

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

Date: 20 October 2025

Time: 7.06pm

Location: Community Centre Thomson Street

Attendance: John Lang, Jan Lang, Sue Heycox, Judy Neeves, Russell Neeves,

Welcome:

Apologies: Councillor Gillian Boyd, Councillor Jemma Tribe

Acknowledgement to Country:

Mission Statement of (The Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum):

Confirmation of Minutes ---- September meeting as distributed via the web site, accepted unanimously.

Matters arising from minutes: Nil

FINANCIAL REPORT:

INCOME & EXPENDITURE For September 2025

Opening Balance as at 01 September 2025		\$4265.87
INCOME	Nil	
EXPENDITURE-	Nil	
	BALANCE as at 1st October 2025	\$4265.87

Treasurer moved that \$50.00 payment be made to Sussex Inlet Lions Club for electricity used by Forum TV in shop window. Approved unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

Copies of all correspondence can be viewed at the end of the published minutes on the web site.

86/9 Shoalhaven secures coastal projects funding

Council has been awarded more than a total of \$900,000 in funding from the NSW Government to help manage and protect the Shoalhaven coastline.

Shoalhaven secured to undertake work on eight separate projects from Kioloa in the south to Shoalhaven Heads in the north. Unfortunately Sussex Inlet missed out.

The projects that were funded are located at:

Bendalong, Burrill Lake, Callala Bay and Currarong, Mollymook Beach, Manyana Beach, and Hyams Beach

Also

\$100,000 – to establish coastal asset management review and monitoring program

\$205,000 - implementation of priority cliffs and slope hazard reduction infrastructure across Shoalhaven Local Government Area (LGA)

\$70,000 - Shoalhaven coastal protection structure condition assessment and evaluation.

87/10 Joint media release from *Federal Member for Gilmore Fiona Phillips and State Member for South Coast Liza Butler*

The community is invited to share their stories of the historic Nowra Bridge as the first stage of repairs on the Shoalhaven River crossing continues ahead of its new life as a pedestrian and cyclist path.

Now that the bridge is closed to road traffic, crews have commenced the process of renovation and removal of the old cantilever pedestrian walkway from the side of the bridge.

The final stage will involve pier strengthening and the installation of new lighting, handrails, street furniture and other shared path features.

The repair and repurposing work is being carried out with \$20 million in funding as part of the Australian and NSW Government's \$364 million Nowra Bridge project.

Local residents are encouraged to share their memories and stories of the historic bridge by emailing nowrabridgeproject@transport.nsw.gov.au

For more information on the project visit [Historic Nowra Bridge repurposing | Transport for NSW](#).

88/10 Council has released a NEW! Yellow Bin Recycling Sticker-see below

You can also drop off your soft plastics at Sussex Inlet Recycling Depot.

89/10 New CEO sets vision for the Shoalhaven. See below

90/10 Federal Member for Gilmore, Fiona Phillips, is calling for Shoalhaven Mayor Patricia White to publicly update the community on the status of local road upgrades under the \$40 million Shoalhaven Roads Package.

91/10 **Council works with industry to improve DA assessment times.** See below

92/10 Council refusal on DA2021/2372 -- Construction of a Flood Free Access Road (FFAR) and Associated Civil and Site Works.

CORRESPONDENCE OUTWARD: Nil

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE: Nil

BUSINESS ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETINGS:

The meeting discussed the extensive debate at Council regarding councillor Proudfoot's motion CL25.358 - Office Of Local Government (OLG) re Investigation - Appointment of New CEOThis motion was questioning the selection process of the new CEO. See detail below. And resolution.

REPORTS AND UPDATES: NIL

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Sue Heycox presented a letter from the Minister for South Coast-Liza Butler, regarding a request for consideration of a pedestrian crossing on the princes Highway, South Nowra. See letter below. This flowed into a discussion about the bus service to Nowra and Vincentia.

Meeting Closed: 8.28pm

Next Meeting: 17th November 2025

Location: Thomson Street

Time 7.00pm

Media Release

Shoalhaven secures coastal projects funding

16 September 2025

Council has been awarded more than \$900,000 in funding from the NSW Government to help manage and protect the Shoalhaven coastline.

Shoalhaven secured the funding through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Waters (DCCEEW) Coastal and Estuary grants program to undertake work on eight separate projects from Kioloa in the south to Shoalhaven Heads in the north.

