

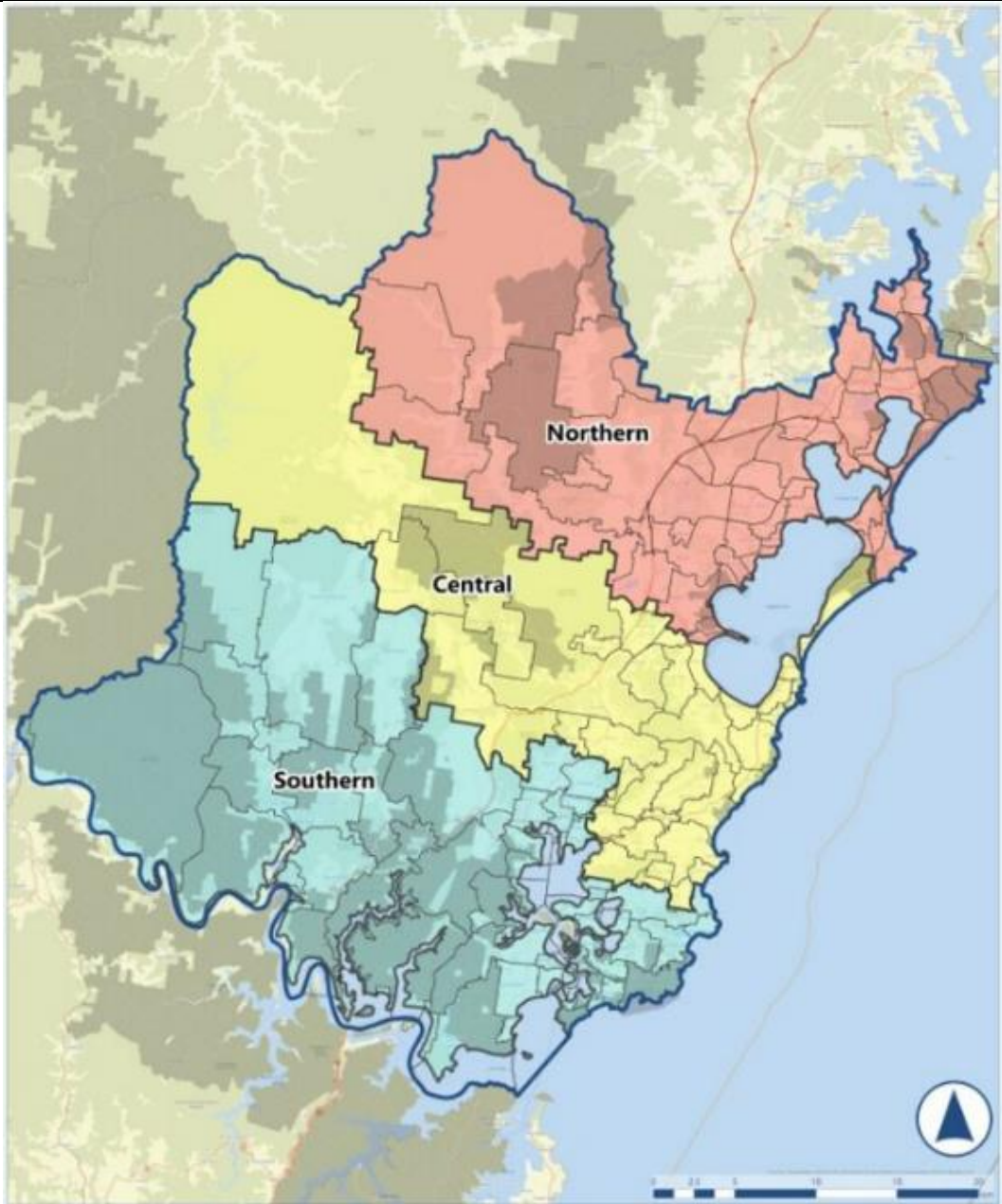
Second Councillor Information Session 9 April 2024

Questions received from Councillor Information Session Two attendees.

