

# Climate Action Factsheet

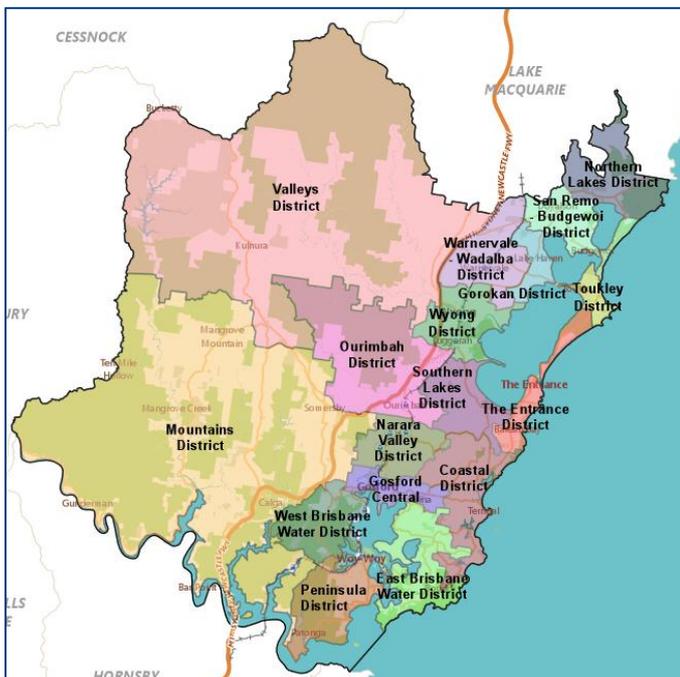
## The Central Coast

#CentralCoastCAP



### Where are we?

The Central Coast Council area is located on the coast of New South Wales, between 60 and 90 kilometres north of the Sydney CBD, and about 80 kilometres south of the Newcastle CBD. The Central Coast Council area is bounded by Cessnock City, Lake Macquarie City and Lake Macquarie in the north, the Tasman Sea in the east, the Hawkesbury River and Hornsby Shire in the south, and Hawkesbury City in the west.



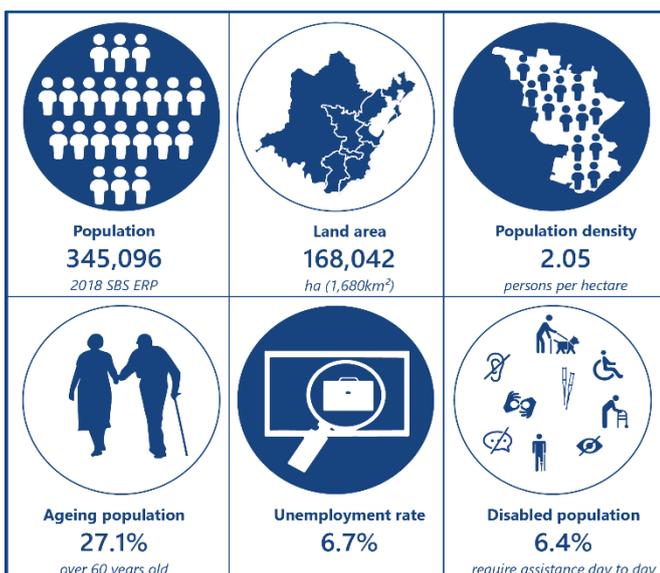
### Our Environment

The Central Coast's natural environment is its distinguishing feature. Kilometres of ocean foreshore, coastal lakes, rivers, estuaries, lagoons, valleys and mountains have created corridors that have shaped the region's development. National parks, State forests, bushland, beaches and waterways occupy over half of the region and support ecosystems which include protected species and communities.

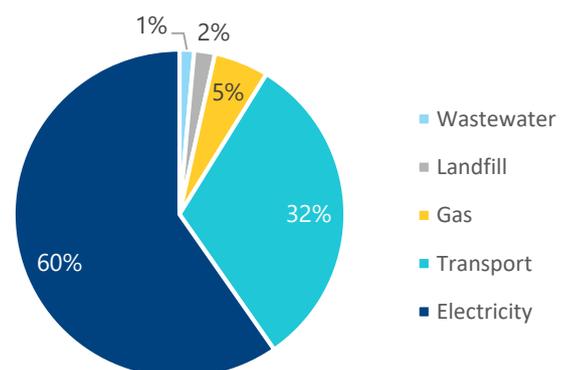
There are at least 83 distinct vegetation community types, each with their unique suite of interacting species and ecological conditions.

### Who are we?

When considering how we plan for Climate Change, we must ensure all walks of life are considered. Some of these considerations are:



### Central Coast Emissions Profile 2016/2017



**3,739,588 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e**

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### Climate Impacts on the Central Coast

The following impacts have been identified for the Central Coast region. Some of these impacts are already being experienced, with increases expected in the future:

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | <p><b>Bush Fire</b><br/>Increased fire risk during spring and summer due to higher temperatures and less overall rainfall.</p>  |  |
|  | <p><b>Rainfall and flooding</b><br/>Overall rainfall will decrease however more intense rainfall events will occur, resulting in more frequent flooding. Impacts include flash floods and catchment flooding, increased need for emergency response and recovery, damage to infrastructure, buildings and facilities, community anxiety and damage to natural assets.</p> |  |
|  | <p><b>Coastal hazards and storms</b><br/>More intense frontal systems, storm surges and large wave events may increase during summer however deep low-pressure systems and east coast lows are projected to decline overall.</p>  |  |
|  | <p><b>Sea Level Rise</b><br/>A rise in sea levels affecting low-lying coastal areas due to added water from melting ice sheets/glaciers and the expansion of sea water as it warms. Impacts include coastal recession and erosion, asset damage, loss of coastal and estuarine ecosystems.</p>  |  |
|  | <p><b>Urban heat</b><br/>Increase in average and extreme temperatures with prolonged heatwaves. Impacts include human and livestock health, changes to bushfire behaviour and seasonality, increased building operational costs and asset deterioration.</p>  |  |
|  | <p><b>Water availability</b><br/>Less overall rainfall. Impacts include fluctuations in water supply for drinking, irrigation and industrial use, as well as more pronounced flooding and drying cycles leading to drought.</p>   |  |

### Climate Action

- Actioning climate impacts on the Central Coast has the potential to:
- Strengthen community resilience to climate hazards and natural disasters
  - Help natural areas and ecosystems
  - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  - Lower Council’s long-term infrastructure costs
  - Improve community wellbeing
  - Lead energy efficiency and energy security initiatives
  - Develop new industries
  - Identify climate action measures into policies, strategies and planning

