

Youth Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 26 February, 2026
Location: Osprey Training Room, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 10:00 AM

Please note: Council’s Code of Meeting Practice permits the electronic recording and broadcast of the proceedings of meetings of the Council which are open to the public. Your attendance at this meeting is taken as consent to the possibility that your image and/or voice may be recorded and broadcast to the public.

Agenda

1. Election of Chairperson (every meeting)
2. Meeting Conduct Statement
3. Acknowledgement / Welcome to Country
4. Apologies
5. Confirmation of Minutes
 - Youth Advisory Committee - 7 August 2024..... 1
 - Youth Advisory Committee - 17 June 2025..... 4
6. Declaration of Interests
7. Presentations

YA26.1 Open Discussion - Priority Areas for Young People

The Youth Advisory Committee to discuss priority areas of change for young people in the Shoalhaven for 2026.

There are a number of local and regional strategies and engagement activities that have identified key priority areas for young people. Members of the YAC to provide feedback on whether these areas reflect current sentiment of young people in the Shoalhaven and determine what matters most to young people locally.

Office of Youth – Engage Strategy 2024 identified:

1. Cost of living (55.3%)
2. Mental health (46.1%)
3. Climate change and the environment (34.7%)
4. Housing affordability, rent and home ownership (30.3%)
5. Education and training (29.1%)

The Mission Australia Youth Survey identified similar key priority areas for young people in 2024:

1. Cost of Living (55%)
2. Mental Health (28%)
3. Climate change and the environment (24%)
4. Violence, safety and crime (23%)

In 2024 the Council’s Youth Advisory Committee identified the following priorities:

1. Mental health
2. Safe spaces for young people
3. Climate change
4. Bullying/ discrimination
5. Homelessness and social services

Based on this, possible priority areas for 2026 could include:

1. Cost of living
2. Mental health
3. Climate change and the environment
4. Housing affordability, rent and home ownership
5. Education and training
6. Violence, safety and crime
7. Safe spaces for young people
8. Bullying and discrimination
9. Homelessness and social services

1. Is there anything missing from this list?
2. Please select 5 areas as most important to you and the young people you know.
3. Select one of these new priority areas. Provide an example of how this presents locally and what young people want to see change within the Shoalhaven for this priority area.

These priority areas will be used as a reference by the Community Capacity Building Team when undertaking work and when forming partnerships that impact on young people in the Shoalhaven.

YA26.2 Youth Week Planning 2026

Council’s Community Capacity Building Team will present to the Youth Advisory Committee on plans for Youth Week Activities in 2026.

Youth Week is an opportunity for young people, aged between 12 and 24, across NSW to come together in their local communities. Youth Week 2026 will run from Thursday 16 April to Sunday 26 April 2026. This overlaps with the NSW Autumn School Holidays which will run from Tuesday 7 April to Friday 17 April 2026. The NSW Government jointly funds Youth Week activities with local councils in NSW through Youth Week Grants.

These grants are to be used to celebrate Youth Week by encouraging young people to:

1. attend live events
2. showcase their talents
3. take part in competitions
4. use their voice to advocate for things young people want in their local community
5. have fun!

Council’s Community Capacity Building Team are seeking feedback from the Youth Advisory Committee on an activity that meets the Youth Week Goal: “*use their voice to advocate for things young people want in their local community*”.

Council are seeking to co-design an event that empowers young people to put forward their ideas and advocate on what matters to them to Council directly.

Members of the YAC to provide feedback on the following optional questions:

1. If Council seeks to bring a diverse group of young people together to advocate to Council on what matters to them, what kind of event or activity would make you feel excited to participate?
2. Would you prefer young people to mentor and facilitate activities?
3. Should this activity be a one day, two day, week long camp or ongoing activity?
4. Whats the best way for Council to invite young people to participate?
5. Where should we hold this activity?
6. Is the timing in April 2026 suitable for this type of activity?
7. What skills would young people prioritise developing at this type of activity?
8. Have you attended a similar event or activity? What did you like or wish was different about it?
9. How would you like to see the impact of your advocacy? How can Council share the good news with young people on progress on actions?

YA26.3 Re-imagining Advisory Committees

Council's Vibrant Communities Team (previously Community Capacity Building) will facilitate a discussion regarding reviewing the effectiveness and future direction of the Youth Advisory Committee.

Members will be asked to respond to a questionnaire, if they have not done so already, on their experience with the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC).