No.	Questions
1	<p>Are there any prerequisites for somebody to become a Councillor? Do they have to prove they are financially literate?</p> <p>No. However a mandatory comprehensive induction training program will be provided to all elected Councillors to attend, regardless of whether they have held elected office previously. More information about becoming a Councillor can be access via the Office of Local Government's website here: https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/programs-and-initiatives/local-government-elections-4-december-2021/become-a-councillor/</p>
2	<p>Why can't some of the surpluses be used on capital works to repair defects and drainage?</p> <p>Generally speaking, surpluses can be used to fund capital works (principally, renewal works).</p>
3	<p>As a Councillor, can you lobby for a community group (i.e., my local cricket club) and then step aside when it comes to the final budget? How does that work with a conflict of interest?</p> <p>Yes. However, Councillors need to ensure they declare all conflicts of interest. Whether decision-making can occur on the matter will ultimately depend on the situation and the conflict in question. A Councillor's involvement with or position within a club/community group or similar, for example, could impact whether they need to relinquish decision-making or not.</p>
4	<p>What are the realistic time obligations of becoming a Councillor?</p> <p>There will be at least one night per week that Councillors will need to attend Council meetings or briefings (the current schedule is Tuesday nights). Councillors will need to attend all induction and professional development training, which will occur across standard work hours, and could occur outside of standard work hours. Councillors will also need to schedule ample time to read meeting business papers (Council meeting agendas and reports), which can be lengthy. For reference, current Council meeting business papers can be accessed via Council's website here: https://centralcoast.infocouncil.biz/. A standard week could require 10-15 hours of work from a Councillor, depending on the matters at hand and their personal working style.</p> <p>Will the temporary rate increase be made permanent? Are new Councillors/candidates going to be made of aware of this?</p> <p>It will be up to the governing body of the day to determine whether they wish to do this or not. If they choose not to, services will need to be reduced.</p>

5	<p>When does the term of the Administrator conclude? Will you appoint a new CEO before you leave? Will the new Councillors be working with the existing CEO for their entire term?</p> <p>The Administrator’s appointment officially concludes upon the declaration of the poll by the NSW Electoral Commission. This means, when the results of the 14 September 2024 election are finalised (which the NSW Electoral Commission have indicated can take up to three weeks post close of voting).</p> <p>The current Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is David Farmer, and his contract was renewed for a term of five years for the period of 12 April 2024 – 11 April 2029. If the elected governing body of the day wishes to end (or extend) the CEO’s contract it will require a resolution of Council.</p>
6	<p>How much is the payment to Councillors? What are the ‘on-costs’?</p> <p>Councillors are paid an annual fee of \$34,330 set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal and this fee is determined annually. Councillors are also entitled to expenses and facilities which are set out in the <i>Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy</i>, which can be viewed on Council’s website here: https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/about-council/council/forms-and-publications/policies</p>
7	<p>Does Council have an external auditor and are Council’s meetings with them recorded?</p> <p>Yes, the Audit Office is Council’s external auditor, and they attend Council’s Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC). Minutes are taken at these meetings.</p>
8	<p>In the event that a Councillor cannot continue with their tenure, what happens?</p> <p>Council will usually hold a by-election. Or, if the Council resolved to take up the countback option, it can be filled using count back. For more information, head to the NSW Electoral Commission’s website here: https://elections.nsw.gov.au/elections/how-counting-works/countback-elections</p>
9	<p>Where is the empathy for the rate payers in the concept of reducing the number of Councillors?</p> <p>The constitutional referendum provides an opportunity for Central Coast voters to have their say. The results of the referendum will be binding, meaning that whatever the majority of voters determine will be enacted by the Council. General information about the referendum can be found on Council’s website here: https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/about-council/council/election-and-referendum. Further information will be provided to the Central Coast community from July 2024 onwards, which will provide detailed information about the ‘yes’ and ‘no’ cases, to allow community members to make an informed decision.</p>

<p>10</p>	<p>What is the current debt of the Council?</p> <p>Central Coast Council reports its financial position monthly at Council Meetings. Council Meeting business papers can be accessed via Council's website here: https://centralcoast.infocouncil.biz/</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Shouldn't the wards/Councillors increase due to the size of the Council?</p> <p>This is a decision for the community and the 14 September 2024 referendum is a chance for the community to decide how many Councillors they would like to have. As outlined in a previous question above, general information about the referendum can be found on Council's website here: https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/about-council/council/election-and-referendum. Further information will be provided to the Central Coast community from July 2024 onwards, which will provide detailed information about the 'yes' and 'no' cases, to allow community members to make an informed decision.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>What is being done to increase the number of women being elected at Council?</p> <p>To boost diversity and increase representation of women on Council, Council is seeking to engage the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) to run their widely successful 'Getting Women Elected' forum for female candidates across the Central Coast. More details about this forum will be announced once a session has been confirmed.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>When will we find out what the three wards will look like?</p> <p>The incoming Councillors (via decision of the governing body) will ultimately decide on what the new wards will look like <i>if</i> the referendum result carries and a reduction of Councillors from 15 to 9 is favoured by the community. The below three ward maps have been prepared for indicative purposes only and are examples of what a new three-ward structure <i>could</i> look like.</p>



