

**Submission  
No 52**

**INQUIRY INTO CLOSURE OF THE CRONULLA  
FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

**Organisation:** Shoalhaven City Council

**Date received:** 1/08/2012

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**SUBMISSION BY SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL**

**TO**

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON CRONULLA FISHERIES CLOSURE**

Council wishes to make a submission to the Select Committee specifically on the following points:

- (c) the costs and benefits of the decision to close the Centre and relocate its functions to other locations,
- (e) any advice received by the Minister on the ability to replicate the Cronulla facilities at other locations, including potential problems and other implications of the other locations,
- (g) the impacts of service delivery to stakeholders
- (h) the impact on staff and their families of the closure and the relocation

## **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

Council contends that relocating part of the Cronulla operations of NSW Fisheries to Nowra makes sound economic and social sense. Several major government functions, both State and Federal have made the transfer to Nowra over the last 10-15 years resulting in over 500 additional employment positions within the Shoalhaven labour force.

With in excess of 38,000 persons within the Shoalhaven labour force the area still experiences an unemployment rate of around 9.7% caused by continual population growth and the structural adjustment of new residents into the local workforce.

Families are attracted to the area because of lower housing and living costs which are available within the Shoalhaven area. This growth in population and the consequential growth in labour force, requires a continual growth in employment opportunities to be created. Whilst the population growth in itself creates additional employment (retail, and other service sectors) Council is active in creating growth in other sectors that are dependent on greater regional production – manufacturing, transport logistics, defence support and tourism.

So whilst there appears to be a relatively high rate of unemployment, there is also a significant growth in employment (over 4,250 in the decade 2002 – 2012)

Attached to this document is a synopsis of the Shoalhaven as respect to a new resident/ employee. This information can be supplemented by perusing the website [www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/business](http://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/business)

## **COSTS/BENEFITS OF MOVING TO NOWRA**

Council does not pretend to understand the issues relating to operating a research and administrative function from the facility at Cronulla. What is known however that commercial space for administrative functions is available within the Nowra area or can be built within the Nowra area. Council has offered NSW Fisheries assistance in this regard and would even be prepared to joint venture in a development with the private sector to provide such facilities.

The University of Wollongong has its Shoalhaven Marine & Freshwater Centre located at the Nowra Campus and there would be possibilities to join with the University (and possibly Council) in an expansion on Campus for an administrative and research facility.

Not having knowledge of the exact requirements makes it difficult for a proposal to be developed and costed at this stage.

From an employee perspective, the cost of housing is significantly lower than in Sydney. Employees would be able to avail themselves of affordable quality housing in the area with various accommodation types (houses, flats, farmlets, beachside residential...)

## **REPLICATION OF FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT CRONULLA**

To replicate the view at Cronulla would be difficult!

With regard to all other aspects – Commercial office space, research laboratories and facilities can all be replicated in Nowra. Exact facilities may not exist at this particular time but given the specification and requirements the private or public sector can react to creating such facilities. The time factor would obviously be an

issue but can be overcome with co-operation and an early agreement to all facets of a proposed solution.

### **IMPACTS ON SERVICE DELIVERY**

Various public and private business operations are based in Nowra. These businesses import and export goods and services all over the world.

Nowra is already on the main fibre optic network with at least 3 Sydney-Melbourne services passing through Nowra. As a consequence Nowra will be a Point of Interconnect for the NBN and the rollout to the urban areas around Nowra will commence in 2013.

Delivery of services to other communities within NSW is no more restricted than from a Sydney location with Sydney and Mascot Airport within 2 hours.

Although a regional area we do have express post, couriers, bus & train services as part of the metropolitan area network.

### **IMPACT ON STAFF & FAMILIES**

Join the queue!

With other government relocations, there have been personnel electing to make the move. There is also a pool of potential employees, suitably trained in the Shoalhaven area and elsewhere in NSW/Australia/overseas that are seeking to work in the Nowra/Shoalhaven area.

Why do they wish to come? Lifestyle, lifestyle, lifestyle.

From experience, some employees will take the opportunity and relocate, others will because of a range of reasons, choose not to relocate. Factors such as children's

education, elderly parents, children with additional needs, long association with their current community are just some of the issues that will be raised.

On the other side are advantages such as better environment to raise children, more affordable housing, easier travel to/from work, proximity to community services, feeling part of a community.....

Nowra is a service and administrative centre for 75-100,000 population and as such has many of the services available in metropolitan suburbs.

