

Central Coast

Regulatory Priorities Statement

Date Adopted: 26/08/2025

Revision: 1



1. Statement Objectives

- 1.1. Central Coast Council's (Council) Regulatory Policy (Policy) requires Council to implement a yearly Regulatory Priorities Statement (Statement) that:
 - 1.1.1. promotes Council as a firm but fair regulator to increase compliance with legislation and regulations.
 - 1.1.2. promotes Council as a modern, adaptive regulator, providing clarity on issues through staff expertise and empirical evidence.
 - 1.1.3. Identifies priority areas for audits, campaigns, fines, and prosecutions to drive behavioural change, enhance reputation, and ensure fairness across the Local Government Area (LGA).
 - 1.1.4. Protects human health, the environment, and community assets.
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2. Statement Scope

- 2.1. This Statement applies to all regulatory, compliance and enforcement functions by Council staff in response to alleged offences under Council-administered legislation.
 - 2.2. It does not apply to functions by Federal or State agencies where Council is not the regulatory authority.
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3. Our Approach

- 3.1. This Statement outlines "Enduring Priorities" (routine, stable regulatory priorities) and "Yearly Priorities" (areas needing increased oversight each year).
- 3.2. Both types of priorities are initially developed by Council staff using knowledge, experience, data and are refined through public consultation.

4. Enduring Priorities

4.1. **Parking Accessibility**

Our regulatory efforts will primarily be focused on Central Business Districts, disability parking and high use areas to ensure equal and fair access to parking spots as well any issue causing a safety risk or traffic or pedestrian obstruction. Any other parking related issue or complaint will be dealt with as time and resources permit.

4.2. **Community Safety**

Our regulatory efforts will primarily be focused on responding to and taking action in relation to dog attacks, dog leashing, dog registration and ensuring

that people that visit and utilised our Off Leash Areas (OLAs) do so in accordance with the terms of those OLAs.

4.3. Non-compliance with lawful Directions, Notices and Orders

Our regulatory efforts will primarily be focused on penalising people that do not comply with a lawful Direction, Notice and/or Order issued under relevant legislation without a lawful excuse.

4.4. Matters that have the potential to, or do, significantly impact public assets and/or the environment

Our regulatory efforts will primarily be focused on addressing actions that put public assets and/or the environment at risk.

5. 2025-2026 Yearly Priorities

5.1. Illegal Camping in Parks, Reserves and Carparks

Council is committed to managing illegal camping to ensure the safety, well-being and enjoyment of our community and visitors. Our regulatory priorities for the year will focus on preventing unauthorised camping, protecting public spaces and promoting responsible camping practices.

Actions:

- Enforce legislation that prevents illegal camping, utilising Notices, Orders and Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) where there is sufficient evidence of illegal camping activities.
- Conduct regular patrols and inspections to identify and address illegal camping activities.
- Provide clear signage and information on legal camping areas and regulations.
- Collaborate with other law enforcement agencies to enhance compliance efforts.

5.2. Illegal Land Clearing

Council is dedicated to regulating incidents of large-scale native vegetation and land clearing. Our regulatory priorities for land clearing will aim to protect native vegetation and promote biodiversity.

Actions:

- Enforce legislation that prevents unauthorised land clearing, utilising Notices, Orders and Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) where there is sufficient evidence of illegal works occurring.
- Conduct regular monitoring and assessments of land clearing activities.
- Conduct inspections in response to reports of land clearing.

- Partner with state and federal agencies to investigate land clearing activities.

5.3. Encroachment on Public Land

Council is committed to managing public land encroachments to protect community assets, ensure public safety and uphold the integrity of public spaces. Our regulatory priorities for the year will focus on preventing unauthorised encroachments, promoting compliance and enhancing community awareness.

Actions:

- Enforce legislation that prevents unauthorised encroachments, utilising Notices, Orders and Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) where there is sufficient evidence of encroachment onto Public Lands.
- Conduct regular inspections and assessments to identify and mitigate risks associated with encroachments.
- Provide clear guidelines and support for property owners to comply with Orders to remove encroaching items.
- Issue notices and penalties for unauthorised encroachments.

