



PORT STEPHENS
COUNCIL

MAYORAL MINUTES
28 APRIL 2026

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MAYORAL MINUTES

MAYORAL MINUTE

ITEM NO. 1

**FILE NO: 26/68713
EDRMS NO: PSC2024-03152**

MAYOR'S DIARY

THAT COUNCIL:

- 1) Note the Mayoral appointments for the period from 25 February 2026 to 28 April 2026.
-

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the Mayoral appointments for the period 25 February 2026 to 28 April 2026.

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 25 February 2026

- Filmed Council meeting debrief.
- Official announcement of the 2026 Koori Knockout location.
- Keys to the City Ceremony for Jude Munro, outgoing Airport Chair.

Thursday 26 February 2026

- Newcastle Airport Pty Ltd and Greater Newcastle Aerotropolis Pty Ltd Board meetings.
- Official Reopening of Newcastle Art Gallery.
- Newcastle Airport Pty Ltd and Greater Newcastle Aerotropolis Pty Ltd Strategy Day 1.

Friday 27 February 2026

- Newcastle Airport Pty Ltd and Greater Newcastle Aerotropolis Pty Ltd Strategy Day 2.
- Site meeting – 22 Homestead Street, Salamander Bay.

Saturday 28 February 2026

- Lions Club Shade Sail event, Riverside Park, Raymond Terrace.

Monday 2 March 2026

- Sports facility development meeting.
- Catchup with the General Manager.
- Catchup with Communications staff.
- Medowie Town Centre Site Walk.

Tuesday 3 March 2026

- Catchup with Facilities & Infrastructure staff.
- Catchup with the Executive Team.

Wednesday 4 March 2026

- Meeting with the Hon. Yasmin Catley MP and the Hunter Joint Organisation.
- Information Session: Review of Joint Organisations in NSW.
- Facilities & Infrastructure – Quarterly Councillor Information Session – West Ward.

Thursday 5 March 2026

- Port Stephens Business Breakfast.
- TAFE NSW Introduction.
- Ian & Shirley Norman Foundation International Women’s Day Dinner event, Newcastle.

Friday 6 March 2026

- Raymond Terrace Business Walk Around.
- Sincere Apologies theatrical event, Soldiers Point.
- SeaAccess Presentation, Little Beach.

Saturday 7 March 2026

- ABC Interview – Jet ski exclusion zone.
- Rotary International Women’s Day Dinner, Soldiers Point as MC.

Monday 9 March 2026

- International Women’s Day Breakfast, Williamstown – Host – with Meryl Swanson MP and the Hon. Kate Washington MP.
- Catchup with Communications staff.
- Catchup with the General Manager.
- Port Stephens FM interview on general Council updates and ‘What’s On’.
- Facilities & Infrastructure – Quarterly Councillor Information Session – East Ward.

Tuesday 10 March 2026

- AICD Governance Conference, Sydney.

Wednesday 11 March 2026

- AICD Governance Conference, Sydney.

Thursday 12 March 2026

- Hobart Airport interview Re: Inbound Tourism.
- Medowie Town Centre Masterplan – Mayor & Councillors' Workshop.
- Communications and Engagement Advisory Group meeting.

Friday 13 March 2026

- Destination Port Stephens quarterly catchup.

Saturday 14 March 2026

- Shoal Bay Food & Wine Festival 2026.
- Introduction with AirBnB CEO.

Monday 16 March 2026

- Safety Briefing for Homeless Street Count.
- Catchup with Communications staff.
- Port Stephens FM Radio interview on general Council updates and 'What's On'.
- Catchup with the General Manager.
- Hunter Joint Organisation meetings.
- Inaugural Singapore flight briefing.

Tuesday 17 March 2026

- Tomaree Neighbourhood Centre Homeless Street Count.
- Facilities & Infrastructure staff catchup.
- Catchup with the Executive Team.
- Meeting with Hunter Local Land Services.
- Meeting with Newcastle Airport Marketing and Communications Manager.
- ABC Radio interview on Hunter Joint Organisation meetings with Ministers at Parliament House.

