An aerial photograph of the Gold Coast, Australia, showing a dense urban skyline of high-rise buildings along a long, sandy beach. The ocean is a vibrant turquoise color, with white waves breaking onto the shore. In the background, a range of mountains is visible under a clear blue sky. The image is partially obscured by a dark teal vertical bar on the left side, which contains the title text.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND THE CITY OF GOLD COAST

CITY OF
GOLD COAST.



The different levels of government

In the Australian federal system there are three levels of government: local, state and federal.

Each level of government is centred on a body (a parliament or a council) democratically elected by the people as their representatives.

In general, each level of government has its own responsibilities, although many responsibilities are shared in various ways.

Local

City of Gold Coast is a local government sometimes called a council. Local governments are often seen as being the most accessible, as they deliver services that touch people's day to day lives. Councillors represent an area within the local government area called a Division.

Council provides a range of services, programs, activities and facilities for residents and visitors and is financed in part, through rates collected from ratepayers.

State

State government represents the people living in the state they are located in. State government members (Members of Queensland Parliament) represent specific areas of the state (electorates).

Each state has its own constitution, setting out its own system of government.

Federal

The Australian Federal Government is the highest tier of government in Australia and consists of two houses of parliament – the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Federal Government is responsible for national affairs and issues affecting the whole country.

Members of the House of Representatives represent specific areas of their state (electorates). Decisions made by the House of Representatives are then reviewed in the Senate. Senators represent their state as a whole.

Which government for which service?

LOCAL (COUNCIL)

- Arts and culture
- Animal management
- Australian citizenship ceremonies
- Beaches and waterways
- Building regulations and development
- City cleaning
- Community services and centres
- Community engagement
- Environmental protection
- Libraries
- Lifeguards
- Local roads and footpaths
- Parks, playgrounds and sporting fields
- Public health
- Swimming pools and aquatic centres
- Water collection, treatment and management

STATE

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships
- Agriculture and fishing
- Child safety, youth and women
- Community services
- Conservation and environment
- Consumer affairs and laws
- Corrective services
- Disability services and seniors
- Education
- Fire and emergency services
- Health
- Hospitals
- Housing and public works
- Industrial relations
- Ombudsman
- Police
- Power, gas and water
- Prisons
- Railways and public transport
- State (major) roads
- Schools
- Sports and recreation
- Traffic laws

FEDERAL

- Aged care
- Census
- Child care assistance
- Citizenship
- Constitution
- Currency and commerce
- Defence and foreign affairs
- Elections
- Immigration
- National roads (highways)
- Medicare
- Postal services
- Social services and pensions
- Taxation
- Telecommunications and broadcasting
- Trade

Note: Not all services are listed and some services may cross over between levels of government.

The role and responsibilities of City of Gold Coast

City of Gold Coast (City) is the second largest local government in Australia based on the Gold Coast's estimated resident population.

The City is empowered under the *Local Government Act 2009* to adopt a range of local laws, regulations and policies. We are also responsible for ensuring state and local government laws and regulations are observed.

We provide a range of services, programs, activities and facilities.

- Assisted services (National Relay Service, interpreter services)
- Cemeteries
- Community centres and support
- Construction and maintenance
- Events – support and sponsorship of major events
- Flooding and drainage
- Food safety
- Local Laws including rental accommodation, commercial swimming pools and private camp grounds
- Parks and natural areas
- Parking facilities and regulation
- Permits and licensing
- Pest and weed management
- Planning enquiries
- Sport and recreational facilities
- Stormwater drainage
- Tourist parks and camp grounds
- Tourism support
- Traffic management and safety
- Transport improvements
- Waste management and recycling services
- Water and wastewater (sewerage)
- Youth and senior services and programs



Safety camera network



Active & Healthy programs



Lifeguard services



Oceanway construction



Libraries



Aquatic centres



Dune restoration



Catchment management services

Councillors and divisions

Council consists of the Mayor and 14 elected Councillors, each representing their local division. Residents have the opportunity to elect a Divisional Councillor and a City Mayor every four years.

What do Councillors do?

Elected Councillors listen to the needs of their community and residents and advocate for better community programs and services for their division and its residents. They consult with residents in their division and represent the interests of the community at council meetings. Councillors participate in decision-making processes, where they translate the community's needs and aspirations into the future direction of the city.