Mayor Patricia White said she was pleased the funding would allow Council to address a variety of coastal hazards and undertake thorough investigations into the condition of existing coastal infrastructure and assets to determine any maintenance required.

“We know storms are becoming more frequent and more severe, and these natural processes are having a lasting impact on our coastline and communities,” Cr White said.

“This funding is vital as it will enable us to better understand the extent of the impact and undertake the work necessary to safeguard our coastal areas and strengthen their resilience for the future,” she said.

The projects funded have been prioritised based on 13 management actions outlined in the [Shoalhaven Open Coast and Jervis Bay Coastal Management Program](#) (CMP).

The local projects that were funded include:

- \$276,667 - improve coastal erosion resilience - Boat Harbour, Bendalong
- \$37,500 - foreshore nourishment and revegetation work - Burrill Lake
- \$146,667 - coastal hazard management investigations - Callala Bay and Currarong
- \$50,001 - coastal protection works – Callala Bay Sailing School
- \$100,000 – establish coastal asset management review and monitoring program
- \$26,666 - estuary entrance management feasibility investigations – Mollymook Beach, Manyana Beach, and Hyams Beach
- \$205,000 - implementation of priority cliffs and slope hazard reduction infrastructure across Shoalhaven Local Government Area (LGA)
- \$70,000 - Shoalhaven coastal protection structure condition assessment and evaluation.

Work has started on each of these projects and is expected to be complete within the next three years.

The community will be updated on the progress of work via Council’s website.

Of the 17 councils to receive funding under the 2024-25 Coastal and Estuary grants program, Shoalhaven secured the largest amount of funding.

For more detail about the projects that have been funded visit the NSW Government’s [Coastal and Estuary Management grants webpage](#).

** End **

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Work progressing on next chapter of historic Nowra Bridge

The community is invited to share their stories of the historic Nowra Bridge as the first stage of repairs on the Shoalhaven River crossing continues ahead of its new life as a pedestrian and cyclist path. After 142 years of service, the bridge was retired from road traffic use when the new Nowra Bridge opened. The historic landmark is being retained due to its historical significance, heritage value, community support, and expected benefits to the area.

Repairing and repurposing the bridge to ensure its future longevity is a significant task, with the first stage focused on repairing the truss structure.

Crews have been removing damaged and corroded elements for repairs, including 1500 rivets by hand, replacing rosette style diagonal bracing washers, and propping and removing end truss lattices.

An innovative method was successfully trialed to remove the cantilever pedestrian walkway, which was added to the historic bridge in 1980. A crane mounted on a truck was used to carefully manoeuvre large sections of the walkway, each weighing more than three tonnes, through the bridge trusses. This approach means the walkway can be dismantled directly from the bridge deck, avoiding complex marine operations and delivering cost savings.

Crews will continue removing the remaining cantilever pedestrian walkway sections later this year after moving into stage two of the work, which will include installing scaffolding beneath the bridge ahead of repainting.

Over the next few months, the team will continue repairs, remove and replace services, utilities and concrete barriers, and start procurement for repainting.

In the first half of next year, stage three is expected to begin. This will involve abrasive blasting to remove existing paint, requiring sections of the bridge to be wrapped to prevent contaminants entering the river below. The process, expected to take around 18 months, will include strict environmental controls.

The final stage will involve pier strengthening and the installation of new lighting, handrails, street furniture and other shared path features.

Transport will continue to keep the community updated as work progresses.

The repair and repurposing work is being carried out with \$20 million in funding as part of the Australian and NSW Government's \$364 million Nowra Bridge project.

Federal Member for Gilmore Fiona Phillips:

"This is about investing in Shoalhaven's future while respecting our past. The Nowra Bridge has carried generations of locals across the river, and I'm delighted the Albanese Labor Government has partnered with NSW to preserve it as a shared community space.

"As a kid growing up in Nowra, when you drove over the bridge, you knew you were home.

"I look forward to hearing interesting stories about the bridge from over the years and urge people to get involved in this project which will preserve the history of the bridge for generations to come.

"Projects like this not only celebrate our heritage but also boost local jobs and tourism opportunities.

"It's such an iconic local landmark and I'm really looking forward to seeing it transformed into a wonderful asset the whole community can enjoy."

State Member for South Coast Liza Butler:

"The Nowra Bridge is part of the fabric of our community and has been a vital connection for more than a century. I'm proud that it will continue to have a role in our future, as a safe and accessible space for pedestrians and cyclists."

