

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging and recognise their continued connection to these lands and waterways. We acknowledge our shared responsibility to care for and protect our place and people.



ADMINISTRATOR MESSAGE

Rik Hart

Focus on long-term financial stability

Central Coast Council is beginning this new financial year with long-term financial sustainability as a key focus area while we continue to work toward productivity and service improvements.

Back-to-back surpluses for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 financial years means Council remains on-track to pay down some of the emergency debt earlier than originally forecast and set aside surplus funds for future needs.

However, prudent financial management remains a priority in the face of other financial challenges, such as rising costs and a high inflation environment, to ensure we remain financially sustainable into the future.

Council closely reviewed its CAPEX delivery program and was realistic about what can be delivered in this year's Operational Plan, as staffing challenges and the ongoing issue of supply shortages of materials for infrastructure projects remains current. Our challenge here is to ensure we have enough staff, can access contractors and the supply of materials as needed for projects throughout the year.

An elected Council will return in just 14 months' time, in September 2024, so our aim is that these measures can ensure Council's financial position will remain strong, and the organisation will have the adequate resources to operate successfully upon the return of an elected body.

For more information, search '**finance monthly reports**', '**financial strategy**', '**delivery program**' and '**operational plan 2022-23**', or '**capital works program**' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Rik Hart
Administrator

Operational plan for 2023-24

Now that we have reached financial stability, our commitment to ratepayers and residents going forward is to maintain this whilst providing good service delivery in a cost-effective way.

This financial year's operational plan sets out a roadmap for Council's deliverables against its services and in line with what you told us what important as outlined as the five themes of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) - belonging, smart, green, responsible, and liveable.

The 2023-24 Operational Plan includes planned actions and capital works projects, some of which include:

- Road and drainage upgrades and renewals
- Water and sewer network improvements
- Leisure centre and sportsground upgrades
- Playground upgrades and renewals
- Coastal, natural bushland, reserve and asset protection renewals and upgrades
- Community and cultural facility building works and upgrades
- Town centre and tourism facility upgrades
- Waste and resource recovery upgrades and enhancements

Search '**capital works program**' or '**operational plan**' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Book a meeting with the Administrator

Community members are always welcome to contact my office and book an appointment to discuss issues that matter to them by writing to theadministrator@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

or PO Box 20, Wyong NSW 2259, or PO Box 21, Gosford NSW 2250.



Central Coast rates

Council rates for 2023-24 explained

We use your rates to provide and maintain essential services and facilities such as roads, footpaths, sport and recreation facilities, libraries, lifeguards, waste services, environmental protection and much more. This enables us to help ensure that the Central Coast is a great place to live, work and play.

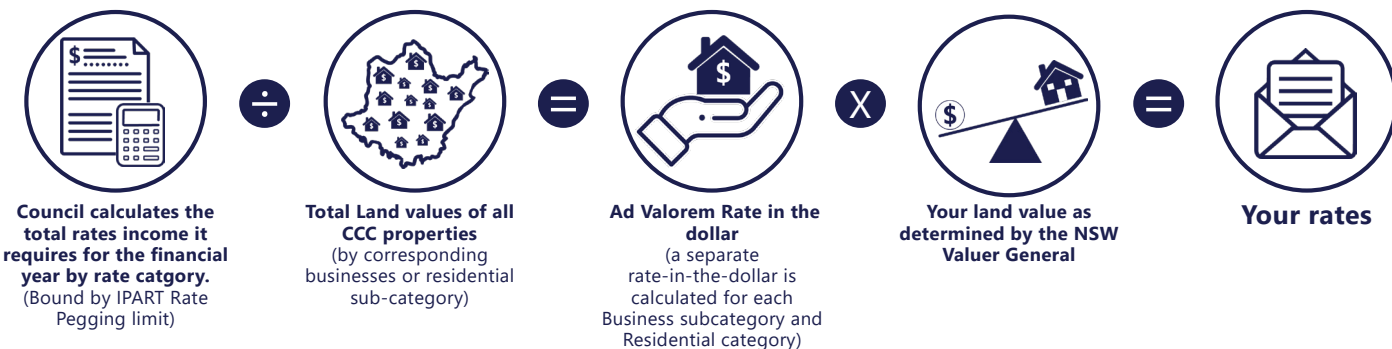
The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) determines how much councils can charge for rates, and the annual increase or 'rate peg' – which is 3.7% for 2023-24. There is also an additional 0.1% that is allowed for population growth, resulting in a total increase of 3.8%.

