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1 – Governance, Ethical Behaviour & Anti-Corruption

Council's purpose is to ensure widespread community confidence in Councillors and Council employees. Good governance is at the heart of everything done at Council, covering the culture, processes, systems, policies and practices used to guide every day operations.

Good governance creates confidence in Council. It ensures Council delivers what it says it will deliver and that it acts in an ethical way. A key aspect of good local government is Ethics. Democracy depends fundamentally on public trust, and ethical behaviour must be actively pursued and nurtured. Council is committed to openness, transparency and accountability.

Corrupted political processes which hide from, or de-power the community at large, are the very processes which provide fertile ground for those who put personal ambition and private gain ahead of the Common Good and will of the People.

Elements/Actions:

1.1 Central Coast Council:

1.1.1 Council will ensure that all Councillors have undertaken Code of Conduct and other training required under the Local Government Act prior to the first meeting of a new Council.

1.1.2 Council will provide and ensure all Councillors receive all necessary ongoing training to assist Councillors' in fulfilling statutory requirements.

1.1.3 Council will provide leadership training to Councillors and staff, This training will focus developing capacity-building for an effective democratic local government.

1.1.4 Council will seek to discover acts/processes of corruption, and prosecute, and penalise. This will include confiscation of monies and property.

1.1.5 Council will seek and act upon legal advice concerning the best way to pursue anti-corruption strategies associated with various positions: the Mayor and Deputy Mayor; Councillors; senior Council management; other Council employees; Council consultants and advisors both professional and volunteered; pre-planning and planning procedures and processes.

1.1.6 Council will ensure all Council contracts will be awarded consistent with public tender requirements.

1.1.7 Council will deliver good governance through strategic management and involvement of local community.

1.1.8 Council will ensure its business relationships are ethical, honest, fair and consistent. Council's business dealings will be transparent and open to public scrutiny.

1.1.9 Council will run an annual, full weekend marquee-style event, with associated entertainment, possibly associated with other elements of this plan. This event will include public and private [anonymous] forums to which Central Coast residents can go if they believe they have been treated unjustly by Council, an employer, an employee, a vendor, local government authorities, NSW Government authorities, Federal Government authorities, or that they have evidence of government corruption. These forums may be organised to cater for different topical areas anonymously or officially: pensioners; ADF veterans, homeless people; aged persons' housing contracts; public housing; Indigenous Australian issues; multicultural issues (MORE WORK HERE? Some discussion took place during the weekend forum – to do with this just being a 'whinge' session. I did not document any decisions taken.)

1.1.10 Council will have a written plan for continuous improvement.

1.2 NSW Government:

1.2.1 Council will seek to enlist the NSW Government's support for advocacy for the establishment of a national and Independent Commission Against Corruption.

1.3 Federal Government:

1.3.1 Council will advocate, in public and government forums, for the establishment of a national and Independent Commission Against Corruption.

2 - Commitment to Consultation

Council's purpose is to ensure that honest, genuine and transparent consultation with constituents, workers, stakeholders and project partners is a core value of Council. Consultation precedes a decision and provides the opportunity to influence the decision. Consultation does not mean joint decision making. Effective consultation is about building trust between all persons involved in an activity to facilitate outcomes for the mutual benefit of all participants.

The following principles guide our approach to engaging the community in decision-making:

- **Integrity:** Engagement should be clear in scope and purpose.
- **Inclusiveness:** Engagement should be accessible and capture/involve consideration of a full range of values and perspectives.
- **Dialogue:** Engagement should promote dialogue and open up genuine discussion.
- **Influence:** The community should be able to see and understand the impact of their involvement in consultations that Council conducts.

Elements/Actions:

2.1 Central Coast Council:

Council will offer a range of opportunities for residents, workers, community groups, business, government and industry stakeholders to share ideas, insight and feedback on our projects and policies to help inform Council decisions. Opportunities for participation are available via:

- workshops and community meetings
- stakeholder meetings and roundtables
- online consultations on Council's website
- community reference groups
- advisory panels
- drop-in sessions
- surveys

2.1.1 Council will share information and base its decisions on the consideration of all available evidence for the benefit of all.

2.1.2 In conducting consultations Council shall ensure: relevant information about the matter is shared with the identified participants [including in draft form], and reasonable opportunity is given to the participants so that they can express their views; raise questions in relation to the matter; contribute to the decision-making process relating to the matter; have the views of the participants recognised and recorded; and have the participant advised of the outcome of the consultation in a timely manner.

2.1.3 Council will provide training for all directors and workers in effective consultation processes and techniques.

2.1.4 Council will meet all its statutory consultation requirements in an expert and timely manner.

3 - Environment

Council's purpose is to protect and conserve our environment from the ravages of climate change and sea rise, ocean acidification, radio-activation, various pollutants, feral animals, unsustainable human usage and to make provision for sustainable public use of public spaces, support a range of different pursuits and lifestyles, and value our Central Coast heritages both Indigenous Australian and non-Indigenous Australian.

Elements/Actions:

3.1 Local Community Governance

- 3.1.1 Council will support community action aimed at ensuring public land remains in public hands
- 3.1.2 Council will support community action aimed at ensuring Crown Lands reserved for public use will remain Crown Lands
- 3.1.3 Council will encourage and support local communities leading the development of Public Land Management Plans
- 3.1.4 All open space in each locality will have community members as part of the management team.

3.2 Central Coast Council:

- 3.2.1 Council will act in all matters to maintain or increase the amount of open space, bushland, farmland, unspoilt waterways and beaches, recognizing that the relatively clean environment of the Central Coast is a valuable asset and essential for sustainable communities
- 3.2.2 Council will engage with the community in genuine consultation on identifying areas where increased housing density can be allowed, to reduce the urban sprawl of existing settlements
- 3.2.3 Council will research and identify extreme, medium and lower importance Indigenous Australian and non-Indigenous Australian heritage areas, events, artefacts and histories. Formulate a graduated and costed heritage plan (*Heritage Plan*) for protection and enhancement
- 3.2.4 Council will no longer allow the removal of heritage items from the LEP unless that removal is supported by the state Heritage Office
- 3.2.5 Council will adopt new zoning controls which reflect the *Heritage Plan*.
- 3.2.6 Council will research the relevant acts and identify public lands and waterways which support Central Coast lifestyles. Formulate a costed and integrated public spaces and lifestyles plan (*Public Spaces and Lifestyles Plan*) involving protection and enhancement of bushlands, catchment areas, aquifers, National Parks, State Forests, Reserves, coastal open spaces, public reserves and lands, waterways and access to waterways.
- 3.2.7 Council will adopt new zoning controls to reflect the *Public Spaces & Lifestyles Plan*
- 3.2.8 Council will prepare, in collaboration with the university sector, a Council Green Paper on environmental risk (*Green Paper on Environmental Risk*) which identifies significant risks to the Central Coast environment and the NSW and Federal Government action required to reduce and eliminate the risks.
- 3.2.9 Council will adopt a zero waste policy for Council activities
- 3.2.10 Council will set targets to move to a carbon-neutral footprint for overall Council