Your Divisional Councillor works towards delivering safer communities, better parks, playgrounds and sporting fields, improvement to roads, libraries, community centres, cycle ways, city cleaning, waterways, beach protection, water and waste services, planning applications and are involved with law making, major projects and events.

The interaction of local, state and federal laws can be complex. You may find enquiries to your local Councillor are referred to another area of government which, has the jurisdiction to advise on something outside the City's control.

How you can be involved

Council meetings

Council and committee meetings are open to the public and are held at the City of Gold Coast Council Chambers, 135 Bundall Road, Surfers Paradise.

Full Council meetings are held every two weeks (normally on a Tuesday) to consider the previous fortnight's committee reports.

Watch Council meetings live

To provide greater community accessibility Full Council meetings are streamed live on the internet.

To access, visit
council-live.goldcoast.qld.gov.au

Standing committees

All Standing committee meetings are held fortnightly. Meeting dates, agendas and minutes are on our website.

For information please visit
cityofgoldcoast.com.au

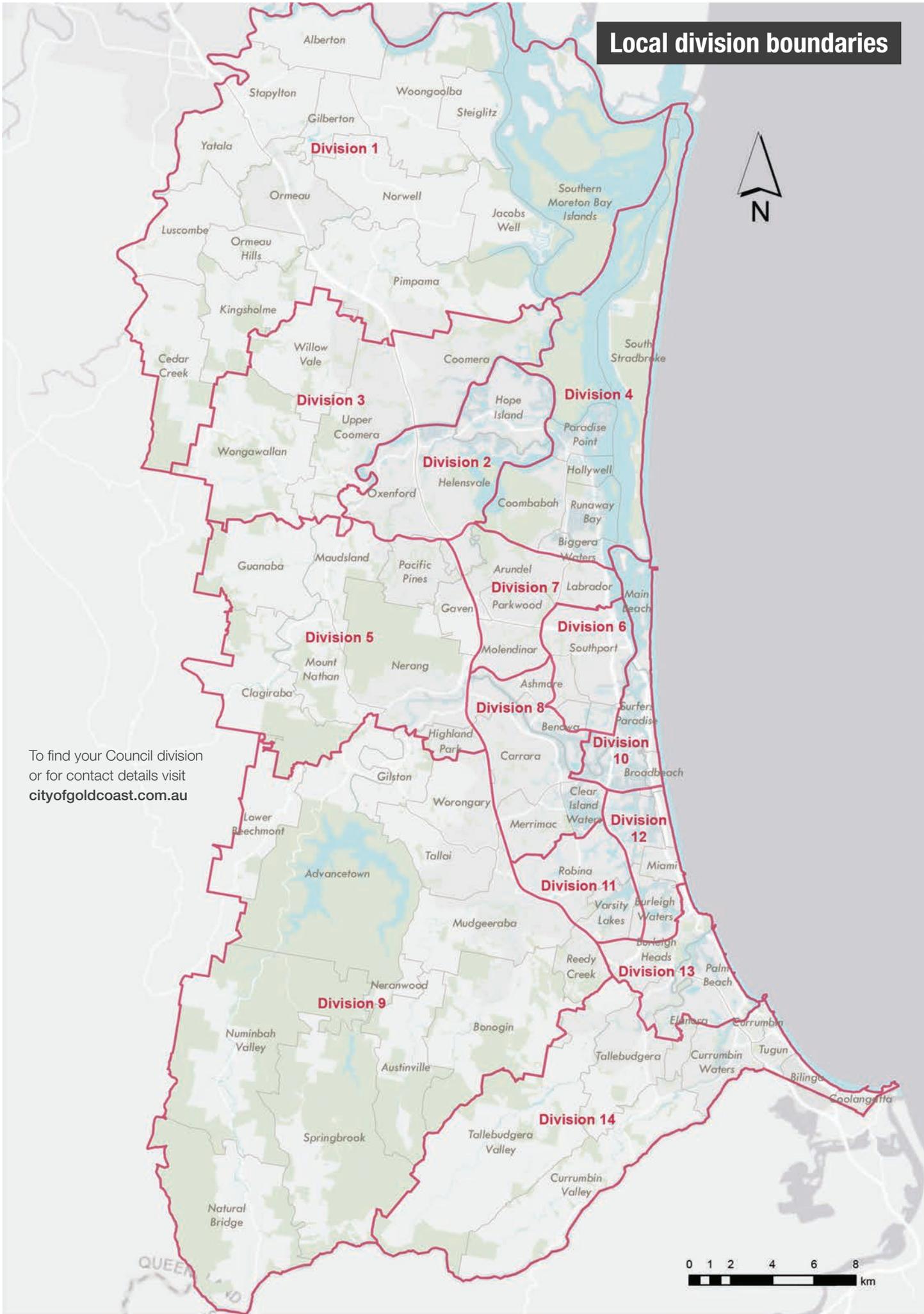
Have your say

Being a member of the City Panel gives you the opportunity to have your say on a range of initiatives and take part in decisions that impact our community.

