

Your Port

Spring 2026

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Mayor's Message: Leah Anderson



With spring in full swing and the tourist season fast approaching, there's a real sense of energy across Port Stephens, especially after hosting two major events right here in Raymond Terrace.

Last month, Boomerang Park was transformed for Illuminate Raymond Terrace, a much-loved event that brings the community and families together. Meanwhile, the Koori Knockout put us on

the national stage, attracting tens of thousands of visitors and showcasing a four-day sport and cultural celebration in our backyard. Thank you to the organisers, volunteers, community and local businesses whose dedication made these events a success.

At the same time, we've continued to deliver on our priorities across roads, paths and drains, housing and the environment.

Our \$29 million Roads Acceleration Program (RAP) has progressed with many upgrades completed including Sandy Point Road, Corlette, Lewis Drive, Medowie and Irrawang Street, Raymond Terrace.

We also released our draft Road Futures Strategy and draft Pathways Plan for community feedback. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts. Your input is vital, as every time we step out our front door, we use

our local roads and footpaths whether it's to get our kids to school, commute to work, drop in on friends or explore our local area.

We've continued to unlock more housing options. Our newest planning proposal for Medowie creates opportunities for almost 200 new homes, along with convenient local shops and services. The project permanently protects high-value land, native plants, and wildlife travel routes by rezoning the local waterway area for environmental conservation. It's a great place to call home, so it's no surprise it's our fastest growing suburb.

In recent months, more than 3,880 people shared their views on two important topics – how dogs use our public spaces and the future of our waste collection services. While our furry friends sparked plenty of discussion, we're reviewing all the feedback to inform the draft Dogs In Public Spaces Strategy. Our community was also clear about the importance of weekly waste collection for our local families. I'm proud to confirm Port Stephens will continue this service weekly.

Our annual Community Satisfaction Survey is now also open. I encourage you to take a few minutes to share your thoughts on what's working well and where we can improve. Your feedback will help us deliver our services into the future and helps us to continue to improve for our community.

As the weather warms, I hope you get out to enjoy what our beautiful place has to offer. If you're stuck for something to do, visit our Visitor Information Centre in Nelson Bay and be a tourist in your own backyard. You can also check out our website for information on how to navigate Port Stephens as the tourist season approaches.



Leah Anderson, Mayor of Port Stephens

Delivering on our priorities

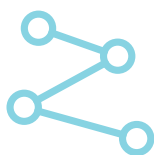


New funding for our roads

Through our work on the Road Futures Strategy, we've been shifting our focus from short term patches to long-lasting, quality infrastructure. We know our resources alone can't match the scale of repairs needed across our road network, which is why we've been working to secure much-needed funding from the State and Australian Government.

We've received a \$2.4 million investment from the Australian Government's 2026–27 Black Spot Program, to deliver important safety upgrades at Frost Road, Newline Road and Lemon Tree Passage Road. This funding will make these routes safer for local motorists now and into the future, and address areas that have long concerned our community. We've secured \$1.59 million to upgrade the Ferodale Road and Peppertree Road intersection, improving traffic flow and creating a safer, more connected town centre for pedestrians, cyclists and the growing Medowie community.

A significant investment has also been announced for the state-owned Nelson Bay Road, with the NSW and Australian Governments committing \$275 million to priority upgrades. The NSW Government will undertake a staged program including a new four lane road between Salt Ash and Bobs Farm, the planning and staged delivery of lane duplication between Fern Bay and Williamtown, and safety upgrades.



New pathway link along Raymond Terrace waterfront

We've received funding from Get NSW Active for a \$360,000 Raymond Terrace Levee Bank Shared Path. The project will construct a 120 metre missing link on the Raymond Terrace levee and add a new 50 metre connection to King Street, completing a 1.4 kilometre continuous waterfront shared path.

This funding will help us deliver a highly requested missing section of the shared path that supports the health and wellbeing of our community.



Everyone deserves a place to call home

With local housing prices and rents doubling over the last five years, we've released a draft Affordable Housing Action Plan to unlock more affordable options for families, people looking to downsize, and key workers. This plan focuses on changing planning rules and partnering with housing providers to construct more diverse, long-term rentals and smaller homes across Port Stephens.

Read the plan and share your thoughts at pscouncil.info/current-public-exhibitions.



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



✓ COMPLETE

Road rehabilitation for part of Tarean Road, Karuah (Central Ward)



⊖ IN PROGRESS

Road reconstruction at Irrawang Street & Mount Hall Road (West Ward)



⌚ SCHEDULED

Road rehabilitation at Tuna Crecent and Market Street, Fingal Bay (East Ward)



See progress on our Roads Acceleration Program (RAP) – our three year record \$29 million investment into road upgrades pscouncil.info/roads-acceleration-program

Enriching our environment

Weekly waste collection won't be scrapped for FOGO!

The State Government requires all Councils to introduce a Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) service by 2030 and our service will commence in July 2027.