activities

- 3.2.11 Council will, as far as state planning laws allow, insist that any new housing developments have street and lot alignments that allow passive solar housing, community space, storm-water harvesting, local power generation, utility bike paths, mixed zonings allowing a range of work places alongside housing and other innovations to reduce waste and improve healthy community living.
 - 3.2.12 Council will develop a plan for an integrated utility bike path system across the coast
 - 3.2.13 Council will establish electric car charging points at all public places
 - 3.2.14 Council will move rapidly to upgrade storm-water systems across the Coast, to prevent leakage of pollutants into waterways
 - 3.2.15 Council will develop a policy of increasing urban vegetation and tree cover and police unauthorized tree removal
 - 3.2.16 Council will, evaluate and consider adopting the European Green Capital indicators as the criteria for all future development: local contribution to global climate change, transport, green urban areas, noise, waste production and management, nature and biodiversity, air, water consumption, waste water treatment, eco-innovation and sustainable employment, environmental management of the local authority, and energy performance.
 - 3.2.17 Council will establish an air-quality monitoring system across the Region.
- 3.3 NSW Government:
- 3.3.1 Council will press the NSW Government to endorse the Council's *Heritage Plan*, to provide legislation to act, and to assist with funding from NSW and Commonwealth sources.
 - 3.3.2 Council will press the NSW Government to endorse the Council's *Public Spaces and Lifestyles Plan*, to provide legislation to act, and to assist with funding from NSW and Commonwealth sources.
 - 3.3.3 Council will seek an appropriate response, from the NSW Government, to Council's *Green Paper on Environmental Risk*.
 - 3.3.4 Council will continue to lobby for E5 zoning for the Coastal Open Space Scheme;
 - 3.3.5 Council will call on the state government to prioritise food security over resource extraction west of the freeway and will refuse consent for resource extraction DAs west of the freeway.
 - 3.3.6 Council will urge the state government to draw up plans with funding to commence a process of managed retreat in coastal areas vulnerable to sea level rises
 - 3.3.7 Council will urge the state and federal governments to change electricity regulations so that decentralized power grids can be rolled out across the Coast
 - 3.3.8 Council will work with all NSW State agencies to prioritise utility bike riding, including the provision of free bike lockers where free car parking is provided and equivalent funding for separate bike paths whenever road works are undertaken
- 3.4 Federal Government:
- 3.4.1 Press the Federal Government's departments for bureaucratic and funding support for Council's *Heritage Plan*.
 - 3.4.2 Press the Federal Government to provide funding for elements of the *Public Spaces and Lifestyles Plan*, and especially to fund Council's responsibility for ameliorating the effects of sea rise, various pollutants that affect wildlife and bees, devastation of wildlife by feral animals

- 3.4.3 Seek an appropriate response, from the Federal Government, to Council's *Green Paper on Environmental Risk*.
- 3.4.4 Council will urge the federal government to set world best standard targets to reduce greenhouse gases and support a transition to a zero carbon economy

4 - Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Futures

Central Coast Council acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners and custodians of country throughout Australia. We honour and respect the diverse cultural heritage, customs and beliefs of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Central Coast Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are a wide-ranging group who come from many communities and language groups from all over Australia. Thus cultural views are diverse. Many Aboriginal people on the Central Coast identify as being Darkinjung or Guringai. Council acknowledges the land claims of the Darkinjung and Guringai people and notes the application by Guringai to the National Native Titles Tribunal for recognition of their native title in areas of the Central Coast Council. Council acknowledges some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the local government area belong to Stolen Generations or have been affected by child removal policies. Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples Australia-wide, including those in the Central Coast LGA, have been affected to varying degrees by assimilationist policies or ongoing discrimination which negatively impacts people's social and emotional wellbeing and access to culture. Council also acknowledges the impacts of intergenerational trauma as well as the inherent strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in contemporary Australia.

Council acknowledges the necessity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have access to the power and resources necessary for a self-determined future.

Council will encourage and support a progressive move towards equitable outcomes between Central Coast Aboriginal people and the wider community. Council will encourage and support opportunities which enable Central Coast Aboriginal people to move towards financial independence.

Elements/Actions.

4.1 Central Coast Council

4.1.1 Council will maintain a determined process of consultation and negotiation with individual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and, specifically, the Guringai and Darkinjung.

4.1.2 Council will establish a permanent standing committee to advise and recommend actions for Council. This committee will be serviced by a Council officer and comprise: the Mayor or deputy, the CEO or deputy, two Councillors elected by Council, and representatives nominated by Central Coast Aboriginal communities. This Committee will be co-chaired by an Aboriginal person and a Councillor.

4.1.3 Council will prepare a report (Aboriginal Futures) which will provide up-to-date data on Aboriginal activity in the local Government area.

- Overall population and centres of concentration,
- Employment by: employment category; gender; age; unemployment; under-employment; vocational interests and aspirations.
- Education by: interest and motivation; perceived intrinsic value, education level; gender; age; vocational aspirations
- Housing by: gender; age; marital/partnered status; number of children; housing aspirations

- Safety and well-being by: perceptions of safety, purposefulness, satisfaction, pride, belonging, violence, intimidation, racism, discrimination
- Prospective and desired interests and lifestyle by: age, gender, sports, arts, cultural events

4.1.4 Council will undertake an audit of Council jobs with a view to identifying a proportion of jobs at different levels, requiring different skill-sets, for designated Aboriginal study and work traineeships for Central Coast Aboriginal people. This audit will review other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment programs to identify methods by which Councils plan to provide jobs, education pathways and career development for new and existing Indigenous employees. When undertaking this audit, Council researchers will consider organisations which will partner with Council. E.g. National Parks and Wildlife, Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Services, Marine Rescue, NSW Ambulance, NSW Fire Service etc.. Council will document all major measures of social and economic participation and success.

4.1.5 Council will seek advice from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander standing committee on future plans of action concerning:

- Employment generation
- Integration of vocational education with modern and potential employment opportunities
- Housing for Aboriginal families, single people, victims of violence, homeless people and people with mental illness or 'dual diagnosis'.

4.1.6 Council will, for events such as National Reconciliation Week and/or NAIDOC Week 2018, schedule and run with the assistance of NGOs, a variety of events designed to attract different audiences: films; public displays of Aboriginal culture and ceremony; readings of authored Aboriginal experiences and/or Aboriginal traditional stories; public discussion[s] involving Aboriginal elders/spokespersons and the wider community; public debate; tours of special Aboriginal sites, dance and other performing arts, exhibits of artefacts in line with existing cultural protocols etc.

4.1.7 Council will support the creation of a unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tourist experience. E.g. <https://www.facebook.com/The-Centre-for-Aboriginal-Torres-Strait-Islander-History-Culture-1856711207932678/>

4.1.8 Council will consider options prepared for it by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait standing committee concerning a regular, high profile, Central Coast specific, Aboriginal-based event. E.g. A month-long Australian Aboriginal Youth AI and Smarts Generator; Week-long Aboriginal Performing Arts event designed to generate cutting edge thinking from Aboriginal innovators while giving the Central Coast national image and presence.

4.1.9 Council will ensure that every tender for all Council-funded or managed event, requires employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.

4.1.10 Council will prepare a procurement policy that requires supplier diversity including opportunities Page 3 of 3 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses. Supply Nation <https://www.supplynation.org.au>

4.2 NSW Government: Council will seek NSW Government funds to assist with programs, which enable partnering in opportunities to achieve a progressive future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

4.3 Federal Government: Council will seek Federal Government funds to assist with programs, which enable partnering in opportunities to achieve a progressive future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

5 - Workers & Families

Council's purpose is to understand the realities of work-place wages and conditions for its population, and will therefore research, monitor and record throughout the Central Coast, in partnership with relevant other authorities (e.g. Fair Work Commission; Human Rights Commission; NSW Anti-discrimination Board), the provision of:

- Award, and above-Award wages and conditions of employment
- Workplace policies which are non-discriminatory and free of sexual harassment, nepotism and/or bullying.

Elements/Actions:

5.1 Central Coast Council:

5.1.1. Every quarter, Council will sample a different category of worker to collect data and, with the university sector, analyse the data for: unviable businesses running only because they pay under-Award wages; incidence of illegal below-Award wages; incidence of over-Award hours; incidence of unpaid hours; incidence of perceived workplace intimidation, discrimination, nepotism.

5.1.2. At least annually, possibly in collaboration with local media, Council will organise a public forum aimed at listening to issues from workers, their families, pensioners, small business with a view to providing Council and the media with insights into common barriers and difficulties experienced by the community.

5.1.3 Council will review its employment protocols with a view to becoming a 'best practice' employer in this region, exhibiting high levels of efficiency and output, employee satisfaction, and employee loyalty. Employees will have high expectations of the employer Council, just as Council will have high expectations of its employees.

5.1.4 Council will ensure that any tenders for providing Council services [eg waste collection] contain Council requirements which acknowledge relevant pre-existing Enterprise Agreements and reasonable opportunity for flexible staffing [such as an 80-20 split between full-time and casual jobs].

5.2 NSW Government:

5.2.1. Each quarter, Council will provide NSW Government and the mass media with data and analysis based on its research.

5.3 Federal Government:

5.3.1. Each quarter, Council will provide NSW Government and the mass media with data and analysis based on its research.

