



**MIDCOAST**  
council

# Community Update

April/May 2018





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# Introduction from the Mayor

## Introduction from the Mayor

**Cr David West, Mayor**

Cr Brad Christensen

Cr Claire Pontin

Cr David Keegan

Cr Jan McWilliams

Cr Karen Hutchinson

**Cr Katheryn Smith, Deputy Mayor**

Cr Kathryn Bell

Cr Len Roberts

Cr Peter Epov

Cr Troy Fowler



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## OUR REGION



**90,000**  
people

**10,000km<sup>2</sup>**

Total area of our region  
#19 in NSW

**196**   
towns & villages


**3,229km**  
roads  
1,439km sealed  
1,790km unsealed



**542**  
bridges  
347 concrete/steel  
195 timber



## OUR SERVICES

  
**water**  
supplying  
**40,000**  
homes & businesses

**8 billion**  
litres per year

**23**  
water pump stations

**1,200km**  
water mains

**1,123km**  
sewer mains

**11**   
**libraries**  
**37,000**  
members

**720,000**  
loans annually

  
**customer contact**

**90,000**  
calls per year

**1 million**  
web page views

**4,033**  
Facebook followers

  
**3,000ha**  
parks and  
open spaces

  
**waste**

All disposed of locally

**42,780**  
general waste services\*

**43,116**  
recycling services\*

**1,337**  
public litter bins


**36,060**  
greenwaste services\*


\* Weekly kerb collections

  
**pools**

**2**  
ocean pools

**10**  
chlorinated public pools

  
**750ha**  
of mowing

  
**58**  
full size playing fields



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## Council's Vision, Mission & Plans

# Vision & mission

- › Community Vision

*We strive to be recognised as a place of unique environmental and cultural significance. Our strong community connection, coupled with our innovative development and growing economy, builds the quality of life we value*

- › Organisation mission - why we exist

- › Part of the development of a customer focussed culture

**We deliver benefits for our community in a way that adds value and builds trust**

# Community Strategic Plan

- Highest level strategic document for Council
- Plan belongs to the community
- Focuses on 5 value areas
  - Our unique, diverse and culturally rich communities
  - A connected community
  - Our environment
  - Our thriving and growing economy
  - Strong leadership and shared vision
- Adopted by Council on 11 April 2018





# Delivery Program & Operational Plan

- Council's commitment to the community
- Delivery Program - 3yr focus areas for term of Council
- Operational Plan - 1yr actions

## Timeline

- **9 May:** approve draft for exhibition
- **11 May – 8 June:** public exhibition
- **27 June:** adopt final document



## Community Survey, August 2017

### 3 key priority areas

*Measures importance v performance*

2017 survey showed improvements in almost all service areas from the 2016 survey.

The following areas remain priorities for the community:

- The condition of local streets and footpaths
- Providing value for money for rates
- Being well-run and managed



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# Finance, Assets and Roads

Source &/or project	\$ Amount
NSW State Government funding ??	50 million
MCC – Special Rate Variation to fund borrowings to match State \$	50 million
MCC Roadcare Program (savings, State Gov merger implementation funding)	30 million
NSW State Government – Cedar Party Bridge ??	20 million
NSW State Government – Bucketts Way	8.3 million
Federal Government – Bucketts Way matching ??	8.3 million
Federal Government ‘bridge bonanza’ (50/50 funding)	13 million

- › Council adopted a balanced budget for 2017/18
- › \$30 million Roadcare program (\$16m/\$14m) funded through ongoing merger savings and one-off savings
- › Long term financial projection with SRV - forecast operating surplus over 10 years
- › Water Services to be consolidated into Council's long term plan
- › Projecting a balanced budget for year-end

## Special Rate Variation

- Two components:
  - 6% environmental levy 17/18
  - 2.5% road infrastructure works 17/18
- Road infrastructure component transferred into a restriction while Council awaits a decision from NSW Government on \$50m roads program

