

Your Port

Winter 2026

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Mayor's Message: Leah Anderson



A warm welcome to our winter edition! It's been wonderful to see so many of you sharing your thoughts to help shape our local projects such as the Raymond Terrace Place Plan, Dogs in Public Spaces and the Aquatics Centre Infrastructure Plan. Together, we are creating spaces that reflect the needs of the community.

This community involvement is translating into positive actions. We recently endorsed both the revised Tomaree Sports Complex Masterplan, and the Medowie Town Centre Masterplan, where your feedback has helped shape the future of our towns and recreational spaces. Our young people are also driving change, co-designing the vibrant new Community Corner in Raymond Terrace, which officially opened this June.

We're continuing our focus on our Council priorities. We're working hard on our roads, paths and drains, and you've

likely seen our crews out upgrading streets, improving footpaths and fixing drains across our neighbourhoods.

Alongside these works, we're continuing to unlock more housing by approving 225 new residential lots at The Monarch's Rise Estate, Raymond Terrace and working to bring more townhouses and apartments to our town centres.

Our commitment to the environment and sustainability remains equally strong. We know how much our beautiful coastline means to everyone, and we're working hard to replenish sand, place sandbags and plant on our dunes to prevent erosion during storms. We're also planning ahead for the introduction of FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) a year from now. To prepare for this, we want your feedback now on the frequency of bin collections via a short survey.

Stay connected via our Have Your Say website, explore our Winter Library Program, and mark your calendars for the return of Illuminate and the Koori Knockout in Raymond Terrace. Let's keep working together to make Port Stephens such a wonderful place to live.



Leah Anderson, Mayor of Port Stephens

Roads Acceleration Program (RAP) updates



Pothole trial update

We've been testing four different patching products in Medowie and Salt Ash to see which ones are the best value considering cost, installation methods and performance over time. The recent shift from a long dry spell to heavy winter rain has given us the perfect opportunity to assess how these repairs are performing under challenging conditions.

Our teams have been measuring performance by looking at whether the patching products have prevented the growth of the original pothole and if the products have kept their shape over time. So far, all of the trial products are performing as required with no growth of potholes recorded and only minor sinking from some of the trial products observed.

The results from this trial will help us invest in more durable, cost-effective pothole repairs product and improve how we maintain our local roads into the future.

Major road projects – pscouncil.info/projects-and-works



✓ COMPLETE

Wighton Street, Seaham
(West Ward)



⊖ IN PROGRESS

Short Street, Fingal Bay
(East Ward)



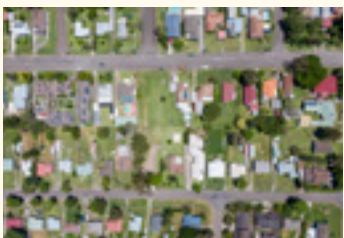
⌚ SCHEDULED

Mustons Road, Karuah
(Central Ward)



Keep an eye out for our upcoming Roads Futures Strategy. This will guide how we improve the condition, reliability and resilience of our road network now and into the future.

Housing in Port Stephens



Development Control Plan is officially digital

If you've been putting off planning a renovation or building project because the rules seem too confusing, we've just made them easier to access. Our Development Control Plan (DCP) has gone digital! Following last year's major update, this new online tool helps you navigate the guidelines more easily. Whether you're building a deck or a secondary dwelling, you can see the requirements before you even start. It's all about helping you prepare your application so you can finally get your plans off the ground.



Housing unlocked

Housing supply and affordability is a challenge for our community. Partnering with Commercial Collective we hosted an online investor forum, bringing over 100 housing providers and developers to look at building townhouses and apartments in Raymond Terrace. We're still among the fastest in the Hunter for processing times, averaging 49 days to assess single-dwelling applications. We've recently approved a development application for 225 new residential lots at The Monarch's Rise Estate, Kings Hill West and are revising the development proposal footprint for Salamander Bay Town Centre development opportunities.

Delivering for our community



Young people shaping their community

Over the past year, local young people have been involved in The Place Is Yours, a youth-led initiative funded by the NSW Office for Youth. The participants built skills and community connections while shaping creative activities and projects. Their efforts recently led to the opening of Community Corner in Raymond Terrace, a vibrant new space they co-designed with Council and local organisations. Opened on Thursday 18 June, the corner features seating, landscaping, artwork and a table tennis table.



Vision for Medowie Town Centre endorsed by Council

The Medowie Town Centre Masterplan has been unanimously endorsed by Council. Over the next 20 years, this plan will help transform Medowie into a vibrant, green and connected community for all of us. The final masterplan was shaped by public feedback and delivers five distinct hubs, combining a renewed community zone, mixed-use shopping precinct, village green and dedicated residential and parkland zones.



