

Annual Report snapshot

2023 to 2024

Looking **ahead.**

Each year, we compile our Annual Report. This report is designed to share our highlights, challenges and performance between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024. It also provides a guide for the year ahead.

Tomaree Coastal Walk, photo by Daniel Parsons/DPE

The theme of our 2023 to 2024 report is Looking Ahead.

Over the past year, we've embarked on a journey to shape a brighter future for Port Stephens. Our focus has been on strengthening our communities, securing our financial stability, and enhancing our core services to serve the needs of our residents better.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to fostering accessibility, promoting community well-being, investing in infrastructure improvements, safeguarding our environment, and revitalising our town centres. Together, we can create a vibrant and inclusive Port Stephens where everyone thrives.

We are proud to present our Annual Report for 2023-2024. This report highlights our progress, achievements, and plans for the future. We invite you to join us as we look ahead and envision a Port Stephens that is thriving, inclusive, and environmentally responsible.

Read the full report

We're committed to a transparent reporting process with a plain English, honest and authentic approach. We want our community to understand the organisation, and our opportunities and constraints that help guide decision making. Scan the QR code or go to portstephens.nsw.gov.au/annual-report



Our community highlights



47

COMMUNITY ACTIVATIONS

including pop up events and street art projects.



703

LIBRARY PROGRAMS HELD



1,225,427

BEACH VISITS



113,510

CHILDCARE PLACES



provided throughout Port Stephens. Places takes into account the total number of sessions across the year. For example, if a child attended OOSH every morning and afternoon for 40 weeks of the year it is counted as 400 places filled.



Adopted

NEW COMMUNITY WELLBEING STRATEGY AND DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

Our place highlights



\$36M

SPENT ON ROADS, bridges, footpaths, car parks and drainage



Adopted

LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY

focusing on housing supply, diversity and affordability



592

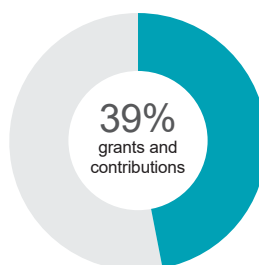
DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS



Pathway

CONNECTIONS COMPLETED

including path upgrades in Nelson Bay, Little Beach, Fingal Bay and Fern Bay; design of "Port Walk" between Nelson Bay to Shoal Bay and concept design of Airport to Stockton extension of the 'Shiraz to Shore' shared path, connecting the Hunter Vineyards to Newcastle CBD and the Airport



\$58M

OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

39% of which was funded through grants and contributions, including Transport for NSW funding of \$7.2 million and recreation and culture funding of \$5.6 million

Our environment highlights



Adopted

COASTAL MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM (CMP)



5,117

TREES PLANTED
with the help of volunteers



7,000

TONNES OF GARDEN
ORGANICS

reused, diverted from landfill by
using garden organics bins



5,795

TONNES OF
RECYCLING



Emission

REDUCTIONS
ACTION PLAN

Developed and under
implementation



Award

HIGHLY COMMENDED

for Port Stephens Drive Koala
Vehicle Strike Project

Our Council highlights



6

COMMUNITY
CATCH-UPS

across Port Stephens connecting
Councillors and Executives with
the community



\$16.8
MILLION

OPERATING GRANT
FUNDING

received mostly from State and
Federal Governments



266,481

WEBSITE VISITS



Our favourite stories

These stories highlight key achievements across the 4 main focus areas as identified in the Port Stephens Community Strategic Plan 2022 to 2032: Our community, Our place, Our environment and Our council.



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Building a healthy and happy community

We're committed to making Port Stephens a place where people can lead happy, healthy and connected lives no matter their age, background or ability.



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Growing role of our libraries

Over the past year, our libraries have been on a journey of transformation, diversifying their offering to appeal to people of all ages and interests.



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Making our roads a priority

This year saw significant progress in improving our road network, a key priority for both Council and the community.



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Creating homes for everyone

The newly endorsed Port Stephens Local Housing Strategy and Port Stephens Housing Supply Plan set the blueprint for future housing growth in Port Stephens.



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Rolling out new green bins

In response to strong community demand, we introduced 32,000 garden organics bins across Port Stephens in July 2023.



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Protecting our coastal assets

To protect our amazing coastline, we've developed a Coastal Management Program, which will help us plan how we manage potential future challenges.



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Connecting our community

Over the past year, we've actively engaged with our community through a range of diverse initiatives and events to create opportunities for residents to connect with each other and Council.



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Improving our online services

Our Report, Request and Apply page is a centralised service hub that makes it easier to navigate and report issues, submit requests, and access crucial applications.