

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We pay our respects to Darkinjung country, and Elders past and present. We recognise the continued connection to these lands and waterways and extend this acknowledgement to the homelands and stories of those who also call this place home. We recognise our future leaders and the shared responsibility to care for and protect our place and people.



## ADMINISTRATOR MESSAGE

Rik Hart

This will be my last column in Council's quarterly Coast Connect newsletter. It's been a pleasure to get to know members of the community, meeting many of you at community events over the years, reading your correspondence, and hearing about your aspirations for the future of the Central Coast.

With the local government elections for Central Coast Council on 14 September 2024, once the declaration of the polls take place, my role as Administrator will no longer be required. The baton will be handed over to a newly elected Mayor and Councillors who, I am confident, will consider the well-being and interests of the region, while maintaining the financial integrity of Council.

I am proud of all the work achieved since being appointed firstly as CEO and then as Administrator from April 2021. Over the last three years we successfully implemented restoration of Council's financial position to operate, repay emergency loans and meet other financial obligations. Late last year, Council implemented the 2023-24 Financial Sustainability Strategy and revised the Long-Term Financial Plan, which will support the move from financial 'recovery' to 'sustainability'. I am confident that the groundwork is in place for the in-coming Councillors to make sound decisions that propel this Council forward.

There is more information on the referendum and election in this newsletter, which I encourage you to read.

**Rik Hart,**  
**Administrator**

## Advancing a thriving Central Coast

This Operational Plan 2024-25 is an important one that will lead Council out of Administration and back to an elected governing body. It's focused on strong financial management, continuing to build community confidence in Council through great service delivery, and renewing our assets to reduce maintenance costs.

The plan includes a range of projects and actions for delivery, some of which include:

- Review and development of strategic documents including the Community Strategic Plan, Youth Strategy, Local Strategic Planning Statement, and the Coastal Management Program documents.
- Continued construction on the new Gosford Regional Library, which is due for completion by mid-2025.
- Town centre and tourism facility upgrades.
- Sport and recreation facility upgrades, including continued progress towards the Colongra Sporting Facility and Lake Munmorah Recreation Facility.
- Essential infrastructure such as road and drainage renewals, water and sewer network improvements and waste management facility upgrades.

Search '**operational plan**' at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](https://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)

## Are your rate payer details up to date?

To stay informed on local matters that impact you, please ensure your details are up to date with Council. This affects where and how your notices are issued. If your name or address need updating you need to complete a Change of Address/Change of Name form.

Search '**update contact details**' at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](https://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)

# Council Election and Referendum - 14 September 2024

## Council Election

The 2024 Central Coast Council election and referendum is being run by the NSW Electoral Commission.

All information about the upcoming election, as well as candidate information and voting options can be found on the Electoral Commission's website by searching '2024 Local Government Elections' at [elections.nsw.gov.au](https://elections.nsw.gov.au)

## Referendum

As well as voting in the election, a referendum to determine the future number of Central Coast councillors will be held on the same day.

The community will be asked the following question:

*"Do you favour a reduction in the number of Central Coast councillors from fifteen to nine?"*