# Road condition ratings

1 – very good



2 – good



3 – fair



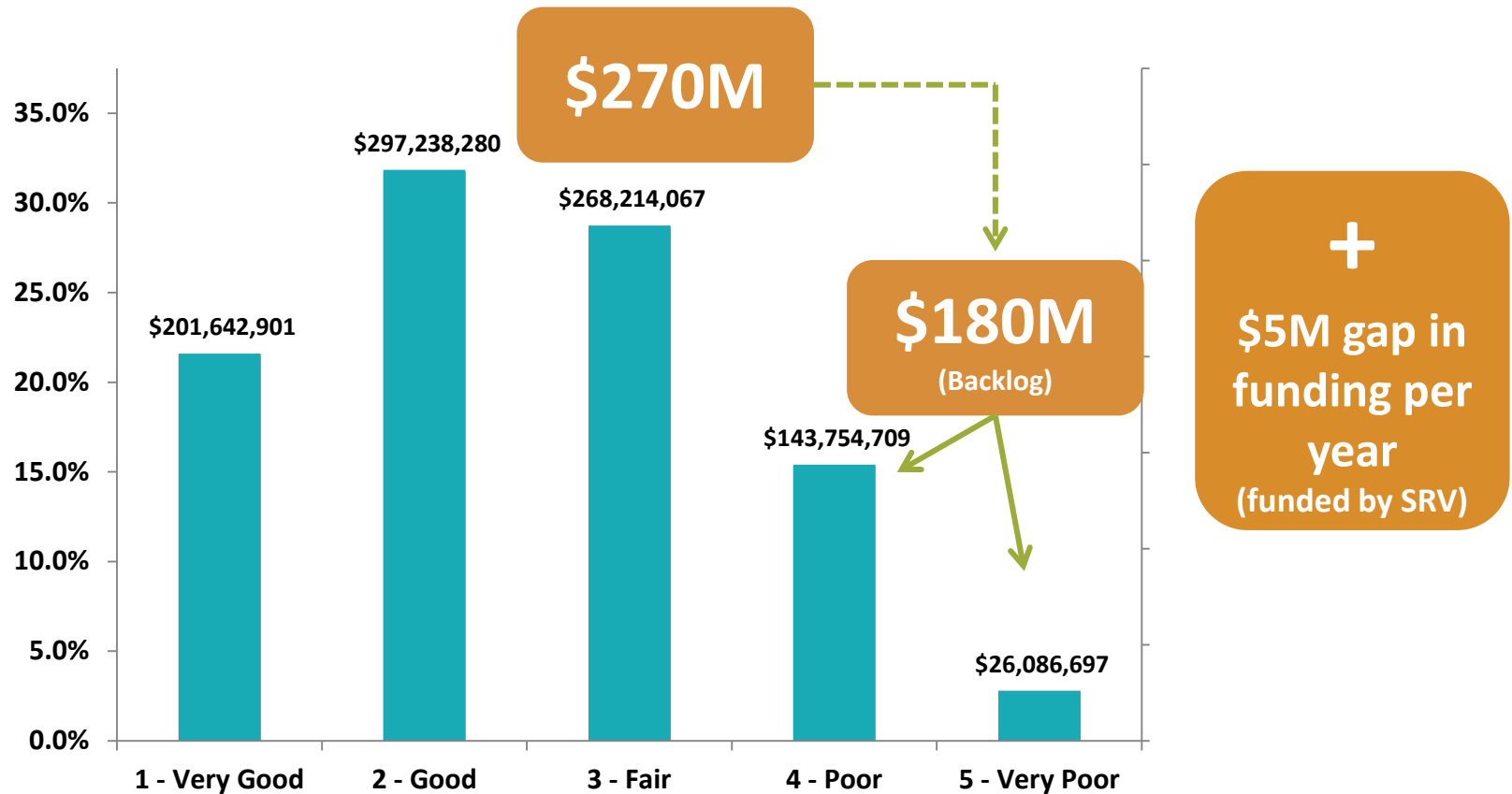
4 – poor



5 – very poor



## Sealed Roads Condition



\* Highlighted figures include roads & bridges

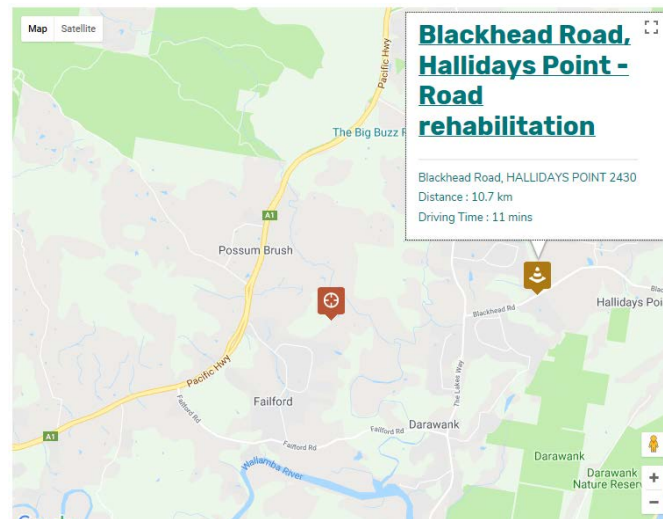
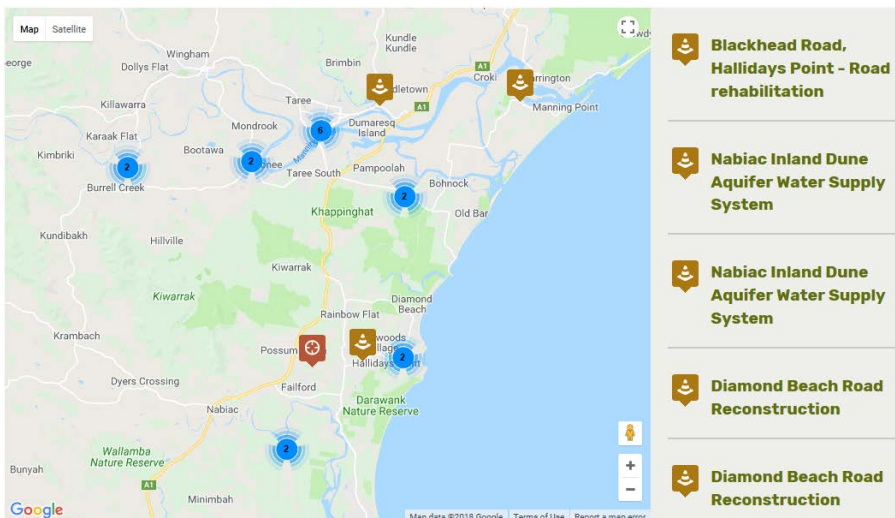


## Road Segments by Current Condition





[midcoast.nsw.gov.au/roads](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/roads)



Search by street name or location in our project listing

## Blackhead Road, Hallidays Point - Road rehabilitation

Project value | \$750,000

Blackhead Road reconstruction, 620m either side of Federation Drive.

Works are progressing with shoulder widening, while maintaining the existing bitumen seal.

A pause on works will occur during the Easter period and the upcoming School Holidays, with the existing bitumen seal and speed limits maintained.

Pavement works will commence in May and are programmed to finish in late May weather depending.



- › Currently completing audit of park assets
- › Maintenance budget is OK
- › Capital works relies on grant funding
- › This means we can't build new things, or replace ageing assets without outside funding
- › This impacts sporting fields (lighting), playgrounds (equipment), pools, BBQs, shelters



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# Water Services

## Nabiac Inland Dune Aquifer Water Supply System

- Project budget \$34.6m
- Includes federal funding \$9.6m and state funding \$2.5m
- A secure second source of water for 90% of customers - 36,000 homes
- Can generate up to 10M litres of water/day, 3.6B litres of water/year
- Stringent environmental requirements to protect groundwater dependent ecosystems
- On track for commissioning before November 2018





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# Council Updates

# Regional Growth Fund

MCC is eligible for all six components

**Funding available: \$1.3billion**

## Stronger Country Communities Fund

Allocated by LGA for community projects and infrastructure. Competitive across the LGA

Applications for 2018 close Friday 20 April

## Regional Cultural Fund

**\$100million**

Competitive across NSW over 4 years

- Small scale (under \$60,000)
- Medium scale (\$60,000 to \$1M)
- Large scale (over \$1M)

Applications closed

## Growing Local Economies

**\$20million**

Allocated to MidCoast as a Functional Economic Region.