Wednesday 18 March 2026

- Hunter Labor Caucus at Parliament House.
- Media event – Mayors meetings with Ministers at Parliament House.

Thursday 19 March 2026

- Hunter Joint Organisation Board NSW Parliament House meetings.

Friday 20 March 2026

- Filmed interview with the Department of Community & Justice re Tomaree Headland.
- Crown Princess maiden voyage plaque exchange, Newcastle.
- Birubi carpark on site meeting with stakeholders.
- Catchup with the Hon. Kate Washington MP.

Saturday 21 March 2026

- Morning tea for Motor Neurone Disease, Latitude One.

Monday 23 March 2026

- Catchup with the General Manager.
- Community Support Fund 2025/26 Round 2 Panel meeting.

Tuesday 24 March 2026

- Inaugural flight from Newcastle Airport to Singapore.

Wednesday 25 March 2026

- Singapore
 - Filming for NBN on tourism.
 - Meeting with Investment NSW.
 - Filmed interview with NBN on Newcastle Airport and Singapore destination.

Thursday 26 March 2026

- Singapore
 - Meetings with Destination NSW Singapore Office and Tourism Australia.
 - Meetings with 4 tour operators.

Friday 27 March 2026

- Singapore
 - Meeting with Austrade, Australian High Commission.
 - Meeting with University of Newcastle (Newcastle Institute of Higher Education).

Saturday 28 March 2026

- Singapore
 - National Association of Travel Agents Singapore (NATAS) Travel Fair.

Sunday 29 March 2026

- Return flight from Singapore.

Monday 30 March 2026

- Site Visit – Circuit Italia.
- Communications staff catchup.
- Catchup with the General Manager.
- Williamstown Working Group meeting.

Tuesday 31 March 2026

- Royal Australian Air Force 105th Anniversary Reception, RAAF Williamstown.
- Facilities & Infrastructure catchup.
- Catchup with the Executive Team.
- Positive Behaviour for Learning Citizenship Awards.

Wednesday 1 April 2026

- Raymond Terrace Business Breakfast.
- Meeting with Tomaree Cultural Development Group representatives.
- Official opening of Port Stephens Crocodile Encounters, Bobs Farm.
- Taylors Beach Road media opportunity.

Thursday 2 April 2026

- Visited the Valerie Taylor An Underwater Life Exhibition.

Tuesday 7 April 2026

- Catchup with the Executive Team.
- A R Bluett Awards scoping and update.
- East Seaham Road media opportunity.

Wednesday 8 April 2026

- Post Parliament House advocacy meetings media opportunity with NBN and Hunter Joint Organisation.

Friday 10 April 2026

- Ingenia Clubhouse Sod Turning event, Anna Bay.
- Penny Amberg Exhibition at Artisan Collective.

Monday 13 April 2026

- Meeting with Newcastle Jets representatives.
- Communications staff catchup.
- Port Stephens FM interview on general Council updates and 'What's On'.
- Catchup with the General Manager.
- Sail Port Stephens – Mayor's Welcome Party.

Tuesday 14 April 2026

- Visit to Corrective Services NSW Training Facility, Tomago.
- Facilities & Infrastructure catchup.
- Catchup with the Executive Team.

Wednesday 15 April 2026

- Meeting with Meryl Swanson MP and Newcastle University.
- Meeting with Meryl Swanson MP and the General Manager.
- Sail Port Stephens Street Party.

Thursday 16 April 2026

- Inter-Generational Cultural Wellbeing Precinct re Koori Knockout.
- Newcastle Airport Company 3 Pty Ltd and Newcastle Airport Company 4 Pty Ltd Board meetings.

Monday 20 April 2026

- Communications staff catchup.
- Catchup with the General Manager.
- Housing Facebook Live panellist meeting.
- Bannisters and Bondi Chai presentation night – Port Stephens Little Athletics.

Tuesday 21 April 2026

- Destination Port Stephens B.Farm site inspection.
- Catchup with the Executive Team.