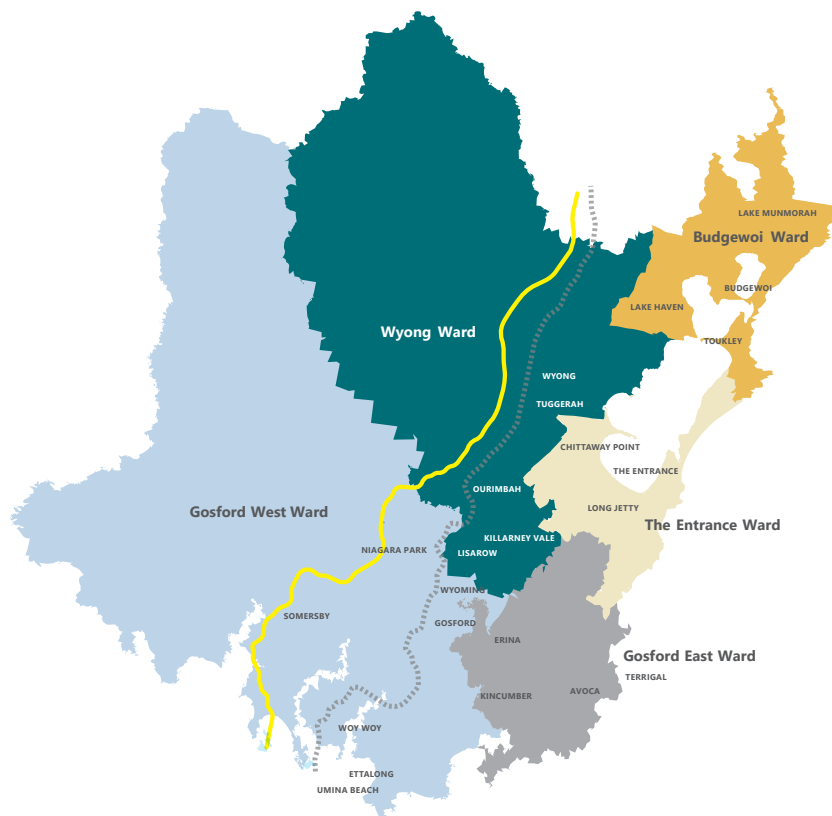
*This will result in three Wards with each Ward electing three councillors."*

The maps show the Central Coast's existing five wards and gives an indication of how three wards could potentially look (the three-ward map is for illustrative purposes only and the new Council will determine the final outcome).

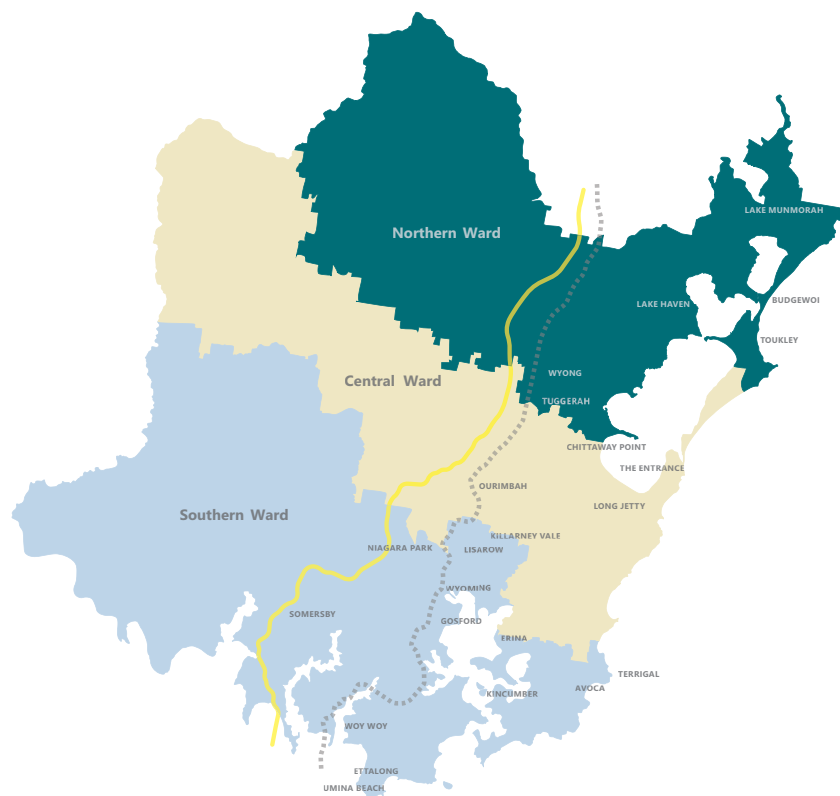
This is a constitutional referendum, meaning voting is compulsory. If carried, the changes would take place in the next term of Council, starting 2028.

