed balance lot to be within the PMF, however the majority of the site is flood free (refer to Figure 4).



Current Flood Mapping

New Flood Mapping 2024

Figure 4 - Proposed Zone Change

Aligning the R5 Large Lot Residential zoning boundary to this new flood planning level will:

- ensure zoning accurately reflects the most current and evidence-based flood risk data,
- remove the impractical dual zoning line cutting through the existing dwelling,
- support orderly and sustainable development outcomes in line with environmental constraints.

Additionally, the Lot Size Map requires an amendment to apply a 1.2-hectare minimum lot size, consistent with adjoining R5-zoned land and Council's established approach for large lot residential development. This will improve the practicality of future subdivision, provide consistency with surrounding development standards, and support efficient infrastructure provision.

Proposed Amendment 5

Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_013B to realign the R5 Large Lot Residential zone boundary in accordance with updated Hastings River Flood Study Extension mapping and rezone affected land accordingly and amend the Lot Size Map – Sheet LSZ_013B to apply a 1.2ha minimum lot size to the R5-zoned portion of the site.

Item 6 - Correct zoning anomalies in Beechwood by realigning zone boundaries with cadastral boundaries

Application: Multiple sites in Beechwood

LEP Maps: Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_010A

A review of the Land Zoning Map for Beechwood has identified multiple inconsistencies arising from outdated mapping that does not reflect recent subdivisions or align with current cadastral boundaries. Specific issues include zoning boundaries that incorrectly bisect private lots, split zonings across individual parcels, misaligned zoning that runs down the centre of roads instead of lot boundaries, and areas incorrectly zoned as C2 Environmental Conservation where residential (R5 Large Lot Residential) development has occurred. See Figure 5 for examples.



Figure 5 - Examples of zone boundary inconsistencies in Beechwood

These discrepancies reduce the clarity and reliability of the LEP mapping. To resolve this, mapping for the Beechwood area must be updated using the latest cadastre data and corrected spatial layers from the NSW Spatial Viewer to ensure zoning accurately reflects property boundaries and intended land use across Beechwood. While the NSW Spatial Viewer provides partially accurate cadastral data for the area, it also exhibits similar zoning alignment issues in parts of Beechwood.

Proposed Amendment 6

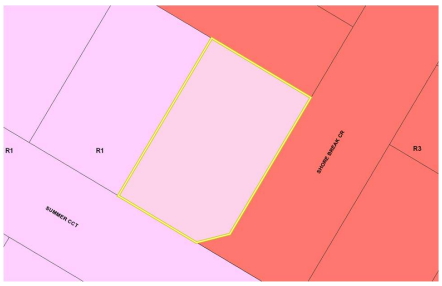
Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_010A to align zoning boundaries with the updated cadastre boundaries and correct mapping discrepancies in Beechwood, and update the NSW Spatial Viewer accordingly.

Item 7 - Correct zoning for 18 Summer Circuit, Lake Cathie from R3 Medium Density Residential to R1 General Residential

Application: 18 Summer Circuit, Lake Cathie - Lot 1 on DP1226839

LEP Maps: Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_013E

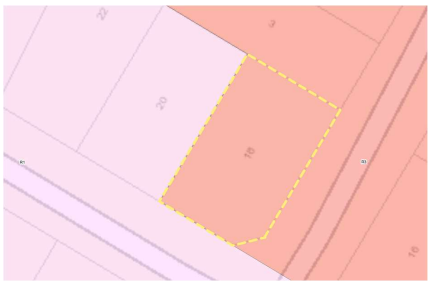
A mapping anomaly has been identified highlighting discrepancies between the zone allocations shown in Council's official PDF maps (the statutory source of truth) and those displayed in the NSW Spatial Viewer published by the Department. Specifically, Lot 1 has been incorrectly shown as R3 Medium Density Residential, whereas the correct zoning under Council's LEP is R1 General Residential, refer to Figure 6.



Current Council LEP Mapping



Proposed NSW Spatial Viewer Mapping



Current NSW Spatial Viewer Mapping

Figure 6 - Proposed Zone Correction

To ensure consistency and accuracy across statutory planning instruments and spatial datasets, Council requests the Department to update the NSW Spatial Viewer to allocate Lot 1 as R1 General Residential zone.

Proposed Amendment 7

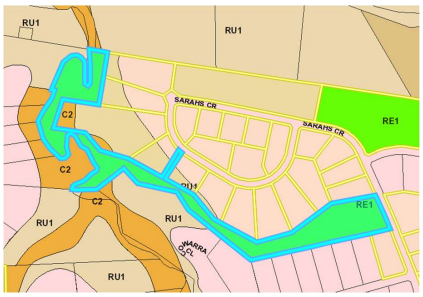
Amend the NSW Spatial Viewer to allocate Lot 1 on DP1226839 as R1 General Residential zone.

Item 8 - Correct the RE1 Public Recreation zoning boundary at Sarahs Crescent, King Creek to align with actual lot boundary and recreation use

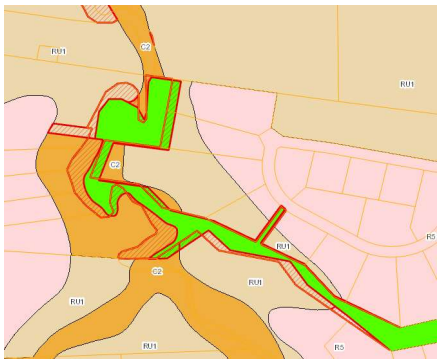
Application: Sarahs Crescent, King Creek - Lot 93 on DP0810033

LEP Maps: Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_013B

Mapping anomalies have been identified highlighting discrepancies between the zone allocations shown in Council's official PDF maps (the statutory source of truth) and those displayed in the NSW Spatial Viewer published by the Department. Specifically, the zone boundaries of Lot 93 zone RE1 Public Recreation are misrepresented showing a smaller allocation on adjoining lots, refer to Figure 7.



Current Council LEP Mapping



Proposed NSW Spatial Viewer Mapping



Current NSW Spatial Viewer Mapping

Figure 7 - Proposed Zone Boundary Correction

Proposed Amendment 8

Amend the NSW Spatial Viewer to allocate the correct zone boundaries for Lot 93 DP0810033 as RE1 Public Recreation zone.

Item 9 - Rezone and include an additional permitted use at 154 Lord Street, Port Macquarie to enable the expansion of the Koala Hospital

Application: 154 Lord Street, Port Macquarie - Lot 21 on DP1172308

LEP Maps: Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_013G, Additional Permitted Uses Map - Sheet APU_013G

This matter concerns a historic land swap agreement between the Koala Conservation Australia Limited (KCAL) and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) that was carried out with Council's agreement. This site has been used for koala care and rehabilitation since the early 1970s.

The *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NP&W Act) outlines legislation relating to the establishment, preservation and management of national parks, historic sites and other such areas such as the protection of native flora, fauna and Aboriginal relics. The NP&W Act allows the Minister for the Environment to grant leases of land within a Nature Reserve for the erection and occupation of buildings on this land. The existing Koala Hospital operated under this lease, dated February 2002, between the Minister of the Environment and the KCAL. This lease states that the premises is to be used as '*a Koala rehabilitation and research facility or the education of the public in Koala related matters and for no other purpose whatsoever*'.

However, this lease has since expired, and an agreement was reached between NPWS and KCAL for a land swap, under which the site would be transferred to KCAL and its reservation status revoked. This would facilitate a rezoning from C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves to a more suitable zone, enabling the future expansion of the Koala Hospital on the site.

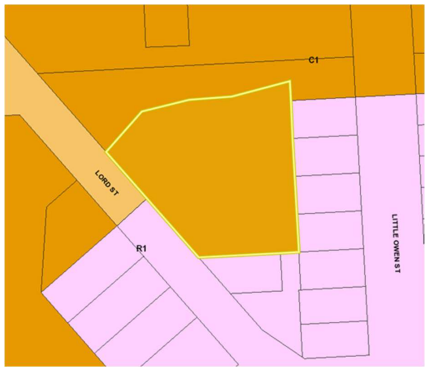
The functions of the KCAL align with the land use of a '*veterinary hospital*', defined in Council's LEP as:

> *…a building or place used for diagnosing or surgically or medically treating animals, whether or not animals are kept on the premises for the purpose of treatment.*

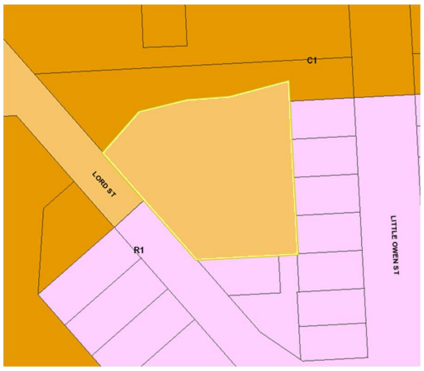
An appropriate zone would need to allow a *veterinary hospital* to be permitted with consent.

The site includes a number of site-specific development constraints for consideration including the presence of High Ecological Value (HEV) attributes and mapped on the NSW Biodiversity Values Map. Additionally, the site is outside the Urban Growth Area of the *North Coast Regional Plan 2041*. Advice was sought from the Department and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on an appropriate zone for the site.

Both Departments recommended that the C2 Environmental Conservation zone was the most suitable zone, acknowledging the environmental constraints on the site. However, this zone does not permit a *veterinary hospital* land use. To overcome this issue, both Departments further recommended that adding an Additional Permitted Use for a *veterinary hospital* would be the best planning pathway for this site allowing for redevelopment of the koala hospital while protecting the HEV attributes. Council has agreed with this approach, agreeing to rezone the site to C2 Environmental Conservation zone and updating Schedule 1 - Additional permitted uses and associated LEP Map to allow for a *veterinary hospital* on the site, refer to Figures 8 and 9.

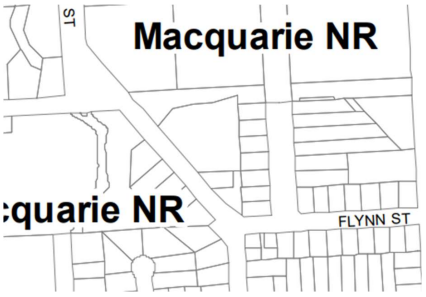


Current C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves zone

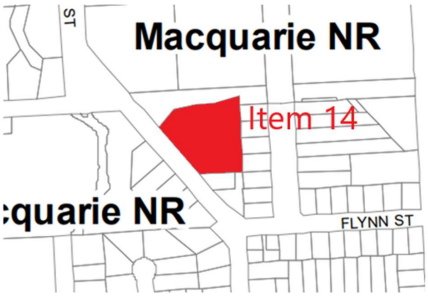


Proposed C2 Environmental Conservation zone

Figure 8 - Proposed Zone Change



Current Additional Permitted Uses Map



Proposed Additional Permitted Uses Map

Figure 9 - Proposed Additional Permitted Use

This rezoning will enable the landowner to exercise development rights under the Council-endorsed land exchange and support the future expansion of the koala hospital. Dependant on the landowner's future development plans, other controls such as building heights and floor to space ratios may also need to be amended as part of a future planning proposal by the landowner.

Proposed Amendment 9

Amend the Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_013G to rezone Lot 21 on DP1172308 from C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves zone to C2 Environmental Conservation zone and amend Schedule 1 – Additional Permitted Uses and Additional Permitted Uses Map - Sheet APU_013G to permit a veterinary hospital.

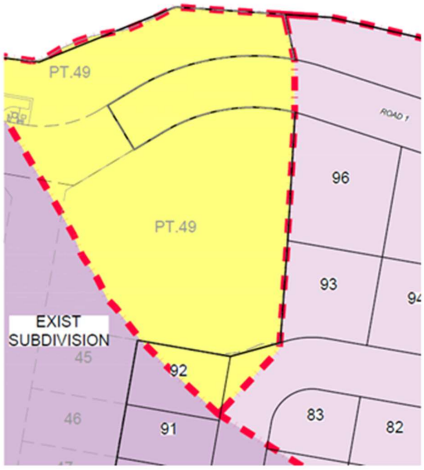
Item 10 - Rezone proposed Lot 92 and ancillary roads in Thrumster to match approved subdivision layout and satisfy DA2022/774 condition

Application: Waapangal Road, Thrumster - Lot 36 on DP1292179 (proposed Lot 92)

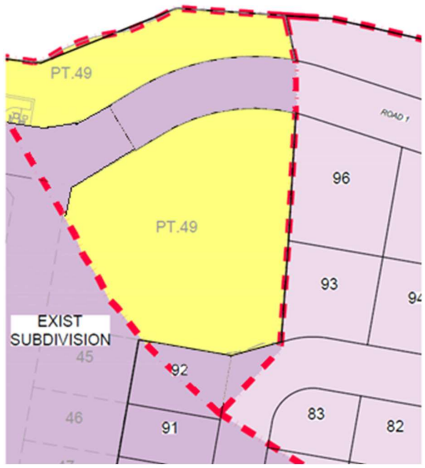
LEP Maps: Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_013D

Development Consent DA2022/774 was granted for a 48-lot industrial subdivision on the site. As part of the approved development layout, a water quality basin is to be delivered on proposed Lot 92, consistent with broader stormwater management requirements for the precinct. This basin is currently zoned SP2 Infrastructure.

However, the current SP2 Infrastructure zoning, which applies to the water quality basin, extends beyond the area required for that purpose. As a result, the approved development layout under the DA includes part of proposed Lot 92, and sections of the proposed internal road network, within the SP2 zone, even though these areas are intended for general industrial use, refer to Figure 10.



Approved Subdivision Plan showing Lot 92 with dual SP2 and IN1 zones and ancillary roads



Proposed IN1 General Industrial zone for Lot 92 and ancillary roads

Figure 10 - Proposed Zone Change

Condition E17 of the Development Consent further states that:

> *"Prior to the creation of Lot 92 in Stage 6, confirmation in writing from Council with regards to rezoning to IN1 General Industrial has been completed."*

To address this condition, the Proponent's consultant has submitted a formal request to Council seeking an amendment to the Land Zoning Map. The proposed amendment would adjust the boundary of the SP2 Infrastructure zone to align with the actual footprint of the water quality basin and rezone the remaining portion of proposed Lot 92, as well as any affected sections of the proposed roads, to IN1 General Industrial.

While this is a minor, administrative correction, it is necessary to facilitate registration of the final subdivision plan and ensure the zoning under Council's LEP accurately reflects the approved development layout and intended land uses

Proposed Amendment 10

Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_013D to rezone Lot 92 DP1292179 and ancillary roads from SP2 Infrastructure zone to IN1 General Industrial zone.

Item 11 - Rezone part of 49 Panorama Drive, Bonny Hills to implement a private Koala Plan of Management

Application: 49 Panorama Drive, Bonny Hills - Lot 2 DP1050649

LEP Maps: Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_014B

Development Consent DA2020/129 was granted for the subdivision of land at 49 Panorama Drive, Bonny Hills, to create seven residential lots and one residual lot (refer to Figure 11). The proposed eight-lot subdivision is subject to a Private Koala Plan of Management (KPoM), which has been negotiated between the landowner and Council.

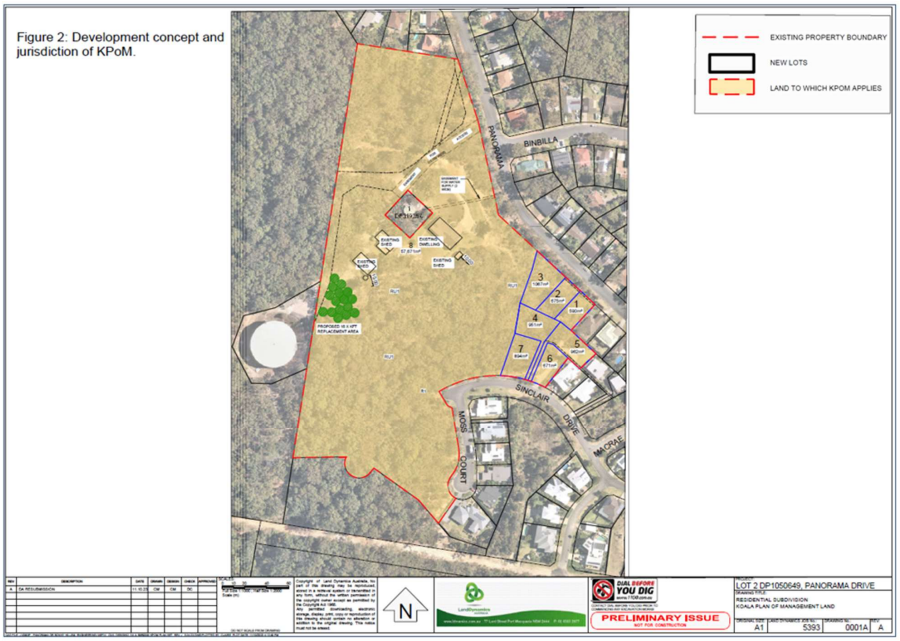
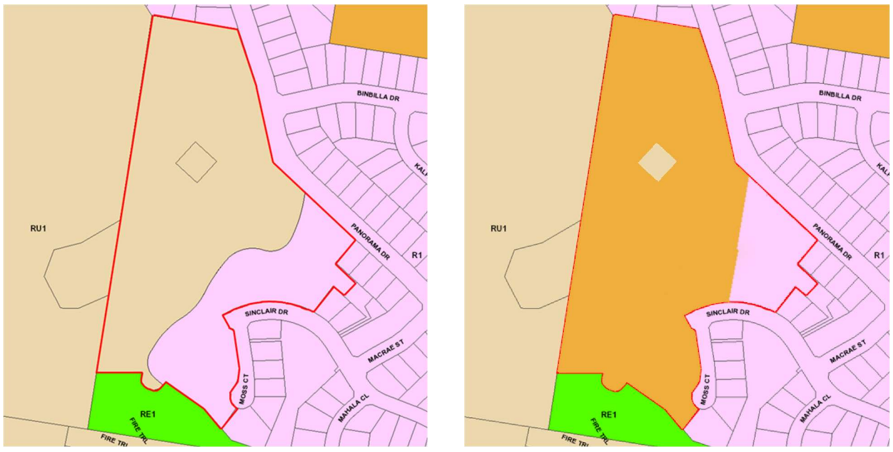


Figure 11 - Development Consent DA2020/129 showing Koala Plan of Management area

The KPoM applies to the western part of the site, which is currently zoned RU1 Primary Production and identified as containing core koala habitat or land of high ecological value critical to the protection and recovery of the local koala population. In accordance with the KPoM, this portion of the site is to be rezoned to C2 Environmental Conservation to ensure its long-term conservation (refer to Figure 12).



Current RU1 Primary Production and R1 General Residential zones

Proposed C2 Environmental Conservation

Figure 12 - Proposed Zone Change

The eastern part of the site is zoned R1 General Residential and is not subject to any proposed zone change. Additionally, the square lot located centrally within the site, which contains a water tower owned and operated by Council, is not included within the scope of the KPoM.

Rezoning the site to C2 Environmental Conservation aligns with the objectives of the KPoM by ensuring long-term conservation outcomes, limiting incompatible land uses, and enhancing habitat connectivity.

This action is also consistent with the *SEPP (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021* which supports which support proactive measures to safeguard threatened species through land use controls.

Proposed Amendment 11

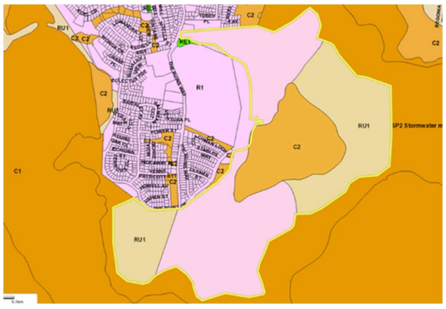
Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_014B to rezone part of Lot 2 DP1050649 from RU1 Primary Production zone and R1 General Residential zone to C2 Environmental Conservation zone.

Item 12 - Rezone Lot 11 The Ruins Way, Port Macquarie for conservation purposes

Application: The Ruins Way, Port Macquarie - Lot 11 DP1284516

LEP Maps: Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_013, Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_013D, Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_013G

The NPWS has requested that Council rezone their site to C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves for the purposes of conservation (refer to Attachment 2 and Figure 13). The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has acquired Lot 11 on DP1284516 for the purposes of conservation.



Current C2 Environmental Conservation, R1 General Residential and RU1 Primary Production zones



Proposed C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves zone

Figure 13 - Proposed Zone Change

Rezoning the entire site to C1 will align planning controls with the land's conservation purpose and public ownership and ensure consistent land use management across the site, replacing conflicting zones (C2, R1, RU1).

Proposed Amendment 12

Amend the Land Zoning Maps - Sheet LZN_013, Sheet LZN_013D and Sheet LZN_013G to rezone Lot 11 DP1284516 from C2 Environmental Conservation zone, R1 General Residential zone and RU1 Primary Production zone to C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves zone.

Item 13 - Swap zoning between Transport for NSW and NPWS parcels at Pacific Highway, Middle Brother to reflect ownership and intended use

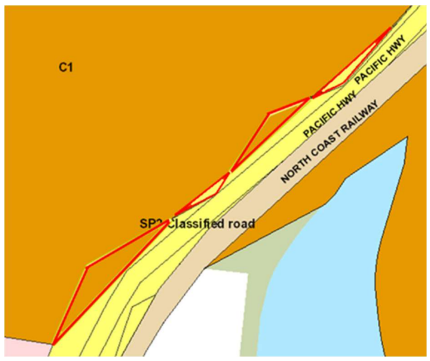
Application: Pacific Highway, Middle Brother - Lots 2-4 on DP1214854

LEP Maps: Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_011

This matter relates to a historic land swap between Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), in which four small parcels of land adjoining the Pacific Highway were not rezoned at the time of the transfer between the departments to reflect their intended use (refer to Attachment 2). As a result, portions of land now owned and managed by NPWS remain zoned SP2 Infrastructure, while other parcels required for future road works remain zoned C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves (refer to Figure 14).



Current C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves and SP2 Infrastructure zone



Proposed C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves and SP2 Infrastructure zone

Figure 14 - Proposed Zone Swap

This matter seeks to swap the zoning of these parcels by rezoning NPWS land to C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves, and TfNSW land to SP2 Infrastructure. This change will align the zoning with current land ownership and reservation status, correct an administrative oversight, and ensure the land is managed appropriately for conservation or infrastructure purposes.

Rezoning the sites to C1 and SP2 will align the zoning with current land ownership and reservation status, correct an administrative oversight by reflecting the outcomes of the land swap and support appropriate conservation management by NPWS and future road works by TfNSW.

Proposed Amendment 13

Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_011 to rezone NPWS land to C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves zone and TfNSW land to SP2 Infrastructure zone.

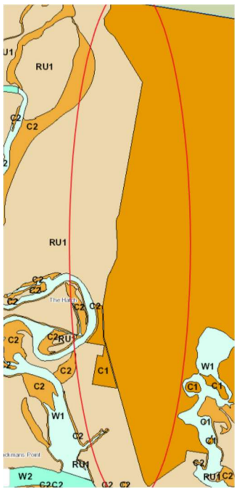
Item 14 - Rezone multiple lots on Maria River Road, Limeburners Creek to facilitate planned road upgrades

Application: Maria River Road, Limeburners Creek - Lot 1 -18 on DP1292059, Lot 20 on DP1292059, Lot 22 on DP1292059, Lot 24 - 26 on DP1292059, Lot 28 - 31 on DP1292059 and Lot 37 on DP1292059

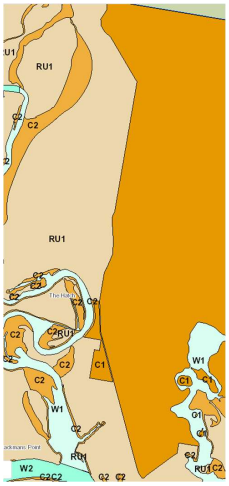
LEP Maps: Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_012, Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_013C

Twenty-eight (28) lots within the Maria River Road reserve, situated between Shoreline Drive and Crescent Head Road, were acquired by NPWS and zoned C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves. At the time of acquisition, it was intended that these sites be rezoned to RU1 Primary Production to enable future road works by Council, however, this rezoning was never implemented (refer to Attachment 2).

The current C1 zoning is designed for conservation purposes and is not compatible with the delivery of road infrastructure. As a result, it imposes unnecessary planning constraints on the proposed road upgrade. Rezoning these lots to RU1 Primary Production will correct this oversight, align the zoning with the intended long-term function of the land, remove barriers to infrastructure delivery, and streamline the approval process for the project (refer to Figure 15).



Current C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves zone



Proposed RU1 Primary Production zone

Figure 15 - Proposed Zone Change

Proposed Amendment 14

Amend the Land Zoning Maps – Sheets LZN_012 and LZN_013C to rezone identified lots from C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves zone to RU1 Primary Production zone.

Item 15 - Rezone part of Lot 3 on College Road, Thrumster to develop a district-level sporting facility

Application: College Drive, Thrumster - Part of Lot 3 on DP1293093

LEP Maps: Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_013D

Council has finalised the *Sovereign Hills Estate Planning Agreement 2025* (VPA) with the Proponent, Lewis Developments Pty Ltd. Under the terms of the VPA, the Proponent has dedicated 8.3 hectares of land to Council for the development of a district-level sporting facility to serve the local and regional community. This dedication is to occur prior to the issue of the relevant Subdivision Certificate.

To ensure the land's planning controls reflect its agreed function for public sport and recreation, Council proposes to rezone the site from R1 General Residential to RE1 Public Recreation (refer to Figure 16). This amendment will formalise the site's intended use, provide the appropriate zoning framework for future development as a district-level sporting field, and secure the land for ongoing public access and recreational purposes.



Current R1 General Residential zone

Proposed RE1 Public Recreation zone

Figure 16 - Proposed Zone Change

Proposed Amendment 15

Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_013D to rezone part of Lot 3 DP1293093 from R1 General Residential zone to RE1 Public Recreation zone.

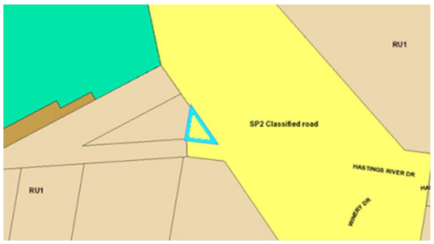
Item 16 - Rezone surplus Transport for NSW land at Pacific Highway, Sancrox for rural land use

Application: Pacific Highway, Sancrox - Lot 2 DP226821

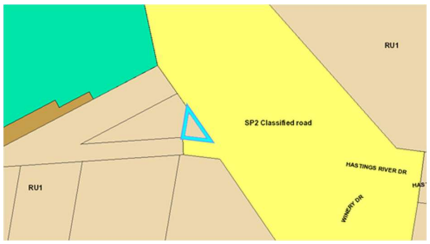
LEP Maps: Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_013C

TfNSW has written to Council formally advising of surplus properties in Port Macquarie that are no longer required for infrastructure purposes (refer to Attachment 2). TfNSW have further requested that these sites be rezoned to align with their adjoining or underlying zoning. One such property is located along the Pacific Highway at Sancrox.

Council proposes to rezone this site from SP2 Infrastructure to RU1 Primary Production. This amendment will ensure consistency with the surrounding rural zoning, recognise the site's surplus status, and enable its long-term management for appropriate rural uses (refer to Figure 17).



Current SP2 Infrastructure zone



Proposed RU1 Primary Production

Figure 17 - Proposed Zone Change

Proposed Amendment 16

Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_013C to rezone Lot 2 DP226821 from SP2 Infrastructure zone to RU1 Primary Production zone.

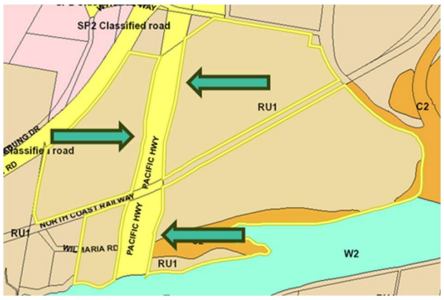
Item 17 - Rezone surplus Transport for NSW land at Pacific Highway, Telegraph Point for rural land use

Application: Pacific Highway Telegraph Point - Lot 10 and 11 on DP1300295

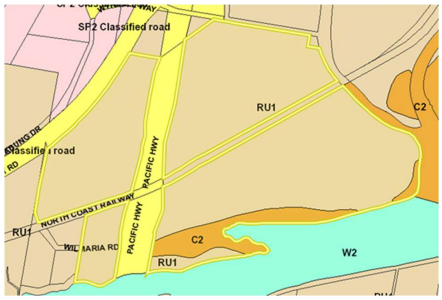
LEP Maps: Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_012, Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_012A

TfNSW has written to Council formally advising of surplus properties in Port Macquarie that are no longer required for infrastructure purposes (refer to Attachment 2). TfNSW have further requested that these sites be rezoned to align with their adjoining or underlying zoning. Two properties are located along the Pacific Highway at Telegraph Point.

Council proposes to rezone this site from SP2 Infrastructure to RU1 Primary Production. This amendment will ensure consistency with the surrounding rural zoning, recognise the site's surplus status, and enable its long-term management for appropriate rural uses (refer to Figure 18).



Current SP2 Infrastructure zone



Proposed RU1 Primary Production

Figure 18 - Proposed Zone Change

Proposed Amendment 17

Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheets LZN_012 and LZN_012A to rezone Lots 10 and 11 DP1300295 from SP2 Infrastructure zone to RU1 Primary Production zone.

Item 18 - Rezone surplus Transport for NSW land at Glen Ewan Road, Sancrox for rural land use

Application: Glen Ewan Road, Sancrox - Lot 6 DP1300632

LEP Maps: Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_013C

TfNSW has written to Council formally advising of surplus properties in Port Macquarie that are no longer required for infrastructure purposes (refer to Attachment 2). TfNSW have further requested that these sites be rezoned to align with their adjoining or underlying zoning. One such property is located along Glen Ewan Road, Sancrox.

Council proposes to rezone this site from SP2 Infrastructure to RU1 Primary Production. This amendment will ensure consistency with the surrounding rural zoning, recognise the site's surplus status, and enable its long-term management for appropriate rural uses (refer to Figure 19).



Current SP2 Infrastructure zone *Proposed RU1 Primary Production zone*

Figure 19 - Proposed Zone Change

Proposed Amendment 18

Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_013C to rezone Lot 6 DP1300632 from SP2 Infrastructure zone to RU1 Primary Production zone.

Item 19 - Realign zoning at Ocean Drive, Kew to match final design of reservoir access road

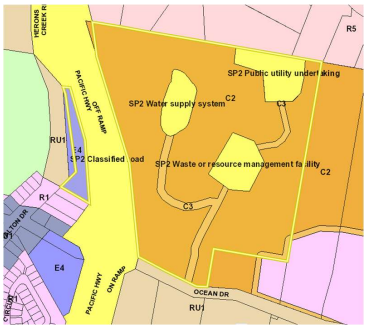
Application: Ocean Drive, Kew - Lot 100 on DP1130726

LEP Maps: Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_011B

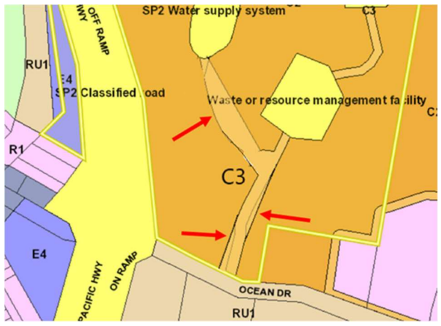
A discrepancy has been identified between the current LEP zoning and the finalised concept design for a new water reservoir and its associated access road at Ocean Drive, Kew. The land was previously rezoned as part of the 'Area 15' planning process by Council, with SP2 Infrastructure zoning applied to the proposed reservoir, C3 Environmental Management zoning applied to the intended access road, and surrounding land zoned C2 Environmental Conservation. These zones were based on an earlier concept alignment for the access road.

Following completion of the final concept design, the optimal access road alignment no longer follows the C3 zoning as currently mapped. Instead, a portion of the road corridor would fall within the C2 Environmental Conservation zone, which was not the original intent. Although construction could technically proceed under the *Transport and Infrastructure SEPP*, this misalignment between zoning and actual land use creates an inconsistency in Council's LEP.

To address this, it is proposed to rezone part of the site from C2 Environmental Conservation and SP2 Infrastructure to C3 Environmental Management (refer to Figure 20). This amendment will ensure the LEP zoning accurately reflects the finalised reservoir access road alignment and supports consistency between the mapped land use and the approved infrastructure layout.



Current C2 Environmental Conservation and C3 Environmental Conservation zones



Proposed C2 Environmental Conservation and C3 Environmental Conservation zones

Figure 20 - Proposed Boundary Realignment

Proposed Amendment 19

Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_011B to rezone part of Lot 100 DP1130726 from C2 Environmental Conservation zone to C3 Environmental Management zone, aligning the zoning boundary with the final design of the reservoir access road.

Update Mapping

Item 20 - Remove erroneously mapped trees from the Additional Permitted Uses Map at Port Macquarie Airport

Application: Thrumster, Port Macquarie (multiple lots)

LEP Maps: Additional Permitted Uses Map - Sheet APU_013D

Schedule 1 - Additional permitted uses, Clause 13 - Use of certain land at or near Port Macquarie Airport applies to certain land at or near Port Macquarie Airport, shown as “Item 13” on the Additional Permitted Uses Map - Sheet APU_013D (refer to Figure 21). This clause allows for certain specified development, including sewerage systems, on the mapped land.


Item 13
Item 13
Item 13

Withdrawn Amendments from the Scoping Proposal

In response to feedback from the Department on the Scoping Proposal, two matters have been withdrawn. These are:

i. **Inclusion of Detached Dual Occupancies as a Permitted Use in All Rural Zones**

   At its meeting on 19 June 2025, Council resolved to investigate permitting detached dual occupancies in rural zones. This request sought to consider the potential implications for land use planning, infrastructure capacity, and rural land management.

   However, given the complexity of the matter, the Department has recommended that progression of this amendment would be best addressed as part of a comprehensive 'Rural Lands Review', given the broad-reaching implications of the proposed change for land use planning, infrastructure, and rural land management.

ii. **Revised Planning Controls for Secondary Dwellings on Rural Land**

   Clause 5.5 - Controls relating to secondary dwellings on land in a rural zone, introduced by Council in September 2023, sets development standards for secondary dwellings in rural zones, limiting them to 60m² or 33% of the principal dwelling's floor area and within 100m of the main residence. These controls, originally intended to protect rural character, minimise infrastructure duplication, and prevent unplanned intensification, have been criticised as overly restrictive and outdated.

   A March 2025 Council motion, prompted by a Councillor's submission, highlighted issues with the 100m proximity limit, rigid size caps, and inflexibility for site conditions, particularly for multi-generational farming families. Comparative analysis shows other LGAs apply more permissive standards, and ABS data indicates the current size limit is disproportionately low. It was proposed to amend Clause 5.5 to allow a 120m² maximum (50% of principal dwelling) and increase the separation to 200m to provide greater flexibility.

   Similar to the above matter, the Department has recommended that this amendment be deferred and considered within a comprehensive Rural Lands Review, noting the wide-ranging impacts are significant and warrant a more holistic assessment.

Council acknowledges the Department's advice regarding these two matters and accepts the recommendation that they be addressed as part of a future comprehensive Rural Lands Review.

Given the broad-reaching implications for land use planning, infrastructure provision, and rural land management, Council will not progress either amendment at this stage and are not subject to this Planning Proposal.

Amendments Summary

Item	Proposed Amendment
Land Use Table Updates	
Item 1 - Amend permissible uses in the R3 Medium Density Residential zone and R4 High Density Residential zone to prohibit low-density housing types and prioritise medium and high-density housing	**Proposed Amendment 1 -** Amend the Land Use Tables for the R3 Medium Density Residential zone and R4 High Density Residential zone to prohibit Dwelling Houses and Secondary Dwellings
Item 2 - Permit 'water recreation structures' in the W1 Natural Waterways zone to support sustainable recreational fishing	**Proposed Amendment 2 -** Amend the Land Use Table for the W1 Natural Waterways zone to permit with consent a water recreation structure land use
New or Updated Clauses	
Item 3 - Amend Clause 4.1A – Exceptions to minimum lot sizes for certain residential development, to clarify the intent, allow subdivision with existing dwellings, and exclude the application of this clause in the R3 Medium Density Residential and R4 High Density Residential zones **Proposed Amendment 3 -** Amend Clause 4.1A to explicitly support affordable housing, allow subdivision with existing dwellings, and exclude the R3 Medium Density Residential zone and R4 High Density Residential zone from its application ***4.1A Exceptions to minimum lot sizes for certain residential development*** *(1) The objective of this clause is to encourage opportunities for affordable housing and housing diversity without adversely impacting on residential amenity.* *(2) This clause applies to development on land in the following zones—* *(a) Zone R1 General Residential,* ~~*(b) Zone R3 Medium Density Residential,*~~ ~~*(c) Zone R4 High Density Residential.*~~ *(3) Development consent may be granted to the subdivision of land to which this clause applies into 2 or more lots if -* *(a) as a result of the subdivision, residential accommodation and any other permissible land use (whether existing or proposed) is located on each lot resulting from the subdivision,* *(b) where the subdivision is to occur first, a Subdivision Certificate shall not be issued unless the residential accommodation is substantially commenced (as determined by Council) or where a restriction as to user prohibits any dwelling or residential accommodation on the lot other than that approved.* ~~*(3) Development consent may be granted to a single development application for development to which this clause applies that is both of the following—*~~ ~~*(a) the subdivision of land into 2 or more lots,*~~ ~~*(b) the erection of an attached dwelling, a semi-detached dwelling or a dwelling house on each lot resulting from the subdivision.*~~	
Item 4 - Introduce a new Clause to provide assessment criteria for mapped Visually Sensitive Land in Sancrox	

Item	Proposed Amendment
Proposed Amendment 4 - Insert Clause 5.26 – Visually sensitive land, to protect scenic quality, minimise visual impact, and ensure development is compatible with the surrounding landscape ***Clause 5.26 Visually sensitive land*** *Note - Visually sensitive land areas are shown on the Visually Sensitive Land Map.* *(1) Objectives The objectives of this clause are as follows—* *(a) to protect and enhance the scenic quality and visual character of landscapes identified as visually sensitive,* *(b) to minimise visual impact by ensuring development is appropriately designed and screened and complements the landscape and surrounding character.* *(2) This clause applies to land identified as visually sensitive land.* *(3) Development consent must not be granted to development for the purposes of Signage including an advertising structure, a building notification sign or a business identification sign.*	
Boundary Realignment or Rezoning	
Item 5 - Realign zoning boundaries at 32 King Ridge, King Creek to match updated flood mapping and remove dual zoning through existing dwelling	**Proposed Amendment 5 -** Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_013B to realign the R5 Large Lot Residential zone boundary in accordance with updated Hastings River Flood Study Extension mapping and rezone affected land accordingly and amend the Lot Size Map – Sheet LSZ_013B to apply a 1.2ha minimum lot size to the R5-zoned portion of the site
Item 6 - Correct zoning anomalies in Beechwood by realigning zone boundaries with cadastral boundaries	**Proposed Amendment 6** - Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_010A to align zoning boundaries with the updated cadastre boundaries and correct mapping discrepancies in Beechwood, and update the NSW Spatial Viewer accordingly
Item 7 - Correct zoning for 18 Summer Circuit, Lake Cathie from R3 Medium Density Residential to R1 General Residential	**Proposed Amendment 7** - Amend the NSW Spatial Viewer to allocate Lot 1 on DP1226839 as R1 General Residential zone
Item 8 - Correct the RE1 Public Recreation zoning boundary at Sarahs Crescent, King Creek to align with actual lot boundary and recreation use	**Proposed Amendment 8** - Amend the NSW Spatial Viewer to allocate the correct zone boundaries for Lot 93 DP0810033 as RE1 Public Recreation zone
Item 9 - Rezone and include an additional permitted use at 154 Lord Street, Port Macquarie to enable the expansion of the Koala Hospital	**Proposed Amendment 9** - Amend the Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_013G to rezone Lot 21 on DP1172308 from C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves zone to C2 Environmental Conservation zone and amend Schedule 1 – Additional Permitted Uses and Additional Permitted Uses Map - Sheet APU_013G to permit a veterinary hospital

Item	Proposed Amendment
Item 10 - Rezone proposed Lot 92 and ancillary roads in Thrumster to match approved subdivision layout and satisfy DA2022/774 condition	**Proposed Amendment 10** - Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_013D to rezone Lot 92 DP1292179 and ancillary roads from SP2 Infrastructure zone to IN1 General Industrial zone
Item 11 - Rezone part of 49 Panorama Drive, Bonny Hills to implement a private Koala Plan of Management	**Proposed Amendment 11** - Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_014B to rezone part of Lot 2 DP1050649 from RU1 Primary Production zone and R1 General Residential zone to C2 Environmental Conservation zone
Item 12 - Rezone Lot 11 The Ruins Way, Port Macquarie for conservation purposes	**Proposed Amendment 12** - Amend the Land Zoning Maps - Sheet LZN_013, Sheet LZN_013D and Sheet LZN_013G to rezone Lot 11 DP1284516 from C2 Environmental Conservation zone, R1 General Residential zone and RU1 Primary Production zone to C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves zone
Item 13 - Swap zoning between Transport for NSW and NPWS parcels at Pacific Highway, Middle Brother to reflect ownership and intended use	**Proposed Amendment 13** - Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_011 to rezone NPWS land to C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves zone and TfNSW land to SP2 Infrastructure zone
Item 14 - Rezone multiple lots on Maria River Road, Limeburners Creek to facilitate planned road upgrades	**Proposed Amendment 14** - Amend the Land Zoning Maps – Sheets LZN_012 and LZN_013C to rezone identified lots from C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves zone to RU1 Primary Production zone
Item 15 - Rezone part of Lot 3 on College Road, Thrumster to develop a district-level sporting facility	**Proposed Amendment 15** - Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_013D to rezone part of Lot 3 DP1293093 from R1 General Residential zone to RE1 Public Recreation zone
Item 16 - Rezone surplus Transport for NSW land at Pacific Highway, Sancrox for rural land use	**Proposed Amendment 16** - Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_013C to rezone Lot 2 DP226821 from SP2 Infrastructure zone to RU1 Primary Production zone
Item 17 - Rezone surplus Transport for NSW land at Pacific Highway, Telegraph Point for rural land use	**Proposed Amendment 17** - Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheets LZN_012 and LZN_012A to rezone Lots 10 and 11 DP1300295 from SP2 Infrastructure zone to RU1 Primary Production zone
Item 18 - Rezone surplus Transport for NSW land at Glen Ewan Road, Sancrox for rural land use	**Proposed Amendment 18** - Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_013C to rezone Lot 6 DP1300632 from SP2 Infrastructure zone to RU1 Primary Production zone

Item	Proposed Amendment
Item 19 - Realign zoning at Ocean Drive, Kew to match final design of reservoir access road	**Proposed Amendment 19** - Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_011B to rezone part of Lot 100 DP1130726 from C2 Environmental Conservation zone to C3 Environmental Management zone, aligning the zoning boundary with the final design of the reservoir access road
Mapping Updates	
Item 20 - Remove erroneously mapped trees from the Additional Permitted Uses Map at Port Macquarie Airport	**Proposed Amendment 20** - Amend the Additional Permitted Uses Map – Sheet APU_013D to remove individual marked trees to ensure mapping accuracy and protect environmentally sensitive land

Part 3 – Justification

Section A – Need for the Planning Proposal

1. Is the planning proposal a result of an endorsed LSPS, strategic study or report?

No.

This Planning Proposal is not the result of an endorsed LSPS, strategic study, or report. It forms part of Council's ongoing LEP Housekeeping Program. Specifically, this Planning Proposal focuses on addressing minor mapping anomalies, update land use tables, refine clause wording, and implement small-scale rezonings and boundary realignments identified through routine strategic planning activities, internal stakeholder feedback, and State agency advice. The proposal is administrative in nature, does not alter Council's LEP's strategic direction, and is not derived from any single endorsed strategic document.

2. Is the planning proposal the best means of achieving the objective or intended outcomes, or is there a better way?

Yes.

A planning proposal is the most appropriate and effective means of achieving the objectives and intended outcomes. The amendments involve changes to statutory planning controls within Council's LEP. These actions can only be lawfully enacted through an LEP amendment under Part 3 of the Act.

Alternative mechanisms, such as Development Control Plan amendments or internal mapping updates, would not carry statutory weight to alter zone boundaries, permitted land uses, or LEP provisions. Progressing via the LEP Plan-making Process ensures the changes are legally enforceable and consistent with the Act's requirements for amending environmental planning instruments.

Section B – Relationship to Strategic Planning Framework

3. Will the planning proposal give effect to the objectives and actions of the applicable regional or district plan or strategy (including any exhibited draft plans or strategies)?

North Coast Regional Plan 2041

Yes.

The *North Coast Regional Plan 2041* (the Regional Plan) is a long-term strategic framework developed by the NSW Government to guide sustainable growth and development across 12 LGAs on the North Coast. It aims to make the region the best place in Australia to live, work, and play by focusing on 3 key Goals:

1. Liveable, sustainable and resilient,
2. Productive and connected, and
3. Growth change and opportunity.

Each Goal is supported by a series of Objectives to deliver the Goal.

The Planning Proposal is consistent with and will give effect to the Objectives of the Regional Plan. The amendments proposed are minor, non-strategic housekeeping changes that support the Regional Plan's three key goals:

1. **Liveable, sustainable and resilient**: the proposal enhances environmental protection through targeted rezonings (e.g. koala habitat conservation at Bonny Hills, visually sensitive land provisions in Sancrox) and updates to LEP provisions to protect scenic quality, biodiversity, and flood-affected land,
2. **Productive and connected**: mapping corrections and rezonings align zoning with infrastructure delivery (e.g. industrial subdivision at Thrumster, district sporting facility at Thrumster, road upgrade corridors at Limeburners Creek), supporting efficient land use and infrastructure integration,
3. **Growth, change and opportunity**: housing-related amendments (e.g. prohibiting low-density housing in R3 and R4 zones, improving affordable housing provisions) directly support the Regional Plan's Objectives for diverse, well-located housing in growth precincts.

Item 9 at 154 Lord Street, Port Macquarie is outside the Urban Growth Area. However, its proposed rezoning from C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves to C2 Environmental Conservation with an additional permitted use for a veterinary hospital is consistent with the Regional Plan's conservation and biodiversity objectives and does not facilitate urban expansion.

No variations to the Regional Plan's Objectives are required, and the proposal strengthens alignment between Council's LEP and regional strategic directions.

Port Macquarie Regional City Action Plan 2036

Yes.

Regional City Action Plans are strategic planning documents developed by the NSW Government to guide the growth and development of key regional cities on the North Coast, including Port

Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Lismore, and Tweed. These plans are a direct response to the former *North Coast Regional Plan 2036*, which identified these cities as focal points for anticipated population growth and housing development over the next two decades.

The *Port Macquarie Regional City Action Plan 2036* (the Action Plan) is a strategic plan developed by the NSW government in collaboration with Council to guide the city's growth to 2036. It envisions Port Macquarie as a vibrant, sustainable regional centre that balances development with environmental conservation. The Acton Plan focuses on creating a compact city with diverse housing options, enhancing public spaces through green corridors and improved waterfront access, and fostering economic growth through infrastructure development, including a HEP and an airport business park. It also emphasises the protection of local koala habitats and the integration of active and public transport systems to support a connected community. The Action Plan includes 'Goals' and supporting 'Objectives' and 'Actions' to support its delivery.

The Planning Proposal is consistent with, and will help give effect to, the Action Plan's goals of 'Live', 'Work', 'Move', 'Meet', and Play'. The Planning Proposal reinforces "Live" through amendments that enable diverse, affordable housing (via Clause 4.1A updates and prohibiting low-density housing in R3/R4 zones). It supports "Work" and "Move" by rezoning and mapping corrections to facilitate infrastructure delivery, industrial subdivision alignment, and transport corridors. It enhances "Meet" and "Play" by permitting water recreation structures in W1 zones, protecting scenic and landscape character via the new visually sensitive land clause, and delivering land for a district-level sporting facility.

The only item outside the urban growth area (Item 9), rezoning to C2 Environmental Conservation with an Additional Permitted Use for a veterinary hospital (koala hospital) purpose advances environmental and community health objectives without promoting urban sprawl.

4. Is the planning proposal consistent with a council LSPS that has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary or GCC, or another endorsed local strategy or strategic plan?

Port Macquarie Hastings Community Strategic Plan - Imagine 2050

Yes.

The Port Macquarie-Hastings Community Strategic Plan (CSP), titled *Imagine 2050*, is a collaborative 30-year roadmap developed through extensive community consultation. Over 1,800 residents contributed their insights over 15 months, shaping a vision that reflects the region's aspirations and priorities. The CSP's Vision to be "*the most liveable, sustainable and innovative place in Australia*" is supported by 6 strategic themes that support this Vision including Environmentally Sustainable, Resilient, Liveable, Connected, Thriving and Authentic & High Performing.

These Themes will be achieved through the implementation of 'Objectives' and corresponding 'Strategies' identified within the CSP. The CSP serves as a guiding framework for local governance, aligning with State and regional objectives, and informing the Council's Delivery Program, Operational Plan, and Resourcing Strategy. The Objectives and Strategies in Table 2 are considered most relevant in the consideration of this planning proposal.

Table 2 - Applicable CSP Objectives and Strategies to this Planning Proposal

Environmentally Sustainable
Objective ES:1 Our natural environment is healthy and supports a rich variety of flora and fauna
Strategies:
• ES:1.1 Protect and enhance our natural resources and biodiversity
• ES:1.2 Secure the future of our areas of high environmental value and our threatened ecological communities and species
Objective ES:2 The impact of our built environment on our natural environment is minimised
Strategies:
• ES:2.1 Employ practices and deliver projects that manage our resources sustainably and result in positive outcomes for our environment
Resilient
Objective R:2 We are resilient in the face of adversity and change
Strategies
• R:2.2 Take action to minimise the impacts to our environment, life and property from floods, bushfires, storms, erosion and other hazards
Objective R:3 We are a safe and healthy community
Strategies:
• R:3.1 Safeguard the wellbeing of our community
Liveable
Objective L:1 We have well-planned and liveable communities
Strategies:
• L:1.1 Undertake integrated strategic land use and infrastructure planning to manage growth in a financially and environmentally sustainable manner that enhances liveability
Objective L:2 We have housing that meets our needs and is well-serviced by sustainable infrastructure
Strategies:
• L:2.1 Facilitate the delivery of a range of housing options across the LGA that addresses the supply, choice and affordability needs of our changing population
Objective L:3 We enjoy easy access to green and blue spaces and a wide range **of active and passive cultural, sporting and recreational activities**
Strategies:
• L:3.1 Protect, enhance and maximise the use of existing public open space and expand in line with the needs of our community
• L:3.2 Provide accessible, adaptable and well-maintained community facilities across the LGA
Connected
Objective C:1 We safely and efficiently connect people, goods and businesses within and beyond our region
Strategies
• C:1.1 Deliver a safe, efficient and well-maintained road network across the LGA
Thriving
Objective T:1 We have a thriving, diverse and sustainable economy

Strategies: • T:1.2 Deliver and facilitate projects that activate our industrial and employment lands ***Objective T:3 Our businesses and workers are able to meet their potential*** Strategies: • T:3.1 Support businesses and social enterprises to grow, improve their competitiveness and innovate
Authentic & High Performing
Objective AHP:2 We achieve great outcomes through collaboration Strategies: • AHP:2.3 Work with government bodies at all levels, local industry organisations and representative bodies to pursue common goals and interests

The Planning Proposal is consistent with the CSP. The proposed LEP housekeeping amendments align with key CSP themes and strategies by protecting and enhancing natural resources and biodiversity (ES:1.1, ES:1.2), securing areas of high environmental value through targeted rezonings (ES:2.1), and minimising the built environment's impact on the natural environment.

They support community resilience by addressing flood risk, safeguarding koala habitat, and preserving scenic landscapes (R:2.2, R:3.1).

Housing-related changes improve supply, diversity, and affordability in well-serviced locations (L:1.1, L:2.1), while infrastructure-related rezonings and mapping corrections ensure coordinated land use and infrastructure delivery (C:1.1).

The proposal also advances community liveability by protecting, enhancing, and expanding public open space through rezonings for recreation (L:3.1) and ensuring delivery of accessible, adaptable, and well-maintained community facilities, such as the district-level sporting facility in Thrumster (L:3.2).

Economic objectives are supported by enabling better use of industrial and employment lands (T:1.2) and facilitating visitor economy opportunities such as sustainable water recreation (T:1.3). Additionally, the proposal reflects a collaborative approach by working with State agencies to identify updates to Council's LEP to pursue common goals and deliver shared outcomes (AHP:2.3).

Collectively, these amendments reinforce the CSP vision while delivering practical statutory changes.

Local Strategic Planning Statement - *Shaping Our Future 2040*

Yes.

The *Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Strategic Planning Statement* (LSPS), titled *Shaping Our Future 2040*, provides a 20-year Vision to guide land use planning and development within the LGA. It establishes a clear strategic direction for how the region will manage growth while preserving its natural beauty, cultural heritage, and community character.

The LSPS sets out 'Planning Priorities' with supporting 'Actions' focused on protecting environmental assets such as coastal ecosystems and koala habitats, encouraging sustainable and resilient development, supporting a diverse economy, and enhancing infrastructure and housing to meet future needs. The LSPS aligns with the NSW government's broader regional planning framework, including the Regional Plan and the *Port Macquarie Regional City Action Plan 2036*. It serves as a

bridge between these regional strategies and local implementation by informing updates to Council's LEP and development controls.

All Planning Proposals are required to demonstrate consistency with the LSPS. Several actions within the LSPS are relevant to the Planning Proposal, and an assessment against these actions is detailed in Table 3.

Table 3 - Applicable LSPS Actions Assessment

LSPS Action	Assessment Against Action
Planning Priority 1 - Protect, conserve and enhance our biodiversity and areas of high environmental value	
1.1: Implement priority actions from Council's LGA-wide Biodiversity Management Strategy and implement priority actions including by not limited to management of threatened species and their key threats	**Consistent - Items 9, 11, 12 and 13** Rezoning ecologically significant land, including koala habitat (Bonny Hills), and NPWS acquisitions for conservation supports biodiversity protection and threatened species management.
1.3: Develop, implement, monitor and enforce Koala Plans of Management, and relevant controls in the LEP and DCP to secure the future of koalas in the LGA	**Consistent - Item 11** Rezoning the western portion of Bonny Hills site to C2 Environmental Conservation delivers Private Koala Plan of Management outcomes and supports the Koala Recovery Strategy.
1.4: Implement the Koala Recovery Strategy to secure the future of koalas in the LGA	
Planning Priority 3 - Increase our community's resilience to the impacts and risks of natural hazards and environmental change	
3.3: Review and update floodplain risk, through review of the Flood Management Policy and ensure planning controls are updated in line with NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Package 2020 and Land-Use Planning for Disaster Resilient Communities 2020	**Consistent - Item 5** Realigns zoning at King Creek in accordance with the Council's updated flood data (Hastings River Flood Study Extension 2024) to ensure zoning boundaries reflect the most up-to-date flood data and allow for development in flood-free areas on the site.
3.4: Review and expand on flood studies to ensure modelling is current, fit for purpose, and incorporates climate change, and develop a Flood Mitigation Program to implement actions detailed in associated Flood Management Plans	
Planning Priority 4 - Protect and improve the health of our waterways and aquatic habitats	
4.2: Amend the *Port Macquarie-Hastings LEP 2011* to ensure marine environments, water catchment areas and groundwater sources are protected from potential development impacts	**Consistent - Item 2** Permits sustainable water recreation structures in W1 Natural Waterways zone while maintaining environmental safeguards consistent with the zone's objectives.
Planning Priority 6 - Use a place-based approach to shape the development of our sites, streetscapes, precincts, villages, towns and centres	
6.4: Develop and implement local Place Guidelines for the planning, design, provision and evaluation of our neighbourhoods, public spaces and community	**Consistent - Item 4** Introduces a new Clause 5.26 – Visually Sensitive

LSPS Action	Assessment Against Action
facilities informed by relevant NSW Government guidelines	Land, providing statutory controls to protect scenic quality and visual character in mapped areas of Sancrox.
Planning Priority 7 - Provide for a diversity of housing in the right locations	
7.2: Develop LEP and DCP controls informed by the Local Housing Strategy recommendations to promote housing diversity and choice in appropriate locations	**Consistent - Items 1, 3** Prohibits low-density housing in R3 and R4 zones and amends Clause 4.1A to support affordable and diverse housing supply in well-serviced areas.
Planning Priority 8 - Create vibrant public places and spaces that inspire social interaction and support community wellbeing	
8.1: Develop a Social Infrastructure Strategy which will guide the development and adaptive use of our public spaces and community and recreational facilities across the LGA.	**Consistent - Item 15** While the development of a Social Infrastructure Strategy is beyond the scope of this Planning Proposal, the rezoning of land in Thrumster for a district-level sporting facility contributes to this strategy by ensuring delivery of public open space to meet community needs.
Planning Priority 9 - Preserve and enhance the distinctive character, size and scale of our towns, villages and rural communities	
9.1: Undertake a local character analysis across our LGA in line with the *NSW Government Local Character and Place Guideline*	**Consistent - Items 6, 7** Corrects mapping anomalies in Beechwood and Lake Cathie to align zoning with cadastral boundaries, preserving local character and intended land use.
Planning Priority 10 - Protect, respect and embrace our natural, built and cultural heritage (including our Aboriginal cultural heritage)	
10.5: Undertake a Landscapes Study to identify high-value landscapes across the LGA which can be incorporated as scenic protection areas in our planning controls	**Consistent - Item 4** Establishes statutory controls for Visually Sensitive Land in Sancrox to protect key scenic corridors along a major transport route (Pacific Highway).
Planning Priority 11 - Provide a multi-modal, integrated land-use and transport network across Port Macquarie-Hastings	
11.4: Amend Council's Development Control Plan to restrict access to local freight corridors and priority roads by residential properties; protect important local freight corridors for future transport alignment and avoid the encroachment of incompatible land uses and development	**Consistent - Items 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19** While the amendment of Council's Development Control Plan is beyond the scope of this Planning Proposal, zone amendments will protect and facilitate transport infrastructure delivery, including TfNSW surplus land rezonings and corridor protection for road upgrades at Limeburners Creek and Kew.
Planning Priority 14 - Develop a thriving and sustainable visitor economy	
14.1: Identify, develop and promote tourism and visitation opportunities in (regionally significant) natural areas and coastal locations	**Consistent - Item 2** Permits water recreation structures to enhance sustainable recreational fishing and nature-based

LSPS Action	Assessment Against Action
	tourism.
Planning Priority 15 - Protect and sustainably manage our productive agricultural land and create diverse economic opportunities for our rural communities	
15.2: Review planning controls and permissible uses in rural zones to facilitate land uses that will support and serve rural industries and encourage tourism	**Consistent - Items 16, 17, 18** While the review of planning controls and permissible uses in rural zones is beyond the scope of the Planning Proposal, the rezoning of surplus TfNSW land to RU1 Primary Production will support making land available for rural and agricultural uses.
Planning Priority 18 - Create a greener urban environment	
18.1: Develop a Green Infrastructure Plan, to identify opportunities to enhance connections between natural systems, passive and active recreational open space, bushland, our coast and waterways, and urban tree canopy	**Consistent – Items 4, 5, 6, 9, 13, 16** While the development of a Green Infrastructure Plan is beyond the scope of the Planning Proposal, amendments do support green infrastructure outcomes by protecting environmental corridors, enhancing public open space connectivity, safeguarding riparian areas, and integrating natural systems with urban environments.

Urban Growth Management Strategy 2017-2036

Yes.

The *Urban Growth Management Strategy 2017-2036* (the Strategy) outlines a 'Vision' of achieving a "*sustainable high quality of life for all*". It focuses on managing land use and population growth in a way that balances social, economic, and environmental goals for both current and future generations. The Strategy serves as a framework for planning and accommodating future development, guiding housing and economic opportunities while informing local planning instruments such as the LEP and development application assessments. The Strategy was approved by the NSW government on 2 November 2018.

The Strategy contains several key actions to be implemented over the next 5 years (2017), including:

- plans for a new Health and Education Precinct, which encompasses the Port Macquarie Base Hospital, Charles Sturt University and surrounding land,
- plans for an Airport Business Park at Port Macquarie,
- a review of planning for the Port Macquarie and Wauchope CBDs,
- a new urban release area at Yippin Creek in Wauchope,
- neighbourhood planning in Kendall,
- a rural residential investigation area in Telegraph Point,
- new residential investigation areas at Lake Cathie, Fernbank Creek and Sancrox.

For land outside the Urban Growth Area boundary in the Regional Plan (i.e., at Fernbank Creek and Sancrox), Council will need to seek the Department's approval, prior to proceeding with the planning proposal. The Department has also noted that detailed assessment of site-specific development

constraints will be required at the structure plan and planning proposal stage, including proximity to mineral resources, regionally significant farmland and potential high-environmental-value land. The conditions are not expected to limit Council's ability to implement the Strategy.

The Planning Proposal is consistent with the UGMS as it supports the Strategy's vision of achieving a "*sustainable high quality of life for all*" by focusing on sustainable land use management, protecting environmental assets, and ensuring development aligns with infrastructure delivery. While the proposal is primarily a housekeeping amendment package, it advances UGMS objectives by maintaining statutory accuracy, aligning land use zones and maps with approved developments, updating provisions to reflect current strategic directions, and ensuring that planning controls remain contemporary and fit-for-purpose. These updates indirectly support UGMS priorities such as well-planned urban release areas, compact settlement patterns, housing diversity, and the protection of high environmental value lands, by removing mapping anomalies, improving clarity in Council's LEP, and ensuring consistency with the latest environmental and cadastral data.

Item 9 of the Planning Proposal is located outside the Urban Growth Area boundary identified in the Regional Plan. In accordance with the UGMS, proposals outside this boundary require additional Departmental consideration, including detailed assessment of site-specific development constraints. This requirement has been addressed (refer to Item 9).

Port Macquarie-Hastings Living and Place Strategy, August 2024

Yes.

The *Port Macquarie-Hastings Living and Place Strategy* (the Strategy) is a plan that guides housing development and planning in the LGA up to 2046. It outlines how and where new housing will be delivered, aiming to meet the community's needs while ensuring sustainable growth and resilient, healthy, connected communities. The Strategy also addresses affordable housing needs, with a target of 2,370 affordable dwellings by 2046. The Place Strategy outlines key 'Priorities' each with a series of 'Strategies' to guide strategic initiatives in the LGA including:

- Priority 1: Infrastructure which supports sustainable growth,
- Priority 2: Deliver diverse housing,
- Priority 3: Deliver liveable and connected neighbourhoods and communities with distinctive character,
- Priority 4: Create neighbourhoods which are safe, sustainable and resilient to natural hazards,
- Priority 5: Locate residential development in well-planned growth precincts and infill areas,
- Priority 6: Increase availability of affordable housing.

The Place Strategy is supported by two detailed plans:

- **Local Housing Delivery Plan**: breaks down the region into smaller planning areas, identifying how 16,000 dwellings needed by 2046 can be achieved,
- **Affordable Housing Plan**: addresses specific actions to increase the availability of affordable housing options.

The Place Strategy aligns with broader planning frameworks, including *the North Coast Regional*

Plan 2041 and Council's CSP and LSPS.

The Planning Proposal is consistent with the overarching vision and principles of the *Living and Place Strategy 2024* as the amendments are primarily administrative and technical, addressing mapping anomalies, zoning boundary realignments, and updates to local provisions to ensure statutory accuracy.

The proposal supports the Strategy's objectives by protecting environmental values through zoning corrections that align with environmental constraints, supporting liveable places by ensuring zoning boundaries and land use tables reflect intended development outcomes and infrastructure servicing, and maintaining infrastructure alignment consistent with integrated land use planning. While the majority of sites are within the identified Urban Growth Area, Item 9 lies outside this boundary, however the change is administrative in nature and does not introduce new urban development potential inconsistent with this strategy.

Local Area-Specific Plans

N/A

5. Is the planning proposal consistent with any other applicable State and regional studies or strategies?

N/A

All applicable studies and strategies have been identified.

6. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable State Environmental Planning Policies?

Table 4 provides an assessment of consistency against each State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) relevant to the Planning Proposal.

Table 4 - State Environmental Planning Policy Assessment

Focus areas	State Environmental Planning Policies	Consistent	Assessment
Planning systems	Planning Systems SEPP	N/A	The planning proposal does not include a State significant development, State significant infrastructure, critical State significant infrastructure or regionally significant development.
	Precincts SEPPs: • Eastern Harbour City SEPP • Western Parkland City SEPP • Central River City SEPP • Regional SEPP	Yes	See below.

Focus areas	State Environmental Planning Policies	Consistent	Assessment
The Regional SEPP applies to all land within regional NSW, including the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA. Its intent is to consolidate planning provisions for regional areas, protect rural and environmental values, and ensure consistency with the relevant Regional Plan. This Planning Proposal seeks to make twenty (20) housekeeping amendments that are administrative and corrective in nature, involving updates to land use tables, the introduction of new or updated clauses, and the realignment of zoning or lot size boundaries to address anomalies, reflect updated environmental data, and support affordable housing and environmental outcomes. The proposal does not facilitate large-scale rezoning, greenfield development, or resource-related land uses that would trigger specific provisions of the Regional SEPP. Instead, it supports the objectives of the Regional SEPP by: • ensuring orderly and efficient planning through correction of mapping errors, removal of zoning anomalies, and alignment with updated flood, biodiversity, and cadastral data, • protecting environmental and scenic values by rezoning land for conservation, introducing new provisions for visually sensitive areas, and ensuring biodiversity outcomes are maintained, • supporting regional housing objectives by refining provisions that enable housing diversity and affordability in appropriate zones, • maintaining statutory accuracy across Council's LEP and the NSW Spatial Viewer, providing greater certainty for landowners, the community, and industry. On this basis, the Planning Proposal is consistent with the intent and provisions of the Regional SEPP, as it strengthens the integrity of the local planning framework while aligning with regional land use and environmental management objectives.			
Housing	Housing SEPP	N/A	The planning proposal does not propose affordable and/or diverse housing.
Transport and infrastructure	Transport and Infrastructure SEPP	N/A	The planning proposal does not propose delivery of infrastructure.
Primary production	Primary Production SEPP	Yes	Items 16 - 18 relate to amendments specific to rural zones and are consistent with the SEPP's objectives to protect, manage, and sustainably support primary production and rural land uses.
Biodiversity and conservation	Biodiversity and Conservation SEPP	Yes	Items 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 13 - several amendments rezone or adjust boundaries to protect environmentally sensitive land and areas of high ecological value, consistent with the SEPP's objectives.
Resilience and hazards	Resilience and Hazards SEPP	Yes	Item 5 considers updated flood mapping, consistent with the SEPP's intent to manage risk to people, property, and the environment.
Industry and	Industry and	N/A	The site is not located within the Western

Focus areas	State Environmental Planning Policies	Consistent	Assessment
employment	Employment SEPP		Sydney Employment Area and the planning proposal does not propose advertising or signage.
Resources and energy	Resources and Energy SEPP	N/A	The planning proposal does not propose mining or energy uses.
-	SEPP No 65 – Design Quality of Residential Apartment Development	N/A	The planning proposal does not include residential apartments.
-	SEPP (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004	N/A	The planning proposal does not include residential developments.
-	SEPP (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008.	N/A	The planning proposal does not propose exempt or complying development or the introduction of State-wide codes.

7. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable Local Planning Directions (formally section 9.1 Ministerial Directions) or key government priority?

Table 5 provides a brief assessment of consistency against each Local Planning Direction.

Table 5 - Local Planning Directions Assessment

Consideration of Local Planning Directions	Consistent	Assessment
Focus Area 1: Planning Systems		
1.1 Implementation of Regional Plans	Yes	The planning proposal achieves the overall intent of the Regional Plan and does not undermine the achievement of the vision, land use strategy, goals, directions or actions.
1.2 Development of Aboriginal Land Council land	N/A	Not relevant to this planning proposal.
1.3 Approval and Referral Requirements	N/A	The planning proposal does not introduce any LEP provisions that require the concurrence, consultation or referral of development applications to a Minister or public authority and does not identify development as designated development.
1.4 Site Specific Provisions	N/A	The planning proposal does not introduce

Consideration of Local Planning Directions	Consistent	Assessment
1.4A Exclusion of Development Standards from Variation		any site-specific planning controls or exclude development standards from variations.
Focus Area 1: Planning Systems – Place-based		
1.5 Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.6 Implementation of North West Priority Growth Area Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.7 Implementation of Greater Parramatta Priority Growth Area Interim Land Use Infrastructure Implementation Plan	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.8 Implementation of Wilton Priority Growth Area Interim Land Use Infrastructure Implementation Plan	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.9 Implementation of Glenfield to Macarthur Urban Renewal Corridor	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.10 Implementation of Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.11 Implementation of Bayside West Precincts 2036 Plan	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.12 Implementation of Planning Principles for the Cooks Cove Precinct	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.13 Implementation of St Leonards and Crows Nest 2036 Plan	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.14 Implementation of Greater Macarthur 2040	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.15 Implementation of the Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.16 North West Rail Link Corridor Strategy	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.17 Implementation of the Bays West Place Strategy	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.18 Implementation of the Macquarie Park Innovation Precinct	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.

Consideration of Local Planning Directions	Consistent	Assessment
1.19 Implementation of the Westmead Place Strategy	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.20 Implementation of the Camellia-Rosehill Place Strategy	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.21 Implementation of South West Growth Area Structure Plan	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
1.22 Implementation of the Cherrybrook Station Place Strategy	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
Focus Area 2: Design and Place		
2.1 Design and Place (Not adopted)	N/A	N/A
Focus Area 3: Biodiversity and Conservation		
3.1 Conservation Zones	Yes	The objective of this direction is to protect and conserve environmentally sensitive areas applicable to land within a conservation zone or land otherwise identified for environmental conservation or protection purposes. Items 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, and 20 involve amendments to land within existing conservation zones or land mapped for environmental protection. The proposed changes do not reduce the extent of these zones or diminish the level of environmental protection currently afforded under Council's LEP. In several cases, boundary realignments will improve the accuracy of zone application by better aligning conservation zoning with verified environmental features, updated cadastral boundaries, and current ecological mapping. These refinements will ensure that environmentally sensitive land remains appropriately protected while correcting anomalies in the LEP mapping. The proposal is therefore consistent with the intent of this direction, as it maintains or enhances conservation outcomes and strengthens the integrity of environmental protection measures.
3.2 Heritage Conservation	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.

Consideration of Local Planning Directions	Consistent	Assessment
3.3 Sydney Drinking Water Catchments	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
3.4 Application of C2 and C3 Zones and Environmental Overlays in Far North Coast LEPs	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
3.5 Recreation Vehicle Areas	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
3.6 Strategic Conservation Planning	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
3.7 Public Bushland	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
3.8 Willandra Lakes Region	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
3.9 Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Waterways Area	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
3.10 Water Catchment Protection	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
Focus Area 4: Resilience and Hazards		
4.1 Flooding	Yes	See below.
The objectives of this direction are to ensure that development of flood prone land is consistent with the NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy and the principles of the *Floodplain Development Manual 2005* and ensure that the provisions of an LEP that apply to flood prone land are commensurate with flood behaviour and includes consideration of the potential flood impacts both on and off the land. Item 5 proposes to address inaccuracies in zoning boundaries that no longer reflect the site's actual flood risk profile or intended land use. The property is currently split-zoned RU1 Primary Production, C2 Environmental Conservation, and R5 Large Lot Residential, with the RU1/R5 zone boundary running directly through the existing dwelling. This split zoning is a legacy of outdated flood mapping, resulting in impractical planning constraints and limiting the site's functional development potential. In 2024, Council completed the Hastings River Flood Study Extension, a technical update to flood modelling across the Hastings River catchment triggered by the March 2021 major flooding event. The study used updated rainfall and streamflow data, modern hydrologic and hydraulic modelling standards, and incorporated climate change projections in line with the NSW Floodplain Development Manual. It modelled a full range of design flood events up to and including the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF). The outputs provide high-resolution mapping of flood extent, depth, and velocity, enabling accurate identification of flood planning areas and safe developable land. The updated mapping confirms that while the northern portion of the proposed balance lot is affected by PMF inundation, the majority of the site, including the dwelling and proposed R5 area, is flood-free. The proposed rezoning will realign the R5 Large Lot Residential boundary eastward to follow the updated C2 Environmental Conservation zone boundary and remove the dual-zone line through the dwelling. This ensures: • zoning reflects current, evidence-based flood data from the Hastings River Flood Study Extension, • flood-prone land remains protected within the C2 Environmental Conservation zone, consistent		

Consideration of Local Planning Directions	Consistent	Assessment
with its environmental and hazard constraints, • flood-free land is available for appropriate residential use, removing unnecessary constraints on existing lawful development, • no intensification of development occurs within flood-affected land, maintaining community safety and resilience objectives, • the Lot Size Map will also be amended to apply a 1.2-hectare minimum lot size to the R5 portion, consistent with adjoining R5-zoned land. This supports orderly subdivision, ensures consistent application of development standards, and allows efficient infrastructure servicing without increasing flood risk. As the proposal is informed by the most up-to-date, peer-reviewed flood data, retains environmental and hazard protection over flood-affected areas, and avoids introducing incompatible development within areas of known flood hazard, it is fully consistent with this direction.		
4.2 Coastal Management	Yes	The objective of this direction is to protect and manage coastal areas of NSW. This direction applies when a planning proposal authority prepares a planning proposal that applies to land that is within the coastal zone, as defined under the *Coastal Management Act 2016*. The Planning Proposal has been assessed against the *NSW Coastal Design Guidelines 2023 - Appendix 1: Assessment checklist for planning proposals* and is consistent with this direction (refer to Attachment 3).
4.3 Planning for Bushfire Protection	Yes	The objectives of this direction are to protect life, property and the environment from bush fire hazards, by discouraging the establishment of incompatible land uses in bush fire prone areas and encourage sound management of bush fire prone areas. Items 5, 6, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 are located partly or wholly within bush fire prone land, with the majority situated in rural areas. These amendments are minor housekeeping changes that correct mapping anomalies, realign zone boundaries, or update land use provisions without introducing any additional development potential. They do not alter the strategic intent of Council's LEP, facilitate incompatible land uses, or increase the exposure or risk to life, property, or the environment from bush fire hazards, and therefore are consistent with the objectives of this direction.