Questionnaire:

[RE-IMAGINING THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Fill out form](#)



8. Reports

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9. General Business

Membership**Voting**

Chairperson – Appointed by Committee at each meeting

Nelani Botha - Community Youth Representative

Bradley Martin - Community Youth Representative

Chloe Turner - Community Youth Representative

A maximum of eighteen (18) Secondary School Student Representatives

A maximum of five (5) Tertiary Education Student Representatives

Non-Voting

All Councillors (observers only)

Chief Executive Officer or Nominee (Manager – Customer & Community Services)

Member for Gilmore – Fiona Phillips MP or nominee

Member for Kiama – Katelin McInerney MP or nominee

Member for South Coast – Liza Butler MP or nominee

Representative - Shoalhaven Local Area Command NSW Police

Representative - Sanctuary Point Youth & Community Centre

Representative - Bay and Basin Community Resources

Representative - Nowra Youth Centre

Representative - Police Citizens Youth Club

Representative - Regional Development Australia

Representative - Shoalhaven Business Chamber

Representative - 330 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets

Representative - Headspace

Representative - University of Wollongong – Shoalhaven

Representative - Country Universities Centre – Shoalhaven

Representative - CareSouth

Representative - Youth Insearch

Quorum – 6 members**Purpose**

The purpose of the committee is to represent the interests and views of young people to Council and the Community.

The Committee will also seek to influence Council's support and intent in achieving their objectives for the current Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan 2032 (SCC CSP).

Role:

- To represent the interests and views of young people to Council and the Community.
- To provide an opportunity for young people to discuss issues of concern to young people.
- To provide a mechanism for young people to make representations to organisations and various spheres of Government requesting appropriate action to improve facilities and services available to young people.
- To give young people experience in Local Government and community affairs
- To create greater awareness and appreciation within the general community of the needs and talents of young people.
- To provide a mechanism for young people to address youth issues themselves.

Delegations

Advisory Committees may make recommendations to Council on all matters within the role outlined above.

This does not include substantial issues and recommendations (possibly including expenditure) that will be reported to Council by a separate report Manager – Community Connections.

The Committee does not have the power to incur expenditure (directly or indirectly), or the power to bind Council.

MINUTES OF THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 7 August 2024
Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 10.30am

The following members were present:

Clr Patricia White
Clr Matthew Norris
Clr Gillian Boyd – Remotely
Clr John Kotlash – Remotely
Eden Sakora – Ulladulla High School
Chloe Jeffers – Ulladulla High School
Lachlan Barry – Ulladulla High School
Georgia Szymoniczek – St Johns High School
Tyne Weller – St Johns High School
Lachlyn Bisat – St Johns High School
Michael Paine - Manager - Community Connections

Others present:

Natalie Johnson – Senior Community Capacity Builder
Monica Kinkade – Senior Community Capacity Builder
Sophie Ray - Shoalhaven Education Fund

At 10.17am Mr Michael Paine – Manager – Community Connections advised the Committee that quorum has not been reached yet however, the members present receive presentations from the schedule as follows until quorum has been confirmed.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Clr Findley, Kasey Henshaw, Janet Atkins and the Shoalhaven River College.

Confirmation of the Minutes

This item was deferred to the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

YA24.7	Open Discussion - Employment, Education and Homelessness Support	HPERM Ref: D24/269020
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At 10.30am those present at the meeting were advised that the Committee had not reached quorum. The members present continued to receive presentations from the schedule as follows.

In the first meeting of 2024 the Youth Advisory Committee identified both:

- *Employment and Education Support*
- *Homelessness and Social Services Support*

as priority areas for change that young people want to see action on in the Shoalhaven.

In today's meeting, YAC members will be receiving presentations from Council and community organisations on these topics.

To begin today's meeting let's delve deeper into what these priority areas mean to you.

Please introduce yourself and respond to the following discussion questions:

1. *Your name*
2. *Organisation, School or area of community that you are representing*
3. *What challenges do you, or young people you know, face in accessing educational opportunities or finding employment in the Shoalhaven, and what changes would you like to see to improve support for young people?*
4. *How do you think our community could better support young people facing homelessness, and do you have ideas for practical steps we can all take to make a positive impact?*

YA24.6	Shoalhaven Education Fund	HPERM Ref: D24/171370
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Note: Quorum had not been reached, the Committee heard the following presentation.

Sophie Ray from the Shoalhaven Education Fund presented to the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) on the Fund's support for Shoalhaven young people in the Shoalhaven. Discussions included their progress since 2012 and from the YAC members on lessons learned about the challenges facing young people in the Shoalhaven in accessing educational opportunities.