6 - Youth

Council's purpose is to take responsibility for:

- Understanding the needs and aspirations of adolescents and their preferred lifestyles
- As best as possible, meeting the needs and aspirations of adolescents and their preferred lifestyles
- Oversighting, monitoring, and advocating for appropriate education and training to prepare young people for both vocation and lifestyle
- Seeking NSW and Federal Government support for aspects of Council's Youth Plan which falls into state and federal jurisdictions
- Regularly reviewing inputs and outcomes concerning youth participation in lifestyle and vocation

Elements/Actions:

6.1 Local Community Engagement

6.1.1 Council will, in collaboration with NGOs associated with youth policy and experiences, hold a well-publicised Youth Forum to consider Central Coast provisions of youth employment, health, and education ... amongst other matters.

6.2 Central Coast Council:

6.2.1 Council will, in its first year, and in collaboration with Central Coast youth organisations, community and industry, prepare a comprehensive Youth Plan concerning the needs and aspirations of Central Coast youth. The plan will, amongst other matters, include considerations of:

- (i) Creating a locally based and managed tertiary institution with a specific focus on the needs and aspirations of the people and industries of the Central Coast
- (ii) Relevant schooling, TAFE and university provision; traineeships & apprenticeships attached to newly created jobs in sustainable industries such as tourism, Indigenous Australian culture, music, performing arts, wind/wave/solar energy production, start-ups etc.
- (iii) Establishing a Start-Up innovation capacity building on the opportunities of gigabit speed internet services in Gosford and Bateau Bay areas
- (iv) Provision of a new health and wellbeing focus to youth involvement in cultural and sporting activities, with intention to boost youth participation and achievement, partnering with health and associated entities to achieve this [see international ['Milkman'](#) project].

6.2.2 Council will, in collaboration with the University sector, research the likely level and content of education that will be essential to successfully support Central Coast commercial activity and Central Coast lifestyles over the next generation: preschooling; infant schooling; primary schooling; junior secondary schooling; senior secondary schooling; vocational and lifestyle education at TAFE; vocational and lifestyle education at local campuses.

6.2.3 Council will, in collaboration with the NBN/Telcos for very fast internet, and the University sector for research methodology oversight, support, plan and/or fund an information technology start-up innovation centre (Start-Up Innovation Centre) in each of the Southern and Northern Corridors with the goal of creating a raft of new sustainable small businesses with a range of new jobs for younger people in areas such as: music, indigenous Australian and non-indigenous Australian cultures and history; performing arts; painting and sculpting, sport, health and fitness.

6.2.4 Council will Commission a Central Coast future sustainable jobs study (Central Coast: Future Sustainable Jobs) – a joint research project involving the Council, the university sector, climate scientists, environmental economists, Central Coast youth & journalists in a study of:

6.1.3.1. Future jobs likely to be required on the Central Coast

6.1.3.2. Recommendations comprising a 20 year plan to support the creation of sustainable, Zero Pollution Jobs .

6.2.5 Council will commission a review of the importance of sport and cultural pursuits for the well being of young people with a view to reframing and elevating these activities as positive ways to promote the physical and mental health of our youth.

6.3 NSW Government:

6.3.1 Council will make publicly announced policy demands of the NSW Government designed to provide sufficient, affordable, and effectively targeted, education on the Central Coast: child care; Out of School Hours Care; pre-schools; schools; TAFE, University.

6.3.2 Council will seek funding and bureaucratic support from the NSW Government for two Start-Up Innovation Centres in the designated growth corridors.

6.3.3 Council will negotiate with NSW Government for the necessary funding, legislation and political support required for implementation of recommendations from the Central Coast: Future Sustainable Jobs Report.

6.3.4 Council will, following the review in 6.2.5, seek partnerships and funding opportunities for both sporting and cultural pursuits.

6.4 Federal Government:

6.4.1 Council will make publicly announced and reinforced policy demands of the Federal Government designed to provide sufficient, affordable, and effectively targeted education on the Central Coast: child care; Out of School Hours Care; pre-schools; schools; TAFE, University.

6.4.2 Council will seek funding and bureaucratic support from the Federal Government for two Start-Up Innovation Centres.

6.4.3 Council will negotiate with Federal Government for the necessary funding, legislation and political support required for implementation of recommendations from the Central Coast: Future Sustainable Jobs report.

6.4.4 Council will, following the review in 6.2.5, seek partnerships and funding opportunities for both sporting and cultural pursuits

Background Notes:

1. Young people (up to 20 yo) on the Central Coast represent a larger portion of the population at 26% than NSW at 24%. Yet 12% of CC youth(15-24) are disengaged (Sydney 8%), resulting in a stubbornly high unemployment rate at >15% regionally and in some suburbs (Wyang) as high as 35%.
2. Yet the local labour force has a larger than average representation of young people at 16% than Sydney 12% representing a high part time, casual & low wage environment.
3. Fewer CC Youth have post secondary training above Cert III at 31% than Sydney 47%.
4. Central Coast experiences a lack of industries that traditionally engage and upskill young people; trades, manufacturing, civil construction, engineering, research compound the problem.

5. Youth support agencies on the Central Coast report a higher need for mental health services than metro areas and a higher levels of obesity and recreational drug use.
6. Various reports point to transport as a particularly difficult issue for young people. With much of the region being difficult to transverse without a car. NGOs and agencies report this as a structural issue for social participation.
7. The Central Coast has no stand alone tertiary institution, instead being serviced by de facto offerings from Newcastle Uni and Hunter TAFE. Many students choose Sydney services instead.
8. Visible levels of youth entrepreneurialism and enterprise appear low, with a few exceptions in art, music and limited tech. Support offerings are almost invisible, despite major national economic reports pointing to these areas as vital new directions for future employment of young people.
9. In summary, while the Central Coast appears to provide a reasonable service in childhood years, it fails to address the very real issues for young people becoming healthy citizens in their own right. Poor Youth Education, Engagement, Employment, Enterprise and Entertainment offerings exist in the region.

References:

*Census Data 2006, 2011, 2015 via EconomyID.

* Various reports from local NGOs and agencies such as: HeadSpace; YCentral; Youth Connections; HunterTAFE; University of Newcastle; RYSS; Central Coast Area Health.

7 – Culture, Arts & Recreation

Arts and culture will be key pillars to enhancing the creative life of our region. Fostering a thriving and creative culture will involve many departments of Council that have not historically been associated with a cultural agenda – departments such as economic development, planning, community, sport, youth and tourism. This will enable Council to more easily adopt an agenda of transformational change in the way it addresses and manages issues arising across its areas of responsibility.

Elements/Actions:

7.1. Central Coast Council:

In considering its arts and culture strategy:

7.1.1. Council will take an integrated, whole-of-Council approach to fostering a creative culture that listens to and acts on the aspirations of our community.

7.1.2. Council will recognise that fostering a thriving and creative culture is not only the responsibility of those working directly in the arts and culture field.

7.1.3. Council will ask the community what its aspirations are for a creative Central Coast.

7.1.4. Council will engage performing and visual arts and culture groups across the coast to develop an arts and culture plan that celebrates diversity and difference and allows each group to flourish in their own space and place.

7.1.5. Council will engage across multiple media platforms and multiple groups, such as schools, sporting groups, youth groups and the aged, for the development and delivery of arts and cultural facilities and events.

7.1.6. Council will host major region-specific events that give an identity to the Central Coast Region and attract visitors and longer term residents.

7.1.7. Council will make available affordable venues and support for local cultural, sports and arts activities and groups.

7.1.8. Council will coordinate the development of a 1,000+ seat Performing Arts Centre on the Gosford Waterfront that will comprise:

7.1.8.1. A large concert style hall to attract international and national artists to the coast.

7.1.8.2. A smaller theatre for local bands and choral concerts.

7.1.8.3. A sense of 'place' in which regional artists feel a sense of ownership and belonging.

7.1.8.4. An outdoor space capable of varying crowd capacities, for concerts, displays, exhibitions.

7.1.8.5. A conference & exhibition centre.

7.1.8.6. Workshop spaces to cater for artists such as: sculptors, potters, painters, writers and craft workers.

7.1.8.7. Café and dining facilities.

7.1.9. Council will work with the arts community to develop a culture of collaboration rather than competition for funds & audiences

7.1.10. Council will reactivate international sister city connections with a view to much greater cross cultural collaboration.

