

The Agenda

MAY 2026

GEBC
GOSFORD ERINA BUSINESS CHAMBER
growing local business



A message from our President Gosford emerges as 'Education City'



DAVID EVERS

There are moments when you can feel a city turning a corner — and right now, Gosford is starting to come into its own.

Over the past month, we've seen a series of milestones that point to a

stronger, more confident future. The official opening of the University of Newcastle's Gosford Campus is a defining step forward, reinforcing what we have long advocated: Gosford as an emerging **Education City**. The presence of students, academics and research activity in the CBD is not just symbolic — it brings daily foot traffic, new energy and long-term economic opportunity for local businesses.

This aligns directly with what we've been hearing at recent industry forums and the City Shaping Summit. There is real momentum building around housing, infrastructure and investment, with thousands of new dwellings forecast and a growing focus on innovation in how we deliver them. The message is clear: Gosford is no longer being spoken about as a future opportunity — it is now being actively delivered.

At the same time, we are seeing the **activation of our City in a way that brings people together**. The recent block party on the Gosford Strip was a fantastic example of what is possible. It wasn't just an event — it was a statement about the kind of vibrant, connected, after-hours

economy we want to build. The Chamber was proud to play a direct role in supporting this initiative, working alongside businesses and stakeholders to help bring it to life.

Our hope is simple: that this becomes an annual celebration and a cornerstone of Gosford's emerging entertainment identity. Importantly, these wins are not happening by chance. They are the result of consistent advocacy, collaboration and a willingness from the business community to engage. Whether it's pushing for better planning outcomes, supporting activation, or contributing to major conversations around housing and infrastructure, the Chamber's priorities are slowly but surely being realised.

But we are not there yet.

From our discussions at the Housing Summit, it's clear there is still work to do — particularly around transparency in development settings, unlocking key sites, and ensuring Gosford gets its fair share of investment. We must continue to advocate strongly, while also presenting a united, solutions-focused voice.

The next phase of Gosford's growth will depend on participation.

We encourage all businesses to get involved — attend events, support local activations, collaborate with neighbouring operators and engage with the Chamber. A thriving CBD is built collectively, not individually.

Gosford's story is changing. We are seeing the foundations of a more vibrant, accessible and economically diverse city.

Now is the time to lean in, support each other and be part of what comes next.

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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.

Gosford Traffic Plan remains focus of Chamber

Chamber President David Evers and Director Edgar Adams met with Minister for the Central Coast The Hon. David Harris MP in early April to inform him of the Chamber's continuing focus on traffic issues in the CBD, with particular emphasis on the urgent need to widen the Donnison Street and Etna Street Railway Bridges, both of which were built when trains first came to Gosford in 1887.

Apart from peak time traffic chaos that has been occurring over many years making it difficult for ambulances to get to Gosford Hospital, solving the traffic congestion issue is now seen as a top priority.

Accordingly the Chamber now expects the State Government to take early action to widen both these bridges.



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CHAMBER NEWS

Urban's plans for next stage of Central Coast Quarter



Urban Property Group Head of Planning, Chris Ferreira speaking at GEB April Luncheon

Urban Property Group Head of Planning, Chris Ferreira, shared an update on **Central Coast Quarter** at the Chamber's April Luncheon, outlining progress on the Waterfront Precinct and what's ahead for Gosford's city centre.

Stage 1 - The Waterfront has now been completed and is almost fully sold, welcoming new residents to the area. The project includes a mix of housing

types, including affordable and NDIS homes and has been designed to improve connections between Mann Street, the waterfront and surrounding public spaces.

An official opening was held in late March, attended by local and state representatives, community housing partners, residents and project teams, recognising the role the development is playing in supporting housing diversity and ongoing investment in Gosford.

Looking ahead, **Stage 2** will build on this foundation, with a focus on enhancing the public realm, strengthening links through the city, encouraging local activity and delivering high-quality residential and nonresidential spaces. These stages are currently progressing through the planning and design competition process.

Urban emphasised the importance of collaboration between industry, government and the local business community in delivering projects that contribute positively to Gosford's long-term growth and liveability.

