

ATTACHMENTS UNDER SEPARATE
COVER

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
23 AUGUST 2022



PORT STEPHENS
C O U N C I L

INDEX

Item No	Attach. No	Attachment Title	Page No
		COUNCIL REPORTS	
1	2	PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.	4
4	1	OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.	39
7	1	SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.	103



PORT STEPHENS
COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT

APPLICATION REFERENCES

Application Number	16-2022-172-1
Development Description	Three storey dwelling, swimming pool and demolish existing dwelling
Applicant	GREENBUILD CONSTRUCTIONS PTY LIMITED
Land owner	Mr. M. Bliss and Mrs. C. Bliss
Date of Lodgement	14/03/2022
Value of Works	\$1,350,000.00
Submissions	31 submissions from 19 property addresses

PROPERTY DETAILS

Property Address	58 Sandy Point Road CORLETTE
Lot and DP	LOT: 283 DP: 27048
88B Restrictions on Title	NA
Current Use	Residential Accommodation (Dwelling House)
Zoning	R2 LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
Site Constraints	Flood Planning Area Acid Sulfate Soils (Class 2) Koala Habitat
State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPP)	SEPP (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 SEPP (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004 SEPP (Resilience and Hazards) 2021

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

PLANNERS PRE-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST	
OWNERS CONSENT	YES / N/A
Land owners consent	Yes
If the land owned by a corporation/company, relevant signatures have been provided (sole director, or director/director / director/company secretary).	N/A
For works occurring outside property, neighbouring consent provided.	N/A
For works occurring on common property within Strata, owner's consent from Strata body provided (common seal).	N/A
DA FORM AND AUTHORITY	
Applicant's description of proposal consistent with DA plans.	Yes
DA description correct in Authority (i.e. LEP definition).	Yes
DA lodged over all affected properties and Authority correct.	N/A
Satisfactory cost of works.	Yes
NOTIFICATION	
Application notified correctly (i.e. check properties notified).	Yes
REFERRALS	
Check referrals are correct and identify if additional required: i.e. Integrated Development (send within 14 days section 42(2) EPA Regs 2021	Yes
Call applicant and send email acknowledgement.	Yes

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

PROPOSAL

The development application seeks consent for the following works:

- Demolition of existing structures on the site
- Construction of a three storey dwelling house
- Swimming pool and associated safety barriers
- Landscaping.

In accordance with the Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan 2013 (PSLEP 2013), the maximum height of buildings for the site is 9m. The maximum height of the dwelling is 10.16m and therefore a 12.88% variation is proposed.

Given the application proposes a height variation over 10%, the proposal is required to be reported to Council for determination in accordance with the 'Planning Matters reported to Council' policy.

In addition to the above, the application received a 'Call to Council Request' which was supported by three Councillors (L. Anderson, G. Arnott and J. Wells).

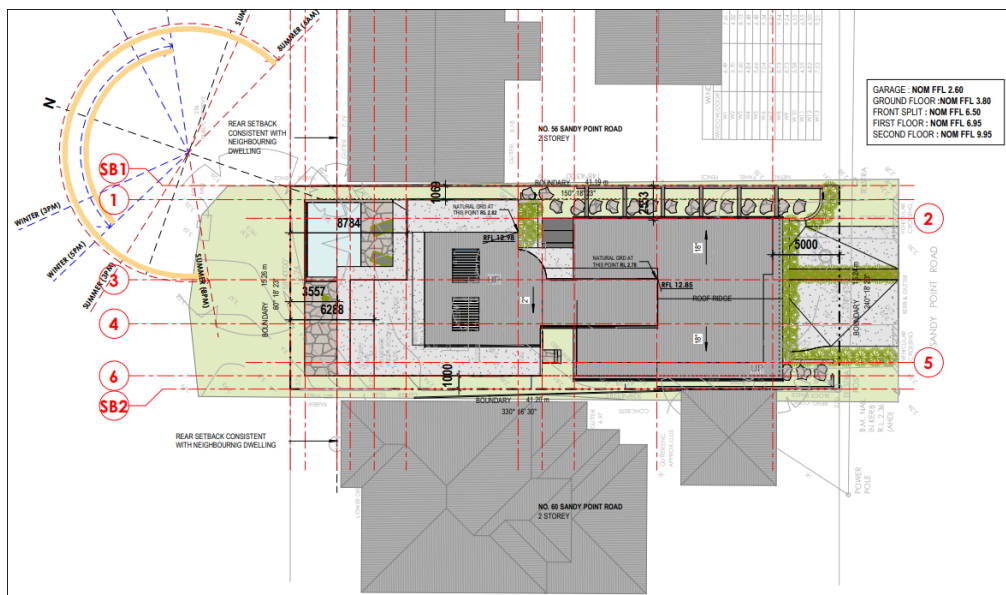


Figure 1 – Site Plan

SITE DESCRIPTION

The subject site is legally identified as Lot: 283, Deposited Plan: 27048 (283/-/DP27048), and generally known as 58 Sandy Point Road, Corlette NSW 2315. The site is of regular rectangular shape, and the topography is mostly level with only minor undulation observed. The site is clear of any significant vegetation, and the rear of the site adjoins waterfront reserve. The site is located within an R2 Low Density Residential Zone, and is surrounded by other a residential development, predominately being two-storey dwelling houses. A number of the older dwellings are being upgraded to a more modern/contemporary designed as is proposed within this application.



Figure 2 – Site Aerial

SITE HISTORY

The site is currently being used for residential accommodation, by way of a two-storey dwelling house. No further application information was available at the time this assessment was carried out.

SITE INSPECTION

A site inspection was carried out on 22/06/2022 and 29/06/2022.

The subject site/locality can be seen in figures 3 - 6 below:



Figure 3 – Locality photograph facing east



Figure 4 – Locality photograph facing east.



Figure 5 – Locality photograph facing west



Figure 6 – Locality photograph front of site

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.**PLANNING ASSESSMENT**

The application was assessed and comments were provided by the following internal specialist staff:

Internal

Development Engineer – The application was referred to Council's Development Engineering team to review the proposed stormwater management and flooding constraints of the site. Overall, the application was supported subject to conditions, which have been included within the recommended conditions attached to this report. Stormwater and flooding constraints, have been further addressed throughout this assessment report – below.

Natural Resources –

The application was referred to Council's Natural Systems team to review and provide comment on the potential impacts on an existing preferred koala feed tree, adjacent to the subject site (on Council reserve). Council's Senior Environmental Planner requested for the applicant to provide an Arborist Report - to identify any impacts the proposed development may have on the koala feed tree. The applicant provided the requested Arborist Report, which was subsequently referred back to Council's Senior Environmental Planner and Council's Vegetation Management Officer - who were both supportive of the report and its recommendations. Conditions recommended by Council's Natural Systems team have been included in this report.

Ecological impacts of the proposed development have been further addressed throughout this assessment report – below.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979***Section 4.15 - Matters for consideration***

The proposal has been assessed under the relevant matters for consideration detailed in Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

Section 4.15(a)(i) - any environmental planning instrument

An assessment has been undertaken against each of the applicable environmental planning instruments (EPI's), as follows:

State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004

State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004 (SEPP BASIX) was enacted to ensure that dwellings are designed to utilise less potable water and to minimise greenhouse gas emissions by setting energy and water reduction targets for residential houses and units.

A valid BASIX certificate has been submitted with the development application which demonstrates that the water, thermal comfort and energy requirements for the proposal have been achieved. BASIX Commitments have been identified on the submitted plans. The proposal is considered to satisfy the relevant provisions of SEPP BASIX.

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021Chapter 4 Koala Habitat Protection 2021

This policy aims to encourage the conservation and management of areas of natural vegetation that provide habitat for koalas to support a permanent free-living population over their present range and reverse the current trend of koala population decline. The Policy requires that council's determination of the development application be consistent with Council's approved koala plan of management that applies to the land. Council has an approved Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (CKPoM), which applies to this development.

Council's CKPoM requires that proposed development "minimise the removal of any individuals of preferred koala food trees, where ever they occur". The development application seeks consent for structures within proximity to a koala feed tree that is located adjacent to the subject site, as such the application was referred to Council's Natural Resources Team, with the following comments provided::

Assessment: The koala feed tree on the Council reserve is in poor health due to vandalism, but is re-sprouting leaves and may regenerate. This tree provides a potential shelter resource for koalas traversing the reserve and may provide a food resource in the future. This tree should be protected from potential impacts associated with the proposed development.

Request: The following information is required:

An arborist report is required to assess whether the proposed development will impact the adjacent tree on Council land. The arborist report should consider the applicable Structural Root Zone (SRZ) and Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) for this tree and provide recommendations to ensure impacts to this tree do not occur.

The applicant has since obtained an arborist report, which was subsequently referred back to Council's Senior Environmental Planner and Council's Vegetation Management Officer - who were both supportive of the report and its recommendations. The recommendations address the impacts the proposed development has on tree and the trees proximity of building assets. Provides advice and protection measure for the structural root zones of the tree and recommendations of a tree protection plan to be implemented during the construction of the development.

Conditions recommended by Council's Natural Systems team have included in this report.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021Chapter 2 Coastal Management

The subject land is located within the Coastal Environment Area and Coastal Use zones; as such the following general matters are required to be considered when determining an application.

As per Section 2.10 of Chapter 2 of the SEPP, development consent must not be granted for development within the coastal environment area unless the consent authority has considered whether the development will cause impact to the integrity of the biophysical and ecological environment, the values and natural coastal processes, marine vegetation, native vegetation and fauna and existing public open space and access to and along the foreshore.

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

As per Section 2.11 of Chapter 2 of the SEPP, development consent must not be granted for development unless the consent authority has considered existing and safe access to and along the foreshore, overshadowing and loss of views, visual amenity and scenic qualities and heritage values. The consent authority must also be satisfied that the development is designed and sited to avoid adverse impacts and to ensure the development has taken into account the surrounding built environment in its design.

The proposed development is an appropriate type and design for the coastal location. The proposed use of the site being for a dwelling house, in conjunction with a sustainable built form will ensure that the visual amenity of the coast is protected. The building envelope and size of the development is also compatible with the natural setting and will not adversely impact views.

Further Council's Natural Resource team provided the following comments:

The proposal is considered unlikely to have an adverse impact on any other factor listed in Chapter 2, Part 2.2, Division 3, Section 2.10 and 2.11 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021.

Section 2.12 of Chapter 2 of the SEPP requires consideration to whether the development would increase the risk of coastal hazards. The proposed development is suitably designed and located to not increase risk to coastal hazards.

Therefore the application generally complies with the aims of the SEPP and the other matters for consideration stipulated under 2.10, 2.11 and 2.12, and can therefore be supported.

Chapter 4 Remediation of Land

Section 4.6 of Chapter 4 of the Resilience and Hazards SEPP requires the consent authority to consider whether land is contaminated, is in a suitable state despite contamination, or requires remediation to be made suitable for the proposed development.

It is noted that the NSW list of contaminated sites and list of notified sites published by the EPA does not identify the site as being contaminated, nor has previous record of contamination in Council's system. The land is not within an investigation area, there are no records of potentially contaminating activities occurring on the site, and residential accommodation is not listed as a possible contaminating use, per Table 1 of the Guidelines. Noting this, the proposed development satisfies the requirements of Chapter 4 of this SEPP.

Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan 2013 (LEP)

Clause 2.3 – Zone Objectives and Land Use Table

The proposed development is defined as a dwelling house which is permissible with consent in the R2 – Low Density Residential Zone. The proposal is considered to be consistent with the objectives of the zone in that it will provide additional housing in an established residential area and is compatible with surrounding development.

Clause 2.7 – Demolition requiring development consent

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

Clause 2.7 identifies that the demolition of a building or work may be carried out only with development consent, unless identified as exempt development under an applicable environmental planning instrument.

The proposed development requires the demolition of the existing dwelling and outbuildings/ancillary development. Accordingly, conditions of consent have been included in order to mitigate potential impacts to adjoining properties and the locality during demolition works.

Clause 4.1 – Minimum Subdivision Lot Size

Clause 4.1 outlines the minimum lot size applicable to the subject sites, as identified on the minimum lot size map, to ensure that lot sizes are able to accommodate development that is suitable for its purpose and consistent with relevant development controls.

The subject site includes a minimum lot size of 500m². The existing site area is 626m² which exceeds the minimum lot size, further there is no proposed subdivision within this development application.

Clause 4.3 – Height of Buildings

In accordance with the PSLEP Height of Buildings map, the maximum permissible building height on the site is 9m. The proposed development has a maximum height of 10.16 metres from the existing ground level and is therefore non-compliant with Clause 4.3. The proposed height results in a variation of 12.88% and therefore is required to be reported to Council for determination. Given the height variation, a Clause 4.6 written request to vary the height standard has been prepared for the proposal and is provided at Attachment 1.

Clause 4.6 – Exceptions to development standards

As discussed against Clause 4.3 above, the application includes a proposed variation to the maximum height of buildings. The development standard is 9m and the proposed maximum height is 10.16m, representing at 12.88% variation.

A request to vary the building height development standard has been submitted by the applicant in accordance with Clause 4.6 of the PSLEP. The requested has been reviewed and the following is noted:

- The proposed development is considered to be appropriate for the context of the area which is characterised by dwellings of a similar bulk and scale
- There are a number of comparatively tall or taller buildings in the nearby area, including the immediate neighbouring dwelling at 60 Sandy Point Road, Corlette.
- The height exceedance is generally located in the middle of proposed dwelling with increased setbacks from the allotment boundaries.
- The design includes significant articulation and changes in material finishes, which addressed the bulk and scale in a positive manner.
- The proposed development maintains an acceptable level of privacy and solar access to neighbouring properties.

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

- The overall building height is impacted by the site being located within a Flood Planning Area, and minimum finished floor levels applying to the site.

It is considered that the applicant's written Clause 4.6 variation request adequately demonstrates that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravening the maximum building height standard and compliance with the standard is unnecessary in the circumstances of this application.

On this basis, the height variation is supported.

A detailed assessment against clause 4.6 can be found at Attachment 1 of this report.

Clause 5.21 – Flood Planning

The proposed development is located on land within a Flood Planning Area. The flood planning level relevant to the land is RL 3.8 metres AHD. The development plans submitted with the proposal show the finished floor level of the development at RL 3.8 meters AHD which meets the noted flood planning level and therefore accords with the requirements of this clause.

Council's Development Engineers noted the following:

The garage is proposed at 2.6m AHD which is above current day 1% AEP and compliant with the DCP.

Access is proposed to Sandy Point Road which is currently below the 1% AEP, but complies with the flood immunity of the adjoining road.

All habitable rooms are at or above 3.8m AHD which is the level of FPL and the PMF therefore flood refuge is achieved.

In addition to the above, the development is not considered to give rise to additional offsite flooding impacts.

Clause 7.1 – Acid Sulfate Soils

The subject land is mapped as containing potential Class 2 acid sulfate soils.

The applicant has provided a Preliminary Acid Sulfate Soil Assessment Report which has been prepared by a suitably qualified Geotechnical Engineer. The assessment identifies that an Acid Sulfate Soils Management Plan is not required for the proposed works in accordance with cl7.1(4) of the PSLEP.

Clause 7.2 – Earthworks

The application proposes earthworks on the site to achieve a level building platform through the use of minor fill. Earthworks are minor in nature and are not anticipated to result in any negative impacts on the subject or adjoining land, or any public place - the development accords with the requirements of this clause. The development does not proposed any retaining walls on or within the side boundaries. All fill will be retained within the proposed building patio footprint.

Clause 7.6 – Essential Services

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

The subject site is serviced by reticulated water, electricity and sewer. In addition the application has demonstrated that stormwater drainage resulting from roof and hard stand areas can be catered for in accordance with Council's requirements – by way of a condition being imposed on any development consent (as per Council's Development Engineering teams recommendation)

Section 4.15(a)(ii) - any draft environmental planning instrument that is or has been placed on public exhibition

There are no draft EPI's relevant to the proposed development.

Section 4.15(a)(iii) – any development control plan

Port Stephens Development Control Plan 2014

The Port Stephens Development Control Plan 2014 (DCP) is applicable to the proposed development and has been assessed below.

Chapter B1 – Tree Management

This part applies to development to remove or prune trees or other vegetation within non-rural areas and therefore applies to the site. The proposal seeks to remove the existing vegetation on the site. The application was therefore referred to Council's Natural Systems section for review. It was found that the vegetation removal would be unlikely to result in significant impacts on threatened species. The proposed tree removal which includes planted landscape species (Frangipani and Paw Paw) was therefore supported.

Chapter B2 – Natural Resources

The development application seeks consent for structures within proximity to koala feed tree that is located adjacent to the subject site, as such the application was referred to Council's Natural Resources Team, with the following comments provided:

Assessment: The koala feed tree on the Council reserve is in poor health due to vandalism, but is re-sprouting leaves and may regenerate. This tree provides a potential shelter resource for koalas traversing the reserve and may provide a food resource in the future. This tree should be protected from potential impacts associated with the proposed development.

Request: The following information is required:

An arborist report is required to assess whether the proposed development will impact the adjacent tree on Council land. The arborist report should consider the applicable Structural Root Zone (SRZ) and Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) for this tree and provide recommendations to ensure impacts to this tree do not occur.

The applicant has since obtained an arborist report, which was subsequently referred back to Council's Senior Environmental Planner and Council's Vegetation Management Officer - who were both supportive of the report and its recommendations. The recommendations address the impacts the proposed development has on tree and the trees proximity of building assets. Provides advice and protection measure for the structural root zones of the tree and

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

recommendations of a tree protection plan to be implemented during the construction of the development.

Conditions recommended by Council's Natural Systems team have included in this report.

Chapter B3 – Environmental ManagementAcid Sulfate Soils

The objective of this DCP Chapter is to ensure that developments do not disturb, expose or drain Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) and cause environmental damage.

As detailed within clause 7.1 discussion above, the subject land is mapped as containing potential Class 2 acid sulfate soils. The applicant has provided a Preliminary Acid Sulfate Soil Assessment Report which has been prepared by a suitably qualified Geotechnical Engineer. The assessment identifies that an Acid Sulfate Soils Management Plan is not required for the proposed works in accordance with cl7.1(4) of the PSLEP.

Noise

The separation distances incorporated into the development will limit any significant impacts on the adjoining development. The impacts of the development during construction could be limited through conditions of consent which limit construction work hours and mitigate noise derived from ventilation and air conditioning systems. Subject to conditions, the application is satisfactory in regards to noise management.

Earthworks

As discussed at clause 7.2 above the proposed development involves minor earthworks including fill. The impacts of the proposed earthworks can be mitigated through conditions of consent. The proposal is therefore consistent with requirements outlined in Council's DCP relating to earthworks.

Chapter B4 – Drainage and Water Quality

Due to the site coverage exceeding Council's DCP control of a maximum of 60% (impervious area), the application was referred to Council Development Engineering section for comment. The proposed site coverage is 79%. The completed development engineering referral outlined that in accordance with Engineering Principle 2.2 – a 6,000 litre detention tank (in addition to any BASIX requirements) shall be provided for the dwelling. It was also noted that no water quality devices are required in accordance with DCP section B4.

The stormwater drainage has been assessed as being consistent with the Infrastructure Specification and a condition of consent has been included in the consent requiring the provision of detailed engineering plans, prior to the issue of a construction certificate.

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

Chapter B5 – Flooding

The subject land is mapped as being within the Flood Planning Area. Following from the discussion against clause 5.21 of the PSLEP above, the proposed development is acceptable in this regard.

Chapter B8 – Road Network and Parking

The potential impacts of the development to the local road network have been assessed and it has been determined that subject to conditions of consent the development is satisfactory.

The proposed access arrangements are considered to be suitable and compliant with Council requirements.

Figure BU identifies the on-site parking requirements for the development as follows:

Development Type	Parking Requirement	Accessible Parking	Proposed
dwelling house , dual occupancy and semi-detached dwellings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 car space for one and two bedroom dwellings • 2 car spaces for three > bedroom dwellings 	No requirement	The proposed garaging can accommodate 3 cars, exceeding the minimum DCP requirement.

Chapter C – Development Types

The proposed development is for the construction of dwelling house and ancillary structures - therefore the provisions of chapter C4 and C8 are applicable.

Chapter C4 – Dwelling House, Secondary Dwelling, or Dual Occupancy

Reference	Control	Assessment
Objective C4.A Requirement C4.1	Height <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the height of buildings is appropriate for the context and character of the area • To ensure building height reflects the hierarchy of centres and land use structure 	<p>The proposed development has a maximum height of 10.16 metres which is non-compliant with the PSLEP requirement of 9m. A Clause 4.6 variation has been prepared for the proposal and is provided at Attachment 1.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, the proposed development is considered to be consistent with the objectives of the DCP in that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed development is considered to be appropriate for the context of the area which is characterised by dwellings of a similar bulk and scale

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of comparatively tall or taller buildings in the nearby area, including the immediate neighbouring dwelling at 60 Sandy Point Road, Corlette. • The height exceedance is generally located in the middle of proposed dwelling with increased setbacks from the allotment boundaries. • The design includes significant articulation and changes in material finishes, which addressed the bulk and scale in a positive manner. • The proposed development maintains and acceptable level of privacy and solar access to neighbouring properties. • The overall building height is impacted by the site being located within a Flood Planning Area, and minimum finished floor levels applying to the site. <p>It is considered that the applicant's written Clause 4.6 variation request adequately demonstrates that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravening the maximum building height standard and compliance with the standard is unnecessary in the circumstances of this application.</p> <p>On this basis, the height variation is supported.</p> <p>A detailed assessment against clause 4.6 can be found at Attachment 1 of this report.</p>
Objective C4.B Requirement C4.2-C4.11	Setbacks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure development provides continuity and consistency to the public domain • To ensure development contributes to the streetscape 	<u>Street Setback</u> Requirement: 4.5m Proposed: 5m Comment: Complies

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

	<p>and does not detract from the amenity of the area</p>	<p><u>Side Setback Ground Level</u> Requirement: 0.9m Proposed: 1.0m (western boundary) and 1.062m (eastern boundary) Comment: Complies</p> <p><u>Side Setback Upper Storey</u> Requirement: 2m Proposed : 1.0m generally with minor encroachment to 990mm (Guest Bed 03) Comment: There are areas of reduced side setbacks on the first floor of the dwelling. It is considered the design provides adequate separation between the proposed and adjoining dwellings. The design includes significant articulation including areas of increased side setbacks that exceed the minimum requirement as stipulated in the PSDCP. The setbacks are consistent with the locality and neighbouring properties. The provided articulation minimises the presentation of bulk as viewed from the public domain and neighbouring properties. Further, The lot is relatively narrow - measuring 15.24m in width. The reduced site setbacks have been assessed and supported on a merit basis.</p> <p><u>Rear Setback (Waterfront Reserve)</u> Requirement : 4.5m (building line) Proposed: 4.5m Comment: The proposed dwelling waterfront reserve setback is 4.5m on the first floor. The ground floor and second floor have increased setbacks of up to 8.7m. The compliant setback and minor eave encroachments are consistent with the existing rear building line pattern. It is noted there are a number of dwellings with encroachments that extend further toward the waterfront reserve than is proposed within this application.</p>
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ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

		<p>Further, the rear of the building has been designed to provide considerable articulation which reduces the bulk of the proposed dwelling, when viewed from the waterfront reserve.</p> <p>The rear setback will provide continuity and consistency to the public domain, it meets the objectives and controls of Part C4.8 and is supported.</p> <p><u>Garage Setback</u></p> <p>Requirement: 1m behind building line</p> <p>Main Garage Proposed: 0.8m behind building line</p> <p>Boat Garage: Actual building line</p> <p>Comment: The garages are not setback 1m behind the building line as per the DCP. The proposal is consistent with existing development within the locality, which includes a number of garages forward of the building lines, with reduced street setbacks. It is considered that the variation to the garage is appropriate given the garages will not dominate the streetscape.</p>
<p>Objective C4.C</p> <p>Requirement C4.12-4.18</p>	<p>Streetscape and privacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure development activates the streetscape to provide passive surveillance and privacy. 	<p>The dwelling includes habitable spaces (bedrooms) with openings facing the street. The bedrooms are located on the first floor and also include a balcony fronting the street.</p> <p>The proposed balcony width is 1.2m which does not strictly comply with Council's DCP Control which suggests 1.5m. However, the balcony covers the extent of the building and will ensure the provision of passive surveillance to the street.</p> <p>It is considered that the design is sympathetic to the existing landscape character and built form, and that the dwelling provides an appropriate level of passive surveillance.</p> <p>To ensure that the proposed design provides an appropriate level of visual privacy for both the new and existing developments on the subject and</p>

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

		<p>surrounding land, conditions are recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce the upper floor balcony so that it is setback approximately 9.3m from the rear boundary. It is currently setback 4.5 2. Install opaque glazing to the master bedroom ensuite windows (W28 and W29) <p>It is considered that the above mentioned design changes, namely the reduction in the upper floor balcony, will ensure the proposal does not unreasonably overlook the windows and private open space of neighbouring properties. Furthermore, the development has incorporated a modern design and articulation responding to the sites constraints whilst providing a visually interesting development.</p>
<p>Objective C4.D</p> <p>Requirement C4.19-C4.22</p>	<p>Private open space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure private open space with solar access is provided to allow opportunity for passive and active outdoor recreation 	<p><u>Private open space</u></p> <p>Private open space is provided to the dwelling that meets the DCP objectives and exceeds the controls.</p> <p><u>Solar access</u></p> <p>In regards to solar access, the principal private open space for the dwelling receives sunlight for the majority of the time between 9:00am – 3:00pm (mid-winter) which exceeds to the minimum 2 hour requirement.</p> <p>Adjoining neighbour's private open space will not be adversely impacted by the proposal noting the north (rear) – south (front) orientation of the site.</p>
<p>Objective C4.E</p> <p>Requirement C4.23-C4.25</p>	<p>Car parking and garages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure car parking caters for anticipated vehicle movements to and from the development and does not adversely impact on building articulation 	<p>The driveway minimum width is 3.2m which exceeds the minimum 3m requirement.</p>

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

		<p>The garage width exceeds 50% of the building frontage (ground floor). This is considered appropriate as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dwellings have been designed to provide visual interest to the front façade through the use of articulation and different building materials and landscaping to ensure the development is visually appealing and the garage does not dominate the front façade. • The inclusion of the upper level balcony reduces the dominance of the garaging at the ground floor level. • The proposal is consistent with existing development within the locality, which includes a number of garages forward of the building lines, with reduced street setbacks. It is considered that the variation to the garage is appropriate given the garages will not dominate the streetscape.
<p>Objective C4.F</p> <p>Requirement C4.26</p>	<p>Landscaping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance the appearance and amenity of developments through the retention and/or • planting of large and medium sized trees • To encourage landscaping between buildings for screening • To ensure landscaped areas are consolidated and maintainable spaces that contribute to • the open space structure of the area • To add value and quality of life for residents and occupants within a development in terms 	<p>Landscaping has been proposed that is considered to complement the proposed development, and contributes to the streetscape character.</p>

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • of privacy, outlook, views and recreational opportunities • To create and enhance vegetation links between natural areas and reduce weed potential • to environmentally sensitive areas • To reduce energy consumption through microclimate regulation • To reduce air borne pollution by reducing the heat island effect • To intercept stormwater to reduce stormwater runoff 	
Objective C4.G Requirement C4.31-C4.32	Site facilities and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure development provides appropriate facilities and services in the most appropriate site location 	Appropriate space is provided/available for waste storage and clothes drying.

Chapter C4 – Ancillary Structures – Sheds, Swimming Pools, Fencing, Retaining Walls and Shipping Containers

C8	Swimming pools achieve the appropriate boundary setback and decking height requirements.	The proposed swimming pool meets the DCP Objectives, and the requirements of DCP controls C8.6 and C8.7.
	Fencing and/or retaining walls achieves the location and height requirements.	There is no foreseen adverse impact of the fencing structures proposed within this application. It is considered to be consistent with other fencing structures within the locality.

Section 4.15(1)(a)(iv) the regulations (to the extent that they prescribe matters for the purposes of this paragraph)

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

There are no matters within the regulations that are relevant to the determination of the application.

Section 4.15 (1)(b) the likely impacts of that development, including environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts in the locality

Social and Economic Impacts

The proposed development represents a modern residential development and will result in additional housing to service the needs of the community.

The construction of the proposed development will provide employment opportunities in the locality during the short term and support the local building and development industries. This will have direct monetary input to the local economy.

As assessed throughout the report, the proposed development has been designed to reduce potential adverse impacts to neighbouring properties from an amenity perspective.

Overall, there are no anticipated adverse social or economic impacts as a result of the proposed development.

Impacts on the Built Environment

Whilst the dwelling exceeds the maximum building height limit, the development is considered to be appropriate for the context of the area which is characterised by dwellings of a similar bulk and scale. There are a number of comparatively tall or taller buildings in the nearby area. The height exceedance is generally located in the middle of proposed dwelling with increased setbacks from the allotment boundaries.

There are areas of reduced side setbacks on the first floor of the dwelling. It is considered the design provides adequate separation between the proposed and adjoining dwellings. The design includes significant articulation including areas of increased side setbacks that exceed the minimum requirement as stipulated in the PSDCP. The setbacks are consistent with the locality and neighbouring properties. The provided articulation minimises the presentation of bulk as viewed from the public domain and neighbouring properties.

Overall, the proposed development is considered suitable for the surrounding built environment.

Impacts on the Natural Environment

The proposed development is not expected to negatively impact the natural environment. As noted throughout this assessment the environmental impacts of the proposed development have been addressed through an internal referral process to Council's Natural Systems team. The referral and subsequent arborist report included specific comment on the existing koala feed tree. Appropriate tree protection measure conditions have been recommended for consent.

Section 4.15(1)(c) the suitability of the site for the development

The subject site is located within an established residential area. It is common for older housing stock within waterfront areas to be updated to a contemporary designed home as is proposed within this application. The site is considered suitable for supporting the proposed residential development. As assessed throughout the report, there are no anticipated impacts on the locality as a result of the development. The proposal is compliant with the objectives of the applicable planning framework and policies, and on these grounds, the site is suitable for the development.

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

Section 4.15(1)(d) any submissions made in accordance with this act or the regulationsPublic Submissions

The application was exhibited three times in accordance with the provisions of the Port Stephens Council Community Engagement Strategy, as follows:

- 22 March 2022 – 05 April 2022
- 27 May 2022 – 16 June 2022
- 15 July 2022 – 29 July 2022

Council received 31 submissions from 19 property addresses during this time. The matters raised during the exhibition period have been detailed below.

Objection	Council response
Height of Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed development exceeds the maximum building height control. • The proposed height of the building is out of character with the area. • The topography of this site is not sloping and therefore the exceedance is simply to capitalise on water views. 	<p>The proposed development has a maximum height of 10.16 metres which is non-compliant with the PSLEP requirement of 9m. A Clause 4.6 variation has been prepared for the proposal and is provided at Attachment 1.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, the proposed development is considered to be consistent with the objectives of the DCP in that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed development is considered to be appropriate for the context of the area which is characterised by dwellings of a similar bulk and scale. • There are a number of comparatively tall or taller buildings in the nearby area, including the immediate neighbouring dwelling at 60 Sandy Point Road, Corlette. • The height exceedance is generally located in the middle of proposed dwelling with increased setbacks from the allotment boundaries. • The design includes significant articulation and changes in material finishes, which addressed the bulk and scale in a positive manner. • The proposed development maintains and acceptable level of privacy and solar access to neighbouring properties. • The overall building height is impacted by the site being located within a Flood Planning Area, and minimum finished floor levels applying to the site.