Projects of \$1m or more with wide economic benefits, linked to REDs, BCR higher than 1

Applications currently open

## Resources for Regions

**\$50million**

Competitive across NSW for communities significantly affected by mining

Applications closed

## Connecting Country Communities

Applications not yet open

## Regional Sports Infrastructure

**\$200million**

Competitive across NSW for projects greater than \$1m

Applications close Friday 4 May



## Water Services Move

- Consolidated Water Services and Council customer functions
- Provides community with a single point of service
- All customer service staff now at Pulteney St, Taree and Breese Parade, Forster (admin) buildings

## Call centre upgrade

- Call centre system upgraded
- Will improve efficiencies for community members who call Council
- Went live on 12 April 2018
- Real time data and data trends assist in making customer service improvements
- Option of receiving a call back or leaving a message if all lines are busy



## Lodging a question, concern or request

- [midcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au)
- “Report and Request” form
- Provides a record of correspondence and our action/reply for future reference

## Other ways to contact us

- Phone
- Come into our offices
- Private message on Facebook

## Report and Request Form



### When to use this form

If your request is an urgent safety issue DO NOT USE THIS FORM - call us on (02) 6591 7222 instead.

Please note that we can only respond to this form during normal Council opening hours:

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm

Forms received outside of these hours will be dealt with at the earliest opportunity.

### Your details

Title required

- Mr
- Mrs
- Miss
- Ms
- Other

Surname required

Surname

Firstname required

First name

Your postal Address required

House Name / Number

Street

Suburb

Postcode



- › Purchased former Masters property (Biripi Way, Taree) – November 2017
- › Strategic purchase - \$25m of infrastructure, purchased for \$7m
- › Main reason - consolidate multiple offices in Taree and Forster into a central admin centre
- › “Gateway” approval process
- › Current phase includes detailed investigations into cost of office designs, engineering details and quantity surveyor
- › Report on findings expected in June & decision whether to proceed to next stage
- › Next stage would involve a detailed funding strategy and community consultation



