



Your Port

Winter 2024



 facebook.com/PortStephensCouncil  instagram.com/pscouncil

Final farewell from the Mayor



In September this year, the NSW Local Government Elections will be held and, after 7 years, I'll be stepping down as Mayor of Port Stephens. What a privilege it's been!

As a lifelong resident of Port Stephens, I joined Council to make positive change.

I wanted to see more investment in our community and I wanted to lead a Council that was transparent, progressive and future focused.

During my time as Mayor, Council delivered the largest Capital Works program in the history of Port Stephens, investing in new regional sporting facilities, upgrading our town centers, improving our parks and reserves and delivering ongoing repairs across our road network.

We introduced 32,000 Garden Organics bins, expanded our community engagement program, fought fires, floods and a pandemic and invested in the expansion of the Newcastle Airport.

We also introduced a new tourism brand, Incredible by Nature, delivered the Medowie and Anna Bay 7 Day Makeovers, the Nelson Bay Civic Pride Cleanup Day and have supported hundreds of local events, arts and youth programs.

The remainder of this year will be no different – we've finalised key strategic plans to protect our future including the Coastal Management Program, Local Housing Strategy and Community Wellbeing Strategy. I have no doubt that we'll continue to see Port Stephens grow from strength to strength following the elections in September.

I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved. Although not always easy, the past 7 years serving as the Mayor of Port Stephens have been nothing short of amazing. Our community is truly unique and your resilience, support, positivity and motivation will always be appreciated.



Ryan Palmer, Mayor of Port Stephens

Major projects – portstephens.nsw.gov.au/projects



✓ COMPLETE

Avenue of the Allies Tanilba Bay

Avenue of the Allies in Tanilba Bay is now safer and easier to navigate thanks to a \$4.27 million reconstruction project.



⊖ IN PROGRESS

Landslip rectification works and scuba dive access Nelson Bay

We're working on a retaining wall, improved drainage, and a pathway to the Pipeline Dive site.



⌚ SCHEDULED

Fern Bay to Newcastle Airport concept design

A new shared pathway is being designed between Fern Bay and Newcastle Airport, creating a vital link in the Shiraz to Shore Cycle Trail.

Have Your Say



Get involved and Have Your Say!

Every voice has value.

We want you to get involved, find out information and have your say about important issues and projects in Port Stephens.

Subscribe to our Have Your Say page to hear about the latest opportunities to provide your input at haveyoursay.portstephens.nsw.gov.au



Closing the loop: Coastal Management Program

After extensive engagement since 2021, our draft Coastal Management Program was reported to Council on Tuesday 25 June. This program outlines how we'll tackle threats to Port Stephens' coastline while preserving its ecological, social, and economic value. Learn more about next steps at pscouncil.info/cmp



Closing the loop: Henderson Park amenities

In March 2024, we held a public meeting with local residents to discuss the draft designs for the new amenities in Henderson Park. Thanks to your valuable feedback, we've adjusted the planned location of the amenities to better serve the community. Learn more at pscouncil.info/henderson-park

Report, request
and apply

We've made it easier for you to report an issue, request advice or submit an application.

Our new Report, Request and Apply webpage is a one stop shop for our customers.

One location for everything. Available anywhere, anytime.
Get started at portstephens.nsw.gov.au



Delivering for Port Stephens

Financial sustainability

We're proud to share our continued commitment to financial sustainability throughout 2023-2024. This year, we focused on 2 key areas: diversifying our revenue streams and delivering exceptional community services. We've implemented several initiatives to generate more non-rate revenue, including:

- Smart Parking rollout: This innovative program has streamlined parking management, while also generating additional income.
- Investment portfolio performance: Our strategic investment portfolio continues to deliver strong results.
- Grant funding success: We've secured valuable grant funding to support crucial projects.

To ensure long-term financial stability and the ability to invest in strategic projects, we've established a dedicated Resilience Fund reserve. This fund will be built upon the dividends received from our 50% ownership stake in Newcastle Airport, once the international terminal construction is finalised.