The current staff at Fisheries at Cronulla are a mix of scientific, technical and administrative staff. From what Council has learnt, it is the administrative and some technical positions that are planned to be relocated to Nowra. These staff may feel that their options for alternate employment or employment for partners and children may not be as optimal in a location such as Nowra. The range of professional, technical and management positions have been the fastest type of employment opportunities to grow in the Nowra area in the last decade. These positions are both in the private and public (federal, state & local government) sectors.

With a net population growth of around 2000 each year for almost 4 decades, there is strong evidence that Nowra and the Shoalhaven are attractive to families and its community, economy and environment are considered acceptable as a long term residential location.

## **BENEFITS OF NOWRA AS A LOCATION FOR NSW FISHERIES**

Council believes that Nowra and the broader Shoalhaven area are ideally suited to satisfy the needs of the NSW Government and the Department of Primary Industries (NSW Fisheries) in this regard.

The locality of the Shoalhaven provides proximity to the major urban centre of the Greater Wollongong (Wollongong/Shellharbour), connectivity to other communities on the South Coast and Southern Highlands and the broad economic base to service and assimilate a governmental service of around 30 personnel or more.



The economy of the Shoalhaven can provide the diversity of industry training and staff sought. The pool of available labour is considered appropriate. The range of housing and liveability options also provide adequate scope for relocating or recruiting suitable personnel to the area, although we are confident that many of the non-technical positions can be filled from the local area.

Improving the liveability within Shoalhaven is one of Council’s foremost strategies. Facilities for the young, families, elderly, physically active, culturally oriented, disadvantaged and the like, form the basis of most local government investment in its area. Shoalhaven is no different.

The Shoalhaven is located on the south coast of NSW, administratively within the Illawarra Region but has established a strong community and economic character that under most criteria is considered an independent region in itself.

**Location and extent of the LGA**

The Shoalhaven is strategically located, attracting a growing population from Sydney, Wollongong and Canberra, of both younger families and retirees.

The Shoalhaven local government area covers 4,660 square kilometres stretching from Broughton – just north of the rural township of Berry, southwards to North Durras - just north of Batemans Bay.

The Shoalhaven has a residential population of approximately 98,000, peaking at around 300,000+ during the holiday seasons. Population growth remains steady at 2.2%, or 1,803 per annum.

Typical travel distances and times (by car) from the business centre of Nowra are:

	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Travel Time</b>
Wollongong	80 km	1 hour
Sydney	158 km	2 hours
Canberra	224 km	2.5 hours
Melbourne	810 km	8-9 hours - Hume Highway
	889 km	10-12 Hours - Princes Highway
Batemans Bay	120 km	1.5 hours
Goulburn	127 km	1.5 hours
Bathurst	331 kms	4 hours
Bega	265 kms	4 hours
Newcastle	330 kms	4 hours

**Cities / Townships within LGA**

The Shoalhaven is the fastest growing area within the Illawarra Region, one of the fastest growth areas in NSW and home to 98,000 people. The population growth will continue and projections show 124,600 people living in the City by 2026. New residents are drawn by the area’s physical beauty, lifestyle and generally affordable housing costs. The Shoalhaven has a robust and expanding economy, taking



advantage of its location on the fringe of the Newcastle-Sydney-Wollongong urban corridor. It has a diverse range of manufacturing operations including paper, gluten and starch, chemicals, dairy products, automotive and mining equipment, and boat-building. Other important industries include defence, education, building & construction, retailing, tourism, and agribusiness including dairying, grazing, viticulture and wine-tourism.

Shoalhaven Council is very active in regional economic development and delivers its programs through the “Shoalhaven – an enterprising alternative” economic strategy in partnership with the NSW Industry & Investment. Through its strategic linkages, the Shoalhaven’s economic stability continues to grow through relationships with the south coast, ACT, Southern Tablelands and northern Illawarra.

### **Nowra/Bomaderry**

Nowra/Bomaderry, on the Shoalhaven River has a population of approximately 35,000 and a district population of another 30,000 (within 30 minutes). Council is preparing for the township of Nowra/Bomaderry to grow to in excess of 50,000. Nowra/Bomaderry has a growing tertiary education sector, a vibrant retail sector, a strong building and construction industry based on strong residential growth, and a solid manufacturing and defence base that requires a wide range of employment opportunities.

### **South Nowra**

The South Nowra employment precinct has many international companies operating in domestic and export markets. This precinct includes the Flinders Industrial Estate where manufacturing and regional logistics operators exist in close proximity serving markets along the regional south coast and southern tablelands.