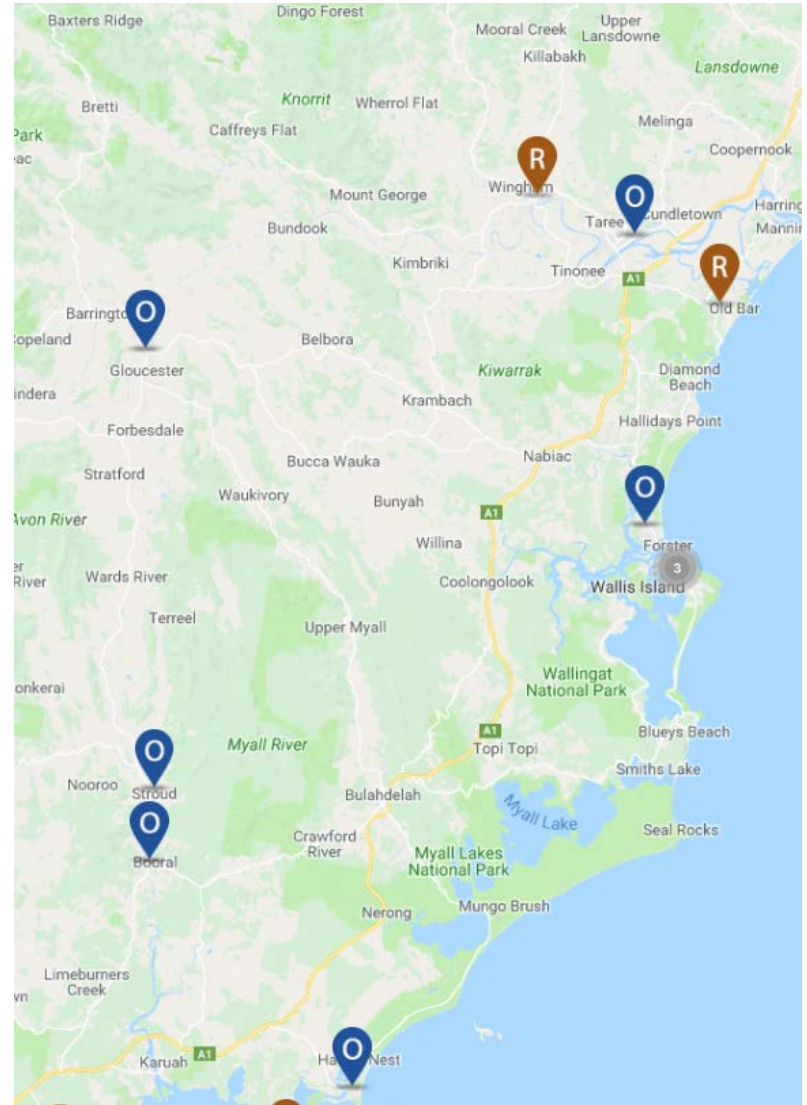
# General Manager Recruitment

- › Position advertised on 7 April 2018, closed 30 April 2018
- › Process being run by LGNSW Management Solutions
- › Selection process runs through May
- › Extraordinary Council meeting on 28 May



# Container Deposit Scheme

- NSW Government introduced the Container Deposit Scheme on 1 Dec 2017
- Residents can return eligible containers for a refund of 10c per container
- Regular kerbside recycling system continues
- MCC area has 11 drop off locations. Details on these can be found at [www.returnandearn.org.au](http://www.returnandearn.org.au)



## Our Approach

- Kerbside recycling for households
- Free domestic drop off facilities across the region and education sessions on reducing waste to landfill
- MCC pays over \$5m in NSW Government Waste Levy per year for disposing waste to landfill
- ‘Problem’ wastes (batteries, paint, chemicals, gas bottles etc) – 3 community recycling drop off centres at Gloucester, Tuncurry and Tinonee waste management centres – can dispose of domestic wastes for free

# Waste Recycling

## ...news out of China

Media reports indicate that China will no longer accept recycled materials from Australia.

This will have a financial impact on all councils in Australia. This cost has not yet been determined. We are working in partnership with our regional waste group (MidWaste) and the LG sector.

# Bulky Waste Collection

- Council resolved to include the Gloucester area into annual bulky waste collection program
- The program commences as follows
  - › Great Lakes region – 30 April
  - › Taree region – 8 June
  - › Gloucester region – August (exact date to be confirmed)
- Details available on website, notifications through social media, papers, and radio
- Gloucester residents will receive notification with more details in the mail closer to collection dates

# Rural Opportunities & Land Use Strategy (ROLUS)

- › Provides land use planning recommendations that will provide a framework for an integrated MCC Local Environmental Plan
- › Looks at criteria for identification of rural, environmental and waterway zones
- › Establishes land use permissibility
- › **Workshops in May for community participation** (please let facilitators know if you're interested in participating)



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# Around the Area

# Update on activities

## *Taree area*

- › Rehabilitation of Hannam Vale & Lansdowne Roads – commencing this financial year
- › Albert St road rehabilitation (in front of Taree High School) – works commence week of 16 April
- › Pulteney St reconstruction – works commence week of 16 April
- › Grant funding awarded for boat ramp upgrades at Kendall Reserve Cundletown and Andrew's Reserve Taree



Pulteney Street



Albert Street



- › Works on Diamond Beach Road – complete
- › Blackhead Road rehabilitation – underway, has paused during school holidays and will recommence at end of holidays
- › Shared path linking Diamond Beach Road to Blackhead – Active Transport application for FY 18/19 is currently under consideration by NSW Government



Diamond Beach Roadworks

## Skate Park

- › Community approach to construct a skate park in Halliday's Point.
- › Potential sites investigated. Western end of Wylie Breckenridge Park currently preferred. Space, parking opportunities, relatively central location.
- › Currently no budget allocated for project, however investigating means to obtain necessary funding if proposal adopted.
- › Community consultation will be undertaken before any decisions made.