This increase is applied to Council's total rate income for the financial year.

Council calculates a rate charge by multiplying your property's unimproved land value by the *Ad Valorem* Rate in the dollar. A different rate in the dollar applies to each rating category (i.e. residential, business).

There is a set minimum rate of \$590.62 that applies for all rating categories for 2023-2024.

An online tool is available on Council's website which calculates the estimated difference between your rates payable in 2022-23 versus 2023-24, based on current and previous land values. Search '**rates calculator**' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au



2022 land revaluation and the impact on rates

The NSW Valuer General provides independent land valuations every three years. The most recent revaluation occurred in 2022 and will be applicable for the 2023-24 financial year. The NSW Valuer General Property advises that sales primarily influence land values.

The value of a parcel of land does not include the value of any buildings or structures on it.

Across the Central Coast, residential properties have seen on average a 74 percent increase in their land valuations. However, it's important to note this does not directly correlate to an equivalent increase in your Council rates and we don't receive more money if land values increase.

We will only collect additional rates from the 2022 land revaluation at the approved 3.8% rate peg increase.

For more information on rates and to read FAQs, search '**rates**' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au, or go to the Office of Local Government's web page, olg.nsw.gov.au

Water & Sewer rates from 1 July 2023

From 1 July 2023, the combined yearly bill for a typical household will increase by approximately \$169, or \$3.25 per week, for water, sewerage, and stormwater rates, keeping in line with IPART's staggered rate increase over the four-year Determination.

For more information visit the IPART website, ipart.nsw.gov.au

Water & Sewer operational plan highlights

Council received \$42.5 million in funding through the Housing Acceleration Fund (HAF) and a further \$4.6 million through the Accelerated Infrastructure Fund (AIF) to deliver water and sewer infrastructure upgrades in both Gosford and Warnervale Town Centre.

Sewer infrastructure works around Warnervale Town Centre have commenced. While works in Gosford are on track for a 2024 completion, with 56 of the 66 water and sewer projects either completed or underway.

For a full list of planned capital projects in your area search '**capital works program**' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Driving investment in our road infrastructure

A large percentage of Council's operating budget is invested in roads, drainage, pathways and related infrastructure each year, but with extensive networks to manage and maintain, we can't fund it alone.

Council continues to advocate and secure grant funding from the Australian (Federal) and New South Wales (State) Governments to assist in the management and improvements of our vast networks. Council has been successful in securing grant funding under several Australian and New South Wales grant funding programs which is seeing extensive road repair and renewal works undertaken along with road and drainage upgrades, pathway projects, natural disaster remediation, public transport facilities, and safety improvements over the coming years.

Additionally, Council utilises developer contribution funding to help fund road and drainage works. Developer contributions are payments made to Council by developers when new development occurs, to assist in the costs of providing new or improved infrastructure to cater for an increased population and growth of an area.

Council is committed to working with all stakeholders, including the Australian and New South Wales Governments, to pursue grant funding opportunities that assist Council in the management and efficient delivery of infrastructure. These funding opportunities allow Council to deliver renewal and remediation works along with new infrastructure that supports the Central Coast community and we thank the Australian and New South Wales Governments for their investment in our region.



Reporting of road issues

Please report specific maintenance or safety concerns to Council, through our online Customer Service Centre or by calling 4306 7900 during business hours. We'll then investigate and respond.

Road delivery plan for 2023-24

Maintaining a road network of over 2,000km is a big job and important to our community – which is why Council invests a high percentage of Council's operational and capital works budget to maintaining and managing the life cycle of roads across the region.

