

## New building honours Aboriginal culture

**From 7 January 2021, our new head office building on Biripi Way, Taree will be operating and open to the community.**

We look forward to welcoming you to our new meeting place, which will house our main customer service centre and Council Chambers.

In designing the interior of the building we have made a commitment to showing respect for our Aboriginal community in honour of the fact the building is on Biripi Country.

The work of two local Aboriginal artists, Raechel Saunders and Brittany Cochrane, has inspired a number of design elements in the building.

Visit our website to hear from the artists and see how their work will come to life.

The move is designed to deliver greater efficiencies in the way we work together and with our community and complements a range of new and improved online services to be launched in the new year.

Customer service centres will continue to operate in their current locations in Gloucester, Tea Gardens and Stroud. The Forster customer service centre will continue to be located at 4 Breese Parade, and we can still be contacted on 7955 7777.

### Stay updated

Subscribe to receive a weekly snapshot of the latest Council news delivered to your in-box.

Visit [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/everyday](https://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/everyday)

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**Your rates help us deliver a  
range of everyday services,  
like waste management.**

## Free waste disposal vouchers coming soon

Two free waste disposal vouchers will be mailed to all ratepayers to replace the bulky waste collections that were cancelled by our contractors earlier this year due to COVID-19.

The vouchers allow free waste disposal for residents who receive a domestic waste service, and can be used at our waste management centres until 30 June 2021.



- The list of acceptable items has been extended to include green waste, household quantities of clean bricks and concrete, hazardous waste and car tyres.
- To take advantage of the free disposal vouchers, waste must be sorted by waste type (eg scrap metal separate from green waste) so it can be diverted to the appropriate location upon arrival.
- Vouchers are allocated to residential properties, so if you own a rental property please forward the vouchers to your tenant.

Vouchers will be mailed to ratepayers late-October 2020. Conditions apply.

More info at [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/bulkywaste](https://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/bulkywaste)

## Did you know?

You can drop recyclables and hazardous waste at our Community Recycling Centres free of charge, all year round.

This includes household quantities of:

- paint and oil
- household chemicals
- gas bottles
- X-rays
- batteries
- fluoro globes
- smoke detectors
- fire extinguishers

For more information about recycling and disposal, and to find your nearest waste management centre, visit [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/waste](https://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/waste)



## Rate harmonisation to meet 1 July 2021 deadline

We are working towards a single rates structure across the MidCoast Council region. This will replace the three different rating systems of the former Council areas, and is required to be in place for the 2021-22 financial year.

We have not been able to adjust the structure of our rates before now due to conditions put in place by the NSW Government when Council mergers occurred in 2016. Now we have the opportunity to align our rating systems into a single, consistent structure.

Along with delivering consistency in our rates, domestic waste and stormwater charges will also become uniform across the region.

Information on what will change, why, and how it will affect you, will be provided to ratepayers later this year.

For now, you can find out more about rates at [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/YourRates](https://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/YourRates)



## How bushfire-ready are you? Get ready, MidCoast

With bushfire season upon us, now's the time for everyone in your household to discuss, agree and document your bushfire survival plan.

By following five simple steps you'll be better equipped to protect your family, pets and your property in the event of a bushfire.

Watch for Get Ready information arriving in your mailbox soon, or visit [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/getready](https://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/getready)



## Ongoing support

If you are recovering from the impact of the 2019 bushfires, a wide range of support services remains available to you.

Contact our recovery team on 7955 7543 for advice or visit [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/recovery](https://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/recovery)