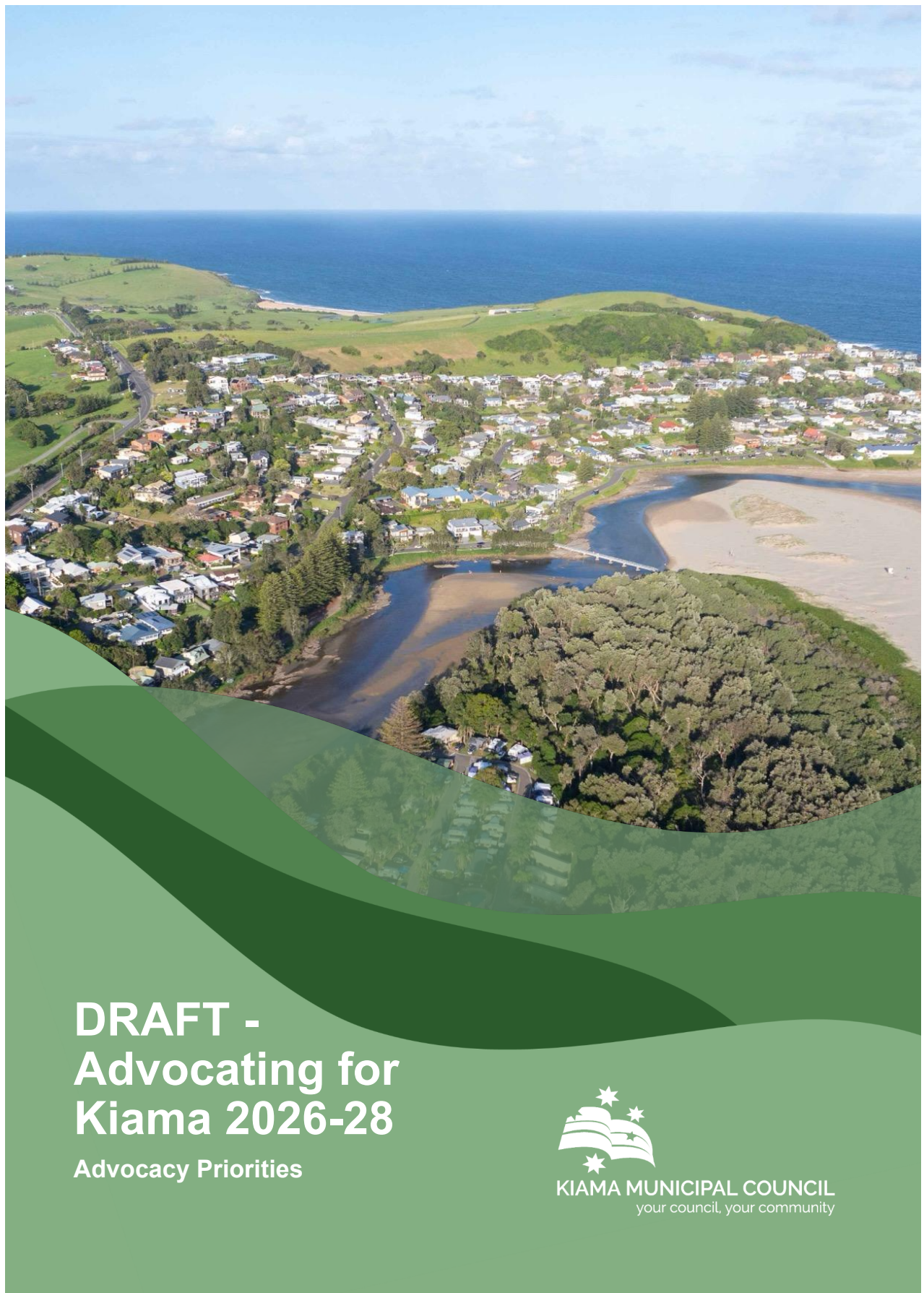




DRAFT - Advocating for Kiama 2026-28

Advocacy Priorities



KIAMA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
your council, your community

Acknowledgement of country

Kiama Municipal Council acknowledges would like to acknowledge Elders, Traditional Owners and Custodians with their continuing connections to Land, Waters, Sky, Culture and Community.

