

15 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR STRATEGIES AND COMMUNITIES**15.1 Determination of DA 10.2026.28.1: Lot 100, 1215 Jamberoo Road Curramore - Use of portion of existing car park for parking of light vehicles not associated with the recreation facility**

CSP Objective: Outcome 3.3: We love where we live and are strongly connected within our region. Growth and development will be managed sustainably, thoughtfully and equitably, while preserving our built and natural heritage.

CSP Strategy: 3.3.2 Manage development and growth sustainably and thoughtfully.

Delivery Program: 3.3.2.1 Council meets the legislative requirements for Planning and Assessment.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's determination of Development Application No 10.2026.28.1 for use of portion of existing car parking for the parking of light vehicles not associated with the recreation facility (major) at Lot 100 DP 1175715 - 1215 Jamberoo Road, Curramore.

Development Application 10.2026.28.1 is being reported to Council because it has been "called in" by Councillors Brown and Tatrai for determination by the elected Council.

It is recommended that Council determine the application by way of refusal for the reasons outlined in enclosure 3.

Financial implication

The Development Application fee has been paid in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 and Council's adopted Fees and Charges.

If the application is refused, the application may be challenged in the NSW Land and Environment Court (LEC) and there would be costs associated with defending the refusal.

Section 9.45 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* allows any person to bring Court proceedings for an order to remedy or restrain a breach of this Act, whether or not any right of that person has been or may be infringed by or as a consequence of that breach. If the application is approved the application may potentially be able to be challenged in the LEC by a third party. There would be costs associated with defending the approval in this instance.

Risk implication

If the Development Application is refused, the determination may be challenged in the LEC

If Council determines to approve the application, there may be potential litigation risks under s9.45 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*.

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Policy

The statutory instruments relevant to the development include the following:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.*
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021.
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021.
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021.
- Kiama Local Environmental Plan 2011 (Kiama LEP 2011).
- Kiama Development Control Plan 2020 (Kiama DCP 2011).
- Kiama Community Participation Plan 2019.

Consultation (internal)

The application was referred internally and to external agencies. All internal and external feedback was considered as part of this assessment.

Communication/Community engagement

Consultation has occurred in accordance with Section 8 of the Kiama Community Participation Plan 2019, namely by:

- Directly notifying adjoining property owners of the exhibition period.
- Making all information publicly available on Council's DA Tracker between 17 March 2026 and 31 March 2026.

Twelve individual (12) submissions were received in response to the DA.

Council's CEO and Director Strategies & Communities meet with the owners and General Manager of Jamberoo Action Park on several occasions prior to the DA being lodged and during the assessment process to articulate the current LEP limitations for the site.

Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

- 1 10.2026.28.1 - Section 4.15 Assessment Report [⇒](#)
- 2 10.2026.28.1 - Plans [⇒](#)
- 3 10.2026.28.1 - Draft Notice of Determination - Refusal [⇒](#)
- 4 10.2026.28.1 - Draft Notice of Determination - Approval [⇒](#)

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note that the site is zoned, primarily, RU2 Rural Landscape and that the majority of commercial and industrial uses are prohibited on the site,
2. Note that the Additional Permitted Uses Map – Sheet APU_007 of the *Kiama Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011* does not show 'Areas A or B' as required by Schedule 1 of the LEP,
3. Note that the draft Employment Lands Strategy (Item 15.2 of this Agenda) identifies the need to rezone the site to ensure ongoing Park and other related uses can be permissible,
4. Refuse Development Application No 10.2026.28.1 (PAN-6616347) for use of portion of existing car parking for the parking of light vehicles not associated with the recreation facility (major) at Lot 100 DP 1175715 – 1215 Jamberoo Road, Curramore, and
5. Advise persons who made a submission on Development Application No 10.2026.28.1 of Council's decision.

Background

APPLICATION DETAILS	
Application Type:	Development Application
Application Number:	10.2026.28.1
NSW ePlanning Portal Reference:	PAN-616347
Proposed Development:	Use of portion of existing car parking for the parking of light vehicles not associated with the recreation facility (major)
Applicant:	TCW Consulting Pty Ltd
Property title:	Lot 100 DP 1175715
Property address:	1215 Jamberoo Road, Curramore

The site

The subject site is described as Lot 100 DP 1175715, 1215 Jamberoo Road, Curramore.

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Figure 1: Aerial imagery of subject site

The subject site has a frontage to Jamberoo Road and is located approximately 3km north of the Jamberoo township and 2km south of Albion Park. The site contains an amusement park (Jamberoo Action Park) and associated infrastructure and car parking.

The surrounding area is rural in character and the site is adjoined by rural residential development to the north, south, east and west.

The proposed development

The proposal includes the use of the existing car parking for the parking of light vehicles not associated with the recreation facility (major). The application does not propose any physical works.

The application proposes that light vehicles will be stored within the existing at-grade car park area (see below and enclosure 2), although not within designated parking spaces. Vehicles will not require individual access and as such, will be stored with reduced clearances in tandem arrangements up to four cars deep.

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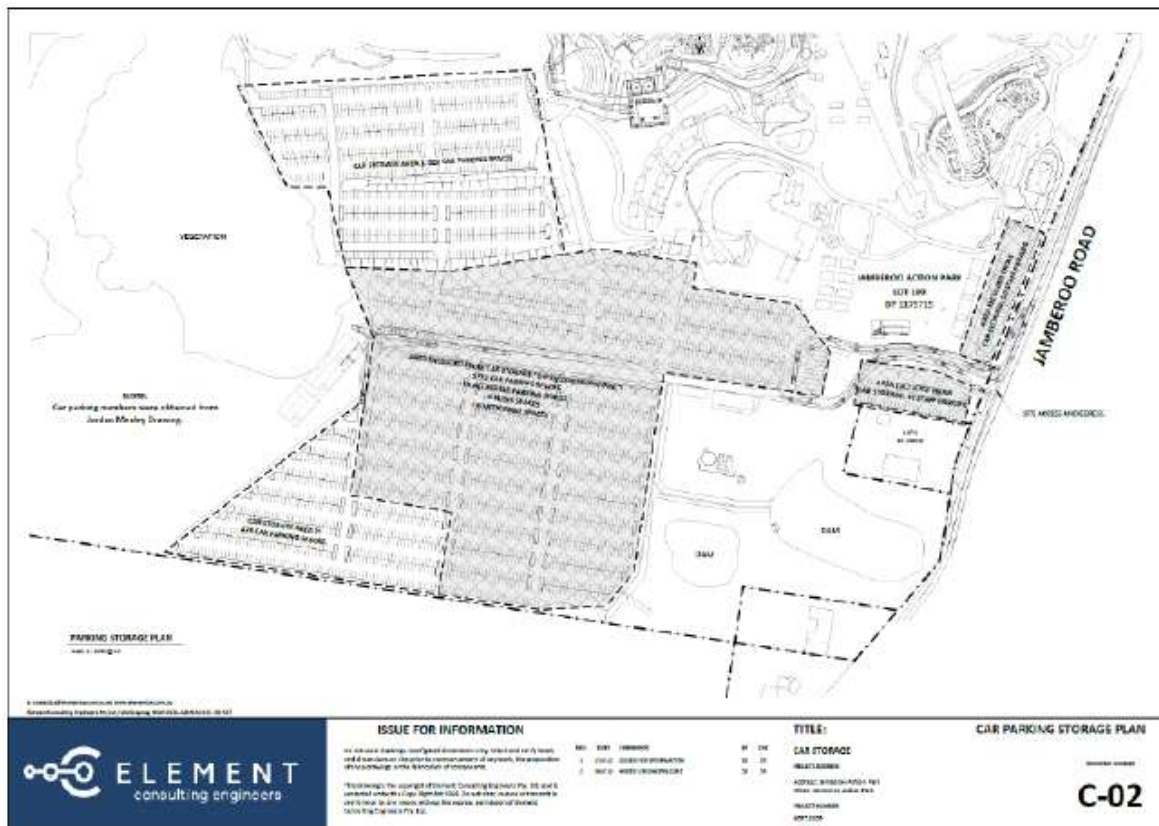


Figure 2: Car parking storage plan

The application does not nominate a total amount of vehicles to be stored and in response to Council's request for information, the applicant has noted that the quantity of vehicles is not known until delivery.

All light vehicles will be brought to the site via 20m long articulated vehicle (AV) and will be unloaded by staff in the designated loading area at the western end of the car park. The vehicles will then be moved into a tandem parking arrangement by staff and stored until required to be retrieved.

Vehicles will be moved by truck from Port Kembla on a cyclical nature when a ship containing vehicles arrives in port. On peak days 60 truck movements are anticipated per day, with up to 6 truck movements per hour predicted during peak hours. On an average day the applicant expects that it would be more likely to be 10 trucks per day.

The application suggests that all traffic associated with the long-term car parking / storage operation will travel to/from the site north via Jamberoo Road.

The car park area will be utilised for the long-term parking/storage of light vehicles on both “operational days” and “non-operational days” (i.e. winter months) of Jamberoo Action Park. The operations for these periods are as follows:

“Operational days”

Area 1 (820 spaces) and Area 2 (479 parking spaces) comprising a total of 1299 car parking spaces will be utilised for the long-term parking/storage of light vehicles.

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On operational days where less than 2400 amusement park guests are expected, trucks will arrive and leave the site at any time of the day for the purposes of delivering or retrieving vehicles.

On operational days where more than 2400 amusement park guests are expected, trucks will not be permitted to enter or exit the site from 30-minutes prior to opening for the public to 30-minutes after closing to the public (i.e. 9:30am – 5:30pm). Trucks would be permitted to arrive and leave the site at any other time of the day for the purposes of delivering or retrieving vehicles.

“Non-operational days” (i.e. winter months)

Full car park area comprising 3091 car parking spaces, 16 accessible car parking spaces, 8 bus spaces and 6 motorbike parking spaces, and excluding the 92 car parking spaces reserve for staff will be utilised for the long-term parking/storage of light vehicles.

