

# MAYORAL MINUTES 12 AUGUST 2025



**PORT STEPHENS**  
C O U N C I L

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# MAYORAL MINUTES

## **MAYORAL MINUTE**

**ITEM NO. 1**

**FILE NO: 25/195016**  
**EDRMS NO: PSC2024-03152**

### **MAYOR'S DIARY**

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#### **THAT COUNCIL:**

- 1) Note the Mayoral appointments for the period from 23 July to 12 August 2025.
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### **BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the Mayoral appointments for the period 23 July to 12 August 2025.

This Mayoral Minute aims to inform the Council and community of the key engagements of the Mayor for the preceding period. This is an initiative I wanted to introduce this term to provide a clear record of the engagements undertaken through the Mayoral office.

#### **Wednesday 23 July 2025**

- Filmed Council meeting debrief.
- Filming for Roads Acceleration Program road reserves sales.
- ABC Radio interview on Council meeting and Medowie Road petition.

#### **Thursday 24 July 2025**

- Participated in Tomaree Lodge Community Engagement Committee meeting.
- NBN interview on surplus road reserves.

#### **Friday 25 July 2025**

- Newcastle Airport Pty Ltd and Greater Newcastle Aerotropolis Pty Ltd Board meetings.

#### **Monday 28 July 2025**

- NAIDOC Week March and Fun Day, Raymond Terrace.
- Catchup with the Director of Corporate Strategy and Support.
- Catchup with the acting General Manager.
- Meeting with residents on a multi-purpose centre for Raymond Terrace and accessibility at Council venues.
- Meeting with Raymond Terrace Athletics representative.

**Tuesday 29 July 2025**

- Victoria Hotel, Hinton – business meet and greet.
- Catchup with the Executive Team.
- Meeting with representatives of the Ian & Shirley Norman Foundation.
- Meeting with acting General Manager and Sunshine Coast Council representatives.

**Wednesday 30 July 2025**

- Meeting with Hunter Joint Organisation re media.
- Destination NSW Board and Executive visit.
- Community Engagement and Advisory Group meeting on roads.
- Destination NSW Board function.

**Thursday 31 July 2025**

- NSW SES – Elected Official Briefing.
- Medowie Town Centre Masterplan Briefing.
- ABC radio interview on cost shifting.

**Friday 1 August 2025**

- Tomaree Community Engagement Committee Briefing.

**Monday 4 August 2025**

- Catchup with the General Manager.
- Communications staff catchup.
- Sail Port Stephens meeting.

**Tuesday 5 August 2025**

- Traffic Committee meeting.
- Meeting with Hunter Joint Organisation re Communications and Social Media Workshop.
- Facilities & Infrastructure staff catchup.
- Catchup with the Executive Team.
- Councillor Business Paper review.
- Lakeside Learning Community Event, Irrawang High School.

**Wednesday 6 August 2025**

- Business Port Stephens breakfast.
- Monthly Mayor Meet Up with Community – Mobile Library, Shoal Bay.
- Monthly Mayor Meet Up with Community – Mobile Library, Anna Bay.
- Port Stephens Koala Fundraiser event.

**Thursday 7 August 2025**

- Newcastle Herald interview on roads.

**Friday 8 August 2025**

- Country Mayors' Association meeting on Crime, Law & Order, Sydney.

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**Monday 11 August 2025**

- Catchup with Communications staff.
- Catchup with Facilities & Infrastructure staff.
- Meeting with resident on community hub.
- Catchup with the General Manager.
- Meeting on Yacaaba Centre Fundraising Event 2026.
- Committee for the Hunter networking event – Newcastle Airport.

**Tuesday 12 August 2025**

- Catchup with the Executive Team.
- Councillor Briefing - Pre-Council meeting, Karuah.
- Public Access and Ordinary Council meeting, Karuah.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**MAYORAL MINUTE**

**ITEM NO. 2**

**FILE NO: 25/210039  
EDRMS NO: PSC2024-03152**

**KARUAH PLACE PLAN**

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**THAT COUNCIL:**

- 1) Acknowledge the incredible work of the Karuah community in supporting the delivery of the Karuah Place Plan.
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**BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this report is to outline Council's ongoing commitment to Karuah and acknowledge and express gratitude for the collective efforts of the local community in delivering actions under the Karuah Place Plan.

The Karuah Place Plan was the first of its kind in Port Stephens and it's a standout example of what's possible when Council and community come together to deliver real outcomes.

I am proud of the progress Council has made to deliver actions since 2023, including:

- Town centre and bypass signage.
- Karuah by Night event at Longworth Park.
- Playground and pathway upgrades at Aliceton Reserve.
- RV parking area on Tarean Road.
- Raised pedestrian crossing on Tarean Road.
- Hosting the Town Teams Placemaking conference.

I am excited to see this list grow as we plan a number of projects in 2025/2026. These include:

- Accessible amenities at Aliceton Reserve.
- Road rehabilitation, Tarean Road.
- Mustons Road pathway and road repair.
- Continued Council Sponsorship of Timber and Oyster Festival.

Beyond Council projects, our Place Plans are also focused on collaboration with the community to support locally led initiatives.

I want to acknowledge the Karuah community, who have embraced this approach and delivered a number of actions that support town centre growth and vibrancy. Your willingness to offer help, donate time, expertise and resources is something to be proud of and is an inspiration to other communities in Port Stephens and beyond.

Karuah may be small, but it shows you can achieve big things when you work together. I would like to mention a few recent highlights:

- Main street beautification project - planter boxes, seating, artwork and planting.
- Formation of a local Town Team.
- Karuah Bridge mural project - led by Karuah Progress Association.
- Riverbank revegetation - led by Landcare Karuah Conservation Crew.
- Karuah Konnect project – delivering an on-demand bus service supported by Transport for NSW and run by the Karuah RSL.
- Garuwa Community Market - organised by Karuah Public School P&C.
- Tourism resources - developed through the Tiny Tourism Town initiative by local businesses and Destination Port Stephens.
- Timber and Oyster Festival – led by the Festival Organising Committee.
- Karuah Christmas Carols – partnership between the Karuah RSL and Karuah Progress Association.

Projects such as the main street beautification, led by Lisa Floyd and the Karuah Progress Association, supported by local volunteers and businesses, perfectly demonstrate positive community-led action. Volunteers and local business donated their time and resources, culminating in a working bee to install the seating, planter boxes, art and street planting on Tarean Road.

I would also like to acknowledge all the volunteer committees who work tirelessly throughout the year to deliver sporting opportunities in the community. These opportunities include tennis, cricket, yacht club, golf, netball and rugby league.

It's inspiring to see a positive group committed to creating change in their town. The Karuah community shows us that with the right people and community spirit, you don't need big budgets to get great things done.

On behalf of Port Stephens Council, I would like to extend our thanks to the Karuah community for their passion and commitment to creating lasting change in their town.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.