

13 REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**13.1 Endorse for public exhibition: Draft Advocating for Kiama Plan 2026-28**

- 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: 4.2.4 Council will build organisational capability, capacity and efficiency to deliver and measure the goals and strategies of the CSP.
- Delivery Program: 4.2.4.1 Council organisational structure and capability is appropriate and evolving. The workforce is supported with the right policies, resources and opportunities for development while delivering services for our community.

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Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the updated Kiama Municipal Council Draft Advocacy Plan 2026-28, Advocating for Kiama. It is based on the already adopted list of advocacy projects and has been reformatted, enhanced and made clearer. It has been prepared to inform the upcoming State and Federal Government election and ensure a consistent guiding set of local advocacy priorities.

The Advocacy Plan identifies the strategic projects that Council will focus on considering and/or progressing in the short and medium terms. The Advocating for Kiama Plan is a living document which will be updated accordingly, subject to changing circumstances, delivery plans and community priorities.

The draft Advocating for Kiama 2026-28 will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days.

Financial implication

The Advocacy Plan enhances the possibility of receiving support from a diverse range of stakeholders and accessing financial assistance from government grants and other funding sources.

Risk implication

The Advocacy Plan will help Council and the community to better understand potential strategic project opportunities. Additional detailed financial assessment via a business case or similar will be necessary to inform the short and long-term financial implications of any project which may be considered separately as a result of the Advocacy Plan.

Policy

Varied Performance Improvement Order – NSW Government.

Kiama Harbour Revitalisation Plan – Transport for NSW.

Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 – NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2018-2023 – NSW Office of Sport.

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Kiama Municipal Council documents:

- Kiama Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035
- Strategic Finance & Governance Improvement Plan
- Local Housing Strategy
- Employment Lands Strategy
- Kiama Town Centre Study
- Kiama Sports Complex Masterplan Report.

Consultation (internal)

Executive Leadership Team

Communication/Community engagement

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Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

- 1 DRAFT Advocating for Kiama Plan 2026-28⇒

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the draft Kiama Municipal Council Advocating for Kiama Plan 2026-28 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 draft Kiama Municipal Council Advocating for Kiama Plan 2026-28 if no submissions are received and there are no substantial changes proposed for any other reasons.

Background

The Kiama Municipal Council Draft Advocating for Kiama Plan 2026-28 (Advocacy Plan) has been developed as a centralised resource that identifies Council's priority projects for consideration and further refinement in the short and medium term.

By consolidating information regarding these strategic projects, the Advocacy Plan is instrumental in highlighting and championing Council's infrastructure and community facilities agenda.

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The Advocacy Plan serves the critical purpose of supporting and guiding advocacy efforts for the priorities, needs and interests of the Municipality and the community.

The document will be used by Council to actively pursue project support when meeting with various key stakeholders including Government Ministers, Members of Parliament, and agency representatives at both Federal and State Government levels to advocate for current and future projects on behalf of the community.

It is important to note that many projects within the document may not directly align with State and Federal Government emergent priorities and Council's funding opportunities. Several projects mentioned in the document are also optimally executed in multiple phases due to the size and/or complexity of the project's delivery.

A key purpose of the Advocacy Plan is to allow Council representatives to advocate in unison and with a cohesive voice to seek support from stakeholders to secure financial assistance from government grants and other funding sources.

Given the ever-evolving circumstances that can impact Council's agendas, the document will be subject to periodic updates to facilitate its currency in the context of evolving priorities and opportunities.

The initiatives identified in the Advocacy Plan result from extensive internal consultation that builds on the State Government Advocacy Plan endorsed by Council on 20 August 2025 or have been tabled for consideration via the Council. The projects have been developed as initiatives that will significantly enhance the quality of life for the community, support job growth and promote sustainable economic and social development.

The draft Advocating for Kiama 2026-28 will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days, providing the community with an opportunity to review the documents and make submissions before it is finalised.

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