7.2. NSW Government:

7.2.1. Council will advocate for the planning and funding provisions of the above plan

7.3. Federal Government:

7.3.1. Council will advocate for the planning and funding provisions of the above plan

8 - Health & Hospitals

Council's purpose is to have a full understanding of the Health and Hospital requirements of the central Coast community and thus, to prepare, by September 2019, and in collaboration with Central Coast civil society, a well-researched plan for the provision and retention of sufficient general practitioner (GP) services, specialist services, dental services and public hospital facilities.

Elements/Actions:

8.1. Central Coast Council:

8.1.1. GP services: Council will complete, publish, distribute, and consider the recommendations of, a commissioned research study of Central Coast doctors, workers and pensioners concerning GP service provision on the Central Coast (*GP Provision on the Central Coast*).

8.1.2. Specialist services: Council will complete, publish, distribute, and consider the recommendations of, a commissioned research study of Central Coast specialists, doctors, workers and pensioners concerning specialist medical services provision on the Central Coast (*Specialist Medical Services Provision on the Central Coast*).

8.1.3. Dental services: Council will complete, publish, distribute, and consider the recommendations of, a commissioned research study of Central Coast dentists, academics, workers and pensioners concerning dental services provision on the Central Coast (*Dental Services Provision on the Central Coast*).

8.1.4. Hospital facilities: Council will complete, publish, distribute, and consider the recommendations of, a commissioned research study of hospital workers, doctors, specialists, patients & families concerning hospital, especially public hospital facilities & related services on the Central Coast (*Hospital Facilities & Services on the Central Coast*).

8.2 NSW Government:

8.2.1 Standing Committee: Council will negotiate with NSW Government to establish an oversight Board comprising Council-nominated medical and community personnel, academics and NSW Government Departments.

8.2.2 Negotiate: Council will negotiate with NSW Government for the legislation, funding and political support to provide for the recommendations in the reports concerning: GP provision; specialist, dental and hospital services.

8.2.3 Campaigning: if required Council will campaign publicly to persuade Federal and NSW Governments to provide legislation, funding and political support for the adequate provision of GP, specialist, dental and hospital services.

8.3 Federal Government:

8.3.1 Council will negotiate directly with the Federal Government to modify policy and funding such that the needs of Central Coast are met.

8.3.2 Council will campaign to persuade the Federal Government to modify policy and funding such that the needs of the Central Coast are met.

9 - Roads & Transport

Council's purpose is to attain a comprehensive understanding of emergency, urgent, current, and future roads and transport needs for the Central Coast, *to take direct action* where it can, *and* to press NSW and Federal Governments where required to have those needs met in an efficient and timely manner.

In its first year, the new Council, in collaboration with Central Coast civil society, will prepare a 10 year *integrated* roads, rail and traffic plan (2020 to 2030) designed to: understand evolving transport needs, and facilitate the smooth movement of traffic; increase the effectiveness and usage of public transport, shared transport, bicycles and motorcycles; improve drainage; increase the use of trains for bulk transport.

Council will acknowledge the authority of the NSW and Federal governments while insisting on its right to comprehensively plan for the Central Coast, and to represent the wishes of Central Coast people into the NSW and Federal jurisdictions.

Therefore Council will be conscious of its responsibility to persistently make representations to, negotiate with and, if necessary to campaign for the funds and enabling legislation required for the implementation of the *Central Coast Roads and Transport Plan 2020 – 2030*.

Elements/Actions:

9.1. Local Community Engagement:

9.1.1. Individuals, community groups, business and stakeholders will be encouraged to bring forward their concerns to Council as partners in any plans to deliver road construction, upgrades, safety and maintenance, commuter transport (both public and private) timetable integration, and upgrading catchment and tidal drainage 'hot spots' that meet the needs of their communities. Council will encourage the use of new and emerging technologies to engage with residents and rate-payers.

9.1.2. Council will ...

9.2. Central Coast Council:

9.2.1. Public transport – Trains: Council will commission a 2018 independent analysis of: the necessary tracks, signalling, other upgrades and expansions essential to efficient rapid transit for increased population and freight; current usage of the dedicated freight line from the Central Coast to Sydney and Newcastle with the view to lobby for the completion and optimised use of same; timetabling in order to improve linkages with other modes of commuter transport. Council will produce a Central Coast trains plan (*Central Coast Trains Plan*) that will be integrated with the Central Coast Buses Plan and the Central Coast Shared Transport Plan.

9.2.2. Public transport – Buses: Council will commission a 2018 independent analysis of: current usage and cost of commuter buses; safety and security; effectiveness of the public bus system; integration and linkages between private and public bus services and other modes of commuter transport; the range of options open to government to enable alternative and cheap means of providing better service tailored to each local community's needs. Produce Central Coast buses plan (*Central Coast Buses Plan*) that will be integrated with the Central Coast Trains Plan and the Central Coast Shared Transport Plan.

9.2.3. Public transport – Shared Transport: Council will commission a report on: current usage of all modes of shared transport including taxis, Uber and private vehicles; current policies and infrastructure that support shared transport; options to develop the provision of

economic incentives for the adoption of shared transport; integration; safety and security and linkages between shared transport and other modes of commuter transport. Produce a Central Coast shared transport plan (*Central Coast Shared Transport Plan*). This plan will be integrated with the Central Coast Trains Plan and the Central Coast Buses Plan.

9.2.4. Freight and Goods - Council will plan for the smooth and efficient flow of freight and goods.

9.2.5. Public roads – Kerbing, Guttering and Drainage: Council will:

9.2.5.1. Complete the assessment and mapping of areas that are subject to flash flooding from both storm surge (tidal) and catchment inundation, and propose costed alternatives to optimise kerbing, guttering and drainage.

9.2.5.2. Consult fully with affected precinct communities and produce, in 2018, a priority plan of the scope of new works and schedule of maintenance of roads and drains as advised by Council's departments and their consultants.

9.2.6. Public roads – Ease of Movement:

9.2.6.1. Council will take immediate action to relieve congestion at identified 'bottlenecks' through investigation of a 'smart roads' concept that utilises technology to improve road use efficiency such as 'on demand' driverless cars/buses using mobile phone interconnectivity and applications.

9.2.6.2. Council will produce a Central Coast emergency roads plan (*Central Coast Emergency Roads Plan*) in consultation with the State Emergency Service, Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW and the Ambulance Service of NSW.

9.2.6.3. Council will investigate implementing a 'reward system' for commuter transport, in appropriate precincts, along the lines of [Stanford University's Parking and Transport Services](#) innovation, to reduce the number of vehicles on the road and increase commuter movement efficiency.

9.2.7. Parking – Council will research and develop a plan for projected parking in the growth corridors and shopping centres

9.2.8. Pedestrian accessibility plan - Council will account for age and disability in the planning of roads and transport by collaborating with service providers and stakeholders. Roads are more than arteries. They can also be barriers to those without easy mobility. Therefore, compassionate appraisal of the needs of the aged and disable, in accessing and safely negotiating our roads, is imperative.

9.2.9. Cyclist plan – Council will revisit the [Gosford Bike Plan 2014](#), [the Wyong On-Road Bicycle and Shared Pathway Strategy – Adopted December 2010](#), and the [NSW Bike Plan 2010](#) to develop, with the consultation of stakeholders, a timeline of priorities to bring about the establishment of a bicycle pathway network that meets the need of our communities.

9.2.10. Council will commission an independent assessment, based on a population increase of 100,000 to the Central Coast Region by 2036, that will include extensive interviews with all road users including commercial, commuter and private vehicle owners/drivers/users/cyclists/bicyclists, as well pedestrians, regarding present and regional road needs, and associated essential funding levels. Using the concepts of [Traffic Flow Theory](#), Council will produce a Central Coast ten-year roads plan for the period 2020 - 2030 (*Central Coast 10 Year Roads Plan and Transport Plan 2020 – 2030*).

9.3. NSW Government:

9.3.1. Public transport – trains, buses and shared transport: Council will use the three plans for trains, buses and taxis to make representations to, and negotiate with, the NSW Government for required legislation and funding support. If necessary, Council will

also campaign for these three plans politically, including within the NSW elections in Central Coast seats.

- 9.3.2. Public roads – kerbing and guttering: Council will make representations to the NSW Government to seek the funds necessary to build the priorities as identified in 9.2.4.
- 9.3.3. Public roads – ease of movement: Council will seek the support, both legislatively and financially from the NSW government, for the *Central Coast 10 Year Roads and Transport Plan 2020 – 2030*.
- 9.3.4. Pedestrian access and Cycle plans - Council will make representations to the NSW Government to seek the funds necessary to build the priorities as identified in 9.2.7 and 9.2.8.