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is considered that the applicant's written Clause 4.6 variation request adequately demonstrates that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravening the maximum building height standard and compliance with the standard is unnecessary in the circumstances of this application. <p>On this basis, the height variation is supported.</p> <p>A detailed assessment against clause 4.6 can be found at Attachment 1 of this report.</p>
<p>Rear Setback (Waterfront Reserve)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council's Development Control Plan requires a minimum 4.5 metres setback from a waterfront reserve boundary. However, the proposed building plan positions the ground floor almost to the edge of the existing boundary. The proposed development is not consistent with the existing rear building line pattern along the waterfront reserve. 	<p>The majority of the submissions with respect to the rear setback were received in relation to the original proposal. The original design proposed a rear setback to the first floor of 3.5m. A balcony structure extended past this building line, by 2.380m which finishing 1.112m from the rear boundary.</p> <p>Subsequent to Council's assessment and consideration of submission issues, Council requested that the rear setback be made to comply with the DCP controls. Accordingly the applicant amended their design such that it now complies with the 4.5m rear setback to the building line.</p> <p>While there are minor eave encroachments, these are consistent with the existing rear building line pattern in the locality. It is noted that there are a number of dwellings with encroachments that extend further toward the waterfront reserve than is now proposed within this application.</p> <p>Further, the rear of the building provides considerable articulation which reduces the appearance of bulk when viewed from the waterfront reserve.</p> <p>The rear setback, as amended, provides continuity and consistency to the public domain, it meets the objectives and controls of Part C4.8 and is supported.</p>
<p>Side setback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variation to the side setback is unreasonable given the overall massing of the development 	<p>There are areas of reduced side setbacks on the first floor of the dwelling. It is considered the design provides adequate separation between the proposed and adjoining dwellings. The design includes significant articulation including</p>

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

	<p>areas of increased side setbacks that exceed the minimum requirement as stipulated in the PSDCP.</p> <p>The setbacks are consistent with the locality and neighbouring dwellings. The provided articulation minimises the appearance of bulk as viewed from the public domain and neighbouring properties.</p> <p>The reduced site setbacks have been assessed and supported on a merit basis</p>
<p>Front setback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The positioning of the dwelling is well in front of existing homes, which are generally in line and set back from the boundary 	<p>The street setback is proposed at 5m which exceeds the 4.5m minimum requirement as stipulated in the PSDCP.</p> <p>It is considered that the front setback is consistent with a number of dwellings/garages along the immediate section of Sandy Point Road.</p>
<p>Possible use as short term rental accommodation, or two separate units</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development could be utilised for short term rental accommodation with the likelihood of increased noise and traffic. Design could result in it being utilised as a dual occupancy. Requests that the intent of the development is clarified, as STRA development has additional amenity impacts which should be addressed by the SoEE. 	<p>The application has been applied for as a single dwelling house. However it is noted that short term rental accommodation is permitted without consent, subject to the requirements of the PSLEP 2013.</p> <p>The applicant has acknowledged the concern raised within the submissions and has advised that the property is owned by a local family and it is intended to be used as an owner-occupied residence.</p>
<p>Bulk, scale and overdevelopment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed development is larger in bulk and scale than the majority of the existing housing in the immediate locality 	<p>Overall the proposal is considered to achieve a scale, bulk and height appropriate for the area. The proposal is of a similar height to the adjoining development to the west, and other buildings within the locality. The perceived bulk and scale of the building is adequately addressed through the use of articulation to the façade and side walls. The bulk of the side walls</p>

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

	<p>of the building are effectively broken up through changes in material, colour and through the inclusion of recessed and protruding wall features. The upper storey is generally located in the middle of proposed dwelling with increased setbacks from the allotment boundaries.</p>
<p>Tree removal/impacts on koala feed tree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree on public land in front of 58 Sandy Pt Rd, Corlette, has been deliberately poisoned. The removal of 5 trees, the SoEE has not given any information on the ecological impact of the tree removal 	<p><u>Trees on site:</u></p> <p>Council's Senior Environmental Planner, has provided comment with regards to the tree removal on the subject site. It has been outlined that the vegetation on site consists of planted landscape species including Frangipani and Paw Paw. There are no habitat of value on site.</p> <p><u>Koala feed tree adjacent to the property:</u></p> <p>Following Council's request, the applicant obtained an arborist report, which was referred to Council's Senior Environmental Planner and Council's Vegetation Management Officer. They were both supportive of the arborist report and its recommendations. The recommendations address the impacts the proposed development has on tree and the trees proximity of building assets. Provides advice and protection measure for the structural root zones of the tree and recommendations of a tree protection plan to be implemented during the construction of the development.</p> <p>Conditions recommended by Council's Natural Systems team have been included in this report.</p> <p>The tree removal and tree protection measures as outlined above are supported. It is concluded that no further investigation is required.</p> <p>The alleged poisoning of the tree on public land is not a matter for consideration in this application and is being investigated by Council's Vegetation Management Officer.</p>
<p>Site Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development site coverage of 85% is way too much and not acceptable. 	<p>Site coverage controls operate in tandem with stormwater management, and is calculation of the proportion of a site that is covered by buildings in structures. It should be noted that</p>

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DA states the building covers around 85% of the land. The plan and images provided in the DA draw this claim into dispute and seem to underestimate the area of land covered • In accordance with the Port Stephens Standard Drawings, the proposed stormwater management system at a minimum should be connected to a rain garden before being connected to the public stormwater system • The site coverage calculation needs to be clarified by Council. 	<p>site coverage controls have no direct correlation with building bulk.</p> <p>Due to the site coverage exceeding Council's DCP control of a maximum of 60% (impervious area). The application was referred to Council Development Engineering section for comment. The completed referral outlined that in accordance with Engineering Principle 2.2 – a 6,000 litre detention tank (in addition to any BASIX requirements) shall be provided for the dwelling. It was also noted that no water quality devices are required in accordance with DCP section B4.</p> <p>The stormwater drainage has been assessed as being consistent with the Infrastructure Specification and a condition of consent has been included in the consent requiring the provision of detailed engineering plans, prior to the issue of a construction certificate.</p> <p>Council officers has reviewed plans and undertaken its own calculations of site coverage. The site coverage is taken to be approximately 80%.</p>
<p>View Loss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The height of the building impacts on views from homes on the eastern, southern and western sides • Unreasonably interfere with the water views of many residences around and behind it • The size of the proposed building would compromise the surrounding residents enjoyment of the view • Little consideration appears to have been given to the water views of the occupants of 60 or 56 Sandy point Road which appear to be severely compromised 	<p>The proposal is generally compliant with the applicable environmental planning instruments with the exception of building height. Despite this, a design with a compliant building height would result in the same or similar impact.</p> <p>It is considered that the proposal allows for the reasonable sharing of views.</p>
<p>Parking/Garage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient offstreet parking exacerbating existing parking problems in the area. 	<p>The proposal is for a single dwelling house. A double garage and boat garage are proposed within this application.</p> <p>The potential impacts of the development to the local road network have been assessed and it</p>

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design of the garaging allows for a dual occupancy and/or short term rental. 	<p>has been determined that the development is satisfactory.</p> <p>The proposed access arrangements are considered to be suitable and compliant with Council requirements.</p>
<p>Demolition (potential asbestos)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asbestos removal to complying with all government regulations to ensure the safety of other residents 	<p>Demolition of the existing buildings/structures is proposed within this application. The following condition of consent will be recommended:</p> <p><i>All demolition works are to be carried out in accordance with Australian Standard AS 2601 'The demolition of Structures'. All waste materials are to be either recycled or disposed of to a licensed waste facility.</i></p> <p><i>Any asbestos containing material encountered during demolition or works, is to be removed in accordance with the requirements of Safe Work NSW and disposed of to an appropriately licenced waste facility.</i></p> <p><i>Evidence is to be provided to the Certifying Authority demonstrating that asbestos waste has been disposed of in accordance with this condition.</i></p> <p>No further investigation is required.</p>
<p>Barbeque (BBQ) on public reserve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site plan identifies a BBQ on the Council Land which is illegally located on C3 zoned land and should be removed. 	<p>The BBQ is not on the subject site, nor are there any specific comments or notations on the plans that are relevant to the retention or removal of this BBQ.</p> <p>The matter has been referred to Council's Asset Management team for further investigation into the structure on public land.</p>
<p>Noise generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise emanating from the row of waterfront properties results in an echoing amplification for residents further from the shoreline as the steep terrain behind Kanangra Avenue tends to reflect sound. Hence additional revellers and general traffic that would be attracted to such a development would have significant adverse impact to residents 	<p>The proposal is for a single dwelling house. The development is not foreseen to unreasonably affect the amenity of the area, or result in noise intrusion that would unreasonable for neighbouring properties.</p>
<p>Statement of Environmental Effects inconsistencies</p>	<p>As detailed in this report, Council staff have carried out a thorough assessment of the application in accordance with the matters for</p>

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Statement of Environmental Effects is inadequate in addressing the requirements of Section 4.15 of the Act and does not enable proper consideration of the application by Council. 	<p>consideration, as listed in Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.</p> <p>Where the provided Statement of Environmental Effects did not adequately address the environmental impacts of the proposed development Council staff requested further information from the applicant through a written request.</p>
<p>Flooding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient information or consideration has been provided with respect to flood inundation. 	<p>The proposed development is located on land within a Flood Planning Area. The flood planning level relevant to the land is RL 3.8 metres AHD. The development plans submitted with the proposal show the finished floor level of the development at RL 3.8 meters AHD which meets the noted flood planning level and therefore accords with the requirements of this clause.</p> <p>Council's Development Engineers noted the following:</p> <p><i>The garage is proposed at 2.6m AHD which is above current day 1% AEP and compliant with the DCP.</i></p> <p><i>Access is proposed to Sandy Point Road which is currently below the 1% AEP, but complies with the flood immunity of the adjoining road.</i></p> <p><i>All habitable rooms are at or above 3.8m AHD which is the level of FPL and the PMF therefore flood refuge is achieved.</i></p> <p>In addition to the above, the development is not considered to give rise to additional offsite flooding impacts.</p>
<p>Stormwater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with the Port Stephens Standard Drawings, the proposed stormwater management system at a minimum should be connected to a rain garden before being connected to the public stormwater system. Given the proximity to Port Stephens, the coastal mapping, flood impacts and the extent of impervious site coverage, it is requested that an updated stormwater management plan 	<p>Due to the site coverage exceeding Council's DCP control of a maximum of 60% (impervious area). The application was referred to Council Development Engineering section for comment. The completed referral outlined that in accordance with Engineering Principle 2.2 – a 6,000 litre detention tank (in addition to any BASIX requirements) shall be provided for the dwelling. It was also noted that no water quality devices are required in accordance with DCP section B4.</p>

ITEM 1 - ATTACHMENT 2 PLANNERS ASSESSMENT REPORT.

is provided to demonstrate that post-development flows will be equal to or less than pre-development flows	The stormwater drainage has been assessed as being consistent with the Infrastructure Specification and a condition of consent has been included in the consent requiring the provision of detailed engineering plans, prior to the issue of a construction certificate.
<p>Environmental Considerations (general)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SoEE fails to address Council's Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management An assessment is required on the impact of the development on the hydrological environment and water quality of the marine estate. However, no drainage modelling has been supplied with the Stormwater Management Plan to demonstrate that the quality of water entering Port Stephens will not result in an adverse impact. 	<p>The application has been referred to Council's Natural Systems team, with a comment being provided by a Senior Environmental Planner. The assessment included investigation on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Marine and Coastal Management Koalas Wetlands and Waterways Acid Sulfate Soils Weeds <p>Following the submission of an arborist report, the Natural Resources team are supportive of the proposal subject to conditions of consent.</p>
<p>Acid Sulfate Soils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site is identified with Class 2 Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS). As such works that involve the disturbance of 1 tonne of soil whereby water table may be lowered requires an ASS Management Plan for works below the NGL in a class 2 ASS area. 	<p>The applicant has provided a Preliminary Acid Sulfate Soil Assessment Report which has been prepared by a suitably qualified Geotechnical Engineer. The assessment identifies that an Acid Sulfate Soils Management Plan is not required for the proposed works in accordance with cl7.1(4) of the PSLEP.</p>
<p>Privacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of privacy due to the open portion of the proposed upper floor balcony extending to approximately 4.5m from the rear allotment boundary. This portion of the balcony is in close proximity to the master bedroom of neighbouring dwelling. 	<p>To ensure that the proposed design provides an appropriate level of visual privacy for both the new and existing developments on the subject and surrounding land, conditions are recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the upper floor balcony so that it is setback approximately 9.3m from the rear boundary. It is currently setback 4.5 Install opaque glazing to the master bedroom ensuite windows (W28 and W29) <p>It is considered that the above mentioned design changes, namely the reduction in the upper floor balcony, will ensure the proposal does not</p>

	unreasonably overlook the windows and private open space of neighbouring properties.
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Section 4.15(1)(e) the public interest

The proposal is considered to be in the public interest as it involves the construction of a dwelling house within an established residential area, which will provide for residential accommodation in the locality to service the needs of the community. In addition, the development is not anticipated to have any significant adverse impacts on surrounding properties or the natural environment.

Section 7.11 – Contribution towards provision or improvement of amenities or services (developer contributions)

Not applicable

DETERMINATION

The application is recommended to be approved by Council, subject to the recommended conditions of consent provided as contained in the notice of determination.

MICHAEL JACOBSON

Principal Building Surveyor

PORT STEPHENS
COUNCILClause 4.6 ASSESSMENT
REPORT**Clause 4.6 – Exceptions to Development Standards****CLAUSE OBJECTIVES AND EXCLUSIONS****Clause 4.6(1) – Clause Objectives**

Clause 4.6 provides a mechanism to vary the development standards, such as building height, prescribed within Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan (PSLEP) 2013. The objectives of the clause are to provide an appropriate degree of flexibility in applying certain development standards to particular development, and to achieve better outcomes for and from development by allowing flexibility in particular circumstances.

Clause 4.6(2) – Exclusions to the operation of clause 4.6

The development standard(s) is not excluded from the operation of clause 4.6 (Refer clauses 4.6(2); 4.6(6); and 4.6(8) of PSLEP 2013).

PROPOSED REQUEST**Clause 4.6(3) – Request to vary development standards**

The development application includes a written request to vary development standard(s) in the PSLEP 2013 (PSLEP).

The relevant development standard and the extent of the proposed variation is:

Development Standard	Maximum Height	Proposed Height	Proposed Variation	Extent of Variation (%)
Clause 4.3 Height of Buildings	9m	10.16m	1.16m	12.88%

As the proposed variation is greater than 10%, the development application will be determined by the elected Council.

Clause 4.6(3)(a) – Compliance is unreasonable or unnecessary

Clause 4.6(3)(a) requires the application to justify the contravention of the development standard(s) by demonstrating that compliance with the development standard is unreasonable or unnecessary in the circumstances of the case.

The assessment makes reference to *Wehbe v Pittwater Council* (2007) LEC 827 (*Wehbe*), to which Chief Justice Preston noted that the starting point with any request for a variation is to demonstrate that compliance with the development standard is unreasonable or unnecessary

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Clause 4.6 ASSESSMENT REPORT

which should generally be started by showing the proposal can meet the objectives of the development standard.

The Clause 4.6 request states that strict compliance with the development standard is unreasonable or unnecessary in this particular case because:

- The height exceedance is generally located in the middle of proposed dwelling with increased setbacks from the allotment boundaries.
- The proposed development does not contravene the objectives of the zone and is considered a good use of the site.
- The upper level has been strategically set back and concealed to the centre of the proposed building. Subsequently limiting the visibility from the public domain, and reducing potential impacts on neighbouring properties.
- The percentage of building footprint that exceeds the maximum allowable building height is limited to 15.8% of the site.
- The overall building height is impacted by the site being located within a Flood Planning Area, and minimum finished floor levels applying to the site. The Flood Planning Level (FPL) applicable to the site is 3.8 metres AHD. This level defines the minimum floor level for habitable rooms on the subject site.
- The portion of the building above the height limit is roof area, not habitable space.
- There are a number of comparatively tall or taller buildings in the nearby area, including the immediate neighbouring dwelling at 60 Sandy Point Road, Corlette.
- Strict compliance would provide significant loss of functional and practical use of the property.
- It would result in reduced architectural merit of the design, the aesthetic character would be compromised by way of a reduction in the extensive articulation and visual interest the proposed dwelling provides, particularly when viewed from the public foreshore.
- The proposed development is considered to be appropriate for the context of the area which is characterised by dwellings of a similar bulk and scale



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Clause 4.6 ASSESSMENT REPORT

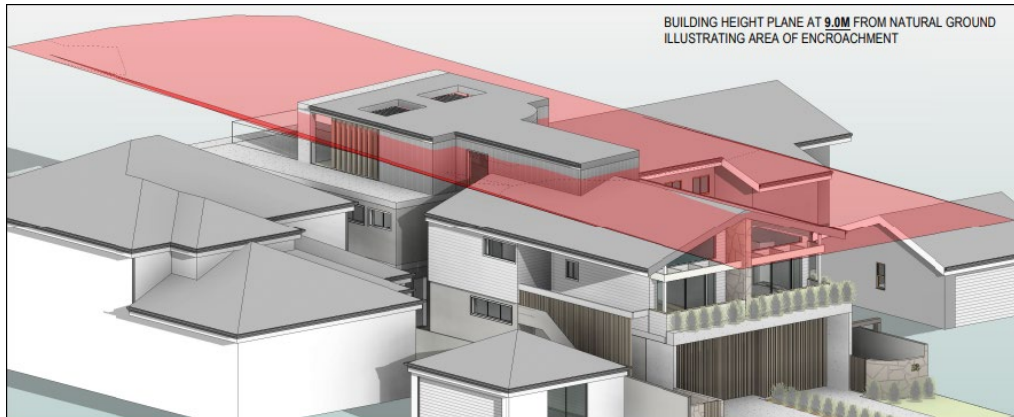


Figure 1 – Building height plan above 9m



Figure 2 – Building height plan above 9m

Clause 4.6(3)(b) – Sufficient environmental planning grounds

Clause 4.6(3)(b) requires an application to justify the contravention of the development standard(s) by demonstrating that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravening the development standard.

The applicant notes that strict compliance with the standard is considered unnecessary in that the impact created by the proposed development will be minor and the proposal is consistent with the existing development within the locality. The applicant notes that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify the contravening the development standard, such as:

- Strict compliance would provide significant loss of functional and practical use of the property.

PORT STEPHENS
COUNCILClause 4.6 ASSESSMENT
REPORT

- It would result in reduced architectural merit of the design, the aesthetic character would be compromised by way of a reduction in the extensive articulation and visual interest the proposed dwelling provides, particularly when viewed from the public foreshore.
- There are a number of comparatively tall or taller buildings in the nearby area, including the immediate neighbouring dwelling at 60 Sandy Point Road, Corlette.
- The proposed development is considered to be appropriate for the context of the area which is characterised by dwellings of a similar bulk and scale
- The overall building height is impacted by the site being located within a Flood Planning Area, and minimum finished floor levels applying to the site.
- The portion of the building above the height limit is roof area, not habitable space.

The development would also promote the 'orderly and economic use and development of land' in accordance with the objects of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act 1979) through investing in valuable improvement of the quality and improved condition of dwellings and infrastructure within the local area. The application notes that the proposed development responds to the sites constraints, including the imposed FPL of 3.8 metres AHD – which has subsequently increased the overall height of the proposed building. The design is also further noted as being complimentary to the streetscape through architectural merit and improved visual appeal.

The applicant submits that the potential environmental planning benefits justify the contravention of the development standard

ASSESSMENT

Clause 4.6(4) – Assessment of request to vary development standards**Clause 4.6(4)(a)(i) - Adequacy of the applicant's request**

Clause 4.6(4)(a)(i) requires the consent authority to be satisfied the Clause 4.6 Application has adequately addressed the matters set out in clause 4.6(3) of the PSLEP listed above.

As stated in the preceding section, in *Wehbe* the Land and Environment Court identified five ways in which a request to vary a development standard may be determined to be well founded. These reasons include:

1. The objectives of the development standard are achieved notwithstanding non-compliance with the standard,
2. The underlying objective or purpose of the development standard is not relevant to the development,

PORT STEPHENS
COUNCILClause 4.6 ASSESSMENT
REPORT

3. The objective or purpose of the development standard would be defeated or thwarted if compliance was required,
4. The development standard has been virtually abandoned or destroyed by the Council's own actions in granting consents departing from the standard, and
5. The zoning of the particular land is unreasonable or inappropriate so that a development standard appropriate for that zoning is also unreasonable or unnecessary as applied to the land. The applicant's Clause 4.6 Variation request asserts that compliance with Clause 4.3 (height of buildings) is unreasonable or unnecessary having regard to the first test set down in *Wehbe*, being that the objectives of the standard are achieved notwithstanding non-compliance with the standard.

Having regard to the first test set down in *Wehbe* it is noted that the objectives of Clause 4.3 is to ensure the height of buildings is appropriate for the context and character of the area and that building heights reflect the hierarchy of centres and land use structure.

The proposed development is considered to be appropriate for the context and character of the area, as the surrounding development is generally characterised by dwellings of a similar bulk and scale. The height exceedance is generally located in the middle of proposed dwelling and is primarily roof area, not habitable space. The design includes increased setbacks from the allotment boundaries which tapers down the overall building form. Further, the design includes significant articulation and changes in material finishes, which address the bulk and scale in a positive manner.

The proposed development is defined in the PSLEP as a dwelling house, which is permissible within the R2 Low Density Residential zone. The land use structure surrounding the site is generally low density residential development comprising of dwellings generally two storeys in height. As noted above, the development is considered appropriate for the context of the area which is characterised by dwellings of a similar bulk and scale. Given the residential nature of the area and the developments permissibility, it is considered that the proposal is consistent with the residential land use structure.

In addition to the above, the proposed development maintains an acceptable level of privacy and solar access to neighbouring properties. It is considered that the variation is acceptable.

The second, third, fourth and fifth tests set down in *Wehbe* are not considered relevant to the current application, for the reasons set out below:

- The underlying purpose and objective of the maximum building height standard are still relevant to the development.
- It is considered that the objective or purpose of the development standard would not be defeated or thwarted if compliance was required.
- The development standard has not been abandoned or destroyed as the objectives of the standard are still relevant notwithstanding non-compliance with the numerical standard.
- The zoning of the subject site is suitable and the proposed development is permissible in the zone.

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Clause 4.6 ASSESSMENT REPORT

Clause 4.6(4)(a)(ii) - Public interest – consistency with objectives of the standard and objectives of the zone

Clause 4.6(4)(a)(ii) requires the consent authority to be satisfied the proposed development will be in the public interest because it is consistent with the objectives of the particular standard and the objectives for development within the zone in which the development is proposed to be carried out.

As outlined above, notwithstanding the non-compliance with the standard, the objectives of Clause 4.3 are achieved noting that the proposed development is considered to be suitable for the character of the area, is permissible with consent in the R2 Low Density Residential zone and will not result in adverse impacts to neighbouring properties.

Clause 4.6(4)(b) - Concurrence of the Secretary

In accordance with the assumed concurrence, notified in Planning Circular PS 08-003, the concurrence of the Secretary has been obtained (Clause 4.6(4)(b) of PSLEP).

CONCLUSION

The proposed development is considered to be consistent with the objectives of Clause 4.6 given it will achieve better outcomes for and from the development in these particular circumstances because the objectives of the development standard are achieved notwithstanding non-compliance and the proposal is considered to be appropriate in the context of the site.

Communications and Engagement Report

Our Funded Future

Aug 2022



Phase 0 & 1



PORT STEPHENS
COUNCIL

**ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.**

Introduction

At its meeting on 28 June 2022 Council committed to having a conversation with the community about our financial situation and a range of potential options to address the projected \$80M shortfall over the next 10 years.

A comprehensive communications and engagement plan was developed to meet the following primary objectives:

- Increase community awareness of Council's financial situation and its journey to date
- Inform the community about Council's financial sustainability options
- Seek community feedback on options for Council's financial sustainability
- Identify the community's view on options for financial sustainability

A three-phased engagement approach named 'Our funded future' commenced on 29 July 2022.

- Phase 0 – Community education
To inform the community on Council's financial situation and the current and short-term mitigation strategies that have been implemented to date.
- Phase 1 – Financial sustainability options
To provide non-rate increase and rate increase options to the community that creates a financially sustainable Council.
- Phase 2 – Public exhibition
To publically exhibit preferred options within the Integrated Planning & Reporting documents (This phase is dependent on the outcome of Phase 1).

This report provides a summary of the community conversation including key findings and an analysis of the engagement at the end of Phase 1.

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Communication and Engagement Methodology

Two of the key objectives for the Communications and Engagement Plan guided Phase 0 and Phase 1 Our funded future communication program design.

- Increase community awareness of Council's financial situation and its journey to date
- Inform the community about Council's financial sustainability options

The communication program was designed based on the demographic analysis or audience profile for the Port Stephens community.

Phase 0 – Community education (29 June to 17 July)

A diverse range of communication methods were used throughout Phase 0 to achieve raise community awareness of Council's financial position. Table 1 outlines a description and the reach for each method used. Further details and examples of all methods are included in Appendix A.

Table 1: Phase 0 Communication methods

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	REACH
Project webpage	Our funded future dedicated website page www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/council/our-funded-future Site includes various information including FAQ's.	538 visits
Print or Online Media	Media releases 29 June 2022: Port Stephens Council commits to driving long term financial sustainability 7 July 2022: Independent experts say it's time for change 12 July 2022: Local experts needed to guide Port Stephens funded future Media related via Media Monitors 7 July 2022 The Mirage 'Independent experts say it's time for change' 7 July 2022 The National Tribune 'Independent experts say it's time for change' 8 July 2022 Port Stephens Examiner 'Consultation aims to strike a balance', 12 July 2022 Intouch Magazine 'Independent experts say it's time for change' 13 July 2022 News of the Area 'Independent experts say it's time for change'	25,000 distribution 10,000 circulation

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	REACH
Paid print advertising	14 July 2022 Port Stephens Examiner, 1 x paid printed advert	25,000 distribution
Radio	13 July 2022 ABC 6:35 am 'Port Stephens Council to look at bottom line'	
Social Media	Three Social posts (organic)	
	29 June 2022: Port Stephens Council commits to driving long term financial sustainability	3538 reach; 370 clicks
	7 July 2022: Independent experts say it's time for change	4478 reach; 114 clicks
	12 July 2022: Local experts needed to guide Port Stephens funded future	8199 reach; 376 clicks
	One Social post (paid Facebook ad)	
	13 July 2022: Save the date!	4,546
	One Instagram post	
	29 June 2022 '...securing long term financial sustainability'	207
Direct email	7 July 2022 group email to key community groups to introduce the project and offer special briefing sessions	10 groups
Newsletter printed 'Your Port'	July 2022 information for rate payers (26,000 copies printed the remainder sent as a pdf)	35,478 with rates notice
Key stakeholder meetings	8 July 2022 Tomaree Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc. (TRRA)	1 group

Phase 1 – Financial sustainability options (18 July to 8 August)

Communication methods were expanded throughout Phase 1 to maximise community awareness of Councils non-rate income and rate income options and the opportunities for the community to have their say. Table 2 outlines a description and the reach for each method used. Further details and examples of all methods are included in Appendix B.

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Table 2: Phase 1 Communication methods

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	REACH
Project webpage	Our funded future dedicated website page www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/council/our-funded-future	3,794 visits
	Site included the link to Ethelo survey tool; various information including increased FAQ's; videos; webinar from independent experts and a rates calculator.	
	Rates calculator usage (download requests only)	43
Print Media	Media releases	
	18 July 2022 'Have your say on Port Stephens funded future'	
	Media related via Media Monitors	25,000
	21 July 2022 'Rate hike back on the table', Port Stephens Examiner (front page)	distribution
	26 July 2022 'Heading Towards Another SRV', News of the area, (letter to the editor)	10,000 circulation
Paid print advertising	28 July 2022 'Villages should pay fair share', Port Stephens Examiner (letter to the editor)	25,000 distribution
	2 print advertisements	
	28 July 2022 Council notices, Port Stephens Examiner Paid printed advert	25,000 distribution
	11 August 2022 Council notices, Port Stephens Examiner Paid printed advert	25,000 distribution
Radio	Six radio stories	
	2HD 2 July 2022	
	NewFM 8am 22 July 2022	
	2EL 8:39am 27 July 2022	
	2SM 8:40am 27 July 2022	
	2PM Radio 531 8:36am 27 July 2022	
Social Media	2HD 8:36am 27 July 2022	
	14 Facebook posts (organic)	
	18 July 2022 'Have your say on Port Stephens Funded future.'	1843 reach; 105 clicks
	20 July 2022 'Join us this evening for a <u>LIVE Q&A</u> session on Our Funded Future...'	627 reach; 16 clicks

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	REACH
Social Media Cont.	20 July 2022 'Facebook Live Q&A community information session' 5pm-6:30pm	2900 reach; 826 clicks
	21 July 2022 'Be part of the discussion and help us decide...'. Video included	1756 reach; 135 clicks
	26 July 2022 'Tomorrow, we'll be hanging out at the Medowie community hall ..'	907 reach; 17 clicks
	29 July 2022 'What would reducing our services look like?' <u>Video</u> response to community question	1001 reach; 112 clicks
	30 July 2022 'Would a rate increase be an increase on my total rates bill?' <u>Video</u> response to community question	1277 reach; 176 clicks
	31 July 2022 'Why isn't Council considered 'fit for the future' anymore?' <u>Video</u> response to community question	1910 reach; 291 clicks
	1 August 2022 'What is the difference between Council's capital budget and maintenance budget?' <u>Video</u> response to community question	1100 reach; 116 clicks
	1 August 2022 'Have you had your say on Our Funded Future?'	1514 reach; 37 clicks
	2 August 2022: Has Council undertaken an independent review of its finances? <u>Video</u> response to community question	746 reach; 112 clicks
	2 August 2022 Have you had your say on Our funded future?	762 reach; 24 clicks
	4 August 2022: Does Council get more money when my land value increase? <u>Video</u> response to community question	816 reach; 72 clicks
	5 August 2022: 'What do you think of the rate income and non rate income options we've proposed?'	1164 reach; 19 clicks
	Three Facebook posts (paid ads)	
	Posts focusing on 'Save the date!', non-rate income and rate income option and community information sessions.	20,352
	Seven Instagram posts	
	20 July 2022 'Facebook live event'	123 reach
	20 July 2022 'Options'	94 reach
	20 July 2022 'Learn more here!'	86 reach
	26 July 2022 'Medowie community session'	91 reach
	26 July 2022 'Online community sessions'	78 reach

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	REACH
Social Media Cont.	26 July 2022 'Video explainer'	74 reach
	5 August 2022 'Last weekend to have your say'	164 reach
	One Google video ads (paid)	
	'Learn more about Our Funded Future includes primary video'	15, 300
Static displays	Project information provided at 15 sites including council sites and key sporting venues across the LGA	
Direct emails	19 July 2022 emails to key stakeholder groups to advise of community information sessions	20 groups
	19 July 2022 emails to local schools including poster	30 schools
	Various follow up emails/calls to special interest groups regarding special presentation offers	12 groups
Bulk e-newsletters	5 e-newsletters distributions	
	22 July 2022 Have your say subscribers	1379
	22 July 2022 Destination Port Stephens	379
	2 August 2022 Bizlink	839
	4 August 2022 Your community sector	239
	4 August 2022 Your Port (formerly PSToday)	2346

Phase 1 – Financial sustainability options (18 July to 8 August)

Two key objectives of the Communications and Engagement Plan guided the design of the engagement methods.

- Seek community feedback on options for Council's financial sustainability
- Identify the community's view on options for financial sustainability

Engagement methods used considered place, diversity and accessibility of the community as well as a combination of both online and traditional methods to ensure these objectives were met.

Table 3 outlines a description of each engagement method and participation levels. Further details and examples of all methods are included in Appendix B.

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Table 3: Phase 1 Engagement methods

DATE	METHOD	PARTICIPATION
Online Survey Open 18 July – 8 Aug 2022	Specialised survey via Ethelo specifically designed to be a 'learn as you go' survey tool.	404 surveys complete 2,405 comments
Q&A Live Facebook event	20 July 2022 Facebook live event held from 5pm to 7pm See: https://www.facebook.com/PortStephensCouncil/videos/767871081018296	Stats included under social media (table 2)
Community information sessions	27 July 2022 Central face to face 27 July 2022 online 1 August 2022 West face to face 1 August 2022 online 3 August 2022 East face to face 3 August 2022 online Total	11 attended 4 attended 10 attended 3 attended 22 attended 5 attended 55 people
	Pre and post presentation support poll completed by 30 people	Already included in attendance
Key stakeholder meetings	18 July 2022 Meryl Swanson MP (Federal) 19 July 2022 Kate Washington MP (State) 21 July 2022 Business Port Stephens (Recording was saved and shared with members) 1 August 2022 Medowie Sports Council 4 August 2022 Port Stephens Business Breakfast 4 August 2022 Fern Bay Progress Association 8 August 2022 TRAA (note follow up presentation to earlier presentation during July)	7 groups
Interactions	Interactions include counter enquiries, phone calls, emails and letters.	39

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Key findings

The Our funded future community engagement program had a community awareness reach of 116,313 and participation of 7948. Participation is any time people have actively done something to be part of the engagement. This can be completing the online survey, visiting the website for more information, clicking or liking a social media post, attending a community information session or contacting Council to ask questions or find out more.

A number of key themes came out of community input across all engagement opportunities including the online survey comments, Facebook live event, community information sessions, special interest group presentations and Council interactions. These themes include:

1. **Level of understanding of complex local government financial matters**
This included understanding rates in general, rating inequities, rate valuations and the 'rate pie', developer contributions and how that differs from rating income, and state legislation requirements.
2. **Efficiency and cost containment**
This included cutting costs and looking at internal savings and the lack of trust in council financial management and modelling.
3. **Affordability**
This included financial hardship and economic factors, especially for fixed income rate payers.
4. **Service levels**
This included opposing service level priorities for example people want more services but are unwilling to pay for more.

Online survey

The online survey tool used for Our funded future is Ethelo. The online survey had a series of Likert scale questions asking participants to outline how supportive they were of various statements on a 5-point scale. Different from other more generic survey tools, the Ethelo tool considers participants' views that are both in support and in conflict to a question or key statement and these are weighed against each other to create a consensus level.

The survey had a total of 1183 visits. Of those that visited, 404 were completed with 2405 comments provided. Of those that completed the survey, 49.29% were male and 45.04% were female. The majority of participants were ratepayers living in Port Stephens (88.27%), 5.03% worked in Port Stephens but lived outside the LGA and 4.75% were ratepayers living outside the LGA.