Consideration of Local Planning Directions	Consistent	Assessment
4.4 Remediation of Contaminated Land	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
4.5 Acid Sulfate Soils	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
4.6 Mine Subsidence and Unstable Land	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
Focus Area 5: Transport and Infrastructure		
5.1 Integrating Land Use and Transport	No	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
5.2 Reserving Land for Public Purposes	Yes	The objective of this direction is to facilitate the provision of public services and amenities by reserving land for public purposes and ensuring that such land is appropriately identified in planning instruments. Items 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 involve minor zoning adjustments or rezonings that correct mapping errors, reflect updated land ownership or land swaps, and align zoning with established land uses, including public recreation, infrastructure, conservation, and transport corridors. Several items formalise existing or agreed public land outcomes (e.g. NPWS acquisitions, TfNSW land swaps) and ensure Council's LEP accurately reserves and zones land for ongoing public purposes. These are housekeeping changes that do not alter the strategic intent of existing public land allocations and are consistent with the objectives of this direction.
5.3 Development Near Regulated Airports and Defence Airfields	Yes	The objective of this direction is to ensure the effective and safe operation of regulated airports and defence airfields by managing the risks associated with developments that could compromise aircraft safety, including those related to height, lighting, turbulence, wildlife hazards, and protected airspace. Item 20 proposes a minor amendment to correct zoning or mapping affecting land in proximity to an airport/airfield (as identified in the LEP). The change is administrative in nature, does not introduce new development potential, and does not alter building heights, permissible uses, or other controls that could impact aviation safety or operations. As such, the amendment will not create new risks to

Consideration of Local Planning Directions	Consistent	Assessment
		aircraft movement, navigation aids, or airfield safety zones, and is consistent with the objectives of this direction.
5.4 Shooting Ranges	Yes	The objective of this direction is to maintain appropriate safety and amenity standards around shooting ranges, ensure that land use planning decisions do not adversely affect their continued operation, and manage potential land use conflicts. Item 20 involves a minor LEP amendment to correct zoning or mapping affecting land in proximity to a shooting range. The change is administrative in nature, does not introduce new sensitive land uses, alter development potential, or reduce existing separation and safety buffers. It will not create land use conflicts or compromise the safe operation of the facility and is therefore consistent with the objectives of this direction.
Focus Area 6: Housing		
6.1 Residential Zones	Yes	The objective of this direction is to encourage diverse housing types to meet current and future needs, use infrastructure and services efficiently, and minimise environmental and resource land impacts from residential development. Items 2, 5, 7, 12 and 15 involve minor LEP mapping updates to correct residential zoning anomalies, realign boundaries, or adjust permissible uses so they reflect actual site conditions. These changes do not alter the scale or type of residential development already permitted, do not increase development yield, and will not create adverse environmental impacts. As such, they maintain consistency with the existing residential zone framework and are consistent with the objectives of this direction.
6.2 Caravan Parks and Manufactured Home Estates	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
Focus Area 7: Industry and Employment		
7.1 Business and Industrial Zones	Yes	The objective of this direction is to encourage

Consideration of Local Planning Directions	Consistent	Assessment
		employment growth, support the viability of identified employment areas, and reinforce their role in providing jobs and services. Item 10 proposes to rezone part of proposed Lot 92 and ancillary road corridors in Thrumster from SP2 Infrastructure to IN1 General Industrial to match the approved subdivision layout under DA2022/774 and satisfy a development consent condition. This is a minor, corrective amendment that aligns zoning with the intended use for industrial purposes, supports the functionality and integrity of the industrial estate, and helps enable timely delivery of serviced employment land. The change does not reduce the supply of employment-zoned land and is consistent with the objectives of this direction.
7.2 Reduction in non-hosted short-term rental accommodation period	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
7.3 Commercial and Retail Development along the Pacific Highway, North Coast	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
Focus Area 8: Resources and Energy		
8.1 Mining, Petroleum and Extractive Industries	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
Focus Area 9: Primary Production		
9.1 Rural Zones	Yes	The objective of this direction is to protect the agricultural production value of rural land. Items 5, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17 and 18 involve minor rezonings or boundary adjustments affecting rural land, primarily to correct mapping anomalies, align zones with cadastral boundaries, reflect conservation agreements, or apply environmental protection where land is constrained. These changes do not introduce incompatible uses, do not fragment viable rural land, and retain productive land in appropriate rural zones. As such, they are consistent with the objectives of this direction to protect rural land for suitable purposes and avoid land use conflicts.

Consideration of Local Planning Directions	Consistent	Assessment
9.2 Rural Lands	Yes	The objective of this direction is to protect the value and viability of rural land by facilitating its orderly and sustainable use for rural purposes, preventing fragmentation and land use conflicts, promoting social, economic and environmental welfare, encouraging sustainable land management, and supporting the actions in the NSW Right to Farm Policy. Items 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 19 involve minor housekeeping amendments that affect rural land, including clause updates, zoning corrections, cadastral boundary alignments, land swaps, and rezonings for conservation or infrastructure purposes. These amendments are corrective in nature, responding to updated mapping, environmental constraints, or agreed land management outcomes. They do not introduce additional development potential, facilitate inappropriate urban expansion, or undermine the rural character of the LGA. In several cases, land is being rezoned from rural to environmental conservation to protect biodiversity and ecological values (e.g. koala habitat or NPWS acquisitions), while other amendments simply realign existing rural boundaries to remove anomalies such as split zoning through dwellings or along cadastral lines. Productive rural land is retained in appropriate zones, and environmental or constrained areas are protected through more suitable zoning. Collectively, the changes support the sustainable use of rural lands, maintain their long-term viability for agriculture or environmental purposes, and minimise land use conflicts in accordance with the objectives of this direction.
9.3 Oyster Aquaculture	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.
9.4 Farmland of State and Regional Significance on the NSW Far Coast	N/A	Not relevant to this Planning Proposal.

Section C – Environmental, Social, and Economic Impact

8. Is there any likelihood that critical habitat or threatened species, populations or ecological communities or their habitat will be adversely affected as a result of the proposal?

No.

The Planning Proposal comprises minor, housekeeping amendments to Council's LEP, including mapping corrections, boundary realignments, and zoning adjustments that reflect existing land use, approved development, or agreed conservation outcomes. These changes do not involve new development works, physical disturbance of land, or removal of vegetation. In several instances, the amendments increase environmental protection by rezoning land containing high ecological value vegetation or habitat for threatened species to conservation zones. As a result, there is no likelihood that critical habitat, threatened species, populations, or ecological communities, or their habitat will be adversely affected. The proposal is therefore consistent with this requirement.

9. Are there any other likely environmental effects as a result of the planning proposal and how are they proposed to be managed?

No.

The Planning Proposal is limited to minor, housekeeping amendments that correct mapping anomalies, realign zoning boundaries, update land use provisions, and implement agreed conservation and infrastructure outcomes. These changes do not enable new or intensified development beyond what is already permitted under Council's LEP and will not generate additional environmental impacts. In some cases, the amendments provide environmental benefits by increasing the extent of conservation zoning or aligning zoning with environmental constraints such as flood-prone or high ecological value land. As no adverse environmental effects are anticipated, and any future development on affected sites would remain subject to normal development assessment processes under the Act, this proposal is consistent with this requirement.

10. Has the planning proposal adequately addressed any social and economic effects?

Yes.

The Planning Proposal adequately addresses social and economic effects, as the amendments are administrative and corrective in nature, ensuring the LEP remains accurate, up to date, and aligned with current land use, ownership, and environmental constraints. These changes will improve statutory certainty for landowners, applicants, and consent authorities, support the efficient delivery of infrastructure and public services, and, in some cases, enhance community and environmental outcomes through more appropriate zoning. As the proposal does not enable additional development yield or introduce incompatible uses, it will not generate adverse social or economic impacts and is therefore consistent with this requirement.

Section D – State and Commonwealth Interests

11. Is there adequate public infrastructure for the planning proposal?

Yes.

The Planning Proposal does not create additional development capacity or demand for services beyond what is already permitted under Council's LEP. All affected sites are already serviced, or capable of being serviced, by existing public infrastructure networks, including transport, utilities, and community facilities. Several amendments relate to public land, conservation areas, or infrastructure sites, which either already have the necessary servicing in place or do not require additional infrastructure. As such, the proposal is consistent with this requirement.

12. What are the views of the State and Commonwealth public authorities consulted in accordance with the Gateway Determination?

No.

No consultation with State or Commonwealth public authorities has occurred at this stage, as the Proposal is currently at Stage 2 of the plan-making process. However, NPWS and TfNSW have provided consent to enable amendments affecting their interests (refer to Attachment 2).

Part 4 – Mapping

Table 6 details the specific amendments to Council's mapping sought by the Planning Proposal as well as indicative mapping of the amendments/s sought.

Table 6 - Mapping Amendments

Item	Map Name	Map Number	Map Date	Requested Amendment
5	Land Zoning Map	LZN_013B	25 Apr 2023	Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_013B to realign the R5 Large Lot Residential zone boundary in accordance with updated Hastings River Flood Study Extension mapping and rezone affected land accordingly and amend the Lot Size Map – Sheet LSZ_013B to apply a 1.2ha minimum lot size to the R5-zoned portion of the site
	Lot Size Map	LSZ_013B	29 Aug 2016 to date	
6	Land Zoning Map	LZN_010A	25 Apr 2023	Align zoning boundaries with the updated cadastre and correct mapping discrepancies in Beechwood and update the NSW Spatial Viewer accordingly.
7	NSW Spatial Viewer			Amend the NSW Spatial Viewer to allocate Lot 1 on DP1226839 as R1 General Residential zone.
8	NSW Spatial Viewer			Amend the NSW Spatial Viewer to allocate the correct zone boundaries for Lot 93 DP0810033 as RE1 Public Recreation zone
9	Land Zoning Map	LZN_013G	25 Jan 2024 to date	Amend the Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_013G to rezone Lot 21 on DP1172308 from C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves zone to C2 Environmental Conservation zone and amend Schedule 1 – Additional Permitted Uses and Additional Permitted Uses Map - Sheet APU_013G to permit a veterinary hospital.
	Additional Permitted Uses Map	APU_013G	30 Aug 2019 to 25 Apr 2023	
10	Land Zoning Map	LZN_013D	25 Jan 2024 to date	Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_013D to rezone Lot 92 DP1292179 and ancillary roads from SP2 Infrastructure zone to E4 General Industrial zone
11	Land Zoning Map	LZN_014B	22 Jun 2018 to date	Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_014B to rezone part of Lot 2 DP1050649 from RU1 Primary Production zone and R1 General Residential zone to C2 Environmental Conservation zone
12	Land Zoning Map	LZN_013	29 Aug 2016 to date	Amend the Land Zoning Maps - Sheet LZN_013, Sheet LZN_013D and Sheet LZN_013G to rezone Lot 11

Item	Map Name	Map Number	Map Date	Requested Amendment
		LZN_013D	25 Jan 2024 to date	DP1284516 from C2 Environmental Conservation zone, R1 General Residential zone and RU1 Primary Production zone to C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves zone
		LZN_013G	25 Jan 2024 to date	
13	Land Zoning Map	LZN_011	23 Feb 2011 to 25 Apr 2023	Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_011 to rezone NPWS land to C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves zone and TfNSW land to SP2 Infrastructure zone
14	Land Zoning Map	LZN_012	20 Feb 2015 to 25 Apr 2023	Amend the Land Zoning Maps – Sheets LZN_012 and LZN_013C to rezone identified lots from C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves zone to RU1 Primary Production zone
		LZN_013C	17 Mar 2023 to 27 Apr 2023	
15	Land Zoning Map	LZN_013D	25 Jan 2024 to date	Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_013D to rezone part of Lot 3 DP1293093 from R1 General Residential zone to RE1 Public Recreation zone
16	Land Zoning Map	LZN_013C	17 Mar 2023 to 27 Apr 2023	Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_013C to rezone Lot 2 DP226821 from SP2 Infrastructure zone to RU1 Primary Production zone
17	Land Zoning Map	LZN_012	20 Feb 2015 to 25 Apr 2023	Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheets LZN_012 and LZN_012A to rezone Lots 10 and 11 DP1300295 from SP2 Infrastructure zone to RU1 Primary Production zone
		LZN_012A	29 Jul 2022 to 25 Apr 2023	
18	Land Zoning Map	LZN_013C	17 Mar 2023 to 27 Apr 2023	Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_013C to rezone Lot 6 DP1300632 from SP2 Infrastructure zone to RU1 Primary Production zone
19	Land Zoning Map	LZN_011B	31 May 2019 to 25 Apr 2023	Amend the Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_011B to rezone part of Lot 100 DP1130726 from C2 Environmental Conservation zone to C3 Environmental Management zone, aligning the zoning boundary with the final design of the reservoir access road
20	Additional Permitted Uses Map	APU_013D	6 Apr 2023 to 27 Apr 2023	Amend the Additional Permitted Uses Map – Sheet APU_013D to remove individual marked trees to ensure mapping accuracy and protect environmentally sensitive land

Part 5 – Community Consultation

There has been no formal community consultation yet, but Council will engage the community during Stage 5 - Community Consultation, of the *LEP Plan-making Process*.

Part 6 – Project Timeline

Table 7 provides an indicative timeline for this '**Standard**' Planning Proposal.

Table 7 - Indicative Planning Proposal Timeline

Action	Indicative Date
Consideration by Council	July 2025
Council Decision	July 2025
Gateway Determination	October 25
Pre-exhibition	November 25
Commencement and Completion of Public Exhibition period	December/ January 2026
Consideration of Submission	February 2025
Post-exhibition Review and Additional Studies	February 2025
Submission to the Department for Finalisation (where applicable)	March 2025
Gazettal of LEP Amendment	April 2025

Attachments

Attachment 1 - DPIE Scoping Proposal Comments

Attachment 2 - State Agency Amendment Consents

Attachment 3 - NSW Coastal Design Guidelines 2023 - Appendix 1: Assessment checklist for planning proposals

Port Macquarie Hastings Council

BIRPAI COUNTRY

pmhc.nsw.gov.au

Email **council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au**
PO Box 84 Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Tel **02 6581 8111**

Socials **@pmhcouncil**

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council – Housekeeping Amendments Scoping Proposal (22 items) **Port Macquarie-Hastings LEP 2011**	
Issue	**Information required to support PP**
Strategic	
North Coast Regional Plan 2041 (NCRP)	The PP should include an assessment of all items against the NCRP 2041, particularly for those proposed amendments that will result in zoning or other development standard changes. Any inconsistency with the relevant objective should also be discussed and justified.
Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Housing Strategy – Local Housing Delivery Plan 2024	Consistency with the relevant objectives of the strategy should be discussed and/or inconsistency justified
Port Macquarie-Hastings LSPS	Discussion on how the PP is consistent with and will achieve the relevant planning priorities of Council's LSPS.
Community Strategic Plan 2050	The PP should include an assessment of Council's CSP.
Section 9.1 directions The planning proposal must address all relevant Local Planning Directions and provide details on how the objectives have been met or alternatively provide justification for any inconsistency. **Note:** The below list is intended to give a general indication of what s9.1 directions may apply based on the information provided. Other directions may apply where deemed relevant by Council.	
3.1 Conservation Zones (items 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22)	
3.2 Heritage Conservation (where relevant)	
4.1 Flooding (item 7 & any other relevant item -	
4.2 Coastal Management (where relevant - This Direction refers to the NSW Coastal Design Guidelines 2023 which requires planning proposals in the coastal zone to include a copy of the assessment checklist. The planning proposal will be required to include a completed copy of the NSW Coastal Design Guidelines 2023 – Appendix 1: Assessment checklist for planning proposals	
4.3 Planning for Bushfire Protection (any item mapped as containing bushfire prone land). Consistency with this Direction will remain unresolved until consultation occurs with the RFS following the issue of a Gateway determination.	
4.4 Remediation of Contaminated Land (where relevant)	
4.5 Acid Sulfate Soils (where relevant)	

5.1 Integrating Land Use and Transport (where relevant)	
5.2 Reserving Land for Public Purposes (any item where land is zoned/rezoned C1, RE1, SP1 and SP2 – items 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21)	
5.3 Developing Near Regulated Airports and Defence Airfields (item 22)	
5.4 Shooting Ranges (where relevant)	
6.1 Residential Zones (items 1, 4, 7, 9, 14, 17)	
7.1 Employment Zones (item 12)	
8.1 Mining, Petroleum and extractive Industries (where relevant)	
9.1 Primary Production (items 7, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20)	
9.2 Rural Lands (items 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21)	
Constraints/Considerations (or others where relevant)	
Aboriginal cultural heritage	The PP should give an indication of whether any amendment item contains a local heritage item or is mapped within a local heritage conservation area. Consultation will be required with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) – Heritage.
Acid Sulfate Soils	The PP should give an indication of whether the relevant items are constrained by potential acid sulfate soils. If mapped as such, the planning proposal will be required to address.
Airport operations	The PP should discuss any impact on Airport operations that may result from any relevant item (particularly item 22).
Biodiversity	Consultation should occur with Biodiversity DCCEEW – Biodiversity to confirm the suitability of any relevant item – particularly any impact to the approved Bio-certification of land subject to amendment item 22.
Bushfire	Consultation will be required to occur with the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) to confirm the suitability of the proposal.
Coastal management	The planning proposal will be required to include a completed copy of the NSW Coastal Design Guidelines 2023 – Appendix 1: Assessment checklist for planning proposals if relevant (s 9.1 direction 4.2)
Contaminated land	The PP should address and provide supporting information where relevant.
Flooding	Any item at flood risk is required to be further addressed in the planning proposal.
Agricultural land/conflict/Important farmland	The PP should address and provide supporting information where relevant.

Agency consultation
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPI)- Agriculture (items 3, 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20)
DPI – Fisheries (item 2)
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) – Biodiversity and Conservation Services (items 7, 8, 13, 14, 22)
NSW RFS (any item mapped as containing bushfire prone land)
TfNSW (items 6, 15, 18, 19, 20)
Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) (item 2)
Port Macquarie Airport operator/lessee (item 22)
NPWS (items 11, 14, 15, 16)
LALC (if/where relevant)
Item specific details/information
Item 3 – It is our position that progression of this item would be best dealt with once Council have undertaken a Rural Lands review given the broad reaching nature of the proposed change. If Council chooses to proceed with this item without a Rural Lands review however, consultation with DPI – Agriculture will need to be undertaken prior to lodgement of the PP.
Item 4 – The PP should contain general wording (plain English version) of the intent of the proposed change and not an example of how the clause will look, as this will be subject to drafting and may change from that exhibited.
Item 5 – It is unclear whether Council is proposing the standards in the 1st or 2nd indicative clause 5.5. Given the broad and substantial nature of the change and the potential impacts on rural land, it is recommended that this amendment be included in a Rural Lands review. If Council decides to proceed without a review however, consultation with DPI – Agriculture should be undertaken prior to lodgement of the PP.
Item 7 – This item will require strong strategic justification particularly in relation to the mention of 'future development opportunities'. It will also need to be supported by relevant flood data/mapping.
Item 11 – Previous discussions with DPHI and DCCEEW re this item have indicated a preference for a C2 zoning and an APU for a 'veterinary hospital'. The scoping proposal indicates that veterinary hospitals will be included as a landuse permissible with consent in the entire C2 zone. This option is contrary to the advice given and is not supported. Happy to discuss further if needed.
Item 14 – The PP should include supporting documentation from NPWS.
Item 15 – The PP should include supporting documentation from TfNSW & NPWS.
Item 16 - The PP should include supporting documentation from NPWS.
Item 18, 19 & 20 - The PP should include supporting documentation from TfNSW.
Item 19 - The PP should include supporting documentation from TfNSW.
Item 22 – Further explanation is required regarding the intent of this amendment item as PP_2019_PORTM_003_00 (Airport Business Park) also involved Bio-certification for the subject lands which was incorporated into the mapping.
General
Please ensure that all documentation references correct property details.

All items that result in a map change, should be clearly supported in the PP by mapping that shows the current and proposed map(s) to be amended.
The planning proposal should maintain objective and professional language.
Any supporting studies/previous correspondence should be no older than 2 years.



2025-29 Draft

Community Inclusion and Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Make a Bigger Circle

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

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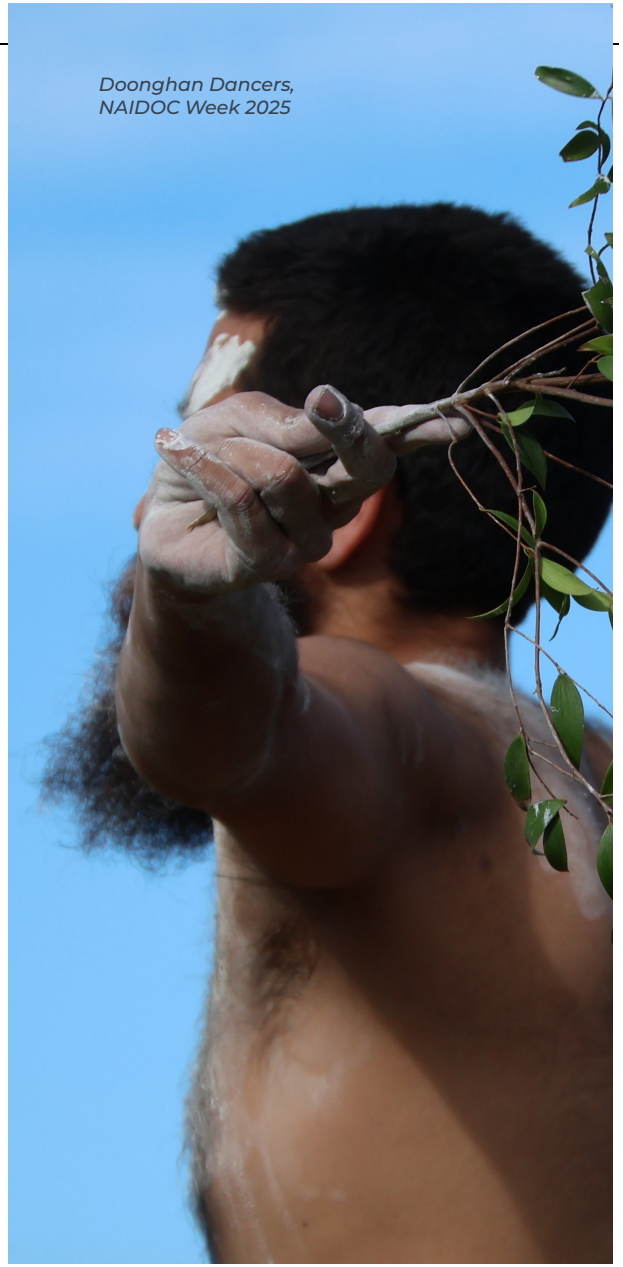
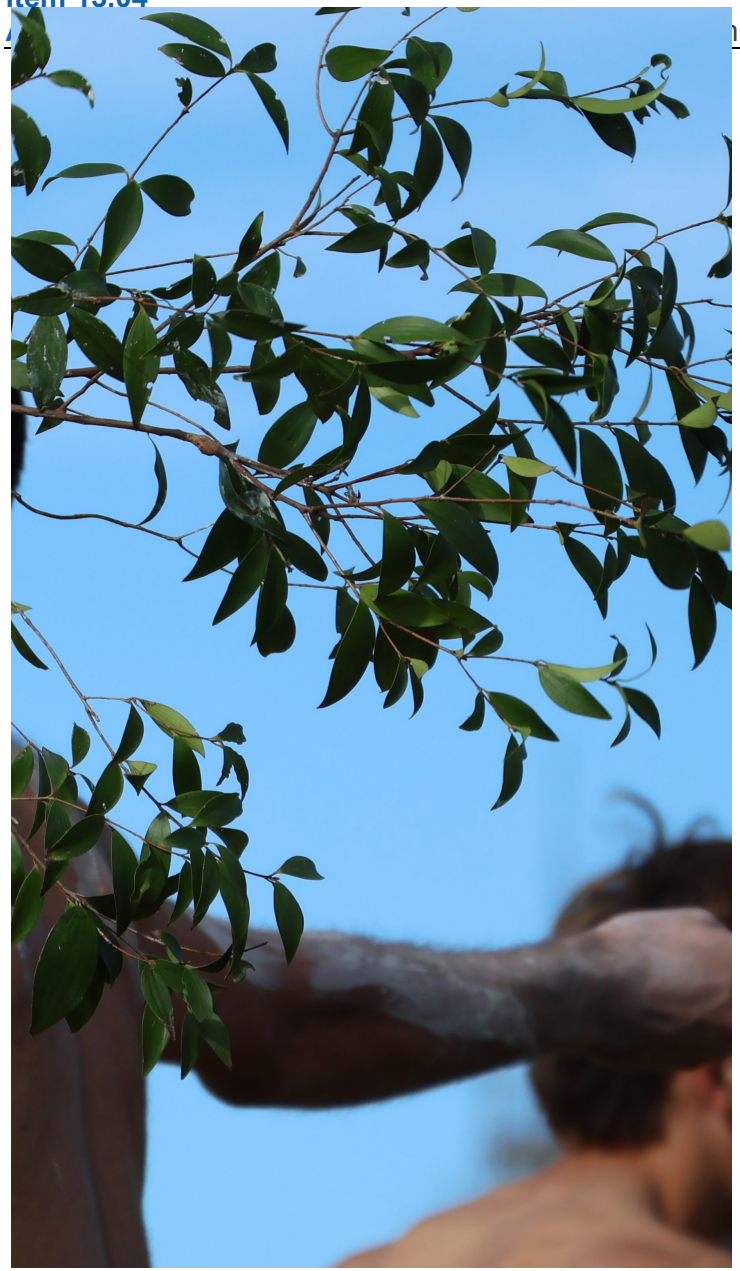


Doonghan Dancers, NAIDOC Week 2025



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 respect to all Elders past and present. We acknowledge the ongoing connection to the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands and waters of the Port Macquarie Hastings region.

This Birpai Country acknowledgement is delivered verbally at gatherings and as a written statement in formal Council documents.

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

The story behind the name

The name, Make a Bigger Circle, emerged during the engagement forums on culture and inclusion, when a participant shared a simple yet powerful statement:

"When there's not enough room around the fire, we make a bigger circle."

This saying turned heads. It captured the spirit of inclusion, generosity, and adaptability that defines our region's aspirations for inclusion. It was all about bringing people in, a practice of welcoming people to the table or fire.

As in-depth feedback from small group settings and survey data were reviewed and interpreted, "make a bigger circle" stood out as capturing the essence of what our community consistently told us. Everyone wants to belong and to feel valued. We've adopted this phrase in our community planning as a guiding principle. It reminds us that inclusion is not a fixed space - it's a dynamic circle that can grow to include new voices, stories, and perspectives.

Whether we're creating intergenerational programs, designing inclusive events, or reimagining public spaces, we'll return to this idea:

There is always room for more.

The name, Make a Bigger Circle, has been adopted for the Community Inclusion and Disability Inclusion Action Plan, 2025-29, and extended to 'Growing the Circle' for the Cultural Plan, 2025-29.

Smoking ceremony, NAIDOC Week flag raising ceremony



Council's Vision

Imagine2050 Community Strategic Plan

The most liveable, sustainable, and innovative place in Australia.

Our Vision

2026-29 Community Inclusion and Disability Inclusion Action Plan

A welcoming, inclusive, and resilient community where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.

Our vision reflects our shared commitment to equity, dignity, and community belonging. It is built on the belief that everyone in our region deserves the opportunity to participate fully in community life, regardless of background, identity, or ability.

This vision has been shaped by extensive community engagement, and informed by best practice and legislative frameworks. It recognises that diversity is a strength, and that equity and access are essential to our shared success.

By removing barriers, enabling participation, and amplifying voices, we aim to build a community where:

- Everyone has a place and a voice
- Difference is not just accepted, but it is valued
- Everyone's story matters

This plan supports our Community Vision, to be the most liveable, sustainable, and innovative place in Australia.

The Case for Inclusion

Inclusion is essential to creating strong, liveable, sustainable and innovative communities. When people feel welcome, safe and able to contribute, the whole community benefits. Inclusion strengthens connection and trust, builds resilience, and supports people to live with dignity and purpose.

The evidence

Research shows the positive impact of inclusion on community wellbeing:

- People who feel a strong sense of belonging are 3× more likely to report good health and 5× more likely to contribute to community life (Vic Health, 2020)
- Inclusive public spaces and events can lead to a 30–50% increase in participation, particularly among people with disability and older residents (AHRC, 2014)
- Universal design and inclusive services reduce long-term costs, improve access, and increase uptake across the whole population (Centre for Universal Design Australia, 2018)

The benefits of inclusion

Inclusion does not only remove barriers for individuals - it creates stronger communities. It supports participation in civic, social, economic and cultural life, unlocks innovation and creativity, and fosters fairness and mutual respect. Communities that embrace inclusion are healthier, more cohesive, and better prepared to face challenges together.

Inclusion is everyone's responsibility

By its nature, inclusion involves all of us - individuals, families, community groups, businesses, service providers, and every level of government. Each has a role to play in building environments where people feel they belong and can contribute.

Inclusion creates stronger outcomes

When inclusion is embedded, the benefits are felt across every aspect of community life:

PILLAR	DEFINITION
Social	Strengthens connection, fairness, and wellbeing
Economic	Increases participation, innovation, and opportunity
Environmental	Supports community stewardship of shared spaces
Civic/Governance	Improves trust, representation, and local decision-making

Council's role

Within this whole-of-community effort, Council has a particular role as the level of government closest to everyday life. Council's role may involve one or more of the following:

- **Deliver:** leading the planning and implementation of initiatives
- **Partner:** working collaboratively with community groups, service providers, or other levels of government
- **Support:** enabling or assisting others through funding, promotion, resources, or capacity building to strengthen inclusive community action

Purpose of this Plan

This Plan, referred to as the Community Inclusion Plan (CIP), is delivered with the understanding that it embeds Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

It sets out how Council will play its part in building an inclusive community, particularly for people who face barriers to participation, including people with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, LGBTQIA+ people, and people of all ages. It also embeds Council's role in the primary prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence, recognising safety as fundamental to inclusion.

This is our commitment to remove barriers, build on community strengths, and create opportunities for everyone to take part in local life - safely, meaningfully, and with dignity.



International day of people with disability

Legislative, policy and strategic context

Following are national, state and local frameworks that inform this plan

PMHC Strategic documents

Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Suite

- Imagine 2050: Community Strategic Plan
- 2025 - 29 Delivery Program
- 2025 - 26 Operational Plan
- Resourcing Strategy (including Workforce and Asset Management Plans)

Additional Council Strategies and Plans

- Liveable Communities Strategy (in draft)
- Social Strategy (in draft)
- Cultural Plan 2025 - 2029
- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Activation Plan (new in 2026)
- Community Engagement Strategy (draft)
- Domestic and Family Violence Policy
- Places to Play Plan
- Asset Management Plans
- Generic Plans of Management
- Integrated Transport Plan
- Regional Integrated Transport Strategy
- Emergency Management Plan
- Local Strategic Planning Statement

Community Inclusion and Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Legislation and Mandates

- NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- NSW Government Sector Employment Act 2013
- Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Strategic Frameworks and Policies

- National Disability Strategy 2021–2031
- Closing the Gap National Agreement (2020)
- NSW Ageing Well in NSW: Seniors Strategy 2021–2031
- NSW LGBTQIA+ Health Strategy 2022–2027
- Pathways to Prevention, NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024–2028
- NSW Multicultural Principles (Multicultural NSW Act 2000)
- NSW Regional Youth Framework

Connection with our Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

The Community Inclusion Plan supports the delivery of Council's key strategic plans within the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework. It ensures inclusion, equity and accessibility are embedded across Council's operations, services and community engagement.

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) is embedded within this plan, ensuring Council meets its obligations under the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 and takes meaningful action to remove barriers and improve participation.

The plan responds to a range of Community Strategic Plan goals, with a strong focus on the following community priorities, outcomes and strategic links.

Community Outcome 2: Liveable

We are a safe, inclusive and vibrant region, with an active, healthy and connected community

QBL alignment*	SOCIAL · CIVIC · ENVIRONMENTAL · ECONOMIC
Strategic alignment	2.3 Provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to connect and participate in programs and events that celebrate diversity, culture and the arts 2.4 Ensure safety of the places we live in, work, and visit to protect our quality of life.
Community priorities	

*** Quadruple Bottom Line:** *We are committed to a sustainable and balanced approach to decision-making, guided by the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL). The QBL framework ensures that environmental, social, economic and civic leadership considerations form part of all aspects of our planning, operations and decision making.*

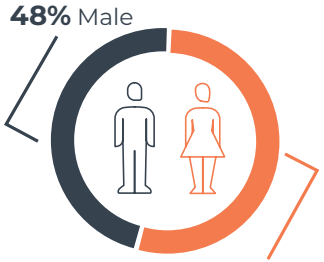


Painting in the Park seniors activity

Our community snapshot

Population

92,650
in 2025



- **5.5%** Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- **17.3%** born overseas
- **8.0%** need disability assistance (above NSW average)
- **3.0%** living with dementia
- **20%** report experiencing high or very high levels of psychological distress

Households



39,259
in 2025

- **2.3** average number of people per household
- **34.3%** couples without children
- **28.5%** single person
- **22.9%** couples with children
- **11.3%** one parent families
- **2.9%** extended family or group
- **2,192** people counted sleeping rough in NSW

Education

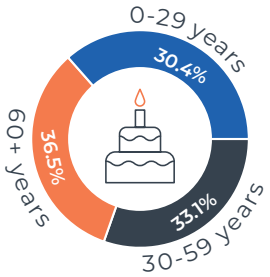


60.1%
completed year 12

- **46.7%** Vocationally Trained (Certificates, Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas)
- **20.8%** University Educated (Bachelor Degree level and above)

Age

49
years (median age)



** Statistics sourced from: REMPLAN Economics 2021, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics, Research and Health Needs Assessment 2025 - 28, Healthy North Coast and Homes NSW 2025 NSW Street Count*

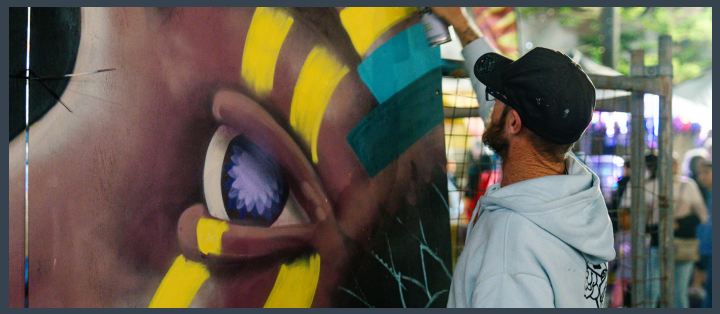
Looking back

Reflecting on our 2022-25 Plan

The Port Macquarie Hastings Council's Community Inclusion Plan 2022-25 took a strategic and community-focused approach to building a region that is welcoming, accessible, inclusive, and resilient across five key focus areas.

From public events and infrastructure to partnerships and advocacy, Council continues to lead inclusive growth. The Community Inclusion Plan aims to ensure all residents can participate in shaping a more welcoming, resilient, and connected region.

OUTCOME 1: A CONNECTED COMMUNITY



Council delivered a broad range of inclusive events and programs:

- Flagship events included ArtWalk (up to 25,000 attendees annually), Christmas Fairs (up to 15,000 attendees annually), and Harmony Week.
- Initiatives such as the Matildas live site, school holiday programs (617 youth participants), and 57 active volunteers across Council services supported social connection.
- Community Grants distributed up to $200,000 annually
- An online Community Directory was launched to improve access to services and support.

OUTCOME 2: AN ACCEPTING COMMUNITY

Council supported programs that celebrated diversity and promoted inclusion:

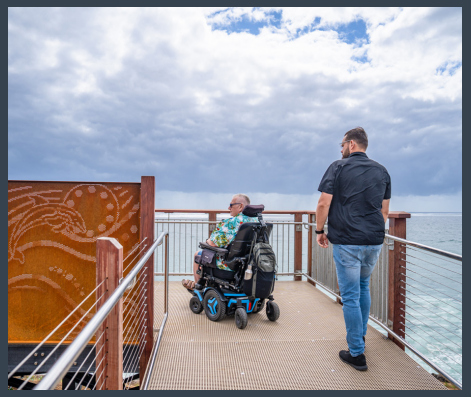
- Harmony Haven and International Day of People with a Disability celebrated cultural and ability inclusion.
- Pineapple youth-led program and Hastings Youth Voice (HYV) gave youth a platform for leadership, securing $40,500 in grants.
- Council collaborated with Birpai and Bunyah LALCs and supported NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week, and Aboriginal-led projects including art installations and the Ironbark Falls Prevention Program.
- Seniors Festival events attracted over 300 participants.
- Council supported a range of interagency networks and made submissions to NSW Parliament on regional community safety.



OUTCOME 3: A LIVEABLE COMMUNITY

Efforts focused on access and equity:

- Over 3,200 metres of new accessible pathways and upgrades to parks, BBQs, shelters, and drinking fountains were delivered.
- The Graffiti Blaster service logged 633 volunteer hours, with additional support for youth offenders through justice programs.
- A new PMHC Disability Reference Group was formed, and all major events ensured accessibility.
- Council reviewed development plans with access and safety in mind, including playgrounds, boat ramps, and public spaces.





OUTCOME 4: A RESILIENT COMMUNITY

Council improved community preparedness and recovery capacity:

- Emergency pop-ups, workshops, and the Recovery Outreach Program supported disaster-affected residents.
- The Disaster Dashboard and emergency hub provide vital preparedness information.
- Grant writing workshops and interagency collaboration have funded cultural and social recovery programs.
- Bushfire/flood readiness workshops reached 89 residents, and several communities (e.g. Pappinbarra) began their own Emergency Response Plans.

OUTCOME 5: A COMMUNITY LEADER

Council is embedding inclusion across internal practices:

- Staff participated in Aboriginal cultural and education sessions, with further cultural training planned for FY25-26.



- Internal strategic actions include diversity hiring programs, a Flexible Working Policy, and recognition at the Australian HR Awards for inclusion efforts.
- Corporate volunteering supported local spaces, and staff actively engaged in the Sea Country Project and Reconciliation Action Plan development.

Looking forward

Developing our 2025-29 Plan

This new plan builds on the foundations laid by the 2022-25 Community Inclusion Plan, and embedded Disability Inclusion Action Plan, acknowledging progress made while responding to emerging needs, growing expectations, and shifting community dynamics. Over the past year, we've revisited our goals, strengthened our partnerships, and reflected on lessons learned to ensure this plan is not only relevant but responsive. We've worked to ensure the plan is:

- Authentic and grounded in lived experience, drawing on the voices of those most impacted by exclusion and inequality.
- Informed by data and evidence, including community engagement findings, demographic analysis, and legislative requirements.
- Aligned with broader Council strategies and frameworks, including the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, and legislative obligations under the Local Government Act 1993 and Disability Inclusion Act 2014.
- Cohesive and shared, created in close collaboration with the development of the Cultural Plan to reflect our community's unified aspirations for inclusion, cultural expression, and community wellbeing.

Development process

REFLECT	LISTEN	ALIGN	DESIGN	REVIEW/REFINE
Review the outcomes of the 2022-25 Community Inclusion Plan and embedded Disability Inclusion Action Plan	Engage with the community and Council teams to understand barriers, strengths, needs, goals and aspirations	Map legislative requirements, Council strategies and external frameworks to ensure strategic consistency	Translate insights into meaningful structure: guiding model and principles, focus areas, objectives and actions	Validate content with Council and community, refine as needed and commit to continuous development over the life of the plan

Engagement

Understanding what matters to our community was the foundation for developing this plan.

We designed our engagement program to reach broad and diverse audiences, ensuring people with varied needs, perspectives, and lived experiences could shape its development. This included intentional outreach to groups often underrepresented in formal consultation to uncover local priorities and everyday experiences related to inclusion and exclusion.

These insights helped shape the structure of the plan, from its guiding principles to the goals and actions under each focus area. You'll find specific community reflections and feedback embedded within each focus area of the plan.

Engagement activity snapshot

Key engagement methods included:

- **Surveys:** A public survey was hosted on the 'Have Your Say' platform from 1 April to 5 May 2025, inviting broad community participation.
- **Focus Groups:** Targeted group discussions ensured deeper engagement with specific community segments, enabling a detailed understanding of their unique needs.
- **Community Events:** In-person and online events provided additional opportunities for engagement, encouraging face-to-face dialogue and direct feedback.

We sought to provide a range of opportunities for community members to engage, with a particular focus on those whose voices and experiences are often underrepresented, including:

- Seniors
- Youth
- Multicultural communities
- LGBTQIA+ community
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- People living with disabilities
- Domestic, family and sexual violence specialist services
- People living with dementia

We know that people's experiences aren't shaped by just one part of who they are. In listening and reviewing feedback, we considered intersectionality (the way different aspects of identity overlap) to better understand how inclusion and exclusion show up in everyday life. This helped us interpret feedback in a way that reflects the complexity of people's experiences and informs the plan's actions.

Our community's insights

Community members shared the conditions that support inclusion: welcoming language, spaces that work for everyone, meaningful partnerships, and systems that respond to people's real needs.

These insights shaped how we developed the plan and its priorities.

What we heard

LANGUAGE MATTERS

Inclusive, respectful language helps people feel seen, welcomed, included, and valued.

EXCLUSION IS OFTEN INVISIBLE

Social and system-level barriers can make people feel unwelcome, even when physical access is provided.

DESIGN FOR EVERYONE

Universal design makes spaces safer and more usable - not just for people with disability, but for all.

SMALL ACTIONS COUNT

Thoughtful, practical steps, like flexible processes or multilingual signs, can have a big impact.

PARTNERSHIPS MATTER

People want to work with Council in meaningful ways and be recognised for their contributions.

CONNECTION SUPPORTS WELLBEING

Welcoming spaces help build trust and belonging, especially when they make space for vulnerability.

INCLUSION TAKES TIME

Communities want Council to keep listening, adapting, and embedding inclusion in everyday practice.

INCLUSION IS LAYERED

People's needs and strengths are shaped by many intersecting parts of who they are — inclusion must recognise that complexity.

GENERATIONS NEED EACH OTHER

People value opportunities for younger and older community members to connect and learn together.

Everybody feels welcome

Being welcomed without judgement. Not having to change who you are to take part

When things are easy to understand, and you don't feel like a burden for asking

If you're included, you don't have a feeling you need inclusion

Inclusion was described as feeling seen, heard and valued, and having fair opportunities to participate and contribute.

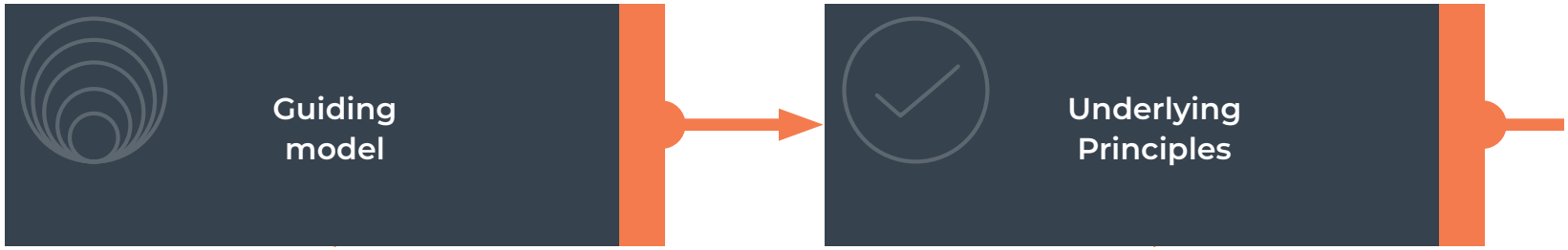
It's about respecting identity, removing unnecessary barriers, and supporting people to take part in community life on their own terms.



Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2024

Plan design

The Community Inclusion Plan has been shaped around clear design principles. It builds on a guiding model defined through community consultation, applies underlying principles to guide decision-making, and sets out focus areas and actions that strengthen inclusion across the community.



The Guiding Model provides the foundation for the Plan. It reflects what we heard from the community about the importance of safety, belonging and wellbeing, and how these build stronger communities. It reminds us that inclusion begins with supporting people in their everyday lives and relationships, and that collective culture grows when individuals feel valued.

The Underlying Principles set out how we work. Grounded in equity, access, participation and rights, they ensure the Plan is practical and accountable. These principles reflect current best practice in inclusion, drawing on lived experience, research and legislative frameworks. They guide how objectives, approaches and actions are designed and delivered, so that barriers are removed, lived experience is centred, and community strengths are built.



The Focus Areas translate the guiding model and principles into clear directions for action. They are shaped by insights from our community, particularly people with lived experience of exclusion or disadvantage. Each focus area includes objectives and approaches - showing not only what we aim to achieve, but also how we will embed our principles and demonstrate our ways of working. Together they set the goals that guide the work of this Plan.

The Action Plan turns priorities into practice. It outlines the specific steps Council and partners will take, with roles, timeframes and measures for accountability. Each action is mapped to relevant objectives, showing how it contributes to progress across the Plan. The Action Plan will be updated annually as part of the Plan's reporting and evaluation processes, supporting accountability for progress

Guiding model

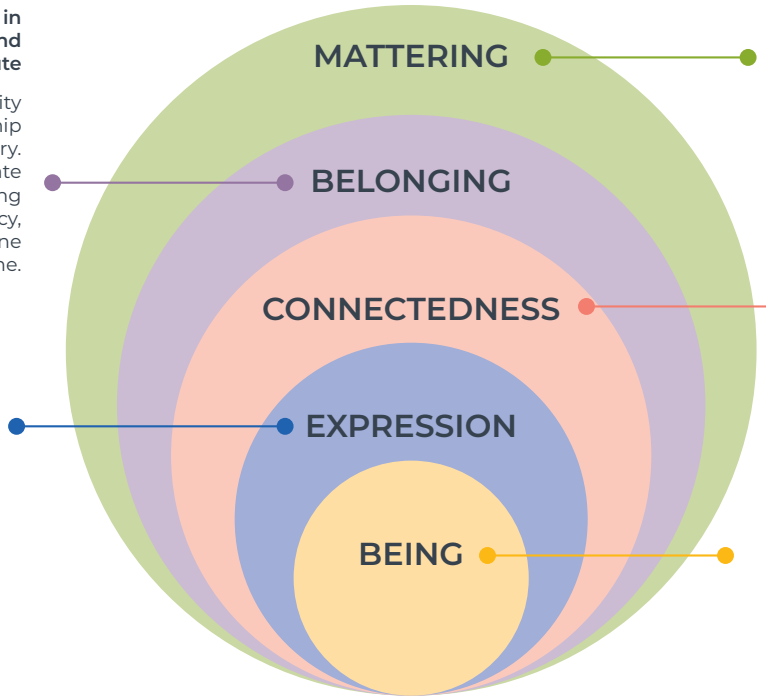
A Guiding Model was developed from themes identified through extensive community engagement and informed by research on wellbeing, culture, belonging and inclusion. The model reflects the cyclical relationship between individual wellbeing and collective culture - that supporting individuals helps build stronger communities, and in turn, strong communities create environments where individuals can thrive.

Connection to Country, feeling at home in your community, with space to grow and contribute

We design programs that reflect community values, recognise Aboriginal custodianship of the region, and Connection to Country. We ensure accessibility and celebrate diversity. Our goals create welcoming spaces and embed cultural equity in policy, planning and evaluation, helping everyone feel at home.

Having the freedom and opportunity to share ideas, creativity and culture

We support diverse ways of living, accessible spaces and places to participate, and intergenerational innovation. Our goals encourage intercultural exchange and promote creativity and collaboration as tools for wellbeing and resilience across the community



Knowing that your voice, contributions and presence make a difference to our community

Our focus is on participation, community leadership and amplifying underrepresented voices. We celebrate grassroots contributions and ensure we listen, to reinforce that every individual's input shapes our cultural landscape.

Feeling part of something larger, linked to people and a shared sense of place and purpose

We build partnerships, intergenerational programs ,and place-based events that celebrate local identity. Our goals enhance networks for participation and promote cultural tourism based in authentic community stories.

Feeling safe, seen, and valued without needing to change to belong

We aim to create spaces and programs that recognise and respect and Aboriginal culture and custodianship, reflect and support diverse identities, and celebrate personal stories. Our goals promote inclusive representation and recognition to ensure everyone feels safe, acknowledged and respected.

Underlying principles

These principles build on our Guiding Model and are grounded in the Social Justice Principles of equity, access, participation and rights. Shaped by community insights and lived experience, they show how we'll work — removing barriers, building on strengths, and creating space for everyone to take part. They also draw on trusted frameworks to reflect current best practice.

PRINCIPLE	DESCRIPTION
Dignity and Self-Determination	Everyone has the right to participate in community life, be treated with dignity and respect, and make their own informed choices.
Intersectionality	People have overlapping identities (e.g. culture, disability, age, gender, sexuality) that shape how they experience inclusion or exclusion.
Co-Design and Lived Experience	We work with people who have lived experience of exclusion to design better programs, services, and decisions.
Barrier Removal and Universal Design	We aim to identify and remove barriers that prevent participation, and to design environments, services, and systems that can be used by everyone.
Strengths-Based Community Building	We focus on what our community does well - building on local strengths, relationships, and resilience.
Continuous Improvement	We learn from what works and what doesn't, adapt based on evidence and feedback, and improve over time.

These guiding principles are informed by a range of legislative, theoretical, and community-based frameworks that support inclusive practice across diverse groups. See appendix for full list.

Focus areas

The focus areas have been developed to guide how this Plan is delivered. They reflect what we heard through community engagement and the priorities raised by people with lived experience of exclusion or disadvantage. They also incorporate the outcome areas required under the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP), which is embedded within this broader Community Inclusion Plan.

Together, the focus areas provide structure and direction by setting out the key goals and outcomes we aim to achieve. The following pages outline each focus area in more detail, including objectives, approaches, and success measures. The accompanying Action Plan then identifies the specific actions and projects we will undertake to deliver on these objectives.

FOCUS AREA	DIAP OUTCOME	GOAL
1. WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING	Attitudes and Behaviours	Ensure people feel safe, respected, included, and able to be themselves in community life.
2. ACCESSIBLE AND LIVEABLE	Liveable Communities	Promote environments that are accessible, usable and enhance everyday safety, participation, and wellbeing.
3. RESILIENT AND PREPARED	Attitudes and Behaviours	Work alongside communities to strengthen their ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from disruption and adversity.
4. VISIBLE AND REPRESENTED	Attitudes and Behaviours, Systems and Processes	Ensure the diversity of our community is visible, heard and reflected in leadership, civic life, decision-making, and employment.
5. EVALUATING AND EVOLVING	Liveable Communities	Use insights, evidence and reflection to strengthen what we do and how we do it.



All abilities program: Painting in the Park



Focus area 1: **Welcoming and Affirming**

DIAP FOCUS AREA

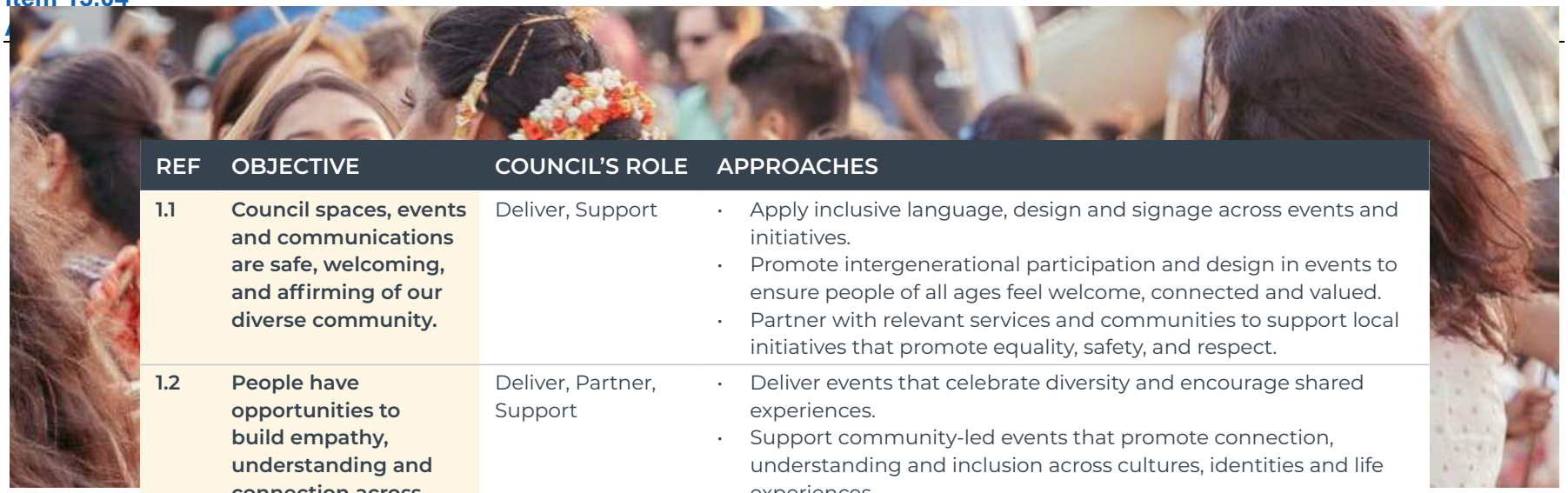
Attitudes and Behaviours

GOAL

Ensure people feel safe, respected, included, and able to be themselves in community life.

COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

- People want to feel seen, respected, and able to express their identity without fear of judgment.
- Storytelling, cultural events, and inclusive language help foster belonging.
- Seniors and newcomers highlighted the need for better communication and visibility of opportunities.
- Intergenerational connection was seen as a way to break down stereotypes and build empathy.



REF	OBJECTIVE	COUNCIL'S ROLE	APPROACHES
1.1	**Council spaces, events and communications are safe, welcoming, and affirming of our diverse community.**	Deliver, Support	• Apply inclusive language, design and signage across events and initiatives. • Promote intergenerational participation and design in events to ensure people of all ages feel welcome, connected and valued. • Partner with relevant services and communities to support local initiatives that promote equality, safety, and respect.
1.2	**People have opportunities to build empathy, understanding and connection across cultures, identities and life experiences.**	Deliver, Partner, Support	• Deliver events that celebrate diversity and encourage shared experiences. • Support community-led events that promote connection, understanding and inclusion across cultures, identities and life experiences. • Promote activities that foster mutual respect and cultural exchange. • Promote and support local campaigns that raise awareness, foster inclusion and advocate for equity.
1.3	**Community-led efforts to build inclusion, belonging, safety, and respect are supported and recognised.**	Partner, Support	• Use the Community Grants Program to support initiatives that strengthen inclusion, connection, respect, and belonging. • Maintain strong relationships with inclusion-focused groups and networks to stay informed and responsive to community-led work.

SUCCESS MEASURES

- Growth in the number or reach of locally-led inclusion initiatives supported through Council grants, promotion or partnerships
- Increased visibility of diverse cultural identities, languages, age groups and lived experiences in Council's public communications and event programs
- Increased participation in community events by a broader cross-section of the community, including underrepresented groups
- Improved community satisfaction scores related to feeling welcome, respected or included



Focus area 2: **Accessible and Liveable**

DIAP FOCUS AREA

Liveable Communities

GOAL

Promote environments that are accessible, usable and enhance everyday safety, participation, and wellbeing.

COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

- People with disabilities, seniors, and families want better access to venues, transport, and information.
- Barriers include digital exclusion, inaccessible infrastructure, and lack of inclusive design.
- Participants called for more inclusive public spaces, shaded seating, and walkable neighbourhoods.
- Accessible communication and signage were seen as essential to participation.
- Community members highlighted the need for Council to take action that helps prevent violence and promotes respect.



REF	OBJECTIVE	COUNCIL'S ROLE	APPROACHES
2.1	**People can access and use public spaces, places and facilities with comfort, safety and dignity.**	Deliver	• Apply universal design principles when planning, upgrading or renewing infrastructure. • Conduct facilities audits to identify and address barriers to access • Prioritise upgrades that address access gaps identified through community feedback. • Design and maintain public spaces that model respect, equity and inclusion as part of fostering safe and supportive communities. • Use Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to enhance safety in public spaces.
2.2	**Events and activities are accessible for people of all abilities, ages and backgrounds.**	Deliver, Partner	• Consult with local advocacy groups and people with lived experience to identify needs and improve accessibility of events and activities. • Include clear accessibility information in event promotion, maps and materials. • Support inclusion-focused events through Community Grants and partnerships.
2.3	**Council communications and signage are accessible and inclusive across digital and physical platforms.**	Deliver	• Design digital communications to align with recognised accessibility guidelines. • Use accessibility guidelines to inform the design of signage, maps and printed materials. • Refer to national and international accessibility standards when reviewing communication tools and platforms.

SUCCESS MEASURES

- Number of public spaces and facilities upgraded to improve physical accessibility
- Positive community feedback on comfort, safety and usability of public spaces and places
- Growth in the number of inclusive and accessible events delivered or supported by Council
- Greater reach and engagement with Council communications across diverse community groups



Focus area 3: **Resilient and Prepared**

DIAP FOCUS AREA

Systems and Processes

GOAL

Work alongside communities to strengthen their ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from critical events and periods of adversity.

COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

- Communities want to be better connected and supported before, during, and after disruption.
- Intergenerational knowledge-sharing and local leadership were seen as key to long-term resilience.
- Participants highlighted the need for practical tools, infrastructure, and mental health support.
- Collaboration between Council, services, and community groups is essential for preparedness and recovery.



REF	OBJECTIVE	COUNCIL'S ROLE	APPROACHES
3.1	**Communities are connected to timely, accessible information before, during and after emergencies and critical incidents.**	Deliver, Partner	• Work with emergency services and community networks to help share timely, accurate and accessible information with everyone, including people who may be harder to reach. • Maintain Council's Emergency Hub webpage to provide information to guide residents to trusted sources of information and local support during emergencies. • Keep MyCommunity Directory updated so residents can easily find local support services during and after emergencies.
3.2	**Community-led networks and groups are supported to build local capacity, strengthen social connectedness, and foster community wellbeing and resilience.**	Partner, Support	• Support towns and villages across our regions to increase preparedness, such as developing community Emergency Response Plans. • Offer training opportunities and facilitate knowledge sharing between volunteer-led community groups in development and implementation of community preparedness, emergency response and community recovery. • Promote inclusive social connection and wellbeing through community initiatives that reduce isolation and strengthen relationships before, during and after disruptions.
3.3	**People with disability and other priority groups can access Council services and provide input during times of disruption.**	Deliver	• Ensure communication tools and materials used during disruptions are accessible and inclusive. • Monitor and review access and engagement barriers that emerge during periods of disruption. • Collaborate with disability advocates and lived experience groups to identify barriers and solutions.

SUCCESS MEASURES

- Improved accessibility of disruption-related communications (e.g. alternate formats, languages, non-digital resources)
- Increased engagement with priority groups during disruptions, measured through feedback and participation data
- Expansion or strengthening of local community networks contributing to resilience and recovery efforts
- Positive community feedback regarding communication clarity and access during service interruptions or emergencies
- Increased participation in local networks or programs that reduce isolation and support wellbeing



Focus area 4: **Visible and Represented**

DIAP FOCUS AREA

Employment, Systems and Processes

GOAL

Ensure the diversity of our community is visible, heard and reflected in leadership, civic life, decision-making, and employment.

COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

- People want to see themselves reflected in decision-making, leadership, and public life.
- Underrepresented groups, including youth, Aboriginal people, multicultural, and LGBTQIA+ communities, called for more inclusive engagement and visibility.
- Recognition of volunteers and community leaders helps build pride, participation, and belonging.
- Participants asked for clearer pathways to civic participation and inclusive employment.



REF	OBJECTIVE	COUNCIL'S ROLE	APPROACHES
4.1	**Civic participation and Council engagement processes are inclusive, accessible, and reflective of the diversity of our community.**	Deliver, Partner	• Apply the principles in Council's Community Engagement Strategy to ensure inclusive practices and reduce barriers to engagement. • Continue to build trusted relationships with community connectors to support inclusive and diverse outreach and participation.
4.2	**Community members see themselves reflected in civic spaces, events and leadership roles across the region.**	Deliver, Partner, Support	• Reflect community diversity in Council communications, publications, and promotional materials, using inclusive imagery, stories, and language. • Use the Community Grants program to support projects that increase visibility and representation of diverse community groups. • Recognise and celebrate the contributions of diverse volunteers and community leaders through events and awards.
4.3	**Employment and volunteer pathways are inclusive, with barriers to participation recognised and addressed.**	Deliver, Partner, Support	• Promote Council's inclusive recruitment processes, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, and employment pathways to support a diverse and inclusive workforce. • Work with local partners to promote Council as an inclusive employer and raise awareness of available employment pathways. • Promote volunteering as a meaningful and accessible way for people to contribute, connect, and build skills.

SUCCESS MEASURES

- Increased representation of diverse groups in Council-supported volunteer and leadership roles
- Positive community feedback on inclusion and representation across civic life and Council initiatives
- Increased nominations for Citizen of the Year awards and other recognition opportunities
- Growth in the number of community-led projects funded that amplify underrepresented voices



Focus area 5: **Evaluating and Evolving**

DIAP FOCUS AREA

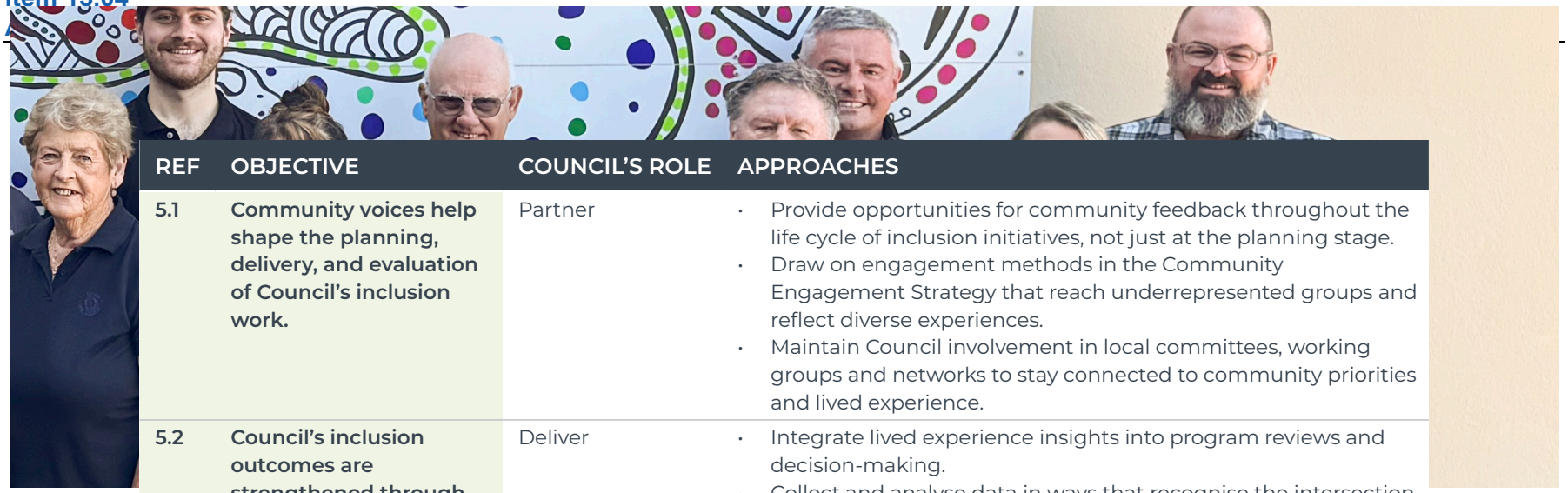
Liveable Communities

GOAL

Use insight, evidence and reflection to strengthen what we do and how we do it.

COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

- Community members want to know their feedback is heard and acted on.
- Policies, programs, and services should be shaped by lived experience, not just data.
- Participants called for more transparency and accountability in how inclusion outcomes are tracked.
- Storytelling and qualitative feedback were seen as valuable tools for learning and improvement.



REF	OBJECTIVE	COUNCIL'S ROLE	APPROACHES
5.1	**Community voices help shape the planning, delivery, and evaluation of Council's inclusion work.**	Partner	• Provide opportunities for community feedback throughout the life cycle of inclusion initiatives, not just at the planning stage. • Draw on engagement methods in the Community Engagement Strategy that reach underrepresented groups and reflect diverse experiences. • Maintain Council involvement in local committees, working groups and networks to stay connected to community priorities and lived experience.
5.2	**Council's inclusion outcomes are strengthened through use of data, feedback, and lived experience.**	Deliver	• Integrate lived experience insights into program reviews and decision-making. • Collect and analyse data in ways that recognise the intersection of multiple identities and experiences. • Implement tools for social measurement and impact tracking to assess how inclusion initiatives influence community wellbeing, connection, and equity over time.
5.3	**Progress is regularly reported to support reflection, accountability and continuous improvement in Council's inclusion work.**	Deliver	• Embed regular reporting cycles into the implementation of the Community Inclusion Plan. • Share community updates through accessible formats that highlight progress and next steps. • Align actions with other key Council strategies and performance frameworks to support integrated planning.

SUCCESS MEASURES

- Increased participation of underrepresented groups in feedback and co-evaluation processes over the life of the plan
- Lived experience insights more visible in planning and reporting documents
- Evidence that social impact tools or frameworks are being explored, trialled, or applied to inclusion reporting
- Community report, via Community Satisfaction Survey results, feeling heard, valued, and informed about progress

Action plan

To deliver on the objectives of this Plan, the Action Plan sets out the specific actions Council and partners will undertake. Actions are divided into phases to reflect the type of work involved, such as planning, delivery and evaluation.

The Action Plan will be reviewed and reported on annually. As part of this process:

- All investigative actions will be reviewed, with outcomes informing new or revised actions.
- Actions may shift between phases as work progresses (for example, from planning to delivery).
- Additional actions may be introduced through ongoing evaluation and community consultation, in line with Focus Area 5: Evaluating and Evolving.
- All DIAP-related actions will be reported in line with NSW legislative requirements.

Note: Community partners listed in this Action Plan represent core service partners involved in the delivery of each action. Broader community engagement will continue throughout the life of the plan, in line with the objectives under Focus Area 5.

Timeline key: Short (within 1 -2 years), Medium (2-3 years), Long (3-4 years)

Review

ACTION	CIP REF	DIAP OUTCOMES	DELIVERY PROGRAM ALIGNMENT	COUNCIL DELIVERY TEAM	COMMUNITY PARTNERS	TIMELINE
Align the Alcohol in Public Spaces Policy with vibrancy reforms and the goals of a safe and inclusive night-time economy	1.1, 2.1, 4.1	Attitudes and Behaviours	2.2.1, 2.4.1, 5.3.1	• Community Activation • Economic Development • Strategic Planning • Glasshouse	• NSW Police • Liquor Accord • Health • DFV network • Hospitality industry	Short

Plan

ACTION	CIP REF	DIAP OUTCOMES	DELIVERY PROGRAM ALIGNMENT	COUNCIL DELIVERY TEAM	COMMUNITY PARTNERS	TIMELINE
Develop a calendar of significant dates that recognise community culture and inclusion	1.2, 4.2	Attitudes and Behaviours	2.3.1, 5.1.1, 5.2.1	• Community Activation • Communications • PSP • Community Voice • Libraries • Customer Service		Short
Conduct bi-monthly meetings on accessibility improvement opportunities to infrastructure, facilities and spaces and places	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 5.1, 5.2	Liveable Communities	2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.3.1, 5.1.1, 5.2.1	• Community Activation • Infrastructure • Facilities • Places and Spaces	• Enable Disability Network • Dementia Friendly Community Alliance	Ongoing
Use findings from whole-of-council health check (see action in delivery phase) to guide next steps for embedding prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence across Council's domains of influence	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3		2.4.1	• Whole of council	• DFSV Service Providers • Social services • Law enforcement • Lived experience advocates	Medium

Deliver / implement

ACTION	CIP REF	DIAP OUTCOMES	DELIVERY PROGRAM ALIGNMENT	COUNCIL DELIVERY TEAM	COMMUNITY PARTNERS	TIMELINE
Facilitate the Community Resilience Network (CRN) to build resilience, preparedness and recovery capacity	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 5.1		2.3.1, 3.5.1, 5.1.1	• Community Activation	• LEMC • Government agencies • Disaster relief orgs • Volunteer orgs • Social services	Short
Conduct 4 Council facility accessibility audits	2.1, 2.3, 5.1, 5.2	Liveable Communities	2.1.1, 2.3.1, 5.1.1, 5.2.1	• Community Activation • Facilities • Spaces & Places		Ongoing
Fund initiatives that build inclusion, connection and equity through the Community Grants Program	Across all focus areas		2.3.1, 5.1.1, 5.2.1	• Community Activation		Ongoing
Deliver Graffiti Blasters as a volunteer program that fosters pride, safety, and community connection	1.3, 2.1, 5.1, 5.3		2.1.2, 2.3.1, 5.1.1	• Community Activation	• Graffiti Blasters Volunteers	Ongoing
Promote and deliver Citizen of the Year Awards	5.3			• Community Activation • Communications		Short

ACTION	CIP REF	DIAP OUTCOMES	DELIVERY PROGRAM ALIGNMENT	COUNCIL DELIVERY TEAM	COMMUNITY PARTNERS	TIMELINE
Coordinate initiatives to build capacity, amplify youth voices, and support participation in decision-making	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1		2.3.1, 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.3.1, 5.1.1	• Community Activation • Economic Development • Community Voice	• Hastings Youth Voice volunteers • Youth services providers • Local business chambers	Ongoing
Conduct a whole-of-council health check, using the Local Government Guide and Toolkit, to identify actions for preventing domestic, family and sexual violence.	1.1, 2.1, 5.2		5.1.1	• Whole of council		Short
Embed inclusive recruitment policies and Council's Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan to attract, support and retain a diverse workforce	4.3	Employment	5.5.3	• PSP	• Employment Services • Midcoast Connect • Schools and Education providers	Ongoing
Continue participation in local networks and working groups that support goals and objectives	3.2, 5.1	Systems and Processes	2.3.1, 3.5.1	• Community Activation		Ongoing

Support

ACTION	CIP REF	DIAP OUTCOMES	DELIVERY PROGRAM ALIGNMENT	COUNCIL DELIVERY TEAM	COMMUNITY PARTNERS	TIMELINE
Improve access and inclusion for Council-led events such as Artwalk, Countdown to Christmas, and Australia Day	1.1, 2.2, 2.3, 5.1, 5.2	Liveable Communities	2.3.1	• Community Activation • Infrastructure	• Birpai LALC • Bunya LALC	Yearly
Support / participate in NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week to promote cultural safety, recognition, and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities	1.1, 1.2, 1.3		2.3.1, 5.1.1, 5.2.1	• Community Activation • Community Voice • Communications • Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group	• NAIDOC Committee • Birpai LALC • Bunya LALC	Yearly
Support and promote inclusive community recognition events, including Youth Week, Seniors Week and National Volunteer Week	1.2, 4.2		2.3.1, 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 5.1.1	• Community Activation • Community Voice • Communications	• Campaign and Event organisers and working groups	Yearly

ACTION	CIP REF	DIAP OUTCOMES	DELIVERY PROGRAM ALIGNMENT	COUNCIL DELIVERY TEAM	COMMUNITY PARTNERS	TIMELINE
Support community-led events and campaigns that promote gender equality, safety, and respectful relationships.	1.2, 1.3		2.3.1	• Community Activation	• Social services • Community working groups	Yearly
Maintain Council's advisory role on the Hastings Club Grants Committee to support strategic funding decisions aligned with Council's inclusion priorities	1.3, 5.1		2.3.1, 5.1.1	• Community Activation	• Club Grants Committee	Ongoing

Investigate

ACTION	CIP REF	DIAP OUTCOMES	DELIVERY PROGRAM ALIGNMENT	COUNCIL DELIVERY TEAM	COMMUNITY PARTNERS	TIMELINE
Investigate dual naming signage for Council assets and public spaces	1.1, 4.2			• Community Activation • Facilities • Places and Spaces • Airport • Glasshouse		Medium
Investigate updates on MyCommunity Directory & 'What's On' calendar user interface, database, and promotion	2.3, 4.2	Systems and Processes	2.3.1, 5,2,1	• Community Activation • Community Voice • Communications		Short
Investigate trial of accessibility matting to improve inclusive access to beaches	2.1, 2.2	Liveable Communities	2.3.1	• Community Activation	• Enable Disability Network	Short
Consult with community to identify barriers to participation in programs and events that celebrate diversity, culture and the arts	2.2, 4.1, 5.1	Liveable Communities	2.3.1, 2.3.2	• Community Activation • Community Voice • Glasshouse	• Broad community with a focus on often under-represented voices and groups	Short

ACTION	CIP REF	DIAP OUTCOMES	DELIVERY PROGRAM ALIGNMENT	COUNCIL DELIVERY TEAM	COMMUNITY PARTNERS	TIMELINE
Investigate options for increased wheelchair accessible parking across LGA	2.1	Liveable Communities	2.3.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2	• Community Activation • Infrastructure		Short
Investigate becoming a Dementia Friendly Council	1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 4.1, 4.2	Systems and Processes Liveable Communities	2.3.1	• Community Activation • Executive Leadership	• Dementia Friendly Community Alliance	Short
Investigate volunteer models that support social connection and reduce social isolation across the community	3.1, 3.2, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2		2.3.1	• Community Activation	• Broader community and past participants	Medium
Investigate ways to improve accessibility across Council's communications and education channels, including website and print materials	1.1, 2.3, 3.3, 4.2	Systems and Processes	2.3.1, 5.2.1	• Community Activation • Community Voice • Communications		Medium

Monitoring and evaluation

As outlined in Focus Area 5: Evaluating and Evolving, we will continue engaging with our community to track progress and adapt the Community Inclusion Plan over time.

Progress will be evaluated regularly, to reflect on achievements and guide ongoing improvements. Progress and outcomes will be reported on to Council. community, and the State Government on an annual basis as per legislative requirements.

New Council-led actions will be embedded in subsequent Operational Plans and aligned with the four-year Delivery Program.

How the plan is funded

Council's Operational Plan allocates an annual budget of $200,000 for the Community Grants program and $114,000 for the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

The Community Inclusion Plan does not have a dedicated funding stream. At this time, many of the actions in this plan are designed to improve inclusion in our existing programs, services and responsibilities and will draw on those project budgets where available. Where new or expanded initiatives are proposed, Council will consider priorities as part of broader planning and budget processes and may seek external funding to support delivery.

Appendix

Guiding Model' Reference List

- Maslow, A. (1943). Hierarchy of Needs
- Bronfenbrenner, U. (1979). Ecological Systems Theory
- Crisp, R. (2010). Belonging, connectedness and social exclusion
- Baumeister, R.F., & Leary, M.R. (1995). The Need to Belong: Desire for Interpersonal Attachments
- Prilleltensky, I. (2014, 2020). Community Psychology and Mattering

Guiding Principles influencing theories and frameworks:

- NSW Social Justice Principles, legislated under the NSW Local Government Act 1993
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014
- Intersectionality, coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw (1991)
- Universal Design principles and national accessibility guidelines
- Co-design and participation frameworks, including the IAP2 Spectrum and inclusive design practice
- Strengths-based and asset-based approaches, such as Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)
- Insights from community engagement and lived experience

The Community Inclusion Plan and Disability Inclusion Action Plan are managed by Council's Community Activation Team, within the Community, Planning and Environment division. If you have any questions, want to share feedback, or need a copy of the plan, we're here to help.