9.4. Federal Government:

- 9.4.1. Public transport – trains, buses and shared transport: Council will use the three plans for trains, buses and shared transport to make representations to, and negotiate with, the Federal Government for required legislation and funding support. If necessary, Council will also campaign for these three plans politically, including within Federal elections in Central Coast seats.
- 9.4.2. Public roads –kerbing and guttering: Council will make representations to the Federal Government to seek the funds necessary to build the priorities in identified in 9.2.4
- 9.4.3. Public roads – ease of movement: Council will seek the support, both legislatively and financially from the Federal government, for the *Central Coast 10 Year Roads Plan 2020 - 2030*.
- 9.4.4. Pedestrian access and Cycle plans - Council will make representations to the Federal Government to seek the funds necessary to build the priorities as identified in 9.2.7 and 9.2.8.

10 - Education

In its first 4 year term, Council's purpose is to:

- (i) initiate action to remedy immediately obvious and urgent gaps in Central Coast education provision
- (ii) To develop a comprehensive plan of educational needs across the Central Coast as the basis of representations to NSW & Federal governments for adequate planning and provision in: pre-school child care; infant educ; primary educ; secondary education; vocational education; TAFE; university.
- (iii) To investigate and report on educational structures and/or provision which strengthens social cohesion and Central Coast identity.

Elements/Actions:

10.1 Central Coast Council:

- 10.1.1 Gaps in **child care** provision: Council will assess the need for affordable child-care in the growth corridors, and investigate the feasibility of providing, or commissioning, child-care for workers, and out-of-school-hours care.
- 10.1.2 Gaps in **TAFE** provision: Council will commission a review with recommendations concerning the extent and nature of vocational education on the Central Coast. Until this is completed, Council will seek a guarantee from NSW Government and Federal Government, that TAFE will be protected and strengthened as a public provider. Council will encourage and support centres which match young people with jobs while providing the job-specific training required.
- 10.1.3 Gaps in tertiary provision: Council will seek to establish a separate Central Coast tertiary institution
- 10.1.4 Council will seek to commission an independent assessment of Central Coast student motivation, interest in and boredom with, current status quo. The review will seek to illuminate the role schools play in developing social cohesion and the level of success schools have in developing good and participative citizenship.
- 10.1.5 Council will seek to establish, with the NSW Department of Education, and assuming a potential 100,000 increase in population by 2036 [Central Coast Regional Plan], the size and placement of student needs throughout the central Coast:
 - (i) pre-school
 - (ii) infants schools
 - (iii) primary schools
 - (iv) junior high schools
 - (v) senior high schools
 - (vi) TAFE and vocational education/apprenticeship/trainee providers
 - (vii) Emerging future job and entrepreneurial opportunities
 - (viii) University.

10.2 NSW Government:

- 10.2.1 Council will immediately enter discussions with the NSW and Federal governments to seek adequate funding for immediate needs in child-care, TAFE and a new tertiary institution.
- 10.2.2 Council will seek to establish, with the NSW Department of Education, and assuming a 100,000 increase in population by 2036, the size and placement of student needs throughout the Central Coast:
 - (i) pre-school
 - (ii) infants schools
 - (iii) primary schools
 - (iv) out of school hours care

- (v) junior high schools
- (vi) senior high schools
- (vii) TAFE and vocational education/apprenticeship/trainee providers
- (viii) Emerging future job and entrepreneurial opportunities
- (ix) University

10.3 Federal Government:

- 10.3.1 Council will immediately enter discussions with the NSW and Federal governments to seek adequate funding for immediate needs in child-care, TAFE and a new university
- 10.3.2 Council will seek funds from the Federal Government and its agencies to undertake the studies for the Central Coast outlined here.

11 - Small Business

Council's purpose is to provide, as best as possible, a business-friendly approach to small business start-ups and continuing small business success. Council will partner with other government organisations with existing expertise and programs (e.g. ATO and NSW Fair Trading) together with the local government area's business and community organisations in delivering tailored programs and opportunities.

Elements/Actions:

11.1 Local Community Engagement:

11.1.1 Council will adopt guiding principles for Small Business similar to:

* Council, NSW & Federal governments should be concerned with the overall small business welfare of the region rather than merely with service provision.

* Council should encourage the empowerment of small business communities within the region & the citizens who constitute them, and will recognise the contribution of local small business organisations & enable, rather than control, that contribution.

* Council will ensure that the whole range of the small business resources in the community is used to the full for the good of the Region.

* Council will review and publish an annual plan on how needs are best met.

11.1.2 Council will maintain a joint register of active small business groups and organisations in the region and encourage them to prepare an annual "issues and action" list that will provide the basis of bi annual liaison forums involving these groups with Council.

11.2 Central Coast Council:

11.1.1. Council will develop, with help from academics, workers, pensioners and small business-people, a working definition of a viable business

11.1.2 Council will, in its first year, commission a small business study (***Encouraging & Supporting Viable Small Business Study***) in concert with the university sector, to identify the best method(s) the Council, NSW and Federal Governments can use to encourage, and strengthen the longevity of, viable small businesses

11.1.3 Council will run an annual "Happy Workers, Happy Business" competition to highlight good wages, conditions and business practices and their association with satisfied and committed workers.

11.1.4 Council will encourage, in partnership with agencies and organisations, compliance with employment laws such as: payment of Award and over-Award wages; unpaid hours of work; use of 457 visas to undercut payment of wages; unpaid superannuation entitlements.

11.1.5 Council will produce a small booklet to assist potential small business owners (Assistance for Potential Small Business Owners), which:
(i) outlines the steps to a successful viable business

(ii) provides a check-list, in organisational order, of planning steps to be undertaken when establishing a viable small business

(iii) identifies and lists: common pitfalls to be avoided; legislative and regulatory for viable small businesses; contact names and numbers of voluntary mentors and professional advisors

11.1.6. Council will run annual workshops, in concert with TAFE/agencies, to assist people considering establishing a viable small business.

11.1.7 Council will appoint a Small Business Manager

11.1.8 Council will resource an entrepreneur coordinator who will assist start up business and small businesses who are endeavouring to grow.

11.1.9 Council will hold bi-annual liaison forums with small businesses in each ward

11.1.10 Council will recognise and include in Council-organised forums , “commuter small businesses” that are resident in the region but operate substantially out of the region.

11.1.11 Council will include small business development in the Sister City program

11.1.12 Council will set up one or more sister city programs with another Australian city that has a complementary economy to that of the Central Coast. This program will offer small business in both cities opportunities to network, trade and collaborate with each other through joint Council-arranged processes.

11.1.13 Council will maintain a current database of small business “health” statistics for the region. Data will be made freely available.

11.1.14 Council will liaise with community and small business to advise on local traffic and parking planning.

11.3 NSW Government:

11.3.1 Council will make representations to, negotiate with, and if necessary campaign for, the NSW Government to seek legislative and regulatory support for matters identified as priorities in the Encouraging and Supporting Viable Small Businesses Study [see 11.1.2]

11.4 Federal Government:

11.4.1 Council to make representations to the Federal Government to seek legislative and funding support for matters identified as priorities in the Encouraging and Supporting Viable Small Businesses Study [see 11.1.2].

12 - Pensioners

Council's purpose is to fully comprehend, address, and advocate for, Central Coast pensioner needs.

Council's responsibility is despite the many categories of 'pensioner', and the provision of pensions lying outside the jurisdiction of Council. Pensioners are an important part of the Central Coast community and, as such, comprise an important part of the Central Coast social landscape. Council responsibility for pensioners includes:

- Understanding the size and essential elements of each category of pensioner
- Understanding trends in pensioner population size, location, and their essential requirements and additional aspirations
- In consultation with Central Coast pensioner communities and organisations, to assess the adequacy of provision to each category of pensioner
- Make representations to the appropriate government for necessary funding for each category of pensioner.
- Encouragement and support for pensioner-support organisations within the Central Coast
- Providing, as much as possible, for the needs of pensioners in areas such as:
 - (i) advocacy;
 - (ii) residential zone requirements;
 - (iii) oversight and inspection of residential contracts and experience
 - (iv) aged-friendly environments;

Elements/Actions:

12.1 Local Community Governance

- 12.1.1 Council will provide support to pensioner volunteers, service clubs, community organisations, senior citizens centres, neighbourhood houses, churches and commercial enterprises.
- 12.1.2 Council will investigate the advisability of developing a greater network of affordable accommodation options for pensioners.
- 12.1.3 Council will encourage the expansion of community gardens on public lands with special emphasis on pensioner participation
- 12.1.4 Council will develop programs in collaboration with community organisations such as neighbourhood centres, surf and sporting clubs to facilitate skills and knowledge transfer from community elders.
- 12.1.5 Council will encourage participation in cultural activities targeted to older people such as Seniors Week and History events.
- 12.1.6 Council will investigate the feasibility of expanding community transport options (eg ride sharing).
- 12.1.7 Council will investigate the feasibility of co-locating child-care and aged-care facilities.