\$148m

total expenditure
with the 4 key
areas being:



\$27.1m

waste management



\$33.4m

civil infrastructure



\$16.9m

open space



\$15.4m

new major projects



Taking care of our roads

We understand that road conditions are a top concern for our community, especially with the recent wet weather causing an increase in potholes. To address this, we've allocated \$1.4 million from the Special Rate Variation to fund road repairs throughout 2024 and 2025. Learn more about how we maintain our roads at pscouncil.info/road-maintenance



Housing in Port Stephens

Our Port Stephens Local Housing Strategy sets the vision for future housing growth across Port Stephens and focuses on 3 main areas – housing diversity, housing affordability and housing supply. While there's no single solution, we're working across our community to find solutions for the housing crisis, including:

- Continuing the Homelessness Stakeholder Advocacy Group (HSAG). Learn about HSAG and its initiatives at pscouncil.info/committees
- Working with Homes NSW and community housing providers to deliver more affordable housing options.
- Developing actions to deliver the Housing Supply Plan.
- Delivering a campaign to drive investment in Port Stephens for more diverse housing types for residents at each stage of their life.

Learn more about housing in Port Stephens at pscouncil.info/housing



Local government election

The next local government election in Port Stephens will be held on Saturday 14 September 2024. For more information about the ward boundaries, voting places and pre-polling locations head to portstephens.nsw.gov.au/election



Interested in nominating as a candidate?

Come along to the Candidate Information Session to learn more about the responsibilities of representing our community.

Wednesday 17 July, 5:30 to 7:30pm

Attend either in person or online

Learn more and register at pscouncil.info/candidate-info-session

Be prepared for an emergency



Be bushfire ready

When it comes to preparing for bush fire, the community has a shared responsibility.

Most people have thought about what to do during a bush fire, but many plans won't stand up to the test of a fire.

Making a plan and preparing your property can reduce your risk from fire.

You need to make important decisions before a fire - such as where to go, what to take and what to do with animals.

For more information visit myfireplan.com.au

1

Trim

overhanging trees and shrubs

2

Mow

your lawn and remove all the cut grass

3

Remove

material that can burn around your home

4

Clear

debris and leaves from roof gutters

5

Prepare

a hose that can stretch around the house



Essential steps to take before, during, and after a heatwave

Don't wait for summer to beat the heat! While it may seem far off, heatwaves can strike unexpectedly, posing a serious health risk for vulnerable populations like seniors, young children, and those with chronic conditions. By being proactive, you can keep yourself and your loved ones stay safe during a heatwave. Here's what you can do:

- **Plan ahead:** Stock up on non-perishable food and water, and check medications for expiration dates.
- **Prepare your home:** Invest in blinds or curtains to block sunlight, and consider blackout curtains for bedrooms. Ensure fans are working properly and explore options for portable air conditioners if needed.
- **Assemble an emergency kit:** Include torches, batteries, a first-aid kit, and cooling supplies like damp cloths.
- **Stay cool and hydrated:** Drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid strenuous activity during peak heat hours, and wear loose, breathable clothing.

Be informed! Learn the signs and symptoms of heatstroke and heat exhaustion. Knowing how to respond quickly can be lifesaving. For more information visit pscouncil.info/heatwaves

Winter @ your library

Find out what's on this Winter at your Libraries

This winter, Port Stephens Libraries has a full program of exciting activities and events to keep everyone entertained!

Meet your favourite authors, have fun with the July school holiday program and discover a range of events during Library and Information Week.

Learn more about our upcoming programs, activities and events by subscribing to our e-newsletter, following us on Facebook or visiting pscouncil.info/library-events



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Disclaimer: This newsletter has been prepared by Port Stephens Council from information available as at Monday 24 June 2024. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information herein, however Port Stephens Council accepts no responsibility for any consequences resulting from misdescription or inadvertent errors.