



**Around \$100 million will be invested in improving roads, water and sewer infrastructure for our community during the 2019/20 year.**

This is part of a \$380 million investment we will make in our area over the coming financial year. Of this \$150 million is financed through the collection of rates and annual charges. The balance is funded by other revenue streams including fees and charges, grants, borrowings and reserve funds held for specific purposes.

General rates for 2019/20, included in your rate notice, will increase by five per cent in line with the four year special rate variation approved by IPART. Other rate increases have been kept to a minimum. Neither sewer or waste rates will be increased and water prices will only increase by 1.8 per cent, the lowest increase in water charges for some years.

The additional funds raised by the rate variation are specifically for road improvements and ongoing environmental programs. No funds from this rate increase will be, or can be, applied to Council's office centralisation project.

Of the \$100 million to be spent on community infrastructure improvements, \$55 million will be spent on roads, bridges, drainage and footpaths. Almost \$13 million will be spent on improving sewer infrastructure and \$8 million on improving water infrastructure during the coming year.

## Winter sport - part of your every day

**Did you know we have 58 full size playing fields and 26 sporting complexes? These grounds are just another way we're part of your every day.**



Winter is the busiest time of year for our maintenance crews who work hard to keep the grounds up to playing condition. From hockey and netball, to soccer, football and more, these grounds are used by thousands of locals as well as visitors to the region.

It's a big job to maintain the grounds and our crews work closely with community and sporting organisations. From mowing and general maintenance, rubbish removal, lighting repairs and much more, work for our winter sport begins in summer and the upkeep of these facilities is a year-round responsibility.

For maintenance updates and closures due to wet conditions visit [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/groundclosures](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/groundclosures)



## Responsible pet ownership

If you're selling or giving away a dog or cat, the rules have changed. As of 1 July, people advertising kittens, cats, puppies and dogs for sale or to give away in NSW will need to include an identification number in advertisements.

The identification number can be a microchip number, a breeder identification number, or a rehoming organisation number and is designed to help people looking to buy a cat or dog search the NSW Pet Registry to see the animal's breed, sex, age, whether it's desexed, whether or not it's registered and whether any annual permit is in place.

For further information, visit [DPI's website](http://DPI's website) and search 'responsible pet ownership'.



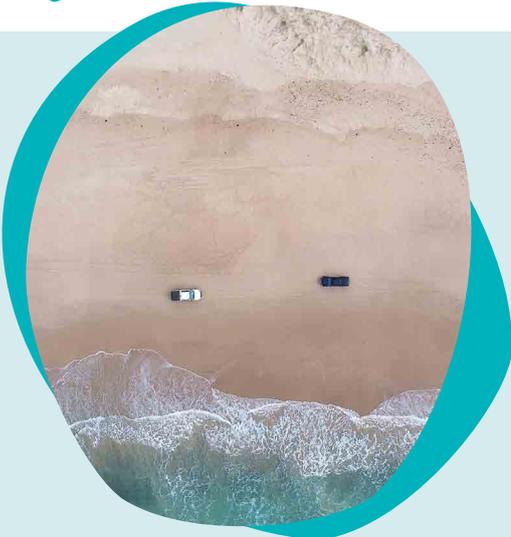
## When do we introduce water restrictions?

MidCoast Council manages five separate water supplies across our region to provide water to our towns and villages. We introduce water restrictions according to a protocol based on river flows and groundwater levels.

To find out more about water restrictions and check the current water restriction status for your area, visit [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/waterrestrictions](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/waterrestrictions) or follow us on [Facebook](#)

## Biripi Way

We are progressing on our office relocation project. For more, go to [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/headoffice](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/headoffice)



## DRIVING ON OUR BEACHES

If you're a four wheel driving enthusiast, now's the time to renew your beach access permit and brush up on the rules that apply when driving on our beaches.

Along with respect for others, these rules ensure safe beaches for all users, and help protect our natural environment.

Know the rules? Take our quiz:

TRUE FALSE

- |  |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Vehicles on beaches must always give way to pedestrians     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. You must drive between the tide marks                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Parking your 4WD in the dune area is prohibited             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The maximum speed limit for beach driving is 40km/hr        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Drivers must hold a current and valid driver's license      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Entry and exit can be made only at designated access points | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Vehicles must stay at least 15m away from pedestrians       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

These are just some of the rules, enforceable by our Rangers and NSW Police, that permit-holders must comply with. Find out more about your responsibilities, and download maps showing accessible beaches and access points, at [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/beachdriving](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/beachdriving)

Permits are available at our Customer Service Centres and selected outlets across the MidCoast. Visit our website or call 1800 802 692 for purchase locations. Options include Annual (2019/20) and 30-Day (valid for 30 days from date of purchase). Failure to comply with beach driving rules will result in cancellation of your beach access permit and you may be fined.

### Contact us

MidCoast Council Tel 6591 7222

Email [council@midcoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@midcoast.nsw.gov.au)

or message us on Facebook [f MidCoastCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/MidCoastCouncil)



## ROADS IN REVIEW

The last 12 months has seen a continued focus on improving our transport network, with over \$50 million in Capital Works projects completed or well underway.

Here's some of the work achieved during the 2018/19 financial year\*:

- Rehabilitation of streets in key urban areas including: Blackhead Road, Hallidays Point; King George Parade, Forster; Pulteney Street, Taree; Guya Avenue, Hawks Nest; and Market Street, Gloucester
- Projects to rehabilitate important rural connector roads including: The Bucketts Way, Tinonee; Markwell Road, Bulahdelah; Barrington East and Scone Roads, Barrington; Upper Myall Road and Willina Road, Coolongook
- Significant improvements on regional routes: The Lakes Way, Forster and Charlotte Bay; Commerce Street, Taree; Avalon Road, Krumbach; Old Bar Road, Manning Point Road and Thunderbolts Way
- Replacement of existing timber bridges: Bobin Bridge, Bulga Bridge, Milbai Creek Bridge and Cedar Creek Bridge - with designs complete and ready to roll on many others in the next financial year

\* Some of these projects were still in progress at the time of writing

The 2019/20 Capital Works program is currently being finalised and will offer a similar level of investment and focus. Over the coming year (and beyond) our communities can expect to see more smoother, safer roads as part of their everyday travels.

To stay updated on what's happening on our roads and bridges, or to search roadworks near you, visit [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/roads](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/roads)

## Visited a library lately?



Did you know, Australia has more public libraries than McDonalds stores?

While they both offer friendly service and quite often, free wi-fi, you'll find yourself spending a lot less money when you visit your local library.

As well as being free to join, our members can make the most of:

- 11 handy locations right across the region with a catalogue of over 160,000 different items to borrow, not buy
- Loans of up to 20 items for three weeks, with no overdue fees
- Clean, comfy, inviting spaces to enjoy time out, or meet with friends
- Regular programs and events connecting you with others who share similar interests. There's something for everyone... no matter what you're into

Find your nearest location, search our catalogue, see what's on, or join the library, at [midcoastlibraries.com.au](http://midcoastlibraries.com.au)