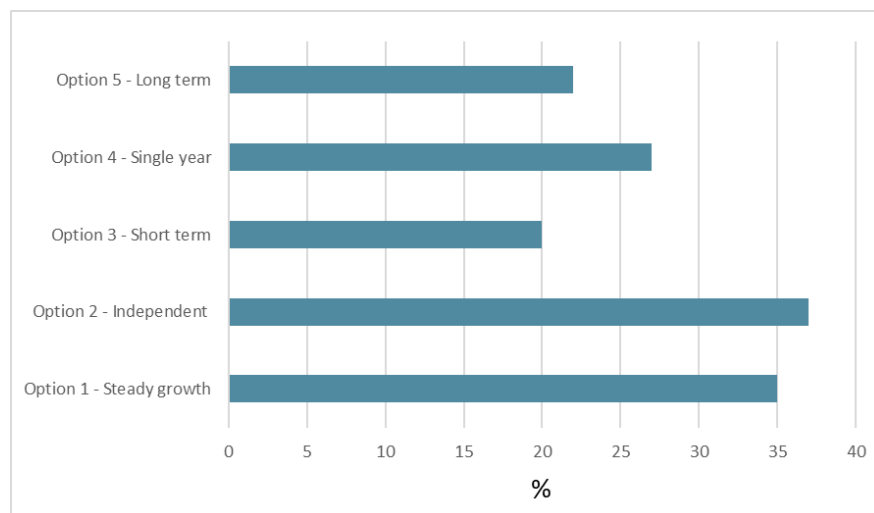
ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

The survey sought participants' views relating to financial sustainability and whether Council should look to obtain additional funds to enhance services. Of those that completed the survey, there was an 86% (321 participants) consensus of Council being financially sustainable and a 63% (275 participants) consensus for enhancement to services.

A number of non-rate income options were presented seeking participants' level of support to enhance non-rate income. Of the options presented, the highest consensus was given to continuing to seek additional grant funding at 94%, followed by consensus for selling underperforming assets at 59% and increasing fees and charges by 10% at 52%. The options to remove the exemption on smart parking received the least consensus of all non-rate income options, at 36%.

Five rate income options were put forward to participants to determine their level of consensus for each. Option 2 – Independent received the highest consensus (37%), followed by Option 1 – Steady growth (35%) and Option 4 – Single year (27%). Figure 1 below presents the results for these options.

Figure 1: Rate income options consensus

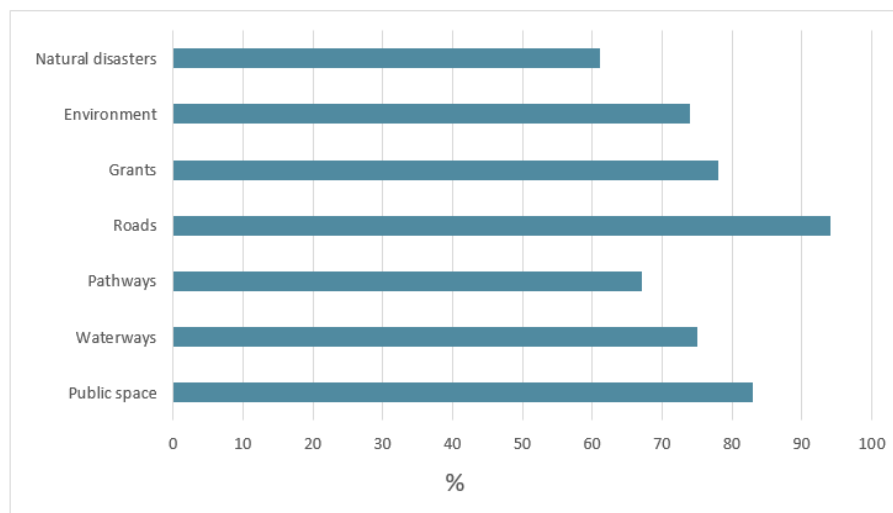


Given Council's financial position and the consideration of five rate income options, it was necessary to understand participant consensus for a reduction of services moving forward. Of those that completed the survey 39% (317 responses) had a consensus for reduced service levels and to move forward with a standard rate increase only in line with the rate cap of 2.5%. Interestingly, this did not correlate with the high level of consensus for people seeking an enhancement of services earlier in the survey.

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

In case an option that provided additional rate income to enhance services was considered a preferred path forward, priorities were examined as part of the online survey. Participants were asked about their level of support for key focus areas identified in previous community engagement opportunities over the past 18 months. Consensus on c priorities areas is provided in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Your priorities



The survey also sought feedback from participants about the survey tool used. The tool was well received with the majority of participants supporting the process as a way to help build trust and transparency of decision making. Around 80% of participants found the process informative, allowing for a more educated and considered responses and that they would like to see a similar process replicated for other projects. There was also 77% support that participants were more likely to support future decisions if they knew the result was based on a similar process.

The full survey report can be viewed in Appendix C.

Face to Face and online community information sessions

Three face to face community information sessions were held, one in each ward area, along with three online sessions. The combination of dual daytime (face to face) and evening sessions (online) helped to provide equitable access for participation.

Only 55 people attended across the 6 separate information sessions. The sessions commenced with an information presentation to generate an understanding of Councils financial position and the non-rate and rate income options available. This was followed by Q&A's with Council' Executive Team and the Chief Financial Officer

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Of those that attended the community information sessions, the following comments were raised.

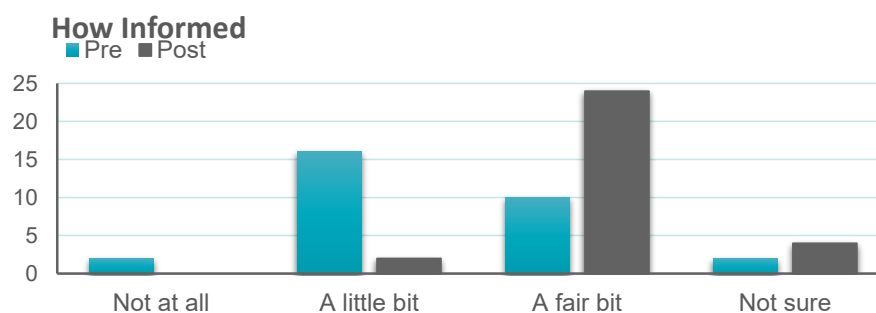
- Drainage and maintenance issues at Medowie
- Development contributions
- Operational costs and capital cost discussion
- Over 55's rating inequities
- Discussion around the impact of the rate valuation and 'rate pie'
- Distrust in financial modelling
- Criteria needed around reduction of service levels
- Staffing levels indoor vs outdoor
- Performance and efficiency

A digital copy of the online presentation was also made available on Council's website after the majority of the presentations were completed to allow people to view the presentation at any time.

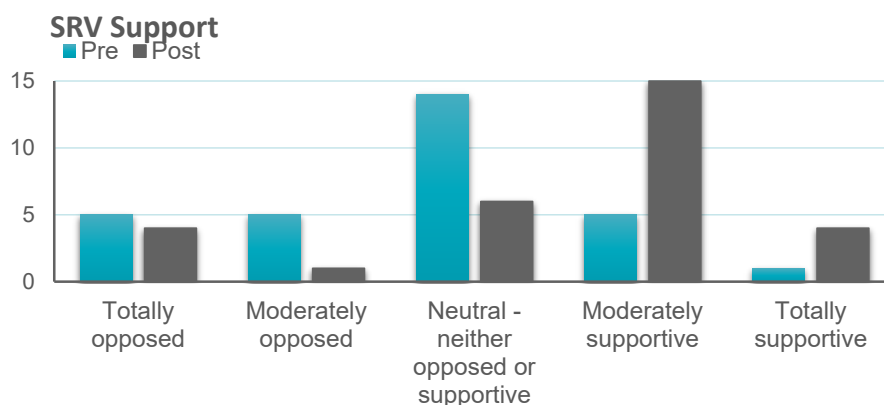
To help capture how effective the Our funded future communications approach and community information sessions were, a snap poll was implemented. This involved two questions asked of attendees pre and post the session to gauge any movement in the level of support for Our funded future from the sessions.

Although only a small sample size of 30 people completed the snap poll, the results outlined in Figure 3 shows both a higher level of being informed and being supportive of a Special Rate Variation (SRV) post session. The communications work completed in phase 0 and phase 1 can be seen through the 53% of attendees being 'a little bit' informed prior to the session. Given the post-session level of support for a special rate variation, the context of the discussion and layout of the presentation was received well. These results are encouraging and support the effectiveness of the Phase 0 and 1 communications and engagement that were delivered.

Figure 3: Pre and post snap polls



ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.



Facebook live Q&A event

The Facebook live Q&A event included the Executive Team and the Chief Financial Officer online live answering questions from the community in real-time. The event was scheduled early in Phase 1 to help increase the community awareness of the project and to launch the beginning of the engagement period. This event reached over 2900 people had 826 post clicks and received 124 reactions, comments and shares. Of those that attended during the session, questions and comments related to the previously identified key themes and included:

- Engagement program timeframes
- Employee cost savings
- Reducing internal costs
- What income increases will fund
- Funding relief from natural disasters
- Whether Capital works expenditure is fit for purpose
- Developer contributions and future growth assumptions

Positive feedback was received during and at the conclusion of the event thanking executive members for being available and answering questions transparently.

Special interest group presentation

Individual presentations were offered to a number of special interest groups outside the general engagement opportunities via direct email. Eight special interest groups were provided with an individual presentation. The attendance at these presentations ranged from 1 on 1, 5-20, to up to 90. The questions and feedback received at these presentations aligned with the key themes outlined in this report.

For those that did not respond, follow-up emails were distributed that included an information statement of on Our funded future and links to the website and survey. Some special interest groups advised that they did not need an individual

**ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.**

presentation and encouraged members to attend a face to face session as part of the broader community engagement program.

Based on feedback received, the direct invite, personal follow up and individual presentations to special interest groups have helped gain support from these groups around the need for financial change at Council. These presentations have also helped to prevent the circulation of misinformation or community outrage around the Our funded future conversation and the income options available, including a special rate variation options under consideration.

Interactions

Council received 39 interactions representing every instance a community member contacted Council, regarding Our Funded Future. This includes interactions such as phone calls acknowledging the receipt of the Our Funded Future rate notice insert, emails and letters with questions and comments put forward to Professor Drew or council staff as well as simple information requests regarding the engagement methods.

It is important to note that the Our funded future communications and engagement program remained agile and responsive to community needs throughout phase 0 and phase 1. Comments and questions raised in the community information sessions, Facebook live event and online survey comments were monitored and responded to publically by our Executive team through a series of 6 videos, These videos were provided on our YouTube channel, Facebook page and website.

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

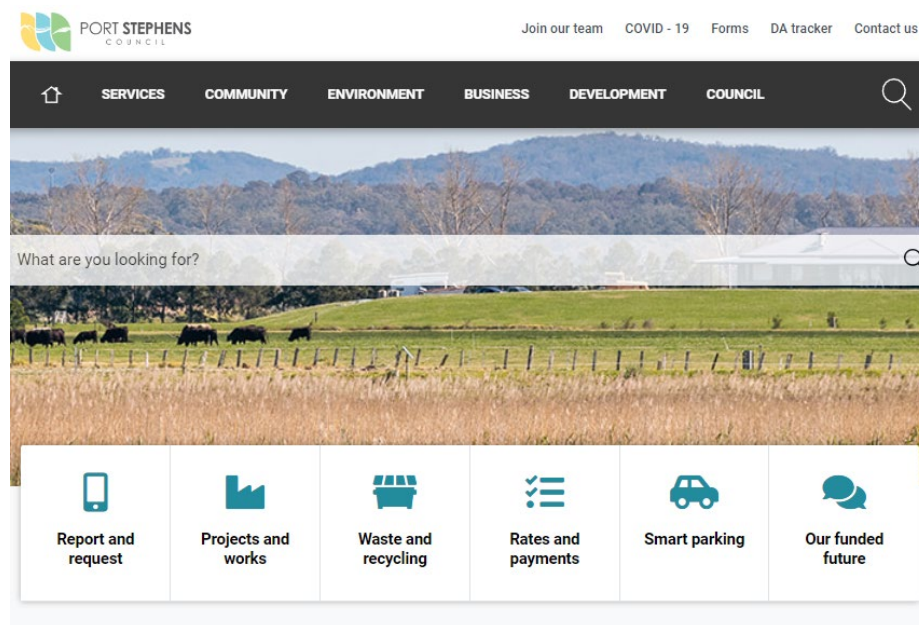
Appendix A: Phase 0

Communication methods

Project webpage

www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/council/our-funded-future

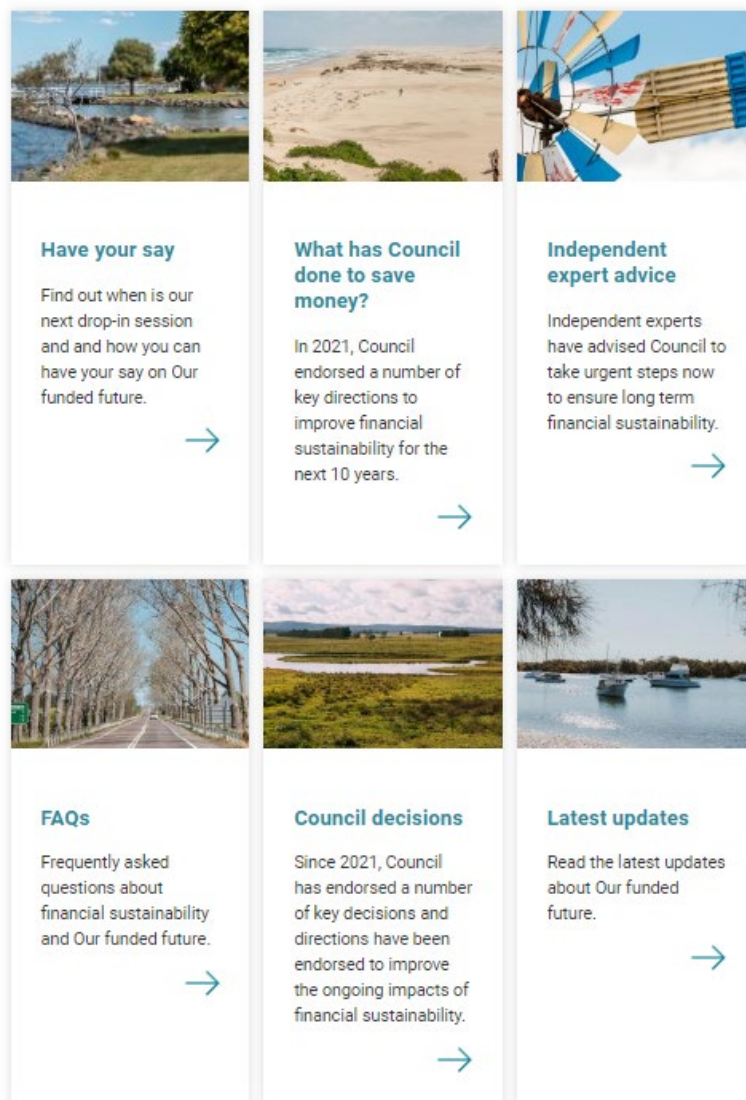
Our funded future page promoted to home page via quick access bar



**ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.**

Website page included

Introduction, general information, media release, webinar from independent experts, FAQs, details of community information sessions and links to online sessions



**ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.**

Media releases and associated media

Media releases from Port Stephens Council

29 June 2022

Port Stephens Council commits to driving long term financial sustainability

<https://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/council/news/2022/port-stephens-council-commits-to-driving-long-term-financial-sustainability>

7 July 2022

Independent experts say it's time for change

<https://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/council/news/2022/independent-experts-say-its-time-for-change>

12 July 2022

Local experts need to guide Port Stephens funded future

<https://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/council/news/2022/local-experts-needed-to-guide-port-stephens-funded-future2>

Associated media stories

7 July 2022

Independent experts say it's time for change (The National Tribune)

<https://www.nationaltribune.com.au/independent-experts-say-it-s-time-for-change/>

7 July 2022

Independent Experts say it's time for change (Mirage News)

<https://www.miragenews.com/independent-experts-say-its-time-for-change-815093/>

8 July 2022

Consultation aims to 'strike a balance' between the needs of community and Port Stephens Council's financial future (Port Stephens Examiner)

<https://www.portstephensexaminer.com.au/story/7810822/needs-of-community-weighed-against-councils-financial-future/>

11 July 2022

Independent experts say it's time for change (Intouch magazine)

<https://www.intouchmagazine.com.au/single-post/independent-experts-say-it-s-time-for-change>

13 July 2022

Independent Review on Port Stephens Council Financial Sustainability (News of the area)

<https://www.newsofthearea.com.au/independent-review-on-port-stephens-council-financial-sustainability-96694>

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Radio

13 July 2022 - 1233 ABC Newcastle 'Port Stephens Council to look at bottom line'

<https://broadcast.meltwater.com/public/segment?U3RhdGlvb00OCZTdGFydERhdGVUaW1IPTlWmJtMDctMTNUMDYIM0EzNSUzQTA1LjAwMCUyQjEwJTlBNBMDAmRW5kRGF0ZVRpbWU9MjAyMi0wNy0xM1QwNiUzQTQ1JTlBNBMDUuMDAwJTJCMTAIM0EwMCZQbGF5U3RhcjRSZWdleD1Qb3J0JTlWU3RlcGhbnMIMjBDd3VvY2IsJlBsYXITdGFydFJlZ2V4UHJlcm9sbD0xNSZEdXJhdGlvb002MDAwMDAmSGlnaGxpZ2h0UmVnZXg9UG9ydCUyMFN0ZXBoZW5zJTlWQ291bmNpbCZTaWduYXR1cmU9QzE5NTgzREJENkQxRjU5QjFFNkMxQzc3NTYxODIyMzE%3D=>

Paid advertisement

14 July 2022, Port Stephens Examiner, p. 9

Our funded future
Striking a balance between the needs of our community and Council's funded future

Council is looking to take steps to ensure its long term financial sustainability. We've developed a number of options to help shape our funded future. Options focus on reducing service delivery, increasing fees and charges, a rate increase or investigating in new income streams – it's all on the table.

We need our community to get involved. A number of drop in sessions have been set up across Port Stephens – save the date.

Date	Time	Detail	Where
Wed 20 Jul 2022	5 to 7pm	PS Live Facebook Live event	Online
Wed 27 Jul 2022	10am to 12pm	Community face to face drop in information session	Medowie Community Hall, Medowie
Wed 27 Jul 2022	5 to 6:30pm	Community information session	Online
Mon 1 Aug 2022	10am to 12pm	Community face to face drop in information session	King Park Function Centre, Raymond Terrace
Mon 1 Aug 2022	5 to 6:30pm	Community information session	Online
Wed 3 Aug 2022	10am to 12pm	Community face to face drop in information session	Bruce Scott Pavilion, Tomaree Sports Complex, Nelson Bay
Wed 3 Aug 2022	5 to 6:30pm	Community information session	Online

How do I have a say?

- portstephens.nsw.gov.au/our-funded-future
- Visit your local library or Council administration building
- 02 4988 0255
- ourfundedfuture@portstephens.nsw.gov.au

PORT STEPHENS COUNCIL

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Facebook posts (organic)

29 June 2022



Port Stephens Council

Published by Lauren Hawke · 29 June ·

Council's ongoing commitment to securing long term financial sustainability was supported at last night's Council meeting.

Councillors endorsed commencing the conversation with our community to strike a balance between the needs of our community and Council's financial future.

We want to work with the community to find the best solution.

Read the full media release at pscouncil.info/FinancialSustainability



Performance for your post



3538 People reached

48 Likes, comments and shares

370 Post clicks

11

Photo views

51

Link clicks

308

Other Clicks

Distribution summary

-2.1x lower than your other posts within 21+ days of being published.

↓ 2.1x less

Post impressions

↓ 1.8x less

Post clicks

↓ 2.3x less

Reactions

[View More Details](#)

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

1 Hide all posts

0 Hide post

0 Report as spam

0 Unlike Page

48 Likes, comments and shares

BRANDED CONTENT DISTRIBUTION

[View Breakdown](#)

3538

Total reach

3538

Organic reach

0

Paid reach

3588

Total impressions

3588

Organic impressions


0


Paid impressions

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1

7 July 2022





Port Stephens Council
 Published by Meltwater Engage · 7 July ·

Independent experts, Emeritus Professor Brian Dollery and Professor Joseph Drew undertook a review of Council's long term financial strategy. They let us know that it's crucial for us to take steps to ensure our long term financial sustainability.

Find out more about these findings on our website. We have a simplified webinar that provides a summary of what you need to know or you can read the full reports at pscouncil.info/OurFundedFutureIndependentExperts

If you have any questions for Professor Drew, email ourfundedfuture@portstephens.nsw.gov.au

It's been good to hear from experts that are internationally recognised, but now we want feedback from our local experts – our community – you. The community conversation opens on 18 July.



Performance for your post

4478 People reached

32 Likes, comments and shares

114 Post clicks

9	27	78
Photo views	Link clicks	Other Clicks

Distribution summary
 -1.6x lower than your other posts within 21+ days of being published.

↓ 1.6x less	↓ 3.1x less	↓ 3.5x less
Post impressions	Post clicks	Reactions

[View More Details](#)

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide all posts	0 Hide post
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

32 Likes, comments and shares

BRANDED CONTENT DISTRIBUTION

[View Breakdown](#)

4478	4478	0
Total reach	Organic reach	Paid reach

4652	4652	0
Total impressions	Organic impressions	Paid impressions

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1

12 July 2022



Port Stephens Council

Published by Lauren Hawke · 12 July at 17:41 ·

Save the date! 📅

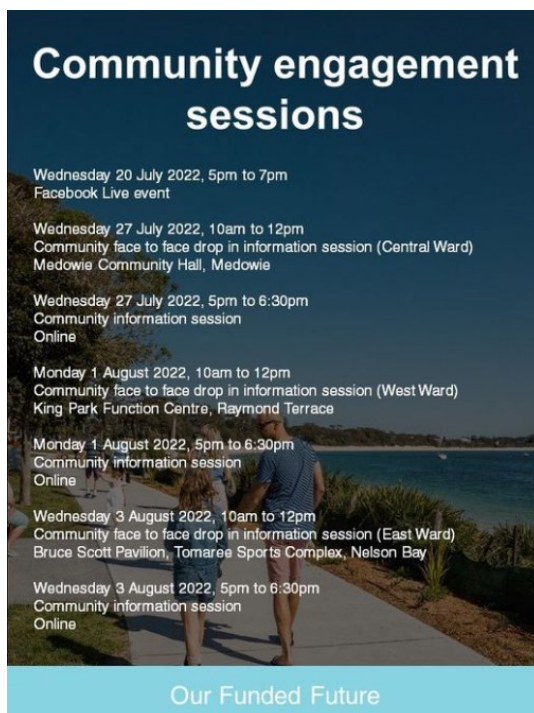
Council are encouraging those that live, work and visit Port Stephens to get involved and have their say on Our Funded Future.

Over the next few weeks, we want you to share your thoughts on a number of options available to help shape our financial future, like reducing service delivery, increasing fees and charges, a rate increase or investigating new income streams – it's all on the table.

Next Wednesday, we're starting off with a Facebook Live where you can ask questions and have them answered by council staff who are experts in their field. You can pre-submit questions via email to: ourfundedfuture@portstephens.nsw.gov.au, or join us on Facebook to ask your questions in real time. 🗣️

Other dates to chat to us face to face or online are shared below, and in the comments! 🗣️

For further information visit: pscouncil.info/LocalExpertsNeeded



Community engagement sessions

Wednesday 20 July 2022, 5pm to 7pm
Facebook Live event

Wednesday 27 July 2022, 10am to 12pm
Community face to face drop in information session (Central Ward)
Meadow Community Hall, Meadowie

Wednesday 27 July 2022, 5pm to 6:30pm
Community information session
Online

Monday 1 August 2022, 10am to 12pm
Community face to face drop in information session (West Ward)
King Park Function Centre, Raymond Terrace

Monday 1 August 2022, 5pm to 6:30pm
Community information session
Online

Wednesday 3 August 2022, 10am to 12pm
Community face to face drop in information session (East Ward)
Bruce Scott Pavilion, Tomaree Sports Complex, Nelson Bay

Wednesday 3 August 2022, 5pm to 6:30pm
Community information session
Online

Our Funded Future



Performance for your post

8199 People reached

58 Likes, comments and shares

376 Post clicks

18

Photo views

12

Link clicks

346

Other Clicks

Distribution summary

average performance as your other posts within
21+ days of being published.

↑ 1.2x more

Post impressions

↓ 3.7x less

Post clicks

↓ 2.0x less

Reactions

View More Details

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide all posts

0 Hide post

0 Report as spam

0 Unlike Page

58 Likes, comments and shares

BRANDED
CONTENT
DISTRIBUTION

View Breakdown

8199

Total reach

8199

Organic reach

0

Paid reach

8927

Total impressions

8927

Organic impressions

0

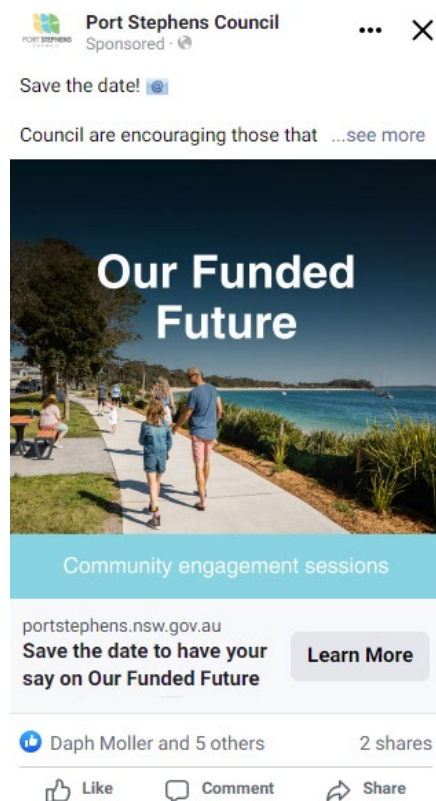
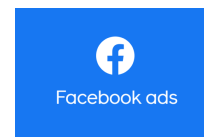
Paid impressions

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Facebook posts (paid)

'Save the date'

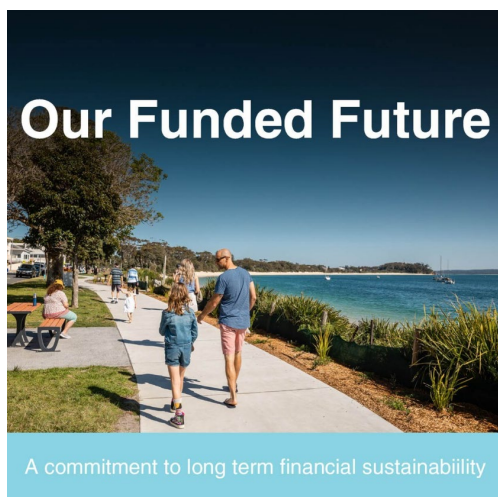
13 July 2022



ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1

Instagram posts
29 June 2022



psccouncil Council's ongoing commitment to securing long term financial sustainability was supported at last night's Council meeting.

Councillors endorsed commencing the conversation with our community to strike a balance between the needs of our community and Council's financial future.

We want to work with the community to find the best solution.

Read the full media release at the link in our bio. [🔗](#)

5w

Post Insights



Messaging-related insights, such as shares and replies, may be lower than expected due to privacy rules in some regions.
[Learn More](#)



3



0



0



1

Interactions ⓘ

5

Actions taken from this post

Profile Visits

3

Website taps

2

Discovery ⓘ

207

Accounts reached

3% weren't following psccouncil

Impressions

221

From Home

202

From Profile

14

From Other

5

Follows

0

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Direct email

On 7 July 2022 Email sent to 10 key community groups offering a special briefing including:

- Tomaree Residents and Ratepayers Association
- South Tomaree Community Association
- Fern Bay and Fullerton Cove Progress Association
- Karuah Progress Association
- Medowie Progress Association
- Business Port Stephens
- Voices of Wallalong and Woodville
- Shoal Bay Community Association Inc
- Soldiers Point Community Group
- Tilligerry Community Association



Dear all

At the Council meeting on the 28 June 2022, Council agreed to move forward with an engagement program to discuss financial sustainability with the community and seek feedback on a number of options to turn around our financial position. This includes reducing service delivery, increasing fees and charges, a special rate variation or investigating new revenue streams – it's all on the table.

You may have already read the media release sent out on Wednesday, 29 June 2022 but if not you can view it [here](#).

This is a really important decision for our community and as you're part of a key community interest group we wanted to reach out to you and offer a **special briefing** to enable you and your members to learn more about the project. Please contact us as soon as possible via reply email to arrange a special briefing. We're happy to join an existing scheduled meeting or arrange a new meeting either face to face or online.

Alternatively, you're welcome to join any of the community information events (dates below) where you can learn more and provide feedback.

Date	Time	Detail	Where
Wednesday, 20 July 2022	5 to 7pm	PS Live Facebook Live event	Online
Wednesday, 27 July 2022	10 to 12am	Community face to face drop in information session (Central Ward)	Medowie Community Hall, 44 Ferodale Road, Medowie
Wednesday, 27 July 2022	5 to 6:30pm	Community information session	Online
Monday, 1 August 2022	10 to 12am	Community face to face drop in information session (West Ward)	Raymond Terrace location to be confirmed
Monday, 1 August 2022	5 to 6:30pm	Community information session	Online
Wednesday, 3 August 2022	10am to 12pm	Community face to face drop in information session (East Ward)	Bruce Scott Pavilion, Tomaree Sports Complex, Nelson Bay
Wednesday, 3 August 2022	5 to 6:30pm	Community information session	Online

Please keep up to date via our website portstephens.nsw.gov.au/our-funded-future as the project progresses.

Yours sincerely,

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Bulk newsletter printed 'Your Port'

The following was provided with the July 2022 rates notices.

The majority of these advices were received early July by residents.



Message from the acting GM

Over the past 10 years, Council has maintained a strong and stable financial position achieving an annual budget surplus of 1%. This has allowed Council to deliver a broad range of services, invest in local infrastructure, grow our economy and make Port Stephens a great place to live, work and visit.

Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is the tool used to effectively plan for and deliver long term sustainability. For some time, the LTFP has identified this year and next as being tough with operational costs associated with insurance, workers compensation and legislated changes in superannuation negatively impacting the budget.

Like many other businesses around the world, the last two years have also impacted Council's budget. Income from our holiday parks, childcare centres and Newcastle Airport have been reduced while at the same time costs associated with construction and transport have significantly increased. Major storm events have increased our maintenance costs, insurance prices and diverted funds away from planned projects.

Last year, Council predicted an underlying deficit of \$4.4 million however, with careful planning and a commitment to further reducing expenditure, we saw a surplus of \$583,000. To achieve this, we've focused

on improving our productivity, streamlining services, containing our costs and increasing revenue.

Despite these efforts, our financial forecast has shown that if we keep going this way, we'll spend more on our services than we can afford unless we make real change.

We know COVID-19 isn't over and other economic factors such as inflation continue to have flow-on effects, so it's important we take steps now to ensure Council is financially sustainable in the long term.

This may include reducing service delivery, increasing fees and charges, a rate increase or investigating new revenue streams – it's all on the table.

Port Stephens has one of the lowest rate bases in the region. A special rate variation is an option but if our community wants to keep rates low, we need to understand what services you're prepared to see reduced into the future.

With a new Council in place, it's time to look at how we do business – where can we increase our income, find savings and strike a balance between the needs of our community and Council's funded future.

Tim Crosdale
Acting General Manager



ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1



What is Council doing to ensure financial sustainability?

At its meeting on 26 October 2021, Council acknowledged the ongoing impacts of financial sustainability and endorsed a number of key directions to improve this over time, including creating strong cash reserve to help Council avoid shocks from natural disasters or economic downturns, creating the Port Stephens Prosperity Fund to future proof investment in important infrastructure, seeking grant funding and reducing operational costs.

To support this, Council appointed independent experts to analyse our overall long term financial position. These reports and recommendations were presented to Councillors in March 2022. Since then, wages have been reduced by \$1,053,000, a one-off 10% increase to fees and charges was implemented and agreement has been made for a further rollout of paid parking. Council has also identified a number of assets which may be in excess of our community needs.

What we know is that we need to make real change. With a rate increase of only 2.5% and Consumer Price Index (CPI) expected to increase by at least 5.1%, our long term budget is showing an \$80 million shortfall over 10 years. It's clear that we can't keep doing things the same way.

We're now starting the conversation. We want our community to have a complete understanding of our financial position and the ability to participate in the decision making for our funded future.

Is Council running efficiently?



How do I have a say?

Let us know your thoughts on a number of options to shape our financial future.



- portstephens.nsw.gov.au/our-funded-future
- Visit your local library
- 02 4988 0255
- Visit the Council administration building
- ourfundedfuture@portstephens.nsw.gov.au



ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Appendix B: Phase 1

Communication methods

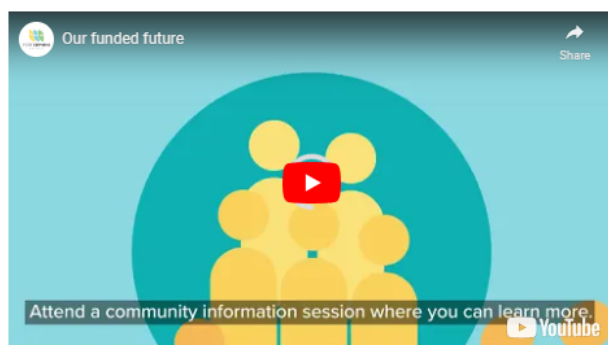
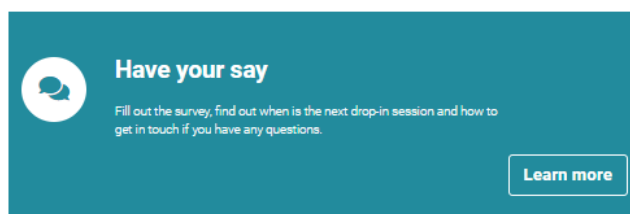
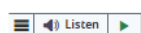
Project webpage

www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/council/our-funded-future

3,794 visits (total for Phase 0 and Phase 1 = 4332 visits)

Website page major update at the beginning of Phase 1 to include link to survey, video and additional information around the various options.