We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the Dharawal Nation, and their Elders past, present and future.

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4 DRAFT - Advocating for Kiama 2026-28

Mayoral Message

Kiama is a vibrant coastal community with a proud history and the potential for a promising future.

We are a region that prides itself on being a great place to live and a welcoming place for visitors, as evidenced by our reputation as one of the prime tourism destinations in Australia. We've been named the Top Tourism Town in NSW for the past three years and we were the runners-up at the national awards in 2026.

As our region continues to grow and evolve, we face opportunities and challenges. Which is why it is important that we formally advocate for Kiama so that other levels of government are aware of what our community needs to set ourselves up for a prosperous future.

On behalf of Kiama Municipal Council, I am proud to deliver **Advocating for Kiama, 2026-28**.

This document outlines Council's priorities for collaboration with the state and federal governments, agencies and key partners to enable the delivery of essential infrastructure. It's our blueprint for a better Kiama. Highlighting the priorities for our local government area, planning as efficiently as possible and getting the job done. Our advocacy plan is built on four interconnected essential pillars:

- **Housing**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Liveability**
- **Connections.**

This plan brings together a broader program of projects and strategies that we have already been working towards as well as new items which are essential for efficient long-term growth.

They range from unlocking Council-owned land at Spring Creek and planning the infrastructure needed for future growth, to reinvigorating Blowhole Point, investing in sporting facilities, finding an optimal solution for Jamberoo Mountain Road, completing the Kiama Coast Walk, and improving community safety via a new CCTV network and connections between our town centres.

While these priorities form the foundation of Council's advocacy agenda, we continue to actively advocate on a range of other requests, including those related to community safety, water infrastructure, local government sustainability and legislative reform.

Our approach is straightforward. Where Council can act, we will. Where a decision sits with another level of government, we will make the case clearly while providing the evidence and working constructively for the best outcome for the Kiama community.

Councillor Cameron McDonald
Mayor, Kiama Municipal Council



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Our Advocacy Approach

This plan guides Kiama to influence other stakeholders and create change.

We are proactive in our approach and responsive to opportunities where Council's agenda can be progressed. We seek to achieve the optimal return from investment and collaboration commitments with other levels of government so we can focus on where Council know will have the greatest impact for our community.

Based on our community's aspirations and considering strategic challenges for our local government area and the region, this plan guides and prioritises advocacy efforts in the key areas of community safety, water infrastructure, local government sustainability and legislative reform.

By advocating for these priorities, Council will help position Kiama for the future, ensuring our community has the infrastructure, services and investment needed to meet emerging opportunities and challenges.