"This project is about preserving our history while adapting the bridge for modern needs. Locals and visitors alike will be able to enjoy the bridge in a whole new way, as a place to walk, cycle, and reflect on its remarkable story."

"I encourage everyone in the community to share their memories and stories of the bridge, so this important piece of Shoalhaven's history can be celebrated for generations to come."

Member-elect for Kiama, Katelin McInerney:

"The Nowra Bridge is more than just a bridge, it's part of our local area. Repurposing it for pedestrians and cyclists will make it a place for people to connect, exercise and reflect on our shared history."

"I know many locals have a strong personal connection to this bridge, and I'm excited to see it given new life for future generations to enjoy."

Local residents are encouraged to share their memories and stories of the historic bridge by emailing nowrabridgeproject@transport.nsw.gov.au

For more information on the project visit [Historic Nowra Bridge repurposing | Transport for NSW](#).

Photo: Federal Member for Gilmore Fiona Phillips and State Member for South Coast Liza Butler at the iconic Nowra Bridge which is receiving a face-lift.

Wednesday 1 October 2025

Media contact: Katrina Condie 0437 662 967

Recycling bin sticker



Cardboard & paper



Aluminium & metal cans



Glass bottles & jars

Remove lids and
place lids in red bin



Hard plastic containers & bottles



YELLOW BIN RECYCLING

Shoalhaven
City Council

Available from Council Administration Centre or Shoalhaven Libraries

Drop off your soft plastic with us!

Council now provides a free, soft plastic drop-off service at Sussex Inlet Recycling and Waste Depot

What we accept as soft plastics

- shopping bags
- cling wrap
- bubble wrap
- zip lock bags
- plastic post satchels
- pet food bags
- cereal bag liners (plastic bags within the cereal box)
- packaging for dry foods eg: bread, pasta, cereal, rice
- foil-like packaging eg: chips, biscuits, filtered coffee



Remember, soft plastic cannot be recycled via your yellow bin.

New CEO sets vision for Shoalhaven

8 October 2025

Council's new CEO Andrew Constance has set out his vision to lead the organisation into its next chapter.

In his first day in the role, Mr Constance said he was looking forward to leading the organisation into its next chapter and was focussed on improving Council's financial sustainability and service delivery while maintaining the area's natural beauty.

"My priority is to work with staff to ensure Council is meeting the needs and expectations of Shoalhaven residents. I'm dedicated to navigating the challenges, building trust with the community and shaping a positive future for our city," he said.

"I see my appointment as an opportunity to reset Council's relationships with the community and build momentum with prospective investors, to grow our economy and create a more sustainable financial future.

"Council is the heartbeat of the community, and I'm excited to get to work alongside the incredible men and women who work for this organisation to forge a new path for the city," he said.

Mr Constance was today joined by the Mayor Patricia White to address media about the future of the Shoalhaven and the economic opportunities that are present.

"We need investment in our region to stimulate our economy, revitalise our major town centres and support employment, local business and the wellbeing of our communities," Cr White said.

"The beauty and location of our city is attracting investors wanting to deliver the accommodation that we need in appropriate locations like Nowra and Ulladulla," she said.

"It's important that we protect our natural environment and provide greater opportunities for residents to realise their potential here in the Shoalhaven," she said.

"I'm excited to see the fresh approach Andrew will bring in his new role and am confident he has the skills and energy needed to guide the organisation through this challenging period," Cr White said.

Mr Constance brings more than 18 years of public sector experience to the role, including as the NSW Member for Bega from 2003 to 2021. He has also held several senior ministerial portfolios such as Treasurer of NSW, finance, transport and roads, industrial relations, ageing and disability services.

**** End ****

**FIONA PHILLIPS, MP
MEMBER FOR GILMORE**

MEDIA RELEASE

Fiona Phillips seeks Mayoral update on \$40 million Shoalhaven Roads Package

Federal Member for Gilmore, Fiona Phillips, is calling for Shoalhaven Mayor Patricia White to publicly update the community on the status of local road upgrades under the \$40 million Shoalhaven Roads Package. Mrs Phillips said the Albanese Labor Government delivered \$40 million in the 2022 Federal Budget to fix six key local roads.

"I delivered the funds three years ago, this month, but there continues to be little communication from the Shoalhaven Mayor on the progress of the road works," she said.