Our funded future



What are Our funded future options?

We have put together a number of rate income and non-rate income options to turn our financial position around and we want to explore these with the community.

Non-rate income options include:

- increasing fees and charges,
- continuing to seek grant funding,
- selling underperforming assets and
- removing the exemption for local residents from smart parking.

The rate income options include our current scenario and 5 options for a Special rate variation:

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Project webpage continued

Base Option – Current Scenario	+
Option 1 – Steady Growth	+
Option 2 – Independent	+
Option 3 – Short Term	+
Option 4 – Single Year	+
Option 5 – Long Term	+

The purpose of Council applying for a Special Rate Variation is to be financial sustainable.

It is unsustainable for Council to operate year after year with budget shortfalls. The additional income raised by an Special Rate Variation would be used to eliminate forecasted shortfalls, covering the rising costs associated with delivering planned services to our community.

We understand that it will be difficult for some of our community to pay for an increase in rates. We have a range of policies in place to assist ratepayers experiencing hardship, whether it be for a short or long time. Visit our [Financial hardship page](#) → for more information.

Rates calculator

If you want to know how the above options impact you, use our [Rates calculator](#)* → . **Make sure you have your rate notice ready!**

*The rates calculations are an estimate only using the best information currently available to Council. Rates levied may vary from the estimate depending upon changes in your land value compared to your Rate Category average.

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1

Project webpage continued

Base Option – Current Scenario

Under the base option, Council will not be financially sustainable. The income we get will not cover what we need to spend to deliver services as they currently are. Our assets will deteriorate and we will look at reducing or ceasing services. This might mean we only mow our parks once per six weeks instead of once per month, it could mean we postpone the resurfacing of a road, we push back the renovation of a sports facility or not replace older playground equipment. Other services which could be impacted is opening times of our community libraries, our Visitor Information Centre or other facilities. If this is the path forward we would have lengthy community conversations to understand what services you're prepared to see reduced or stopped in the future.

10.38%
CUMULATIVE

\$119 OR \$2 PER WEEK
AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL

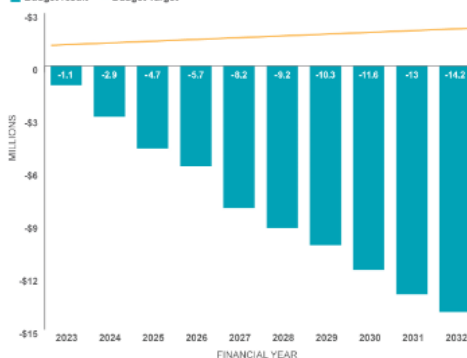
YEAR 1 **2.5%**

YEAR 2 **2.5%**

YEAR 3 **2.5%**

YEAR 4 **2.5%**

Base Option - Current Scenario
■ Budget result — Budget Target



[Base Option – Average Impact on Individual Rating Categories](#) (PDF 79 KB)

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Project webpage continued

Option 1 – Steady Growth

Under Option 1 Council achieves our target budget in 2026 and stays there for seven (7) of the ten (10) years of our financial plan. Between 2023 and 2026 Council will be vulnerable to external shocks such as natural disasters and will need to continue operating on a tight budget whilst we wait for additional funds to become available to put back into the community.

38.56%
CUMULATIVE

\$443 OR \$9 PER WEEK
AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL

YEAR 1 **7%**

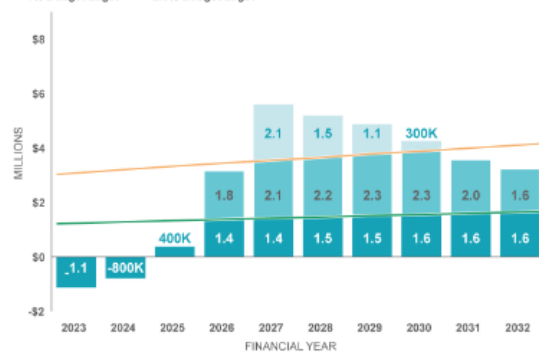
YEAR 2 **8%**

YEAR 3 **9%**

YEAR 4 **10%**

Option 1 - Steady Growth

■ 1% Reached ■ 2.5% Reached ■ Additional funds
— 1% Budget target — 2.5% Budget target



All figures are inclusive of the 2.5% rate cap and are permanent in nature

[Option 1 – Steady Growth – Average Impact on Individual Rating Categories](#) (PDF 85 KB)

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Project webpage continued

Option 2 – Independent

Under Option 2, Council achieves our target budget in 2025 and stays there for nine (9) of the ten (10) years of our financial plan. From 2025, additional funds above the balanced budget will become available to put back into the community and Council would maintain a strong financial position long term. This option is recommended by independent experts Professor Brian Dollery and Professor Joseph Drew.

34.92%
CUMULATIVE

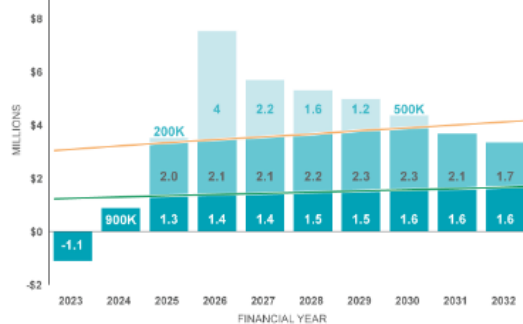
\$401 OR \$8 PER WEEK
AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL

YEAR 1 **10.5%**

YEAR 2 **10.5%**

YEAR 3 **10.5%**

Option 2 - Independent Recommendation
 ■ 1% Reached ■ 2.5% Reached ■ Additional funds
 — 1% Budget target — 2.5% Budget target



All figures are inclusive of the 2.5% rate cap and are permanent in nature

[Option 2 – Independent Recommendation – Average Impact on Individual Rating Categories](#)
(PDF 85 KB)

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Project webpage continued

Option 3 – Short Term

Under Option 3, Council returns to a positive financial position for four (4) of the ten (10) years of our financial plan. From 2028 our financial position would deteriorate, returning to budget shortfalls in 2030. Council will be highly vulnerable to external shocks such as natural disasters and would not be financially sustainable in the long term. It's anticipated that a further special rate variation would need to be considered in 2028 to be implemented by 2030.

29.68%
CUMULATIVE

\$341 OR \$7 PER WEEK
AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL

YEAR 1 **11.5%**

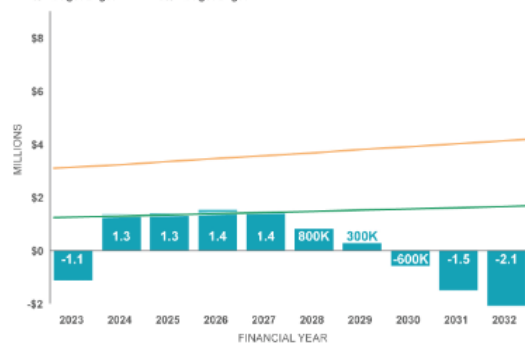
YEAR 2 **5.5%**

YEAR 3 **4%**

YEAR 4 **6%**

Option 3 - Short Term Solution

■ 1% Reached ■ 2.5% Reached ■ Additional funds
— 1% Budget target — 2.5% Budget target



All figures are inclusive of the 2.5% rate cap and are permanent in nature

[Option 3 – Short Term Solution – Average Impact on Individual Rating Categories](#) (PDF 85 KB)

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Project webpage continued

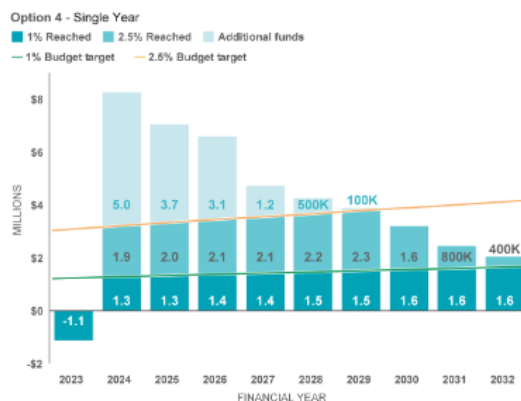
Option 4 – Single Year

Under Option 4, Council returns to a positive financial position for nine (9) of the ten (10) years of our financial plan, eliminating budget shortfalls from when the SRV commences. Council will be in a secure position to absorb external shocks such as natural disasters and maintain this position long-term. Council will have additional funds from 2024 which can be directed back into the community. Whilst the annual increase is higher than any other option the cumulative increase is much less.

26%
CUMULATIVE

YEAR 1 **26%**

\$298 OR \$6 PER WEEK
AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL



All figures are inclusive of the 2.5% rate cap and are permanent in nature

[Option 4 – Single Year – Average Impact on Individual Rating Categories](#) (PDF 81 KB)

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Project webpage continued

Option 5 – Long Term

Under Option 5, Council returns to a balanced budget in 2024 and remains in a positive position for eight (8) of the ten (10) years of our financial plan. We will be in a secure position to absorb external shocks such as natural disasters and maintain this position long term. From 2025, additional funds above the balanced budget will become available to put back into the community. This option is the largest cumulative increase which would see the most additional funds available.

45.08%
CUMULATIVE

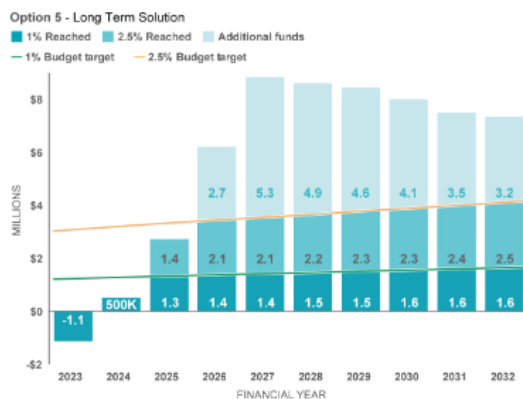
\$518 OR \$10 PER WEEK
AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL

YEAR 1 **9.75%**

YEAR 2 **9.75%**

YEAR 3 **9.75%**

YEAR 4 **9.75%**



All figures are inclusive of the 2.5% rate cap and are permanent in nature

[Option 5 – Long Term Solution – Average Impact on Individual Rating Categories](#) (PDF 85 KB)

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Media releases

18 July 2022

Have your say on Port Stephens funded future

<https://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/council/news/2022/have-your-say-on-port-stephens-funded-future>

Associated media stories

21 July 2022

Rates hike back on the table (Port Stephens Examiner)

<https://www.portstephensexaminer.com.au/story/7824651/rates-hike-back-on-the-table-as-council-consults-community-on-cash-plan/>

26 July 2022

Letter to the editor 'Heading Towards Another SRV' (News of the area)

<https://www.newsofthearea.com.au/opinion-heading-towards-another-srv-97455>

28 July 2022 'Villages should pay fair share', Port Stephens Examiner (letter to the editor)

<https://www.portstephensexaminer.com.au/story/7834815/letters-to-the-editor-villages-should-pay-fair-share-in-rates/>

Radio

19 July 2022 6am 2HD Breakfast program 'PSC launched campaign to look at its future'

<https://broadcast.meltwater.com/public/segment?U3RhdGlvbj0xNTQmU3RhcncREYXRIVGltZT0yMDIyLTA3LTE5VDA1JTNBNTYIM0EYOC4wMDAIMkxMCUzQTAWJkVUZERhdGVUaW1IPTIwMjltMDctMTJUMDYIM0EwNiUzQTl4LjAwMCUyQjEwJTNBMDAmUGxheVN0YXJ0UmVnZXg9UG9ydCUyMFN0ZXBoZW5zJTlWQ291bmNpbCZQbGF5U3RhcncRSZWdleFBYXJvGw9MTUmRHVvYXRPb249NjAwMDAwJkhpZ2hsaWdodFJlZ2V4PVBycnQIMjBTdGVwaGVucyUyMENvdW5jaWwmU2lnbmF0dXJlPUUzREY2REE3MTJEOEJBM0MwRUJDRDhGNk11NzqxQzU2=>

22 July 2022 10:00am 2HD News Bulletin '..Anderson is pushing the council to sell of its surplus land..'

<https://broadcast.meltwater.com/public/segment?U3RhdGlvbj0xNTQmU3RhcncREYXRIVGltZT0yMDIyLTA3LTlYVDEwJTNBMDAIM0E1MC4wMDAIMkxMCUzQTAWJkVUZERhdGVUaW1IPTIwMjltMDctMTJUMTAIM0ExMCUzQTUwLjAwMCUyQjEwJTNBMDAmUGxheVN0YXJ0UmVnZXg9UG9ydCUyMFN0ZXBoZW5zJTlWQ291bmNpbCZQbGF5U3RhcncRSZWdleD1Qb3J0JTlWU3RlcGhIbnMIMiBD3VuY2IsJTdDY291bmNpbCZTaWduYXR1cmU9RTQxNDdGMU4MkY5QkQwOTU0RTE5QkM1OTU2NjdFOUE%3D=>

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

22 July 2022 8am NewFM News Bulletin 'Anderson is pushing the council to sell of its surplus land..'

<https://broadcast.meltwater.com/public/segment?U3RhdGlvbj0xNzlmU3RhcncREYXRIVGltZT0yMDIyLTA3LTl3VDA3JTNTBNTYIM0EwNS4wMDAImkixMCUzQTAWJkVvZXRhdGVUaW11PTIwMjltMDctMjJUMDQIM0EwNiUzQTA1LjAwMCUyQjEwJTNTBMDAmUGxheVN0YXJ0UmVnZXg9UG9ydcUyMfN0ZXBoZW5zJTlwY291bmNpbGxvciU3Q2NvdW5jaWwMDAwUGxheVN0YXJ0UmVnZXhQcmVyb2xsPTE1JkR1cmF0aW9uPTYwMDAwMCZlaWdobGlnaHRSZWdleD1Qb3J0JTlwU3RlcGhlnbMIMjBib3VuY2lsbG9yJTdDY291bmNpbCZTaWduYXR1cmU9RjBBRkU0ODRCQ0VCNTc0MzZENDBDQ0JCQ0IXMzAyRDl%3D=>

2EL 8:39am 27 July 2022 'PSC is commencing to consult the community regarding various rate increase scenarios'

<https://broadcast.meltwater.com/public/segment?U3RhdGlvbj0xNzYmU3RhcncREYXRIVGltZT0yMDIyLTA3LTl3VDA4JTNTBMzklM0EwNC4wMDAImkixMCUzQTAWJkVvZXRhdGVUaW11PTIwMjltMDctMjJUMDQIM0E0OSUzQTE0LjAwMCUyQjEwJTNTBMDAmUGxheVN0YXJ0UmVnZXg9UG9ydcUyMfN0ZXBoZW5zJTlwQ291bmNpbCU3Q3JhdGUIMjBpbmNyZWZzZSZQbGF5U3RhcncRSZWdleFByZXJvbGw9MTUmRHVvYXRpb249NjAwMDAwJkhpZ2hsaWdodFJlZ2V4PVbvcnQIMjBib3VuY2lsbG9yJTdDY291bmNpbCZTaWduYXR1cmU9RjBBRkU0ODRCQ0VCNTc0MzZENDBDQ0JCQ0IXMzAyRDl%3D=>

2SM 8:40am 27 July 2022 'PSC is commencing to consult the community regarding various rate increase scenarios'

<https://broadcast.meltwater.com/public/segment?U3RhdGlvbj0xNzVJBRDJTTSZTdGFydERhdGVUaW11PTIwMjltMDctMjJUMDQIM0E0MCUzQTM4LjE3MCUyQjEwJTNTBMDAmRW5kRGF0ZVRpbWU9MjAyMDwN0y0yN1QwOCUzQTQxJTNTBMjQwNzZlJkU3RlcGhlnbMIMjBib3VuY2lsbG9yJTdDY291bmNpbCZTaWduYXR1cmU9RjBBRkU0ODRCQ0VCNTc0MzZENDBDQ0JCQ0IXMzAyRDl%3D=>

2PM Radio 531 8:36am 27 July 2022 'PSC is commencing to consult the community regarding various rate increase scenarios'

<https://broadcast.meltwater.com/public/segment?U3RhdGlvbj0xNjAmU3RhcncREYXRIVGltZT0yMDIyLTA3LTl3VDA4JTNTBMzYIM0EzNy4wMDAImkixMCUzQTAWJkVvZXRhdGVUaW11PTIwMjltMDctMjJUMDQIM0E0NiUzQTM3LjAwMCUyQjEwJTNTBMDAmUGxheVN0YXJ0UmVnZXg9UG9ydcUyMfN0ZXBoZW5zJTlwQ291bmNpbCU3Q3JhdGUIMjBpbmNyZWZzZSZQbGF5U3RhcncRSZWdleFByZXJvbGw9MTUmRHVvYXRpb249NjAwMDAwJkhpZ2hsaWdodFJlZ2V4PVbvcnQIMjBib3VuY2lsbG9yJTdDY291bmNpbCZTaWduYXR1cmU9RjBBRkU0ODRCQ0VCNTc0MzZENDBDQ0JCQ0IXMzAyRDl%3D=>

2HD 8:36am 27 July 2022 'PSC is commencing to consult the community regarding various rate increase scenarios'

<https://broadcast.meltwater.com/public/segment?U3RhdGlvbj0xNTQmU3RhcncREYXRIVGltZT0yMDIyLTA3LTl3VDA4JTNTBMzYIM0EYOC4wMDAImkixMCUzQTAWJkVvZXRhdGVUaW11PTIwMjltMDctMjJUMDQIM0E0NiUzQTM3LjAwMCUyQjEwJTNTBMDAmUGxheVN0YXJ0UmVnZXg9UG9ydcUyMfN0ZXBoZW5zJTlwQ291bmNpbCU3Q3JhdGUIMjBpbmNyZWZzZSZQbGF5U3RhcncRSZWdleFByZXJvbGw9MTUmRHVvYXRpb249NjAwMDAwJkhpZ2hsaWdodFJlZ2V4PVbvcnQIMjBib3VuY2lsbG9yJTdDY291bmNpbCZTaWduYXR1cmU9RjBBRkU0ODRCQ0VCNTc0MzZENDBDQ0JCQ0IXMzAyRDl%3D=>

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1

Paid advertisements

28 July 2022, Port Stephens Examiner, Council Notices

PORT STEPHENS
COUNCILSubscribe to our community e-newsletters
Visit portstephens.nsw.gov.au/newslettersOUR FUNDED FUTURE
COMMUNITY INFO SESSIONS

Council is working on a new plan for our long term financial sustainability. We need your feedback on our funded future. It's an important time to make your voice heard and help us decide how we move forward. Let's work together to strike a balance. Have your say and tell us what you think about options like reducing service delivery, increasing fees and charges, a rate increase (Special Rate Variation) or investigating new income streams – it's all on the table.

We can't wait to hear from you and work together for our funded future. A number of drop in sessions have been set up across Port Stephens.

- **Mon 1 Aug 2022 – 5 to 7pm**
King Park Function Centre, Raymond Terrace
- **Mon 1 Aug 2022 – 5 to 6:30pm**
Online session
- **Wed 3 Aug 2022 – 10am to 12pm**
Bruce Scott Pavilion, Tomaree Sports Complex, Nelson Bay
- **Wed 3 Aug 2022 – 5 to 6:30pm**
Online session

Find more info at:
portstephens.nsw.gov.au/our-funded-future

SUSTAINABLE
FUTURES FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2022

EcoNetwork Port Stephens' Sustainable Futures Festival celebrates environmental innovation, sustainable living and the way nature enriches our lives.

Engage in family activities, explore the workshops and demonstrations, hear inspiring speakers and enjoy local music and tastes.

Held at St Philip's Christian College, Salamander Bay. A gold coin donation entry is appreciated.

Find out more at: ecops.au/sff

GET ACTIVE WITH IT'S ON!
FREE BOOTCAMP AND ZUMBA IN
APEX PARK, NELSON BAY

Tuesdays at 7am – Bootcamp

Looking for a great reason to get out of bed early? Get that body moving at a free bootcamp session.

Wednesdays at 9:30am – Zumba

Free Zumba sessions for everybody and every BODY. Bookings essential.

More info at: portstephens.org.au/its-on

COUNCIL NOTICES | 02 4988 0255 | council@portstephens.nsw.gov.au | portstephens.nsw.gov.au

Please Note: Any submission or other correspondence received by Council may be released to any person making application to Council under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. For further enquiries, please contact Council.

11 August 2022, Port Stephens Examiner, Council notices

PORT STEPHENS
COUNCILSubscribe to our community e-newsletters
Visit portstephens.nsw.gov.au/newslettersOUR FUNDED FUTURE
THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

Council is working on a new plan for our long term financial sustainability. We've recently completed our community information sessions and online survey to gather your feedback on our funded future. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us decide how we move forward. Keep up to date with this important project and where we'll go from here at:

portstephens.nsw.gov.au/our-funded-future

KARUAH CONNECT
KARUAH'S NEW ON-DEMAND
BUS SERVICE

Need a lift into town to do your shopping, attend an appointment or just connect with your community?

The Karuah Connect runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 2pm. It's only a gold coin donation to ride. To book call 4987 0002.

The service is funded by a Transport for NSW grant and an initiative of the Karuah Place Plan. It's possible thanks to the Karuah Progress Association, Karuah Working Together, Karuah Aboriginal Land Council and Karuah RSL.

COMMUNITY E-NEWSLETTERS
THE LATEST NEWS DIRECT TO YOU

Did you know we have a range of different e-newsletters that you can subscribe to? From community news and events, to environmental issues and business – we've got you covered.

Your Port

A monthly update on events, projects and works, opportunities to get involved and more.

Library news

Be the first to know about upcoming events, regular programs and special author visits.

Your Engagement

Learn about upcoming projects and how you can have your say.

Your Business

Join the BizLink network and keep your finger on the pulse of your local economy.

Your Environment

A quarterly update on events, workshops, sustainability, ecology, weed alerts and more.

Your Community Sector

A bi-monthly update for local service providers on highlights, happenings and opportunities.

Sign up to a newsletter that interests you at:
portstephens.nsw.gov.au/newsletters

COUNCIL NOTICES | 02 4988 0255 | council@portstephens.nsw.gov.au | portstephens.nsw.gov.au

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Report – Our Funded Future 36

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1

Social media

18 July 2022 - 'Have your say on Port Stephens Funded future ...'



Port Stephens Council
Published by Lauren Hawke · 18 July at 13:35 · 🌐

Have your say on Port Stephens' funded future!

Council is opening up the conversation on Our Funded Future, encouraging those that live, work and visit Port Stephens to have their say.

We've put together a number of rate income and non-rate income options to turn our financial position around and we want to explore these with the community.

Non-rate income options include:

- Increasing fees and charges
- Continuing to seek grant funding
- Selling underperforming assets
- Looking at other options for revenue

Rate increase options range from a 26% to 45% overall rate increase, either in a single year or over a number of years. Council could also continue under the current scenario where income continues to increase each year by the 2.5% rate peg – but this option would mean reduced services in the future.

Tell us your thoughts by:

📄 Taking the survey: our-funded-future.ethelo.net/page/welcome

🗣️ Attending an information session (in person or online):
<http://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/.../our.../have-your-say>

Or, learn more at: www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/council/our-funded-future



PORTSTEPHENS.NSW.GOV.AU

Our funded future

It's time to look at how we do business, where Council can improve revenue, find savings and ...

Performance for your post

1943 People reached

14 Likes, comments and shares

105 Post clicks

0	46	59
Photo views	Link clicks	Other Clicks

Distribution summary

-3.7x lower than your other posts within 21+ days of being published.

↓ 3.7x less	↓ 2.4x less	↓ 14.0x less
Post impressions	Post clicks	Reactions

View More Details

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide all posts	0 Hide post
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

14 Likes, comments and shares

BRANDED
CONTENT
DISTRIBUTION

View Breakdown

1943	1943	0
Total reach	Organic reach	Paid reach
2009	2009	0
Total impressions	Organic impressions	Paid impressions

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

20 July 2022 'Join us this evening for a LIVE Q&A session on Our Funded Future.'



Port Stephens Council
Published by Lauren Hawke · 20 July at 10:00 ·

Join us this evening for a LIVE Q&A session on Our Funded Future.

We want Port Stephens locals to share their thoughts on a number of options available to help shape our financial future, like reducing service delivery, increasing fees and charges, a rate increase or investigating new income streams – it's all on the table.

You can pre-submit questions via email to: ourfundedfuture@portstephens.nsw.gov.au, or join us here at 5pm to ask your questions in real time, and get answers from Council's Executive Team.

What is Our Funded Future? Learn more at pscouncil.info/OurFundedFuture

Busy tonight? Find other info sessions here fb.me/e/2vjeL7dhA

Our Funded Future

Facebook Live event

WED, 20 JUL

Our Funded Future: Facebook Live Community Q&A Session

5 went · 10 interested

Set Up Live Video

Performance for your post

627 People reached

2 Likes, comments and shares

16 Post clicks

0 Photo views | 12 Link clicks | 4 Other Clicks

Distribution summary
-3.2x lower than your other posts within 21 days of being published.

↓ 3.2x less Post impressions | ↓ 6.4x less Post clicks | ↓ 6.8x less Reactions

View More Details

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide all posts | 1 Hide post

0 Report as spam | 0 Unlike Page

2 Likes, comments and shares

BRANDED CONTENT DISTRIBUTION

627 Total reach | 627 Organic reach | 0 Paid reach

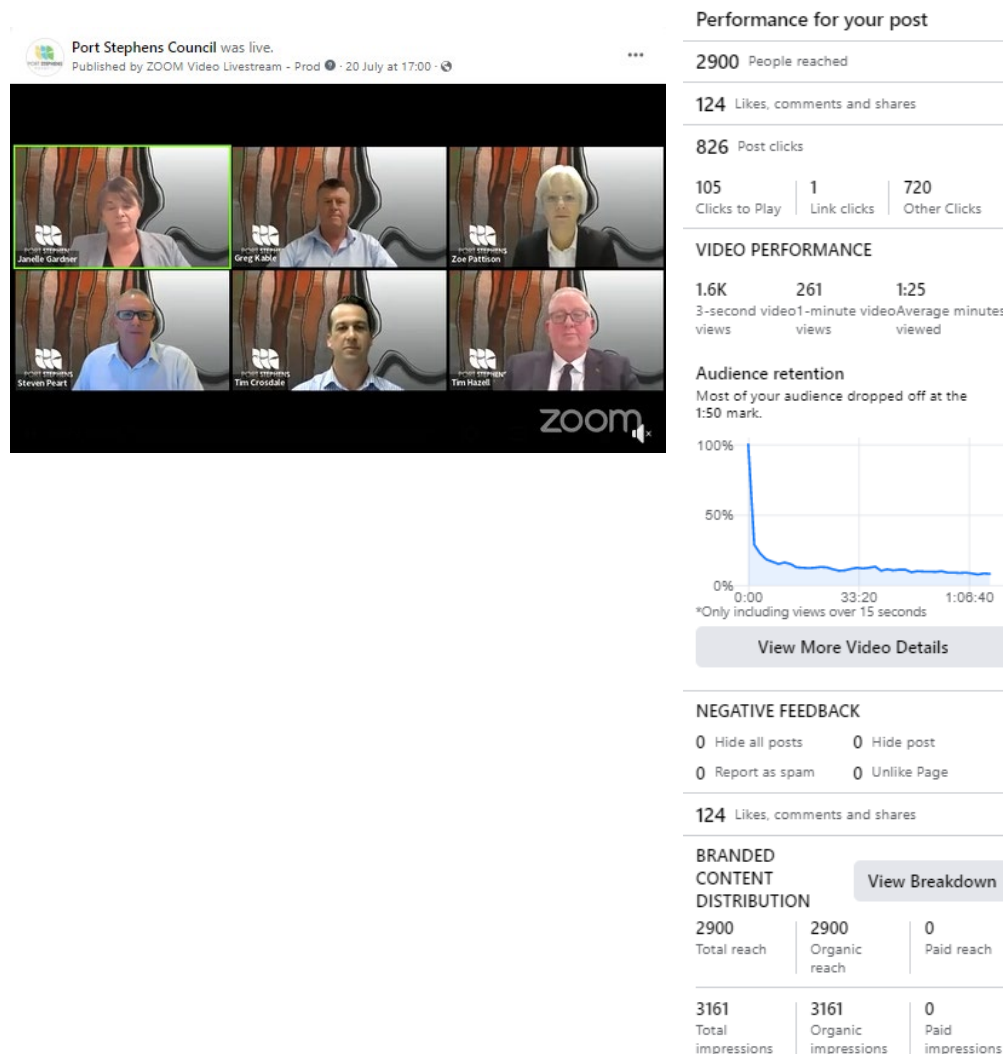
683 Total impressions | 683 Organic impressions | 0 Paid impressions

View Breakdown

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

20 July 2022

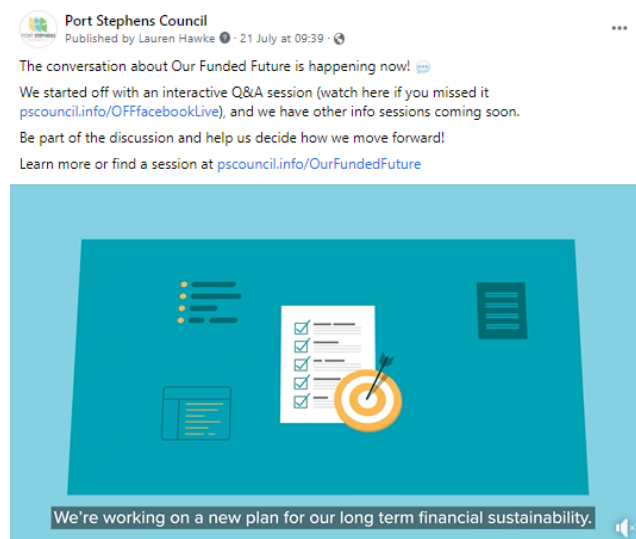
'Facebook Live Q&A community information session' 5pm-6:30pm



ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

21 July 2022

'Be part of the discussion and help us decide ..'



Performance for your post

1756 People reached

14 Likes, comments and shares

135 Post clicks

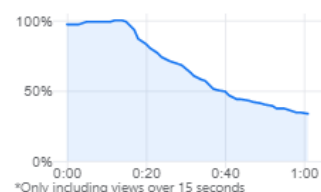
51	10	74
Clicks to Play	Link clicks	Other Clicks

VIDEO PERFORMANCE

548	34	0:06
3-second video views	1-minute video views	Average minutes viewed

Audience retention

Most of your audience dropped off at the 0:18 mark.



*Only including views over 15 seconds

View More Video Details

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide all posts	0 Hide post
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

14 Likes, comments and shares

BRANDED CONTENT DISTRIBUTION

View Breakdown

1756	1756	0
Total reach	Organic reach	Paid reach
1875	1875	0
Total impressions	Organic impressions	Paid impressions

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.



26 July 2022

'Tomorrow, we'll be hanging out at the Medowie community hall ..'

Port Stephens Council
Published by Lauren Hawke · 26 July at 15:44 · 🌐

Have you had your say on Our Funded Future?

TOMORROW we'll be hanging out at the Medowie Community Hall from 10am to 12pm to run an information session and answer any questions the community may have.

For those who can't make it, there'll also be an evening session (online) at 5pm. 📺 [Register here](#)

[pscouncil.info/OFFHaveYourSay](#)

To see all other information sessions, visit the event page below 📅

Our Funded Future

Community information sessions

WED, 20 JUL

Community information sessions: Our Funded Future
Port Stephens and Online
5 went · 21 interested

Performance for your post

907 People reached

2 Likes, comments and shares

17 Post clicks

0	15	2
Photo views	Link clicks	Other Clicks

Distribution summary
-2.3x lower than your other posts within 14 days of being published.