### **HMAS Albatross & HMAS Creswell**

HMAS Albatross, a military airbase near Nowra, is a key regional infrastructure asset that is driving growth in the defence sector. Defence personnel and support staff number almost 2000 and inject over \$90 million into the local economy through wages and salaries. The local defence industry sector boasts many of the world’s leading defence companies (BAE Systems, Raytheon, Boeing, Sikorsky). The Albatross Aviation Technology Park adjacent to HMAS Albatross has already attracted major aviation defence operators working in electronic warfare and developing software integration systems. A South Coast Defence Industry Network is operating to enhance linkages between SMEs and Prime contractors within the sector. HMAS Albatross is also home to the Australian Museum of Flight, one of the region’s premier tourist attractions.

Within HMAS Albatross there are a range of ADF units operating independently of the air operations. These facilities offer a range of non-military employment for both professionals and other workers.

On Jervis Bay, HMAS Creswell operates as one of the Royal Australian Navy's training facilities, and also operates facilities for other branches of the Australian Defence Force.

### ***Milton/Ulladulla***

The twin towns of Milton and Ulladulla at the southern end of the Shoalhaven have an economy driven primarily by tourism, construction and agri-businesses especially forestry and fishing. Having a population of in excess of 20,000 the area is quite similar to many NSW centres with an economic sector providing support to its hinterland population with goods and services.

Many people find work in the Milton/Ulladulla area however there are a number of people who commute mainly to the north (Nowra) whilst some commute to Batemans Bay.

Ulladulla harbour is home to a significant fishing fleet which plays a major role in the \$25 million that the fishing industry contributes to the Shoalhaven economy each year.

### ***Jervis Bay/ St Georges Basin***

The neighbouring bay side residential communities at Jervis Bay and St Georges Basin are rapidly growing parts of the Shoalhaven's urban area. Facilities are continually improving in the area, making the district more independent from Nowra which is located 20-30 minutes away. The development of Vincentia High School in the mid 1990's gave the district a clearer identity which is manifesting itself in other economic ways, eg shopping centre expansion, new sports grounds and an aquatic centre. As more businesses establish in the Bay & Basin district, it will become more self sufficient.

As a tourism destination, Jervis Bay enjoys a national reputation for its beauty and pristine waters. Tourist attractions include dolphin and whale-watching cruises from Huskisson on Jervis Bay. The further development of infrastructure to support this eco-tourism advantage will further enhance the attractiveness of the physical attributes of this area especially the Jervis Bay Marine National Park and provide more employment opportunities locally.

### ***Village Lifestyle***

There are a number of villages within the city that provide a different lifestyle opportunity. These centres are located on the coast, along the Princes Highway, or like Kangaroo Valley, in quite a unique setting.

The table below provides details about the population of some of these centres within the Shoalhaven.

<b>Major Centre</b>	<b>Population</b> Source : ABS Census 2011	<b>Median Age</b>
<b>SHOALHAVEN</b>	<b>92,621</b>	<b>46</b>
Nowra/Bomaderry	33,339	39
Ulladulla/Milton	14,149	49
St Georges Basin/Sanctuary Point	12610	46
Huskisson/Vincentia	3,820	51
Sussex Inlet	4,130	58
Shoalhaven Heads	2,995	53
Berry	2,421	52
Burrill Lake	1,328	50
Greenwell Point	1,198	55
Basin View	1,401	45
Cambewarra	1,231	39

#### Physical geography of the LGA

Topography of the Shoalhaven ranges from mountainous ranges, to National Parks, rich farmland and coastal plains. The Shoalhaven is one of the most beautiful and unspoilt parts of Australia's coastline, and it is this spectacular natural environment and its role in the quality of life, that continues to be a major residential and tourist attraction.

The region is situated on a long coastal strip intersected by a major river system (Shoalhaven River) and several bays and estuaries, the largest being Jervis Bay.

Within the South Coast there is close to 300,000 hectares reserved within the national park estate covering 52 protected areas including 17 national parks, 29 nature reserves, 1 Aboriginal area, 1 historic site and 4 state recreation areas. This represents about 50% of the City which is considerable given that national parks cover only 7% of the State. Morton and Budawang National Parks collectively comprise most of this area.

The Shoalhaven City has a range of key visitor destinations including popular coastal facilities in Seven Mile Beach NP, Jervis Bay NP and Murramarang NP and it contains extensive areas of wilderness including the Budawang Wilderness, one of the most popular walking areas in NSW.

The Shoalhaven National Parks incorporates scenic features such as;

- Shoalhaven River
- Booderee, Budawang, Morton, & Jervis Bay National Parks
- Pigeon House Mountain
- Ettrema & Budawang Wilderness areas

- Hyams Beach
- Seven Mile Beach
- Tianjara Falls
- Comerong Island
- Rural townships of Berry, Kangaroo Valley & Milton

#### Climatic conditions of the LGA

The Shoalhaven area enjoys a temperate climate, which can vary within the area – colder on the foothills and mountains particularly in winter, and warmer on the coast.