On non-operational days, trucks will arrive and leave the site at any time of the day for the purposes of delivering or retrieving vehicles.

Key issues

The following key issues are relevant to the assessment of this application having considered the relevant planning controls, issues raised in the submissions, referral comments and the proposal in detail.

1. Permissibility
2. Traffic and parking impacts
3. Biodiversity
4. Bush fire and fire fighting
5. Social impacts
6. Public submissions

Permissibility

The site is predominantly zoned RU2 Rural Landscapes under the provisions of the *Kiama Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011*. Permissible uses in this zone are, generally, limited to agricultural and domestic pursuits.

Additional Permitted Uses

The site is benefited by Additional Permitted Uses under Schedule 1 of the LEP. Schedule 1 outlines that the following development is also permitted on the site with development consent:

- (a) *in Area A (being the area indicated on that map with vertical bars)—a recreation facility (major) being an amusement park, function centre and any other facilities associated with an amusement park, such as shops, refreshment rooms and amenities,*
- (b) *in Area B (being the area indicated on that map with cross hatching)—a car park, water supply system and water recycling facility.*

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The applicant contends that the proposal is characterised as a *car park* which is an additional permitted use referred to for the site in Schedule 1 of KLEP 2011.

Legal advice, received by Council, outlines that on a strict reading of the LEP, the additional permitted uses outlined above do not presently operate to permit development for the purpose of a car park as the Additional Permitted Uses Map does not identify either Areas A or B.

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Figure 2: Extract from Additional Permitted Uses Map - Sheet APU_007, which does not show Area A or B

Characterisation

Notwithstanding the broader permissibility issues with the Additional Permitted Uses maps in KLEP 2011, Council staff disagree with the characterisation asserted by the applicant and instead considers that the proposal is best characterised as *storage premises*. *Storage premises* are prohibited within the RU2 Rural Landscape Zone and the proposal is not a permitted form of development.

Kiama LEP 2011 defines “car park” and “storage premises” as follows:

car park means a building or place primarily used for the purpose of parking motor vehicles, including any manoeuvring space and access thereto, whether operated for gain or not.

storage premises means a building or place used for the storage of goods, materials, plant or machinery for commercial purposes and where the storage is not ancillary to any industry, business premises or retail premises on the same parcel of land, and includes self-storage units, but does not include a heavy industrial storage establishment, local distribution premises or a warehouse or distribution centre.

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The application does not propose that vehicles will be brought to and parked at the site because people have travelled somewhere and need somewhere to leave their cars. Rather, the application proposes that the vehicles will be brought to the site by truck and stored as inventory awaiting future distribution by truck. The parking is merely the physical method by which that inventory is stored in the storage premises.

In forming its view, Council staff have considered the legal opinion submitted in support of the application, however, this opinion does not convince Staff that the proposed development can be characterised as a “car park”. The legal opinion submitted by the applicant focuses on the judgement of Chief Justice Preston in *Ballina Shire Council v Palm Lake Works Pty Ltd* [2020] NSWLEC 41 where it was outlined that if a proposed development could be characterised as more than one defined land use than it is acceptable for the consent authority to characterise the proposal as a permissible use.

This fact is not disputed.

The legal opinion submitted by the applicant tries to suggest that the proposal, by both its engineering and design, appears as a car park in the ordinary sense and therefore should be characterised as a *car park*.

As outlined above, the application proposes that light vehicles will be stored within the existing at-grade car park area (see below and enclosure 2), although not within designated parking spaces. Vehicles will not require individual access and as such, will be stored with reduced clearances in tandem arrangements up to four cars deep. As such, the proposal does not satisfy the engineering and design requirements of a car park in the ordinary sense and therefore should not be characterised as a *car park*.

Kiama LEP 2011 does not provide a definition for “parking” and the word “parking” should be given its ordinary meaning, that is, ordinarily, people park vehicles while attending work, while shopping, while visiting, while recreating, while accessing an amusement park, or while accessing another use. Parking has a temporary and ancillary quality.

Kiama LEP 2011 does not define a car park simply by reference to the physical presence of parked cars. It requires that the building or place be “*primarily used for the purpose of parking motor vehicles*”. That directs attention to the purpose of the use, not merely the physical characteristics of the land or the fact that motor vehicles will be placed there.

The proposal is correctly characterised as a *storage premises* because:

- a) vehicles arrive by transporter;
- b) vehicles are unloaded by employees;
- c) vehicles remain on site until commercially required;
- d) vehicles are reloaded onto transporters for delivery elsewhere; and
- e) no end user parks or retrieves their own vehicle.

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The fact that vehicles are stationary while being stored does not transform the primary commercial purpose of the land into a "car park". Characterisation should focus on the overall purpose and operation of the development, which is the commercial storage of vehicles awaiting future distribution.

To this point, the documents submitted in support of the application describe an activity that would be ordinarily understood as storage and specify that the proposal involves, long-term parking, car storage, storage arrangements and vehicles awaiting collection. The submitted Plan of Management for Car Carries refers to vehicle storage, the submitted Bushfire Protection Assessment refers to Long-Term and Commercial/Industrial Development, and the Architectural Plans refer to car storage.

The characteristics of the proposed operation are inconsistent with the operational model of a car park, in that in the proposal, access is controlled by the operator, vehicles are arranged to maximise storage density and the tandem parking arrangement prevents independent access, and vehicles cannot simply be driven away without moving other vehicles and being loaded on to a freight transport vehicle.

This assessment of characterisation of the proposed use has also been supported by separate legal advice obtained by Council.

The proposed development being appropriately characterised as a *storage premises* is prohibited in the RU2 zone under Kiama LEP 2011 and therefore cannot be approved.

Traffic and parking impacts

Jamberoo Road is a regional classified road and as such, the development may be considered traffic generating development. The application was referred to Transport for NSW (TfNSW) who have advised that Jamberoo Road is a regional classified road, managed by Council, and that it is for Council to consider and determine if proposed arrangements for the development are acceptable from a network perspective in terms of safety and efficiency.

The proposed development increases heavy vehicles accessing the site and is proposed to operate throughout the entire year, including times when Jamberoo Action Park is also in operation. The increased conflicts between the proposed car storage operation, the ongoing operation of Jamberoo Action Park, adjoining rural residential land uses and the broader road network is not considered appropriate. Additionally, the application has not been supported by sufficient details or information to adequately consider the potential pavement degradation of Jamberoo Road.

Council's Subdivision and Development Engineer has also raised concerns with the methodology used in calculating required parking for Jamberoo Action Park, and that there are potential parking and traffic conflicts between the proposed long-term parking storage operation and the ongoing operation of Jamberoo Action Park.

Biodiversity

Parts of the site identified in the application as bushfire hazard management areas are within a Biodiversity Values (BV) mapped area.

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The bushfire assessment report notes that the bushfire hazard management areas can be provided and maintained as an inner protection area (IPA). Noting the identified hazard separation area to the west of car park Area 2 appears to include buildings and large trees with overlapping canopies, it is unclear if the application seeks to remove or prune vegetation to provide and maintain this area as an IPA.

The application has not demonstrated that the application does not trigger entry into the Biodiversity Offset Scheme Entry Threshold (BOSET) and has not been supported by an appropriate Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR).

The application has not demonstrated compliance with the requirements of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Bushfire and fire fighting

The application was referred to the Rural Fire Service (RFS) for comment. RFS have raised concerns with regard to insufficient detail in the application and the bushfire assessment report, and have concerns with potential fire risks and the suitability of fire fighting facilities available on site.

The application has not demonstrated a suitable bushfire outcome with regard to *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.

Social impacts

The proposal is considered to have negative social impacts with regard to noise, vibration, traffic and other amenity impacts as a result of storage, loading/unloading activities and truck movements.

Concerns are also raised with regard to the lack of suitable crime prevention measures and potential risks in terms of vandalism, theft and destruction of property, as well as the potential for harbourage of vermin.

The proposal is also not compatible with the approved Jamberoo Action Park operations and historic consents for the Park and associated car park.

Public submissions

Twelve individual (12) submissions were received in relation to the application. Issues and concerns raised in the submissions relate to permissibility, traffic and parking, bushfire and fire fighting, as well as amenity impacts:

Summary of Public Submissions	
Objection Raised	Council Staff Commentary
Traffic impacts	Concerns related to traffic impacts are noted and agreed with.
Heavy vehicle movements through broader road network and degradation of roads	Concerns related to heavy vehicle movements and potential road degradation are noted. Council's Development Engineer has noted that the application does not include details of total

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Summary of Public Submissions	
Objection Raised	Council Staff Commentary
	weight of fully loaded articulated vehicles (AVs) and further information would be required to adequately assess the impacts of additional heavy vehicles on the pavement life of Jamberoo Road.
Sight lines at entry/exit points and traffic safety	The proposal does not seek to relocate access to the site and it is considered that adequate sight lines are maintained.
Permissibility and zoning	Staff consider that the correct characterisation of the development is a storage premises. Storage premises are not a permitted form of development within the RU2 zone or under the additional permitted uses applicable to the site.
Bushfire impacts	Concerns related to bushfire impacts are noted. The application does not include sufficient information in this regard or satisfactory bushfire protection measures.
Impact on parking availability for operation of the amusement park	Concerns related to parking availability are noted. The proposed storage operation is not considered compatible with the approved and ongoing operations of Jamberoo Action Park.
Deliveries	Concerns related to deliveries and associated amenity impacts are noted and agreed with.
Air quality	The proposed operations are not considered to have an unreasonable impact on air quality.
Wildlife collisions	The proposed operations are not considered result in a significant or intolerable increase in wildlife collisions.

Council staff are not satisfied that the issues and concerns raised in public submissions have been suitably addressed in the application.

Options

1. Adopt the recommendation and refuse the application, for the reasons outlined in enclosure 3, or

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2. Contrary to staff recommendation and acquired legal advice, determine that the proposal is best characterised as a *car park* and approve the application, subject to draft Conditions of Consent contained in enclosure 4

Conclusion

A comprehensive assessment of the Development Application has been undertaken under section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (enclosure 1) in accordance with all statutory requirements.