↓ 2.3x less	↓ 4.6x less	↓ 6.1x less
Post impressions	Post clicks	Reactions

[View More Details](#)

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide all posts	1 Hide post
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

2 Likes, comments and shares

BRANDED CONTENT DISTRIBUTION

907	907	0
Total reach	Organic reach	Paid reach

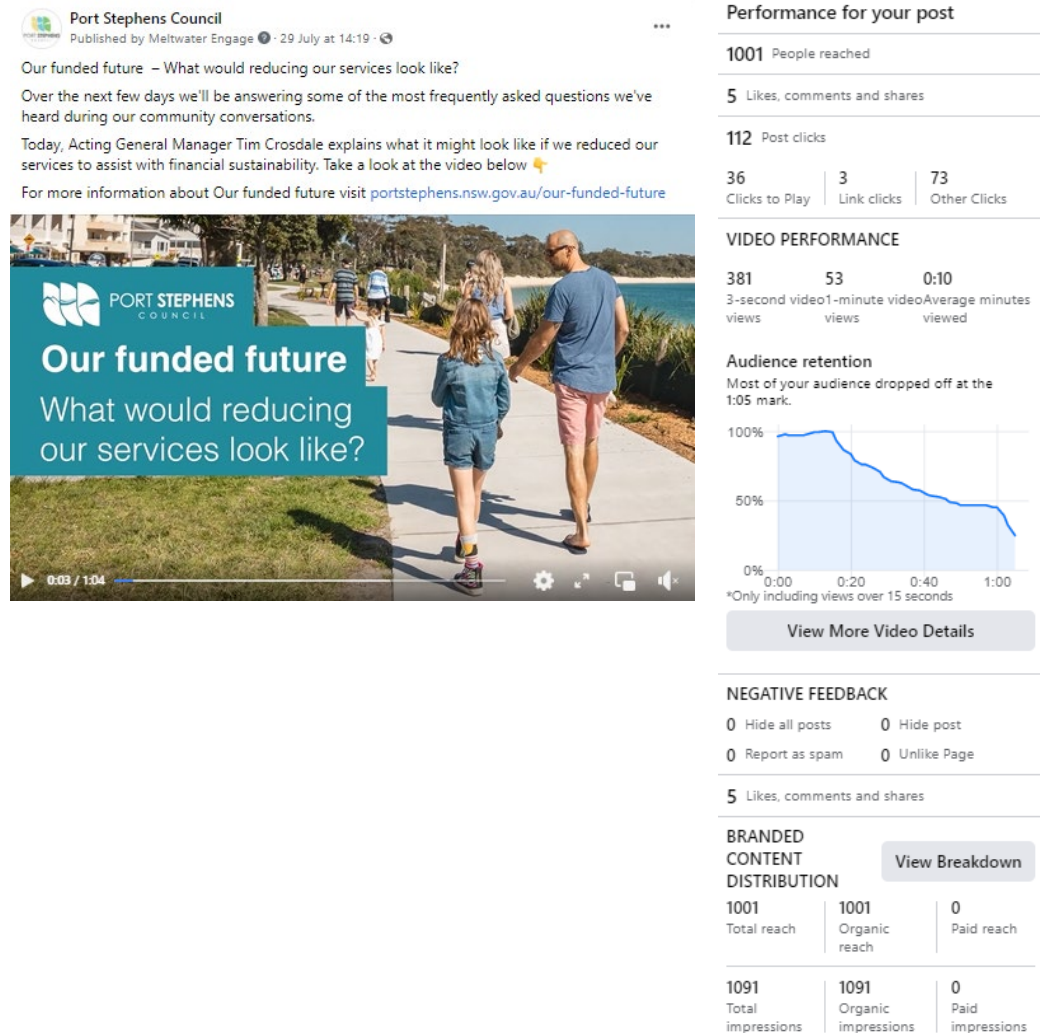
941	941	0
Total impressions	Organic impressions	Paid impressions

[View Breakdown](#)

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1

29 July 2022

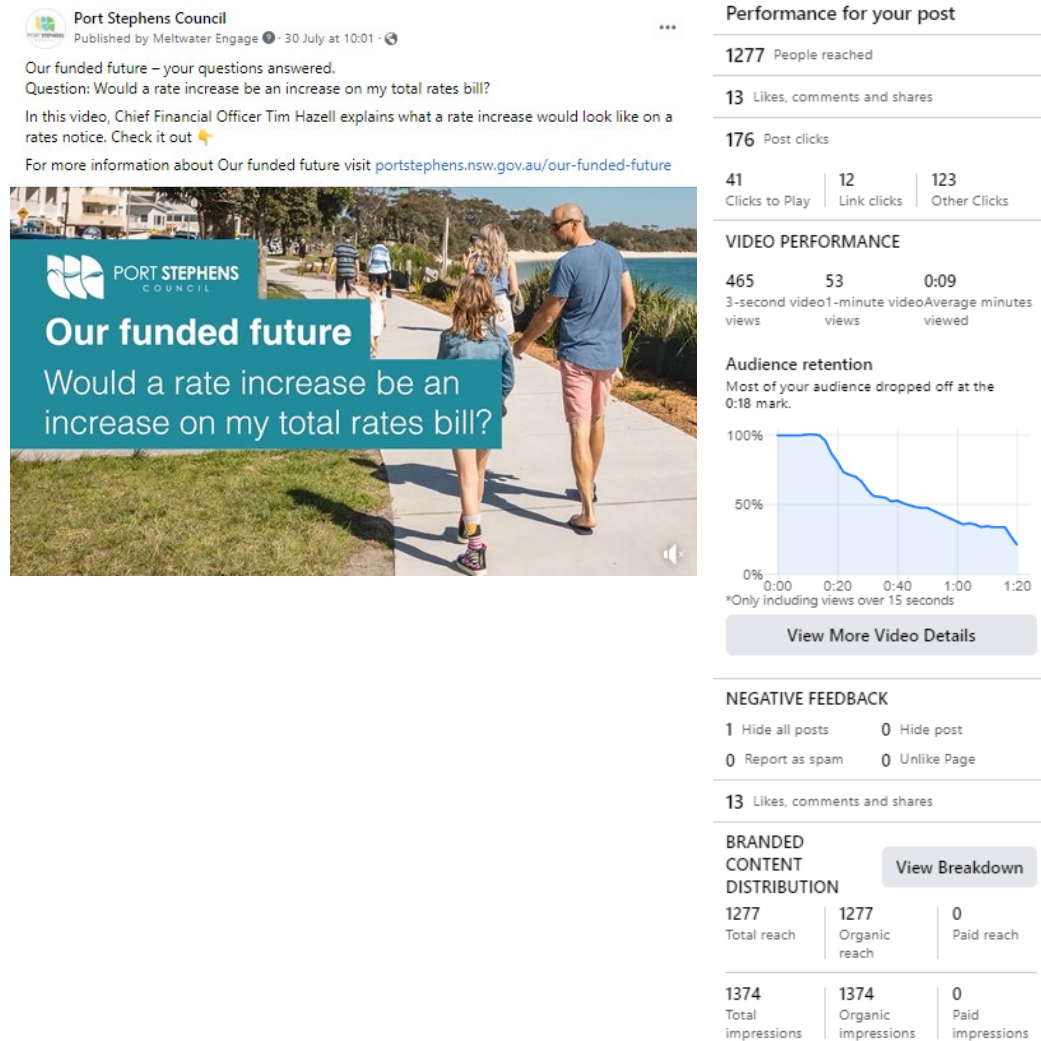
'What would reducing our services look like?' - [Video](#) response to community question

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1

30 July 2022

'Would a rate increase to be an increase on my total rates bill' - Video response to community question

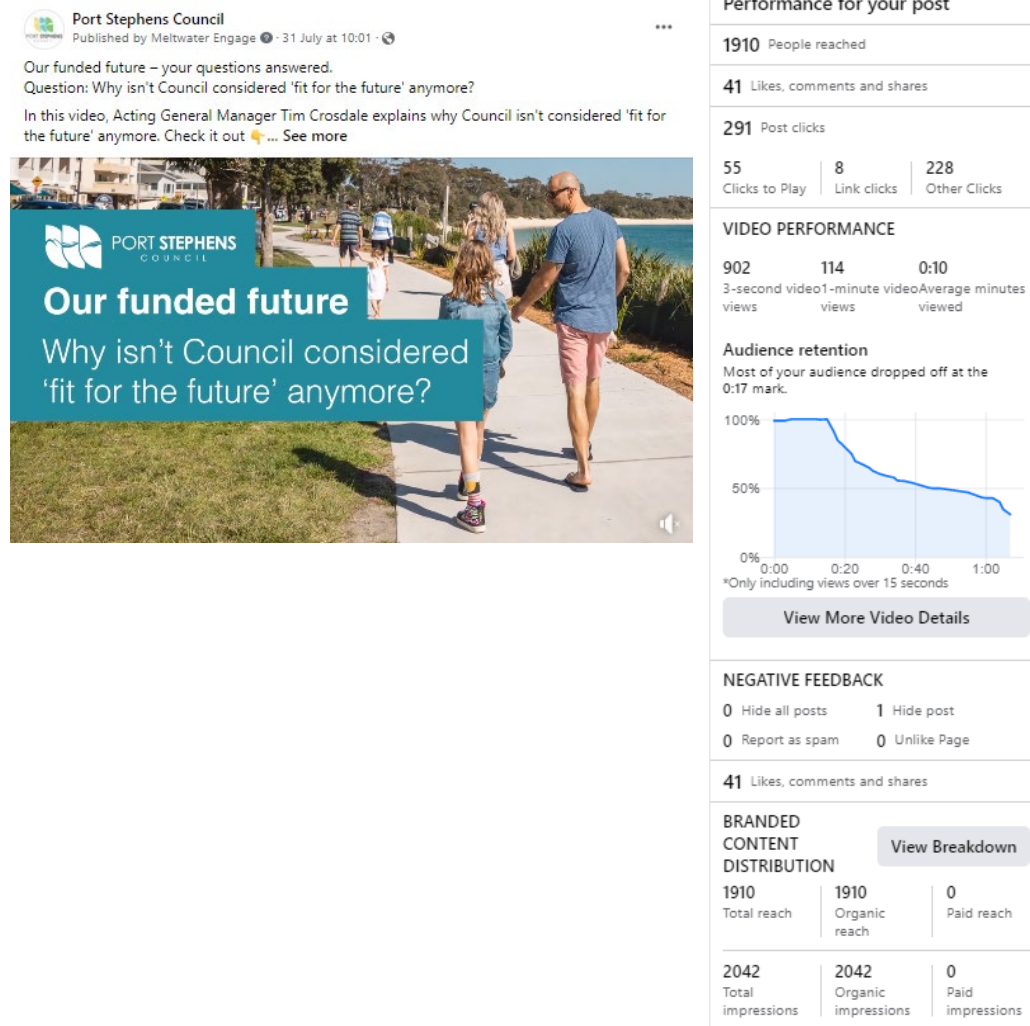


ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1

31 July 2022

'Why isn't Council considered 'fit for the future' anymore?' - [Video](#) response to community question



ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

1 August 2022

'What is the difference between Council's capital budget and maintenance budget?' - [Video](#) response to community question



Port Stephens Council
Published by Emily Livens · 1 August at 13:00 · 🌐

Our funded future – your questions answered.

Question: What is the difference between Council's capital budget and maintenance budget? In this video, Group Manager Facilities and Services Greg Kable explains the difference between the two. Watch below 📺 ... [See more](#)

Performance for your post

1100 People reached

13 Likes, comments and shares

116 Post clicks

41	6	69
Clicks to Play	Link clicks	Other Clicks

VIDEO PERFORMANCE

448	52	0:09
3-second video views	1-minute video views	Average minutes viewed

Audience retention
Most of your audience dropped off at the 0:18 mark.

*Only including views over 15 seconds

[View More Video Details](#)

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide all posts	1 Hide post
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

13 Likes, comments and shares

BRANDED CONTENT DISTRIBUTION [View Breakdown](#)

1100	1100	0
Total reach	Organic reach	Paid reach

1156	1156	0
Total impressions	Organic impressions	Paid impressions

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

1 August 2022

'Have you had your say on Our Funded Future?'



Port Stephens Council
Published by Lauren Hawke · 1 August at 13:47 · 🌐

Have you had your say on Our Funded Future?

This evening at 5pm, we'll be hosting an online information session to answer any questions the community may have. Register here to participate: pscouncil.info/3Q5t5Yg

If tonight doesn't suit, check out other upcoming information sessions below 📅 We have face to face and online sessions available!



PORTSTEPHENS.NSW.GOV.AU

Have your say
Find out when is our next drop-in session and how you can have your say on Our funded f...

Performance for your post

1514 People reached

4 Likes, comments and shares

37 Post clicks

0	27	10
Photo views	Link clicks	Other Clicks

Distribution summary

-1.4x lower than your other posts within 8 days of being published.

↓ 1.4x less	↓ 2.3x less	↓ 3.8x less
Post impressions	Post clicks	Reactions

[View More Details](#)

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide all posts	0 Hide post
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

4 Likes, comments and shares

BRANDED CONTENT DISTRIBUTION

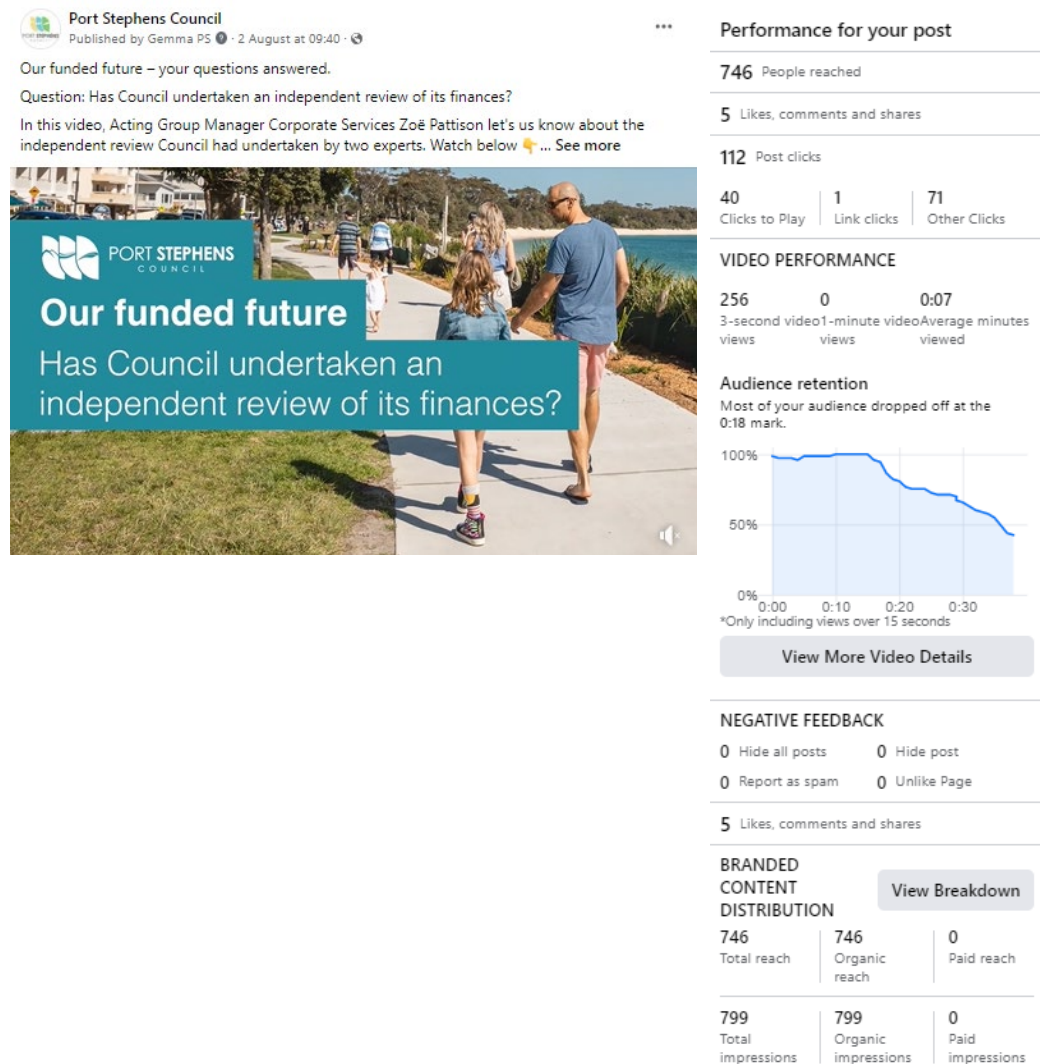
[View Breakdown](#)

1514	1514	0
Total reach	Organic reach	Paid reach
1531	1531	0
Total impressions	Organic impressions	Paid impressions

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

2 August 2022

'Has Council undertaken an independent review of its finances?'
Video response to community question



ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

2 August 2022

'Have you had your say on Our Funded Future?'



Port Stephens Council
Published by Lauren Hawke · 2 August at 16:59 · 🌐

Have you had your say on Our Funded Future?

Our two final information sessions are being held tomorrow!

- In Person - 10am to 12pm - Bruce Scott Pavilion, Tomaree Sports Complex, Nelson Bay
- Online - 5pm to 6.30pm - Online - Register here: pscouncil.info/3zMX0zd

Come along and make sure your voice is heard! 🗣️

PORTSTEPHENS.NSW.GOV.AU

Have your say

Find out when is our next drop-in session and how you can have your say on Our funded f...

Performance for your post

762 People reached

3 Likes, comments and shares

24 Post clicks

0	5	19
Photo views	Link clicks	Other Clicks

Distribution summary

-2.7x lower than your other posts within 7 days of being published.

↓ 2.7x less	↓ 12.3x less	↓ 5.6x less
Post impressions	Post clicks	Reactions

[View More Details](#)

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide all posts	0 Hide post
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

3 Likes, comments and shares

BRANDED CONTENT DISTRIBUTION

[View Breakdown](#)

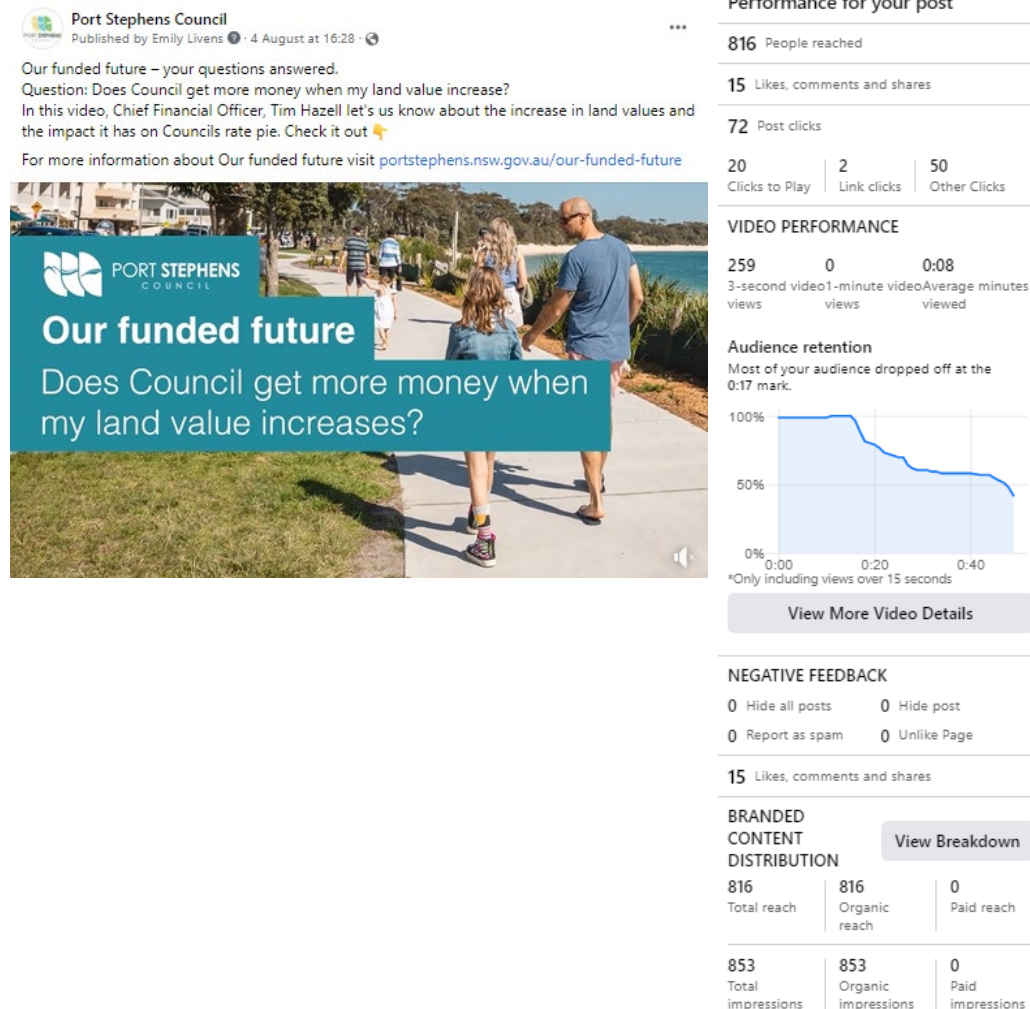
762	762	0
Total reach	Organic reach	Paid reach

792	792	0
Total impressions	Organic impressions	Paid impressions

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1

4 August 2022

'Does Council get more money when my land value increase?'
Video response to community question

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

5 August 2022

'What do you think of the rate income and non rate income options we've proposed?'



Port Stephens Council
Published by Meltwater Engage · 5 August at 18:00 · 🌐

What do you think of the rate income and non-rate income options we've proposed?
This weekend is your last chance to join the conversation about Our Funded Future! 🗣️
The survey closes on Monday 8 August and we need your help to decide how we move forward.
Tell us your thoughts by 🗳️ taking the survey before Monday 8 August: our-funded-future.ethelo.net/page/welcome

Performance for your post

1164 People reached

3 Likes, comments and shares

19 Post clicks

3 Photo views	15 Link clicks	1 Other Clicks
-------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Distribution summary
-5.8x lower than your other posts within 3 days and 18 hours of being published.

↓ 5.8x less Post impressions	↓ 5.8x less Post clicks	↓ 52.1x less Reactions
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[View More Details](#)

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide all posts	0 Hide post
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page


3 Likes, comments and shares

BRANDED CONTENT DISTRIBUTION

View Breakdown		
1164 Total reach	1164 Organic reach	0 Paid reach
1169 Total impressions	1169 Organic impressions	0 Paid impressions

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.


Facebook posts (paid)


Port Stephens Council
Sponsored ·

... X

Save the date! 📅

Council are encouraging those that ...see more



Our Funded Future


Community engagement sessions

portstephens.nsw.gov.au
Save the date to have your say on Our Funded Future

[Learn More](#)


👍 Daph Moller and 5 others · 2 shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share


Port Stephens Council
Sponsored ·

...

If you live, work or visit Port Stephens, we need you to help us decide how we move forward. Come along to one of our ...see more



Our Funded Future

A commitment to long term financial sustainability

portstephens.nsw.gov.au/our-...
Have your say on Our funded future

[Learn More](#)

👍 Nancy Glen and 2... · 38 comments · 5 shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share


Port Stephens Council
Sponsored ·

... X

Have a look at the rate and non-rate income options to turn our financial position around and have your say!



Our Funded Future

A commitment to long term financial sustainability

Complete the survey
This is a real...

[Learn More](#)



Community information
This is a real...

[Learn More](#)

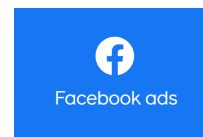


Our funded future options
This is a real...

[Learn More](#)

👍 Katherine Grah... · 11 comments · 2 shares

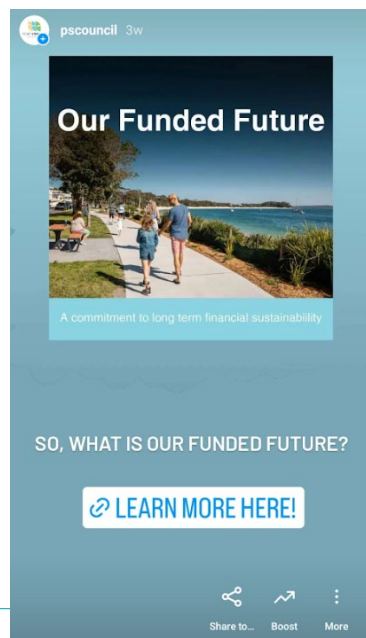
👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share



ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1

Instagram posts
20 July 2022

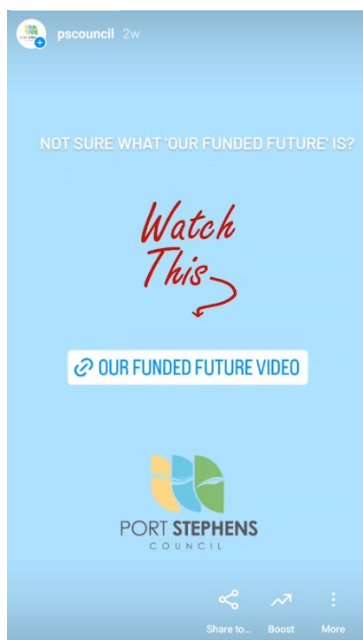
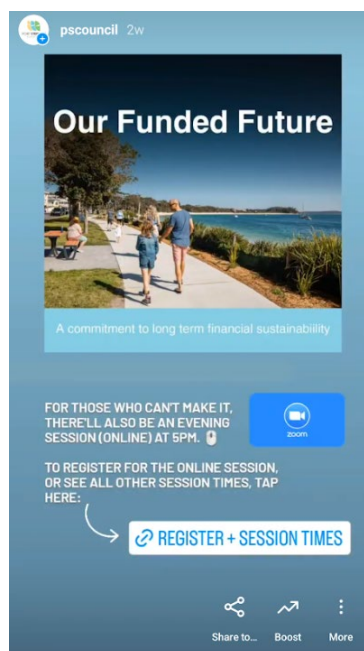
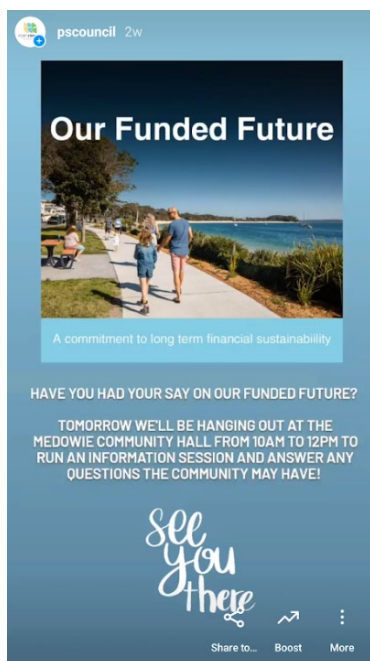


Communications and Engagement Report – Our Funded Future 52

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1

Instagram posts
26 July 2022

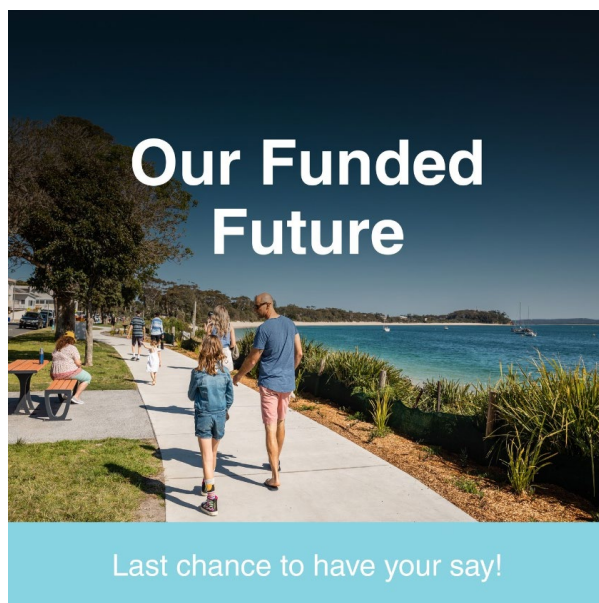


53 Port Stephens Council

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1

5 August 2022



pscouncil What do you think of the rate income and non-rate income options we've proposed?

This weekend is your last chance to join the conversation about Our Funded Future! 💬

The survey closes on Monday 8 August and we need your help to decide how we move forward.

Tell us your thoughts by 🗳️ taking the survey before Monday 8. Click the link in our bio 📱

3d

Post Insights	
Messaging-related insights, such as shares and replies, may be lower than expected due to privacy rules in some regions. Learn More	
1	0
0	0
Interactions ⓘ	
2	
Actions taken from this post	
Profile Visits	1
Website taps	1
Discovery ⓘ	
164	
Accounts reached	
0% weren't following pscouncil	
Impressions	172
From Home	169
From Profile	1
From Other	2
Follows	0

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Google paid video ads



Impressions ▾	Views ▾	Avg. CPV	View rate
150K	15.3K	\$0.10	10.14%

Video ads

Our Funded Future



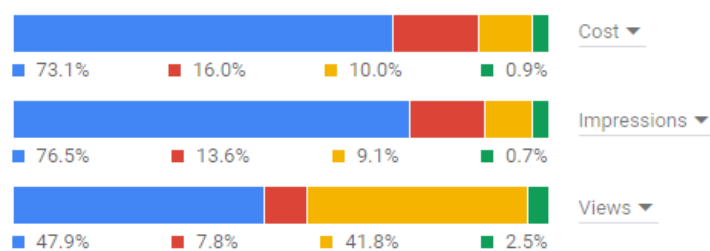
Our Funded Future
Learn more
OurFundedFuture
Have your say about Council's finan

Ad	Impressions	Cost ▾	Avg. CPV ▾
Enabled	150,389	A\$1,500.48	A\$0.10

Devices

Summary of how your ads are performing on these devices

Mobile phones Tablets Computers TV screens



**ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.****Static displays**

Posters and pamphlets were supplied to a number of key council sites such as libraries and key sporting sites across the LGA.

Copies of the poster were also sent to 30 local schools.

Example below at Raymond Terrace Library



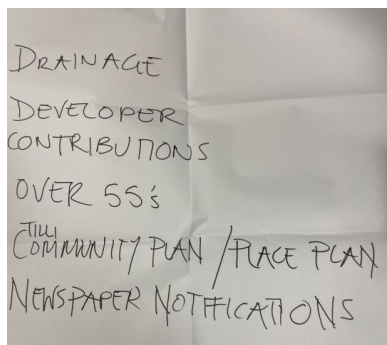
**ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.**

Community information sessions

Face to Face Central ward information session – 27 July 2022



Central ward whiteboard key issues/areas of concern/ideas



Online information session 27 July 2022

Community questions in the text chat:

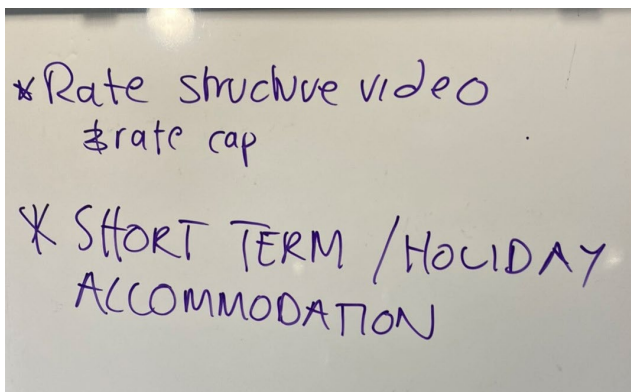
1. Does Council recommend a particular option from those being presented?
What is the likelihood of success with IPART after following this process?
2. Has the community's capacity to pay been included in the analysis of these options?
3. In respect to the comment about putting \$'s aside for natural disasters Are you saying that up until now PSC has not had a "rainy day" fund?
4. In this context it appears as though the concept of financial sustainability focuses on getting Council out of a deficit. With a SRV how can we ensure that planning is refocused toward sustained cashflow, and not reliant on SRVS In the future?

**ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.**

West ward face to face information session – 1 August 2022



West ward whiteboard key issues/areas of concern/ideas



Online information session #2 – 1 August 2022

Community questions in the text chat:

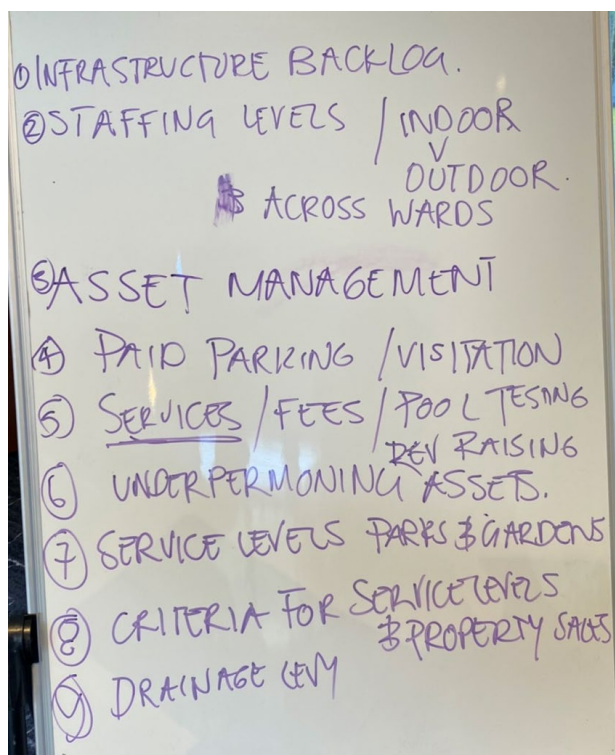
1. When was the last SRV implemented in Port Stephens and what was the increase?

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

East ward face to face information session – 3 August 2022



East ward whiteboard key issues/areas of concern/ideas



**ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.**

Online information session #3 – 3 August 2022

Community questions in the text chat:

1. Why do none of the options provided include severe cost cuts within council.
2. Why didn't council consult the community before developing options?
3. Council used a cubby house example to describe 2 different budgets. To carry that further, because of the impact of the Cubby house to the household maintenance budget, do the parents start to charge their children rates for the cubby house, introduce paid parking for them to keep their scooters in the yard? Or, do the parents cut back on their personal spending so that their children are not affected by the change in the household budget?.
4. I understand that the majority of asset work is funded through grants but once this work is complete then Council needs to fund maintenance on these. How do we gain confidence that this is assessed and added to following budgets when Council decides to build a new asset? Fingal Bay has a fence that has not had any maintenance on it for over 10 years or longer and is now not standing or has orange plastic fencing that has also fallen down. Obviously this now requires replacement. Had it been maintained and included in a maintenance schedule we may not be in this predicament. How will the maintenance of assets be managed going forward?
5. Will the new NSW Land Values be applied to Council rates as of 1st July 2023?
6. Councillors have requested a breakdown of all potential land assets for possible sale. What is this the results? How many building assets values also for potential sale. i.e. buildings in Newcastle, Raymond Terrace and Nelson Bay?

**ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.****Community information sessions**

A digital copy of the online presentation was made available on Council's website after the first couple of presentations were completed see here under <https://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/council/our-funded-future/have-your-say>

**Engagement Activity - Special interest group meetings**

Special interest groups presentations included:

1. 8 July 2022 TRAA (Phase 0)
2. 18 July 2022 Meryl Swanson Federal MP
3. 19 July 2022 Kate Washington State MP
4. 21 July 2022 Business Port Stephens
5. 1 August 2022 Medowie Sports Council
6. 4 August 2022 Port Stephens Business Breakfast
7. 4 August 2022 Fern Bay Fullerton Cove Progress Association
8. 8 August 2022 TRAA (Phase 1)

Two further sessions have been scheduled with Karuah Progress association and Tilligerry Community Association during the next phase of engagement (Phase 2).

**ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1 OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.**

Appendix C: Survey report

To be provided through a supplementary report.

**ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1
ENGAGEMENT REPORT.**

OUR FUNDED FUTURE PHASE 0 AND 1



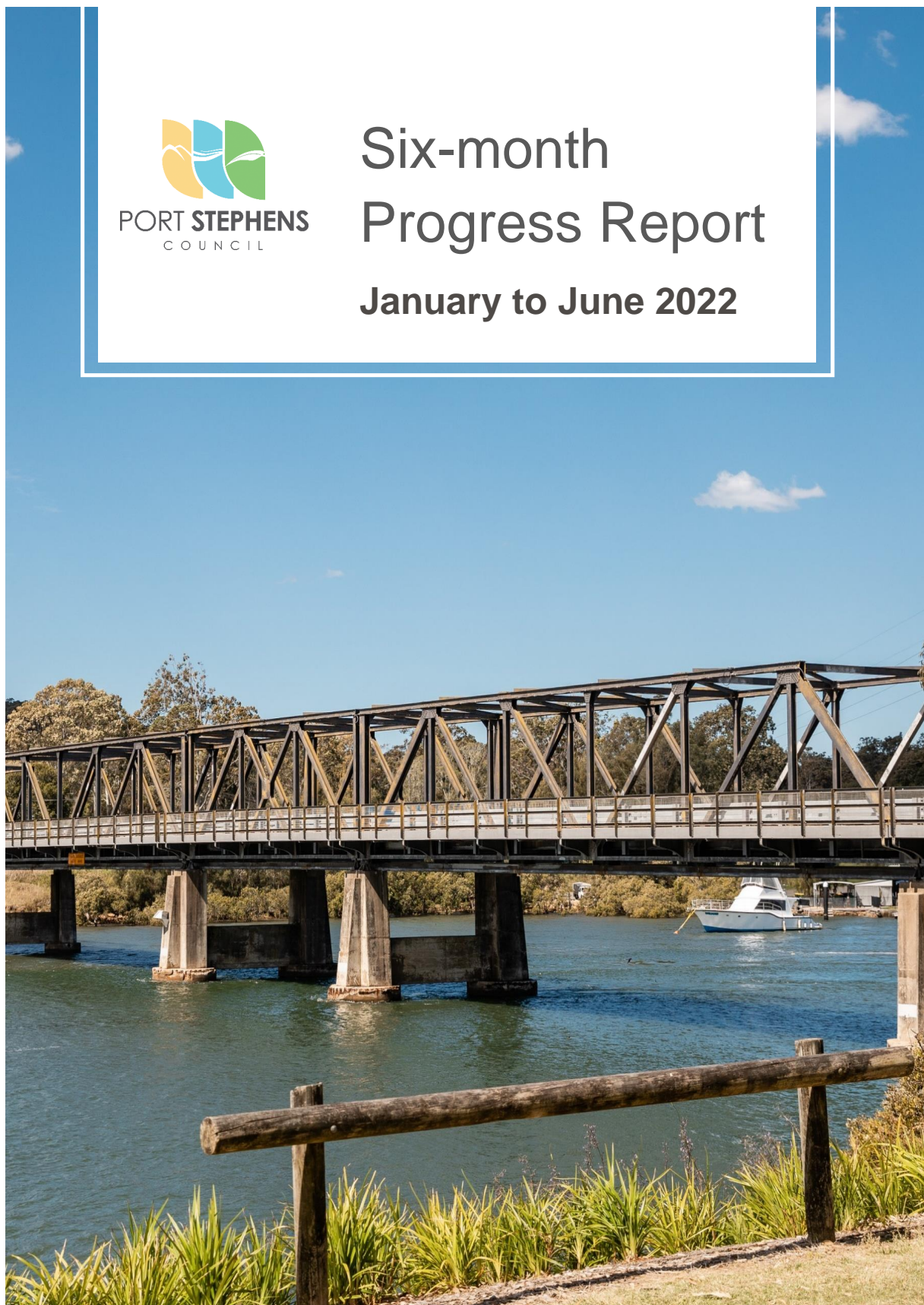
PORT STEPHENS
COUNCIL

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Six-month Progress Report

January to June 2022



ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

The Six-month Progress Report from January to June 2022 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines (September 2021) Essential Element 4.9.

'The general manager must ensure that progress reports are provided to the council, with respect to the principal activities detailed in the Delivery Program, at least every 6 months.'

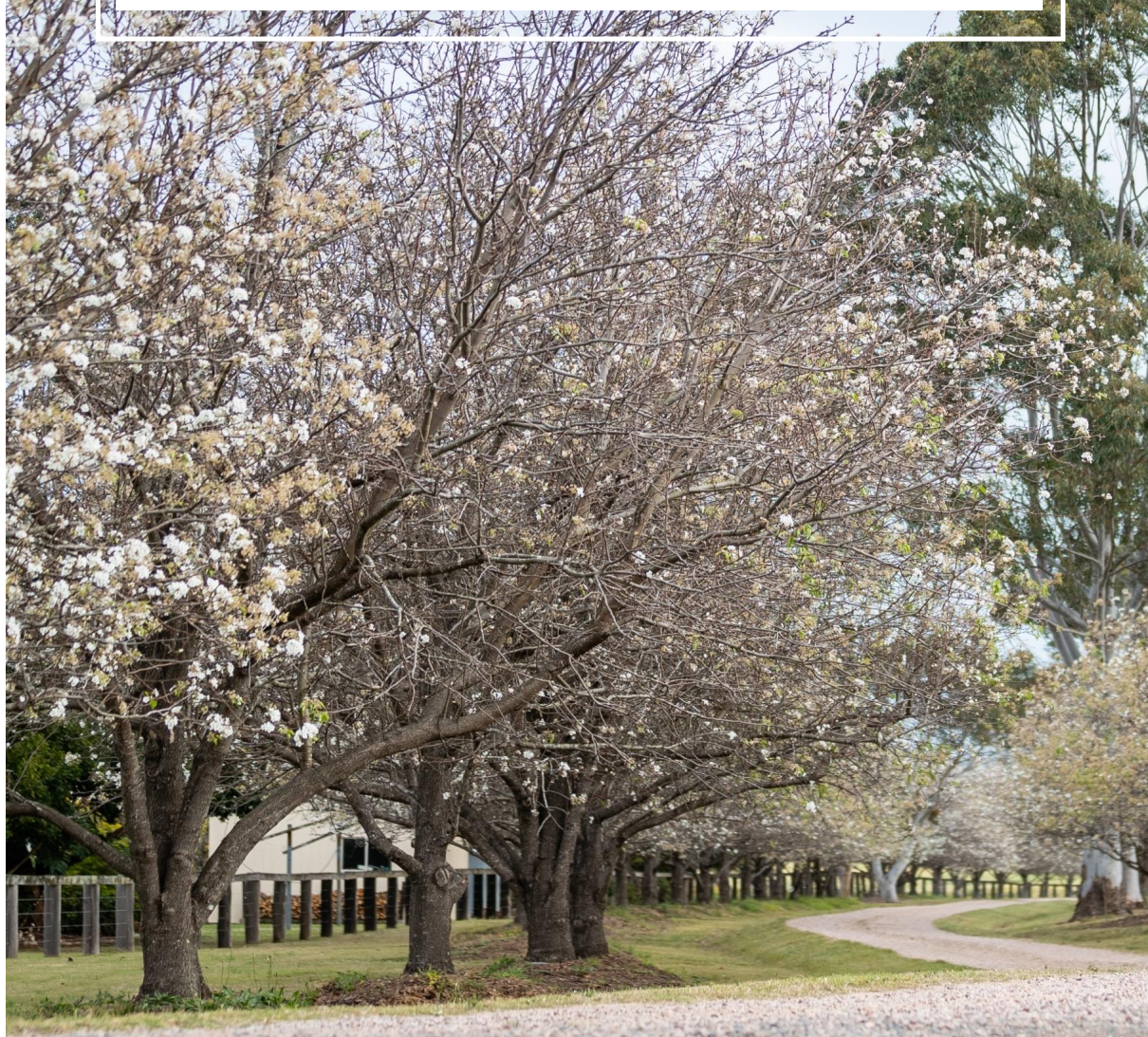
All financial figures included in this report are preliminary, unaudited and subject to review as part of the audited 2021-2022 financial statements for Council.

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Worimi as the original Custodians and inhabitants of Port Stephens.

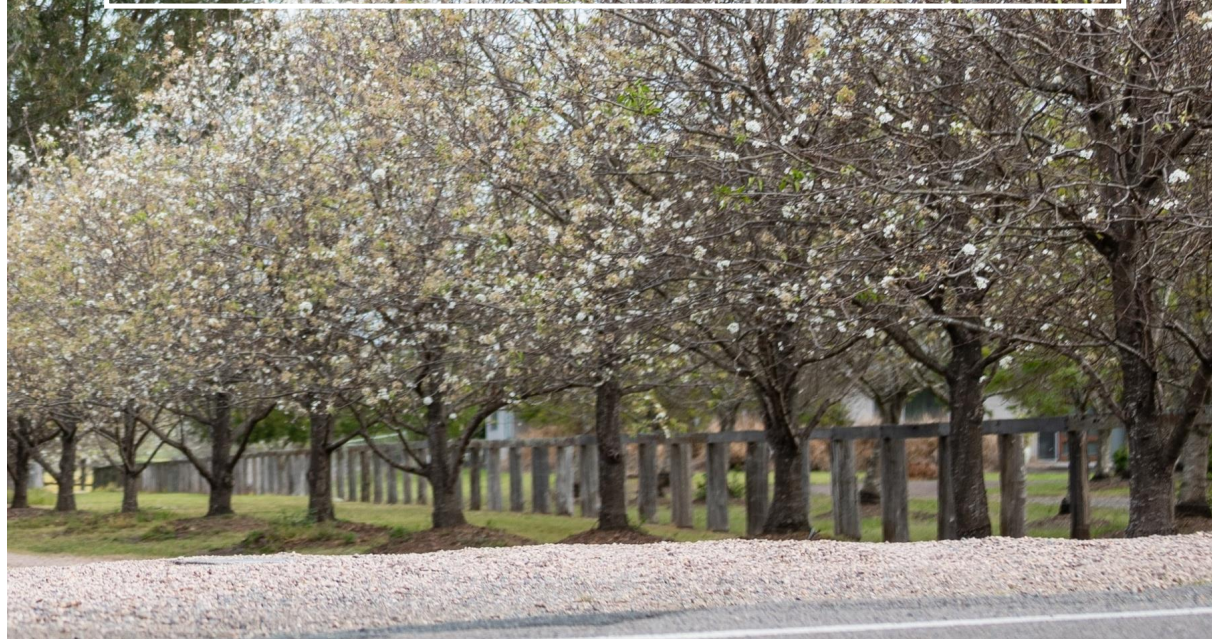
May we walk the road to tomorrow with mutual respect and admiration as we care for the beautiful land and waterways together.

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Contents

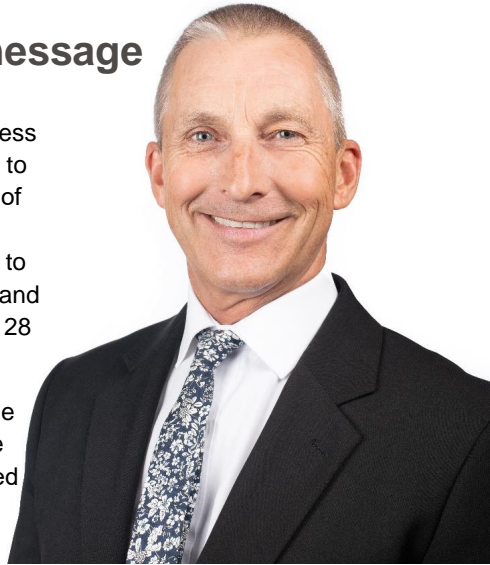
General Manager's message	4
Our highlights	6
Progress of principal activities	8
Key Priorities update	8
Delivery Program update	16
Our Community	17
Our Place	26
Our Environment	37
Our Council	44
Scorecard	53
1. Service delivery	55
2. Community satisfaction	59
3. Employee engagement	59
4. Governance	60
5. Risk management	61
6. Financial sustainability	62
7. Infrastructure Backlog	63



General Manager's message

Welcome to our final Six-month Progress Report for our Delivery Program 2018 to 2022. This follows Council's adoption of the revised Community Strategic Plan 2022 to 2032, Delivery Program 2022 to 2026, Operational Plan 2022 to 2023 and Resourcing Strategy 2022 to 2032 on 28 June 2022.

This suite of documents sets the scene for Council and the Community for the next 10 years. They've been developed following more than 18 months of engagement with our community – listening to what their values and priorities are.



Our new Council hit the ground running following the election in December 2021. They've been checking in with community priorities to understand the ongoing impacts that Council and the community are facing following the impacts of both COVID-19 and multiple natural disasters.

An annual review in 2018 to 2019 of our Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) identified that the 2022 financial year would see Council facing financial pressures that would negatively impact the budget. And then, like many government and non-government organisations, the last two years of COVID-19 impacts have taken their toll. Income from our holiday parks, childcare centres and the Newcastle Airport was cut, while at the same time, construction, transport and insurance costs have continued to increase. These impacts are further exacerbated by the natural disasters over the last couple of years.

Our funded future

The ongoing impacts of the last few years on Council's financial sustainability means a change in approach is needed to strike a balance between the needs of the community and Council's funded future. Council opened the conversation with the community, encouraging those that live, work and visit Port Stephens to have their say on our funded future.

Delivering community priorities

I'm proud of what our staff have achieved over the past 6 months, despite the various challenges from COVID-19, inflationary pressures, labour and material shortages and more rain events. With financial austerity measures in place, we've adjusted our work plans and programs to continue to deliver services needed most by our community.

Our operational budget has been stretched, but thanks to our success in receiving significant grants and funding from both State and Federal Governments, we've delivered another large capital works program. There's an important difference in capital expenditure and maintenance/operational expenditure, which is a conversation we'll continue to have with the community following our engagement around "Our funded future".

Finally, this is my last report as General Manager for Port Stephens Council. Just as we close and celebrate this last chapter on the Delivery Program, I too bid farewell to the community, elected Council and my fellow staff as I head into retirement.

I'm very grateful for the opportunity to have lead Port Stephens Council. It's been a great pleasure to work with so many of the best people in local government – a team with a strong work ethic and a culture of always striving for better outcomes for its community. It has truly been a great place to work.



General Manager

Our highlights

Our Community

Be Connected, Building Digital Skills program -

Generations working together, providing work experience and practicing the art of patience and kindness



\$30 million + of Grant funding secured



Our Place



22,957
Potholes fixed



Helping Ballina Council -
with DAs, as part of emergency recovery support

Our Environment

Your Environment:

Bush to Coast

New quarterly environmental newsletter



23% ▼
Council Energy usage
over 3 years



Our Council



Community Strategic Plan 2022 to 2032

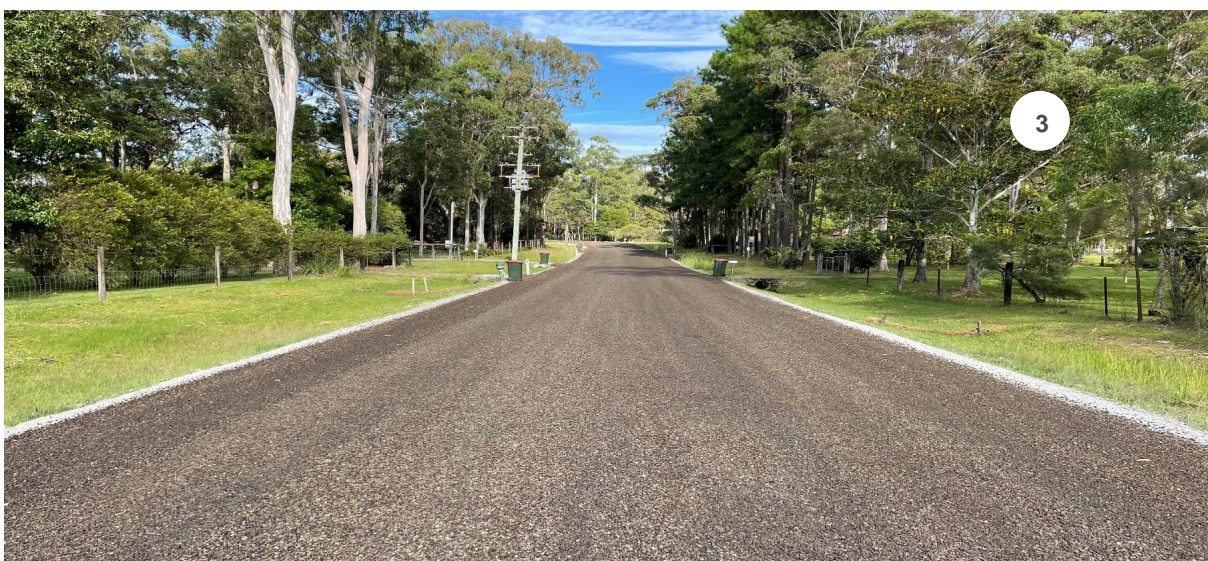
New Council adopting the CSP



Integrated Engagement
journey continued
(Phase 3 & 4 IPR)

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

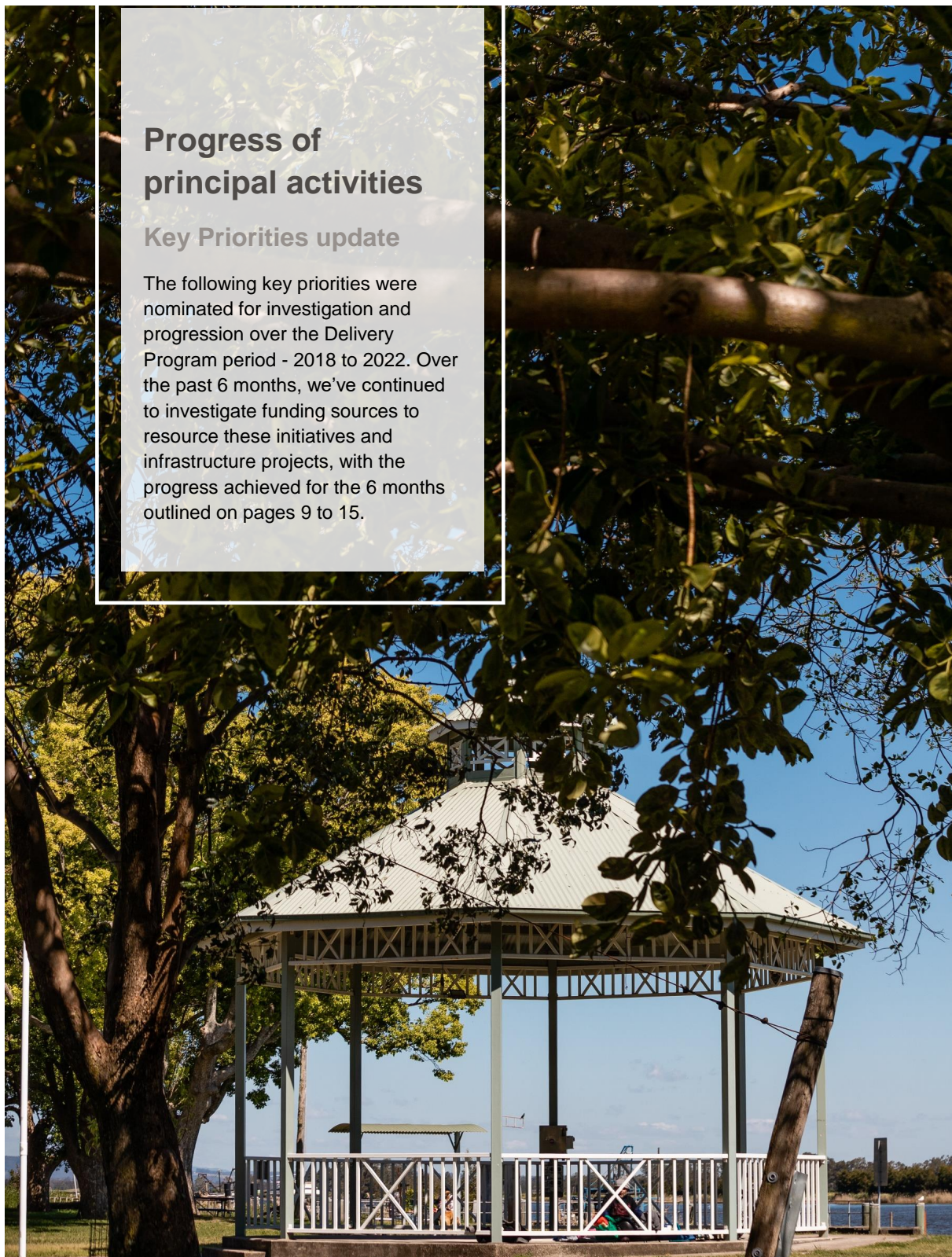
SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.



Progress of principal activities

Key Priorities update

The following key priorities were nominated for investigation and progression over the Delivery Program period - 2018 to 2022. Over the past 6 months, we've continued to investigate funding sources to resource these initiatives and infrastructure projects, with the progress achieved for the 6 months outlined on pages 9 to 15.



ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1 SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.**Accessible Port Stephens**

Council has been working on the review of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP), which will be incorporated into a Community Wellbeing Plan. Over the last 6 months, we've delivered capital works projects to improve access and inclusion. Some key projects include:

- The Bruce Scott Pavilion at Tomaree Sports Complex, Salamander Bay
- Multipurpose sports amenities upgrades at Stuart Park, Hinton and Boyd Oval, Medowie
- Public amenities upgrade at Bettles Park, Raymond Terrace
- The public stage improvement works at Stockton Street, Nelson Bay
- Shared pathways at South Street, Medowie and Gan Gan Road, Anna Bay.

Birubi Point Aboriginal Place Tourism Interchange

Detailed design is continuing.

Coastal Management Program

Port Stephens Council is currently developing the Coastal Management Program (CMP) for Port Stephens in partnership with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. The program identifies risks to our coast, establishes priorities requiring intervention and sets a long-term strategy for managing these risks into the future.

In July 2021, Council received the final report for Stage 2 Hazard Mapping and Modelling studies. The report includes detailed studies to assess key coastal hazards being coastal erosion, coastal inundation and sand-dune transgression.

We've engaged coastal experts who are assisting us to develop Stage 3 of the CMP. This stage includes a risk assessment of built and natural assets, a prioritisation model to guide intervention decision making and will focus on identifying management options and their feasibility in the treatment of coastal hazards. Stage 3 will also include extensive consultation with the community and other stakeholders to help us make decisions about management options and priority areas of action.

Cycleways and footpaths

Construction is underway on the missing link of the Medowie Road shared path north of Ferodale Road. Once completed a continuous path will run the spine of the town from Boundary Road down to South Street.

A number of minor path improvements are taking place at 6 locations around the LGA adjacent to schools via funding to improve infrastructure within school zones.

This includes the construction of new ramps, blister islands and centre median islands at crossing points and associated line marking and tactile upgrades.

Planning is continuing on shared pathways on Cook Parade, Henderson Park and pathways between Nelson Bay Beach and Halifax to be delivered under the Public Spaces Legacy Fund.

Planning is being finalised for stage 2 of the Nelson Bay Road shared path upgrade from Vardon Road to Bayway Village. This has taken longer than anticipated due to heritage and environmental concerns.

Construction of the shared path from Medowie Road towards Championship Drive Medowie was completed.

Stage 1 of the paths alongside Nelson Bay Road through Fern Bay were completed in November 2021, with ancillary works finalised in the first quarter of 2022.

We're also working closely with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to complete the final planning and implementation of the Tomaree Coastal Walk from Birubi Point to Tomaree Headland.

Gateway, location and town signage

Stage 1 of the gateway signage program was completed before June 2019 with no activity undertaken since.

Future stages of the signage program will look at each suburb as funding becomes available.

Medowie Sport and Community Facility - completed

For more information about Medowie social visit - medowiesocial.com.au

Off-leash dog parks

Changes to the dog exercise area mapping for Fisherman's Bay, Boat Harbour and Anna Bay were adopted by Council after extensive consultation with the community. The changes have been well received.

Events

Council's Vibrant Places team are tasked with activating and enhancing our public places and spaces. We do this by enabling events and activations to take place in different areas of our Local Government Area (LGA).

Some of the highlights in 2022 have been:

- Sail Port Stephens which returned to Port Stephens after being cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19. The return of this event contributed over a \$1 million boost to the Port Stephens economy and activated our beautiful waterways for which we're well known.
- The Gage Roads Port Stephens Pro was held in Port Stephens in February 2022, boosting local businesses and the Hunter visitor economy. The elite three-day World Surf League Qualifying Series event brought more than 100 of Australia's top-tier surfers to the region to take on rising talent and local wild cards. The event was webcast around the world and enhances Port Stephens' reputation as one of New South Wales premier surf destinations.
- The Vibrant Places team delivered the 'It's On!' program across the LGA with place activation activities and events. This included live music, kids zones, giant games, boot camps, Zumba classes, light shows and community group performances. 'It's On!' activities are supported by the Nelson Bay Smart Parking program and have seen over 1000 attendees.



Financial sustainability

An annual review in 2018 to 2019 of our LTFP identified that the 2022 financial year would see Council facing financial pressures that would negatively impact the budget. Accumulated impacts of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, growing internal and external financial pressures such as inflation, increased insurance costs, multiple natural disasters, and a continued rate pegging regime severely impacted Council's financial sustainability outlook. For 2 consecutive years, the ramifications of imposed lockdowns have seen an \$8 million deterioration in our operating bottom line.

Subsequently, Council is faced with significant financial sustainability issues if continued prudent financial management is not carefully exercised.

To address this, Council commissioned independent reports from Professor Drew and Professor Dollery in late 2021, which confirmed that Council is facing a financial sustainability gap. In March 2022, Council was presented with a detailed analysis of its financial position, operating efficiency and debt capacity. It was clear from the reports that Council needs to take crucial steps to make sure that it can continue to deliver services which meet the needs of our community.

Over the past 4 months, our Councillors have been working closely with senior staff to review a number of options including a one-off 10% increase to fees and charges, the rollout of more paid parking, potential areas of additional revenue, continued focus on cost containment and the sale of a number of potential land assets

The findings of the Financial Sustainability Committee were considered as part of a report to Council on 28 June 2022. At the meeting, Council agreed to move forward with an engagement program to discuss financial sustainability with the community and seek feedback on a number of options around our financial position. This is part of the 'Our funded future' engagement program.



Key road projects

Council has a plan to deliver a number of key capital works projects. Over the past 6 months, the following has been achieved on these key projects:

- Church Street, Nelson Bay – reconstruction was completed in December 2020.
- Fingal Bay Link Road – the State Government has committed to providing funding for this project. Transport for NSW will lead the planning and delivery and is currently undertaking project due diligence, reviewing options and consultation.
- Tanilba Road, Mallabula – the contractor has been engaged with construction to commence mid-2022 to reconstruct Tanilba Road from Bay Street to Parkway Ave North including pavement widening, kerb and gutter construction and drainage upgrades.
- Tomaree Road, Shoal Bay – we're continuing with the full reconstruction of Tomaree Road between Marine Drive and Verona Road. This includes pavement widening, kerb, gutter and footpath construction and drainage upgrades, utilising Council funding as well as Road to Recovery funds. Construction of stages 1 and 2 from Rigney Street to Verona Road was completed in March 2020 and December 2020. We plan to complete stage 3 from Marine Drive to Rigney Street when funding is available.
- Duns Creek Road - construction work has been completed on road safety improvements for Duns Creek Road. The project scope included widening, sealing and addition of guardrails, and correction of super-elevation on curves.
- Swan Bay Road – the staged continuation of widening and sealing towards the Morten Road intersection is scheduled to commence in September / October 2022. We're also progressing with the sealing of the unsealed end of Swan Bay Road, with acquisitions and service relocations to allow for future roadworks.



Port Stephens Council | 13

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1 SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.**Koala Sanctuary - completed**

To find more information about Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary, visit - portstephenskoalas Sanctuary.com.au

Place planning

Place Plans provide a local filter over Council's strategies and documents, and provides clarity to residents, businesses and the broader community on the direction for their place. These plans deliver place-making opportunities to be realised in partnership with Council, local businesses and the community. Each Place Plan includes actions that are to be delivered over the next 3 to 5 years and supports a community approach to the delivery of place outcomes.

In March 2022, the Karuah Place Plan was adopted by Council as the first Place Plan. Council is now working with the Karuah community to deliver on the Place Plan through support, inclusion and advocacy work. Consultation has also continued on the place plans for Shoal Bay, Medowie and the Hinterland which are progressing towards public exhibition.

Port Stephens Council depot development

Demolition is complete and the construction of the new Depot at Kangaroo Street, Raymond Terrace has commenced. We're expecting all work to be completed and our operational staff to have reoccupied the site by mid-2023.

Strategic Planning Statement and Local Housing Strategy

Implementation of the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) and Local Housing Strategy (Live Port Stephens) have progressed since being adopted in July 2020.

This has included a wide range of actions including the commencement of an affordable housing delivery program, Raymond Terrace Economic Zone delivery program, and the preparation of place plans for Karuah, Shoal Bay, Medowie and the Hinterland. The Rural Economic Development planning proposal was adopted by Council and will support the economic development and opportunities available in rural zones as identified within the LSPS.

Williamstown Management area

Department of Defence has prepared a project management action plan (PMAP) to manage ongoing PFAS contamination remediation.

Council is continuing to monitor the implementation of the Department of Defence PFAS contamination remediation program and will continue to liaise with relevant agencies, community groups and residents as appropriate.

In June 2021, Council resolved to continue the rate reduction for properties in the Williamstown Management Area for 2021 to 2022 financial year. A special sub-category of rates applies a discount of 50% for residents in the primary zone, 25% in the secondary zone and 10% in the broader zone.

Williamstown Special Activation Precinct (SAP)

The Williamstown Special Activation Precinct (SAP) was declared by the NSW Government on 28 May 2020 and progress toward its realisation has been underway.

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) exhibited the Williamstown Special Activation Precinct Masterplan in April 2022. A number of community engagement sessions were held to hear from residents, businesses and landholders. The submissions on the master plan will be used to inform the final master plan, expected to be released in late 2022.

There will likely be amendments to the State and Regional SEPP concurrently to allow for the lodgement of the SAP concept DA as a State Significant Development (SSD). The application will be lodged by Regional Growth Development Corporation and assessed by DPE.

Delivery Program update

Despite all the challenges we've remained committed to delivering services to our community and continued our pursuit of excellence while remaining flexible and agile.

We've adapted, revised and re-baselined our work programs, diverting resources and planned projects to respond where necessary to the evolving circumstances.

Our progress made in the past six months to June 2022 reflects this approach.

In this report, we use the icons below to indicate the status of our Operational Plan actions, which form part of the Delivery Program 2018-2022.



