

2025 Gosford Erina Business Chamber

President Annual Report

Another active year for Gosford Erina Business Chamber, with our continued focus on events, advocacy and lobbying for business in our area.

Events this year have included:

- August 2024: Council Candidates “Town Hall” event, in conjunction with Peninsula and Central Coast Plateau Chamber of Commerce for Candidates from the Gosford East and West Wards at The Entertainment Grounds.
- October 2024, building your Marketing Plan with AI at The Sunken Monkey, followed by AGM.
- December 2024, Members Networking event: All attending had a 5-minute sales pitch on their business, held at Gosford RSL.
- January 2025. Leader of the Federal Opposition, Hon. Peter Dutton. “Fireside” Q&A. Very well attended, held at Gosford RSL.
- March 2025, Breakfast event with Central Coast Council on “all things Gosford”, Held at Central Coast Leagues Club
- May 2025: Members only Networking Event, held at South End Social
- June 2025: GEBC Safety: A Panel for Community Action in Greater Gosford: Held at Central Coast Leagues Club.
- June 2025: Central Coast Visitor Economy Awards: in Conjunction with BNSW/GEBC/CCC at Drifters Wharf.

The primary goal of these events is to provide members with networking opportunity, acknowledge and promote our GEBC Business sponsors and keep the GEBC membership informed of Government and local business activities. The members only events are well attended, and a great opportunity to meet new contacts.

As outlined in my 2024 report, the visual growth in the Gosford CBD has escalated in this current financial year, with milestones achieved at:

- Aland, The Archibald Topping Ceremony.
- University of Newcastle Topping Out Ceremony
- Central Coast regional Library Topping out
- The Waterfront by Urban Topping out,

The Gosford skyline has changed dramatically and in the 2025/2026 Financial year the is likely to be an extra 2-3,000 new residents.

The opportunity this provides for business growth cannot be underestimated. However, the challenge, which GEBC along with Business NSW is working with Central Coast Council and private developers is a traffic management plan, something that Council should have completed some years ago.

In the Advocacy sphere, representatives for the Gosford Erina Business Chamber meet regularly with State and Federal Members of parliament, Central Coast Council executive team, and actively participate with Business NSW on the Regional Advisory Council.

Once again, we have been let down by successive Governments, with this year's NSW budget not including any funding or plans for the TAFE, and the announcement of \$6M for the waterfront "beautification" is planning money only over 2 years and is part of the original \$8.5M promised by Chris Minns on election in 2023.

As a one of the fastest growing regions, and particularly the population growth in Gosford, both Federal and State Governments need to recognise the critical support required for this region.

The GEBC Board is a hands-on working group, and we appreciate and recognise the importance of the financial support provided by our Sponsors.



This year we welcomed new Directors, Greg Brownlow, CEO Central Coast Mariners, Nic Coffill, Aubrey Brown Lawyers and Tony Mylan, CEO ET Australia.

As President I am fortunate to be also supported by GEBC Vice President, Michael Bell, Treasurer Dave Evers, and other Directors Edgar Adams, Darren Fisher, Mel Archer & Peg Koszek. During the year Ralf Dahmen stood down and long-term Director and life member of GEBC, Edgar Adams did not stand for re-election. I would like to acknowledge and thank Edgar for this tireless work over the years.

Reiterating my comment from last year, I encourage other members of the GEBC to consider nominating for the Board, it is not an onerous role, but one that you can make a difference to the Business Community of this area, as we move into a revitalisation of greater Gosford.

With retirement from my role as CEO of Central Coast Legacy in September 2025 I have stepped down from the Board of GEBC. I have gained great satisfaction in the role in my term as President of Gosford Erina Business Chamber, wish to thank Jenny Cusick GEBC Office Coordinator for her support. I wish the GEBC Board, and members all the success into the future.

Thank you.

Peter Lawley OAM

President

July 2025