Wednesday 22 April 2026

- Housing Facebook Live.

Thursday 23 April 2026

- Newcastle Airport Partnership and Greater Newcastle Aerotropolis Partnership meetings.
- Councillors' site inspection, Shoal Bay Road, Shoal Bay.

Friday 24 April 2026

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

Saturday 25 April 2026

- ANZAC Day Dawn Service, Nelson Bay.
- ANZAC Day Morning Service, Nelson Bay.

Tuesday 28 April 2026

- ANZAC Day Ceremony – Raymond Terrace Public School.
- Facilities & Infrastructure catchup.
- Catchup with the Executive Team.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

MAYORAL MINUTE

ITEM NO. 2

**FILE NO: 26/52210
EDRMS NO: PSC2024-03152**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF JUDE MUNRO AO

THAT COUNCIL:

- 1) Acknowledges the significant contribution of Jude Munro, AO to the Newcastle Airport by providing exceptional leadership through a period of growth and expansion and setting the course to be the Airport the region deserves.
 - 2) Acknowledges the continued growth in airline routes, passenger numbers and progression of the Astra Aerolab development that will increase our connectivity to the world and generate significant jobs and economic activity in this critical area of the Port Stephens Local Government Area.
 - 3) Requests the General Manager prepare correspondence, for the Mayor's signature, to Jude Munro, AO expressing these views and providing Council's appreciation for Jude's contribution to the Airport, Port Stephens and the region.
-

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to formally recognise and acknowledge the service and contributions of Jude Munro AO.

Jude was appointed to the Newcastle Airport Board in 2015 before being appointed Chair in 2023 and has championed strong partnerships with Port Stephens Council and the City of Newcastle, along with State and Federal partners, to build the Airport as a shared legacy.

During her tenure as Chair of Newcastle Airport, Jude has provided strategic leadership and governance oversight during a period of significant operational and organisational activity.

Jude's contribution has supported the effective functioning of Newcastle Airport and advanced its strategic objectives whilst maintaining a strong focus on accountability, collaboration and public value. Her service reflects a high standard of leadership and a sustained commitment to the interest of Council and the broader community, warranting formal recognition.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

MAYORAL MINUTE

ITEM NO. 3

**FILE NO: 26/102626
EDRMS NO: PSC2024-03152**

2026/2027 STATE BUDGET

THAT COUNCIL:

- 1) Notes the 2026/2027 Community Advocacy Priorities, targeted at the 2027 NSW election, as previously circulated to Councillors, which have formed the basis of our advocacy approach from late 2025 as led by the Mayor.
 - 2) Request the General Manager write to the following State Government representatives to request consideration of Port Stephens Council's Community Advocacy Priorities in the preparation of the NSW State Budgets:
 - NSW Premier, the Hon. Chris Minns MP
 - NSW Treasurer, the Hon. Daniel Mookhey MLC, and
 - Member for Port Stephens, the Hon. Kate Washington MP.
-

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to request the General Manager write to State Government representatives to share our key priorities and highlight the importance of keeping Port Stephens at the forefront of government decision making. This is an important step to continue to build on Council's advocacy program following a refresh of priorities in late 2025, with a specific focus on the 2027 NSW election.

Port Stephens is known for its incredible natural beauty and vibrant community, home to a diverse community living in coastal villages, riverside suburbs, rural lands and vibrant town centres. Each of these communities has its own unique identity and it's these characteristics that make our place a great place to live, work and visit.

Port Stephens is also recognised by the NSW Government as an important economic driver with a dynamic business environment well-connected transport links, proximity to the Hunter region's rich resources and access to key markets. Our Council is committed to attracting new investment, supporting local business and creating jobs for our community of the future.

Over the past few years, our community has faced a number of challenges. Port Stephens has limited opportunity for new housing developments, which has led to rising house prices and a shortage of rentals. With our population expected to grow by 20,000 in the next 20 years, it's even more important to address the urgent need for more housing.