YA24.5	Update - Shoalhaven Affordable Housing Strategy - Strategy Planning Team	HPERM Ref: D24/245958
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This item has been deferred to the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

REPORTS

YA24.8 Membership Resignation - Nathaniel Woodcock

**HPERM Ref:
D24/206132**

Note: This item was deferred to the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

YA24.9 Update on Actions Report - August 2024

**HPERM Ref:
D24/269359**

Note: This item was deferred to the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

Eden Sakora and Chloe Jeffers
CHAIRPERSON

MINUTES OF THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 17 June 2025

Location: Jervis Bay Room, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra

Time: 10.00am

The following members were present:

St John the Evangelist Catholic High School Nowra

Others present:

Clr Karlee Dunn

Clr Gillian Boyd

Mr Michael Paine - Manager - Community Connections

Ms Kristy Mayhew – Manager Cultural and Community Services

Ms Carly McWalters – Lead Community Capacity Building

Ms Natalie Johnson – Senior Community Capacity Builder

Mr Matthew Rose – Coordinator – Strategy Planning Team

Ms Kristy O’Sullivan – Strategic Planner

Ms Beth Britton – Social Planner

James Vernon – Member for Kiama Representative

At 10.30am Mr Michael Paine advised that the meeting had not reached quorum, and had therefore lapsed. The Committee proceeded to receive presentations informally.

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies received from Shoalhaven High School, Vincentia High School, Ulladulla High School, Nowra High School, Country Universities Centre, TAFE, Lily Wright, Nelani Botha, Marg King – TAFE, Oliver Griffiths.

PRESENTATIONS

YA25.5 Update - Shoalhaven Affordable Housing Strategy - Strategy Planning Team

HPERM Ref: D24/245958

Kristy O’Sullivan – Strategic Planner, Strategy Planning Team – presented to the Committee on the recently adopted Shoalhaven Affordable Housing Strategy (AHS).

The presentation provided an overview of the “housing spectrum”, and the roles and responsibilities of service providers and government agencies in helping to address the housing affordability challenge.

The presentation also provided an overview of the AHS, including its purpose, the public exhibition process and outcomes, and finalisation of the document. The Committee was also provided with an overview of the next steps towards implementing the AHS, including programming work on the short-term Actions and the establishment of a Council-led Affordable Housing Action Taskforce.

Following the presentation, there was a general discussion about land-use planning in Shoalhaven, including redevelopment opportunities along the Nowra Riverfront and the work

involved in planning new urban release areas. Matthew Rose – Coordinator, Strategy Planning Team – also provided an overview of Council's online demographic tools (Community Profile, Social Atlas, Population Forecast, Economic Profile and Housing Monitor), which can be accessed online at: <https://profile.id.com.au/shoalhaven/>

YA25.7 Workshop - Disability Inclusion Action Plan**HPERM Ref:
D25/53825**

Under the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014, Councils are required to review their Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) every four years. As part of this requirement, Councils must consult with specific groups in the community including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, people with a disability and young people. Council's advisory committees provide a great opportunity for such consultation in addition to other engagement that is being conducted in the broader community.

Staff presented an introduction to the work being done to review the current DIAP. The meeting discussed Council's actions under the current DIAP and possible future disability inclusion initiatives.

REPORTS**YA25.8 Membership Resignation - Nathaniel Woodcock****HPERM Ref:
D24/206132**

Note: This item has been deferred to the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

**YA25.9 Youth Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Review -
2025****HPERM Ref:
D25/51663**

Note: This item has been deferred to the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

YA25.10 Update on Actions Report - August 2024**HPERM Ref:
D24/269359**

Note: This item has been deferred to the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

YA25.11 Update on Actions Report - March 2025**HPERM Ref:
D25/84324**

Note: This item has been deferred to the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

YA25.12 Membership Resignation - Kasey Henshaw**HPERM Ref:
D25/119929**

Note: This item has been deferred to the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

YA26.4 Membership Resignation - Nathaniel Woodcock

HPERM Ref: D24/206132

Department: Business Assurance & Risk
Approver: Jane Lewis, Director - City Lifestyles

Reason for Report

The purpose of this report is to advise the Youth Advisory Committee of the Resignation received from Mr Nathaniel Woodcock and recommend filling the vacancy through the current Expression of Interest advertised.

Recommendation

That the Youth Advisory Committee:

1. Accept the resignation of Mr Nathaniel Woodcock (Youth Representative) and thank him for his contribution to the Committee.
2. Fill the Youth Representative vacancy through the current Expression of Interest.

Options

1. Adopt the Recommendation
Implications: Vacant position will be filled.
2. Adopt an alternate recommendation
Implications: Unknown

Background

Council received notification on Thursday, 16 May 2024 from Mr Nathaniel Woodcock that he wished to resign from the Committee. Mr Nathaniel Woodcock was appointed as a Youth Representative in June 2022.

