

The Agenda

FEBRUARY 2026



A message from our President



DAVID EVERS

As we open 2026, I want to wish every member and operator across Gosford and Erina a safe New Year. The Gosford Erina Business Chamber is starting the year with momentum

— and an agenda to make the CBD easier to visit, easier to invest in, and more vibrant after hours.

Confidence is returning to the Coast. Erina Fair has settled in a landmark \$895 million transaction, signaling belief in the Coast's retail fundamentals. Gosford's Imperial Centre has also changed hands for about \$62.75 million — another vote of confidence in the city centre. And Central Coast Council has endorsed a contract of sale for the former Council Administration Building at 49–51 Mann Street to the University of Newcastle, helping bring new foot traffic, learning and investment back into the CBD over coming years.

Now we must match big headlines with on-the-ground fixes:

1. Mann Street façade and presentation. We will work constructively with Council and the Gosford Strip Group to tackle the most tired frontages and use available façade support programs to lift amenity quickly.
2. Parking. This remains make-or-break for many traders. Council's Gosford City Car Park is moving to smarter, ticketless technology and plans a trial of extended hours. We will keep pushing for clearer pricing, consistent

ranger approaches and a genuine “free night-time window” (for example 5–8pm) so dining, services and events can thrive.

3. President's Hill. It's a recreation asset on our doorstep. We want activation and safe, legible links to Kibble Park and the waterfront — a green circuit that encourages visitors to linger, explore and spend.
4. Traffic and access planning. With new planning settings and more homes coming to Gosford, we need a contemporary plan now with Council and Transport for NSW — before congestion becomes the norm.
5. Commercial office development. To attract investment we need the right signals: incentives, faster refurb approvals and a compelling story about why Gosford works for professional services.
6. DA's. Our position is simple: be prompt, pragmatic and commercial. Approve quickly where you can; where you can't, approve with clear conditions and timeframes. NSW's planning reforms and new fast-track pathways should help, but we'll keep advocating for local accountability and timelines transparent.
7. Special Entertainment Precinct. A Gosford SEP is essential to the night-time economy. We support progressing it with sensible decisions about the Old Library site so it can't unintentionally constrain the whole precinct.
8. In 2026, GEBC will keep showing up, keeping the conversation practical, and backing projects that bring life back to Mann Street — day and night. Join us and let's deliver these priorities together in 2026 for businesses and community this year.

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GEBC STRATEGY PLAN 2026

The vision of the GEBC is to create a vibrant regional capital that will support business and the community through facilitating appropriate engagement with and between all stakeholders.

OUR 5 PILLARS

Better Business – Make Gosford and Erina a better place to do business:

- Advocate improvements to the Gosford CBD
- Advocate for the improvement to the process of lodging and having approved Development Applications
- Understand what GEBC members want

Infrastructure – Better infrastructure for Gosford and Erina

- Work with Central Coast Council on progressing the Waterfront Development
- Improve promotion of options and access to parking in the CBD and surrounding areas
- Promote the benefits of high-speed internet availability in Gosford and surrounding areas.
- Advocate for an improvement plan for the Gosford Cenotaph and other key attractions.

Industry – Attract industry to improve employment and opportunities for the business community

- Be actively involved in supporting and establishing affordable housing
- Provide information on training and employment opportunities for business to attract and retain skilled staff
- Work with Central Coast Council on the Regional Transport Plan to improve transport hubs in the local area

Tourism – To develop and promote tourism on the Central Coast through advocacy and events

- Activate the GEBC Regional Tourism sub-committee
- Work with Central Coast on regional tourism infrastructure
- Become part of the Central Coast Visitor Economy working group.

Education – Make Gosford a University town

- Actively pursue a link with the University of Newcastle in the development of the Gosford Campus
- Advocate for the redevelopment of the present TAFE site and development of the former Gosford Council Chambers.



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Chamber news

Chamber hosts Christmas event at new voco Hotel Gosford



Guests at voco Hotel Gosford Astra Rooftop Bar overlooking Brisbane Water



Aubrey Brown Lawyers Managing Director Anna Cruckshank with Edgar Adams

Some 200 members and guests attended the Chamber's 2025 Christmas event in mid-December at the recently opened voco Hotel Gosford.

Sponsored by Aubrey Brown Lawyers, it was the first major event for voco's Astra Rooftop Function Centre.

The occasion was an opportunity to celebrate the retirement of Edgar Adams Founder and Publisher of Central Coast Business Review.

In reviewing the past year Chamber President David Evers said,

This year, and indeed tonight's event, is a turning point, where Gosford can be seen for its bright and positive future, rather than last few decades where poor decisions, lack of support, and limited vision held back progress.