We also need to make sure that the right infrastructure is in place to support our growing community. Investment in our road network, recreational facilities, pathway connections and town centres, will enhance the health and wellbeing for all residents and make Port Stephens a more attractive place to live

With the NSW State 2026/2027 NSW State Budget due to be released in the coming months, Council will again present our Community Advocacy Priorities to the State Government (**ATTACHMENT 1**) and highlight the importance of keeping Port Stephens at the forefront of government decision making.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Port Stephens Advocacy Priorities.



Community Advocacy Priorities

2026

We're seeking policy and funding commitments from the government to ensure the focus on our community is at the forefront of future planning.



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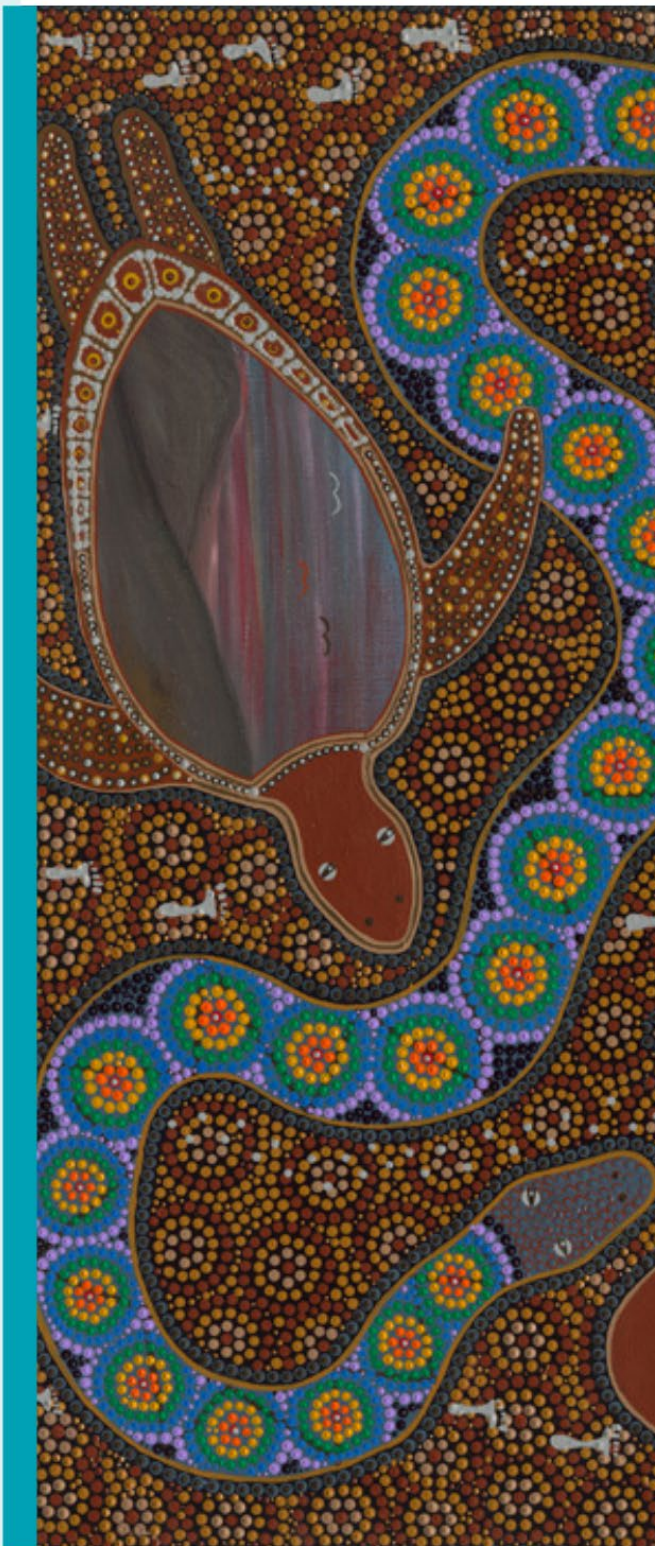
(GOO-JEE IK-KOO)

We welcome you to Port Stephens – part of the Worimi Aboriginal Nation. Port Stephens Council acknowledges the Worimi people as traditional owners and custodians of the lands and waterways on which we all live, learn, work and play.