The six roads include:

- Forest Road

- Callala Beach Road
- Callala Bay Road
- Culburra Road
- Coonemia / Currarong / Callala Bay Road Intersection
- Greenwell Point / Worrigeer Road Intersection

Mrs Phillips said "ratepayers just want their roads fixed".

"It's beyond belief that I delivered \$40 million in the federal budget three years ago, specifically to fix six key local roads, and yet what does the Shoalhaven Mayor have to show for it?

"The least the Mayor could do is tell locals what's going on and when their roads are going to be fixed.

"It's a bit rich of the Mayor calling for more money when the funding I delivered three years ago has not been spent."

Thursday 16 October 2025

Media contact: Katrina Condie 0437 662 967

Council works with industry to improve DA assessment times

16 October 2025

Organisations and individuals lodging development proposals with Council are being reminded to include all required documentation to ensure timely assessment under NSW Government timeframes.

Under the Ministerial Statement of Expectations Order, Shoalhaven Council is required to assess development applications (DAs) within 105 calendar days following lodgement.

Mayor Patricia White said while Council is well positioned to meet the new target, the ability of staff to finalise assessments also hinges on applications being lodged with all the necessary supporting material.

"Council is continuing to work closely with applicants to ensure all required documentation is submitted to help ensure staff are able to assess proposals efficiently and within the timeframes set by the NSW Government," Cr White said.

"By working with industry to improve the quality and completeness of applications, Council's performance targets can be met, and vital infrastructure funding will be unlocked, ensuring we can contribute meaningfully to the delivery of new homes across the city," she said.

"As we enter this new phase of planning reform, it's important that we all adapt to the evolving expectations set by the NSW Government to achieve the best results," she said.

During the 2024-25 financial year, Council successfully achieved the NSW Government's previous target of 110 calendar days for DA assessment times.

The Department of Planning's [league table](#) also shows that in 2024-25 Shoalhaven Council received 929 DAs, putting Council in the top 10 for the number of applications lodged.

The result ensures Council is eligible for a share of \$67 million in grant funding under round one of the Faster Assessments Incentive Program, to deliver local infrastructure such as roads, open spaces, and community facilities.

Eligible councils will be scored and ranked based on their average assessment timeframes in 2024-25 and their improvement against their average over the previous three years.

The NSW Government is due to announce the successful councils to receive funding, this month.

Successful councils will be contacted by the Department of Planning following completion of the assessment process and asked to nominate an eligible local infrastructure project.

**** End ****

Subject: Construction of a Flood Free Access Road (FFAR) and Associated Civil and Site Works

Suncrest Avenue, SUSSEX INLET – Lot 21 DP 1270620 (formerly 7 Villagewood Drive, SUSSEX INLET - Lot 1000 DP 1247845)

Refusal Dated 1/10/20225

REASONS FOR REFUSAL

1. Pursuant to Section 4.15(1)(a)(i) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the proposed development does not achieve compliance with all objectives of Zone C2 – Environmental Conservation, particularly as it relates to the following:

To protect water quality and the ecological integrity of water supply catchments and other catchments and natural waterways.

2. Pursuant to Section 4.15(1)(a)(iii) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the proposal fails to comply with the following sections of the *Shoalhaven DCP*:

- a. The stormwater treatment strategy is not considered to comply with DCP Chapter G2 – Sustainable Stormwater Management and Erosion/Sediment Control. Three separate GPTs to treat only road runoff are not considered an efficient outcome for Council's maintenance and asset management resources.

3. Pursuant to Section 4.15(1)(a)(iii) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the proposed development was deficient in the provision of the following information to enable a full and proper assessment of the proposed development:

- a. The application has not adequately addressed the requirements of Acceptable Solution A11.8 or Performance Criteria P11 of SDCP 2014, Chapter G2.

The proposed use of a Proprietary GPT device has not satisfactorily demonstrated that:

- i. The maintenance costs are less than that of an equivalent conventional device; and
- ii. No specialist equipment is required to carry out maintenance activities; and
- iii. Major consumable parts such as filters are not required to be purchased by Council on a regular basis.

The stormwater treatment measures have not satisfactorily demonstrated:

- Protection of permanent stormwater treatment against siltation/ sedimentation and clogging during construction.
- Not unduly increasing health and safety risks.
- Not unduly increasing maintenance requirements of stormwater infrastructure by Council.
- Ensuring the ongoing reduction of stormwater pollutants.

- b. The applicant has not adequately addressed the requirements of SDCP 2014 Chapter 1, section 11, in that a suitable Variation Statement has not been submitted proposing a performance based solution.

