

OFFICE CENTRALISATION

DRAFT FINANCING STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Your feedback is invited on a draft financing strategy for a centralised head office.

Feedback is currently being sought on a draft financing strategy to centralise our administrative functions in Taree and Forster in a new head office on Biripi Way, Taree. The strategy indicates the \$20 million project cost would be made up from \$7.2m from cash reserves (merger savings), \$4.8m from the sale of property assets, and \$8m in loans. Loans would be repaid by funds gained from leasing current administration buildings. The proposed strategy also clearly indicates that no special rate variation is required for the project and that there will be no impact on operational funds.

The decision to develop a draft financing strategy for a centralised model has been based on investigations that have found it to be significantly more cost-effective than continuing to operate across multiple sites in Taree and Forster. The head office model will deliver efficiencies such as sharing of resources, reduced overheads and streamlined processes for improved community outcomes.

An administrative head office won't impact our on-the-ground presence. Customer Service Centres will continue to operate in all existing locations. In Forster, we will relocate to the Civic Precinct in Lake Street once completed (remaining in Breese Parade until then), and in Taree our customer service team will move to the proposed Biripi Way head office. Visit www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/headoffice to find out more about the impacts and benefits of a centralised head office. Feedback closes Friday 14 December.



Find out more, read our Frequently Asked Questions, submit a question and take the survey at www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/headoffice

Careers at Council

We are seeking suitably qualified people to fill the roles of:

- Administrative Support Officer - part time
- Asset Management Systems (AMS) Officer - part time
- Asset Management Coordinator
- Data Administration Officer - Disability Services
- Engagement Officers
- Financial and Service Intermediary
- Team Leader Coastal, Flooding and Drainage
- Team Leader Development Engineering
- Traineeship - Environmental Health Officer

Visit our website for further information and to apply.

Stratford Coal Education Support Fund

Education and Training Grants 2019

Applications are invited from interested persons and businesses for financial assistance grants for 2019 in the following categories:

Tertiary Assistance Grants \$2,000 per grant. For intending or currently enrolled university applicants who have not previously received a grant.

TAFE Course Benefits \$1,000 per benefit.

Apprenticeships/Traineeships Subsidies Up to \$6,000 over three years to assist local businesses to employ an apprentice or trainee.

Criteria University and TAFE applicants need to have completed six years of their schooling at a Gloucester basin School (Booral to Barrington). For the business subsidies, applicants need to be locally owned or operated businesses.

Note All grants, benefits, scholarships and subsidies will be awarded on the basis of the quality of the written application.

Application forms available from Gloucester High School, Council's admin offices at Gloucester and Stroud from Thursday 22 November 2018.

For further information contact: John Walton on 6558 8272.

Applications close on Friday 25 January 2019.

Have your say



We are seeking community feedback on:

- Alcohol Free Zones
- Biripi Way Office Centralisation
- Draft Development Control Plan amendments for Manufactured Home Estates
- 2018-19 Fees and Charges amendment
- Integrated Development Proposal DA150/2019 - Demolition of Service Station - Boomerang Drive, Blueys Beach
- Zoning in our Future

Visit our website for further information.

Council meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of Council will be held at the Taree Administration Centre, Wednesday 28 November at 2pm.

As always, you may submit a request to address the meeting on any item listed on the agenda.

Prior to each Council meeting, a public forum will be held from 1.15pm - 1.45pm, where you can submit a request to speak on matters that are not contained on the council meeting agenda.

For more information and to submit a request to speak at either the Council meeting or the public forum, visit www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/councilmeetings.

We encourage members of the public to sit in on our meetings, as a way of finding out more about how council works and to stay updated on what is happening in the MidCoast Council area.

Celebrate with us at free events



We're celebrating the 2018 Waterways Report Card results, which indicate the continued good health of our Waterways!

To thank our partners and community who have helped us achieve these great results, we've been celebrating with free 'Explore with an Expert' events across the MidCoast.

To bring the celebrations to a conclusion, why not join us for:

- **The secret life of squirrel gliders** - Thursday 22 November, Council's Forster office, 6pm - talk and dinner. Ecologists will explain Forster's nocturnal life is stirring for an action-packed evening! Did you know the trees in Forster's urban area are home to a significant population of the threatened squirrel glider? Learn about the work that is being done to ensure these secretive Forster residents can thrive.
- **Beautifying Browns Creek** - Saturday 24 November, Taree at Browns Creek from 9.30am. Join environmental and catchment experts Erin Masters, Alisha Madsen and community group leader Bill Dennis (Friends of the Browns Creek) to help out. Afterwards, find out how the information we collect on the day will contribute to reducing litter locally and across Australia. Light refreshments will be served.

Visit www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/reportcard to find out more and to book these events.

Community events

Do you have an upcoming community event and would like more publicity?

Head over to the events section of our website and fill out the online form to have it included on our events calendar.

Heritage information session



Whether you're a history buff, an owner of a heritage property, or looking to learn more about Gloucester's colourful past, join us over morning tea for a heritage information session next Tuesday.

Information will be available about the Local Heritage Fund, an annual grants program that assists with rejuvenating heritage listed properties. Suggestions will be invited for additions to the heritage register, part of a Gloucester Heritage Review currently being undertaken. And you'll hear from the MidCoast Stories team, Janine and Penny, who are working with local communities to write and preserve historical stories from across our region.

When: 10am - 12pm, Tuesday 27 November

Where: Gloucester Council chambers

RSVPs are not required, and we'd love to see you there.

Australia Day awards



We're on the lookout for those very special people who make our community a better place to live and work. Do you know someone who deserves recognition for an outstanding achievement, or who makes a positive difference in our community? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

Nominations are open for the 2019 MidCoast Council Australia Day Awards.

Award categories in each of our three regions are:

- Citizen of the Year - for persons aged 25 year and over
- Young Citizen of the Year - for persons under 25 year of age
- Community Activity of the Year - open to all events & community projects during 2018
- Sportsman of the Year - open to all ages

Nomination forms and guidelines are available on our website at www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/australiaday.

On our roads and bridges

Keep an eye out for our maintenance and construction crews in these areas:

- **Thunderbolts Way, The Slips, Giro** - Reconstruction of 2.1km of road pavement has been completed with a preliminary bitumen seal. Final seal is programmed for this month.
- **Callaghans Creek Bridge** - Replacement of timber bridge. Dismantling of the bridge has been completed with access via a temporary side track. Tender documentation is being prepared for the construction of the bridge, which is programmed to commence early 2019.

With all roadworks please remember to travel safely. Observe roadworks signs and speed restrictions, note changed traffic conditions, and proceed with caution.

For full details and updates on maintenance and construction works on our roads and bridges, visit MyRoadInfo.com.au, or search works near you at www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/roads.