

Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park Conservation Management Plan Closing the Loop



Central
Coast
Council

Between 7 October 25 and 4 November 2025 Central Coast Council placed the Draft Memorial Park and Rotary Parks Gosford Conservation Management Plan on public exhibition to seek community feedback. In addition, Council staff and the Heritage consultant conducted an information session at the Regional Library during this period. During the public exhibition period 18 online and 4 written submissions were received and 18 people provided feedback at the information session.

At its meeting on 5 May 2026, the Environment and Planning Committee recommended that Council adopt the plan. **Council considered this recommendation at its meeting on 26 May 2026 and resolved to adopt the plan.**

What we heard and how we responded

The table below captures the themes of feedback received from the community on the Draft Memorial Park and Rotary Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and identifies how that feedback has been incorporated into the final document, where appropriate.

Key themes from the online and written submissions include:

- Recommendations to repair the fountain in Rotary Park.
- More consideration of the heritage significance of the stairs connecting Rotary Park and Memorial Park.
- Calls for stronger protection and systems to ensure Council complies with the conservation policies set out in the CMP.
- Mixed views on tree management within the Parks with concerns about view protection, over shadowing, and reduced sun access. This was contrasted with expressed appreciation for the tree's heritage significance, aesthetic appeal and role in providing shade and climate control.
- Diverse views surrounding the Traditional Owners of the Central Coast area and calls for further consultation to ensure that First Nations People Cultural heritage is appropriately recognised and protected.

The table below summarises the comments and issues captured during the public exhibition period. The table also summarises how these issues were addressed by the consultants and, where appropriate, the Conservation Management Plan was amended to reflect the responses or additional information.

Council response to feedback

Theme	Theme summary	Council's response
Memorials and Heritage Significance	Concerns were raised over the use of Memorial Park and its need to remain primarily as a Commemorative landscape.	The CMP has strengthened policies to ensure the commemorative use of the Park is retained. In addition, the CMP has included specific policies for key memorials and consultation for any proposed co-locations.
Sister Sumner Memorial	Submissions wanted more policies around the management and restoration of the Sister Sumner Memorial	The CMP has strengthened conservation policies for the Sister Sumner Memorial, provided clarification on memorial tree species and on potential restoration and interpretation options.
Rotary Park Steps and Fountain	Submissions questioned the significance rating in the CMP and suggested this be reconsidered in light of additional historic information.	The stairs were rated as possessing High heritage significance. The CMP was amended to reflect the community support for fountain restoration.
Vegetation Management	Mixed views on tree management within the Parks with concerns about view protection, over shadowing, and reduced sun access. This was contrasted with expressed appreciation for the tree's heritage significance, aesthetic appeal and role in providing shade and climate control.	The CMP added some policies of removing regrowth vegetation with the concept of restoring significant views within the parks and to external locations.
Maintenance	Maintenance concerns include the need for regular schedules, safety lighting, and improved pedestrian access, including widened paths and better disabled access.	Some additional policies were added to the CMP to address specific concerns such as the unattractive cages around floodlighting for the Cenotaph etc.
Heritage Interpretation	Submissions requesting increased heritage interpretation and public art communicating the Parks' history and heritage significance	The CMP contains policies supporting these initiatives and recommends the preparation of a masterplan to guide their implementation

Additional Historic Information	Submissions provided additional historic information or corrections.	Amendments have been made to facts, names, dates, and attributions within the CMP to ensure accuracy. This includes clarifications on Aboriginal traditional owners, historical funding sources, memorial naming, and architectural details. It also addresses corrections to photographic captions and the inclusion of additional historical context.
Conservation Policies	Submissions identified gaps in recommended policies such as Council asset management, historical archaeology and consultation protocols.	The CMP policies have been amended to reflect additional information as appropriate.
Connectivity and Access	Submissions emphasised the need for better access between the Parks and the importance of the strong link of the Rotary steps.	The axial link provided by the staircase between Rotary and Memorial Parks is recognised as a high significance feature that should be retained. Any infrastructure proposals must consider heritage impacts, especially on views to the cenotaph.
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	Diverse views surrounding the Traditional Owners of the Central Coast Area and calls for further consultation to ensure that First Nations People Cultural heritage is appropriately recognised and protected.	Retention of discussion generally recognising the significance of the Parks to First Nations people with an inclusive approach to connection and identity.

What's next?

In accordance with the recommended actions in the Conservation Management Plan Council is currently in the process of preparing a Landscape Masterplan for the Gosford Memorial and Rotary Parks. Implementation of other actions will be guided by available funding, priorities and delivery programs.

Find out more and stay up to date at:

www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/gosford-memorial-park-and-rotary-park

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