- c. The information submitted to date does not provide sufficient justification for the proposed proprietary stormwater treatment device to Council's satisfaction regarding the suitability/appropriateness of the proposed proprietary stormwater treatment devices in this location with respect to maintenance cost comparison, equipment, and consumable parts ongoing costs and ongoing reduction of stormwater pollutants.

- d. A formal letter of offer addressing and detailing ongoing maintenance, minimum maintenance contribution agreement period, maintenance regime addressing the concerns above, etc has not been received.

4. Pursuant to Section 4.15(1)(c) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, on balance, Council cannot be satisfied that the site would be suitable for the development.

5. Pursuant to Section 4.15(1)(e) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the proposal for *all* the reasons for refusal listed above is not considered to be in the public interest.



LIZA BUTLER MP

MEMBER FOR SOUTH COAST

Mrs Suzanne Heycox
6 Ray Street
SUSSEX INLET NSW 2540

Dear Mrs Heycox

Sue,

I have received a response to the representation made on your behalf to the office of the Minister Transport NSW in relation to pedestrian crossing facilities on the Princes Highway, South Nowra.

Transport NSW is looking at options to provide improved accessibility and safety in that area and at this stage funding has been allocated to undertake initial feasibility assessments and planning in relation to this.

The planning work is underway and will be completed this financial year, Transport will then be able to determine the next steps.

Thank you for taking the time to raise this issue and if I can be of assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Liza Butler

Liza Butler MP
Member for South Coast
September 25, 2025

25 September 2025

(02) 4421 0222 SouthCoast@parliament.nsw.gov.au
 1/57 Plunkett Street, Nowra NSW 2541
 PO Box 1436, Nowra NSW 2541
 [LizaButlerMP](#)



CL25.358 Notice of Motion - Office Of Local Government (OLG) Investigation - Appointment of New CEO

HPERM Ref: D25/442733

Submitted by: Clr Bob Proudfoot

Purpose / Summary

The following Notice of Motion, of which due notice has been given, is submitted for Council's consideration.

Recommendation

That:

1. Shoalhaven City Councillors give their enthusiastic support for the now announced investigation by the Office of Local Government (OLG) into the recent selection process leading to the appointment of the new CEO, being Mr Andrew Constance.
2. Councillors acknowledge that the Minister for Local Government, Mr Ron Hoenig and subsequently the OLG have responded to widespread community concern regarding the CEO selection process.
3. At the conclusion of the OLG investigation Council provide the community with a summary of the outcome and findings.
4. Every opportunity be given to individual Councillors to make a positive contribution to the OLG investigation.
5. Detailed minutes pertaining to this vital notice of motion be forwarded to Local Government Minister, Mr Ron Hoenig and the OLG.
6. Further legal advice, this time written legal advice, be provided as to why the rescission motion regarding the appointment of the CEO on 30 September 2025 was disallowed.
7. A full breakdown of the entirety of costs incurred during the entire CEO recruitment process be publicly communicated as an act of good faith and transparency.

CL25.358

RESOLVED (Clr Proudfoot / Clr Krikstolaitis)

MIN25.459

That:

1. Shoalhaven City Councillors give their enthusiastic support for the now announced investigation by the Office of Local Government (OLG) into the recent selection process leading to the appointment of the new CEO, being Mr Andrew Constance.
2. Councillors acknowledge that the Minister for Local Government, Mr Ron Hoenig and subsequently the OLG have responded to widespread community concern regarding the CEO selection process.
3. At the conclusion of the OLG investigation Council provide the community with a summary of the outcome and findings.
4. Every opportunity be given to individual Councillors to make a positive contribution to the OLG investigation.
5. Detailed minutes pertaining to this vital notice of motion be forwarded to Local Government Minister, Mr Ron Hoenig and the OLG.
6. Further legal advice, this time written legal advice, be provided as to why the rescission motion regarding the appointment of the CEO on 30 September 2025 was disallowed.
7. A full breakdown of the entirety of costs incurred during the entire CEO recruitment process be publicly communicated as an act of good faith and transparency.

FOR: Clr Wilkins, Clr Proudfoot, Clr Tribe, Clr Norris, Clr Boyd, Clr Krikstolaitis and Clr Killian

AGAINST: Mayor White, Clr Clancy, Clr Kemp, Clr Casmiri and Clr Cox

CARRIED