

Six Month Progress Report

Snapshot – January to June 2026



182
Activations



308
Library programs



669,000+
Beach visits



53,000+
Childcare places

Our community

- **The Place is Yours**, a youth-led partnership project, delivered life-skill workshops and culminated in the creation of a Community Corner, a vibrant space designed by young people in Raymond Terrace.
- **Community safety** insights are being captured by Council and the University of Newcastle's interactive 'Nellies' kiosks in Nelson Bay, using light, sound and art to gather feedback and guide future safety improvements.
- **Vibrant events** including Australia Day, Shoal Bay Food and Wine Festival, Sail Port Stephens Street Party and NAIDOC Week encouraged cultural participation, built community pride, connected people to place and attracted visitors year-round.
- **Financial support** through the Community Funding Program for International Women's Day and the Mayoral Academic Scholarships highlighted excellence. It empowered locals, enhancing social, cultural, environmental and economic aspects of our communities.



\$19.8M
Roads expenditure



34,637+
Holiday Parks visitors



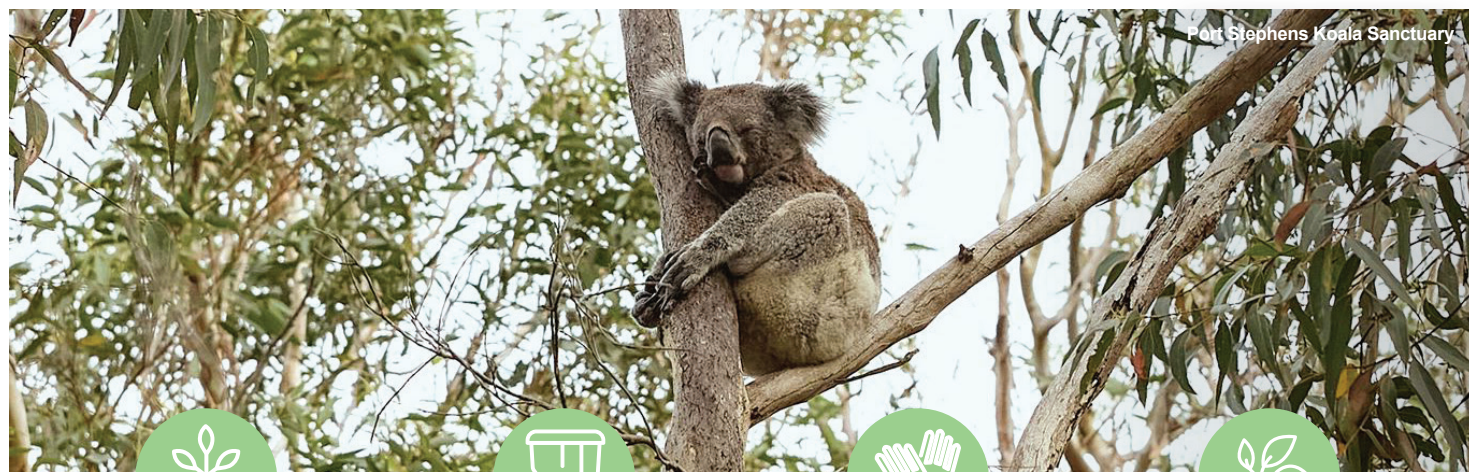
322
Development Assessment determinations



18
Capital infrastructure projects

Our place

- **Roads Acceleration Program** uses a targeted approach to prioritise roads based on condition, usage and community feedback. The Taylors Beach Road upgrade improved pavement, structure and traffic flow.
- **Medowie Town Place Plan** sets a 20-year vision to transform Medowie into a green, vibrant destination for 20,000+ residents by 2041. The plan, shaped by the community, delivers 5 hubs: a community zone, shopping precinct, village green, residential and parkland areas.
- **Monarch's Rise** development application approved for 225 new residential lots, balancing growth and environmental care. Over half the site is reserved for conservation, including a 71-hectare conservation area and 2,500 native trees, with 1,250 designated as koala habitat.
- **Tomaree Sports Complex Revised Masterplan** outlines the community's vision to transform the Complex into a destination sports hub, meeting demand for indoor and female sports and hosting major multi-day events.



1,662hr

Weed treatment



4.5t

Textiles diverted
from landfill


10.8ha

Bushland regeneration



3408

Trees planted

Our environment

- **Coastal Management Program** is a long-term strategy to address hazards, protect ecosystems and enhance resilience to climate change. Coastal and foreshore maintenance increased through our Special Rate Variation. Sand nourishment works restored areas of Corlette foreshore with 2,600 cubic metres of relocated sand.
- **Caring for Country with culturally informed cool burning project** delivered in partnership with Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council, Firesticks Alliance Aboriginal Corporation, Hunter Local Land Services, Bindelong Aboriginal Corporation Cool Burn Fire & Ecology, local Rural Fire Service members and other stakeholders. The initiative improved ecosystem health, bushfire resilience, and won the First Nations Partnership category at the NSW Local Government Excellence Awards.
- **Koala Habitat Mapping** finalised to include an expanded list of koala feed tree species from 3 to 18, allowing an ecologically representative model of koala habitat distribution in Port Stephens.
- **Draft Anna Bay and Tilligerry Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan** was publicly exhibited to identify and assess flood risk mitigation and management options for the area.



131

New citizens



\$1.254M

Anticipated underlying
financial result


\$42,095

Combined Mayoral and
Councillor donations


17

Key engagement
projects

Our place

- **Digital Strategy and Roadmap** implementation is progressing to enhance and modernise Council's digital services. The endorsed Cyber Security Strategy will guide improvements to strengthen security.
- **Advocacy** for policy and funding commitments from the State and Federal governments to improve roads, housing, community facilities and environmental protection keeps our community and Port Stephens at the forefront of planning and investment.
- **Final year of Council's Special-Rate Variation** completed, securing our finances and enabling smart community investments.
- **Healthy financial status validated** by a recent Audit Office review of Council's Long Term Financial Plan, confirming Council's strong and stable position. All key financial performance indicators show financial sustainability in funding operations, renewing critical infrastructure and investing in community priorities.