5.4. Illegal waste dumping and unlawful waste activities/facilities

Council is committed to managing illegal dumping and ensuring the effective operation of waste facilities to protect public health, the environment, and community well-being. Our regulatory priorities for the year will focus on preventing illegal dumping, promoting proper waste disposal, and taking regulatory action for illegal activity.

Actions:

- Enforce legislation that prevents illegal dumping and unlawful waste facilities by utilising Notices, Orders and Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) where there is sufficient evidence of illegal dumping or unlawful waste facilities.
- Conduct regular patrols and surveillance to identify and respond to illegal dumping incidents.
- Collaborate with NSW EPA to enhance compliance efforts for waste facilities.

5.5. Food Business – Food Safety repeat offenders

Council is committed to ensuring the safety of retail food. Council will increase enforcement action (e.g. improvement notices, prohibition orders or penalty infringement notices) where incidents of food safety compliance have been observed to be high risk or a repeat behaviour by the food business.

Actions:

- Enforce legislation under the Food Act 2003 (NSW) and Food Regulation 2015.

- Conduct regular inspections of food businesses to ensure compliance with the Food Standards Code.
- Issue Penalty Infringement Notices to Businesses where there has been a repeat breach of legislation during inspections.
- Monitor and audit food businesses to ensure ongoing compliance with food safety standards.
- Collaborate with NSW Food Authority.

5.6. Illegal Tree Clearing

Council is dedicated to regulating incidents of tree removal and clearing. Our regulatory priorities for tree removal will aim to protect native vegetation and promote biodiversity.

Actions:

- Enforce legislation that prevents unauthorised tree removal, utilising Notices, Orders and Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) where there is sufficient evidence of illegal works occurring.
- Conduct regular monitoring and assessments of tree removal activities.
- Conduct inspections in response to reports of tree removal.

6. Potential Actions

- 6.1.** Our increased regulatory efforts signify a comprehensive approach to ensuring compliance and maintaining high standards. This means there will be more frequent inspections and audits along with an increase in site visits and surveillance activities. As a result, Council will be issuing more Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs), pursuing more prosecutions and seeking more injunctions to enforce regulations effectively.

7. Making Complaints

- 7.1.** In reporting issues to Council that require regulatory action, the Central Coast Community must provide Council with sufficient information to enable staff to adequately investigate an issue as outlined in the [Regulatory Policy](#).
- 7.2.** Complaints can be made in a variety of ways including by phoning Council on 02 4306 7900, by emailing ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au or by lodging a self-service complaint via the online Customer Service Centre. Complaints should be made in real time or as close to real time as possible. This assists Council in the preservation and collection of evidence.
- 7.3.** Anonymous complaints will be dealt with if there is an overriding public interest to do so, in accordance with the [Regulatory Policy](#).

8. Statement Administration

Business Group	Environment and Planning
Responsible Officer	Unit Manager Environmental Compliance Services
Associated Procedure (if any, reference document(s) number(s))	Practice Notes and Regulatory Procedures may be developed to guide Council actions and decision making.
Statement Review Date	This Statement will be updated each financial year.
File Number / Document Number	D16750788
Link to Community Strategic Plan	Theme 4: Responsible Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships R-G3: Provide leadership that is transparent and accountable, makes decisions in the best interest of the community, ensures Council is financially sustainable and adheres to a strong audit process.
Related Policies / Protocols / Procedures / Documents (reference document numbers)	▪ Code of Conduct ▪ Regulatory Policy (D15787667) ▪ Information and Records Management Policy (D14025241) ▪ Privacy Management Plan (D15206444) ▪ Unreasonable Complainant Conduct Policy (D14869666) ▪ Complaints and Feedback Management Policy (D14928768)

9.

10. Statement History

Revision	Date Approved / Authority	Description Of Changes
1	26 August 2025 756/25 & EPC52/25	New Statement Adopted inclusion of EPC52/25 recommendation.
