



03 ENVIRONMENT

KEY INITIATIVES

The Central Coast is home to large areas of bushland, significant wetland, natural coastlines and coastal lagoons and lakes.

The Central Coast contains over 100,000 ha of native vegetation, distributed across four State Forests, five National Parks, three State Conservation Areas, 10 Nature Reserves and numerous Council bushland reserves. The region contains important coastal lakes, and intertidal flats.

Our community highly values the natural assets within the region. Significant nature and coastal based tourism provides further impetus for Council, and the community to protect and celebrate our natural assets.

The Central Coast is considered to be highly vulnerable to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. The projected temperature increase for the region and changes in seasonal rainfall patterns will have direct implications on agricultural yields and water availability, biodiversity. The region is expected to experience more hot days (>35 Degrees Celsius) and fewer cold nights. Severe and average fire weather is projected to increase. Sea level rise and an increase in the severity of storms also presents a risk, particularly for houses and infrastructure located near the coast. These projected changes emphasise the urgency for improved sustainability

in agriculture, water consumption, infrastructure and the built environment, and the importance of resource recovery, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The Central Coast region is growing rapidly, with an expected population increase of 75,500 new residents by 2036. Much of the housing for these new residents will be located in greenfield residential development sites. As the greatest gains in sustainability are available at the construction phase, this represents a great opportunity for Council to influence the building of sustainable, resilient and affordable homes, and implement community scale sustainability measures.

The Central Coast is heavily car reliant. The dispersed nature of the region creates challenges for public and active transport, as an alternative to car use. Increased residential density in key centres, associated with increased accessibility to public transport options will contribute to a reduction in reliance on cars, and associated greenhouse gas emissions, while contributing to reducing traffic and pressure on car parking facilities.

The impetus for the Central Coast region to grow sustainably, with regard to projected climate variations has never been stronger. The proposed actions for sustainability are consistent with Council's vision to create a vibrant and sustainable Central Coast.

PLANNING PRIORITIES

01

Create sustainable and resilient communities;

02

Provide clear direction on climate change action in the region;and

03

Map, protect and cherish natural areas and ecosystems.

BY 2036, we will have developed sustainable and resilient new communities. There will be improved sustainability performance across the region and high biodiversity in our natural areas. We will be able to demonstrate significant reductions in Councils Green House Gas emissions, and showcase examples of sustainable building and community planning.