



MAKING A VISIBLE CHANGE

Welcome to the new MidCoast identity. This is an exciting step forward in establishing a cohesive community across the MidCoast area. The development of the identity was made possible through the commitment and passion of many community members during the rebranding process.

We'll look a little mismatched for some time yet as we introduce the new brand gradually, so thanks in advance for your patience during the transition period. Not only is our new branding contemporary, it reflects MidCoast's natural assets and our community spirit, making it uniquely ours.

Saturday
9 Sept
2017

Council elections

It's not long until we hit the polls, so now's the time to start thinking about who will best represent our community as a MidCoast Councillor. We're 90,000 people spread over 10,000km², so the newly elected councillors will take on an enormous responsibility to manage Council's \$320million pa business in a way that delivers value and equity to all.

John Turner, our Administrator since the merger, firmly believes that success relies on Councillors thinking strategically, over a long period, for the whole of the Council area. "Councillors are there to represent the community. Many people stand for Council on a single local issue or to deliver what a particular section of the public wants, but for Council to operate effectively, parochialism is counter-productive. It's the whole of Council's activities that have to be considered" John said.

For polling locations in your local area, and information about pre-poll voting, visit votensw.info from mid-August.

Working together to improve our local communities



We've recently been out and about talking to you about some exciting new projects, including improvements to Forster Main Beach and activating Wingham Town Centre. Soon we'll be asking Gloucester locals to help us plan a \$172,000 facelift for their library.



2017/18 Beach Permits

4WD'ing is a great way to enjoy our beaches! Pick up your 2017/18 Beach Vehicle Access Permit and start exploring our coastline, from Kylie's Beach in the north through to Hawks Nest and Jimmy's Beach in the south.

Often here? Grab an **All Year Permit**
Short stay? Choose the **30-day Permit**

For details of where to purchase, where to drive, and beach driving rules, visit midcoast.nsw.gov.au/beachpermit

How to have your say

It's important to us that we understand your views, opinions and concerns. We regularly consult via community or stakeholder meetings, but did you know there's also a **Have Your Say** page on our website? Outside of Have Your Say you can email council@midcoast.nsw.gov.au or message any time on **Facebook/MidCoastCouncil**

We're currently planning another series of **Community Update meetings** for September/October, giving you the opportunity to meet your new Councillors. Keep an eye out for announcements regarding the details.



LATEST NEWS

Preparing and printing our newsletter takes three weeks, which means we can't always provide the most up to date information in this publication. In cases where something topical is likely to arise between printing and mail-out, we'll point you to the appropriate website for updates.

Special Rate Variation (SRV)

Determination from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) regarding the MidCoast Special Rate Variation application is pending. Visit midcoast.nsw.gov.au/SRV for details relating to the decision.

MidCoast Water

The dissolution of MidCoast Water and integration into MidCoast Council was proclaimed by the NSW Government, effective 1 July. This means we've created a fifth business unit, Water Services, to enable the on-going delivery of services in a "business as usual" manner for our customers. For further information about the integration of MidCoast Water's functions into MidCoast Council, visit midcoast.nsw.gov.au/integration.

Nothing changes from a service delivery perspective and staff from both organisations will continue to work together to deliver services for our community, at the same time realising significant savings and efficiencies over coming years as we integrate.

MidCoast Libraries

We now have 11 libraries across the region, most recently bringing Gloucester Library into the fold which had originally been part of Hunter libraries. The Gloucester collection is currently being integrated into the MidCoast database so our staff can provide the same level of quality service to our Gloucester library-users. Visit midcoastlibraries.com.au where you'll have access to the entire MidCoast catalogue of resources.

FESL on hold

The NSW Government has deferred plans to collect the Fire and Emergency Services Levy via Council rates. Refer to the enclosed flyer, or visit fesl.nsw.gov.au to find out more.



Tourism together

Our tourism team recently hosted a series of meet n greet sessions across the region which saw operators come together to meet the team, ask questions, discuss future plans and network. The overwhelming feedback was a desire to learn more about what our broader region has to offer so that visitors to the area can make the most of their MidCoast experience. If you're planning to welcome visiting family and friends, our local tourism team is here to help for region-wide inspiration on fabulous things to see and do. Email the team on tourism@midcoast.nsw.gov.au

Rates in your inbox

Now available right across the region! Did you know every rates assessment notice that's registered for email delivery saves our community around \$5 each year in printing and postage? That adds up to around \$250,000 per year that we're sure you'd rather see going towards visible improvements across our region. Not only will you find it more convenient, it's better for the environment too. **Visit our website** for more information and to register for electronic rates today.



\$30M Roadcare Program

Made up of merger funding and savings, the program is part of our commitment to improving infrastructure across the region and has already contributed to significant progress on some of our key transport routes. Of an initial \$4million that has been allocated we have:

- Completed a \$1million resealing program
- Undertaken \$750,000 worth of urgent bridge repairs
- Progressed reconstruction of Combined and Dennes Sts, Wingham
- Contributed to Diamond Beach Road works, currently underway
- Allocated funding to works soon to commence on Harrington Road

The Roadcare Program will continue to target our immediate priorities, but alone will not address the \$5 million annual shortfall for funding renewals of our transport assets, and the backlog that currently sits at \$180million. The condition of our roads and bridges remains one of our highest priorities.