Port Macquarie Hastings Council

BIRPAI COUNTRY

Web **pmhc.nsw.gov.au**
Email **community.activation@pmhc.nsw.gov.au**

PO Box 84 Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Tel: **6581 8111** Socials: **@pmhcouncil**

have your say

Draft Inclusion, Cultural and Activation Plans

Engagement Report

May 2025 | Version 1.0



PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

1 File ref

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Executive Summary

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council is developing three strategic plans—the Inclusion Plan, Cultural Plan, and Activation Plan—to build a more inclusive, culturally vibrant, and actively engaged community. These plans are informed by extensive community engagement conducted throughout early 2025, involving surveys, focus groups, and events that reached seniors, youth, multicultural communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disabilities, and those in creative industries. Key findings revealed that seniors seek intergenerational programs and accessible spaces; youth prioritise mental health, sustainability, and inclusive hubs; multicultural communities desire cultural visibility and informal gathering spaces; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples emphasise respect, cultural safety, and youth support; people with disabilities advocate for universal access and inclusive communication; and creative industries highlight the importance of belonging and artistic career pathways. Common themes across all groups include strong support for walkable green spaces, free or low-cost events, intergenerational and multicultural initiatives, and improved communication, while barriers such as cost of living, accessibility, and lack of inclusive infrastructure were frequently noted. These insights will directly shape the strategic plans, ensuring they reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of the Port Macquarie-Hastings community.

INTRODUCTION

Background

Port Macquarie Hastings Council is undertaking a comprehensive review and development of three key plans: the Inclusion Plan, the Cultural Plan, and the Activation Plan. These plans are integral to shaping the future of the community, ensuring that Council meets the evolving needs and aspirations of residents across diverse demographics.

- The **Community Inclusion Plan** outlines how all people living in our region can participate fully in community activities, regardless of their background or abilities. Our plan includes initiatives to improve accessibility, promote diversity, and foster a sense of belonging for everyone.
- The **Cultural Plan** outlines how our community can showcase and celebrate the unique cultural heritage of this region. It also looks at ways to support local artists and creatives and ensure diverse cultural expressions are recognised and valued.
- The **Activation Plan** will guide Council on how our community would like to use our spaces and places, engaging residents through events, programs, and initiatives that address local needs and foster a sense of belonging.

These plans formally reported to Council in August 2025. To ensure these plans are shaped by community input, an extensive engagement process has been conducted to capture local insights, priorities, and aspirations.

Engagement overview

The engagement process was designed to be inclusive and comprehensive, utilising a mix of interactive and accessible activities to gather meaningful feedback. These activities ensured representation from diverse community groups, fostering a collaborative approach to policy development.

The key engagement methods included:

- **Surveys:** A public survey was hosted on the ‘Have Your Say’ platform from 1 April to 5 May 2025, inviting broad community participation.

- **Focus Groups:** Targeted group discussions ensured deeper engagement with specific community segments, enabling a detailed understanding of their unique needs.
- **Community Events:** In-person and online events provided additional opportunities for engagement, encouraging face-to-face dialogue and direct feedback.

To ensure equitable representation, the engagement was structured around six key community groups:

1. **Seniors**
2. **Youth**
3. **Multicultural Communities**
4. **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People**
5. **People living with Disabilities**
6. **Creative Industries**

The insights collected through this engagement process will directly inform the development of the Inclusion Plan, Cultural Plan, and Activation Plan, ensuring they align with community needs and aspirations while contributing to a more connected, inclusive, and culturally enriched region.

Spectrum of Participation

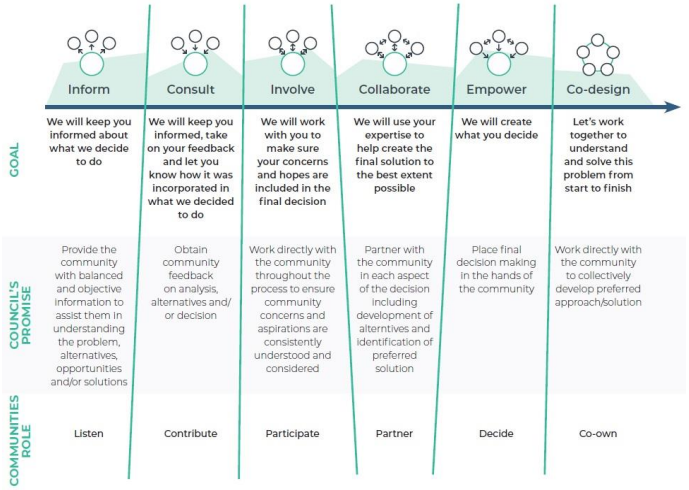
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council undertakes engagement using the industry standard IAP2 Spectrum of Participation which is designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines Council's promise and the community's role in the decision-making process.

Following the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) matrix, the level of engagement for the Draft Inclusion, Cultural and Activation Plans ranged from inform to Collaborate. This means we sought to:

- Provide clear and accessible information to the community about the purpose and scope of the plans.
- Consult with community members to gather feedback, insights, and concerns that will directly inform the development of each plan.
- Involve key stakeholders in discussions, ensuring their perspectives and priorities are considered.
- Collaborate with community groups and representatives to co-design elements of the plans where possible, ensuring shared ownership of outcomes.

Our commitment from this process is to:

- Transparently incorporate community feedback into the development of the final plans.
- Clearly communicate how community input has influenced decision-making.
- Continue fostering ongoing dialogue with stakeholders beyond the engagement period.
- Develop policies and strategies that are responsive to the community's needs and aspirations, ensuring long-term social and cultural benefits.


Inform
Consult
Involve
Collaborate
Empower
Co-design
GOAL
We will keep you informed about what we decide to do
We will keep you informed, take on your feedback and let you know how it was incorporated in what we decided to do
We will work with you to make sure your concerns and hopes are included in the final decision
We will use your expertise to help create the final solution to the best extent possible
We will create what you decide
Let's work together to understand and solve this problem from start to finish
COUNCIL'S PROMISE
Provide the community with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions
Obtain community feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision
Work directly with the community throughout the process to ensure community concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered
Partner with the community in each aspect of the decision including development of alterntives and identification of preferred solution
Place final decision making in the hands of the community
Work directly with the community to collectively develop preferred approach/solution
COMMUNITIES ROLE
Listen
Contribute
Participate
Partner
Decide
Co-own

ENGAGEMENT BREAKDOWN

Workshops/ Forums/ Sessions

Seniors

CRUISE SURVEY (SEE APPENDIX D FOR PRIMARY DATA)

Seniors Cruise Port Adventure Cruises Time was a 3-hour scenic cruise, full buffet lunch, dessert. Interactive entertainment. During the event council staff surveyed 27 attendees.

Survey findings reveal several key themes impacting seniors and the wider community. Financial security is a significant concern, with rising living costs and financial decision-making weighing heavily. Access to healthcare and in-home support is another pressing issue. Social engagement, respect, and avoiding loneliness are essential to emotional well-being, while maintaining independence, mobility, and access to age-friendly housing and transport remain priorities. Despite these concerns, there's an overall positive sentiment about the region being ageing friendly. Many respondents praised local programs—particularly fitness, creative activities, and volunteering—though transport and digital access continue to pose challenges. Across all age groups, there's a strong desire for more inclusive and culturally enriching activities that foster community connection, such as fairs, storytelling, and creative workshops. People want better communication about available services and programs, both online and in print, as well as stronger partnerships with community groups to improve access and participation. Residents also value opportunities to engage with Aboriginal culture, public art, and heritage buildings. While the arts are enjoyed in various ways, barriers like limited information and access remain. Overall, the community seeks vibrant, affordable, and well-promoted opportunities to gather, create, and celebrate their shared cultural identity.

FORUM (SEE APPENDIX C FOR PRIMARY DATA)

8 seniors were invited to attend a forum held at the Port Macquarie Library on Monday 7 April 2025. The session involved rotating tables and brainstorming the following questions:

	Brainstorm
Cultural Plan	What does culture mean to you? What does culture look like? What needs to be in this plan?
Inclusion Plan	What does inclusion mean to you? What does inclusion look like? What needs to be in this plan?
Activation Plan	What does activation mean to you? What does activation look like? What needs to be in this plan?

Below is a summary of discussion from each plan:

- **Cultural**

The Seniors' Forum highlighted that culture is fundamentally about people and connection. Across the board, attendees emphasised that culture is shaped by community interaction, shared experiences, and the spaces in which people gather. Art, heritage, storytelling, volunteering, and even local infrastructure were all viewed as expressions of culture. There was a strong call for inclusive engagement, improved communication, and greater support for seniors as vital contributors to community culture.

Participants repeatedly expressed a desire for improved access and visibility—both physical and informational. There were frustrations about limited information tailored to seniors and newcomers, especially regarding services, events, and groups. Many suggested council needs to improve how it welcomes people, promotes opportunities, and makes cultural offerings known—through print media, a stronger presence at community hubs, and clearer signage. A senior's expo was praised as a great example of how connection and engagement can be fostered.

Access and infrastructure were key concerns, particularly around transport, disused spaces, disability access, and a lack of shaded public seating. Participants shared frustrations with inaccessible galleries and beaches (such as Shelley Beach), traffic congestion near key services, and limited community facilities for art, workshops, and storytelling.
There was strong enthusiasm for intergenerational programs and community storytelling. Many believed that blending age groups—through mentoring, shared learning, and joint events—would build understanding and dismantle stereotypes about ageing. Models like Finland's "Human Library" were referenced as innovative ways to connect youth with older people's experience. Initiatives like the "Story Walk" (a walking trail with stories along the way) were seen as opportunities to engage seniors and children alike in cultural experiences. Several participants were already engaged in helping others write their personal histories and expressed a desire to do more of this.

Several attendees said that culture and belonging come from being involved, and that seniors represent a huge untapped asset. Many are keen to volunteer, mentor, and participate but need better support, information, and encouragement to take the first step. While many felt personally connected to their smaller villages, there was a sense that areas like Bonny Hills, Camden Haven, and Lake Cathie are overlooked in broader council activities and cultural planning.

Concerns around homelessness and domestic violence were also raised, with participants calling for more visibility, understanding, and support from council. They were encouraged by tools like the "Snap Send Solve" app, but suggested greater community education on how these tools could be used for social reporting—not just infrastructure issues.

In summary, seniors want to feel welcomed, heard, and valued. They see culture as a living, evolving expression of community, not limited to the arts but including education, volunteerism, infrastructure, and social connection. They seek greater inclusion, accessible information, and opportunities to contribute meaningfully. For culture to thrive, council must actively support seniors as cultural stewards and creators, not just as passive recipients.

➢ Inclusion

Inclusion is about ensuring that every person—regardless of age, ability, background, or circumstance—can meaningfully participate in community life. It means making sure no one is left out, and that people feel welcomed, valued, and supported. Inclusive communities recognise the diversity of their people and work actively to reduce barriers so everyone can engage, contribute, and thrive.

Inclusion looks like practical, everyday support: transport services for seniors, free fitness programs, men's sheds, and open-door community halls. It also means ensuring facilities are accessible, that information is easy to find and understand, and that people are aware of opportunities to participate. Places like community BBQs, social groups, libraries, and volunteer

organisations all help foster connection—but they need strong, consistent support from councils and partners to truly be inclusive.

To be inclusive, communities need to provide access to information in a variety of ways—through social media, newsletters, community directories, or even a council buddy system that helps groups promote events. Storytelling is a powerful inclusion tool too. Videos of real people sharing lived experiences help educate others and show what inclusion really looks and feels like. Educating the broader community—through stories, case studies, and awareness campaigns—helps build empathy and breaks down misunderstanding.

Importantly, inclusion isn't just about access—it's about participation and contribution. People want to feel like they are part of what's going on, not just watching from the sidelines. Tools like community feedback platforms (e.g., Snap Send Solve), and storytelling programs help residents share experiences, offer suggestions, and feel heard. Inclusion also requires councils and community organisations to respond to this input meaningfully and transparently.

To support inclusion, the plan must build capacity across the community. This includes training for community connectors or buddies to help people take the first step in getting involved—especially those with low social confidence. It also means hosting workshops, mapping barriers faced by marginalised groups, and creating disability access maps so that spaces and events are genuinely accessible. Businesses can also play a role—initiatives like "scores on doors" can showcase inclusive practices in public-facing spaces.

A strong inclusion plan makes people feel seen and supported. It provides clear information, reduces barriers, and fosters environments where newcomers and long-time residents alike feel welcome. It helps build social confidence and community pride by giving people the tools, connections, and encouragement to participate. Ultimately, inclusion is not just about welcoming people in—it's about creating a culture where everyone can belong, be heard, and help shape the community they're part of.

- **Activation**

Activation is the thoughtful planning and implementation of actions that bring spaces and communities to life. It involves both launching new initiatives and re-energising existing or underused community assets. At its core, activation turns strategy into tangible, practical outcomes—it's about taking action, not just talking about ideas. This requires identifying both physical spaces and people within the community who can contribute to shared goals. Accessibility plays a critical role—activation must include everyone, including those with physical, mental, or unseen disabilities, and reach across ages, cultures, and abilities.

True activation is inclusive, flexible, and doesn't always require significant funding. Community members need clarity about *why* something is being done, not just *what* is happening. Self-directed and organic participation—like community walks or multi-site activities—enables people to engage on their own terms and in ways that suit their lives. These actions help make activation accessible to more people and reduce barriers to participation.
Disused or overlooked spaces offer valuable opportunities for community connection. With the help of local "champions" or community leaders, these areas can be reimagined as places that bring people together.

Ultimately, activation is about bringing visibility, life, and purpose to our community environments in ways that are meaningful and sustainable. It supports stronger social connections, fosters pride in place, and encourages a deeper sense of belonging. When implemented well, activation doesn't feel forced—it becomes part of the natural rhythm of community life.

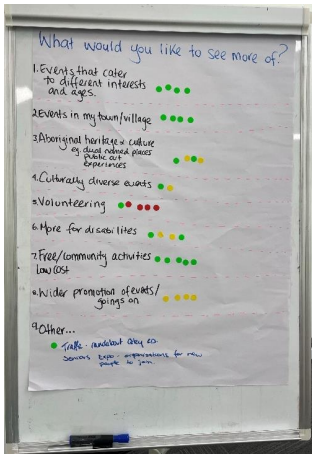
To guide this process a flexible and evolving framework that helps deliver outcomes while adapting to the dynamic needs of the local government area. This plan should provide a methodology for implementing activities and serves as a communication tool to keep residents informed and engaged. Accessibility is at the heart of the plan—people must be able to reach and participate in whatever is being activated. The plan should also offer clear information on how people can get involved or contribute, recognising that everyone has something unique to offer.

The plan encourages both short-term, flexible actions and longer-term strategies that can grow and evolve with the community. It promotes multi-channel communication—not relying solely on social media—to ensure all demographics are reached. Intergenerational and intercultural programming is vital, including experiences that bring seniors, youth, and newcomers together. Welcome initiatives, like a "Community Welcome Pack," can help new residents quickly find their place and get involved.

As a scaffold, the Activation Plan should also support the implementation of other strategic priorities. By aligning efforts and streamlining community engagement, it ensures that activation becomes a central, sustainable part of how the LGA builds connection, resilience, and pride.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS FOR ABOVE PLANS:

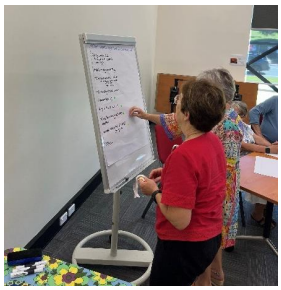
- More done to welcome seniors to the area
- Shelly Beach disabled access
- Friendship seats (in the shade)
- Story walks
- Human Library - intergenerational program
- Short videos, real peoples saying real things



Participants were also asked to vote on what they would like to see more of in the community. Highest scoring answers were:

- Events that cater to different interests and ages
- Events in my town/village
- Free/community activities at low cost

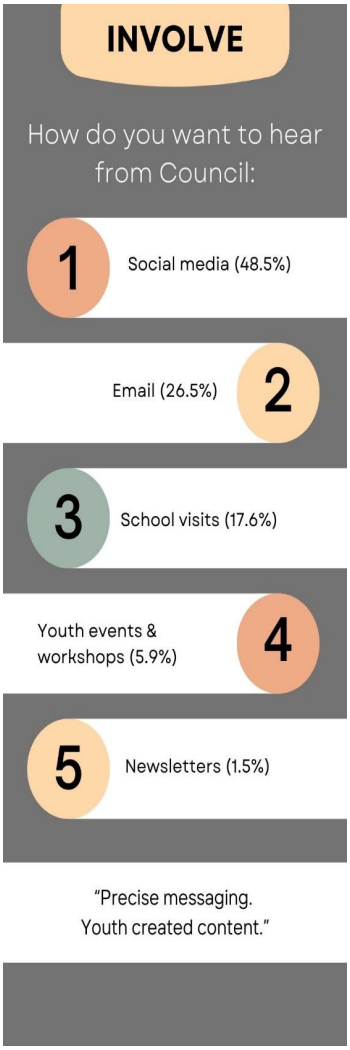
Sticker code:
Green - Agree
Yellow - Neutral
Red - Disagree



Youth

SURVEY (SEE APPENDIX E FOR PRIMARY DATA)

An online survey comprising 12 questions was opened from 13 March to 26 March 2025 on Council's "Have Your Say" website and 81 responses were received. The questions and responses from the survey are as follows:



Most respondents were students (high school or Uni/TAFE), making up 57% with an average age of 17 years old.

Of student respondents, 38% also reported working full-time or part-time and overall, 51% indicated they are working in some capacity.

Preferred social media platforms for engagement included:

- Instagram 72%
- TikTok 53%
- Snapchat 44%
- YouTube 34%
- Facebook 31%

When asked about the easiest way for youth was to share their thoughts with Council, respondents said:

- Online surveys or polls 79.4%
- In-person workshops and forums 38.2%
- Youth advisory groups or committees 30.9%
- School or community group discussions 26.5%
- Other 4.4%

Preferred places to meet:

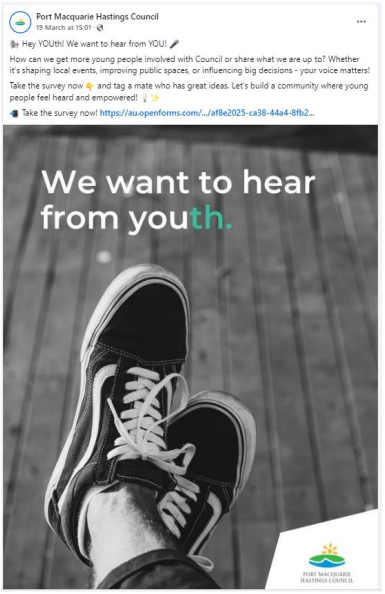
- Community hubs (library, halls) – 60.3%
- Outdoors (park, sport, beach) – 41.2%
- Youth centres – 32.4%
- School / Campus – 30.9%
- Other – 2.9%

The best times to reach young people are:

- After school (3–6PM) 55.9%
- During school hours 33.8%
- Evenings (after 6PM) 8.8%
- Weekends 1.5%

How often should we check in with you?

- Monthly - 45.6%
- Twice a year - 25%
- Every 3 months - 17.6%
- Once a year - 11.8%



The issues that young people most care about (in order of importance) were:

1. Mental health support and services
2. Nature and sustainability initiatives
3. Youth spaces and places
4. Youth voice in decisions
5. Help with jobs and career
6. Events and things to do



What can Council do better to involve young people?

- More youth representation in decisions – *40 mentions*
- Youth-led events – *36 mentions*
- More input on planning/public spaces – *33 mentions*
- Better social media and content – *29 mentions*

What's stopping young people from getting involved with Council?

- "I don't really know what Council does" 30.9%
- "Nothing ever changes, so why bother?" 27.9%
- Other 11.8%

Would YOU join a youth advisory group?

- Maybe, tell me more – 36.8%
- No, not my thing – 32.4%
- No, but keep me updated – 20.6%
- Yes, sign me up! – 10.2%

If we created a youth group, what should it look like?



Additional comments:

*"It should be a **diverse group** in terms of age, race, schools and interests."*

*"It should be a **safe environment** where everyone feels comfortable."*

*"Youth **groups in schools** so students are more likely to participate if it's with their own school and peers!"*

*"Not another youth council that restricts other kids being able to have a say. Make it open and fun. **Led by youth—not council people**...*

*What about a **youth hub** where kids can have a space to do stuff and express themselves with music, art and other things. Also, it needs to represent the young LGBTQ community."*

*"I think what was in place previously was an okay place to start, but **more structure**/clarity needs to be provided... so that things can actually be accomplished/change."*

*"Youth in focus—a space where we can hang out, exercise, and just be ourselves. It should be **run by younger people** who feel more like friends than leaders, but who can step up when support is needed.*

And yeah, a bit of music and food never hurts—just make sure it's not only about the snacks. Hot chips or pizza always worked where I went!"

Multicultural Communities

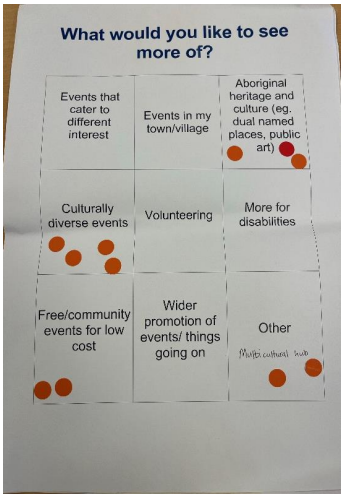
MULTICULTURAL FORUM

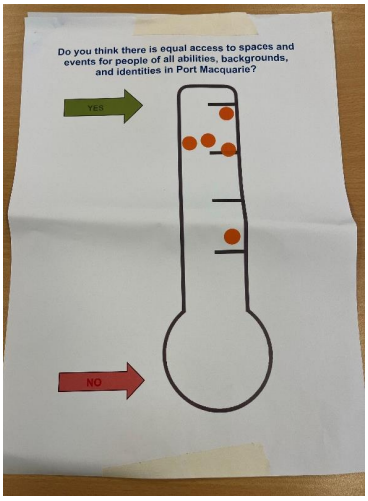
Location: Charles Sturt University
Date: Friday 11 April 2025, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Attendees: 7

Attendees were asked to put dots on where they sat in response to the questions. Top votes were for:

- Aboriginal heritage and culture (eg dual naming)
- Culturally diverse events
- Free community events







Below is a summary of discussion from each plan. See Appendix F for raw data.

- **Cultural Plan**

Community feedback on the Cultural Plan highlights that culture is much more than festivals or food—it's a lived experience tied to identity, language, connection, and belonging. Many participants reflected on the complexity of identity, particularly for children navigating their mother tongue at home while being seen as different in wider Australian society due to appearance or cultural expression. While moving away from their country made some more open to understanding other cultures, others shared the challenges of maintaining cultural practices in a new context. Visibility and celebration of diverse cultures, such as Diwali or storytelling events in different languages, were seen as vital to feeling recognised. However, culture isn't always visible for all groups, and many people described how difficult it can be to "find your people" without clear entry points—often relying on chance encounters at supermarkets or schools. Incidental cultural connection is lacking due to infrastructure, like the absence of walkable neighbourhoods that enable casual socialisation. Activities often feel forced or overly structured, creating barriers to organic connection. Suggestions included establishing social and cultural hubs, cooking classes, "bring a plate" events, and informal networks like neighbourhood cells or parent groups that can foster shared identity and connection. Men, especially those staying at home while partners work, often feel more isolated and need their own pathways for engagement. Cultural support must also

extend to governance—encouraging people from diverse backgrounds to see themselves in leadership roles and providing sessions on how to participate in local government. Schools, libraries, and community centres should be empowered to celebrate and showcase cultural diversity meaningfully. Ultimately, culture thrives when it's visible, shared, and allowed to evolve—when people feel they belong to many communities and can both honour their heritage and participate fully in the life of Port Macquarie.

- **Inclusion Plan**

Community feedback on the Inclusion Plan reveals that genuine inclusion goes beyond symbolic gestures—it's about creating meaningful, sustained connections where everyone feels welcome, valued, and empowered to participate. Inclusion means being seen, heard, and having the opportunity to contribute, especially in a regional setting where racism and social isolation can be barriers. Participants shared stories of feeling connected through small, consistent acts of kindness, like being invited for coffee or community breakfasts, and emphasised the importance of persistence in both inviting and showing up. The ability to access spontaneous, informal community spaces was also raised barriers like club fees and lack of casual sporting options were seen as hindrances to inclusive participation. There's a shared belief that both individuals and the wider community have a role to play—while people must sometimes push themselves out of their comfort zone, the community must also meet them with open, ongoing invitations. Participants valued events like Harmony Day and suggested stronger structural support, such as a multicultural centre that serves as a permanent hub for newcomers, offering practical support, cultural continuity, and a sense of belonging. Suggestions included council recognition and celebration of cultural festivals, affordable access to cultural events, multicultural education in schools, traditional dress days, faith-based spaces, and stronger representation of diverse communities in council and public offices. There is a call for more coordinated efforts across community groups, clearer access to information (e.g., grants, events, services), and inclusive storytelling on council platforms. Participants also recommended monthly cultural themes at libraries, language performances, intergenerational inclusion (like housing for elders), and regular engagement meetings between council officers and community members.

- **Activation Plan**

Community feedback on the Activation Plan highlights the importance of fostering genuine excitement, connection, and belonging within the area. For many, activation means reaching a level of engagement where people feel energised and involved in community life. Residents expressed a deep love for the culture of food, storytelling, and shared experiences that define their community, emphasising how inclusive and heartfelt social interactions are—where goodbyes are as meaningful as hellos. To support and enhance this spirit, suggestions included establishing a central, accessible source of information—such as a council website or hub—where residents can easily find updates on events and initiatives. Financial support through programs like Active Kids vouchers was also noted as important for encouraging participation. Community-based communication and community-led events were strongly encouraged, especially as they help build resilience and social networks for migrants and newcomers. Many residents are drawn to the area for its affordability, family-friendly lifestyle, and ease of living, and they want to see this quality of life reflected in council programs. Engaging schools and spreading events throughout the year, rather than limiting them to one major annual event, were suggested as effective ways to maintain consistent engagement. Feedback also warned against assuming everyone already feels at home in the community; finding strong social ties and support networks can be challenging. There's a need for more opportunities for incidental interactions—small, everyday encounters that help build community. For example, a lack of footpaths in some areas was mentioned as a barrier to these informal social connections. Overall, the feedback reflects a desire for an inclusive, well-communicated, and consistently active community life, where people feel supported, seen, and inspired to participate.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

BIRPAI ENGAGEMENT - STRONG SPIRIT (SEE APPENDIX B FOR PRIMARY DATA)

On Friday 21 March, representatives from the Community Activation team joined Strong Spirit at an Elders drop-in session where small group conversation was held. The session was valuable and provided thoughtful and deeper insights into the realities of living in our LGA from an Aboriginal perspective. Key takeaways from the engagement are that respect, supporting young Aboriginal people and culturally safe events are important to Elders.

What do you care about most?	Tally	Notes
Employment	|	○ More Street art ○ Naming signage ○ Face to face ○ Aboriginal Development Officer @ council ○ Homelessness + housing ○ Aboriginal Medical Centre ○ Supporting community organisations like 'Strong Spirit' to be inclusive of all cultures ○ More cultural safe places for our youth to go that is not at a high cost ○ More notice of what is happening ○ Keep supporting Clontarf
Cost of Living	|||||	
Health	|||	
Loneliness	||	
Independence	|	
Connectedness	||	
Nutrition and exercise	|||	
Being part of community	||	
Culturally safe events	||||	
Respect	||	
Younger generation	||||	
Knowing what's on	||||	

How can we reach you?	Tally	Notes
Morning tea	||	○ Give more notice of events to participants/ stall holders ○ Open doors between public and private schools ○ More cultural events ○ Aboriginal youth artist outreach program ○ More interaction with traditional owners ○ Fund more school programs ○ Partner with schools, driven by traditional owners/elders ○ Bro & sister speak, in private schools ○ Digital notice boards ○ Aboriginal person of the year ○ Re0ubsate and advisory committee for Aboriginal People ○ Message stick (Kempsey Council) ○ Letter box drop ○ Don't stay indoors, get out and yarn ○ Volunteering ○ Aboriginal memory walk ○ Opportunities to meet the CEO and councillors for aboriginal stakeholders ○ Continue to invest in community initiatives ○ More aboriginal content in social media
Land Council	|||	
Facebook	|||	
Yarns	|||	
Email via Land Council		
Council email	|	
Word of mouth	||	
Posters		
Flyer	|	
Community organisations	|||	
Schools	|	
Newsletter	||	

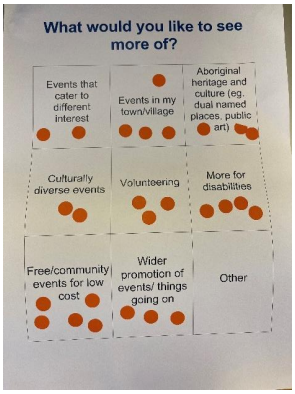
BIRAPI LAND COUNCIL MEETING

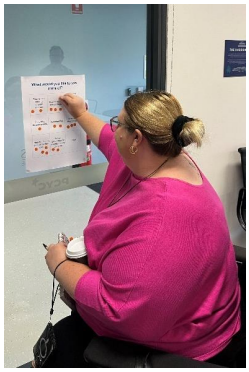
Location: Aston St
Date: Monday 5 May 2025, 4:30pm
Attendees: 1

People living with Disabilities

ENABLE MEETING 28 APRIL

Location: PCYC
Date: Monday 28 April 2025, 9:30 AM - 11:30 PM
Attendees: 10





Attendees were asked to put dots on where they sat in response to the questions. Top votes were for:

- Events in my town/ village
- More for Disabilities
- Free community events

Below is a summary of discussion from each plan.

➢ **Inclusion Plan**

What Does Inclusion Mean?

1. **Universal Access for All:**
   - Inclusion means ensuring access for all people, regardless of age, culture, or ability. This includes individuals with hearing, sight, physical disabilities, and mental health challenges.
   - It's not just about people with visible disabilities; inclusion extends to anyone who faces barriers, such as people with prams, those experiencing homelessness, or individuals from different backgrounds and geographical locations.
2. Addressing Isolation:
   - Many feel isolated due to limited access to transport, funding restrictions, or simply not knowing what services are available. This often leads to withdrawal from the community.
   - Education and information sharing are key to breaking down these barriers and ensuring everyone knows they are part of the community.
3. Emphasising Connection:
   - It's important to create opportunities for people with disabilities to connect with others. Programs like wheelchair basketball are an example, where individuals with disabilities and able-bodied people come together, learn from each other, and form new connections.
   - Creating two-way learning experiences helps everyone understand each other's daily challenges and builds empathy.
4. Normalising Abilities:

- Inclusion involves focusing on what people can do, not what they can't. For example, in the case of a person joining the surf lifesaving club, the focus was on their ability, not disability, and the community accepted them as equals.
- Normalising participation in all areas of life — from sports to social events — helps diminish the sense of difference and promotes community acceptance.

5. Purpose and Opportunity:
   - Inclusion gives people a sense of purpose. It's about giving everyone, especially those who may feel marginalised (whether due to disability, financial situation, or other factors), the chance to be a part of something meaningful, contributing to their community.

What Does Inclusion Look Like?

1. Respectful communication:
   - People with disabilities want to be treated with respect and addressed directly, not through their support workers or in a patronising manner. They seek recognition as intelligent adults, not as people to be talked down to.
   - It's crucial to approach individuals with respect, using appropriate manners. For instance, addressing someone respectfully with "excuse me, sir" instead of labels like "blind guy."
2. Social awareness and sensitivity:
   - There's a need for awareness around how people navigate the world. For example, kids may not recognise the obstacles their actions might pose for someone with a disability.
   - A campaign encouraging people to "just talk to me" highlights the need for everyone to be treated with the same opportunities and dignity.
3. Equality, not extra treatment:
   - People with disabilities don't want special treatment or "extras," but simply to be treated the same as anyone else — with fairness and equal opportunity.
4. Education from a young Age:
   - Schools play a key role in fostering understanding and acceptance of all people, regardless of their differences. Experiential learning, such as blindfold exercises, can help students understand what it's like to live with a disability.
5. Adapting, not overcoming:
   - Inclusion is about adapting to the needs of individuals, rather than trying to "fix" their differences. The focus should be on what can be done to support everyone's participation, whether through communication or physical space.
6. Encouraging empathy and understanding:
   - Clear communication is vital — a simple smile and a warm tone can make all the difference in creating an inclusive environment.
   - The message is to look beyond disabilities and focus on the person's abilities and potential, as captured in the idea: "Don't look at our disability, focus on our amazing ability."

- **Cultural Plan**

What Does Inclusion Mean?

1. Acceptance over debate:
   - Inclusion means being accepted for who you are, without needing to justify or debate your beliefs or identity. It's about mutual respect for how people live and express themselves, whether that relates to their background, abilities, or personal choices.

2. Unique ways of being:
    - Each group of people has its own way of doing things that is unique to their culture. Inclusion acknowledges and respects these differences, fostering a sense of belonging for everyone, no matter how they do things or what they identify with.

What Does Culture Mean?

1. Belief systems and identity:
    - Culture is about a group's shared beliefs, values, and the way they identify with one another. It's deeply connected to how individuals express themselves and relate to the world.
2. Cultural attitudes and divisions:
    - The overall culture in Port Macquarie-Hastings (PMHC) can feel divided, particularly in attitudes toward different social groups, political opinions, and ways of life. This division impacts how welcoming the community feels to others.
    - There is also an undercurrent of self-centeredness, where attitudes like "only one way to be accepted" can create tension, especially between younger and older generations.
3. Shift in social dynamics:
    - COVID-19 has contributed to a sense of isolation and selfishness. Younger generations seem to struggle with a lack of community involvement, and finding volunteers for local initiatives is becoming harder.
    - The shift from a more community-focused culture to one that relies heavily on online connections is noted as a problem. Online interactions often lack the impact and connection that in-person relationships offer.

Is There Enough Opportunity to Express Cultural Identity?

1. Lack of spaces for expression:
    - There is a lack of places for people to go and express themselves, socialise, and form connections. The community used to have places like theme parks that families and friends could visit, but these spaces are now missing.
2. Generational and cultural differences:
    - City culture differs from country culture, with barriers between these two that make it harder for people to relate and understand one another's backgrounds. While you can't change someone's background, attitudes can be shifted through education and exposure.
3. Online vs. real-world connections:
    - Online connections are seen as less meaningful than face-to-face interactions. People who feel disconnected from their community, especially younger generations, often rely on online spaces for socialising but lack the depth of real-world connections.
4. Need for structured social spaces:
    - There's a strong desire for structured community spaces where people can gather, interact, and build meaningful relationships. This includes places that offer consistent opportunities to meet and socialise in safe, welcoming environments.

What Does Culture Look Like?

1. Social inclusion programs:
    - Social inclusion programs like "Link and Laugh" can offer a space where people of all abilities can come together to meet, build relationships, and have fun. Examples of such programs include activities like cruises or bowls club meetups.

- These events don't require participants to bring friends, but simply offer a space where individuals can connect with others in a safe, supportive environment.

What Needs to be in the Cultural Plan?

1. Activities for all ages:
   - Activities for kids during school holidays are a key priority. Events like lawn bowls or family-friendly activities could provide an opportunity for social inclusion while also engaging different age groups.
2. Big events to foster community spirit:
   - There is a need for big community events that bring people together to celebrate and connect. These could range from arts festivals to sports tournaments, fostering community pride and inclusion.

➢ Activation Plan

What Does Activation Mean?

1. Accessible participation in events:
   - Events like Anzac Day can be difficult for people with disabilities due to the lack of accessible seating and challenges navigating through crowds. More consideration for accessibility, such as providing seats and ensuring clear pathways, is necessary.
   - Blind individuals may feel uncomfortable in large crowds because of difficulty tracking others and navigating echoing environments. Sound cues and careful space planning could improve their experience.
   - Events like Artwalk are great, but access can be challenging at times. Ensuring all events, like food festivals at Town Green, are accessible is a priority.
2. Improved accessibility at events:
   - Consideration for more accessible parking for people with disabilities at larger events is needed to ensure better access and participation.

What does activation look like?

1. Community engagement and creative spaces:
   - Activating spaces in the community with creative opportunities, like reopening a theme park or hosting ghost tours, would provide fun and engaging ways for people to connect.
   - Creating spaces for art, such as a wall for spray painting or a place for graffiti practice, could be beneficial for people to hone their skills. This could lead to exposure, with local business owners potentially commissioning works.
   - Power boxes around town, like those used for street art, can also be a creative outlet and a good way to foster skill development.
2. Empowering local creatives:
   - Providing spaces for individuals who are not confident in their skills to practice is crucial. This fosters a sense of community and encourages the development of creative talents.
   - Community notice boards and platforms that allow individuals to advertise and test their skills are key to fostering empowerment and connection. The idea of "leaving your mark" through art or other contributions can be a form of activation.

What needs to be in the Activation Plan?

1. Create accessible, engaging spaces and events:

- Open up creative spaces, like art walls, and support events such as ghost tours and theme parks, which allow people with disabilities to participate and express themselves.
- Consider adding more accessible features for events (e.g., parking, pathways) and continue fostering community creativity and skill-sharing through public art spaces.

2. Utilise multiple communication channels:
   - Activating community involvement requires the use of diverse communication channels. While Facebook is a popular platform, other forms such as radio, newsletters, and printed materials (flyers, magazines) should also be used to reach a broader audience.
   - Use QR codes to link to digital resources, and place flyers in high-traffic areas like cafes, universities, and TAFE institutions, where they can be seen by a larger number of people.
3. Creating a centralised Event Hub:
   - A dedicated, easily accessible section on the Council's website where events can be listed and moderated would make it easier for people to find and register for local activities. This page could act as a trusted source for event information.
   - Utilise local print media, such as the Saturday edition of the local news, to ensure events reach older demographics who may not be as familiar with digital platforms.
4. Foster connections and build networks:
   - Building connections through platforms like the Mid North Coast Disability Network and others (e.g., Willing and Able) will help ensure that people with disabilities are informed about upcoming events and opportunities.
   - Planning with clear visibility of upcoming events on calendars will help people with disabilities and the broader community stay connected and involved.

Creative Industries

CREATIVE SPARKS WORKSHOPS - YOUTH WEEK (SEE APPENDIX G FOR RAW DATA)

Council supported the delivery of three free workshop series targeting young people across the Port Macquarie-Hastings region. These workshops aimed to inspire and inform local youth about pathways in the creative industries while promoting community connection and personal wellbeing through artistic expression.

Key Outcomes of the Initiative:

- Delivered a series of interactive, 3-hour workshops facilitated by established creative professionals from the Hastings region.
- Engaged young participants in hands-on activities designed to ignite creative thinking, build confidence, and explore vocational opportunities within the arts sector.
- Provided valuable career insights and mentorship opportunities from local industry practitioners.
- Fostered peer-to-peer networking among emerging creatives, strengthening social ties and community identity.

Workshop Details:

- Port Macquarie: Charles Sturt University – 10 April 2025, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- Laurieton: School of the Arts – 15 April 2025, 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm

- Wauchope: Community Arts Hall – 17 April 2025, 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm

18 young people aged between 13 and 22 attended across the 3 events. Below are key themes from the sessions.

Belonging and Community Connection

- Young people identified a sense of community through shared interests, friendships, family ties, local events, and communal spaces such as parks, beaches, cafes, and community gardens. Involvement in music groups, band performances, and school cohorts also contributed to feelings of inclusion, particularly in Wauchope and Port Macquarie.

Interests and Creative Pursuits

- Participants expressed strong interest in creative activities such as drawing, painting, digital art, dance, drama, graffiti, and jewellery making. Many saw these activities as vital outlets for self-expression, mental wellbeing, and connection with peers. Other popular activities included surfing, gaming, reading, sports, and visiting galleries.

Spaces and Places

- Youth voiced a need for more inclusive, safe, and youth-focused spaces. Suggestions included free or low-cost hangout spots, improved lighting and safety at skate parks, graffiti walls with mentorship opportunities, and more seating in town areas. Young people emphasised the importance of events that are designed by youth for youth, and better promotion of these opportunities through accessible platforms like posters and social media.

Perceptions of Welcomeness

- Across all three sessions, there was a shared sentiment that the region is not always welcoming to young people. While younger children and older adults are often well catered to, teenagers and young adults feel overlooked. They highlighted a lack of relevant events, limited creative outlets outside of sport, and a feeling of being excluded from decision-making.

Wellbeing and Inclusion

- Being heard and included means having opinions respected and ideas acknowledged. Youth want their feedback to lead to real change and to be communicated through familiar channels such as TikTok or posters in youth spaces. Affordability, visibility, and transparency were highlighted as crucial to fostering genuine inclusion.

Mental Health and Creativity

- Creative outlets were widely recognised as essential for mental health. Activities like art, music, and writing help young people manage stress, express emotions, and find a sense of purpose and accomplishment. The social aspect of these activities—connecting with like-minded peers—was also noted as a key benefit.

Education and Employment Barriers

- Youth identified a shortage of entry-level jobs outside hospitality, a lack of creative courses at TAFE, and unrealistic expectations from employers. Those pursuing niche careers (e.g. marine biology or interior design) often have to leave the area to study or find relevant opportunities. There's also a call for more practical business and industry-skills development in schools.

Social Connection and Loneliness

- Loneliness was a common concern, especially among those not involved in sports. Youth requested more inclusive and creative group activities, like art collaborations, music jams,

and street art projects. Safe, welcoming environments where all types of young people—artists, scientists, skaters, and more—can connect are seen as essential.

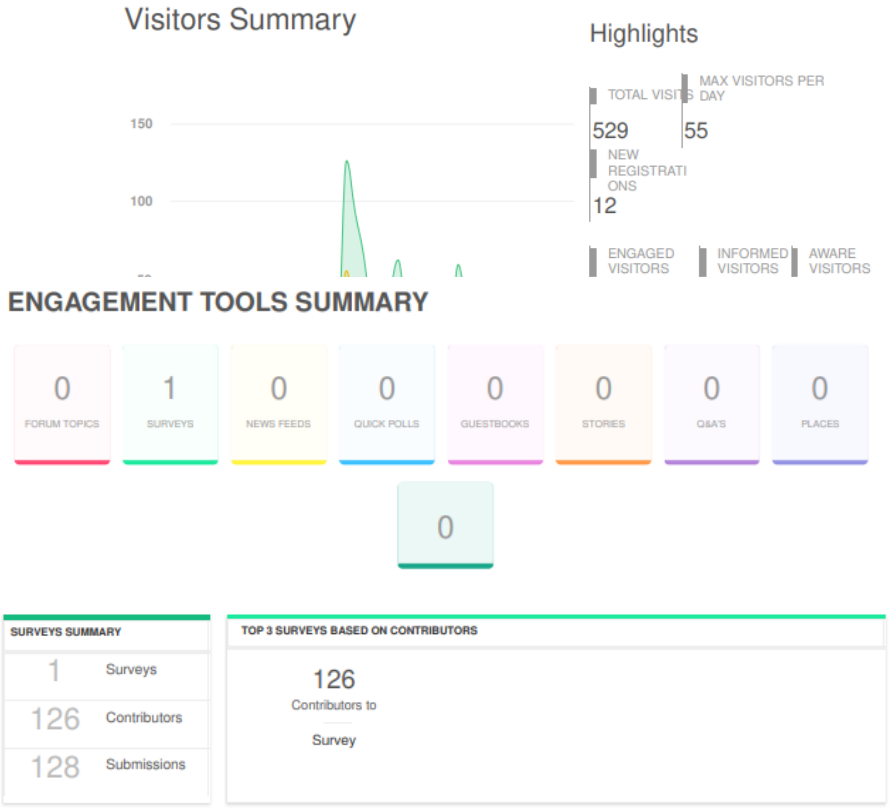
Why They Stay

- Despite the challenges, many young people remain in the area because of family, friendships, natural beauty, and a strong connection to community.

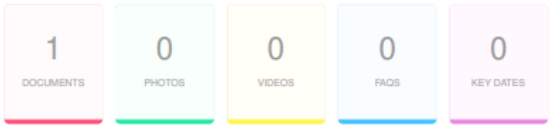
have your say

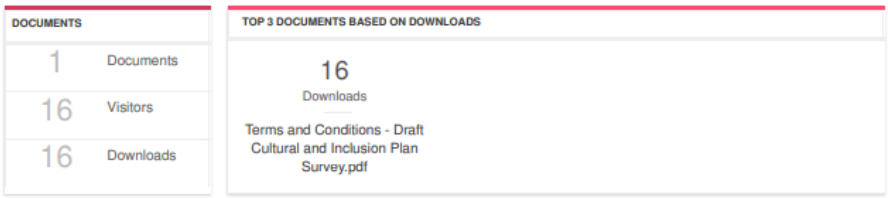
Have Your Say

Results from the online survey



INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY





TRAFFIC SOURCES OVERVIEW

REFERRER URL	Visits
m.facebook.com	96
www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au	43
l.facebook.com	19
lm.facebook.com	17
www.google.com	10
www.bing.com	4
l.instagram.com	3
us15.campaign-archive.com	2
linktr.ee	1
pmhc.createsend.com	1
portmacquariehastingscouncil.cmail19.com	1
us15.admin.mailchimp.com	1
www.google.com.au	1

SELECTED PROJECTS - FULL LIST

PROJECT TITLE	AWARE	INFORMED	ENGAGED
Inclusion, Cultural and Activation Plans Review	388	184	126

Response summary (see appendix A for survey raw data)

Overall Sentiment

- ✅ Majority agree or strongly agree that Port Macquarie-Hastings is a great place to live.
- 🤝 Many feel welcomed and included, though there is less confidence in equal access for people of all abilities, backgrounds, and identities.

🎯 Top Community Priorities

1. 🚶 Footpaths, Bike Lanes & Walkability – Most frequently cited priority.
2. 🧩 Community Connection & Belonging – Strongly valued across responses.
3. 🌳 Access to Nature & Green Spaces – A consistent strength and priority.
4. ❤️ Health & Wellbeing
5. 🏟️ Public Facilities – Pools, sports fields, entertainment venues.
6. 🎉 More Local Events & Celebrations
7. 💰 Cost of Living & Affordability
8. 🌏 Support for Multicultural Communities
9. 👵 Support for Older Residents
10. 🙌 Volunteering & Community-led Projects

♿ Inclusion & Accessibility

- Many respondents feel welcomed, but equal access to events and spaces is not universally experienced.
- Areas with mixed or neutral responses include:
- Disability access & inclusion
- LGBTQIA+ visibility
- Public transport

- Some respondents highlighted the need for dementia-friendly and intergenerational programs.

🔍 Notable Patterns

- People who value outdoor space and walkability report higher satisfaction.
- Affordability and access to services (especially for marginalised groups) are key drivers of dissatisfaction.
- A minority expressed dissatisfaction with inclusion, belonging, or access—indicating areas for equity-focused improvement.

🌞 Most Enjoyed Community Activities

🚶 Walking, running & cycling on trails
🎨 Free community events (e.g., ArtWalk)
🛍️ Markets & street fairs
🏊 Swimming & water activities
🤝 Volunteering & community service
📚 Library events (book clubs, author talks, movies)
🌲 Outdoor events in parks & reserves
🖼️ Museums, galleries & cultural spaces
🛠️ Workshops & lifelong learning
🎶 Cultural groups and creative hobbies (crafts, music, photography)

📌 What Residents Want More Of

🌍 Culturally diverse events
🏘️ Events in local towns and villages
💸 Free or low-cost options
📢 Better promotion and communication of events
👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Activities for all ages and interests
♿ Improved accessibility for people with disabilities
👵 👴 Intergenerational programs (connecting youth and seniors)
🖤 First Nations cultural recognition (e.g., dual naming, public art)

🛠️ Suggestions for Improvement

🏛️ Multicultural Hub: A space for cultural exchange, workshops, and community support.
🚲 Improved infrastructure: Safer walking/cycling paths, accessible venues, and public toilets.
🗣️ Inclusive communication: AUSLAN, multilingual signage, and diverse media channels.
🎨 Support for local artists and groups: Funding, visibility, and collaboration.
🌻 Community gardens, storytelling events, and creative workshops to foster connection.
⏰ More events outside standard working hours to include working families.
👦 Youth-focused programs to promote leadership and cultural understanding.
🧠 Dementia-friendly and disability-inclusive environments.

📣 Preferred Communication Channels

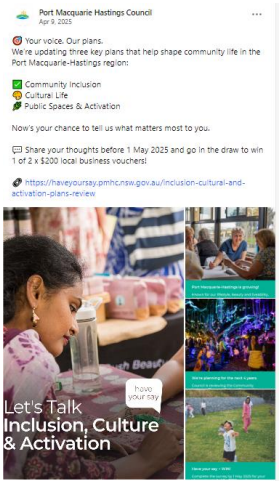
- Facebook
- Email
- Subscriber e-newsletters
- Posters/flyers
- Community noticeboards
- Village newsletters
- Local newspapers and radio

Communications

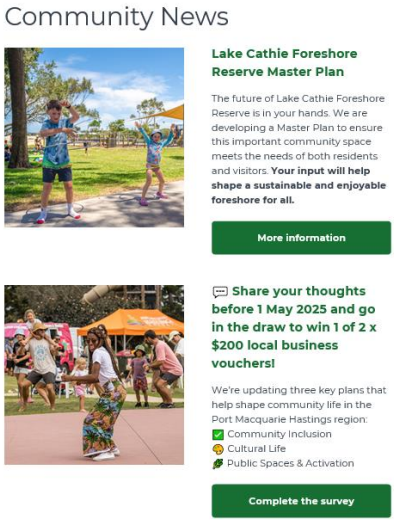
Social Media Story



Social Media Post



Enviro Matters Newsletter



Sports Blast

Inclusion, Activation and Cultural Plan Review

Inclusion, Culture & Activation Plans - Have Your Say

We're reviewing our **Inclusion, Culture and Activation Plans**, and we want to hear from you.

You can read the plans and share your feedback here: **Inclusion, Cultural and Activation Plans Review | Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Have Your Say**

Sport is more than just a game—It brings people together, creates a sense of belonging, and opens the door to participation - on and off the field. From inclusive club culture and accessible facilities to the incredible impact of volunteers, sport is a powerful driver of community connection.

Here are just a couple of ways clubs make a difference:

> *"Our club's walking soccer group has brought together people aged 20 to 80, including players with disability—it's become a weekly highlight and a real community builder."*

> *"I'd never played competitive sport before, but I love that my club offers free social games and 'come and try' days. It made it easy to join in, meet people, and just have fun without any pressure."*

You can view the Plan and Have Your Say by:

- Completing the online survey at **https://haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au**
- Emailing a submission to: **community.activation@pmhc.nsw.gov.au**
- Posting feedback to:
  Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
  Liveable Communities
  PO Box 84
  Port Macquarie NSW 2444

iCreate email



What does culture mean to you?

This is one of the questions Council is asking the Port Macquarie Hastings community as we review our four year Cultural and Inclusion Plans. ⬅Click here to complete our survey on Have Your Say and let us know what matters to you.

This is your chance to tell us what you love about our community and what you care about. We want to include your voice in shaping our new plans and making our region an even better place to live, work, and connect.

The development of these plans involves actively listening to the community. To ensure they genuinely reflect the values and priorities of our residents, we're looking for voices to influence and guide actions in the plans, ensuring they are inclusive, representative, and relevant. We'd love to hear from you.

RESULTS SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

Inclusion Plan

Results

- Community members—especially seniors, people with disabilities, and multicultural groups—emphasised the need for universal access, respectful communication, and opportunities to participate.
- Barriers include transport, digital exclusion, lack of accessible information, and social isolation.
- Inclusion is seen as active participation, not just access—people want to contribute meaningfully.

Summary

The Inclusion Plan focuses on ensuring that everyone feels welcome, valued, and empowered to participate in community life. It highlights the importance of clear communication, accessible infrastructure, and community connectors to help people engage. Storytelling, education, and inclusive design are key tools to foster empathy and reduce barriers.

Conclusion

To build an inclusive community, Council must:

- Provide accessible, well-promoted services and events
- Support community-led initiatives
- Foster intergenerational and intercultural connections
- Ensure ongoing feedback loops so people feel heard and included

Cultural Plan

Results

- Culture is defined broadly as shared identity, connection, and expression, not just festivals or art.
- Seniors, multicultural communities, and people with disabilities want more visibility, celebration of diversity, and spaces to share stories.
- There's a strong desire for intergenerational storytelling, cultural hubs, and recognition of First Nations heritage.

Summary

The Cultural Plan aims to celebrate the region's diverse heritage, support local creatives, and ensure that cultural expression is visible, valued, and evolving. It recognises that culture is lived daily—through language, food, art, and community interaction—and must be supported through inclusive infrastructure and programming.

Conclusion

To enrich cultural life, Council should:

- Invest in cultural infrastructure and events
- Promote diverse voices and leadership
- Support grassroots cultural initiatives
- Recognise First Nations culture through signage, events, and partnerships

Activation Plan

Results

- Activation is about bringing spaces and people to life through events, programs, and informal interactions.
- Community members want accessible, low-cost, and frequent events that reflect their interests and identities.
- There's a call for creative spaces, youth hubs, and better communication about what's happening.

Summary
The Activation Plan is a practical framework for turning community ideas into action. It emphasizes flexibility, accessibility, and community leadership. Activation should feel natural and inclusive, using both short-term pop-ups and long-term strategies to build connection and pride.

Conclusion
To activate the region meaningfully, Council must:
- Create welcoming, accessible spaces
- Support community-led and youth-driven events
- Use multi-channel communication to reach all demographics
- Align activation efforts with broader social and cultural goals

NEXT STEPS

Council's Liveable Communities team will draft the plans before reporting to the August Ordinary Council Meeting where the elected Councillors will consider them for public exhibition.

For information about Council meetings, agenda items, reports and minutes, please visit our webpage **www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/Council-meetings/Agendas-and-minutes**

Disclaimers

Feedback collected across all engagement activities is presented below in summary form - key themes have been identified across all submissions and de-identified, verbatim feedback has been appended.

About verbatim feedback
Deidentified, verbatim feedback is appended in some instances. Feedback that is not appended is summarised in this report, with verbatim responses shared with Liveable Communities Team and tabled with the Council Report for this project.

In addition to the length of some submissions, reasons for not appending these include:
- Detailed locations of properties
- Personal information
- Government agency responses

Community members can request to view verbatim submissions, any requests will be considered by our Governance team prior to release.

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).

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.
- 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.

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.

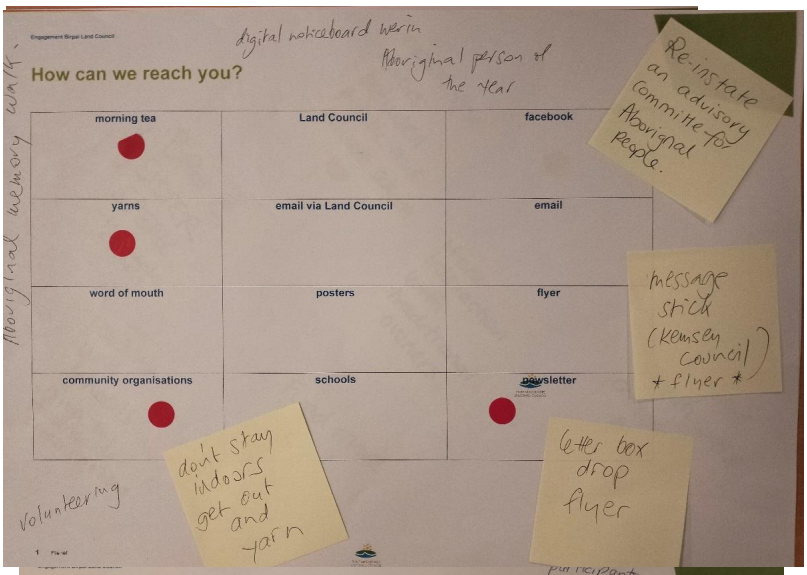
These are **available on our website**, along with our Legislative Compliance Policy.

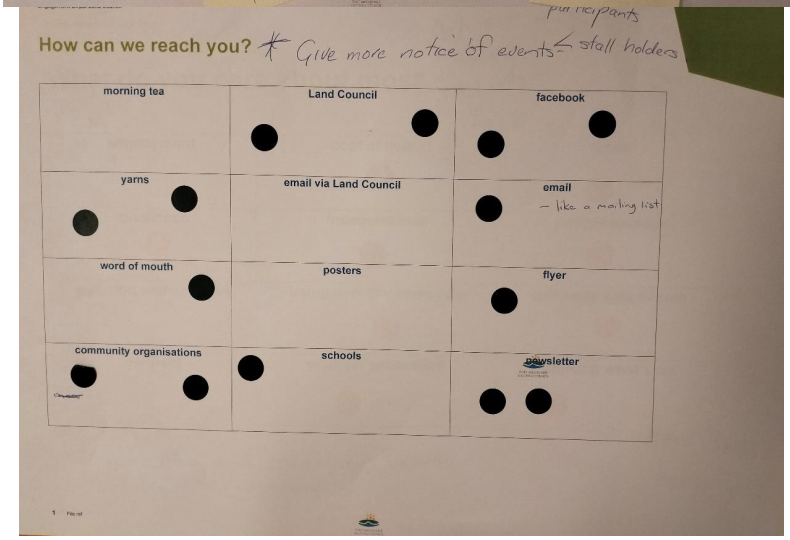
APPENDIX

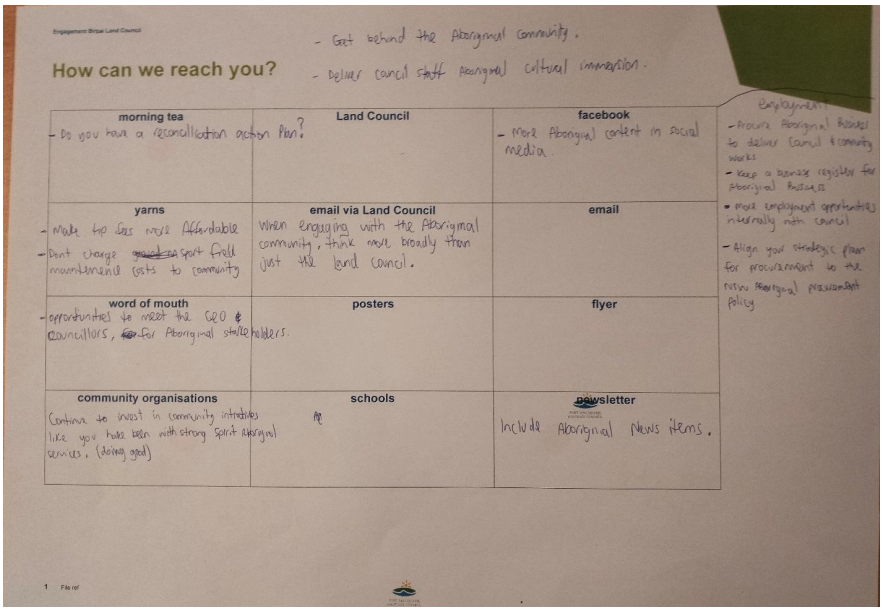
Appendix A: HYS Submissions

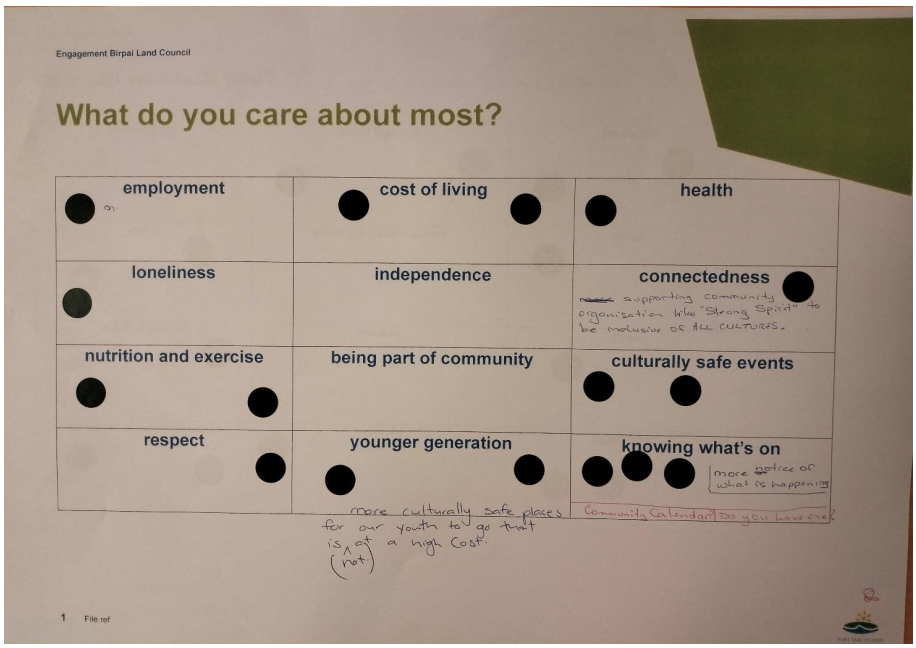
See attached.

Appendix B: Birpai Engagement - Strong Spirit

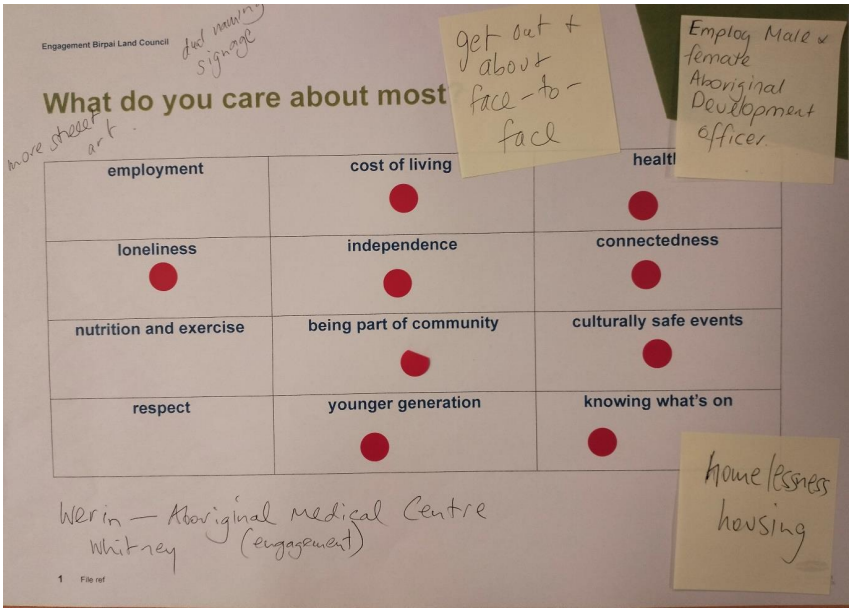




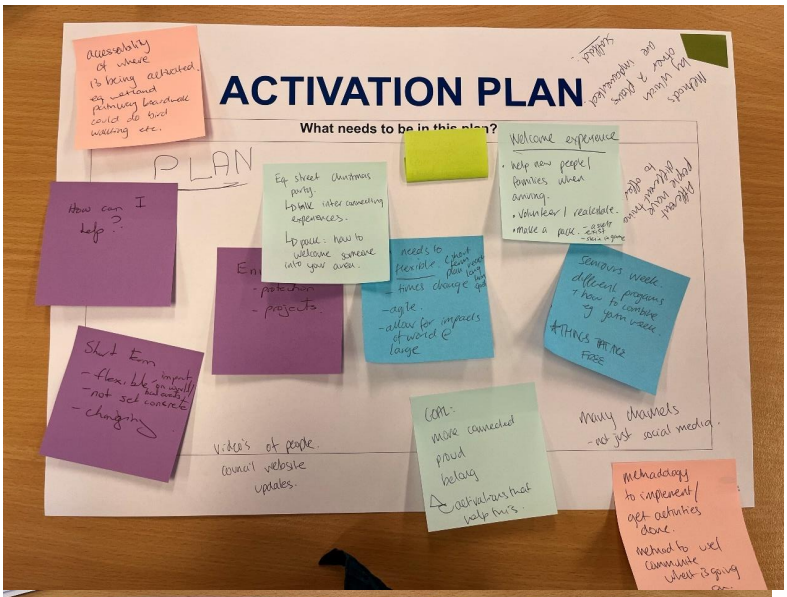

Engagement Birpai Land Council
How can we reach you?
- Get behind the Aboriginal community.
- Deliver council staff Aboriginal cultural immersion.
morning tea
- Do you have a reconciliation action Plan?
Land Council
facebook
- more Aboriginal content in social media.
yarns
- Make tip fees more Affordable
- Don't charge sport field maintenance costs to community
email via Land Council
When engaging with the Aboriginal community, think more broadly than just the land council.
email
word of mouth
- opportunities to meet the GEO & Councillors, for Aboriginal stakeholders.
posters
flyer
community organisations
Continue to invest in community initiatives like you have been with strong Spirit Aboriginal services. (doing good)
schools
newsletter
Include Aboriginal News items.
Employment
- Procure Aboriginal business to deliver Council & community works
- Keep a business register for Aboriginal business
- more employment opportunities internally with council
- Align your strategic plan for procurement to the new Aboriginal procurement policy

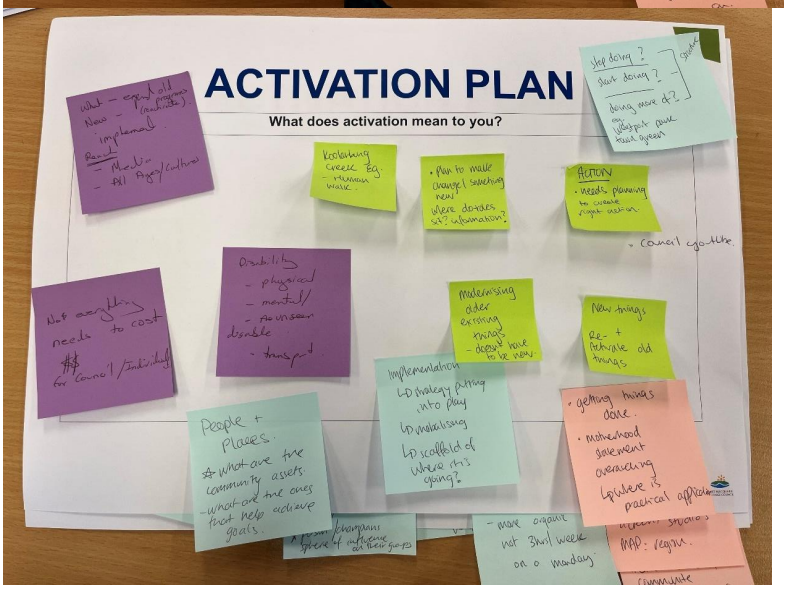

Engagement Birpai Land Council
What do you care about most?
employment
cost of living
health
loneliness
independence
connectedness
supporting community organisation like "Strong Spirit" to be inclusive of ALL CULTURES.
nutrition and exercise
being part of community
culturally safe events
respect
younger generation
knowing what's on
more notice of what is happening
Community Calendar? Do you have one?
more culturally safe places for our youth to go that is at a high cost.
(not)

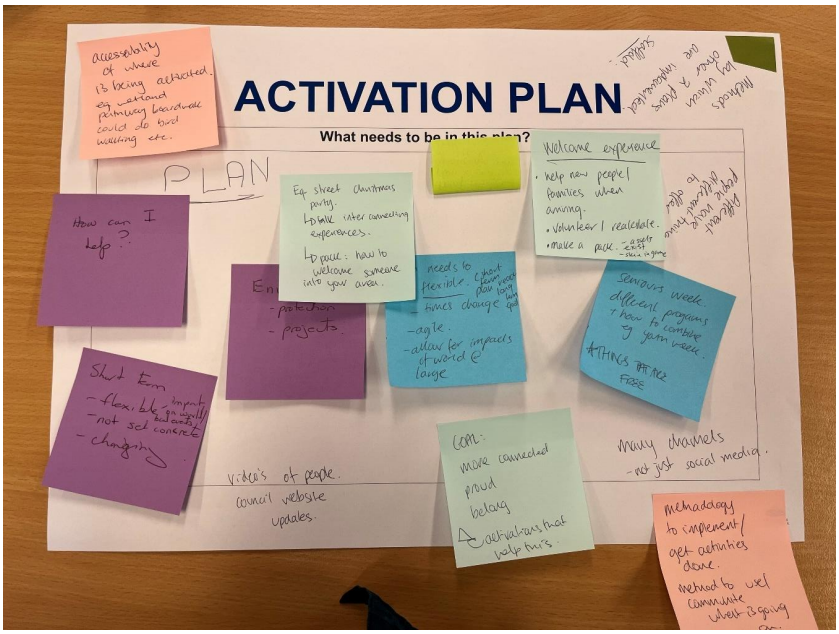

Engagement Birpai Land Council
What do you care about most?
Keep Supporting Clontarf.
employment
cost of living
loneliness
independence
connectedness
nutrition and exercise
being part of community
culturally safe events
respect
younger generation
knowing what's on
1 File ref

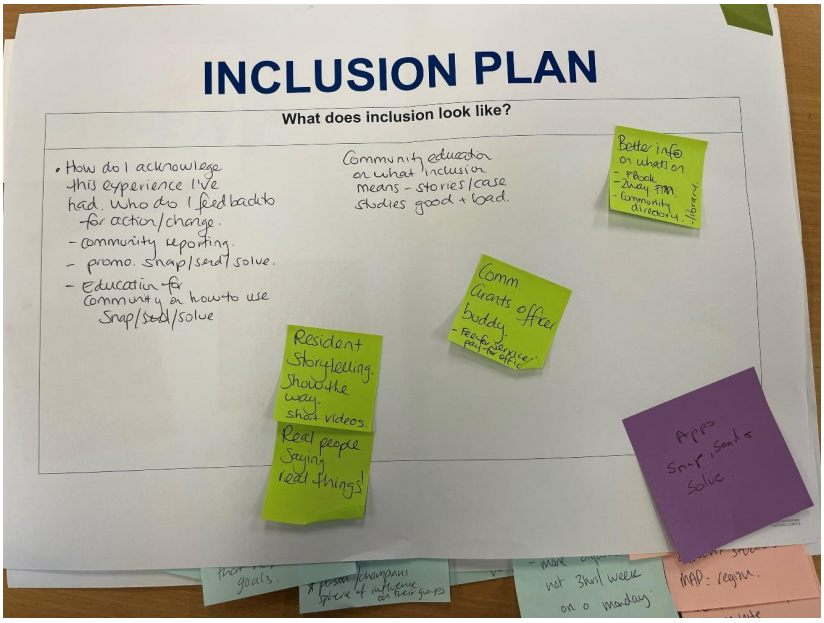

Engagement Birpai Land Council
dual naming signage
more street art
What do you care about most
get out + about face-to-face
Employ Male & female Aboriginal Development officers
employment
cost of living
loneliness
independence
connectedness
nutrition and exercise
being part of community
culturally safe events
respect
younger generation
knowing what's on
Werin — Aboriginal Medical Centre
Whitney (engagement)
homelessness housing
1 File ref

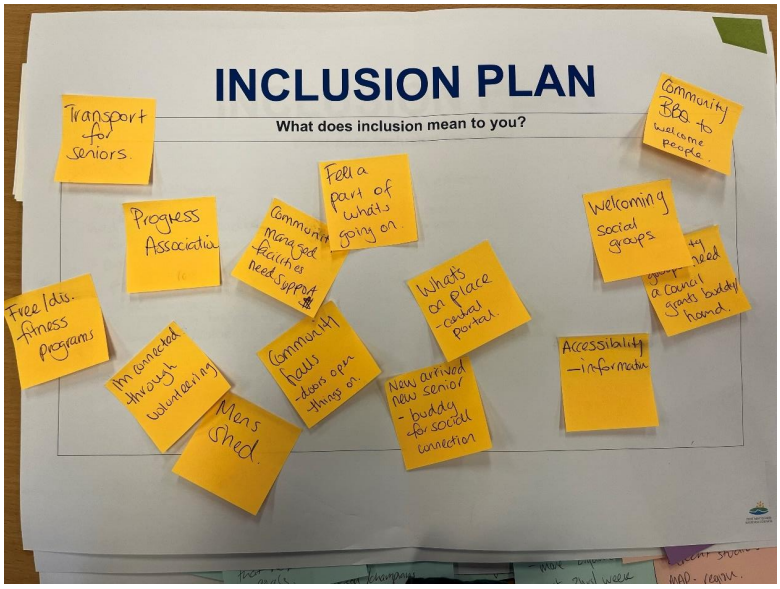
Appendix C: Seniors - Forum

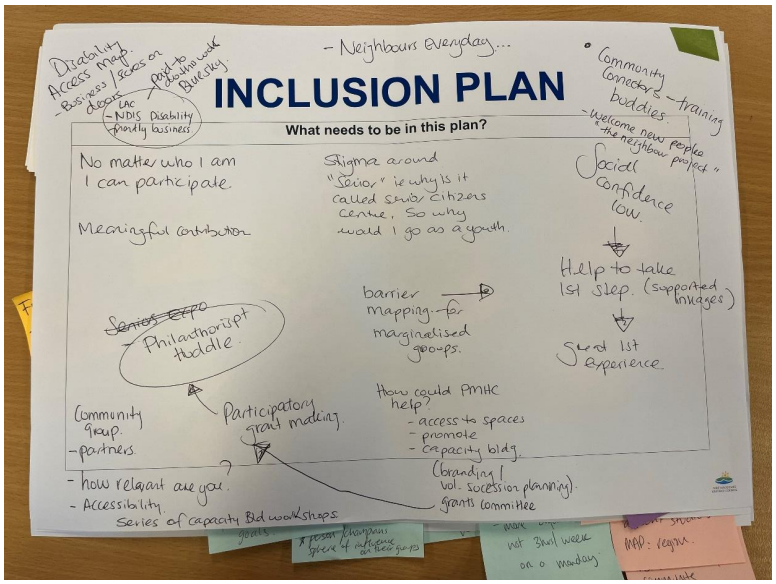


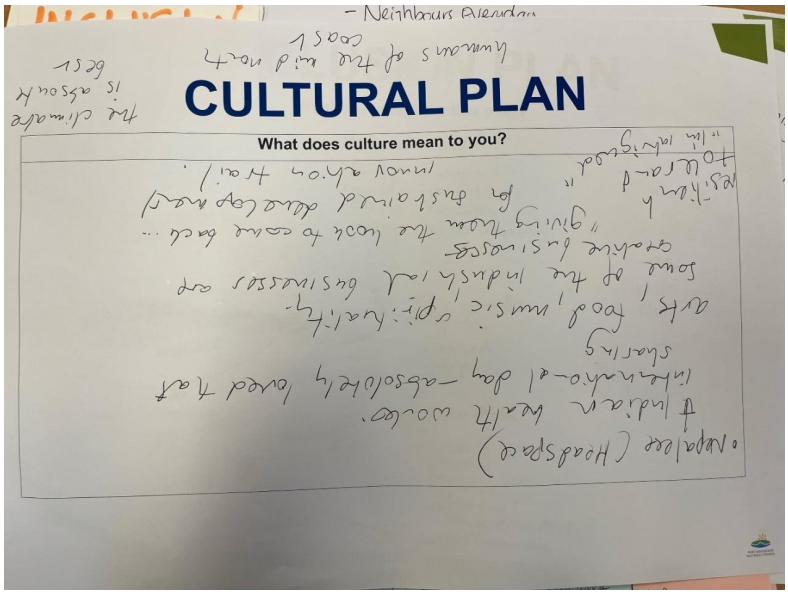


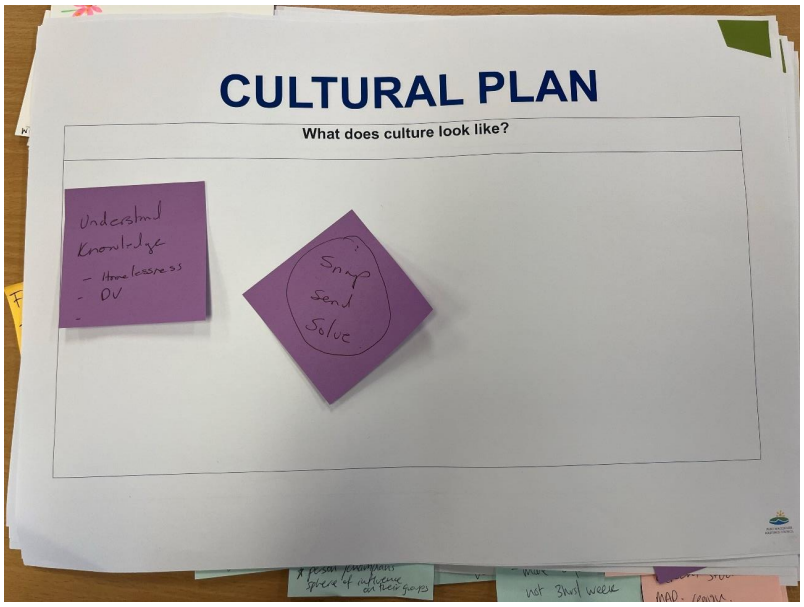

ACTIVATION PLAN
What needs to be in this plan?
PLAN
Welcome experience
How can I help?
Short Em
Seniors week
Many channels
Video's of people
council website updates
Methodology to implement / get activities done


INCLUSION PLAN
What does inclusion look like?
How do I acknowlege this experience I've had. Who do I feed back to for action/change.
- community reporting.
- promo. snap/send/solve.
- Education for community on how to use Snap/Send/solve
Community education on what inclusion means - stories/case studies good + bad.
Better info on what's on
Comm. Grants officer buddy
Resident Storytelling. Show the way. short videos.
Real people Saying real things!
Apps Snap, Send & Solve


INCLUSION PLAN
What does inclusion mean to you?
Transport for seniors.
Community BBQ to welcome people.
Progress Association
Fell a part of whats going on.
Welcoming social groups
Free/dis. fitness programs
Community managed facilities need support
What's on place - central portal.
Community halls - doors open things on.
Accessibility - information
Mens Shed.
New arrived new senior - buddy for social connection


INCLUSION PLAN
What needs to be in this plan?
- Neighbours Everyday...
Disability Access map.
- Business / Series on doors
- NDIS Disability friendly business
Community Connectors - training buddies.
- Welcome new people "the neighbour project"
No matter who I am I can participate.
Meaningful contribution
Stigma around "Senior" ie why is it called senior citizens centre, so why would I go as a youth.
Social confidence low.
Help to take 1st step. (supported linkages)
Great 1st experience.
barrier mapping - for marginalised groups.
Philanthorispt Huddle.
Participatory grant making.
How could PMHC help?
- access to spaces
- promote
- capacity bldg.
Community Group.
- partners.
- how relevant are you?
- Accessibility.
Series of capacity Bld workshops
(branding / vol. sucession planning).
grants committee


CULTURAL PLAN
What does culture mean to you?