GEBBC President David Evers

Our support for the University of Newcastle Gosford Campus which starts taking in students in early 2026 was a major achievement.

Our Strategy Plan for 2026 will build on that and to that end we will be working with Council and State and Federal Governments to achieve this.

Chamber Sponsor Anna Cruckshank from Aubrey Brown Lawyers Anna Cruckshank said that Aubrey Brown Lawyers was honoured to sponsor the event, and to recognise the incredible contribution of Edgar Adams during his many years as editor and owner of Central Coast Business Review, both to the business community on the Central Coast and the region as a whole. She commented that the number of people who attended the event was a testament to Edgar's success, and the venue was world class.

Focus Structural & Civil Opens Central Coast Office



Focus Founders Daniel Holland, Casey O'Sullivan and Trevor Clack

Well-known civil engineers Trevor Clack, Daniel Holland and Casey O'Sullivan have launched Focus Structural & Civil, a fully independent structural and civil engineering consultancy based in West Gosford.

The new firm is built on a commitment to hands-on, technically driven engineering solutions.

Collectively, the directors bring more than 50 years of industry experience, and the broader team has supported projects across the Central Coast and surrounding regions for over 22 years. A major motivation behind establishing the new business was the directors' desire to stay closely connected to project work—remaining "on the tools" to ensure consistent, high-quality outcomes for every client.

While the 13 strong team previously worked together under the Northrop banner, Focus Structural & Civil now operates as a completely independent company, with no ongoing affiliation. Clients can continue working with the trusted experts they know, now within a business dedicated solely to their vision and needs.

For enquiries, contact hello@focussc.com.au.

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LEXUS | CENTRAL COAST

Sydney investor pays \$62.75m for Imperial Centre Gosford



A private Sydney investor has purchased the Imperial Centre in Gosford's CBD for \$62.75 million.

The three-level retail complex spans 16,769 square metres and occupies a 1.55-hectare site in the heart of the city.

The Imperial Centre was held by businessman Paul Lederer from 1998 until it was sold in 2021 to Melbourne-based private equity firm IP Generation (IPG). The asset formed part of the \$300 million, six-centre shopping centre portfolio acquired from the Lederer Group.

During his ownership, Mr Lederer undertook a significant refurbishment of the Centre, which at the time was managed directly by a Centre Manager within the Lederer Group. After taking control, IPG appointed JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle) as the new property manager.

The Centre's anchor tenant is a Woolworths supermarket which is reported to trade 31% above the Urbis benchmark for comparable centres.

Chamber supports television and film production studios at Calga

GEBC is supporting the proposed Central Coast Studios project at Calga which promises to be a world-class television and film production facility and will create hundreds of jobs for local people and at the same time put Gosford on the global map.

While saying it supports the concept of a film studio on the Central Coast, Council says that the location of the facility is unsuitable, the scale and character of the built form is out of character with the surrounding rural landscape along with traffic impacts.

Chamber President David Evers said Council's leadership needs to show leadership in bringing this facility to fruition. It is an ideal location and represents a significant investment in our region.

"We are asking for action, not advocacy," he said, "Action means assertive executive leadership and a clear signal that the Central Coast is ready to support strategic economic development."

He warned that opportunities of this scale do not wait. "Without decisive executive leadership, the Central Coast risks watching this investment go elsewhere," Mr Evers said.

Chamber welcomes new Members

Coastal Hatters
Contact: Eric J Wright
Business: Retail – Hatters
Location: Ettalong Beach

Scape Properties
Contact: Andrew Smith
Business: Property developers
Location: Terrigal

Ibis Budget Gosford
Contact: Heidi Spalding
Business: Accommodation
Location: West Gosford

MindSure Psychology
Contact: James Wightman
Business: Psychological Therapist
Location: Gosford

Oliver Leigh-Jones
Contact: Oliver Leigh-Jones
Business: Business Development and e-Commerce Consultants

CoastFM 963
Contact: Sarah Warry
Business: Media – Radio
Location: Hills Street, Gosford

Fullstack Advisory
Contact: Stuart Reynolds
Business: Accountants
Location: Sydney

Oasis Digital Media
Contact: Matt Spindler
Business: Digital media

Coast Cleans Cleaning Co
Contact: Cooper Kelly
Business: Commercial Cleaners

Personal Membership
Emma Dunch
Matthew Kelly

Become a member of GEBC today!

The GEBC is inviting business owners in Gosford and Erina to join their community and enjoy a range of resources and support, including networking events, workshops and advocacy for the local business community. Membership offers discounts on events and workshops, access to exclusive member-only resources, and the opportunity to connect with like-minded business owners to build a stronger local economy.

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