



NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Driving Regional Growth



Regional Development Australia Central Coast

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Message from the Chair / CEO



The big news this quarter is the opening of the new Central Coast Food Innovation Hub at Ourimbah by Senator Tim Ayres, and member for Dobell, Emma McBride. The hub can house up to 8 "scale-up" businesses and will further strengthen the Central Coast regions \$2 billion food and beverage sector.

[READ THE FULL MESSAGE](#)

Central Coast Food Manufacturing

Innovation Hub OPEN!



The Central Coast Manufacturing Innovation Hub at Ourimbah is helping Central Coast food and beverage producers scale up without having to leave the region.

The \$17.14 million facility was officially opened at Ourimbah on Friday 10 July 2026 by Central Coast Industry Connect, with support from the Australian Government.



The Brownlee Street facility includes a pilot plant and eight fully serviced food-manufacturing spaces totalling 1,500 square metres, along with offices and amenities. Two food manufacturers have entered heads of agreement to occupy manufacturing units, with further space available.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Modern Methods of Construction



Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) is not a single approach — it's a collection of methods that are changing how we plan, design and build.

These include:

- prefabrication
- off-site manufacturing
- modular construction



→ and emerging technologies such as robotics, AI and 3D printing

Rather than relying solely on traditional onsite builds, MMC enables components to be manufactured in controlled environments and assembled efficiently.

This leads to:

- ✓ faster delivery
- ✓ improved quality
- ✓ greater predictability
- ✓ reduced waste and environmental impact

MMC is increasingly being adopted to respond to housing demand and workforce challenges.

For regions like the Central Coast, it signals a shift in how value is created across the construction ecosystem.

[READ OUR MODERN METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION FACT SHEET](#)

Current Infrastructure Projects - Central Coast

RDA Central Coast has developed the Current Infrastructure Projects Central Coast resource in collaboration with all levels of government and key regional stakeholders.

The document provides a clear overview of current and planned infrastructure projects across the Central Coast Local Government Area, helping stakeholders stay informed about key regional priorities and investment opportunities.



These projects highlight the scale of infrastructure activity underway or in planning across the Central Coast, supporting future growth, connectivity and liveability for the region.

[SEE THE DOCUMENT](#)

Regional Australia Institute Regional Population Planning Report

Regional Australia is growing fast, but planning systems are struggling to keep pace. The latest Regional Population Planning report from the Regional Australia Institute highlights that regional Australia is now home to more than 10 million people and contributes over \$1 trillion to the national economy. Key challenges include housing shortages, infrastructure gaps and increasing pressure on services. For the Central Coast, the findings are particularly significant. Ranked as Australia's 5th largest Regional Population Unit in 2024, our population is projected to continue growing substantially by 2050, reinforcing the importance of long-term planning, infrastructure investment and coordinated regional development. As our region continues to grow, ensuring planning systems support future housing, workforce and infrastructure needs will be critical to maintaining our quality of life and economic prosperity.



READ THE REPORT

High Speed Rail Update

The [High Speed Rail Authority](#) has shortlisted three global proponents to design and develop the trains and systems for the Newcastle to Sydney High Speed Rail project, moving Australia's first high speed rail line a step closer to a construction-ready design.

The shortlisted groups – an [Alstom/UGL](#) joint venture, an ARC joint venture of Siemens Mobility and Mott MacDonald Australia, and Hitachi Rail STS Australia – will now compete through an Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) process to finalise the cost, scope, design and approvals needed for the Australian Government to make an investment decision at the end of the project's Development Phase.

The project remains at an early, competitive stage – no construction contract will be awarded until the Development Phase concludes and government makes an investment decision – so this shortlisting is a design milestone, not a funding or construction commitment.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Celebrating the 2026 Business NSW Central Coast Awards



Congratulations to the winners of the 2026 Business NSW Central Coast Awards, which celebrated the outstanding achievements of businesses, leaders and professionals from across our region.

RDA Central Coast was proud to support this year's awards as part of the judging panel. The awards recognise the innovation, resilience and excellence that continue to strengthen the Central Coast business community.

Friday night's ceremony provided a wonderful opportunity to recognise the people and organisations whose leadership, dedication and success are helping the Central Coast thrive. We congratulate all winners and finalists on their achievements and contribution to the region.

H5 Bird Flu in NSW

H5 bird flu has been detected in wild birds in NSW. The risk to people remains low, with no detections in NSW commercial poultry, captive birds or livestock, but businesses near beaches, waterways, parks and natural areas can help support preparedness.

NSW authorities encourage tourism operators, small businesses, councils and community organisations to share clear advice with staff, visitors and customers.

What businesses can do

Apply “come clean, go clean”

Encourage staff, contractors and visitors to clean footwear, clothing, vehicles and equipment after visiting beaches, wetlands, parks, farms or reserves.

Secure bins and food waste, do not feed wildlife, keep dogs on leads and keep children and pets away from sick or dead animals.

Communicate calmly: explain the risk is low, what to do if wildlife is found sick or dead, and where to find official NSW Government advice.

Display official fact sheets, posters and signage in visitor areas, staff rooms, emails or social media updates.

Avoid. Record. Report.

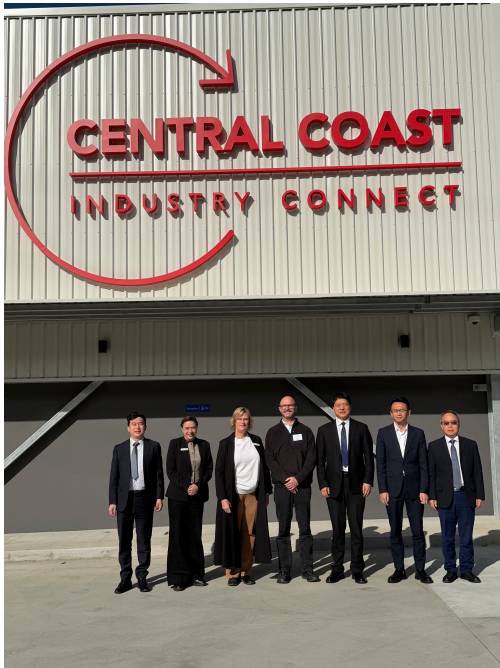
Avoid: do not touch, move or handle the animal, and keep children and pets away.

Record: note the date, time, location, species and number of animals; take photos or video only if safe.

Report: call the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.



RDACC Welcomes Chengdu Delegation to the Central Coast



Regional Development Australia Central Coast (RDACC) recently hosted a delegation from Chengdu Eastern New Area during a visit to the Central Coast Food Manufacturing Innovation Hub.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity to exchange insights on regional economic development, industry growth and investment attraction, while highlighting RDACC's role in supporting local businesses and communities. Delegates also learned more about the development of the Central Coast Food Manufacturing Innovation Hub and its potential to strengthen the region's manufacturing sector.

Chengdu Eastern New Area is a key strategic development zone of Chengdu City and an important part of China's national new-area development framework. Like the Central Coast, it is positioned to support growth beyond the metropolitan centre, attract investment, strengthen industry development and create high-quality community outcomes.

The area has strengths in advanced manufacturing, modern services and emerging industries, alongside a





strong focus on sustainable development, environmental protection and liveability. Its transport connections—including proximity to Chengdu Tianfu International Airport—support investment facilitation, industry–city integration and international cooperation.

RDACC looks forward to building strong professional connections with the delegation and exploring areas of mutual interest and future cooperation.

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