Gosford Strip Block Party draws thousands - signals new era for CBD Activation

Held on Sunday 3 May 2026, the Gosford Strip Block Party recorded just under 2,000 registered attendees with an estimated 500 additional visitors attending the precinct across the day. Delivered by a collective of businesses across the Gosford Strip Precinct, the event was designed as a local-first activation, encouraging visitors to experience the neighbourhood as it is.

There were no external food trucks or street-based alcohol sales. Instead, visitors moved between businesses for food and drink in existing venues, creating a direct and measurable economic impact for those already invested in the Strip.

The response far exceeded expectations. Across the board, businesses reported being filled to capacity. Several venues sold out of key menu items, while other restaurants recorded their highest single-day revenue and most all large and small local restaurants and bars reached full capacity.

Despite the scale, the event ran without a single incident. With favourable weather and strong community participation, the Block Party delivered a safe and seamless experience, reinforcing confidence in the precinct's ability to host large-scale activations. The day was also broadcast live on Coast FM, extending its reach across the region. "Supported by Gosford Erina Business Chamber and Central Coast Council., 97% of attendees were from the Coast. "It's a clear signal of what can happen when community leads," said Gosford Strip Chair Juan Iocco.

The event arrives at a time when Gosford CBD has faced sustained challenges,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Talk Agency relocates to Gosford

Digital marketing agency, Talk Agency, has relocated its operations from North Wyong to Gosford CBD leasing space at 107 - 109 Mann Street.

Established fifteen years ago by Cooper Jitts, a former journalist and editor turned digital strategist, Talk Agency specialises in driving P&L growth for hospitality, B2B, healthcare and tourism businesses. Talk Agency has over 150 clients across Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, a staff of 25 with expansion efforts are underway in the UK and USA.

Mr Jitts said the time was right to put down roots in Gosford. "We've got a growing team and client base in multiple markets and we are predominantly a remote business. "But a hub for client events, team gatherings and core client service and operational staff is critical for us. Gosford has all of the amenity without the cost of Sydney, and it is easily commutable from Newcastle and Sydney by rail. It's by far the best option on the Coast, and a great opportunity."

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UON new Gosford Campus officially opened



Federal Minister for Education the Hon. Jason Clare MP opening University of Newcastle Gosford Campus

University of Newcastle Gosford Campus was officially opened on 28th May by Federal Minister for Education the Hon. Jason Clare MP and NSW Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education The Hon. Steve Whan MP.

Minister Clare said the University's new building gives locals more opportunity to study higher education without leaving the Coast and congratulated the University of Newcastle on this significant milestone. Minister Whan said the facility was a game changer for tertiary education on the

Coast. "With access to a world-class university in the heart of Gosford and TAFE nearby, Central Coast students can gain the skills and qualifications needed for the jobs of the future, and keep local talent in the region," he said.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Alex Zelinsky AO said the facility had already begun transforming access to education for the Central Coast. "In its first semester, we have welcomed more than 1,200 students, and we're seeing strong demand from industry and community partners".

"With plans underway to deliver affordable student accommodation nearby, we are creating a vibrant, connected campus that gives students every reason to choose the University of Newcastle's Central Coast Campus."

The Campus jointly funded by the Australian Government (\$18 million), the NSW Government (\$18 million) and the University of Newcastle (\$31.3 million), using land provided by the NSW Government's Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation.

Chamber welcomes new members

TB Electrical & Communications

Business: Electrical services and communications

Contact: Tom Begley

Location: West Gosford

Elders Insurance Central Coast

Business: Insurance

Contact: Daniel Sammut

Location: Erina

Gosford Strip Precinct

Contact: Luke Carbonaro

Business: Promoting Gosford CBD

Location: Gosford

Pactum Dispute Resolution

Contact: Lina Nguyen

Business: Dispute Resolution

Location: Tuggerah

WIN Television

Contact: Kelly Gamblin

Business: Media

Location: West Gosford

Gosford Strip Block Party draws thousands - signals new era for CBD Activation CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

including declining evening trade and recent business closures. Against that backdrop, the Block Party has been described by organisers as clear proof that demand for an activated city centre not only exists, but is ready to be realised.

With momentum now established, the Gosford Strip Precinct is expected to explore further activations, positioning the Block Party not as a one-off success, but as the beginning of a sustained shift for the CBD.

GEBC President David Evers said that the Chamber was proud to sponsor the event and congratulated the organisers. "We look forward to seeing events like these coming to Gosford in the future," he said.

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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