

The Agenda

JULY 2026

GEBC
GOSFORD ERINA BUSINESS CHAMBER
growing local business



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The Central Coast Must Be More Than a Growth Corridor



DAVID EVERS

The NSW Budget has once again triggered the usual debate about what the Central Coast received and what it missed out on.

But perhaps we are asking the wrong question.

The real question is this:

What is the Central Coast becoming?

For decades, the Central Coast has been planned as a place to accommodate growth.

- More homes,
- More residents.
- More commuters.
- More infrastructure.

Those investments have been important and many have been hard fought for. But they reflect an old view of the Central Coast — one that no longer matches reality.

Today, almost 370,000 people call the Central Coast home.

We have a world-class health precinct.

A major teaching hospital, a growing research sector, A new university campus in the heart of Gosford.

And plans for a revitalised waterfront.

Strategic employment lands.

And a lifestyle envied across Australia.

These are not the foundations of a population catchment.

They are the foundations of a city.

Yet too often the Central Coast is still viewed through the lens of population growth rather than economic growth.

We plan for more people.

But not always for more opportunity.

That distinction matters.

Because the future success of the Central Coast will not be determined by how many people live here.

It will be determined by how many people can build their future here.

Building a City, Not Just Delivering Projects

The University of Newcastle's Gosford campus is a perfect example of what can be achieved when governments and institutions work together.

It didn't happen by accident.

Federal and State Governments, the University and the community aligned behind a shared vision.

The same can be said for the Health and Research Precinct.

Together, these projects are reshaping Gosford's future.

But they also expose the next challenge.

How do we connect these investments into something bigger?

A city is not built through isolated projects.

It is built through a coordinated vision.

Which is why the future of Gosford TAFE deserves far greater attention.

If previous generations of leaders could work together to deliver a university campus and a world-class health precinct, why can't this generation do the same for TAFE?

Situated in the heart of Gosford, TAFE occupies one of the most strategic education sites on the Central Coast.

A renewed vision for TAFE could strengthen workforce development, support local industry, create stronger education pathways and further activate the CBD.

Most importantly, it could become part of a broader education and skills precinct linking the University, Health Precinct, local employers and future industries.

The opportunity is obvious. CONTINUED OVER PAGE

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The Central Coast Must Be More Than a Growth Corridor CONTINUED

What is missing is the vision.

Beyond Population Growth

The Central Coast has reached a critical point in its development. Population growth alone is no longer a strategy.

No region can continue absorbing thousands of new residents each year while relying on neighbouring cities to provide a disproportionate share of employment opportunities.

The challenge now is not simply where people will live.

The challenge is where they will work.

Where they will study.

Where they will innovate.

Where they will build businesses.

Where they will build careers.

Western Sydney has a clear economic vision.

Newcastle has a clear economic vision.

The Central Coast needs one too.

Because despite our size and potential, we are still too often planned as a population catchment rather than developed as a regional economic centre.

Gosford 2040

Perhaps the time has come for a simple but ambitious goal.

A vision to establish Gosford as Australia's leading regional waterfront city and the economic, educational and civic capital of the Central Coast.

Not another report.

Not another strategy sitting on a shelf.

A genuine commitment from

Federal, State and Local Government, together with business, education and community leaders, to align behind a common future.

Every major decision should be measured against a simple test:

If the answer is yes, we should pursue it.

If not, we should ask why.

The Leadership Challenge

The Central Coast does not suffer from a lack of assets.

Nor does it suffer from a lack of potential.

What it lacks is coordinated leadership equal to that potential.

The university is not the destination.

The health precinct is not the destination.

The waterfront is not the destination.

TAFE is not the destination.

They are the foundations.

The real challenge is transforming those foundations into a stronger economy, a more vibrant city and greater opportunity for future generations.

Because the question facing the Central Coast is no longer how we accommodate growth.

The question is whether we have the leadership to transform a population catchment into one of Australia's most successful regional economies.

And whether we are prepared to build a city worthy of the opportunities before us.

David Evers – President



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University of Newcastle's vision for Gosford



University of Newcastle Vice Chancellor Prof. Alex Zelinsky AO outlining UON's Vision for Gosford

University of Newcastle Vice Chancellor Prof. Alex Zelinsky AO addressed members and guests at the GEBC June Breakfast meeting outlining the University's vision for Gosford through to 2030.

"We see Gosford becoming a 'University Town' attracting international students and of course offering a range of programmes that will encourage Central Coast students to undertake tertiary studies without travelling to Sydney or Newcastle," he said.