12.2 Central Coast Council

- 12.2.1 Council will seek to establish a Centre of Excellence for Retirement and Aged Care
- 12.2.2 Council will, as a preliminary to further actions, research the size and essential elements of each category of pensioner, will research any trends in pensioner

population size, location, and their essential requirements and additional aspirations, and will, in consultation with Central Coast pensioner communities and organisations, assess the adequacy of provision to each category of pensioner

- 12.2.3 Council will consult, in concert with the university sector, separately with pensioners and their representative organisations, in several different categories:
- 12.2.3.1. Aged
 - 12.2.3.2. Carers
 - 12.2.3.3. Unemployed
 - 12.2.3.4. Disability
 - 12.2.3.5. veterans with a view to identifying continuing barriers/facilitators to successful:
 - (i) vocational training
 - (ii) full-time employment
 - (iii) safe and permanent housing
 - (iv) adequate medical support
 - (v) safe emergency haven from violence and intimidation.

Council will produce a Report on Central Coast Centre of Excellence for Retirement and Aged Care with recommendations for appropriate action at different government levels: local; state; federal.

- 12.2.4 Council will retain rate and water rate concessions for aged pensioners who are home owners.
- 12.2.5 Council will regard public libraries as a vital resource for older people. Council will encourage libraries to play an active role in meeting pensioner needs for self development and self actualisation.
- 12.2.6 Council will ensure that community facilities such as Surf Clubs, Progress Associations premises, community halls built on Crown Land but under Council control, remain assets of those organisations and villages.
- 12.2.7 Council will, if possible in conjunction with state and federal authorities such as My Aged Care and Centrelink, undertake a survey of costs of living and needs experienced by aged pensioners living in Council's area including those from rural locations.
- 12.2.8 Council will commission, in concert with University of Newcastle, a report on aged care housing needs (Aged Care Housing: Public and Private Provision) which will:
- 12.2.8.1 identify the full range of housing accessible by the aging, both public and private ... along with deficiencies in provision.
 - 12.2.8.2 the contractual basis for each of these types of housing with emphasis on the rights of the aging residents ... along with deficiencies or dishonest or unjustly tricky loopholes in these contracts inconsistent with pensioners' expectations.
 - 12.2.8.3 recommend changes to NSW legislation, regulation, or inspection behaviours.
- 12.2.9 Council will appoint a Pensioners' Advocate with three objectives:
- 12.2.9.1 To consult with local pensioners, ACOSS and Australian pensioner organisations using, Pensioner Forums over a weekend at least twice/year, open to all Central Coast pensioners ...to help Council identify problem areas, problem events, problem rules and regulations, problem organisations and to prioritise

- 12.4.5 Council will lobby the Federal Government to increase reimbursements to doctors for consultation fees to ensure the continuation of bulk billing under Medicare.
- 12.4.6 Council will support continuation of PBS and Pensioner health card concessions.
- 12.4.7 Council will support Federal Government assistance to guarantee affordable access for pensioners to aged care facilities.

13 - Housing

Council's purpose is to comprehensively understand the various housing needs of the Central Coast population and to assist with satisfying those needs:

- (i) with a study of the different housing demands, and a public report of existing & projected demands 2018 - 2036 [*Central Coast Housing: Projected Demand*]
- (ii) with Council's regulatory and zoning policies
- (iii) with Council's requirements of developers
- (iv) with well-researched and public-supported representations to NSW and Federal governments for funding, legislative, and bureaucratic assistance to implement Council's report, *Central Coast Housing: Projected Demand*.

Elements/Actions:

13.1. Local Community Engagement:

- 13.1.1. Individuals, community groups and stakeholders who have experience of, & work with, families; single persons, people who are homeless; people with disabilities; war veterans, emergency and essential workers in need of affordable housing, will be encouraged to bring forward their concerns to Council as partners in any plans to deliver housing solutions that meet the needs of these broad categories of people.

13.2. Central Coast Council:

- 13.2.1. Council will, before the end of 2017, establish an Emergency Task Force comprising Council's CEO, elected Councillors, and representatives from organisations with long-term experience providing accommodation for the wide range of different categories of homelessness.
- 13.2.2. Council will, with the assistance of its Emergency Task Force, produce a report *Central Coast Housing: Projected Demand & Salt and Pepper Supply* including a detailed plan for effective zoning and regulatory parameters to meet the housing needs of a broad range of citizens with different housing needs: families; single persons, people who are homeless, war veterans, emergency and essential workers. It will propose to Council precise changes to the requirements of DAs such that all large developments, business, industry or residential, are required to provide a proportion of low-cost, low-maintenance housing for essential workers, people who experience long-term homelessness, and for emergency accommodation.
- 13.2.3. Council will partner with other government organisations with existing expertise and programs, such as National Affordable Housing Providers Limited (NAHP), the NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), and the local government area's relevant service providers in delivering tailored programs and opportunities. Council will also seek to utilise the input from 13.1.1 and work with relevant service providers in delivering affordable housing opportunities for families; single persons, homeless people, war veterans, emergency and essential workers in need of affordable housing [eg Common Ground and Way to Home].
- 13.2.4. Council will draft rules that create financial incentives for the inclusion of renewable energy sources such as solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage where appropriate, & co-generation on all developments. Council will seek to remove any approval blockages for such inclusions.
- 13.2.5. Council will require that all developments minimise the use of fossil fuel based building products & maximise the use of natural building materials and zero, or low toxic building products.
- 13.2.6. Council will promote the formation of [community energy co-operatives](#) to establish mini-grids and decentralise electricity supply.

- 13.2.7. Council will develop a Sustainable Buildings Policy for Commercial Buildings using the [Green Building Council of Australia's \(GBCA\) Green Star](#) environmental rating system for buildings.
- 13.2.8. Council will develop a Sustainable Buildings Policy for Residential Buildings based on the Commonwealth Government's "[Your Home](#)".
- 13.2.9. Council will support existing initiatives such as: Tiny Homes; Narara Eco Village.
- 13.3. NSW Government:
 - 13.3.1. Council will use *Central Coast Housing: Projected Demand & Salt and Pepper Supply* report as the basis of its representations, negotiations and campaigning for NSW Government funding for Central Coast homeless people and low cost housing.
 - 13.3.2. Council will seek the assistance of the NSW Minister for Local Government to have included in the LEP the recommendations of *Central Coast Housing: Projected Demand & Salt and Pepper Supply*
 - 13.3.3. Council will make representations, negotiations and campaign for NSW Government funding for Central Coast's Sustainable Building Policies and renewable energy initiatives.
- 13.4. Federal Government:
 - 13.4.1. Council will use *Central Coast Housing: Projected Demand & Salt and Pepper Supply* report as the basis of its representations, negotiations and campaigning for Federal Government funding for Central Coast homeless people and low cost housing.
 - 13.4.2. Council will make representations, negotiations and campaign for Federal Government funding for Central Coast's Sustainable Building Policies and renewable energy initiatives.

14 - Economy

Council's purpose is to:

- collect, collate & publish data and research pertaining to the Central Coast economy
- understand the current economic workings on the Central Coast
- envision a preferred economic future for the Central Coast
- undertake actions for which the Council has direct responsibility in pursuit of this preferred future,
- advocate, negotiate and campaign for necessary contributions to this preferred future from the NSW and Federal governments, as well as infrastructure funding agencies.
- acknowledge that small businesses account for 90% of commercial activity on the Central Coast. Council
- has an important role to engender, encourage, advocate and support a business-friendly approach to viable small businesses & start-ups, consistent with economically sustainable & public amenity principles.