Central Coast Council - DRAFT Ward Boundary Option 1



LEGEND

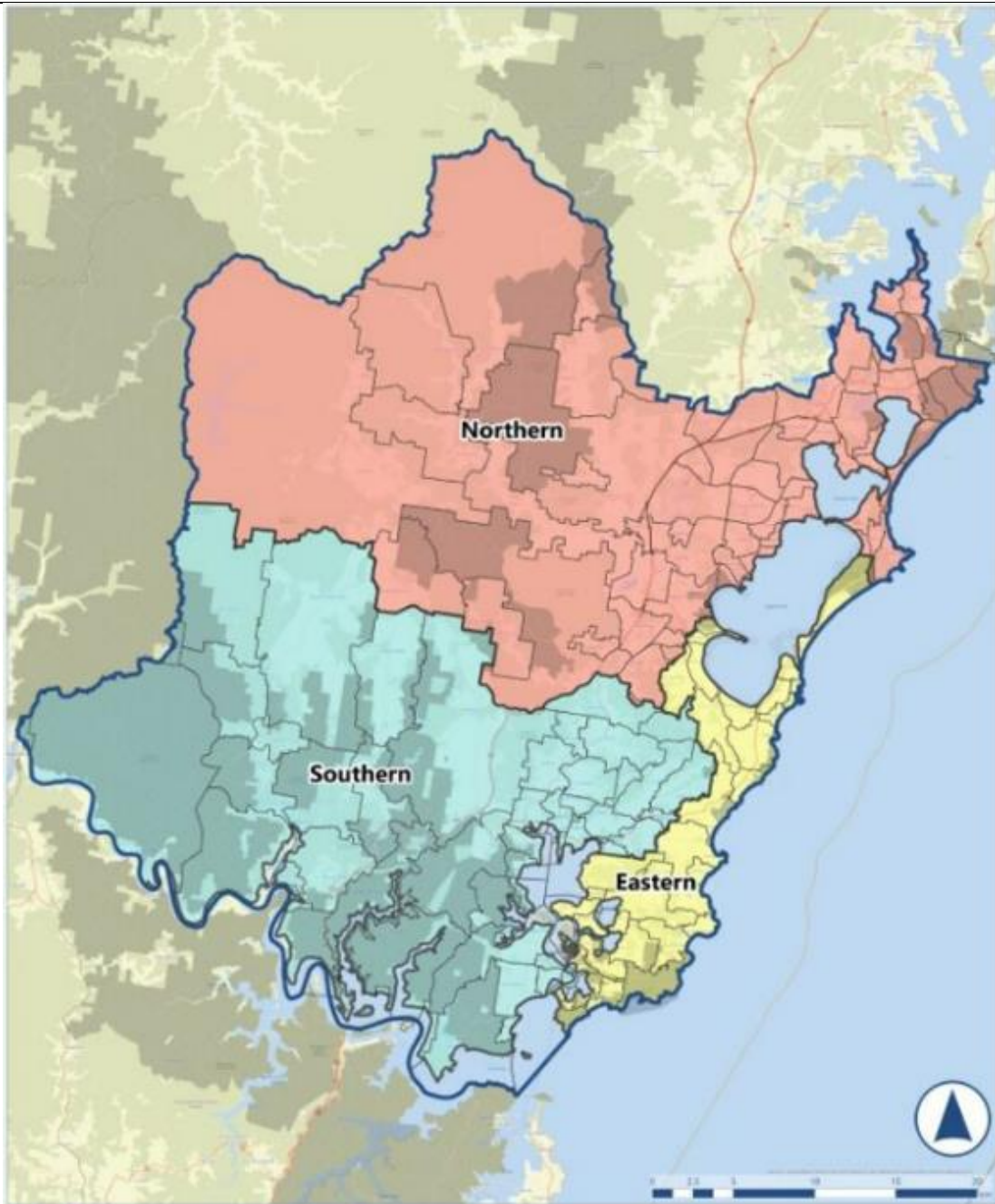
- WARD
- CENTRAL
- NORTHERN
- SOUTHERN
- COASTAL RESERVE
- SUBURB BOUNDARY
- CENTRAL COAST LGA BOUNDARY