It is recommended that the application be refused for the reasons outlined in enclosure 3.

15.2 Post exhibition endorsement: Employment Lands Strategy

CSP Objective: Outcome 3.1: A strong economy, vibrant local businesses and local economic growth.

CSP Strategy: 3.1.1. Foster local economic growth by supporting businesses, start-ups, entrepreneurs and new partnerships, and promoting Kiama local government area as a place for new business.

Delivery Program: 3.1.1.1 Support a wide range of business opportunities through land use planning.

Item 15.2

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's adoption of the Employment Lands Strategy.

The Employment Lands Strategy will provide a strategic planning framework to guide the management and growth of commercial and industrial employment lands within the Kiama Local Government Area (LGA) over the next 20 years.

The Draft Employment Strategy (Draft v1) was endorsed by Council on 19 August 2025 and publicly exhibited between 25 August and 19 October 2025. At the 21 October 2025 meeting Council resolved to undertake further analysis and re-exhibit the revised strategy. The revised draft strategy (Draft v2) was endorsed by Council on 21 April 2026 and publicly exhibited between 24 April and 24 May 2026. At the 16 June 2026 meeting Council noted the TEAC minutes including CEO Feedback.

The submissions and stakeholder feedback have been considered in full and a summary of key issues, staff responses, and recommended changes to the draft v2 strategy are provided in the Public Exhibition Engagement Report (see Enclosure 1).

It is recommended the final version of the Employment Lands Strategy (Enclosure 2) be adopted.

Financial implication

The Draft Strategy has been prepared by both internal resources and an external consultant. The funding for the consultant has been previously budgeted for. The final version of the strategy has been prepared by staff within the operational budget.

The implementation of the Strategy and future development of the proposed growth locations will have an economic benefit to the LGA. This will continue to be monitored and planned for.

If the Strategy is not adopted there will be a financial implication as additional resources and budget will need to be allocated in 2026/27 to finalise the strategy.

Risk implication

The preparation of an Employment Lands Strategy will provide Council with a strategic approach to current and future employment lands and ensure that proposals put forward to Council are considered against an adopted strategic planning document.

There is also a risk that without strategically planned growth areas, any Planning Proposal, even if not supported by Council, could possibly be progressed through a rezoning review by the Southern Regional Planning Panel (SRPP), and not by Council.

Policy

The Employment Lands Strategy has been prepared in accordance with:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.*
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 (NSW Government, May 2021).
- Draft The Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan (NSW Government, July 2026).
- Employment Lands Strategy Guidelines (NSW Department of Planning, 2018).
- Draft Statewide Policy for Industrial Lands (NSW DPHI, December 2025).
- Community Participation Plan (Kiama Council, 2019).
- Kiama Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020.
- Local Housing Strategy (Kiama Council, 2025).

Consultation (internal)

There has been ongoing consultation within the Planning and Development Team. The Manager Tourism and Events has also been consulted as there is a level of interdependency between the draft Employment Lands Strategy and the Visitor Economy Strategy and the draft Kiama After Dark Strategy.

Communication/Community engagement

Community engagement associated with the preparation of this Strategy has been extensive and has included two rounds of formal exhibition, engagement with Kiama Business Network, NSW Government agencies and other peak bodies. Council's Tourism & Economic Advisory Committee has been engaged on numerous occasions.

Approximately 150 submissions have been received, reviewed and considered during the two exhibition periods.

Full details of these engagement activities are included in Enclosure 1 and the body of this report.

On 7 September 2026, Council received the enclosed Petition (Enclosure 3) relating to the Employment Lands Strategy. A total of 353 signatures are included in the enclosed Petition requesting that Council exclude 5 Sims Road, Gerringong (Lot 40 DP 1230679) from the final Employment Lands Strategy.

Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

- 1 Public Exhibition Engagement Report - Draft Employment Lands Strategy v2 [⇒](#)
- 2 Employment Lands Strategy - Final for Adoption [⇒](#)
- 3 Petition - Employment Lands Strategy [⇒](#)

RECOMMENDATION

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15.2 Post exhibition endorsement: Employment Lands Strategy (cont)

That Council:

1. Note the Public Exhibition Engagement Report (enclosure 1).
2. Note the Petition received on 7 September 2026 (enclosure 2)
3. Adopt the Employment Lands Strategy.
4. Notify those who made submissions that the Employment Lands Strategy has been adopted.
5. Publish the Employment Lands Strategy on the Council's website.
6. Advise the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure that the Employment Lands Strategy has been adopted by Council and submit it for endorsement.
7. Commence implementing the Actions in the Strategy.

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BackgroundStrategic context

The [Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041](#) (NSW Government, 2021) identifies that Kiama will need to play a supporting role in accommodating future growth, and the [Kiama Local Strategic Planning Statement](#) (2020, updated 2025) reinforces the need to plan for future growth including a 20-year plan integrating land use, transport and infrastructure planning. The preparation of an Employment Lands Strategy is a key action of the Kiama Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020.

The proximity to Wollongong and Shellharbour provides additional employment opportunities for a large portion of our working population (30% of the workforce is employed in Wollongong, and 16% in Shellharbour). The proximity to these cities allows the Kiama municipal community to gain employment in a variety of professional jobs, with 40% of our workforce employed as managers, professionals or clerical and administration workers.

The economic vision for Kiama under the [Kiama Regional Economic Development Strategy - 2023 Update](#) is: *To be a strong vibrant economy outside of current holiday peaks with carefully managed growth and employment opportunities in tourism, agribusiness and other emerging industries and to capitalise on the region's unique opportunities in digital connectivity.*

An employment lands strategy can help to:

- provide strategic direction for employment land in the LGA.
- anticipate land use changes and guide planning proposals.
- identify how jobs targets set in regional or district plans will be achieved.
- implement a 'review and manage' or 'retain and manage' approach for precinct plans.
- address a related action in a local strategic planning statement.
- respond to infrastructure investment.

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15.2 Post exhibition endorsement: Employment Lands Strategy (cont)

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- understand how centres interrelate or help to establish a centres hierarchy within the LGA.

The Employment Lands Strategy (ELS) will sit alongside the recently adopted [Local Housing Strategy](#) (LHS). Where the LHS focuses on housing supply, the ELS will provide strategic direction for employment lands in the LGA by providing clear information, guidance and strategic direction on land use in employment areas and provide direction in terms of considering any planning proposals relating to future employment land.

Draft Employment Lands Strategy

The ELS will provide a strategic planning framework to guide the management and growth of employment lands within the Kiama Local Government Area (LGA) over the next 20 years. Employment lands are used for employment generating activities and include Commercial (ie, office, retail and business premises) and Industrial lands (ie, light and heavy industrial premises).

The ELS was prepared based on the [NSW Government's guideline](#), an evidence base and modelling prepared by an external consultant, and feedback on the Local Housing Strategy in relation to supporting employment lands.

The Draft Strategy has been prepared based on:

- local evidence base (Kiama LGA demographics and employment data).
- local and broad market trends.
- analysis of current zoned employment lands.
- demand modelling for industrial, retail and commercial employment lands.
- analysis of needs for greenfield urban expansion areas.
- opportunities to meet future demand through infill and greenfield development.
- priorities and actions to implement the strategy.

The Draft Strategy identifies the following priorities:

1. Promote the Kiama CBD as the primary centre that is vibrant and supports tourism, including increased dining, retail, commercial and accommodation options
 2. Expand retail and commercial local neighbourhoods within the Kiama LGA, with a focus on supporting growth through adjustments to FSRs and height controls within existing precincts.
 3. Leverage the high remote working rates and improved communication technology to attract regional outposts and facilities that support remote work.
 4. Retain and manage industrial lands to ensure continued economic viability.
 5. Expand new employment land in growth and greenfield areas.
 6. Build resilience by taking advantage of regional and state investments, growth industries, and by strengthening connections with surrounding employment lands.
 7. Promote economic partnerships to support Kiama's growth
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15.2 Post exhibition endorsement: Employment Lands Strategy (cont)

The Strategy also includes a vision, information about the Kiama LGA and our workforce, a supply and demand analysis, land use opportunities and constraints, as well as place-based opportunities and actions.

The key action of the Strategy is to undertake *Kiama Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011* and Development Control Plan (DCP) 2020 reviews to:

- Increase height and floor space ratios within the E1 zoned land in Kiama CBD.
- Include artisan food and drink industries and/or creative industries as permissible uses in the E1 zoned land.
- Expand E1 zone in Kiama CBD to complete main street.
- Review heights and floor space ratios for local neighbourhoods such as Johnson Street and Meehan Drive.
- Review opportunities for commercial/hospitality permissibility in RE1 zoned land (ie, Blowhole Point etc).
- Review appropriateness of zoning in areas such as Barney Street Quarry, Mark Street, Farmer Street, Jamberoo Action Park, Mecure Gerringong, etc.
- Review appropriateness of current permissibility in E3 and E4 zones.
- Provide appropriate employment lands within South Kiama Urban Release Area.
- Review car parking rates for industrial lands.

The Strategy outlines the need for ongoing monitoring, with a review of the document expected to be carried out every five years. This approach is to encourage regular consideration of the employment needs of the Kiama LGA.

Relationship to Local Housing Strategy

At the ordinary July 2025 meeting, Council endorsed the Local Housing Strategy (LHS). To ensure there is a clearly visible relationship between the ELS and LHS, the draft ELS has been restructured from what has been submitted by the consultants to reflect the structure of the LHS.

It is the intent of the adopted Kiama Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020 to prepare a number of planning strategies, including the LHS, ELS, Rural Lands Strategy, etc, which would be used to create a new LSPS to identify and appropriately manage growth and change via land use planning.

The LHS identifies the need to increase densities within and surrounding the Kiama and Gerringong town centres. This is consistent with priorities one (1) and two (2) of the ELS.

The LHS also identifies areas for urban expansion and contains ten (10) non-negotiable principles for greenfield development, including that “*employment lands are provided in accordance with the Kiama Employment Lands Strategy*”. The ELS contains requirements for employment (industrial and commercial) in the specific precincts of the urban expansion areas identified by the adopted LHS.

