

Burns Place Conservation Management Plan

Engagement Summary

Central
Coast
Council

Between 25 June and 23 July 2025, Central Coast Council sought community feedback on the draft Burns Place Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

Burns Place is a small but important heritage listed park located next to Gosford Train Station. The Burns Place CMP aims to provide an analysis of the historical and cultural significance of Burns Place, and act as a framework for the preservation and future management of Burns Place. It will guide the short and long-term decision making for works, including maintenance, repairs, conservation efforts, alterations and additions or new development.

Council invited the community to review the draft plan and provide their feedback. Council wanted to know if community members supported the plan, noted any gaps in historic or heritage significance, and believed the conservation recommendations were aligned with the historical and cultural significance of the park.

The community could share their feedback by:

- Reading the draft plan and FAQs on Your Voice Our Coast
- Completing the online submission form
- Writing to Council via email or post
- Attending the on-site pop-up session
- Arranging an in-person or telephone meeting with Council's heritage officers.

How you connected



408 visits to the Your Voice Our Coast website



The plan was downloaded **122** times



A total of **5** submissions received



5,170 Facebook views generating **8** interactions



1,618 Instagram views generating **23** interactions



19,553 stakeholders were kept up-to-date through e-news.



Delivered to **120** media contacts



30 people attended the pop-up session

Engagement Results

Submissions

A total of 2 online submissions and 3 written submissions via email were received during the exhibition. Key themes from the online and written submissions include:

- Support for the conservation and maintenance of Burns Place.
- Support for lighting and security upgrades to increase safety.
- Suggested edits for historical accuracy, inclusion of additional historical information and recognition of stonemason Randall Dumbrell and artist Margo Lewers.
- Recommendation of traditional conservation methods such as lime mortar.
- Recommendation to repair and restore the original two light fittings/poles.
- The plan needs to recognise the significance of the Lewers Fountain and ensure its conservation.

Pop-up

The pop-up event was held on Thursday 10 July 11am-2pm. Council staff spoke with approximately 30 people, and feedback included:

- Support for Council taking action to protect the heritage significance of the park.
- Desire for the park to remain an open community space.
- Support for the retention and improved maintenance of Burns Place
- The significance of the Lewers Fountain and its conservation needs to be included in the plan.

You said...

"I support the conservation of Burns Place. Gosford needs to try and preserve the small amount of heritage places that are still standing. I feel upgrading and installing significant lighting and possibly adding security cameras in the park would help to make it feel safer. Personally, I would not walk through the park at night."

"There is no point in just conserving if it is [sic] produce no value to the people and place. Make this place vibrant with more lighting, trimmed bushes. And keep the place inviting."

"Much care and consideration must be paid to the fountain, and an ongoing guarantee that it will be into the future. Council seems to have huge disregard for heritage in general and this makes me nervous."

Analysis of key themes

Key themes from the consultation reveal strong support for preserving the park's heritage and enhancing its safety. While only five formal submissions were received, the feedback alongside insights from the pop-up event highlight a shared appreciation for the park's heritage and cultural significance and a desire for its ongoing conservation. Community members expressed concern about the long-term commitment to heritage protection, urging Council to ensure Burns Place and other sites with heritage value remain protected.

What's next?

Council will now consider the feedback provided in the submissions and amend the document, before reporting a final draft to Council for adoption. As this project progresses, any relevant updates will be published on Your Voice Our Coast.

Find out more and stay up to date at **yourvoiceourcoast.com**