## Find out more

Detailed information, including points for and against, and the background to the constitutional referendum, can be found on Council's website, search '**Constitutional Referendum**' at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](https://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)



*This map shows the Central Coast's current five wards*



*This map shows a potential option for three wards, for illustrative purposes only*



# Central Coast roads and pathways

## Projects delivered for improved roads and drainage

We know that having a reliable road and drainage network is important to our community, which is why we've been busy throughout this past year delivering multiple improvements across the Central Coast.

These projects covered full road upgrades including kerb and guttering, road renewals, footpaths and shared pathways, bus stops, drainage installations, and unsealed road improvements. Some key deliveries from 2023-24 included:

- Various **road renewal projects** including reconstruction of the existing road pavement and resurfacing at Hue Hue Road (Jilliby), Barrenjoey Road (Ettalong Beach), Church Road (Tuggerah) and Oakland Avenue (The Entrance).
- **Full road upgrades with drainage, kerb and gutter, footpath and pavement works** in sections of Virginia Avenue (Warnervale), Steyne Road (Saratoga) and Walu Avenue (Halekulani).
- **Traffic safety improvements** including refuge islands, roundabout, pavement renewal and linemarking at Grandview Street (Shelly Beach), and an upgraded pedestrian crossing at Maidens Brush Road (Wyoming).
- **Various minor road patching** works including Carpenter Street (Umina Beach), Schnapper Road (Ettalong Beach), Monday Street (Tuggerawong) and Valley Road (Kangy Angy).
- **Replacement of existing shared paths and footpaths** at The Entrance Road (Erina), Budgewoi Road (Budgewoi), The Esplanade (Ettalong Beach) and Terrigal Drive (Terrigal).
- **Carpark renewals** at East Gosford and Charmhaven.

Council thanks the NSW and Australian Governments for their contributions in helping deliver some of these projects.

For information on projects planned for this financial year, view our interactive capital works map, or refer to Council's annual Operational Plan. Search '**capital works program**' or '**operational plan**' at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](https://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)



Photo: Hue Hue Road, Jilliby

## Keeping the Coast connected with shared pathways

We remain committed to providing a safe, high-quality and well-connected network of shared pathways so our community and visitors can move efficiently and conveniently throughout the Coast, and have secured grant funding to build pathways. A key project this financial year includes the design and construction of the final stage of Tuggerawong Shared Pathway. This year, we are also reviewing our Active Transport Plans, the Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP) and the Bike Plan.

To view capital work pathway projects on an interactive map, search '**capital works program**' at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](https://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)



Photo: Tuggerawong Shared Path

## Wisemans Ferry Road restoration in progress

Following significant impacts from multiple weather events, an extensive program of works has commenced to bring back Wisemans Ferry Road to its full functioning condition, and to better withstand natural disasters.

Due to slope instability and safety risks to drivers, one of the sites on Wisemans Ferry Road requires temporary road closures during periods of significant rainfall events. We have prioritised the commencement of work at this location and anticipate completion of this section by the end of 2024.

This project is jointly funded by the Australian and NSW government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements through the Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package.

For more information and current status on Wisemans Ferry Road remediation site works, and other natural disaster remediation sites, search '**natural disaster recovery**' at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](https://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)

# Improving road safety

## Did you know?

There are two types of yellow kerbside lines that indicate 'no stopping' restrictions:

- **An unbroken yellow line** along the road edge (as pictured) means you must not stop or park here at all, except in an emergency. In built up areas, No Stopping signposting may accompany the yellow unbroken line, however it is not mandatory for enforcement.
- **Broken yellow kerb lines** indicate a clearway, so you cannot stop between the hours shown on the nearby signs, except in an emergency.