##### **Nowra**

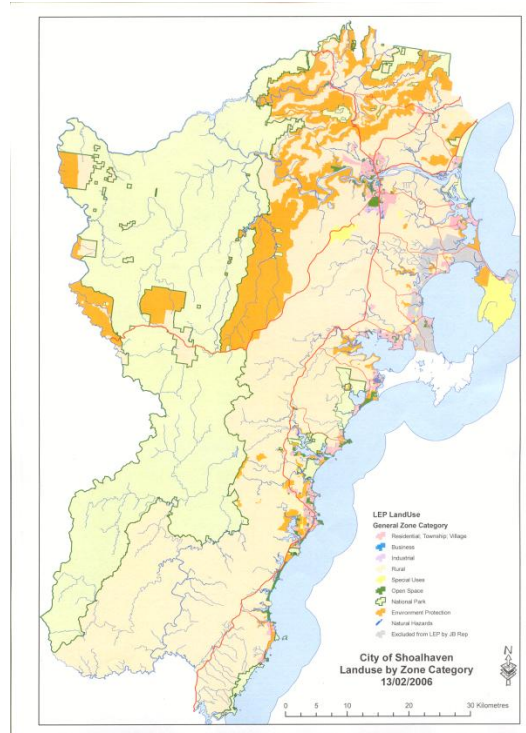
Average temperature Summer	16.1°C (min) 25.8°C (max)
Average temperature Winter	6.2°C (min) 15.8°C (max)
Mean number of total clear days each year	100
Mean number of total rain days each year	130
Humidity Summer	72% (9am); 61% (3pm)
Humidity Winter	72% (9am); 55% (3pm)

#### Predominate land use types within the LGA

Within the Shoalhaven there is a range of zoned lands under Councils Local Environment Plan, 1985. The makeup of zones depicts the physical characteristics of the City and with 95% being rural, national parks or environmental protection, this strong environmental attribute comes through.

The following table shows the proportion of zoned lands across the city;

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Rural	45%
National Parks	38%
Environment Protection	12%
Employment Land - Business and Industrial	1.3%
Residential	1.4%
Special Uses	1.2%
Open Space	.8%
Other	.3%



Predominate business types and mix within the LGA

Over 6,000 businesses currently exist in the Shoalhaven City.

Major employment sectors and the value of their wages and salaries (in 2001) to the local economy include:

• Public Information & Safety	\$223m
• Manufacturing	\$176m
• Building & construction	\$171m
• Health Care & social assistance	\$169m
• Education & Training	\$157m
• Retail	\$141m
• Professional, scientific & technical services	\$ 93m
• Accommodation & support services	\$ 80m
• Transport, postal & warehousing	\$ 70m
• Other	\$290m
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,572m</b>

Major employers within the Shoalhaven include:

• Department of Health	2,900 employees
• Department of Education	2,000 employees
• Department of Defence	1,200 employees
• Shoalhaven City Council	1,000 employees
• Serco Sodexo	400 employees
• Woolworths supermarkets	400 employees
• Coles supermarkets	300 employees

- The Manildra Group 270 employees
- NASPO 220 employees
- NSW Dept of Corrective Services 200 employees
- Nowra Coaches 200 employees
- Tyco Flow Controls 180 employees
- Australian Paper\* 150 employees
- BAE Systems 120 employees
- Hanlon Windows 100 employees
- NowChem 70 employees
- Department of Local Government 50 employees
- Ocean & Earth Surfwear 50 employees

Some of the products manufactured or processed in the Shoalhaven include:

- Agricultural & mining machinery
- Aircraft maintenance & modifications
- Building frames
- Chemicals
- Fibreglass yachts
- Flow control systems
- Food processing
- Starch/gluten & ethanol
- Steel fabricated goods
- Sporting goods
- Surfwear
- Tea Tree products
- Timber

Government Department represented in the Shoalhaven include;

**Federal**

- Dept of Defence
- Royal Australian Navy
- Naval Aviation Systems Project Office
- South Coast RDA
- Dept of Educ, Employment & Workplace Relations
- Dept of Ageing, Disability & Homecare
- Defence Housing Authority

**State**

- South Coast Correctional Centre
- Dept of Local Government
- Dept of Lands
- Dept of Industry & Investment
- Dept of Community Services
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health
- Dept of Education & Training
- TAFE
- Dept of Primary Industries
- Probation & Parole / Juvenile Justice
- Roads & Maritime Services
- Waterways

National Retailers represented in the Shoalhaven include;