Ward	Total Enrolment*	% From Highest Enrolment
Central	8741	5.08
Northern	2529	2.41
Southern	3857	2

*Source: NSW Electoral Commission (Council Area Statistics) 28 Feb, 2024, Number Enrolment of Statistics SA (2022)

Prepared by Geospatial Information Team
 Date: 22/03/2024
 Scale: 1:75,000
 Map Source: OpenStreetMap, Esri
 Projection: GDA 1984 MGA Zone 56
 Project No: P01/2023/06
 Map Version: Draft 01

Disclaimer: This map is provided as a draft and is not intended to be used for legal purposes. It is subject to change without notice. The Council is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this map. The map is provided for information only and should not be used as a basis for any decisions.



Central Coast Council - DRAFT Ward Boundary Option 2



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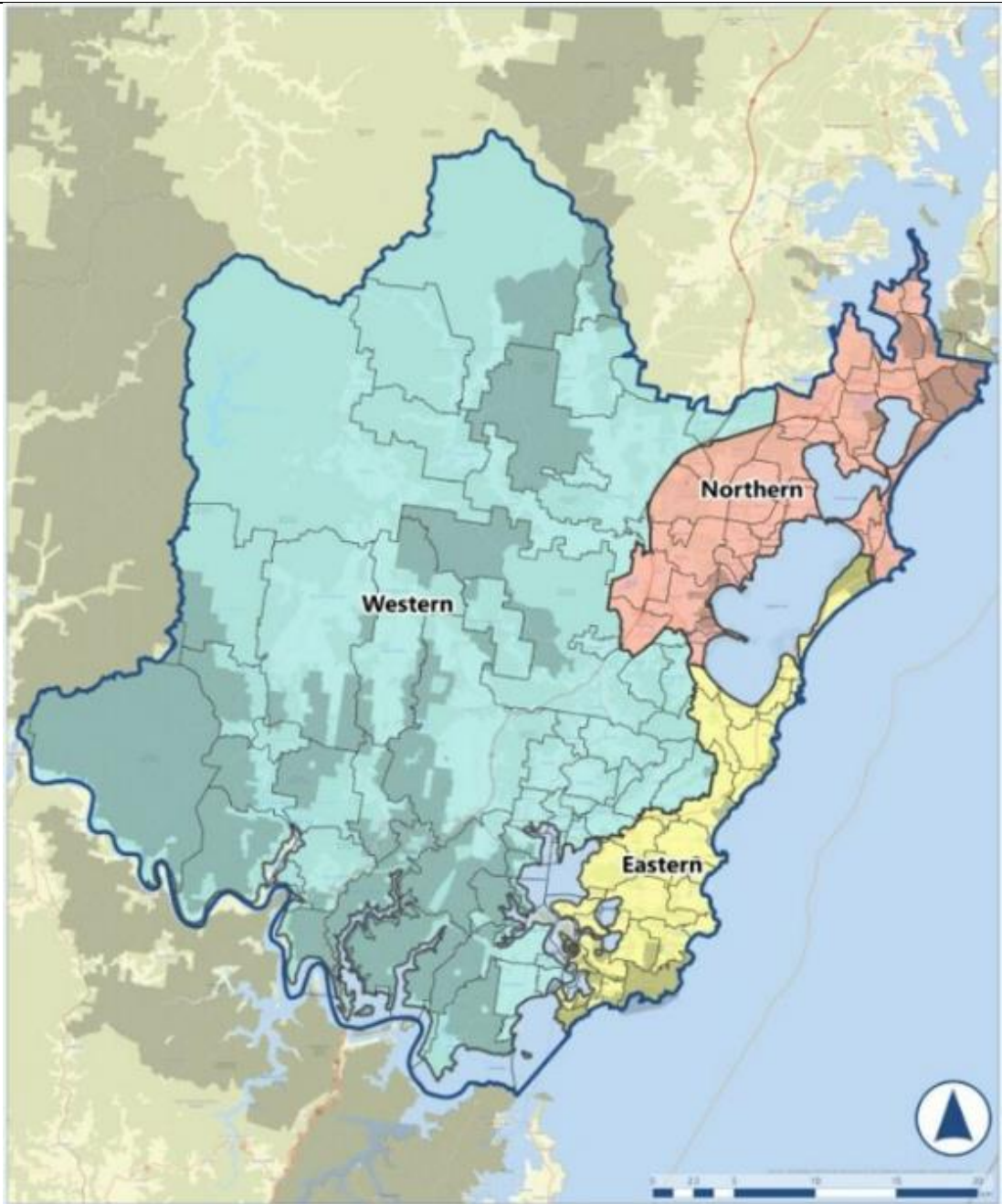
- WARD
- NORTHERN
- SOUTHERN
- EASTERN
- SPONS RESERVE
- SUBURB BOUNDARY
- CENTRAL COAST LGA BOUNDARY

