

Gosford Special Entertainment Precinct

Why is Council proposing a Special Entertainment Precinct in Gosford?

As the Central Coast continues to grow, it is important to have safe, vibrant places for people to gather and enjoy themselves, particularly at night.

Council is investigating establishing Gosford as the Central Coast's first Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP). This fact sheet explains what a SEP is, why Gosford is being considered and how the community can be involved.



What is a Special Entertainment Precinct?

A Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) is a defined area where Council sets tailored controls for trading hours and entertainment-related sound through a precinct management plan. SEPs are designed to support vibrant night-time activity while providing certainty for businesses, residents and the wider community.

Why is Council investigating a SEP for Gosford?

Establishing a SEP is a key action in the Night-time Economy Action Plan 2025-27.

Gosford has been chosen as the preferred location for the initial SEP for the Central Coast, due to the increase in residents moving to the centre, as well as an increase in interest from businesses and key stakeholders to support a more vibrant centre in Gosford, particularly at night.

The objectives of a SEP in Gosford are to:

- **Facilitate the opening of more businesses during evening hours.**
- **Enhance safety in Gosford at night.**
- **Expand and diversify the range of entertainment options available in Gosford.**
- **Increase night-time visitation in Gosford.**

Where will the Gosford SEP be?

The proposed investigation area runs from the new University of Newcastle campus building in the north, down to Drifters Wharf in the south, Polytec Stadium to the west, and Kibble Park in the east.

The proposed boundary is intended to include existing entertainment and activity areas that may benefit from changes to operating hours and sound management.



How will this be developed?

The NSW Government has published guidelines to support councils in developing Special Entertainment Precincts.

Council will work with local businesses, residents, community groups and NSW Government agencies to develop proposed sound management controls and operating hours for the precinct.

These will be included in a draft Precinct Management Plan.

Council proposes to trial the SEP for up to 18 months. During the trial, the community, businesses and government agencies will be able to provide feedback before Council decides whether to make the precinct permanent.

How will liquor licensing change in the precinct?

Liquor and Gaming NSW will continue to be responsible for regulating liquor licences in the precinct.

Licensed venues may be eligible for incentives, including:

- **Two additional hours only where live entertainment is hosted for 45 minutes after 8.00pm and/or**
- **An additional hour on other nights of the week subject to the licensed venue meeting certain conditions and notifying Liquor and Gaming NSW.**

How and when will the SEP be progressed?

The SEP will be developed in stages over several years, with opportunities for community and business feedback at key points.

Phase 1	Early engagement to support a proposed SEP December 2025 to January 2026	Council endorsed investigation and proposed boundary.
Phase 2	Public consultation February 2026	Feedback from community and local business to support investigations of SEP and proposed boundary.
Phase 3	Pre-trial March to December 2026	Working Group formed. Sound Acoustic Investigation commences. Precinct Management Plan and Planning controls finalised for approval.
Phase 4	Trial period and evaluation Early 2027 to mid 2028	Local businesses, the community and NSW State Government agencies will be given opportunities to provide feedback on the operation of the SEP.
Phase 5	Post trial evaluation and final decision Late 2028	Feedback on the trial will be reported to Council to determine if the SEP is a permanent change.

My property is located in the proposed Gosford boundary, what will this mean for me?

For residents:

If you live within or near the precinct, the SEP will provide greater certainty about how businesses can operate and the level of sound permitted at different times.

For businesses:

If you operate a business within the precinct, future trading hours and sound limits will be set through the Precinct Management Plan rather than individual development consent conditions.

Council will refine the proposed boundary based on community feedback before any planning proposal is submitted.

How will the precinct help with safety, noise and anti-social behaviour?

The SEP will build on existing work by Council, community groups and local agencies to make the Gosford city centre safer and more welcoming at night.

Council will continue to work with police, transport providers and partners to improve:

- **Lighting and passive surveillance**
- **Transport access**
- **Safety initiatives**
- **Responses to anti-social behaviour**

Council will also investigate Purple Flag accreditation, which recognises safe, well-managed and vibrant night-time precincts.

How would sound management change in the precinct?

A SEP would create regulation around fixed decibel limits for amplified entertainment within the precinct at different times of the day. This early proposal does not mean that sound in the area will necessarily be increased.

Can noise complaints be made?

Yes, NSW Liquor and Gaming regulate all entertainment related noise from licenced venues and ensure that they are complying with management plans. More information on how noise is regulated in a SEP is available from [NSW Liquor and Gaming](#). Council can investigate noise complaints about unlicensed venues, retail and commercial operations.

What is the 24-hour economy?

The 24-hour economy is a term used by the NSW Government to describe the economy beyond traditional business hours. The 24-hour economy recognises the importance of the diverse economic activity taking place between 6pm and 6am including hospitality, healthcare, transport, freight, manufacturing and entertainment, retail, and arts and culture.

Will Council be establishing SEPs elsewhere on the Central Coast?

We are currently only considering establishing a SEP in proposed boundary for Gosford.

How can I have my say?

Have your say on the Special Entertainment Precinct at yourvoiceourcoast.com

To share any further feedback, write to Council by **Friday 20 March**:

Email: engagement@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Post: **PO Box 20, Wyong NSW 2259**

Related resources

[Special Entertainment Precincts | NSW Government](#)

[Setting up and managing a Special Entertainment Precinct | NSW Government](#)

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