We value and respect the Worimi people and the legacy 60,000 years of Aboriginal Nation traditions and culture brings with it. As part of Council's culture of acceptance, diversification and harmony we walk alongside the Worimi people on a journey of listening and learning.

Together we will strive to make this a better place for all peoples. As guardians of these lands, we ask that you tread lightly to help preserve the biodiversity and respect those who came before as well as those who will follow.

Artwork by Regan Lilley.





A message from the Mayor

Port Stephens is known for its incredible natural beauty and vibrant community – home to a diverse community living in coastal villages, riverside suburbs, rural lands and vibrant town centres. Each of these communities has its own unique identity and it's these characteristics that make our place a great place to live, work and visit.

Port Stephens is also recognised by the State and Federal Government as an important economic driver with a dynamic business environment well-connected transport links, close proximity to the Hunter region's rich resources and access to key markets. Our Council is committed to attracting new investment, supporting local business and creating jobs for our community of the future.

Over the past few years, our community has faced a number of challenges. Port Stephens has limited opportunity for new housing developments, which has led to rising house prices and a shortage of rentals. This is pushing middle income families out of the market and forcing more people to either relocate or become homeless.

With our population expected to grow by 20,000 in the next 20 years it's even more important to address the urgent need for more housing, including diverse and affordable options.

We also need to make sure that the right infrastructure is in place to support our growing community. Recent natural disasters have impacted our infrastructure, and while we're working closely with the community to recover, investment in our road network, recreational facilities, pathway connections and town centres is vital. These improvements will enhance the health and wellbeing for all residents and make Port Stephens a more attractive place to live.

We're grateful for the support from the State and Federal Governments towards Port Stephens. We ask that our elected representatives join us in delivering these projects for our community as we work together on building a bright tomorrow for Port Stephens.

Leah Anderson

Leah Anderson, Mayor of Port Stephens



Our community priorities

We're seeking urgent support to deliver key projects to improve the liveability, wellbeing and sustainability of the Port Stephens community.



Road repairs, rehabilitation and upgrades

The Port Stephens road network covers more than 800kms. The ongoing maintenance and repair of our roads is a key issue for business and residents.

In recent years, the impacts of ongoing weather events have significantly impacted the condition of many of our roads – particularly those built on ageing and vulnerable infrastructure. The condition of our roads has been consistently ranked as the Port Stephen’s highest priority. In response, Council has secured its highest ever roads budget, called the Roads Acceleration Program. In spite of this record level of funding from Council we know we will fall significantly short of what is needed to bring our roads back to a manageable condition and meet community needs.

We’re seeking Government support to fund the repair, upgrade and development of the Port Stephens road network to improve resilience to weather events, reduce infrastructure renewal backlogs and meet the demands of our rapidly expanding freight and commuter network.



\$15 million

Directly invest into the investigation, design and approvals for an alternate road connection between Shoal Bay and Fingal Bay to improve traffic flow and ensure resilience to coastal hazards.



\$5 million

Support the M1 Pacific Motorway Extension to Raymond Terrace by investing into the Strategic Business Case and Design works to resolve a series of high risk highway intersections north of Raymond Terrace to improving traffic safety, reduce travel time and support freight movements.



Directly invest into the urgent upgrade of Cabbage Tree Road and Tomago Road to support the the Port Stephens Enterprise Corridor, new Raymond Terrace M1 Bypass, the development of the Newcastle Airport international terminal and increasing investment in RAAF Williamtown.



Review regional road funding formulas to enable a more equitable and sustainable model for road delivery and maintenance allowing regional councils to undertake repairs for a safe and efficient road network.



Over the short term reclassify a number of key regional roads by the NSW Government, including Medowie Road, Lemon Tree Passage Road and Clarence Town Road to the state road network.



