

Your Port

Winter 2025



 facebook.com/PortStephensCouncil  instagram.com/pscouncil

Mayor's Message: Leah Anderson



Port Stephens has been hit hard by major weather events this year, bringing widespread flooding and damage right across our community. Many of us faced significant disruption, with homes, businesses, and our roads taking a real beating.

I've seen the damage firsthand, and I know how tough it's been. Despite the challenges, we also saw the very best of Port Stephens during this natural disaster. The way our community pulled together was truly inspiring.

On behalf of Port Stephens Council, I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who stepped up.

First, to our incredible Council staff, emergency services, local organisations, and volunteers: you worked tirelessly through incredibly difficult conditions to keep our community safe, informed, and supported.

To our residents: thank you for your patience, understanding, and for looking out for one another. We know this event brought hardship to many, but your willingness to rally together and share information is part of what makes Port Stephens so special.

And to our local businesses: thank you for stepping up, offering help, donations, and ongoing support, even when you were facing difficulties yourselves. Your generosity hasn't gone unnoticed.

The clean up and recovery are ongoing, and we know it will take time. Our roads, in particular, have really suffered, with thousands of potholes making daily life harder and creating hazards. My fellow Councillors and I are listening to your concerns and frustrations, and I want to assure you – we're on it.

We've boosted our Roads Acceleration Program (RAP) to a record \$29 million over the next 3 years so we can rebuild roads the right way, with stronger foundations and better drainage, to make them more resilient for the future. We're also always on the lookout for more grants to keep improving our local roads.

This hasn't been easy, but together – with patience and persistence – we'll get through this. Thanks for being such an active and supportive community. It really makes a difference.

Cheers,



Leah Anderson, Mayor of Port Stephens

Delivering for Port Stephens



Boosting our Roads Acceleration Program by \$9 million

We're investing an additional \$9 million into our Roads Acceleration Program (RAP) over the next 3 years, bringing our total investment to a record \$29 million. This funding boost helps tackle the growing backlog of road repairs across Port Stephens.

Your Councillors have identified priority road repairs based on road condition, use, and community feedback. This additional \$9 million comes from our Natural Disaster Reserve and the sale of surplus Council-owned land, with every dollar from land sales directly reinvested into the RAP.

We know this still isn't enough, and we're actively seeking grant funding to improve our local roads. Learn more about the RAP and our road maintenance program at pscouncil.info/RoadsAccelerationProgram or follow us on Facebook.



Raymond Terrace: A hub of growth and opportunity!

Raymond Terrace is on the rise – and it's no accident! A recent investment marketing campaign successfully showcased Raymond Terrace to businesses and investors, generating over 9,290 webpage visits and 46 direct enquiries. This focus on renewal is paying off, with 77 new homes approved in the past year. Over half of these are infill housing (think granny flats and townhouses), all helping to boost housing options near the town centre.

Adding to this momentum, the Raymond Terrace Bowling Club re-development was recently approved, featuring a 6-storey hotel with 50 apartments.

We're dedicated to continuing to support housing delivery, cutting red tape and making it easier to navigate our Development Application process.

Learn more at pscouncil.info/demystifying-development-applications

Enriching our environment



Building a greener future, one school at a time

Our Year 4 public school recycling and sustainability education program is officially underway! Over the next few months, students at Raymond Terrace Public School, St Phillips Christian College, and Salt Ash Public School will be the first to participate. They'll be learning and developing environmentally responsible habits that will benefit them and our community for years to come.



Sustainable living made easy with Good for the Hood

Looking for simple ways to make your home more sustainable? We've partnered with Good for the Hood to offer regular, engaging and informative online workshops on how to make simple, sustainable changes at home. Learn more and register for upcoming webinars at goodforthehood.com.au/at-home



Recycling education for our retirement villages

We're launching a new recycling education program for Port Stephens retirement villages. Throughout July and August, we'll visit the villages and provide tips and tricks on how to recycle more effectively.

**Spotted a road
that needs repair?**

Our crews are out and about inspecting roads to keep them safe and well maintained, but we can't be everywhere at once. If you spot a pothole or road issue, let us know! Visit our Report, Request and Apply webpage at pscouncil.info/report-a-pothole





Join the conversation on what matters

Meaningful community engagement builds trust and encourages participation in decision making for our place. We're committed to actively communicating and engaging in a way that shares our stories, listens to our community, informs our future and improves the wellbeing of those that live, work and visit in Port Stephens.

