



BUSINESS PAPER

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held at 6:00 pm on

Monday 29 August 2022

Council Chambers, Level 10,
Council Administration Building, 41 Burelli Street, Wollongong

(Note: In accordance with the Code of Meeting Practice, Councillors will be able to attend and participate in this meeting via electronic means)

Order of Business

- 1 Opening Meeting
- 2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians
- 3 Civic Prayer
- 4 Apologies and Applications for Leave of Absence by Councillors
- 5 Confirmation of Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting
- 6 Confirmation of Minutes of Extraordinary Ordinary Council Meeting
- 7 Conflicts of Interest
- 8 Petitions and Presentations
- 9 Confirmation of Minutes of Council Committee Meeting
- 10 Public Access Forum
- 11 Call of the Agenda
- 12 Lord Mayoral Minute
- 13 Urgent Items
- 14 Reports to Council
- 15 Reports of Committees
- 16 Items Laid on the Table
- 17 Notices of Motions(s)/Questions with Notice
- 18 Notice of Rescission Motion
- 19 Confidential Business
- 20 Conclusion of Meeting

Members

Lord Mayor –
Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM (Chair)
Deputy Lord Mayor –
Councillor Tania Brown
Councillor Ann Martin
Councillor Cameron Walters
Councillor Cath Blakey
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Dom Figliomeni
Councillor Elisha Aitken
Councillor Janice Kershaw
Councillor John Dorahy
Councillor Linda Campbell
Councillor Mithra Cox
Councillor Richard Martin

QUORUM – 7 MEMBERS TO BE PRESENT

Statement of Ethical Obligations

In accordance with clause 3.23 of the Model Code of Meeting Practice, released by the NSW Office of Local Government, Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office made under section 233A of the Act and their obligations under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest

OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

The Oath or Affirmation is taken by each Councillor whereby they swear or declare to undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Wollongong and Wollongong City Council and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All Councillors must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at Council meetings in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct. All declarations of conflicts of interest and how the conflict of interest was managed will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the declaration was made.

Councillors attending a meeting by audio-visual link must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct. Where a councillor has declared a pecuniary or significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter being discussed at the meeting, the councillor's audio-visual link to the meeting will be suspended or terminated for the time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by Council, or at any time during which Council is voting on the matter.

Councillors should ensure that they are familiar with Parts 4 and 5 of the Wollongong City Council **Code of Conduct for Councillors** in relation to their obligations to declare and manage conflicts of interests.

Staff should also be mindful of their obligations under the Wollongong City Council **Code of Conduct for Staff** when preparing reports and answering questions during meetings of Council.

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MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

at 6:00 pm

Monday 8 August 2022

Present

Lord Mayor – Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM (in the Chair)

Deputy Lord Mayor – Councillor Tania Brown

Councillor Ann Martin

Councillor Cameron Walters

Councillor David Brown

Councillor Dom Figliomeni

Councillor Elisha Aitken

Councillor Janice Kershaw

Councillor John Dorahy

Councillor Linda Campbell

Councillor Mithra Cox

Councillor Richard Martin

In Attendance

General Manager

Director Infrastructure + Works, Connectivity Assets + Liveable City

Director Planning + Environment, Future City + Neighbourhoods

Director Corporate Services, Connected + Engaged City

Director Community Services, Creative + Innovative City

Chief Financial Officer

Manager Governance + Customer Service (attended electronically)

Manager Property + Recreation (attended electronically)

Manager City Strategy (Acting)

Manager Community Cultural + Economic Development

Manager Library + Community Services (attended electronically)

Greg Doyle

Joanne Page

Linda Davis

Renee Campbell

Kerry Hunt

Brian Jenkins

Todd Hopwood

Lucielle Power

Renee Winsor

Sue Savage

Jenny Thompson

Note: In accordance with the Code of Meeting Practice, participants in the meeting can participate via electronic means. Those who participated via electronic means are indicated in the attendance section of the Minutes.

Note: Council resolved on 18 July 2022 to grant Councillor Blakey a leave of absence for the 8 August 2022 Council Meeting.

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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 18 JULY 2022 AND MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 25 JULY 2022

- 707 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 18 July 2022 and the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 25 July 2022 (a copy of both Minutes having been circulated to Councillors) be taken as read and confirmed.

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Bradbery offered condolences on behalf of Council on the passing of local Aboriginal Elder, Uncle Reuben Brown. Uncle Reuben was a Traditional Custodian and Tribal Council Elder of the Korewal, Eloura Jerrungaurah Lands and a Cultural Knowledge holder and protector. Uncle Reuben was a signatory to the Sandon Point Aboriginal Place Joint Management Agreement and former member of the Wollongong City Council Estuary and Coastal Zone Management Committee.

CALL OF THE AGENDA

- 708 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that the staff recommendations for Items 1 to 4 inclusive then 6 be adopted as a block.

ITEM 1 - POST EXHIBITION - REVIEW OF WOLLONGONG DCP 2009: CHAPTER C3 BOARDING HOUSES AND SCHEDULE 1 OF CHAPTER E3 CAR PARKING, ACCESS SERVICING/LOADING FACILITIES AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer Minute Number 708)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that -

- 1 The revised and updated Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Chapter C3 Boarding Houses be adopted, and a notice be placed on Council's website.
- 2 The revised and updated Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Schedule 1 of Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access Servicing/Loading Facilities and Traffic Management be adopted, and a notice be placed on Council's website.

ITEM 2 - WEST DAPTO SUBURBS REVIEW PROJECT - KEMBLA GRANGE (SUBURBS 'A' AND 'B')

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer Minute Number 708)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that -

- 1 Council lodge a submission to the Geographical Names Board (GNB) responding to issues raised during their GNB public exhibition of the proposed new Suburbs 'A' and 'B' under the West Dapto Suburbs Review Project.
- 2 Council continues to support the suburb names 'Stream Hill' and 'Kembla Grange' for proposed Suburb's 'A' and 'B' respectively.
- 3 Council seek amendments to proposed suburb boundaries of Stream Hill, Dombarton and Kembla Grange, in response to submissions.

ITEM 3 - DELEGATIONS TO THE GENERAL MANAGER AND LORD MAYOR

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer Minute Number 708)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that -

- 1 Any previous delegation to the General Manager and Lord Mayor be revoked.
- 2 Council delegate to the General Manager the "General Manager's Delegation (Instrument of Delegation)" attached as Attachment 1.
- 3 Council delegate to the Lord Mayor the "Lord Mayor's Delegation (Instrument of Delegation)" attached as Attachment 2.

ITEM 4 - SERVICE NSW FOR BUSINESS AGREEMENT

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer Minute Number 708)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that Wollongong City Council endorse the new Partnership Agreement with Service NSW for Business.

ITEM 5 - WOLLONGONG HERITAGE REFERENCE GROUP

709 **COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor T Brown that -

- 1 The revised Wollongong Heritage Reference Group Charter be endorsed.
- 2 Councillor Ann Martin be appointed as the chairperson of the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group for the term of the Council.
- 3 Community nominations be sought for the community positions on the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group through an Expression of Interest process.

ITEM 6 - EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT - INDEPENDENT ARIC MEMBERS TO 31 OCTOBER 2022

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer Minute Number 708)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that the term of Ms Catherine Hudson and Mr Stephen Horne as independent members of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee be extended for the period up to 31 October 2022 to allow for the current ARIC Committee to oversee the finalisation of the annual financial statements.

ITEM 7 - NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR JOHN DORAHY - REVIEW OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN COUNCIL OWNED FACILITIES

710 **COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor Dorahy seconded Councillor Cox that Council –

- 1 Review where power usage can be reduced in all Council operated and managed properties. Particularly when offices, rooms and facilities are vacant for extended periods, such as the evening when facilities are unoccupied.
- 2 Consider options to automate all power devices to turn off when offices, rooms and facilities are vacant after a set time, with a minimum 'stay on' period when no activity is detected in the office or room. Examples of this can be found in the Council administration building.

- 3 Deliver a briefing or Information Note to Councillors by October 31, 2022, outlining the potential energy and financial savings, associated costs of sourcing and installation of automated power devices and return on investment.

Variation The variation moved by Councillor D Brown (the addition of “or Information Note” to point 3) was accepted by the mover and seconder.

Variation The variation moved by Councillor Figliomeni (the change of “owned” to “operated and managed” in point 1) was accepted by the mover and seconder.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:12 PM

Confirmed as a correct record of proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the City of Wollongong held on Monday 29 August 2022.

Chairperson

ITEM 1 PUBLIC EXHIBITION - DRAFT WOLLONGONG HOUSING STRATEGY

On 19 July 2021, Council resolved to progress the development of a draft Housing Strategy, following the consideration of submissions commenting on the draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper.

The draft Wollongong Housing Strategy has been prepared to address a range of housing issues, including housing supply and demand, emergency housing, social housing, housing for disabled persons and affordable housing. As detailed data and supporting background material is publicly available from a range of sources, the draft Strategy has been developed as a succinct action plan to guide Council's programs and activities to support improved housing outcomes.

Many housing issues are beyond the control of Council, such as taxation settings, interest rates, the funding of social housing and the provision of key infrastructure. The draft Housing Strategy concentrates on measures that Council can control and influence including planning controls, development contributions, fees and charges, education and advocacy.

It is recommended that the draft Wollongong Housing Strategy (graphic design version to be prepared) be exhibited for a minimum period of eight (8) weeks to enable sufficient community and stakeholder input.

RECOMMENDATION

The draft Wollongong Housing Strategy be exhibited for community and stakeholder input for a minimum of eight (8) weeks.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Chris Stewart, Manager City Strategy

Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 The draft Wollongong Housing Strategy

BACKGROUND

Council's current Housing Strategy was prepared in 2005 and was used to inform the preparation of the draft Wollongong Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2009. In 2005 the LGA had an estimated population of 190,909 persons and this has now grown to over 214,657 persons (2021 census). The Housing Strategy has been used to guide housing developments to serve the increasing population. This has included the rezoning of 12,000 lots in the West Dapto Urban Release Area, 1,000 lots at Tallawarra, and the approval of over 9,500 dwellings in the LGA, including some 2,700 residential units in the Wollongong City Centre.

In 2021 Council approved the redevelopment of the former Corrimal Coke Works site, which when developed is proposed to contain 550 dwellings. Council has also resolved to exhibit draft Planning Proposals for a further 3,000 residential lots at West Dapto and a medium density residential development on the former Port Kembla School site.

During 2019-20 the draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper (Options Paper) was prepared. The draft Paper identified that Council's existing planning controls and strategies will cater for the projected demand. However, a greater proportion of smaller dwellings (1-2 bedrooms) is required to address the projected demand for smaller household sizes.

The draft Options Paper also provides further evidence for the LGA to be included in an Affordable Housing Contributions Scheme. Households on very low, low and moderate income cannot afford to buy a house in the LGA and there are only a few small residential units available. Additionally, there are few properties available to rent for households on very low and low incomes. There is a strong need to

increase the number of affordable properties available to rent and purchase. The draft Options Paper presented options to address these and other housing challenges

On 16 March 2020, Council considered a report on the draft Options Paper and endorsed it for exhibition. The draft paper was available from 19 March 2020, with the formal exhibition period being from 5 May 2020 to 10 July 2020. In response to the exhibition, Council received 18 written submissions (letters and emails), 51 on-line survey responses and 41 on-line comments (in reaction to 3 social media posts).

On 19 July 2021, Council considered a report on the outcomes of the exhibition of the draft Options Paper and resolved that -

- 1 *The community feedback received during the exhibition of the draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper be noted.*
- 2 *The feedback be used to guide the preparation of the draft Housing and Affordable Housing Strategy.*
- 3 *The draft Housing and Affordable Housing Strategy be reported to Council for endorsement prior to exhibition.*

Other resolutions that relate to the draft Housing Strategy are -

On 31 May 2021, Council considered a Notice of Motion on Protecting the character and heritage of Thirroul Village and resolved that -

- 1 *Council develop a Thirroul Town Centre Plan in collaboration with the community to identify a community vision for the village and to develop planning controls to achieve that vision.*
- 2 *Council conduct a Thirroul heritage review, with the aim of achieving heritage listings for buildings and streetscapes with heritage values, acknowledging that Council is mid-way through reviewing the heritage items for the whole of the city.*
- 3 *A Draft Planning Proposal be prepared to change the current LEP, to ensure there is a 'Village' plan for the local communities north of Bulli Pass.*
- 4 *The Draft Planning Proposal should look at but not be limited to, having a maximum height of 9 metres and other tools such as lot sizes and floor space ratios to enable the current 'Village' communities to be maintained.*
- 5 *The Draft Planning Proposal be presented to Council for resolution to formally prepare the Planning Proposal to forward to the Department of Planning Industry and Environment for a Gateway determination.*

The Delivery Program 2022-26 includes a budget allocation for this project in the 2024-26 financial years. This will enable the completion of the City-wide policy work, prior to examining individual locations. In addition, the implementation of the draft Housing Strategy may address some of the community concerns about development north of Thirroul.

On 28 June 2021, as part of the consideration of the Operational Plan 2021-2022, Council resolved (in part) that -

- 8 *A Councillor Briefing be held to explore how DCP character statements can be used to reflect and support suburbs' future desired character, that the briefing outline the mechanisms and timelines to amend, develop and implement such DCP chapters.*

The Councillor briefing occurred on 14 February 2022. The draft Housing Strategy is one of the key documents that will be used to prepare draft character statements.

On 1 November 2021, Council considered a Notice of Motion on Affordable Housing Targets and resolved that -

Council work to put the policy frameworks in place to enable Council to maximise affordable housing targets.

Measures to address affordable housing are part of the draft Housing Strategy. The draft Housing Strategy also considers a range of other housing sectors that require support.

Wollongong has recently been incorporated into the newly formed Greater Cities Commission, along with the other Illawarra-Shoalhaven Councils. The Commission will work with Council in developing a new Region Plan and City Plan for Illawarra-Shoalhaven over the next two years. Under the proposed City Plan, Council will be required to include 5, 10 and 20 year housing targets and other policies to address housing mix, affordable housing and delivery of housing are expected to be considerations. The draft Housing Strategy will provide a basis for Council's input to the Commission on the City Plan.

PROPOSAL

This report presents a draft Wollongong Housing Strategy for Council's consideration and endorsement to exhibit.

The draft Strategy has been developed from the options exhibited in the draft Options Paper and the community and stakeholder feedback received. It is a succinct, action focussed Strategy to guide Council's programs, activities and planning reforms.

Since the preparation of the draft Options Paper, the legislative framework and regional planning strategies have changed.

- The Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 (2021) identifies that Wollongong's population will increase by 55,375 persons by 2041 and there will be a need to provide an additional 28,000 dwellings. The Plan also identifies the need to provide more smaller dwellings (1-2 bedrooms) to provide housing choice and diversity.
- In May 2021, Housing 2041, the State's Housing Strategy was released. Housing 2041 is the Government's 20-year vision for housing in NSW. It aims to deliver housing in the right locations, housing that suits diverse needs and housing that feels like home.
- In November 2021 the State consolidated the State Environmental Planning Policies and released the Housing SEPP, which incorporated SEPP 70 Affordable Rental Housing Schemes, SEPP Affordable Rental Housing (including Short-term Rental Accommodation), SEPP No 21—Caravan Parks and SEPP No 36—Manufactured Home Estates into a single policy.
- In March 2022 Wollongong was incorporated into the Greater Cities Commission six cities region. The Commission is preparing a Discussion Paper and will be preparing a new Regional Plan for the six cities, and individual City Plans. The draft Housing Strategy will inform Council's input into the future Plans.
- The Department of Planning and Environment's 2022 population projections slightly increase the forecast population increase in 2041 to an additional 56,661 persons. The Department's projects are reasonably consistent with the ones used by Council prepared by iD and available on Council's Population Forecast webpage.

In June 2022, the first release of the 2021 census was published. The census occurred in August 2021 during the COVID lockdown and has produced some interesting results. Further data releases will occur over the coming months. Of particular note, is that the LGA's Estimated Residential Population has dropped from 220,000 persons to 214,657 persons and is very similar to the Census night Enumerated Population of 213,468 persons. It is understood that the total NSW Estimated Residential Population declined by 95,000 persons. During COVID, the number of international students living in Wollongong was reduced, which would account for some of the change. It is understood that the occupancy of new dwellings may not have been as high as forecasted by the ABS. The effect has been the annual population estimates have been adjusted for the period back to the previous 2016 census.

The draft Housing Strategy is a result of a comprehensive review of housing issues in the LGA. It proposes a combination of continuing several existing strategies, modification of others and the introduction of new strategies to better address the housing needs of the LGA.

The draft Housing Strategy proposes the following vision for Housing in the LGA -

- *Housing will respond to Wollongong's unique environmental setting and heritage.*
- *New housing will continue to diversify supply and provide choice for residents. Diversity will be provided through a variety of housing types, sizes, configurations, and features, to cater for a wide range of residential needs and price-points. Focus for diversity will be on affordable, smaller, and / or adaptable housing located throughout the Wollongong LGA to cater for a range of incomes and abilities.*
- *Wollongong City Centre will deliver a range of higher density housing options in appropriate locations having regard to retail and commercial outcomes. It will be a thriving and unique regional city, delivering a diverse economy and offering a high quality lifestyle. It will be liveable and a place where people will want to live, learn, work and play.*
- *Urban Release areas such as West Dapto, will deliver the largest proportion of new housing supply and will be adequately serviced with essential infrastructure.*
- *Town and village centres, and land zoned for medium density residential development will promote their distinctive character, whilst planning for and facilitating growth and high quality design in desired locations.*
- *Wollongong will strive to increase affordability in the housing market, and to ensure housing provides for a wide range of incomes, people with a disability and for our ageing population.*

The draft Housing Strategy proposes the continuation of the following strategies -

- Enable housing of the appropriate type in appropriate locations, with suitable landform, access to public transport, town centres, supporting infrastructure
- Provide sufficient zoned land and housing approvals to meet the 5 year (+7000 dwellings), 10 year (+14,000 dwellings) and 20 year (+28,000 dwellings) overall targets that will be required by Greater Cities Commission based on the Department of Planning and Environment's projections
- Provide predominantly detached dwelling houses in Urban Release Areas, supplemented by increased densities and housing mix around planned town centres - West Dapto Release Area, Tallawarra and Calderwood (the part within the Wollongong LGA)
- Encourage land owners and developers of zoned and serviced land in the release areas to release land for housing development to increase supply
- Provide residential units in the Wollongong City Centre, appropriately designed and located, having regard to other functions of the City Centre
- Retain Industrial zoned land for employment opportunities, and not for residential outcomes
- Retain the Illawarra Escarpment as a conservation area, with very limited opportunity for additional dwellings
- Retain the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment area as a conservation area, with no additional housing opportunities
- Protect the Illawarra Escarpment, Hacking River catchment, significant bushland and ecological areas, floodplains, coastline and other sensitive locations from inappropriate housing development
- Review the opportunity to provide of additional housing in key Town Centres, to be undertaken following the completion of the Retail and Business Centres Strategy
- Review development controls to increase the sustainability and energy efficiency of dwellings. Council has recently exhibited the Climate Friendly Planning Framework Discussion Paper and is considering feedback received.

The draft Housing Strategy proposes a number of strategies and actions to assist in the provision of emergency housing, social housing, housing for the disabled and affordable rental housing, including -

- The waiving of Development Application fees and Development Contributions
- The preparation of a draft Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme to apply to precincts and sites where the residential development density is proposed to increase through planning proposals or significant residential development
- The possible leasing of Council operational land zoned for residential development for use as housing
- Council remains open to investigating innovative partnership opportunities
- Advocacy to increase funding to these housing support sectors.

The Housing Options Paper, census data and other reports, shows that new housing is dominated by larger 3-4 bedroom dwellings. Whereas we need to encourage more smaller 1-2 bedroom dwellings that provide housing choice and a more affordable product. The draft Housing Strategy proposes -

- Increasing the proportion of smaller dwellings in residential flat buildings and shop-top housing development
- Introducing planning controls and development standards for villas and Fonzie flats.