Drainage infrastructure

Effective drainage infrastructure is vital for the health, safety, and resilience of our community. We're seeking government support to upgrade, modernise, and maintain our drainage systems, ensuring they effectively manage stormwater, reduce flooding risks, and protect our homes and environment.



\$15 million

Fund investigations and upgrade open drainage systems and culverts to reduce stormwater inundation and flooding impacts. Support further industrial and airport-based development around Newcastle Airport.



\$50 million

Invest in optimising drainage infrastructure in Medowie to accommodate current and future rainfall. These improvements will reduce flow restrictions, lower peak flood levels and reduce the risk of road inundation. Discussions are taking place with Hunter Water Corporation to align priorities for solutions.



\$15 million

Fund drainage improvements in the Bourke and Glenelg Street catchments to reduce stormwater inundation and flooding impacts, support more local development and improve residential safety.



\$5 million

Fund cross drainage infrastructure enhancements beneath Lemon Tree Passage Road at key locations in Tanilba Bay, Mallabula and Salt Ash. These improvements will reduce stormwater inundation and road overtopping, ensuring safe, reliable access to the Tilligerry Peninsula during floods.



\$3 million

Directly invest in the Fern Tree Drain and stormwater network upgrade in Anna Bay to mitigate flooding and enable further development in the area.



\$60 million

Fund drainage system upgrades in Tanilba Bay, Lemon Tree Passage and Shoal Bay to reduce flood risks, lower peak flood levels, prevent road inundation, and support more local development, ensuring a safer and more resilient community. This project can easily be delivered in smaller segments.



\$2 million

Update Councils pump station network in Raymond Terrace, Salt Ash, Anna Bay and Nelson Bay to include pits, pump stations smart connecting technology, security measures, lighting and accessibility.



Housing supply diversity and affordability

Like many regional communities across Australia, Port Stephens is facing the challenge of housing supply, diversity, and affordability.

We're seeking government support to enable a pipeline of new housing and housing types across Port Stephens to meet population growth, increase affordability and meet workforce demands.



\$2 million

Support the development of Masterplanning and detailed design works to deliver diverse employment and housing options on Council owned land in Salamander Bay, Medowie and Raymond Terrace. This investment would inform future partnership opportunities at all levels of Government to deliver residential and employment opportunities in the strategic centres of Port Stephens.



\$50 million

Fund the delivery of suburb level stormwater system upgrades to immediately unlock higher density housing options in Raymond Terrace and Shoal Bay. These areas are identified through comprehensive community engagement and place planning, and have the opportunity to unlock 3,080 houses.



\$15 million

Directly invest into Homes NSW, in partnership with community housing providers for the design, approvals and construction of new community housing on government owned land in Raymond Terrace. This investment would realise the potential identified within the Raymond Terrace Affordable Housing Masterplan.



Employment and economic growth

We're seeking government support to expedite the development of Australia's leading defence and aerospace precinct, a tourism gateway, supply chain hub and solutions for PFAS impacted landholders.



Continue support for aviation attraction, funding ongoing efforts to sustain and accelerate route expansion to build momentum of the recently opened international terminal.



\$49 million

Fund an Airfreight precinct to attract airlines to the region and catalyse business growth.



\$2.5 million

Fund detailed engineering design works and associated Environmental Impact Statement, approvals and work to open Dawson's Drain to alleviate flooding and drainage constraints.



\$500,000

Fund the development of a Masterplan to ensure the strategic planning of land at Williamtown and Tomago supports the Tomago Renewable Energy Zone, the M1 Pacific Motorway Extension to Raymond Terrace, the duplication of Nelson Bay Road and the Newcastle Airport International Terminal and airport expansions.



Support public and private investment in the defence and aviation industries by relocating Federal Government offices (Department of Defence, the Department of Veteran Affairs, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and the Australian Federal Police) to Raymond Terrace.



Fund the acquisition of PFAS impacted land to support landowners to unlock the growth potential of Port Stephens Enterprise Corridor between Williamtown and Tomago.