**Food**

- Woolworths
- Coles
- IGA
- Aldi

**Clothing**

- Target Country
- Kmart
- Best & Less
- Noni B

**Household & Building**

- Harvey Norman
- Bunnings
- Thrifty Link
- Mitre 10

- Bi Lo
- McDonalds
- KFC
- Pizza Hut
- Oporto
- Subway
- Boost Juice
- Gloria Jeans
- Michel`s Patisserie
- Liquorland
- Bakers Delight
- La Porchetta
- Wendys
- Donut King
- Cookie Man
- Rockmans
- Lowes
- Millers
- Pumkin Patch
- Bubbakins
- Allens
- Payless Shoes
- Williams Shoes
- Mathers Shoes
- Jeans West
- Just Jeans
- Fashion Fair
- Rivers
- Jay Jays
- Suprè
- Ocean and Earth
- ISON & Co
- Sleep Doctor
- Captain Snooze
- RetraVision
- Sleep City
- Tandy
- The Good Guys
- Sleep Lab
- Blockbuster
- Video Ezy
- BBQ Galore
- Dick Smith
- Fantastic Furniture
- The Outdoor furniture specialists

Details of the Shoalhaven's available infrastructure including;

### ***Transport facilities***

**Rail:** The Illawarra rail line extends from the north to the Shoalhaven River at Bomaderry. This line connects through Wollongong to Sydney, providing both passenger and freight services. The line forms part of the Citylink suburban passenger network. Sydney-Kiama is electrified with the Kiama-Bomaderry sector being serviced by Explorer class trains operating between Bomaderry and Kiama/Dapto/Wollongong. A copy of the current time table is available at <http://www.cityrail.info/timetable/index.jsp>

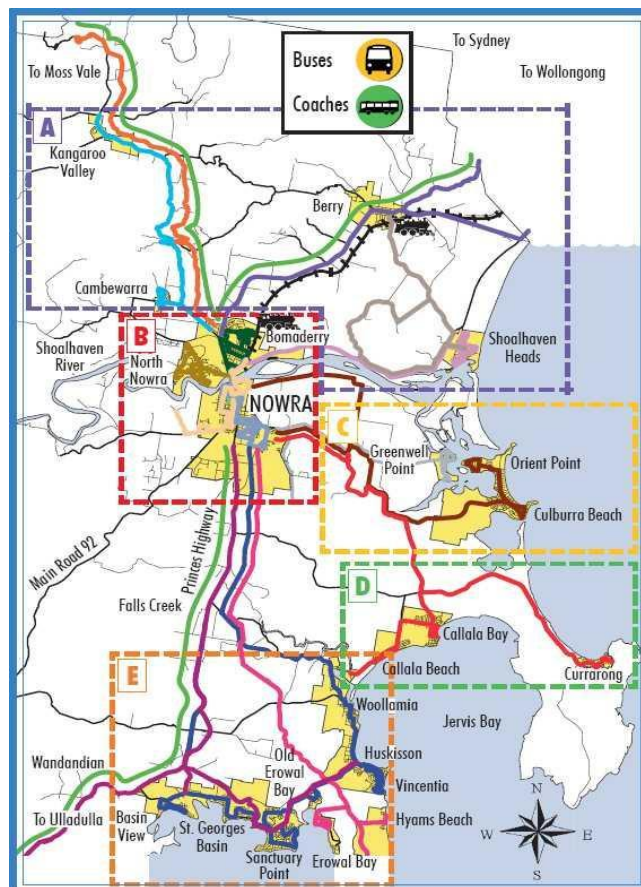
**Road:** The Princes Highway is the main transport artery for the Shoalhaven and South Coast. It runs north-south through the Shoalhaven and is currently the subject of a program of upgrading works. Links with the west run via Kangaroo Valley, Wollongong or Batemans Bay. An alternate route linking Nowra to Canberra has recently been upgraded, bringing the national capital to within 2 hours travel time of the coast and Nowra to Goulburn to about 75 minutes.

**Air:** HMAS Albatross, a military airfield, is open to civil air traffic and charter services. Commuters use either Canberra or Sydney Airports.

**Coach:** Daily interstate services operate through Nowra and Ulladulla to Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane. There are currently eight private bus and coach operators within the City

### Local Bus Network:

There are 9 Local Bus Companies operating in the Shoalhaven providing transport between all major towns and villages. The Map provides an overview of the key bus routes and services, timetables can be obtained from the Regional Bus Station located on Stewart St, Nowra.



Health Services- Public and Private  
Three public and a privately operated hospitals are located within Shoalhaven.