## Manufactured Housing Estate

- › appeal lodged in L&E Court against Council's decision to refuse consent. Applicant has discontinued these proceedings. No further appeal rights available.
- › For MHE to be considered again a new DA would have to be lodged.
- › We have no information to suggest another application will be lodged.

# Update on activities *Old Bar area*

- › \$1M allocated for reconstruction of **Old Bar Rd** between Warwiba Road & Metz Road. Works to commence in May.
- › **Manning Point Road** reseals. Beach Road and Sandridge Road re-sheeting (complete); and Pelican Bay Road Bridge replacement (complete)
- › \$500K for **cycleway** linking Old Bar to Highway. Route has been decided, negotiating with National Parks on conditions.
- › **Footpath construction** adjacent to Old Bar Primary School to Old Bar Rd via Ungala Rd is progressing – works by Work for the Dole scheme.
- › **Forest Lane** sealing. Captured in s94 plans. Council looking for ways to bring work forward.



Pelican Bay Road Bridge Replacement

- › 10 Bus shelters funded by NSW Government grant to be installed around Old Bar.
- › Bohnock boat ramp carpark and Manning Point boat ramp/carpark works completed.
- › Better Boating grant funding awarded for additional car and boat parking at Bohnock Boat Ramp. Funding for works in FY 18/19.



Bohnock Boat Ramp Upgrade

## Old Bar (cont)

- › \$160K of funding received from State Government to match MCC funds for the Coastal Management Program for Old Bar - Manning Point.
- › Regular meetings conducted with Old Bar Beach Sand Replenishment Group and Manning Point Concerned Citizens. Extensive community engagement processes part of the development of a plan.
- › \$45K of funding received from State Government to match MCC funds for sand scraping on Old Bar Beach. Tender out to have an independent coastal scientist to recommend design and program.
- › Funding received for maintenance navigation dredging at Farquhar inlet. Work around South Creek and Scott's Creek channels. Council meeting 50% of cost. Work starts 2019. Won't open the inlet.
- › Manning Point beach access re-opened.
- › \$75K secured for study into Racecourse Creek catchment area and exit onto Old Bar Beach. Looking at a broader stormwater strategy.



Old Bar Beach Dune Fencing



Farquhar Flood Notch

# Update on activities *Wingham area*

- › **Combined/Dennes St**
  - › Reconstruction complete
  
- › **Cedar Party Creek Bridge**
  - › Awaiting news on grant application to NSW Government for replacement of bridge
  - › Sites for swimming pool relocation are being investigated
  
- › **Mooral Creek Road**
  - › Re-sheeting to commence this Financial Year
  
- › **Bridge on Comboyne Road over Cedar Creek**
  - › Currently in design phase with construction scheduled for late 2018
  
- › **Heritage restoration project Library/District Office**
  - › Continuing with heritage project including: new meeting room; new kitchen timber floor; and interior and exterior restorative work



Combined/Dennes St

# Civic Precinct, Lake St Forster



*‘...this project is an outstanding gain for the MidCoast region as a whole, with sustained benefits for the local economy. The National Stronger Regions Fund investment of \$6m is a significant contribution to the development of the new community facilities on site’*

Mr David Gillespie, Federal Member for Lyne

- › Planning approvals
  - › To DA stage. Secured in relation to mixed use development (including Council facilities)
- › Separate development consent(s)
  - › Required for cinema, nightclub and child care centre
- › Development agreement
  - › Executed between Enyoc and Council for the design & construction for Council facilities
- › Residual of site to be developed in stages by Enyoc for commercial purposes
- › Fit out concept design
  - › Currently being prepared by Council appointed architects (TVS). TVS is also providing input into draft building drawings (being prepared by the developer) on behalf of Council.
- › Construction due to commence Jan 2019

› **Roundabout @ Point Road**

- › RMS Project. RMS is still finalising proposal. Council will construct the project under contract.