## Investing in safety on our roads

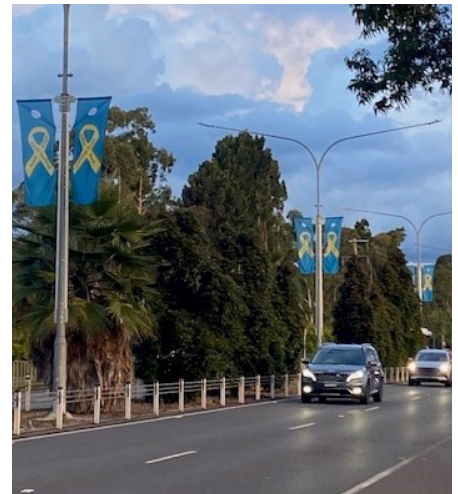
The safety of motorists and pedestrians on the Central Coast is of high importance, which is why we deliver multiple initiatives and projects each year to provide a safer environment for our community.

These include:

- **Road safety projects** and education campaigns delivered by our Road Safety Officers in partnership with Transport for NSW.
- Investment in safety improvements and traffic facilities including signage, line marking and traffic calming solutions.
- The renewal or upgrade of the road network, including pedestrian facilities and footpaths or shared pathways.
- The use of innovative techniques and technology to reduce speeding, such as vehicle activated speed signage that alert approaching drivers of their current speed and flash red if over the limit.

- Operation of the Local Traffic Committee.

Development of Council's first Central Coast Road Safety Strategy is underway and as this progresses we will provide community consultation opportunities.



*Photo: Street banners at Tuggerah as part of a recent road safety awareness campaign during National Road Safety Week.*

# Water service improvements

## Mardi Water Treatment Plant upgrade powering ahead

Shovels are in the ground and the upgrade of Mardi Water Treatment Plant is well and truly underway with Council working with Abergeldie Contractors to deliver the most ambitious water infrastructure upgrade the region has seen this decade.

Mardi Water Treatment Plant typically provides around half of all drinking water to the Central Coast and future proofing this asset, ensuring it can continue to deliver safe and secure water to the region is a key priority.

This upgrade is anticipated for completion by the end of 2025 and will deliver a number of benefits towards the security and better management of our precious drinking water throughout the water supply network. This includes being able to retain drought contingency supplies and the ability to capture and treat more storm flows.

Once this major upgrade is complete, Mardi Water Treatment Plant will have the capacity to treat up to the equivalent of 64 Olympic-sized swimming pools per day (160ML), providing quality drinking water to over 210,000 business and homes across the Central Coast and lower Hunter regions, including during



algal blooms in Mardi Dam.

More information on the project can be found by searching '**Mardi water treatment plant upgrade**' at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)

To find out more on Council's water and sewer services, search '**water and sewer**' at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)



# Did you know?



## We have heated indoor pools

Don't let the cooler weather turn you off a swim as we have an indoor heated pool to have fun and keep you active! At Peninsula Leisure Centre in Woy Woy there's a heated indoor 50m pool, kids pool with waterslide, and warm water exercise pool. We also have heated indoor 25m pools and warm water exercise pools at Toukley Aquatic Centre and Gosford Pool.

To find out more, search '**pools**' at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)



## Top Waste and Recycling tips

You can take old engine oil to Buttonderry or Woy Woy recycling stations for free, and it will be processed into new lubricants. Dispose of e-waste at waste facilities without charge. Never place batteries in waste bins or kerbside collections to prevent fires. Remember you have six bulk kerbside collections annually.

Search '**waste and recycling**' at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au) for more information.



## Stay up to date with weather events

Extreme weather can be a quickly evolving situation and Council's focus is on community safety and distributing key information as quickly as possible. During these events, we post on our Facebook page about impacts to Council facilities, services, assets, and waterways. We also share lead authority messaging – such as NSW SES and Bureau of Meteorology.

Search '**emergency contacts and staying informed**' at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)



## You asked, we answered



### New accessible playspaces brochure

For people with a disability, community participation means fair and equitable access in all aspects of community life. Playspaces are popular for locals and visitors to the Coast, and we have developed an Accessible Playspace brochure as part of our Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021-2025.