Premier sports destination planned for Port Stephens

The revised Tomaree Sports Complex Masterplan was endorsed by Council, outlining the community's vision for how the Complex could transform into a premiere sporting hub for Port Stephens. The upgrade could see a new indoor facility and modern, safe and accessible amenities for people of all ages, genders and abilities once funding is secured. It will could host major multi-day events and meet growing demand for indoor sports and thriving female sports. The plan responds directly to community feedback and was made possible through a joint funding arrangement between Council and the Tomaree Sports Council.

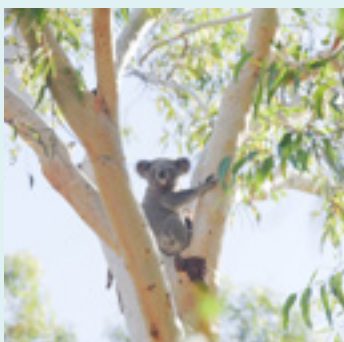


Works begin on Don Waring Oval

Work has started on the expansion of Don Waring Oval marking an exciting milestone in the \$7.8 million transformation of the Tomaree Sports Complex. The upgrade will provide much-needed additional sporting capacity with additional and larger sporting fields along with improved pedestrian access, two new car parks, improved road access and better stormwater management. We're aiming for completion of the upgrade by mid-2027 and will provide regular updates to the sporting community and residents as it progresses. For more details, visit: pscouncil.info/tomaree-sports-complex-upgrade

P Park Free Permits have been extended! Learn more at pscouncil.info/parking-permit-portal

Celebrating excellence



2026 NSW Local Government Excellence Award

Our collaborative project 'Caring for Country with culturally informed cool burning' recently won the First Nations Partnership category at the 2026 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards.

Over the last three years, our environmental team worked with the Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council, Bindelong Aboriginal Corporation, and Hunter Local Land Services to deliver culturally informed cool burns at Salamander Bay and Mallabula. The project enhanced koala habitat, reduced bushfire fuel loads, and strengthened collaborative relationships. Watch our video at pscouncil.info/cool-burn-video
This project was supported by the NSW Government's Environmental Trust 'Caring for Country' grant.



Shoal Bay wins NRMA's People Choice Award

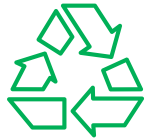
Shoal Bay has officially been named the People's Choice Winner for 'Small Tourism Town' in the 2026 NSW Top Tourism Town Awards! Honestly, we can see why. From breathtaking beaches and coastal walks to relaxed cafes and dining, Shoal Bay is a destination people return to time and time again.

Enriching our environment



Caring for our coast

Our teams are working to repair and protect our local coastline. While moving sand onto beaches replaces what erosion removes, we've been planting native dune vegetation across our shoreline at Shoal Bay to keep the sand in place. These plants' roots anchor the sand and prevent dunes from washing away in storms. It's all part of our Coastal Management Program (CMP).



Return and Earn Basket Pilot Program

We've installed 50 'Return and Earn' baskets on public bins across our parks, beaches, and town centres to keep recyclables out of landfill and reduce litter. Instead of tossing your 10-cent containers in the waste, simply place them in a basket so community members and local groups can easily collect them for a refund. This pilot program, funded by Exchange for Change, helps protect our environment and prevents damage to public bins at no cost to ratepayers.



Have your say on your waste services

Council is introducing a weekly FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) service in Port Stephens from mid-2027. Food scraps will go into your green bin, which will be collected weekly. The red bin collection schedule is still undecided. Share your preference for weekly or fortnightly red bin collection by Tuesday 4 August to help guide our Councillors as they make a final decision at the September Council Meeting. Scan the QR code or visit pscouncil.info/fogo-survey to complete our quick survey.



Events in our community



Kicking off Koori Knockout

Koori Knockout officially kicks off in King Park Sports Complex at Raymond Terrace over the October long weekend from Friday 2 October to Monday 5 October 2026. We're excited to be hosting Australia's largest Aboriginal cultural and sports gathering, which will see men's, women's and junior girls' and boys' teams play in front of around 10,000 spectators each day. And it's much more than Rugby League; the event also features a large-scale cultural and wellbeing hub. Tickets are available on the day at the gates. Learn more at pscouncil.info/koori-knockout



Key dates for your diary

Find out what's on near you at pscouncil.info/events

JULY

Pom Pom Creatures

13 and 28 July at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree Libraries

Vesta Disco

15 July at Raymond Terrace Library

Koala Collage with Liz Anelli

16 July at Tomaree Library

Silent disco – library after dark

16 July at Raymond Terrace Library

17 July at Tomaree Library

CD Animals Craft

23 July at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree Libraries

Chemical Cleanout drop off day

25 July at Salamander Bay Waste Transfer Station

Trivia and Brain Games

30 July at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree Libraries

Winter Court: A Fantasy Evening

31 July at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree Libraries

August

Mattress and tyre drop off day

8 August at Salamander Bay Waste Transfer Station

Textile problem waste drop off

16 August at Salamander Bay Waste Transfer Station

Lego Spike: Science Week edition

20 August at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree Libraries

September

Mattress and tyre drop off day

12 September at Raymond Terrace