Why government partnership matters

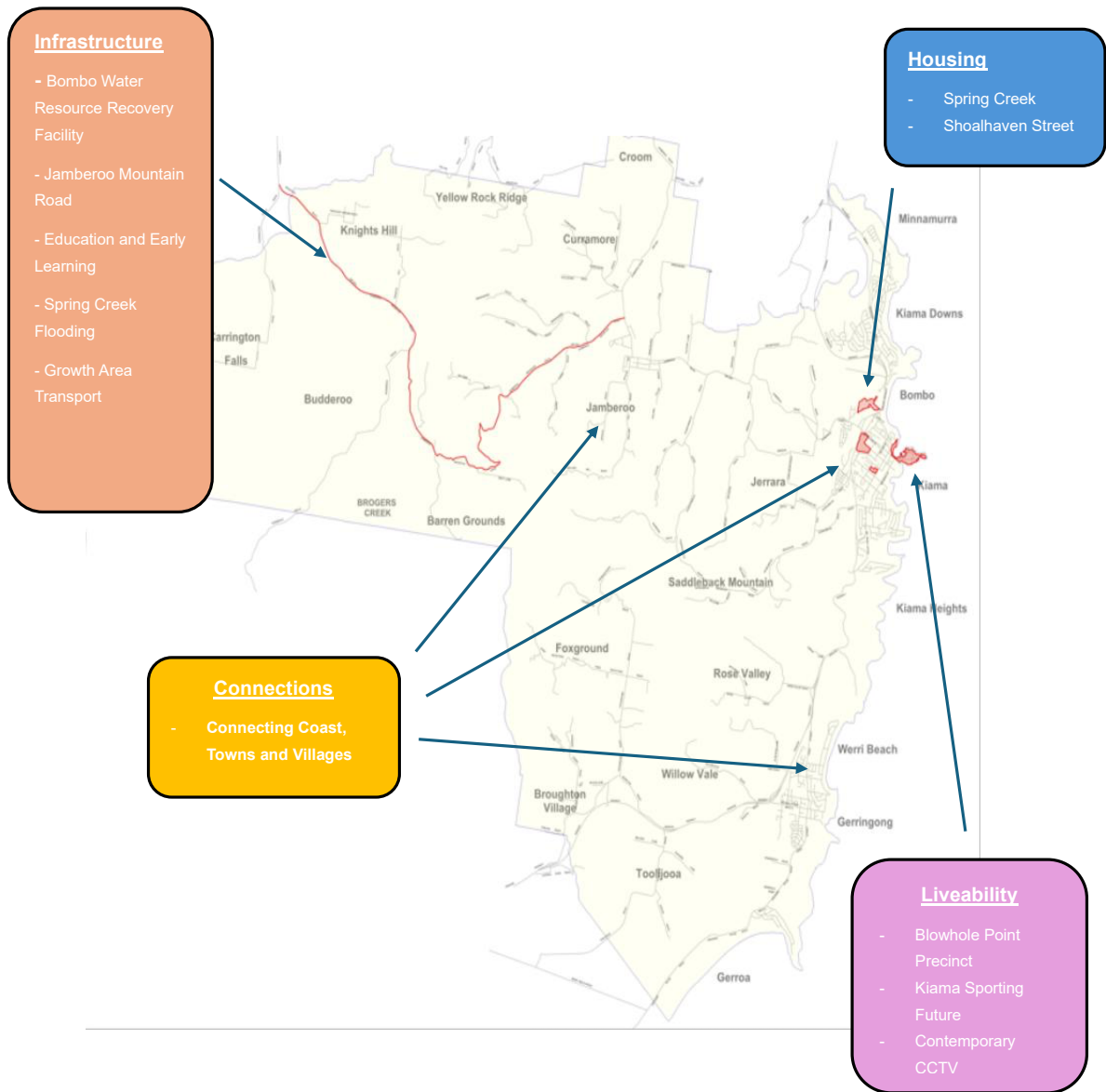
Kiama sits within a fast-changing part of New South Wales. Housing growth, regional transport, water and wastewater capacity, the visitor economy and the condition of public infrastructure are increasingly connected across council boundaries.

The decisions made now will shape how well Kiama can accommodate growth while maintaining the services and places the community relies on.

Council has already set the local planning direction through strategies covering housing, the visitor economy, employment lands, town centres, the night-time economy and major community facilities. The next step is to turn that planning into delivery, which requires coordinated work with the NSW and Australian governments and their agencies.

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Advocacy Priorities 2026-28



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Advocacy Priorities

Responding to these key issues is essential to ensuring the Kiama LGA remains resilient, connected and well positioned for future growth. By addressing these challenges and opportunities, Council can better manage infrastructure demands, improve community outcomes, and contribute to the achievement of relevant NSW Government priorities. This advocacy agenda seeks to deliver positive change in the following areas:



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Our Advocacy Priorities Initiatives