The draft Housing Options Paper and recent experience with a number of development applications have highlighted the need to review residential zonings on large lots in constrained areas such as the Illawarra Escarpment and Northern Villages, some of the existing controls date back to the 1950s. In this regard, the draft Housing Strategy proposes -

- A review of the planning controls that apply to large residential zoned lots in the Illawarra Escarpment foothills to reduce residential development potential on constrained lots
- A review of the planning controls that apply to the northern villages (north of Thirroul to Stanwell Tops) to reduce residential development potential in the infrastructure and topographically constrained precinct
- An increase in the minimum lot size required for subdivision, dual occupancy and multi-unit housing development in the Illawarra Escarpment foothills to reduce residential development potential on constrained lots
- A reduction in the development potential of the high and moderate flood constrained areas at Windang and Fairy Meadow.

To increase housing supply in some locations, the draft Housing Strategy proposes -

- A review of the floor space ratio and building height in the R3 Medium Density Residential zone
- Not allowing a single dwelling to be replaced by a single dwelling in the R3 Medium Density Residential zone
- A review of floor space ratios and building height in some town centres
- A review of the zonings around some town centres.

The proposed actions will be implemented via a number of draft Planning Proposals and amendments to the Wollongong DCP, the Development Contributions Plans and Council's Fees and Charges policy. The proposed amendments will be supported by additional investigations and reported to Council prior to exhibition.

Recent reports

The following reports which have implications for housing were released after the draft Housing Strategy was prepared. The implications of the recommendations will be considered during the exhibition period -

- Response to major flooding across NSW in 2022. NSW Legislative Council Select Committee on the response to major flooding across NSW in 2022 (report published 9 August 2022)
- NSW Independent 2022 Flood Inquiry, and NSW Government Response (reports published 17 August 2022)
- Options to improve access to existing and alternate accommodation to address social housing shortage. NSW Legislative Assembly Committee on Community Services (report published 18 August 2022)

Site specific rezoning proposals

Submissions received during and after the exhibition of the draft Options Paper, nominated the following sites for review -

- **218 Princes Highway, Bulli (Lot 360 DP 1214993) (Former Bulli Bowling Club)**

The site is currently zoned RE2 Private Recreation has an area of 8,301m² and is surrounded by the Council owned Bulli Showground, tennis courts and community centre zoned RE1 Public Recreation. In 1967 Council sold the site to the Bulli Bowling Club. The Bowling Club closed in 2013. The site was purchased by the current owners in 2016.

In 2019 a draft Planning Proposal request to rezone this site and to increase the maximum building height and floor space ratio, to permit 99 residential units and commercial development, including 5 Affordable Rental dwellings, was lodged with Council. On 1 February 2021 Council considered the request and resolved not to support the preparation of a draft Planning Proposal as the proposal was considered premature and did not have strategic merit.

The site is part of the Old Bulli (or Slacky Flat) Heritage Conservation Area and has flood constraints. The site is located approximately 160m to the north of the Bulli Town Centre and 400m from the Bulli Rail Station. The site was proposed to be considered as part of the proposed Bulli Town Centre Study which has been deferred due to other priorities, including the need to prepare the draft Housing Strategy. The draft Bulli Showground Masterplan is in preparation.

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 does not identify Bulli as a growth suburb, although objective 18 is to provide housing supply in the right locations, including encouraging new housing in strategic centres. Objective 19 is to deliver housing that is more diverse and affordable through the provision of a mix of housing types and sizes.

The draft Housing Options Paper and draft Housing Strategy, shows there is demand for additional housing opportunities in most suburbs. Bulli is dominated by detached dwelling houses (79%), with only 19.8% medium density and 0.6% high density, and by 3 bedroom dwellings (36.8%) and 4 bedroom dwellings (22.8%) (id Community profile - 2021 census). The provision of smaller dwellings (1, 2 and 3 bedrooms) would provide some additional housing choice.

Access to the site from the Princes Highway, would be via Grevillea Park Road, which also serves the Bulli Showground and residential development in the former Bulli Brickworks site. The intersection with the Princes Highway has traffic lights, although access from the north is constrained through the absence of a right-turn lane. The traffic study submitted with the rezoning request indicated that the proposal would generate a net maximum of 117 movements in the AM (49 in, 68 out) peak hour and 64 trips in the PM (34 in, 30 out) peak hour. The report indicated that this level of traffic will not have a noticeable impact on the performance of the existing road network and the Level of Service of nearby intersections.

While there is some merit to permit residential development on the site, it is considered that the site is not suitable for residential development as it is located within an established recreational precinct. The current RE2 Private Recreation zone remains appropriate. Future residential development could also limit the recreation uses within the Showground. It is recommended that any future Planning Proposal request proposing residential or commercial development on this site, not be supported due to a lack of site-specific strategic merit.

- **25 O'Briens Road, Figtree**

This site is owned by the Churches of Christ Property Trust and is currently zoned RU2 Rural Landscapes. It is surrounded by land zoned R2 Low Density Residential. The RU2 Rural Landscapes zone is no longer appropriate. A draft Planning Proposal request proposing a low density residential zone, consistent with the surrounding area, and addressing any site constraints, could be considered by Council. A medium density residential zone, remote from a town centre would unlikely be supported.

- **6-8 Grand View Parade, Lake Heights**

This site is owned by NSW Land and Housing Corporation, is zoned R2 Low Density Residential and contains a large heritage listed fig tree. Neighbourhood Forum 5 suggested that it should be zoned RE1 Public Recreation. There is on-going discussions with NSW Land and Housing Corporation on this site and other sites. At this stage there is no proposal to change the zoning and planning controls.

- **14 Cosgrove Avenue, Keiraville**

This site is privately owned and has an area of 4.19 hectares. The property was created in 1960 as part of the subdivision of land to the west of Robsons Road, which created 105 lots in Georgina Ave, Andrew Ave and Cedar Grove. The majority of the site is zoned R2 Low Density Residential (3.52 hectares), with the remaining portion zoned C2 Environmental Conservation.

The site has been subject to a number of historic development applications, and the following 2 recent development applications -

- DA-2020/4 for 47 multi-unit dwellings was refused by the Local Planning Panel and an appeal to the Land and Environment Court was withdrawn by the applicant.
- DA-2022/469 for 42 multi-unit dwellings which is currently under assessment

Neighbourhood Forum 5 submitted a request to rezone this privately owned site and a second request for Council to rezone it.

This site is one of a number of large properties zoned R2 Low Density Residential along the foothills of the Illawarra Escarpment where the zoning does not reflect the site constraints. Previous reviews including the Illawarra Escarpment Commission of Inquiry (1999) and Illawarra Escarpment Strategic Management Plan (2008, 2015) excluded land with a residential zone. The current zoning of this site and a number of other properties are relics from the Illawarra Planning Scheme Ordinance (1968) where the zoning aligned with property boundaries and does require review. Due to high land prices and reduced land supply these larger steep lots are under increasing development pressure. The draft Housing Strategy includes the review of planning controls of this and other similar sites. Work on this review has commenced and will be separately reported to Council.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The draft Options Paper was made available for comment from 19 March 2020, but due to COVID 19 the formal exhibition period was from 5 May 2020 to 10 July 2020. As a consequence of the exhibition, Council received 18 written submissions (letters and emails), 51 on-line survey responses and 41 on-line comments (generated from 3 social media posts). On 19 July 2021 Council considered a report on the feedback on the draft Options Paper.

It is proposed that a graphic design version of the draft Housing Strategy be exhibited for a minimum eight (8) week period to sufficiently enable community and stakeholder input. The draft Strategy will be exhibited through Council's standard processes and meetings will be offered to key stakeholders. Following the exhibition, a report on submissions to assist the finalisation of the strategy will be reported to Council.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal – 1 We value and protect our environment.

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Land Use Planning Service Plan 2022-23.

Finalise the development of the Housing Strategy and commence implementation on initial priorities

Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041

The draft Housing Strategy is consistent with the housing targets and housing objectives of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041.

Council strategies

The draft Housing Strategy has been informed by numerous Council strategies and studies, including -

- Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020
- West Dapto Vision 2018
- Wollongong City Centre Urban Design Framework
- Various Town and Village Plans
- Sustainable Wollongong 2030
- Urban Greening Strategy 2017-2037
- Illawarra Escarpment Strategic Management Plan 2015
- Coastal Zone Management Plan 2017
- Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020
- Climate Change Adaption Plan 2022
- Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program 2020-2030
- Various Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans
- Ageing Plan 2018-2022
- Disability Inclusion and Action Plan 2020-2025
- Wollongong City Cycling Strategy 2030
- Planning Proposal Policy 2022

CONCLUSION

On 19 July 2021 Council considered the feedback received on the draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper and endorsed the progression of the preparation of the draft Housing Strategy.

The draft Housing Strategy proposes a continuation of the LGA wide housing strategies that have been in place since 2005 that have encouraged development in West Dapto and the Wollongong City Centre and discouraged development in the Illawarra Escarpment.

The draft Housing Strategy proposes additional measures to reduce housing in constrained locations and increase housing supply in other well-serviced locations. The draft Housing Strategy also proposes a range of actions for a more nuanced housing strategy rather than the current generic standards, including to reduce dwelling sizes, to provide housing choice and a more affordable product. The draft Housing Strategy also proposes a range of actions to assist in the provision of emergency, social, accessible and affordable housing.

It is recommended that the draft Wollongong Housing Strategy be exhibited for community and stakeholder input, prior to reporting back to Council for finalisation and implementation.

DRAFT

WOLLONGONG HOUSING STRATEGY

Delivering Growth, Diversity and Affordable Housing



August 2022

Wollongong City Council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Wollongong City Council would like to show their respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land, of Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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1. Introduction

In 2005, Council endorsed the *Wollongong City Housing Study 2005*. This study examined key demographic trends to determine the future housing needs of the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). This study informed the preparation of the draft Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (LEP).

The draft Housing Strategy has been prepared to guide the future housing directions within the Wollongong Local Government Area for the next 10-20 years. The draft Strategy builds on the previous work, including the *Housing Our Community discussion paper*, the *Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper* and community input.

The draft Housing Strategy addresses overall housing supply and demand, as well as examining various housing sectors that are in need of support, including the homeless, social housing, affordable housing and accessible or supportive housing.

Council is committed to ensuring our community has access to appropriate housing opportunities now and into the future. Council has a role to play in the local housing market, through planning controls, development assessment, local infrastructure provision, community services and advocacy. The rising cost of living, higher interest rates, Federal and State taxation settings and the provision of State enabling infrastructure, are outside Council's control.

Significant analysis has been undertaken and consultation with our communities and stakeholders has helped inform the development of the draft Strategy.

This strategy has been deliberately prepared as a succinct action plan to guide Council's programs and activities to support improved housing outcomes.

2. Existing housing situation snapshot

The Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA) currently has an estimated population of 214,657 persons who live in 89,337 dwellings (ABS 2021 census). The majority of dwellings are single detached dwelling houses (66%), with 20.5% medium density and 12.3% high density. The full results of the 2021 census will be available later in 2022.

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment's Illawarra Shoalhaven Urban Development Program Dashboard shows that over the 30 year period 1991-2021, Wollongong has on average approved 1,048 dwellings. Of which, 50% were dwelling houses, and 28% Medium Density and 21% High Density Apartment Buildings and Shop top housing, and 1% other.

The 2021 Census data indicates that the size of dwelling is getting larger over time – with most of the increase in housing stock being in 4+ bedroom detached houses and 3+ bedroom medium density housing.

Wollongong has a large supply of social housing dwellings with some 6,700 dwellings owned and managed by NSW Land and Housing Corporation which represents 7.5% of our housing stock.

There is also an estimated 613 Affordable Rental dwellings manage by Community Housing Providers.

House prices have increased an average of 7.8% p.a. over the past 5 years, and unit prices 4.3%. In one year house prices have increased dramatically by over 30% which has had significant impact on housing affordability and affordable housing (for person on very low, low and moderate incomes). In May 2022 it was reported that the average house price in the Wollongong LGA exceeded \$1m. In July 2022 Domain reported that the median rental in the Wollongong LGA exceeded \$600 per week.

The high dwelling prices has a flow on effect to higher rental prices. Rental stress is 36.9% which is higher than the Regional NSW average of 35.5%.

The cost of living is also increasing which is placing additional pressure on household budgets. Over the last 12 months, the ABS has reported inflation at 5.1% and rising, housing costs have increased by 6.7%, transport by 13.7%, fuel by 33%, vegetables by 6.6%, fruit 4.9%, gas by 6.3%, education by 4.7%. Council is aware of these broad household pressures and takes a holistic approach to supporting our communities. The increases are also leading to increases in the cost of materials and labour, and supply chain issues for the development and building sectors.

The cash interest rate has increased by 125 basis points to 1.35% since April 2022, which is being passed on through increased mortgage interest rates. The effect has been a slight decrease in housing prices from record levels, a softening in demand for housing, accompanied by an increased demand for support services, social housing and more affordable housing.

3. Future housing requirements

The NSW Government, through the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 (Department of Planning and Environment 2021) indicates that Wollongong will need to house an additional 55,375 persons by 2041, in an additional 28,000 dwellings. The Department of Planning and Environment's 2022 population projections slightly increases the forecast population increase in 2041 from 55,375 to an additional 56,661 persons.

Based on forecast capacity and opportunities, this equates to an addition 3088 dwellings in Ward 1, 10,520 dwellings in Ward 2 (largely Wollongong City Centre) and 14,500 dwellings in Ward 3 (largely West Dapto) (id Forecast)

Demonstrating how Council can satisfy the target is a requirement of the draft Housing Strategy.

In April 2022, the State Government incorporated Wollongong, and the three other Illawarra-Shoalhaven Council areas, into the Greater Cities Commission as one of the Six Cities. The Greater Cities Commission covers the Six Cities, stretching between Newcastle and the Illawarra-Shoalhaven. It is understood that in 2023, the Greater Cities Commission will prepare a new Region Plan covering the Six Cities and then in 2024 prepare City Plans for each of the Six Cities. The new Illawarra Shoalhaven City Plan will replace the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041. A requirement of the new planning regime will be the inclusion of 5,10 and 20 year dwelling targets for development to be granted for net additional dwellings. Applying the 20-year projection this would equate to the following for Wollongong:

- 5 year (2026) 7,000 additional dwellings from 2021
- 10 year (2031) 14,000 additional dwellings from 2021
- 20 year (2041) 28,000 additional dwellings from 2021

As the Regional and City Plans are developed, targets for dwelling mix and / or affordable housing may also be considered.

Sustainability of housing is also a focus for Council - both as a response to climate change and to reduce on-going energy costs for households.

4. Existing Housing Strategy

Council's current housing strategy, the Wollongong Housing Strategy (2006) was prepared to inform the preparation of draft Wollongong LEP 2009 and draft Wollongong (West Dapto) LEP 2010. The two LEPs were merged in 2014 and are now 12 years old, while the Strategy is 16 years old.

The foundations of the 2006 strategy remain relevant:

- West Dapto Release Area – since 2011 has now produced 2,045 lots of the estimated 19,500 lot capacity.
- Wollongong City Centre – has produced over 2,760 residential units since 2011
- The conservation of the Illawarra Escarpment, with very limited further housing opportunities
- Concentrate medium density development in nominated precincts
- Support rezoning of certain sites to enable increased residential development
- Not support housing increases in constrained location, such as medium and high flood risk, coastal risk, high bush fire prone areas.

The 2006 Housing Strategy also updated and standardised the historic controls relating to the residential areas, some of which dated to the 1960s. The strategy was implemented through the draft Wollongong and West Dapto LEPs which had to align with the State's Standard LEP Template. The Standard LEP Template standardised the format of LEPs, land use definitions and clauses and limited the number of zones.

Since the commencement of the two LEPs in 2010, the State has introduced State-wide and regional planning policies which influence how residential development occurs in the LGA, including:

- SEPP (Exempt and Complying Development) 2008 – including the Housing Code, Low Rise Medium Density Code, Greenfield Housing Code
- SEPP (Housing) 2021 – which incorporated SEPP 70 Affordable Rental Housing Schemes, SEPP Affordable Rental Housing (including Short-term Rental Accommodation), SEPP No 21—Caravan Parks and SEPP No 36—Manufactured Home Estates into a single policy.
- Housing 2041 (2021) – a State-wide Housing Strategy. It aims to deliver housing in the right locations, housing that suits diverse needs and housing that feels like home.
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 (2021), which identifies that Wollongong needs to provide an additional 28,000 dwellings by 2041.
- In April 2022, the State Government incorporated Wollongong and the three other Illawarra-Shoalhaven Council areas, into the Greater Cities Commission as one of the Six Cities.

5. Draft Housing Strategy

The draft Housing Strategy has been developed over several years. A number of documents have informed the development of the draft strategy, including:

- Review of 2006 Housing Strategy (WCC 2013)
- Review of Medium Density precincts (WCC 2013)
- Wollongong Residential Density Study (Hames Sharley 2014)
- Our Wollongong Discussion Paper (WCC 2017)
- Review of Low Rise Medium Density controls (Kennedy Associates 2019, updated 2022)
- West Dapto Housing Study (SGS 2019)
- Draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Study (WCC 2020)
- Draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Study – feedback report (2021)

This information remains publicly available as background to this draft Strategy.

The draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options study found:

- There is sufficient projected housing supply to meet the projected housing demand
- A greater mix of housing choice needs to be provided – more smaller dwellings are required
- More take-up of the R3 Medium Density Residential Zone with medium density residential development is required
- More Affordable Housing needs to be provided
- There needs to be limits to additional housing in some parts of the LGA due to environmental and infrastructure constraints.

The feedback provided through the 2020 exhibition of the draft Housing Options Study, supported many of the initiative options presented.

a. Housing vision

Based on the feedback from the draft Housing Options Paper, the draft Housing Strategy proposes the following vision for Housing in the LGA:

- *Housing will respond to Wollongong's unique environmental setting and heritage.*
- *New housing will continue to diversify supply and provide choice for residents. Diversity will be provided through a variety of housing types, sizes, configurations, and features, to cater for a wide range of residential needs and price-points. Focus for diversity will be on affordable, smaller, and/ or adaptable housing located throughout the Wollongong LGA to cater for a range of incomes and abilities.*
- *Wollongong City Centre will deliver a range of higher density housing options in appropriate locations having regard to retail and commercial outcomes. It will be a thriving and unique regional city, delivering a diverse economy and offering a high quality lifestyle. It will be liveable and a place where people will want to live, learn, work and play.*
- *Urban Release areas such as West Dapto, will deliver the largest proportion of new housing supply and will be adequately serviced with essential infrastructure.*
- *Town and village centres, and land zoned for medium density residential development will promote their distinctive character, whilst planning for and facilitating growth and high quality design in desired locations.*

- *Wollongong will strive to increase affordability in the housing market, and to ensure housing provides for a wide range of incomes, people with a disability and for our ageing population.*

b. Overall City-wide strategies

The draft Housing Strategy proposes the continuation of the following strategies:

- Enable housing of the appropriate type in appropriate locations, with suitable landform, access to public transport, town centres, supporting infrastructure
- Provide sufficient zoned land and housing approvals to meet the 5 year (+7000 dwellings), 10 year (+14,000 dwellings) and 20 year (+28,000 dwellings) overall targets that will be required by Greater Cities Commission based on the Department of Planning and Environment's projections
- Provide predominantly detached dwelling houses in Urban Release Areas, supplemented by increased densities and housing mix around planned town centres - West Dapto Release Area, Tallawarra and Calderwood (the part within the Wollongong LGA)
- Encourage land owners and developers of zoned and serviced land in the release areas to release land for housing development to increase supply
- Provide residential units in the Wollongong City Centre, appropriately designed and located, having regard to other functions of the City Centre
- Retain Industrial zoned land for employment opportunities, and not for residential outcomes.
- Retain the Illawarra Escarpment as a conservation area, with very limited opportunity for additional dwellings
- Retain the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment area as a conservation area, with no additional housing opportunities
- Protect the Illawarra Escarpment, Hacking River catchment, significant bushland and ecological areas, floodplains, coast line and other sensitive locations from inappropriate housing development
- Review the opportunity to provide of additional housing in key Town Centres, to be undertaken following the completion of the Retail and Business Centres Strategy
- Review development controls to increase the sustainability and energy efficiency of dwellings. Council has recently exhibited the Climate Friendly Planning Framework Discussion Paper and is considering feedback received.

c. Housing Needs strategies – helping people find a home

The draft Housing Strategy proposes the following strategies to assist persons who require assistance. Whilst this is not a legislative responsibility for Council, we will continue to support and promote measures that improve housing outcomes for our community.

i. Homelessness and Emergency housing

The ABS defines homelessness as: "When a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives they are considered homeless if their current living arrangement:

- is in a dwelling that is inadequate; or
- has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable; or

- does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations.”