Liveable cities

We're seeking government support to deliver actions that will improve accessibility, increase vibrancy, attract new investment and support economic growth.



\$20 million

Fund the delivery of priority works for the Raymond Terrace Public Domain Plan to deliver safe, walkable and connected streets, improved lighting, extended cycleways and create unique spaces that recognise the heritage and culture of the community.



\$9 million

Co-fund the delivery of high priority pathways as part of the Tomaree Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan to improve safety and accessibility across Port Stephens.



\$5 million

Co-fund the delivery of priority works for the Nelson Bay Public Domain Plan to extend pedestrian connections, create active transport corridors and improve community space.



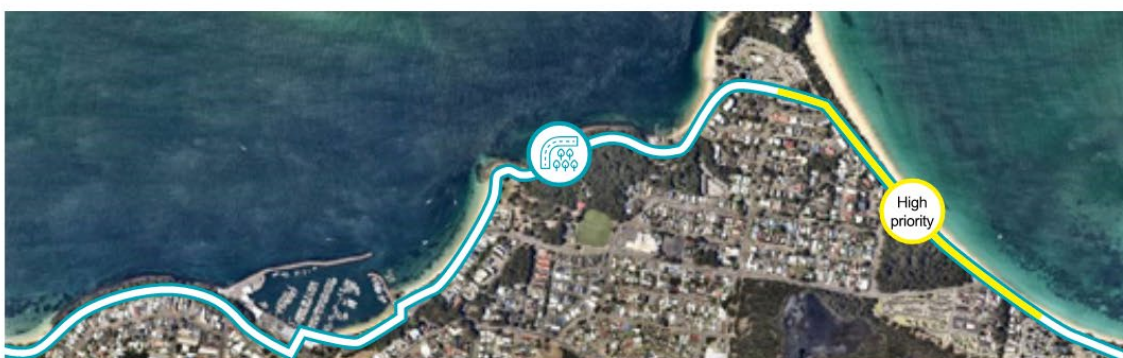
\$2.5 million

Directly invest into the planning and concept design works for the implementation of the Medowie Town Centre Masterplan which will deliver housing, employment and public recreation uses.



\$11 million

Fund the delivery of coastal pathways at Nelson Bay and Shoal Bay to improve safety, increase accessibility and provide additional protection to Shoal Bay Road from coastal erosion.





Tourism, sport and recreation

We're seeking government support to deliver high quality, multi-functional sport and recreation infrastructure to improve the health and wellbeing of our community, attract events and grow our local economy.



\$1 million

Directly invest into the development of a Business Case and Masterplan for the Water Based Tourism Gateway to support Commercial Tour Operators, improve accessibility and create a gateway to the Port Stephens — Great Lakes Marine Park.



\$200,000

Directly invest into the development of a Masterplan for an indoor sports facility to cater to the growing regional communities of Raymond Terrace, Karuah and Medowie.



\$20 million

Directly invest into the development of the Birubi Point Tourism Transport Interchange to help protect culturally significant land, improve the visitor experience and create a gateway to the internationally recognised Worimi Conservation Lands.



\$2.5 million

Co-fund the delivery of multi-purpose sporting facilities, recreational space, pump tracks, pathway connections and picnic spaces as part of the Aliceton Reserve Masterplan.



\$9.5 million

Support the growing population of Medowie by co-funding the delivery of additional sporting fields, netball courts, open play space and connecting pathways as part of the Ferodale Sports Complex Masterplan.



\$22 million

Co-fund projects within the King Park Masterplan and the Lakeside Sports Complex Masterplan to deliver a regional indoor sports facility, new sports facilities and supporting infrastructure.