Housing	
Spring Creek	Unlock the covenant to support diverse and sustainable housing delivery. Spring Creek is a restrictive covenant and easement solution.
Shoalhaven Street Precinct	Unlock the housing potential for sustainable housing delivery. Partner with Council on remediation so the rezoned precinct can move into housing delivery.
Infrastructure	
Jamberoo Mountain Road	Finding a long-term solution for Jamberoo Mountain Road.
Building the infrastructure Kiama needs to grow	Deliver critical infrastructure for future demand. Coordinated growth planning; Bombo Treatment Plant and wastewater capacity; education and early learning; Shoalhaven Street Precinct remediation; Spring Creek flood infrastructure; growth-area transport connections.
Liveability	
Reimagining Kiama's tourism icon	Developing a masterplan for the iconic Kiama Blowhole Point followed by a staged renewal; Kiama Harbour Revitalisation Action Plan; land tenure and lease issues across the broader precinct.
Investing in Kiama's sporting future	Deliver infrastructure that meets community needs. Kiama Sports Complex and Leisure Centre; statewide multi-use sports field standards and funding.
Contemporary CCTV Infrastructure	To modernise and expand public CCTV Infrastructure across the Kiama LGA, delivering a contemporary surveillance network that supports community safety and crime prevention.
Connections	
Connecting Kiama's coast and town centre	Improved connections between Kiama's coast, town centres and surrounding villages. Kiama Coast Walk Stage 2; Main Streetscape Renewal; contemporary Cycleway and Pedestrian Strategy; Bombo coastal shared path.

Live advocacy requests

Three current requests sit outside the major priorities and remain part of the 2026-28 agenda: local government financial sustainability reform; Councillor casual vacancy reform; and resolution of the Jerrara Road legacy watermain.

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Spring Creek



The Issue

A restrictive covenant over the land prevents urban development while Bombo Quarry remains operational. Although the land has long been identified by Council and the NSW Government as future urban land, the covenant limits Council's ability to plan for, develop or realise the value of the site. This restriction prevents the land from contributing to Council's long-term financial strategy and delays strategic planning for its future use.

The Opportunity

With Ministerial approval to permit an easement and remove or amend the restrictive covenant, Council could unlock the development potential of this significant landholding, enabling Council to:

- Progress planning and community consultation on the future use of the site.
- Recognise the value of the land within its long-term financial planning.
- Generate future revenue from development opportunities.
- Improve financial sustainability and strengthen Council's balance sheet.
- Direct proceeds towards addressing infrastructure backlog and renewing community assets.
- Deliver a long-planned urban development outcome already identified in regional growth strategies.

Housing

Funding Status

No direct funding

Request

For the NSW Government to replace the restrictive covenant over Council's Spring Creek land with an appropriate easement, allowing Council to plan responsibly for the site's future use.

Outcome

Unlocking the site supports the partnership's broader focus on enabling housing, employment growth and coordinated planning.

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10 DRAFT - Advocating for Kiama 2026-28

Shoalhaven Street Precinct



The Issue

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has approved the rezoning of the Kiama Depot site from industrial to residential.

Relevant planning controls in the Kiama Local Environmental Plan 2011 will be amended under the final proposal to enable delivery and align with the NSW Government's Low- and Mid-Rise Housing Policy.

The Opportunity

Provides an opportunity to deliver much-needed housing choice within Kiama, supporting population growth while aligning with the NSW Government's Low- and Mid-Rise Housing Policy. It enables the creation of more diverse and affordable housing options, helping essential workers, young families and older residents remain within the local community. The development also presents an opportunity to accommodate growth in an established area, support local businesses through increased resident population, and demonstrate a high-quality model of housing that complements Kiama's character and township identity.

Housing

Funding Status

No direct funding

Request

For the NSW Government to assist in funding the decontamination of the site and partner with Council to facilitate the delivery of affordable and diverse housing, including any enabling infrastructure, funding programs or government initiatives needed to maximise housing outcomes and support the NSW Government's housing objectives.

Outcome

A high-quality residential development with diverse and affordable housing choices.

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11 DRAFT - Advocating for Kiama 2026-28

Bombo Water Resource Recovery Facility



The Issue

Bombo Treatment plant is nearing its capacity. This has led to an increase in overflow incidents, as well as odour “fatbergs” in and around the treatment plant or waste washing ashore on the LGA’s pristine beaches. This situation is not acceptable to the community. A total of 600 connections is not enough to meet housing targets and meaning that planned growth cannot occur.