› **Main Beach, Forster Masterplan**

- › Council's design consultant is continuing to progress design approaches which will take into account public feedback received from the community and stakeholders. It is proposed that this information will be made available in May for comment by the public. Council is also continuing to work with Forster SLSC in relation to arrangements for a new surf club facility at Main Beach.

› **Tuncurry Pool**

- › Community consultation undertaken in 2017 on potential repurposing of Tuncurry Pool
- › Feedback report due to be presented to Councillors in coming months
- › Cost and feasibility studies on various repurposing options ongoing

› **North Tuncurry release area**

- › Currently being assessed by Newcastle Office of the Department of Planning and Environment.

› **Water quality Report Card**

- › Launched in December and available on MidCoast Council's website

› **Point Road Navigational Channel Dredging**

- › \$147,200 grant received. MidCoast Council is matching this funding. Project completion due by June 2019.



# Update on activities

## *Tea Gardens area*

- › Solar heating for pool
  - › Installed in November 2017
- › Jimmy's Beach
  - › Tender accepted for a sand renourishment campaign. The tenderer is in the design phase for the system.
- › Myall River Downs rezoning
  - › A new Planning Proposal has been lodged and reviewed by Council staff. Further information is required from the proponents.
- › Riverside Development
  - › The NSW Department of Planning and Environment advises that the proponent is currently reviewing community submissions to the amended project applications.

- › Marine Drive Roadworks
  - › Works completed



Marine Drive Roadworks

# Update on activities *Gloucester area*

## › Buckett's Way

- › Approval of grant from NSW Government of \$8.3m. Have applied for matching funds from Federal Government.

## › Thunderbolt's Way

- › Submission for \$20m for upgrade work was submitted to NSW Government. Wasn't successful. Resubmitting application with amendments.
- › Council has applied for blackspot funding around Giro. Design works for upgrades complete. Works have been costed at \$4.5m. Council has allocated \$1.5m.
- › 2.3km of rehabilitation work is underway around 53km north of Gloucester. Expecting completion mid to late May.

## › Geale's Bridge

- › Upgrade completed



Geale's Bridge Before

After



- › Scone Road
  - › Seal extension recently completed
- › Callaghan's Creek Bridge
  - › Replacement bridge requires a design upgrade to a higher specification. The re-design is currently in process with works anticipated to start in July
- › Billabong Park
  - › Refurbishment on existing equipment to be undertaken in 2018. Council report on potential new park equipment at May meeting.
- › Gloucester Library
  - › \$172k grant received from State Library of NSW for significant improvements to the library. Community workshop on redesign held in December. Final concept plan for redesign is now complete following feedback from workshop. Concept plan is available online. Works expected to be complete by end of August.
- › Rocky Hill
  - › Application for coal mine was rejected by the NSW Government's Planning Assessment Commission. The applicant (Gloucester Resources) has appealed that decision in the Land and Environment Court. Council is not a respondent in the case, however we are providing assistance to the NSW Government in defending their position wherever possible



# Update on activities *Bulahdelah area*

- › **Stroud/Lee St Roundabout**
  - › Subcontractor for the project is in liquidation. Head contractor is in process of appointing a new contractor.
  
- › **Emu Creek Bridge, Booral Rd**
  - › \$1.5m allocated for reconstruction. Design to commence shortly, with construction scheduled for late 2018.
  
- › **Wattley Hill Road**
  - › Construct and seal complete
  
- › **Bulahdelah Skate Park**
  - › Current skate park in showground is not fit for purpose. Plan to move to Mountain Park. Extensive consultation with school students and community being undertaken to settle design of the park. Additional consultation will be undertaken on additional forms of recreational infrastructure in Bulahdelah.



