

Closing The Loop

Central Coast Thematic History

Community Engagement December 2023-February 2024

Summary

Between December 2023 and February 2024 Central Coast Council placed the Draft Central Coast Thematic History on public exhibition to seek community feedback. An extended public exhibition period was provided due to the timeframe extending over the Christmas and New Year holidays. Council staff undertook additional consultation with key stakeholders during this period. During the public exhibition period 24 submissions were received.

What we heard and how we responded

Table 1 below captures the themes of feedback received from the community on the Draft Central Coast Thematic History and identifies how that feedback has been incorporated into the final document, where appropriate.

Table 1 Issues and responses

Theme	Summary of theme / Example of comment	How it has influenced the project
Typographical, grammatical, naming, date, image and formatting corrections	Suggested corrections were identified throughout the document	The Thematic History has been reviewed in context of the suggested changes and amendments made, where appropriate.
Purpose and objectives	Further clarification sought on the purpose and objectives of the document and how it will be used.	Further clarification has been provided in the introduction regarding the purpose and objectives of the document.
Omissions or items understated	Requests have been made for additional items to be included or additional commentary to be provided across various items.	The Thematic History has been reviewed and additional items/commentary has been provided throughout the document, where appropriate and where those items have historically influenced the development of the Central Coast. Examples include shipwrecks, ship building, oil drilling, cemeteries/burial sites, artists, tourism promotion, caravan parks, impacts of community, environmental activism and conservation and natural disasters.

		Where additional commentary has not been provided, this is because: - It is not possible to provide a detailed account of all aspects of history across the LGA. Instead, the purpose of the Thematic History is to provide a broad historical context to understand the patterns and forces that shaped an area over time. - The themes identified within the Central Coast Thematic History have been identified because they are considered locally distinctive themes that provide the historical narrative for the Central Coast.
Balance between former Gosford and Wyong LGA history	Concerns was raised that there was an imbalance between the history across the two former LGAs.	Additional information has been provided within the Thematic History to achieve an improved balance between the history of the former Gosford and Wyong LGAs, as relevant to the respective themes, and where information is available.
Aboriginal Heritage	Additional information on Aboriginal Heritage has been requested throughout the document.	Whilst some minor amendments have occurred, the Thematic History provides a high-level summary of the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the region only. The Thematic History does recommend, however, that a comprehensive Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Assessment be undertaken to provide more information on the history, heritage and culture of the First Nations people of the LGA.
Stakeholder Engagement	Concerns were raised at the limited extent of stakeholder consultation undertaken by the consultant.	Due to concerns raised by key stakeholders regarding the extent of consultation undertaken by the consultant, Council staff undertook additional consultation with key stakeholders during the exhibition period. Feedback was captured and provided to the consultant for consideration in the preparation of the final report. Amendments have also occurred to the final report to reflect the participants in the stakeholder engagement.

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