The Opportunity

Upgrading the capacity of the wastewater treatment and sewer infrastructure presents a significant opportunity to unlock sustainable growth across the LGA. Strategic investment by Sydney Water and the NSW Government will provide the essential infrastructure needed to support the housing growth identified in our Local Housing Strategy, while improving service reliability and environmental outcomes. Upgrades to the Treatment Plant and augmentation of the Jamberoo Pressure Sewage System will create capacity for future residential development, support housing supply and affordability objectives, and give communities confidence that growth can occur without compromising amenity or environmental standards.

Infrastructure

Funding Status
TBC

Request

To secure NSW Government and Sydney Water investment in wastewater infrastructure to help unlock housing growth, improve environmental outcomes, and provide servicing capacity required to support Kiama’s future communities. To include Kiama’s water treatment plan in the 10-year capital plan for Sydney Water to address stormwater.

Outcome

A modern system that protects public health, community amenity and environmental values while supporting growth.

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Jamberoo Mountain Road



The Issue

Jamberoo Mountain Road is a critical regional east-west transport link, yet responsibility for maintenance and repair remains with Council despite its significance beyond our LGA. Frequent damage from landslips, severe weather and natural disasters places a substantial financial burden on ratepayers and impacts regional connectivity, freight movement, tourism and access between the South Coast, Southern Highlands, Western Sydney and Capital Region. There are 900 car movements per day and 14% are from heavy vehicles, which are banned. The road is not functioning as a local road and urgently needs a long-term structure plan.

The Opportunity

Declaration of Jamberoo Mountain Road as a State-managed road would provide a more sustainable funding and management model. State investment and strategic planning would improve network resilience, strengthen connectivity, support economic growth, and ensure the road continues to serve as a vital regional link. The development of a long-term structure plan would also provide a coordinated approach to improving safety, reliability and future investment priorities.

Infrastructure

Funding Status
TBC

Request
Declare Jamberoo Mountain Road a NSW Government-managed road and partner with Council to develop and fund a long-term structure plan, including resilience, safety and capacity improvements.

Outcome
A resilient and strategically managed transport corridor that provides reliable connectivity, supports economic activity and tourism, reduces the financial burden on ratepayers, and remains operational during and after natural disasters.

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13 DRAFT - Advocating for Kiama 2026-28

Education and Early Learning



The Issue

The Kiama Local Housing Strategy seeks to appropriately plan for the Kiama Urban Expansion Area which could accommodate up to 4500 new residential lots. Kiama LGA needs planning and consideration for educational and early learning facilities. The Jamberoo Community Preschool is also in need of government assistance. It is the only facility in Jamberoo village and continues to experience flood impacts. There is a shortage of childcare places in Kiama.

The Opportunity

The planned growth of the Kiama Urban Expansion Area presents a significant opportunity to secure education and early learning infrastructure that meets the needs of future generations. There is an opportunity for the NSW Government to proactively plan for new schools and preschool places, and to support educational facilities to ensure community infrastructure keeps pace with population growth. Investment in education infrastructure will help attract and retain young families, support workforce participation and strengthen the long-term sustainability of our communities. There is also an opportunity to partner with the NSW Government to deliver a flood-resilient future for the Jamberoo Community Preschool. Redeveloping the facility or relocating it to a flood-free site

Infrastructure

Funding Status
TBC

Request
A funded NSW Government childcare strategy to coordinate future growth planning and bring the responsible agencies together for education, flood mitigation and other enabling infrastructure.

Outcome
Future residents of the Kiama Urban Expansion Area have access to appropriately planned and funded education.

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14 DRAFT - Advocating for Kiama 2026-28

Spring Creek Flooding



The Issue

Council is taking steps towards addressing the impact of flooding at Spring Creek, adjacent to the Kiama town centre. Flooding at Spring Creek typically affects residents by cutting off access to their properties via the Dido Street bridge. It can also affect Jamberoo Road, cutting access to and from Jamberoo.

The Spring Creek catchment affects the Kiama Urban Expansion area and the implementation of the Study's recommendations will be necessary to unlocking homes in this area.

