

You asked, we answered!

It was great to see so many friendly faces from across the MidCoast when we held the latest round of Community Update meetings in March. For those who couldn't make it, here are a couple of common questions that our team were asked...

Q When will we see the new MidCoast identity?

A The process is almost complete! Your involvement has provided valuable insights into what matters to our community and formed a great foundation for the development of our Community Strategic Plan.

What matters most is our **people and place**, and the values expressed have been used to develop a brand concept for MidCoast. Road-tested with our community in late March, the new branding will soon be finalised for gradual rollout on things like our website, signage and publications. We hope you agree, it captures the essence of our region!

Q Why reseal roads that are in reasonable condition when others are full of pot-holes?

Read about our
Roadcare Program
overleaf

A Resealing is an important periodic maintenance treatment that is applied to the worn, brittle or cracked top layer of the road. It helps waterproof the pavement (the structural layer of a road) and prevent the formation of pot-holes, extending the life of the road. It also results in a more durable, quieter and skid resistant driving surface.

Roads that are pot-holed have already failed, and resealing is not effective as it doesn't address the issues under the surface. These roads require far more extensive (and expensive!) rehabilitation or reconstruction works.

THE DOLLARS AND SENSE

Resealing makes our roads last longer. By spending \$5 per m² now, this delays the need to spend \$60 per m² for reconstruction when the road fails. It's a value-for-money strategy.

The next round of Community Update meetings will take place later this year, so keep an eye out on our website, via our Facebook page and in local media where we'll announce the details.



More ways to be involved

We're in the process of developing our Community Strategic Plan and we need your input. This is the community's plan which outlines your long-term aspirations and objectives. It will provide a roadmap to ensure we're focusing on the key social, environmental, economic and civic leadership priorities that you identified as important to the MidCoast community.

Our next steps will be to detail and prioritise what you think needs to be done to address these priorities. Over coming weeks expect to see our team at your local community market, regional show and other locations in our community.

If you'd like us to come and hear what your community organisation or local community has to say, please contact us at community@midcoast.nsw.gov.au. Find out more by visiting our website, where you can also provide your input.



IMPORTANT

Fire and Emergency Services Levy

New item on your rates notice from July 2017

From 1 July 2017 the NSW Government will change the way they collect the levy that funds the state's fire and emergency services. It will be removed from your home insurance premium, and instead be included as a line item on your rates notice.

This is not a Council charge or levy.

To find out more about what has changed, how it's calculated, and how it impacts you, check the FAQ's on the back of the enclosed letter from the Government, or **contact the NSW Treasury directly:**

Visit fesl.nsw.gov.au

Call 1300 78 78 72

Email FESL.info@treasury.nsw.gov.au

For advice and guidance about how the Government will oversee the transition from an insurance-based levy to the property-based levy, visit the Emergency Services Levy Insurance Monitor website at eslinsurancemonitor.nsw.gov.au

Tourism professionals from across NSW love us too



Donna Rygate, Chief Executive, LGNSW

The 13th Annual Local Government NSW Tourism Conference, hosted in Taree last month, was an outstanding success with over 200 delegates enjoying a first-hand experience of what our amazing region has to offer.

Fresh local produce, our rich cultural heritage and stunning natural assets including the mighty Manning River, Cattai Wetlands and Saltwater National Park were key features of this exciting event.

What shone through was our strong sense of community as local businesses, accommodation providers, service clubs, and countless volunteers came together to showcase the Manning Valley, and the broader MidCoast region as a premium tourist destination.



There's no doubt every one of our visitors left with great memories and an intention to promote our wonderful region when they return to their homes throughout the state and their jobs in tourism services.

The Conference was a great success, not least due to the outstanding efforts of our event partner, MidCoast Council. Thank you MidCoast!

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM, President, Local Government NSW

CONTACT US

Get in touch by phoning our friendly customer service team on 6591 7222, email council@midcoast.nsw.gov.au or message us on Facebook.



Did you know we've committed a total of \$30M over the next four years to improving our roads and bridges?

This total is made up of:

- \$14M** from the State Government's Stronger Communities – Major Projects Fund
- \$16M** from \$4M per year in savings delivered by the merger



L to R: Pile splicing; bridge repairs; Resealing; Manchester Street, Tinonee; River Street, Taree

A program of works is already underway using savings achieved in Year 1, broken down as follows:

- \$250,000** Bridge testing/geotechnical investigations
- \$700,000** Structural repairs on timber bridges
- \$1,150,000** Bitumen resurfacing (various urban roads)
- \$500,000** Diamond Beach Road, Diamond Beach*
- \$300,000** Harrington Road, Harrington*
- \$800,000** Combined St/Dennes St, Wingham*
- \$200,000** The Bucketts Way, Stage 5a (bridge replacement)*

* Additional funding to extend scope or complete current project

The \$30M Roadcare Program is part of our commitment to improving infrastructure across the region and is over-and-above the existing road programs of the three former regions.

STRONGER COMMUNITIES GRANTS

Round 2 opens 1 May 2017

If you're involved with a community group or not-for-profit organisation, here's an opportunity to lift your next exciting project off the ground.

Applications for a second \$500,000 in Stronger Communities grants will be open from 1 May through to 9 June. Your project must meet specific criteria, and your application must include a detailed budget outline.

To find out whether your project is eligible and how to prepare your application visit midcoast.nsw.gov.au/grants from 1 May, where you'll also find the link to apply.

The Stronger Communities fund was established by the NSW Government to support the delivery of projects that improve community infrastructure and services across our region. Delivered in two phases, the first round of funding was awarded in November last year.

Successful Round 2 applicants will be announced from 31 July 2017.



Cuddlepie Early Childhood Learning Centre in Wingham have completed their "Wood be Good" project using funds accessed through Round 1 funding.