Consultation on Bulahdelah Skate Park

# Update on activities *Bulahdelah area*

Planning Proposals for Highway Service Centres:

1. Bulahdelah
2. Station Creek Rest Area (near Myall Way/Highway intersection)

RMS is the major stakeholder in both proposals. Council sent a letter to them last year requesting their formal comment. There is still some work and information required on both proposals to bring them up to a satisfactory standard. Council deliberately requested an opinion from RMS on the proposals before requiring the proponents to go to the extra expense of providing this information.

A reply was received by Council a few weeks ago. This reply, and Council reports on both proposals, will go before Councillors at their Strategic Committee meeting of 13 June. At that meeting Councillors will hopefully provide a position on the proposals so we can determine whether to proceed in getting more information off the proponents.



# Update on activities *Harrington area*

## › New Playground

- › Funds have been obtained from Harrington Lions along with a NSW Government grant. Playground will be near boat ramp at Gordon Smith Reserve.

## › Off leash dog park

- › Funding has been awarded through the first round of the Stronger Country Communities Fund. Community consultation was held through two public workshops in February. Dolphin Park identified as preferred site.

## › Harrington Road

- › Road reconstruction works recently completed, replacing a 1.27km stretch with brand new road. Project valued at \$2.3m.



**MIDCOAST 2030**  
Shared vision, shared responsibility



Find out what's happening, have your say  
**HARRINGTON WORKSHOP**

**Come along and chat with us about what's happening near you!**

To coincide with the exhibition period for our draft Community Strategic Plan, we're hosting workshops for the Harrington community to discuss a number of exciting local initiatives that are happening right now.



### Fenced, leash-free dog park

You've already told us you'd like a safe space to let your four-legged friends run free and play.

We've earmarked a couple of possible locations for a fenced dog park in Harrington and now want to hear which option you think will best suit your best mate.

### New playground for Harrington Waters

We've been working closely with Harrington Lion's Club to plan a new pocket playground in Gordon Smith Reserve.

With installation due in the coming months, come along and find out more about what you can expect as our plans come to life.



**And our draft Community Strategic Plan is now open for feedback**  
See over for more details about CSP and community workshop dates / times.

[midcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au)

## › Roche Group Development

- › The Roche Group were considering an alternative site for the seniors development as per their Deed of Arrangement with Council. The Roche Group have recently advised Council that they decided not to pursue the alternative site. They have advised Council that they propose a slightly modified layout for the Aged Care Site that meets the requirements of the Deed and also provides for a more regular shape. Roche will still be required to lodge a DA for the development within the timeframes required by the deed.

## › Harrington Back Channel Dredging

- › Received first round of funding from the NSW Government. Council currently working on a Review of Environmental Factors to be lodged with Crown Lands.

## › Boat ramp upgrade

- › Received a grant of \$62,000 from Boating NSW fund for upgrade of Harrington Reserve Boat Ramp. Council adding \$21,000 for a total spend of \$83,000. Council currently in design phase for upgrades. Works expected to be complete by end of 2018.

# Update on activities *Stroud area*

- › Tennis courts
  - › Invitations to tender will be offered on tennis court rebuild. Workers will be on site next week to “decant” the site – remove old infrastructure and old asphalt surface. The workers will also profile the ground in preparation for new courts.
  
- › Stroud Showground
  - › Plan of management is in draft form and has previously been given to user groups to provide feedback. That feedback has now been sent to consultants. Council is currently working on designs for the buildings of the Showground. These have also been given to user groups for comment.
  
- › Buckett’s Way
  - › Approval of grant from NSW Government of \$8.3m. Have applied for matching funds from Federal Government.
  
- › Emu Creek Bridge on Booral Rd
  - › \$1.5m has been allocated for reconstruction. Design work is to commence shortly with construction scheduled for late 2018.
  
- › Bridge St
  - › Construct and seal works have recently been completed.



Stroud Showground





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Questions?