We have another significant year ahead for roads and drainage projects with projects spanning across the Central Coast. These projects cover full road upgrades including kerb and guttering, road renewals, footpaths and shared pathways, bus stops, bridge works, wharves, drainage installations, and unsealed road improvements.

- Avoca Beach, Avoca Drive - Drainage Upgrade
- Berkeley Vale, Lakedge Ave - Drainage Upgrade
- Gosford, Mann Street and Vaughan Avenue - Drainage Upgrade
- Hamlyn Terrace, Warnervale Rd - Drainage Upgrade
- Long Jetty, Toowoan Bay Road and Tuggerah Parade - Intersection Upgrade
- East Gosford, Lushington St - Road upgrade
- Hamlyn Terrace, Virginia Road - Road Upgrade
- Region wide - Unsealed Road Program
- Region wide - Bus Stop Improvement Program
- Davistown, Malinya Road - Shared Path Construction

For more information, view our interactive capital works map or refer to Council's annual operational plan. Search 'capital works program' or 'operational plan' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au



Where can I see details of road works that are planned or underway?

We regularly post details on our Facebook page about works being undertaken to repair and rehabilitate roads across the region. These types of works ensure the road network is safe for our community.

To see what road projects are planned for this financial year, view our interactive capital works map or refer to Council's annual operational plan. Search 'capital works map' or 'operational plan' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

How are road repair works prioritised?

Road repairs are prioritised by level of risk and traffic volumes, with higher traffic roads generally requiring attention first.

For workflow and cost efficiencies, repair work may be undertaken on several roads in the same suburb around a priority site.

Scheduling of road repairs requires a flexible approach as new issues can be identified or reported at any time, and weather can impact which works are able to be carried out – which is why plans are adjusted each week.



Why does Council keep filling potholes on the same road instead of doing longer term repairs?

In short, we do both over the life cycle of a road and to manage the network in an economic and sustainable way.

Basic pothole filing is the first level of maintenance to keep the road safe for the public. Where potholes consistently reoccur or the road deteriorates further, a more substantial and longer lasting heavy patch repair is considered - based on what has been done to date, the risk profile and what renewal work is planned for that section of the road.

Our annual road renewal program consists of various treatments that complete the cycle - from lower cost resurfacing to higher cost road rehabilitation and reconstruction.



What's the difference between road upgrades versus road renewals?

Upgrades improve an existing asset by adding new infrastructure such as construction of street drainage, kerb and gutter, and pathways where they previously did not exist.

Renewal works are activities undertaken to bring an asset in poor condition back to its original condition or prolong the asset's life. Treatments are triggered at different stages of the road's lifecycle to ensure the cost effectiveness of the treatment and to minimise ongoing maintenance expenditure. Treatments can include rehabilitation and pavement resurfacing, however, do not provide infrastructure such as kerb and gutter where it did not exist.

With limited funding, Council is focussed on renewing our existing road assets before considering the construction of new assets which require substantial funding.

Did you know?



Playtime upgrades just around the corner

This year we are renewing 14 playspaces across the region to deliver \$1.68million of upgrades to recreational facilities for our community. These renewals include one district, and thirteen local level playspaces at Budgewoi, Berkeley Vale, Blue Haven, Hamlyn Terrace, Killarney Vale, Koolewong, Toukley, Tuggerah, Terrigal, Woongarah, Woy Woy and Wyongah.

Keep up to date with the progress on our playspaces map, search 'playspaces' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au



Central Coast libraries celebrate 75 years

Our libraries welcome over 567,000 visitors a year, who loan 1.2million items from 10 branches, mobile libraries and from home delivery services. Today there is a lot on offer - a new after-hours service, the evolution of community centre facilities and a range of programs and events for all ages. Free eLibrary platforms are also available (eBooks, eAudiobooks, a digital news stand with monthly eMagazines and daily eNewspapers in multiple languages).