The three public hospitals include;

- Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital (Nowra), 149 beds, provides general surgery as well as ophthalmology, orthopaedic, obstetric, paediatric, gynaecological, plastic surgery along with intensive care services, emergency department. It also provides outreach services from Wollongong Hospital, these services include oncology and renal outpatients.
- Milton-Ulladulla Hospital (Milton), 20 beds, provides emergency, minor surgery, low-risk obstetrics and medical services for the Southern Shoalhaven region.
- David Berry Hospital (Berry), 72 beds, is a slow stream medical care, palliative care facility and a rehabilitation unit.

The private hospital is;

- Nowra Community Hospital (Nowra), 91 beds, provides high dependency/critical care unit, a rehabilitation unit with hydrotherapy pool and comprehensive medical/surgical services.

Nine nursing homes/retirement villages exist, with a more being proposed.



Ambulance stations are located in Kangaroo Valley; Bomaderry; Huskisson; Culburra; and Ulladulla and Sussex Inlet.

There are 105 general practitioners within the Shoalhaven, along with a variety of medical specialists and surgeons.

In 2007 the University of Wollongong will have its first intake of medical students at the Shoalhaven Campus into the Graduate School of Medicine which will make available into the local area a supply of student doctors to assist the local hospitals and general practitioners.

Within the region are 21 dentists and a variety of allied or alternative medical services such as sports medicine; physiotherapy; naturopathy; homoeopathy; iridology etc.

There are 43 psychologists and mental health facilities in Shoalhaven. There are also a number of support groups and services: aboriginal health, drug and alcohol, baby health, child abuse, family support, sexual assault and veteran affairs.

Respite care is available within the Shoalhaven through Camp Quality Illawarra, local Aunties & Uncles program; and Interchange Shoalhaven.

Noah's Ark Centre is a quality early intervention facility catering for children with special needs. Other services exist supporting adolescents and adults with a disability with employment and social activities.

#### Education Facilities

*Child care:* a range of community based and privately operated child care facilities, and early childhood centres operate throughout the Shoalhaven. At present there are 42 day care facilities within the Shoalhaven, with a number catering for vacation care. Shoalhaven City Council also coordinates a family day care service.

*Primary schools:* there are 24 government primary schools scattered throughout the Shoalhaven. These are located at Berry; Bomaderry; Culburra; Callala; Cambewarra; Falls Creek; Greenwell Point; Huskisson; East Nowra; Nowra; North Nowra (2); Nowra Hill; Jervis Bay; St Georges Basin; Sanctuary Point; Shoalhaven Heads; Sussex Inlet; Terara; Tomerong; Milton; Ulladulla & Vincentia.

*Secondary schools:* there are 5 government secondary schools - Bomaderry; Nowra; Shoalhaven; Ulladulla & Vincentia.

*Non-Government:* there are 6 non-government schools; St Mary's, Milton (primary); Shoalhaven Anglican College, Milton (primary & secondary); Christian Community College, Nowra (primary & secondary); St John the Evangelist High School, Nowra

(secondary); St Michael's, Nowra (primary); Nowra Anglican College, Bomaderry (primary & secondary).

*Tertiary:* The Illawarra Institute of Technology has campuses at both Nowra and Ulladulla; and a combined campus of TAFE and the University of Wollongong operate at Mundamia (West Nowra).

*TAFE NSW* – Illawarra Institute, Nowra Campus, offers courses in the following faculties:

- Access Programs (includes Aboriginal Education & Training Unit, Outreach)
- Building & Construction (Carpentry & Joinery)
- Business Services (includes Administration Services, Finance, Retail & Property)
- Engineering & Manufacturing (includes Electrotechnology, Metal Fabrication & Welding)
- General Education ( includes Adult Basic Education, Prevocational)
- Information Technology and Arts & Media (includes Fashion Technology)
- Personal, Community & Health Services (includes Child Studies, Nursing, Welfare)
- Tourism & Hospitality (includes Commercial Cookery, Food & Beverage, Travel)
- Transport, Rural & Maritime (includes Agriculture, Dairy, Horticulture, Land Management)

The University of Wollongong operates a satellite campus at Mundamia offering a range of courses through its Faculties of Commerce, Arts, Law, Education, Health & Behavioural Science, Science and the Graduate School of Management (Medicine & Nursing)

With the upgrading of the technology used for flexible delivery of learning at UOW, it is expected that an even greater range of subject and course offerings will be available in the near future.

Residential accommodation- Types and numbers (average costs- purchase and/or rental).

Shoalhaven boasts a wide range of residential options, from suburban lifestyle, to rural residential, to living by the sea.

Many housing options exist including rural acreage, new project homes, older family homes, through to seaside villas or townhouses. House prices vary greatly depending upon location; however as a general indication three bedroom brick veneer family homes range from \$250,000-\$400,000.