Construction on the \$67.3 million Gosford Campus with 4,500sqm of floor space was completed in November 2025 and in January 2026 the first intake of

1,200 students were welcomed, offering degrees across business, commerce, education, and social service.

In partnership with Central Coast Council, UON opened the Gosford Innovation Hub located within the new Gosford Library with dedicated space for entrepreneurs, startups and technology ventures.

Opened in 2022, the University's Central Coast Medical School and Research Institute Campus adjacent to Gosford Hospital, with a globally recognised reputation for clinical trials and medical research, has over 850 medical and nursing students enrolled.

Meanwhile, having purchased the former Gosford City Council Chambers and the adjacent vacant lot earlier this year, the building will be repurposed to provide affordable and safe accommodation for 127 students as well as providing student services and function and recreation facilities with work commencing in the third quarter of this year.

Professor Zelinsky said that UON's next project is a Dental Education Centre and public dental clinic.

Looking ahead to 2030 he said, "our vision is to be a world-leading university for our regions taking research that matters to the world and bringing our global expertise home.

State Government commits to Gosford Waterfront Revitalisation



NSW Premier The Hon. Chris Minns (r) with Members for The Entrance and Gosford, David Meehan MP and Lisel Tesch MP (l) and Minister for Central Coast the Hon David Harris MP

The Minns Labor Government has committed to investing \$41 million towards revitalisation of the Gosford Waterfront precinct with the first stage being a new boardwalk for pedestrians and cyclists connecting Gosford to Point Clare.

This is in addition to \$8.5 million already committed prior to the 2023 Election to enhance the public space between the Brian McGowan Bridge and Gosford Scout Hall with additional works to include a new waterfront café.

The boardwalk is planned to connect Goodaywang Reserve in Point Clare to the Gosford Stadium creating a continuous route for pedestrians and cyclists.

Chamber welcomes new members

Lexus of Central Coast

Lexus Dealers
Contact: Kym Worthington
Location: Kariong

Mobility Joy

Mobility aids retailers
Contact: Maria Correa
Location: Erina

Snow White Care & Clean

Professional Care Service
Contact: Susan Cooper
Location: Woy Woy

KomuniKare Pty Ltd

Early childhood education
Contact: Katelynd Turner

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CENTRAL COAST

Wine bar and restaurant opens in Gosford



Dionysia Wine House & Restaurant is the latest new wine and food venue to open in Gosford at 81 Mann Street.

Operated by former Head Chef at Teta's Gourmet Lebanese Restaurant in Terrigal, Nena Goldman, her son Jack Goldman, former Chef at EXP.Restaurant in the Hunter Valley and Jack Harris, Sommelier at Muse Restaurant in the Hunter Valley along with his wife Juzzinda with many years restaurant experience. Dionysia brings an entirely new concept in eating out to Gosford.

With seating for 25, Dionysia will offer a contemporary Australian menu and wine list with food and wines only from NSW with a focus on the Central Coast.

More than 40 wines will be obtainable by the glass.

Asked why they had opened in Gosford Nena Goldman said, "Gosford's time has come. This is an opportunity to get in on the ground floor."

For your Diary

Chamber members will note that for the next 6 months we have moved to **Breakfast Meetings**.

JULY BREAKFAST MEETING

Guest Speaker: Stephen Crowe, Regional Director, Hunter Central Coast.
Topic: The importance of branding Gosford to drive economic growth
Where: Gosford RSL Club, West Gosford
When: 22nd July, 2026
Time: 7.30am to 9.00am

AUGUST BREAKFAST MEETING

Guest Speaker: Superintendent Darryl Jobson, District Commander, Brisbane Water Police District
Topic: Review of Crime and Social issues in Gosford CBD
Where: Gosford RSL Club, West Gosford
When: 19th August, 2026
Time: 7.30am to 9.00am

SEPTEMBER BREAKFAST MEETING

Guest Speaker: Dan Powrie, General Manager Delivery, High Speed Rail Authority
Topic: Update on progress with the Sydney Newcastle High Speed Train project.
Where: Gosford RSL Club, West Gosford
When: 23rd September, 2026
Time: 7.30am to 9.00am



EVENING NETWORKING MEETINGS

Following the success of our first Networking Evening at South End Social in June we have scheduled further events each month through to the end of this year and will include guests interested in meeting Chamber members and Directors.

JULY NETWORKING EVENING

Where: Tommy's Café, Gosford Waterfront.
When: 8th July 2026
Time: 5.00pm to 7.00pm

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER NETWORKING EVENINGS WILL BE AT TOMMY'S CAFÉ ON THE 2nd WEDNESDAY IN THE MONTH

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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