ON TRACK:

Operational Plan
Actions are on track to
achieve the target



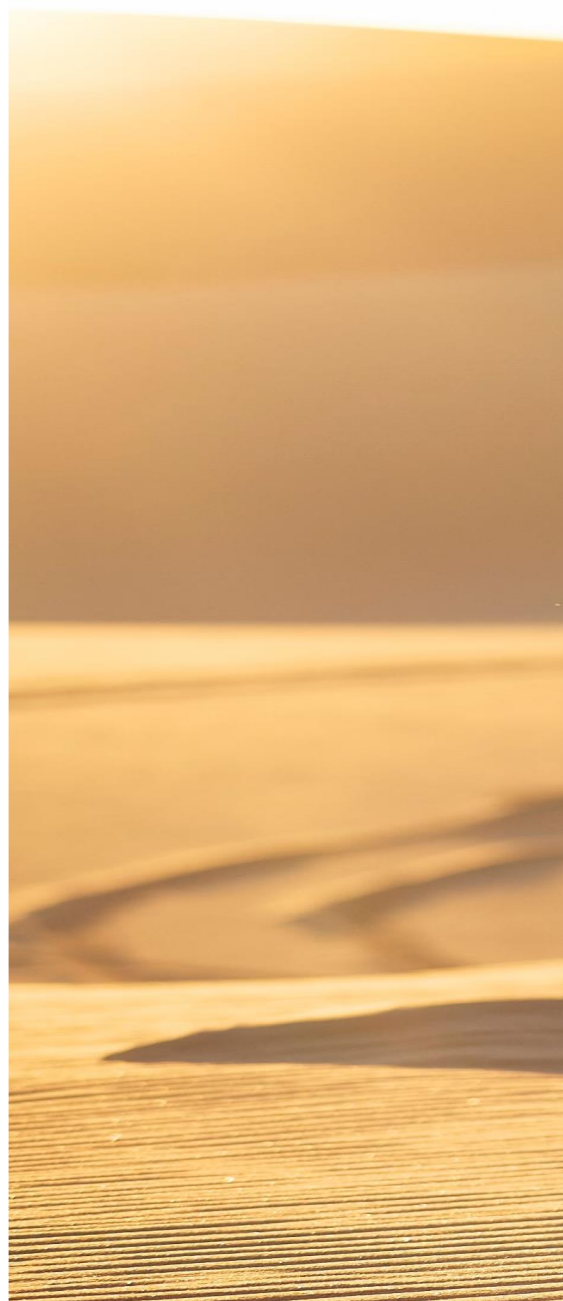
MONITOR:

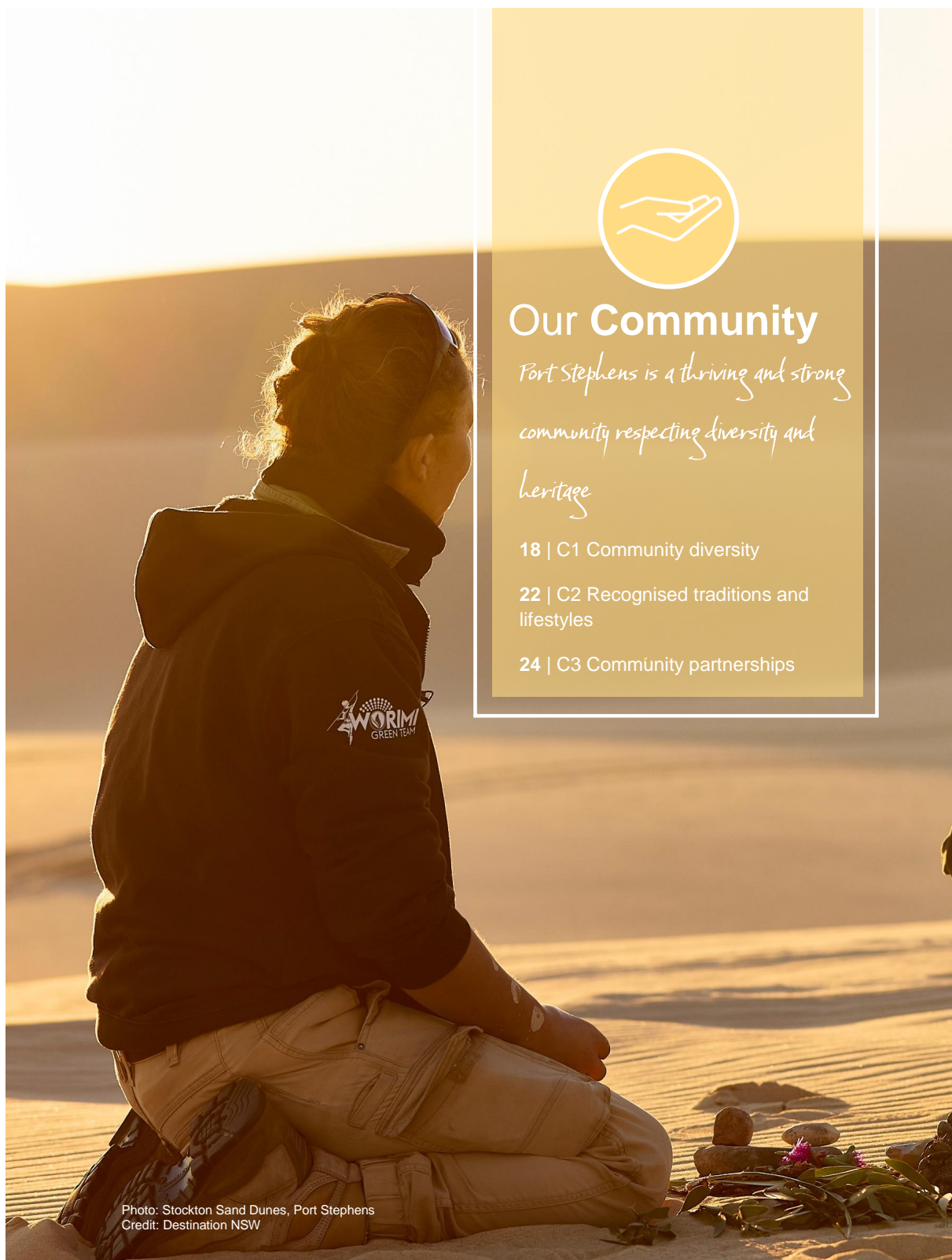
Operational Plan
Actions are within 5%
of the target



OFF TRACK:

Operational Plan
Actions are > 5% off
the target





ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

C1 Community diversity

Our community accesses a range of services that support diverse community needs.

Operational Plan Actions

**On track – 5**

We've continued to:

- provide facilities and services for children
- provide support for young people to build their confidence and contribution to the community
- encourage Port Stephens to be inclusive and access friendly
- support needs of an ageing population
- support volunteers to deliver appropriate community services.

Key outcomes include:

Childcare services – providing quality childcare services to support our community, with:

- Families returning to more regular patterns of work creating growth in enrolment numbers and improved financial outcomes.
- 2 new OOSH services were established at Raymond Terrace and Clarence Town Public School.
- A monthly Bush Kindy program implemented at Taylor's Beach.

**Our Childcare services*****89,286** total childcare places**49** registered educators**490** compliance visits**98%** Satisfaction with Thrive Kids

Total for 2021 to 2022 (including services provided outside of Port Stephens area)

Youth support – providing and supporting youth through:

- The 'Be Connected, Building Digital Skills' program where young people have been assisting seniors with technical skills. This program is made possible thanks to funding from an Australian Government 'Be Connected' grant. Council's Community Development and Library Services teams have partnered with Youngster.Co to deliver this fabulous program which is aimed at building the digital skills of seniors by pairing them with young people who assist (one on one) with specific technology enquiries.
Five local school students attended the launch and were able to assist 17 seniors with their enquiries. All sessions were fully booked at Tomaree with the program to run for a full 12 months with sessions also to be held at Raymond Terrace Library, Medowie Community Centre, Karuah Centre and Tilligerry Community Library.
- Youth week held from 4 to 14 April, was a very important week on our local calendar. After being in lockdown for most of 2021 and part of 2022, our young people were keen to get together, face to face, with events that included skating, dancing, outdoor cinemas, splash time and more.

Community Wellbeing – reviewing the Disability Inclusion Action Plan – read more about this under the Key Priorities section on page 9.

Other Community wellbeing activities included:

- A new guidebook, 'Better With Age: A guide to the good life for modern elders in Port Stephens' was developed by Council and launched as part of the NSW Seniors Festival. The guide aimed at promoting connection and wellbeing among local seniors includes a comprehensive list of local services and facilities, things to do, helpful tips for ageing well and inspiring stories.
- 'And then....they were invisible' a project, funded by Octapod, which includes stories from Raymond Terrace seniors for exhibition on the exterior walls of Raymond Terrace Library.

Volunteer support – provided through:

- Annual General meetings being held for 355c Committees. More information being made available to Council, Hall Committees and customers in relation to hall hire, with Committees adjusting to how bookings are managed. This is improving the customer experience and increasing hall hire in line with the revised Terms and Conditions of Facility Hire.
- Volunteers in the Hall space being equipped with support and information to assist them with clear communication and processes in place to bring some consistency. The easing of COVID-19 restrictions has resulted in more hirers returning to regular hire periods at facilities. Applications for hall hire are now available online.

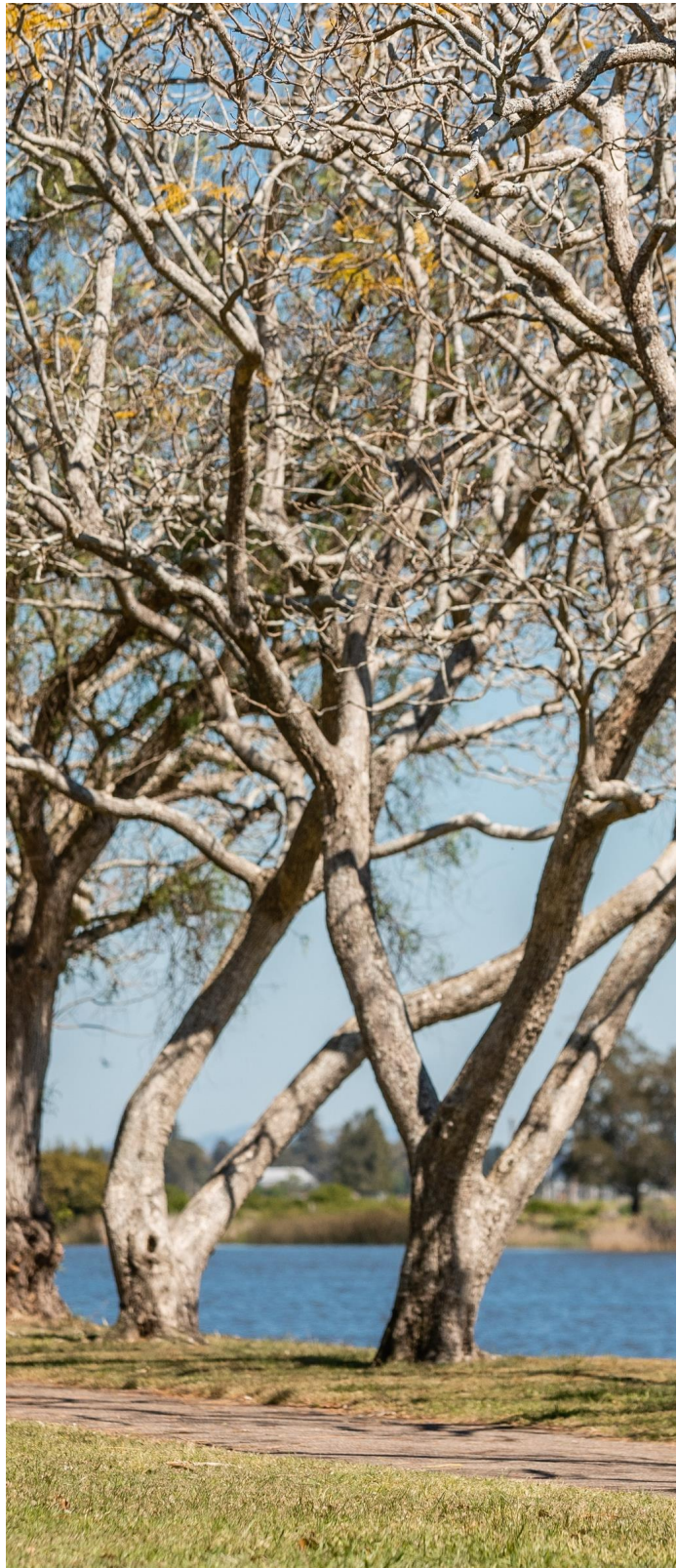
ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

- Review of the Volunteer Management process to identify areas for improvement and compliance along with an audit of current volunteers and prior induction training.

Challenges include:

- Childcare services - experiencing similar issues as other businesses regarding the ability to maintain adequate staffing levels and absences caused by ongoing COVID-19 isolation requirements; the BASC voucher system for families creating additional administration work; and the Mobile Preschool undergoing its initial external assessment under the National Quality Framework.
- Volunteer services – vacancies in the roles at Council that support Volunteers have created challenges for providing consistency to manage volunteers. Testing and tagging of items in community halls is yet to occur due to the current workload of the building trades team.



ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO

JUNE 2022.



Port Stephens Council | 21

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

C2 Recognised traditions and lifestyles

Our community supports the richness of its heritage and culture.

Operational Plan Actions



On track – 4

We've continued to:

- recognise and support local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- support and promote local cultural activities
- recognise and support the heritage of Port Stephens
- provide public libraries as vibrant community spaces.

Key outcomes include:

Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support through:

- Preparation of NAIDOC week activities across the LGA in collaboration with the Local Area Land Councils and the aboriginal community. Kicking off with a 'Snak and Rap' skating event for youth on 3 July, a flag raising ceremony and various cultural activities and environmental workshops throughout the week.



- This year's theme *Get up! Stand up! Show up!* – calls for systematic change and reforms by continuing to show up. An occasion to celebrate those who have driven and led change in our communities over generations – the champions of change.
- Drafting of an Acknowledgement of Country for feedback from the Aboriginal Strategic Committee.
- Scheduling a workshop to discuss dual naming opportunities across the LGA which includes the use of the 'Gathang' language.
- Completing dune stabilisation at Birubi Point which included reconstruction of dunes, fencing and planting.

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

Local cultural support through:

- Finalisation of the Memorandum of Understanding with Transport for NSW for a mural on Karuah Bridge. Murals and public art is growing with many funding applications being received as well as large-scale DA's requiring elements of public art.
- Funding from the NSW Cultural Tourism Accelerator fund has been redirected to activate the spaces of Terrace Reflections and Yacaaba Street Art Walk. The artists and their work were celebrated with a range of entertainment, games, and food trucks.

Heritage Support is being provided through external advisory services for 12 development applications, 15 Council led projects and 8 customer requests.

Library services being provided through:

- Continued hard work by the team to regain customers lost during the height of COVID-19.
- A celebration of Library Lover's Day in February: with Tomaree library hosting ABC Newcastle's morning program with Kia Handley and an editorial piece featured in the local paper on "Reasons to love our libraries every day".
- Launching new free loanable STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) kits from the Raymond Terrace and Tomaree libraries available to adults and children.
- Tomaree Library hosting the launch of the Youngster.Co Building Digital Skills program, refer to page 19 for more.
- Hosting a program called 'Rite to the Finish, which compassionately covered aspects of death and dying with topics ranging from organ donation to funeral planning. Meals on Wheels also becoming a tenant of the Tomaree library & Community centre.

Our Library services

121,895 library collection items loaned

11,459 enquiries

16,123 printing jobs assisted

9,059 internet & Wi-Fi users

2,714 people attended 299 programs

315 home deliveries

878 New members

Challenges include:

- Cultural support – limited expressions of interest received for the Terrace Reflection exhibition.
- Library – teething problems associated with the introduction of a new Library Management System in its infancy phase.

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

C3 Community partnerships

Our Council works with the community to foster creative and active communities.

Operational Plan Actions

**On track – 4**

We've continued to:

- assist community service providers to effectively deliver services in the region
- support local community events that highlight and foster the creative and diverse nature of our community
- provide recreational and leisure services
- support financially creative and active communities.

Key outcomes include:

Community services support provided through a regular newsletter to community service providers along with securing a 3 year continuation of the funding contract with the Department of Communities and Justice for Targeted Early Intervention.

Community financial assistance being provided via Councillors donating \$5,455 to various community groups and sporting clubs.

Leisure and recreational services provided by Council are returning to regular operations since the easing of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

- Our overall pool/leisure centre attendance of 69,914 for the period is similar to the same time in 2021 however it has still not returned to pre-COVID-19 figures of 2020. Highlights include activities such as the annual Australia Day pool party; all sites passing March 2022 RLSA audits; multiple 5-star google reviews for all sites; exceeding learn-to-swim targets; being successful in a grant for a new playground at Lakeside Leisure Centre through the Stronger Country Communities Fund, Round 4; new heat pumps installed at Lakeside pool and tendered for Tomaree and Tilligerry pool; and new Cafés at Lakeside and Tomaree were constructed in partnership with Belgravia.
- Beach attendances saw a 25% decrease in attendance compared to the same period in 2021 due to a myriad of wild weather events record levels of rainfall and a tsunami warning which closed all beaches across NSW over a weekend.
- Reviewing the surf lifesaving contract; Community Leasing and Licensing Policy and guidelines.

**Our beaches****413,126** visitations**42,453** preventative actions**46** rescues**183** first aid treatments**Challenges include:**

- Community services - Reporting in DEX (Data Exchange) on client details for information, advice and referral was not able to be delivered, although this was renegotiated.
- Leisure and recreational services:
 - availability of staff due to turnover and COVID; the wet weather during January to June had some negative impacts on some of our business partners, however we continued to work closely with these groups to assist in managing this.
 - 4WD access 900m south at Birubi is still posing a challenge for lifeguards over peak summer season.
 - some community groups have been critical of proposed increases and setting of a minimum licence fee in line with the adopted Fees and Charges.



26 | Six-month Progress Report – January to June 2022

P1 Strong economy, vibrant local businesses, active investment

Our community has an adaptable, sustainable and diverse economy.

Operational Plan Actions

**On track – 7**

We've continued to:

- support sustainable business development in Port Stephens
- support and deliver services that attract sustainable visitation to Port Stephens.

Key outcomes include:

Sustainable business development is provided through a variety of ways including:

- Mayoral Academic Scholarships valued at \$40,000 (fully funded by 14 Port Stephens businesses) being presented to 20 deserving young people to support the beginning of their academic journeys.
- Recommencement of the Business Leaders Lunch Program with 120 guests where Michael McQueen talked about "The New Normal".
- Continued development of business lists (Lemon Tree Passage and Medowie) to facilitate improved communication with our town centre businesses.

For more information about local strengthening funds as well as other grants, funding and scholarships available, visit - portstephens.nsw.gov.au/community/grants,-funding-and-scholarships.

To find out more about our response to COVID-19 and the support available for the community and businesses, visit - portstephens.nsw.gov.au/council/COVID-19-20.

Place activation occurring through:

- Implementation of Council's first Place Plan in Karuah has been instrumental in guiding community expectations around place management. The Place Plan enables community groups to work with the Vibrant Places team to scope out ideas to make things happen - including activation and events.
- *It's On!* trial Place Activation program - refer to Key Priorities section page 11 for more.
- Additional funding from NSW Festivals of Place Summer Night Fund further supported activation programs across the LGA with activation programs being held in Raymond Terrace, Lemon Tree Passage and Medowie. Programs included markets, music, giant games, roving entertainment and solar light

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1**SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO****JUNE 2022.**

installation projects in Nelson Bay and Raymond Terrace and attracted over 1000 attendees.

- 'Chalk the Walk' 3D art activation program was also implemented across 3 town centres including Karuah, Nelson Bay and Raymond Terrace with over 100 attendees enjoying the vibrancy the artwork adds to our town centres, photos, face painting and music performances. Artworks that aligned with the local culture and story of each town centre were chosen and included themes such as whales, koalas, quad biking and powerboats on the river.
- A Karuah Community Group successfully applied for a grant through council's community grants program to start regular markets to be held at Karuah Public School.

Event support provided through:

- Council-sponsored events contributed an estimated \$5.1 million to the local economy over the period. Events included Peter Wilson Memorial Touch Championships, WSL QS1000 Port Stephens Pro, NSW Garmin Billfish Shoot Out, NSW Interclub Game Fishing, Port Stephens Surf Festival, NSW Ultimate Frisbee Championships Division 1, National Outrigger Regatta Championships, Future Formula State Powerboat Championships and the Wild & Co 48hr Geoquest Adventure Race.
- Event applications being streamlined through a review of the event assessment process which is expected to reduce the volume of event applications by 73%. The process review also includes the implementation of a 3-year event licence agreement, further reducing the volume of event applications.
- 52 private ceremonies, 50 events and 15 film licence applications were received with 55 licences issued for the period.

Refer to our Key Priority section on page 11 for more information.

Visitation

- January to April saw strong regional occupancy rates and remained steady through to May, however wet weather during May saw a slow-down in visitation which continued into June.
- International visitation has slowly been returning to Port Stephens.
- Visitor information continued to remain high with a strong demand for accommodation across Port Stephens over school Holiday periods and weekend visitation.
- Destination Port Stephens secured \$50,000 in funding to undertake a major campaign to promote travel during the shoulder season (Autumn 2022) and early winter, targeting visitors from Sydney and Regional NSW.
- International marketing recommenced including attending the 2022 Australian Tourism Exchange in May to meet with international buyers.

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO

JUNE 2022.

Challenges include:

- Recent disasters (including COVID-19, flooding and wet weather) impacting:
 - Place activation – contractor availability across NSW resulting in some cancellations.
 - Events - inclement weather hindering the delivery of many events.
- Capacity at venues - due to changes with capacity allowances at larger venues in Port Stephens, issues have been experienced in bidding where more than 350 delegates are required.
- Visitation being impacted – with an increase in Australians travelling overseas as well as the potential impact of the economy (cost of living) on discretionary income for domestic travel.



Port Stephens Council | 29

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

P2 Infrastructure and facilities

Our community's infrastructure and facilities are safe, convenient, reliable and environmentally sustainable.

Operational Plan Actions

**On track – 15****Off track – 4**

We've continued to:

- plan civil and community infrastructure to support the community
- build Council's civil and community infrastructure to support the community
- maintain Council's civil and community infrastructure to support the community
- deliver road infrastructure services on behalf of Roads and Maritime Services.

Key outcomes include:

Infrastructure planning and renewal completing the financial year with another large year of capital works with a higher than average volume of projects due to grant funding available.

A large work program coupled with another declared disaster in March 2022 contributed to a large unplanned workload for the Assets, Capital works and Public Domain Services teams, with staff working additional hours to keep work progressing.

Refer to the Key Priorities section from page 8 and the Service Delivery section from page 55 for more details of projects. Other key highlights include:

- Completing and adopting the Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) for 2022 to 2032.
- Removal of the Victoria Parade pedestrian bridge for testing.
- Trialing a recycled asphalt product on Salamander Way.
- Continuing investigations of potential additional sites for SMART parking.
- Progressing natural disaster claims for 2021 and 2022.
- Completing a regional roads review and transfer, with a response from the independent panel pending.
- Submitting an active transport grant application.
- Processing 183 out of 187 flood certificate requests, 76 out of 81 Development Application (DA) referrals and 160 out of 196 DAs that required engineering assessments within required timeframes.

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1**SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.**

- Completing drainage improvement works in Karuah and Tanilba Bay and progressing those at Boat Harbour.
- Progressing design and construction of drainage improvement works in Nelson Bay.
- Updating flood level mapping layers for the entire LGA, which is available free on Council's website
- Continuing investigation of catchment drainage issues at Salamander Bay and Little Beach, along with continuing the review and update of the Shoal Bay drainage model
- Progressing work on the Anna Bay Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan and the Lower Hunter Floodplain Cumulative Development Impact Study and Plan.

Council fleet – progressing the 2021-2022 procurement plan including procurement of 12 light vehicles, 7 heavy vehicles, 3 cabin mowers, 2 tractors, 1 Skid Steer loader and 24 items of a small plant.

Traffic engineering and road safety being provided through completing the Holiday Time Road Safety campaign and convening the monthly Local Traffic Committee to discuss a variety of traffic and road safety matters.

Community, recreation and corporate assets:

- Exceeding asset compliance targets throughout the year
- Continuing to secure grant funding with notable amounts coming by way of the NSW Regional Tourism Activation Fund, Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 4 and the Recreational Fishing and Camping Facilities Program.
- Securing grant funding from the NSW Government Streets as Shared Spaces program round 2 for trialing the transformation of a section of the Terrace's main street, into a new hub of activity. The new Urban Park in William Street will be a destination meeting point that brings locals together and support local business.
- Opening of the new \$3.3 million Bruce Scott Pavilion at Tomaree Sports Complex - providing amenities for 2000 registered players who use the complex for various sporting activities. The Complex will also help to attract more events and visitors to Port Stephens which will benefit both the wider community and local businesses. Tomaree Sports Council has worked with Council for over 10 years to replace the old amenities and accommodate growth in local sports.

Capital works continuing:

- With our program of Capital Works (from survey and design to construction) as outlined in the Service Delivery section from page 55.
- While we implemented financial austerity, government infrastructure stimulus funding also increased demand for Capital Works. Given the 'stimulus' nature of the funding, many grants required projects to be fast-tracked, with the capital works team remaining flexible and responsive to these requests, supplementing resourcing from internally seconded staff (particularly roadside and drainage team) as well as externally sourced contractors.
- Continuing asset inspections, maintenance, minor and major works on the state road network for Transport for NSW (TfNSW) under the Roads Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC), including completing the construction of Cabbage Tree Road.

Road, roadside, drainage, open space, foreshore building and cemetery maintenance continued with unwavering dedication despite significant challenges faced through constant wet weather and reallocation of resources where the community needs it most.

- Pothole and heavy patching continued, with nearly 5,000 potholes open for repair during peak times following treacherous weather.
- Our Building Trades team completed high-priority defects within timeframes ensuring that risks to the public were minimised.
- Moving 50+ years of plant and equipment from the Raymond Terrace depot to Nelson Bay was a big undertaking. Refer to the Key Priorities section on page 14 for more.

Challenges include:

- Off-track Operational Plan Actions:
 - P2.1.1 Plan for and initiate civil assets
 - P2.3.1 Provide roads maintenance
 - P2.3.2 Provide roadside and drainage maintenance
 - P2.3.3 Provide open space and foreshore maintenance

Further explanation as to why these actions are Off track is provided below.

- Pressures on staff resourcing and additional unplanned workloads due to:
 - the number of grants
 - a large capital works program
 - fiscal constraints

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1**SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO****JUNE 2022.**

- a natural disaster from March 2022 along with the previous March 2021 event
 - delays in disaster funding.
- Wet weather conditions - negatively impacting our ability to complete asset inspections, resulting in accelerated deterioration of our road assets, with a higher than the normal number of customer enquiries and complaints regarding roads.
- Fleet issues with:
 - Global supply chain issues continuing to effect light vehicle and plant availability during the period, with the team responding by bringing forward procurement plans and increasing communication across Council. Issues with delayed procurement affecting our ability to deliver projects and carry out maintenance.
 - Sudden increase in fuel costs requiring adjustments to our fuel supplier settings and considerable budget changes.
 - Adverse weather and ageing CCTV infrastructure have caused extended outages of our CCTV system.
- Reduced staff numbers impacted providing development engineering services within appropriate timeframes and increased time pressures to attend to legal matters.
- Community, recreation and corporate assets:
 - Industry-wide cost escalation as a result of inflation continuing to put pressure on project budgets.
 - Staffing shortages due to sickness and other mitigating factors placed pressure on the team to deliver.
 - COVID-19 and adverse weather including a major flooding event impacting community sport and the timely delivery of projects.
- Capital Works experienced similar challenges around staff resourcing to deliver the continuing high workload from increased stimulus grant funding and natural disasters, with grant-specific requirements for tight project timeframes, resulting in significant fast-tracking of projects. To facilitate work, staff numbers were supplemented with internal staff and external contractors in order to achieve this.
- Road, roadside, drainage and open space maintenance works have been impacted with staff shortages through sickness and mowing and field maintenance significantly impacted by the constant rain. Maintenance and outstanding defects have slowly been increasing with this reallocation of resources, with plant and equipment breakdowns occurring due to an ageing fleet and heavy wear and tear.

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

P3 Thriving and safe place

Our community supports a healthy, happy and safe place.

Operational Plan Actions



On track – 10

We've continued to:

- provide land use plans, tools and advice that sustainably support the community
- enhance public safety, health and liveability through the use of Council's regulatory controls and services
- support the amenity and identity of Port Stephens
- support emergency services and protect Council assets from bushfires and extreme weather events.

Key outcomes include:**Strategic Planning** through:

- Reducing the backlog of planning proposals (rezonings) under assessment. This is a result of our revamping rezoning initiatives which were outlined in the Annual Report 2020 to 2021, page 80.
- Contributing high-level input into NSW Department of Planning and Environment planning reforms, including providing a number of submissions to State-led planning reform and projects (Williamstown SAP, Hunter Regional Plan).
- Completing (or near completing) a number of planning proposals consistent with local strategic planning.

**Helping Ballina Council**

in local government emergency recovery support by providing development assessment services.

This initiative aimed to assist processing the backlog of applications caused by recent flooding events.

Development assessment (DAs)

services continued with:

- Improving processing times and resolving long-standing legacy DAs - resulting in positive results for customers and the community.
- Meeting the DA determination timeframe target of 40 days.

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1 SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

- Reducing the applications on the 100-day list to an average of 30 throughout the year.
- Approving 402 Construction Certificates for 2021-2022 (30% increase on last year).
- Processing larger scale DAs more efficiently.
- Determining 1043 DAs worth over \$319M worth of development for 2021-2022.
- Participating in numerous pre-lodgment and Urban Design Review Panel meetings for major developments in the LGA.

Environmental Health Service inspection programs were back up and running to full capacity as some programs were suspended during COVID-19. Highlights include:

- Recommencing the food business inspection program enabling a report to be submitted to the NSW Food Authority during July 2022.
- Increasing the inspection frequency for public swimming pools to 6-month inspections, given the high occupancy rates during COVID-19 - this largely received a positive response and it is proposed to be maintained into the future.
- Building new relationships with other partners including NSW Health and proposing to meet 6 monthly with Hunter Water representatives.

Land use compliance and ranger services continued:

- Responding to alleged unauthorised land use, construction of other works as well as providing internal advice to associated staff in accordance with the adopted Compliance Policy. The number of requests received and responded to remained stable.
- Targeting campaigns for:
 - School zone parking education - completing 46 visits to local schools, with 24 official warnings issued to drivers.
 - Parking enforcement – with 400 parking infringements issued.
 - Building site compliance - inspecting 50 sites throughout the LGA, with no infringements issued. A number of minor breaches were detected, improvement notices issued and follow-up inspections undertaken to ensure the breaches were rectified.



Council Animal Refuge

(October 2021- March 2022)

192 animals received

162 rescued/returned to owners/rehomed

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1**SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.**

- Companion animal registration project – sending 1600 letters to owners of animals that required Lifetime Registration, resulting in 419 registrations in March and 101 in April. A significant increase from an average of 25 registrations per month.

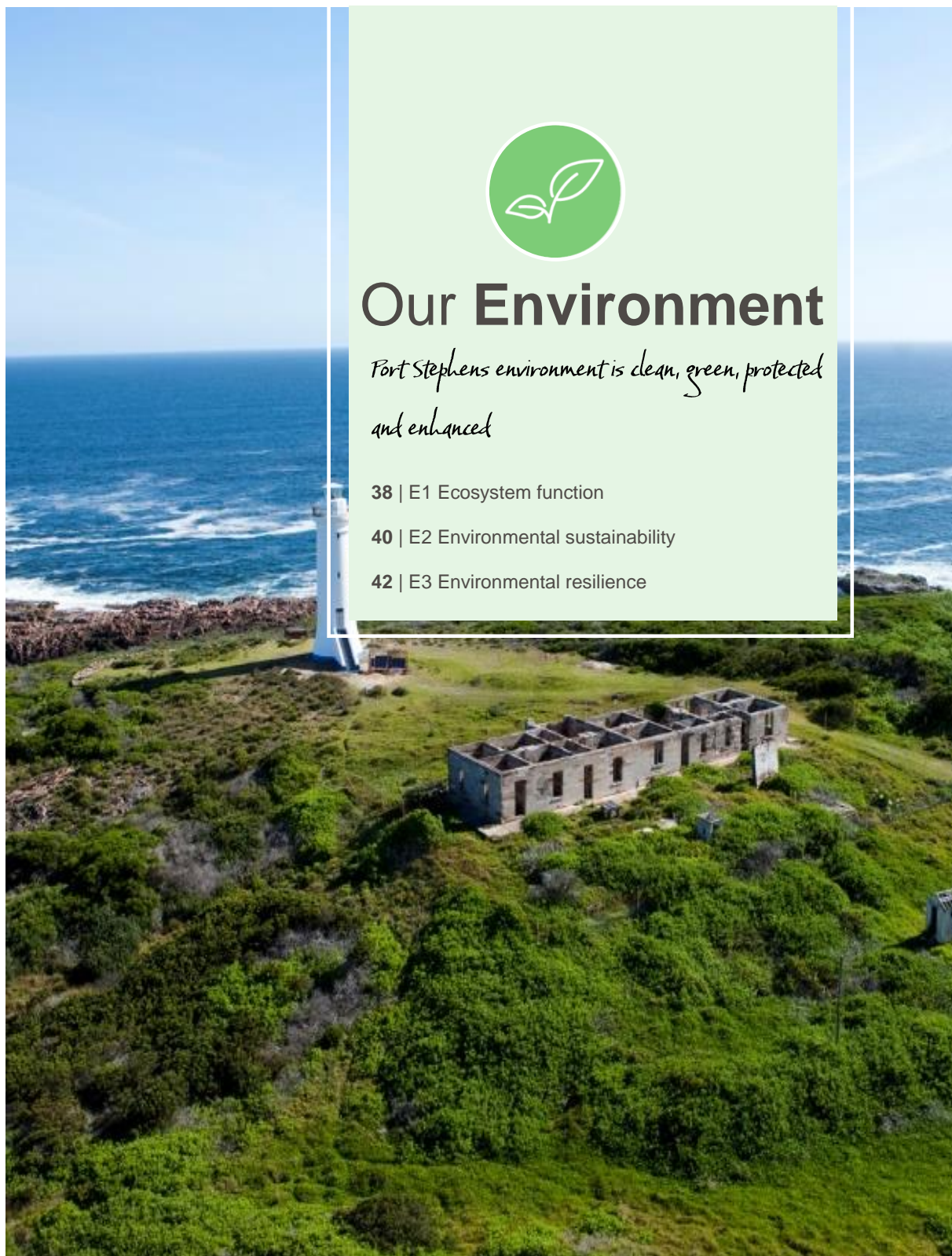
Supporting amenity and identity continued with adoption of the Karuah Place Plan and preparation of other plans as outlined in the Key Priorities section on page 14.