In recognition of the diversity of homelessness, three categories can be considered:

- Primary homelessness is experienced by people without conventional accommodation (e.g. sleeping rough or in improvised dwellings);
- Secondary homelessness is experienced by people who frequently move from one temporary shelter to another (e.g. emergency accommodation, youth refuges, “couch surfing”);
- Tertiary homelessness is experienced by people staying in accommodation that falls below minimum community standards (e.g. boarding housing and caravan parks) (Chamberlain and Mackenzie’s 1992).

The NSW Government is responsible for housing and homelessness, and the Commonwealth Government is responsible for significant financial assistance to improve housing and homelessness outcomes.

Council is involved in responding to and managing homelessness through:

- maintaining public space amenity and facilities
- planning decisions on development applications and rezoning proposals
- provision of community services / facilities, such as libraries and public toilets
- advocacy
- management of community concerns and complaints about rough sleeping
- clean-ups and public safety initiatives (eg syringe disposal)
- lobbying for additional funding for social housing and support services.
- As part of the launch of the Housing 2041 - NSW Housing Strategy, Council offered the NSW Department of Planning and Environment the use of 2 sites for Meanwhile Use and temporary accommodation as part of a pilot scheme to provide additional crisis housing. At this stage the offer has not been taken-up, but we will remain supportive of the initiative.

Council also works closely with a range of housing and homeless services, domestic violence agencies, NSW Police and specialist homelessness service providers.

The draft Housing Strategy proposes:

- The Fees and Charges Policy be amended to waive Development Application fees for future development applications lodged by registered providers of emergency housing for emergency and temporary housing projects, on sites owned by the provider and where 100% of the dwellings are available for emergency housing for a minimum period of 15 years.
- The Wollongong City-wide Development Contributions Plan 2022 and West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 be amended to waive development contributions for future development applications lodged by registered providers of emergency housing for emergency and temporary housing projects, on sites owned by the provider and where 100% of the dwellings are available for emergency housing for a minimum period of 15 years.

- Council will advocate for additional State funding to be directed to the emergency housing sector.
- Council will continue to support the use of the nominated 2 sites for Meanwhile Use and Temporary Accommodation, and will consider whether any other sites are suitable
- Council will consider whether any Council operational land parcels are suitable to be leased for the provision of emergency or temporary housing.

ii. Social housing

Wollongong has over 6,700 social housing dwellings which represents 7.5% of our housing stock. There is a high need for additional social housing in the LGA and elsewhere in NSW. There is an estimated 3,000 persons on the Illawarra social housing waiting list, which could take 5-10 years for a dwelling to be made available.

In 2020 Council signed a Collaboration Agreement with NSW Land and Housing Corporation to work together to renew and improve the performance of their portfolio of social housing stock in the LGA. NSW Land and Housing Corporation is self-funded and needs to leverage its existing assets to construct new dwellings, and uses a mixed tenure model to improve the viability of projects and fund additional dwellings. This means that the Corporation needs to sell existing social housing stock to fund the construction of new dwellings. In some renewal locations, the funding model may require significant upscaling of overall development outcomes to maintain current social housing yields. This may not be appropriate in all circumstances, given environmental and infrastructure constraints.

The draft Housing Strategy proposes:

- Council will advocate for the number of social housing dwellings to be increased so that the 7.5% proportion of housing stock is at least maintained in line with overall growth
- Consistent with the Collaboration Agreement, Council will continue to work with NSW Land and Housing Corporation to renew and increase the social housing stock in the LGA
- Council will advocate for additional State funding to be directed to NSW Land and Housing Corporation for the construction of new social housing dwellings.

iii. Seniors Housing

As the population ages the proportion of housing required for seniors also increases. Wollongong is fortunate to have a number of quality providers of aged care accommodation, who provide self-contained units and residential care facilities (nursing homes). The planning controls for seniors living is managed by the State through SEPP (Housing) 2021. Council's role is to assess development applications.

The draft Housing Strategy does not propose any new specific strategies for seniors housing.

iv. Accessible Housing

There is an increasing need to provide specialist accommodation to house people with a disability. In 2016, Wollongong LGA had 6.4% of residents recorded as needing assistance with day to day living (ABS Census, 2016). The "need for assistance" is a measure of the number of people with profound or severe disability, defined as people who need assistance in their day to day lives with any or all of

the following core activities: self-care; mobility; or communication because of disability, long-term health condition or old age.

Social Futures Australia and the Summer Foundation prepared the Specialist Disability Accommodation in Australia report released in March 2019. This report indicated that the shortfall in specialist disability accommodation in the Illawarra is 93 places. The SDA housing market is new and is expected to create new dwellings for people with disability over the next few years. Since 2019, the demand for specialist disability accommodation would have increased.

The planning controls for housing for disabled persons is managed by the State through SEPP (Housing) 2021. Council has recently reviewed and updated the Wollongong DCP 2009 Chapter E1 Access for people with disability, to align with State planning policy.

A number of service providers operate within the LGA, some own properties build specialist accommodation, and others lease properties which are adapted for their clients.

The draft Housing Strategy proposes:

- The Fees and Charges Policy be amended to waive Development Application fees for future development applications lodged by registered providers of accessible housing for supported accommodation housing projects, on sites owned by the Provider and where 100% of the dwellings are available for accessible housing for a minimum period of 15 years.
- The Wollongong City-wide Development Contributions Plan 2022 and West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 be amended to waive development contributions for future development applications lodged by registered providers of accessible housing for supportive accommodation housing projects, on sites owned by the Provider and where 100% of the dwellings are available for accessible housing for a minimum period of 15 years.
- Council will lobby for additional State funding to be directed the accessible housing sector.
- The Wollongong DCP 2009 Chapter B2 Residential Development be amended to increase the proportion of accessible dwellings in larger residential flat building or shop top housing developments, from 10% to 20% in developments containing more than 60 units.
- Council will consider whether any Council operational land parcels are suitable to be leased for the provision of accessible housing.

v. Affordable Rental Housing

There is no legislative requirement for Council, the State Government or the Federal Government to provide Affordable Housing. Many of the State's housing initiatives are aimed at increasing housing supply which is seen as improving housing affordability as more housing is on the market to cater for demand. However this is dependent on the timing of land release and only assists the proportion of the community that can afford to purchase a dwelling.

Affordable Housing is defined as *housing for very low income households, low income households or moderate income households, being such households as are prescribed by the regulations or as are provided for in an environmental planning instrument*. (Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979). Clause 13 of SEPP (Housing) 2021 indicates that *a household is taken to be a very low income household, low income household or moderate income household if—*

- (a) *the household—*
- (i) *has a gross income within the following ranges of percentages of the median household income for Greater Sydney or the Rest of NSW*—*
 - (A) *very low income household—less than 50%,*
 - (B) *low income household—50–less than 80%,*
 - (C) *moderate income household—80–120%, and*
 - (ii) *pays no more than 30% of the gross income in rent, or*
- (b) *the household—*
- (i) *is eligible to occupy rental accommodation under the National Rental Affordability Scheme, and*
 - (ii) *pays no more rent than the rent that would be charged if the household were to occupy rental accommodation under the Scheme.*
- [* Wollongong is defined as being part of the Rest of NSW]

There can be a range of reasons that people and households require affordable housing, related to loss of employment, low wages, family relationship breakdowns, study, health issues and other factors. Affordable housing can be required by the young (eg student accommodation or workers), key workers (eg nurses, police) or the elderly.

Council has long considered it has a social responsibility to assist members of the community into appropriate housing. In the 1980s, Council in conjunction with Shellharbour and Kiama Councils and the Emergency Accommodation Group established the Illawarra Community Housing Trust, now known as the Housing Trust.

Council has considered a wide range of options to support the provisions of additional affordable rental housing.

The draft Housing Strategy proposes:

- The Fees and Charges Policy be amended to waive Development Application fees for future development applications lodged by registered Tier 1 Community Housing Providers for Affordable Rental Housing Projects, on sites owned by the Provider and where 100% of the dwellings are available for affordable rental housing for a minimum period of 15 years.
- The Wollongong City-wide Development Contributions Plan 2022 and West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 be amended to waive development contributions for future development applications lodged by registered Tier 1 Community Housing Providers for Affordable Rental Housing Projects, on sites owned by the Provider and where 100% of the dwellings are available for affordable rental housing for a minimum period of 15 years.
- Council will lobby for additional State funding to be directed the Affordable housing sector.
- As part of Planning Proposals seeking to permit residential development or increase the residential density, a minimum of 5% of the Gross Floor Area of proposed residential developments will be required to be provided as Affordable Rental Housing. A Financial Feasibility study will be required to accompany the draft Planning Proposal to determine the appropriate development contribution based on the uplift value being sought. Developers may choose to pay the equivalent value which will be collected and transferred to a not-for-profit Tier 1 Community Housing Provider for the provision of affordable housing (mechanism to be determined). This will also apply to the West Dapto Urban Release Area

where draft Planning Proposals propose residential development in a medium density zone or with a minimum lot size less than 300m² is proposed.

- An Affordable Housing Development Contribution Scheme will be introduced and the Wollongong LEP 2009 amended, for precincts proposed to be rezoned to permit increase the residential density or significant residential development, a minimum of 5% of the Gross Floor Area of proposed residential developments will be required to be provided as Affordable Rental Housing. Developers may choose to pay the equivalent value which will be collected and transferred to a not-for-profit Tier 1 Community Housing Provider for the provision of affordable housing. This will also apply to the West Dapto Urban Release Area where draft Planning Proposals propose residential development in a medium density zone or with a minimum lot size less than 300m² is proposed.
- Council will consider whether any Council operational land parcels are suitable to be leased for the provision of affordable housing.
- An Affordable Housing target will be guided by the Greater Cities Commission City Plan.
- Continue to request the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to amend the Standard LEP Instrument to include Affordable Housing clause, so that it is available to all NSW Councils.
- Council remains open to investigating and considering innovative partnership opportunities.

d. Housing diversity, mix and choice strategies - housing product changes

Housing diversity is provided in the medium density precincts where multi dwelling housing is permitted and high density precincts, like the Wollongong City Centre where shop top housing units are permitted. Proposed locational changes are detailed in the following section. Since 2011 there have been an additional 2,066 medium density dwellings and 3,714 high density dwelling constructed in the LGA, increasing the proportion from 29.2% to 32.8% of the total dwellings.

The draft Housing Strategy proposes that:

- the mix of dwellings sizes in residential flat buildings and shop top housing developments be amended to increase the proportion of single bedroom / studio dwellings from 10% to 20% in developments containing more than 20 dwellings

The draft Housing Strategy proposes the introduction of planning controls for new smaller housing products that will increase housing choice:

- Villas (a form of Multi Dwelling Housing) – three small single storey dwellings on a lot, with a floor space ratio of 0.3:1
- Fonzie flats (a form of secondary dwelling) – a second dwelling on a lot located above the garage with rear lane access or secondary frontage
- In Medium Density Residential zone, removing the opportunity to replace a single dwelling house with another single dwelling house. The number of dwellings on each property needs to increase.

The amenity of neighbourhoods is also a consideration for development. The draft Housing Strategy proposes:

- A building height limit on rear dual occupancy dwellings in the R2 Low Density Residential zone to be single storey
- Review and updating the suburb character statements contained in Wollongong DCP 2009 Chapter D1 Character Statements.

e. Key location changes – Housing growth in the right locations

The draft Housing Strategy proposes to align residential development controls to environmental and infrastructure constraints, and to the retail / business centres hierarchy.

The draft Housing Strategy proposes the modification of the planning controls for housing in the following locations due to environmental and infrastructure constraints:

- Illawarra Escarpment Foothills (Farmborough Heights to Stanwell Park) – decrease residential development potential due to environmental constraints. An ancillary review of large residential lots in the escarpment foothills is in preparation.
- Northern Villages (north of Thirroul to Stanwell Tops) – decrease residential development potential due to environmental and infrastructure constraints
- Windang – decrease residential development potential in high and medium flood risk precincts, and subject to coastal and lake inundation, as identified in the Lake Illawarra Floodplain Management Study and Plan 2012, and Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program 2020
- Fairy Meadow - decrease residential development potential in high and medium flood risk precincts, as identified in the Fairy and Cabbage Tree Creek Floodplain Management Study and Plan 2010 (currently being revised based on the 2020 Flood Study).

The draft Housing Strategy proposes the modification of the planning controls for housing in the following locations where there is more capacity for development:

- Existing R3 Medium Density Residential zones – review the floor space ratio and height controls and whether the precincts should be expanded
- Wollongong – increase development potential in some locations surrounding the existing Wollongong City Centre. The boundaries are to be defined.
- South Wollongong – a review of the planning controls for the South Wollongong precinct is scheduled to occur following the completion of the Wollongong City Floodplain Management Study and Plan. Noting that this precinct is also important for light industrial and employment uses.
- Warrawong – increase development potential around the town centre. The boundaries are to be defined.
- Corrimal – increase development potential around the town centre (excluding Illawarra Escarpment Foothills and constrained locations). The boundaries are to be defined.
- Flinders Street, North Wollongong precinct – rezone parts of B6 Enterprise Corridor zone along Bourke Street, Edward Street and Gipps Street to a residential or mixed-use zone. The boundaries are to be defined.
- Town Centres – review the floor space ratio and building height limits to increase the opportunity for shop top housing. The floor space ratio and building height will need to be

defined for each centre. Centres with adequate public transport will be a higher priority for review.

Detailed analysis will be undertaken for these actions to define boundaries and determine appropriate development standards before changes are made to planning controls. Any proposed changes will be exhibited through draft Planning Proposals and amendments to the Wollongong DCP 2009.

The net results of the proposed changes will still enable Council to meet the Regional Plan's housing target of an additional 28,000 dwellings by 2041.

Importantly, the changes will encourage a greater supply of medium density housing, which provides housing choice, can be more affordable and makes the more efficient use of land and existing supporting infrastructure.

f. Site specific changes

Council is currently assessing and processing draft Planning Proposal requests for locations that will provide additional housing, including:

- PP-2016/3 - Former Port Kembla School site – estimated 110 dwellings, incorporating 5% Affordable Rental Housing via a draft Planning Agreement
- PP-2019/8 - West Dapto Urban Release Area – stage 3 – Cleveland West – estimated 700 lots
- PP-2020/4 - West Dapto Urban Release Area – Stage 1 Bluescope holdings minor review – estimated additional 50 dwellings
- PP-2020/6 - West Dapto Urban Release Area – Stage 3 Cleveland Road precinct – estimated 3000 lots.

The assessment of these draft Planning Proposals will continue.

The draft Housing Strategy has not identified the need for significant additional greenfield or brownfield residential release areas, beyond those already identified. There is sufficient land already identified to meet the future housing needs without the rezoning of more sensitive and constrained locations.

Should Council receive other draft Planning Proposal requests, they will need to demonstrate consistency with:

- the draft Wollongong Housing Strategy
- the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 (and future City Plan)
- the Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement
- Council's Planning Proposal Policy
- other adopted strategies, such as Town and Village Plans, the Illawarra Escarpment Strategic Management Plan, West Dapto Vision, Wollongong City Centre Urban Design Framework.

g. Partnerships and Advocacy

A large range of housing issues are outside Council's direct control, however Council can seek to influence other organisations through advocacy and partnerships.

The draft Housing Strategy proposes that Council:

- Work with the NSW Land and Housing Commission (L&HC) to renew and increase social housing and maintain at least the 7.5% proportion of social housing in the LGA.
- Work with Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council (ILALC) and Illawarra Housing Corporation (IHC) to develop and conserve their lands, as determined by their boards and members
- Remains open to investigating innovative partnership opportunities
- Work with the Greater Cities Commission to define housing targets for the City, which would be identified through the proposed City Plan.
- Advocate to the State Government and infrastructure agencies to forward fund the provision of infrastructure to service the West Dapto Release Area
- Continue to request the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to amend the Standard LEP Instrument to include Affordable Housing clause, so that it is available to all NSW Councils.
- Lobby the State Government, including local Members of Parliament, for the allocation of funds to:
 - The Emergency Housing sector to increase emergency and temporary accommodation
 - NSW Land and Housing Corporation to increase the provision of new social housing dwellings
 - The Disability or Supportive Accommodation sector to increase the provision of supportive accommodation
 - The Community Housing sector to increase the provision of affordable rental housing
- Lobby the Federal Government, including local Members of Parliament, for the allocation of funds to the State Government, or direct to Local Government for the increased provision of emergency, social, accessible and affordable rental housing.
- Work with peak development organisations, such as the Property Council of Australia (NSW), Urban Development Institute of Australia (NSW) on the implementation of the draft Housing Strategy.

h. Education

Council has a role to educate the community on the local housing needs and issues. Council can provide clarity about future housing outcomes to manage expectations around development decisions. This can be undertaken through the exhibition of the draft Housing Strategy and on-going social media and other communication.

Council has subscribed to Informed Decisions (id) Housing Monitor to provide independent and on-going data on housing and affordable housing issues <http://housing.id.com.au/wollongong>

6. Implementation

The implementation of the draft Housing Strategy will require the amendment of Planning controls through the preparation and exhibition of draft Planning Proposals, to amend the Wollongong LEP 2009, and amendments to various chapters in the Wollongong DCP 2009, Development Contribution Plans and Council's Fees and Charges Policy.

Other actions such as the proposed partnerships, education and lobbying (identified above) will also occur as on-going actions.

Council will continue to progress existing initiatives that support housing, such as the West Dapto Urban Release Area, draft Wollongong City Centre Planning Strategy and town and village plans. The adopted strategies and plans have informed the draft Housing Strategy. The draft and future studies and plans will be informed by the draft Housing Strategy.

a. Draft Planning Proposal

To implement the draft Housing Strategy the modification of the following planning controls are required through the preparation and exhibition of draft Planning Proposals to amend the Wollongong LEP 2009. It is likely that a number of draft Planning Proposals will be prepared to address high priority issues or implement place-based outcomes. All draft Planning Proposals will have detailed information about the proposed changes and be accompanied by maps identifying the location of proposed changes. All draft Planning Proposals will be reported to Council for endorsement, review by the State, and then exhibited for community and stakeholder input and comment.