Ward	Total Enrolment*	% From Highest Enrolment
Northern	4594	4.91
Southern	4691	5.1
Eastern	4626	5

*Source: NSW Electoral Commission Council Area Statistics (28 Feb. 2015)
Australian Bureau of Statistics 3411 (2012)

Prepared by: Geospatial Information Team
Date: 25/03/2014
Scale: 1:75,000
Map Source: OpenStreetMap, Esri
Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56
Project No.: PRJ_088206
Map Version: Draft 01

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Central Coast Council - DRAFT Ward Boundary Option 3



LEGEND

- WARD
- WESTERN
- NORTHERN
- EASTERN
- TAPING RESERVE
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- CENTRAL COAST LGA BOUNDARY

Ward	Total Enrolment*	% From Highest Enrolment
Western	9150	3.0
Northern	3380	6.7
Eastern	3970	5

*Source: NSW Electoral Commission Council Area Statistics (21 Feb, 2016), Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017)

Prepared by Geospatial Information Team
Date: 21/03/2016
Scale: 1:75,000
Map Source: OpenStreetMap, Esri
Projection: GDA 1984 MGA Zone 56
Project No: PNC 080306
Map Version: Draft 01

14

Is the Central Coast going to become a smart city?

It is unclear what the question asker is meaning by the term 'smart city', however, strategic decisions about the Central Coast local government area are made by resolution of the governing body.

	<p>What is the state-wide norm for the 'level of representation per population'? Where does the Central Coast stand in this?</p> <p>Following the declaration of the 14 September 2024 local government election, Central Coast Council will have 15 Councillors. The population of the Central Coast is 348,379*. Therefore, the ratio of Councillors to residents (based on this population data) is 1:23,225 (i.e., one Councillor to every 23,225 residents). The NSW Government website <i>Your Council</i> (https://www.yourcouncil.nsw.gov.au/) has a free comparison tool should members of the community seek to make comparisons with other NSW councils.</p> <p><i>*Data sourced from NSW Government website, https://www.yourcouncil.nsw.gov.au/, accessed 12 April 2024.</i></p>
15	<p>The decisions for Federal elections ward sizes are made by the AEC, why isn't that the case for the Local Government Wards?</p> <p>This is a question for the NSW Electoral Commission: https://elections.nsw.gov.au/</p>
16	<p>Does the Council have a core list of values that can be shared with the community?</p> <p>Central Coast Council's values are accessible the Council website here: https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/about-council/careers/culture-and-values.</p> <p>The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) sets out the community-determined values/themes for the region from 2018-2028 – the CSP can be access on Council's website here: https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/about-council/council/forms-and-publications/community-strategic-plan</p> <p>Central Coast Council staff values are <i>Be safe; Serve; Improve; Collaborate; Be your best; Be positive</i>.</p>
17	<p>Is community wellbeing mapped at a local level? I.e., the community needs indicators of wellbeing, so Councillors can understand the needs of the community.</p> <p>Between 8 April and 10 May 2024, Central Coast Council is conducting a Central Coast-wide survey to understand the community's perception of their own wellbeing and quality of life. The survey covers the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your neighbourhood • How connected and supported you feel • Access to services • Safety in your area • How you enjoy living, playing, and growing on the Central Coast. <p>Following major events such as the global pandemic and natural disasters in addition to other factors like the rising cost of living, Council is seeking to establish a baseline of how the community thinks and feels about living in the local government area (LGA). This will allow Council to compare future results and</p>

highlight the changing needs of our community while finding links to the Community Strategic Plan.

For more information head to: <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/wellbeing>