Have your say and receive updates on topics important to you at haveyoursay.portstephens.nsw.gov.au



Shaping Salamander Bay's future: draft Town Centre Place Plan

During May, the Salamander Bay community shared their ideas and insights to help us create a thriving and dynamic town centre precinct. This feedback was key to the development the draft Salamander Bay Town Centre Place Plan. Did we get it right? The draft place plan is now open for public comment.

Have your say and share your thoughts at pscouncil.info/salamander-bay-town-centre



Planning for proposed pathways

Port Stephens has around 200km of footpaths, vital for walking, biking, and getting around our community. We've updated our Pathways Plan, identifying existing paths and future construction locations. Our new prioritisation method helps us decide where new footpaths are needed most, considering factors like road type, community wellbeing, and connectivity. In August, we're asking for your feedback to ensure we've identified the right priority pathways.

Your input is crucial! Learn more about how to have your say at pscouncil.info/proposed-pathways-plan



Draft Development Control Plan now open for feedback

We've released our draft Development Control Plan (DCP) 2025, a rulebook for building in Port Stephens, and we want your feedback! This update aims to make housing more affordable, speed up approvals, boost environmental protections (especially for koalas and coastal areas), and support modern needs like EV charging. As part of this review, we've also made it even easier to use the DCP, launching a brand new online platform. It's user friendly, and designed to help you find information easily and apply faster.

Check out the draft DCP and share your thoughts at pscouncil.info/PublicExhibitions

Key dates for your diary
Bookings essential for library events.

July

Winter School Holidays
5 to 21 July

Winter Festival
12 to 20 July at Nelson Bay

Winter Festival Car Show
13 July at Nelson Bay

Pointy End Pictures Community Movies
13 July at Soldiers Point

Human Whale
20 July at Fingal Bay

Brain Training
28 July at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree Libraries

Library Court – An ACOTAR Evening
31 July at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree Libraries

August

Local Government Week
4 to 10 August

Monthly Mayor Meet Up
6 August at Shoal Bay and Anna Bay

Mattress and Tyre drop off day
9 August at Salamander Bay

Author Talk – Janette Paul
9 August at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree Libraries

Pointy End Pictures Community Movies
10 August at Soldiers Point

September

Mattress and Tyre drop off day
13 September at Raymond Terrace

Monthly Mayor Meet Up
15 September at Salt Ash and Raymond Terrace

Find out what's on near you at portstephens.nsw.gov.au/events



Winter pool closures

Tilligerry Aquatic Centre
2 June to 11 August

Lakeside Leisure Centre
7 to 18 July

Tomaree Aquatic Centre
7 July to 11 August



2025 to 2026 Community Funding Program now open!

Our funding program gives eligible individuals, artists, community organisations, not-for-profits, businesses, students and others the opportunity to apply for funds to deliver initiatives that make a real difference to local communities and our region.



Open all year round

Community Event Development Fund
Sporting Excellence Fund
Major Event Sponsorship Fund
Rapid Response Financial Assistance Fund
Vibrant Spaces Micro Grant Fund



2 rounds per year

Round 1: Aug to Sep 2025

Aboriginal Projects Fund
Community Support Fund
Vibrant Spaces Fund



1 round per year

1 to 30 Sep 2025

Environmental Projects Fund

22 Jul to 3 Dec 2025

Mayoral Academic Scholarship

Jan to Feb 2026

International Women's Day Scholarship

Learn more and apply at pscouncil.info/grants-scholarships



Meet you at the library this winter!

Port Stephens Libraries have a fantastic line up of free events this Winter to spark your creativity, curiosity and connection. From hands on craft sessions to movie nights for teens, there's something for all ages and interests. Whether you're looking to learn a new skill, meet like minded locals or simply enjoy something different, the library is the place to be this month.

Explore what's on and book your spot at
pscouncil.info/psleventbrite



Are you emergency prepared?

Emergencies can strike anytime, anywhere, without warning.

Are you ready? Whether you're evacuating or sheltering in place, having an emergency survival kit is crucial.

Find the full list of essential items and learn more at
nsw.gov.au/emergency/prepare/emergency-survival-kit