In addition, the ELS identified land adjacent to the proposed development sites in Gerringong as suitable for employment land and to support residential development.

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.2 Post exhibition endorsement: Employment Lands Strategy (cont)

Exhibition of Draft Strategy (Draft v1)

The Draft ELS Version 1 was reported to the Ordinary meeting on 19 August 2025 where it was resolved that Council:

1. *Endorse placing the draft Employment Lands Strategy, on public exhibition for 28 days to enable public comment/feedback.*
2. *Consult with the community and relevant stakeholders on the Draft Strategy in accordance with the Engagement Strategy – Employment Lands Strategy.*
3. *Receive a further report on the outcomes of the consultation process, along with a recommendation regarding adoption of the Employment Lands Strategy.*

The Draft Strategy was publicly exhibited between 25 August and 19 October 2025 (56 days) The exhibition period was extended twice to ensure community and stakeholders had sufficient time to consider the draft strategy and prepare submissions.

During the exhibition period, planning staff attended the scheduled community pop-ups and discussed the Strategy with the community on 3 and 4 September, and 1 and 2 October. Relevant stakeholders were notified, and Kiama Business Network hosted an information session on 15 September which Council staff and several local business owners attended.

During the public exhibition period, 85 submissions were received:

- 79 from individuals and organisations including the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) and Council's Tourism and Economic Development Advisory Committee (TEAC).
- Six referrals from State Government Agencies including a comprehensive submission from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

The submissions included the following comments:

- The base line (existing) employment lands data is overstated.
- The strategy has a shortfall of future employment lands.
- Employment lands are/can be used for self-storage premises which are not employment generating activities.
- The strategy should better align with the NSW Industrial Lands Action Plan.
- There is a need for additional employment lands at Gerringong, specifically 5 Sims Road, Gerringong.
- Objection to the currently identified additional land in Gerringong, and/or the inclusion of 5 Sims Road in the Strategy.
- The Bombo Quarry is an appropriate location for additional industrial land.
- The need for employment lands in correlation to adjoining regional hubs.
- The actions should be reviewed and strengthened, including how town centres will be enhanced and how underutilised land can be activated.
- Feedback from landowners in relation to what is proposed on their site.

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.2 Post exhibition endorsement: Employment Lands Strategy (cont)

21 October 2025 Council Meeting - Notice of Motion

Prior to the public exhibition ending, a Notice of Motion was tabled for consideration at the Ordinary Council meeting on 21 October 2025. Through the Notice of Motion, it was resolved that Council:

1. *As part of finalising the Employment Lands Strategy and responding to submissions made, consider the inclusion of 5 Sims Road, Gerringong and additional potential employment areas to meet the approximately 10 hectare shortfall by 2044 to address local employment needs and support economic growth. These additional employment areas are to be located within proximity of existing transport hubs.*
2. *Notes that the submissions received have been for and against the inclusion of 5 Sims Road, Gerringong.*
3. *Re-exhibit the Draft Employment Lands Strategy for a further 28 days for the purposes of community consultation inclusive of Lot 40 DP1230679.*

These resolutions were considered and actioned as part of preparing Draft v2.

Exhibition of Draft Strategy (Draft v2)

The Draft ELS version 2 was reported to the Ordinary meeting on 21 April 2026 where it was resolved:

*At the request of Councillor Lawton and by consent the **motion was amended and resolved** that Council:*

1. *Note the Public Exhibition Engagement Report.*
2. *Endorse placing the draft Employment Lands Strategy (Draft v2) on public exhibition for 28 days, with the following amendment:*
 - (a) *The inclusion maps and text identifying potential future investigation areas, as outlined by this Report and consistent with the NSW Government's 'NSW Urban Development Programs: Guide for implementation in regional NSW,*
3. *Consult with the community and relevant stakeholders on the updated Draft Strategy in accordance with the Engagement Strategy – Employment Lands Strategy.*
4. *Receive a further report with a recommendation regarding adoption of the Employment Lands Strategy, which also includes:*
 - (a) *the outcomes of the consultation process*
 - (b) *an analysis on the realistic deliverability of employment land and the distinction between theoretical and developable capacity utilising the methodology contained in the NSW Government's Employment Lands Development Monitor*
 - (c) *a discussion on the opportunities for regular reviews to track the delivery of key employment precincts to ensure a consistent pipeline of employment lands in the Municipality.*

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.2 Post exhibition endorsement: Employment Lands Strategy (cont)

The Draft Strategy presented to Council was updated based on the amended resolution of Council to include an area referred to as the “Sims Road Precinct Investigation Area”. The draft v2 was publicly exhibited between 24 April and 24 May 2026 and the landowners within the “Sims Road Investigation Precinct” notified. During public exhibition planning staff attended the scheduled community pop-ups, relevant stakeholders were notified, and Kiama Business Network hosted an information session which planning staff and several local business owners attended. A session with members of the Aboriginal Advisory Group was also held.

During the public exhibition period, 68 submissions were received:

- 64 from individuals and organisations.
- Four from State Government Agencies.

The Public Exhibition Engagement Report (Enclosure 1) provides an overview of feedback received from individuals, organisations and State Government Agencies during the public exhibition process, the staff response and any changes made.

The individual submissions included the following comments:

- The base line (existing) employment lands data is overstated.
- Objection to the identified additional land in Springside Hill, Riversdale Road Precinct and Gerringong.
- Concern over loss of industrial land as a result of the Kiama Depot rezoning.
- Strong objection to the Sims Road Precinct Investigation Area.
- Additional industrial land should be provided in Bombo Quarry.
- Need to ensure current and future zonings are appropriate for the outcome.
- The need for a Rural Lands Strategy and review of Gerringong Town Centre.

16 June 2026 Council Meeting – Minutes of TEAC meeting including CEO Feedback

The Employment Lands Strategy was discussed at the Tourism and Economic Advisory Committee (TEAM) meeting on 21 May 2026 and CEO Feedback was prepared and attached to the minutes reported to Council on 16 June 2026.

The Recommendations in the CEO Feedback has been considered as follows:

Recommendations	Response
Vision & Economic Development Strategy	
1. Both the draft 2026/27 Operational Plan and the final Employment Lands Strategy could be improved by incorporating this vision.	Both the adopted Visitor Economy and final version of the Employment Lands Strategy contain the relevant components of the Economic Development vision tabled by TEAC

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15.2 Post exhibition endorsement: Employment Lands Strategy (cont)

2. The final Employment Lands, Visitor Economy and Night-Time Economy strategies could be improved by noting their interrelationship and that in the coming years they will be consolidated to form an Economic Development Strategy for the LGA.	This interrelationship is noted. The Employment Lands Strategy contains an action to finalise both the Visitor Economy and Night-Time Economy Strategies and to commence a Special Entertainment Precinct Trail for Kiama. All three Strategies flag the need to progress with implementing the remaining recommendations of the Kiama Town Centre Studies. The preparation of an Economic Development Strategy is included in the Strategies & Communities Directorate's long-term works program.
Industrial Lands	
3. It is recommended that TEAC and key staff visit modern industrial parks, complete a visual inspection and explore these urban / industrial outcomes.	This recommendation is noted and subject to budget constraints. Key staff have and continue to attend alternative industrial parks as part of their ongoing professional development.
4. The final Employment Lands Strategy could be improved by identifying existing industrially zoned lands that are no longer suitable for industrial purposes and identify alternative, more appropriate zonings	This has been included in actions to review the Employment Zones of the LEP.
5. The final Employment Lands Strategy could be improved by identifying a broader quantum and range of employment lands to encourage more working aged peoples to the LGA.	The Employment Zones of the LEP are prescribed by the NSW Government and there is limited ability to change the current range. Clause 6.13 of the Kiama LEP requires the desired future character of specific employment precincts to be considered as part of the Development Assessment Process. Ensure these character statements are included in future versions of

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15.2 Post exhibition endorsement: Employment Lands Strategy (cont)

	the LEP for all employment areas is captured in the action/s to review the LEP. In the absence of a broader policy direction, staff have not sought to identify a significant quantum of additional employment lands beyond the projections provided by NSW Government.
6. The final Employment Lands Strategy could be improved by identifying specific amendments to the <i>Kiama Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011</i> and/or Kiama Development Control Plan (DCP) 2020 to ensure that future industrial development is consistent with the economic vision for the LGA.	This has be more clearly articulated in the actions to review the Kiama LEP.
Commercial and Retail Lands	
7. The final Employment Lands Strategy could be improved by clearly articulating amendments to the Kiama LEP 2011 and/or Kiama DCP 2020 that would encourage/facilitate first and or second floor commercial opportunities thereby strengthening the role of the main street.	As above
8. The final Employment Lands Strategy could be improved by clearly articulating amendments to the Kiama LEP 2011 and/or Kiama DCP 2020 that would facilitate the desired future character of the various sections of the Kiama main street as included in the Kiama Town Centre Plan. This includes consolidation of the main street of Kiama and ensuring that the west end precinct as it extends to Council's parcels at Terralong are converted to commercial with mixed residential on upper floors.	As above
9. The final Employment Lands Strategy could be improved by recognising the significant contribution that Council's landholdings, both in Gerringong and Kiama, have to economic development. These sites provide a chance to	As above

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15.2 Post exhibition endorsement: Employment Lands Strategy (cont)

provide commercial opportunities and to activate and enliven the main streets.	
10. The final Employment Lands Strategy could be improved by considering and evaluating the role of the NSW Government's Housing Delivery Authority in heights etc. within the main streets.	The role of the NSW Government's Housing Delivery Authority is ever evolving. Appendix B: Urban Growth Area Policy of the draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan seeks to provide guidance to bodies such as the Housing Delivery Authority when considering EOIs. It is envisioned that this Policy will provide greater weight to local strategies such as LHS and ELS.
Alternative Employment Sites	
11. To reinforce the relationship with the draft Visitor Economy Strategy (VES) the final ELS should: a) acknowledge the opportunities for traditional visitor accommodation in Kiama, b) reaffirm the VES action to undertake an audit and analysis of visitor accommodation in the LGA, and c) explore opportunities, via the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Joint Organisation, to coordinate this regionally.	As outlined above, this has been actioned.

