

ROADS A TOP PRIORITY

While we remain committed to delivering quality services across the range of Council activities, we continue to focus on your number one priority - roads.

Our greatest challenge is the condition of local roads and bridges, including a pre-existing infrastructure backlog valued at \$180m and an annual shortfall of \$5m for renewals.

Council has tackled the challenge head-on, investing an additional \$7m in works that have delivered tangible improvements for the local community, as part of the \$30m Road Care Program (from merger funding and savings).

Harrington Road, Diamond Beach Road, Combined and Dennes Streets in Wingham, The Bucketts Way in Tinonee, and Victoria and Commerce Streets in Taree are just some of the areas already targeted for rehabilitation.

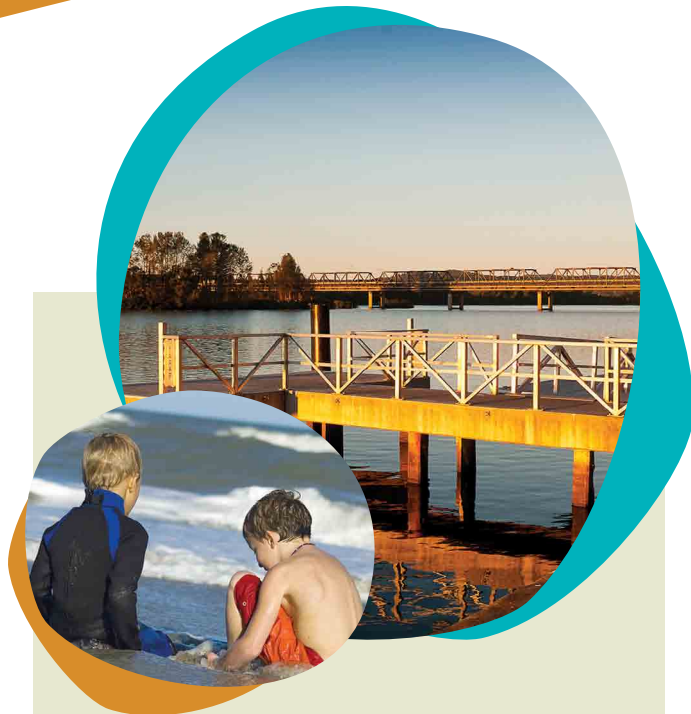
And coming up over the next 12 months is another busy schedule that will see significant improvements right across the region. Some of the works already scheduled or underway include Hadley and Townsend Streets in Forster, Albert, Muldoon and Pulteney Streets in Taree, Queen and Hume Streets in Gloucester, Boomerang Drive at Pacific Palms, Manning Point Road at Mitchells Island, sections of Old Bar Road, The Lakes Way at Charlotte Bay, Avalon Road at Krambach, and Blackhead Road at Hallidays Point.



Britten Street, before (left) and after (right)

The special rate variation (SRV) was introduced on 1 July this year and is dedicated exclusively to addressing the condition of the region's roads and bridges with another component supporting environmental works across the region. It is anticipated that additional funding from the State Government of up to \$50m may be secured in addition to the SRV, which if successful, will double the value contributed by ratepayers to improving local roads. This funding program will significantly reduce the gap in renewals funding and backlog in a relatively short timeframe.

For more details, visit midcoast.nsw.gov.au/roads



Community Strategic Plan

Share your vision for MidCoast's future

Who are we? What do we value?
Where do we want our region to be?

We have been listening to what you have been saying on these issues since the formation of MidCoast Council and your views have helped inform a draft community strategic plan for our area.

This plan will be an important roadmap to capture our community's aspirations for the future and guide us to achieve the outcomes you've told us are priorities.

Our draft plan, *MidCoast 2030 Shared Vision Shared Responsibility*, is on public exhibition from 8 January - 23 February.

During this time, we want your feedback to tell us whether we have the plan right. To see the draft plan and find out how you can have your say, visit midcoast.nsw.gov.au/csp

HAVE YOUR SAY

See next page for Disability Inclusion Action Plan info

Action Plan: Disability Inclusion

While the Community Strategic Plan focuses on the big picture vision for our region, the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) provides strategies to improve accessibility and inclusiveness for everyone in our community.

The DIAP was adopted in 2017 and now we are checking in to better understand the experiences of people living with disabilities in our region.

We want to hear from people with disabilities, their carers and disability service providers about the main barriers they experience in the MidCoast area and how we can plan to minimise them.

**HAVE
YOUR
SAY**

We have an online survey until Wednesday 31 January on our website at midcoast.nsw.gov.au/DIAP or if you prefer call us on 6591 7222

The DIAP is a four year strategic plan setting out our commitment to:

- continually seek ways to improve accessibility and the inclusiveness of our community
- improving community awareness of the needs and rights of people with disability
- ongoing and genuine dialogue with people with disability



HOW CAN WE ASSIST?

Did you know that MidCoast Council has an experienced team that works across the local region to provide ageing and disability support services? Under its former name, Ageing and Disability Services, our team has been helping older people and those living with a disability in our local area for more than 20 years. Those services have been re-badged as MidCoast Assist.

Understanding that everyone is different, MidCoast Assist provides a diverse range of support services and programs that are tailored to meet clients' individual needs. All our programs, whether delivered in our centres, at home, or out in the community, are designed to help participants lead an active and independent lifestyle. We also offer support for carers, and our staff are qualified professionals who can help in navigating the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and My Aged Care.

We're local, our staff live locally, and we're here to assist every step of the way. MidCoast Assist... new name, same friendly faces and personalised services.

Contact us **1300 65 88 30** or visit midcoastassist.com.au

MidCoast Assist is an ageing and disability support service of MidCoast Council. Your registered NDIS provider.

Masters site purchase

There has been a lot of discussion about Council's purchase of the former Masters site in Taree, which was finalised on 4 December. In late December, Council resolved to progress the centralisation of the administration functions into one site, believing this to be feasible and achievable.

The project will be undertaken as a staged gateway process which means steps or milestones need to be met and presented to Council before progressing to the next stage. This process will also provide the necessary control to ensure this project can be governed through a series of decision points.

The next stage includes preparation of a program (including a detailed design for costing). This is expected to be presented to Council early in 2018. The business case will be available on the website in February 2018.

To get the facts and the latest information head to our website at midcoast.nsw.gov.au/masters