Join the City Panel at
gchaveyoursay.com.au



Local division boundaries



To find your Council division or for contact details visit cityofgoldcoast.com.au

The changing shape and size of the city

In 1995, the Gold Coast was amalgamated with Albert Shire Council to form today's Gold Coast City.

In 2008, suburbs north of the Albert River became part of Logan City. The suburbs which transferred to Logan City include Bahrs Scrub, Bannockburn, Bethania, Beenleigh, Edens Landing, Eagleby, Holmview, Mt Warren Park, Windaroo and Wolffdene.

Before European settlement

Before European settlement, the Gold Coast and hinterland was a natural area of mountains and hills, river valleys, floodplain, salt and freshwater wetlands. It marked the place where the land finally met the waters of the Pacific Ocean. The land, rivers, the sea, the flora and fauna all formed the home of the Yugambah people.

The Yugambah named localities and early European settlers documented these now familiar place names such as Nerang and Coombabah. Much has changed, but descendants of the Aboriginal people still live on the Gold Coast.

Why is the Gold Coast called the Gold Coast?

In the late 1940s, Brisbane journalists called the coast, south of Brisbane "The Gold Coast". It was the place to buy and sell land in the post-war real estate boom. The local council thought it was a good promotional name and in 1958, the South Coast Town Council adopted the name Gold Coast Town Council.

Officially, the Queensland State Government proclaimed the Local Authority of the city of the Gold Coast in 1959. The Place Names Board of Queensland officially gazetted the place name in 1980.

Commonwealth Games

The City hosted the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. The Games mascot was named Borobi, a word from the local Yugambah language meaning Koala.

The Crest

The design of Council's crest had its origins in the latter part of the Town of Southport local government era (1902–1949). It was designed by the President of the Southport Chamber of Commerce, Arthur Nicholls, in the mid-1930s as part of a council competition for a formal crest.



The City Crest has undergone a number of changes over the years, including a major redesign following the amalgamation of Gold Coast and Albert Shire Councils in 1995, resulting in the current crest (pictured). Today the motto reads 'Terra Fluminum et Oceani' – meaning 'Land of Rivers and Ocean'.

The crest is still in use today for official ceremonial requirements, including the Council seal and the Mayoral chain of office, street signs and some elements of council's local law functions.

About the Gold Coast

600,000+

people live on the Gold Coast

13 million+

people visit the Gold Coast annually

28%

of Gold Coast residents were born overseas

52.8km

of sandy beaches

5

major rivers

734km

of bush trails

585

native animal species

16km

World surfing reserves

260km

of navigable waterways

12,629.6ha

of RAMSAR sites

1,737

native plant species

133,372ha

total city area

4,524.8ha

of World Heritage Gondwana rainforest

12%

of residents speak a language other than English

2,306

City managed parks/ facilities covering 16,676ha

* Statistics current as at February 2020

Contacts

We provide a range of services, organisations, activities and facilities for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Please visit cityofgoldcoast.com.au to find details on our services and programs.

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🐦 @cityofgoldcoast

Newsletters

For more information on Active & Healthy activities, school holiday programs, Broadwater Parklands events or Library programs and other event information subscribe to our newsletters.

Gold Coast Weekly

This eNewsletter gives you more of what you love about the Gold Coast; great events and community news that really matters. Gold Coast Weekly is delivered direct to your inbox once a week and gives you a snapshot of the top stories locals are talking about.

To subscribe to Gold Coast Weekly or any of our newsletters visit

cityofgoldcoast.com.au/newsletters

Rates and water billing enquiries

P 1300 366 659 or 07 5667 5995

Water and sewerage enquiries

P 1300 000 928 or 07 5667 5801



FOR INFORMATION

P 1300 GOLDCOAST (1300 465 326)

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