

We hope you enjoy reading this second update from your new MidCoast Council and that it helps you stay on top of what's going on around the MidCoast region.

Building a stronger community, together



Stronger Communities Grants program

Applications for the first round of funding for the Stronger Communities program are currently being assessed. A wide range of community groups have put in many hours developing strong applications for much needed projects to benefit the community.

Community groups who have applied for funding will be notified next month of the outcomes of their application for projects to be implemented in 2017.

The Stronger Communities fund was established by the NSW Government to help newly merged councils kickstart the delivery of projects that improve community infrastructure and services. \$500,000 will be distributed in this first funding round, with another \$500,000 to be opened up for applications around September next year.



What represents our diverse communities, brings us together and will carry us into the future?

TELL US what you value

Online: Have Your Say via the MidCoast website

Social media: add #whatismidcoast to your post

Drop in at Council or Library Phone or email

We've been working closely with you to better understand what MidCoast is, and we're keen to hear your thoughts to inspire creation of our new identity.

During November there will be more opportunities to provide input. Keep an eye out in local and social media and on our website for key dates and to find out how you can have your say.

midcoast.nsw.gov.au

whatismidcoast@midcoast.nsw.gov.au

Phone 6592 5316

Coming soon... Community update meetings

Once again Glenn Handford, our Interim General Manager and key staff from across MidCoast Council will be in your area to provide you with an update.

Topics will include a status report on the impact of the merger, the direction we are heading, and our long-term financial position and asset planning. See over for more information about special rate variation that will form part of these discussions.

These meetings are designed to keep you informed and provide you with an opportunity to ask questions. It's also a chance for us to understand your local issues, challenges and opportunities.

OCTOBER			NOVEMBER		
20	6.00 pm	WINGHAM	2	6.00 pm	HARRINGTON
24	10.00 am	FORSTER	3	6.00 pm	HALLIDAYS PT
24	6.00 pm	TAREE	8	6.00 pm	BULAHDELAH
26	6.00 pm	STROUD	9	6.00 pm	TEA GARDENS
31	5.30 pm	GLOUCESTER	14	6.00 pm	OLD BAR

Dates correct at time of printing. Check our website for confirmed details and venues.

Thank you

During September, an independent research company conducted a phone survey with people throughout the MidCoast area. If you participated, we'd like to say thanks for taking the time to share your views.

Results are currently being compiled and will not only help us identify areas for improvement, but provide a benchmark so we can measure our progress over time.

The last 5 months... have been a whirlwind of activity

A key focus has been on opening up the lines of communication, keeping you updated, and finding out what matters to you:

JUNE	MidCoast website launched
JULY	Facebook pages merged
JUNE/JULY	10x Community update meetings with Interim General Manager
AUG/SEP	6x Meet your Local Representative (LRC) drop-in sessions
SEPTEMBER	Customer Satisfaction Survey

Email us anytime, about anything council@midcoast.nsw.gov.au



Australia Day Awards Nominations Closing dates

28 NOV 16	GREAT LAKES REGION
9 DEC 16	GLOUCESTER REGION
6 JAN 17	MANNING REGION

Australia Day 26 JAN 17

Manning Entertainment Centre	TAREE
Club Forster	FORSTER
Billabong Park	GLOUCESTER

New Year's Eve

Manning River Foreshore	TAREE
John Wright Park	TUNCURRY

Together!Day - everyone welcome
A free family fun day hosted by Ageing & Disability Services

19 JAN 17	FORSTER
24 JAN 17	TAREE

Council Meetings

26 OCT 16	2.00 pm	GLOUCESTER
23 NOV 16	2.00 pm	FORSTER
14 DEC 16	2.00 pm	TAREE
25 JAN 17	2.00 pm	GLOUCESTER

Visit our website closer to the time for full details of these events, and a listing of events across the region.

After-hours contacts



For emergencies that can't wait until business hours the next working day:

Bulahdelah	0400 413 955
Gloucester Region	0417 437 963
Great Lakes Region	
Roads, parks, reserves	0419 165 048
Animals, environmental issues, beaches	0408 652 662
Manning Region	6592 5399
Stroud	0408 656 704
Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest	0418 473 942
Water and sewer	
MidCoast Water	1300 133 455
Non-Council emergencies	
SES	132 500 or 6552 5866
Police	6555 1299
Manning/Great Lakes	
Emergency	000

We're hosting!

NSW's tourism industry comes together every year for the Local Government NSW Tourism Conference, and in 2017 they'll be arriving on our door step!

In March, the Manning Valley will proudly play host to hundreds of delegates over three fabulous days, showing the rest of the state why our region makes the perfect holiday destination. With our much bigger backyard, they'll also have the chance to explore the stunning beaches, lakes, and mountains across the entire MidCoast.



A great opportunity for our local businesses.

Not only will the conference bring extra visitors to our region, but delegates will leave talking about their amazing experience, placing us firmly on the map as a great place to holiday. It's a rare opportunity to build our economy into the future, leading to increased visitation and tourist spend, growing our local businesses, generating more jobs, and providing yet another reason to be proud of our fabulous home.

Let's talk Rates

This time last year there was a lot of talk about Special Rate Variations (SRVs), however because of the merger the applications could not be determined. The issues that previous SRV proposals aimed to address haven't gone away. A potential SRV remains an important part of our future planning.



We've compiled answers to some of the questions you may be asking below:

Why is MidCoast Council looking at introducing an SRV?

Part of our commitment to the community is to integrate the three former councils' budgets and asset management plans to inform the Long Term Financial Plan. This process has shown that while we've already made significant savings in the merger and freed up funds to enable additional borrowings, we still need to work towards achieving a balanced budget in the long term. A modest rate rise will assist our long term sustainability, and assist us to provide the standard of assets our community expects.

Will the community get a say? If so when and how?

In the first instance, community update meetings have been scheduled to provide you with information (see over for details). Engaging with our community is an essential part of the SRV application process and your input is critical. Your input helps inform our decisions. Details of when and how further consultation will take place will be confirmed and advertised.

Didn't the NSW State Government say merged councils couldn't apply for SRV?

The Government's initial position was to maintain the current rate paths of all former councils for four years, however IPART has since recommended that merged councils be allowed to apply for a rate rise under certain circumstances. Should the NSW Government support IPART's recommendations, we may be eligible to apply for SRV.

Visit the IPART website: ipart.nsw.gov.au

If approved, what will the SRV be used for?

As a large regional council, we have a significant infrastructure backlog. In short, introducing a SRV will ensure funding is available to address the condition of our extensive network of roads and bridges, which is now one of the largest in the state, ultimately providing a transport system that can be maintained to a satisfactory standard.

Register
for your rates
in your inbox



Visit our website
for more information
and to register.