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Voice for the Coast Summer 2024

Message From the Chair



To support the intent of the national Regional Development Australia Charter, RDA Central Coast has continued its work this year to develop a strong, connected region that supports our economic growth and wellbeing by collaborating with a broad cross-section of local stakeholders and regional leaders.

As the new Chair of RDA Central Coast, I thank all the region's stakeholders for their collective effort to creating an inclusive, vibrant and prosperous community here on the Central Coast. I look forward to continuing our work together as we create a region where people, businesses and investments thrive.

I wish all members of our community a safe, happy and healthy festive season

and I look forward to continuing our work together in 2025 and beyond.

Merry Christmas!

Anna

[READ THE FULL MESSAGE](#)

Farewell to Chair Lawrie McKinna & Welcome to RDA Central Coast New Chair

RDA Central Coast is saddened by the recent resignation of Chair Lawrie McKinna. After nearly 4 years at the helm Lawrie, as the new Mayor of Central Coast Council has decided to concentrate on his new role. RDACC wishes Lawrie all the best in his future endeavours.

Introduction to our new Chair - Anna Cruckshank.

Anna has served on the RDA Central Coast Committee in the role of Deputy Chair for the past 2 and half years and was recently appointed by the Minister of Regional Development, The Hon. Kirsty McBain, to the Chair role.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



State of Affordable Housing on the Central Coast Report

Following the significant insights gained from the 2022 'State of Affordable Housing on the Central Coast' report, Regional Development Australia was proud to partner with Pacific Link Housing this year to release an updated statement emphasising the continued and urgent need for accelerated efforts in the provision of affordable and key-worker housing.



[VIEW THE REPORT HERE](#)

Central Coast Residential Development Guide



The Central Coast economy is set to almost double to an annual Gross Regional Product of \$35B by 2040, driven by booming sectors like health, education, and advanced manufacturing. With rental vacancy rates between 0.6 per cent and 1.5 per cent, and a 36 per cent rise in median housing prices from 2018 to 2023, the demand for new housing is undeniable.

There is also a critical shortage of affordable housing for essential workers that are so critical to the health and growth of local communities.

To assist in responding to this regionally significant issue, RDACC Central Coast was pleased to partner in an initiative led by Business NSW Central Coast, to

deliver the Central Coast Residential
Development Guide.

[VIEW THE GUIDE HERE](#)

Meet our newest Committee Member

ADAM MCEWEN

Adam is a proud descendant of the Bundjalung Nation with extensive experience in public health, community leadership, sports coaching and a strong commitment to health protection and First Nations advocacy.

He brings decades of experience in public health policy development and leadership at regional, state and national levels through various representative roles.

Adam holds a bachelor's degree in applied science (environmental health) and a master's in public health respectively.



[FIND OUT MORE](#)

RDA Central Coast welcomes High-Speed Rail Geotechnical Investigations



The Committees of Regional Development Australia Central Coast (RDA Central Coast) and Regional Development Australia Hunter (RDA Hunter) have collaborated over many years to advocate for high-speed rail for our two regions.

The RDA Central Coast Committee has welcomed initial geotechnical investigations that have commenced on the Central Coast to determine the optimum route alignment for a proposed high-speed rail link to connect our region to Sydney in just 30 minutes.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Local Entrepreneurs Series: Soul Vodka

Owner and founder of Soul Vodka, Laura Maric, is a born and bred Coastie local who turned a passion for distilling into a family business selling handcrafted, small batch vodka.

Loved by celebrities and made using local ingredients, Soul Vodka is yet another Central Coast success story.

We chatted to Laura about how she's conquering the spirit world (while still keeping it eco-friendly!)



[SEE ALL LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS](#)

Stay Safe on Our Local Roads These Holidays

Double demerits will be in place for 13 consecutive days in NSW over the 2024/25 holidays, from Friday 20 December 2024 to Wednesday 1 January 2025 inclusive.

Remember that mobile phone detection cameras are also active in NSW, and drivers caught using their phones during a double demerit period will be hit with large fines and demerits.

Over the festive season, please slow down, drive to the road conditions, and take extra care to protect yourself, your loved ones and our entire Coast community.



Image credit: NRMA.



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