Elements/Actions:

14.1. Local Community Engagement:

- 14.1.1 The council will accept new forms of economic engagement with residents that include digital tools to enhance, accept and engage the local economy.

14.2 Central Coast Council:

- 14.2.1 Council will prepare, in consultation with key economic organisations, research centres and departments, an over-view of current economic activity, including viable small businesses, in the Central Coast Region, by sector, and identify current strengths, weaknesses, gaps and opportunities. The over-view will contain a comprehensive strategy and detailed plan for a concerted move to a technologically advanced economy shaped to meet the Common Good needs of Central Coast citizens. High priority will be given to job creation associated with: high speed internet on the Central Coast; fast public transport; agricultural production and supply to Sydney; solar, wind, wave production of energy; tourism; Indigenous Australian culture and history; conservation and heritage; arts, culture, entertainment, sports, amongst others. Council will partner with other government organisations with existing expertise and programs together with the local government area's relevant service providers in delivering tailored programs and opportunities.
- 14.2.2 Council will immediately take action to research, distribute information, and publicly consult with the Central Coast community, as it develops a year-by-year strategy to introduce a new Intelligent Central Coast Economy comprising its two major components: Digital Economy [14.2.3] and Sharing Economy [14.2.4]:
- 14.2.3 Digital Economy: Council will consult with key Australian researchers and successful international city-experts, followed by publication of a Council analysis to provide the foundation for Council's support for a rapid move to a digital economy to comprise:

- 14.2.3.1 Provision of high speed internet to underpin all other Council initiatives
- 14.2.3.2 Provision of Innovation and Start-Up Centre[s] to accelerate the generation of economic activity from the high-speed internet
- 14.2.3.3 Growing the economy through the identification and use of appropriate new IT that supports/encourages economic growth.
- 14.2.3.4 Joint ventures with NGOs to educate constituent groups to gain the skills necessary to participate in the digital economy.
- 14.2.3.5 Democratic processes that enable a free flow of open data, knowledge and ideas, evaluation and eventual implementation
- 14.2.3.6 Transparency of transactions and Open Data Sets that enable evidence based decisions.
- 14.2.4 Sharing Economy: Council will consult with key Australian researchers and successful international city-experts, followed by publication of a Council analysis which provides the foundation for Council's support for a rapid move to a Shared Economy comprising:
 - 14.2.4.1 Goods: to encourage the exchange of goods locally through markets, community facilities, garage sales, & online listings.
 - 14.2.4.2 Services: to encourage the exchange of services through the creation of local service provider markets
 - 14.2.4.3 Transport ... to encourage lawful ride sharing, pedestrianisation, cycling, mobility aids, shared ownership models including car hire, taxi; active transport [example: Go Get
 - 14.2.4.4 Accommodation: to encourage responsible and lawful home-sharing initiatives including regulation of Airbnb-style services
- 14.2.5 Sustainable energies: Council will analyse existing research to establish the best potential job-driving energy initiatives that Council can support, such as: wave, solar, wind, hot-rock, bio, and produce a Central Coast sustainable energies report (*Central Coast Sustainable Energies Report*) with recommendations for Council initiatives with public and/or private monies.
- 14.2.6 Sustainable industries: Council will analyse existing research to better understand which industries are most capable of consolidating and expanding within the Central Coast environment, and what, if anything, can be done to encourage these industries. Amongst the many to be considered: agriculture, especially food for the Sydney market; tourism consistent with environmental health and public ownership of public lands; Indigenous Australian culture-based servicing of the Sydney market; holidaying in both summer and winter; wave-driven energy production; IT-based start-ups which are housed in Council-initiated premises with early infrastructure and overheads support.
- 14.2.7 Sustainable jobs: consistent with Council's view of the desirability of a relatively high proportion of new and sustainable jobs being permanent full-time jobs, Council will

convene public forums comprising business, unions, as well as interested regional residents, to investigate existing barriers to fulltime employment and what, if anything, Council can do to encourage greater proportions of fulltime work.

14.2.8 Sustainable population: Council accepts an ever-expanding population is not “good” for the Central Coast. Beaches, waterways and bushlands do not have infinite capacity to absorb urban expansion without depletion of habitat for flora and fauna and serious damage to ‘Public Amenity’. Over-populated amenities also produce human stresses not needed. Council will commission an academic paper to analyse possibilities for the Central Coast, and to make recommendations for future population targets.

14.2.9 Very fast internet:

14.2.9.1 Council will, given Sydney’s accelerating reliance for labour from the Central Coast, campaign for priority provision of very fast internet connections and associated investment to provide the necessary IT platform for that labour.

14.2.9.2 Council will, in collaboration with the university sector and local business groups, help establish IT-leveraged Start-Up Innovation Centres for the use of entrepreneurial and innovative activities. Areas of particular interest include: tourism, performing arts, arts, multicultural elements of culture, music, online sales, agriculture, environment , sport.

14.2.9.3 Council will encourage and support the development of Gigabit internet services in appropriate zones to encourage economic growth, education, and Research and Development.

14.3. NSW Government:

14.3.1 Council will seek funding from NSW Government to pursue the recommendations outlined in Central Coast Sustainable Energies Report.

14.3.2 Council will oppose any attempt by the NSW Government to impose, encourage or permit:

14.3.2.1 Fracking anywhere in Central Coast region.

14.3.2.2 New/expanded coal mining anywhere in Central

14.3.2.3 Nuclear power generation, nuclear dumping.

14.4. Federal Government:

14.4.1 Council will seek funding from Federal Government to pursue the recommendations outlined in Central Coast Sustainable Energies Report.

15 - Social Cohesion & Democracy

Council's purpose is to consciously build greater levels of social cohesion and community participation in our democracy, with higher levels of democratic understanding and practice throughout the citizenry, including the introduction of structures and protocols designed to enable local precinct freedoms to act, and express opinions.

Elements/Actions:

15.2 Central Coast Council:

15.1.1 Council will, specifically, employ 3 levels of consultation, wherever possible, to engage the community in participatory processes on matters of public importance:

- * frequent use of established community organisations including consultations with indigenous and multicultural organisations, and especially with existing and active 'umbrella' organisations such as Progress Associations, for precinct-level consultation.

- * establishment of precinct advisory committees where community-wide groups are not already established, and frequent use of them for consultative purposes

- * maintenance and strengthening of Council's advisory support using a committee structure.

15.1.2 Council will seek to inform and train, precinct by precinct, communities to use reserved public lands for organised and agreed public purposes such as: vegetable and flower gardening; recreation; animal exercise; wildlife rehabilitation; bees and small bird habitat regeneration, etc.

15.1.3 Council will engage diverse sectors of the Central Coast community in a consultation with the purpose of identifying the *special aspirations of each group within the overarching goal of bringing Australians together*

15.1.4 Council will undertake/commission research, in collaboration with civil society on the Central Coast, to identify experiences, policies, and any other barriers to the achievement of social cohesion.

15.1.5 Council will conduct events designed to emphasise both aspects of Australian multiculturalism: bringing Australians *together* while acknowledging and celebrating multicultural differences within the Australian context

15.1.6 Council will set multicultural protocols for the conduct of Council's relationship with disparate groups.

15.1.7 Council will conduct multicultural forums designed to identify events which draw people of disparate backgrounds *together* to Celebrate Difference and enjoy joint and integrated activities.

15.1.8 Council will encourage organisations and groups to welcome newcomers of all ethnicities to the Central Coast

15.1.9 Council will conduct regular Cultural Orientation Forums for relatively recent immigrants to Central Coast with the purpose of introducing them to Australian, and more local, customary behaviours when driving or walking or shopping or spectating or while in an audience, safe behaviour and places, dangerous behaviour and areas ... anything designed to make their understandings more complete.

16 - Caring

Council's purpose is to care for its workers appropriately [see Category 5 'Workers & Families'] and to care, as best it can, for those in danger and vulnerable within our community: the disabled; homeless people, the unattended mentally ill, unsupported ADF veterans, victims of violence and intimidation. In respect of domestic & family violence, Council's purpose is to reduce and prevent domestic and family violence. It is Council's responsibility to better understand, and to provide support for those with special care needs.

Elements/Actions:

16.1. Central Coast Council:

16.1.1 Because Council cares about its significant populations of people in danger:

- * undiagnosed and unattended mentally ill
- * ADF veterans with PTSD
- * victims of violence
- * the many homeless
- * people with disabilities ...