Emergency support continued through:

- Updating the Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) as per the schedule which has been endorsed by the Port Stephens Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and awaits endorsement by the Regional Emergency Management Committee. The EMPLAN was utilised twice in 2021 to 2022 during the response to flooding events.
- Managing Asset Protection Zones (APZ) in accordance with the contract arrangements. Additional work within APZs was able to be undertaken due to gaining additional funding from the Rural Fire Service.

Challenges include:

- Planning
 - Reforms - keeping up with the extensive reform agenda for the NSW planning system undertaken by the DPE and navigating the DPE's new framework for planning proposals.
 - Proposals - seeking to implement planning proposals for rural residential development that were consistent with local planning.
- Legislative reform - keeping abreast of ongoing reforms and providing efficient development services to assist in alleviating housing stress in the LGA.
- COVID-19 impacting:
 - Staff availability and when the Environmental Health team could carry out inspections. The results from the food business inspections are initially disappointing, demonstrating that our regular inspection frequency is appropriate in enabling education and assistance to those operators where it is required.
 - Community engagement for Place Planning.
- Swimming Pool Barrier Inspection Program
 - Presented initial challenges with the implementation of the recommendations of an audit report, however staff have addressed most of the issues identified.
 - Assessments of pool barriers found a large number of barriers failed to pass on the first inspection which required subsequent inspections to be undertaken.



Our Environment

*Port Stephens environment is clean, green, protected
and enhanced*

38 | E1 Ecosystem function

40 | E2 Environmental sustainability

42 | E3 Environmental resilience

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

E1 Ecosystem function

Our community has healthy and dynamic environmental systems that support biodiversity conservation.

Operational Plan Actions

**On track – 6**

We've continued to:

- protect and enhance the local natural environment
- re-educate the community about the natural environment.

Key outcomes include:**Environmental policies and strategies -**

continuing to develop and monitor environmental policies, strategies and information including:

- Developing and Council adopting the terms of reference for the Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (Committee).
- Engaging consultants to commence the initial review of koala mapping on the Tomaree peninsula.
- Preparing grant applications for count/genetic testing of local koala populations and koala mapping across the LGA.
- Researching the potential management of flying fox populations in Raymond Terrace.
- Completing the review of Council's Tree & Nest Box Technical Specification providing easy-to-understand guidelines for tree removal, planting and nest box installation.
- Securing grant funding from the NSW Government to reduce koalas being killed or injured by vehicles grant funding.
- Scoping the Biodiversity Strategy which will provide the umbrella for natural systems management.

**5125** trees planted**71** hectares bushland restoration across**166** sites**679** biosecurity inspections**304** sites treated for priority weeds**93** biosecurity compliance/enforcement actions

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1**SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.**

Nature conservation and environmental assessment programs continued with:

- 129 pre-lodgement and 74 DA referrals being received for environmental assessment by the team – at an average turnaround of 16 days, which is consistent with environmental assessments processed over the past 12 months.
- 79 tree notifications received: 25 approvals, 35 refusals 19 active applications remaining - assessed in 13 days.
- 57 tree applications received: 50 approvals, 2 refusals with the remainder being assessed.

Priority weed and pest inspections/treatments continued as outlined above, performing above targets.



Environmental education continued through:

- Delivering 8 public events.
- Initiating a quarterly environmental newsletter 'Your Environment: Bush to Coast' to report on events, workshops, sustainability issues, waste minimisation, local ecology, land care activities and weed alerts. The newsletter aims to assist in keeping the community up to date with environmental news and what Council is doing in this space across the LGA.

Challenges include:

- Staff vacancy in key positions of the Natural Systems team.
- Wet weather and strong wind increasing tree issues and delaying access to certain sites by the Natural Systems team.
- Ongoing funding – majority of events are funded through external grants.

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

E2 Environmental sustainability

Our community has healthy and dynamic environmental systems that support biodiversity conservation efficiently and equitably.

Operational Plan Actions

**On track – 1****Off track – 1**

We've continued to:

- reduce the community's environmental footprint.

Key outcomes include:

Local war on waste continued despite:

- Direct landfilling of red bin waste commencing in April at Summerhill Waste Management Facility as waste going into compost ceased from March 2022.
- Finalising a 12 month agreement with the City of Newcastle for 1 July 2022 to 30 June 23 which will result in reduced diversion from landfill.

Waste services**27,707*** tonnes garbage**5965*** tonnes recycling**2545*** tonnes green waste drop off

*July 2021 to June 2022

4 problem waste drop off events**Improving Council energy usage with:**

- MWh usage across Council facilities decreasing from 8,400 (2017-2018) to 7,004 (2020-2021) and now 6,487 (2021-2022).
- Council going green in a 100% renewable energy deal. In March, Council announced that it will be powered by the sun under a landmark agreement that will see 100% solar energy supplied to more than 1940 streetlights, libraries, sports fields and other sites across the region. Council is one of 25 NSW councils to sign onto the \$180 million retail renewable energy deal, brokered by the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) with ZEN Energy Pty Ltd, to supply electricity from three solar farms.

Reducing our greenhouse emissions and adapting to our changing climate are important steps in protecting and enhancing the incredible natural beauty of Port Stephens, so that it can be enjoyed by future generations.

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1**SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.**

On the road to being carbon neutral with glass, rubber, tyres and old asphalt just some of the waste materials diverted from landfill to road construction as Council drives resource recovery. As part of trialling circular economy asphalt which incorporates recycled materials we started using this material for the construction of Salamander Way.



Roads built with this combination of asphalt and recycled materials have proven to be more flexible and durable meaning they are staying in better condition for longer.

Challenges include:

- Off track Operational Plan Actions:
 - E2.1.1 Reduce waste going to landfill - The changes in legislation banning the use of Mixed Waste Organic Material (MWOO) composting and the subsequent decision by the EPA to move to FOGO (Food Organics Green Organics) has resulted in the demise of investigations into other uses for the red bin waste. This has resulted in this previously composted material being sent to landfill. Over the next twelve months, Council will be introducing a third bin system to collect and remove the green waste from the red bin stream. This will result in a further 30% of materials diverted to landfill.
- Weather events – creating extensive delays and affecting tipping at waste disposal locations along with increased demand for green waste drop-off.

E3 Environmental resilience

Our community is resilient to environmental risks, natural hazards and climate change.

Operational Plan Actions

**On track – 4**

We've continued to:

- encourage community resilience to coastal hazards
- encourage community resilience to detrimental impacts from the environment
- encourage community resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Key outcomes include:

Coastal Management Program - refer to the Key Priorities section on page 9 for more information.

Supporting PFAS affected communities - refer to the Key Priorities section on 15 for more information.

Environmental impacts from waste management - continuing to:

- monitor and test decommissioned landfill sites as per EPA compliance and responsible land use.
- investigate resource recovery options
- investigate third bin options.

Modelling Council's carbon emissions initial baseline data has been compiled and discussed with Councillors with an action plan currently being prepared.

To read more about Port Stephens Council sustainability and climate change, visit portstephens.nsw.gov.au/environment/sustainability-and-climate-change.

Challenges include:

- Coastline impacted – by recent severe weather events with erosion recorded in a number of areas. As Council has limited options to undertake permanent works under the current legislation, emergency works will be undertaken to protect the coastal areas from further erosion.
- Unsuccessful representations to the Federal and State government requesting the reintroduction of the Williamstown Community Reference Group(CRG).



Port Stephens Council | 43



L1 Governance

Our Council's leadership is based on trust and values of Respect, Integrity, Teamwork, Excellence and Safety (RITES).

Operational Plan Actions

**On track – 14**

We've continued to:

- develop and encourage the capabilities and aspirations of a contemporary workforce
- provide strong civic leadership and government relations
- provide a strong ethical governance structure
- provide strong supportive business systems for Council's operations
- reduce risk across Council.

Key outcomes include:

Workforce Strategy objectives continuing to be delivered via a number of initiatives such as internal training programs, PSCare well-being initiatives, review of the recruitment process and employee experience mapping exercises. The revised 2022 to 2026 Workforce Strategy was adopted by Council in June as part of the review of the Integrated Planning and Reporting documents.

2022 to 2032
Integrated Plans
and Resourcing
Strategy adopted

Civic leadership continuing with:

- On-boarding of a new Council for another term. More information about our Councillors can be found at portstephens.nsw.gov.au/council/mayor-and-councillors.
- 2 citizenship ceremonies conferring 39 people.

Newcastle Airport partnership bi-monthly meetings continued with:

- Planning underway to expand the airport terminal.
- Grant funding announced by the Federal Government to assist with the widening and strengthening of the airport runway to enable Code E (wide bodied) aircraft, with works underway by Defence contractors.
- Grant funding announced by the Federal Government to assist with the expansion of an international terminal. Terminal design and development is in progress.

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1**SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO****JUNE 2022.****Working with Hunter Councils** and continuing:

- Bi-monthly meetings by the Mayor with the Hunter Joint Organisation (HJO) of Councils to address relevant issues of regional significance
- Monthly meetings by the General Manager with Arrow Collaborative Services Ltd and Hunter Councils Legal Services Ltd. Arrow has acquired 'GoodChat.tv', a video communications business based at Thirroul. Integration of GoodChat into the Arrow group of companies has been completed.
- Perusing new business opportunities by Arrow in order to grow the profitability of the enterprise, which will enable the HJO to expand its advocacy agenda without additional call on member council membership fees.
- Annual strategic planning workshop of Arrow Collaborative Services Ltd in June 2022.

Governance and legal services completing:

- 114 internal legal advices, 12 external advices, 3 subpoenas and tabling a number of key governance policies for endorsement by Council.
- 32 formal applications and 427 informal requests for access to information.

Internal Audit program continuing with the Section 7.11 Developer Contributions, Cyber Security, TfNSW Drives and National Heavy Vehicles Accreditation audits completed.

2022 Community Satisfaction Survey material compiled and deferred until September 2022 in order for detailed engagement to occur with the community on Council's financial sustainability and funding our future.

Service Review process improvements identified in 2021 are now being implemented providing a more critical review of each service.

The program includes Service Reviews, ADRI reviews (small check-in reviews) and Structural Reviews.

It should be noted in reviewing the below figures that in the July to December 2021 period a significant number of service reviews were completed (with a total of 43 service packages undergoing a review of some description).

- 9 ADRI Reviews (scheduled) and 3 ADRI Reviews (unscheduled) completed.
- 2 Structural Reviews (unscheduled) completed.

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1**SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO****JUNE 2022.**

Corporate Improvement and Business Systems continue to deliver a number of improvement initiatives including:

- Supporting staff to work from home
- Webcasting council meetings
- Upgrading key software including Authority and SharePoint
- Online mapping and services
- Data management initiatives

Integrated Planning and Reporting suite of documents were adopted by Council in June 2022 following more than 18 months of integrated community engagement.

- The revised 10-year Community Strategic Plan for 2022-2032 was developed in collaboration with the community after diving deeper through workshops, online surveys, photo competitions and more to check in on community priorities. Adopting a place based approach was integral to planning and building on the community values established as part of the 2020 Liveability Index Survey
- Council's 4-year Delivery Program, annual Operational Plan and 10-year Resourcing Strategy which identifies what and how Council can contribute to the Community Strategic Plan were also adopted.

For more information about Port Stephens Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting visit - portstephens.nsw.gov.au/council/our-performance2/integrated-plans

Integrated Risk Management continuing with significant support provided by the Environmental Risk team across Council including facilitating and engaging with/ for a number of external regulators.

Read more about the Risk management maturity score on page 61.

Challenges include:

- Staff resourcing - with the employee job market tightening, economic constraints affecting our budgets and working from home becoming more important to our staff, Council has had to become even more resourceful and responsive to its workforce.
- A number of unscheduled service reviews have occurred over and above the normal program.

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

L2 Financial management

Our Council is financially sustainable to meet community needs.

Operational Plan Actions



On track – 4

We've continued to work towards:

- maintaining strong financial sustainability
- maximising non-rate revenue and investment to support Council services.

Key outcomes include:**Responsible financial management** continuing:

- through careful decision-making and austerity measures, we have reduced organisational spending in an effort to minimise financial difficulties. This could not have been achieved without all other areas of the organisation working together and undertaking these measures when required.
- with funding of a number of projects for the community through several successful grant applications.
- with no issues raised at a recent audit.
- through our commitment to financial sustainability we envisage a clear path to our funded future. Refer to our Key Priorities section on page 12 for more.

**Property Management** continuing with:

- Minimal rental arrears and rent relief requests (despite COVID-19 lockdowns)
- Strong demand for commercial and retail spaces with vacant spaces being generally let within 3-4 weeks
- Portfolio vacancy rates below 5%
- Yield at circa 7% gross
- \$10M in land sales and \$2.5m in biobanking credit sales being completed.
- Preparing a Property Investment Strategy
- Completing the long-standing Bagnall Avenue project and progressing the Squire Street project to commencement of construction and selling all four lots at auction above the reserve.

Holiday Parks continuing to

- Operate and achieve solid Net Promoter Scores (NPS) despite the drop in occupancy from cold windy weather and COVID-19. A combined score of 70.36% for the six-month period was an outstanding result.
- Our average daily rate remained higher than the same period in 2021 due to successful marketing strategies.
- Increase occupancy at the Koala Sanctuary from 20.30% (2021) to 31.76% in (2022) with an incredible average NPS of 88% for the six months to June.

For more information about our holiday parks visit -

portstephens.nsw.gov.au/community/community-venues/holiday-parks

NPS 88% Koala Sanctuary

> 70 is considered world class, placing your company in the list of the top customer- centric companies.

This most likely means that your customers love you and your company generates word of mouth referrals

Challenges include:

- COVID-19, high inflation and recent severe weather events impacting our financial sustainability and occupancy across our beachside holiday parks.
- Ageing assets requiring capital investment to remain competitive in the market.
- Review of leases - to ensure they are contemporary and in line with current practices.
- Vacancy rates in the Newcastle CBD have increased 5% from January 2021 to 2022 due to the continued release of new stock onto the market. Vacant office space in the Newcastle CBD being advertised for 15 months with little interest shown in it due to the over-supply.

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

L3 Communication and engagement

Our Community understands Council's services and can influence outcomes that affect them.

Operational Plan Actions

**On track – 4**

We've continued to:

- promote a customer-first organisation
- provide information in a range of accessible formats
- strengthen Council's reputation
- provide a voice for the community.

Key outcomes include:**Customer First**

21,940 phone interactions

11,171 customer requests

12,651 email interactions

3,750 front counter interactions

Our communication

35 media releases

514 social media posts

40 internal communications

192,144 website visits

New fans/followers

2,870 on Instagram

882 on Facebook

412 on LinkedIn

Customer-first continuing with:

- The past 6 months dedicated to identifying areas for opportunity and improvement, with future development opportunities now captured in the draft Customer Experience Roadmap and Action Plan.
- New website going live in January – a key touchpoint for customers to access information and self-service.
- Review of the Customer Experience main phone system to improve call workflows and update technology to capture more informative data.
- The Visitor Information Centre business model was updated to allow more flexibility in running operation to accommodate peak and off-peak periods.

Community engagement continuing with:

- Our draft Communication and Engagement Strategy on public exhibition.
- Phase 3 and 4 engagement and exhibition of Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting documents.
- Medowie Place Plan workshops both online and face-to-face held.
- Planning the next phase of the Hinterland Place Plan.
- Planning engagement on Our Funded Future.

Challenges include:

- Staff shortages/vacancies across Customer Experience, Communications and Community Engagement, however, this has been aided by the creation of a casual pool across the Customer Experience and Visitor Information team.



Port Stephens Council | 51

Scorecard













Our seven key result measures underpin everything we do at Port Stephens Council.

- 55 | Service delivery
- 59 | Community satisfaction survey
- 59 | Employee engagement
- 60 | Governance
- 61 | Risk management
- 62 | Financial sustainability
- 63 | Infrastructure backlog



Scorecard

Our seven key result measures underpin everything we do at Port Stephens Council:

	Service Delivery Target: > 95% Integrated Plans delivered on time Achievement: 94% of Operational Plan Actions on track (as of 30 June 2022)	
	Community Satisfaction Target: > 80% Community Satisfaction score Achievement: 2022 result to be provided in Annual Report 2021 to 2022	TBC
	Employee Engagement Target: >75% Employee Engagement Achievement: 83% (Source: 2021 Employee Engagement Survey)	
	Governance Target: > 95% Governance Health Check Achievement: 98.24% (As of June 2022)	
	Risk Management Target: > 80% Risk Management Maturity score Achievement: 87% (As of August 2021)	
	Financial sustainability Target: underlying financial surplus Achievement: \$147,000 Underlying surplus (As of March Quarterly Budget Review)	
	Infrastructure Backlog Target: Backlog reduction Achievement: Result to be provided in 2021-2022 Annual Report	TBC



On track (target achieved or on track to be achieved)



Monitor (<5% off the target)



Off-track (>5% off the target)

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1**SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.**

We successfully balance these key measures by:

- ensuring that we're delivering on what we say we're going to do
- ensuring our community is satisfied with the level of service
- ensuring our assets are maintained in an acceptable standard
- being financially sustainable
- having the right practices and governance in place
- having an appropriate risk maturity and
- having engaged employees.



ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1 SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

1. Service delivery

From January to June 2022, we made the following progress on the 2021 to 2022 Operational Plan actions which contribute to the achievement of the Delivery Program objectives:

- **94%** (78 actions out of 83) on track
- **5** actions are off track

The following tables are a summary of individual road, community and recreation projects that were completed and are in progress as of 30 June 2022.

It's not an exhaustive list of all Capital Works projects carried out during this period, with final expenditure subject to completion of the annual financial statements which will be included in the 2021 to 2022 Annual Report.

Roads and Drainage projects completed
Foreshore Drive, Salamander Bay, bridge replacement
James Road, Medowie, road rehabilitation
Kula Road, Medowie, road rehabilitation
South Street, Medowie, shared pathway
Gan Gan Road, Campbell Avenue, Anna Bay
Grahamstown Road, Medowie, (2nd seal & power pole completed April 2022)
Clarencetown Road, Seg 270, Glen Oak
Clarencetown Road, Seg 130, Seaham
Warren Street, Seg 130, Seaham
Medowie Road, Seg 110-130, Campvale
Duns Creek Road (PS2020)
Accelerated Road Pavement Program

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

Roads & Drainage projects in construction

Nelson Bay Drainage, Seabreeze Estate
Victoria Parade, Nelson Bay, pedestrian overpass, investigation
Gan Gan Rd, Seg 160-190, One Mile, Road Rehabilitation
Tanilba Road, Mallabula, Road widening and kerb construction
Medowie Road shared path, Ferodale Road to Silverwattle Drive
Newline Road, Seg 290-300, East Seaham
Clarencetown Road, Riverflat, 2nd seal scheduled for October 2022
Newline Road, Stage 2 Southern Bend - awaiting dry weather
TfNSW Cabbage Tree Road, road rehabilitation and widening

Roads & Drainage projects in planning

Hannah Parade & One Mile Beach carpark upgrade
Port Stephens Drive, koala crossing
Nelson Bay CBD Works
Fly Point to Halifax Pathway
Fly Point High Pedestrian Activity Area Improvements (HPAA), Beach Road to Victoria Parade
Nelson Bay Town Centre High Pedestrian Activity Area Improvements (HPAA)
Gan Gan Road - Nelson Bay Road South 800m Blackspot
Swan Bay Road widening Stage 3 (Seg 50-60)
Mustons Road, Karuah, culvert upgrade, road widening (PS2020)
Swan Bay Road, Seg 160, road rehabilitation
Notts Creek Bridge, Oakendale Road, Glen Oak
Brandy Hill Drive, shared path
Six Mile Road, Seg 10-20, Eagleton, road rehabilitation
Nelson Bay Road, Fern Bay, shared path (stage 2)
Raymond Terrace shared pathway connection
61 Sturgeon Street, Raymond Terrace, pipe drainage upgrade

Community & Recreational and Structures projects completed
Stockton Street Stage, Nelson Bay
Tomaree Sports Complex Amenities (PS2020)
Tilligerry Skate Park, relocation and upgrade (PS2020)
Ferodale Road, Medowie, war memorial
Henderson Park, Lemon Tree Passage, shade sail installation
Robinson Reserve, Anna Bay, skate park (stage 2)
Birubi Front Dune Stabilisation, stage 1 regeneration works
Boyd Oval, Medowie, construction of new amenities
Boyd Oval, Medowie, demolition of old amenities
King Park irrigation (PS2020) DESIGN ONLY
Bettles Park, Raymond Terrace, playground upgrade
Bettles Park, Raymond Terrace, amenities & signage
Stuart Park, Hinton, change room & amenities upgrade
Raymond Terrace Admin Building carpark

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1 SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.**Community & Recreational and Structures projects in construction**

Mallabula Soccer / Athletics Building, amenities upgrade (PS2020)

Birubi Point Aboriginal Place Tourism Transport Interchange

William Street, Raymond Terrace, Town Centre Improvements Stage 1, (PS2020)

Raymond Terrace Depot, demolition and construction of new

Community & Recreational and Structures projects in planning

Fly Point Amphitheatre Nelson Bay

Spencer Park, Soldiers Point, playground & amenities

Little Beach Reserve, replace retaining wall

Little Beach Reserve, playground update

Little Beach, Nelson Bay, all abilities access ramp

Little Beach, Nelson Bay, amenities replacement (PS2020)

Lemon Tree Passage Town Centre and Foreshore Improvements

Raymond Terrace Activity Van Building, roof replacement

Kittyhawk Park, Raymond Terrace, playground and park furniture

William Street, Raymond Terrace, Town Centre Improvements Stage 2, (PS2020)

2. Community satisfaction

Our annual Community Satisfaction Survey was deferred until September 2022 with the final results to be reported to Council as part of the 2021 to 2022 Annual Report.

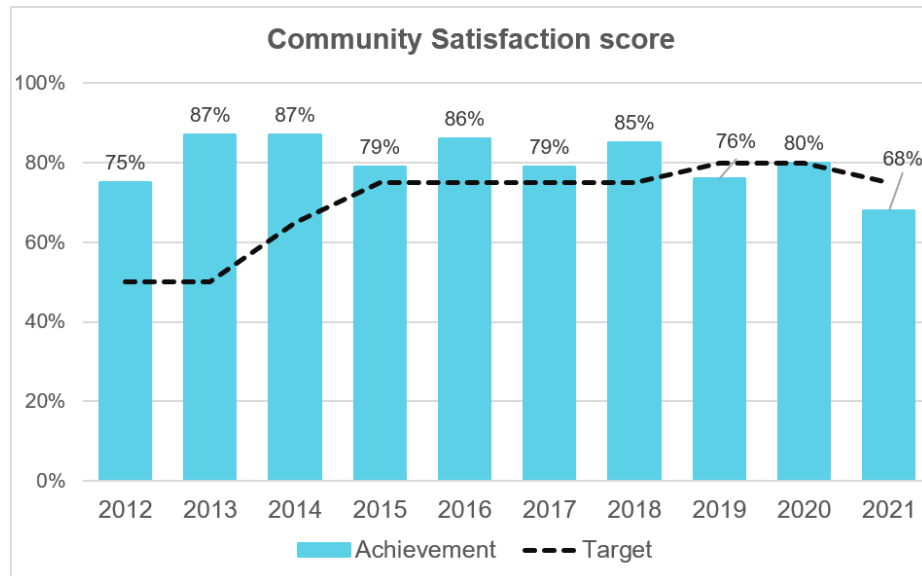


Figure 1: Graph Community Satisfaction Score

In December 2021 we reviewed our Community Satisfaction Score target revising the target to 75%. The updated target will be reflected in our future reports.

3. Employee engagement

Our annual Employee Engagement Survey was conducted in October 2021, resulting in our highest ever engagement score of 83%.

For the third year in a row, we have exceeded our ambitious target, which continues to place us in the top quartile of organisations in Australia and New Zealand. We continue to score significantly above the average Local Government score of 54%.

Staff are grateful for the balanced and supportive approach taken by the organisation in response to COVID-19. Key to this is the recently ratified 2021 Enterprise Agreement. Based on the principles of Business Excellence, the focus of the EA is to build and maintain a fair, balanced and cooperative relationship between Council, its employees and other stakeholders.

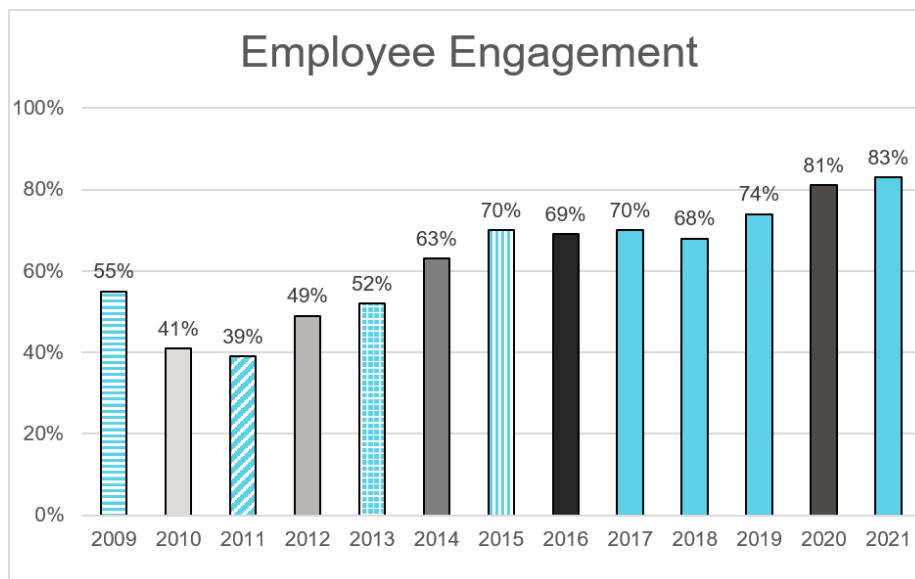


Figure 2: Graph Employee Engagement Score

A recent check-in survey with our staff in May 2022 showed that engagement amongst staff has not varied greatly over the last 6 months, with a score of 82%.

4. Governance

Council continues to monitor its governance through a range of initiatives and actions; such as policy development, legislative compliance, internal audit program, workplace practices and providing opportunities for improvements.

The annual Governance Health Check was completed in June 2022, with a score of 98.24% achieved. This result exceeds the target of >95%.

The Governance Health Check is a tool to measure our governance and performance. It covers 4 areas - ethics, risk management, information management and reporting. The graph below demonstrates our progress in achieving our Governance Health Check scores from 2015 to 2022.

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

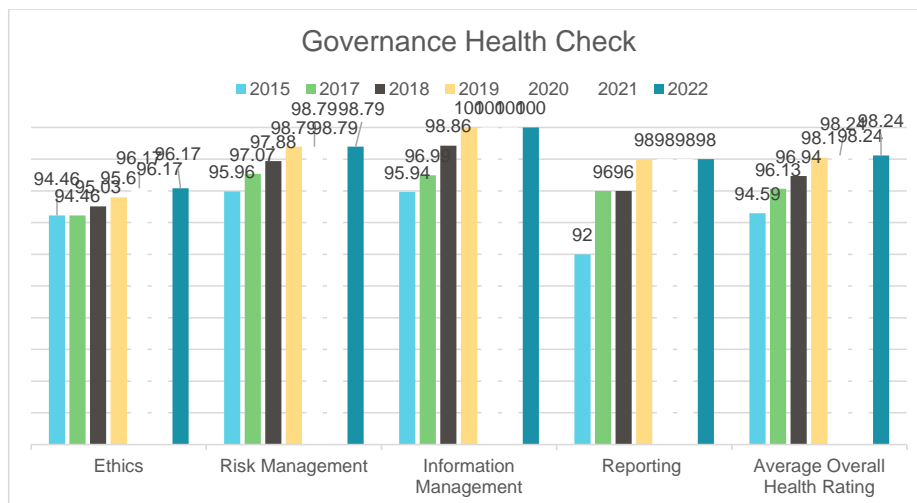


Figure 3: Graph Governance Health Check

5. Risk management

Council continues to mature its Risk Management Framework and embed it into decision-making. This includes continued focus on a risk-aware culture integrated with Council strategy. A key pillar of this risk maturity progression is the data-centric approach centralised through Council's enterprise risk management system. This enables coordination and management of strategic and operational risks in an integrated approach for effective decision-making. Council's risk management maturity score remains strong and well above target.

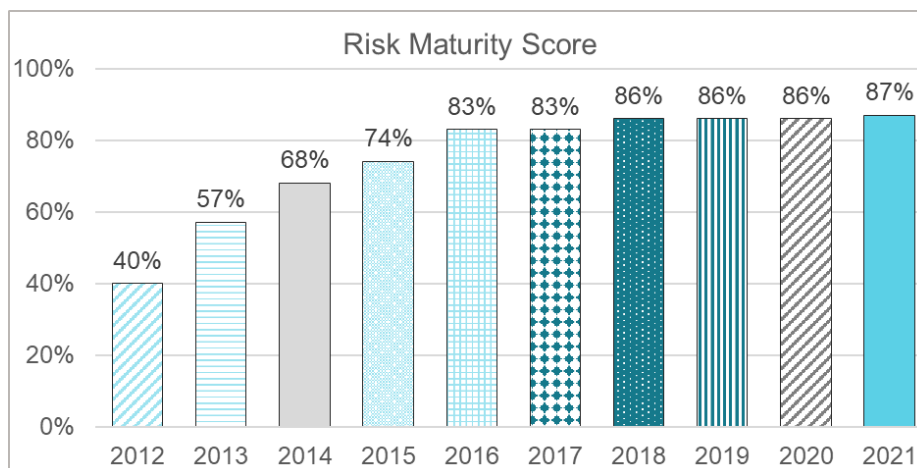


Figure 4: Graph Risk Maturity Score

ITEM 7 - ATTACHMENT 1

SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2022.

In December 2021, we reviewed our Risk Management Maturity target, revising it to 85%. The updated target will be reflected in our future reports.

6. Financial sustainability

While for a number of years Council has been able to consistently sustain a modest underlying surplus, recent impacts from COVID-19, growing internal and external financial pressures such as inflation, increased insurance costs, multiple natural disasters and a continued rate pegging regime have made the ongoing achievement of our goal of an underlying surplus very difficult to realise. In December 2021, we subsequently reviewed our Financial Sustainability target revising it to 'underlying result better than budget'.

COVID-19 and a range of other factors have significantly impacted almost every facet of our operations, however, through careful cash flow management and reprioritising our expenditure we have reduced this impact. Finalisation of our financial statements to 30 June 2022 is subject to audit findings and will be presented as part of the Annual Report 2021 to 2022. Based on the March 2022 Quarterly Budget Review an underlying surplus of \$147,000 was projected.

As outlined under our Key Priorities section on page 12, Council continues to focus on our ongoing financial sustainability.

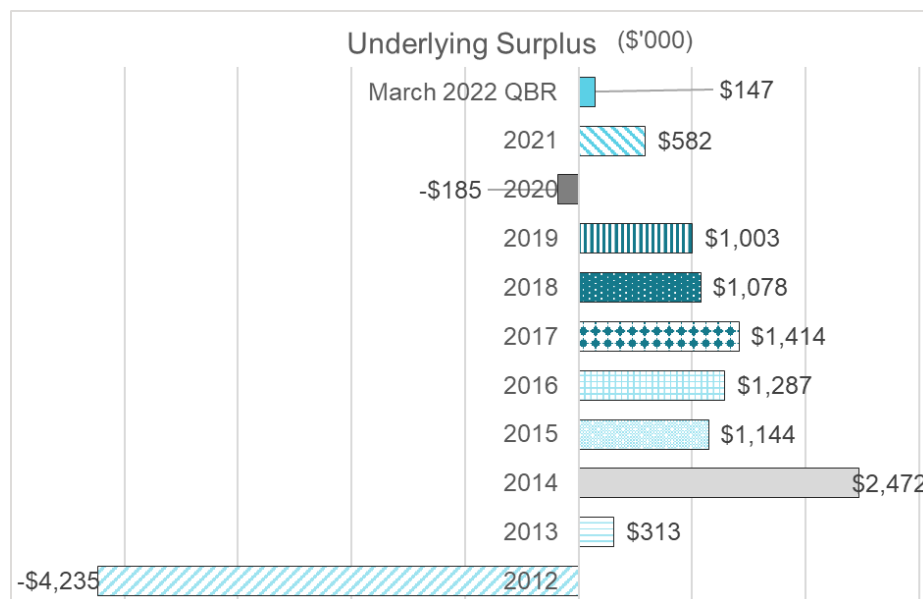


Figure 5: Graph Underlying Financial Surplus

7. Infrastructure Backlog

The infrastructure backlog and Asset Maintenance ratio are reported on an annual basis in the Annual Report, with results for 2021 to 2022 not available at the time of writing this report.

In December 2021, we reviewed our Infrastructure Backlog measure and updated it to reflect our Asset Maintenance Ratio, with a target of 100%. Expenditure on asset maintenance is essential to ensuring assets continue to meet their service delivery requirements. If actual maintenance expenditure is less than the estimated required annual maintenance a council may not be investing enough funds within the year to stop its infrastructure backlog from growing.

$$\text{Asset maintenance Ratio} = \frac{\text{Actual asset maintenance}}{\text{Required asset maintenance}}$$

This measure and updated target will be reflected in our future reports.



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A row of four small social media icons: LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.