Land Use tables:

- Amend the R2 Low Density Residential zone to remove Residential Flat Buildings as a permissible land use which is not an appropriate built form in the low density zone, and is not achievable with a 0.5:1 FSR and 9m height limit
- Amend R3 Medium Density Residential zone to remove dwelling houses as a permissible land use, to encourage additional residential development, rather than a 1:1 dwelling replacement

Clauses:

- New clause 4.4B R3 Medium Density Residential zone Floor Space ratio – introduce an increased FSR on amalgamated sites / larger sites greater than 1100m² with a minimum frontage width of 24m of 1:1 (base FSR would remain 0.75:1 on FSR map)
- New clause - Introduce development controls for Villas – 3 single storey small dwellings with an FSR of 0.3:1, single garage, common driveway, strata titled, minimum lot width of 14m
- New clause – Minimum site areas:
 - Introduce a Minimum site area standard of:
 - 300m² in the R2 Low Density Residential zone in the coastal areas,
 - 400m² in the R2 Low Density Residential zone in the Escarpment Foothills
 - 200m² in the R3 Medium Density Residential zone
 - Introduce a dual occupancy (bottle and wine development) minimum site area of:
 - 600m² in the R2 Low Density Residential zone coastal plain area with a floor space ratio of 0.4:1,

- 800m² in the R2 Low Density Residential zone in the Escarpment Foothills with a floor space ratio of 0.4:1 and
- 400m² in the R3 Medium Density Residential zone with a floor space ratio of 0.5:1
- Note - attached side-by-side dual occupancy would remain permissible under the Code SEPP on 400m² lots.
- Introduce a Multi dwelling housing minimum site area standard of:
 - 900m² in the R2 Low Density Residential zone coastal plain area for 3 single storey small dwellings (villas) with an FSR of 0.3:1
 - 1000m² in the R2 Low Density Residential zone coastal plain area with a floor space ratio of 0.4:1,
 - 1200m² in the R2 Low Density Residential zone in the Escarpment Foothills with a floor space ratio of 0.4:1 and
 - 600m² in the R3 Medium Density Residential zone with a floor space ratio of 1:1 (3 or more dwellings),
- Introduce a Residential Flat Building minimum site area of 1000m² in the R3 Medium Density Residential and R4 High Density Residential zones
- New clause – Introduce Rear building height limit for single storey dwellings, to encourage smaller dwellings and to reduce overlooking, overshadowing and amenity issues
- New clause – introduce the Affordable Housing clause to enable the collection of development contributions to contribute to the provision of affordable rental housing.
- Clause 7.14 – Maintain the minimum lot width requirement for multi dwelling housing (18m) and residential flat buildings (24m)

Zoning Map:

- Review R1 General Residential zone which surrounds the Wollongong City Centre – rezone to a mix of R2, R3 and R4
- Expand R3 Medium Density Residential zone in some locations
- Review the zoning of town centres which could result in changes to both the Business and Residential zones
- Review the rezoning of large lots in the Illawarra Escarpment foothills to reduce development potential (review commenced)
- Review the SP1 Hospital zone at Wollongong – consider rezoning to R3 Medium Density Residential and R4 High Density Residential zones (following the completion of the Department of Planning and Environment / NSW Health master plan)

Floor Space Ratio (FSR) Map:

- Review FSR for the R3 Medium Density Residential zone - increase from 0.75:1 to 1:1 or 1.2:1 in appropriate locations for larger sites
- Review the FSR in town centres to encourage additional residential development, without reducing retail and employment opportunities
- Review the FSR in small isolated B1 Neighbourhood Centres to be consistent with surrounding residential development
- Consequential amendments from zoning changes above

Minimum Lot Size Map:

- Review minimum lot size for subdivision in the Illawarra Escarpment foothills – increase from 449m² to 800m² per lot
- Review minimum lot size for subdivision in the Northern Villages (north of Thirroul to Stanwell Tops) – increase from 449m² to 800m² per lot
- Consequential amendments from zoning changes above

Height of Buildings Map:

- Review the building heights in R3 Medium Density Residential zone and increase where appropriate
- Review the building height in town centres to encourage additional development
- Review the building heights in small isolated B1 Neighbourhood Centres to be consistent with surrounding residential development
- consequential amendments from zoning changes above

During the course of the preparation of the draft Housing Strategy the following housekeeping amendments to the LEP have also been identified:

- Review of Council owned public reserves – a number of public reserves are zoned R2 Low Density Residential and could be rezoned to RE1 Public Recreation, or a Conservation zone depending on constraints.
- Review of SP2 Infrastructure - Road corridors – a number of privately owned properties are still affected by historical road reserves, where the road project has been completed and the land is no longer required. The land could be rezoned to the adjoining R2 or R3 zone to remove the reservation constraint and would enable development to occur.

The draft Planning Proposals for these 2 reviews will be progressed separately.

b. Review and update DCP controls

To implement the draft Housing Strategy the modification of the following DCP chapters are required:

- DCP chapter B1 Subdivision – update to include the new subdivision standards for dual occupancy, multi dwelling housing, Illawarra Escarpment foothills and Northern Villages
- DCP chapter B2 Residential development Review and update
 - Dual Occupancy
 - indicate rear dwellings to be single story (consistent with LEP amendment)
 - Multi dwelling housing
 - Clause 5.13 – specify a minimum dwelling size mix, of 10% 1 bedroom, 30% 2 bedroom, to encourage more smaller dwellings, with the remaining 60% unspecified
 - Clause 5.14 – maintain the 10% adaptable housing requirement.
 - Residential Flat Buildings and Shop top housing
 - To reflect the NSW Apartment Design Guide (2015)
 - Clause 6.15 - Increase proportion of adaptable dwellings from 10% to 20% in developments containing 60 or more dwellings

- Clause 6.17 - Increase proportion of single bedroom / studio dwellings from 10% to 20% in developments containing more than 20 dwellings
 - Require EV charging spaces in larger developments
 - Introduce development controls for Villas
 - Introduce development controls for Fonzie Flats
 - Update controls to increase the sustainability and energy efficiency of dwellings
- DCP chapter C3 Boarding Houses - Review completed – revised DCP chapter exhibited and adopted by Council on 8 August 2022
- DCP chapter D1 Character Statements - Review and update the character statements for each suburb, including where required statements for precincts within each suburb. Scheduled to occur following the completion of the Housing Strategy and Retail and Business Centres Strategy
- DCP Chapter E1 Access for People with Disability - Review completed – revised DCP chapter exhibited and adopted by Council on 2 May 2022.
- DCP Chapter E3 Car parking, Access, Servicing / Loading facilities and Traffic Management
 - Introduce car parking requirement for villa developments – 1 space per <100m² unit
 - Introduce car parking requirement for Fonzie flat – 1 space per dwelling
 - Reduce the car parking requirement for small units (<70m²) within Residential Flat Buildings and Shop top housing developments located within the Wollongong City Centre or 400m of a railway station (footpath distance) from 0.75 spaces per dwelling to 0.5 spaces per dwelling
 - Require EV charging spaces in larger developments
- Consider application of best practice sustainability controls across relevant DCP chapters.

c. Review and update Development Contribution Plans

To implement the draft Housing Strategy the modification of the following Development Control Plans are required:

- Wollongong City-wide Development Contributions Plan 2022 – to exclude the payment of development contributions for emergency housing, accessible housing and affordable rental housing by registered providers
- West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 – to exclude the payment of development contributions for emergency housing, accessible housing and affordable rental housing by registered providers

A new draft Affordable Housing Development Contributions Plan will be required to be prepared, exhibited and adopted to support the introduction of an Affordable Housing Contributions Scheme.

d. Review and update Fees and Charges

To implement the draft Housing Strategy an amendment to Council's Fees and Charges Policy will be required to waive the payment of development application fees for emergency housing, accessible housing and affordable rental housing by registered providers (or part thereof for mixed use developments)

e. Program

The implementation of the draft Housing Strategy actions will need to be prioritised and will occur over multiple years. The following draft program is proposed:

1. Assessment of existing draft Planning Proposals - ongoing
2. Preparation of a draft Planning Proposal for large lots in the Illawarra Escarpment foothills
3. Amend Fees and Charges Policy to waive the payment of development application fees for emergency housing, accessible housing and affordable rental housing by registered providers
4. Amend Development Contribution Plans to waive the payment of development contributions for emergency housing, accessible housing and affordable rental housing by registered providers
5. Preparation of a draft Planning Proposal to review private land zoned SP2 Infrastructure – Road Corridors
6. Preparation of a draft Planning Proposal for the review of Council owned public reserves currently zoned R2 Low Density Residential Development
7. Preparation of a draft Planning Proposal for the Northern Villages (north of Thirroul to Stanwell Tops)
8. Preparation of a draft DCP amendments to Chapter B2 Residential Development
9. Preparation of a draft Affordable Housing Development Contributions Scheme
10. Preparation of a draft Planning Proposal for changes to the general housing controls
11. Preparation of a draft Planning Proposal for areas proposed to be rezoned to permit additional residential development
12. Preparation of updated suburb Character Statements to include in DCP Chapter D1 Character Statements

f. Monitoring

Council will monitor the implementation of the draft Housing Strategy actions, through:

- the progression of the program and completion of implementation projects
- The NSW Department of Planning and Environment's Illawarra Shoalhaven Urban Development Program dashboard (updated annually)
<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoieYzlyNDQ5NzYtNjliMy00ZDcxLThiNmQtOWJlNGNkMDFlM2I1IiwidCI6IjY2ZWY4ODIxLTJhMzktNDcxYy1iODIhLTlTY3YjA4MzNkZDNIOSJ9>
- The Housing Monitor (updated every 6 months) <http://housing.id.com.au/wollongong>
- ABS census data (undertaken every 5 years)
- Council's Development Application approval data – for key locations and housing types

Change will take time and may not be apparent for some years. Given the existing housing stock of over 89,000 dwellings, percentage changes will be small. Historic annual dwelling approval data shows that housing delivery fluctuates, and this is likely to continue based on a range of local, State and National factors. A one-year dip or peak in approval data should not be regarded as a trend or that delivery is behind or ahead of targets.

If required, further changes and refinements will be made to the strategy to improve housing outcomes.

ITEM 2 POST EXHIBITION - CITY-WIDE DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN 2022

Development contributions are collected to help fund infrastructure that is required as a direct or indirect result of development. The current adopted Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2021) (Plan) came into force on 2 August 2021. The Plan is reviewed annually to reflect updates to Council's works program and any other required changes.

The draft 2022 Plan incorporates the allocation of new projects and amendments in response to recent legislative changes and adoption of the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023.

At its meeting on 6 June 2022, Council considered the draft 2022 Plan and resolved to exhibit the Plan for public comment. The draft 2022 Plan was exhibited from 22 June to 22 July 2022. No submissions were received. This report recommends that the draft Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022) be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION

The Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022) be adopted.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Chris Stewart, Manager City Strategy

Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan 2022

BACKGROUND

Development Contributions

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (Act) enables various mechanisms through which a Council can collect development contributions to fund local infrastructure required to meet the demand from new development.

Under Section 7.12 of the Act, contributions can be collected as 'fixed development consent levies' based on a percentage of the proposed cost of development.

As of 1 March 2022, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* was replaced by the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (Regulation). Council's Plan has been updated to reflect the clause references in the new Regulation.

Clause 209 of the Regulation sets the maximum percentage that can be levied. For the Wollongong City Council Local Government Area (LGA) these are -

Where the proposed cost of carrying out the development is -

- Up to and including \$100,000 – Nil.
- More than \$100,000 and up to and including \$200,000 - 0.5% of that cost.
- More than \$200,001 - 1% of that cost.

For land within the Wollongong City Centre B3 Commercial Core zone -

- Up to and including \$250,000 – Nil.
- More than \$250,001 – 2%.

Contributions are applied towards the provision, extension or augmentation of public infrastructure across the contribution area, or towards the recoupment of these costs.

In February 2021, a new Practice Note for Section 7.12 development contributions was issued by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. In accordance with Clause 26(1) of the Regulation, the review of the Plan by staff has had regard to this Practice Note.

In February 2021, the Regulation was also amended to incorporate the following -

- Provide more detailed reporting requirements on receipt and expenditure of development contributions. The new reporting requirements commenced on 1 July 2022.
- Make documents and information more readily accessible on Council's website and the NSW Planning Portal.
- Update a reference in Clause 25K, replacing 'Wollongong City Centre Local Environmental Plan 2007' with 'Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009'.

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan

The Wollongong Section 94A Development Contributions Plan initially came into force on 14 June 2006 when it repealed various Section 94 Contributions Plans. The Plan has been reviewed annually to reflect updates to Council's works program and any other required changes. Projects to be fully or partially funded through the contribution scheme are required to be listed in Schedules 5 and 6 and mapped in Schedule 7 of the Plan.

On 1 March 2018, the Act was amended, including a restructure and all sections were renumbered. Section 94A was renumbered to section 7.12.

On 23 July 2018, Council resolved to rename the plan to the Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2018). The Plan applies to the majority of the Wollongong City Council LGA, excluding the West Dapto Urban Release Area, where the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan (2020) currently applies. The current Plan came into force on 2 August 2021.

PROPOSAL

At the close of the exhibition period no submissions were received.

The draft 2022 Plan placed on exhibition has been updated to reflect the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023 adopted by Council on 27 June 2022. All changes are shown in markup in Attachment 1.

Other amendments include -

- 1 Schedule 3 – Works Schedule Summary. Updated to include the actual expenditure for the full financial year 2021/22 (the exhibited draft Plan only included figures up to April 2022 due to timing).
- 2 Schedule 4 – Detailed Works Schedule – Project Proposed to Utilise Section 7.12 Funds. Updated to reflect changes to the Delivery Program and Operational Plan that have been made since the report was exhibited. Projects may have been removed or funding allocations changed due to changes in the proposed funding sources, such as grants.
- 3 Schedule 5 – Detailed works Schedule – Projects that have included Section 7.12 Funds. Updated to include the expenditure for the full financial year 2021/22.
- 4 An updated map index and maps to reflect changes in the projects identified in Schedule 4.

Contributions are allocated to a range of new infrastructure projects across 7 categories, as summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of Detailed Works Schedule – Projects proposed to utilise Section 7.12 funds (Schedule 4 of the draft Plan)

| Category | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | Total | % |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Roads and bridges | \$100,000 | \$1,445,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,545,000 | 8.2% |
| Footpaths and cycleways | \$550,000 | \$3,850,000 | \$200,000 | \$500,000 | \$5,100,000 | 27.2% |
| Car parks | \$0 | \$0 | \$300,000 | \$0 | \$300,000 | 1.6% |
| Non-commercial buildings (e.g. community centres) | \$1,500,000 | \$0 | \$6,740,000 | \$0 | \$8,240,000 | 43.9% |
| Parks, gardens and sports fields | \$550,000 | \$200,000 | \$1,300,000 | \$0 | \$2,050,000 | 10.9% |
| Land acquisition | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$1,000,000 | 5.3% |
| Administration | \$125,594 | \$129,361 | \$145,494 | \$137,239 | \$537,688 | 2.9% |
| Total | \$3,075,594 | \$5,874,361 | \$8,935,494 | \$887,239 | \$18,772,688 | 100.0% |

Infrastructure projects are funded from multiple sources, including development contributions, grant funding and general revenue. The funding split is allocated through the Infrastructure Delivery Program which forms part of the Operational Plan adopted by Council on 27 June 2022.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The draft 2022 Plan was exhibited from 22 June to 22 July 2022. Copies were available on Council's website and at Council's Administration Centre and libraries.

An advertisement was placed in the Illawarra Mercury on 22 June 2022. Notification emails outlining the public exhibition and methods of making a submission were sent to relevant stakeholders on 22 June 2022.

The exhibition webpage was viewed 81 times and the Council report and draft Plan downloaded 21 times.

No submissions were received.

The Works Schedule in the draft 2022 Plan has been updated in consultation with the Infrastructure Strategy and Planning Division. The update of the Plan has been discussed at the internal Development Contributions Coordination Group meetings. Internal feedback has shaped the draft Plan.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

The Plan is linked to the Our Wollongong 2028 Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023 adopted by Council on 27 June 2022. Specifically, the contributions are used to fund or part fund infrastructure projects in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. As the projects listed in the Infrastructure Delivery Program are updated annually, the Plan also needs to be updated annually. The Plan includes a 4-year work schedule that provides flexibility for infrastructure projects to either be brought forward or delayed, depending on other issues such as the timing of approvals.

The report contributes to several Wollongong 2028 objectives as the Plan is aligned with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and contributes to the funding required to implement the Delivery Program.

It also delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Land Use Planning Service Plan 2022-23.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Since 2006, Council has allocated \$50.3 million of developer contributions to a range of projects, as summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Summary of Detailed Works Schedule – Projects that include Section 7.12 funds (Schedule 5 of the draft Plan)

| Category | Total | % |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Roads and Bridges | \$6,117,297 | 12.2% |
| Footpaths and Cycleways | \$13,789,846 | 27.4% |
| Car parks | \$2,650,270 | 5.3% |
| Non-commercial buildings | \$14,815,326 | 29.5% |
| Parks, Gardens and sports fields | \$5,675,615 | 11.3% |
| Land acquisition | \$5,714,238 | 11.4% |
| Administration | \$1,540,867 | 3.1% |
| Total | \$50,303,459 | 100.0% |

As from 30 June 2022, the net balance of Section 7.12 contributions held by Council was \$25.133 million. This includes \$21.152 million held in the City-Wide restricted account and a balance of \$3.981 million in the City Centre restricted account. The balance has been allowed to grow to enable the funds to be allocated to significant projects and future expenditure.

Income is forecast at an average of approximately \$1.2 million per annum, although this is subject to variability depending on the commencement of development. The proposed Works Schedule for 2022-23 includes approximately \$3.075 million of expenditure, with an additional \$15.697 million over the following three years. Significant projects to be funded (partially or fully) include the Warrawong Library and Community Centre and a number of shared paths.

The income and expenditure will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

CONCLUSION

The Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan is an important mechanism to assist with funding of public infrastructure within the City. The exhibited draft Plan has been updated to include the allocation for new projects and in response to legislative amendments and adoption of the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023.

It is recommended that the Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022) (Attachment 1) be adopted.



Wollongong City Council

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan 2022



Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022)

| Document Control | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|----------|----------|
| Document ID: Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan | | | | | | |
| Rev No | Date | Revision Details | Typist | Author | Verifier | Approver |
| 1 | March 2006 | Draft for exhibition (2006 version) | ZS | ZS | ZS | ZS |
| 2 | June 2006 | In force (2006 version) | ZS | ZS | ZS | ZS |
| 3 | December 2006 | Ministers Direction under S94E added | ZS | ZS | ZS | ZS |
| 4 | May 2007 | Draft for exhibition (2007 version) | ZS | ZS | ZS | ZS |
| 5 | June 2007 | In force (2007 version) Draft | ZS | ZS | ZS | ZS |
| 6 | May 2008 | For exhibition (2008 version) | DG | DG | DG | DG |
| 7 | 24 July 2008 | In force (2008 version) Draft | DG | DG | DG | DG |
| 8 | 28 July 2009 | For exhibition (2009 version) | DG | DG | DG | DG |
| 9 | 27 October 2009 | Endorsed by Council | DG | DG | DG | DG |
| 10 | 4 November 2009 | In force (2009 version) | DG | DG | DG | DG |
| 11 | 27 July 2010 | Draft for exhibition (2010 version) | DH | DH | JB | RC |
| 12 | 6 September 2010 | In force (2010 version) | DH | DH | DG | DG |
| 13 | 3 June 2011 | Draft for exhibition (2011 version) | DH | DH | DG | DG |
| 14 | 26 July 2011 | In force (2011 version) | DH | DH | DG | DG |
| 15 | 2 August 2012 | Draft for exhibition (2012 version) | DH | DH | DG | DG |
| 16 | 8 December 2012 | In force (2012 version) | DH | DH | DG | DG |
| 17 | 8 April 2013 | Draft for exhibition (2013 version) | DH | DH | DG | DG |
| 18 | 16 September 2013 | In force (2013 version) | DH | DH | DG | DG |
| 19 | 9 September 2014 | Draft for exhibition (2014 version) | DG | DG | DG | DG |
| 20 | 3 November 2014 | In force (2014 version) | DG | DG | DG | DG |
| 21 | 10 July 2015 | Draft for exhibition (2015 version) | MH | MH | DG | DG |
| 22 | 26 October 2015 | In force (2015 version) | MH | MH | DG | DG |
| 23 | 06 October 2016 | Draft for Exhibition (2016 version) | BL | MH | DG | DG |
| 24 | 19 December 2016 | In force (2016 version) | BL | MH | DG | DG |
| 25 | 8 May 2017 | Draft for Exhibition (2017 version) | MB | MB | MH | DG |
| 26 | 26 July 2017 | In force (2017 version) | JP | MB | MB | DG |
| 27 | 7 May 2018 | Draft for exhibition (2018 version) | MB | MB | DG | DG |
| 28 | 28 July 2018 | In force (2018 version) | MB | MB | SH | DG |
| 29 | 12 August 2019 | Draft for exhibition (2019 version) | SH | SH | DG | DG |
| 30 | 23 November 2019 | In force (2019 version) | SH | SH | DG | DG |
| 31 | 20 July 2020 | Draft for exhibition (2020 version) | SH | SH | DG | DG |
| 32 | 16 November 2020 | In force (2020 version) | SH | SH | DG | DG |
| 33 | 31 May 2021 | Draft for Exhibition (2021 version) | SH | SH | DG | DG |
| 34 | 2 August 2021 | In force (2021 version) | SH | SH | DG | DG |
| 35 | 6 June 2022 | Draft for Exhibition (2022 version) | SH | SH | DG | DG |
| 36 | 29 August 2022 | In force (2022 version) | SH | SH | DG | DG |