Item 15.2

The Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan

In August 2026 the NSW Government's Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) released the draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan (Draft Plan). The Draft Plan sets out the strategic land use framework for the Illawarra Shoalhaven region (including the Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven and Wingecarribee LGAs) for the next 20 years. In addition to identifying urban growth areas, the Draft Plan focuses on the areas of Aboriginal Outcomes, Connected and Resilient, Liveable and Coordinated.

The Draft Plan also includes a 'Prosperous' priority and an Appendix A which includes job guidance. The Plan identifies approved 3,600 new jobs will be required in the Kiama LGA over the next 20 years. This is compared to the ELS identifying 3,122 new jobs over the same timeframe. This is roughly a 7% increase in the number of additional jobs. Although the jobs target is slightly higher, the Employment Lands Strategy provides sufficient land area and enhancement opportunities to achieve this

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15.2 Post exhibition endorsement: Employment Lands Strategy (cont)

outcome. For example, to accommodate the ELS job projections a minimum of 13.7Ha of additional industrial lands is required. The ELS identifies 15Ha.

Council's submission on the Draft Plan notes the calculation errors within the table and seeks clarification on the methodology and calculations.

Final Strategy

A final version of the strategy has now been prepared for adoption based on:

- Submissions received during the public exhibition of Draft v1 and Draft v2
- Feedback received from State Agencies during public exhibition and consultation
- Outcome of TEAC meeting on 21 May 2026 including CEO Feedback
- The [draft Statewide Policy for Industrial Lands](#) which identifies the following criteria to determine the location for new employment sites:
 1. Proximity to freight access and/or critical infrastructure
 2. Capacity for essential infrastructure
 3. Adjacency to high pressure pipelines transporting dangerous good
 4. Site are unencumbered by environmental constraints
 5. Contamination and remediation potential
 6. Accessible to business and communities

The final Employment Lands Strategy is based on the following:

Data Type	Data	Data Source
Additional jobs	3,125 jobs	HillPDA 2025
Industrial land – future demand	13.7ha	HillPDA 2025 (updated by KMC 2026)
Retail floorspace – future demand	6,181sqm	HillPDA 2025
Commercial space – future demand	4,390sqm	HillPDA 2025

In summary, the changes proposed to Draft v2 are:

- Update the industrial land area at Bombo Quarry (3ha to 5ha)
- Remove the Industrial land proposed at Springside Hill (1ha to Nil)
- Increase the Commercial / retail land proposed at Springside Hill (0.5 to 1ha)
- Remove the Tier 5 Sims Road Precinct Investigation Area but not the strategic nature of the Belinda St/Sims Rd interchange for consideration as part of future Rural Lands Strategy
- Update and add actions to strengthen and clarify the intent of the Strategy.
- Note employment generating development not located in employment zones.
- Include reference to the Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan and update Figure 1 Kiama within the Illawarra Shoalhaven regional context.

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15.2 Post exhibition endorsement: Employment Lands Strategy (cont)

- Other minor changes in response to submissions.

The proposed location of future industrial lands has been updated as follows:

Site	Draft v2	Final	Details
Total Required	11.3ha	13.7ha	Future demand needs less current zoned land (rezoned land removed from current supply).
Bombo Quarry	3ha	5ha	Site identified as suitable for additional industrial land (supported by all state agencies, NSW DPHI and HillPDA)
Kiama West (Springside Hill)	1ha	Nil	The site does not sufficiently meet the criteria for industrial lands (the Commercial land area has been increased accordingly).
Gerringong (East of highway, ie Belinda Street)	8ha	8ha	Land identified in Draft v1 and Draft v2, east of highway, extension of existing urban / employment area.
Gerringong ("Sims Road Precinct")	Nil (Investigation Area)	Nil	Consideration of site against criteria has found it to be not suitable for inclusion at this stage.
Minnamurra	Nil	2ha	Proposed rezoning of the Kiama Waste Depot to accommodate the Works Depot
Total identified	12ha	15ha	
Shortfall / Surplus	+0.7ha	+1.3ha	

Following the preparation of a Rural Lands Strategy, the suitability of additional employment lands and/or industrial precincts will be further considered and if suitable, included in a future review of the Employment Lands Strategy.

Conclusion

The Employment Lands Strategy will provide a strategic planning framework to guide the management and growth of employment lands within the Kiama Local Government Area (LGA) over the next 20 years. Employment lands are used for employment generating activities and include Commercial (ie, office, retail and business premises) and Industrial (ie, light and heavy industrial premises).

The Draft Employment Strategy (Draft v1) was endorsed by Council on 19 August 2025 and publicly exhibited between 25 August and 19 October 2025. At the 21 October 2025 meeting Council resolved to undertake further analysis and re-exhibit the revised strategy. The revised draft strategy (Draft v2) was endorsed by Council on

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15.2 Post exhibition endorsement: Employment Lands Strategy (cont)

21 April 2026 and publicly exhibited between 24 April and 24 May 2026. At the 16 June 2026 meeting Council noted the TEAC minutes including CEO Feedback.

The submissions and stakeholder feedback have been considered in full and a summary of key issues, staff responses, and recommended changes to the draft v2 strategy are provided in the Public Exhibition Engagement Report (see Enclosure 1).

A final version of the strategy has now been prepared, and it is recommended this final version of the Employment Lands Strategy (Enclosure 2) be adopted.

Item 15.2

15.3 Submission: The Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan

- CSP Objective: Outcome 3.3: We love where we live and are strongly connected within our region. Growth and development will be managed sustainably, thoughtfully and equitably, while preserving our built and natural heritage.
- CSP Strategy: 3.3.2 Manage development and growth sustainably and thoughtfully.
- Delivery Program: 3.3.2.1 Council meets the legislative requirements for Planning and Assessment.

Item 15.3

Summary

As part of the NSW planning reforms, the “New Approach to Strategic Planning”, and following preparation of the State Land Use Plan and the Sydney Plan, the NSW Government has released the draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan for public exhibition.

The draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan (the Plan) sets the strategic land use framework for the Illawarra Shoalhaven region (including the Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven and Wingecarribee LGAs) for the next 20 years.

This report summarises the Plan and seeks Council’s endorsement to lodge the comments compiled by Council officers as a submission to the NSW Government (Enclosure 1).

Financial implication

There are no direct financial implications associated with preparing or lodging the submission, or from the NSW Government adopting the Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan.

Risk implication

There are no direct risk implications associated with preparing or lodging the submission.

Policy

The following were considered when preparing the submission:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.*
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041.

Consultation (internal)

The submission was prepared by the Planning and Development team.

Communication/Community engagement

The Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan is on public exhibition by the NSW Government until 28 September 2026.

Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

- 1 Submission on Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan [↗](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the lodgement of the submission to the NSW Government in response to the public exhibition of the Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan.

BackgroundStatutory context

In NSW, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the Act) provides the regulatory framework for planning decisions including the assessment of development applications, making of planning instruments (LEPs), and strategic planning.

Division 3.1 of the Act sets out the State, Regional and Local strategic planning framework for the State of NSW. Section 3.3 sets out the provisions for the Planning Secretary to prepare a regional strategic plan. The regional strategic plan may also include housing targets that have been declared by the Minister under section 3.2A.

The regional strategic plan is then implemented through Planning Proposals and Local Environmental Plan reviews to ensure consistency, and when Council's prepare or review their Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041

The current regional strategic plan, the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041, was adopted by the NSW Government in May 2021. This Plan focused on the following:

- A productive and innovative region.
- A sustainable and resilient region.
- A region that values its people and places.
- A smart, connected and accessible region.

The current Regional Plan has been implemented by Council in its LSPS, Local Housing Strategy, Draft Employment Lands Strategy and through planning proposals.

The draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan

The draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan (the draft Plan) updates and replaces the *Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041* and has been prepared by the NSW Government in accordance with Division 3.1 of the Act. The draft Plan applies to the five local government areas of Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven and Wingecarribee (noting that Wingecarribee has been added to the region).

The draft Plan sets the strategic land use framework for the region for the next 20 years and draws from State policies such as the State Infrastructure Strategy, State

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15.3 Submission: The Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan (cont)

Disaster Mitigation Plan and NSW Plan for Nature, as well as council strategies such as community strategic plans and Local Strategic Planning Statements. Shared priorities in land use planning establish how the NSW Government and councils will work together to implement this Plan.

The draft Plan is on public exhibition until 28 September 2026 and can be viewed here: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/draftplans/exhibition/illawarra-shoalhaven-plan>

The Structure, and relationship between the NSW State Land Use Plan and the draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan is shown at Figure 1.

Figure 1 Overview of Plan Structure



Source: The Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan (NSW DPHI, 2026)

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15.3 Submission: The Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan (cont)

The draft Plan identifies seven high level priorities:

- Aboriginal Outcomes.
- Housed.
- Prosperous.
- Connected.
- Resilient.
- Livable.
- Coordinated.

The draft Plan then sets out 10 responses:

1. Increase housing supply in the urban growth area.
2. Prioritise housing diversity and choice to meet changing household needs.
3. Align sequenced infrastructure delivery with growth priorities.
4. Support a vibrant centres network, anchored by Wollongong as the region's principal CBD.
5. Intensify and grow the region's industrial lands potential and capacity for future industries.
6. Deliver Australia's first Urban Renewable Energy Zone.
7. Unlock the productivity, economic and lifestyle benefits between the region and south west Sydney.
8. Define appropriate land use pathways to support Aboriginal outcomes.
9. Protect the region's natural places so both people and nature can thrive as the climate changes.
10. Connect and grow the network of regional public open space and events infrastructure.

Each response is supported by a number of actions for the Department and/or Councils to deliver.

The implementation section includes Programs, Local Planning, Governance and a framework for the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the Plan.

The Plan is supported by 3 appendixes:

Appendix A – Local Government Narratives.

Appendix B – Urban growth area policy.