CULTURAL PLAN
What does culture look like?
Understand
Knowledge
- Homelessness
- DV

Appendix D - Seniors Cruise

Response 1	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Loneliness,Connectedness,Respect for older people,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Healthy ageing
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Disagree
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Unsure
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Community morning tea,Storytelling and sharing events
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	

	Want to share anything else?	
Response 2	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Loneliness,Connectedness,Respect for older people,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Neutral
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Arts, crafts, and creative workshops
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Unsure
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Storytelling and sharing sessions
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	A few times a year

	Want to share anything else?	
Response 3	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Health and financial decisions,Future housing choices,Independence and mobility,Connectedness,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Exercise and fitness classes,Cooking and nutrition classes,NSW Seniors Festival events,Leisure centre activities
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth,Other: Library Newsletter. Didn't know PMHC has a Facebook page. Heard about this event through the PMQ Ladies Club.
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Organised events,Funding for community projects
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More venues,Public events,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Visiting art galleries or museums,Taking lessons or creative workshops,Creating art at home (painting, crafting, music, etc)

	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Daily
	Want to share anything else?	Lived in Port Macquarie for 5 years. Would like to see seniors eating healthy so cooking and nutrition classes are needed. Didn't know that PMHC has a Facebook page. Love the library. "Everything you are looking for is at the Library"
Response 4	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Connectedness,Respect for older people
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Disagree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Volunteering and community groups,Exercise and fitness classes,Healthy ageing programs,NSW Seniors Festival events,Leisure centre activities
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Other: I volunteer for Laurieton Museum
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Unsure
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth,Other: Didn't know about PMHC Facebook page. However the Seniors Festival event was shared with my via Facebook through a friend.
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Organised events,Community morning teas,Funding for community projects,Other: Increased funding for volunteers is needed.
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Historic buildings restored and open to the public,Public events

	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Weekly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 5	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Connectedness,Respect for older people
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Disagree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Exercise and fitness classes,Healthy ageing programs,NSW Seniors Festival events,Leisure centre activities,Other: Riding for the disabled. I volunteer there and this keeps me active and connected.
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Other: I volunteer for Riding for the Disabled.
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth,Other: Didn't know PMHC had a Facebook page.
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Organised events,Community morning teas,Funding for community projects,Collaboration and communication

	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Historic buildings restored and open to the public,Public events,Healthy activities,Other: More support and advertising for volunteer pursuits
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Visiting art galleries or museums
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Weekly
	Want to share anything else?	Better communication about what is on. I don't use the library services now but I plan to in the future.
Response 6	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Loneliness,Health care,Respect for older people
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Volunteering and community groups,Exercise and fitness classes,Other: Would be great to see more library events delivered in an online way
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Other: Agree volunteering is easy. One of the group interviewed volunteers for the PMQ Hospital Pink Ladies.
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Social media (ie. Facebook, etc)
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and	Organised events,Other: Would like to see more nature based activities. Walking and hiking groups

	community connection?	
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Healthy activities,Other: More activities and events in open spaces ie. nature based activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Visiting art galleries or museums,Other: Dont participate in creative workshops now but want to in the future. Please provide these events.
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Every two weeks
	Want to share anything else?	Keep supporting markets and delivering the Christmas Fair event. It would be good to see Council work more with Clubs ie. bowling, Panthers because that's where we meet up. Perhaps partnership programs at or near the Club. Morning teas in the Club and then excercise and other social events in the adjoining parks.
Response 7	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Cost of living,Health care,Respect for older people,Transport
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Free health checks,NSW Seniors Festival events
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Unsure

	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Online,Print news
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Organised events,Funding for community projects
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Shared creative spaces,Free open air entertainment,Public events
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Visiting art galleries or museums
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Every 2-3 months
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 8	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Health care,Support services at home,Personal safety
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Neutral
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Volunteering and community groups,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Exercise and fitness classes
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Unsure

	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth,From a relative or carer,Local news
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Spaces for creative workshops and pursuits,Organised events,Community morning teas,Collaboration and communication
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Free open air entertainment,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Visiting art galleries or museums,Taking lessons or creative workshops,Creating art at home (painting, crafting, music, etc)
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Monthly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 9	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Health care,Independence and mobility,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Neutral
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Healthy ageing programs
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities

	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Unsure
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth,Television or radio,From a relative or carer,Posters or brochures,Local news,Social media (ie. Facebook, etc)
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	I do not engage with the arts
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	A few times a year
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 10	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Employment,Cost of living,Health care,Independence and mobility,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Cooking and nutrition classes,Free health checks
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities

	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Newsletter with Council rates notice
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Organised events,Funding for community projects
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Public art,Shared creative spaces,Free open air entertainment,Public events,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Weekly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 11	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Health and financial decisions,Independence and mobility,Support services at home,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Volunteering and community groups,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Exercise and fitness classes,Free health checks,NSW Seniors Festival events
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities

	volunteering opportunities?	
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Social media (ie. Facebook, etc),Other: Contacted the TIC
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Spaces for creative workshops and pursuits,Venues for community activities,Organised events,Funding for community projects,Collaboration and communication
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Aboriginal culture,Free open air entertainment,Public events,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Taking lessons or creative workshops,Creating art at home (painting, crafting, music, etc),Photography, film, or digital media
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Every 2-3 months
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 12	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Health care,Independence and mobility
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree

	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Volunteering and community groups,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,NSW Seniors Festival events
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Online,Social media (ie. Facebook, etc)
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Funding for community projects
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More venues,Free open air entertainment
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Every two weeks
	Want to share anything else?	Fabienne loved the Gingerbread and other library events
Response 13	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Health and financial decisions,Health care,Transport,Other: Council putting charges on voluntary local sporting bodies/fields that our taxes already pay for

	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Disagree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Volunteering and community groups,Exercise and fitness classes,Other: Seniors offers - like the cruise
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Other: if i couldn't drive i wouldn't be able to volunteer
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Online,Word of mouth,Social media (ie. Facebook, etc)
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Organised events,Community morning teas,Storytelling and sharing sessions
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Free open air entertainment,Public events
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Every 2-3 months
	Want to share anything else?	

Response 14	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Health and financial decisions,Independence and mobility,Support services at home,Nutrition and excercise,Other: Cost of participating in organised sport with the proposed pass of costs to sporting bodies
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Volunteering and community groups,Exercise and fitness classes,Other: Still involved in sport as an administrator
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Online,Television or radio,Email
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Organised events,Funding for community projects,Other: Keeping sporting costs down to maximise participation
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Public events,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or	Weekly

	cultural activities?	
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 15	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Transport,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Exercise and fitness classes,Healthy ageing programs,Cooking and nutrition classes,Free health checks,Leisure centre activities
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Other: I would like to see the council provide cooking classes. In season,simple recipes and affordable meals to encourage more in the community to cook healthy and affordable meals and enjoy the company of likeminded people.
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth,Social media (ie. Facebook, etc),Other: We were not aware that Council had a facebook page for community activites and events however we will access via facebook from now on.
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Spaces for creative workshops and pursuits,Venues for community activities,Organised events,Community morning teas,Funding for community projects
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More venues

	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Creating art at home (painting, crafting, music, etc),Photography, film, or digital media
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Rarely or never
	Want to share anything else?	Do not participate often but love the library activities
Response 16	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Employment,Cost of living,Future housing choices,Independence and mobility
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Volunteering and community groups,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Exercise and fitness classes,Healthy ageing programs,Cooking and nutrition classes,Free health checks,NSW Seniors Festival events,Leisure centre activities
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Newsletter with Council rates notice,Word of mouth,Television or radio,Email,Posters or brochures,Local news
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree

	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Spaces for creative workshops and pursuits,Venues for community activities,Organised events,Community morning teas,Storytelling and sharing sessions,Funding for community projects,Collaboration and communication
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More venues,More activities at Community Centres,Historic buildings restored and open to the public,Public art,Aboriginal culture,Shared creative spaces,Free open air entertainment,Public events,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Visiting art galleries or museums,Creating art at home (painting, crafting, music, etc)
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Monthly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 17	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Health and financial decisions,Health care,Support services at home,Transport
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Exercise and fitness classes,Healthy ageing programs,Free health checks
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes

	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Print news
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Spaces for creative workshops and pursuits,Organised events
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Public events,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Visiting art galleries or museums,Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Monthly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 18	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Health care,Support services at home,Respect for older people
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Exercise and fitness classes,Leisure centre activities
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are	Unsure

	accessible in our region?	
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Online
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Spaces for creative workshops and pursuits
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Weekly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 19	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Loneliness,Health care,Support services at home,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Exercise and fitness classes,Free health checks
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are	No

	accessible in our region?	
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Local news
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Organised events,Community morning teas
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Historic buildings restored and open to the public,Free open air entertainment,Public events
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Visiting art galleries or museums,Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Every 2-3 months
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 20	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Future housing choices,Support services at home,Transport
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Neutral
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Healthy ageing programs,NSW Seniors Festival events
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are	Other: Most activities are only available if you drive, more public transport

	accessible in our region?	
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Online,Other: Alot of older people do not have access to online services - This needs to be addressed
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Collaboration and communication
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Public art,Shared creative spaces,Free open air entertainment,Public events
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Taking lessons or creative workshops,Creating art at home (painting, crafting, music, etc),Photography, film, or digital media
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Monthly
	Want to share anything else?	Could pamphlets be printed and distributed to better advertisements
Response 21	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Employment,Support services at home,Transport,Personal safety
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Neutral
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Volunteering and community groups,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Exercise and fitness classes,Healthy ageing programs,Cooking and nutrition classes,Free health checks,NSW Seniors Festival events,Leisure centre activities,Other: Yoga

	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	No
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth,Posters or brochures
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Organised events,Community morning teas,Collaboration and communication
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Historic buildings restored and open to the public,Public art,Free open air entertainment,Public events,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Visiting art galleries or museums
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Weekly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 22	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Cost of living,Health care,Transport,Personal safety
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	NSW Seniors Festival events

	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	No
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Spaces for creative workshops and pursuits,Community morning teas
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Public art
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	I do not engage with the arts
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Monthly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 23	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Loneliness,Connectedness,Respect for older people,Other: Roads
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Neutral
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Free health checks,NSW Seniors Festival events

	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	No
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Newsletter with Council rates notice,Other: Rates only 4 times per year, little other advertisement
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Other: Roads
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Other: Roads
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	I do not engage with the arts
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Rarely or never
	Want to share anything else?	Accidentally searched seniors week
Response 24	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Loneliness,Health care,Independence and mobility
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Volunteering and community groups,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Exercise and fitness classes,Healthy ageing programs,Cooking and nutrition classes,Free health checks,NSW Seniors Festival events,Leisure centre activities

	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Online,Word of mouth,Email,From a relative or carer,Posters or brochures,Social media (ie. Facebook, etc)
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	I do not engage with the arts
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Rarely or never
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 25	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Health and financial decisions,Future housing choices,Health care,Independence and mobility,Support services at home
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Healthy ageing programs

	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Unsure
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Newsletter with Council rates notice,Posters or brochures
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Community morning teas,Funding for community projects
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Other: Free Training re using the internet
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	I do not engage with the arts
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Rarely or never
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 26	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Future housing choices,Loneliness,Health care,Independence and mobility,Support services at home
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Volunteering and community groups,Free health checks

	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Newsletter with Council rates notice,Social media (ie. Facebook, etc)
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Organised events
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Historic buildings restored and open to the public
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	I do not engage with the arts
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Rarely or never
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 27	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Employment,Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Other: none
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Volunteering and community groups,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Exercise and fitness classes

	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Newsletter with Council rates notice,Email
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Community morning teas,Other: church
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Free open air entertainment,Other: more seniors parking
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Creating art at home (painting, crafting, music, etc),Other: Other activities are too expensive
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Rarely or never
	Want to share anything else?	

Appendix E - Youth Survey

Response 1	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 5 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Snapchat
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	A group of young people, equal distribution of male and female, age variations (e.g we aren't all the same age) casual meetings, easy to attend, lead by a council person
Response 2	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Uni/TAFE student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 3 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	Youth advisory groups or committees,In-person workshops and forums
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces

	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: Sometimes its hard to know where to start or who to go to for things to change
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Youth lead Young ish leader Fun activities and group events to keep the group engaged and to create friendships Structured meetings Ideas and events created and run by youth and mentored by council Meetings in line with youth members passions
Response 3	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Other: mentor
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 4	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,In-person workshops and forums
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	The youth group should be an open and welcome group of youth with diverse backgrounds, experiences and opinions. I think it is equally as important to involve younger youth and the older youth as this is where the opinions will differ significantly.
Response 5	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,In-person workshops and forums

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	I'd create a group that's supportive but also fun ! Do events that include sports, job interests & also weekend night activities (like a disco so we have things to do to meet more teens)
Response 6	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Not currently studying or working
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook,TikTok

	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,In-person workshops and forums
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 7	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 4

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,In-person workshops and forums
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	I think what was in place previously was an okay place to start, but more structure/clarity needs to be provided (like what are we focussing on in terms of events, timelines for tasks, specific tasks to complete etc.) so that things can actually be accomplished/change.

Response 8	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 9	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 1
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	idk
Response 10	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Not currently studying or working

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Other: not yet
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 1
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 11	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 1 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	try and get representatives from the schools in the region and others are welcome too

Response 12	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Other: After school and on weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: I feel if you were to talk to the youth and get there thoughts and opinions you wouldn't take it on board with your final decision
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	I would create a group which would get all side of peoples input and what they would like to see in the community. I also would go around a find young people in our community that would like to see change in our community and how we can make it better. I would then take aLl this information and try make this happen in our community so there is more trust between council and youth.
Response 13	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 14	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	I think it should contain a diverse group if individuals with differing opinions and beliefs and everyone is willing to listen to others opinions and experiences
Response 15	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Representatives from different schools/sports that discuss among themselves (no adults) about issues that affect the community. Then when they get their opinion on everything they get to participate in council decisions, putting forward their own opinions, research etc.
Response 16	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Snapchat,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 17	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 5 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 18	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	Other: Social

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 5 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 1 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 19	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Uni/TAFE student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Snapchat,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,In-person workshops and forums

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 1
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 20	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More funding for youth projects & spaces,Other: More music events
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Meet to surf or skate once a month. Or a youth group that plans creative events - music or festivals
Response 21	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 5 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 1
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Fun, engaging and relevant to young individuals
Response 22	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 5 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 1
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 23	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	A group filled with a range of diverse youth who care about current topics
Response 24	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,TikTok

	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 25	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 3 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 1 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 26	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 3 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 1 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage,Other: .
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	?
Response 27	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 3

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 1 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 28	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 3 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 29	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Snapchat,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 30	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 31	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 5 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 32	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 4 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Other: none- social media is for ENTERTAINMENT
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,Other: Not have rankings for what is the most important - so anoyyyying.
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Ha, ha
Response 33	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 3 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 34	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Uni/TAFE student,Working full-time/part-time

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 3 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Other: Bluesky
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	

Response 35	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Uni/TAFE student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 5 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 1 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 36	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Uni/TAFE student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: Lack of knowledge of events
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 37	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Snapchat,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Other: Through my mother
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: Young people aren't motivated enough to get involved

	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	It should be a diverse group in terms of age, race, schools and interests.
Response 38	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Uni/TAFE student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions

	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: Living outside the Port Macquarie area. I only knew about this because a friend sent me the survey. I try to be involved in my local community by volunteering at the community garden (I'm the only youth, though I don't mind). Youth in the area tend to want to leave especially with hyper-individualism increasing, there isn't much sense of community.
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 39	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	I'm not sure
Response 40	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 1 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 41	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 5 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Have a variety of teenagers with different backgrounds and personality i.e LGBTQIA+ members And have more youth organised events
Response 42	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)

	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 3 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 43	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Uni/TAFE student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 3 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 44	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Every three months

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	fun, not just a ton of young people that want to "change" , make it a fun group of people that aren't afraid to be themselves in front of large groups of people to show the youth that's its ok to be you and that are encouraging cause that's what young people look for in a youth group
Response 45	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Other: Weekend afternoon
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 1 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	A meeting each place where we each have to or have an allotted time to voice our opinions in a safe space. Also maybe using messages (texting what ever it's called) would be a good way to contact us and express ideas to young people.
Response 46	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 47	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Snapchat,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 48	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram
4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months,Twice a year
7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More funding for youth projects & spaces
10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: No active outreach or involvement
11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Informs the youth on initiatives taking place around the town, allowing them to give their opinion on these initiatives, whether dissaproval or approval. Then they would see council having active interaction with these points, addressing them, disproving them or agreeing with them. The group would have an oppurtunity to discuss these ideas and would have representation from different walkways (public schools, private schools, regional, rural, different religion, races etc) allowing for a deeper understanding of different worldviews and gaining a deeper insight into town issues. The group could be used to find effective ways of youth outreach within the town as they know what is effective on our age group. Ideas for these outreach culd come from the group instead of the older generation (e.g don't need to be lectured on dangers of phone usage but educated on effective phone usage)
Response 49	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 4 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 1
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 1 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Youth in focus. a space where we can go and socialise, exercise and have the space to be themselves. A youth group should have the space to support each other if they need it. Have younger people run it, being social and being more as a friends then leaders, but a leader and a counselor when its needed most. Not everyone will want to socialise and be active, but still want to be there. Have a space or a time just to slow down and relax. A little music and food (as bribery) has never hurt anyone, just be careful people aren't there just for the snacks. A youth I went to would get hot chips as dinner, that could be an option, but I'm sure pizza would also work.
Response 50	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 51	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 3 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces,Other: things to do for young teenagers
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 52	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 4 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Friendly and a way for our voices to be heard
Response 53	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 3 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	im not really sure
Response 54	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Facebook,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	i have no clue
Response 55	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach),Other: cafe
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	use discord, make a server, let people join, and for gamers make minecraft, where young people can plan stuff for the town :)
Response 56	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 4 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)

	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 57	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)

	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 58	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Snapchat,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)

	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Not another youth council that restricts other kids being able to have a say. Make it open and fun. Led by youth - not council people - unless they are under 18 they don't get it. what about a youth creators hub where kids can have a space to do stuff and express themselves with music, art and other things. also it needs to represent the young lgbtq community
Response 59	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 5 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 1
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 60	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 3 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 61	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 1 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Diverse
Response 62	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 5 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 2

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months,Once a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 3 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 1 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 63	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	I think it should be a formally recognised group (that can be informal and a bit relaxed when meeting) that has the ability to make meaningful changes by youth for youth.
Response 64	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Working full-time/part-time

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,In-person workshops and forums
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Other: Whenever
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: I think young people just don't know where to start with getting involved.
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	A dynamic group of passionate young people from our town who have the interest, insight, and drive to enhance the quality of life for youth in Port Macquarie.
Response 65	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest

	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 66	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest

	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 67	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 5 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 3 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage

	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 68	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 1 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 1 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces

	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 69	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 2 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces

	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Youth groups for different ages, so younger students not intimidated by older students. Youth groups in schools (with your own school) so students are more likely to participate if it's with their own school and peers!
Response 70	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 3 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 1 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 5 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 1 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6

	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 71	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 5 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 1
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 1 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2

	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 72	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 5 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3

	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Maybe a fortnightly meeting
Response 73	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 4 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6

	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 74	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 5 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 3 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6

	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 75	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 3 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5

	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	A group of people who meet up an agreed time who are passionate and know what they wanna do.
Response 76	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Other: In the process of working partime
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 4 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,In-person workshops and forums
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6

	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: Not feeling safe and comfortable plus always being put down, not listend to or plain ignored when we speak our opinion.
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Diversity is a big thing.
Response 77	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 3 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 3 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	There isn't many funded Christian groups and there isn't any hobby groups for young adults like car groups or legal meetups.
Response 78	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	get a wide variety of youth with different lifestyles and living circumstances (queer, indigenous, disabled, mental and physical health issues, low socioeconomic and high)
Response 79	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 3 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	It should be a safe environment were everyone feels comfortable
Response 80	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees

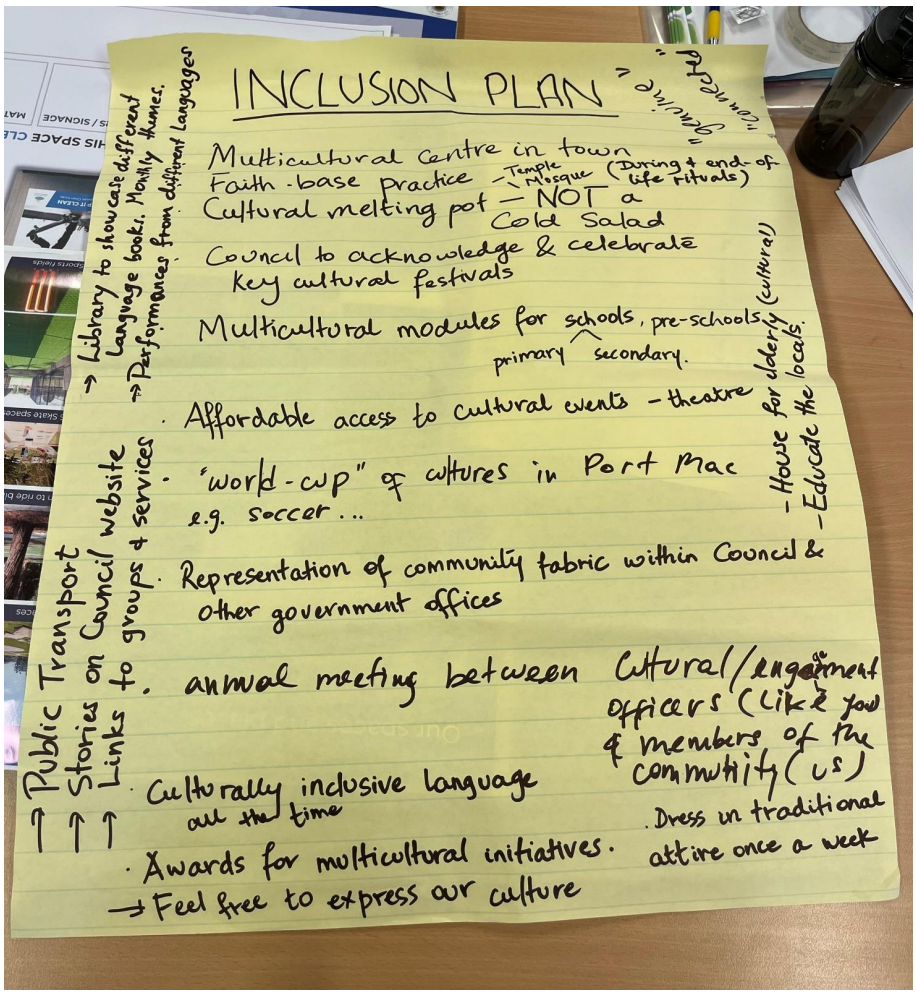
5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 3 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!

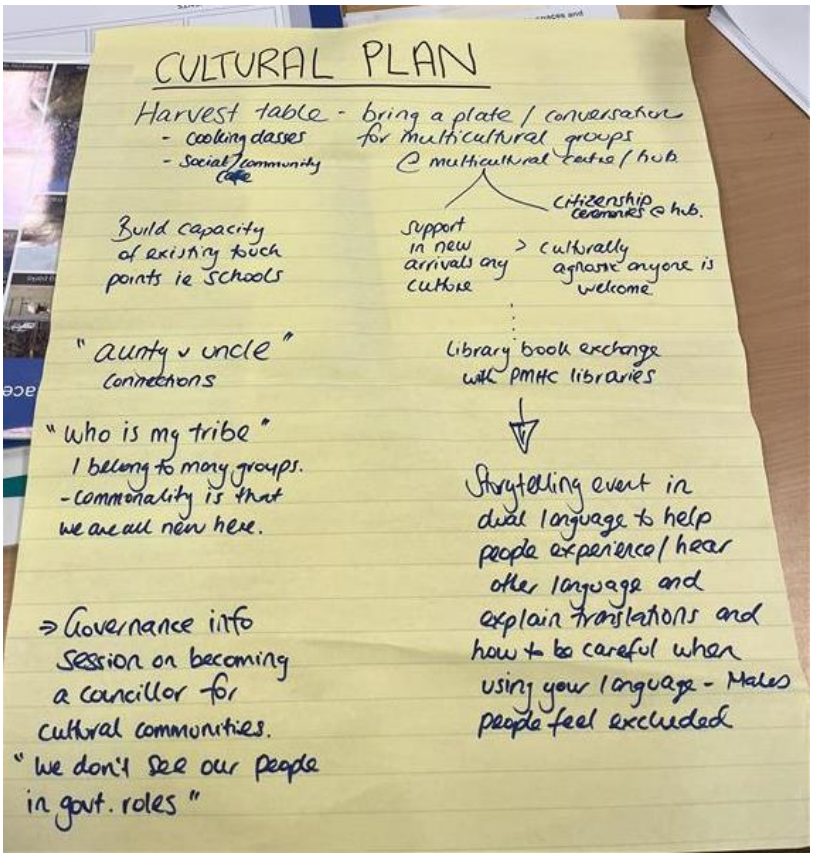
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	I would absolutely love to create a youth group to further enhance the live music scene (especially with youth bands, youth crowds, and get teenagers to go out and enjoy live music) by hosting events with live music, discovering youth talent so the town can acknowledge and congratulate them and support the talent within the town! As a budding musician around Port Macquarie, I have found that there isn't enough live music in Port Macquarie and it is very hard to access if there is as usually all great bands play at Finnian's which is 18+, limiting youth access.
Response 81	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Other: Athlete
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends

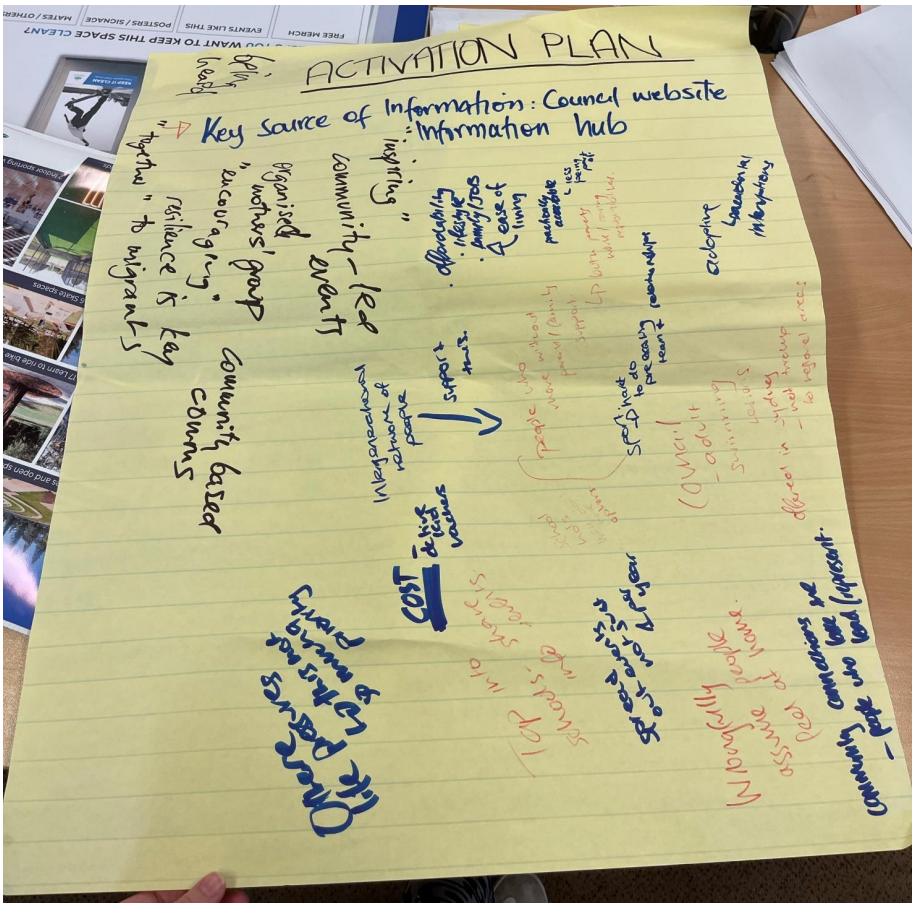
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,Other: Asking young people (teens) what they'd realistically like to have/see.
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: I picked other because I want to say multiple of them. I dont really know what council does, it usually is boring and too formal, and to be honest i'm not sure if anything ever changes or not.
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Maybe a group of young people who have different ideas but, as a whole, represent the wants and needs of all young people. Their ideas should be heard and considered just as important as anybody else. If you want the world to evolve in the right ways, which it very much needs to do, you should probably be taking ideas from the people who are evolving with it. You shouldn't have to mold a generation around the outdated versions of society, you should evolve society to fit the modern generation. Don't turn a cold shoulder to ideas that are new and different from the current, because a lot of the time those ideas are what society needs to evolve in the right way. Let us create our own future.

Appendix F - Multicultural Forum




CULTURAL PLAN
Harvest table - bring a plate / conversation
- cooking classes
- Social / community
for multicultural groups
@ multicultural centre / hub.
citizenship ceremonies @ hub.
Build capacity of existing touch points ie schools
support in new arrivals any culture
> culturally agnostic anyone is welcome
"aunty v uncle" connections
Library book exchange with PMHC libraries
"who is my tribe"
I belong to many groups.
- commonality is that we are all new here.
Storytelling event in dual language to help people experience / hear other language and explain translations and how to be careful when using your language - Makes people feel excluded
=> Governance info session on becoming a councillor for cultural communities.
"we don't see our people in govt. roles"


ACTIVATION PLAN
Key source of information: Council website
"information hub
"inspiring"
community-led events
Organised "mothers' group
"encouraging"
resilience is key
"together" to migrants
community based comms
Affordability
ease of living
Cost
Ethnic leaders
Appendix G - Creative Sparks

YOUTH ENGAGEMNET SURVEY

Laurieton session_ 15th April 2025

Aged between 13- 21

1. **What makes you feel part of your community?**

Connecting with people
Events like this
Having similar interests as other people
Family and friends
Communal spaces (Parks and Beaches)
Helping each other
Local cafes
Op-shops
Community Gardens

2. **Tell us about activities you enjoy**

Drawing, painting, collaging
Reading, photography, sleeping
Makeup
Visiting museums and galleries
Making clothes
Reading
Art all day, every day
Craft
Buying books, not using the library

3. **How do you think we can make our spaces and places more inviting for young people**

Put on youth focused events
Free/ low-cost hangout spaces
Need more spaces to hang out
More seating in town
Theme Parks

4. **Do you think our region has a welcoming atmosphere for young people?**

There are a lot of old people
When something is done for youth, they overdo it and it becomes cringy
Not really
It feels welcoming for 0-7 and 25+, not young adults and teens
Needs more places for lower income youth
Sport is covered but art and Music= nope
Alot more to do in Port, Laurieton feels left out

Headspace+ workshops is a small win
Want more likeminded activities to meet and hang

5. Wellbeing - what does it mean to feel heard and included?

Not to be shouted over
Treat youth as equals
We need things to be affordable
Not having Peta Pinson say “You're not valid”
People listening + taking on your thoughts
Transparency
A feeling of knowing your feedback goes somewhere
Seeing an effort put into sharing topics through relevant platforms I.G Ticktock, Posters in nore youth spaces

6. Let’s talk about how creative pursuits help improve or support your mental health

Being able to express yourself
A way to get away from reality
Escapism
Expressing feelings through art
Productivity in a fun way
Peaceful + in control
Self-expression
A nice escape/ relief from school and everyday
Being patient and putting in the work feels rewarding
Money
Connection with peers over shared loves

7. What makes it hard for young people to study or find work locally?

Unrealistic expectations
No entry level jobs besides Hospo
You are lucky if your course in available and then you still must leave if you wanted to enter the industry (Marine Biology, Interior design)
Opportunities are not there
Tafe does not offer the right courses for creatives

8. Do you think young people feel lonely? What could bring them together?

If you are not into sport, it can be quite isolating
More facilities to bring arty kids together – Free/ affordable
BYO supplies to workshops stops some people being able to join
Competitive sports are harmful to kids who are more into creative outlets
YES, Groups can be clicky
No after school activities where you can make friends
More activities, Music/ spray paint wall
More understanding from older people

9. What do you love about the Port Macquarie region - what makes you stay?

Beautiful landscapes

Friendly people
Cleaner
Peaceful
Kylies' art store- supporting local.
Money- lack of
Parents
Beach
Friends
Community

YOUTH ENGAGEMNET SURVEY

Wauchope session_ 17th April 2025

Aged between 13-15

10. What makes you feel part of your community?

Band
Being part of a group
Gigs- Builds connections with all ages
Music- e.g. Drum line

11. Tell us about activities you enjoy

Graffiti
Digital art
Stage shows
Surfing
Skating
Pickle Ball
Tennis

12. How do you think we can make our spaces and places more inviting for young people

Graffiti walls that can be used for youth with a mentor teaching them how to do it. Could be replaced every three months.
More advertisements, the right way, for youth programs.
The Skate Parks are scary- make them more accessible for everyone.

13. Do you think our region has a welcoming atmosphere for young people?

NO-
There is alot of agism
Miss the teenage/ young adult in activities
Feel unsafe in some places- Skate Park

14. Wellbeing - what does it mean to feel heard and included?

Accomplishment
Ideas are actioned
Respect for youth and their thoughts

15. Let's talk about how creative pursuits help improve or support your mental health

Group of likeminded people to chat to
It distracts you from your problems
Stops you from being bored

16. What makes it hard for young people to study or find work locally?

Youth get less pay and less hours
Less options for work- Lots of Hospo jobs
Need qualifications for jobs but are too young to get them
People don't hire young people
Not many creative options for further study

17. Do you think young people feel lonely? What could bring them together?

YES-
Graffiti Street art project- Ongoing
Create safe spaces for youth to gather
Parents worry about Wauchope from a safety perspective

18. What do you love about the Port Macquarie region - what makes you stay?

Not old enough to leave
Beaches
Good 4 x4 tracks
Sports
Family

YOUTH ENGAGEMNET SURVEY

Port Macquarie session_ 10th April 2025

Aged between 14- 22

1. What makes you feel part of your community?

School Cohorts
People who care
Events
People with mutual interests
Community Events

Feeling respected
Being able to relate
Knowing people of a similar age
Events that include creative youth
More accessible events
Come from youth for youth

2. **Tell us about activities you enjoy**

Drama and Music
Hanging out with friends- Port Central
Art
Dance Drama
Gaming
Writing
Mushroom farmimg
Jewellery Making
Nippers
Lego
Telling Stories

3. **How do you think we can make our spaces and places more inviting for young people**

Youth led
Have groups that can organize events
More input from younger people
Events [places outside of uni
Safer public spaces- E.g. skate park feels unsafe
Social media spaces for advertising events
More community events in public spaces like parks
Offer free stuff
Ask parents
Not everyone is on social media
Outdoor events
Know what it's about
We need more information

4. **Do you think our region has a welcoming atmosphere for young people?**

Council don't do enough
Getting support for youth led projects – Grants
Not enough activities
Things can be too expensive
Safety is a concern for youth
Understanding each subgroup and how they interact

5. **Wellbeing - what does it mean to feel heard and included?**

Valued
Included in ideas
Seeing changes from your suggestions
Not being ignored
Opportunity to speak up

Sometimes feels like we ate just ticking a box

6. Let's talk about how creative pursuits help improve or support your mental health

Having something to do creatively makes for a positive outlook
Outlet for emotions and thoughts
Safe space to communicate
Relaxes you
Better health
Feel supported by peers in dance groups
Likeminded people help support you.

7. What makes it hard for young people to study or find work locally?

Businesses have too a high standard and expect young people to enter jobs with experience even though it is an entry level role.
Unrealistsic expectations
Need more business skills in school
Not enough development of skills with industry professionals
Cost
Older demographic
Location

8. Do you think young people feel lonely? What could bring them together?

YES- Teen oriented events
Community drawing groups
Communities either don't exist or are not being advertised
Posters
No more skate parks please
Not alone but still lonely
Creating opportunities for everyone
People who are different
Artists
Skaters
Scientists
Musicians
Smart People
Sporting People
Lack of community groups that are not sport
Artistic/ Creative collaborations
Being inspired creatively. Bringing people together

9. What do you love about the Port Macquarie region - what makes you stay?

Family and friends
Community groups
Beaches
Environment
Location- Between two major cities
Not too busy
Inspirations
Clean

Port Macquarie Hastings Council
BIRPAI COUNTRY

pmhc.nsw.gov.au
Email council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au
PO Box 84 Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Tel 02 6581 8111
Socials @pmhcouncil

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Community Engagement Policy

Document Control

Content Manager File No: SF14/1356

Action	Version	Completed by	Completion Date	Approved by	Approval Date	Review Date
Reviewed	V01	Nicole Kosseris	02/06/2025	Lucilla Marshall	DD/MM/YY	DD/MM/YY

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DRAFT

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Community Engagement Policy is to:

- Outline Council's commitment to the principles of engagement to inform Council decision making.
- Establish a framework for the design, planning and management of community engagement across the organisation.
- Embed community engagement as a core part of how Council does business.

2. Statement

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (PMHC) is committed to ensuring meaningful, informed and genuine community engagement contributes to Council decision making. Council will align its engagement with the international best practice, the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Core Values.

Engagement activities will reflect the social justice principles of access, equity, participation and rights as well as Councils adopted guiding principles. Council is committed to proactively engaging our community to inform decision making, where appropriate. We will ensure staff have the training and skills they need to plan, design and manage engagement and provide opportunities to build organisational capacity to embed engagement as a core part of how Council does business.

This policy acknowledges that effective community engagement results in strong, highly connected communities that understand and participate actively in a range of democratic processes.

3. Scope

The Policy applies to the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of formal community engagement activities delivered by Council.

Complying with the policy is the shared responsibility of all employees, councillors, volunteers and contractors as it pertains to all community engagement activities undertaken to inform Council decision making.

4. Principles

Our community engagement principles are aligned to our Community Engagement Strategy, they are our promise to the community on how, when, why and who we will engage, and supports Council as an organisation to apply a coordinated and consistent approach, keeping community at the centre of our decision making.

Council will be guided by the following principles for community engagement:

- We deliver relevant, timely and easy to understand information
- We are honest and transparent
- We are inclusive and encourage a diversity of voices to be heard
- We listen, value and respect community input and feedback
- We embrace innovation and encourage new ideas.

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

5. References and Related Documents

Internal documents

- Community Engagement Strategy 2025 - 2029
- Community Engagement Toolkit
- Communications Strategy
- Education Framework

External documents

- Local Government Act 1993
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000
- Internal Association for Public Participation

6. Definitions

Community: The people who live, work, visitor or use the services, facilities and public space and places of Port Macquarie Hastings Council.

Community Engagement: The process and structures through which Port Macquarie Hastings Council communicates information to the community and seek information, involvement and collaboration form the community with the primary aim of informing Council's decisions.

7. Responsible Officer

For more information on the Community Engagement Policy and its associated documents please contact the Liveable Communities Group Manager.

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Community Engagement Policy

Document Control

Content Manager File No: SF14/1356

Action	Version	Completed by	Completion Date	Approved by	Approval Date	Review Date
Reviewed	V01	Nicole Kosseris	02/06/2025	Lucilla Marshall		
Revised	V02	Nicole Kosseris	21/08/2025	Lucilla Marshall		

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2. Statement....2
3. Scope....2
4. Principles....2
5. References and Related Documents....3
6. Definitions....3
7. Responsible Officer....3

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Community Engagement Policy is to:

- Outline Council's commitment to the principles of engagement to inform Council decision making.
- Establish a framework for the design, planning and management of community engagement across the organisation.
- Embed community engagement as a core part of how Council does business.

2. Statement

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (PMHC) is committed to ensuring meaningful, informed and genuine community engagement contributes to Council decision making. Council will align its engagement with the international best practice, the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Core Values.

Engagement activities will reflect the social justice principles of access, equity, participation and rights as well as Councils adopted guiding principles. Council is committed to proactively engaging our community to inform decision making, where appropriate. We will ensure staff have the training and skills they need to plan, design and manage engagement and provide opportunities to build organisational capacity to embed engagement as a core part of how Council does business.

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- We listen, value and respect community input and feedback
- We embrace innovation and encourage new ideas.

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

5. References and Related Documents

Internal documents

- Community Engagement Strategy 2025 – 2029 to be adopted
- Community Engagement Toolkit currently under development
- Communications Strategy currently under development
- Education Framework currently under development

External documents

- Local Government Act 1993
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000
- New South Wales (NSW) Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines (2021)
- International Association for Public Participation

6. Definitions

Community: The people who live, work, visitor or use the services, facilities and public space and places of Port Macquarie Hastings Council.

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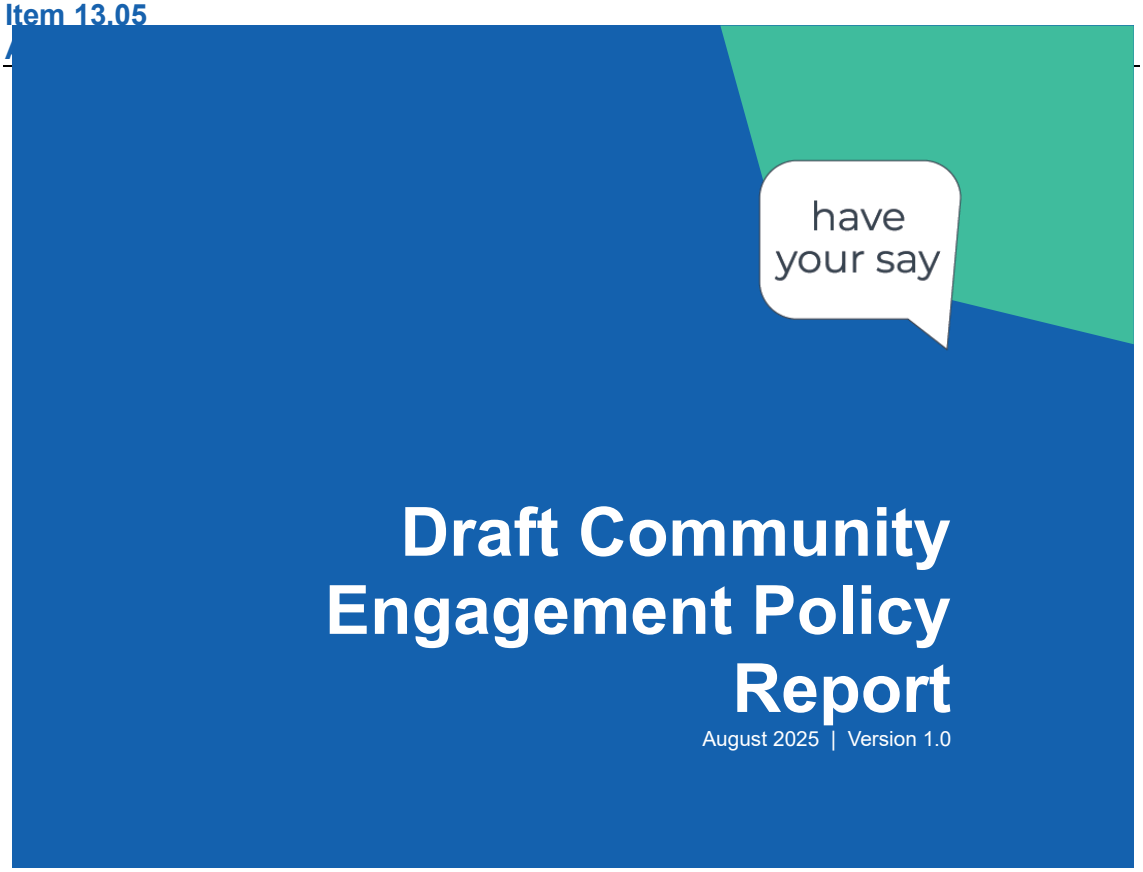


Draft Community Engagement Policy Report

August 2025 | Version 1.0

1 File ref

PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

Background

The current Community Engagement Policy, adopted in 2022 has guided Council's engagement approach to date. Council has now developed an overarching Community Engagement Strategy that aligns all relevant legislative requirements, including those under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework and the Environmental Planning and Assessment (EPA) Act. The Community Engagement Policy has been updated to ensure that it establishes Councils requirements and responsibilities regarding community engagement.

Engagement approach

The impact level of this project is considered **moderate**, which means the project is likely to be more controversial in nature than other projects. The level of engagement will range from **inform to consult.** Following the IAP2 matrix for public participation, at this level, the community is invited to contribute feedback, which will be considered by Council when finalising plans. Our commitment at this level of engagement is to listen to community concerns and aspirations and relay how feedback has influenced project outcomes.

. Our commitment across these levels of engagement is:

- To provide the community with balanced, objective information to assist them in understanding the draft Community Engagement Strategy
- To obtain feedback from the community with regards to options and decisions on the draft Community Engagement Strategy

We committed to:

- Keep the community informed
- Listen, acknowledge concerns and aspirations
- Provide information on how feedback has influenced the draft IP&R Community Engagement Strategy

The following range of engagement methods were employed to raise awareness of the project, share information, encourage discussion and collect feedback:

- Open public exhibition for 28 days we created a bulk HYS page called **"Have your Say on Community Engagement"** and asked people to comment on the Draft Community Engagement Strategy, **Draft Community Engagement Policy** and survey question on Committee effectiveness.
- Open invitation to submit feedback online, via email or to contact our Customer Service Team.
- Survey question on Committee effectiveness
- Localised Pop-up in Port Macquarie Shopping Centres, Laurieton Riverwalk Markets, Luminosity Youth Summit, Lake Cathie Community Centre
- Direct contact with interested Stakeholders via email
- Social media / EDM and local newsletters

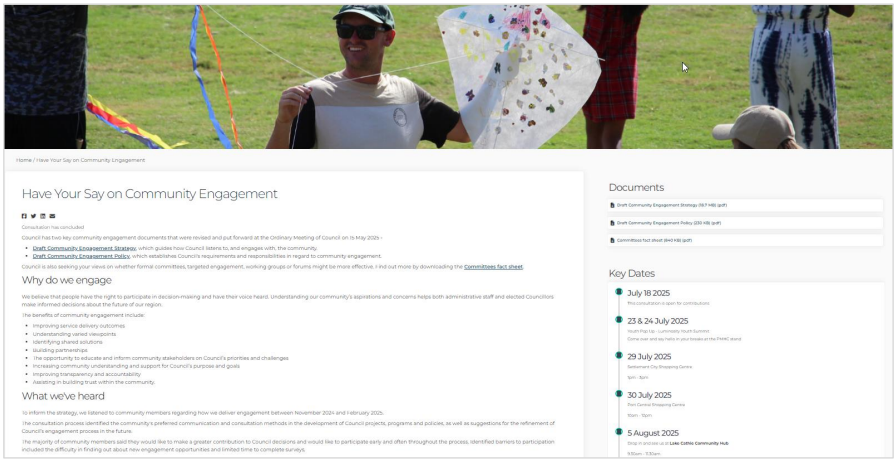
This approach aimed to provide community members with meaningful opportunities to share their views and to ensure their feedback was recorded to be considered in the decision-making process.

Draft Community Engagement Policy - Engagement Summary

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

have your say

Have Your Say (HYS)
The following graphics summarise the user activity for the exhibition period, with a total of 373 views of the Have your Say on Community Engagement information page on Have Your Say (HYS) and 191 downloads of the information provided by Council.



Home / Have Your Say on Community Engagement

Have Your Say on Community Engagement

Why do we engage

What we've heard

Documents

Key Dates

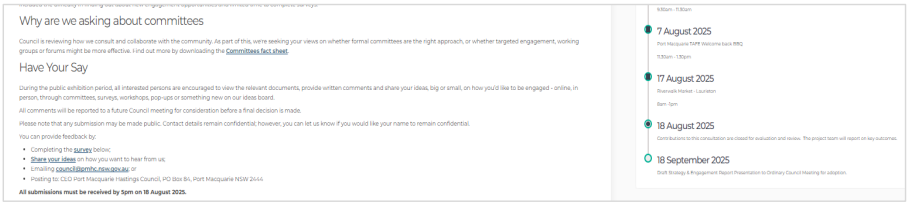
July 18 2025

23 & 24 July 2025

29 July 2025

30 July 2025

5 August 2025



Why are we asking about committees

Have Your Say

7 August 2025

17 August 2025

18 August 2025

18 September 2025

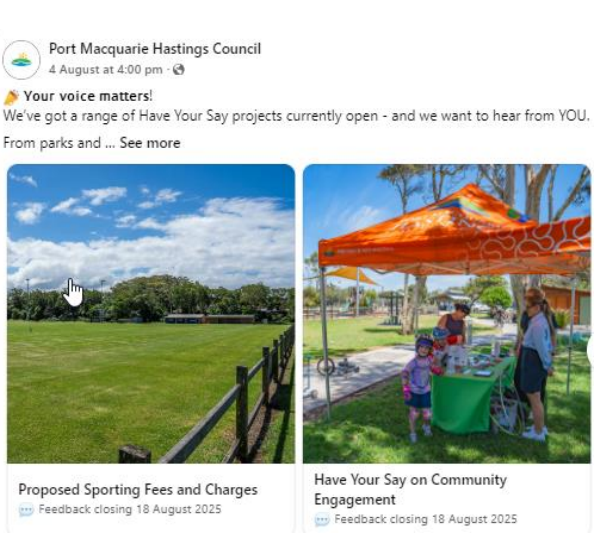




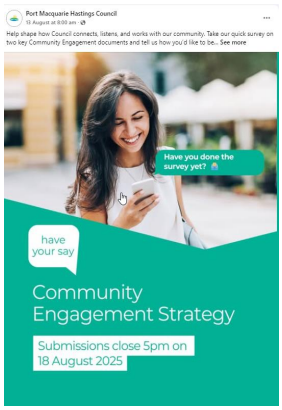
Social media engagements

The following graphics summarise the notifications made by Council using electronic and social media outlets.









PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Community Pop Up outcomes

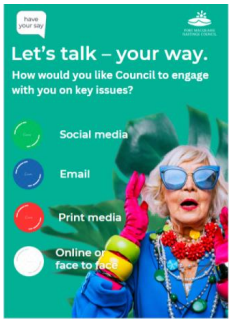
Luminosity Youth Summit Pop Up - 23rd & 24th July 2025



87 Youth attended the stand over two days, they were asked how they think PMHC should engage with young people and place a peg on the board to show their vote, below are the outcomes:

Social media - 35
Online Chat - 2
Events/Pop ups - 35
Text message blasts - 3
Decision making panels - 12

Shopping Centre Pop Ups - Settlement City & Port Central - 29th & 30th July 2025



19 Community members attended the stand over two days, they were asked how they think PMHC should engage with young people and place a peg token in the box to show their vote*, below are the outcomes:

Social media - 12
Email - 2
Print Media - 8
Online or face to face - 3
* some people voted multiple times

Lake Cathie Community Hub - 5th August 2025



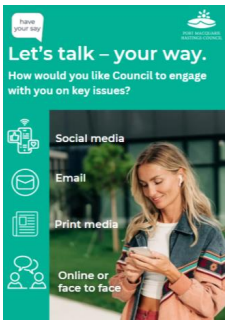
11 Community members attended the community hall to discuss engagement and another 12 from the knitting club provided feedback, some of the comments are below:

"print media is best for our age group"
"news of the area is great it is free and in most shops".
"facebook community groups work well to spread the message"
"newsletters to your mailbox would be great monthly"

Laurieton Riverwalk Markets - 17th August 2025

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Draft Community Engagement Policy - Engagement Summary



75 Community members attended the pop up at the markets, however very few were interested in discussing the community engagement strategy or policy we only had minimal votes on this day.

Social media - 6
Email - 0
Print Media - 5
Online or face to face - 5

RESULTS, SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

The following sets out a summary of the key engagement statistics from the consultation and is followed by analysis of the submissions received.



Public Exhibition
Analysis of the Have Your Say page for this project shows that there were 392 visits to the project page, 33 downloads of project information and 10 people who made an online submission. A summary of key statics on the public engagement is summarised in the table below, broken down to show the interest across the 3 documents.

Method of participation	Statistic
Visitors to project page (views)	392
New Registrations	6
Downloads of a project related document Draft Community Engagement Strategy Committee Fact Sheet **Draft Community Engagement Policy**	198 total 109 56 **33**
Completed survey (Submission)	**10**
Idea Board contributions	3
Emailed Submissions	1

Analysis of the submissions' key themes and sentiment are provided below.

Community feedback on the Draft Community Engagement Policy was largely positive, with many acknowledging it as an important step in strengthening Council's connection with the community. Respondents welcomed the recognition of families as a stakeholder group and encouraged Council to adopt structured, ongoing engagement processes that move beyond ad-hoc

consultation. There was strong support for broadening engagement in areas such as environment, biodiversity, climate change, and transport, with calls to draw more actively on local expertise and community groups.

Suggestions to strengthen the policy included improving communication channels, particularly through social media and approaches tailored to different age groups, as well as enhancing transparency and two-way communication. Overall, the feedback shows clear support for the direction of the Policy, with constructive recommendations to ensure it is implemented in a meaningful, consistent, and inclusive way.

NEXT STEPS

Council's Liveable Communities team will finalise the policy before reporting to the September Ordinary Council Meeting where the elected Councillors will consider it for adoption.

For information about Council meetings, agenda items, reports and minutes, please visit our webpage **www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/Council-meetings/Agendas-and-minutes**

DISCLAIMERS

Feedback collected across all engagement activities is presented in summary form - key themes have been identified across all submissions and de-identified, verbatim feedback has been appended.

About verbatim feedback
Deidentified, verbatim feedback is appended in some instances. Feedback that is not appended is summarised in this report, with verbatim responses shared with the Business and Performance team and tabled with the Council Report for this project.

In addition to the length of some submissions, reasons for not appending these include:

- Detailed locations of properties
- Personal information
- Government agency responses

Community members can request to view verbatim submissions, any requests will be considered by our Governance team prior to release.

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).

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.
- 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.

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.

APPENDIX

Appendix A: HYS submissions

Submission Date	Submission Feedback
28 July 2025	Again, Council staff do not engage at all with the community. Rate payers pay the bills. Staff do their own thing.
29 July 2025	The draft Community Engagement Policy that outlines how PMH council will engage with the community in decision-making. It aims to include and include the community in decision-making that affects us.
5 August 2025	Explicitly recognising families as a key stakeholder group with unique engagement needs and time constraints.
8 August 2025	Looks fine to me
9 August 2025	As a former health service manager I have been privileged to both apply and assess hospitals for compliance with the Australian Quality Health Standards. Most people in this industry would agree that the biggest improvements in recent times to the operation and management of hospitals has been the introduction of the Partnering with the Community and Communicating for Safety Standards in

	2011. Evidence demonstrated that shrouding hospitals in mystery and treating consumers as 'uninformed or troublesome' did not streamline processes, nor did it help to mitigate error rates or litigation. History has shown that over the past fourteen years these new standards along with the principles of 'open disclosure' have transformed hospitals (in particular). These elements are no longer considered a mill stone, they are now regarded by progressive organisations as critical elements of better or best practice governance. I believe that the same issues and opportunities apply to local government, and particularly so in respect of how Councils should and can strive to meet the challenges of biodiversity and climate change. To this end I applaud those who have organised and petitioned the Council to re-engage with the community on these vital areas. I understand Council Officers' apprehension regarding ongoing communication via formally constituted committees embedded within the Corporate Governance structures of Council. Most health administrators felt the same way back in 2011 - 2016 and progress was neither immediate or consistent. However, champions emerged and as the examples of 'excellence in patient centred care' increased, the benefits of a properly constructed community engagement programs shone through in terms of day- to-day care, building design, community knowledge and acceptance. I doubt that many in health would want to revert to the pre 2010 ways. Success is not guaranteed, it takes good, even great leadership, but the great young emerging leaders in Health tend now to be those that enthusiastically embrace these new Standards. Councillors in thinking through its strategy for the future should take this into account. For leaders to aspire to lesser goals is to concede defeat in the search for better practice. These principles, I believe, are equally applicable to Council. To this end, I would make the following comments and suggestions. 1. In considering strategy, Council should overcome the fear of regular and formalised communication with the community. If you are seeking genuine and lasting improvement, ad-hoc or 'needs be' communication will not 'cut the mustard'. 2. Improvement will be based on a longer-term process of engagement, education and selection of community participants. As in health, success will be measured in the number and quality of community members interested in committing their own time, free of charge because they can see the opportunity to work in a safe and collaborative way to make a difference. 3. Whilst Councillors play a vital democratic role, they are frightfully busy and often do not seem to have a direct link into the administrative decision-making processes. From a community engagement point of view Council needs to consider the impact of the reduction of Councillors after the next elections. Without action, the risk of community alienation and dissatisfaction is exacerbated. 4. The current policy and suggestion for the future where the community is denied access to Council Officers on environmental advice/matters during DA or DA

	Modification processes limits transparency and community understanding. This ultimately results in unnecessary community frustration, and very often poor outcomes. As we have learned in other business sectors such decisions often result in additional work for the bureaucracy and reputational damage as it struggles to deal with increases in complaints. 5. With respect to biodiversity, I acknowledge the Council already meets regularly with NPWS. This is important, but the management and inputs for biodiversity and improvement are far wider. We should be engaging with our community bush regeneration experts like Land Care (and others), those embedding sustainability and regenerative principles into their businesses (e.g. tourism, agriculture), community experts (ecologists and marine biologists) and most likely others. Council Environmental staff (ecologist) decisions and audit processes can be dramatically improved with ongoing community engagement and improved conduits to stakeholders. Whilst I have focused thus far on biodiversity, I believe the same arguments and principles apply to the risk management and mitigation of Climate Change. Council should consider carefully how it can engage with the community better in respect of future transport systems, coastal management, water and energy. Thank you for considering this input.
14 August 2025	Supported
14 August 2025	Council need to communicate and engage with the community more often. Also actively listening and engaging is key rather than the traditional inform, there need to be more engagement through empowerment, collaborations and involvement
15 August 2025	The Draft Community Engagement Policy (CEP) is a good document to frame Council and community interactions. It may well benefit from inclusion of advisory committees, as I outline in my feedback on the draft Community Engagement Strategy (above).
16 August 2025	There's not enough visibility of Council community strategies via social media PLUS, review your age pyramid and reviews different ways of communicating effectively with an older age structure.
17 August 2025	Very light on detail and therefore on accountability.

Appendix B: Email submissions

Submission Date	Submission Feedback
August 18, 2025	To, [redacted] Community Engagement and Communications Coordinator Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

[redacted]

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on these important Port Macquarie Hastings Council [hereafter PMHC] documents.

This submission contains my comments on the:

- PMHC Council Committees: Factsheet [hereafter the Factsheet];
- PMHC Draft Community Engagement Policy [hereafter the Policy];
- PMHC Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-29 [hereafter the Strategy].

I begin with comments on the PMHC Council Committees: Factsheet; I then bring these comments together with some overarching insights relevant to all three documents. I conclude with specific comments on the individual documents.

Overall, I note significant improvements in the Strategy - from that within the previous draft version presented for public comment earlier this year - and I congratulate you and the team at PMHC for that work.

Please let me know if you require any further comment or clarification on any point I have raised with this submission.

Sincerely,

PMHC Council Committees: Factsheet

Page 3: 'Tell us what you think'

In response to the question: 'How do you want Council to engage with you?'

- Foremost, I would appreciate opportunities to participate in deliberative engagement activities with PMHC and other members of our community. There are many and varied types of deliberative engagement activities – for example, Citizens' Juries and Citizens' Assemblies are two popular methods.

One of the key features that differentiates a deliberative engagement activity from most other forms of engagement – or consultation - is the opportunity they provide for participants to engage in a process of public reasoning on matters that are important in their lives.

As such, this process of public reasoning provides the participants an opportunity to reflect, discuss, question, listen to others, and think critically with an open mind and a willingness to respectfully justify their arguments in terms that others can accept.

A shared understanding of the topics under deliberation then occurs and this has been shown to be transformative. For instance: the give and take of this process of public reasoning helps participants move beyond their personal interests to considering their shared values and the common good. Doing this can decrease social division and increase social cohesion.

Importantly, too, when these engagement activities are conducted with authenticity, they can build trust between citizens and their governing bodies. But as it stands, opportunities to engage this way in our Local Government Area [LGA] seem to be non- existent.

- Other than that, I would like Council to become more responsive to the feedback/comments provided by community members. I am not suggesting that PMHC ought to adopt every piece of feedback or comment the community provides, although that is certainly another important facet to being responsive. The type of responsiveness I am referring to here is more straightforward. I will explain.

I read through the comments provided in the Strategy - derived from the public engagement conducted from November 2024 to February 2025 – with great interest. In particular, there were comments from members of our community who want PMHC to improve the 'sharing of information and transparency'; others want PMHC to '[c]lose the loop connecting feedback with decisions'; and others want PMHC to '[l]isten when feedback is received'. While other people said they want 'a more consistent approach to communication and engagement' (p. 9, PMHC, 2025c).

These responses prompted me to reflect on my own 'engagement' with PMHC and how best I would describe those experiences. To preface that description, I will mention that my 'engagement' with PMHC has been via the various submissions I have uploaded to
the PMHC website. And to describe that 'engagement' I would say, it was like my submission was sucked into a black hole: never to be seen or heard of again.

For instance, on every occasion I have made a submission online to PMHC, there has
been no response or follow-up given; no indication was provided on what the next steps might be in that review process; and, to use the Strategy as an excellent example, it was
only by chance that I learnt from another community member it was again under review.

I am not taking a shot at the PMHC staff here. On the contrary. I appreciate that the staff have a high workload and after prompting for a reply from PMHC on another matter, I was greatly impressed by the considered response provided by [redacted], PMHC Strategic Land Use Planning Manager. It appeased my concerns that my submission had indeed been sucked into a 'black hole': it also contributed to me feeling like I had not wasted my time by 'engaging' with PMHC1.

Unlike historical, tokenistic 'consultation' processes, when a governing body 'engages' with their community it implies a reciprocal, collaborative process. This distinction is
even made on page 18 of the Strategy (PMHC, 2025c). But what I have observed over the past few years, since moving to this LGA, is that PMHC leadership has not given priority to community engagement. And when scant attention is given to, for instance,
responding to the community, this can be perceived by the public as a lack of respect for any contribution that is made.

I am aware that the culture of an organisation is determined by its leadership and PMHC has undergone some changes in its leadership throughout the last 12 months. That -
along with some significant improvements in the latest version of the Strategy - is encouraging.

And while I acknowledge that the Strategy is a new initiative [and legislative requirement] for our LGA and an aspirational document, the changes within it do suggest that PMHC wants to build trust within our community and will strive to demonstrate the
principles/commitments/objectives/and actions espoused within it.

In practical terms, to demonstrate what I mean by being 'responsive', this could be as simple as: when a community member provides a submission online, an email response is generated by PMHC which outlines, for instance, what that person could anticipate next in the development of that document. At this point too, an opt-in/opt-out option to
receive further updates could be presented. But even responses, as simple as this, would demonstrate respect for the contributions a person has made.

1 I would also like to mention another staff member, [redacted], who very helpfully followed up with a phone call and email to me - after I had visited the PMHC shopfront about another matter - to answer my enquiry.

Alternatively, and depending on the context, a more detailed response to that community member might be considered more appropriate. And when another opportunity to
contribute - relevant to that submission subject-matter - arises, an email could be sent to notify that community member. Over time, some community members may prefer to no longer receive updates via follow-up emails. So, it is also important that these people can then easily opt-out of receiving any further correspondence on that matter.

To conclude my response to the question: 'How do you want Council to engage with you?', I will add that when a member of the public volunteers their time and skills to assist the community by, for instance, compiling a submission to PMHC, it would be reasonable to assume that those people might have some level of interest in developments relevant to the topic under review. As I have indicated, I would certainly welcome some sort of response and follow-up, and from my reading of the earlier
mentioned feedback on PMHC's engagement with our community, I am not alone in that sentiment.

In response to the question: Do you think formal committees are the best way to work with the community on key issues – or are there better options?

- I will begin by drawing attention to the following statements in The Factsheet:

	'Instead of relying on standing committees, Council is: Strengthening engagement through a new Community Engagement Strategy…[and] Developing a Communications Strategy to support clearer, timelier messaging' (p. 2). In theory these are commendable aims. But on a practical level – and this includes my comments on the lack of responsiveness demonstrated by PMHC, in my answer to the above question - I am concerned that without the crucial oversight and accountability on 'key issues', provided by the expertise of committee members, to join-up-the-picture, so to speak, on whichever topic it is they are examining, the repercussions for our community – including potential losses and harms - could be very high. Further to this point I will add that despite the improvements in the latest version of the Strategy, it still does not provide an overarching evaluation framework for PMHC and our community to know if the Strategy is doing what it says it will do; let alone if it is 'strengthening' engagement as suggested in the Factsheet. To explain my concerns about what might be lost without the expertise of committee members 'keeping an eye' on any given matter, I will draw attention to page 28 of the Strategy, where we are told that it will be reviewed 'every four years or when relevant legislation changes and within three months of local government elections' (PMHC, 2025c). How many 'key issues' might PMHC need to engage with the community on within that four-year period? What if the engagement methods utilised - if not a Standing Committee - do not achieve the requisite level of oversight, expertise and accountability? Depending on when and how any evaluation of the Strategy is performed, this sort of vital information may not be determined for years and too late to remedy any unfavourable repercussions for our community. To reinforce the point I am making here - and as I explained in detail with my February 2025 submission on the earlier version of the Strategy - given the inherent significance of the Strategy to the work of PMHC, I urge you to go one step further with the Strategy and create an overarching evaluation framework to guide its implementation. The fundamental significance of the Strategy to the work of PMHC is also emphasised in the NSW Government Guidelines when we are told that 'council's Community Engagement Strategy must relate to the development of ALL plans, policies, programs and activities (section 402A), not just the Community Strategic Plan (NSW Government, 2021, p. 7 [capitalisation in original]). And for these reasons, I argue, the Strategy in and of itself must be evaluated - to monitor its ongoing efficiency and effectiveness - not simply the engagement methods employed within it. PMHC Draft Community Engagement Policy

	Page 3: Item 5: References and Related Documents • Under the 'External documents' heading there ought to be mention of the New South Wales [NSW] Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines (2021). As those Guidelines explain, they outline: 'what councils, county councils and joint organisations must do to ensure they comply with their planning and reporting requirements set out in the Act' (p. 3, NSW Government, 2021) They are, thus, critical to the functioning of PMHC. They are also an important resource for the community to refer to. • There is a typo under the heading 'External documents': the third dot point ought to be 'International Association for Public Participation': not 'Internal…' PMHC Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-29 Page 8: • It is pleasing to see that the so-called Community Engagement 'sub-strategy' - mentioned in the earlier draft version of the Strategy [p. 6, PMHC, 2024] - has been replaced with the Community Participation Plan [CPP]. The extra information on 'Engagement in planning functions' included in Appendix A of the Strategy is also a welcome addition (PMHC, 2025c). Is the CPP where the community will be able to find an overarching evaluation plan for the Strategy and, if so, could you please indicate what the anticipated timeline will be for when it is available for public review? • In the first line of the second paragraph, it says that: 'The strategy supports meaningful community consultation…' I would encourage you to replace the word 'consultation' with 'engagement'. Because of the loaded history of 'consultation' practices, the word 'consultation' can be viewed as the antithesis of the meaningful engagement espoused in this Strategy. Similarly, in the second paragraph on page 9, and in a dialogue box on page 28, the word 'consultation' is also used. For the reasons mentioned above, I would suggest this is amended to something like 'engagement process'. Page 14: • Here we are told that 'The Strategy builds on the principles of social justice…' (PMHC, 2025c). A similar point is made on page 8 of the Strategy. But on page 15 of the Strategy, we are presented with 'Our principles… [which, we are told] underpin the design and delivery of all engagement practices…'. I suspect much discussion has been had within PMHC to develop the list of 'Our principles' (p. 15). But, for the reader of the Strategy, there appears to be a disconnect between the principles of social justice, on page 14, and those given on page 15. Maybe a few connecting sentences could be given to draw explicit links between the principles mentioned on these different pages. Doing this would help to make the relationship between them more apparent.

Even positioning both sets of principles on the same page, with the IAP2 Core Values given elsewhere – possibly, on the page with the 'Commitments' - would help the
principles mentioned in the Strategy appear more coherent. But as it stands, this part of the Strategy does not mesh well together and the social justice principles look like something that 'needed' to be included, then not mentioned again.

Page 15:

- Adding to the comments above about the Principles, the way the 5 principles are
portrayed here [and on page 2 of the Policy] implies that they are: 'How we demonstrate our principles and commitment to our community' and not simply a statement of what
they are. To help this part of the Strategy cohere together a bit more effectively, this will require further attention.

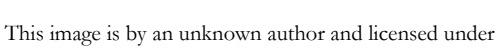
- Item 4 of 'Our commitment' states 'Ensure fair and equal access to the engagement process…'. But when viewed through a social justice lens, when we provide 'equal access' it can, in effect, be inequitable.

Yes, we all have 'equal rights' to participate. But because of the many and varied access requirements of people in our community, if we treat everyone the same it can be
inequitable.

I would therefore suggest the removal of the word 'equal' in this context, so that Item 4 becomes: 'Ensure fair and equitable access to the engagement process for all stakeholders'.

This amendment then sits more comfortably with the Objectives and Actions outlined in the Strategy. For instance, and not least: the Action item of Objective 2: 'Tailor
engagement activities to encourage participation from diverse communities' (PMHC, pp. 26-7).

Sometimes an image can convey the difference between 'equality' and 'equity' more effectively than words, so I have inserted an image below – which I have used many times in my own teaching - which speaks to this difference. I am not suggesting that this image be inserted into the Strategy; I simply hope it provides a visual-metaphor to highlight the point I am making here.