... Council will undertake a comprehensive analysis of the nature & size of existing realities, and will report, with recommendations for appropriate actions by Council, the NSW Government, and the Federal Government.

16.1.2 Council will consult with NGO's associated with the homeless, undiagnosed mentally ill, ADF veterans, and victims of violence, to identify possible support the Council can provide from its own resources.

16.1.3 In respect of people with disabilities, Council will:

16.1.3.1 consult with all Central Coast NGO providers of care on a six month basis through onsite visits and regular public consultation meetings & forums.

16.1.3.2 audit existing public accessible infrastructure and retro fit where necessary. The audit should conform to [and beyond?] Australian Standards and keep pace with today's equipment requirements and technology.

16.1.3.3 work collaboratively, in equal partnership, with local care organisations to identify Disability Inclusive and accessible regional precincts for people with special needs

16.1.3.4 allocate reasonable Operational Funding and Special Project Funding to facilitate true inclusion & accessibility throughout the region.

16.1.3.5 encourage Central Coast Tourism and the Tourism Industry of the Central Coast to look seriously at Disability Tourism and its potential as an alternative source of income for the region and help with the promotion of such services.

16.1.3.6 identify with appropriate signage, precinct areas or services that deal with Disability Access & Inclusion and support all registered services on the Central Coast on Council's website and within other written material.

16.1.3.7 create a permanent Community Disability Advisory Group (separate from Council's Disability Officers or staff) with representatives selected by the regional NGO's caring for vulnerable people with disabilities as a true representation of carer

organisations on the Coast, to be included in continued work on developing specialist disability precincts throughout the Council area.

16.1.3.8 encourage a work and living environment in which disability is regarded as a normal part of the Human experience, and people with disabilities are part of all sections of the Central Coast community.

16.1.3.9 consult regularly with all leading organisations such as: St Vincent de Paul Society Central Coast Region; Central Coast Disability Network; Home and Community Care; Lifestyle solutions; Life Without Barriers; Samaritans; Camp Breakaway Inc., Disabled Surfers Association of Australia.

16.1.3.10 progressively increase access to buildings and external sites which cater for sizeable public groups: government, public services, commercial, sport, performances, learning, conveniences, beaches, waterways, parks.

16.1.3.11 establish a separate fund (through state and federal grants) to engage local tradespeople for the FREE retro fitting of access ramps, etc. to private shops in designated Inclusive Precinct areas to help support "Access & Inclusion" on the Central Coast.

16.1.9 In respect of incidents of domestic violence (D & FV) Council will:

16.1.9.1 focus on primary prevention strategies in accordance with the National Domestic Violence Framework - Third Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022.

16.1.9.2 establish a Women's Advisory Council to provide advice on decisions that have particular impacts on women and gender based violence.

16.1.9.3 consult with the Central Coast Domestic Violence Committee and local D & FV services to support local initiatives of violence prevention and to keep abreast of local D & FV needs.

16.1.9.4 will commit to gender equality in employment by enacting the **50:50 Vision - Councils for Gender Equity** by employing an equal amount of women to men.

16.1.9.5 work with children and youth through Council's youth work programs [**TAFE? Schools? Uni? Sporting organisations? Popular local bands? Mass media? Gyms?**] to counter the early development of negative peer relationships and to promote respect and gender equality.

16.1.9.6 work towards the health and wellbeing of the community through community support programs, events and community meeting places i.e. well established play parks covering the Central Coast

16.2. NSW Government:

16.2.1 Following Council's comprehensive analysis [see 16.2.1] Council will, with the advice and support of specific advisory groups such as the Community Disability Advisory Group, Central Coast Domestic Violence Committee, the Women's Advisory Council, provide advocacy on behalf of these categories of people, and seek to broker legislative, regulatory and funding support from the NSW government to meet the reqs from 16.2.1

16.2.2 Council will, in 2017, begin negotiations with NSW Government for the legislation,

funding and political support to provide for the Third Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022.

16.3 Federal Government:

- 16.3.1 Following Council's comprehensive analysis [see 16.2.1] Council will, with the advice and support of specific advisory groups such as the Community Disability Advisory Group, Central Coast Domestic Violence Committee, the Women's Advisory Council, provide advocacy on behalf of these categories of people, and seek to broker legislative, regulatory and funding support from the Federal government to meet the recs from 16.2.1
- 16.3.2 Council will negotiate directly with the Federal Government to increase crisis funding for housing [see Category 13 "Housing"] and accommodation services on the Central Coast.

17 - Emergencies

Council's purpose is to establish, and maintain, close liaison and support for regional-wide emergency response groups.

Elements/Actions:

17.1 Central Coast Council:

17.1.1 Council will regularly consult with emergency agencies including:

- * Rural Fire Service
- * National Parks and Wildlife Service
- * State Emergency Services
- * NSW Ambulance Service
- * Maritime Rescue
- * Surf Life-Saving Clubs

17.1.2 Each quarter, Council will provide NSW Government and the mass media with data and analysis based on its research.

18 - Public Amenity

Council's purpose is to integrate the provision of essential, support, cultural, and other desirable services into designated geographic areas that facilitates a satisfying and enjoyable experience and, in particular, in existing villages and the Southern and Northern Growth Corridors.

Elements/Actions:

18.1 Central Coast Council:

18.1.1. ZONING: Council will:

18.1.1.1 Prepare zoning requirements which encourage public amenity in existing villages and the Southern and Northern Growth Corridors

18.1.1.2 Prepare a plan to develop and integrate large areas of public interest & recreation with areas of commerce [see examples: South Bank Q; New Farm Park QLD]

18.1.2. DEVELOPMENT PLANNING : Council will draw up a Public Spaces and Lifestyle Plan with public spaces at the centre of the commercial and leisure hub. Associated exemplar models will be prepared for use when discussing planning developments within the 2 growth corridors and existing towns and villages. If the development is within an already existing residential area, then a large public space, close to any high density development, should be planned.

18.1.3. SPACES: Council will:

18.1.3.1 In respect of Large Space Precincts, Council will:

* identify and move to reserve areas for recreation close to enterprises such as hotels, theatres, shops, cultural attractions, ground level specialty shops, avoiding theme parks like Waterworld, Dreamworld, Chinese City replica, which can be developed away from the public recreation precinct

* plan for future large planned Public Recreation spaces such that at least one is accessible to every part of the Coast with the possibility of restaurants, art galleries, shaded areas, pleasant walkways & museums being part of the mix

* plan for recreational development suitable for a range of recreational needs

* assess the feasibility of high density developments contributing to the development of the aforementioned Large Space Precincts

* provide appropriately funded, installed and curated public art

* encourage responsible animal ownership and promote the benefits of owning companion animals. Pet owners are responsible for controlling their pets in the local neighbourhood and public places, as outlined in the NSW Companion Animals Act . The needs of pets are to be balanced with those of the wider community. Pets must be kept safe and be socialised appropriately. Dogs need training to learn basic commands and to understand what you require of them. All dogs need regular exercise and we provide off-leash areas for dogs to exercise. (list on-leash and off-leach parks and beaches.)

18.1.3.2 In respect of small local activity spaces: Council will:

* identify and reserve areas within easy walking distance of locales.Precincts may organise

to include: natural vegetation, pathways, community gardening, play areas, basketball hoops, pétanque area, simple labyrinth planting, chess area, picnic tables, allotment or verge gardens

- * encourage and support ongoing consultation with local community groups as part of the management team on development and maintenance

- * ensure that if a high rise building is developed in an existing residential area, there must be a contribution from the developer to public space to be used for public purposes. The contribution must go directly to the local public space and NOT go into a Council park fund

- * ensure provision and construction of quality playgrounds.

18.1.4. STRUCTURES: Council will:

18.1.4.1 Consider new protocols needed to maintain safe, healthy uses of amenities, such as:

- * extension of the hours at our beaches and surf club facilities by better use of paid and volunteer staff rosters

- * maintaining toilets, water stations, electric scooter recharging, seating and shade, emergency phone access, accessible toilet access, key availability and notices on accessible toilets

- * provision for private operators of small (relocatable) refreshment stalls in public areas

- * designate sites and encourage busking and public entertainment

- * provision for CCTV surveillance to protect public amenities.