Appendix C – Glossary.

Submission

The Planning and Development Team have reviewed the Draft Plan and prepared a submission (see Enclosure 1).

Conclusion

As part of the NSW planning reforms and the “New Approach to Strategic Planning” the NSW Government has prepared the NSW State Land Use Plan, The Sydney Plan and the Draft Statewide Policy for Industrial Lands. The NSW Government has now prepared a review of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 and The Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan is now on public exhibition.

Although the Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan is supported as it will provide a strategic land use plan that will guide how the NSW Government manages growth in the region over the next 20 years, a number of suggestions are made in the submission to strengthen and improve the Plan before it is adopted by the NSW Government.

In general terms, the draft Plan does not radically alter or impact Council's existing Strategic Planning works program. The draft Plan could be more visionary and look simply beyond the role of Wollongong within the region. Significant concerns about ability to implement the Plan have been identified. The role of a Regional Plan is to influence and provide guidance to Councils when they prepare their local strategies. Local strategies then influence changes to LEPs and DCPs which then result in built form outcomes. Unfortunately, the current draft Plan appears to be attempting to directly influence LEPs and DCPs which it does not have the legal ability to do.

It is recommended that Council endorse the comments on the draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan (Enclosure 1) for lodgement as a submission to the NSW Government.

15.4 Endorsement for public exhibition: Draft Community Development Plan

CSP Objective: Outcome 1.1: We value a strong sense of belonging, where social and cultural life thrives, and residents, families, friends and visitors feel welcome and included..

CSP Strategy: 1.1.1 Support and deliver the initiatives that encourage community connection and social interaction for all residents

Delivery Program: 1.1.1.2 Empower and build a connected, resilient, safe and cohesive community through partnerships and community development programs and initiatives.

Item 15.4

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement to place the Draft Community Development Plan 2026-2030 (the Plan) on public exhibition for a period of 28 days to enable further community and stakeholder feedback prior to final adoption.

The Draft Plan provides a strategic framework for Council's role in strengthening community wellbeing, inclusion, participation and resilience. It will have a focus on the areas where Council can have the greatest influence through leadership, advocacy, partnerships, capacity building, access to services and programs and the provision of community infrastructure.

The Plan translates community needs, aspirations and priorities, clarify and consolidates Council's current committed resources and service levels and provides the foundation to deliver community development programs, aiming to deliver on four (4) key priority areas:

- Youth Empowerment and Wellbeing.
- Strengthening Reconciliation & Cultural Connections.
- Positive Ageing & Wellbeing.
- Community Safety, Inclusion and Connection.

In addition to providing a strategic framework, the Plan includes a comprehensive Action Plan that identifies specific deliverables and outlines Council's role in delivering these actions through leadership, collaboration, and advocacy. The Action Plan translates the priorities of Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan (DPOP) into practical actions and will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains responsive and aligns with evolving community needs, Council priorities, and strategic directions.

Financial implication

The commitments within the Plan will be predominately delivered by existing community development team, annual operational budget planning through DPOP, facilitating partnerships and resource sharing and securing external funding programs.

Risk implication

The Plan reduces the risk of a fragmented and uncoordinated approach to community wellbeing by establishing a clear strategic framework that aligns Council's efforts across services, programs, and partnerships. It clarifies Council's role, responsibilities,

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15.4 Endorsement for public exhibition: Draft Community Development Plan
(cont)

and the range of services and resources available to the community, improving understanding and accessibility.

Policy

The draft Plan aligns with Council's Community Strategic Plan, DPOP, Kiama Cultural Plan, Disability Inclusion Plan, Draft Reconciliation Action Plan, Kiama Library Strategic Plan, Draft Kiama Visitor Economy Strategy, Town Centre Studies, and a range of place-making initiatives.

Consultation (internal)

The development of the Plan is informed by staff input from various departments and ELT, to ensure strategic alignment and operational viability. The majority of actions and commitments within the Plan are specific to functions of Community Development team, while partnership and collaboration internally and externally is fundamental to achieving measures outlined.

Communication/Community engagement

The Plan draws on feedback collected through a range of existing engagement channels, including Youth Services programs, community events, program planning and evaluation activities, community grants processes, advisory groups, partnerships with local organisations, and broader community engagement undertaken across diverse programs and services of council.

A broader community consultation will take place during the Public Exhibition seeking further input and to ensure the proposed priorities and actions accurately reflect the needs, aspirations and expectations of the Kiama community. This engagement will help validate the direction of the plan, identify any gaps or emerging issues. The consultation will be inclusive of online survey, face-to-face and targeted focus group sessions.

Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

- 1 DRAFT Community Development Plan - September 2026⇒

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Endorse the Draft Community Development Plan for public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.
2. Following conclusion of the public exhibition period:
 - (a) Receive a further report for consideration detailing the public exhibition period result, or
 - (b) Adopt the Community Development Plan if no submission is received and there are no substantial changes proposed for any other reasons.

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15.4 Endorsement for public exhibition: Draft Community Development Plan
(cont)**Background**

The development of Kiama's Community Development Plan was identified in the 2024-25 Operational Plan. Works commenced on the Plan in 2025-2026 Financial Year and is presented to Council for consideration.

To date, Council has not had a dedicated Community Development Plan to guide and coordinate its approach to strengthening community wellbeing, inclusion, participation and resilience. While community development outcomes have been supported through a range of Council strategies, programs and initiatives, there has been no single framework that brings together community priorities, identifies areas of need, and provides a coordinated roadmap for future action. This Plan recognises the importance of building strong, connected and inclusive communities as outlined in the Community Strategic Plan.

The Plan has been developed to provide a clear strategic direction for community development across the municipality and to ensure that Council's efforts are informed by community needs, aspirations and emerging challenges. It is intended to complement and support the delivery of Council's Community Strategic Plan and other strategic plans of Council, while providing a stronger focus on community cohesion/wellbeing, capacity building, inclusion, participation and service levels.

Development of the Plan has involved a review of existing Council plans, community data, demographic trends and relevant research to better understand both the strengths of the Kiama community and the opportunities for further development. A key component of the Plan's development has been input/feedback from the community and other stakeholders. This feedback, together with field work, available evidence and community insights, has informed the draft priorities and actions contained within the Plan.

The Plan also strengthens internal and external coordination, fostering collaboration internally and between Council, community organisations, government agencies, and other stakeholders to maximise community outcomes. Further, the Plan supports sustainable and evidence-based responses to current, emerging, and changing community needs, reducing the risk of service gaps, duplication, and missed opportunities.

The Plan translates community needs, aspirations and priorities, clarifies and consolidates Council's current committed resources and service levels and provides the foundation to deliver community development programs, aiming to deliver on four (4) key priority areas:

- Youth Empowerment and Wellbeing.
- Strengthening Reconciliation & Cultural Connections.
- Positive Ageing & Wellbeing.
- Community Safety, Inclusion and Connection.

In addition to providing a strategic framework, the Plan includes a comprehensive Action Plan that identifies specific deliverables and outlines Council's role in delivering

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15.4 Endorsement for public exhibition: Draft Community Development Plan
(cont)

these actions through leadership, collaboration, and advocacy. The Action Plan translates the priorities of Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan (DPOP) into practical actions and will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains responsive and aligns with evolving community needs, Council priorities, and strategic directions.

Next steps

Staff will undertake broader community consultation on the draft Plan to seek further feedback and ensure the proposed priorities and actions accurately reflect the needs, aspirations and expectations of the community. This phase of engagement will help validate the direction of the Plan, identify gaps or emerging issues, and ensure that the final document represents a shared vision for building a connected, inclusive, resilient and thriving community. Once adopted, the Community Development Plan will provide a roadmap for Council and its partners to work collaboratively towards achieving positive community outcomes for current and future generations.

It is recommended that the Plan be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. Any feedback received during this period will be reviewed, necessary amendments will be incorporated into the Plan, and a further report will be presented to Council for final endorsement.

15.5 Council-declared Special Events

CSP Objective: Outcome 3.2: We have an economy that balances tourism opportunities with resident needs and ensuring we don't lose our community feel.

CSP Strategy: 3.2.2 Support sustainable local business development, visitations and events including showcasing iconic attractions and hosting events that attract visitors to the region.

Delivery Program: 3.2.2.1 Major events delivery, including implementing the key actions of the Major Events Strategy.

Item 15.5

Summary

This report provides a recommendation from Council's Tourism and Economics Advisory Committee (TEAC) to Council regarding the declaration of selected local events as Council-declared Special Events under the NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms.

The provisions allow eligible non-licensed premises, including cafés, restaurants, takeaway food premises, shops and community facilities, to temporarily extend trading hours during declared events without requiring additional development approval, subject to compliance with relevant standards.

The events recommended for declaration are considered the Municipality's most significant recurring community and visitor events, attracting visitation and supporting economic activity across the local government area.

Financial implication

Nil.

Risk implication

The declaration of Special Events may result in some eligible non-licensed premises operating for extended hours during approved events. Any impacts are expected to be minimal given the temporary nature and the limited range of premises it will apply to.

Policy

- NSW Government Vibrancy Reforms.
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008.

Consultation (internal)

This report is presented in response to a recommendation from the TEAC meeting held on 20 August 2026

Communication/Community engagement

The events recommended to be declared as Council-declared Special Events are long standing events in the Local Government Area's event calendar. Additional events will be considered by TEAC on a regular basis. Event organisers work collaboratively with Council's Tourism and Economic Development team as part of grant funding,

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15.5 Council-declared Special Events (cont)

reserve booking, application requirements etc. Events identified for consideration will be flagged by staff and reported to TEAC for consideration.

Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

Nil

Item 15.5

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, in accordance with the provisions of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008, declare the following events as Council-declared Special Events for the purpose of facilitating temporary extended trading hours for eligible non-licensed premises:

1. Kiama New Year's Eve: 31 December 2026, until 2.00am.
2. Kiama Show: 22-23 January 2027, until midnight.
3. Kiama Jazz & Blues Festival: 4-6 March 2027, until midnight.
4. Crooked River Winter Wine Festival: 5-6 June 2027, until midnight.