The Opportunity

Addressing flood risk at Spring Creek presents an opportunity to improve community resilience, enhance connectivity, and unlock future housing growth within the LGA. Investment in flood mitigation measures and implementation of the Flood Study recommendations will reduce the impact of flooding on residents, improve access along key transport routes including Dido Street and Jamberoo Road, and increase the reliability of essential infrastructure.

These works are a critical enabler for the Kiama Urban Expansion Area, creating the certainty and infrastructure capacity needed to support the delivery of new homes and facilitate sustainable growth.

Infrastructure

Funding Status

Nil

Request

To secure NSW Government funding to deliver flood mitigation works at Spring Creek and implement the Flood Study recommendations to improve resilience, maintain critical transport access, and unlock future housing growth.

Outcome

A flood-resilient Spring Creek catchment that protects existing residents, maintains access during flood events, and enables the delivery of future housing within the Kiama Urban Expansion Area.

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15 DRAFT - Advocating for Kiama 2026-28

Growth Area Transport



The Issue

The Kiama LGA is planning for significant population growth, including the delivery of up to 4500 new homes within the Kiama Urban Expansion Area. Transport infrastructure planning and investment have not kept pace with projected growth.

Without upgrades to key road, public transport, walking and cycling connections, increased development will place more pressure on transport networks, causing congestion, safety concerns, reduced accessibility and diminished connectivity between communities, services and employment areas.

The Opportunity

The growth of Kiama's population presents an opportunity to secure NSW Government investment in transport infrastructure that improves connectivity between the town centre, employment hubs, schools, community facilities, and the broader Illawarra.

- Upgrades to key road corridors servicing the Urban Expansion Area.
- Better connections to surrounding villages.
- Enhanced public transport services and integration with rail.
- New walking and cycling links connecting growth areas to schools and other facilities.
- Improved network resilience during emergencies and flood events.
- Transport infrastructure that enables housing delivery and supports economic growth.

Infrastructure

Funding Status

Project funding TBC

Request

A funded NSW Government partnership to coordinate future growth planning and bring the responsible agencies together around water, wastewater, roads, transport, education, flood mitigation and other enabling infrastructure. Including funding to prepare a Strategic Active Transport Plan.

Outcome

A connected, safe and efficient transport network that supports population growth, enables housing delivery, and improves access to jobs, services, education and recreation across the Kiama LGA.

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Blowhole Point Precinct



The Issue

Insufficient planning and infrastructure at Blowhole Point and Kiama Harbour are limiting visitor experience, accessibility and the economic potential of one of Kiama's most important tourism destinations. There is a mixture tenure of the land between Crown Land, and Transport NSW (Maritime) this creates an underutilisation of key assets.

The Opportunity

Kiama Harbour and the Blowhole Point Precinct have mixed tenure of management of the land in and around the harbour, which is creating underutilisation of key assets, including the Cargo's Wharf restaurant and the Scout Hall.

Council would like Crown Lands to assign the lease to Council to manage this iconic site. The Kiama Harbour revitalisation plan contains several actions for the Government to undertake to activate this project.

Liveability

Funding Status

TBC

Request

Federal Government to assign the lease for Cargo's Wharf Restaurant to Council to facilitate the highest and best use of this iconic site.

For TfNSW to activate the Kiama Harbour Revitalisation Plan.

Outcome

A revitalised and well-connected precinct for Blowhole Point and Kiama Harbour that enhances the visitor experience, supports local businesses and strengthens Kiama's position as a leading coastal tourism destination.

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17 DRAFT - Advocating for Kiama 2026-28

Kiama Sporting Future



The Issue

The Kiama Sports Precinct and Kiama Leisure Centre are critical community assets that support more than 5500 members across 18 sporting clubs, yet much of the infrastructure has reached the end of its operational life. Playing fields, netball courts, lighting, amenities, clubhouses, parking and internal road networks require significant renewal, with ageing facilities limiting participation, capacity and the ability to meet growing demand, particularly from the increase in female sport. The masterplan has been developed; Council still requires a mixture of funding.

The Opportunity

Redevelopment of the Kiama Sports Precinct and Leisure Centre presents an opportunity to create a regionally significant sporting and recreation hub that supports community health, participation, sport development and major events. Investment in modern sporting infrastructure would accommodate growing demand, improve accessibility and inclusion, support female participation, and provide high-quality facilities for current and future generations.