This image is by an unknown author and licensed under CC BY-NC-SA

Page 16:

- There is a typo in the second line of the 'Community' box: '…staying informed about there chances…' ought to be '…staying informed about their chances…'

Page 26:

- The first Action item within Objective 1 has a typo: 'Education…' ought to

	be 'Educate…' • The third Action item within Objective 1 has a typo: '…engagement processes is included…' ought to be '…engagement processes are included…' Page 27: • 'Objective 4: Continuous Improvement' ought to explicitly mention the CPP, including how it will relate to this Strategy [in relation to this point, please see my earlier comments about the CPP and the evaluation of the Strategy]. References: New South Wales [NSW] Government. 2021. Integrated Planning & Reporting. Guidelines for Local Government in NSW. Office of Local Government. Available at: https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp- content/uploads/2021/09/Integrated-Planning-and-Reporting-Guidelines.pdf Port Macquarie Hastings Council [PMHC]. 2025a. Draft Council Committees Fact Sheet. PMHC. Available at: https://haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say-on-community- engagement Port Macquarie Hastings Council [PMHC]. 2025b. Draft Community Engagement Policy. PMHC. Available at: https://haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say-on-community-engagement Port Macquarie Hastings Council [PMHC]. 2025c. Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-29. PMHC. Available at: https://haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say-on-community- engagement Port Macquarie Hastings Council [PMHC]. 2024. Integrated Planning and Reporting Community Engagement Strategy 2022-2025. PMHC. Available at: **https://haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/draft-ipr-community-engagement-strategy**

Port Macquarie Hastings Council
BIRPAI COUNTRY

pmhc.nsw.gov.au
Email **council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au**
PO Box 84 Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Tel **02 6581 8111**
Socials **@pmhcouncil**

Community Engagement Strategy

2025 - 2029



DRAFT

PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL

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PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL



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 respect to all elders past and present. We acknowledge the ongoing connection to the traditional owners and custodians of the lands and waters of the Port Macquarie Hastings region.

This Birpai Country acknowledgement is delivered verbally at gatherings and as a written statement in formal Council documents.

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Introduction

Port Macquarie Hastings Council is committed to genuine, meaningful engagement that builds trust, fosters collaboration, and ensures our community is informed, involved, and empowered in shaping our future.

We believe that:

- Our community should be **well-informed** about what we deliver.
- Our community should **have a voice** in decisions that impact them.
- Our community should **understand and contribute** to shared goals for better local outcomes.
- Our services should be shaped around **community needs and priorities**.

Every decision we make has an impact. Through clear communication, inclusive engagement, and targeted education, we harness the knowledge, experiences, and aspirations of our people. By working together, we create a stronger, more connected, and future-focused Port Macquarie Hastings.



About our community

Our place

Our region is loved by locals for its beautiful natural environment, our history and our people. Port Macquarie Hastings is the traditional home of the Birpai people who settled in the area over 60,000 years ago. It is through their thoughtful custodianship and care that we can all enjoy our place today.

We are now one of the fastest-growing regional centres in NSW. Port Macquarie Hastings is home to over 84,525 residents living in 34 communities spread across the coast and hinterland, in urban, suburban and rural environments.



Our people

Our community values the natural environment, a vibrant local culture, and sustainable development. Our region's pristine beaches, lush hinterlands, and diverse wildlife are cherished by residents, who embrace environmental sustainability and outdoor recreational opportunities. Our strong sense of community is fostered through active participation in local events, arts, and cultural activities, reflecting our rich heritage and diversity.

We understand the importance of sustainable economic growth that supports local businesses, tourism, and innovation while maintaining the unique character of our towns and villages. Accessible infrastructure, quality healthcare, and educational facilities are seen as vital to ensuring a high standard of living and well-being for all residents.



Population

86,762 people

- 52% female
- 48% male

110,221 estimated population by 2041 (27% increase)

Age

49 years (median age)

- 16.3% aged 10-24 years
- 36.4% aged 60+ years

Households

34,851 households

3.1 average number of people per household

48,325 estimated households by 2041

Employment

51.3% in workforce

- 4.8% unemployed
- 51.5% work full-time
- 37.6% work part-time
- 6.1% Other

Education

60.1% completed year 12

- 31.7% Vocationally Trained
- 17% University Educated

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 and REMPLAN Economics 2021

Our community priorities

Community engagement was central to the development of our ***Community Strategic Plan: Imagine2050***. Through this process, our community identified the following key priorities:



Reduced traffic

Less congestion with a clear transport network approach to address present and future needs



Stable infrastructure

A solid infrastructure approach that ensures sewer, water, stormwater capability now and in the future



Improved pathways

Footpaths, shared paths, cycleways and access to public transport across our region



Environment

Protection for our natural environment and support for climate friendly initiatives



Affordable living

Current and future generations to have access to affordable lifestyles (e.g. housing)



Thriving economy

Initiatives which support local jobs and business



Inclusive community

Opportunities to celebrate our history, work alongside our First Nations people and build community spirit



Collaboration

A greater level of trust between the community and decision-makers



Transparency

Clear understanding and demonstration of how resources are allocated across the region



Quality of life

Quality amenities and effective management of assets to ensure good quality of life outcomes

About this Strategy

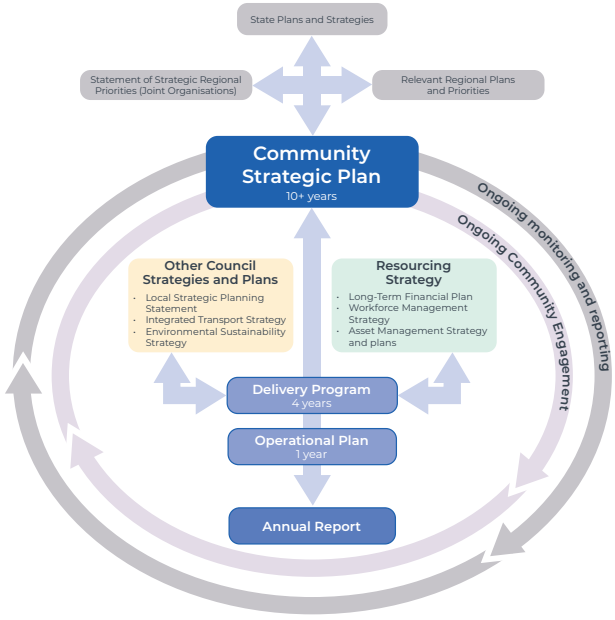
The Port Macquarie Hastings Council Community Engagement Strategy (the Strategy) has been developed to guide engagement practices with our community, businesses, and stakeholders when Council is developing plans, policies, and programs.

The strategy supports meaningful community consultation, fostering an inclusive and transparent decision-making process. The Strategy aligns with our engagement principles, legislative requirements, and Council's strategic framework. It outlines the guiding principles, approach, and actions for ensuring the community has an opportunity to have their say in a meaningful way.

Legislative requirements

This Strategy meets Council's legislative requirements for a Community Engagement Strategy under the Local Government Act (1993). Our Strategy is based on the social justice principles of equity, access, participation, and rights.

The Environmental Planning and Assessment (EPA) Act 1979, stipulates a range of mandatory, minimum requirements for engaging in relations to Councils planning functions. The Act also requires that Council develops a Community Participation Plan (CPP) that outlines how and when they will engage the community across their planning functions. The requirements of the CPP have been incorporated into this strategy, including Appendix A which specifically addresses community engagement in planning functions.



Integrated Planning and Reporting

Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) is a framework used by Councils in New South Wales (NSW) to ensure comprehensive and sustainable planning, management, and reporting. It aims to promote transparency, accountability, and community engagement in local government planning and decision-making processes.

What we've heard

Our engagement outcomes

Between November 2024 and February 2025, we listened to community members about how we deliver engagement to inform this strategy.

The consultation process identified the communities preferred methods of communication and consultation in the development of Councils projects, programs and policies, as well as community suggestions for the refinement of Council's engagement process into the future.

The majority of community members said that they would like to make a greater contribution to Council's decisions. They would like to participate early and often throughout the process. They identified that a barrier to participation, was that it was difficult to find out about new engagement opportunities, and given their limited time wanted surveys to be shorter

- Have a more consistent approach to communication and engagement
- Reach a wider demographic
- Improve sharing of information and transparency
- Listen when feedback is received
- Close the loop, connecting feedback with decisions



PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

About Community Engagement

What is community engagement?

Community engagement is the ongoing relationship between Council and our community relating to projects, plans and decisions that affect people living in, and connect to, our region.

Community engagement allows community members to contribute to Council decisions and actions by creating an inclusive environment in which community feedback is embraced, considered, and acted on.

Our commitment to community engagement is supported by the guiding principles of transparency, openness, and a sense of accountability through a range of inclusive engagement methods with our community, stakeholders, and visitors.

Why do we engage?

We believe that people have a right to participate in decision-making and to have their voices heard. Understanding our community's aspirations and concerns helps both administrative staff and our elected Councillors make informed decisions about the future of our region.

Engaging with our community provides benefits including improving service delivery outcomes, understanding varied viewpoints, identifying shared solutions, building partnerships, as well as the opportunity to educate and inform community stakeholders on Council's priorities and challenges. It also increases community understanding and support for Council's purpose and goals, improves transparency and accountability, and can assist in building trust within the community.

Communication is how we connect with our stakeholders. It is sharing the right message at the right time to inform our community.

NSW Government, All-of-Government Communications Framework

Community Engagement is a planned process of working across organisations, stakeholders and communities to shape the decisions or actions of the members of the community, stakeholders or organisation in relation to a problem, opportunity or outcome.

NSW Government, All-of-Government Communications Framework

Who do we engage?

The following table outlines how we engage with our community about key priorities, plan and strategies. Planning-related projects have specific legislative exhibition timeframes which must be met.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS	WAYS WE ENGAGE		WHY OUR STAKEHOLDERS ARE IMPORTANT TO US	WHY WE ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS
Residents and Ratepayers 	· Public meetings · Publications · Website · Social media · Rates notices · Community meetings · Information	display or kiosk · Public exhibition · Annual Report · Phone surveys · Direct mailout	Provide guidance values, engagement and feedback on how to make life better for people in our region.	Provide civic leadership representation, services and facilities. Generate sustainable growth and return to the community.
Businesses 	· Focus groups and workshops	· Publications · Website · Social media	Build capacity, provide jobs, and drive the economy in our community.	Provide and promote business.
Community groups and volunteers 	· Focus groups and workshops	· Committees	Build trust and bridges to local communities through services.	Provide support and partnerships.
Visitors 	· Events · Website	· Published information	Provide economic benefit, generate employment opportunities and financial viability.	Provide products, services and facilities.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS	WAYS WE ENGAGE	WHY OUR STAKEHOLDERS ARE IMPORTANT TO US	WHY WE ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS
Customers 	· Customer satisfaction measurements · Customer care and service · Website · Publications · Fact sheets and FAQ's · Feedback forms	Provide us with feedback and utilise the services and products.	Provide products and services at good value and quality.
Employees and their representatives 	· Staff portal · Staff briefings and onsite meetings · Employee survey · Exit surveys · Interviews · Emails · Newsletters	Central to the success of our organisation by providing valuable knowledge, skills and labour.	Provide a fair, engaging and enriching work experience with career development and flexible work arrangements.
Regional and national partners 	· Contract management - account management relationships · Regular engagement through site visits.	Provide shared knowledge, cultural experiences, knowledge and resources.	Provide advocacy, leadership, cultural vibrancy, and resources in line with policy and legislation.
Other levels of government 	· Correspondence · Formal meetings · Briefings · Networks · One-on-one meetings	Provide funding opportunities, services, planning direction, legislation and networks.	Provide local strategies, partnerships and networks.
Suppliers	· Contract management - account management relationships.	Provide good value and quality products and services.	Provide fair access to business opportunities in line with policy and legislation.
Media 	· Media releases · Briefings · Interviews · Social media	Build and protect reputation and raise awareness of our services and facilities.	Provide trend data as well as social, environmental, economic and governance information.

Inclusive and accessible engagement

We recognise that some communities may experience barriers to participating in the engagement process. We are committed to providing opportunities for all voices in our community to be heard. This includes:

- ✓ Using plain language that is easy to understand
- ✓ Providing information in accessible formats including written and digital
- ✓ Ensuring a variety of engagement tools are available to reach those without internet access, people with disabilities, people for whom English is not their primary language, and people with low literacy levels.
- ✓ Ensuring venues are accessible
- ✓ Meeting commitments that are outlined in our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)



Community expectations

Engagement principles & commitments

The Strategy builds on the principles of social justice and the Core Values created by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP²).

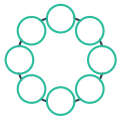
Social Justice



Equity
There should be fairness in decision making, prioritising and allocation of resources, particularly for those in need



Access
All people should have fair access to services, resources and opportunities to improve their quality of life



Participation
Everyone should be given genuine opportunities to participate in decisions which affect their lives



Rights
Equal rights should be established and promoted, with opportunities provided for all people from all backgrounds

IAP² Core Values

Public participation:

1. Is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. Includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
3. Promotes sustainable decisions by recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
4. Seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. Communicates to participants how their input affected the decision

Our principles

Our principles underpin the design and delivery of all engagement practices:

1. We deliver **relevant, timely** and **easy to understand** information
2. We are **honest** and **transparent**
3. We are **inclusive** and **encourage** a **diversity of voices** to be heard
4. We **listen, value** and **respect community** input and feedback
5. We embrace **innovation** and encourage **new ideas**

Our commitment

We will guide and continuously improve community engagement processes to:

1. Build trust and credibility in the process among participants
2. Enhance community participation in decision-making and ensure decision-makers are responsive to community concerns
3. Accurately represent the community's role in decision-making
4. Ensure fair and equal access to the engagement process for all stakeholders
5. Advocate for the engagement process and honour commitments made to the community
6. Communicate engagement outcomes and how feedback was considered in a timely manner



Roles and responsibilities

Effective communication, engagement, and education requires a shared commitment from Council, staff, and the community. Building trust, fostering collaboration, and delivering meaningful outcomes can only happen when we work together.

Success will be driven by how we communicate, listen, and interact - every day, in every conversation, and in every decision we make. By working together - Councillors, staff, and the community - we can strengthen relationships, build understanding, and create positive, lasting outcomes for Port Macquarie Hastings.

Community

The community is encouraged to actively participate in engagement opportunities, staying informed about there chances to contribute. Community members should carefully consider the information provided, engage respectfully in activities, share their views, and offer feedback to Council on the engagement process.

Mayor and Councillors

The role of the Mayor and Councillors in implementing the Strategy is to represent the interests of ratepayers and residents, facilitate open communication between the community and Council, and thoughtfully consider the results of community engagement processes when making decisions at Council meetings.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The CEO is responsible for overseeing the preparation of the Community Strategic Plan and Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documents, ensuring they are endorsed by the elected Council. It is also their duty to make sure that community members have the necessary information to participate meaningfully in the Integrated Planning and Reporting process.

Community Engagement Team

The Community Engagement Team leads the planning, coordination, and delivery of engagement activities across Council. They support staff by providing resources, guidance, and training on best practices in community engagement. The team also monitors the effectiveness of engagement strategies and ensures that feedback is collected, analysed, and communicated back to the community.

Council staff

All Council staff play a vital role in identifying opportunities for community engagement. They are responsible for working with the Community Engagement Team in actively seeking the views of stakeholders who are affected by or interested in projects, and considering this input in their decision-making processes. Council staff must work with the Community Engagement Team to ensure that participants are informed about how their feedback was used and the final outcomes of the process.

Engagement methods

Levels of engagement

We have adopted the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Participation to determine at what level we engage with the community.

The IAP2 Participation Spectrum helps to determine the scope of our community's input and the role those engaged will have in the decision-making process.

Increasing impact on the decision

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Our Goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
Our Role	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
Your Role	Keep in touch. Follow Council on social media. Subscribe to regular newsletters and updates.	Contribute to ideas and feedback. Respond to surveys. Make public submissions	Actively participate in the workshops and engagement sessions. Share ideas, concerns and aspirations.	Work together to develop solutions.	Make decisions and work with Council to implement them.

Levels of influence

The level of influence that stakeholders have on a decision is related to the project. Effective engagement requires aligning stakeholder expectations with the level of influence to foster trust in the process and to allow for meaningful participation.

The table below provides some examples of stakeholder expectations and the level of influence across the engagement levels.

Increasing level of influence →

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Stakeholder expectations	Expect some input or influence on decisions due to personal interest in the issue.	Expect their feedback to directly impact decisions or lead to changes.	Expect meaningful involvement and that their input will help shape decisions.	Expect to be equal partners in decision-making, with significant influence over the outcome	Expect full control and decision-making authority over the outcome.
Level of influence	The goal is to provide information. Stakeholders have no direct influence on decisions, as the purpose is to communicate outcomes or updates.	Feedback is considered but decision-makers maintain control. Input may influence outcomes, but not necessarily in all cases.	Stakeholders are actively involved in providing input, which is valued, but decision-makers retain authority. Influence is moderate.	Stakeholders are partners in the process, with high influence on decisions. However, decision-makers still retain final authority after considering all inputs	Stakeholders are given full authority to make decisions, with maximum influence. This level is rare and only applied in specific scenarios.



Challenges to engagement

When engaging with the community there may be challenges when trying to ensure meaningful and effective participation.

Council strives to address these challenges through planning, clear communication, and variety to ensure successful community engagement.

Some of the key challenges include:

- Diverse stakeholder interests
- Engagement fatigue
- Reaching under-represented groups
- Mistrust or scepticism
- Limited resources (time, budget, and staffing)
- Managing expectations:
- Communication barriers (language, literacy, accessibility)
- Complexity of issues
- Hostile or highly emotional environments
- Low participation

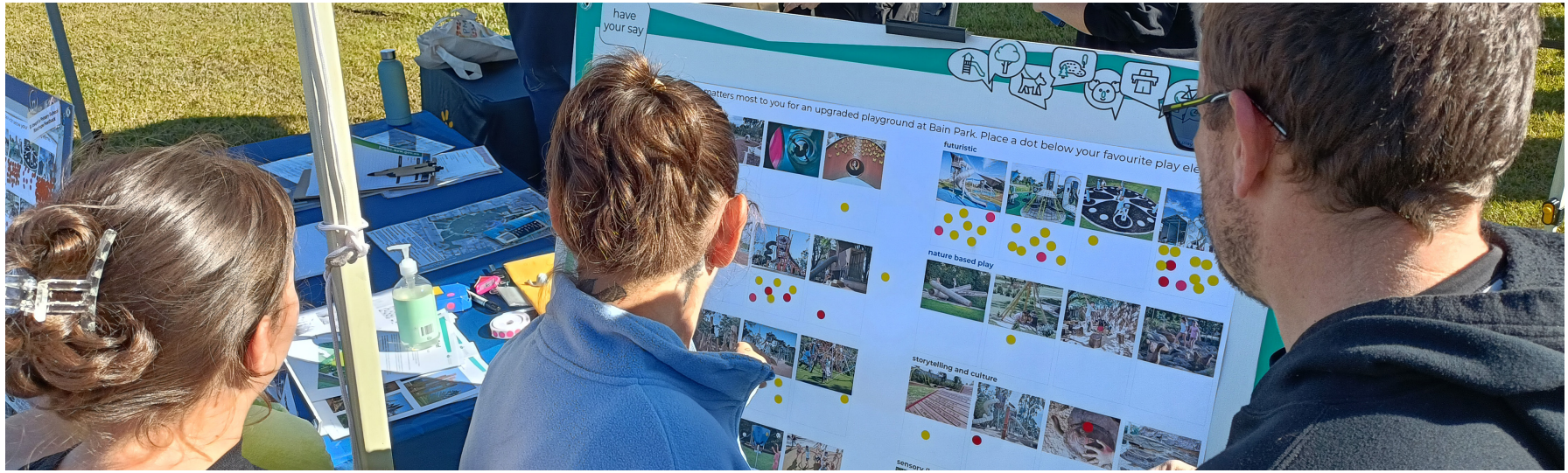
When do we engage?

The following table outlines how we engage with our community about key priorities, plan and strategies. Planning-related projects have specific legislative exhibition timeframes which must be met.

PROJECT TYPE	LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT	HOW WE WILL COMMUNICATE	WHAT WE WILL DO	EXHIBITION PERIOD
Council key long-term plans: · Community Strategic Plan · Delivery Program Community Engagement Strategy · Strategies · Master plans	Involve	Work directly with the community to ensure priorities are reflected in the decision. Provide a range of opportunities / channels for residents and ratepayers to share their views	Directly reflect community concerns and aspirations in the finalised plan.	28 Days
Council's key Policies	Consult	Ask for community views about options identified by Council.	Acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how community input influenced the decision.	28 days (or as specified by legislative requirements)
Council's Annual Plan – Operational Plan and budget	Involve	Work directly with the community to ensure priorities are reflected in the decision. Provide a range of opportunities / channels for residents and ratepayers to share their views	Directly reflect community concerns and aspirations in the finalised plan.	28 Days
New capital work and placemaking (including playgrounds and draft master plans)	Involve	Work directly with the community to ensure priorities are reflected in the decision. Provide a range of opportunities / channels for residents and ratepayers to share their views	Directly reflect community concerns and aspirations in the finalised plan.	28 Days
Maintenance and renewal capital work	Inform	Share balanced information on current activities and plans. Take all reasonable steps to ensure stakeholders are advised of Council's proposal	Communicate updates to keep community informed.	We will let you know at least 14 days before work starts.

PROJECT TYPE	LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT	HOW WE WILL COMMUNICATE	WHAT WE WILL DO	EXHIBITION PERIOD
Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)	Consult	Ask for community views about options identified by Council. In addition to minimum statutory provisions, take all reasonable steps to ensure known stakeholders are advised of the opportunity to input.	Recognise community views and concerns and ensure these are reflected as inputs into Council's final decision	28 Days
Planning Proposals for local environmental plans subject to gateway determination	Consult	Ask for community views about options identified by Council. In additional to minimum statutory provisions, take all reasonable steps to ensure known stakeholders are advised of the opportunity to input	Recognise community views and concerns and ensure these are reflected as inputs into Council's final decision	As per the requirements of the Gateway determination which is generally 20 working days for standard planning proposals (noting it may be more or less depending on the category of planning proposal and there may be no exhibition for minor proposals)
Draft Development Control Plans	Consult	Ask for community views about options identified by Council. In addition to minimum statutory provisions, take all reasonable steps to ensure known stakeholders are advised of the opportunity to provide input	Recognise community views and concerns and ensure these are reflected as inputs into Council's final decision	28 Days
Application for development consent where engagement is required under the Community Participation Plan	Consult	Ask for community views about proposed development. Take all reasonable steps to ensure stakeholders are advised of the opportunity to input.	Recognise community views and concerns and ensure these are reflected as inputs into Council's final decision.	14 days (or as specified in the relevant community participation plan, which may find public exhibition is not required). Refer to Appendix A

PROJECT TYPE	LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT	HOW WE WILL COMMUNICATE	WHAT WE WILL DO	EXHIBITION PERIOD
Application for modification of development consent where engagement is required under the Community Participation Plan	Consult	Ask for community views about proposed development. Take all reasonable steps to ensure stakeholders are advised of the opportunity to input.	Recognise community views and concerns and ensure these are reflected as inputs into Council's final decision.	The period (if any) determined by the consent authority in accordance with the relevant community participation plan (Refer to Appendix A)
Environmental impact statement obtained under Division 5.1	Consult	Ask for community views about proposed development. Take all reasonable steps to ensure stakeholders are advised of the opportunity to input.	Recognise community views and concerns and ensure these are reflected as inputs into Council's final decision.	28 Days
Fast-Track Development Applications	Nil	Certain types of development that are minor in nature and fully compliant do not require engagement.	These forms of development can be processed under the FastTrack process	Nil (Refer to Appendix A)



Public exhibition

Public exhibition plays an important role in community participation in the planning process. Public exhibition is the official period in which draft documents or certain development applications are made available for consultation and feedback. Public exhibition of draft documents and development applications must first be endorsed by Council before being made available for public comment.

Publicly exhibited plans, applications and other matters cannot be made, determined or finalised until after the minimum public exhibition period. If a plan, application or other matter is placed on public exhibition for a specified longer period, submissions may be made during that specified longer period and the plan or application is not to be made, determined or finalised until after that specified longer period.

Anyone with an interest in a planning matter is welcome to make a submission. Submissions by the community, with respect to a plan, application or other matter, may be made during the period of its public exhibition.

Public exhibition for strategic planning functions

At a minimum, we will notify the community about public exhibitions of Planning Proposals, new or amended Development Control Plans and new or revised Contribution Plans via our website. A letter will be distributed to an entire block or precinct as appropriate for Planning Proposals and DCP amendments that are site-specific or precinct-based. Tailored engagement activities such as focus groups will form part of the public exhibition for a comprehensive review of the primary Planning Instrument (LEP).



Methods of communication and engagement

Communication and engagement tools are what we use to inform and collect feedback from the community. There is a wide range of tools to choose from and we select tools based on the purpose of the engagement, the information to be collected, stakeholder groups we want to hear from, the impact of the project and the time available to make a decision. Some of the tools we use include:

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Communications					
Advertisements/public notices	✓				
Council events	✓				
e-newsletters	✓				
Emails and Letters	✓				
Flyers, brochures, fact sheets, posters, signs	✓				
Local newspaper articles	✓				
Media Releases	✓				
Rates notices and followers	✓				
Radio announcements	✓				
Social media	✓	✓			
YouTube broadcasts	✓				
Community Engagement					
Focus groups and workshops		✓	✓	✓	
Drop in / pop up sessions		✓	✓		
Public Exhibition / submission		✓	✓	✓	
Council Meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Council Website	✓	✓			
Community Groups		✓		✓	✓
Information, interactions and/or meetings with Council Staff	✓	✓	✓	✓	
HYS Platform - Surveys / questionnaires / polls		✓	✓	✓	

How do we respond to our community?

It is important to us that the feedback of people we engage with is genuinely considered when decisions are made. Once feedback has been considered, Council staff recommend next steps or outcomes for consideration to the Councillors. As part of the process to close the loops, we will:

- Update the HYS and project page with a summary of the feedback received outcomes and next steps.
- Email those who provided feedback with the results of the consultation and link to the HYS/project page for more information.
- Email those who provided feedback once a Council resolution has been made.
- For Development Applications (DA) we will acknowledge the receipt of submissions during the exhibition period. We will consider the matters raised in submissions received during public exhibition. The number of submissions and issues raised in relation to applications for development consent will be addressed within the assessment report. Any decision on the application will need to balance the weight of the issues raised in the submission with the planning controls and merit-based issues relevant to the site. In some instances, assessment staff are able to make determinations/decisions under delegation. In other cases, applications may be referred to Council's Development Assessment Panel (DAP) for a decision.
  Individual submissions are available to be viewed under a Government Information (Public Access) 2009 (GIPA) Open Access Application.



How we will drive improvement

We actively engage with and listen to our community through a variety of methods.

An important part of this process is to ensure it is respectful and meaningful, that we are clear on how feedback and input will be used to support decision making, and that our engagement objectives are clear.

Objective 1
BUILD CAPACITY

Council will work closely with community, stakeholders and staff to create a culture of genuine and relevant engagement, both within our organisation and the community.

Action:

Education staff & stakeholders about community engagement and its use by Council.
Provide IAP2 training to increase the capacity of staff when undertaking community engagement.
Build a whole of organisation approach to ensuring the community engagement processes is included in our planning and delivery programs, projects and services.
Embed community engagement into our culture at Port Macquarie Hastings Council.
Identify emerging methods, channels, tools and technologies to support engagement within our communities, business and with stakeholders. We seek to provide a diverse range of engagement activities to encourage participation from the whole community to ensure that we reach those that will be impacted or interested.

Objective 2
INFORM AND INVOLVE

Council will create and promote inclusive opportunities for effective participation and collaboration for community members who live, work and play within PMHC, and ensure our communities are engaged and informed.

Action:

Clearly communicate and promote engagement opportunities
Develop partnerships and relationships with individuals, community leaders, groups, services and other agencies.
Create more opportunities for listening and providing feedback.
Tailor engagement activities to encourage participation from diverse communities.

Objective 3
ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT

Council will show how community and stakeholders' participation was used to inform and influence decision-making by closing the loop on the engagement outcomes.

Action:

We will update the HYS project page outlining engagement outcomes and next steps.
Email those who provided feedback with the council of the consultation and links to the project page.
We will notify that the item/report has been put on the Council meeting agenda and provide further information on opportunities to be involved.
Following council resolution we will email the outcome, update the HYS page and include the outcome in the monthly HYS e-newsletter.

Objective 4
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Council will implement a continuous improvement program, incorporating community and stakeholder input, to reflect best practice and the needs of the community.

Action:

Continually develop and improve Council's community engagement practices through regular review and evaluation.
Gather feedback regarding the effectiveness of consultation and communication outcomes to all stakeholders.
Ensure the engagement process is responding to local needs by regularly undertaking surveys.

We regularly survey our residents through a community satisfaction survey.

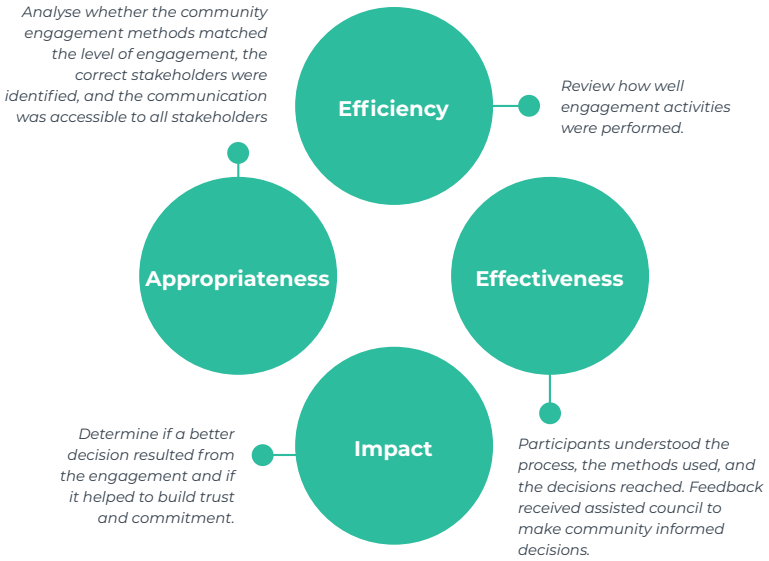
We survey 600 residents who are demographically representative of our region.



Evaluating Engagement

We will evaluate our engagement activities to monitor efficiency and effectiveness, this is helpful to show where changes are needed and help plan more effectively for future engagement.

Evaluation will focus on four key areas:



Methods we will use for capturing feedback about engagement approaches and activities may include:

- Asking survey participants how they became aware of the consultation.
- Feedback forms from our engagement events such as workshops, meetings, information sessions, forums etc.
- Reviewing our biennial Community Satisfaction Survey.
- Track online traffic sources to the Have Your Say website.

This strategy will be reviewed every four years or when relevant legislation changes and within three months of local government elections.

Appendix A – Engagement in planning functions

The following section sets out Council's minimum engagement requirements in exercising its planning functions, consistent with schedule 1 in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) and other provisions contained within the Port Macquarie Hastings Council Community Engagement Strategy.

Notification of development applications

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 sets the framework for public participation within the development assessment process, it requires the Council to formalise its notification procedures through its community participation plan. Council consults where there may be a significant impact on the surrounding locality as a result of the proposed development. How an application is notified is dependent on the scale of development and not all applications require notification.

All development applications received by Council will be published on DA Tracker on Council's webpage. Not all applications for development consent require direct neighbour notification. Where a proposal may have a significant impact on the neighbourhood, Council will advise adjoining and neighbouring landowners via letter and in some instances include a site sign, as stated below. Where an application for development falls into one or more category, engagement will be in accordance with the requirements for the most intensive form of development.

There are some types of development do not need development consent from Council and therefore there is no pathway for formal community participation. This plan does not relate to applications that fall within the following categories:

Development which is exempt under the provisions of Clause 3.1 Exempt Development of the LEP and or any applicable State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)

Development which is complying under the provisions of Clause 3.2 Complying Development of the LEP and/or any applicable State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)

If the proposal is potentially contentious or likely to be of significant interest to the community, Council has the discretion to determine if additional engagement methods will be used. Where a development is not specified in the below tables, the application will be notified by way of a letter to adjoining neighbours at a minimum.

Council will comply with any other legislative requirement relating to the notification of Development Applications as applicable, including the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations. Revised plans lodged during the assessment and before determination will be publicly exhibited in the same way as the original application, but only where the changes being sought intensity or change the external impact of the development to the extent that neighbours, in the opinion of Council, ought to be given the opportunity to comment.

APPLICATION CATEGORY	TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	NOTIFICATION / ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS
Advertised Development	• Major community or public facilities whether publicly or privately owned including hospitals, libraries, schools, universities, sports and entertainment facilities, licensed clubs. • Major commercial and retail development • Major transport infrastructure and interchanges • Hotels, pubs or entertainment facility • Caravan parks • Places of public worship • Manufactured home estates • Motels • Public buildings in residential zones; • Major development on Council owned or controlled land • The demolition of a heritage items liked in Schedule 5 of the Port Macquarie Hastings Local Environmental Plan 2011, or the use of a building or land which is a heritage item for a purpose which is not permitted under the land use zoning table applying to that land; • Extractive industries • Any development application accompanied by a Species Impact Statement • Water based activities • Other development required to be advertised under the EP&A Act, Regulations or any other environmental planning instrument.	• A notice will be published on Councils website for 14 days and will provide the address of the application and a brief description of the proposed development. • In the case of advertised development which is Integrated development (excluding Nominated Integrated Development and Threatened Species Development), a notice will be published on Council's website for 14 days. • For Nominated Integrated Development and Threatened Species Development, a notice will be published on Councils website for 28 days. • Letters will be sent to adjoining and adjacent property owners to inspect the application and make a written submission. • Copy of the application will be made available for viewing at Council's Customer Service Centres. • Where an adjoining or adjacent property is a strata title, Council will notify the individual strata unit owners as well as the Owners Corporation, or an Association under the Community Land Development Act 1989 • Council may consider a wider notification period for an application or an extension of time available for comment in the circumstances of the case.

APPLICATION CATEGORY	TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	NOTIFICATION / ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS
Notifiable Local Development	• All types of development which are not listed as Advertised Development (above) and are not of a type listed below will be notified by Council as Local Development.	• Notified for 14 days on Councils Application Tracker. • Letters sent to adjoining and adjacent property owners to inspect the application and make a written submission • Copy of the application available for viewing at Councils Customer Service Centres • Where an adjoining or adjacent property is a strata title, the Council will notify the individual strata unit owners as well as the Owners Corporation, or an Association under the Community Land Development Act 1989 • Council may consider a wider notification period for an application or an extension of time available for comment in the circumstances of the case.
Development applications which will not be notified or advertised	• Singles storey dwelling houses and single storey additions that comply with setback provisions, except raised single storey dwelling houses that have a similar impact to a 2-storey dwelling house. • Swimming pools • Sheds and outbuildings that comply with maximum floor area height and setback provisions • Fences and retaining walls • Rural dwellings and ancillary structures • Buildings ancillary to agriculture • Demolition of buildings • Industrial land uses within employment zones, except where the site boarders residentially zoned land. • Minor development in employment zones • Applications to modify a consent under S4.55 of the EP&A Act where the application will not significantly alter the intensity or likely impact compared to the original development. • Strata subdivisions of existing buildings where the number of dwellings or units remains unchanged.	• DA available for viewing on Councils Application Tracker.

** Integrated development is development (not being State significant development or complying with development) that, in order for it to be carried out, requires development consent and one or more approval piece of legislation (Section 4.4, EP&A Act 1979). Refer Clause 89 (4) of the EP&A Regulation 2000 for definitions of Nominated Integrated Development and Threatened Species Development.*

Notification of modification applications

Council will notify Modification Applications in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.

TYPE OF MODIFICATION APPLICATION	IS NOTIFICATION REQUIRED?
Section 4.55 (1)	No
Section 4.55 (1A)	No, if in the opinion of council, all alterations result in minor change to the approved development
Section 4.55 (2)	Yes, if the original development application required notification, and in the same manner, except, where in the opinion of Council, all alterations result in minor change to the approved development.
Section 4.56	Yes, if the original development application required notification, and in the same way, except where, in the opinion of council, all alterations result in minor change to the approved development. However, each person who made a submission in respect of the initial development application must be notified regardless of the extent of the impacts of the proposed modification.



PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Notification methods

Notification letter

Council will notify Modification Applications in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.

Where a notification letter is required, a letter will be sent to:

- Persons who own adjoining or neighbouring land to an application site, according to Councils rates and property register.
- Relevant community organisations which, in Councils opinion, may need to provide input on the proposed development.
- The owner's corporation and property owners where adjoining land is a lot within the means of the Strata Schemes Development Act 20215 No 51 or the Strata Schemes Management Act 2015 No.50
- Any other persons or parties that in Councils opinion are likely to be affected by the proposed development, where the enjoyment of the land may be significantly affected in relations to, but not limited to:
  - The views to and the views from the land
  - Overshadowing
  - Privacy
  - Noise
  - The visual quality of the building in relation to the streetscape
  - Existing amenity.
- The notification letter must provide the following information:
- A description (including the address) of the land to which the development application relates
- A description of the proposed development
- An A4 copy of the site plan and elevations
- The name of the applicant
- The name of the contact person through which enquiries can be directed
- A statement specifying that the application may be inspected at Councils Customer Service Centres at any time during normal business hours for a period of 14 days.

The letter must specify that any person may make a submission in writing to Council in relation to the development application. Where the submission is by way of objection, the grounds of objection must be specified in the submission.

The letter must direct the receiver to the Councils webpage and specifically to the following information:

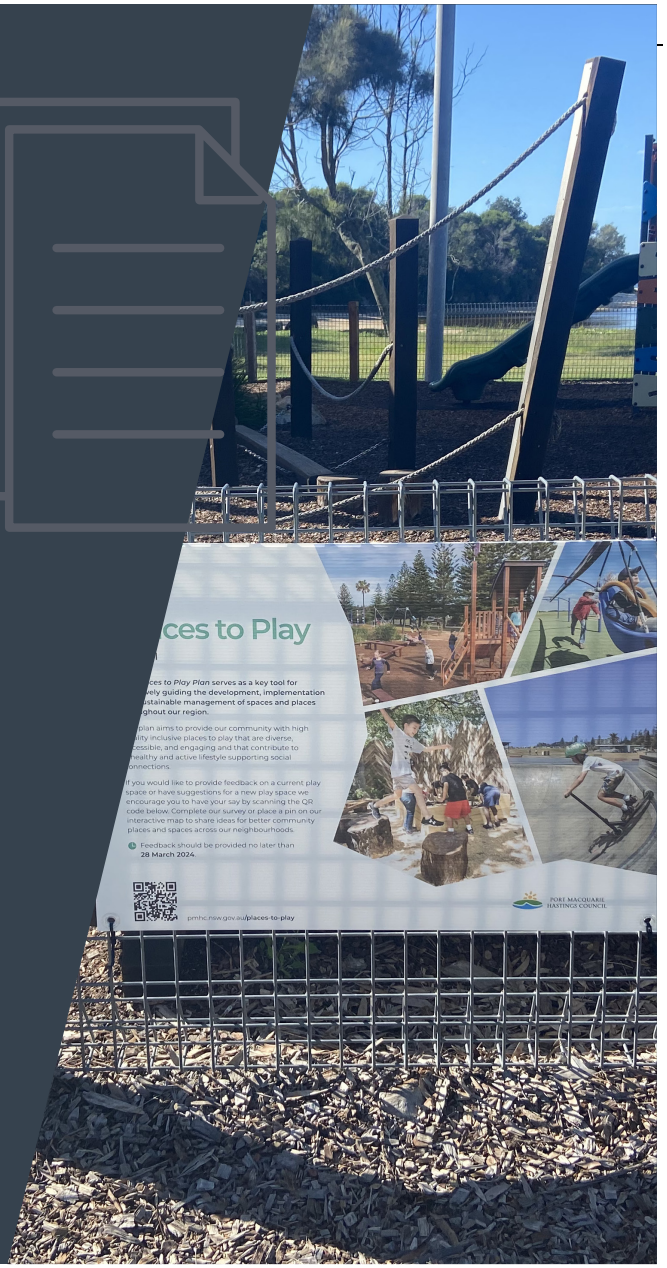
- An explanation of the system of development application assessment
- The types of development permissible in the zone
- The location of the DA Tracker service, which enables applicants and the community to track the progress of an application.

Display of a notice on the Land

The notice must be erected at the applicant's expense by Council on the land to which the development application relates.

The notice must:

- Be displaced on a signpost or board constructed in a sturdy manner and comprising durable and weatherproof materials
- Contain lettering, which is clear, legible, and able to be read from a public road, public place or public reserve.
- Be written under the heading in bold type "DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION"
- Contain the following information:
  - A statement that the application has been lodged
  - The name of the applicant
  - A brief description of the development application
  - A statement specifying that any person may make a submission in writing to Council in relation to the development application. Where the submission is by way of objection, the grounds of objection must be specified in the submission.
  - A statement outlining that any submissions are available for viewing by the applicant or any other person with a relevant interest in the application.
  - Directions to Council's webpage and specifically to the DA Tracker.



Port Macquarie Hastings Council

BIRPAI COUNTRY

Web **pmhc.nsw.gov.au/engagement-strategy**
Email **Email council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au**

PO Box 84 Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Tel: **6581 8111** Socials: **@pmhcouncil**

have your say

have your say

Draft Community Engagement Strategy

Engagement Report

August 2025 | Version 1.0



1

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

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INTRODUCTION

Background

Councils across NSW are required to maintain a robust Community Engagement Strategy (CES) to ensure transparency, inclusivity, and meaningful community participation in decision-making.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's current Engagement Strategy, adopted in 2022, has guided our engagement approach to date, the new draft Community Engagement Strategy has now been developed, it aligns with all legislative obligations, including those under the IP&R Framework and the Environmental Planning and Assessment (EPA) Act, and incorporates insights gained through engagement activities over the past three years. Once adopted, it will replace the interim IP&R Engagement Strategy and the existing Engagement Strategy.

This new strategy aims to establish a consistent, structured, and community-focused approach to engagement across all areas of Council. It reinforces Council's commitment to empowering the community and improving how we connect, listen, and respond.

Engagement approach

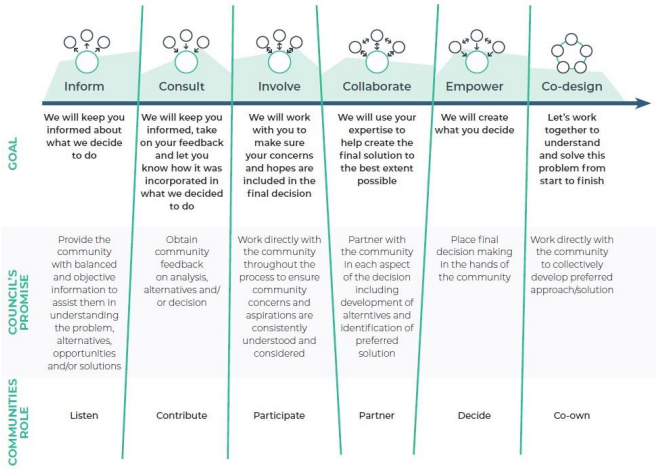
Council actively sought community input and feedback on the draft Community Engagement Strategy. We aimed to provide relevant materials and facts to assist the community to provide informed feedback. We used online and print communications channels to provide multiple opportunities for the community to understand the proposal and provide their views.

For projects or strategies with broader implications or statutory requirements, we undertake public exhibition. This formal process provides the community and key stakeholders with an opportunity to review and comment on significant proposals, such as development plans, environmental assessments, or strategic documents, over a specified exhibition period. Both approaches reflect our commitment to collaboration and open dialogue, tailoring engagement methods to the scale and impact of each project.

The difference in the two processes rests in the reporting and response to submissions. Community Engagement reporting for both types of consultation respond generally to key themes while public exhibition reporting has the additional requirement of responding to each submission and detailing how the submission has influenced changes during the finalisation of plans and strategies. Under public exhibition, all those who made a submission will receive a response.

Spectrum of Participation

Port Macquarie-Hastings 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 Level and Methods

The impact level of this project is considered **high**, which means the project is likely to be more controversial in nature than other projects. The level of engagement will range from **inform to consult.** Following the IAP2 matrix for public participation, at this level, the community is invited to contribute feedback, which will be considered by Council when finalising plans. Our commitment at this level of engagement is to listen to community concerns and aspirations and relay how feedback has influenced project outcomes.

. Our commitment across these levels of engagement is:

- To provide the community with balanced, objective information to assist them in understanding the draft Community Engagement Strategy
- To obtain feedback from the community with regards to options and decisions on the draft Community Engagement Strategy

We committed to:

- Keep the community informed
- Listen, acknowledge concerns and aspirations
- Provide information on how feedback has influenced the draft IP&R Community Engagement Strategy

The following range of engagement methods were employed to raise awareness of the project, share information, encourage discussion and collect feedback:

- Open public exhibition for 28 days we created a bulk HYS page called “Have your Say on Community Engagement” and asked people to comment on the Draft Community Engagement Strategy, Draft Community Engagement Policy and survey question on Committee effectiveness.
- Open invitation to submit feedback online, via email or to contact our Customer Service Team.
- Ideas board within the HYS page.
- Survey question on Committee effectiveness
- Localised Pop-up in Port Macquarie Shopping Centres, Laurieton Riverwalk Markets, Luminosity Youth Summit, Lake Cathie Community Centre
- Direct contact with interested Stakeholders via email
- Social media / EDM and local newsletters

This approach aimed to provide community members with meaningful opportunities to share their views and to ensure their feedback was recorded to be considered in the decision-making process.

ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Feedback collected across the engagement activities is presented below in summary form - key themes have been identified across all submissions and de-identified, verbatim feedback has been appended.

About verbatim feedback
De-identified, verbatim feedback is appended separately to this report and has been shared with the Liveable Communities team and tabled with the Council Report for this project.

Community members can request to view verbatim submissions, any requests will be considered by our Governance team prior to release.

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). 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.

Benefits and consideration in the use of 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.

- Consistency and objectivity: AI provides consistent analysis, reducing the biases that can occur with human interpretation and ensuring uniformity in data evaluation.

A key consideration in the use of AI is the 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.

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

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.

RESULTS, SUMMARY and CONCLUSION

The following sets out a summary of the key engagement statistics from the consultation and is followed by analysis of the submissions received.

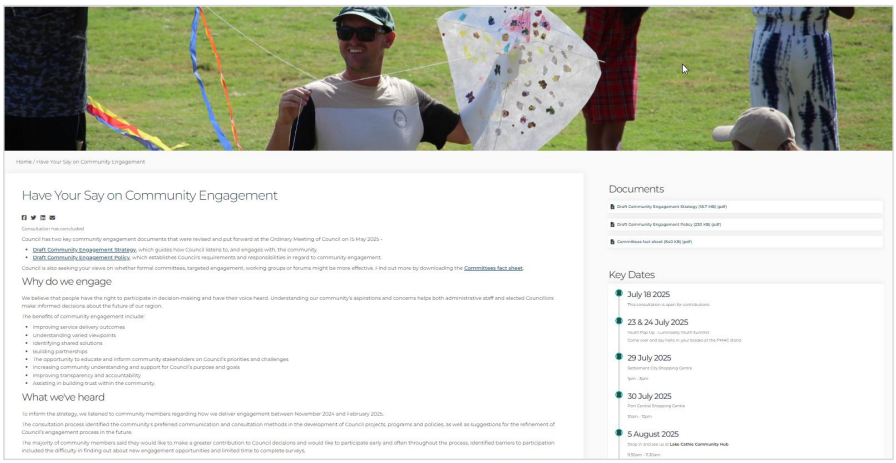


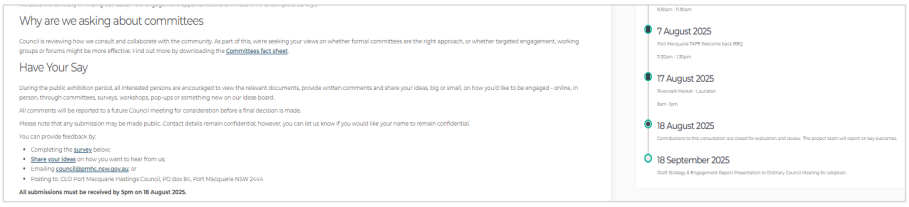
Public Exhibition
Analysis of the Have Your Say page for this project shows that there were 392 visits to the project page, 198 downloads of project information and 25 people who made an online submission. A summary of key statics on the public engagement is summarised in the table below.

Method of participation	Statistic
Visitors to project page (views)	392
New Registrations	6
Downloads of a project related document Draft Community Engagement Strategy Committee Fact Sheet Draft Community Engagement Policy	198 total 109 56 33
Completed survey (Submission)	22
Idea Board contributions	3
Emailed Submissions	4

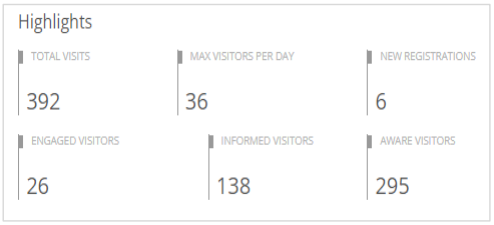
have your say

Have Your Say (HYS)
The following graphics summarise the user activity for the exhibition period, with a total of 373 views of the Have your Say on Community Engagement information page on Have Your Say (HYS) and 191 downloads of the information provided by Council.





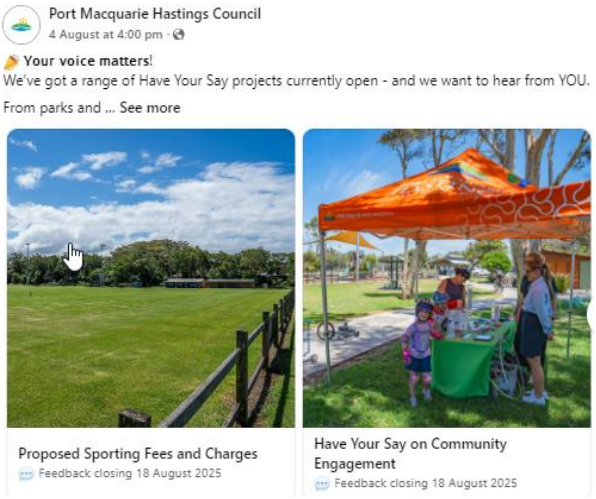




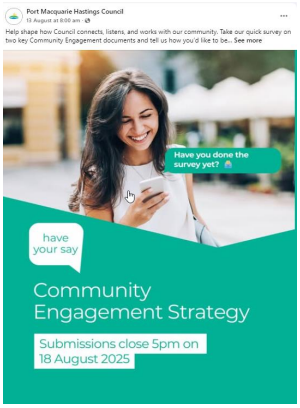
Social media engagements

The following graphics summarise the notifications made by Council using electronic and social media outlets.









Community Pop Up outcomes

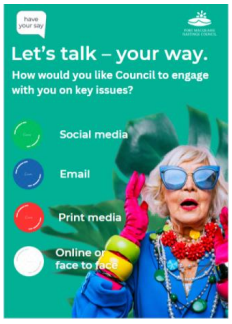
Luminosity Youth Summit Pop Up - 23rd & 24th July 2025



87 Youth attended the stand over two days, they were asked how they think PMHC should engage with young people and place a peg on the board to show their vote, below are the outcomes:

Social media - 35
Online Chat - 2
Events/Pop ups - 35
Text message blasts - 3
Decision making panels - 12

Shopping Centre Pop Ups - Settlement City & Port Central - 29th & 30th July 2025



19 Community members attended the stand over two days, they were asked how they think PMHC should engage with young people and place a peg token in the box to show their vote*, below are the outcomes:

Social media - 12
Email - 2
Print Media - 8
Online or face to face - 3
* some people voted multiple times

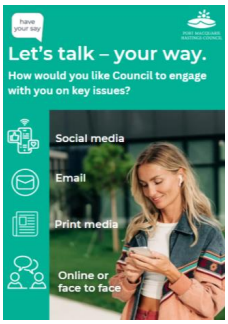
Lake Cathie Community Hub - 5th August 2025



11 Community members attended the community hall to discuss engagement and another 12 from the knitting club provided feedback, some of the comments are below:

“print media is best for our age group”
“news of the area is great it is free and in most shops”.
“facebook community groups work well to spread the message”
“newsletters to your mailbox would be great monthly”

Laurieton Riverwalk Markets - 17th August 2025



75 Community members attended the pop up at the markets, however very few were interested in discussing the community engagement strategy or policy we only had minimal votes on this day.

Social media - 6
Email - 0
Print Media - 5
Online or face to face - 5

Communications and Independent Submissions

In addition to the 22 submissions received through the HYS page, there were 4 submissions received via email.

We also have 3 people complete the idea board "how do you want to engage with us" and 22 people answer the question regarding committees.

Council is exploring the use of community-based committees to help consult and collaborate on important planning, policy and strategic matters	
How supportive are you of Council using committees made up of community members to provide input on planning, policy, and strategic issues?	
Very supportive	16
Somewhat supportive	4
Neutral	1
Somewhat unsupportive	0
Not supportive at all	1

Analysis of the submissions' key themes and sentiment are provided below.

Overall, the sentiment acknowledged great improvements in the new draft and leadership but offered constructive practical solutions and expertise to ensure that current process are improved and no longer tokenistic, late and unresponsive.

Key Themes Identified:

Equity & Representation

- Engagement seen as Port Macquarie–centric; smaller towns want fair inclusion.
- Requests for representation across the whole LGA.

Quality & Timing of Engagement

- Current processes described as tokenistic and confusing.
- Requests for earlier, clearer, and simpler engagement tools (plain language, surveys).
- Support for deeper methods: Citizens' Juries, working groups, deliberative forums.

Advisory Committees & Community Expertise

- Strong calls for committees/working groups on environment, climate, biodiversity, planning, and transport.

- Community expertise seen as under-utilised; reliance on consultants for engagement criticised.
- Clear support for a Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee.
- Desire for stronger involvement of Landcare, bush care, and environmental experts.
- Strong advocacy for an Active / Integrated Transport Advisory Group framed as essential to delivering the Integrated Transport Plan.

Transparency, Responsiveness & Trust

- "Black hole" perception of submissions – feedback rarely acknowledged.
- Calls for better feedback loops:
    - Auto-replies acknowledging submissions.
    - Progress updates.
    - Clear explanation of how input shaped decisions
    - Requests for a clear evaluation framework

Summary:

The community want genuine, transparent and accountable engagement. Advisory committess, better responsiveness and evaluation frameworks seem to be consider the most effective way to ensure the Strategy delivers meaningful outcomes.

NEXT STEPS

The next steps for this project and the community engagement approach are:

- Submissions have been considered, and the following amendments have been made to the document.
  - Grammatical changes.
  - Changing the use of the word “consultation” on pages 8,9 & 28 to “engagement”
  - Changing the word on page 15 from “equal” to “equitable”.
- The Draft Community Engagement Strategy and Engagement Report will go to the September Ordinary Council Meeting for recommendation of endorsement.
- Endorsed Strategy will be placed on Council website.
- Information will be provided back to community and submitters once endorsed by Council via email and our HYS platform.

APPENDIX

Appendix A: Have Your Say - submissions

Submission Date	Submission Feedback
July 22, 2025	The strategy currently seems to focus on parts of the Municipality where the bulk of the population resides. Too little consideration is given to, for example, pressing traffic flow problems in Wauchope at the roundabout just west of the railway line.
July 24, 2025	use the expertise offered from the community who have some owernshiprather than pay for the same expertise in consultants who don't necessarily.
July 24, 2025	The strategy is a good approach to deliver feedback to council, by providing access, equity, participation for all land owners by proactively engaging the community with a informed decision making process but I'm verify underwhelmed after going to one community session were nobody knew what they were there to discuss. They just wanted to talk about cig butts on the ground, lazy council staff and CCTV. I had 20 questions about the project and only one got answered. So I hope this process is a lot better.
July 25, 2025	Staff engagement has been getting steadily worse over the last 4 years. to the point it is non existent until a decision is made. There should be far more collaborate and empowered engagement particularly in town planning matters. The strategy itself is wordy with ideals not met by the community engagement team. It takes a well informed person to navigate the talk to see if engagement with community will improve and I would say it won't. Decisions are being made regularly by staff, passed off as a decision of council via a renewed policy, whose implications are not adequately conveyed to the people in ample time. For example, Play spaces and where and how money is spent in this town planning issue. Point in fact Laurie St reserve not taken to the people and the focus group was not the existing community council committee but school kids from some schools, children who do not understand heritage, town planning, or other sensitivities. Then to make it McLennan St, without empowered engagement

	again, distribute two different plans that are drawn prior to collabratorive engagement, wasting time and money again. Building a sand play area adjacent to a sandy beach, for under 5 year olds (pilot beach) and then destroying play equipment for over 5 year olds that was loved by the whole community, all without any face to face engagement. Council can write these strategies, but until they recognise that the community feels left out of the conversation on how their area is built and maintained physically, nothing will change. Absolutely we need community advisory committees as council staff prove again and again if left alone in the quiet their decisions are not those of the community or community leaders. No decisions are what everybody wants, but you need to engage step 1 not step 5. I clearly note in this strategy there is no triggering at all for Collaborative or empowered engagement. Non. So obviously PMHC do not really want to empower or collaborate with ratepayers, they want to exclude them. There should be far more town meetings and collaboration in design and decision. The last Council Town Meeting in the Camden Haven was enquiry by design in 2020. Shameful totalitarian behaviour by staff.
July 25, 2025	Honestly I couldnt be bothered teading it. Too difficult to access & too wordy. Just kerp it simple please. Email/post surveys to residents. That way its easy for everyone & everone gets an equal say
July 25, 2025	We would love to hear from the Council more often on progress of a MOU for FOCHI AT Camden Head. We are having a lot of difficulty getting Council to engage and support FOCHI progress the stages of our development plan and progress for a MOU. Council staff do not return calls and emails sent for this project
July 26, 2025	I support the role of advisory committees as an important form of community engagement. I particularly support the creation of the proposed climate change and resilience and Biodiversity Committees to enhance to enhance delivery of protection for our natural environment and support for climate friendly initiatives
July 26, 2025	To do with meetings with all levels of Government, this is much needed to inform people about the mapped boundaries of electorates, what each one has jurisdiction over, and who is the representative, at local, state and federal levels. This will help people know where to go to talk about different issues.
July 28, 2025	I would like to see a stronger focus on Environment in the Hastings with the creation of committee's such as the Biodiversity Committee or Climate Change Committee to guide Councils decisions in these areas.
July 28, 2025	Need to be reflective across the whole of the local government area what the community wants and needs
July 28, 2025	What is the expected response to this question? Council basically doesn't engage with the community at all.
July 29, 2025	I believe the CEP provides a framework for council to navigate how to engage with the community in planning,programming and policy.

	It highlights the need for inclusion and equity and what strategies can be taken to ensure this.
August 01, 2025	What happened to the CCATs that were established, there appears to be no mention of these being part of the previous strategy. What will happen with the plans that were developed with these groups. These worked well initially then momentum was lost. Admittedly the floods did change focus and these plans need to be revisited. Also have issue with DA notification when the DA proposal is commercial and impacts the whole suburb but only neighbours informed. If traffic increase, noise increase, time of operation or expansion of business is to happen involving large trucks then all resident should be advised.
August 05, 2025	These ideas sound interesting: Encourage innovation and new ideas, ensure inclusivity and diverse representation... Though let's move beyond Port being only seen as an NDIS and retirement town. Why are there so many carparks near the water but not many dining, cafes, or a decent pub with atmosphere near the water? Think Crescent Head, Brunswick Heads, and the community of Bellingen. The art walk is the coolest experience, and it's one day for a few hours. We moved from Sydney to be near my parents while our child was young, and looking to relocate again to Newcastle as there's no culture or vibrancy here. When it could be an incredible town/city. Move it out of an NDIS and retirement-only village!
August 08, 2025	Looks good to me
August 09, 2025	As a former health service manager I have been privileged to both apply and assess hospitals for compliance with the Australian Quality Health Standards. Most people in this industry would agree that the biggest improvements in recent times to the operation and management of hospitals has been the introduction of the Partnering with the Community and Communicating for Safety Standards in 2011. Evidence demonstrated that shrouding hospitals in mystery and treating consumers as 'uninformed or troublesome' did not streamline processes, nor did it help to mitigate error rates or litigation. History has shown that over the past fourteen years these new standards along with the principles of 'open disclosure' have transformed hospitals (in particular). These elements are no longer considered a mill stone, they are now regarded by progressive organisations as critical elements of better or best practice governance. I believe that the same issues and opportunities apply to local government, and particularly so in respect of how Councils should and can strive to meet the challenges of biodiversity and climate change. To this end I applaud those who have organised and petitioned the Council to re-engage with the community on these vital areas. I understand Council Officers' apprehension regarding ongoing communication via formally constituted committees embedded within the Corporate Governance structures of Council. Most health administrators felt the same way back in 2011 - 2016 and progress was neither immediate or consistent. However, champions emerged and as the examples of 'excellence in patient centred care' increased, the benefits of a properly constructed community engagement programs shone through in terms of day- to-day care, building design, community knowledge and

	acceptance. I doubt that many in health would want to revert to the pre 2010 ways. Success is not guaranteed, it takes good, even great leadership, but the great young emerging leaders in Health tend now to be those that enthusiastically embrace these new Standards. Councillors in thinking through its strategy for the future should take this into account. For leaders to aspire to lesser goals is to concede defeat in the search for better practice. These principles, I believe, are equally applicable to Council. To this end, I would make the following comments and suggestions. 1. In considering strategy, Council should overcome the fear of regular and formalised communication with the community. If you are seeking genuine and lasting improvement, ad-hoc or 'needs be' communication will not 'cut the mustard'. 2. Improvement will be based on a longer-term process of engagement, education and selection of community participants. As in health, success will be measured in the number and quality of community members interested in committing their own time, free of charge because they can see the opportunity to work in a safe and collaborative way to make a difference. 3. Whilst Councillors play a vital democratic role, they are frightfully busy and often do not seem to have a direct link into the administrative decision-making processes. From a community engagement point of view Council needs to consider the impact of the reduction of Councillors after the next elections. Without action, the risk of community alienation and dissatisfaction is exacerbated. 4. The current policy and suggestion for the future where the community is denied access to Council Officers on environmental advice/matters during DA or DA Modification processes limits transparency and community understanding. This ultimately results in unnecessary community frustration, and very often poor outcomes. As we have learned in other business sectors such decisions often result in additional work for the bureaucracy and reputational damage as it struggles to deal with increases in complaints. 5. With respect to biodiversity, I acknowledge the Council already meets regularly with NPWS. This is important, but the management and inputs for biodiversity and improvement are far wider. We should be engaging with our community bush regeneration experts like Land Care (and others), those embedding sustainability and regenerative principles into their businesses (e.g. tourism, agriculture), community experts (ecologists and marine biologists) and most likely others. Council Environmental staff (ecologist) decisions and audit processes can be dramatically improved with ongoing community engagement and improved conduits to stakeholders. Whilst I have focused thus far on biodiversity, I believe the same arguments and principles apply to the risk management and mitigation of Climate Change. Council should consider carefully how it can engage with the community better in respect of future transport systems, coastal management, water and energy.

	Thank you for considering this input.
August 14, 2025	Supported
August 14, 2025	Community is important and over the past few decades councils communication and engagement is extremely poor. Hopefully this new policy will improve this
August 15, 2025	The draft Community Engagement Strategy (CES), as it stands, gives a detailed presentation of the scope of community interactions with Council; and I apprecaite this opportunity to suggest how this may work better for Council and community. I encourage Council to include scope for advisory committees in the current CES. The community is rich with expertise that is largely unavailable to Council simply because avenues have not been established to allow this advice from professional residents, practicing and retired authorities across many fields to be channelled to Council. A case in point is the establishment of a Biodiversity Committee (as advocated in a recent petition submitted to Council) to support Council in developing the up-coming Biodiversity Management Action Plan and Sustainability Action Plan as part of the 2025/26 Operational Plan. It can be argued that Council has relied too much on ad hoc groups to sample community views on complex issues. While it is a guiding principle to involve all those who are affected by a decision in the decision-making process; this does not discount the benefit of advisory bodies formed from within the community who can provide regular, formalised advice particularly for significant planning proposals and action plans. Engagement with local experts and groups—such as Landcare, Hastings Birdwatchers, Camden Head Nature Alliance, and businesses with regeneration and sustainability as their mission—can benefit review of environmental planning and audits. In the same way, the Council's actions on climate change mitigation and risk management can be focussed and enhanced by guidance from a specialist advisory group. I endorse [redacted] proposal for the creation of a Planning Advisory Committee, to address future needs in transport, coastal management, water, and energy; and update the Local Environmental Plan (LEP)
August 16, 2025	Great ideas but communication methods need to be improved.
August 17, 2025	I can see value in having standing groups with relevant skills, knowledge and investment in a field. These might be ongoing advisory committees or time-to-time working groups but continuity and the nurturing of expertise is important. It is no good rustling up a new bunch of people when a new development in a field is needed.

Appendix B: Email submissions

Submission Date	Submission Feedback
August 13, 2025	To whom it may concern, At our recent meeting with members of council staff we were advised to put in a submission regarding Council's Community Engagement Strategy. As per our petition, we would still like to establish an Active Transport Advisory Group or Committee. We are open to widening the scope to include public transport (hence it would be an Integrated Transport Advisory Working Group/ Committee) - in keeping with the Integrated Transport Plan. Alternatively, have some regular forum where active transport users are represented. We believe this would be of great assistance in council as they work towards a modal shift towards non-car based transport (walking, cycling and public transport). We would like this to be reconsidered by Council. Yours sincerely,
August 16, 2025	Attention: Nicole Kosseris, Community Engagement and Communications Coordinator I would like to begin my submission by commending Council on its effort to encourage improved public consultation and involvement. Having read the draft document I feel it lays a solid foundation for a fair and workable strategy however I would like to highlight some areas that I believe warrant consideration. My observations of Council engagement with the community at present are as follows: • Lack of, or inadequate, community consultation has often resulted in confused and conflicted outcomes. As a result, different viewpoints are not considered early enough and often lead to disputation and acrimony at the decision-making stage. No one benefits in such circumstances, and stakeholders feel ignored. Earlier and more transparent engagement with the community will assist Council in canvassing alternate views in a more proactive and productive manner, while encouraging compromise. • Input and decision-making need to be encouraged from as wide and varied sources as possible. Existing entities such as CCAT committees can suffer from insufficient breadth of personnel and opinion. Wherever possible stakeholders with knowledge, interest and expertise should be included. Of specific interest to me is the area of environment. Clearly all residents are interested in the natural qualities of the area in which they live and have a right to an opinion on how development takes place. However, individuals and groups with a history of interest and involvement must be given increased credibility as vital stakeholders. Landcare representatives and local bush care members are an example

	of where such involvement should be encouraged. Similarly, business owners and township residents can provide valuable input into urban planning decisions. Youth groups and school students should be consulted in the planning of skateparks and other facilities for the young. To facilitate improved community engagement and taking in the considerations outlined above, I believe Council should form advisory committees with specific focus where possible on the stakeholder groups involved. This system would provide Council with a valuable insight into the issues under consideration and the local sentiments that are likely to be raised. Representatives of Council's Natural Resources Management team would provide leadership as well as the technical and financial support that are essential elements in achieving productive outcomes. Such committees would also widen the resource base of Council in terms of personnel and allow wider community input into significant areas such as biodiversity and climate change readiness. Finally, I would like to encourage Council to pay closer attention to transparent public evaluation of the engagement process. Personal experience has revealed several situations where Council's decision-making lacks clear, concise explanation to the community. This has led to confusion and conflict in the community and among Councillors themselves. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the engagement process.
August 18, 2025	Good afternoon I am in favour of Port Macquarie Hastings Council using committees with community representatives as part of its community engagement strategy. The benefits to Council include: **Better policy outcomes**: Policies that are discussed, refined and tested with the community are more likely to be relevant and effective. **Increased transparency and accountability**: Committees have the potential to enhance Council's democratic capacity and promote transparency by providing an ongoing platform for public input, thereby improving Council's reputation and effectiveness. **Access to local knowledge and expertise**: Committees can harness local expertise, knowledge and new ideas to strengthen Council's community engagement activities and examine issues in more depth than one-off engagement activities. **Greater support for decisions**: When decisions are refined and shaped through community input, there is likely to be greater support for Council actions. I note there is ample evidence from other local government jurisdictions that committees with community representatives can operate successfully and cost-effectively and complement the work of councils (e.g. Lake Macquarie City Council). There is also plenty of research highlighting the benefits of committees in local government community engagement and describing best-practice methods of establishing and running committees to overcome challenges (e.g. The Role and Future of Citizen Committees in Australian Local Government - Open Publications of UTS Scholars).
August 18, 2025	To, [redacted] Community Engagement and Communications Coordinator Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

[redacted]

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on these important Port Macquarie Hastings Council [hereafter PMHC] documents.

This submission contains my comments on the:

- PMHC Council Committees: Factsheet [hereafter the Factsheet];
- PMHC Draft Community Engagement Policy [hereafter the Policy];
- PMHC Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-29 [hereafter the Strategy].

I begin with comments on the PMHC Council Committees: Factsheet; I then bring these comments together with some overarching insights relevant to all three documents. I conclude with specific comments on the individual documents.

Overall, I note significant improvements in the Strategy - from that within the previous draft version presented for public comment earlier this year - and I congratulate you and the team at PMHC for that work.

Please let me know if you require any further comment or clarification on any point I have raised with this submission.

Sincerely,

PMHC Council Committees: Factsheet

Page 3: 'Tell us what you think'

In response to the question: 'How do you want Council to engage with you?'

- Foremost, I would appreciate opportunities to participate in deliberative engagement activities with PMHC and other members of our community. There are many and varied types of deliberative engagement activities – for example, Citizens' Juries and Citizens' Assemblies are two popular methods.

One of the key features that differentiates a deliberative engagement activity from most other forms of engagement – or consultation - is the opportunity they provide for participants to engage in a process of public reasoning on matters that are important in their lives.

As such, this process of public reasoning provides the participants an opportunity to reflect, discuss, question, listen to others, and think critically with an open mind and a willingness to respectfully justify their arguments in terms that others can accept.

