

Draft Central Coast Night-Time Economy Discussion Paper

Engagement summary

Central Coast Council

Summary

Between 30 November 2023 and 12 February 2024 Central Coast Council sought community feedback on the Draft Central Coast Night-Time Economy Discussion Paper.

Council prepared a Draft Central Coast Night-Time Economy Discussion Paper aiming to identify interventions to create better places for businesses, the local community and visitors after dark in the Central Coast.

The Central Coast currently has a limited and dispersed night-time economy and the discussion paper details ways for us to support local businesses to increase after dark operations to deliver more opportunities for employment, tourism and the local economy.

We invited the community to complete a survey and provide feedback via the Your Voice Our Coast website.

Engagement results

Central Coast residents provided a total of 395 submissions on Council's commitment to develop the night-time economy on the Central Coast.

Themes from the feedback and some examples are as follows:

Desire for Nightlife:

"Would be fantastic to see something other than live music with the same old pub vibe everywhere. Perhaps more sophisticated bars with different music genres on different nights for all generations and social types to enjoy."

"I used to live on the Central Coast and feel that it used to have a more vibrant nightlife than it does now. I would love to see late night cafes, and bars that are able to open later, rather than just loud night clubs that cater to young people."

"The Central coast most desperately needs more nightlife options for young adults and adults to enjoy. We only have one nightclub on the central coast, which limits many options after venues close at 12am."

How you connected



1,733 visits to the Your Voice Our Coast website



The discussion paper was downloaded **288** times



11,164 social media users reached and **86** likes, comments, and shares.



17,872 stakeholders were kept up-to-date through e-news.



389 surveys completed



A total of **395** submissions received

Trading hours:

"Central Coast is outdated and living in the past. Shops including major retails close early and should be open later. There is no night life for the growing younger people and older people to enjoy with going on date nights or planning get togethers. It would be great to see the Central Coast take a huge step in providing a social night life to us to enjoy."

"The Central coast most desperately needs more nightlife options for young adults and adults to enjoy. We only have one nightclub on the central coast, which limits many options after venues close at 12am."

"Would love to see Gosford City's Mann Street, revitalised with a Newtown King St vibe. Public transport is already established there. Would love it to have many cafes, bars, pubs and late-night shops, theatres, arcades/kids activities as per King street."

Safety and Security:

"Council parking in Gosford should open later so that people can park to attend night-time activities. More lighting on streets in Gosford so that people can feel safe. Too many abandoned buildings in Gosford CBD- very creepy."

"I have travelled to fair few places with great night-time areas. They all have one thing in common is that they are all have great lighting at night from where you park car to where the entertainment is. You and your family always feel safe going and coming with no dark spots and plenty of CCTV cameras."

Transport and Infrastructure:

"Safe public transport options are lacking for the region for late night entertainment. There is a lack of nightclub settings for people to enjoy. Gosford CBD and waterfront are sitting dormant and could be an amazing precinct with the right management and refreshment of the areas."

"To have better night light you also need to attract more population to the central coast either to live here or to travel here, either way you need better transport i.e. faster train, better roads, etc."

"We need reliable fast and regular public transport throughout the coast. At the moment apart from taxis and Ubers there are no options to take public transport at night"

Diversity & Inclusivity:

"Bring Back a venue like the rhythm hut! It was such an amazing collaborative, age friendly, creative, inclusive space!"

What's next?

Council is reviewing all feedback to finalise the document for adoption in 2024.

We are aiming to establish a working group with both internal and external stakeholders to assist in identifying night-time economy projects and assessing programs, budgets and available funding. Council will also be advocating for and looking to secure grant funding to help deliver projects.