



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA



Central Coast: Summit Response

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In October 2015, the University of Newcastle (UON) convened a Central Coast Higher Education Summit, including key stakeholders from the federal and state parliaments, regional business and our community, to explore the key challenges confronting the Coast and the role of higher education in addressing them.

The strategic context was a shared understanding of the importance of developing the region's knowledge economy,

growing opportunity and building participation in higher education. This document sets out the challenges and themes discussed during the Summit, and explains the pillars of UON's Central Coast Higher Education Strategy.

UON has been the Central Coast's university since 1989, and operates a campus at Ourimbah that offers programs across four of the University's five faculties.



Strategic context

Growing participation – building capacity

The Central Coast is a region rich in opportunity. Located between the two largest cities in New South Wales, the Coast has many enviable assets that are balanced by significant challenges. The region has areas of economic and social disadvantage, and a population that is ageing. On an average day, approximately one quarter of the local workforce leaves the Central Coast to work in other locations, meaning the Coast does not fully benefit from their skills and talent.

The industry base on the Coast includes health care, construction, retail trade, manufacturing and education, with the majority of job opportunities arising in these fields. These industries require a workforce that comprises a mix of skills, including tertiary-qualified staff. The table below indicates the proportion of the workforce in each sector that has tertiary qualifications, highlighting the need to promote education opportunities across a different range of sectors as the economy transforms.

Industry	Proportion with Tertiary Qualifications	Total Number of People Employed
Education and Training	58%	9,417
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	33%	7,168
Health Care and Social Assistance	29%	18,618
Public Administration and Safety	21%	8,353
Financial and Insurance Services	18%	4,138

Within the workforce on the Central Coast, 17.9% are employed as university-qualified professionals. Participation rates trend lower than in Sydney or the Lower Hunter, as the table below indicates, and analysis has indicated that the Central Coast needs 7,000-8,000 additional students in higher education if its participation levels are to meet those of NSW.

The University of Newcastle is committed to further engagement with all parts of the Central Coast community, and to building participation through increased pathways into university study, to raising aspiration in the community, and to keeping its program mix at UON Central Coast aligned to regional industry needs and demand from the community.

Participation rate

Region	Higher Education Participation Rate
Central Coast	9.7%
New South Wales	14.2%
Australia	14.3%

Strategic context

Creating a knowledge economy

UON Central Coast will have a key role in building a knowledge economy for our region. CEDA's Australia's Future Workforce report indicates the likely impact of digital disruption on the future workforce and indicates that more than five million jobs could be replaced



by automation in the next 10-20 years. Regional and rural Australia is at particular risk of job losses in excess of 60 per cent of its workforce.

CEDA's analysis showed new jobs and opportunities would be created, but these would be predominately in the creative and innovation sectors. Australia's future workforce will be competitive if it can rebalance and grow its skills base.

Effective engagement between industry, universities and the community will collectively build a workforce that is agile, creative and

entrepreneurial. It will allow the Central Coast – and Australia – to focus on new business creation through innovation and enterprise.

UON Central Coast's education and research covers a wide range of disciplines related to business and the community on the Coast. These include:

- Health and medical research
- Sports performance
- Smart work environments
- Environmental science
- Food and agribusiness
- Business entrepreneurship
- Natural resource management

UON will continue to act as a magnet for outstanding researchers, educators and students in these fields of discovery, as we seek to drive new innovations and businesses in our region.

Already the University is collaborating with the Central Coast Local Health District and Gosford City Council to establish a Health and Wellbeing Precinct including a branch of its Medical School and a Research Institute on the Coast, leveraging the upgrades to Gosford and Wyong Hospitals. In addition, the University's engagement with local businesses and elected leaders to establish a site in Gosford that will encourage start-ups and entrepreneurial activity, and create a critical link between research-led discovery and industry.



Emerging themes

The Central Coast Higher Education Summit was convened by the University of Newcastle to consider the future priorities for higher education in the region, and its role in creating new opportunities and driving economic development.

Through the engagement of stakeholders across the region, the Summit identified the following priorities:

Increasing participation

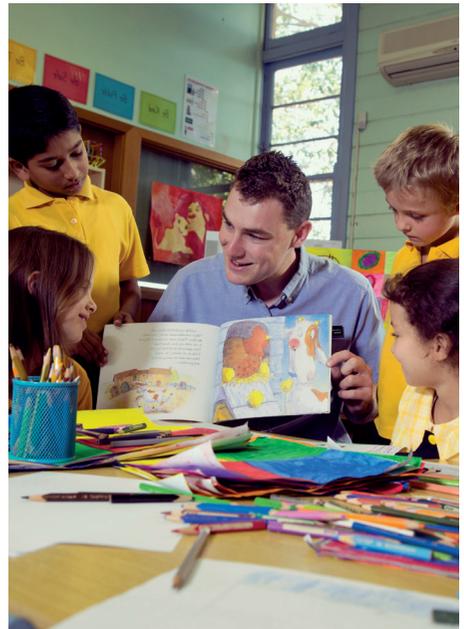
- Build engagement with our community, including Indigenous communities, schools, businesses and families, to build aspiration.
- Create a distinctive identity for UON Central Coast that ensures the University is accessible to the whole community.
- Enhance transportation and access to the Ourimbah campus.
- Increase collaborative opportunities with partners such as the Hunter Institute of TAFE to create new pathways into higher education.
- Make the impact of higher education and research visible and tangible on the Coast.

Building the economy and contributing to communities

- Collaborate with the Central Coast business community to develop programs and partnerships that grow the engagement, skills, research and innovation necessary for a resilient and vibrant Central Coast.
- Review and develop its nursing, allied health and future medical programs in collaboration with the Local Health District and the community, to ensure its education and research activities reflect the integrated healthcare that will be delivered on the Coast.
- Continue to build meaningful engagement with partners across the Central Coast to ensure UON plays its part in contributing to a world-class education, skills, research and innovation sector for the regional community.

Extending our footprint

- Establish a site in Gosford CBD, in partnership with Gosford City Council, that will grow aspiration and the visibility of higher education as a resource for the Coast. The mix of activities at UON Gosford may include enabling pathway programs, business and executive education, and research and innovation engagement with regional industry, and will be settled in collaboration with stakeholders to meet the needs of the region.
- Create a new Central Coast Health and Wellbeing Precinct, in partnership with the Local Health District, Gosford City Council, and with the investment of the State and Federal Government. The Precinct will be regionally-focused, but globally engaged, and will deliver a new health and medical workforce for the Central Coast, skilled in providing the highest quality integrated healthcare, while remaining at the cutting edge of medical technology innovation.



University of Newcastle Central Coast Higher Education Strategy

The University, through a process of consultation with local, state and federal government, business and the community, has developed the following pillars for its strategy for higher education on the Central Coast.

Increasing participation

The University of Newcastle will:

- Extend the availability of places in our Enabling Programs on the Central Coast, and work closely with Hunter Institute of TAFE to create new articulation arrangements supporting the movement of students between Vocational and Higher Education.
- Identify new opportunities to attract students to our existing and extended suite of degree programs on the Central Coast, and work to ensure that students from across the region are attracted to study on the Central Coast.
- Work with our partners, including schools, Hunter Institute of TAFE and Yourimbah, to ensure that the Central Coast campus is an intellectually and socially vibrant place to study, and develop new approaches to improve accessibility for both full-time and part-time students.

Building the economy and contributing to the community

The University of Newcastle will:

- Work with the Central Coast business community to develop programs and

partnerships to increase economic value, innovation and the advanced skills necessary for building a resilient future Central Coast community.

- Work with the Central Coast Local Health District to ensure that the future healthcare workforce is aligned with the integrated care approach being implemented and that local talent is supported to deliver the healthcare needs of the future Central Coast community.
- Continue to build meaningful and visible linkages with organisations across the Central Coast that ensure the University is a valued and recognised part of the educational and wider community.

Extending our footprint

The University of Newcastle will:

- In partnership with the Gosford City Council, establish a site in the Gosford CBD to increase the accessibility of its facilities and expertise to business and the community and build the physical and digital infrastructure required to enhance the opportunities for education, research and innovation.
- In partnership with State and Commonwealth Government, create a new Central Coast Health and Wellbeing Precinct with an international profile to support education and research focusing on integrated health care and the needs of the Central Coast community.



UON

CENTRAL COAST

PRESENCE FOR
25 YEARS



PARTNERSHIP WITH
HUNTER INSTITUTE OF TAFE

**OVER
4,000**
CURRENT STUDENTS

**OVER
12,000**
GRADUATES SINCE 1995

300
POSTGRADUATE
STUDENTS

740
ENABLING STUDENTS

4
PROGRAMS UNIQUE
TO CENTRAL COAST

18
UNDERGRADUATE
PROGRAMS

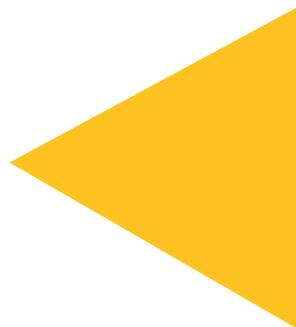
\$60
MILLION
ANNUAL TURNOVER

100
ACADEMIC AND
PROFESSIONAL STAFF





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25 years on the coast | **50 years** in the region
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