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022)

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Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022)

Part A - Schedules

1. Schedule 1 – City-Wide levy rates

In accordance with clause 209(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (EP&A Regulation), the rate of the levy for development carried out on land to which this Plan applies (excluding Wollongong City Centre Commercial Core - see Schedule 2) is calculated as follows:

| Proposed cost of carrying out development (Determined in accordance with Clause 18 of this Plan) | Levy Rate |
|---|-----------|
| Up to and including \$100,000 | Nil |
| More than \$100,000 and up to and including \$200,000 | 0.5% |
| More than \$200,000 | 1% |

2. Schedule 2 - Wollongong City Centre Commercial Core levy rates

In accordance with clause 209(1) of the EP&A Regulation, the rate of the levy for development carried out on land within the B3 Commercial Core zone in the Wollongong City Centre, as shown at Figure 2, is calculated as follows:

| Proposed cost of carrying out development (Determined in accordance with Clause 18 of this Plan) | Levy Rate |
|---|-----------|
| Up to and including \$250,000 | Nil |
| More than \$250,000 | 2% |

This contribution provides funding towards the Special City projects originally nominated in the Civic Improvements Plan (2009) for the Wollongong City Centre, reproduced below. The timing of the implementation of the projects will be determined through Councils Management Plan process as funding permits, and then detailed in Part D Schedule 5.

| Item | Cost Estimate (2009) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Crown Street Upgrade | \$14,200,000 |
| City Beach Waterfront Improvements | \$11,000,000 |
| Civic Precinct Revitalisation | \$21,000,000 |
| MacCabe Park Landscape Improvements | \$12,000,000 |
| Bus Transport Initiatives | \$20,000,000 |
| Traffic Management Works | \$2,000,000 |
| City Centre Car Park | \$8,000,000 |
| Total | \$88,200,000 |

Note: The Civic Improvement Plan was retired in 2016 as a policy document

In 2010 Wollongong Council commenced a CBD revitalisation program of streetscapes and public domain areas. Major projects completed since include:

- Keira Street – Crown Street to Smith Street
- Crown Street Mall – Kembla Street to Keira Street
- Market Street – Keira Street to Young Street
- Crown Street West – Atchison Street to Railway Parade

In addition, traffic signals have been installed to improve pedestrian activity and safety at:

- Intersection of Auburn & Burelli Streets
- Intersection of Victoria and Keira Streets
- Intersection of Kenny and Burelli Streets

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022)

3. Schedule 3 – Works schedule summary

| Category/Asset Class | Actual Contribution Expenditure 2006/07 to 2021/22 | Proposed Contribution Expenditure 2022/23 to 2025/26 | Total Contribution Expenditure 2006/07 to 2025/26 |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Roads and bridges | \$6,117,297 | \$1,545,000 | \$7,662,297 |
| Footpaths and cycleways | \$13,789,846 | \$5,100,000 | \$18,889,846 |
| Car parks | \$2,650,270 | \$300,000 | \$2,950,270 |
| Community buildings | \$14,815,326 | \$8,240,000 | \$23,055,326 |
| Parks, gardens and sportsfields | \$5,675,615 | \$2,050,000 | \$7,725,615 |
| Land acquisitions | \$5,714,238 | \$1,000,000 | \$6,714,238 |
| Administration | \$1,540,867 | \$537,688 | \$2,078,555 |
| Total | \$50,303,459 | \$18,772,688 | \$69,076,147 |

For further details refer to Part D Schedule 5 and 6 – Detailed Works Schedules.

Part B – Expected Development and Demand for Public Facilities

4. Expected Development and Demand for Public Facilities

This part broadly discusses the relationship between the expected types of development in the Council's area and the demand for additional public amenities and services to meet that development. That relationship is established through current demographic information.

The expected types of development include but are not limited to:

- Alterations and additions to existing development;
- Dwellings of all forms;
- Commercial development located primarily in commercial precincts;
- Industrial development;
- Subdivisions; and
- Mixed use development.

The relationship between expected development and the demand for public facilities is established through:

- The population projections undertaken by informed decisions (.id), adopted from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) information and other factors, indicate that continued population growth in Wollongong is expected. A projected population of 249,422 is expected by 2031 and 278,744 by 2041.
- Accelerating housing costs in metropolitan Sydney contribute to certain pressures in Wollongong, particularly new housing developments, which will largely impact the future needs of the region.
- The likely population growth will diminish the enjoyment and standard of public facilities for the existing population unless additional facilities are provided to meet the additional demand.
- The likely growth will require the provision of additional public facilities to meet additional demands.

Wollongong City Council wants to ensure that it has a sustainable local government area, safeguarding the economic, social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of present and future generations. These levies will assist Council to provide high quality and diverse public facilities to meet the expectations of the existing and new residents of Wollongong City Council.

The additional public facilities to be provided to meet the expected future development are set out in Part D Schedule 5 and 6.

The demand for facilities within the Wollongong City Centre is based on the growth and development projected for the Wollongong City Centre in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Growth Plan 2015 and A City for People 2016. In particular, this includes the total developable floor space allowed under the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 and Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009.

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022)

Part C – Administration and Operation of the Plan

5. What is the name of this Contributions Plan?

This Plan is called the “Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022)” (the Plan) and replaces the Wollongong Section 94A Development Contributions Plan (2021).

This Plan levies contributions under Section 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

6. Where does this Plan apply?

This Plan applies to all land within the local government area of Wollongong City Council excluding the West Dapto Urban Release Area, as shown at Figure 1.

7. What is the purpose of this Plan?

The purpose of this Plan is to:

- To enable the imposition of a condition on certain development consents and complying development certificates requiring the payment of a contribution pursuant to Section 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).
- Authorise Council, and accredited certifiers or other consent authority to impose conditions requiring contributions under Section 7.12 of the EP&A Act when determining an application on land to which this Plan applies;
- Assist the Council to provide the appropriate public facilities which are required to maintain and enhance amenity and service delivery within the area.
- Publicly identify the purposes for which the levies are required.

8. When does this development contributions Plan commence?

This Plan takes effect from the date on which this Plan is adopted, pursuant to clause 214(4) of the EP&A Regulation.

This City-Wide Development Contributions Plan 2022 was adopted by Council at its Meeting of 29 August 2022 and came into force on [IN FORCE DATE].

9. Relationship with other development contribution Plans

This plan repeals the following contributions plan:

- Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2021 version)

Previous iterations of contributions plans that applied to all or part of the land to which this plan applies which have been repealed are:

- Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2020 version)
- Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2019 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2018 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2017 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2016 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2015 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2014 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2013 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2012 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2011 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2010 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2009 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2008 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2007 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2006 version) – this plan repealed the following Section 94 plans:

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022)

- CP No 1 Open Space Embellishment, Recreation Facilities, Community Facilities;
- Amendment to CP No 1 Open Space;
- CP No 2 Traffic Management & Road Works in City of Wollongong;
- CP No 3 Car Parking in the City of Wollongong;
- CP No 4 Studies & Administration;
- CP No 6 Car Parking in Area between Fairy Creek & Georges Plan Nth Wollongong;
- CP No 7 Open Space Dedication (Nth Side Kanahooka Road);
- CP No 8 Roundabout at the intersection of Unara Road, Yalunga Street & Princes Highway, Dapto;
- CP No 9 Mount Brown Local Area Traffic Management Scheme;
- CP No 10 Bank Street (Road Works & Intersection Upgrade);
- CP No 11 Bank Street (Car Parking Facility between Bank & Stewart Streets);
- CP No 12 Sandon Point Section 94 Land Acquisition; and
- CP No 13 Library Resources.

Any other Section 7.11 or Section 7.12 contributions plans that are not repealed continue to apply to all areas and development to which they are stated to apply.

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022)

Figure 1 Land to which this Contributions Plan applies

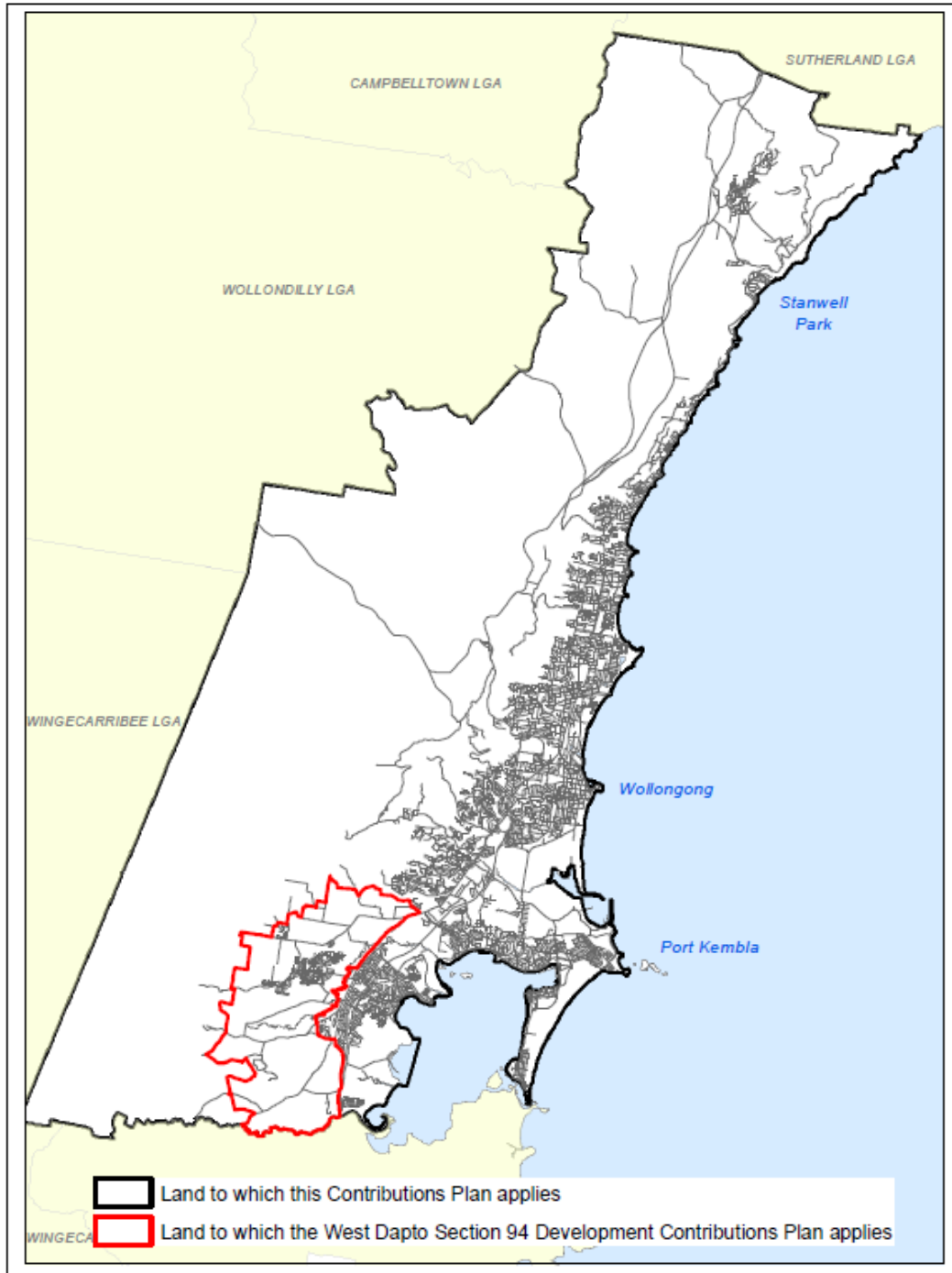
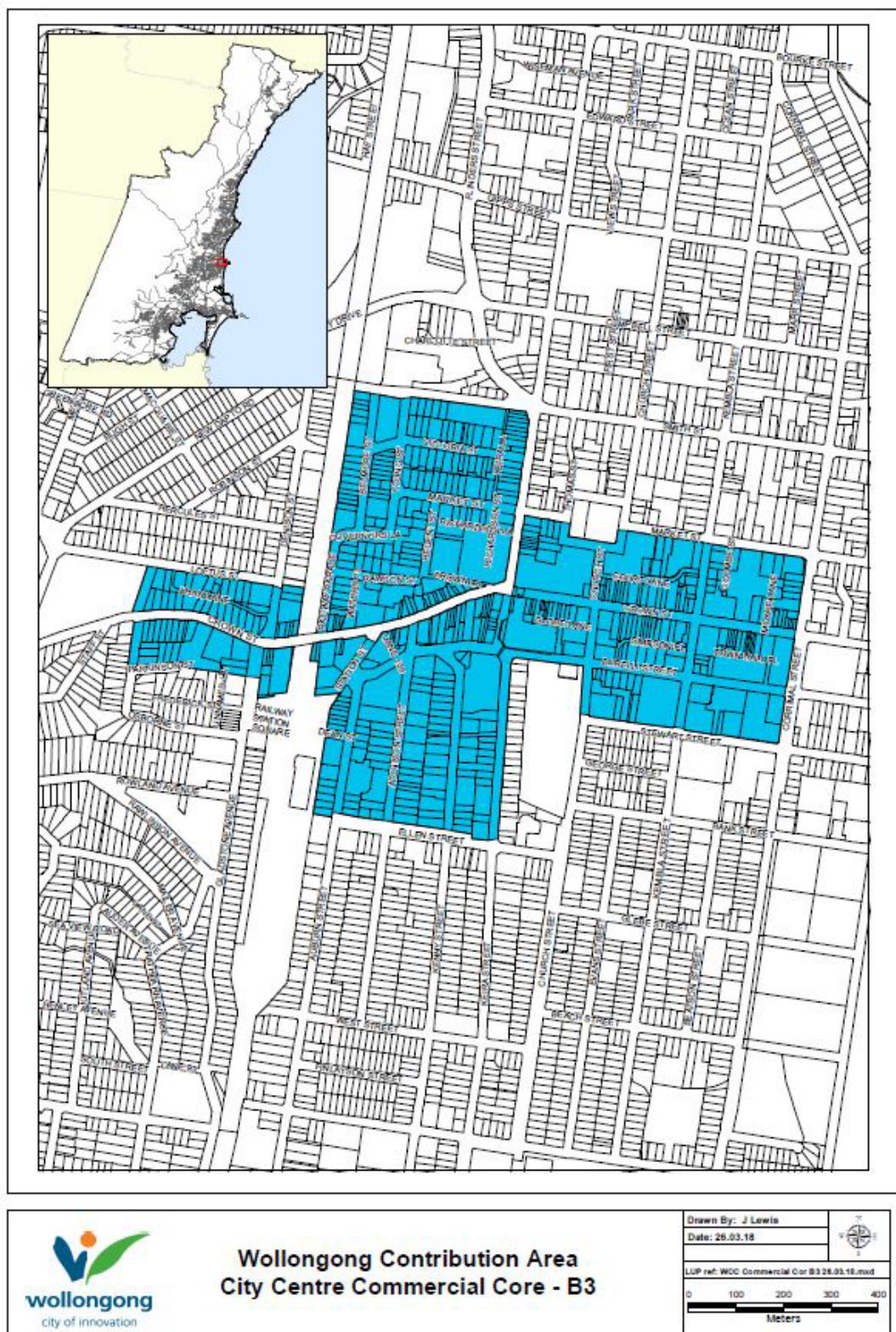


Figure 2 Land within the Wollongong City Centre Commercial Core



Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022)

10. What does Section 7.12 of the EP&A Act provide?

Section 7.12 of the EP&A Act provides as follows:

7.12 Fixed development consent levies

- (1) A consent authority may impose, as a condition of development consent, a requirement that the applicant pay a levy of the percentage, authorised by a contributions plan, of the proposed cost of carrying out the development.
- (2) A consent authority cannot impose as a condition of the same development consent a condition under this section as well as a condition under section 7.11.
- (2A) A consent authority cannot impose a condition under this section in relation to development on land within a special contributions area without the approval of:
 - (a) the Minister, or
 - (b) a development corporation designated by the Minister to give approvals under this subsection
- (3) Money required to be paid by a condition imposed under this section is to be applied towards the provision, extension or augmentation of public amenities or public services (or towards recouping the cost of their provision, extension or augmentation). The application of the money is subject to any relevant provisions of the contributions plan.
- (4) A condition imposed under this section is not invalid by reason only that there is no connection between the development the subject of the development consent and the object of expenditure of any money required to be paid by the condition.
- (5) The regulations may make provision for or with respect to levies under this section, including:
 - (a) the means by which the proposed cost of carrying out development is to be estimated or determined, and
 - (b) the maximum percentage of a levy.

11. Council may require payment of the levy as a condition of development consent

This Plan enables the Council to grant consent to development to which this Plan applies subject to a condition requiring the applicant to pay to the Council a levy calculated as per clause 12.

12. How will the levy be calculated

The levy will be determined on the basis of the rate as set out in Part A Schedule 1 City Wide Section 7.12 Levy Rates and Schedule 2 – Wollongong City Centre Commercial Core Section 7.12 Levy Rates. The levy will be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Levy payable} = \%C \times \$C$$

Where:

%C is the levy rate applicable

\$C is the proposed cost of carrying out development as determined in accordance with clause 18.

13. Development to which this Plan applies

This Plan applies to all applications for development consent and complying development certificates required to be made by or under Part 4 of the EP&A Act in respect of development on land to which this Plan applies.

14. Section 7.17 Directions

Any current and relevant Direction issued by the NSW Minister for Planning under Section 7.17 of the EP&A Act will prevail over the provisions of this Plan. Current Section 7.17 Directions relative to this Plan include:

- If a development contribution under section 94 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* has been required in respect of the subdivision of land (initial subdivision), a levy under section 94A of that Act may not be required in respect of any other development on the land, unless that other development will, or is likely to, increase the demand for public amenities or public services beyond the increase in demand

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022)

attributable to the initial subdivision. (14/04/2016)

- A condition may not be imposed under section 94A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* in relation to development on land within the Port Kembla Lease Area, as mapped in the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Port Botany and Port Kembla) 2013*. (6/12/13)
- A contribution cannot be imposed on development for the purposes of any form of seniors housing as defined in the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability) 2004* (formerly the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Seniors Living) 2004*) where the development consent is granted to a social housing provider as defined in the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability) 2004*. (14/9/07)
- Development contributions on Development Applications (excluding subdivisions) over \$10 million may be paid prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate, not a Construction Certificate. Council is to issue statements confirming payment. This expired on 31 March, however construction certificates in respect to applicable development can be issued up to 25 September 2022 under this Direction. The monetary contributions must be paid before the issue of the first construction certificate after this date for any building. (25/06/2020).

Further details on current Section 7.17 Directions can be found at www.planning.nsw.gov.au.

15. Are there any exemptions to the levy?

Council may allow for exemptions (partial or full) in the following circumstances. For an exemption to be considered based on clause 15 (a) to (h), the written application should clearly state which exemption criteria is expected to ensure it is considered and provide all relevant supporting information.

- a. An application by the Council for community infrastructure, such as but not limited to libraries, community facilities, child care facilities, recreational facilities or car parks.
- b. An application by the NSW Government for public infrastructure, such as but not limited to hospitals, police stations, fire stations, education facilities (primary and secondary) and public transport infrastructure.
- c. An application for the continued operation of a coal mine, where rail transport is used for the transportation of coal.
- d. An application for place of public worship.
- e. An application for a residential care facility carried out under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability) 2004*.
- f. An application for an industrial training facility.