Vacant residential lots also vary throughout the region, and range from a minimum of \$110,000 upwards depending upon size and location.

House prices are comparatively cheaper than metropolitan areas. Recent advertisements have been included in the Appendices attached to this document.

Many real estate agencies operate throughout the Shoalhaven in most villages. National Real Estate Agents represented in the Shoalhaven include LJ Hooker, Elders, First National, Ray White, Century 21, Raine and Horne, Countrywide and Harcourts.

#### Rentals

At the time of the 2011 census (08/2011) the average house rental was \$220/week, regardless of dwelling structure/type. Overall, around 25% of the stock of occupied private dwellings were rented.

Services available such as water, electricity, sewerage, communications and gas  
The provision, management and operation of the water and wastewater services within the City is undertaken by Shoalhaven Water, a Group of Shoalhaven City Council.

#### Water

Reticulated water is provided to 45 towns and villages throughout the Shoalhaven City local government area.

The drinking water is provided to National Health and Medical Research Council Standards and is provided primarily from the Shoalhaven River and 4 associated water storage dams. The water is extracted from the Shoalhaven River and Porters Creek Dam in the south and is treated through 4 major water treatment facilities and delivered to 38 water storage reservoirs throughout the City.

In accordance with long term water supply strategy, water supply security for the Shoalhaven has been guaranteed by the State Government during previous and recent announcements. The long term water supply strategy has detailed works to be undertaken during the next 20 years to ensure that the quality and quantity of water supply can be maintained for the future growth. Most of these works have been completed in the northern part of the City.

Shoalhaven Water is one of the first local water utilities to achieve Best Practice Management in accordance with the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability guidelines. As part of this compliance, demand management strategies and drought management strategies are operational. An integrated water cycle management plan is currently being finalised.

The water supply system is basically a fully integrated system from Berry in the North, extending to Lake Tabourie in the South.

## Wastewater

Reticulated sewerage is provided to most towns and villages between Berry and Lake Burrill, with the major exception of the Conjola region, which is currently being constructed. The towns are serviced by 10 separate sewerage schemes which generally treat reclaimed water to a high standard of tertiary treatment, due to the highly sensitive and valued terrestrial and marine environments.

Wastewater from the northern Wastewater Treatment Plants is generally used in the REclaimed Water Management Scheme which sees the re-use of up to 80% of reclaimed water from up to 8 of the treatment plants in an environmentally sensitive manner and provides value to the local farming community, golf courses and recreational areas. Many of the current treatment plants have been recently upgraded or are in the process of designing to accommodate future growth.

## Communication Services

Shoalhaven local government area has a range of communication services and facilities covering the major arterial roads and the majority of the towns and villages.

The mobile telephone carriers, Telstra, Optus and Vodafone provide services from numerous tower facilities, most having co-location of more than one carrier. These facilities have resulted in good highway, town and village coverage in most areas of the City. The town centres of Nowra and Ulladulla enjoy good coverage from all three carriers with overlapping capacity provided by a range of sites in these highly populated areas.

Both of the major town centres of Nowra and Ulladulla and a majority of the towns and villages have broadband capability at the telephone exchange. The City is serviced by several fibre optic and microwave backbone networks linking the population centres. The NBN has been announced to commence rollout in the Nowra area in 2013

## Electricity

The Shoalhaven is well serviced with electricity with Endeavour Energy being the network provider in the Shoalhaven local government area.

The installed capacity of the system and the extensive HV & LV networks that currently services the Shoalhaven's urban, commercial, rural and industrial areas, readily allows for system augmentation as additional or new loads are established.

## Television coverage and Local Internet Service Providers

Reception is available for all commercial television channels (SBS, ABC, 7/Prime, 9/WIN and 10/Southern Cross) and numerous digital channels. Cable TV (Austar) is available through inexpensive satellite connection.

Broadband is becoming more widely available and wireless services compliment landlines. Local Internet Service Providers, eg Shoalnet, and Shoalhaven Internet

Services are available as well as ISP national services eg Bigpond, Ozemail, TPG etc are also available.

### **Gas**

Within the Nowra area a reticulated gas network exists. Outside of this reticulated area LPG is provided utilising onsite storage tanks.