The Youth Representative position to be filled through Council's current Expression of Interest that is advertised on the Council webpage.

<https://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/Council/Meetings/Council-Committees/Youth-Advisory-Committee>

Community Consultations

Council is taking applications for a Youth Representative via an Expression of Interest process. You can find more information on this on the Council webpage:

<https://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/Council/Meetings/Council-Committees/Youth-Advisory-Committee>

YA26.5 Membership Resignation - Kasey Henshaw

HPERM Ref: D25/119929

Department: Business Assurance & Risk

Approver: Lindsay Usher, Acting Director - City Development

Reason for Report

The purpose of this report is to advise the Youth Advisory Committee of the Resignation received from Ms Kasey Henshaw and recommend filling the vacancy through the current Expression of Interest advertised.

Recommendation

That the Youth Advisory Committee:

1. Accept the resignation of Ms Kasey Henshaw (Youth Representative) and thank her for her contribution to the Committee.
2. Fill the Youth Representative vacancy through the current Expression of Interest.

Options

1. Adopt the Recommendation
Implications: Vacant position will be filled.
2. Adopt an alternate recommendation
Implications: Unknown

Background

Council received notification on Thursday, 20 March 2025 from Ms Kasey Henshaw that she wished to resign from the Committee. Ms Kasey Henshaw was appointed as a Youth Representative in June 2024.

The Youth Representative position to be filled through Council's current Expression of Interest that is advertised on the Council webpage.

<https://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/Council/Meetings/Council-Committees/Youth-Advisory-Committee>

YA26.5

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YA26.6 Action Table Report - August 2024 to December 2025

HPERM Ref: D25/455285

Department: Customer & Community Services

Approver: Katie Buckman, Director - City Performance

Attachments: 1. Action Table - August 2024 to December 2025 [↓](#)

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Youth Advisory Committee with a status update on outstanding actions.

Summary and Key Points for Consideration:

This report aims to update the Youth Advisory Committee on the current status of pending actions that are recommended for completion.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

1. That the Youth Advisory Committee:
2. Accept and receive the Action Table Report – August 2024 to December 2025 for information.
3. The following action is considered complete and can be removed from the Action Table.
 - a. YA24.6 Presentation Received - Shoalhaven Education Fund

Background and Supplementary information

This report provides the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) with an update on the status of actions from previous meetings. All listed actions have been completed, with details outlined in Attachment 1.

The item for completion, YA24.6 Presentation Received – Shoalhaven Education Fund, was deferred from the last meeting. Although the item has been completed, the item has remained on the Action Table until it can be formally resolved at this meeting to acknowledge staff have completed all necessary tasks.

Subject to the Committee’s agreement that satisfactory progress has been made, it is recommended that the Committee note the completion of:

- a. YA24.6 Presentation Received – Shoalhaven Education Fund

Staff will be available at the meeting to provide updates or respond to any questions regarding completed actions.

Risk Implications

Council recognises the importance of maintaining good relationships and upholding core organisational values in all interactions with members of our Section 355 Committees. Council will accept appropriate and effective interventions to improve the functioning of these Committees.

Internal Consultations

It is important that the members of the Youth Advisory Committee are kept informed on progress towards the completion of actions and projects. This report provides a structured approach to facilitate this information exchange.

External Consultations

Members of the Youth Advisory Committee will be informed about the progress of any future outstanding actions at the next sitting of the committee.

Community Consultations

This report relates to actions that arose from previous Youth Advisory Committee meetings and that are the responsibility of staff to complete. As such, no community consultation was required.

Policy and Statutory Implications

There are no changes required to any Council policy as a result of the production of this report.

Financial Implications

There is no budget associated with the Youth Advisory Committee so there are no financial implications.

Youth Advisory Committee Action Sheet report as at 15 October 2025	Action Sheets Report
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Meeting Date: 07/08/2024	Item No: YA24.6	Officer: Goodman, Rylee	Completed: 19/08/2024
Title: Presentation Received - Shoalhaven Education Fund			
Sophie Ray from the Shoalhaven Education Fund presented to the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) on the Fund’s support for Shoalhaven young people in the Shoalhaven. Discussions included their progress since 2012 and from the YAC members on lessons learned about the challenges facing young people in the Shoalhaven in accessing educational opportunities.		Notes: 19 Aug 2024 10:56am Goodman, Rylee - Completion Completed by Goodman, Rylee (action officer) on 19 August 2024 at 10:56:34 AM - No action required. Completed in infocouncil.	