Liveability

Funding Status

TBC

Request

Secure Federal and NSW Government funding and partnership support to deliver a staged redevelopment of the Kiama Sports Precinct and Leisure Centre, creating a regionally significant sporting facility for the Illawarra and South Coast.

Outcome

A modern, regionally significant sports and recreation precinct that provides contemporary facilities for community sport, supports participation growth, promotes health and wellbeing, and meets the current and future needs of the Kiama LGA and surrounding areas.

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18 DRAFT - Advocating for Kiama 2026-28

Contemporary CCTV Infrastructure



The Issue

Existing public CCTV infrastructure across the Kiama LGA has been damaged by severe weather events and is no longer capable of providing the level of surveillance and coverage expected by the community to ensure that the public feels safe.

Ageing and inoperative systems reduce Council's ability to support community safety, assist policing activities, investigate incidents, and provide evidence for insurance and compliance matters.

There is currently no active local police presence on a 24-hour/7-days a week basis.

The Opportunity

Modernising and digitising the public CCTV network presents an opportunity to enhance community safety, deter crime and antisocial behaviour, improve incident response, and support NSW Police in protecting residents and visitors.

Contemporary CCTV systems can strengthen public confidence in key public spaces, town centres and visitor destinations while improving the management and security of community assets.

Liveability

Funding Status
TBC

Request
For the NSW Government to provide funding to replace, modernise and expand public CCTV infrastructure across the Kiama LGA, delivering a contemporary surveillance network that supports community safety and crime prevention.

For there to be a 24-hour, 7 days a week police presence.

Outcome
A modern, reliable and digitally enabled CCTV network that improves public safety, deters criminal activity, supports NSW Police investigations, protects community assets and enhances the safety and amenity of public spaces for residents and visitors.

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19 DRAFT - Advocating for Kiama 2026-28

Connecting Coast and Town



The Issue

A lack of contemporary strategic planning for active transport is hindering efforts to improve connectivity across the municipality.

Key connections between Kiama's coastal attractions, town centres and villages remain incomplete, reducing opportunities for active transport, recreation, community access and visitor movement.

The Opportunity

Developing a contemporary Cycleway and Pedestrian Strategy presents an opportunity to create an integrated active transport network that better connects Kiama's coast, town centres and villages. The strategy would provide the framework to progress key projects including Kiama Coast Walk Stage 2, Main Streetscape Renewal, Bombo Coastal Shared Path, and future walking and cycling connections throughout the municipality.

Improved connectivity would support healthier lifestyles, enhance visitor experiences, reduce reliance on private vehicles and strengthen links between communities, destinations and local businesses.

Connections

Funding Status

TBC

Request

For the NSW Government to provide funding to prepare a contemporary Cycleway and Pedestrian Strategy that identifies priority active transport corridors, supports future infrastructure investment, and improves eligibility for external funding opportunities.

Outcome

A connected and accessible active transport network that links Kiama's coast, town centres and villages, increases walking and cycling participation, supports healthier and more sustainable travel choices, enhances the visitor experience, and provides a strategic framework for future infrastructure investment.

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20 DRAFT - Advocating for Kiama 2026-28

Live advocacy requests

The advocacy initiatives carry the strongest advocacy focus, but they are not the whole program.

The following requests remain part of Council's 2026-28 advocacy agenda and will continue to be progressed with the relevant government agencies.

PROJECT	STATUS	GOVERNMENT ACTION SOUGHT
Local government financial sustainability	Advocacy underway	Review local government financial performance reporting, including depreciation, externally funded assets, infrastructure stewardship, the Local Government Accounting Code and related benchmarks.
Councillor casual vacancy reform	Advocacy underway	Amend the Local Government Act to allow a temporary reduction in councillor numbers in defined mid-term vacancy circumstances, subject to Council resolution and Ministerial approval.
Jerrara Road legacy watermain	Early planning	Sydney Water to take ownership of, replace or otherwise resolve the legacy watermain currently managed and repaired by Council even though Council is not the local water supply authority.

