

Election of the new Central Coast Council

Democracy at last, have your say

In May 2016 Wyong and Gosford Councils were axed, very controversially, by the State Government to make way for the creation of an amalgamated Central Coast super Council. It might be useful for everyone to revisit the history.

When the new Central Coast Council (CCC) was formed all former Mayors and Councillors were removed from their positions and an Administrator, Ian Reynolds, was appointed by the NSW Government in their place. Reynolds' role was to replace the function of the former Mayor and Councillors, and make decisions on behalf of the community at regular Central Coast Council meetings.

Rob Noble, who was the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the former Wyong Shire Council, became the Chief Executive Officer of the new Central Coast Council. Former Councillors were invited to join a Local Representative Committee (LRC), an advisory committee only because it had no decision making role.

After **sixteen months** without elected representation on the amalgamated Council the community finally gets the opportunity to choose their own representatives at the next Local Government elections, which will be held on **Saturday 9 September 2017**. During this time, all major Council decisions were made by the Administrator, Ian Reynolds.

The new CCC Local Government Area will consist of **five wards** with **three elected Councillors** in each ward, giving a total of fifteen Councillors. Once elected, the 15 Councillors will then elect the Mayor, by way of a Mayoral Election, at the first Council meeting following the election.

The five new wards are Gosford West, Gosford East, The Entrance, Wyong & Budgewoi. Ward locations are shown on the map below and available for viewing on the CCC website (<http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/about-council/governance-and-strategy/central-coast-council-elections-2017>).



The Central Coast LGA has been divided into the above wards not for geographical reasons but to allow a more equal representation of Councillors in each ward. The intention is that once the Councillors have been elected, they represent the interests of the

entire Central Coast LGA, and do not base decisions on the interest of the ward they are elected in.

All residents of the Mountain Districts are included in Gosford West ward which covers an enormous area from Patonga in the South and Gosford CBD in the East all the way to The Letter A at Bucketty in the North West.

The boundary separating Gosford West Ward and Wyong Ward runs up Yarramalong Valley and through Cedar Brush Creek and Kulnura. It is important that all residents check if they are enrolled to vote, or they may be fined. Make sure of the Ward you are in by going to <https://roll.elections.nsw.gov.au/NSWLookUp/>

The Mountain Districts Association has organised a candidate's forum, just before the election, so that all residents can become familiar with their candidates, get information about the election process and the location of polling booths and quiz the candidates about their plans for the district if they are elected.

The forum will be held at the Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club at 7.30pm on Wednesday 30th August.

More details of the forum will be published in the 18th August issue of the Community News. If you would like to ask questions of the candidates at the forum please forward your questions to mdacommunityprojects@gmail.com so we can ensure that there is no duplication. Residents whose questions have been chosen for the forum will be notified in advance, to make sure that they are able to attend to ask the question.

Mountain Districts Association 30.7.2017