The following exemption requests (partial or full) will require a comprehensive written submission:

- g. An application on behalf of Council for community infrastructure, such as but not limited to libraries, community facilities, child care facilities, recreational areas or facilities and car parks.
- h. An application on behalf of the NSW Government for public infrastructure, such as but not limited to hospitals, police stations, fire stations; education facilities (primary and secondary) and public transport infrastructure.
- i. An application for privately funded community infrastructure, such as but not limited to education facilities (primary and secondary) and private hospitals.
- j. Any other development for which Council considers an exemption is warranted, where the decision is made by formal resolution of the Council at a public Council meeting.
- k. An application by or on behalf of a tertiary education provider:
 - (i) Full exemption may be allowed for facilities that are directly required by the main function of the educational facility, such as – classrooms, lecture theatre, training facility, administrative office, research facility.
 - (ii) Partial (50%) exemption may be allowed for developments that are not directly required by the main function of the educational facility but will provide support to its main function, such as student

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022)

accommodation, car park, sports facility, playgrounds, food-court, display facility, function centre, convention hall, auditorium, community centre.

- (iii) Nil exemption for developments that are not directly required to the main function of the educational facility and/or have potential to create additional demand for public services and amenities. Development such as but not limited to – shops, supermarket, shopping centre, office for lease, business park, commercial centre, child care centre, entertainment facility.

Submission Requirements for an exemption claim to be considered

For an exemption to be considered in accordance with clause 15 (g) to (k) above, the application will need to include a comprehensive written submission arguing the case for exemption and including details of:

- Under which sub-clause the exemption claimed is to be considered.
- The mechanism ensuring that such development will remain in the form proposed in the future (i.e. Not to increase future demand on public amenities and services), NB: where a further development application or application for complying development under the EP&A Act is required for any change to the development no mechanism is necessary, however if a change of use is available by way of exempt development then the requirement for a mechanism remains.
- Other items if applicable:
 - How the development will incorporate the maintenance of the item of heritage significance.
 - How the development will contribute to the public benefit of the community.
 - Works in the public domain included in the development.
 - How the residents/users will utilise existing private facilities attached to the development that replicate those types provided by Council.
 - Advice indicating that the application is on behalf of Council or the NSW Government.

Exemptions (partial or full) listed under clause 15 (g) to (k) will only to be granted with approval of the Council Officer(s) whose position(s) holds the required Council delegations or in terms of clause 15(j) by formal resolution of the Council at a public Council meeting.

16. Complying Development Certificates and the obligations of accredited certifiers

In accordance with sections 4.28(9) and 7.21 of the EP&A Act and clause 156 of the EP&A Regulation, applications for a complying development certificate are also subject to the provisions of this Plan, and the Certifier (whether Council or an Accredited Certifier) must impose a condition requiring the payment of a Section 7.12 contribution in accordance with the requirements of this Plan.

The condition must include the contribution amount calculated in accordance with this Plan and require payment before any building or subdivision work authorised by the certificate commences. Further information on how to calculate and condition contributions is available on Council's website and from Council. The following template condition should be used:

Development Contributions

Pursuant to Section 4.28(9) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022), a monetary contribution of \$[INSERT AMOUNT], subject to indexation, must be paid to Wollongong City Council before any building or subdivision work authorised by this certificate commences.

As the contribution amount is subject to indexation until the date of payment, contact Council for the current indexed amount prior to payment. The contribution can be paid online at <http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/applicationpayments> (contact Council for the payment reference number) or by cash, EFTPOS or bank cheque at 41 Burelli Street, Wollongong.

In accordance with clause 156(2) of the EP&A Regulation, the Certifier must ensure that the contribution has been fully paid before any building or subdivision work authorised by the certificate commences and submit receipt(s) confirming full payment with the complying development certificate.

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17. Construction/Subdivision certificates and the obligations of accredited certifiers

In accordance with Clause 20(b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021, a certifier must not issue a construction certificate for building work under a development consent unless a condition of the development consent, referred to in the Act, section 7.11 or 7.12, requiring the payment of a monetary contribution or levy before building work is carried out.

In accordance with clause 34(2)(b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021, a certifier must not issue a subdivision works certificate under a development consent unless a condition of the development consent, referred to in the Act, section 7.11 or 7.12, requiring the payment of a monetary contribution or levy before work is carried out.

In accordance with clause 12(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021, the certifier must ensure that copies of receipt(s) confirming that contributions have been fully paid are provided to the Council.

18. How is the proposed cost of carrying out development determined?

Clause 208 of the EP&A Regulation sets out how the proposed cost of carrying out development is to be determined. That clause provides as follows:

208 Section 7.12 levy—determination of proposed cost of development

- (1) The proposed cost of carrying out development is to be determined by the consent authority, for the purpose of a section 7.12 levy, by adding up all the costs and expenses that have been or are to be incurred by the applicant in carrying out the development, including the following:
 - (a) if the development involves the erection of a building, or the carrying out of engineering or construction work—the costs of or incidental to erecting the building, or carrying out the work, including the costs (if any) of and incidental to demolition, excavation and site preparation, decontamination or remediation,
 - (b) if the development involves a change of use of land—the costs of or incidental to doing anything necessary to enable the use of the land to be changed,
 - (c) if the development involves the subdivision of land—the costs of or incidental to preparing, executing and registering the plan of subdivision and any related covenants, easements or other rights.
- (2) For the purpose of determining the proposed cost of carrying out development, a consent authority may have regard to an estimate of the proposed cost of carrying out the development prepared by a person, or a person of a class, approved by the consent authority to provide such estimates
- (3) The following costs and expenses are not to be included in any estimate or determination of the proposed cost of carrying out development:
 - (a) the cost of the land on which the development is to be carried out,
 - (b) the costs of any repairs to any building or works on the land that are to be retained in connection with the development,
 - (c) the costs associated with marketing or financing the development (including interest on any loans),
 - (d) the costs associated with legal work carried out or to be carried out in connection with the development,
 - (e) project management costs associated with the development,
 - (f) the cost of building insurance in respect of the development,
 - (g) the costs of fittings and furnishings, including any refitting or refurbishing, associated with the development (except where the development involves an enlargement, expansion or intensification of a current use of land),
 - (h) the costs of commercial stock inventory,
 - (i) any taxes, levies or charges (other than GST) paid or payable in connection with the development by or under any law.
 - (j) the costs of enabling access by disabled persons in respect of the development,
 - (k) the costs of energy and water efficiency measures associated with the development,
 - (l) the cost of any development that is provided as affordable housing,
 - (m) the costs of any development that is the adaptive reuse of a heritage item.
- (4) The proposed cost of carrying out development may be adjusted before payment, in accordance with a contributions plan, to reflect quarterly or annual variations to readily accessible index figures adopted by the plan (such as a Consumer Price Index) between the date the proposed cost was determined by the consent authority and the date the levy is required to be paid.
- (5) To avoid doubt, nothing in this clause affects the determination of the fee payable for a development application.

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19. Cost estimate reports

An application for a development application or a complying development certificate is to be accompanied by a report, prepared at the applicant's cost and in accordance with this clause, setting out an estimate of the proposed cost of carrying out the development for the purposes of clause 208 of the EP&A Regulation, per clause 18 above. Where a separate cost estimate is not provided, the estimated cost of development as provided on the development application will be used to calculate the contribution.

The following types of report are required:

- where the estimate of the proposed cost of carrying out the development is less than \$10,000,000 - a suitable cost estimate prepared by a person who, in the opinion of the Council, is suitably qualified. This includes a licensed builder, registered architect, qualified and accredited building designer, registered quantity surveyor or a person who is licensed with relevant qualifications and proven experience in costing of similar development works, but who is not the owner or applicant;
- where the estimate of the proposed cost of carrying out the development is \$10,000,000 or more - a detailed cost report in accordance with Part D Schedule 4 prepared by a quantity surveyor who is a registered member of the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors.

Applicants will be required to declare upon signing of application for development/building work that the cost of carrying out development as evidenced by their submitted estimate has been calculated in accordance with the provisions of this Plan, in particular clause 18.

Upon reviewing a cost estimate, the Council may require a further estimate to be provided by a registered quantity surveyor at the applicant's cost. The Council may, at the applicant's cost, engage a person referred to in this clause to review a report submitted by an applicant in accordance with this clause.

20. How will the Council apply money obtained from the levy?

Money paid to the Council under a condition authorised by this Plan is to be applied by the Council towards meeting the cost of the public facilities that will be or have been provided within the area as listed in Part D Schedule 5 and 6.

21. What are the funding priorities from levies authorised by this Plan?

Subject to section 7.3(2) of the EP&A Act and clauses 19 and 22 of this Plan, the public facilities listed in Part D Schedule 5 are to be provided in accordance with the staging set out in that Schedule.

22. Pooling of levies

For the purposes of section 7.3(2) of the EP&A Act, this Plan authorises money obtained from levies paid in respect of different developments to be pooled and applied by the Council progressively towards the public facilities listed in Part D Schedule 5 in accordance with the staging set out in that Schedule.

23. The Goods and Services Tax (GST)

At the time this Plan was made, the position of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) was that the payment of development contributions made under the EP&A Act is exempt from the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Items in the works schedule of this Plan have been calculated without any GST component.

24. When is the levy payable?

A levy to be paid by a condition authorised by this Plan must be paid to the Council in accordance with the following requirements:

- A Development Application involving construction – prior to the issue of the Construction Certificate;
- A Development Application involving subdivision – prior to the issue of the Subdivision Certificate;
- A Development Application involving construction and subdivision (ie dual occupancies) – prior to the issue of the Construction Certificate;
- A Complying Development Certificate Application – before any work authorised by the certificate commences.

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Where the development is phased the condition may allow for the levy to be paid at relevant phases.

25. Can deferred or periodic payments of levies be made?

Deferred or periodic payments may be permitted in the following circumstances:

- Deferred or periodic payment of the contribution will not prejudice the timing or the manner of the provision of public facilities included in the works program;
- In other circumstances considered reasonable by Council.

For a deferred or periodic payment to be considered, the applicant must satisfy to Council that:

- There are valid reasons for deferred or periodic payment;
- No prejudice will be caused to the community deriving benefit from the services being provided under this Plan;
- No prejudice will be caused to the efficiency and operation of this Plan.

If Council does decide to accept deferred or periodic payment, Council may require the applicant to provide a bank guarantee for the full amount of the contribution or the outstanding balance on condition that:

- a) The bank guarantee be issued by a bank for the amount of the total contribution, or the amount of the outstanding contribution, plus an amount equal to thirteen (13) months interest.
- b) Any charges associated with establishing or operating the bank security are payable by the applicant.
- c) The bank guarantee must carry specific wording identifying the exact obligation to which it relates (i.e. section 7.12 development contributions for development of Lot x DP xxx under Development Consent No. xxx)
- d) The bank unconditionally pays the guaranteed sum to the Council if the Council so demands in writing not earlier than 12 months from the provision of the guarantee or completion of the work.
- e) The bank must pay the guaranteed sum without reference to the applicant or landowner or other person who provided the guarantee, and without regard to any dispute, controversy, issue or other matter relating to the development consent or the carrying out of development.
- f) The bank's obligations are discharged when payment to the Council is made in accordance with this guarantee or when Council notifies the bank in writing that the guarantee is no longer required.
- g) Where a bank guarantee has been deposited with Council, the guarantee shall not be cancelled until such time as the original contribution and accrued interest are paid.

Deferred or periodic payments may be permitted, in accordance with the above requirements, only with approval of the Council Officer(s) whose position(s) holds the required Council delegations.

26. Planning Agreements

Section 7.4 of the EP&A Act states that a planning agreement is a voluntary agreement between a planning authority and a developer, under which the developer agrees to make contributions towards a public purpose. This may include the dedication of land, a monetary contribution, any other material public benefit or a combination of these. A planning agreement may exclude the application of Section 7.12 to the entire development or to part of the development that is subject to the agreement.

The provisions of Sections 7.4 to 7.10 of the EP&A Act and Part 9 Division 1 of the EP&A Regulation prescribe the contents, form, subject matter and procedures for making planning agreements.

Further information can be found in Council's Planning Agreements Policy.

27. How will the levy be adjusted?

As the date of the consent may vary to the actual time of payment of the contribution, clause 208(5) of the EP&A Regulation allows Council to adjust the contribution to reflect current between the date of the consent and the time of payment. Contributions required as a condition of consent under the provisions of this Plan will be indexed quarterly in accordance with movements in the Consumer Price Index; All Groups CPI; issued by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS Series ID A2325806K).

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022)

The following formula for indexing contributions is to be used:

$$\text{Contribution at time of payment} = \$C \times (CP2/CP1)$$

Where:

\$C is the original contribution as set out in the consent

CP1 is the Consumer Price Index; All Groups CPI; Sydney at the time the consent was issued

CP2 is the Consumer Price Index; All Groups CPI; Sydney at the time of payment

In the event that the current index is lower than the index for the previous quarter, no adjustment will be made.

28. Savings and Transitional Arrangements

A development application or complying development certificate application which has been submitted prior to the adoption of this Plan but not determined shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of this Plan.

29. Are refunds for payments of levies possible?

For a refund of levy payments to be considered, the applicant/landowner must:

- Submit a written request to Council;
- As a part of the request, demonstrate that the development that is the subject of the consent has not been commenced;
- Submit the request for a refund within 12 months of the payment;
- Formally surrender the consent that applied the levy;

In other circumstances considered reasonable by Council at its sole and unfettered discretion, where a formal request is made, part or full refunds may be provided.

Part D – References

30. What definitions apply?

In this Plan, unless the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires the following definitions apply:

- **ABS** means the Australian Bureau of Statistics
- **EP&A Act** means the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- **EP&A Regulation** means the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000
- **Council** means Wollongong City Council
- **Levy** means a levy under section 7.12 of the EP&A Act authorised by this Plan
- **Plan** means this Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan
- **Public facility and Public Infrastructure** means a public amenity or public service

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2021)

31. Schedule 4 – Detailed Works Schedule – Projects proposed to utilise Section 7.12 funds

The Capital Works Program that Council delivers is funded from a mix of budget sources, including contributions collected from this Plan. Section 7.12 Contributions will be allocated to projects through the annual budget preparation process based on this schedule, and will be subject to refinement until the project delivery stage. This may include the review of projects and/or budget allocations as part of the monthly budget review process that is reported to and endorsed by Council. Section 7.12 Contributions currently allocated to future projects are shown in the table below:

| Map No. | Project Number | Project | Location | Section 7.12 Forecast Funding Allocation | | | | |
|---------|----------------|---|------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | Total |
| | | Roads and Bridges | | | | | | |
| 4 | 127515 | Murray Rd Pedestrian Crossing Facility at Carrol Rd | East Corrimal | | \$125,000 | | | \$125,000 |
| 1 | 127952 | Phillips St near Ryan's Hotel Pedestrian Facility | Thirroul | \$100,000 | | | | \$100,000 |
| 6 | 129112 | Gipps Rd; Foley St to Vickery St | Gwynneville | | \$270,000 | | | \$270,000 |
| 9 | 127948 | King St/Greene St/Montgomery St | Warrawong | | \$650,000 | | | \$650,000 |
| 9 | 128107 | King St/Cowper St Traffic Light Upgrade | Warrawong | | \$400,000 | | | \$400,000 |
| | | Sub total | | \$100,000 | \$1,445,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,545,000 |
| | | Footpaths and Cycleways | | | | | | |
| | 126233 | Cycle/Shared Paths - New | Various | | | | \$500,000 | \$500,000 |
| 2 | 128468 | Beacon Ave; Showground to Coastline Cycleway | Bulli | \$80,000 | | | | \$80,000 |
| 5 | 128146 | Bourke St, North Wollongong Train Station to Cliff Rd | North Wollongong | | | \$200,000 | | \$200,000 |
| 5 | 126269 | Princes Hwy; North Wollongong Station to Guest Ave | Fairy Meadow | \$50,000 | \$1,450,000 | | | \$1,500,000 |
| 5 | 128026 | Virginia St; Bourke St to Squires Way | North Wollongong | | \$1,000,000 | | | \$1,000,000 |
| 6 | 126626 | Reserve St; Gilmore St to Robsons Rd; south side | West Wollongong | | \$700,000 | | | \$700,000 |
| 6 | 128134 | Gipps Rd; Vickery St to Foley St, Southern side | Gwynneville | \$250,000 | | | | \$250,000 |
| 6 | 128131 | Braeside Ave, Murphys Rd to Gipps St | Gwynneville | | \$250,000 | | | \$250,000 |
| 8 | 129181 | Factory Rd, Shared User path and Footpath | Unanderra | \$170,000 | | | | \$170,000 |
| 10 | 129032 | Military Rd, Church St to Olympic Blvd - Shared User Path | Port Kembla | | \$450,000 | | | \$450,000 |
| | | Sub total | | \$550,000 | \$3,850,000 | \$200,000 | \$500,000 | \$5,100,000 |
| | | Car parks | | | | | | |
| 7 | 128034 | Swan Street, east of Corrimal St | Wollongong | | | \$300,000 | | \$300,000 |
| | | Sub total | | \$0 | \$0 | \$300,000 | \$0 | \$300,000 |
| | | Non-Commercial buildings, | | | | | | |
| 9 | 125350 | Warrawong Library + Community Centre | Warrawong | \$1,500,000 | | \$6,740,000 | | \$8,240,000 |
| | | Sub total | | \$1,500,000 | \$0 | \$6,740,000 | \$0 | \$8,240,000 |
| | | Parks, Gardens and sports fields | | | | | | |

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2021)

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------|--|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | 125109 | Sports Facilities - New | Various | | | \$400,000 | | \$400,000 |
| | 129028 | Thirroul Skate Park | Thirroul | | | \$900,000 | | \$900,000 |
| 3 | 125125 | Corrimal Memorial Park Fencing | Corrimal | | \$100,000 | | | \$100,000 |
| 8 | 129177 | Lindsay Mayne Park Perimeter Control and Landscaping | Unanderra | \$100,000 | | | | \$100,000 |
| 10 | 128213 | Port Kembla Beach Access Ramp | Port Kembla | \$450,000 | | | | \$450,000 |
| 11 | 125126 | Lakelands Oval Drainage | Dapto | | \$100,000 | | | \$100,000 |
| | | Sub total | | \$550,000 | \$200,000 | \$1,300,000 | \$0 | \$2,050,000 |
| | | Land Acquisitions | | | | | | |
| | 124909 | Land Acquisitions | Various | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| | | Sub total | | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| | | Administration | | | | | | |
| | | Development Contributions Planner | | \$11,549 | \$11,895 | \$12,252 | \$12,619 | \$48,315 |
| | | Development Contributions Admin Support - Finance | | \$114,045 | \$117,466 | \$133,242 | \$124,620 | \$489,373 |
| | | Sub total | | \$125,594 | \$129,361 | \$145,494 | \$137,239 | \$537,688 |
| | | TOTAL | | \$3,075,594 | \$5,874,361 | \$8,935,494 | \$887,239 | \$18,772,688 |

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2021)

