

# BUILDING A SAFER SHORE

The Forster Surf Lifesaving Club has been a vital part of the Mid North Coast community in New South Wales for over 70 years, dedicated to ensuring the safety of beachgoers. With its long history of service, the club is set to elevate its lifesaving capabilities through the construction of a new \$8 million clubhouse. This facility, designed with both the club's operational needs and the broader community in mind, will feature upgraded amenities such as refurbished clubrooms, additional storage spaces and versatile function areas.

The new clubhouse will provide dedicated training spaces for surf lifesaver education, plus a welcoming café for both members and visitors, and multifunctional areas for community events. Designed in precast concrete to stand the test of time, the building will serve the club

and its community for the next 50 years and beyond.

## DESIGN AND FEATURES

At the core of the clubhouse's transformation is its architectural design, combining innovation with functionality. The standout feature is the use of precast concrete, specifically tailored to meet the club's unique requirements. The precast wall panels, manufactured by National Precast member Fine Form Precast, play a pivotal role in the building's aesthetic and functional qualities.

The standout feature of these precast panels is their curved design, enhanced by a rich timber grain finish. This finish brings a contemporary yet inviting feel to the structure, seamlessly integrating with the surrounding natural environment.



The new clubhouse features curved precast panels in a rich timber grain finish to blend seamlessly with its surrounds.

Images: National Precast

Additionally, the balcony panels have been supplied, pre-installed with electric lights and power conduits, to reduce on-site construction time and ensure high-quality installation. These integrated features make the precast concrete elements not only visually striking, but also immensely practical.

## EFFICIENT CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

Fine Form Precast was selected for this project due to its proven relationship with A W Edwards, the head contractor, along with an ability to deliver high-quality precast solutions. The off-site manufacturing of the precast elements was a critical factor in the project's success, offering significant time and cost savings. The ability to achieve a deep timber finish in the factory ensured that the material would be delivered in perfect condition, ready for quick and easy installation on-site.

The streamlined construction timeline allowed for earlier completion and use of the facility, a crucial factor for the surf lifesaving team, as it relies on the clubhouse for training and operations.

## CHALLENGES AND RESOLUTIONS

Despite careful planning during the design phase, the transportation of the uniquely shaped precast panels posed some logistical

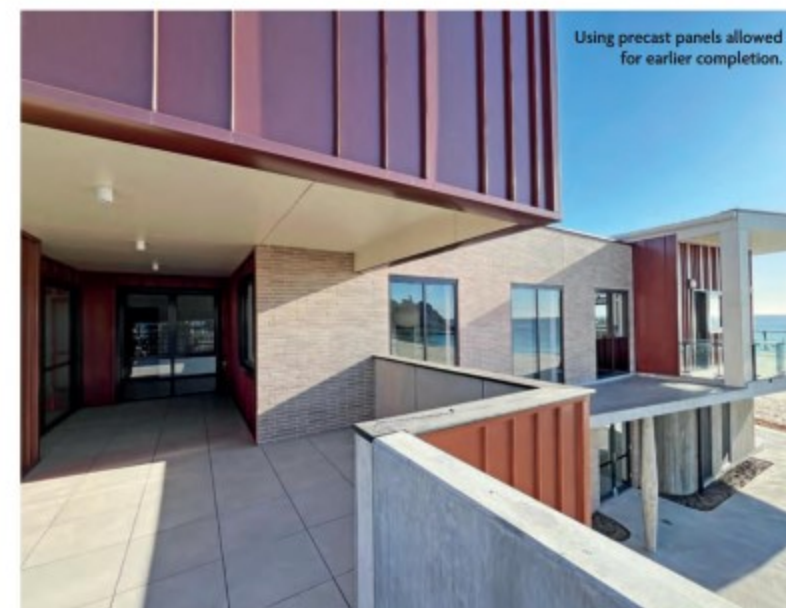
challenges. To overcome this, transport specialists were engaged to ensure the safe delivery of the panels. With careful co-ordination and strategic planning, all materials were delivered undamaged, on time and ready for installation.

## A PERFECT CHOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

The new Forster Surf Lifesaving Clubhouse is more than just a building – it's a testament to the community's commitment to safety and resilience.

The use of precast concrete was the ideal choice for this project. The material's inherent durability ensures that it can withstand the harsh marine environment, where salt and moisture would quickly degrade other materials. Precast also allowed for bespoke designs, like the curved panels, while integrating features such as lighting and electrical conduits.

This not only reduced on-site work but also enhanced the building's safety and efficiency. With its modern, functional design, the clubhouse will support the club's patrol programs, ensuring the safety of swimmers and beachgoers for years to come. It is a shining example of how a community project can harness the versatility and durability of precast concrete to create something beautiful and lasting. ■



Using precast panels allowed for earlier completion.



Forster's new Surf Lifesaving Club has been designed in precast to achieve greater durability.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Forster Surf Lifesaving Club House  
**PRECASTER:** Fine Form Precast  
**HEAD CONTRACTOR:** A W Edwards  
**PROJECT LOCATION:** Forster Beach, Mid North Coast, NSW

## FORSTER SURF LIFESAVING CLUB: A LEGACY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Forster Surf Lifesaving Club has played a key role in protecting the Mid North Coast for many years. The addition of this new clubhouse will further enhance the club's legacy, ensuring that its volunteers are better prepared to safeguard the local community both in and around the water. Supported by a blend of community backing and local government funding, this project reflects the resilience and teamwork that underpin the club's mission.