A shared understanding of the topics under deliberation then occurs and this has

	been shown to be transformative. For instance: the give and take of this process of public reasoning helps participants move beyond their personal interests to considering their shared values and the common good. Doing this can decrease social division and increase social cohesion. Importantly, too, when these engagement activities are conducted with authenticity, they can build trust between citizens and their governing bodies. But as it stands, opportunities to engage this way in our Local Government Area [LGA] seem to be non- existent. • Other than that, I would like Council to become more responsive to the feedback/comments provided by community members. I am not suggesting that PMHC ought to adopt every piece of feedback or comment the community provides, although that is certainly another important facet to being responsive. The type of responsiveness I am referring to here is more straightforward. I will explain. I read through the comments provided in the Strategy - derived from the public engagement conducted from November 2024 to February 2025 – with great interest. In particular, there were comments from members of our community who want PMHC to improve the 'sharing of information and transparency'; others want PMHC to '[c]lose the loop connecting feedback with decisions'; and others want PMHC to '[l]isten when feedback is received'. While other people said they want 'a more consistent approach to communication and engagement' (p. 9, PMHC, 2025c). These responses prompted me to reflect on my own 'engagement' with PMHC and how best I would describe those experiences. To preface that description, I will mention that my 'engagement' with PMHC has been via the various submissions I have uploaded to the PMHC website. And to describe that 'engagement' I would say, it was like my submission was sucked into a black hole: never to be seen or heard of again. For instance, on every occasion I have made a submission online to PMHC, there has been no response or follow-up given; no indication was provided on what the next steps might be in that review process; and, to use the Strategy as an excellent example, it was only by chance that I learnt from another community member it was again under review. I am not taking a shot at the PMHC staff here. On the contrary. I appreciate that the staff have a high workload and after prompting for a reply from PMHC on another matter, I was greatly impressed by the considered response provided by [redacted], PMHC Strategic Land Use Planning Manager. It appeased my concerns that my submission had indeed been sucked into a 'black hole': it also contributed to me feeling like I had not wasted my time by 'engaging' with PMHC1. Unlike historical, tokenistic 'consultation' processes, when a governing body 'engages' with their community it implies a reciprocal, collaborative process. This

	distinction is even made on page 18 of the Strategy (PMHC, 2025c). But what I have observed over the past few years, since moving to this LGA, is that PMHC leadership has not given priority to community engagement. And when scant attention is given to, for instance, responding to the community, this can be perceived by the public as a lack of respect for any contribution that is made. I am aware that the culture of an organisation is determined by its leadership and PMHC has undergone some changes in its leadership throughout the last 12 months. That - along with some significant improvements in the latest version of the Strategy - is encouraging. And while I acknowledge that the Strategy is a new initiative [and legislative requirement] for our LGA and an aspirational document, the changes within it do suggest that PMHC wants to build trust within our community and will strive to demonstrate the principles/commitments/objectives/and actions espoused within it. In practical terms, to demonstrate what I mean by being 'responsive', this could be as simple as: when a community member provides a submission online, an email response is generated by PMHC which outlines, for instance, what that person could anticipate next in the development of that document. At this point too, an opt-in/opt-out option to receive further updates could be presented. But even responses, as simple as this, would demonstrate respect for the contributions a person has made. 1 I would also like to mention another staff member, [redacted], who very helpfully followed up with a phone call and email to me - after I had visited the PMHC shopfront about another matter - to answer my enquiry. Alternatively, and depending on the context, a more detailed response to that community member might be considered more appropriate. And when another opportunity to contribute - relevant to that submission subject-matter - arises, an email could be sent to notify that community member. Over time, some community members may prefer to no longer receive updates via follow-up emails. So, it is also important that these people can then easily opt-out of receiving any further correspondence on that matter. To conclude my response to the question: 'How do you want Council to engage with you?', I will add that when a member of the public volunteers their time and skills to assist the community by, for instance, compiling a submission to PMHC, it would be reasonable to assume that those people might have some level of interest in developments relevant to the topic under review. As I have indicated, I would certainly welcome some sort of response and follow-up, and from my reading of the earlier

	mentioned feedback on PMHC's engagement with our community, I am not alone in that sentiment. In response to the question: Do you think formal committees are the best way to work with the community on key issues – or are there better options? • I will begin by drawing attention to the following statements in The Factsheet: 'Instead of relying on standing committees, Council is: Strengthening engagement through a new Community Engagement Strategy…[and] Developing a Communications Strategy to support clearer, timelier messaging' (p. 2). In theory these are commendable aims. But on a practical level – and this includes my comments on the lack of responsiveness demonstrated by PMHC, in my answer to the above question - I am concerned that without the crucial oversight and accountability on 'key issues', provided by the expertise of committee members, to join-up-the-picture, so to speak, on whichever topic it is they are examining, the repercussions for our community – including potential losses and harms - could be very high. Further to this point I will add that despite the improvements in the latest version of the Strategy, it still does not provide an overarching evaluation framework for PMHC and our community to know if the Strategy is doing what it says it will do; let alone if it is 'strengthening' engagement as suggested in the Factsheet. To explain my concerns about what might be lost without the expertise of committee members 'keeping an eye' on any given matter, I will draw attention to page 28 of the Strategy, where we are told that it will be reviewed 'every four years or when relevant legislation changes and within three months of local government elections' (PMHC, 2025c). How many 'key issues' might PMHC need to engage with the community on within that four-year period? What if the engagement methods utilised - if not a Standing Committee - do not achieve the requisite level of oversight, expertise and accountability? Depending on when and how any evaluation of the Strategy is performed, this sort of vital information may not be determined for years and too late to remedy any unfavourable repercussions for our community. To reinforce the point I am making here - and as I explained in detail with my February 2025 submission on the earlier version of the Strategy - given the inherent significance of the Strategy to the work of PMHC, I urge you to go one step further with the Strategy and create an overarching evaluation framework to guide its implementation. The fundamental significance of the Strategy to the work of PMHC is also

	emphasised in the NSW Government Guidelines when we are told that 'council's Community Engagement Strategy must relate to the development of ALL plans, policies, programs and activities (section 402A), not just the Community Strategic Plan (NSW Government, 2021, p. 7 [capitalisation in original]). And for these reasons, I argue, the Strategy in and of itself must be evaluated - to monitor its ongoing efficiency and effectiveness - not simply the engagement methods employed within it. PMHC Draft Community Engagement Policy Page 3: Item 5: References and Related Documents • Under the 'External documents' heading there ought to be mention of the New South Wales [NSW] Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines (2021). As those Guidelines explain, they outline: 'what councils, county councils and joint organisations must do to ensure they comply with their planning and reporting requirements set out in the Act' (p. 3, NSW Government, 2021) They are, thus, critical to the functioning of PMHC. They are also an important resource for the community to refer to. • There is a typo under the heading 'External documents': the third dot point ought to be 'International Association for Public Participation': not 'Internal…' PMHC Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-29 Page 8: • It is pleasing to see that the so-called Community Engagement 'sub-strategy' - mentioned in the earlier draft version of the Strategy [p. 6, PMHC, 2024] - has been replaced with the Community Participation Plan [CPP]. The extra information on 'Engagement in planning functions' included in Appendix A of the Strategy is also a welcome addition (PMHC, 2025c). Is the CPP where the community will be able to find an overarching evaluation plan for the Strategy and, if so, could you please indicate what the anticipated timeline will be for when it is available for public review? • In the first line of the second paragraph, it says that: 'The strategy supports meaningful community consultation…' I would encourage you to replace the word 'consultation' with 'engagement'. Because of the loaded history of 'consultation' practices, the word 'consultation' can be viewed as the antithesis of the meaningful engagement espoused in this Strategy. Similarly, in the second paragraph on page 9, and in a dialogue box on page 28, the word 'consultation' is also used. For the reasons mentioned above, I would suggest this is amended to something like 'engagement process'. Page 14: • Here we are told that 'The Strategy builds on the principles of social

	justice…' (PMHC, 2025c). A similar point is made on page 8 of the Strategy. But on page 15 of the Strategy, we are presented with 'Our principles… [which, we are told] underpin the design and delivery of all engagement practices…'. I suspect much discussion has been had within PMHC to develop the list of 'Our principles' (p. 15). But, for the reader of the Strategy, there appears to be a disconnect between the principles of social justice, on page 14, and those given on page 15. Maybe a few connecting sentences could be given to draw explicit links between the principles mentioned on these different pages. Doing this would help to make the relationship between them more apparent. Even positioning both sets of principles on the same page, with the IAP2 Core Values given elsewhere – possibly, on the page with the 'Commitments' - would help the principles mentioned in the Strategy appear more coherent. But as it stands, this part of the Strategy does not mesh well together and the social justice principles look like something that 'needed' to be included, then not mentioned again. Page 15: • Adding to the comments above about the Principles, the way the 5 principles are portrayed here [and on page 2 of the Policy] implies that they are: 'How we demonstrate our principles and commitment to our community' and not simply a statement of what they are. To help this part of the Strategy cohere together a bit more effectively, this will require further attention. • Item 4 of 'Our commitment' states 'Ensure fair and equal access to the engagement process…'. But when viewed through a social justice lens, when we provide 'equal access' it can, in effect, be inequitable. Yes, we all have 'equal rights' to participate. But because of the many and varied access requirements of people in our community, if we treat everyone the same it can be inequitable. I would therefore suggest the removal of the word 'equal' in this context, so that Item 4 becomes: 'Ensure fair and equitable access to the engagement process for all stakeholders'. This amendment then sits more comfortably with the Objectives and Actions outlined in the Strategy. For instance, and not least: the Action item of Objective 2: 'Tailor engagement activities to encourage participation from diverse communities' (PMHC, pp. 26-7). Sometimes an image can convey the difference between 'equality' and 'equity' more

	effectively than words, so I have inserted an image below – which I have used many times in my own teaching - which speaks to this difference. I am not suggesting that this image be inserted into the Strategy; I simply hope it provides a visual-metaphor to highlight the point I am making here. This image is by an unknown author and licensed under CC BY-NC-SA Page 16: • There is a typo in the second line of the 'Community' box: '…staying informed about there chances…' ought to be '…staying informed about their chances…' Page 26: • The first Action item within Objective 1 has a typo: 'Education…' ought to be 'Educate…' • The third Action item within Objective 1 has a typo: '…engagement processes is included…' ought to be '…engagement processes are included…' Page 27: • 'Objective 4: Continuous Improvement' ought to explicitly mention the CPP, including how it will relate to this Strategy [in relation to this point, please see my earlier comments about the CPP and the evaluation of the Strategy]. References: New South Wales [NSW] Government. 2021. Integrated Planning & Reporting. Guidelines for Local Government in NSW. Office of Local Government. Available at: https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp- content/uploads/2021/09/Integrated-Planning-and-Reporting-Guidelines.pdf Port Macquarie Hastings Council [PMHC]. 2025a. Draft Council Committees Fact Sheet. PMHC. Available at: https://haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say-on-community- engagement Port Macquarie Hastings Council [PMHC]. 2025b. Draft Community Engagement Policy. PMHC. Available at: https://haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say-on-community-engagement Port Macquarie Hastings Council [PMHC]. 2025c. Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-29. PMHC. Available at: https://haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say-on-community- engagement Port Macquarie Hastings Council [PMHC]. 2024. Integrated Planning and Reporting Community Engagement Strategy 2022-2025. PMHC. Available at: **https://haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/draft-ipr-community-engagement-strategy**

Port Macquarie Hastings Council
BIRPAI COUNTRY

pmhc.nsw.gov.au
Email council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au
PO Box 84 Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Tel 02 6581 8111
Socials @pmhcouncil

Community Engagement Strategy

2025 - 2029



DRAFT

PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL

Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework context

Under the NSW Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) legislation, all councils are required to prepare the following plans and strategies in consultation with the community. These documents guide Council's planning, decision making and priority areas of focus for the Local Government Area (LGA).



Community Strategic Plan

The *Imagine2050* Community Strategic Plan sets the long term vision and priorities for the region, looking beyond ten years. Council maintains the CSP for the community, with implementation a shared responsibility. Success depends on strong leadership and collaboration with state agencies, industry, joint organisations, and community.



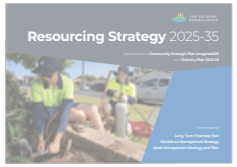
Community Engagement Strategy (CES)

The CES is designed to provide a clear and consistent, best practice approach to engagement across Council. This strategy ensures that our strategies, plans, and projects are informed by meaningful input from our community, leading to better decision-making by Council.



Delivery Program and Operational Plan

The Delivery Program outlines Council's principal activities over its 4-year term to implement CSP outcomes and strategies within available resources. It covers all operations, including ongoing activities. The accompanying Operational Plan details annual projects, programs, and actions to be undertaken in that financial year.



Resourcing Strategy

The Resourcing Strategy outlines how Council allocates people, assets, and finances to support its functions and implementation of our CSP, Delivery Program, and Operational Plan. It includes three interrelated documents: the Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Management Strategy, and Asset Management Strategy.

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PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL



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 respect to all elders past and present. We acknowledge the ongoing connection to the traditional owners and custodians of the lands and waters of the Port Macquarie Hastings region.

This Birpai Country acknowledgement is delivered verbally at gatherings and as a written statement in formal Council documents.

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Introduction

Port Macquarie Hastings Council is committed to genuine, meaningful engagement that builds trust, fosters collaboration, and ensures our community is informed, involved, and empowered in shaping our future.

We believe that:

- Our community should be **well-informed** about what we deliver.
- Our community should **have a voice** in decisions that impact them.
- Our community should **understand and contribute** to shared goals for better local outcomes.
- Our services should be shaped around **community needs and priorities**.

Guided by our commitment to continuous improvement, we will regularly evaluate and refine our engagement approach to make it more inclusive, accessible, and effective. We recognise the importance of building strong relationships and clearly communicating how community input influences decisions, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate and contribute.

Every decision we make has an impact. Through concise communication, inclusive engagement, and targeted education, we harness the knowledge, experiences, and aspirations of our people. By working together, we create a stronger, more connected, and future-focused Port Macquarie Hastings.



About our community

Our place

Our region is loved by locals for its beautiful natural environment, our history and our people. Port Macquarie Hastings is the traditional home of the Birpai people who settled in the area over 60,000 years ago. It is through their thoughtful custodianship and care that we can all enjoy our place today.

We are now one of the fastest-growing regional centres in NSW. Port Macquarie Hastings is home to over 84,525 residents living in 34 communities spread across the coast and hinterland, in urban, suburban and rural environments.





Our people

Our community values the natural environment, a vibrant local culture, and sustainable development. Our region's pristine beaches, lush hinterlands, and diverse wildlife are cherished by residents, who embrace environmental sustainability and outdoor recreational opportunities. Our strong sense of community is fostered through active participation in local events, arts, and cultural activities, reflecting our rich heritage and diversity.

We understand the importance of sustainable economic growth that supports local businesses, tourism, and innovation while maintaining the unique character of our towns and villages. Accessible infrastructure, quality healthcare, and educational facilities are seen as vital to ensuring a high standard of living and well-being for all residents.

Population

86,762 people

- 52% female
- 48% male

110,221 estimated population by 2041 (27% increase)

Age

49 years (median age)

- 16.3% aged 10-24 years
- 36.4% aged 60+ years

Households

34,851 households

3.1 average number of people per household

48,325 estimated households by 2041

Employment

51.3% in workforce

- 4.8% unemployed
- 51.5% work full-time
- 37.6% work part-time
- 6.1% Other

Education

60.1% completed year 12

- 31.7% Vocationally Trained
- 17% University Educated

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 and REMPLAN Economics 2021

Our community priorities

Community engagement was central to the development of our ***Community Strategic Plan: Imagine2050***. Through this process, our community identified the following key priorities:



Reduced traffic

Less congestion with a clear transport network approach to address present and future needs



Stable infrastructure

A solid infrastructure approach that ensures sewer, water, stormwater capability now and in the future



Improved pathways

Footpaths, shared paths, cycleways and access to public transport across our region



Environment

Protection for our natural environment and support for climate friendly initiatives



Affordable living

Current and future generations to have access to affordable lifestyles (e.g. housing)



Thriving economy

Initiatives which support local jobs and business



Inclusive community

Opportunities to celebrate our history, work alongside our First Nations people and build community spirit



Collaboration

A greater level of trust between the community and decision-makers



Transparency

Clear understanding and demonstration of how resources are allocated across the region



Quality of life

Quality amenities and effective management of assets to ensure good quality of life outcomes

About this Strategy

The Port Macquarie Hastings Council Community Engagement Strategy (the Strategy) has been developed to guide engagement practices with our community, businesses, and stakeholders when Council is developing plans, policies, and programs.

The strategy supports meaningful community engagement, fostering an inclusive and transparent decision-making process. The Strategy aligns with our engagement principles, legislative requirements, and Council's strategic framework. It outlines the guiding principles, approach, and actions for ensuring the community has an opportunity to have their say in a meaningful way.

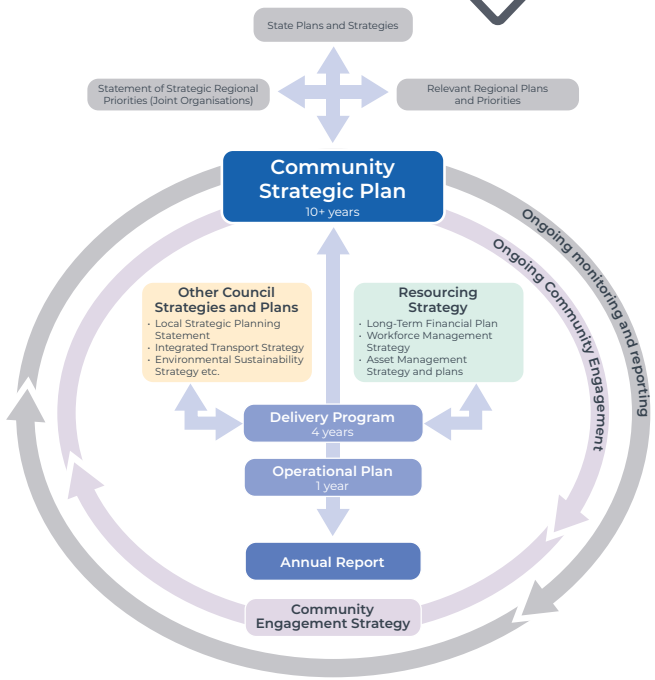
Legislative requirements

This Strategy meets Council's legislative requirements for a Community Engagement Strategy under the Local Government Act (1993). Our Strategy is based on the social justice principles of equity, access, participation, and rights.

The Environmental Planning and Assessment (EPA) Act 1979, stipulates a range of mandatory, minimum requirements for engaging in relations to Councils planning functions. The Act also requires that Council develops a Community Participation Plan (CPP) that outlines how and when they will engage the community across their planning functions. The requirements of the CPP have been incorporated into this strategy, including Appendix A which specifically addresses community engagement in planning functions.

Integrated Planning and Reporting

Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) is a framework used by Councils in New South Wales (NSW) to ensure comprehensive and sustainable planning, management, and reporting. It aims to promote transparency, accountability, and community engagement in local government planning and decision-making processes.



What we've heard so far

Our engagement outcomes

Between November 2024 and February 2025, we listened to community members about how we deliver engagement to inform this draft strategy.

The consultation process identified the communities preferred methods of communication and engagement in the development of Councils projects, programs and policies, as well as community suggestions for the refinement of Council's engagement process into the future.

The majority of community members said that they would like to make a greater contribution to Council's decisions. They would like to participate early and often throughout the process. They identified that a barrier to participation, was that it was difficult to find out about new engagement opportunities, and given their limited time wanted surveys to be shorter



- Have a more consistent approach to communication and engagement
- Reach a wider demographic
- Improve sharing of information and transparency
- Listen when feedback is received
- Close the loop, connecting feedback with decisions

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

About Community Engagement

What is community engagement?

Community engagement is the ongoing relationship between Council, our community and stakeholders relating to projects, plans and decisions that affect people living in, and connect to, our region.

Community engagement allows the community to contribute to Council decisions and actions by creating an inclusive environment in which community feedback is embraced, considered, and acted on.

Our commitment to community engagement is supported by the guiding principles of transparency, openness, and a sense of accountability through a range of inclusive engagement methods with our community, stakeholders, and visitors.

Why do we engage?

We believe that people have a right to participate in decision-making and to have their voices heard. Understanding our community's aspirations and concerns helps both administrative staff and our elected Councillors make informed decisions about the future of our region.

Engaging with our community provides benefits including improving service delivery outcomes, understanding varied viewpoints, identifying shared solutions, building partnerships, as well as the opportunity to educate and inform community stakeholders on Council's priorities and challenges. It also increases community understanding and support for Council's purpose and goals, improves transparency and accountability, and can assist in building trust within the community.

Community Engagement is a planned process of working across organisations, stakeholders and communities to shape the decisions or actions of the members of the community, stakeholders or organisation in relation to a problem, opportunity or outcome.

NSW Government, All-of-Government Communications Framework

Communication is how we connect with our stakeholders. It is sharing the right message at the right time to inform our community.

NSW Government, All-of-Government Communications Framework

The interface between Council's Engagement, Communications, and Education Activities

At Council, engagement, communications, and education are interconnected but distinct in their roles and objectives, working together to foster transparency, community involvement, and positive change.

- **Community Engagement** is about two-way interaction—actively listening, consulting, and collaborating with the community. It ensures that residents, businesses, and stakeholders have a voice in shaping decisions, projects, and services. Engagement methods include public exhibitions, workshops, surveys, and forums to encourage participation in the decision-making process.
- **Communications** focuses on informing and updating the community. It ensures transparency by delivering clear and accessible information through various channels, including media releases, Council's website, social media, newsletters, and direct correspondence. Communications help residents understand Council's actions, policies, and decisions and how they impact the community.
- **Education** goes beyond informing—it is about building knowledge, shaping social behaviours, and empowering the community to make informed choices. This includes awareness campaigns, school and community programs, and initiatives designed to foster long-term behavioural change around key issues such as sustainability, waste management, road safety, disaster preparedness, and active citizenship.

Together, engagement, communications, and education form a holistic approach to strengthening community connections. While engagement ensures people are heard, communications keeps them informed, and education equips them with the tools and knowledge to contribute meaningfully and take action.



Who do we engage?

The following table outlines how we engage with our community about key priorities, plan and strategies. Planning-related projects have specific legislative exhibition timeframes which must be met.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS	WAYS WE ENGAGE		WHY OUR STAKEHOLDERS ARE IMPORTANT TO US	WHY WE ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS
Residents and Ratepayers 	· Public meetings · Publications · Website · Social media · Rates notices · Community meetings · Information	display or kiosk · Public exhibition · Annual Report · Phone surveys · Direct mailout	Provide guidance values, engagement and feedback on how to make life better for people in our region.	Provide civic leadership representation, services and facilities. Generate sustainable growth and return to the community.
Businesses 	· Focus groups and workshops · Meetings	· Publications · Website · Social media	Build capacity, provide jobs, and drive the economy in our community.	Provide and promote business.
Community groups and volunteers 	· Focus groups and workshops · Meetings	· Committees · Working groups	Build trust and bridges to local communities through services.	Provide support and partnerships.
Visitors 	· Events · Website	· Published information	Provide economic benefit, generate employment opportunities and financial viability.	Provide products, services and facilities.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS	WAYS WE ENGAGE	WHY OUR STAKEHOLDERS ARE IMPORTANT TO US	WHY WE ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS
Customers	· Correspondence · Customer satisfaction metrics · Customer care and service · Website · Publications · Fact sheets and FAQ's · Surveys · Meetings	Provide us with feedback and utilise the services and products.	Provide products and services at good value and quality.
Employees and their representatives	· Staff portal · Staff briefings and onsite meetings · Employee survey · Exit surveys · Interviews · Emails · Newsletters	Central to the success of our organisation by providing valuable knowledge, skills and labour.	Provide a fair, engaging and enriching work experience with career development and flexible work arrangements.
Regional and national partners	· Contract management - account management relationships · Regular engagement through site visits. · Meetings	Provide shared knowledge, cultural experiences, knowledge and resources.	Provide advocacy, leadership, cultural vibrancy, and resources in line with policy and legislation.
Other levels of government	· Correspondence · Formal meetings · Briefings · Networks · One-on-one meetings	Provide funding opportunities, services, planning direction, legislation and networks.	Provide local strategies, partnerships and networks.
Suppliers	· Contract management - account management relationships.	Provide good value and quality products and services.	Provide fair access to business opportunities in line with policy and legislation.
Media	· Media releases · Briefings · Interviews · Social media	Build and protect reputation and raise awareness of our services and facilities.	Provide trend data as well as social, environmental, economic and governance information.

Inclusive and accessible engagement

We recognise that some communities may experience barriers to participating in the engagement process. We are committed to providing opportunities for all voices in our community to be heard. This includes:

- ✓ Using plain language that is easy to understand
- ✓ Providing information in accessible formats including written and digital
- ✓ Ensuring a variety of engagement tools are available to reach those without internet access, people with disabilities, people for whom English is not their primary language, and people with low literacy levels.
- ✓ Ensuring venues are accessible
- ✓ Meeting commitments that are outlined in our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)



Community expectations

Engagement principles & commitments

The Strategy builds on the principles of social justice and the Core Values created by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP²).

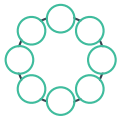
Social Justice



Equity
There should be fairness in decision making, prioritising and allocation of resources, particularly for those in need



Access
All people should have fair access to services, resources and opportunities to improve their quality of life



Participation
Everyone should be given genuine opportunities to participate in decisions which affect their lives



Rights
Equal rights should be established and promoted, with opportunities provided for all people from all backgrounds

IAP² Core Values

Public participation:

1. Is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. Includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
3. Promotes sustainable decisions by recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
4. Seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. Communicates to participants how their input affected the decision

The IAP2 principles guide our Engagement Strategy and Policy, ensuring our approach is transparent, inclusive, and community-driven. These principles shape how we inform, consult, involve, collaborate, and empower our community, supporting effective communication and meaningful participation in decision-making across all Council activities.

Our principles

Our principles underpin the design and delivery of all engagement practices:

1. We deliver **relevant, timely** and **easy to understand** information
2. We are **honest** and **transparent**
3. We are **inclusive** and **encourage** a **diversity of voices** to be heard
4. We **listen, value** and **respect community** input and feedback
5. We embrace **innovation** and encourage **new ideas**

Our commitment

We will guide and continuously improve community engagement processes to:

1. Build trust and credibility in the process among participants
2. Enhance community participation in decision-making and ensure decision-makers are responsive to community concerns
3. Accurately represent the community's role in decision-making
4. Ensure fair and equitable access to the engagement procedss for all stakeholders.
5. Advocate for the engagement process and honour commitments made to the community
6. Communicate engagement outcomes and how feedback was considered in a timely manner



Roles and responsibilities

Effective communication, engagement, and education requires a shared commitment from Council, staff, and the community. Building trust, fostering collaboration, and delivering meaningful outcomes can only happen when we work together.

Success will be driven by how we communicate, listen, and interact - every day, in every conversation, and in every decision we make. By working together - Councillors, staff, and the community - we can strengthen relationships, build understanding, and create positive, lasting outcomes for Port Macquarie Hastings.

Community

The community is encouraged to actively participate in engagement opportunities, staying informed about their chances to contribute. Community members should carefully consider the information provided, engage respectfully in activities, share their views, and offer feedback to Council on the engagement process.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders are individuals or groups with an interest in or who are directly impacted by Council's decisions and actions. Their involvement is essential in shaping outcomes, providing valuable insights, and ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered in the decision-making process.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The CEO is responsible for overseeing the preparation of the Community Strategic Plan and Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documents, ensuring they are endorsed by the elected Council. It is also their duty to advise Council on the best means of engagement and ensure that community members have the necessary information to participate meaningfully in the IP&R process.

Mayor and Councillors

The role of the Mayor and Councillors in implementing the Strategy is to represent the interests of ratepayers and residents, facilitate open communication between the community and Council, and thoughtfully consider the results of community engagement processes when making decisions at Council meetings.

Community Engagement Team

The Community Engagement Team leads the planning, coordination, and delivery of engagement activities across Council. They support staff by providing resources, guidance, and training on best practices in community engagement. The team also monitors the effectiveness of engagement strategies and ensures that feedback is collected, analysed, and communicated back to the community.

Council staff

All Council staff play a vital role in identifying opportunities for community engagement. They are responsible for working with the Community Engagement Team in actively seeking the views of stakeholders who are affected by or interested in projects, and considering this input in their decision-making processes. Council staff must work with the Community Engagement Team to ensure that participants are informed about how their feedback was used and the final outcomes of the process.

Engagement methods

Levels of engagement

We have adopted the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Participation to determine at what level we engage with the community.

The IAP2 Participation Spectrum helps to determine the scope of our community's input and the role those engaged will have in the decision-making process.

Increasing impact on the decision

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Our Goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
Our Role	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
Your Role	Keep in touch. Follow Council on social media. Subscribe to regular newsletters and updates.	Contribute to ideas and feedback. Respond to surveys. Make public submissions	Actively participate in the workshops and engagement sessions. Share ideas, concerns and aspirations.	Work together to develop solutions.	Make decisions and work with Council to implement them.

Levels of influence

The level of influence that stakeholders have on a decision is related to the project. Effective engagement requires aligning stakeholder expectations with the level of influence to foster trust in the process and to allow for meaningful participation.

The table below provides some examples of stakeholder expectations and the level of influence across the engagement levels.

Increasing level of influence →

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Stakeholder expectations	Expect some input or influence on decisions due to personal interest in the issue.	Expect their feedback to directly impact decisions or lead to changes.	Expect meaningful involvement and that their input will help shape decisions.	Expect to be equal partners in decision-making, with significant influence over the outcome	Expect full control and decision-making authority over the outcome.
Level of influence	The goal is to provide information. Stakeholders have no direct influence on decisions, as the purpose is to communicate outcomes or updates.	Feedback is considered but decision-makers maintain control. Input may influence outcomes, but not necessarily in all cases.	Stakeholders are actively involved in providing input, which is valued, but decision-makers retain authority. Influence is moderate.	Stakeholders are partners in the process, with high influence on decisions. However, decision-makers still retain final authority after considering all inputs	Stakeholders are given full authority to make decisions, with maximum influence. This level is rare and only applied in specific scenarios.



Challenges to engagement

When engaging with the community there may be challenges when trying to ensure meaningful and effective participation.

Council strives to address these challenges through planning, clear communication, and variety to ensure successful community engagement.

Some of the key challenges include:

- Diverse stakeholder interests
- Engagement fatigue
- Reaching under-represented groups
- Mistrust or scepticism
- Limited resources (time, budget, and staffing)
- Managing expectations:
- Communication barriers (language, literacy, accessibility)
- Complexity of issues
- Hostile or highly emotional environments
- Low participation

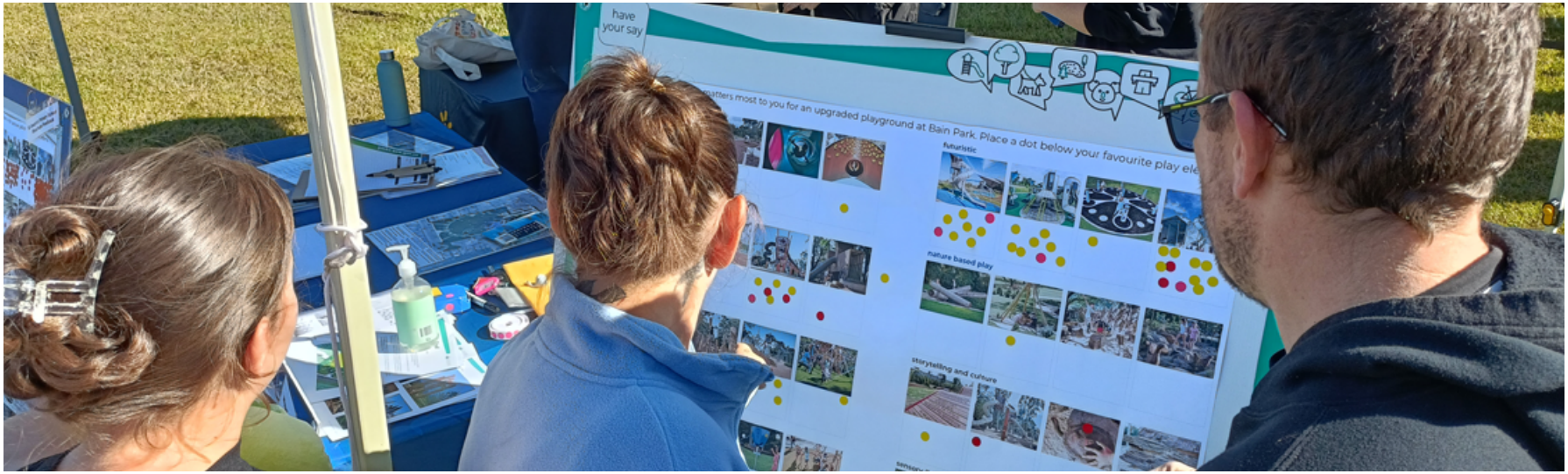
When do we engage?

The following table outlines how we engage with our community about key priorities, plan and strategies. Planning-related projects have specific legislative exhibition timeframes which must be met.

PROJECT TYPE	LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT	HOW WE WILL COMMUNICATE	WHAT WE WILL DO	EXHIBITION PERIOD
Council key long-term plans: · Community Strategic Plan · Delivery Program Community Engagement Strategy · Strategies · Master plans	Involve	Work directly with the community to ensure priorities are reflected in the decision. Provide a range of opportunities / channels for residents and ratepayers to share their views	Directly reflect community concerns and aspirations in the finalised plan.	28 Days
Council's key Policies	Consult	Ask for community views about options identified by Council.	Acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how community input influenced the decision.	28 days (or as specified by legislative requirements)
Council's Annual Plan – Operational Plan and budget	Involve	Work directly with the community to ensure priorities are reflected in the decision. Provide a range of opportunities / channels for residents and ratepayers to share their views	Directly reflect community concerns and aspirations in the finalised plan.	28 Days
New capital work and placemaking (including playgrounds and draft master plans)	Involve	Work directly with the community to ensure priorities are reflected in the decision. Provide a range of opportunities / channels for residents and ratepayers to share their views	Directly reflect community concerns and aspirations in the finalised plan.	28 Days
Maintenance and renewal capital work	Inform	Share balanced information on current activities and plans. Take all reasonable steps to ensure stakeholders are advised of Council's proposal	Communicate updates to keep community informed.	We will let you know at least 14 days before work starts.

PROJECT TYPE	LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT	HOW WE WILL COMMUNICATE	WHAT WE WILL DO	EXHIBITION PERIOD
Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)	Consult	Ask for community views about options identified by Council. In addition to minimum statutory provisions, take all reasonable steps to ensure known stakeholders are advised of the opportunity to input.	Recognise community views and concerns and ensure these are reflected as inputs into Council's final decision	28 Days
Planning Proposals for local environmental plans subject to gateway determination	Consult	Ask for community views about options identified by Council. In additional to minimum statutory provisions, take all reasonable steps to ensure known stakeholders are advised of the opportunity to input	Recognise community views and concerns and ensure these are reflected as inputs into Council's final decision	As per the requirements of the Gateway determination which is generally 20 working days for standard planning proposals (noting it may be more or less depending on the category of planning proposal and there may be no exhibition for minor proposals)
Draft Development Control Plans	Consult	Ask for community views about options identified by Council. In addition to minimum statutory provisions, take all reasonable steps to ensure known stakeholders are advised of the opportunity to provide input	Recognise community views and concerns and ensure these are reflected as inputs into Council's final decision	28 Days
Application for development consent where engagement is required under the Community Participation Plan	Consult	Ask for community views about proposed development. Take all reasonable steps to ensure stakeholders are advised of the opportunity to input.	Recognise community views and concerns and ensure these are reflected as inputs into Council's final decision.	14 days (or as specified in the relevant community participation plan, which may find public exhibition is not required). Refer to Appendix A

PROJECT TYPE	LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT	HOW WE WILL COMMUNICATE	WHAT WE WILL DO	EXHIBITION PERIOD
Application for modification of development consent where engagement is required under the Community Participation Plan	Consult	Ask for community views about proposed development. Take all reasonable steps to ensure stakeholders are advised of the opportunity to input.	Recognise community views and concerns and ensure these are reflected as inputs into Council's final decision.	The period (if any) determined by the consent authority in accordance with the relevant community participation plan (Refer to Appendix A)
Environmental impact statement obtained under Division 5.1	Consult	Ask for community views about proposed development. Take all reasonable steps to ensure stakeholders are advised of the opportunity to input.	Recognise community views and concerns and ensure these are reflected as inputs into Council's final decision.	28 Days
Fast-Track Development Applications	Nil	Certain types of development that are minor in nature and fully compliant do not require engagement.	These forms of development can be processed under the FastTrack process	Nil (Refer to Appendix A)



Public exhibition

Public exhibition plays an important, and sometimes statutory role, in community participation as part of the planning process. Public exhibition is the official period in which draft documents or certain development applications are made available for consultation and feedback. Public exhibition of draft documents and development applications must first be endorsed by Council before being made available for public comment.

Publicly exhibited plans, applications and other matters cannot be made, determined or finalised until after the minimum public exhibition period. If a plan, application or other matter is placed on public exhibition for a specified longer period, submissions may be made during that specified longer period and the plan or application is not to be made, determined or finalised until after that specified longer period.

Anyone with an interest in a planning matter is welcome to make a submission. Submissions by the community, with respect to a plan, application or other matter, may be made during the period of its public exhibition.

Public exhibition for strategic planning functions

At a minimum, we will notify the community about public exhibitions of Planning Proposals, new or amended Development Control Plans and new or revised Contribution Plans via our website. A letter will be distributed to an entire block or precinct as appropriate for Planning Proposals and Development Control Plan (DCP) amendments that are site-specific or precinct-based. Tailored engagement activities such as focus groups will form part of the public exhibition for a comprehensive review of the primary Planning Instrument (LEP).



Methods of communication and engagement

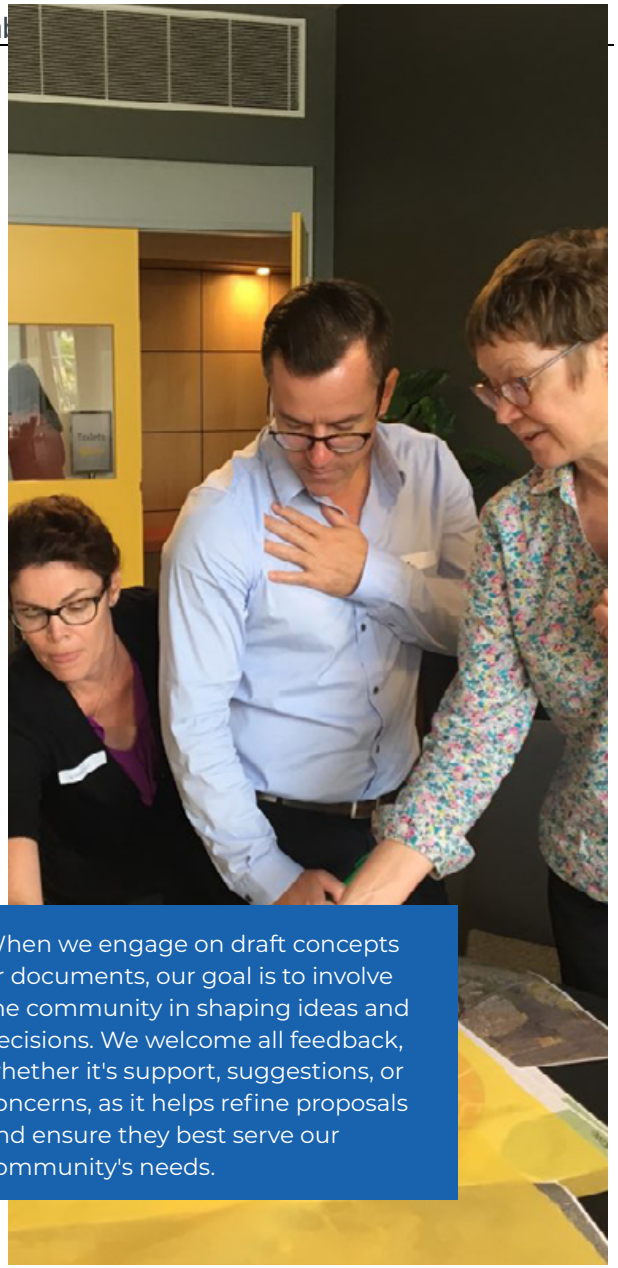
Communication and engagement tools are what we use to inform and collect feedback from the community. There is a wide range of tools to choose from and we select tools based on the purpose of the engagement, the information to be collected, stakeholder groups we want to hear from, the impact of the project and the time available to make a decision. Some of the tools we use include:

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Communications					
Advertisements/public notices	✓				
Council events	✓				
Community newsletters	✓				
Emails and Letters	✓				
Flyers, brochures, fact sheets, posters, signs	✓				
Local newspaper articles	✓				
Media Releases & media statements	✓				
Rates notices and followers	✓				
Radio announcements	✓				
Television	✓				
Social media	✓	✓			
YouTube broadcasts	✓				
Community Engagement					
Focus groups and workshops		✓	✓	✓	
Drop in / pop up sessions / vox pops		✓	✓		
Public Exhibition / submission		✓	✓	✓	
Council Meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Public forum associated with Council Meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Council Website	✓	✓			
Community Groups		✓	✓	✓	✓
Information, interactions and/or meetings with Council Staff	✓	✓	✓	✓	
HYS Platform - Surveys / questionnaires / polls		✓	✓	✓	

How do we respond to our community?

It is important to us that the feedback of people we engage with is genuinely considered when decisions are made. Once feedback has been considered, Council staff recommend next steps or outcomes for consideration to the Councillors. As part of the process to close the loops, we will:

- Update the HYS and project page with a summary of the feedback received outcomes and next steps.
- Email those who provided feedback with the results of the consultation and link to the HYS/project page for more information.
- Email those who provided feedback once a Council resolution has been made.
- For Development Applications (DA) we will acknowledge the receipt of submissions during the exhibition period. We will consider the matters raised in submissions received during public exhibition. The number of submissions and issues raised in relation to applications for development consent will be addressed within the assessment report. Any decision on the application will need to balance the weight of the issues raised in the submission with the planning controls and merit-based issues relevant to the site. In some instances, assessment staff are able to make determinations/decisions under delegation. In other cases, applications may be referred to Council's Development Assessment Panel (DAP) for a decision.
  Individual submissions are available to be viewed under a Government Information (Public Access) 2009 (GIPA) Open Access Application.



When we engage on draft concepts or documents, our goal is to involve the community in shaping ideas and decisions. We welcome all feedback, whether it's support, suggestions, or concerns, as it helps refine proposals and ensure they best serve our community's needs.

How we will drive improvement

We actively engage with and listen to our community through a variety of methods.

An important part of this process is to ensure it is respectful and meaningful, that we are clear on how feedback and input will be used to support decision making, and that our engagement objectives are clear.

Objective 1
BUILD CAPACITY

Council will work closely with community, stakeholders and staff to create a culture of genuine and relevant engagement, both within our organisation and the community.

Action:

Educate staff & stakeholders about community engagement and its use by Council.
Provide IAP2 training to increase the capacity of staff when undertaking community engagement.
Build a whole of organisation approach to ensuring the community engagement processes are included in our planning and delivery programs, projects and services.
Embed community engagement into our culture at Port Macquarie Hastings Council.
Identify emerging methods, channels, tools and technologies to support engagement within our communities, business and with stakeholders. We seek to provide a diverse range of engagement activities to encourage participation from the whole community to ensure that we reach those that will be impacted or interested.

Objective 2
INFORM AND INVOLVE

Council will create and promote inclusive opportunities for effective participation and collaboration for community members who live, work and play within PMHC, and ensure our communities are engaged and informed.

Action:

Clearly communicate and promote engagement opportunities
Develop partnerships and relationships with individuals, community leaders, groups, services and other agencies.
Create more opportunities for listening and providing feedback.
Tailor engagement activities to encourage participation from diverse communities.

Objective 3
ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT

Council will show how community and stakeholders' participation was used to inform and influence decision-making by closing the loop on the engagement outcomes.

Action:

We will update the HYS project page outlining engagement outcomes and next steps.
Email those who provided feedback with the council of the consultation and links to the project page.
We will notify that the item/report has been put on the Council meeting agenda and provide further information on opportunities to be involved.
Following council resolution we will email the outcome, update the HYS page and include the outcome in the monthly HYS e-newsletter.

Objective 4
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Council will implement a continuous improvement program, incorporating community and stakeholder input, to reflect best practice and the needs of the community.

Action:

Continually develop and improve Council's community engagement practices through regular review and evaluation.
Gather feedback regarding the effectiveness of consultation and communication outcomes to all stakeholders.
Ensure the engagement process is responding to local needs by regularly undertaking surveys.

We regularly survey our residents through a community satisfaction survey.

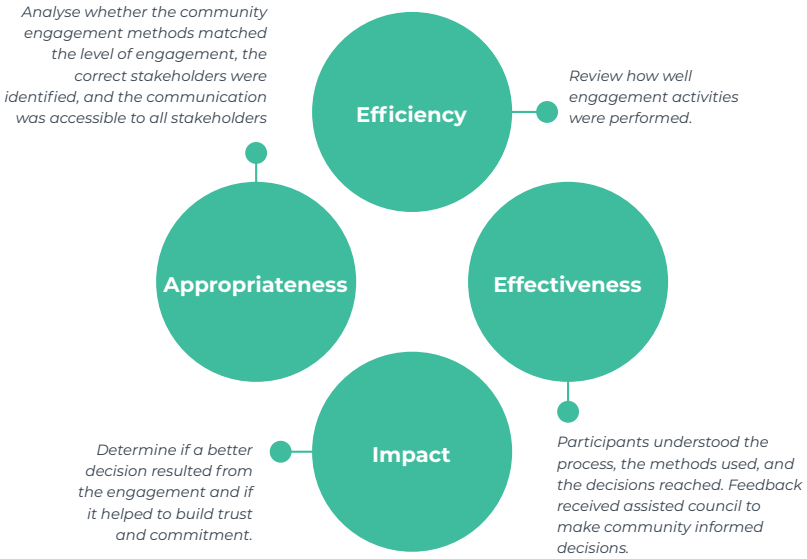
We survey 600 residents who are demographically representative of our region.



Evaluating Engagement

We will evaluate our engagement activities to monitor efficiency and effectiveness, this is helpful to show where changes are needed and help plan more effectively for future engagement.

Evaluation will focus on four key areas:



Methods we will use for capturing feedback about engagement approaches and activities may include:

- Asking survey participants how they became aware of the engagement process.
- Feedback forms from our engagement events such as workshops, meetings, information sessions, forums etc.
- Reviewing our biennial Community Satisfaction Survey.
- Track online traffic sources to the Have Your Say website.

This strategy will be reviewed every four years or when relevant legislation changes and within three months of local government elections.

Appendix A – Engagement in planning functions

The following section sets out Council's minimum engagement requirements in exercising its planning functions, consistent with schedule 1 in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) and other provisions contained within the Port Macquarie Hastings Council Community Engagement Strategy.

Notification of development applications

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 sets the framework for public participation within the development assessment process, it requires the Council to formalise its notification procedures through its community participation plan. Council consults where there may be a significant impact on the surrounding locality as a result of the proposed development. How an application is notified is dependent on the scale of development and not all applications require notification.

All development applications received by Council will be published on DA Tracker on Council's webpage. Not all applications for development consent require direct neighbour notification. Where a proposal may have a significant impact on the neighbourhood, Council will advise adjoining and neighbouring landowners via letter and in some instances include a site sign, as stated below. Where an application for development falls into one or more category, engagement will be in accordance with the requirements for the most intensive form of development.

There are some types of development do not need development consent from Council and therefore there is no pathway for formal community participation. This plan does not relate to applications that fall within the following categories:

Development which is exempt under the provisions of Clause 3.1 Exempt Development of the LEP and or any applicable State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)

Development which is complying under the provisions of Clause 3.2 Complying Development of the LEP and/or any applicable State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)

If the proposal is potentially contentious or likely to be of significant interest to the community, Council has the discretion to determine if additional engagement methods will be used. Where a development is not specified in the below tables, the application will be notified by way of a letter to adjoining neighbours at a minimum.

Council will comply with any other legislative requirement relating to the notification of Development Applications as applicable, including the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations. Revised plans lodged during the assessment and before determination will be publicly exhibited in the same way as the original application, but only where the changes being sought intensity or change the external impact of the development to the extent that neighbours, in the opinion of Council, ought to be given the opportunity to comment.

APPLICATION CATEGORY	TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	NOTIFICATION / ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS
Advertised Development	• Major community or public facilities whether publicly or privately owned including hospitals, libraries, schools, universities, sports and entertainment facilities, licensed clubs. • Major commercial and retail development • Major transport infrastructure and interchanges • Hotels, pubs or entertainment facility • Caravan parks • Places of public worship • Manufactured home estates • Motels • Public buildings in residential zones; • Major development on Council owned or controlled land • The demolition of a heritage items liked in Schedule 5 of the Port Macquarie Hastings Local Environmental Plan 2011, or the use of a building or land which is a heritage item for a purpose which is not permitted under the land use zoning table applying to that land; • Extractive industries • Any development application accompanied by a Species Impact Statement • Water based activities • Other development required to be advertised under the EP&A Act, Regulations or any other environmental planning instrument.	• A notice will be published on Councils website for 14 days and will provide the address of the application and a brief description of the proposed development. • In the case of advertised development which is Integrated development (excluding Nominated Integrated Development and Threatened Species Development), a notice will be published on Council's website for 14 days. • For Nominated Integrated Development and Threatened Species Development, a notice will be published on Councils website for 28 days. • Letters will be sent to adjoining and adjacent property owners to inspect the application and make a written submission. • Copy of the application will be made available for viewing at Council's Customer Service Centres. • Where an adjoining or adjacent property is a strata title, Council will notify the individual strata unit owners as well as the Owners Corporation, or an Association under the Community Land Development Act 1989 • Council may consider a wider notification period for an application or an extension of time available for comment in the circumstances of the case.

APPLICATION CATEGORY	TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	NOTIFICATION / ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS
Notifiable Local Development	• All types of development which are not listed as Advertised Development (above) and are not of a type listed below will be notified by Council as Local Development.	• Notified for 14 days on Councils Application Tracker. • Letters sent to adjoining and adjacent property owners to inspect the application and make a written submission • Copy of the application available for viewing at Councils Customer Service Centres • Where an adjoining or adjacent property is a strata title, the Council will notify the individual strata unit owners as well as the Owners Corporation, or an Association under the Community Land Development Act 1989 • Council may consider a wider notification period for an application or an extension of time available for comment in the circumstances of the case.
Development applications which will not be notified or advertised	• Singles storey dwelling houses and single storey additions that comply with setback provisions, except raised single storey dwelling houses that have a similar impact to a 2-storey dwelling house. • Swimming pools • Sheds and outbuildings that comply with maximum floor area height and setback provisions • Fences and retaining walls • Rural dwellings and ancillary structures • Buildings ancillary to agriculture • Demolition of buildings • Industrial land uses within employment zones, except where the site boarders residentially zoned land. • Minor development in employment zones • Applications to modify a consent under S4.55 of the EP&A Act where the application will not significantly alter the intensity or likely impact compared to the original development. • Strata subdivisions of existing buildings where the number of dwellings or units remains unchanged.	• DA available for viewing on Councils Application Tracker.

** Integrated development is development (not being State significant development or complying with development) that, in order for it to be carried out, requires development consent and one or more approval piece of legislation (Section 4.4, EP&A Act 1979). Refer Clause 89 (4) of the EP&A Regulation 2000 for definitions of Nominated Integrated Development and Threatened Species Development.*

Notification of modification applications

Council will notify Modification Applications in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.

TYPE OF MODIFICATION APPLICATION	IS NOTIFICATION REQUIRED?
Section 4.55 (1)	No
Section 4.55 (1A)	No, if in the opinion of council, all alterations result in minor change to the approved development
Section 4.55 (2)	Yes, if the original development application required notification, and in the same manner, except, where in the opinion of Council, all alterations result in minor change to the approved development.
Section 4.56	Yes, if the original development application required notification, and in the same way, except where, in the opinion of council, all alterations result in minor change to the approved development. However, each person who made a submission in respect of the initial development application must be notified regardless of the extent of the impacts of the proposed modification.



PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Notification methods

Notification letter

Council will notify Modification Applications in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.

Where a notification letter is required, a letter will be sent to:

- Persons who own adjoining or neighbouring land to an application site, according to Councils rates and property register.
- Relevant community organisations which, in Councils opinion, may need to provide input on the proposed development.
- The owner's corporation and property owners where adjoining land is a lot within the means of the Strata Schemes Development Act 20215 No 51 or the Strata Schemes Management Act 2015 No.50
- Any other persons or parties that in Councils opinion are likely to be affected by the proposed development, where the enjoyment of the land may be significantly affected in relations to, but not limited to:
  - The views to and the views from the land
  - Overshadowing
  - Privacy
  - Noise
  - The visual quality of the building in relation to the streetscape
  - Existing amenity.
- The notification letter must provide the following information:
- A description (including the address) of the land to which the development application relates
- A description of the proposed development
- An A4 copy of the site plan and elevations
- The name of the applicant
- The name of the contact person through which enquiries can be directed
- A statement specifying that the application may be inspected at Councils Customer Service Centres at any time during normal business hours for a period of 14 days.

The letter must specify that any person may make a submission in writing to Council in relation to the development application. Where the submission is by way of objection, the grounds of objection must be specified in the submission.

The letter must direct the receiver to the Councils webpage and specifically to the following information:

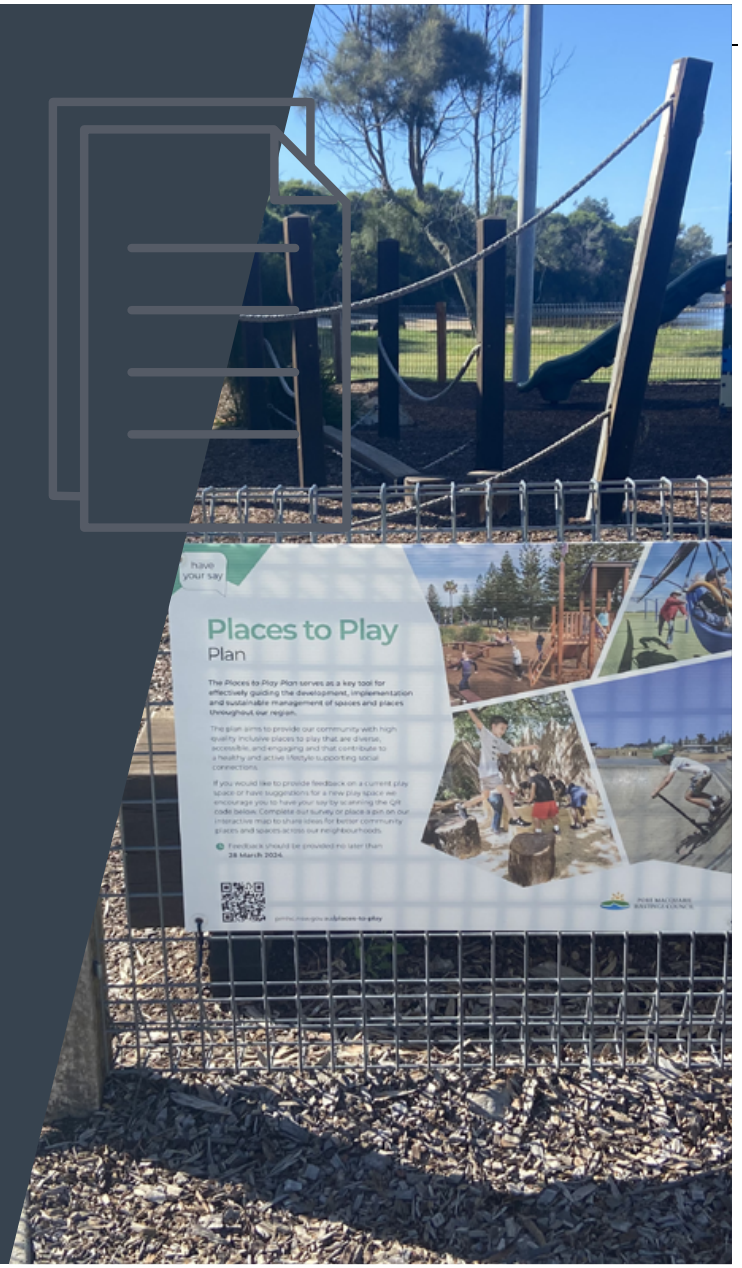
- An explanation of the system of development application assessment
- The types of development permissible in the zone
- The location of the DA Tracker service, which enables applicants and the community to track the progress of an application.

Display of a notice on the Land

The notice must be erected at the applicant's expense by Council on the land to which the development application relates.

The notice must:

- Be displaced on a signpost or board constructed in a sturdy manner and comprising durable and weatherproof materials
- Contain lettering, which is clear, legible, and able to be read from a public road, public place or public reserve.
- Be written under the heading in bold type "DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION"
- Contain the following information:
  - A statement that the application has been lodged
  - The name of the applicant
  - A brief description of the development application
  - A statement specifying that any person may make a submission in writing to Council in relation to the development application. Where the submission is by way of objection, the grounds of objection must be specified in the submission.
  - A statement outlining that any submissions are available for viewing by the applicant or any other person with a relevant interest in the application.
  - Directions to Council's webpage and specifically to the DA Tracker.



Port Macquarie Hastings Council

BIRPAI COUNTRY

Web **pmhc.nsw.gov.au/engagement-strategy**
Email **Email council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au**

PO Box 84 Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Tel: **6581 8111** Socials: **@pmhcouncil**

have your say

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Policy

Document Control

Content Manager Record No.:

Action	Version	Completed by	Completion Date	Approved by	Approval Date	Review Date
Created	V01	Group Manager, Liveable Communities	03/09/2025	[position title]	DD/MM/25	DD/MM/27

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PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to establish the principles and framework that guide Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's community approach to addressing domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV), by clarifying Council's role and limitations within the scope of local government authority and ensuring alignment with state and national frameworks.

Statement

Council acknowledges that DFSV is preventable and recognises it as a significant social issue that impacts the safety, wellbeing, and inclusion of individuals, families, and communities within our local government area.

Council is committed to using its unique position as a local government authority to contribute to positive cultural change by addressing the underlying drivers of gender-based violence through its existing functions, services, and community connections. Council will work in partnership with community organisations, state agencies, and residents to promote gender equality and address the key drivers of gender-based violence by challenging attitudes that excuse or ignore gender-based violence, supporting women's participation and independence, addressing harmful gender stereotypes, and promoting cultures of respect.

Scope

This Policy covers Council's role in primary prevention through integrating DFSV prevention considerations into existing services, operations, and decision-making processes, and leveraging Council's influence as a community leader and connector, employer, and service provider.

This Policy recognises that disclosures of violence may be made to Council staff during community-facing work. In such cases, staff are guided by existing workplace policies and procedures, which outline safe referral to specialist services. This Policy does not replace those procedures but sits alongside them.

Out of scope, this policy does not cover:

- Internal workplace policies and procedures addressing staff and contractor safety and entitlements relating to DFSV (managed under Council's People, Safety and Performance policies and procedures)
- Crisis response services, emergency accommodation, or direct victim support services (managed by state agencies, non-government organisations, and local community services)
- Law enforcement responses (managed by NSW Police)
- Specialist therapeutic or counselling services (managed by health and community services)

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

Principles

Council's approach to DFSV prevention is guided by the following principles, which align with the NSW Pathways to Prevention Strategy 2024 – 2028, namely:

Gender Equality: Council recognises that gender inequality is a core driver of domestic, family and sexual violence. Council will consider gender equality in its approach to DFSV prevention.

Evidence Informed: Council will ensure its role in addressing DFSV is informed by established research and best practice evidence, including trauma-informed approaches that prioritise safety and empowerment.

Aboriginal Self-Determination: Council respects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' right to self-determination. Council will support Aboriginal-led approaches and ensure that cultural knowledge, wisdom, heritage, and community leadership inform relevant prevention actions.

Inclusive and Intersectional: Council recognises that people may experience DFSV alongside other forms of discrimination and inequality. Council's prevention approach will consider how different forms of disadvantage intersect and will be responsive to the diverse needs of all community members.

Partnership Approach: Council will work collaboratively with government, community organisations, and local leaders to ensure prevention activities are delivered by trusted voices within community settings and are responsive to local contexts and needs.

Strengths Based: Council will build upon existing community knowledge, leadership and capacity. Council recognises the resilience of our community and its capacity for positive change and growth.

Domains of Influence

Council's role in addressing DFSV is consistent with national and state strategies, which identify local government as a key partner in prevention and community leadership. Within this context, Council has two main roles in addressing DFSV:

1. Community role

Council contributes to prevention through its influence in the community, including as a service provider, connector, leader and decision-maker. The community role focuses on primary prevention and cultural change across the community. This may include activities such as:

- raising awareness
- supporting partnerships, programs and public engagement
- providing funding support for community initiatives through the Community Grants program
- embedding prevention considerations into Council's services, programs and planning
- providing safe referral to specialist services in the case of a community member disclosing violence to a Council staff member

2. Workplace role

As an employer, Council is committed to being a safe and supportive workplace. This Policy acknowledges Council's workplace role but does not replace internal workplace policies and procedures, which provide detailed guidance for staff safety, entitlements and support. Council's workplace role may include activities such as:

- providing policies and procedures that support employees affected by violence
- offering access to leave, flexible work arrangements and other specialist supports
- promoting a respectful, safe and inclusive workplace culture
- raising staff awareness through information, resources and training

References and Related Documents

NSW State strategies and plans	• Pathways to Prevention NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024–2028 • NSW Domestic and Family Violence Plan 2022–2027 • NSW Sexual Violence Plan 2022–2027 • NSW Women's Strategy 2023–2026 • NSW Women's Safety Commissioner Strategic Plan 2024–2027 • NSW Disability Inclusion Plan 2021–2025 • SafeWork NSW Respect at Work Strategy: preventing sexual harassment (2023–2027) • NSW Women's Health Framework • NSW Closing the Gap Implementation Plan • Children First (2022–2031), supported by Safety in Action and Talking About It • NSW Health Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence 2021–2026 • NSW Health Integrated Prevention and Response to Violence, Abuse and Neglect Framework 2019 • NSW Health Aboriginal Family Wellbeing and Violence Prevention Strategy (in development)
Council policies, strategies and plans	• Community Inclusion and Disability Inclusion Action Plan, 2025 – 2029 (draft) • Resourcing Strategy • Leave Policy • Code of Conduct

Definitions

Disclosure: When a person shares information about experiencing or using DFSV. Disclosures may be direct (clearly telling someone about the violence) or indirect (giving hints or clues rather than saying it directly).

Domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFSV): Violence, abuse, or intimidation between family members, intimate partners, or carers. It may include physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, social, financial, or technology-facilitated abuse. This broader term recognises that these forms of violence often overlap within domestic and family settings.

Drivers of gender-based violence: The underlying factors that cause gender-based violence. The four key drivers can be summarised as: excusing or ignoring violence against women; men controlling decision-making and limiting women's independence; harmful gender stereotypes and expectations about masculinity; and male peer groups that reward aggression and control.

Gender: The roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that society teaches as appropriate for women, men, or expressions of femininity and masculinity. These expectations differ across cultures and can change over time.

Intersectionality: Describes how different forms of disadvantage or discrimination - like sexism, racism, classism, ageism, ableism, or bias against LGBTQ+ people - can overlap and interact, creating unique experiences of inequality.

Primary Prevention: Actions that seek to stop violence before it starts, by addressing underlying drivers such as gender inequality, community attitudes, and social norms.

Referral: Linking an individual with appropriate specialist support services, recognising Council's role is limited to referral and not provision of specialist DFV services.

Response: Actions that provide immediate safety, assistance, or support after violence has occurred. This includes crisis services, law enforcement, emergency accommodation, and specialist therapeutic or counselling support. Response is typically led by state agencies and specialist services.

Responsible Officer

Responsibility for the implementation of this policy lies with the Group Manager, Liveable Communities, Community Planning and Environment.


2025-29 Draft
Cultural Plan
Growing the Circle
PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL

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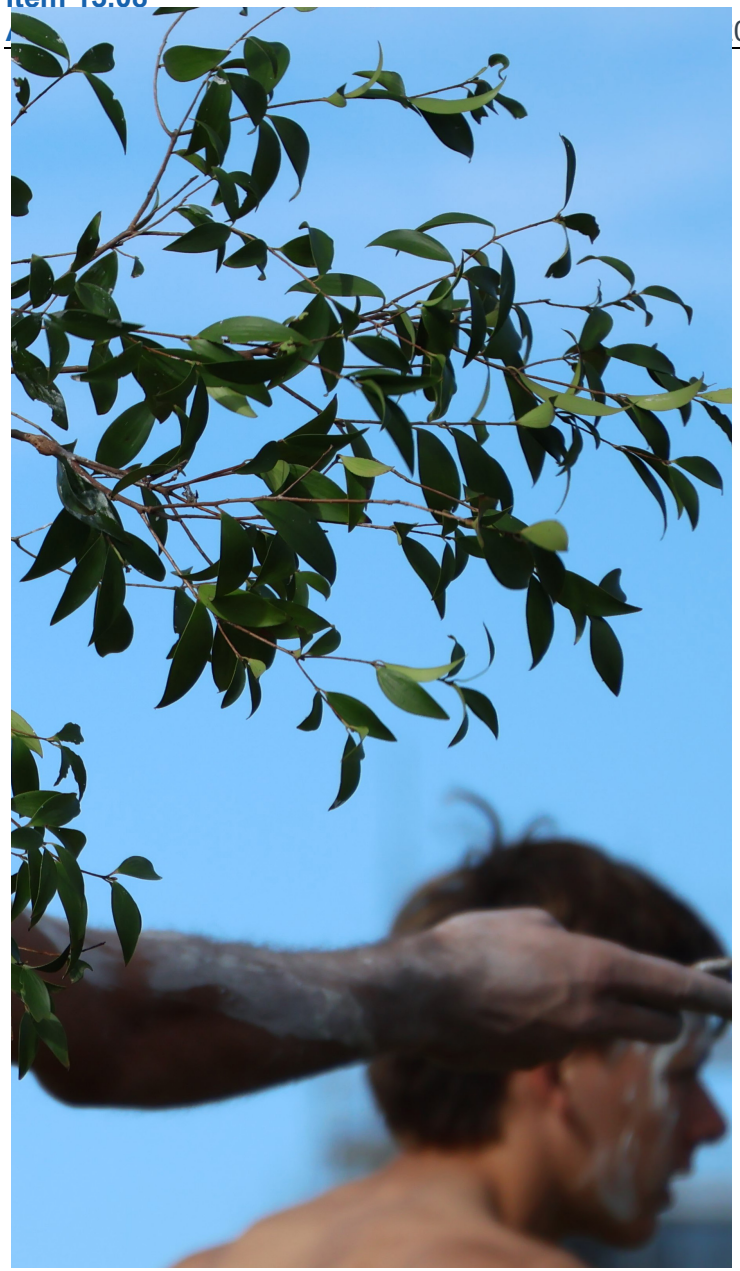
Doonghan Dancers, NAIDOC Week 2025



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 respect to all Elders past and present. We acknowledge the ongoing connection to the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands and waters of the Port Macquarie Hastings region.

This Birpai Country acknowledgement is delivered verbally at gatherings and as a written statement in formal Council documents.

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

The story behind the name

Make a bigger circle

The phrase “make a bigger circle” emerged during one of our engagement forums on culture and inclusion, when a participant shared a simple yet powerful statement:

“When there’s not enough room around the fire, we make a bigger circle.”

This saying turned heads. It captured the spirit of inclusion, generosity, and adaptability that defines our region’s cultural aspirations. It was all about bringing people in, a cultural practice of welcoming people to the table or fire.

As in-depth feedback from small group settings and survey data were reviewed and interpreted,“*Make a bigger circle*” stood out as capturing the essence of what our community consistently told us. Everyone wants to belong and to feel valued. We’ve adopted this phrase in our cultural planning as a guiding principle. It reminds us that culture is not a fixed space - it’s a dynamic circle that can grow to include new voices, stories, and perspectives. Whether we’re creating intergenerational programs, designing inclusive events, or reimagining public spaces, we’ll return to this idea:

There is always room for one more.

‘Make a bigger circle’ has been adopted as the name of the Community Inclusion Plan. ‘Growing the circle’ will be used for the Cultural Plan.

Smoking ceremony, NAIDOC Week flag raising ceremony



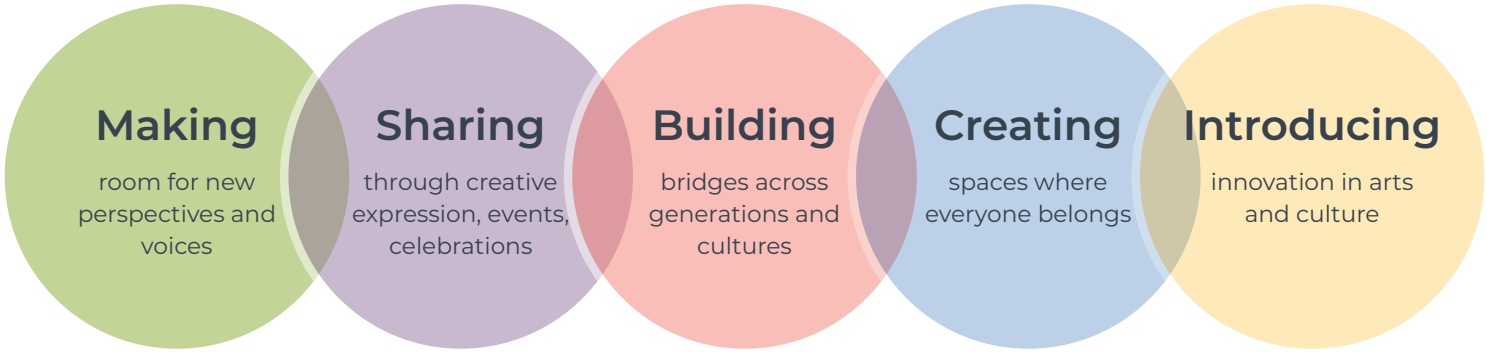
Growing the circle

In every community, there's a time when we're asked to accommodate, to make space, to listen, to welcome someone new or different. '*Growing the circle*' is our way of saying yes to that moment.

It is about expanding how and what we share - our stories, our spaces, our cultural practices and celebrations - so that more people feel seen, heard and valued. When we expand the circle, we don't just add people in, we recognise and change the way we are as a community.

This idea will guide our Cultural Plan. It will shape how we design programs and tell our stories, how we build creative spaces and how the creative industries and practice is included in our LGA. It invites everyone to take part in shaping a culture that is deeply connected to place.

Growing the circle means:



It's a call to action and a promise.

There is always room to grow.

Council's Vision

Imagine2050 Community Strategic Plan

The most liveable, sustainable, and innovative place in Australia.

Our Vision

2025-29 Cultural Plan

A culturally rich, creative, and connected community where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.

Our new cultural vision reflects a commitment to building a community where people are respected, seen and heard and where creative expression is valued. It is built on the belief that inclusion, expression, and connection are not just ideals, but essential for a thriving and liveable community and future-focused region. Creativity is a powerful tool for storytelling, identity, and transformation. It helps us make sense of our world, imagine new possibilities, and build bridges across difference. Our artists and creatives shine a light on who we are.

This vision is informed by extensive community engagement and shaped by evidence-based practice. It recognises that when people feel seen, heard, and valued, they are more likely to contribute meaningfully to shared goals and collective wellbeing.

By supporting diverse forms of cultural expression and nurturing a sense of belonging, we aim to build a region that is resilient, welcoming, and culturally rich - where everyone has a place and a voice.

A place where everyone's story matters.

This plan supports Council's broader community vision, to be the most liveable, sustainable, and innovative place in Australia.

Plan approach

The case for cultural development

In developing our new Cultural Plan, we undertook a comprehensive and inclusive engagement process across the region to ensure the plan reflects the values, needs, and aspirations of our communities. The themes that emerged—being, mattering, expression, connectedness, and belonging—were not only drawn directly from community input but were also aligned with national and international best practice in cultural development.

Community sentiment was clear and consistent on several fronts: no matter what background, be it artists, musicians or other creatives, seniors, youth, Aboriginal Elders, people living with disability, LGBTQIA+ or people from other cultural backgrounds - they all expressed a desire to be noticed, to be listened to, to be valued, **to belong**.

To guide implementation, we developed a model that integrates these themes into a coherent framework. This model supports strategic decision-making by focusing on how cultural initiatives can foster individual and collective wellbeing, strengthen social cohesion, and enhance civic participation.

By grounding our approach in both community voice and established research, we have ensured that the Cultural Plan is both locally relevant and robust, positioning our region to deliver meaningful cultural outcomes with long-term impact.



Phillips Lane mural installation


Artwalk 2025
Shop
2025

Role of Council and government

In Australia, cultural planning and development is a shared responsibility across all levels of government. At the local level, council play a vital role as custodians, convenors and catalysts for cultural life. In the Port Macquarie Hastings local government area, Council manages cultural sites including our flagship cultural institution, the Glasshouse, libraries, several community halls and public spaces. We also deliver events and programs that reflect and celebrate community identity.

Council is uniquely positioned to foster grassroots creativity, support local artists and ensure access to cultural experiences that can build social cohesion, wellbeing and place-based pride.

How we approach and deliver cultural planning and the strategic context is detailed on the next page.

Together, three layers of government create a framework where culture can thrive - rooted locally with regional support and celebrated nationally.

The benefits of cultural development

Cultural development strengthens our community by nurturing identify, connection and creativity.

In summary it:

- Fosters belonging and inclusion
- Supports individual wellbeing
- Builds stronger communities
- Drives local economic vitality
- Honours Aboriginal leadership and knowledge
- Aligns with broader policy goals
- Creative environments where people thrive

Through engagement for this plan, we developed a guiding model (page 22) that captures this in more detail.

Policy and strategic context

Following are national, state and local frameworks that inform the PMHC Cultural Plan

NSW State Frameworks

CreateNSW - Arts and Cultural Policy Framework

This ten year strategy is built on three pillars, excellence, access and strength. It promotes cultural participation, supports Aboriginal arts and cultures and encourages innovation and intergenerational programming.

The framework underpins council-level planning by advocating for vibrant arts and cultural activity across metropolitan and regional NSW

Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+

This plan provides a strategic roadmap for investing in cultural infrastructure across NSW. It emphasises equitable access, integration with local planning and partnerships between local government and communities

Port Macquarie Hastings Council's focus on cultural spaces, creative industries and community activation directly supports these priorities

NSW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategic Priorities (2023-25)

Developed by the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC), this strategy focuses on reform, improved recognition, local decision-making and community engagement

Council's engagement with Aboriginal Elders and other Traditional Owners and commitment to cultural heritage aligns with these goals, especially in promoting local custodianship and cultural continuity.

PMHC Cultural Plan

National Frameworks

Revive: Australia's National Cultural Policy (2023- 2028)

Revive is structured around five pillars, with First Nations First as the leading principle. It supports cultural infrastructure, artist development, regional arts and inclusive access to cultural experiences.

PMHC's plan reflects Revive's emphasis on regional cultural vitality, First Nations leadership and stewardship and community-driven storytelling

PMHC Strategic documents

Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Suite

- Imagine 2050: Community Strategic Plan
- 2025 - 29 Delivery Program
- 2025 - 26 Operational Plan
- Resourcing Strategy (including Workforce and Asset Management Plans)

Additional Council Strategies and Plans

- Liveable Communities Strategy (in drafting)
- Social Strategy (in draft)
- Cultural Plan 2025 - 2029
- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Activation Plan (new in 2026)
- Community Engagement Strategy (draft)

Connection with our Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

The Cultural Plan supports the delivery of Council's key strategic plans within the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework. It ensures inclusion, equity and accessibility are embedded across Council's operations, services and community engagement.

From a community cultural perspective, this means that we strive to listen to, showcase and reflect everyone's stories in how we support our LGA.

The plan responds to a range of Community Strategic Plan goals, with a strong focus on the following community priorities, outcomes and strategic links.

Community Outcome 2: Liveable

We are a safe, inclusive and vibrant region, with an active, healthy and connected community

QBL alignment*	SOCIAL · CIVIC · ENVIRONMENTAL · ECONOMIC
Strategic alignment	2.3 Provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to connect and participate in programs and events that celebrate diversity, culture and the arts 2.4 Ensure safety of the places we live in, work, and visit to protect our quality of life.
Community priorities	

*** Quadruple Bottom Line:** *We are committed to a sustainable and balanced approach to decision-making, guided by the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL). The QBL framework ensures that environmental, social, economic and civic leadership considerations form part of all aspects of our planning, operations and decision making.*



Painting in the Park seniors activity

A snapshot of our cultural and creative industries

92,650
PMHC population

842
employed in creative/cultural industry

Port Macquarie Hastings is home to 92,650 people and is a fast growing area. It is known for its natural beauty stunning beaches and wildlife, and is located on Birpai and Bunyah Country.

In the 2021 Census, there were 842 people in Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area (LGA) employed in a cultural, creative or both cultural and creative occupation, making up 2.6% of the workforce.

Port Macquarie Hastings recorded 327 creative businesses in 2021, with five turning over $2 million or more per annum.

In addition to businesses and employees, there are many artists and creatives, musicians and performers and audiences participating in the creative and cultural sectors

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics via ArtsMNC

327
creative businesses

5
business with greater than $2m annual turnover

Artist profile

60%
earn income from creative work

77%
supplement income

Three in five (60%) of Port Macquarie Hastings creatives earn income from their creative work, mostly from professional services and sales

However 77% of our survey respondents said that they needed to supplement their income with other work.

Those who earn income from their creative practice in the LGA, most earn their income from professional services (e.g. teaching, consulting or facilitating) 66% or sales 61%

In our survey (2024), creatives responded clearly that the top three things they would like to see more of is shared creative spaces, Aboriginal culture and public art.

66%
earn income via professional services

61%
earn income via sales

Looking back

Achievements against 2021 - 25 cultural plan

2021 - 25 was a period of significant change for regional Australia, the creative industries, and communities in general. The post-COVID recovery and re-set, combined with pandemic years shaped the way identity and self-expression were conveyed. Many projects moved online. During COVID, innovative ways of creating, making and gathering had to be devised. Large public events had to be reimagined and programs to support community and the creative industries developed, launched and expanded.

Despite the early challenges, our region bounced back with vibrance and energy. A significant number of events, performances, exhibitions, festivals, creative infrastructure and programs were delivered and built.