In our recent Waste Services Survey you told us you're passionate about keeping a weekly general waste collection, emphasising that a weekly service is essential for daily family life. Last month Council confirmed Port Stephens residents will continue to have a weekly general waste collection service.

FOGO will make reducing food waste easy and protect our environment by diverting food scraps from from landfill, creating quality compost and soils.

There will be more information about this new service coming soon. For more details, visit pscouncil.info/fogo



Weekly
FOGO
Bin

Weekly
General
Waste Bin

Fortnightly
Recycling
Bin

Your new bin schedule from July 2027



Caring for our coast

We've secured \$243,000 to fund a coastal erosion investigation and hazard monitoring strategy, as part of our 10-year Coastal Management Program.

The studies will span the open coastline from Fingal Bay to Stockton Beach, as well as the outer port east of Soldiers Point and the inner port west of Soldiers Point. The data we gather will show formal coastal erosion hazard lines, allowing us to identify trends and track changes in the coastline, and support longer-term protection for our coast, public places and homes. This information will help with future updates to the Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan, ensuring land-use policies are aligned with the level of coastal risk. It will also help our future planning and works at vulnerable sites such as Shoal Bay and Corlette Beach to improve resilience to climate change impacts.



Spot and protect local koalas with our new Koala Tree Guide

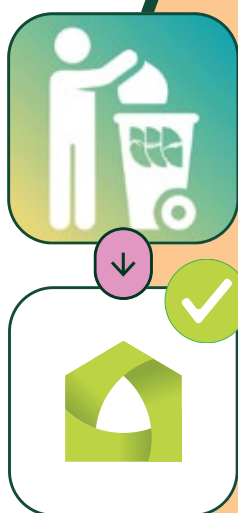
We've partnered with the NSW Government, to create a free Koala Tree Guide. It uses simple photos and diagrams to help you easily identify the eucalyptus trees koalas use for food and shelter. Scan the QR code to download your digital copy or pick up a free printed edition from the Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary or Council Administration Building in Raymond Terrace.



Your Waste App Has A New Look!

Here's how to stay up to date:

- 1 Delete the old App
- 2 Download "LoopedIn Councils"
- 3 Choose **Port Stephens Council** when setting the app up



DOWNLOAD THE NEW APP



GET IT ON
Google Play



Download on the
App Store

Celebrating and supporting our locals



Awards and scholarships

Applications are now open for the Port Stephens Annual Awards and Mayoral Academic Scholarships — two opportunities to celebrate and support the people who help make our community stronger.

The Annual Awards recognise the outstanding contributions of individuals, groups and organisations across Port Stephens. Presented on Australia Day, the awards celebrate those who go the extra mile, inspire others and make a difference every day. Make a nomination today at pscouncil.info/annual-awards.

The Mayoral Academic Scholarship Program supports local students commencing their first year of tertiary study. Delivered in partnership with generous local businesses, scholarships of up to \$2,000 help students pursue their academic goals while building valuable connections with industry leaders. Apply now at pscouncil.info/MAS-26.

Nominate a deserving local or apply for a scholarship and help us celebrate and support our community.



Community Satisfaction Survey is open!

How are we performing? Our annual Community Satisfaction Survey is now open and we want to hear how satisfied you are with our facilities and services. Your feedback will help us improve the services we provide to the community. Don't miss this opportunity to have your say! The survey is open until 11 November 2026 at pscouncil.info/CommunitySatisfactionSurvey.



Twilight Markets coming to Fingal

We're working with the Fingal Bay Community Association and Homegrown Markets to trial a monthly market in the Fingal Bay Reserve using revenue generated through Fingal Bay Smart Parking.

The sunset market will run on:

- Friday 9 October
- Friday 20 November
- Friday 18 December



Key dates for your calendar

Learn more at pscouncil.info/events

October

Introduction to AI

19 October at Tomaree Library and Community Centre

23 October at Raymond Terrace Library

Moonhack

22 October at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree Libraries

Grandparents Storytime and Craft

24 October at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree Libraries

Sunday Sounds

25 October at Anna Bay

Halloween Movie and Trick or Treat Hunt

30 October at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree Libraries

November

Mario Kart and milkshakes

5 November at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree Libraries

Author Talk: Chris Hammer

7 November at Tomaree Library and Community Centre

Garage Sale Trail

7 to 8 and 14 to 15 November

The Hunger Games movie night

13 November at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree Libraries

Twilight Markets

20 November at Fingal Bay

Adult craft: book Christmas Tree

23 November at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree Libraries

Christmas biscuit decorating

26 November at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree Libraries

Sunday Sounds

29 November at Anna Bay and Fingal Bay

Be bushfire ready

Bushfires are a part of life in NSW, so you need to live bushfire ready. That means knowing your risk and having a plan for what to do during a fire. Make your plan online in as little as five minutes at myfireplan.com.au