Background

The NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms introduced provisions within the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008* (Codes SEPP) that allow for extended trading hours during declared Special Events. These reforms aim to support economic activity, cultural participation and the night-time economy.

There are two types of Special Events under the framework.

1. **State-declared Special Events** are declared by the Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy and generally relate to major state, national or international events. These declarations apply across NSW and are primarily intended to support licensed venues such as hotels, clubs and bars through temporary extensions to liquor trading hours. Examples include major sporting events such as the NRL Grand Finals, Rugby League World Cup Final and selected international sporting broadcasts.
2. **Council-declared Special Events** are declared by individual councils under the Codes SEPP and are intended to support local festivals, community celebrations, cultural events and agricultural shows. These provisions apply to eligible non-licensed premises, including shops, cafés, restaurants, takeaway food premises, community facilities and entertainment venues, allowing temporary extended trading hours during a declared event without the need for additional development approval, subject to compliance with applicable standards.

Selection of events

The purpose of the Council-declared Special Event provisions is to provide flexibility for eligible non-licensed businesses during significant events that generate increased visitation and activity. The provisions are not intended to apply to every event held within the municipality.

In preparing the recommended list, consideration was given to whether an event:

- has established community, cultural, sporting or tourism significance;
- attracts visitors from outside the local government area;
- generates economic activity for local businesses;
- occurs across multiple venues or within a broader town centre setting where extended trading opportunities may reasonably be utilised; and
- is of a scale where the declaration may provide a practical benefit to surrounding businesses.

While the Kiama Municipality hosts a range of successful community, sporting and cultural events throughout the year, many occur during normal trading hours, attract predominantly local attendance or are unlikely to generate demand for extended trading by eligible businesses.

The four events recommended in this report are considered the municipality's most significant recurring events in terms of visitation, community participation and economic contribution. They are therefore considered the events most likely to deliver practical benefit through the Council-declared Special Event provisions.

15.6 Post exhibition endorsement: Kiama After Dark Strategy

CSP Objective: Outcome 3.1: A strong economy, vibrant local businesses and local economic growth.

CSP Strategy: 3.1.2 Maintain and expand a wide range of industry and business; including tourism, agriculture, light industry, professional and care services.

Delivery Program: 3.1.2.1 In collaboration with regional partners implement the Regional Economic Development Strategy.

Item 15.6

Summary

The purpose of this report is to present Kiama After Dark (Kiama Municipality's Night-time Economy Strategy) and the Public Exhibition Engagement Report for Council's consideration following public exhibition.

The draft Strategy was publicly exhibited from 22 June to 26 July 2026, with the exhibition period extended from the usual 28 days to facilitate community engagement in Gerringong. A total of 22 submissions were received. Feedback demonstrated broad support for the Strategy's vision, focus areas and overall direction, while also identifying concerns regarding implementation, accountability, delivery and potential impacts on resident amenity.

Council staff have reviewed all submissions and prepared a Public Exhibition Engagement Report (enclosed) summarising the feedback received. An updated version of the Strategy is also enclosed with tracked changes identifying proposed amendments in response to community and stakeholder feedback.

The proposed amendments are minor in nature and seek to strengthen implementation pathways, clarify responsibilities, improve business support measures, introduce a clearer two-year priority action framework, and reinforce the importance of maintaining Kiama's unique character and protecting community amenity. The Strategy's vision, strategic direction and five focus areas remain unchanged.

Financial implication

Funding has been received to complete the Strategy as well as a trial Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) in the Kiama Town Centre, proposed to start early 2027.

Further implementation of the Strategy will be subject to future Council budgets, grant funding opportunities, partnerships and available resources. Adoption of the Strategy does not commit Council to funding all actions contained within the document.

Risk implication

The Strategy also includes measures to balance increased activity with community amenity, safety and accessibility through Purple Flag Accreditation and precinct audits.

Policy

The Strategy aligns with and supports a range of local and state planning, economic development, tourism and cultural strategies, including:

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15.6 Post exhibition endorsement: Kiama After Dark Strategy (cont)

Item 15.6

- Kiama Community Strategic Plan.
- Kiama Local Strategic Planning Statement.
- Kiama Visitor Economy Strategy.
- Draft Kiama Employment Lands Strategy.
- Regional Economic Development Strategy.
- Creative Kiama Cultural Plan.
- Kiama Local Housing Strategy.
- Kiama Town Centre Study.

Consultation (internal)

In developing the draft Strategy, the following teams have been engaged:

- Planning and Development.
- Community Outcomes.
- Environment and Compliance.
- Tourism Economic Advisory Committee (TEAC).

Communication/Community engagement

Development of the Strategy was informed by an extensive consultation program involving residents, businesses, community organisations, young people, Council staff, industry stakeholders and government agencies. Consultation activities included community surveys, youth engagement, stakeholder workshops, business consultation and community pop-up events. See enclosed Post Exhibition Engagement Report.

Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

- 1 Kiama After Dark - LGA Night-time Economy Strategy - Post exhibition tracked changes [⇒](#)
- 2 Kiama After Dark - post exhibition engagement report [⇒](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Receives and notes the Kiama After Dark Public Exhibition Engagement Report.
2. Adopts the Kiama After Dark Strategy.
3. Notify those who made submissions that the Kiama After Dark Strategy has been adopted.
4. Publish the Kiama After Dark Strategy on the Council's website.

5. Commence implementing the Actions in the Strategy.**Background**

Kiama's after-dark economy is currently performing strongly relative to comparable regional areas but remains narrow in its composition, with activity heavily concentrated on dining and the early evening period with limited activity beyond 9pm. The economy is also highly visitor-dependent, with significant resident spending occurring outside the Local Government Area, highlighting both a reliance on external markets and an opportunity to better capture local demand.

This creates a cyclical situation, where limited patronage discourages businesses from staying open later, while a lack of after-dark options reduces people's incentive to stay out, made more difficult by the seasonal nature of visitation.

Despite these challenges, Kiama has strong foundations to build a more vibrant and sustainable after-dark economy, including its natural assets, established hospitality sector and strong visitor appeal. There is a clear opportunity to extend activity into the evening, diversify experiences beyond dining, increase overnight visitation, and support more consistent year-round economic activity.

In 2025, Kiama Council successfully secured funding from the NSW Government through the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner to prepare a Night-Time Economy Strategy for the Kiama Local Government Area.

Development of the Strategy

The development of the Strategy aligns with the NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms and broader local strategic priorities, including the recently adopted Visitor Economy Strategy, which identifies the after-dark economy as a key area for growth, and the draft Employment Lands Strategy.

Extensive engagement with the community, businesses and stakeholders demonstrates strong support for a more vibrant and diverse after-dark offer that reflects Kiama's character and lifestyle. Survey findings indicated:

1. Vibrancy currently low
 - Overall vibrancy ratings are low, with 82% of respondents rating Kiama between 1–2 out of 5.
 - 88% of survey respondents stated there is not enough evening and night-time activities in the Kiama LGA to suit different ages and interests.
 - Existing night-time activities are perceived as limited in both variety and appeal.
 - The main reasons for people going out after dark are eating out, live music/entertainment, drinks and participation in community events.
2. Strong latent demand
 - 40% of respondents go out after dark 1-2 times per week.
 - Many respondents indicated they would participate in the night-time economy more frequently if a broader range of options were available.

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15.6 Post exhibition endorsement: Kiama After Dark Strategy (cont)

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3. Economic leakage
 - Residents commonly travel outside the LGA to access dining, entertainment and night-time experiences, however there is a preference to remain local.
 4. Desired experiences
 - The most sought-after experiences include:
 - Live music and entertainment
 - Dining and food-based experiences – including more outdoor dining
 - Outdoor events, activations, including markets
 - Arts and cultural programming
 - Extended and later trading hours
 5. Key barriers to participation
 - Limited choice of activities
 - Cost
 - Transport access
 - Family and caring responsibilities
 6. Safety perceptions
 - Kiama is generally perceived as safe at night.
 - Minor improvements were suggested, particularly around lighting and CCTV, police presence / security.
 7. Demand for non-alcohol options
 - There is a clear desire for inclusive night-time experiences that do not centre on alcohol consumption.
 8. Timing
 - Strongest community demand for increased vibrancy is for evening (7pm – 10pm) and afternoon/twilight (3pm – 7pm).
 9. Areas identified by respondents for increased after-dark activation:
 - Terralong Street.
 - Harbour foreshore.
 - Hindmarsh Park.
 - Manning Street.
 10. Conditional support
 - Support for expanding the night-time economy is high (94%), provided initiatives maintain Kiama's local character and community feel.

11. Barriers to growth

Businesses reported the highest barrier to offer more activities after dark to be the limited demand, particularly on weeknights (41%), followed by noise complaint risks (33.3%).

Kiama After Dark

'Kiama After Dark' explores opportunities for growth in twilight and night-time activity across the Kiama Local Government Area (LGA).

The Strategy aims to create the right conditions for a safe, vibrant and well-managed after-dark economy that strengthens Kiama's social and economic fabric, supports live music and entertainment, and encourages local business growth, while respecting local character, residential amenity and community expectations.

The Strategy includes the following five (5) focus areas:

- Focus Area One: Leadership, Collaboration and Governance

Foster strong collaboration between Council, local businesses, community groups and key stakeholders to support a coordinated, well-managed and sustainable night-time economy.

- Focus Area Two: Planning and Placemaking

Establish a supportive and adaptable regulatory framework that enables a diverse range of evening and night-time activities, while prioritising safety, accessibility, and respect for the local environment and community. This focus area also recognises the critical role of place-based infrastructure in enabling vibrant and sustainable night-time experiences.

- Focus Area Three: Vibrancy

Cultivate a vibrant, inclusive and economically sustainable night-time economy that offers a diverse mix of experiences, including dining, entertainment, arts, cultural and recreational activities.

- Focus Area Four: Connectivity

Enhance transport, accessibility and walkability (where appropriate) to ensure people can easily and safely access, move through and engage with Kiama's night-time offerings.