PERFORMANCES

- Tortuga - Spiegeltent 2022-2023 : programming of Clarence St precinct, ArtWalk 2024-25
- The Cage - programming of youth precinct, ArtWalk 2025
- Busk @ Dusk





CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Town Beach amphitheatre (outdoor tiered public venue and shared space)
- Kendall skate park (with large scale mural across site)
- Port Macquarie Observatory

PLACEMAKING

- Phillips Lane murals and fairy light canopy
- Streets as Shared Spaces, Laurieton, 2022



PORT MACQUARIE LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Gina Chick author talk (had the entire audience singing a cappella)
- Di Morrissey author talk
- Beach to books walk during Seniors Week
- Multicultural evening - a showcase of dance, singing and a Q&A panel
- Women connecting community
  - a book club with a difference
  - focusing on Hugh Mackay's book 'The Way we are'
  - focusing on how to engage in positive change.
- Talking Tech for seniors - (booked out every month)





EXHIBITIONS

- Port Macquarie Library, including travelling exhibition, Bidhinjia, from Australian Maritime Museum
- Sky Stories at the Port Macquarie Observatory
- Australian Museum touring exhibition, The Birds of Australia STORYBOX

GLASSHOUSE GALLERY

- 15 - 20 exhibitions annually
  - Northern Exposure
  - Community access opportunities
  - Travelling exhibitions
- Public programs including
  - Masterclasses
  - Life Drawing
  - Craft and Cocktails
  - Term based educational program
  - Kids art sessions

COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMS

- Creative Sparks
- Hastings Art Trail



PUBLIC EVENTS

- ArtWalk (2021 - 25) attracting close to 25,000 each year, Port Macquarie's flagship community event
- Pineapple youth-led event, 2023
- Cultural Connections, 2025
- Harmony Haven, 2023
- Culture, Collections and Connection, in partnership with CSU and Australian Museum, 2024
- Annual Christmas fair
- Sounds of Sundown, Wauchope, 2023

GLASSHOUSE SHOWREEL

- Developing, training and delivering the Opera Australia Children's Chorus in 2024. Professional development / career pathway for local children aged 10 - 14years
- The Trojan War 2025 (A Slightly Isolated Dog / Nick Clark Management
- The Visitors (Sydney Theatre Company & Moogahlin)
- Black Cockatoo (Ensemble Theatre Company), First Nations dramatic theatre
- Girls with Altitude (The Flying Fruit Fly Circus) all girls performance, aged 11 - 18 years





TEMPORARY INSTALLATIONS

- Australian Museum touring exhibition, The Birds of Australia STORYBOX

SUPPORTING FRAMEWORK

- Community events entertainment register (Council website)

PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

- Heard at Sea sculpture, Town Beach
- Boundless, corten steel installation, Tacking Point
- Looking place, sandblast design in concrete, Tacking Point
- Graffiti transformation project, five mural sites across LGA
- Mega mural, retaining wall Flynn's Beach
- Aboriginal mural, Town Beach
- Yarning circle mural, Port Macquarie Library
- Bain Park poles, corten steel on recycled hardwood posts




ArtWalk 2024

Looking forward

How engagement was the foundation in shaping the direction of the next Cultural Plan

Council developed an extensive engagement program as the foundation in shaping the direction of our next four-year Cultural Plan. Recognising the diversity and richness of our community, we undertook a consultative process to ensure that the voices of a wide range of residents were heard, respected and reflected in our planning.

We designed and delivered a series of tailored focus groups to engage in a meaningful way with key community cohorts, including :

- **Aboriginal Elders -** whose cultural knowledge and custodianship of Country provided essential guidance on heritage, storytelling and cultural continuity
- **Creative industries -** cultural infrastructure and governance
- **Seniors -** who shared insights into intergenerational connection, accessibility, and the importance of preserving local history
- **Culturally diverse communities -** who highlighted the need for multicultural representation and inclusive programming, including festivals or other cultural events
- **Youth -** who voiced aspirations for creative expression and opportunity, digital engagement, and safe, vibrant spaces for participation
- **People living with disability -** who helped us identify barriers to access and participation, and to co-design inclusive experiences

To further understand challenges, opportunities and barriers facing our local artists and other creatives, a dedicated engagement program, *Mapping the creative Landscape* was conducted across the LGA in 2024. This provided both qualitative and qualitative data on the state of the arts in our LGA.

This engagement was not a one-off consultation, but a strategic and iterative process that informed every stage of our planning. Through facilitated discussions and drop-in sessions, we gathered qualitative data that revealed both shared values and distinct needs across our community.

The insights gained have directly shaped our cultural priorities and guiding principles.

What we've heard (Insights)

- Recognition and celebration of Aboriginal culture and heritage through visibility, dual naming and partnerships
- Support for local creatives and cultural practitioners from diverse backgrounds
- Equity in access - making cultural spaces and programs accessible
- Cultural infrastructure and programming that reflect universal design principles
- Focus on public art, through commissions, partnerships and community-led initiatives

Who delivers the plan?

The Cultural Plan is a whole-of-Council commitment. Delivery relies on collaboration across many internal teams.

Plan owner: Liveable Communities (Community Activation)

Delivery partners:

- Community Engagement
- Glasshouse
- Libraries
- Places and Spaces
- Economic Development
- Community Education
- Communications
- People, Safety and Performance

Development process

REFLECT	LISTEN	ALIGN	DESIGN	REVIEW/REFINE
Review the outcomes of the 2021-25 Cultural Plan	Engage community and Council teams to understand barriers, strengths, needs, goals and aspirations	Map legislative requirements, Council strategies and external frameworks to ensure strategic consistency	Translate insights into meaningful structure: guiding model and principles, focus areas, objectives and actions	Validate content with Council and community, refine as needed and commit to continuous development over the life of the plan



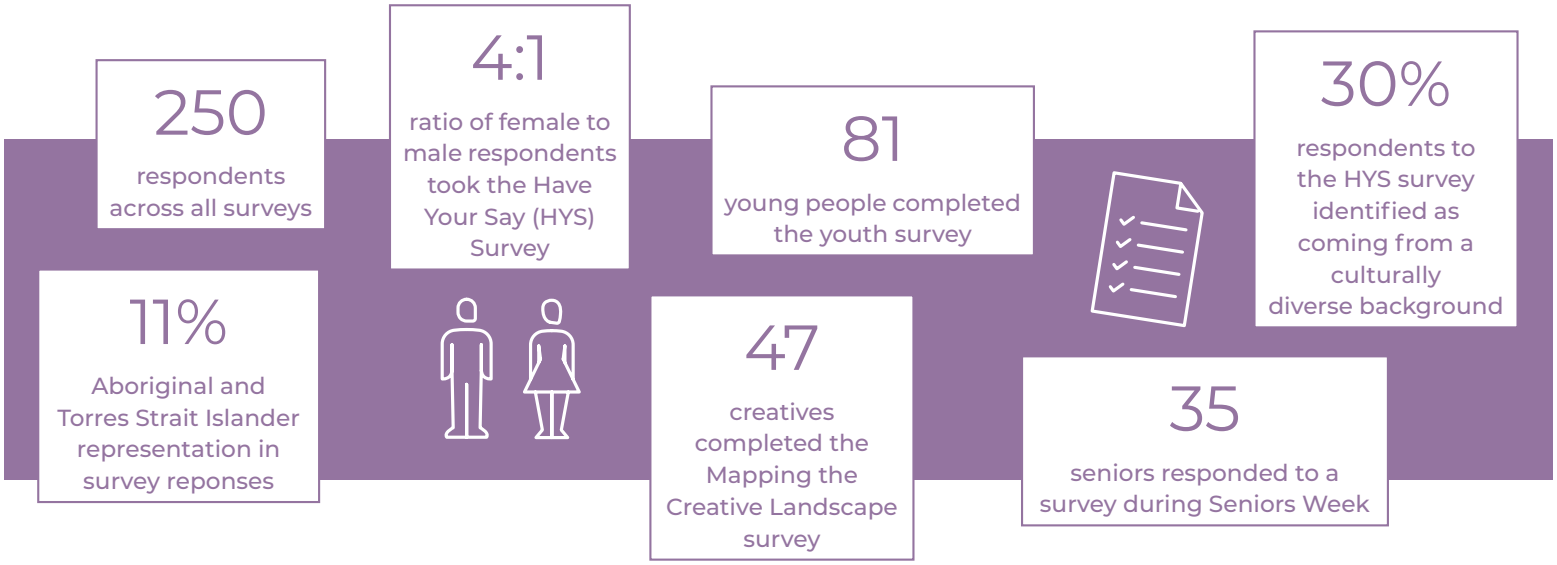
Phillips Lane mural installation

Engagement

"Know your community and hear their voices. If people feel heard they feel like they belong"

- participant, Wauchope focus group

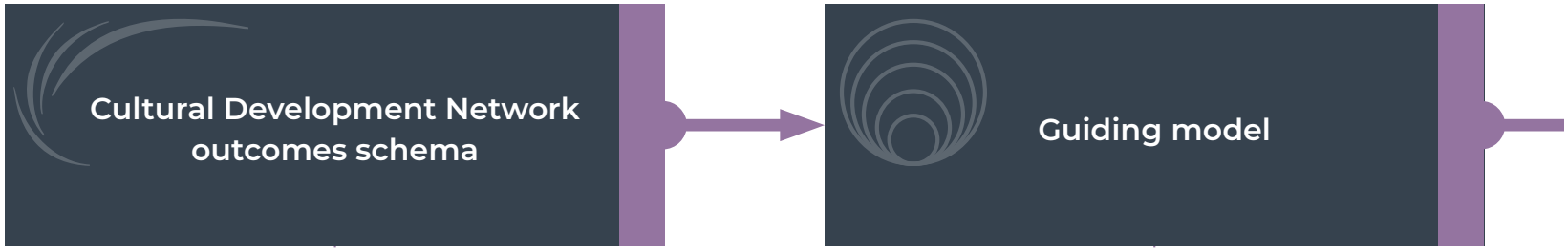
Engagement summary



Data sourced from the following surveys: Inclusion, Cultural and Activation Plans Review Have your Say (HYS): April 2025, Mapping our Creative Landscape: April 2024, Youth Survey: March 2025 and Seniors Survey: March 2025

Plan design

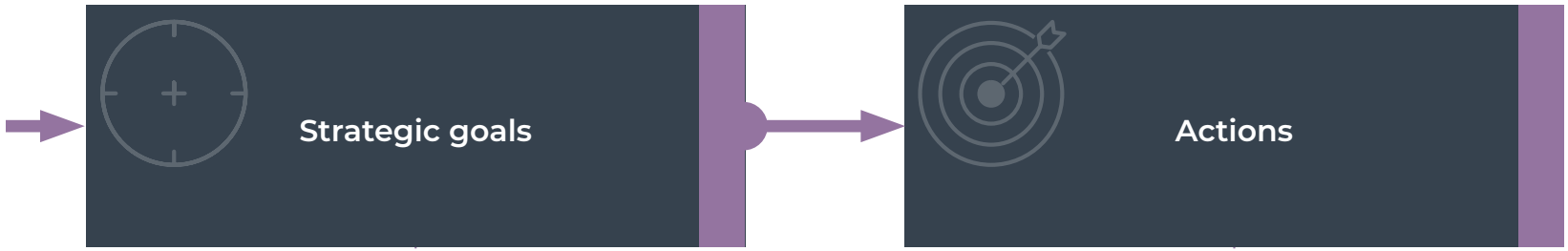
The Cultural Plan has been shaped around clear design principles. Leading with national expertise, we have designed the plan around a guiding model defined through community consultation, set strategic goals, and identified actions that will strengthen cultural connection and creative expression.



In developing this Cultural Plan, we referred to the expertise of the national organisation, Cultural Development Network (CDN), and tapped into its wealth of information on cultural planning.

The CDN aim is to increase 'the capability of governments to stimulate and facilitate the creative visions of their communities'.

The Cultural Plan has been designed with and for our community. It combines local voices, lived experience, other State and federal plans, and Council's strategic focus to guide our cultural priorities across the next four years. It aligns with the social justice principles: equity, access, participation and rights.



To realise our vision of a culturally rich, welcoming and connected community, Council will take a strategic, inclusive and community-led across five priority areas.

Strategic goals have been aligned with key themes that emerged during our engagment program.

Council will implement actions that enable community-led cultural expression. Each action is designed to build local capability, reflect lived experience and support creative expression in a way that will strengthen cultural connection and a shared sense of place.

Cultural Development Network outcomes schema

CDN recommends that the planning process is integrated with Council's other strategic and planning activity. This approach has been woven throughout the development of our Cultural Plan, underpinned by its six recommended principles: values, directed towards goals, focused on outcomes, informed by evidence, underpinned by a theory of change, and evaluation.

DOMAIN	MEASURABLE OUTCOMES
Cultural	• creativity stimulated • aesthetic enrichment experienced (public art, place-making) • knowledge, ideas and insight gained • sense of belonging to shared cultural heritage deepened
Social (measurable outcomes of cultural engagement in social domains)	• wellbeing (physical and/or mental) improved • sense of safety and security increased • social connectedness enhanced • social differences bridged • feeling valued experienced
Economic (measurable outcome of cultural engagement in economic domain)	• professional practice capability increased • employment enhancing skills development facilitated • individual economic wellbeing increased • local economy supported
Environmental (measurable outcome of cultural engagement in environmental domain)	• positive sense of place (built / natural) enhanced • understanding of ecological issues increased • nature and environment valued • motivation for environmental stewardship increased
Governance (measurable outcome of cultural engagement in governance domain)	• access to beneficial networks and resources increased • capacity built and voice lifted • sense of civic pride enhanced • civic trust (trust in Council) inspired

Source: Cultural Development Network

Guiding model

This guiding model has been developed out of the themes from extensive community engagement and informed by research in community wellbeing, culture, belonging and inclusion. This model will guide Council's cultural planning, partnerships and programming — ensuring that our actions reflect community values and contribute to a thriving, inclusive cultural life.

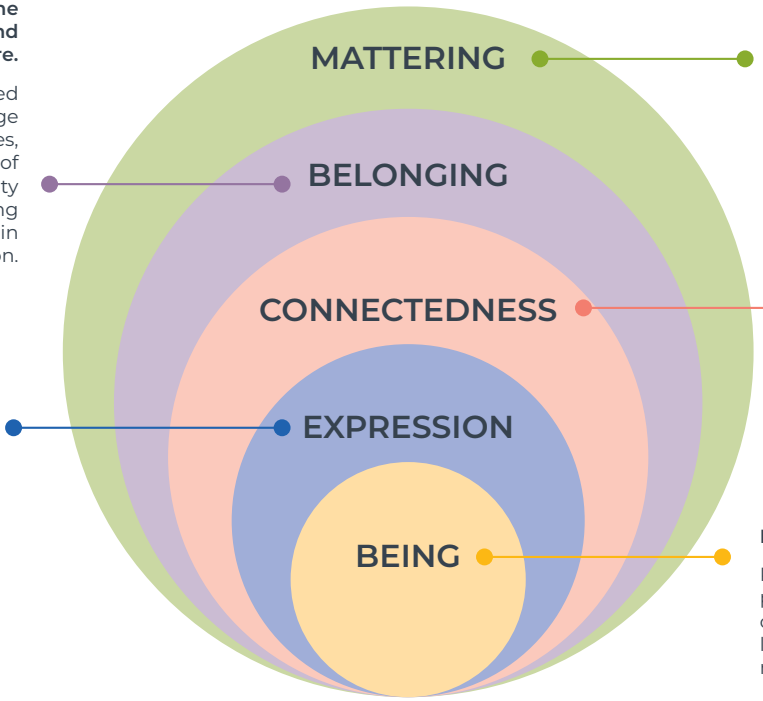
The model reflects the cyclical relationship between individual wellbeing and collective culture - that supporting individuals helps build stronger communities and in turn, strong communities create environments where individuals can thrive.

Connection to Country, feeling at home in community, with space to grow and contribute through creative arts and culture.

Cultural and creative initiatives are designed to reflect our Aboriginal cultural heritage and the full range of community voices, promoting equity and shared ownership of local cultural narratives. Ensure accessibility and celebrate diversity by creating welcoming spaces and embedding cultural equity in policy, planning and evaluation.

The freedom and opportunity to share ideas, creativity and culture

Encourage creative expression that values and recognises Aboriginal cultural heritage, reflects community diversity, supports creative and cultural practitioners and strengthens regional identity



Your voice, contributions and presence make a difference to our community.

Our focus is on participation, community leadership and amplifying underrepresented voices. We celebrate grassroots contributions and ensure we listen, to reinforce that every individua's input shapes our cultural landscape.

Feeling part of something larger - linked to people, and a shared sense of place and purpose through art and culture

We build partnerships, intergenerational programs and place-based events that celebrate local identity. Our goals enhance networks for participation and promote cultural tourism based in authentic community stories.

Individual identity, self-respect

Promote creative expression and cultural participation that supports community connection to place and self, that enriches lives and strengthens community resilience, growing our creative capacity.

Strategic goals

Each area of focus is interconnected and essential to building a vibrant cultural landscape and economy across our LGA.

DOMAIN	CDN OUTCOME DOMAIN	GOAL
BEING	Cultural, social, environmental	Deepen cultural engagement as a pathway to collective resilience
EXPRESSION	Cultural, governance	Champion inclusive cultural expression that reflect our regions diversity and spirit
CONNECTEDNESS	Social, economic, governance	Strengthen social connectedness through arts and culture
BELONGING	Cultural, social, environmental	Foster belonging through inclusive representation
MATTERING	Governance, economic	Empower cultural leadership and community voice

Source: Cultural Development Network



Harmony Haven multicultural festival, Laurieton



Actions

BEING

WHAT IT MEANS

Individual identity, self-respect

Promote creative expression and cultural participation that supports community connection to place and self, that enriches lives and strengthens community resilience, growing our creative capacity.

GOAL

Deepen cultural engagement as a pathway to individual and collective resilience / as pathway to a stronger sense of self

OUTCOME DOMAIN

Cultural, social, environmental (from CDN schema)

- Identity
- Presence
- Selfhood
- Individuality
- Personal experience



ACTION	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIMING
Partner with Aboriginal Elders, organisations and knowledge holders to build awareness of the significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage and connection to Country	Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Deadly Science	Long
Enhance positive sense of place through nature-connected cultural experiences	Sea Acres Rainforest Centre	Short
Create experiences that help people reflect and grow through creativity	ArtsMNC, local creatives	Medium
Design programs that support physical and mental wellbeing through active participation in arts and culture	Healthy MNC, Headspace, local artists and performers	Medium
Fund inclusive arts and wellbeing programs through partnerships and community grants	Healthy MNC, community providers	Long

MEASUREMENT INDICATORS

- Number of partnerships and collaborative initiatives reported
- Percentage of participants report improved physical and mental health
- Increased awareness of local environment and sense of place (via survey or interview)
- Number of programs offering reflective experiences for established and emerging artists and creatives
- Diversity of grant funding recipients



EXPRESSION

WHAT IT MEANS

Feeling part of something larger - linked to people, and a shared sense of place and purpose through art and culture

Encourage creative expression that values and recognises Aboriginal cultural heritage, reflects community diversity, supports creative and cultural practitioners and strengthens regional identity, invest in cultural infrastructure

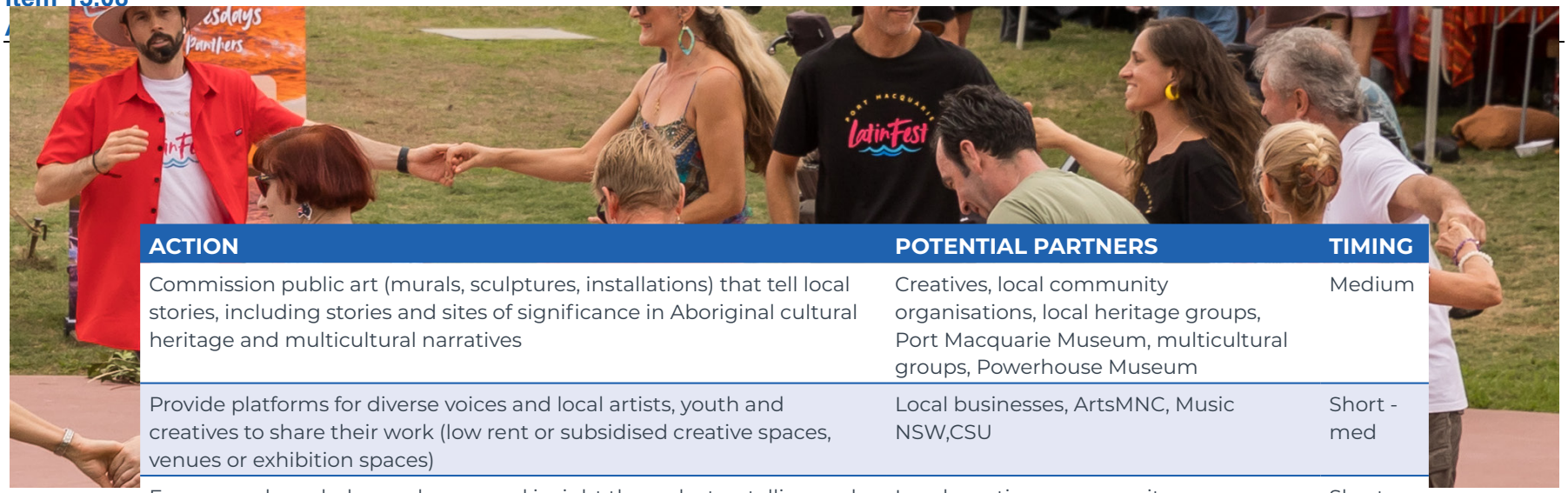
GOAL

Champion inclusive cultural expression that reflects Port Macquarie Hastings' diversity and spirit

OUTCOME DOMAIN

Cultural, governance (CDN schema)

- Communication
- Creativity
- Voice
- Artistic practice
- Storytelling



ACTION	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIMING
Commission public art (murals, sculptures, installations) that tell local stories, including stories and sites of significance in Aboriginal cultural heritage and multicultural narratives	Creatives, local community organisations, local heritage groups, Port Macquarie Museum, multicultural groups, Powerhouse Museum	Medium
Provide platforms for diverse voices and local artists, youth and creatives to share their work (low rent or subsidised creative spaces, venues or exhibition spaces)	Local businesses, ArtsMNC, Music NSW,CSU	Short - med
Encourage knowledge exchange and insight through storytelling and artistic exploration	Local creatives, community groups, Aboriginal Elders and Traditional Owner groups, LALCs	Short - medium
Increase civic pride and trust by enabling residents to express their cultural identity	Multicultural community groups, LGBQTIA+ community, CSU	Long
Celebrate shared cultural heritage through annual festivals and creative collaboration	Multicultural groups, CSU	Medium
Support intergenerational and cross-cultural projects (e.g Elder-youth collaborations and knowledge-sharing, multicultural festival, open mic and exhibitions or performing opportunities for emerging artists)	Aboriginal Elders, AECG, schools, multicultural group	Medium

MEASUREMENT INDICATOR

- Survey results show increased respect, recognition and understanding of Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Number of commissioned works of public art that showcase different perspectives
- Storytelling events featuring diverse voices delivered
- Positive shift in community pride and trust
- Demonstrated diversity of artistic and creative styles and cultural backgrounds represented in programs, exhibitions and installations



CONNECTEDNESS

WHAT IT MEANS

Connection to Country, feeling at home in community, with space to grow and contribute through creative arts and culture.

Facilitate cultural experiences that bring people together, foster collaboration and reinforce social trust and inclusion

GOAL

Create and strengthen meaningful connections through cultural participation

OUTCOME DOMAIN

Social, economic, governance (CDN schema

- Community
- Relationships
- Social bonds
- Networks
- Engagement



ACTION	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIMING
Use arts and cultural programming to bridge social differences and enhance social cohesion	CSU, local arts collectives, performance groups and community theatre, ArtsMNC	Medium
Promote local networks and collaborations to improve access to cultural resources	Multicultural groups	Short - medium
Foster a sense of safety, security, and trust through inclusive community engagement	Headspace, community groups	Long
Enhance employment skills and professional practice through collaborative cultural initiatives	Hastings Youth Voice, external providers, chambers of commerce, TAFE, CSU	Long
Deliver free community events that showcase a range of cultural backgrounds and creative styles and perspectives	Multicultural groups, Headspace, CSU, community groups	Short

MEASUREMENT INDICATORS

- reported increase in social connections and community interaction and collaboration (via participant survey)
- number of skills development workshops delivered and participants engaged
- number of collaborative and intercultural events delivered
- number of new partnerships or networks formed
- number of skills development workshops delivered for creatives
- access to creative and cultural programs across geographic and demographic communities increased



BELONGING

WHAT IT MEANS

Inclusive representation. Feeling at home in your community with space to grow and contribute

Cultural and creative initiatives are designed to reflect our Aboriginal cultural heritage and the full range of community voices, promoting equity and shared ownership of local cultural narratives

Ensure accessibility and celebrate diversity by creating welcoming spaces and embedding cultural equity in policy, planning and evaluation.

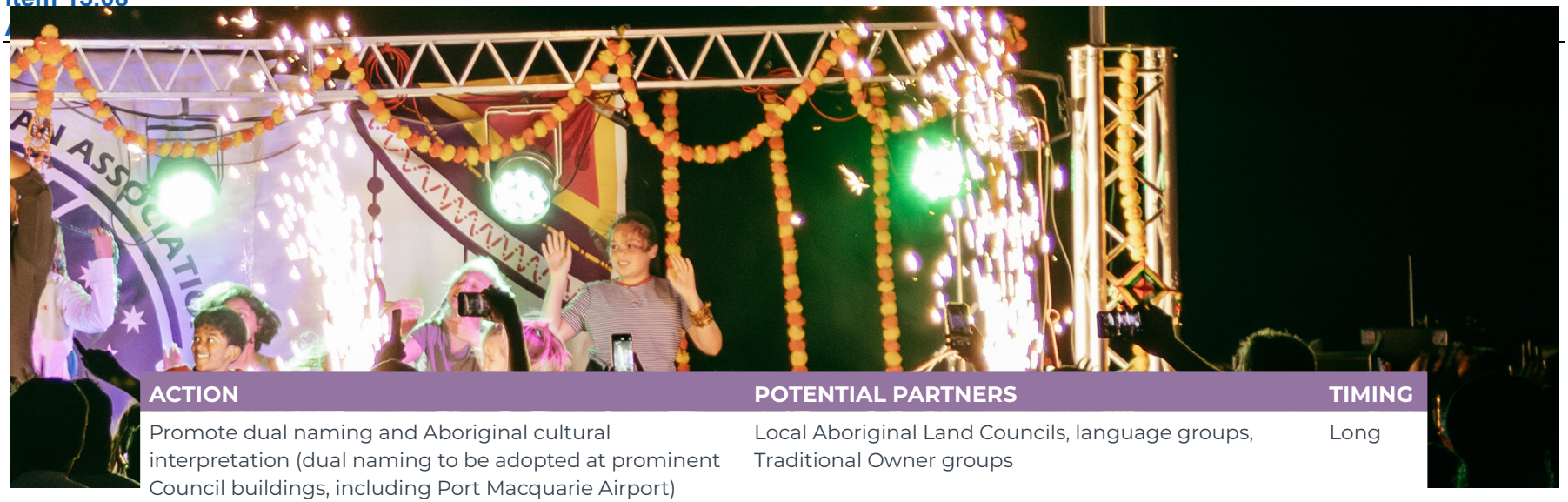
GOAL

Ensure all communities see themselves reflected in the region's cultural landscape

OUTCOME DOMAIN

Cultural, social, environmental (CDN schema)

- Inclusion
- Participation
- Membership
- Shared identity
- Sense of place



ACTION	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIMING
Promote dual naming and Aboriginal cultural interpretation (dual naming to be adopted at prominent Council buildings, including Port Macquarie Airport)	Local Aboriginal Land Councils, language groups, Traditional Owner groups	Long
Connect with and contribute to shared cultural heritage through education and participatory cultural experiences.	NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, Cultural providers and businesses, Aboriginal cultural providers	Medium
Value the natural world through stories, art, and Aboriginal cultural heritage and practices	Community groups	Medium
Address social isolation by supporting inclusive cultural hubs and co-designed spaces	Healthy North Coast, Headspace, HYV, TAFE, CSU	Long
Deliver free community events that showcase a range of cultural backgrounds and creative styles and perspectives	Multicultural groups, Headspace, CSU	Long

MEASUREMENT INDICATORS

- Participants report feeling represented and included
- Sites with dual naming implemented, community awareness and recognition of Aboriginal plan names increased (survey)
- Reach and participation of under-represented groups is increased (attendance, anecdotal feedback)
- Creative programming and activities reflect cultural heritage and natural environment
- Number of co-designed or mobile spaces launched and activated
- Representation of emerging creatives increased



MATTERING

WHAT IT MEANS

Your voice, contributions and presence make a difference to our community

Our focus is on participation, community leadership and amplifying underrepresented voices. We celebrate grassroots contributions and ensure we listen, to reinforce that every individual's input shapes our cultural landscape.

GOAL

Empower individuals and communities to shape cultural life and influence civic direction, promote diverse leadership

OUTCOME DOMAINS

Governance, economic (CDN schema)

- Recognition
- Value
- Respect
- Contribution
- Purpose



ACTION	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIMING
Build capacity through training, mentorship, and cultural leadership opportunities	Hastings Youth Voice, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, other Aboriginal businesses, Multicultural NSW	Med - long
Recognise cultural contributions as integral to local economic and social vitality and community vibrance	Multicultural groups, local artists and creatives, Music NSW, ArtsMNC	Long
Connect residents with beneficial networks and Council decision-making platforms	Heathy North Coast	Short
Inspire civic trust and pride through visible and sustained cultural investment	ArtsMNC, CreateNSW	Long
Deliver free community events that showcase a range of cultural backgrounds and creative styles and perspectives	Multicultural groups, Headspace, CSU	Long

MEASUREMENT INDICATORS

- Number of training or mentorship programs offered
- Access to networks, resources and skills development for creatives increased
- Young creatives entering cultural industries or taking on leadership roles
- Inclusion of cultural contributions in Council reporting and planning documents
- Economic impact of creative and cultural initiatives



Kite design and flying youth activity

Cross Council integration and governance

Health & wellbeing

Create opportunities for everyone to take part in local life - safely, meaningfully, and with dignity. Inclusion strengthens connection and trust, and build resilience.

Environmental strategy

Align cultural programming with local Aboriginal cultural heritage, recognition of colonial heritage and beauty of natural environment and sustainability initiatives

Economic development

Boost creative industries, entrepreneurship and cultural tourism

Community engagement

Ensure cultural planning reflects diverse community aspirations through ongoing engagement

Monitoring and evaluation

We will continue to engage our community to track progress and update the Cultural Plan across the four years of its term.

Progress will be evaluated regularly, to reflect on achievements and guide ongoing improvements. Progress and outcomes will be reported on to Council and community on an annual basis.

The actions will remain flexible and responsive to community needs and feedback, and will be reviewed each year, with updates when and where identified.

New Council-led actions will be embedded in subsequent Operational Plans and aligned with the four-year Delivery Program.

Funding the plan

The Cultural Plan does not have a dedicated funding stream. Where new or expanded initiatives are proposed, Council will consider priorities as part of broader planning and budget processes, and may seek external funding to support delivery.

Most actions in this Plan are designed to support our cultural economy and improve a sense of belonging through the way we already work - as part of our existing programs, services and responsibilities. Many will be delivered within current resources or through new and ongoing partnerships. Grant-funding (primarily from NSW Government) will continue to be a vital financial pillar to enable Council to deliver this Plan.

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Port Macquarie Hastings Council

BIRPAI COUNTRY

Web **pmhc.nsw.gov.au**
Email council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au

PO Box 84 Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Tel: **6581 8111** Socials: **@pmhcouncil**

have your say

Draft Inclusion, Cultural and Activation Plans

Engagement Report

May 2025 | Version 1.0



PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL

1 File ref

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Executive Summary

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council is developing three strategic plans—the Inclusion Plan, Cultural Plan, and Activation Plan—to build a more inclusive, culturally vibrant, and actively engaged community. These plans are informed by extensive community engagement conducted throughout early 2025, involving surveys, focus groups, and events that reached seniors, youth, multicultural communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disabilities, and those in creative industries. Key findings revealed that seniors seek intergenerational programs and accessible spaces; youth prioritise mental health, sustainability, and inclusive hubs; multicultural communities desire cultural visibility and informal gathering spaces; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples emphasise respect, cultural safety, and youth support; people with disabilities advocate for universal access and inclusive communication; and creative industries highlight the importance of belonging and artistic career pathways. Common themes across all groups include strong support for walkable green spaces, free or low-cost events, intergenerational and multicultural initiatives, and improved communication, while barriers such as cost of living, accessibility, and lack of inclusive infrastructure were frequently noted. These insights will directly shape the strategic plans, ensuring they reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of the Port Macquarie-Hastings community.

INTRODUCTION

Background

Port Macquarie Hastings Council is undertaking a comprehensive review and development of three key plans: the Inclusion Plan, the Cultural Plan, and the Activation Plan. These plans are integral to shaping the future of the community, ensuring that Council meets the evolving needs and aspirations of residents across diverse demographics.

- The **Community Inclusion Plan** outlines how all people living in our region can participate fully in community activities, regardless of their background or abilities. Our plan includes initiatives to improve accessibility, promote diversity, and foster a sense of belonging for everyone.
- The **Cultural Plan** outlines how our community can showcase and celebrate the unique cultural heritage of this region. It also looks at ways to support local artists and creatives and ensure diverse cultural expressions are recognised and valued.
- The **Activation Plan** will guide Council on how our community would like to use our spaces and places, engaging residents through events, programs, and initiatives that address local needs and foster a sense of belonging.

These plans formally reported to Council in August 2025. To ensure these plans are shaped by community input, an extensive engagement process has been conducted to capture local insights, priorities, and aspirations.

Engagement overview

The engagement process was designed to be inclusive and comprehensive, utilising a mix of interactive and accessible activities to gather meaningful feedback. These activities ensured representation from diverse community groups, fostering a collaborative approach to policy development.

The key engagement methods included:

- **Surveys:** A public survey was hosted on the ‘Have Your Say’ platform from 1 April to 5 May 2025, inviting broad community participation.

- **Focus Groups:** Targeted group discussions ensured deeper engagement with specific community segments, enabling a detailed understanding of their unique needs.
- **Community Events:** In-person and online events provided additional opportunities for engagement, encouraging face-to-face dialogue and direct feedback.

To ensure equitable representation, the engagement was structured around six key community groups:

1. **Seniors**
2. **Youth**
3. **Multicultural Communities**
4. **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People**
5. **People living with Disabilities**
6. **Creative Industries**

The insights collected through this engagement process will directly inform the development of the Inclusion Plan, Cultural Plan, and Activation Plan, ensuring they align with community needs and aspirations while contributing to a more connected, inclusive, and culturally enriched region.

Spectrum of Participation

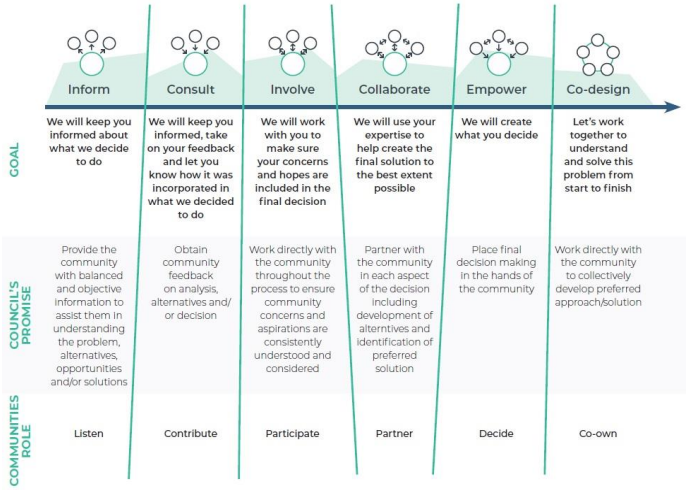
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council undertakes engagement using the industry standard IAP2 Spectrum of Participation which is designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines Council's promise and the community's role in the decision-making process.

Following the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) matrix, the level of engagement for the Draft Inclusion, Cultural and Activation Plans ranged from inform to Collaborate. This means we sought to:

- Provide clear and accessible information to the community about the purpose and scope of the plans.
- Consult with community members to gather feedback, insights, and concerns that will directly inform the development of each plan.
- Involve key stakeholders in discussions, ensuring their perspectives and priorities are considered.
- Collaborate with community groups and representatives to co-design elements of the plans where possible, ensuring shared ownership of outcomes.

Our commitment from this process is to:

- Transparently incorporate community feedback into the development of the final plans.
- Clearly communicate how community input has influenced decision-making.
- Continue fostering ongoing dialogue with stakeholders beyond the engagement period.
- Develop policies and strategies that are responsive to the community's needs and aspirations, ensuring long-term social and cultural benefits.


Inform
Consult
Involve
Collaborate
Empower
Co-design
GOAL
We will keep you informed about what we decide to do
We will keep you informed, take on your feedback and let you know how it was incorporated in what we decided to do
We will work with you to make sure your concerns and hopes are included in the final decision
We will use your expertise to help create the final solution to the best extent possible
We will create what you decide
Let's work together to understand and solve this problem from start to finish
COUNCIL'S PROMISE
Provide the community with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions
Obtain community feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision
Work directly with the community throughout the process to ensure community concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered
Partner with the community in each aspect of the decision including development of alterntives and identification of preferred solution
Place final decision making in the hands of the community
Work directly with the community to collectively develop preferred approach/solution
COMMUNITIES ROLE
Listen
Contribute
Participate
Partner
Decide
Co-own

ENGAGEMENT BREAKDOWN

Workshops/ Forums/ Sessions

Seniors

CRUISE SURVEY (SEE APPENDIX D FOR PRIMARY DATA)

Seniors Cruise Port Adventure Cruises Time was a 3-hour scenic cruise, full buffet lunch, dessert. Interactive entertainment. During the event council staff surveyed 27 attendees.

Survey findings reveal several key themes impacting seniors and the wider community. Financial security is a significant concern, with rising living costs and financial decision-making weighing heavily. Access to healthcare and in-home support is another pressing issue. Social engagement, respect, and avoiding loneliness are essential to emotional well-being, while maintaining independence, mobility, and access to age-friendly housing and transport remain priorities. Despite these concerns, there's an overall positive sentiment about the region being ageing friendly. Many respondents praised local programs—particularly fitness, creative activities, and volunteering—though transport and digital access continue to pose challenges. Across all age groups, there's a strong desire for more inclusive and culturally enriching activities that foster community connection, such as fairs, storytelling, and creative workshops. People want better communication about available services and programs, both online and in print, as well as stronger partnerships with community groups to improve access and participation. Residents also value opportunities to engage with Aboriginal culture, public art, and heritage buildings. While the arts are enjoyed in various ways, barriers like limited information and access remain. Overall, the community seeks vibrant, affordable, and well-promoted opportunities to gather, create, and celebrate their shared cultural identity.

FORUM (SEE APPENDIX C FOR PRIMARY DATA)

8 seniors were invited to attend a forum held at the Port Macquarie Library on Monday 7 April 2025. The session involved rotating tables and brainstorming the following questions:

	Brainstorm
Cultural Plan	What does culture mean to you? What does culture look like? What needs to be in this plan?
Inclusion Plan	What does inclusion mean to you? What does inclusion look like? What needs to be in this plan?
Activation Plan	What does activation mean to you? What does activation look like? What needs to be in this plan?

Below is a summary of discussion from each plan:

- **Cultural**

The Seniors' Forum highlighted that culture is fundamentally about people and connection. Across the board, attendees emphasised that culture is shaped by community interaction, shared experiences, and the spaces in which people gather. Art, heritage, storytelling, volunteering, and even local infrastructure were all viewed as expressions of culture. There was a strong call for inclusive engagement, improved communication, and greater support for seniors as vital contributors to community culture.

Participants repeatedly expressed a desire for improved access and visibility—both physical and informational. There were frustrations about limited information tailored to seniors and newcomers, especially regarding services, events, and groups. Many suggested council needs to improve how it welcomes people, promotes opportunities, and makes cultural offerings known—through print media, a stronger presence at community hubs, and clearer signage. A senior's expo was praised as a great example of how connection and engagement can be fostered.

Access and infrastructure were key concerns, particularly around transport, disused spaces, disability access, and a lack of shaded public seating. Participants shared frustrations with inaccessible galleries and beaches (such as Shelley Beach), traffic congestion near key services, and limited community facilities for art, workshops, and storytelling.
There was strong enthusiasm for intergenerational programs and community storytelling. Many believed that blending age groups—through mentoring, shared learning, and joint events—would build understanding and dismantle stereotypes about ageing. Models like Finland's "Human Library" were referenced as innovative ways to connect youth with older people's experience. Initiatives like the "Story Walk" (a walking trail with stories along the way) were seen as opportunities to engage seniors and children alike in cultural experiences. Several participants were already engaged in helping others write their personal histories and expressed a desire to do more of this.

Several attendees said that culture and belonging come from being involved, and that seniors represent a huge untapped asset. Many are keen to volunteer, mentor, and participate but need better support, information, and encouragement to take the first step. While many felt personally connected to their smaller villages, there was a sense that areas like Bonny Hills, Camden Haven, and Lake Cathie are overlooked in broader council activities and cultural planning.

Concerns around homelessness and domestic violence were also raised, with participants calling for more visibility, understanding, and support from council. They were encouraged by tools like the "Snap Send Solve" app, but suggested greater community education on how these tools could be used for social reporting—not just infrastructure issues.

In summary, seniors want to feel welcomed, heard, and valued. They see culture as a living, evolving expression of community, not limited to the arts but including education, volunteerism, infrastructure, and social connection. They seek greater inclusion, accessible information, and opportunities to contribute meaningfully. For culture to thrive, council must actively support seniors as cultural stewards and creators, not just as passive recipients.

➢ Inclusion

Inclusion is about ensuring that every person—regardless of age, ability, background, or circumstance—can meaningfully participate in community life. It means making sure no one is left out, and that people feel welcomed, valued, and supported. Inclusive communities recognise the diversity of their people and work actively to reduce barriers so everyone can engage, contribute, and thrive.

Inclusion looks like practical, everyday support: transport services for seniors, free fitness programs, men's sheds, and open-door community halls. It also means ensuring facilities are accessible, that information is easy to find and understand, and that people are aware of opportunities to participate. Places like community BBQs, social groups, libraries, and volunteer

organisations all help foster connection—but they need strong, consistent support from councils and partners to truly be inclusive.

To be inclusive, communities need to provide access to information in a variety of ways—through social media, newsletters, community directories, or even a council buddy system that helps groups promote events. Storytelling is a powerful inclusion tool too. Videos of real people sharing lived experiences help educate others and show what inclusion really looks and feels like. Educating the broader community—through stories, case studies, and awareness campaigns—helps build empathy and breaks down misunderstanding.

Importantly, inclusion isn't just about access—it's about participation and contribution. People want to feel like they are part of what's going on, not just watching from the sidelines. Tools like community feedback platforms (e.g., Snap Send Solve), and storytelling programs help residents share experiences, offer suggestions, and feel heard. Inclusion also requires councils and community organisations to respond to this input meaningfully and transparently.

To support inclusion, the plan must build capacity across the community. This includes training for community connectors or buddies to help people take the first step in getting involved—especially those with low social confidence. It also means hosting workshops, mapping barriers faced by marginalised groups, and creating disability access maps so that spaces and events are genuinely accessible. Businesses can also play a role—initiatives like "scores on doors" can showcase inclusive practices in public-facing spaces.

A strong inclusion plan makes people feel seen and supported. It provides clear information, reduces barriers, and fosters environments where newcomers and long-time residents alike feel welcome. It helps build social confidence and community pride by giving people the tools, connections, and encouragement to participate. Ultimately, inclusion is not just about welcoming people in—it's about creating a culture where everyone can belong, be heard, and help shape the community they're part of.

- **Activation**

Activation is the thoughtful planning and implementation of actions that bring spaces and communities to life. It involves both launching new initiatives and re-energising existing or underused community assets. At its core, activation turns strategy into tangible, practical outcomes—it's about taking action, not just talking about ideas. This requires identifying both physical spaces and people within the community who can contribute to shared goals. Accessibility plays a critical role—activation must include everyone, including those with physical, mental, or unseen disabilities, and reach across ages, cultures, and abilities.

True activation is inclusive, flexible, and doesn't always require significant funding. Community members need clarity about *why* something is being done, not just *what* is happening. Self-directed and organic participation—like community walks or multi-site activities—enables people to engage on their own terms and in ways that suit their lives. These actions help make activation accessible to more people and reduce barriers to participation.
Disused or overlooked spaces offer valuable opportunities for community connection. With the help of local "champions" or community leaders, these areas can be reimagined as places that bring people together.

Ultimately, activation is about bringing visibility, life, and purpose to our community environments in ways that are meaningful and sustainable. It supports stronger social connections, fosters pride in place, and encourages a deeper sense of belonging. When implemented well, activation doesn't feel forced—it becomes part of the natural rhythm of community life.

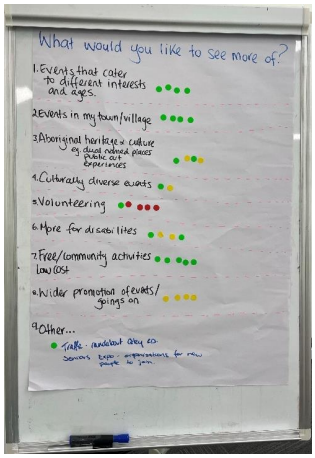
To guide this process a flexible and evolving framework that helps deliver outcomes while adapting to the dynamic needs of the local government area. This plan should provide a methodology for implementing activities and serves as a communication tool to keep residents informed and engaged. Accessibility is at the heart of the plan—people must be able to reach and participate in whatever is being activated. The plan should also offer clear information on how people can get involved or contribute, recognising that everyone has something unique to offer.

The plan encourages both short-term, flexible actions and longer-term strategies that can grow and evolve with the community. It promotes multi-channel communication—not relying solely on social media—to ensure all demographics are reached. Intergenerational and intercultural programming is vital, including experiences that bring seniors, youth, and newcomers together. Welcome initiatives, like a “Community Welcome Pack,” can help new residents quickly find their place and get involved.

As a scaffold, the Activation Plan should also support the implementation of other strategic priorities. By aligning efforts and streamlining community engagement, it ensures that activation becomes a central, sustainable part of how the LGA builds connection, resilience, and pride.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS FOR ABOVE PLANS:

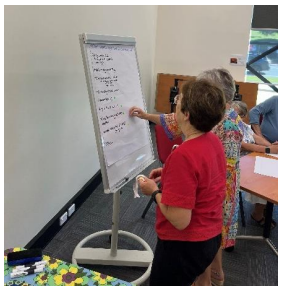
- More done to welcome seniors to the area
- Shelly Beach disabled access
- Friendship seats (in the shade)
- Story walks
- Human Library - intergenerational program
- Short videos, real peoples saying real things



Participants were also asked to vote on what they would like to see more of in the community. Highest scoring answers were:

- Events that cater to different interests and ages
- Events in my town/village
- Free/community activities at low cost

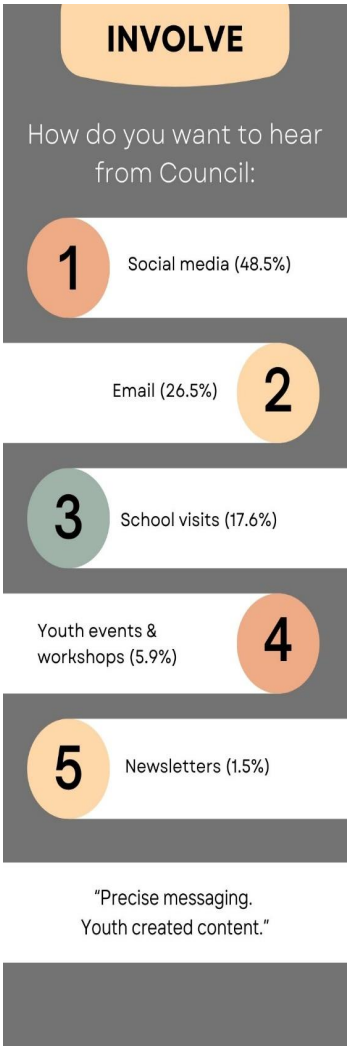
Sticker code:
Green - Agree
Yellow - Neutral
Red - Disagree



Youth

SURVEY (SEE APPENDIX E FOR PRIMARY DATA)

An online survey comprising 12 questions was opened from 13 March to 26 March 2025 on Council’s “Have Your Say” website and 81 responses were received. The questions and responses from the survey are as follows:



Most respondents were students (high school or Uni/TAFE), making up 57% with an average age of 17 years old.

Of student respondents, 38% also reported working full-time or part-time and overall, 51% indicated they are working in some capacity.

Preferred social media platforms for engagement included:

- Instagram 72%
- TikTok 53%
- Snapchat 44%
- YouTube 34%
- Facebook 31%

When asked about the easiest way for youth was to share their thoughts with Council, respondents said:

- Online surveys or polls 79.4%
- In-person workshops and forums 38.2%
- Youth advisory groups or committees 30.9%
- School or community group discussions 26.5%
- Other 4.4%

Preferred places to meet:

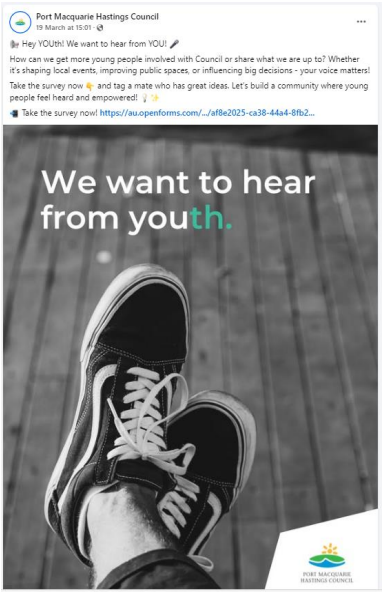
- Community hubs (library, halls) – 60.3%
- Outdoors (park, sport, beach) – 41.2%
- Youth centres – 32.4%
- School / Campus – 30.9%
- Other – 2.9%

The best times to reach young people are:

- After school (3–6PM) 55.9%
- During school hours 33.8%
- Evenings (after 6PM) 8.8%
- Weekends 1.5%

How often should we check in with you?

- Monthly - 45.6%
- Twice a year - 25%
- Every 3 months - 17.6%
- Once a year - 11.8%



The issues that young people most care about (in order of importance) were:

1. Mental health support and services
2. Nature and sustainability initiatives
3. Youth spaces and places
4. Youth voice in decisions
5. Help with jobs and career
6. Events and things to do



What can Council do better to involve young people?

- More youth representation in decisions – *40 mentions*
- Youth-led events – *36 mentions*
- More input on planning/public spaces – *33 mentions*
- Better social media and content – *29 mentions*

What's stopping young people from getting involved with Council?

- "I don't really know what Council does" 30.9%
- "Nothing ever changes, so why bother?" 27.9%
- Other 11.8%

Would YOU join a youth advisory group?

- Maybe, tell me more – 36.8%
- No, not my thing – 32.4%
- No, but keep me updated – 20.6%
- Yes, sign me up! – 10.2%

If we created a youth group, what should it look like?



Additional comments:

*"It should be a **diverse group** in terms of age, race, schools and interests."*

*"It should be a **safe environment** where everyone feels comfortable."*

*"Youth **groups in schools** so students are more likely to participate if it's with their own school and peers!"*

*"Not another youth council that restricts other kids being able to have a say. Make it open and fun. **Led by youth—not council people**...*

*What about a **youth hub** where kids can have a space to do stuff and express themselves with music, art and other things. Also, it needs to represent the young LGBTQ community."*

*"I think what was in place previously was an okay place to start, but **more structure**/clarity needs to be provided... so that things can actually be accomplished/change."*

*"Youth in focus—a space where we can hang out, exercise, and just be ourselves. It should be **run by younger people** who feel more like friends than leaders, but who can step up when support is needed.*

And yeah, a bit of music and food never hurts—just make sure it's not only about the snacks. Hot chips or pizza always worked where I went!"

Multicultural Communities

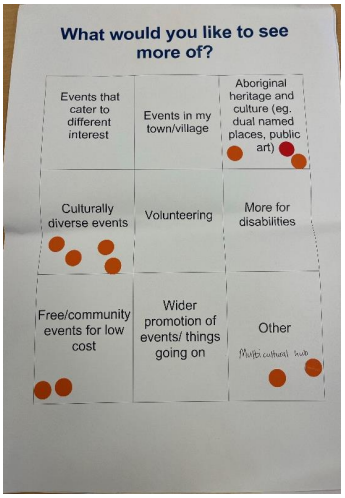
MULTICULTURAL FORUM

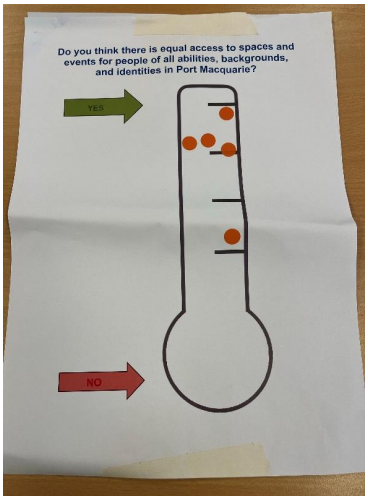
Location: Charles Sturt University
Date: Friday 11 April 2025, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Attendees: 7

Attendees were asked to put dots on where they sat in response to the questions. Top votes were for:

- Aboriginal heritage and culture (eg dual naming)
- Culturally diverse events
- Free community events







Below is a summary of discussion from each plan. See Appendix F for raw data.

- **Cultural Plan**

Community feedback on the Cultural Plan highlights that culture is much more than festivals or food—it's a lived experience tied to identity, language, connection, and belonging. Many participants reflected on the complexity of identity, particularly for children navigating their mother tongue at home while being seen as different in wider Australian society due to appearance or cultural expression. While moving away from their country made some more open to understanding other cultures, others shared the challenges of maintaining cultural practices in a new context. Visibility and celebration of diverse cultures, such as Diwali or storytelling events in different languages, were seen as vital to feeling recognised. However, culture isn't always visible for all groups, and many people described how difficult it can be to "find your people" without clear entry points—often relying on chance encounters at supermarkets or schools. Incidental cultural connection is lacking due to infrastructure, like the absence of walkable neighbourhoods that enable casual socialisation. Activities often feel forced or overly structured, creating barriers to organic connection. Suggestions included establishing social and cultural hubs, cooking classes, "bring a plate" events, and informal networks like neighbourhood cells or parent groups that can foster shared identity and connection. Men, especially those staying at home while partners work, often feel more isolated and need their own pathways for engagement. Cultural support must also

extend to governance—encouraging people from diverse backgrounds to see themselves in leadership roles and providing sessions on how to participate in local government. Schools, libraries, and community centres should be empowered to celebrate and showcase cultural diversity meaningfully. Ultimately, culture thrives when it's visible, shared, and allowed to evolve—when people feel they belong to many communities and can both honour their heritage and participate fully in the life of Port Macquarie.

- **Inclusion Plan**

Community feedback on the Inclusion Plan reveals that genuine inclusion goes beyond symbolic gestures—it's about creating meaningful, sustained connections where everyone feels welcome, valued, and empowered to participate. Inclusion means being seen, heard, and having the opportunity to contribute, especially in a regional setting where racism and social isolation can be barriers. Participants shared stories of feeling connected through small, consistent acts of kindness, like being invited for coffee or community breakfasts, and emphasised the importance of persistence in both inviting and showing up. The ability to access spontaneous, informal community spaces was also raised barriers like club fees and lack of casual sporting options were seen as hindrances to inclusive participation. There's a shared belief that both individuals and the wider community have a role to play—while people must sometimes push themselves out of their comfort zone, the community must also meet them with open, ongoing invitations. Participants valued events like Harmony Day and suggested stronger structural support, such as a multicultural centre that serves as a permanent hub for newcomers, offering practical support, cultural continuity, and a sense of belonging. Suggestions included council recognition and celebration of cultural festivals, affordable access to cultural events, multicultural education in schools, traditional dress days, faith-based spaces, and stronger representation of diverse communities in council and public offices. There is a call for more coordinated efforts across community groups, clearer access to information (e.g., grants, events, services), and inclusive storytelling on council platforms. Participants also recommended monthly cultural themes at libraries, language performances, intergenerational inclusion (like housing for elders), and regular engagement meetings between council officers and community members.

- **Activation Plan**

Community feedback on the Activation Plan highlights the importance of fostering genuine excitement, connection, and belonging within the area. For many, activation means reaching a level of engagement where people feel energised and involved in community life. Residents expressed a deep love for the culture of food, storytelling, and shared experiences that define their community, emphasising how inclusive and heartfelt social interactions are—where goodbyes are as meaningful as hellos. To support and enhance this spirit, suggestions included establishing a central, accessible source of information—such as a council website or hub—where residents can easily find updates on events and initiatives. Financial support through programs like Active Kids vouchers was also noted as important for encouraging participation. Community-based communication and community-led events were strongly encouraged, especially as they help build resilience and social networks for migrants and newcomers. Many residents are drawn to the area for its affordability, family-friendly lifestyle, and ease of living, and they want to see this quality of life reflected in council programs. Engaging schools and spreading events throughout the year, rather than limiting them to one major annual event, were suggested as effective ways to maintain consistent engagement. Feedback also warned against assuming everyone already feels at home in the community; finding strong social ties and support networks can be challenging. There's a need for more opportunities for incidental interactions—small, everyday encounters that help build community. For example, a lack of footpaths in some areas was mentioned as a barrier to these informal social connections. Overall, the feedback reflects a desire for an inclusive, well-communicated, and consistently active community life, where people feel supported, seen, and inspired to participate.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

BIRPAI ENGAGEMENT - STRONG SPIRIT (SEE APPENDIX B FOR PRIMARY DATA)

On Friday 21 March, representatives from the Community Activation team joined Strong Spirit at an Elders drop-in session where small group conversation was held. The session was valuable and provided thoughtful and deeper insights into the realities of living in our LGA from an Aboriginal perspective. Key takeaways from the engagement are that respect, supporting young Aboriginal people and culturally safe events are important to Elders.

What do you care about most?	Tally	Notes
Employment	|	○ More Street art ○ Naming signage ○ Face to face ○ Aboriginal Development Officer @ council ○ Homelessness + housing ○ Aboriginal Medical Centre ○ Supporting community organisations like 'Strong Spirit' to be inclusive of all cultures ○ More cultural safe places for our youth to go that is not at a high cost ○ More notice of what is happening ○ Keep supporting Clontarf
Cost of Living	|||||	
Health	|||	
Loneliness	||	
Independence	|	
Connectedness	||	
Nutrition and exercise	|||	
Being part of community	||	
Culturally safe events	||||	
Respect	||	
Younger generation	||||	
Knowing what's on	||||	

How can we reach you?	Tally	Notes
Morning tea	||	○ Give more notice of events to participants/ stall holders ○ Open doors between public and private schools ○ More cultural events ○ Aboriginal youth artist outreach program ○ More interaction with traditional owners ○ Fund more school programs ○ Partner with schools, driven by traditional owners/elders ○ Bro & sister speak, in private schools ○ Digital notice boards ○ Aboriginal person of the year ○ Re0ubsate and advisory committee for Aboriginal People ○ Message stick (Kempsey Council) ○ Letter box drop ○ Don't stay indoors, get out and yarn ○ Volunteering ○ Aboriginal memory walk ○ Opportunities to meet the CEO and councillors for aboriginal stakeholders ○ Continue to invest in community initiatives ○ More aboriginal content in social media
Land Council	|||	
Facebook	|||	
Yarns	|||	
Email via Land Council		
Council email	|	
Word of mouth	||	
Posters		
Flyer	|	
Community organisations	|||	
Schools	|	
Newsletter	||	

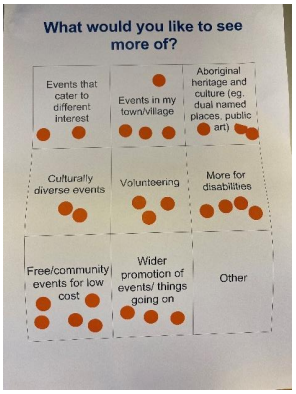
BIRAPI LAND COUNCIL MEETING

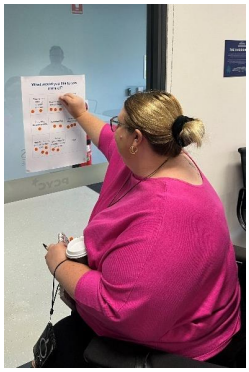
Location: Aston St
Date: Monday 5 May 2025, 4:30pm
Attendees: 1

People living with Disabilities

ENABLE MEETING 28 APRIL

Location: PCYC
Date: Monday 28 April 2025, 9:30 AM - 11:30 PM
Attendees: 10





Attendees were asked to put dots on where they sat in response to the questions. Top votes were for:

- Events in my town/ village
- More for Disabilities
- Free community events

Below is a summary of discussion from each plan.

- **Inclusion Plan**

What Does Inclusion Mean?

1. **Universal Access for All:**
    - Inclusion means ensuring access for all people, regardless of age, culture, or ability. This includes individuals with hearing, sight, physical disabilities, and mental health challenges.
    - It's not just about people with visible disabilities; inclusion extends to anyone who faces barriers, such as people with prams, those experiencing homelessness, or individuals from different backgrounds and geographical locations.
2. Addressing Isolation:
    - Many feel isolated due to limited access to transport, funding restrictions, or simply not knowing what services are available. This often leads to withdrawal from the community.
    - Education and information sharing are key to breaking down these barriers and ensuring everyone knows they are part of the community.
3. Emphasising Connection:
    - It's important to create opportunities for people with disabilities to connect with others. Programs like wheelchair basketball are an example, where individuals with disabilities and able-bodied people come together, learn from each other, and form new connections.
    - Creating two-way learning experiences helps everyone understand each other's daily challenges and builds empathy.
4. Normalising Abilities:

- Inclusion involves focusing on what people can do, not what they can't. For example, in the case of a person joining the surf lifesaving club, the focus was on their ability, not disability, and the community accepted them as equals.
- Normalising participation in all areas of life — from sports to social events — helps diminish the sense of difference and promotes community acceptance.

5. Purpose and Opportunity:
   - Inclusion gives people a sense of purpose. It's about giving everyone, especially those who may feel marginalised (whether due to disability, financial situation, or other factors), the chance to be a part of something meaningful, contributing to their community.

What Does Inclusion Look Like?

1. Respectful communication:
   - People with disabilities want to be treated with respect and addressed directly, not through their support workers or in a patronising manner. They seek recognition as intelligent adults, not as people to be talked down to.
   - It's crucial to approach individuals with respect, using appropriate manners. For instance, addressing someone respectfully with "excuse me, sir" instead of labels like "blind guy."
2. Social awareness and sensitivity:
   - There's a need for awareness around how people navigate the world. For example, kids may not recognise the obstacles their actions might pose for someone with a disability.
   - A campaign encouraging people to "just talk to me" highlights the need for everyone to be treated with the same opportunities and dignity.
3. Equality, not extra treatment:
   - People with disabilities don't want special treatment or "extras," but simply to be treated the same as anyone else — with fairness and equal opportunity.
4. Education from a young Age:
   - Schools play a key role in fostering understanding and acceptance of all people, regardless of their differences. Experiential learning, such as blindfold exercises, can help students understand what it's like to live with a disability.
5. Adapting, not overcoming:
   - Inclusion is about adapting to the needs of individuals, rather than trying to "fix" their differences. The focus should be on what can be done to support everyone's participation, whether through communication or physical space.
6. Encouraging empathy and understanding:
   - Clear communication is vital — a simple smile and a warm tone can make all the difference in creating an inclusive environment.
   - The message is to look beyond disabilities and focus on the person's abilities and potential, as captured in the idea: "Don't look at our disability, focus on our amazing ability."

- **Cultural Plan**

What Does Inclusion Mean?

1. Acceptance over debate:
   - Inclusion means being accepted for who you are, without needing to justify or debate your beliefs or identity. It's about mutual respect for how people live and express themselves, whether that relates to their background, abilities, or personal choices.

2. Unique ways of being:
    - Each group of people has its own way of doing things that is unique to their culture. Inclusion acknowledges and respects these differences, fostering a sense of belonging for everyone, no matter how they do things or what they identify with.

What Does Culture Mean?

1. Belief systems and identity:
    - Culture is about a group's shared beliefs, values, and the way they identify with one another. It's deeply connected to how individuals express themselves and relate to the world.
2. Cultural attitudes and divisions:
    - The overall culture in Port Macquarie-Hastings (PMHC) can feel divided, particularly in attitudes toward different social groups, political opinions, and ways of life. This division impacts how welcoming the community feels to others.
    - There is also an undercurrent of self-centeredness, where attitudes like "only one way to be accepted" can create tension, especially between younger and older generations.
3. Shift in social dynamics:
    - COVID-19 has contributed to a sense of isolation and selfishness. Younger generations seem to struggle with a lack of community involvement, and finding volunteers for local initiatives is becoming harder.
    - The shift from a more community-focused culture to one that relies heavily on online connections is noted as a problem. Online interactions often lack the impact and connection that in-person relationships offer.

Is There Enough Opportunity to Express Cultural Identity?

1. Lack of spaces for expression:
    - There is a lack of places for people to go and express themselves, socialise, and form connections. The community used to have places like theme parks that families and friends could visit, but these spaces are now missing.
2. Generational and cultural differences:
    - City culture differs from country culture, with barriers between these two that make it harder for people to relate and understand one another's backgrounds. While you can't change someone's background, attitudes can be shifted through education and exposure.
3. Online vs. real-world connections:
    - Online connections are seen as less meaningful than face-to-face interactions. People who feel disconnected from their community, especially younger generations, often rely on online spaces for socialising but lack the depth of real-world connections.
4. Need for structured social spaces:
    - There's a strong desire for structured community spaces where people can gather, interact, and build meaningful relationships. This includes places that offer consistent opportunities to meet and socialise in safe, welcoming environments.

What Does Culture Look Like?

1. Social inclusion programs:
    - Social inclusion programs like "Link and Laugh" can offer a space where people of all abilities can come together to meet, build relationships, and have fun. Examples of such programs include activities like cruises or bowls club meetups.

- These events don't require participants to bring friends, but simply offer a space where individuals can connect with others in a safe, supportive environment.

What Needs to be in the Cultural Plan?

1. Activities for all ages:
   - Activities for kids during school holidays are a key priority. Events like lawn bowls or family-friendly activities could provide an opportunity for social inclusion while also engaging different age groups.
2. Big events to foster community spirit:
   - There is a need for big community events that bring people together to celebrate and connect. These could range from arts festivals to sports tournaments, fostering community pride and inclusion.

➢ Activation Plan

What Does Activation Mean?

1. Accessible participation in events:
   - Events like Anzac Day can be difficult for people with disabilities due to the lack of accessible seating and challenges navigating through crowds. More consideration for accessibility, such as providing seats and ensuring clear pathways, is necessary.
   - Blind individuals may feel uncomfortable in large crowds because of difficulty tracking others and navigating echoing environments. Sound cues and careful space planning could improve their experience.
   - Events like Artwalk are great, but access can be challenging at times. Ensuring all events, like food festivals at Town Green, are accessible is a priority.
2. Improved accessibility at events:
   - Consideration for more accessible parking for people with disabilities at larger events is needed to ensure better access and participation.

What does activation look like?

1. Community engagement and creative spaces:
   - Activating spaces in the community with creative opportunities, like reopening a theme park or hosting ghost tours, would provide fun and engaging ways for people to connect.
   - Creating spaces for art, such as a wall for spray painting or a place for graffiti practice, could be beneficial for people to hone their skills. This could lead to exposure, with local business owners potentially commissioning works.
   - Power boxes around town, like those used for street art, can also be a creative outlet and a good way to foster skill development.
2. Empowering local creatives:
   - Providing spaces for individuals who are not confident in their skills to practice is crucial. This fosters a sense of community and encourages the development of creative talents.
   - Community notice boards and platforms that allow individuals to advertise and test their skills are key to fostering empowerment and connection. The idea of "leaving your mark" through art or other contributions can be a form of activation.

What needs to be in the Activation Plan?

1. Create accessible, engaging spaces and events:

- Open up creative spaces, like art walls, and support events such as ghost tours and theme parks, which allow people with disabilities to participate and express themselves.
- Consider adding more accessible features for events (e.g., parking, pathways) and continue fostering community creativity and skill-sharing through public art spaces.

2. Utilise multiple communication channels:
   - Activating community involvement requires the use of diverse communication channels. While Facebook is a popular platform, other forms such as radio, newsletters, and printed materials (flyers, magazines) should also be used to reach a broader audience.
   - Use QR codes to link to digital resources, and place flyers in high-traffic areas like cafes, universities, and TAFE institutions, where they can be seen by a larger number of people.
3. Creating a centralised Event Hub:
   - A dedicated, easily accessible section on the Council's website where events can be listed and moderated would make it easier for people to find and register for local activities. This page could act as a trusted source for event information.
   - Utilise local print media, such as the Saturday edition of the local news, to ensure events reach older demographics who may not be as familiar with digital platforms.
4. Foster connections and build networks:
   - Building connections through platforms like the Mid North Coast Disability Network and others (e.g., Willing and Able) will help ensure that people with disabilities are informed about upcoming events and opportunities.
   - Planning with clear visibility of upcoming events on calendars will help people with disabilities and the broader community stay connected and involved.

Creative Industries

CREATIVE SPARKS WORKSHOPS - YOUTH WEEK (SEE APPENDIX G FOR RAW DATA)

Council supported the delivery of three free workshop series targeting young people across the Port Macquarie-Hastings region. These workshops aimed to inspire and inform local youth about pathways in the creative industries while promoting community connection and personal wellbeing through artistic expression.

Key Outcomes of the Initiative:

- Delivered a series of interactive, 3-hour workshops facilitated by established creative professionals from the Hastings region.
- Engaged young participants in hands-on activities designed to ignite creative thinking, build confidence, and explore vocational opportunities within the arts sector.
- Provided valuable career insights and mentorship opportunities from local industry practitioners.
- Fostered peer-to-peer networking among emerging creatives, strengthening social ties and community identity.

Workshop Details:

- Port Macquarie: Charles Sturt University – 10 April 2025, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- Laurieton: School of the Arts – 15 April 2025, 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm

- Wauchope: Community Arts Hall – 17 April 2025, 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm

18 young people aged between 13 and 22 attended across the 3 events. Below are key themes from the sessions.

Belonging and Community Connection

- Young people identified a sense of community through shared interests, friendships, family ties, local events, and communal spaces such as parks, beaches, cafes, and community gardens. Involvement in music groups, band performances, and school cohorts also contributed to feelings of inclusion, particularly in Wauchope and Port Macquarie.

Interests and Creative Pursuits

- Participants expressed strong interest in creative activities such as drawing, painting, digital art, dance, drama, graffiti, and jewellery making. Many saw these activities as vital outlets for self-expression, mental wellbeing, and connection with peers. Other popular activities included surfing, gaming, reading, sports, and visiting galleries.

Spaces and Places

- Youth voiced a need for more inclusive, safe, and youth-focused spaces. Suggestions included free or low-cost hangout spots, improved lighting and safety at skate parks, graffiti walls with mentorship opportunities, and more seating in town areas. Young people emphasised the importance of events that are designed by youth for youth, and better promotion of these opportunities through accessible platforms like posters and social media.

Perceptions of Welcomeness

- Across all three sessions, there was a shared sentiment that the region is not always welcoming to young people. While younger children and older adults are often well catered to, teenagers and young adults feel overlooked. They highlighted a lack of relevant events, limited creative outlets outside of sport, and a feeling of being excluded from decision-making.

Wellbeing and Inclusion

- Being heard and included means having opinions respected and ideas acknowledged. Youth want their feedback to lead to real change and to be communicated through familiar channels such as TikTok or posters in youth spaces. Affordability, visibility, and transparency were highlighted as crucial to fostering genuine inclusion.

Mental Health and Creativity

- Creative outlets were widely recognised as essential for mental health. Activities like art, music, and writing help young people manage stress, express emotions, and find a sense of purpose and accomplishment. The social aspect of these activities—connecting with like-minded peers—was also noted as a key benefit.

Education and Employment Barriers

- Youth identified a shortage of entry-level jobs outside hospitality, a lack of creative courses at TAFE, and unrealistic expectations from employers. Those pursuing niche careers (e.g. marine biology or interior design) often have to leave the area to study or find relevant opportunities. There's also a call for more practical business and industry-skills development in schools.

Social Connection and Loneliness

- Loneliness was a common concern, especially among those not involved in sports. Youth requested more inclusive and creative group activities, like art collaborations, music jams,

and street art projects. Safe, welcoming environments where all types of young people—artists, scientists, skaters, and more—can connect are seen as essential.

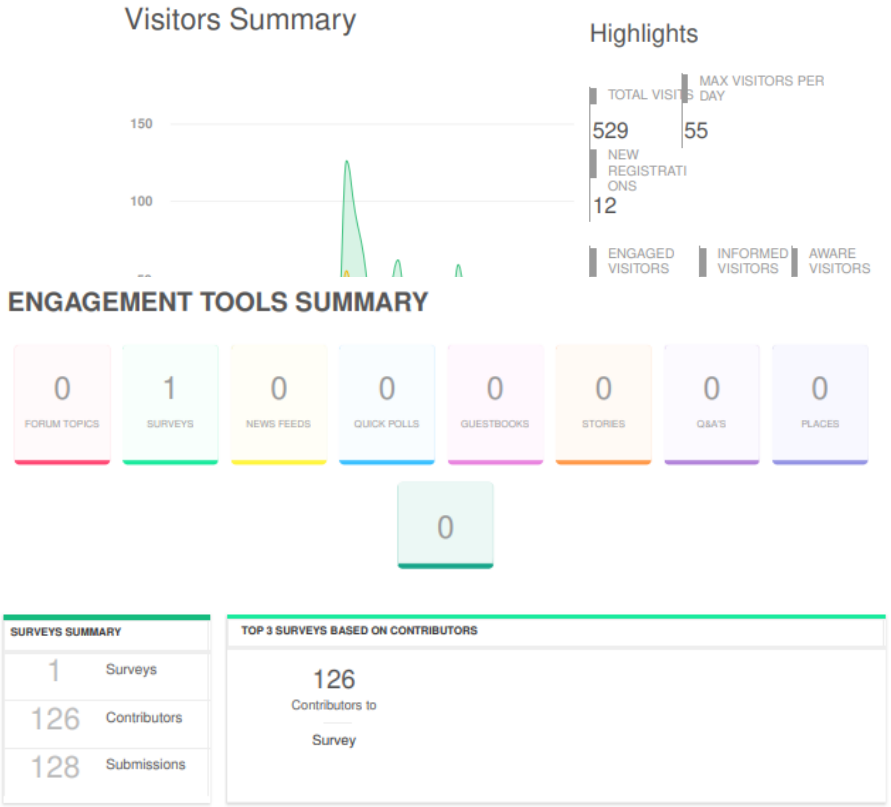
Why They Stay

- Despite the challenges, many young people remain in the area because of family, friendships, natural beauty, and a strong connection to community.