To view online, search '**accessibility**' at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au) or pick up a copy at Council Customer Service points.



### Wrack washed ashore helps estuary health

Wrack (detached seagrass leaves and macroalgae) naturally accumulates along the shallow edges of our waterways.

Whilst Council has a wrack collection program (where excess is collected from priority locations), wrack is an important part of the ecosystem and is a great mulch and soil conditioner so where suitable it's helpful if it can be left to break down naturally.

To learn more, search '**wrack**' at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)



### Environmental penalties

The Central Coast will benefit from the NSW Government's introduction of tougher penalties and higher fines for environmental crimes including pollution of waters, the environment, general littering and other offences. Council supports these reforms and legislation change and will be implementing these new penalties to help protect the Coasts' community and environment.



# Out and about across the Central Coast

## Hop across the Coast and discover renewed playspaces

We maintain over 270 playspaces across the Coast, to provide engaging, safe and quality playspaces where children and youth of all ages can play, learn and be active outside, and where multiple generations can connect with their local community, friends and family.

As part of the sustainable management of these valuable community spaces, we upgrade or replace each playspace in a 20-year cycle. We have recently renewed these local playspaces as part of this renewal works program:

1. Bensville - Ben Davis Reserve
2. Gwandalan - Lions Park
3. Hamlyn Terrace – Oregon Reserve
4. Kulnura - Pioneer Park
5. Mardi - Woodbury Estate Park
6. Norah Head - Young St Reserve
7. Tumby Umbi - Parkland Gardens Reserve
8. Wamberal - Wamberal Hall
9. Woongarah - Applegum Park
10. Wyoming - Maidens Brush Reserve



Photo: Kariong playspace

Playspace renewals are funded by Council with funding contribution by the NSW Government's Local Small Commitments Allocation Grant Program for Wamberal Hall and Maidens Brush Oval playspaces.

In this last financial year, we have also:

- Built a new local playspace at Kariong, Curringa Road
- Enhanced accessibility to the tiered seating and BBQ areas at Gosford Leagues Club Park, replacing the crushed granite with concrete surfaces.

To find a playspace near you, or to read answers to frequently asked questions, search 'playspace' at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)

## What's on

We are always hosting events across the Coast to keep you, your family and friends entertained.

Our libraries, galleries and theatres have many events running every week, in addition to key community events held throughout the year and our school holiday program.

Some upcoming events that are managed, sponsored or run in partnership with Council include:

- **Karla Dickens Embracing Shadows Exhibition**, Gosford Regional Gallery, East Gosford, 22 Jun–11 August
- **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**, Laycock Street Community Theatre, Wyoming, 9 -13 July
- **Park After Dark**, The Peninsula Recreation Precinct, Umina Beach, 13 July
- **Gosford Art Prize exhibition**; Gosford Regional Gallery, Easy Gosford, 24 August – 20 October
- **Sustainable Future Festival**, The Entrance, 14 September
- **Judy – The Judy Garland Story**, Laycock Street Community Theatre, Wyoming, 15 September
- **Toowoona Bay Surf Life Saving Club 70th Anniversary Celebrations**, Toowoona Bay, 21 September
- **Coastal Twist Festival**, Gosford, Umina Beach, Woy Woy, Ettalong Beach, 1-6 October

- **Long Jetty Festival**, Long Jetty, 6 October
- **Bark Park**, Gosford, 7 October
- **Woytopia Sustainable Living Festival**, Woy Woy, 13 October
- **Putt Putt Regatta**, Davistown, 13 October
- **ChromeFest**, The Entrance, 25-27 October

Check out all these events and more online at [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/whats-on](http://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/whats-on)

From cooking classes to concerts and festivals to farmers markets, find events that add colour to your calendar on the NSW Central Coast at [lovecentralcoast.com/events](http://lovecentralcoast.com/events)