- Focus Area Five: Identity

Celebrate and strengthen Kiama's unique coastal and hinterland character, heritage and community, ensuring the night-time economy reflects and enhances its distinct sense of place.

The Strategy includes a wide range of actions for Council to deliver, partner with and advocate for over the short, medium and long-term. Considering the five core focus areas and their phasing horizons, the following are the Strategy's priority actions:

- Establish an LGA wide, After Dark Working Group.
- Trial a Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) in the Kiama town centre.
- Improve lighting and safety in key areas (in line with Purple Flag accreditation).

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15.6 Post exhibition endorsement: Kiama After Dark Strategy (cont)

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- Develop an After Dark place identity, brand and communications strategy.
 - Support extended trading hours, business participation and labour pool capacity building.
 - Identify additional State funding opportunities that support our night-time economy.
 - Implement a twilight activation program in partnership with local businesses.
 - Review how Kiama Business Network can more strategically support promoting Kiama After Dark.
 - Advocate for a range of increased, reliable transport options across the LGA.
 - Look to improve lighting across key precincts, parks, pathways, and public assets.

The resulting Kiama After Dark Strategy provides a 10-year framework to support a vibrant, safe and inclusive after-dark economy that reflects Kiama's unique coastal and village character while supporting local businesses, community wellbeing and the visitor economy.

Implementation will occur through a phased program of Priority Actions (0-2 years), Short-Term Actions (2-5 years) and Future Opportunities (5+ years), recognising that successful delivery will require collaboration between Council, businesses, community organisations and government agencies.

15.7 Sponsorship endorsement: Kiama NYE Sky Show 2026

CSP Objective: Outcome 4.2: Our governance is transparent and trusted, supported by the right structures, technology and processes to effectively serve the community.

CSP Strategy: 4.2.2 Communicate transparently to inform, build trust and respect.

Delivery Program: 4.2.2.4 Effectively communicate the projects, plans, actions and outcomes of Council (and relevant government departments) to inform our community in a timely and accessible way.

Item 15.7

Summary

Sponsorship commitments totalling \$80,500 have been secured from 15 organisations to support delivery of the Kiama New Year's Eve (NYE) Sky Show on 31 December 2026.

In accordance with Council's Incoming Donations and Bequests Policy, the proposed sponsorship pledges have been assessed by Council Executive Leadership Team (ELT), Governance and operational staff and are considered suitable for acceptance.

A number of sponsors have existing and unrelated dealings with Council, including leases, contracts, advisory committee representation, planning matters, event delivery arrangements and membership of Council-supported organisations. These relationships were assessed in accordance with Council's Incoming Donations and Bequests Policy and governance framework. No actual conflicts of interest were identified and any perceived conflicts are considered manageable through appropriate governance and conflict management measures.

Acceptance of the sponsorship contributions is considered to be in the public interest and will enable delivery of a significant community event while reducing reliance on Council funding. Accordingly, it is recommended that Council accept the sponsorship contributions.

Financial implication

The estimated cost of delivering the 2026 Kiama NYE Sky Show is approximately \$100,000. Council has allocated \$20,000 towards the event, with sponsorship commitments currently totalling \$80,500 (excluding GST), exceeding the minimum funding target required for delivery.

Risk implication

There is a risk of actual or perceived conflicts of interest arising where sponsoring organisations also have separate dealings with Council.

Consistent with advice obtained from the Office of Local Government, sponsorship contributions have been assessed under Council's Incoming Donations and Bequests Policy and existing governance framework. Separate statutory, regulatory, planning, procurement and contractual matters continue to be managed through established decision-making processes.

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15.7 Sponsorship endorsement: Kiama NYE Sky Show 2026 (cont)

No actual conflicts of interest were identified. Any perceived conflicts are considered manageable through appropriate disclosure, transparency, record keeping and conflict management measures. No unacceptable risks have been identified.

Policy

Incoming Donations and Bequests Policy (enclosed).

Consultation (internal)

ELT.

Governance.

Director Strategies and Communities.

Communication/Community engagement

Sponsorship Invitation enclosed.

Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

- 1 Policy - Incoming Donations and Bequests⇒
- 2 Sponsorship invitation / prospectus NYE 2026⇒

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Accepts sponsorship pledges totalling \$80,500 (excluding GST) towards the delivery of the 2026 Kiama New Year's Eve Sky Show from the organisations identified in this report.
2. Notes that the sponsorship contributions have been assessed against Council's Incoming Donations and Bequests Policy, including consideration of any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest, and are considered acceptable subject to the governance measures outlined in this report.

Background

The Kiama NYE Sky Show was paused in 2025 following the removal of dedicated event funding from Council's budget as part of broader financial sustainability measures. Following community disappointment, Council requested a Business Case be prepared to consider alternative delivery options. Council considered the New Year's Eve Event Lean Business Case prepared by Sparrowly Group, which recommended a scaled-back Council-led activation as a lower-cost alternative while acknowledging the strong community support for the traditional Sky Show.

Despite the financial challenges, Council recognised the significant social, community and economic value of the event and its importance to residents, visitors and local businesses and at the June 2026 Council meeting they subsequently resolved to

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15.7 Sponsorship endorsement: Kiama NYE Sky Show 2026 (cont)

contribute \$20,000 towards the return of the event in its original harbour location and to seek sponsorship and other external contributions to meet the balance of funding required.

Council staff circulated the NYE Sky Show Sponsorship Prospectus and invited local businesses to consider partnering with Council to support the return of the fireworks event to Kiama in 2026.

As sponsorship discussions progressed, interest was received from a number of local businesses that also have separate and unrelated dealings with Council. This is to be expected within Kiama's relatively small business community. Sponsorship commitments were received from organisations seeking to support the return of a valued community event, with acknowledgement opportunities provided in accordance with the Sponsorship Invitation, including pre-event promotion and event attendance benefits.

As part of the assessment process, consideration was given to circumstances where a sponsor may also have separate dealings with Council, particularly a developer / company who may be engaged with council on a separate planning matter. The CEO sought advice from the Office of Local Government. The advice indicated that Council's existing policy and governance framework provides an appropriate mechanism to assess and manage sponsorship contributions, and that separate statutory processes, including planning and Voluntary Planning Agreement matters, should continue to be managed independently through their established governance and decision-making pathways.

Sponsorship commitments totalling \$80,500 have subsequently been received from 15 organisations, comprising nine contributions of \$5,000 or greater that require Council endorsement under the Policy.

The sponsorship contributions are being provided in return for recognition and promotional benefits in accordance with the Sponsorship Prospectus and do not provide sponsors with any influence over Council decisions, approvals, procurement processes or statutory functions.

All proposed sponsorships have been assessed in accordance with Council's Incoming Donations and Bequests Policy and conflict of interest management processes. Consideration was given to whether sponsorship contributions from organisations that also have separate dealings with Council could give rise to actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

In addition to this, advice was sought from the Office of Local Government regarding circumstances where a sponsor may also be involved in separate planning, contractual or other Council-related matters. The advice confirmed that Council's existing policies and procedures provide an appropriate framework for assessing and managing donations and sponsorships and that separate statutory and governance processes should continue to operate independently of sponsorship arrangements.

The advice further indicated that there is no reason an organisation involved in a separate Council process cannot make a sponsorship contribution towards a community event, provided appropriate governance and conflict management processes are followed and any conflicts that arise are appropriately managed.

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.7 Sponsorship endorsement: Kiama NYE Sky Show 2026 (cont)

The assessment concluded that all proposed sponsorships satisfy the requirements of Clauses 1.4 to 1.8 of the Policy and that the anticipated community benefits outweigh any identified risks in accordance with Clause 2.2. Any perceived conflicts are considered manageable through Council's existing governance, disclosure and decision-making processes.

Sponsorship assessment

Category	Sponsor	Pledge (Ex GST)	Identified Relationship with Council	Assessment
Major Partner	Traders in Purple	\$19,000	Current VPA process associated with a development project in the LGA.	Manageable. Separate statutory planning and VPA processes apply.
Major Sponsor	Kiama Business Network	\$10,000	Council leaseholder and recipient of support for the Kiama Business Awards.	Manageable. Sponsorship separate from lease and support arrangements.
Major Sponsor	Cedar on Collins	\$10,000	No identified relationship.	No conflict identified.
Sponsor	The Sebel Kiama	\$5,000	General Manager represented on TEAC.	Manageable. TEAC is advisory only.
Sponsor	One Fitness 24/7	\$5,000	General Manager represented on TEAC.	Manageable. TEAC is advisory only.
Sponsor	South Break Media	\$5,000	Previous communications and media services provider to Council.	Manageable. Sponsorship separate from procurement activities.
Community Safety Sponsor	Liquor Accord	\$5,000	Council participates as a member organisation.	Low risk. Community safety partnership arrangement.
Sponsor	Jamberoo Action Park	\$5,000	Planning matters before Council.	Manageable. Subject to separate statutory assessment processes.

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15.7 Sponsorship endorsement: Kiama NYE Sky Show 2026 (cont)

Category	Sponsor	Pledge (Ex GST)	Identified Relationship with Council	Assessment
Sponsor	McMahons Transport	\$5,000	Existing leaseholder, stakeholder in Employment Lands Strategy discussions and proposed green waste processing contractor following quotation process.	Manageable. Existing and proposed arrangements remain subject to separate governance and procurement processes.
Sponsor	Kiama Accounting	\$2,500	No identified relationship.	No conflict identified.
Sponsor	Saltwater Kiama	\$2,000	No identified relationship.	No conflict identified.
Sponsor	HSE Global	\$2,000	Previous provider of organisational risk review services.	Manageable. Sponsorship separate from consulting arrangements.
Sponsor	Project Dry Hire	\$2,000	No identified relationship.	No conflict identified.
Sponsor	Elite Energy	\$2,000	Event organiser operating within the Municipality and recipient of Council grants; engages with Council regarding event approvals.	Manageable. Event approvals remain subject to standard Council processes.
Sponsor	Tiny Tins	\$1,000	No identified relationship.	No conflict identified.

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