Go to libraries.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au



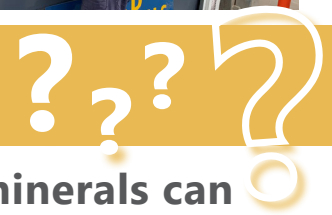
Free recycling and waste services

Take up to 20L of old engine oil to Buttenderry and Woy Woy recycling stations free of charge! Our specialist contractor recycles and reprocesses the used oil into new lubricants. You can also take household quantities of e-waste to our waste facilities free of charge! E-waste is any electrical item with a battery, power cord or both including computers, phones and household appliances. Watch out for news on our Chemical Cleanout Days coming soon.

For more information, search 'waste' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au



You asked we answered



Access and Inclusion Reference Group

Meet the 12 new members of the Access and Inclusion Reference Group (AIRG). They provide guidance on the implementation of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021-2025 to improve accessibility and inclusion on the Coast. Members have been selected for their expertise in accessibility, communication and marketing, legislation, advocacy, and planning.

For more information, search 'accessibility and inclusion' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au



Keep your pooch active, responsibly

When exercising your dog in an off-leash area, it is important that your dog is still under your control and comes back to you when called. This includes in designated off-leash beaches, parks and reserve. Remember, your pet is your responsibility, and you can be fined in an off-leash dog exercise area if your dog is disturbing or threatening other people or animals.

For more, search 'responsible pet ownership' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au



How minerals can change your water

As with all water supplies, our drinking water contains small amounts of naturally occurring minerals. When a change in demand or flow direction occurs, some of these minerals can accumulate in pipes and affect water quality. Whilst safe to drink, you may notice a change in the colour of your water. Water quality issues can be reported to Council 24/7.

For guidance on how to clear discoloured water, go to centralcoast.nsw.gov.au



Winter on the Coast

Don't go cold on fitness

The mercury might have plunged a couple of degrees but there's no reason to let that derail your health and fitness goals over the winter months.

If you're looking for a fun recreational activity for you and your family, visit Sport Hub online. This interactive website features more than 130 local providers and allows you to quickly search for activities by location, interests, age group, accessibility, and suitability.

Find your sport online at sportcentralcoast.org.au/sportshub

Alternatively, Council's pools and leisure centres are heated and available for your training needs. Take a dip in our heated pools or work up a sweat indoors at the gym.

To find out more, search 'leisure centres' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au



FIFA Women's World Cup™ Fever hits Central Coast

This month, we welcome the women's football teams from Germany and England as preparations for FIFA Women's World Cup Australia & New Zealand 2023™ ramp up, ahead of what promises to be an outstanding month of competition.

In what is a huge vote of confidence in our region and its facilities, Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex at Tuggerah and Gosford's Central Coast Stadium are team base camps for these two outstanding nations for the duration of the world's biggest female football tournament.



Get out and about on the Coast

We continue to host a number of events across the Coast to keep you, your family and friends entertained.

Our libraries, galleries and theatres have numerous ongoing events running every week, in addition to key community events held throughout the year. Some upcoming events include:

- **Gosford Art Prize exhibition;** Gosford Regional Gallery – 9 Sep to 5 Nov
- **Grandma Moses Art Competition and Exhibition (entries open in August),** Gosford 50+ Leisure and Learning Centre, 12 to 14 Sept
- **Koori Knockout.** Central Coast Regional Sport and Recreation Complex, Tuggerah - 29 Sept to 2 Oct
- **ChromeFest,** The Entrance - 27-29 Oct

Check out all these events and more online at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/whats-on.



Be the first to know!

Sign up today at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/enews

Are you prepared for storms, floods or bush fires?

Five steps to help prepare for emergency events and severe weather:

1. **Know your risk** – It's important to think about the area you live in, your circumstances and the types of disasters that could affect you.
2. **Plan now for what you will do.** Ensure you have a current emergency plan in place which considers your risks, abilities and resources, plus an emergency evacuation kit ready to go.
3. **Get your home or business premises ready.** Prepare your property to best withstand emergency events and ensure you are adequately insured.
4. **Be aware and keep informed.** Find out in advance where to find critical information in the lead up to, or during, an emergency event.
5. **Look out for each other.** Don't wait for an emergency to build community networks with neighbours. Get to know each other now and share your emergency plans.

For helpful resources, search 'emergencies' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au