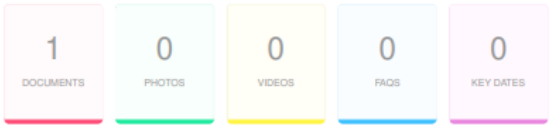
have your say

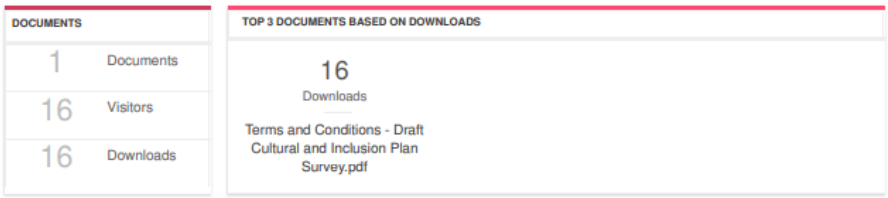
Have Your Say

Results from the online survey



INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY





TRAFFIC SOURCES OVERVIEW

REFERRER URL	Visits
m.facebook.com	96
www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au	43
l.facebook.com	19
lm.facebook.com	17
www.google.com	10
www.bing.com	4
l.instagram.com	3
us15.campaign-archive.com	2
linktr.ee	1
pmhc.createsend.com	1
portmacquariehastingscouncil.cmail19.com	1
us15.admin.mailchimp.com	1
www.google.com.au	1

SELECTED PROJECTS - FULL LIST

PROJECT TITLE	AWARE	INFORMED	ENGAGED
Inclusion, Cultural and Activation Plans Review	388	184	126

Response summary (see appendix A for survey raw data)

Overall Sentiment

- ✅ Majority agree or strongly agree that Port Macquarie-Hastings is a great place to live.
- 🤝 Many feel welcomed and included, though there is less confidence in equal access for people of all abilities, backgrounds, and identities.

🎯 Top Community Priorities

1. 🚶 Footpaths, Bike Lanes & Walkability – Most frequently cited priority.
2. 🧩 Community Connection & Belonging – Strongly valued across responses.
3. 🌳 Access to Nature & Green Spaces – A consistent strength and priority.
4. ❤️ Health & Wellbeing
5. 🏟️ Public Facilities – Pools, sports fields, entertainment venues.
6. 🎉 More Local Events & Celebrations
7. 💰 Cost of Living & Affordability
8. 🌏 Support for Multicultural Communities
9. 👵 Support for Older Residents
10. 🙌 Volunteering & Community-led Projects

♿ Inclusion & Accessibility

- Many respondents feel welcomed, but equal access to events and spaces is not universally experienced.
- Areas with mixed or neutral responses include:
- Disability access & inclusion
- LGBTQIA+ visibility
- Public transport

- Some respondents highlighted the need for dementia-friendly and intergenerational programs.

🔍 Notable Patterns

- People who value outdoor space and walkability report higher satisfaction.
- Affordability and access to services (especially for marginalised groups) are key drivers of dissatisfaction.
- A minority expressed dissatisfaction with inclusion, belonging, or access—indicating areas for equity-focused improvement.

🌞 Most Enjoyed Community Activities

🚶 Walking, running & cycling on trails
🎨 Free community events (e.g., ArtWalk)
🛍️ Markets & street fairs
🏊 Swimming & water activities
🤝 Volunteering & community service
📚 Library events (book clubs, author talks, movies)
🌲 Outdoor events in parks & reserves
🖼️ Museums, galleries & cultural spaces
🛠️ Workshops & lifelong learning
🎶 Cultural groups and creative hobbies (crafts, music, photography)

📌 What Residents Want More Of

🌍 Culturally diverse events
🏘️ Events in local towns and villages
💸 Free or low-cost options
📢 Better promotion and communication of events
👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Activities for all ages and interests
♿ Improved accessibility for people with disabilities
👵 👴 Intergenerational programs (connecting youth and seniors)
🖤 First Nations cultural recognition (e.g., dual naming, public art)

🛠️ Suggestions for Improvement

🏛️ Multicultural Hub: A space for cultural exchange, workshops, and community support.
🚲 Improved infrastructure: Safer walking/cycling paths, accessible venues, and public toilets.
🗣️ Inclusive communication: AUSLAN, multilingual signage, and diverse media channels.
🎨 Support for local artists and groups: Funding, visibility, and collaboration.
🌻 Community gardens, storytelling events, and creative workshops to foster connection.
⏰ More events outside standard working hours to include working families.
👦 Youth-focused programs to promote leadership and cultural understanding.
🧠 Dementia-friendly and disability-inclusive environments.

📣 Preferred Communication Channels

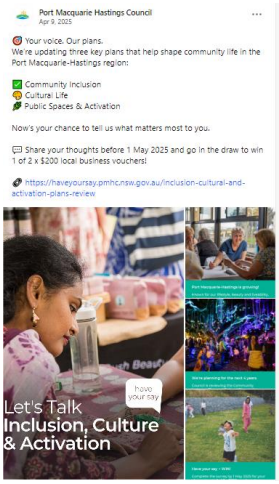
- Facebook
- Email
- Subscriber e-newsletters
- Posters/flyers
- Community noticeboards
- Village newsletters
- Local newspapers and radio

Communications

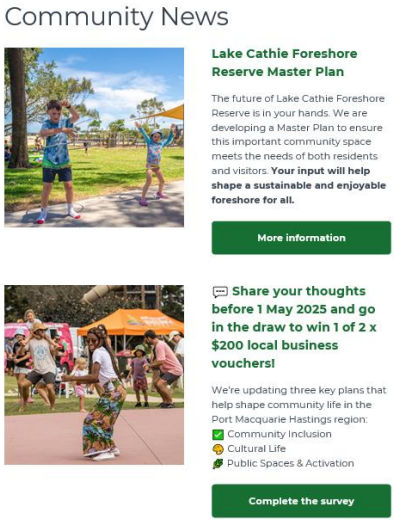
Social Media Story



Social Media Post



Enviro Matters Newsletter



Sports Blast

Inclusion, Activation and Cultural Plan Review

Inclusion, Culture & Activation Plans - Have Your Say

We're reviewing our **Inclusion, Culture and Activation Plans**, and we want to hear from you.

You can read the plans and share your feedback here: **Inclusion, Cultural and Activation Plans Review | Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Have Your Say**

Sport is more than just a game—It brings people together, creates a sense of belonging, and opens the door to participation - on and off the field. From inclusive club culture and accessible facilities to the incredible impact of volunteers, sport is a powerful driver of community connection.

Here are just a couple of ways clubs make a difference:

> *"Our club's walking soccer group has brought together people aged 20 to 80, including players with disability—it's become a weekly highlight and a real community builder."*

> *"I'd never played competitive sport before, but I love that my club offers free social games and 'come and try' days. It made it easy to join in, meet people, and just have fun without any pressure."*

You can view the Plan and Have Your Say by:

- Completing the online survey at **https://haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au**
- Emailing a submission to: **community.activation@pmhc.nsw.gov.au**
- Posting feedback to:
  Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
  Liveable Communities
  PO Box 84
  Port Macquarie NSW 2444

iCreate email



What does culture mean to you?

This is one of the questions Council is asking the Port Macquarie Hastings community as we review our four year Cultural and Inclusion Plans. ⬅Click here to complete our survey on Have Your Say and let us know what matters to you.

This is your chance to tell us what you love about our community and what you care about. We want to include your voice in shaping our new plans and making our region an even better place to live, work, and connect.

The development of these plans involves actively listening to the community. To ensure they genuinely reflect the values and priorities of our residents, we're looking for voices to influence and guide actions in the plans, ensuring they are inclusive, representative, and relevant. We'd love to hear from you.

RESULTS SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

Inclusion Plan

Results

- Community members—especially seniors, people with disabilities, and multicultural groups—emphasised the need for universal access, respectful communication, and opportunities to participate.
- Barriers include transport, digital exclusion, lack of accessible information, and social isolation.
- Inclusion is seen as active participation, not just access—people want to contribute meaningfully.

Summary

The Inclusion Plan focuses on ensuring that everyone feels welcome, valued, and empowered to participate in community life. It highlights the importance of clear communication, accessible infrastructure, and community connectors to help people engage. Storytelling, education, and inclusive design are key tools to foster empathy and reduce barriers.

Conclusion

To build an inclusive community, Council must:

- Provide accessible, well-promoted services and events
- Support community-led initiatives
- Foster intergenerational and intercultural connections
- Ensure ongoing feedback loops so people feel heard and included

Cultural Plan

Results

- Culture is defined broadly as shared identity, connection, and expression, not just festivals or art.
- Seniors, multicultural communities, and people with disabilities want more visibility, celebration of diversity, and spaces to share stories.
- There's a strong desire for intergenerational storytelling, cultural hubs, and recognition of First Nations heritage.

Summary

The Cultural Plan aims to celebrate the region's diverse heritage, support local creatives, and ensure that cultural expression is visible, valued, and evolving. It recognises that culture is lived daily—through language, food, art, and community interaction—and must be supported through inclusive infrastructure and programming.

Conclusion

To enrich cultural life, Council should:

- Invest in cultural infrastructure and events
- Promote diverse voices and leadership
- Support grassroots cultural initiatives
- Recognise First Nations culture through signage, events, and partnerships

Activation Plan

Results

- Activation is about bringing spaces and people to life through events, programs, and informal interactions.
- Community members want accessible, low-cost, and frequent events that reflect their interests and identities.
- There's a call for creative spaces, youth hubs, and better communication about what's happening.

Summary
The Activation Plan is a practical framework for turning community ideas into action. It emphasizes flexibility, accessibility, and community leadership. Activation should feel natural and inclusive, using both short-term pop-ups and long-term strategies to build connection and pride.

Conclusion
To activate the region meaningfully, Council must:
- Create welcoming, accessible spaces
- Support community-led and youth-driven events
- Use multi-channel communication to reach all demographics
- Align activation efforts with broader social and cultural goals

NEXT STEPS

Council's Liveable Communities team will draft the plans before reporting to the August Ordinary Council Meeting where the elected Councillors will consider them for public exhibition.

For information about Council meetings, agenda items, reports and minutes, please visit our webpage **www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/Council-meetings/Agendas-and-minutes**

Disclaimers

Feedback collected across all engagement activities is presented below in summary form - key themes have been identified across all submissions and de-identified, verbatim feedback has been appended.

About verbatim feedback
Deidentified, verbatim feedback is appended in some instances. Feedback that is not appended is summarised in this report, with verbatim responses shared with Liveable Communities Team and tabled with the Council Report for this project.

In addition to the length of some submissions, reasons for not appending these include:
- Detailed locations of properties
- Personal information
- Government agency responses

Community members can request to view verbatim submissions, any requests will be considered by our Governance team prior to release.

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).

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.
- 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.

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.

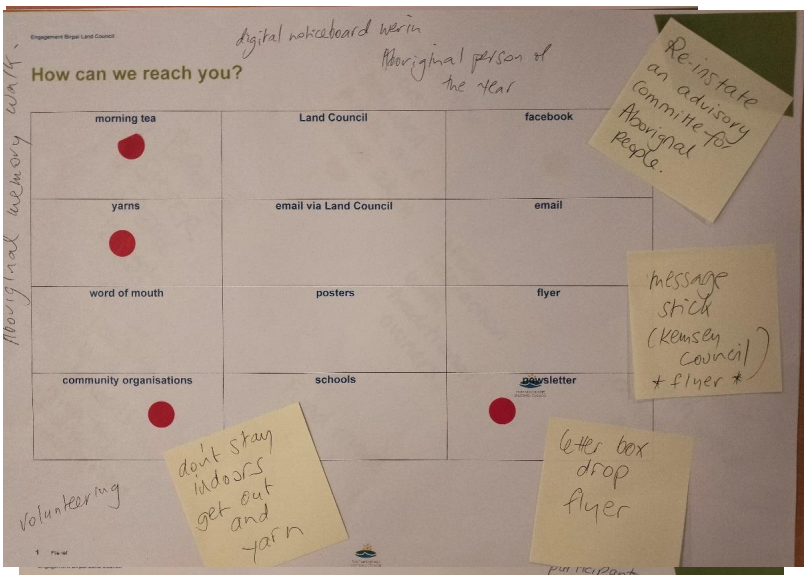
These are **available on our website**, along with our Legislative Compliance Policy.

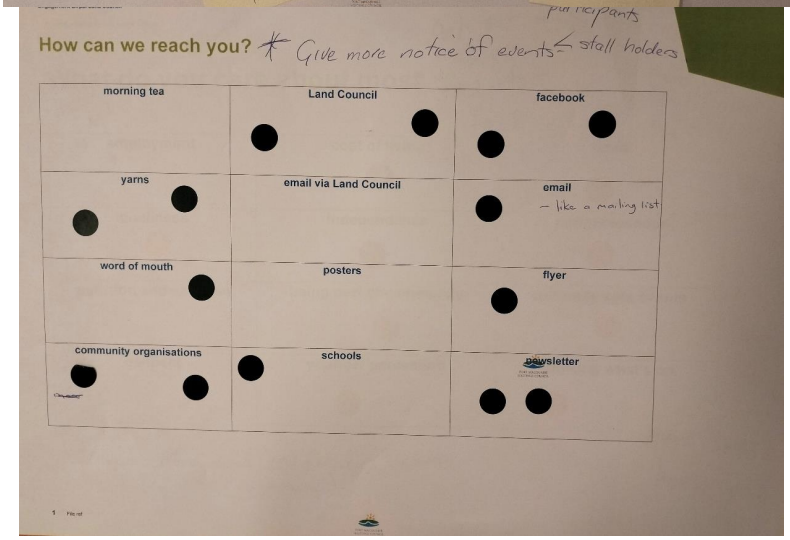
APPENDIX

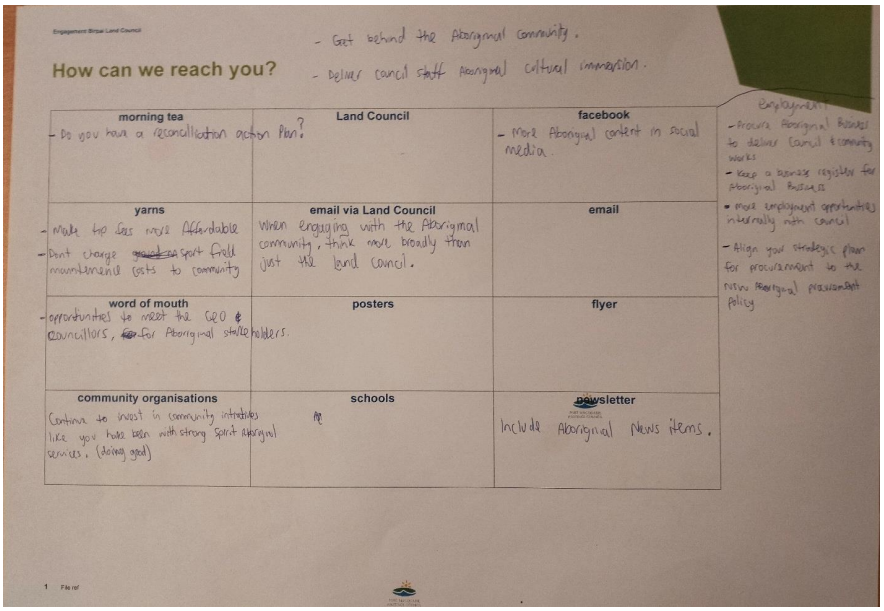
Appendix A: HYS Submissions

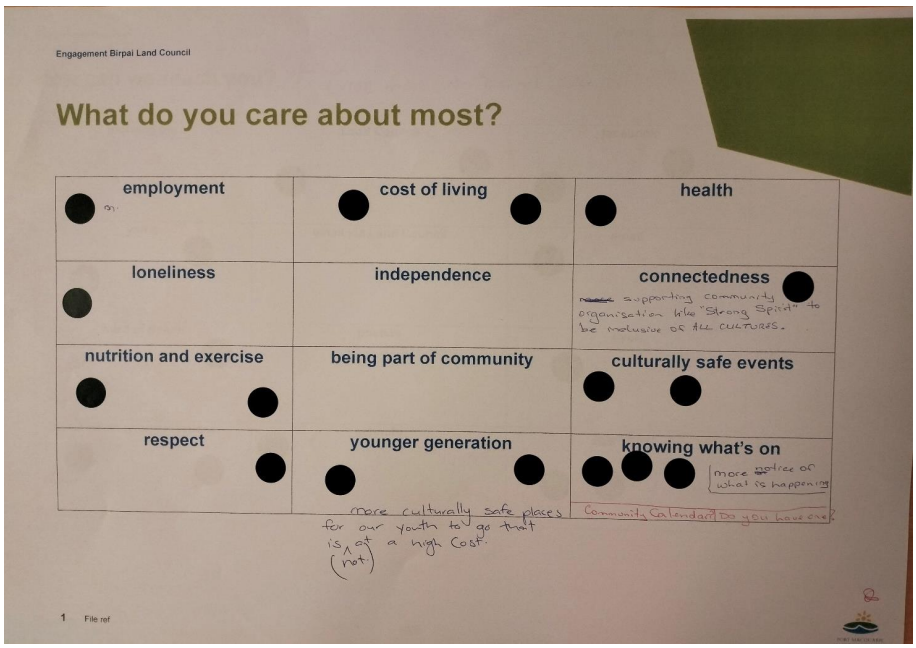
See attached.

Appendix B: Birpai Engagement - Strong Spirit

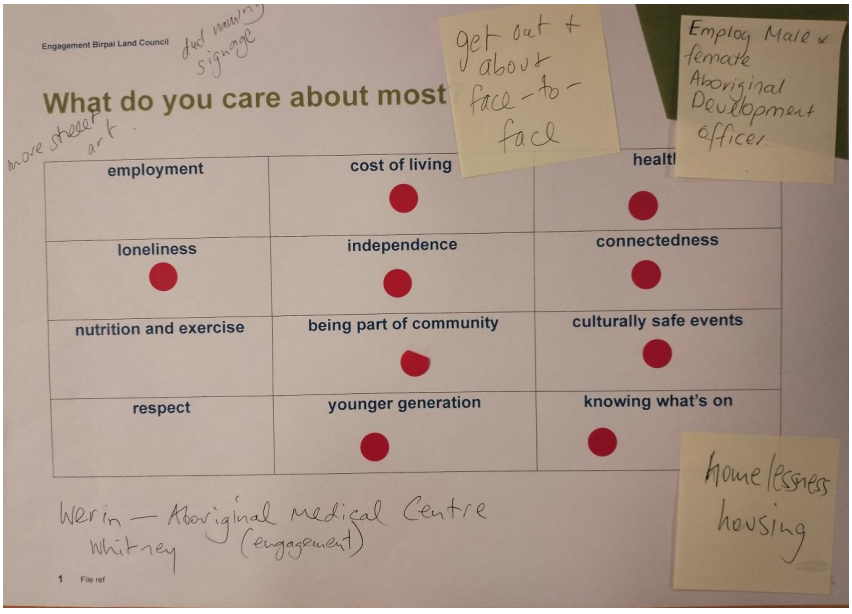




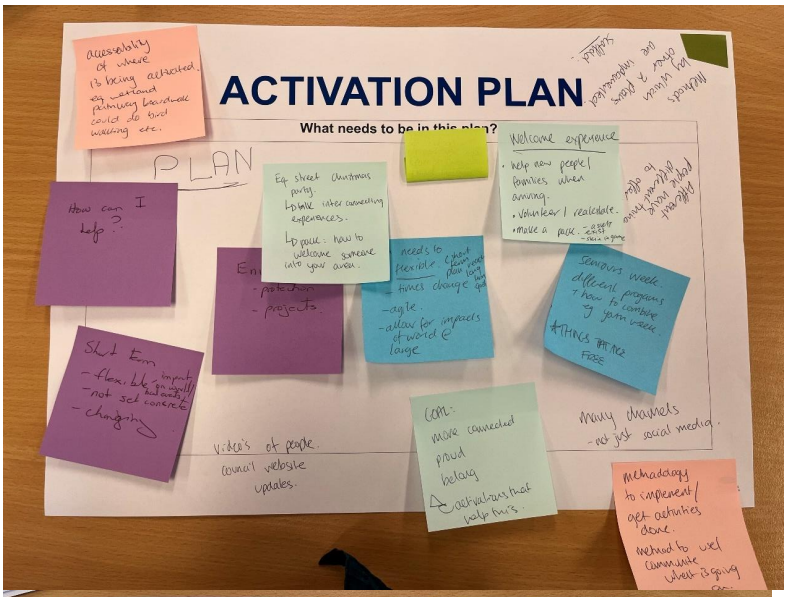

Engagement Birpai Land Council
How can we reach you?
- Get behind the Aboriginal community.
- Deliver council staff Aboriginal cultural immersion.
morning tea
- Do you have a reconciliation action Plan?
Land Council
facebook
- more Aboriginal content in social media.
yarns
- Make tip fees more Affordable
- Don't charge sport field maintenance costs to community
email via Land Council
When engaging with the Aboriginal community, think more broadly than just the land council.
email
word of mouth
- opportunities to meet the CEO & Councillors, for Aboriginal stakeholders.
posters
flyer
community organisations
Continue to invest in community initiatives like you have been with strong Spirit Aboriginal services. (doing good)
schools
newsletter
Include Aboriginal News items.
Employment
- Procure Aboriginal business to deliver Council & community works
- Keep a business register for Aboriginal business
- more employment opportunities internally with council
- Align your strategic plan for procurement to the new Aboriginal procurement policy
1 File ref

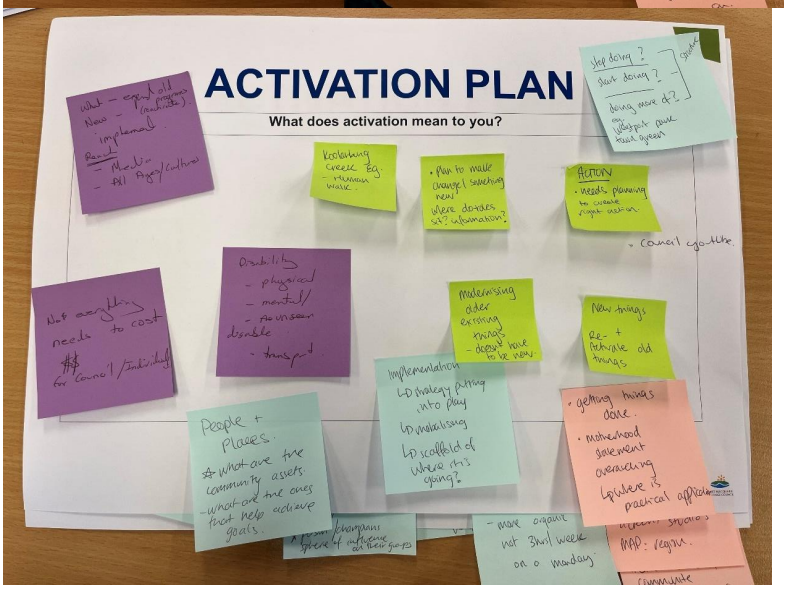

Engagement Birpai Land Council
What do you care about most?
employment
cost of living
health
loneliness
independence
connectedness
supporting community organisation like "Strong Spirit" to be inclusive of ALL CULTURES.
nutrition and exercise
being part of community
culturally safe events
respect
younger generation
knowing what's on
more notice of what is happening
Community Calendar? Do you have one?
more culturally safe places for our youth to go that is at a high cost.
(not)
1 File ref

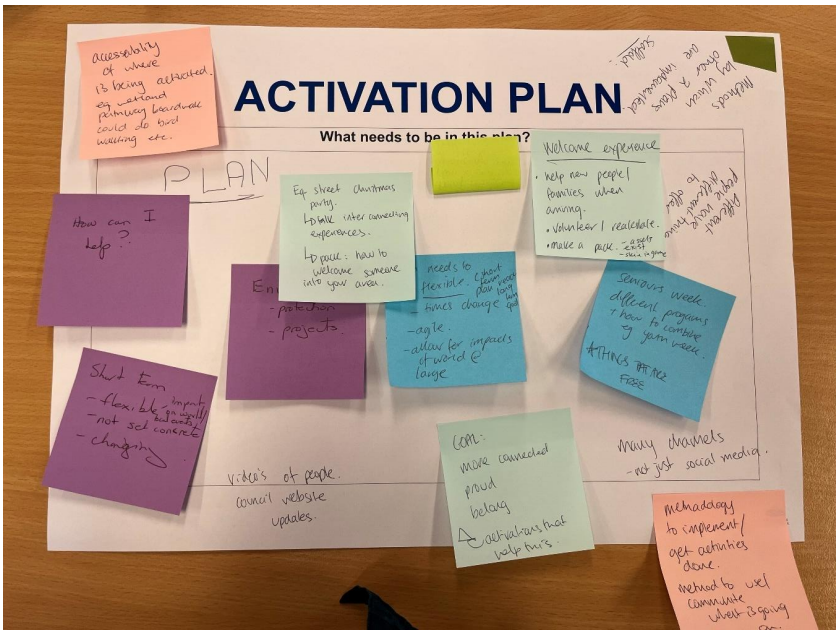

Engagement Birpai Land Council
What do you care about most?
Keep Supporting Clontarf.
employment
cost of living
loneliness
independence
connectedness
nutrition and exercise
being part of community
culturally safe events
respect
younger generation
knowing what's on
1 File ref

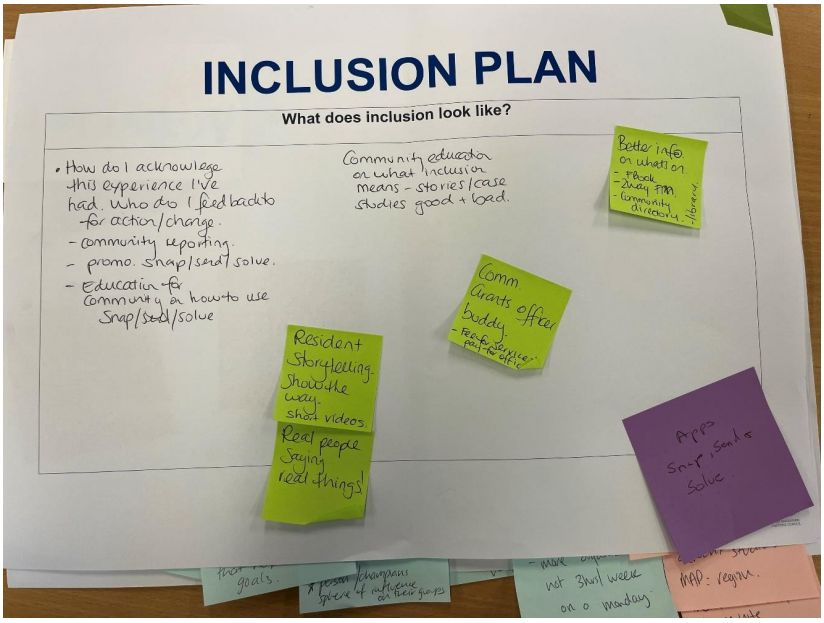

Engagement Birpai Land Council
dual naming signage
more street art
What do you care about most
get out + about face-to-face
Employ Male & female Aboriginal Development officers
employment
cost of living
loneliness
independence
connectedness
nutrition and exercise
being part of community
culturally safe events
respect
younger generation
knowing what's on
Werin — Aboriginal Medical Centre
Whitney (engagement)
homelessness housing
1 File ref

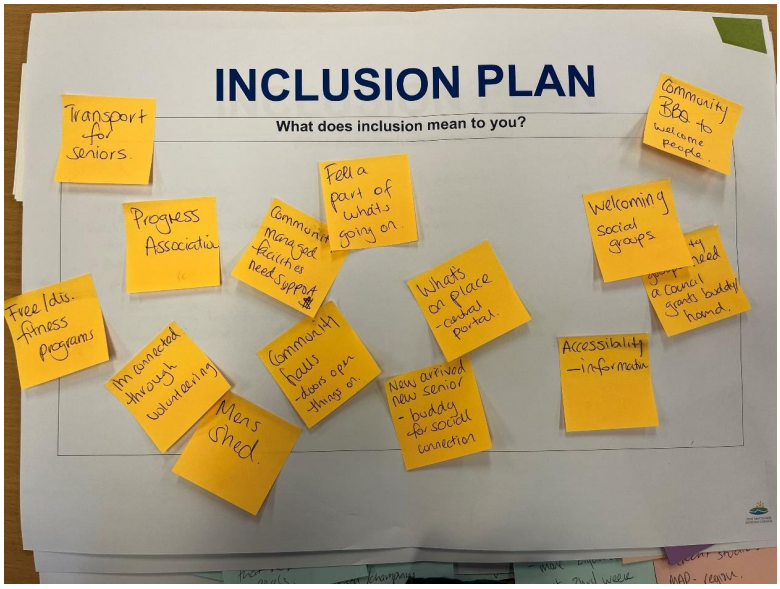
Appendix C: Seniors - Forum

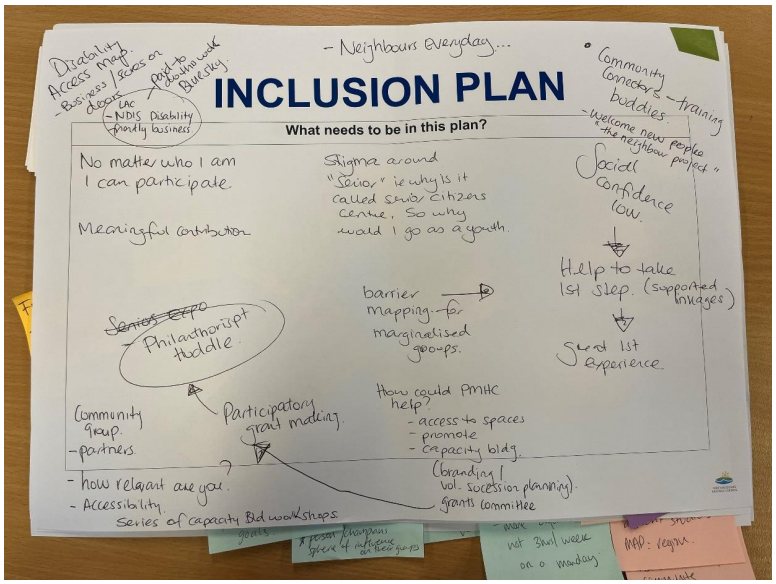


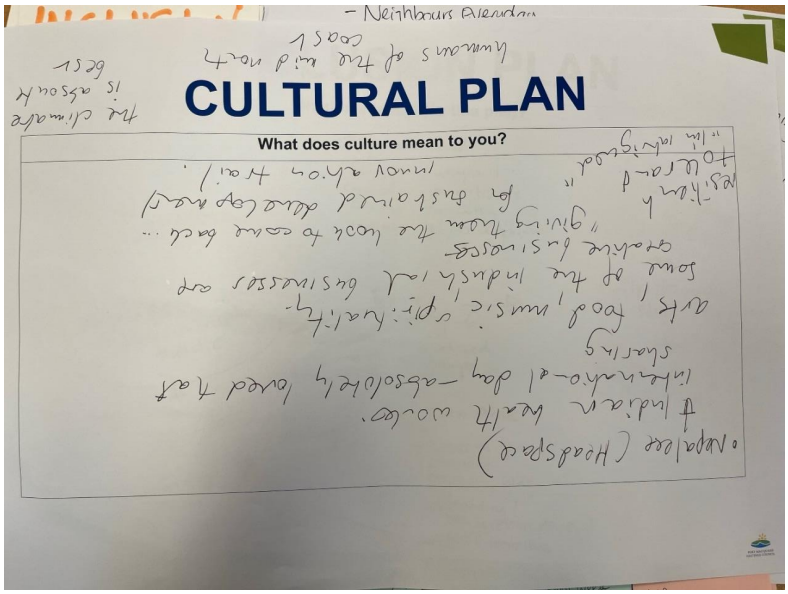


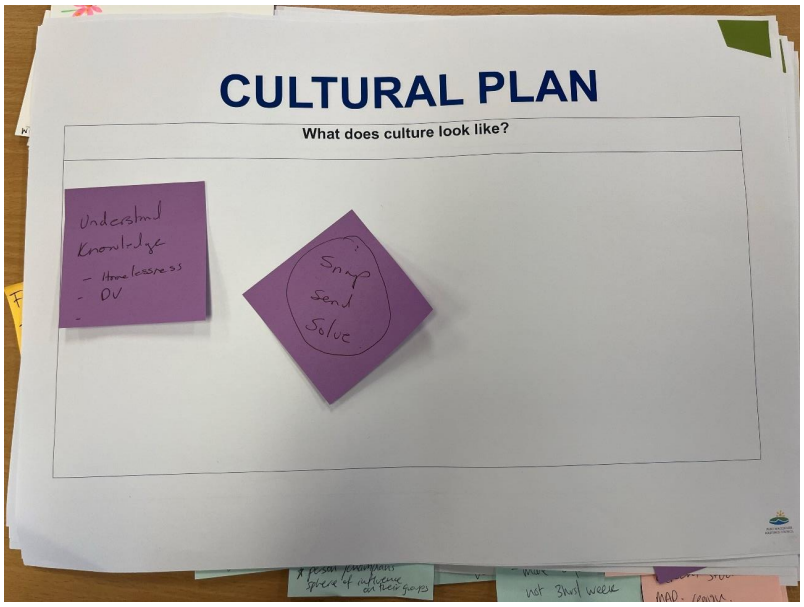

ACTIVATION PLAN
What needs to be in this plan?
PLAN
How can I help?
Welcome experience
Short Em
Many channels
Video's of people.
council website updates.
Methodology to implement/ get activities done.


INCLUSION PLAN
What does inclusion look like?
How do I acknowlege this experience I've had. Who do I feed back to for action/change.
- community reporting.
- promo. snap/send/solve.
- Education for community on how to use Snap/Send/solve
Community education on what inclusion means - stories/case studies good + bad.
Better info on what's on.
Comm. Grants officer buddy.
Resident Storytelling. Show the way. short videos.
Real people Saying real things!
Apps Snap, Send & Solve.


INCLUSION PLAN
What does inclusion mean to you?
Transport for seniors.
Community BBQs to welcome people.
Progress Association
Feel a part of whats going on.
Welcoming social groups
Free/dis. fitness programs
Whats on place -central portal.
Accessibility -information
Mens Shed
New arrived new seniors - buddy for social connection


INCLUSION PLAN
What needs to be in this plan?
No matter who I am I can participate.
Meaningful contribution
Stigma around "Senior" ie why is it called seniors citizens centre, so why would I go as a youth.
Social Confidence low.
Help to take 1st step. (supported linkages)
Seed 1st experience.
barrier mapping for marginalised groups.
Philanthropist Huddle
Participatory grant making.
How could PMHC help?
- access to spaces
- promote
- capacity bldg.
Community group. -partners
- how relevant are you.
- Accessibility.
Series of capacity Bld workshops
(branding / vol. succession planning).
grants committee


CULTURAL PLAN
What does culture mean to you?


CULTURAL PLAN
What does culture look like?

Appendix D - Seniors Cruise

Response 1	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Loneliness,Connectedness,Respect for older people,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Healthy ageing
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Disagree
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Unsure
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Community morning tea,Storytelling and sharing events
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	

	Want to share anything else?	
Response 2	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Loneliness,Connectedness,Respect for older people,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Neutral
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Arts, crafts, and creative workshops
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Unsure
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Storytelling and sharing sessions
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	A few times a year

	Want to share anything else?	
Response 3	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Health and financial decisions,Future housing choices,Independence and mobility,Connectedness,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Exercise and fitness classes,Cooking and nutrition classes,NSW Seniors Festival events,Leisure centre activities
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth,Other: Library Newsletter. Didn't know PMHC has a Facebook page. Heard about this event through the PMQ Ladies Club.
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Organised events,Funding for community projects
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More venues,Public events,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Visiting art galleries or museums,Taking lessons or creative workshops,Creating art at home (painting, crafting, music, etc)

	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Daily
	Want to share anything else?	Lived in Port Macquarie for 5 years. Would like to see seniors eating healthy so cooking and nutrition classes are needed. Didn't know that PMHC has a Facebook page. Love the library. "Everything you are looking for is at the Library"
Response 4	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Connectedness,Respect for older people
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Disagree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Volunteering and community groups,Exercise and fitness classes,Healthy ageing programs,NSW Seniors Festival events,Leisure centre activities
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Other: I volunteer for Laurieton Museum
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Unsure
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth,Other: Didn't know about PMHC Facebook page. However the Seniors Festival event was shared with my via Facebook through a friend.
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Organised events,Community morning teas,Funding for community projects,Other: Increased funding for volunteers is needed.
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Historic buildings restored and open to the public,Public events

	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Weekly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 5	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Connectedness,Respect for older people
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Disagree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Exercise and fitness classes,Healthy ageing programs,NSW Seniors Festival events,Leisure centre activities,Other: Riding for the disabled. I volunteer there and this keeps me active and connected.
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Other: I volunteer for Riding for the Disabled.
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth,Other: Didn't know PMHC had a Facebook page.
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Organised events,Community morning teas,Funding for community projects,Collaboration and communication

	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Historic buildings restored and open to the public,Public events,Healthy activities,Other: More support and advertising for volunteer pursuits
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Visiting art galleries or museums
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Weekly
	Want to share anything else?	Better communication about what is on. I don't use the library services now but I plan to in the future.
Response 6	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Loneliness,Health care,Respect for older people
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Volunteering and community groups,Exercise and fitness classes,Other: Would be great to see more library events delivered in an online way
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Other: Agree volunteering is easy. One of the group interviewed volunteers for the PMQ Hospital Pink Ladies.
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Social media (ie. Facebook, etc)
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and	Organised events,Other: Would like to see more nature based activities. Walking and hiking groups

	community connection?	
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Healthy activities,Other: More activities and events in open spaces ie. nature based activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Visiting art galleries or museums,Other: Dont participate in creative workshops now but want to in the future. Please provide these events.
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Every two weeks
	Want to share anything else?	Keep supporting markets and delivering the Christmas Fair event. It would be good to see Council work more with Clubs ie. bowling, Panthers because that's where we meet up. Perhaps partnership programs at or near the Club. Morning teas in the Club and then excercise and other social events in the adjoining parks.
Response 7	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Cost of living,Health care,Respect for older people,Transport
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Free health checks,NSW Seniors Festival events
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Unsure

	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Online,Print news
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Organised events,Funding for community projects
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Shared creative spaces,Free open air entertainment,Public events
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Visiting art galleries or museums
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Every 2-3 months
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 8	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Health care,Support services at home,Personal safety
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Neutral
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Volunteering and community groups,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Exercise and fitness classes
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Unsure

	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth,From a relative or carer,Local news
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Spaces for creative workshops and pursuits,Organised events,Community morning teas,Collaboration and communication
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Free open air entertainment,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Visiting art galleries or museums,Taking lessons or creative workshops,Creating art at home (painting, crafting, music, etc)
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Monthly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 9	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Health care,Independence and mobility,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Neutral
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Healthy ageing programs
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities

	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Unsure
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth,Television or radio,From a relative or carer,Posters or brochures,Local news,Social media (ie. Facebook, etc)
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	I do not engage with the arts
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	A few times a year
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 10	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Employment,Cost of living,Health care,Independence and mobility,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Cooking and nutrition classes,Free health checks
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities

	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Newsletter with Council rates notice
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Organised events,Funding for community projects
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Public art,Shared creative spaces,Free open air entertainment,Public events,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Weekly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 11	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Health and financial decisions,Independence and mobility,Support services at home,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Volunteering and community groups,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Exercise and fitness classes,Free health checks,NSW Seniors Festival events
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities

	volunteering opportunities?	
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Social media (ie. Facebook, etc),Other: Contacted the TIC
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Spaces for creative workshops and pursuits,Venues for community activities,Organised events,Funding for community projects,Collaboration and communication
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Aboriginal culture,Free open air entertainment,Public events,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Taking lessons or creative workshops,Creating art at home (painting, crafting, music, etc),Photography, film, or digital media
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Every 2-3 months
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 12	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Health care,Independence and mobility
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree

	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Volunteering and community groups,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,NSW Seniors Festival events
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Online,Social media (ie. Facebook, etc)
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Funding for community projects
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More venues,Free open air entertainment
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Every two weeks
	Want to share anything else?	Fabienne loved the Gingerbread and other library events
Response 13	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Health and financial decisions,Health care,Transport,Other: Council putting charges on voluntary local sporting bodies/fields that our taxes already pay for

	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Disagree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Volunteering and community groups,Exercise and fitness classes,Other: Seniors offers - like the cruise
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Other: if i couldn't drive i wouldn't be able to volunteer
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Online,Word of mouth,Social media (ie. Facebook, etc)
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Organised events,Community morning teas,Storytelling and sharing sessions
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Free open air entertainment,Public events
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Every 2-3 months
	Want to share anything else?	

Response 14	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Health and financial decisions,Independence and mobility,Support services at home,Nutrition and excercise,Other: Cost of participating in organised sport with the proposed pass of costs to sporting bodies
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Volunteering and community groups,Exercise and fitness classes,Other: Still involved in sport as an administrator
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Online,Television or radio,Email
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Organised events,Funding for community projects,Other: Keeping sporting costs down to maximise participation
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Public events,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or	Weekly

	cultural activities?	
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 15	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Transport,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Exercise and fitness classes,Healthy ageing programs,Cooking and nutrition classes,Free health checks,Leisure centre activities
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Other: I would like to see the council provide cooking classes. In season,simple recipes and affordable meals to encourage more in the community to cook healthy and affordable meals and enjoy the company of likeminded people.
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth,Social media (ie. Facebook, etc),Other: We were not aware that Council had a facebook page for community activites and events however we will access via facebook from now on.
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Spaces for creative workshops and pursuits,Venues for community activities,Organised events,Community morning teas,Funding for community projects
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More venues

	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Creating art at home (painting, crafting, music, etc),Photography, film, or digital media
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Rarely or never
	Want to share anything else?	Do not participate often but love the library activities
Response 16	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Employment,Cost of living,Future housing choices,Independence and mobility
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Volunteering and community groups,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Exercise and fitness classes,Healthy ageing programs,Cooking and nutrition classes,Free health checks,NSW Seniors Festival events,Leisure centre activities
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Newsletter with Council rates notice,Word of mouth,Television or radio,Email,Posters or brochures,Local news
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree

	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Spaces for creative workshops and pursuits,Venues for community activities,Organised events,Community morning teas,Storytelling and sharing sessions,Funding for community projects,Collaboration and communication
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More venues,More activities at Community Centres,Historic buildings restored and open to the public,Public art,Aboriginal culture,Shared creative spaces,Free open air entertainment,Public events,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Visiting art galleries or museums,Creating art at home (painting, crafting, music, etc)
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Monthly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 17	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Health and financial decisions,Health care,Support services at home,Transport
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Exercise and fitness classes,Healthy ageing programs,Free health checks
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes

	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Print news
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Spaces for creative workshops and pursuits,Organised events
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Public events,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Visiting art galleries or museums,Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Monthly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 18	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Health care,Support services at home,Respect for older people
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Exercise and fitness classes,Leisure centre activities
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are	Unsure

	accessible in our region?	
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Online
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Spaces for creative workshops and pursuits
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Weekly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 19	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Loneliness,Health care,Support services at home,Nutrition and excercise
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Exercise and fitness classes,Free health checks
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are	No

	accessible in our region?	
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Local news
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Organised events,Community morning teas
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Historic buildings restored and open to the public,Free open air entertainment,Public events
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Visiting art galleries or museums,Taking lessons or creative workshops
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Every 2-3 months
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 20	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Future housing choices,Support services at home,Transport
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Neutral
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Healthy ageing programs,NSW Seniors Festival events
	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are	Other: Most activities are only available if you drive, more public transport

	accessible in our region?	
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Online,Other: Alot of older people do not have access to online services - This needs to be addressed
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Collaboration and communication
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Public art,Shared creative spaces,Free open air entertainment,Public events
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Taking lessons or creative workshops,Creating art at home (painting, crafting, music, etc),Photography, film, or digital media
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Monthly
	Want to share anything else?	Could pamphlets be printed and distributed to better advertisements
Response 21	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Employment,Support services at home,Transport,Personal safety
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Neutral
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Volunteering and community groups,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Exercise and fitness classes,Healthy ageing programs,Cooking and nutrition classes,Free health checks,NSW Seniors Festival events,Leisure centre activities,Other: Yoga

	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	No
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth,Posters or brochures
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Organised events,Community morning teas,Collaboration and communication
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Historic buildings restored and open to the public,Public art,Free open air entertainment,Public events,Healthy activities
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Attending live music (concerts, festivals, shows),Visiting art galleries or museums
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Weekly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 22	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Cost of living,Health care,Transport,Personal safety
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	NSW Seniors Festival events

	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	No
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Word of mouth
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Spaces for creative workshops and pursuits,Community morning teas
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Public art
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	I do not engage with the arts
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Monthly
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 23	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Loneliness,Connectedness,Respect for older people,Other: Roads
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Neutral
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Free health checks,NSW Seniors Festival events

	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	No
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Newsletter with Council rates notice,Other: Rates only 4 times per year, little other advertisement
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Other: Roads
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Other: Roads
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	I do not engage with the arts
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Rarely or never
	Want to share anything else?	Accidentally searched seniors week
Response 24	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Loneliness,Health care,Independence and mobility
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Volunteering and community groups,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Exercise and fitness classes,Healthy ageing programs,Cooking and nutrition classes,Free health checks,NSW Seniors Festival events,Leisure centre activities

	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Online,Word of mouth,Email,From a relative or carer,Posters or brochures,Social media (ie. Facebook, etc)
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	I do not engage with the arts
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Rarely or never
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 25	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Health and financial decisions,Future housing choices,Health care,Independence and mobility,Support services at home
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Library programs and resources,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Healthy ageing programs

	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Neutral - I haven't tried or had mixed experiences
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Unsure
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Newsletter with Council rates notice,Posters or brochures
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Community morning teas,Funding for community projects
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	More activities at Community Centres,Other: Free Training re using the internet
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	I do not engage with the arts
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Rarely or never
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 26	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Future housing choices,Loneliness,Health care,Independence and mobility,Support services at home
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Volunteering and community groups,Free health checks

	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Newsletter with Council rates notice,Social media (ie. Facebook, etc)
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Neutral
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Organised events
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Historic buildings restored and open to the public
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	I do not engage with the arts
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Rarely or never
	Want to share anything else?	
Response 27	**1. What are your top 5 concerns as a senior?**	Community participation,Employment,Cost of living,Health and financial decisions,Other: none
	2. We are an ageing friendly place:	Agree
	3. What services or activities help you stay healthy, active, and independent?	Volunteering and community groups,Arts, crafts, and creative workshops,Exercise and fitness classes

	4. How easy is it for you to access work or volunteering opportunities?	Agree - I have no issues accessing opportunities
	5. Do you feel that events and services are accessible in our region?	Yes
	6. How do you access or receive information about Council activities?	Newsletter with Council rates notice,Email
	7. We are a creative and cultural place:	Agree
	8. What activities would help foster culture, inclusion, and community connection?	Venues for community activities,Community morning teas,Other: church
	9. What would you like to see more of in our region? (Eg. activites, spaces, events)	Free open air entertainment,Other: more seniors parking
	10. In what ways do you participate in or enjoy the arts?	Watching theatre, dance, or live performances,Creating art at home (painting, crafting, music, etc),Other: Other activities are too expensive
	11. How often do you participate in events, arts, or cultural activities?	Rarely or never
	Want to share anything else?	

Appendix E - Youth Survey

Response 1	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 5 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Snapchat
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	A group of young people, equal distribution of male and female, age variations (e.g we aren't all the same age) casual meetings, easy to attend, lead by a council person
Response 2	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Uni/TAFE student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 3 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	Youth advisory groups or committees,In-person workshops and forums
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces

	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: Sometimes its hard to know where to start or who to go to for things to change
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Youth lead Young ish leader Fun activities and group events to keep the group engaged and to create friendships Structured meetings Ideas and events created and run by youth and mentored by council Meetings in line with youth members passions
Response 3	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Other: mentor
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 4	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,In-person workshops and forums
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	The youth group should be an open and welcome group of youth with diverse backgrounds, experiences and opinions. I think it is equally as important to involve younger youth and the older youth as this is where the opinions will differ significantly.
Response 5	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,In-person workshops and forums

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	I'd create a group that's supportive but also fun ! Do events that include sports, job interests & also weekend night activities (like a disco so we have things to do to meet more teens)
Response 6	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Not currently studying or working
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook,TikTok

	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,In-person workshops and forums
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 7	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 4

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,In-person workshops and forums
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	I think what was in place previously was an okay place to start, but more structure/clarity needs to be provided (like what are we focussing on in terms of events, timelines for tasks, specific tasks to complete etc.) so that things can actually be accomplished/change.

Response 8	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 9	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 1
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	idk
Response 10	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Not currently studying or working

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Other: not yet
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 1
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 11	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 1 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	try and get representatives from the schools in the region and others are welcome too

Response 12	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Other: After school and on weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: I feel if you were to talk to the youth and get there thoughts and opinions you wouldn't take it on board with your final decision
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	I would create a group which would get all side of peoples input and what they would like to see in the community. I also would go around a find young people in our community that would like to see change in our community and how we can make it better. I would then take aLl this information and try make this happen in our community so there is more trust between council and youth.
Response 13	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 14	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	I think it should contain a diverse group if individuals with differing opinions and beliefs and everyone is willing to listen to others opinions and experiences
Response 15	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Representatives from different schools/sports that discuss among themselves (no adults) about issues that affect the community. Then when they get their opinion on everything they get to participate in council decisions, putting forward their own opinions, research etc.
Response 16	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Snapchat,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 17	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 5 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 18	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	Other: Social

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 5 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 1 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 19	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Uni/TAFE student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Snapchat,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,In-person workshops and forums

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 1
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 20	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More funding for youth projects & spaces,Other: More music events
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Meet to surf or skate once a month. Or a youth group that plans creative events - music or festivals
Response 21	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 5 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 1
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Fun, engaging and relevant to young individuals
Response 22	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 5 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 1
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 23	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	A group filled with a range of diverse youth who care about current topics
Response 24	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,TikTok

	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 25	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 3 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 1 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 26	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 3 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 1 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage,Other: .
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	?
Response 27	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 3

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 1 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 28	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 3 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 29	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Snapchat,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 30	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 31	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 5 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 32	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 4 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Other: none- social media is for ENTERTAINMENT
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,Other: Not have rankings for what is the most important - so anoyyyying.
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Ha, ha
Response 33	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 3 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 34	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Uni/TAFE student,Working full-time/part-time

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 3 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Other: Bluesky
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	

Response 35	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Uni/TAFE student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 5 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 1 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 36	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Uni/TAFE student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: Lack of knowledge of events
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 37	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Snapchat,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Other: Through my mother
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: Young people aren't motivated enough to get involved

	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	It should be a diverse group in terms of age, race, schools and interests.
Response 38	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Uni/TAFE student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions

	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: Living outside the Port Macquarie area. I only knew about this because a friend sent me the survey. I try to be involved in my local community by volunteering at the community garden (I'm the only youth, though I don't mind). Youth in the area tend to want to leave especially with hyper-individualism increasing, there isn't much sense of community.
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 39	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	I'm not sure
Response 40	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 1 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 41	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 5 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Have a variety of teenagers with different backgrounds and personality i.e LGBTQIA+ members And have more youth organised events
Response 42	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)

	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 3 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 43	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Uni/TAFE student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 3 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 44	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Every three months

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	fun, not just a ton of young people that want to "change" , make it a fun group of people that aren't afraid to be themselves in front of large groups of people to show the youth that's its ok to be you and that are encouraging cause that's what young people look for in a youth group
Response 45	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Other: Weekend afternoon
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 1 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	A meeting each place where we each have to or have an allotted time to voice our opinions in a safe space. Also maybe using messages (texting what ever it's called) would be a good way to contact us and express ideas to young people.
Response 46	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 47	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Snapchat,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 48	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student

2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram
4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months,Twice a year
7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More funding for youth projects & spaces
10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: No active outreach or involvement
11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Informs the youth on initiatives taking place around the town, allowing them to give their opinion on these initiatives, whether dissaproval or approval. Then they would see council having active interaction with these points, addressing them, disproving them or agreeing with them. The group would have an oppurtunity to discuss these ideas and would have representation from different walkways (public schools, private schools, regional, rural, different religion, races etc) allowing for a deeper understanding of different worldviews and gaining a deeper insight into town issues. The group could be used to find effective ways of youth outreach within the town as they know what is effective on our age group. Ideas for these outreach culd come from the group instead of the older generation (e.g don't need to be lectured on dangers of phone usage but educated on effective phone usage)
Response 49	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 4 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 1
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 1 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Youth in focus. a space where we can go and socialise, exercise and have the space to be themselves. A youth group should have the space to support each other if they need it. Have younger people run it, being social and being more as a friends then leaders, but a leader and a counselor when its needed most. Not everyone will want to socialise and be active, but still want to be there. Have a space or a time just to slow down and relax. A little music and food (as bribery) has never hurt anyone, just be careful people aren't there just for the snacks. A youth I went to would get hot chips as dinner, that could be an option, but I'm sure pizza would also work.
Response 50	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 51	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 3 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces,Other: things to do for young teenagers
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 52	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 4 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 6 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Friendly and a way for our voices to be heard
Response 53	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 3 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	im not really sure
Response 54	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Facebook,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	i have no clue
Response 55	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach),Other: cafe
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	use discord, make a server, let people join, and for gamers make minecraft, where young people can plan stuff for the town :)
Response 56	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 4 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)

	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 57	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)

	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 58	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Snapchat,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)

	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 4 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Not another youth council that restricts other kids being able to have a say. Make it open and fun. Led by youth - not council people - unless they are under 18 they don't get it. what about a youth creators hub where kids can have a space to do stuff and express themselves with music, art and other things. also it needs to represent the young lgbtq community
Response 59	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 5 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 1
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 60	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 5

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 3 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 61	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 1 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Diverse
Response 62	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 5 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 2

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months,Once a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 3 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 1 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 2 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 63	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5

	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	I think it should be a formally recognised group (that can be informal and a bit relaxed when meeting) that has the ability to make meaningful changes by youth for youth.
Response 64	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Working full-time/part-time

2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook
4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,In-person workshops and forums
5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Every three months
7. When's the best time to reach you?	Other: Whenever
8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: I think young people just don't know where to start with getting involved.
11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	A dynamic group of passionate young people from our town who have the interest, insight, and drive to enhance the quality of life for youth in Port Macquarie.
Response 65	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest

	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 66	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 6 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest

	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 67	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Socia media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 5 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 3 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More social media content & fun ways to engage

	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 68	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 1 Email: 3 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 1 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces

	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 69	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 2 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage,More funding for youth projects & spaces

	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	You don't speak my language (too formal, boring, wrong channel)
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Youth groups for different ages, so younger students not intimidated by older students. Youth groups in schools (with your own school) so students are more likely to participate if it's with their own school and peers!
Response 70	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 3 Email: 4 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 1 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 5 Affordable events and activities for young people: 2 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 1 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6

	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 71	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 5 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 1
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Once a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 5 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 3 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 1 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2

	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 72	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 5 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 3

	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More young people represented in Council decisions
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Maybe a fortnightly meeting
Response 73	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 4 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6

	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 74	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 5 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 4 Youth events and workshops: 3 Newsletters: 2
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	During school hours
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 3 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6

	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't have the time or interest
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	
Response 75	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 3 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Youth Centres/Hubs,School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Monthly,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? **Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 4 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5

	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	A group of people who meet up an agreed time who are passionate and know what they wanna do.
Response 76	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Other: In the process of working partime
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 4 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,In-person workshops and forums
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months,Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	After school (3-6PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 4 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6

	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: Not feeling safe and comfortable plus always being put down, not listend to or plain ignored when we speak our opinion.
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Diversity is a big thing.
Response 77	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 3 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 2 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	YouTube,Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	In-person workshops and forums,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)

	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 6 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 2 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 3 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 5
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	There isn't many funded Christian groups and there isn't any hobby groups for young adults like car groups or legal meetups.
Response 78	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 1 Email: 2 School or campus visit: 5 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 3
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram,Facebook,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up

	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 2 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 5 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 4
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Nothing ever changes, so why bother?
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, not my thing
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	get a wide variety of youth with different lifestyles and living circumstances (queer, indigenous, disabled, mental and physical health issues, low socioeconomic and high)
Response 79	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 3 Email: 5 School or campus visit: 1 Youth events and workshops: 2 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Instagram
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls

	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Twice a year
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 1 Mental health and wellbeing support: 2 Affordable events and activities for young people: 3 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 6
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More social media content & fun ways to engage
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Maybe, tell me more
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	It should be a safe environment were everyone feels comfortable
Response 80	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Working full-time/part-time
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 5 Newsletters: 4
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,Facebook
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,Youth advisory groups or committees

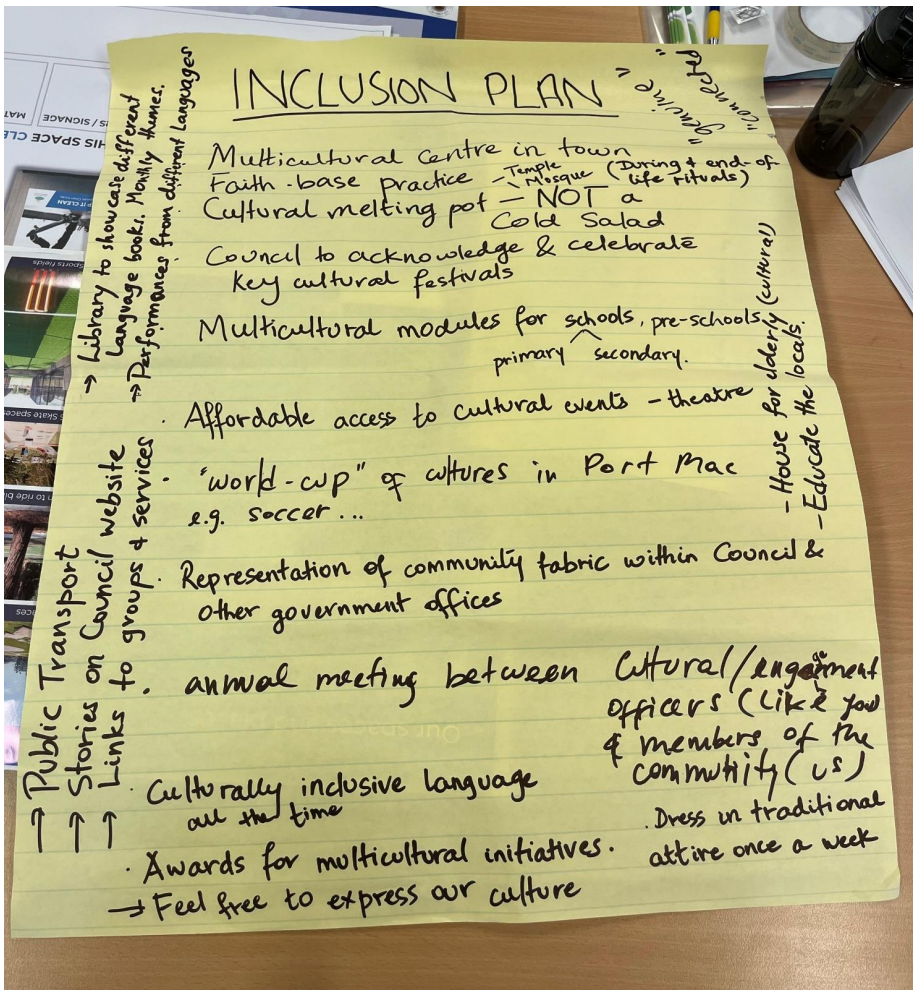
5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus
6. How often should we check in with you?	Every three months
7. When's the best time to reach you?	Evenings (6-8PM)
8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 4 Mental health and wellbeing support: 3 Affordable events and activities for young people: 1 Jobs and training opportunities: 5 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 6 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth-led events,More young people represented in Council decisions,More funding for youth projects & spaces
10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	I don't really know what Council does
11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	Yes, sign me up!

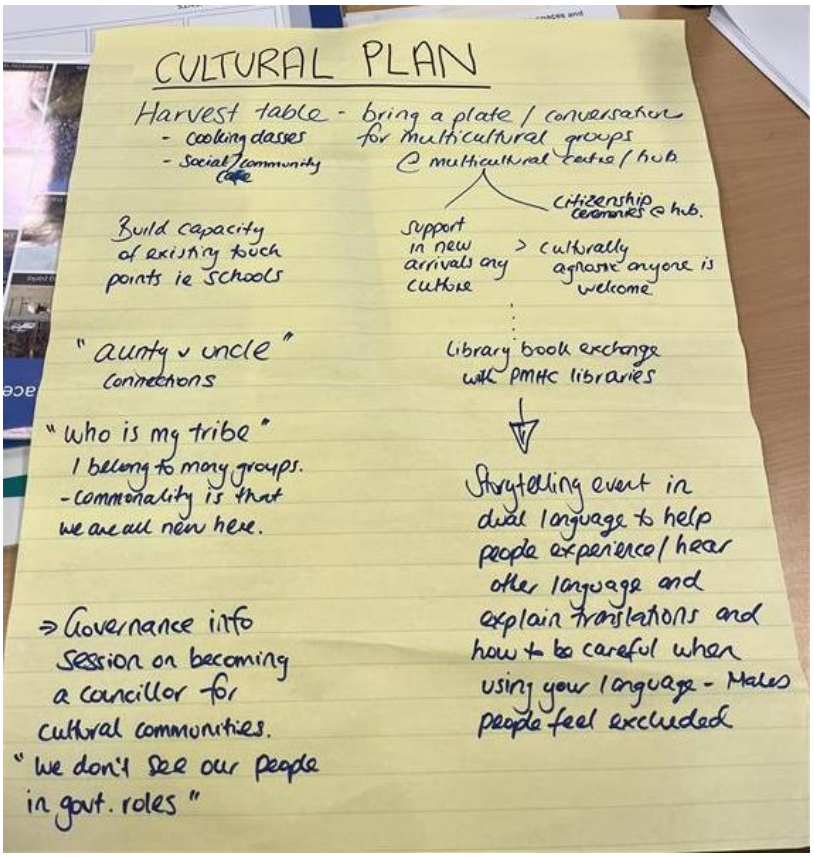
	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	I would absolutely love to create a youth group to further enhance the live music scene (especially with youth bands, youth crowds, and get teenagers to go out and enjoy live music) by hosting events with live music, discovering youth talent so the town can acknowledge and congratulate them and support the talent within the town! As a budding musician around Port Macquarie, I have found that there isn't enough live music in Port Macquarie and it is very hard to access if there is as usually all great bands play at Finnian's which is 18+, limiting youth access.
Response 81	**1. Which of these best describes you?**	High school student,Other: Athlete
	2. How do you prefer to hear from us?	Social media: 2 Email: 1 School or campus visit: 3 Youth events and workshops: 4 Newsletters: 5
	3. Which social media platforms do you prefer to use for engagement?	Snapchat,Instagram,TikTok
	4. What's the easiest way for you to share your thoughts with Council?	On-line surveys or polls,School or community group discussions
	5. If we need to meet in person, where works best for you?	School or campus,Community facilities (ie. library, sports club, or hall),Outdoors (park, skate park, beach)
	6. How often should we check in with you?	Only when the big issues come up
	7. When's the best time to reach you?	Weekends

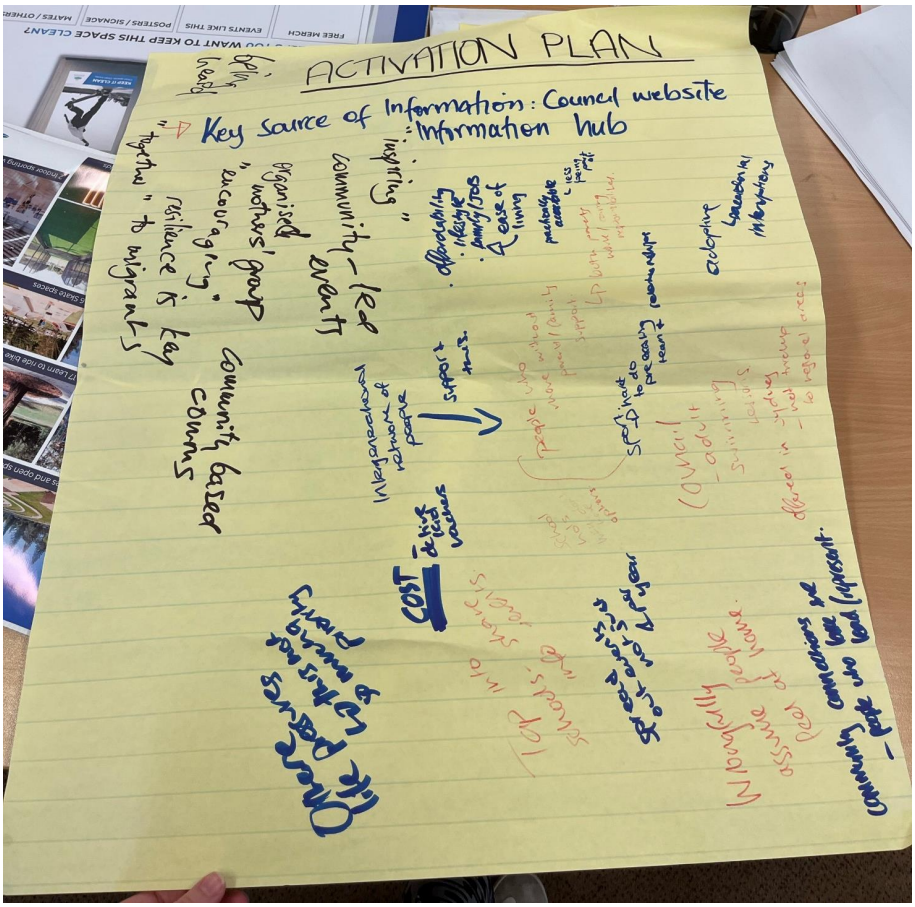
	8. What do you care about the most? Rank the options from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)	Nature and sustainability initiatives: 3 Mental health and wellbeing support: 1 Affordable events and activities for young people: 5 Jobs and training opportunities: 6 Better transport (footpaths, bike lanes, buses): 4 Better public facilities (parks, trails, pools, sports, entertainment spaces): 2
	9. What can Council do better at involving young people?	More youth input on town planning & infrastructure,More young people represented in Council decisions,Other: Asking young people (teens) what they'd realistically like to have/see.
	10. What's stopping young people from getting involved?	Other: I picked other because I want to say multiple of them. I dont really know what council does, it usually is boring and too formal, and to be honest i'm not sure if anything ever changes or not.
	11. Would you be keen to join a youth advisory group?	No, but keep me updated

	12. If we were to create a youth group, what should it look like?	Maybe a group of young people who have different ideas but, as a whole, represent the wants and needs of all young people. Their ideas should be heard and considered just as important as anybody else. If you want the world to evolve in the right ways, which it very much needs to do, you should probably be taking ideas from the people who are evolving with it. You shouldn't have to mold a generation around the outdated versions of society, you should evolve society to fit the modern generation. Don't turn a cold shoulder to ideas that are new and different from the current, because a lot of the time those ideas are what society needs to evolve in the right way. Let us create our own future.

Appendix F - Multicultural Forum




CULTURAL PLAN
Harvest table - bring a plate / conversation
- cooking classes
- Social / community
for multicultural groups
@ multicultural centre / hub.
citizenship ceremonies @ hub.
Build capacity of existing touch points ie schools
support in new arrivals any culture
> culturally agnostic anyone is welcome
"aunty v uncle" connections
Library book exchange with PMHC libraries
"who is my tribe"
I belong to many groups.
- commonality is that we are all new here.
Storytelling event in dual language to help people experience / hear other language and explain translations and how to be careful when using your language - Makes people feel excluded
=> Governance info session on becoming a councillor for cultural communities.
"we don't see our people in govt. roles"



Appendix G - Creative Sparks

YOUTH ENGAGEMNET SURVEY

Laurieton session_ 15th April 2025

Aged between 13- 21

1. **What makes you feel part of your community?**

Connecting with people
Events like this
Having similar interests as other people
Family and friends
Communal spaces (Parks and Beaches)
Helping each other
Local cafes
Op-shops
Community Gardens

2. **Tell us about activities you enjoy**

Drawing, painting, collaging
Reading, photography, sleeping
Makeup
Visiting museums and galleries
Making clothes
Reading
Art all day, every day
Craft
Buying books, not using the library

3. **How do you think we can make our spaces and places more inviting for young people**

Put on youth focused events
Free/ low-cost hangout spaces
Need more spaces to hang out
More seating in town
Theme Parks

4. **Do you think our region has a welcoming atmosphere for young people?**

There are a lot of old people
When something is done for youth, they overdo it and it becomes cringy
Not really
It feels welcoming for 0-7 and 25+, not young adults and teens
Needs more places for lower income youth
Sport is covered but art and Music= nope
Alot more to do in Port, Laurieton feels left out

Headspace+ workshops is a small win
Want more likeminded activities to meet and hang

5. Wellbeing - what does it mean to feel heard and included?

Not to be shouted over
Treat youth as equals
We need things to be affordable
Not having Peta Pinson say “You're not valid”
People listening + taking on your thoughts
Transparency
A feeling of knowing your feedback goes somewhere
Seeing an effort put into sharing topics through relevant platforms I.G Ticktock, Posters in nore youth spaces

6. Let’s talk about how creative pursuits help improve or support your mental health

Being able to express yourself
A way to get away from reality
Escapism
Expressing feelings through art
Productivity in a fun way
Peaceful + in control
Self-expression
A nice escape/ relief from school and everyday
Being patient and putting in the work feels rewarding
Money
Connection with peers over shared loves

7. What makes it hard for young people to study or find work locally?

Unrealistic expectations
No entry level jobs besides Hospo
You are lucky if your course in available and then you still must leave if you wanted to enter the industry (Marine Biology, Interior design)
Opportunities are not there
Tafe does not offer the right courses for creatives

8. Do you think young people feel lonely? What could bring them together?

If you are not into sport, it can be quite isolating
More facilities to bring arty kids together – Free/ affordable
BYO supplies to workshops stops some people being able to join
Competitive sports are harmful to kids who are more into creative outlets
YES, Groups can be clicky
No after school activities where you can make friends
More activities, Music/ spray paint wall
More understanding from older people

9. What do you love about the Port Macquarie region - what makes you stay?

Beautiful landscapes

Friendly people
Cleaner
Peaceful
Kylies' art store- supporting local.
Money- lack of
Parents
Beach
Friends
Community

YOUTH ENGAGEMNET SURVEY

Wauchope session_ 17th April 2025

Aged between 13-15

10. What makes you feel part of your community?

Band
Being part of a group
Gigs- Builds connections with all ages
Music- e.g. Drum line

11. Tell us about activities you enjoy

Graffiti
Digital art
Stage shows
Surfing
Skating
Pickle Ball
Tennis

12. How do you think we can make our spaces and places more inviting for young people

Graffiti walls that can be used for youth with a mentor teaching them how to do it. Could be replaced every three months.
More advertisements, the right way, for youth programs.
The Skate Parks are scary- make them more accessible for everyone.

13. Do you think our region has a welcoming atmosphere for young people?

NO-
There is alot of agism
Miss the teenage/ young adult in activities
Feel unsafe in some places- Skate Park

14. Wellbeing - what does it mean to feel heard and included?

Accomplishment
Ideas are actioned
Respect for youth and their thoughts

15. Let's talk about how creative pursuits help improve or support your mental health

Group of likeminded people to chat to
It distracts you from your problems
Stops you from being bored

16. What makes it hard for young people to study or find work locally?

Youth get less pay and less hours
Less options for work- Lots of Hospo jobs
Need qualifications for jobs but are too young to get them
People don't hire young people
Not many creative options for further study

17. Do you think young people feel lonely? What could bring them together?

YES-
Graffiti Street art project- Ongoing
Create safe spaces for youth to gather
Parents worry about Wauchope from a safety perspective

18. What do you love about the Port Macquarie region - what makes you stay?

Not old enough to leave
Beaches
Good 4 x4 tracks
Sports
Family

YOUTH ENGAGEMNET SURVEY

Port Macquarie session_ 10th April 2025

Aged between 14- 22

1. What makes you feel part of your community?

School Cohorts
People who care
Events
People with mutual interests
Community Events

Feeling respected
Being able to relate
Knowing people of a similar age
Events that include creative youth
More accessible events
Come from youth for youth

2. **Tell us about activities you enjoy**

Drama and Music
Hanging out with friends- Port Central
Art
Dance Drama
Gaming
Writing
Mushroom farmimg
Jewellery Making
Nippers
Lego
Telling Stories

3. **How do you think we can make our spaces and places more inviting for young people**

Youth led
Have groups that can organize events
More input from younger people
Events [places outside of uni
Safer public spaces- E.g. skate park feels unsafe
Social media spaces for advertising events
More community events in public spaces like parks
Offer free stuff
Ask parents
Not everyone is on social media
Outdoor events
Know what it's about
We need more information

4. **Do you think our region has a welcoming atmosphere for young people?**

Council don't do enough
Getting support for youth led projects – Grants
Not enough activities
Things can be too expensive
Safety is a concern for youth
Understanding each subgroup and how they interact

5. **Wellbeing - what does it mean to feel heard and included?**

Valued
Included in ideas
Seeing changes from your suggestions
Not being ignored
Opportunity to speak up

Sometimes feels like we ate just ticking a box

6. **Let's talk about how creative pursuits help improve or support your mental health**

Having something to do creatively makes for a positive outlook
Outlet for emotions and thoughts
Safe space to communicate
Relaxes you
Better health
Feel supported by peers in dance groups
Likeminded people help support you.

7. **What makes it hard for young people to study or find work locally?**

Businesses have too a high standard and expect young people to enter jobs with experience even though it is an entry level role.
Unrealistsic expectations
Need more business skills in school
Not enough development of skills with industry professionals
Cost
Older demographic
Location

8. **Do you think young people feel lonely? What could bring them together?**

YES- Teen oriented events
Community drawing groups
Communities either don't exist or are not being advertised
Posters
No more skate parks please
Not alone but still lonely
Creating opportunities for everyone
People who are different
Artists
Skaters
Scientists
Musicians
Smart People
Sporting People
Lack of community groups that are not sport
Artistic/ Creative collaborations
Being inspired creatively. Bringing people together

9. **What do you love about the Port Macquarie region - what makes you stay?**

Family and friends
Community groups
Beaches
Environment
Location- Between two major cities
Not too busy
Inspirations
Clean

Port Macquarie Hastings Council
BIRPAI COUNTRY

pmhc.nsw.gov.au
Email **council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au**
PO Box 84 Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Tel **02 6581 8111**
Socials **@pmhcouncil**