\$12 million

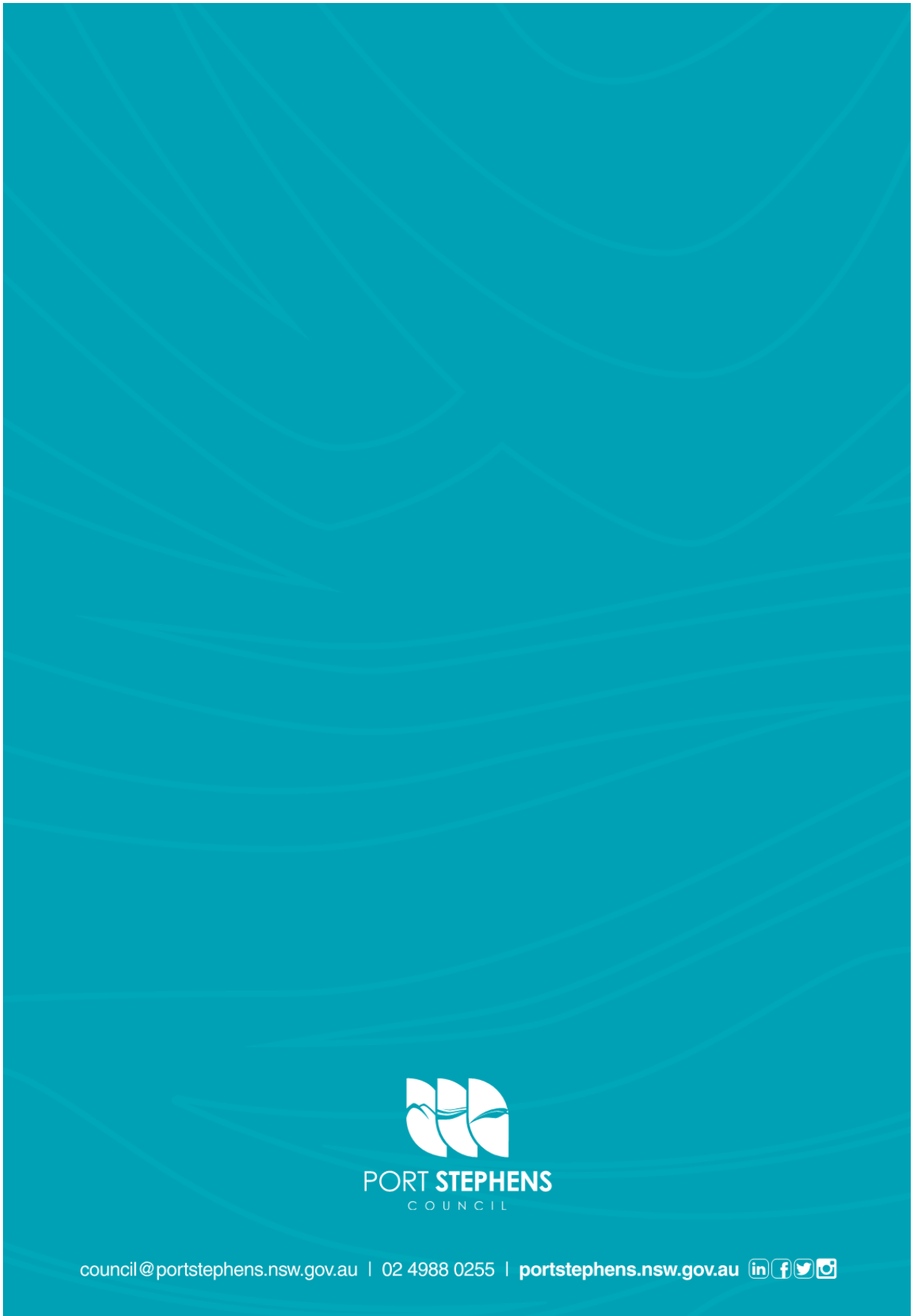
Co-fund the delivery of improvements to sporting facilities, recreational space, lighting and accessible amenities as part of the Mallabula Sports Complex Masterplan.



\$250,000

Directly invest into annual destination marketing programs aimed at growing international visitation and visitor spend to Port Stephens. This funding will support the ongoing expansion of Newcastle Airport and minimize the impacts on the regional visitor economy from proposed renewable energy projects.





PORT STEPHENS
COUNCIL

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