Local government financial sustainability

Council has resolved to advocate for a more contemporary approach to measuring local government financial sustainability. This request covers the treatment of depreciation, grant-funded and externally funded assets, assets where councils have limited control over replacement or operational funding, and the Local Government Accounting Code and associated performance benchmarks.

Councillor casual vacancies

Council is seeking greater flexibility when a councillor casual vacancy occurs during the middle of a term and can only be filled through a costly by-election. The proposed reform would allow council to apply to the Minister for Local Government for a temporary reduction in councillor numbers, subject to defined safeguards, until the next ordinary local government election.

Jerrara Road legacy watermain

Council is seeking a permanent resolution for an old watermain serving rural properties on Jerrara Road. Council is not the local water supply authority but continues to incur management and repair costs. The advocacy ask is for Sydney Water to take responsibility for, replace or otherwise resolve the legacy asset.

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Local priorities with regional relevance

Kiama Municipal Council is one of eight councils in the LG8 Strategic Partnership, which covers Macarthur, the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands. Together, the eight councils represent a population of almost 895,000 people, projected to exceed 1.2 million by 2041, and a combined gross regional product of \$54.2 billion.

LG8 is designed to give councils a common platform for major regional priorities and to work proactively with State and Commonwealth governments. Its focus areas are connectivity, housing and supporting communities, the visitor economy and equitable clinical health services.

Where Kiama's priorities connect

LG8: Strengthening Connectivity

Jamberoo Mountain Road is directly identified as an east-west connection requiring betterment and investment.

LG8: Enabling Housing and Supporting Communities

Kiama's coordinated growth planning and Bombo wastewater capacity directly support the regional housing and enabling-infrastructure agenda. LG8 specifically calls for investment and increased treatment capacity at Bombo.

LG8: Growing the Visitor Economy

Blowhole Point, Kiama Harbour and the Coast Walk fit the regional focus on destination infrastructure, visitor access, recreation assets and tourism investment.

LG8: Regional growth and catalyst projects

Kiama's local agenda contributes to the wider objective of planning infrastructure and services across a region experiencing significant population and employment growth.

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22 DRAFT - Advocating for Kiama 2026-28

A plan that stays current

This publication sets Council's advocacy direction for 2026-28. The online Advocating for Kiama 2026-28 hub will carry the live status of each major priority and named project so the community and government partners can see what has changed since the publication was released.

Each major priority will have a dedicated online page showing the government request, named projects, current status, latest milestone, Council action, relevant documents and the next step. Wider advocacy priorities can use the same format where an update is needed.

Key source documents

- Kiama Municipal Council, State Government Advocacy Plan 2025.
- Kiama Municipal Council, Advocacy Plan 2026-28 Director Review Workbook, September 2026.
- Kiama Municipal Council, Local Housing Strategy 2025.
- Kiama Municipal Council, Kiama Visitor Economy Strategy 2035.
- Kiama Municipal Council, Kiama Sports Complex Masterplan.
- Transport for NSW, Kiama Harbour Revitalisation Action Plan 2021.
- LG8 Strategic Regional Partnership, Positioning Document 2026.
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan and related NSW Government transport planning documents.
- Council resolutions and reports supporting the 2026 local government sustainability, casual vacancy and multi-use sports field advocacy items.

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Authorisation and version control

Owner/Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Department	Office of the CEO
Date adopted/endorsed	20 October 2026
Resolution number (if applicable)	[number]
Next review date	August 2027
TRIM reference	[trim ref]

Variation and review

The Strategy should be reviewed within 3 months of the local government elections as part of the broader review of the Community Strategic Plan.

Date reviewed	Date adopted/endorsed	Brief detail of amendments
[date]	[date]	[insert detail here]
[date]	[date]	[insert detail here]
[date]	[date]	[insert detail here]

Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this Strategy.

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How to contact council

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In person

Our Administration Building located
at 11 Manning Street Kiama is open
8.45am to 4.15pm Monday to Friday
(excluding public holidays)

Respect
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Excellence



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