



## Building a safer shore: The new Forster surf lifesaving clubhouse

The Forster Surf Lifesaving Club has been a vital part of the Mid North Coast community for over 70 years, dedicated to ensuring the safety of beachgoers. The club is set to enhance its lifesaving capabilities with the construction of a new clubhouse using precast concrete.

This \$8 million development, a vision long held by the volunteer organisation, has been designed with versatility in mind and will provide upgraded facilities, including refurbished clubrooms, additional storage spaces and versatile function areas. The clubhouse will house a multifunctional space for community events, a welcoming café for members and visitors and dedicated training areas to enhance surf lifesaver education, making it a vital hub for the community.

With an emphasis on community engagement and safety, this new building aims to serve both the Club's needs and those of the broader community for the next 50 plus years.

### Design and Features

The architectural design of the new clubhouse showcases a blend of innovation and functionality. At the heart of this transformation are the precast wall panels that have been expertly manufactured and installed by National Precast member Fine Form Precast.

The panels have been tailored specifically to meet the club's unique requirements. Curved precast panels are the heroes of the precast panels supplied, boasting a deep timber grain finish that adds a modern, yet aesthetically pleasing touch to the structure.

**Master Precaster**  
Fine Form Precast

**Head contractor**  
A W Edwards

**Project**  
Forster Surf Lifesaving Club House

**Location**  
Forster Beach, Mid North Coast,  
NSW

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Additionally, the balcony panels are equipped with pre-installed electric lights and power conduits. Being installed in the factory before delivery, offered time saving benefits on site and ensured the high quality that was demanded to ensure both safety and functionality.

### **Efficient Construction Process**

Fine Form Precast was chosen for this project due to its established relationship with construction and fit out company A W Edwards and its proven track record in delivering high-quality precast solutions.

The off-site manufacturing of precast elements resulted in significant time and cost savings, as the deep timber finish could only be effectively achieved through this method. This efficiency also ensured a streamlined construction timeline, allowing for earlier completion and use of the facility.

### **Challenges and Resolutions**

While many challenges were resolved during the design phase, the transportation of the uniquely shaped panels posed logistical difficulties. To address this, careful planning and coordination with transport specialists were implemented, ensuring that all materials arrived on-site undamaged, safely and on schedule.

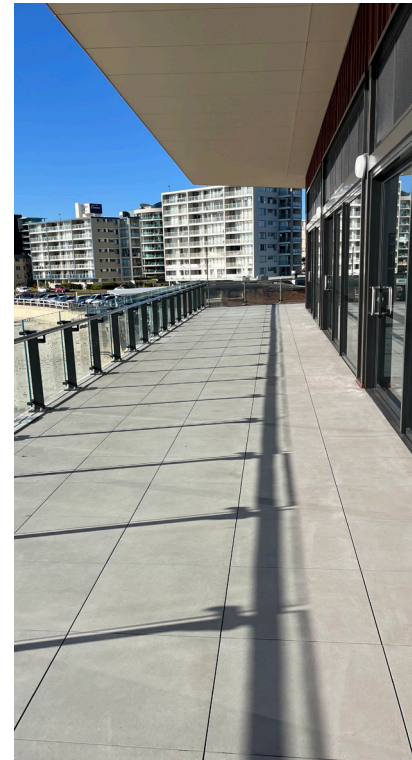
### **A perfect choice for the community**

With its fabulous new and improved facilities, the Forster Surf Lifesaving Club's new precast clubhouse is set to elevate the Club's capabilities, which will, ultimately allow it to run an efficient patrol programme that improves safety for swimmers and beachgoers. The Forster Surf Lifesaving Clubhouse is a project that exemplifies why precast concrete was the perfect choice.

The material's inherent durability ensures it can withstand the harsh marine environment, where salt and moisture would quickly degrade lesser materials. It offers the versatility to create bespoke designs like the curved panels, while allowing for the integration of equipment, such as lighting and electrical conduits, during the manufacturing process.

This capability significantly reduces the need for complex site works, enhances safety by minimising on-site handling, and ensures a faster, more efficient construction process overall.

This development not only enhances the club's operational capabilities but also serves as a beacon of community spirit, engaging and uplifting the local area for years to come.



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