32. Schedule 5 – Detailed Works Schedule – Projects that have included Section 7.12 funds

The Capital Works that Council delivers are funded from a mix of sources, including contributions collected from this Plan. Section 7.12 Contributions that have been allocated to projects are shown in the table below:

| Project | Section 7.12 Actual Funding Allocations | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| | 2006-07 to 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | Total 2006-07 to 2021-22 |
| Roads and Bridges | | | | | | |
| Other Road and Bridge Projects | \$4,485,767 | | | | | \$4,485,767 |
| Railway Crescent, Widen road | | \$100,000 | | | | \$100,000 |
| Towradgi Rd-Caters Lane crossing relocation | | \$200,000 | \$12,791 | | | \$212,791 |
| Point Street Local Area Traffic Management | | \$100,000 | | \$132,263 | | \$132,263 |
| Bellambi Local Area Traffic Management | | \$20,000 | | | | \$20,000 |
| Lakeside Drive - Pedestrian Refuge | | \$115,000 | | | | \$115,000 |
| Gilmore St and Fisher St - Pedestrian Refuges | | \$70,000 | | | | \$70,000 |
| Maidstone -The Ridge roundabout | | | \$100,000 | | | \$100,000 |
| Northcliffe Dr, Pharlap Ave to Princes Hwy, roundabout | | | \$695,206 | \$102,037 | | \$797,243 |
| Cordeaux Rd - Princes Hwy Roundabout Upgrade | | | | | \$13,910 | \$13,910 |
| Phillips St near Ryan's Hotel Pedestrian Facility | | | | | \$39,200 | \$39,200 |
| Wollongong City Centre Wayfinding Signage | | | | | \$31,123 | \$31,123 |
| Sub total | \$4,485,767 | \$605,000 | \$807,997 | \$234,300 | \$84,233 | \$6,117,297 |
| Footpaths and Cycleways | | | | | | |
| Other footpath and cycleway projects | \$9,331,445 | | | | | \$9,331,445 |
| Hamilton, Tasman, Craig, Surfers & Cliff | | \$150,000 | \$194,222 | | | \$344,222 |
| Footpaths-New footpaths | | \$600,000 | | | | \$600,000 |
| Port Kembla footpath upgrades | | \$300,000 | | | | \$300,000 |
| Chenhalls St; Stanhope St to Gray St west side | | \$150,000 | | | | \$150,000 |
| Corrimal St; Smith St to Market St | | \$100,000 | | | | \$100,000 |
| Winnima Way; Community Centre to Parkway | | \$50,000 | | | | \$50,000 |
| Holborn Park Accessible Footpaths | | \$25,000 | | | | \$25,000 |
| Bulli Beach Reserve Accessible Footpaths | | \$25,000 | | | | \$25,000 |
| Rixon Avenue; Molloy St to 9 Rixon Ave, east side | | \$50,000 | | | | \$50,000 |
| Clifford St; Bourke St to Daisy; west side | | \$100,000 | | | | \$100,000 |
| Denison St; Crown St to Throsby Dr | | | \$300,000 | | | \$300,000 |
| Porter St, Hindmarsh Ave to Flinders St | | | \$300,000 | | | \$300,000 |
| Kendall St; outside Tarrawanna Public School, south side | | | \$74,385 | | | \$74,385 |
| Thames St; The Mall to 40 Thames St, east side | | | \$50,000 | | | \$50,000 |
| Murphys Ave; Robsons Rd to Grey St, south side | | | \$52,375 | | | \$52,375 |

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2021)

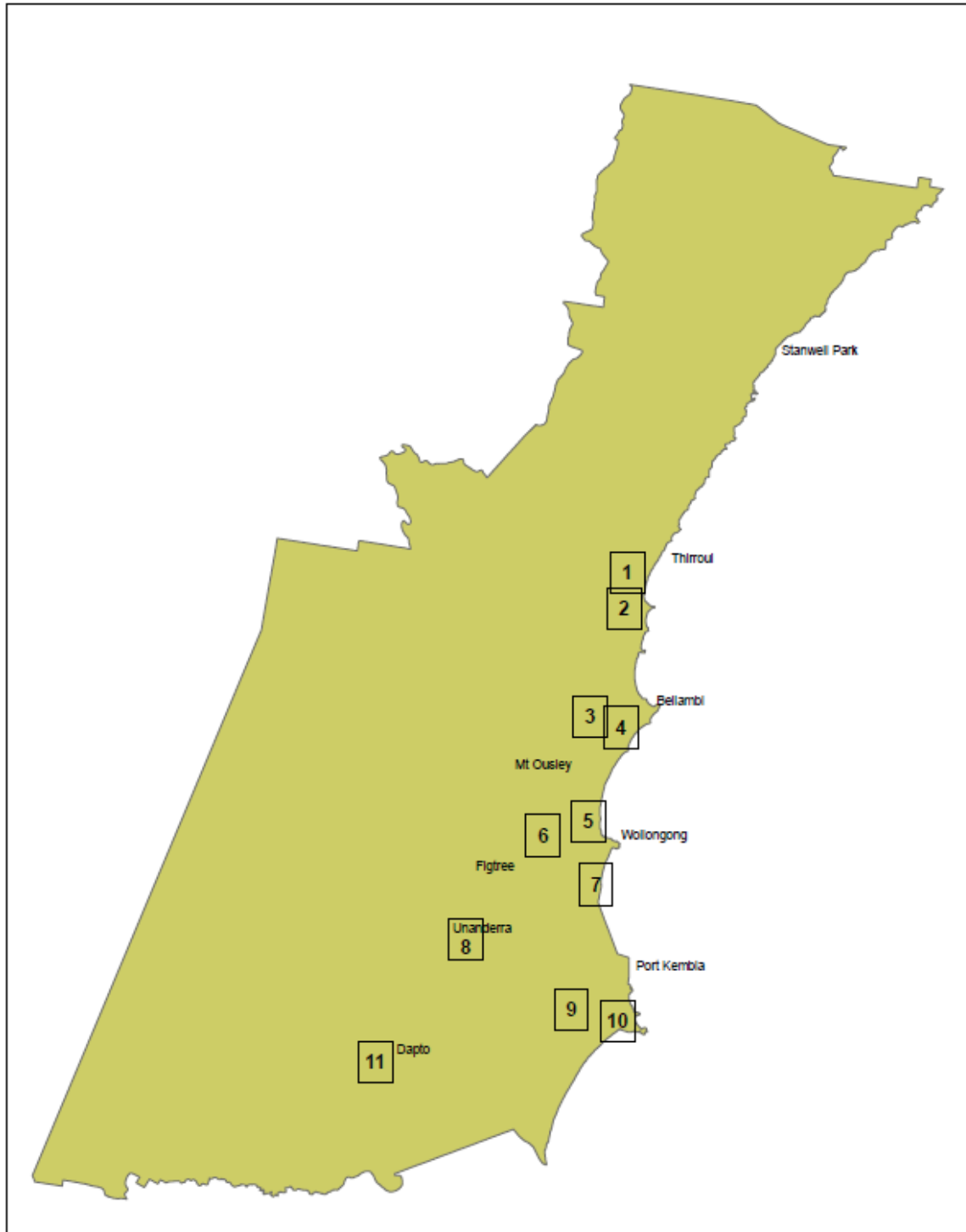
| Project | Section 7.12 Actual Funding Allocations | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| | 2006-07 to 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | Total 2006-07 to 2021-22 |
| Vereker St; Hamilton St to 16 Macarthur Ave, east side | | | \$50,250 | | | \$50,250 |
| Heaslip St; Taronga Ave to St Johns Ave, south side | | | \$70,000 | | | \$70,000 |
| Tallegalla St; Victoria St to Charcoal Creek, west side | | | \$20,000 | | | \$20,000 |
| Cliff Rd; Harbour St to Lang Park, south side | | | \$55,033 | | | \$55,033 |
| Harry Graham Park; Uralba St to Therry St | | | \$40,000 | | | \$40,000 |
| Robinson St; Hercules St to Denison St | | | \$111,705 | | | \$111,705 |
| University Avenue, eastern side near Porter Street | | | \$50,000 | | | \$50,000 |
| The Avenue Pedestrian Refuges | | | \$100,000 | | | \$100,000 |
| Crawford Ave; Porter St to Hay St access | | | | \$247,725 | | \$247,725 |
| Greenacre Rd, Mercury St to Rosemont St | | | | \$145,137 | | \$145,137 |
| Beacon Ave; Showground to Coastline Cycleway | | | | \$84,403 | | \$84,403 |
| Murrarar Rd; Towradgi Station to Coastline Cycleway | | | | \$125,440 | | \$125,440 |
| Cliff Rd; Stuart Park to Marine Dr | | | | \$18,073 | | \$18,073 |
| Hooka Creek Road; Lake Ride to Northcliffe Dr | | | | \$16,848 | | \$16,848 |
| Wollongong City Centre Wayfinding Signage | | | | \$30,265 | | \$30,265 |
| Smith St - Keira St to Harbour St; and Harbour St - Smith St | | | | \$328,000 | | \$328,000 |
| Station St; Duff Pde to Pioneer Rd; north side | | | | \$128,917 | | \$128,917 |
| Smith St - Belmore St to Keira St | | | | \$90,000 | | \$90,000 |
| Kembla St - Smith St to Crown St | | | | \$45,000 | | \$45,000 |
| Beacon Ave; Showground to Coastline Cycleway | | | | | \$22,992 | \$22,992 |
| Military Rd, Old Port Rd to Port Kembla Pool, On-road Cycleway | | | | | \$91,112 | \$91,112 |
| Reserve St; Gilmore St to Robsons Rd; south side | | | | | \$10,223 | \$10,223 |
| Gladstone Ave - Crown St to Railway Station Sq; Railway Station | | | | | \$26,043 | \$26,043 |
| Stewart St - Corrimal St to Church St; and Church St - Stewart St | | | | | \$28,754 | \$28,754 |
| Crown St - Kembla St to Corrimal St | | | | | \$1,499 | \$1,499 |
| Sub total | \$9,331,445 | \$1,550,000 | \$1,467,970 | \$1,259,808 | \$180,623 | \$13,789,846 |
| Car parks | | | | | | |
| Other car park projects | \$2,260,270 | | | | | \$2,260,270 |
| Berkeley Park Carpark – Off Bourke Way | | | \$190,000 | | | \$190,000 |
| Robert Ziems Park Cricket Ground Carpark | | | | \$200,000 | | \$200,000 |
| Sub total | \$2,260,270 | \$0 | \$190,000 | \$200,000 | \$0 | \$2,650,270 |
| Non-Commercial buildings | | | | | | |
| Other Non-Commercial Building projects | \$13,955,419 | | | | | \$13,955,419 |
| New Warrawong Multipurpose Facility | | \$100,000 | | \$381,606 | \$859,907 | \$859,907 |

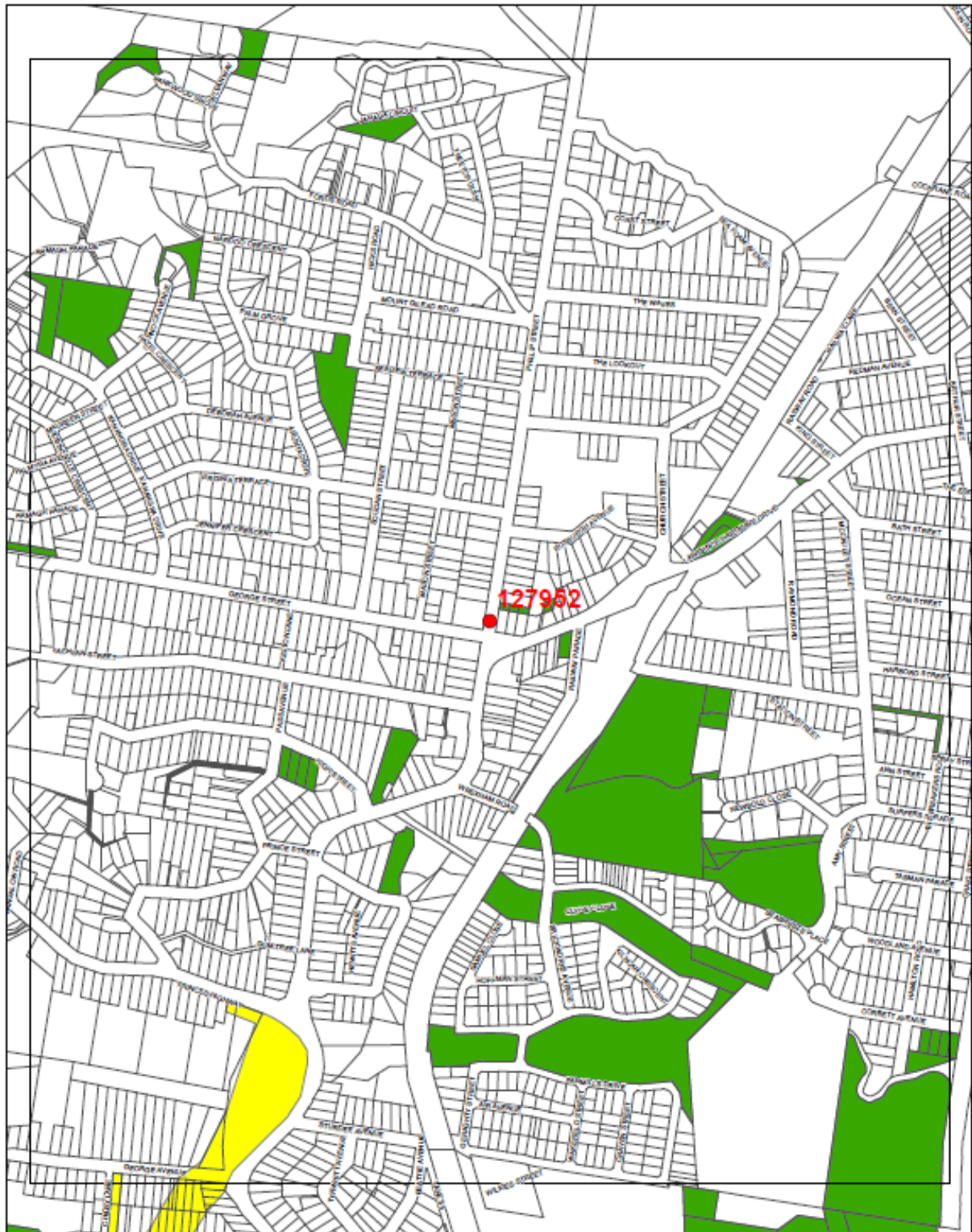
Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2021)

| Project | Section 7.12 Actual Funding Allocations | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| | 2006-07 to 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | Total 2006-07 to 2021-22 |
| Sub total | \$13,955,419 | \$100,000 | \$0 | \$381,606 | \$859,907 | \$14,815,326 |
| Parks, Gardens and Sports Fields | | | | | | |
| Other Parks, Gardens and Sports Fields Projects | \$5,415,298 | | | | | \$5,415,298 |
| Brownlee Park Playground Replacement and New Shade Sail | | | \$50,000 | | | \$50,000 |
| The Drive; LHD to Stanwell Park Tennis Courts | | | \$55,317 | | | \$55,317 |
| Farmborough Heights Community Tennis Courts | | | \$50,000 | | | \$50,000 |
| Cringila Hills Pump Track | | | | \$30,000 | | \$30,000 |
| Criterium Track | | | | \$45,000 | | \$45,000 |
| Lindsay Mayne Park Perimeter Control and Landscaping | | | | | \$30,000 | \$30,000 |
| Sub total | \$5,415,298 | \$0 | \$155,317 | \$75,000 | \$30,000 | \$5,675,615 |
| Land Acquisitions | | | | | | |
| Other Land Acquisitions | \$2,201,500 | | | | | \$2,201,500 |
| Acquisition of Strip adjoining 5 Franklin Avenue, Bulli | | | | \$1,500 | \$5,838 | \$7,338 |
| Helensburgh CC+L Land Acquisition | | | | | \$3,500,000 | \$3,500,000 |
| 216 Princes Highway Dapto LOT B DP156856 | | | | | \$4,300 | \$4,300 |
| Acquisition of part lot 1 DP1207666 - Dapto Leagues Club | | | | | \$1,100 | \$1,100 |
| Sub total | \$2,201,500 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,500 | \$3,511,238 | \$5,714,238 |
| Administration | | | | | | |
| S94 Planner | \$540,326 | \$101,000 | \$103,000 | \$107,498 | \$110,723 | \$962,547 |
| S94 Admin Support - Finance | \$82,006 | \$10,000 | \$12,000 | \$10,886 | \$11,212 | \$126,104 |
| S94 Administration & Studies | \$452,216 | | | | | \$452,216 |
| Sub total | \$1,074,548 | \$111,000 | \$117,000 | \$118,384 | \$121,935 | \$1,540,867 |
| TOTAL | \$38,724,247 | \$2,366,000 | \$2,738,284 | \$2,270,598 | \$4,787,936 | \$50,303,459 |

33. Schedule 6 - Works Schedule – Maps

Projects locations are noted as best as possible given their nature and scale of mapping.







**Wollongong City-Wide Development
Contributions Plan 2022
MAP 2**

Legend

- Sec94_City_Wide_Grid_08-08-22
- Community Land
- Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
- Section_7-12_Funded_Projects_08-08-22



Drawn By: H. Jones

Date: 08-08-22



Date of Aerial Photography: 2021

LUP: Sec94 City Wide 08-08-22 MAPBOOK.mxd

0 300
Meters



Legend

- Sec94_City_Wide_Grid_08-08-22
- Community Land
- Section_7-12_Funded_Projects_08-08-22
- Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009



