

## COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS

We'll be out and about talking to our community in November on the proposal to centralise our administration functions to the former Masters site on Biripi Way, Taree.

We purchased the site in December last year as an opportunity to gain efficiencies by centralising 350 staff currently located across three sites in Taree and Forster. Investigations have also looked at the option of refurbishing our existing buildings to establish a campus model, where staff would be moved to bring teams together.

While it's estimated the fit out costs of the Biripi Way site will be more than the campus model, our modelling has shown that in the long term we will deliver lower operating costs and greater efficiencies to our community as a result of a centralised office arrangement. Operating and maintaining three buildings costs



significantly more than operating and maintaining one building.

A financing strategy for the fit out of the centralised office space is due to be presented to Councillors in late October, outlining

potential funding arrangements for consideration. This will include the cost of the fit out as well as other financial considerations like the sale or lease of existing buildings, and establishing a customer service point in Forster.

It is anticipated the outcome will be shared during community discussions in November, when we will talk with you about the proposal and financing options canvassed in the strategy. Keep an eye on [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/relocation](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/relocation) or our Facebook for details of the Biripi Way community discussions to be held around the region.

## Marketing our region

### Tourism strategy

Following on from the completion of our destination management plan, our tourism team has been working to develop a destination brand strategy to market our region to visitors.

As part of the development of this strategy, the destination name Barrington Coast has been adopted and will be used in an ongoing marketing campaign to attract tourists to our region, supporting the visitor economy. The new tourism brand strategy will help us to promote the diverse range of outstanding experiences, places, characters and stories our region has to offer to our targeted markets.

Effective tourism branding will also support our local communities and businesses to reach new audiences and encourage more visitors to see our region, year-round.



Special offer

## Claim a subsidised compost bin

Our waste team has been busy focusing on ways we can help residents manage waste responsibly, and composting is a great start!

Composting is good for the environment, and great for your budget! Right now, you can learn how to turn your kitchen scraps into free, nutrient-rich fertiliser for your garden by taking a free online tutorial. And once you're done, you'll be eligible to collect a dome compost bin and aerator (valued at over \$60) for just \$20\* – imagine that! For details and to sign-up visit [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/compost](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/compost)

Organic waste ending up in our landfills produces a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate pollution. Our online composting offer is part of the Re-imagine Waste initiative, aimed at encouraging everyone to help us reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

For tips on recycling right, and to find out what's happening locally during next month's National Recycling Week visit [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/recycling](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/recycling)

\*Offer limited to one claim per household, available to MidCoast residents only.



## FOCUS ON THE ROADS THAT CONNECT US

At the time of our last newsletter we'd received confirmation of a \$50 million allocation from the NSW Government for our roads and bridges, which allows us to deliver a \$100 million roadcare program for our community.

With this in mind, and along with funding made possible through the SRV, our engineering team has been busy preparing a schedule of works that will roll out over the next four years.

The focus remains firmly on the roads that connect our community. Carrying high volumes of traffic, they're the roads we travel in our daily lives – for business, to the shops, to school or work, and to meet up with friends and family. Check below for the list of roads being targeted for reconstruction, keeping in mind:

- a condition assessment has been undertaken to determine which stretches of each road require reconstruction, meaning the full length of the road will not be targeted;
- through the program we will be bringing the roads up to today's standards which will improve safety, for example by widening them and providing safer road shoulders;
- while the program will make a significant difference to the safety and durability of our road network, our backlog will continue to be a challenge.

The \$100 million program complements our existing capital works and maintenance programs, which when combined with RMS roads funding and project-specific grants, sees an investment of around \$70 million in our transport network in the current year alone.

Some of the roads that connect us:

Avalon Road  
Old Bar Road  
The Lakes Way  
Wingham Road  
Stroud Hill Road  
Gloucester Road  
Thunderbolts Way  
The Bucketts Way



We remain committed to delivering a connected MidCoast community, and improving the condition, safety and durability of our transport network.

To find out more about our roadworks program, or to search roadworks near you, visit [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/roads](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/roads)

## Zoning in on our future

Like all NSW councils, when it comes to town planning and land-use in our region, we're required to work within a legislative and well-documented framework. But unlike most other councils, we're currently working from three different frameworks – one for each of the three former regions – and that's confusing for everyone!

Over the coming months, our strategic planners are zoning in on the zones used across the MidCoast to develop a clear, consistent planning framework that will guide the way we manage land use across the entire region.

The result will be a single, contemporary set of planning controls that caters for our community now and into the future while ensuring we maintain the unique character of our existing towns, villages and rural areas.

Find out more about the process, and register your interest to be involved by visiting [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/zoningin](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/zoningin)

## Volunteering: good for you, good for others

We're currently seeking active people who would like to take on a rewarding role as a MidCoast Assist volunteer. You'll help us provide a fun, friendly atmosphere across a varied range of social activities, and provide practical assistance for our older MidCoast residents.

We're also seeking drivers to help our clients to their appointments, assist with shopping, and help them attend social activities.

Call 1300 65 88 30, or for more information, visit [midcoastassist.com.au/volunteering](http://midcoastassist.com.au/volunteering)