



LAKE MAC  
**YOUTH**  
COUNCIL



# Statement of Commitment to young people

VERSION 1 - 26 APRIL 2021

## POLICY STATEMENT

As with all Lake Macquarie citizens, our young people are committed to the values which underpin life in our City: our unique landscape; our commitment to improving our lifestyle and wellbeing and to ensuring all our City is accessible to citizens of all abilities. Our young people value the benefits of a diverse economy and of our commitment to facilitating connectivity among our citizens and communities. We acknowledge that young people, through their engagement with youth cultural activities and products, and emerging technology, can provide the City with the impetus to be a creative hub for the region.

Young people, while representing the future, must also be seen as citizens of the present. They require Council's support and access to services as much as anyone else. Above all, Council needs to consult with and listen to our young people.

Ages 12-24 make up 13.5 per cent of the Lake Macquarie population so it is important we keep their views in mind when making decisions. They make up an active and engaged section of our community and Council must ensure we respect their views and needs so that they may continue to participate in the Lake Macquarie community now and into the future.

*To achieve this, we as Councillors will:*

**ENSURE** the continued existence and resourcing of the Lake Macquarie Youth Advisory Council so that young people may continue to have a voice in Council,

**ACKNOWLEDGE** the effects Council decisions will have on young people and their involvement in our community,

**CONSULT** young people when making decisions that will directly affect them,

**ACKNOWLEDGE** the unique challenges faced by young people in terms of accessing transportation,

**RECOGNISE** the role that participation in youth cultural and artistic forms and activities plays in assisting young people to derive meaning and help shape their lives,

**ACTIVELY PROMOTE** youth employment opportunities (including traineeships and apprenticeships) and actively work to prevent the exploitation of young people in the workforce,

**ADVOCATE** for ensuring that proper resources and programs are available to aid young people suffering from both physical and mental illness,

**HELP TO SAFEGUARD** our environment and landscape so it may be enjoyed by future generations, and

**DEVELOP AND PROMOTE** strategies and policies that provide adequate access to housing and basic necessities for young people in our community.

We also acknowledge that over time the views and needs of the young people in our community will change, and so we acknowledge that this commitment will be a living document. As young people's role and participation in our community evolves so will this document in order to continually reflect our commitment to young people within our community.