Details of the Local Government Areas Social, Cultural and Recreational Aspects including;

#### Recreational facilities

For the recreationally active, a wide range of sports are played locally with other competitions in Wollongong, Sydney and Canberra. Organised sporting competitions offered locally include;

Cricket	Hockey	Lawn Bowls
Netball	Motor Cycling	Sailing
Soccer	Cycling & Mountain Bike Riding	Cycling
Rugby Union	Croquet	Athletics
Rugby League	Swimming	Speedway
Australian Rules	Basketball	Ten Pin Bowling
Tennis	Volleyball	Rifle Club
Rowing	Archery	Pistol Club
Fishing	Squash	Table Tennis
Golf	Touch Football/Oztag	Water polo
Horse riding/racing	Greyhound racing	Bowling

Classes, competitions and interest groups are offered in a number of other recreational activities including;

Scouts/ Cubs/ Guides	Bushwalking	Art
Dancing & Ballet	Youth Orchestra	Pottery
Drama & Theatre	Martial Arts	Patchwork Quilting
Physical Culture	Horticulture	Town Band
Bridge	Astronomy	Yoga/ Pilates
Scuba Diving	Skydiving	Paintball

Community Services activities are also strong and include;

- Rural Fire Service
- State Emergency Service
- St Vincent De Paul
- Salvation Army
- Surf Life Saving
- St Johns Ambulance

## **Social Activities**

The Shoalhaven area is a delight for food and wine lovers, with a variety of restaurants located throughout the region offering casual alfresco, a la carte, or buffet dining. Menus include seafood, Thai, Indian, Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Vietnamese or Australian cuisine. Some of our award winning restaurants are located in harbour side locations, on foreshores of the Shoalhaven River, at renowned vineyards, or in historic buildings.

The Shoalhaven is host to a variety of cultural entertainment including:

- Annual festivals (food & wine; music; Blessing of the Fleet etc)
- Monthly produce & craft markets (in various localities)
- Museums, art galleries & libraries (including the Arthur Boyd Gallery – Bundanon)
- Winery tours
- Or by simply enjoying fish & chips on one of the beautiful beaches

Movie theatres are located throughout the Shoalhaven in Milton; Ulladulla; Sussex Inlet; Huskisson and Nowra

Most villages within the Shoalhaven host a registered club, including RSLs or various sporting and country clubs.

Service clubs and associations such as Lions, Rotary, Quota, View and the Country Women's Association also operate within the area.

Swimming pools are located at Ulladulla, Huskisson, Vincentia, Kangaroo Valley, Shoalhaven Heads, Milton, Sussex Inlet, Nowra and Bomaderry. There is a sea pool located in Ulladulla.

Shoalhaven's attractions are becoming well known to the wider Australian and international markets as the area caters perfectly for people wishing to fish, kite sail, dive, waterski, surf, sail or cruise the many coastal areas such as Jervis Bay, Shoalhaven River, St Georges Basin, Swan Lake, Lake Conjola, Lake Burrill or one of the many beaches - Merry Beach, Pretty Beach, Caves Beach, Culburra Beach and Seven Mile Beach.

The more adventurous can enjoy horse riding; paintball; rock climbing; canoeing or simply relax with a round of golf; or a game of bowls, netball, volleyball, basketball or tennis with friends.

A number of riverside retreats are located along the Shoalhaven River where visitors can stay in bush camps or cottages to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the natural environment. Many guest houses and B&Bs provide accommodation in a wide range

of locations from cattle properties, to garden settings, to beachfront villas. There is also a variety of hotels, motels and caravan parks within the area.

### Cultural Features

The Shoalhaven has a vibrant Arts community, including an Arts Board that oversees development of the Arts in the City, ten (10) Art spaces including the Shoalhaven Arts centre, Bundanon Gallery and the Berry School of Arts. Shoalhaven City Council also produces an Arts Directory that provides details on the variety of programs, exhibitions, Arts & Crafts Markets, concerts and plays available in the Shoalhaven. The Arts Directory is located on Councils Website;

<http://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/region/Arts/default.htm>.

### Church services

A range of services and activities (including interdenominational and youth groups) are provided to the local Shoalhaven community, including:

Anglican	Latter Day Saints	Assembly of God
Lutheran	Baha'i faith	Salvation Army
Baptist	New Covenant	Buddhism
Presbyterian	Catholic	Seventh-day Adventist
Christian Outreach	Church of Christ	Church of God
Gospel	Uniting	Jehovah's Witness
Greek Orthodox		

### Community Groups

Community groups are active in many areas, eg arts and culture, environment and conservation, health, housing and accommodation, animal and bird societies, athletics and sports clubs, various hobby and interest groups, gardening, science clubs, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Guides and Venturers.

Multicultural facilities are provided for migrants from all areas of the globe with help and advice on matters such as family reunion, business migration, settlement needs and English language needs. Shoalhaven City Council produces a Community Services Directory, including information about the range of facilities and services available including contact details. A copy of the Directory can be found at Council Website:

<http://www3.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/infodirectory/>