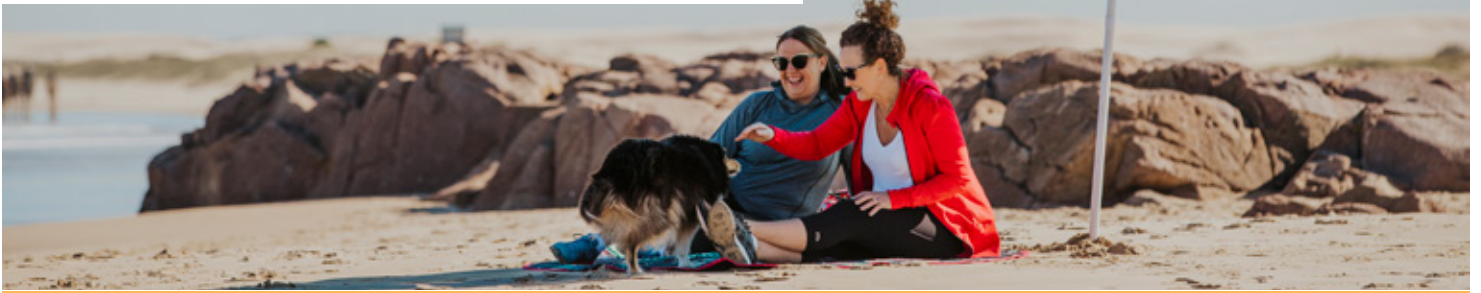


# Six Month Progress Report

Snapshot – July to December 2025



## Our community

- **Customer Experience Live Chat** – We've launched Webchat to the community, giving our customers another convenient way to connect with us online.
- Launched **The Place Is Yours\***, a youth-led project which aims to empower young people to shape their community, build new skills and foster a sense of pride in their community through a series of workshops, training and projects.
- With a review underway, over 200 responses were received via the Join the Conversation campaign for **Our Incredible Place Strategy**. The data will be incorporated into the 2026 to 2031 plan for supporting events, arts and culture within the community.
- Over \$450,000 across various grants and scholarships has been released under the 2025 to 2026 Port Stephens **Community Funding Program** offering financial support to community groups, event organisers, athletes, businesses and schools.

\* Supported by Federal and State Government funding.



### Activations

222  
events held



### Beach visits

375,000+ visits to  
One Mile, Birubi and  
Fingal Bay



### Childcare places

54,000+ childcare  
places filled



### Library programs

384 programs

## Our place

- We've rolled out educational content on road maintenance, following our **Roads Acceleration Program Communications Plan** being shared with the Communication and Engagement Advisory Group (CEAG) early last month.
- Following the recent Natural Disasters – Council has supported the community by compiling our largest ever **disaster claim** (>\$40M) evidence package.
- **24/25 Local Housing Strategy Annual Report** – 50% of the planned actions have been completed or are currently underway. We remain the Council with the fastest approvals in the Hunter region with an average of 49 days, and have approved over 660 houses, including a new social and affordable housing development in Raymond Terrace.
- **Place Plans** – Council adopted the Tilligerry Place Plan and Salamander Bay Place Plan in August and November 2025 following broad community engagement and will now progress to implementation planning.



### DA approvals

396



### Roads expenditure

\$19.7 million



### Capital Works in progress

4 projects



### Capital Works completed

9 projects



## Our environment

- **Koala Habitat Mapping** – Over 200 drone and detection dog surveys completed across the LGA with over 75% participation from landholders volunteers. Data will support the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) preparing an updated Koala habitat map, expected June 2026.
- **Coastal Management Program (CMP)** – commencement of Stage 2 Shoal Bay Sand Nourishing Works and expected completion of Corlette Sand Nourishment Works project in 2026 (Special Rate Variation Funding).
- **Culturally Informed Cool Burns** – The final year of Culturally Informed Cool Burns was delivered with Worimi LALC on Worimi lands in September, funded under the Council’s Environmental Trust Grant. These final burns mark the completion of the 3-year Cultural Burning grant project.
- Over two weekends in November, residents participated in the **Port Stephens Garage Sale Trail**, resulting in 162 garage sales, 1351 participants across the region and 36,008 items listed for reuse sale.



**Bush regenerated**  
10.8 hectares



**Bin collections**  
1.8 million bin lifts



**Weed treatment**  
690 hours of treatments



**Waste diversion**  
36,000+ reuse items listed for sale

## Our Council

- The **International Terminal at Newcastle Airport** – opened in September with the first flights to Bali taking off in October. Domestic flights have also increased with flights to Perth and Hobart now on offer.
- The endorsement of the **Salamander Town Centre Place Plan** in November 2025 further supports Council’s approach to Property Investment and Development delivering housing stock, income generating opportunities and investment in our community.
- Continued implementation of **Financial Sustainability Strategies** contribute to Councils key priorities (roads, drainage, footpaths, housing and environment).
- **Community Catch Ups** were held to provide the opportunity to chat with local Councillors and Council Staff. In addition to our Community Catch Ups, Mayor Leah Anderson held multiple **Monthly Mayor Meetups**.



**International flights**  
Now operational



**New citizens**  
42 conferees from 17 countries



**Financial result**  
Anticipated underlying financial result better than budget



**Community Catch Ups**  
3 with Councillors  
10 with Mayor