Drawn By: H. Jones
Date: 08-08-22

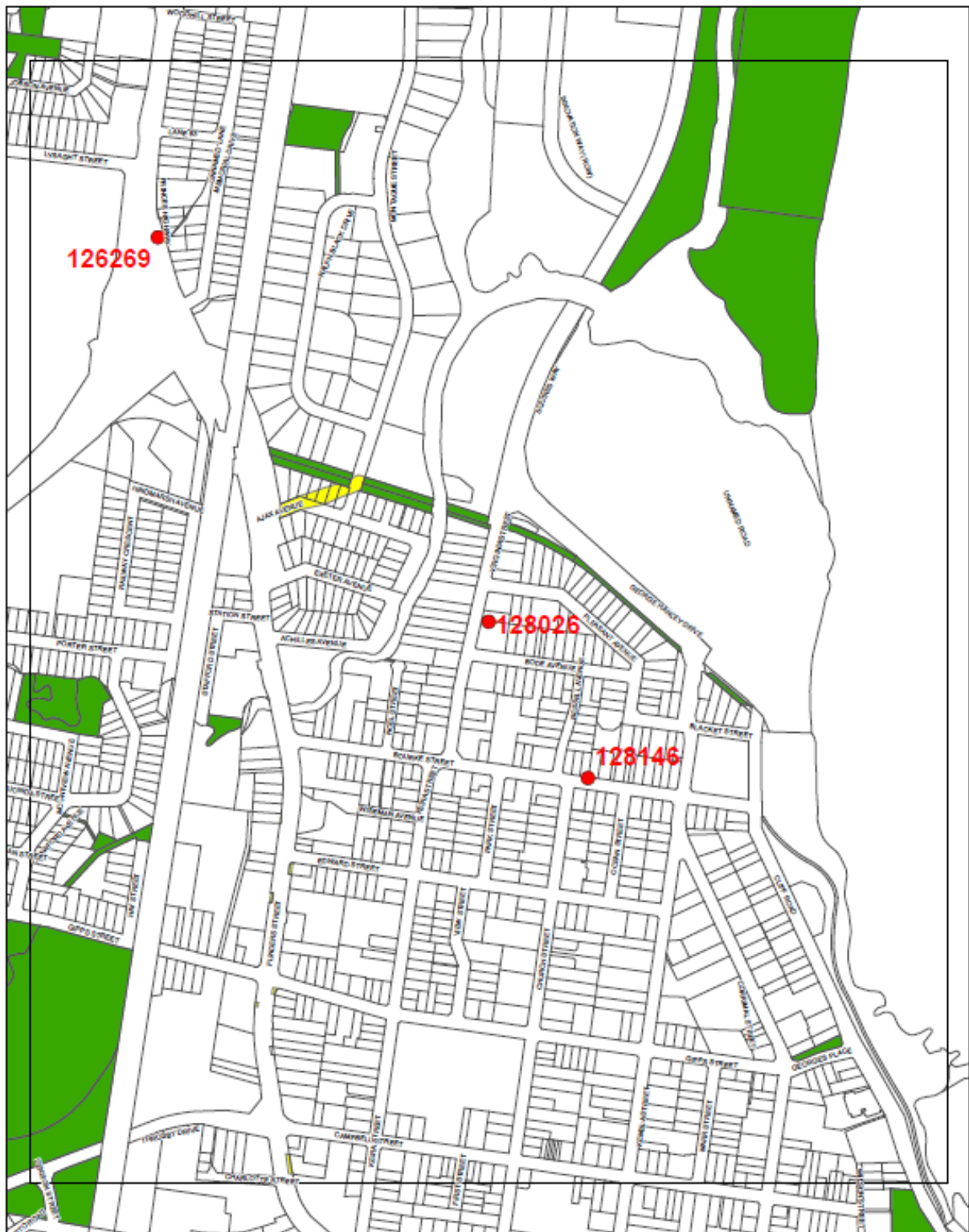


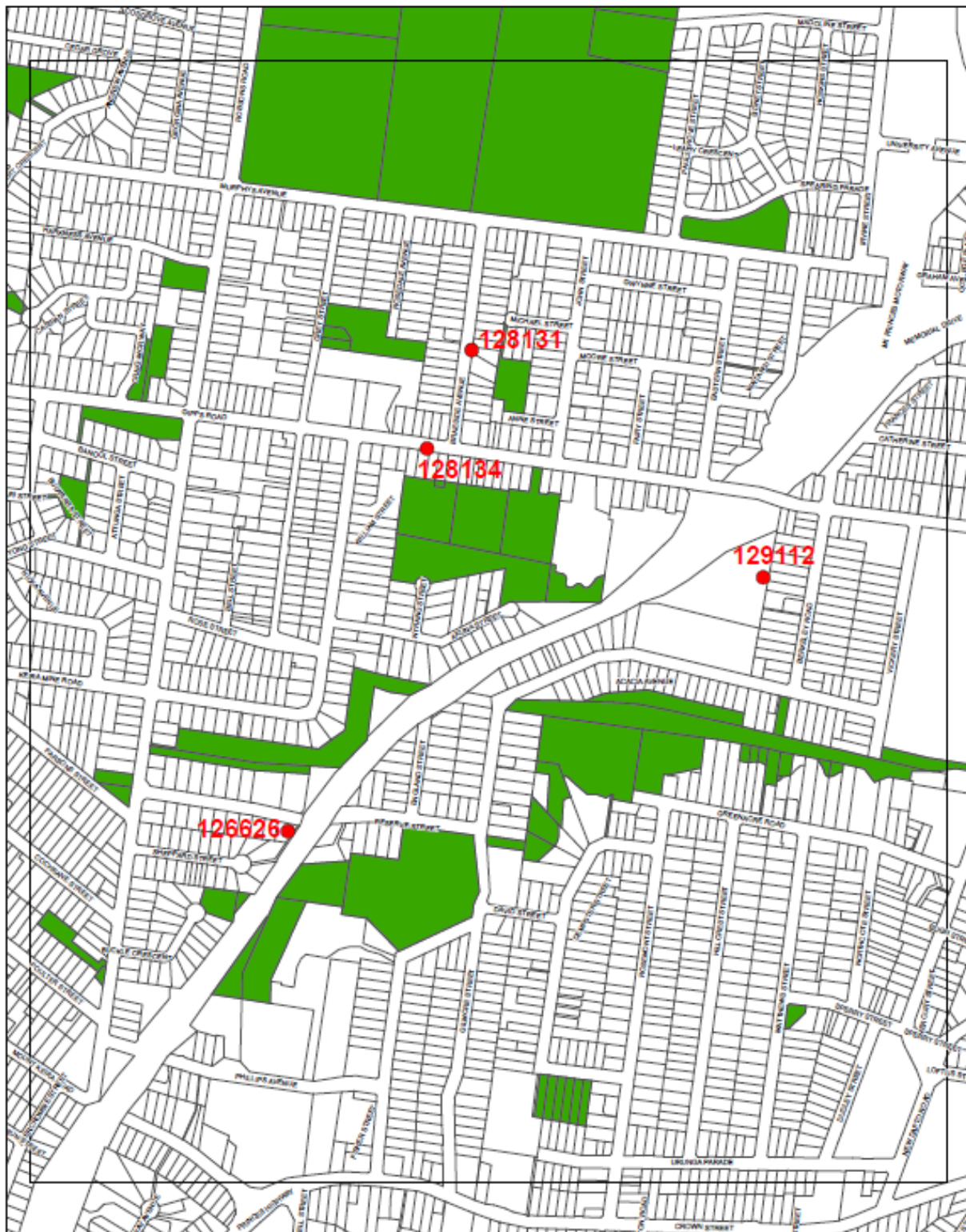
Date of Aerial Photography: 2021

LUP: Sec94 City Wide 08-08-22 MAPBOOK.mxd

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Legend

- Sec94_City_Wide_Grid_08-08-22
- Community Land
- Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
- Section_7-12_Funded_Projects_08-08-22



Drawn By: H. Jones
Date: 08-08-22



Date of Aerial Photography: 2021

LUP: Sec94 City Wide 08-08-22 MAPBOOK.mxd

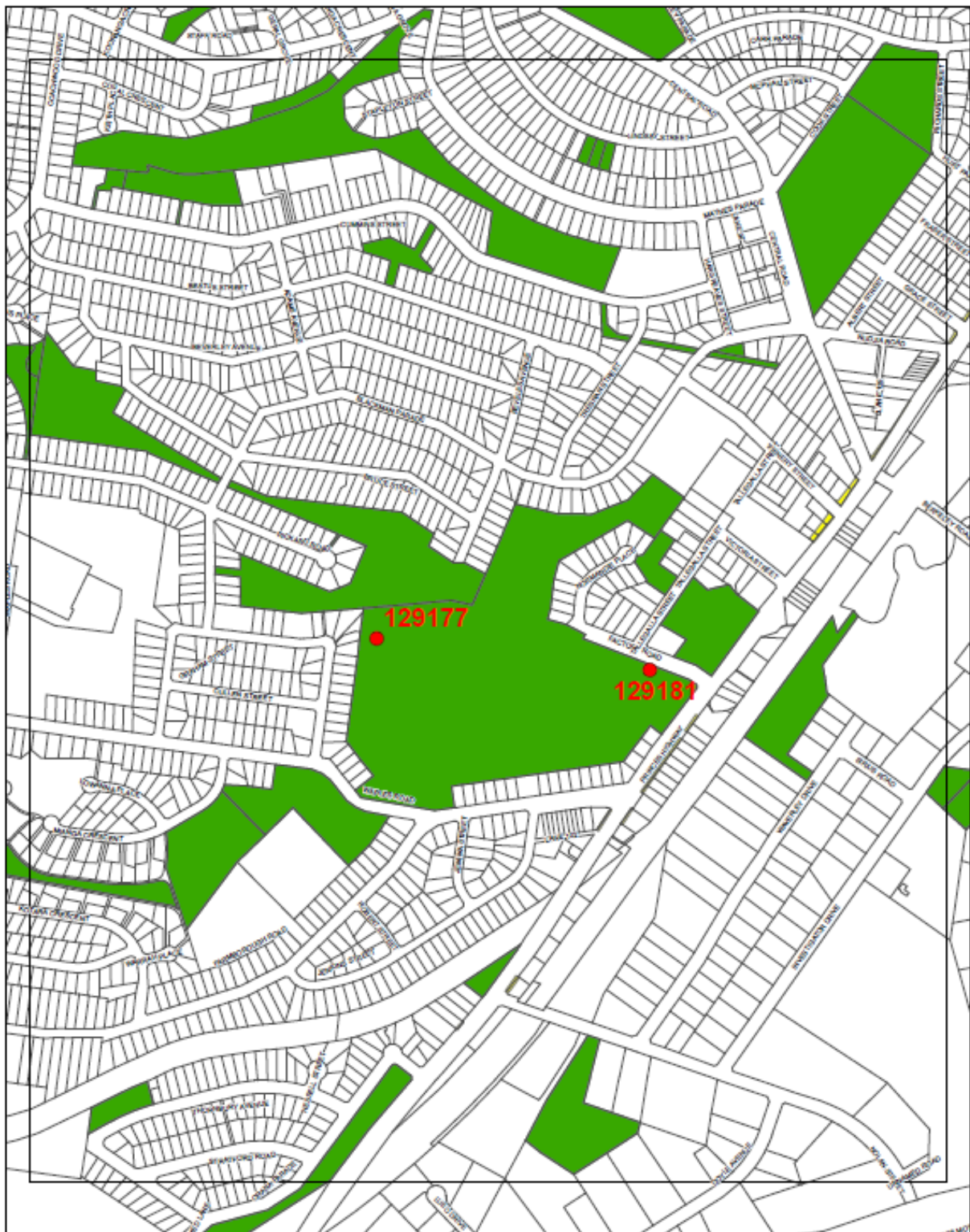
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- Sec94_City_Wide_Grid_08-08-22
- Community Land
- Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
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Legend

- Sec94_City_Wide_Grid_08-08-22
- Community Land
- Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
- Section_7-12_Funded_Projects_08-08-22



Drawn By: H. Jones
Date: 08-08-22



Date of Aerial Photography: 2021
LUP: Sec94 City Wide 08-08-22 MAPBOOK.mxd

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Meters



Legend

- Sec94_City_Wide_Grid_08-08-22
- Community Land
- Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
- Section_7-12_Funded_Projects_08-08-22





Legend

- Sec94_City_Wide_Grid_08-08-22
- Community Land
- Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
- Section_7-12_Funded_Projects_08-08-22



Drawn By: H. Jones

Date: 08-08-22



Date of Aerial Photography: 2021

LUP: Sec94 City Wide 08-08-22 MAPBOOK.mxd

0 300
Meters



From the mountains to the sea, we value and protect our natural environment and will be leaders in building an educated, creative, sustainable and connected community.

We value and protect our environment
We have an innovative and sustainable economy
Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city
We are a connected and engaged community
We have a healthy community in a liveable city
We have affordable and accessible transport

**wollongong**
city of innovation

Wollongong City Council
wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone (02) 4227 7111

ITEM 3 DRAFT QUARTERLY REVIEW STATEMENT JUNE 2022

The Quarterly Review Statement outlines progress towards the achievement of Council's Strategic Planning documents, in particular, the Delivery Program 2018-2022 and Operational Plan 2021-2022. The Statement addresses the operational performance of Council at the end of the financial year.

Financial information has not been included in the June Quarterly Review Statement and is being reported separately in the 'Preliminary and Pre-Audit Financials – 30 June 2022' Council report.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The draft Quarterly Review Statement June 2022 be adopted.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Brian Jenkins, Chief Financial Officer

Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft Quarterly Review Statement - June 2022

BACKGROUND

Council's Draft Quarterly Review Statement June 2022 outlines the operational performance of Council's Strategic Planning documents - the Delivery Program 2018-2022 and Operational Plan 2021-2022.

This report also provides an overview of achievements against priority areas and demonstrates the organisation's performance through the inclusion of performance indicators.

Significant highlights during the year, including the fourth (June) quarter include:

- Council adoption of the Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 suite, including a new Community Strategic Plan, Resourcing Strategy, Delivery Program and Operational Plan.
- Opening of the Cringila Hills Recreation Park, Mountain Bike Park and BMX Pump Track.
- Completion of the Stewart Street carpark solar panel project.
- The Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2023 endorsed by Council and Reconciliation Australia.
- Council adoption of the Climate Change Adaption Plan.
- Delivery of Council's COVID-19 Community Assistance Program.
- First Comic Gong festival successfully delivered since 2019.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Executive Management Committee

Senior Leadership Team

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report relates to the commitments of Council as contained within the Strategic Management Plans.

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Goal 4 “We are a connected and engaged community”. It specifically delivers on the following:

| Community Strategic Plan Strategy | Delivery Program 2022-2026 Service |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 4.1 Provide our community with equitable access to information and opportunities to inform decision-making. | Corporate Strategy |

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Full financial details are included in the ‘Preliminary and Pre-Audit Financials – 30 June 2022’ Council report.

CONCLUSION

This draft Quarterly Review Statement June 2022 has been prepared following input and assistance from all Divisions. It is submitted for consideration and adoption by Council.

OUR WOLLONGONG 2028

QUARTERLY REVIEW STATEMENT June 2022

From the mountains to the sea



DRAFT

WCC 149833416



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This Quarterly Review Statement (April to June 2022) reports on progress towards achieving the five Councillor Strategic Priorities from the Delivery Program 2018-2022 and Annual Deliverables from the Operational Plan 2021-2022.

Highlights and significant progress with key projects from the Operational Plan 2021-2022 are reported by the six Community Goals from the Our Wollongong 2028 Community Strategic Plan.

The Operational Plan 2021-2022 includes significant investment in cycleways, footpaths, roadworks and lighting to make our favourite places more accessible, while upgrades to community buildings, cultural and sporting facilities, pools and playgrounds will ensure we continue to be a vibrant and liveable city.

Highlights from this quarter and the 2021-2022 year include:

- 1 Council adoption of the Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 suite, including a new Community Strategic Plan, Resourcing Strategy, Delivery Program and Operational Plan;
- 2 Opening of the Cringila Hills Recreation Park, Mountain Bike Park and BMX Pump Track;
- 3 Completion of the Stewart Street carpark solar panel project;
- 4 The Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2023 endorsed by Council and Reconciliation Australia;
- 5 Council adoption of the Climate Change Adaption Plan;
- 6 Delivery of Council's COVID-19 Community Assistance Program;
- 7 First Comic Gong festival successfully delivered since 2019.

Organisational performance is also reported by the inclusion of performance indicators to monitor the status and progress of our Council programs, activities, projects, finances, people and processes.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to present significant challenges to Council both operationally and financially. While we have made service modifications we will continue to monitor and respond to updated advice and measures, Council has not been devoid of the impacts of COVID-19. Our COVID-19 assistance package, outlined in the Delivery Program 2018-2022 and reported in this Quarterly Review Statement, includes a range of measures to assist residential and business ratepayers as well as the broader community.

During the year, we've supported projects to reduce isolation and improve community cohesion with the Connecting Neighbours Grants and delivered social support services to check-in with clients and carers in a COVID-Safe way. We've also adapted our services to engage and support our young people through online platforms and activities and expanded the range of multimedia and digital services delivered through our libraries.

We continue to focus on improving our customer service to best serve our community and are committed to be the best possible local government authority we can be.

I would like to thank all staff and the community for their contributions to the achievements identified in this Quarterly Review Statement.

Greg Doyle
General Manager

Strategic Priorities Progress Report

Our Councillors have made a commitment to support our organisation and community in making Wollongong a better place to live, work, visit and play. To focus Council's attention to achieve this, Councillors have agreed to five Strategic Priorities. These are outlined in the Delivery Program 2018-2022. Progress made in the June 2022 quarter and 2021-2022 year is outlined below:

Activating Our Suburbs

We are committed to enhancing and activating spaces and places across our Local Government Area through sound planning and focused programs.

Our Delivery Program includes an ambitious plan of action to establish our city, towns and villages to be connected and liveable spaces offering a variety of attractions and opportunities for people to work, live, play, learn, visit and invest. Our Delivery Program supports a variety of infrastructure spending to enhance recreation, sporting and cultural opportunities.

Project Sponsor: Director Community Services
Project Manager: Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development

Strategic Priority Progress



On Track

Program Achievements

Throughout 2021-2022 a range of activities and initiatives were delivered within our suburbs to support connected and liveable spaces for our community. The Connecting Neighbours Grant program continued throughout the year has enabled Council to support projects being delivered by community members in their local suburbs. The grant program funds ideas generated by the community to bring people together and make neighbourhoods a better place. Projects are currently underway or were delivered by community across the local government area.

The landmark Cringila Hills Recreation Park was opened during the year. The Recreation Park includes mountain bike trails, a new playground, bike skills playground, an asphalt pump track and more than 3.4 kilometres of shared-use walking trails. The Mountain Bike Park has an exciting mix of approximately 12 kilometres of trails for riders from beginners to advanced. The tracks have a mix of gradients, surfaces and obstacles.

Following the success of the *Carve a New Trail* pilot project, three new bike pump tracks were built at Dapto, Fairy Meadow and Bulli. Planning also continued for the Lindsay Maynes Criterium Track and Precinct Plan in Unanderra which will provide a dedicated space for bike riders of all abilities.

Other initiatives delivered this year include the Bellambi neighbourhood wayfinding signage sculpture; new murals in Fairy Meadow and Towradgi; installation of the Guest Park skate mural; finalisation of Unanderra Community Centre and Library mural and installation of *Eye on the Horizon* sculpture at Hill 60 Port Kembla (as part of the Ngaraba-aan Trail

Trail). The *Reflections* public art works by Col Henry, to be installed at Moranga Park, Clifton as part of the Grand Pacific Walk are nearing completion. These works are part of the *Art in the Suburbs* program, designed to provide local Artists a commissioned project, as a placemaking activity as well as promoting anti-graffiti outcomes.

Port Kembla Festival, presented by Holy Pavlova, was held in April 2022. The cultural development project featured a free live community performance *Standing on the Ceiling* to showcase local talent.

Strategic Priorities Progress Report

Activating Our Suburbs Continued...

The free festival took place across six venues in Port Kembla and was funded by Council. Social enterprise workshops were also provided in Port Kembla throughout the year.

During the June 2022 quarter, a range of initiatives were undertaken to activate our suburbs, including:

- Birthday celebration for the *Paint the Gong REaD* mascot *Bright Spark* were held at Dapto Mall including a range of literacy and interactive activities;
- Sport and art workshops were held at three High Schools during school holidays as part of the *Schools as Shared Spaces* initiative;
- Programs for young people continued to be delivered in Dapto, Bundaleer and Bellambi, activating community and outdoor spaces, providing social connectedness and skill development opportunities;
- A community film festival was held at the Gala Cinema Warrawong;
- Two new projects, Artist Mentorship/Professional Development Bursary and Artist in Residence programs, supported through Council's COVID-19 Community Assistance Package were developed. These programs see Council engage with local creative businesses/Artists across the suburbs to develop their creative and business skills. *ARTSELLERATE*, provides business mentoring for local creatives and *ARTWARD: Art in Unexpected Places*, brings Artists working in diverse practices and disciplines to some of Council's facilities and unexpected spaces to develop a new creative works.

Council's four-year Infrastructure Delivery Program includes a suite of programs and projects that directly respond to our strategies and priorities to activate and enhance our community centres, public domain and open spaces. During the June 2022 quarter, refurbishments were completed at Kembla Heights Community Hall kitchen: Corrimal Preschool kitchen/laundry and roof replacement at Bulli Senior Citizens Centre. In addition to the many footpaths, cycleways and open space upgrades, these initiatives include streetscape and public domain improvements in Warrawong, Corrimal, Dapto and Helensburgh town centres.

Strategic Priorities Progress Report

Urban Greening

Urban Greening forms a significant focus during this Council term. Our Delivery Program includes the implementation of key priorities within Council's Urban Greening Strategy, in conjunction with projects and services impacting sustainability and the quality of our environment.

Project Sponsor: Director Infrastructure and Works
Project Manager: Manager Open Space and Environmental Services

Strategic Priority Progress



On Track

Program Achievements

2021-2022 saw more than 500 additional resident requests for trees on the verge fronting their property following last financial year's targeted tree planting program in Dapto. The Urban Greening Program continued during the quarter servicing street tree requests, coordinated with civil construction projects, playground installations and installing transitional landscapes to reduce mowing. The Urban Greening Program continues to see targeted tree planting activities occurring in high need suburbs with our current program exceeding the tree planting versus removal ratio target of 2:1 with 927 street trees planted and 384 removed.

We continue to work with the community on promoting the Verge Garden Guidelines and support via the Connecting Neighbours Grants Program. Urban Greening will see three 'Tiny Forests' planted in high need suburbs in partnership with local Schools be used to promote urban greening, our Greenplan Nursery and climate change adaptation actions. One of our 'Tiny Forests' has been completed at Harrigan Park, Tarrawanna.

We saw the planning for a second round of Connecting Neighbours Grants undertaken which will see the successful Verge Garden Program offered again to the community. The Crown Street Mall Tree Replacement Project which commenced in 2018 is now completed with the installation of protective grates and removal of the tree guards. These Japanese Elm trees are growing extremely well and support community activation in this important civic space.

The transitional Landscape Program continues to roll out with the successful greening of Tom Thumb Reserve in Windang and significant tree planting activities commenced at Cringila Hills Recreation Park to support a restored native landscape surrounding the mountain bike trails. Fourteen Town and Village precincts have been planted out with planter boxes as part of our approach to enhance our city's presentation.

Work is progressing on a review of three Management Policies to ensure our approach to public tree management, tree permits for private land, and our response to tree and vegetation vandalism are consistent and aimed at achieving tree canopy targets for our community. Council has an agreement with Symbio Wildlife Park, Helensburgh to provide a space for a post bushfire recovery Koala Conservation plantation that will see 5,000 eucalypts planted. These trees will be used to harvest as a food source and enhance Council's commitment to urban greening.

Strategic Priorities Progress Report

West Dapto Urban Release Area

We will continue to work in collaboration with key agencies to provide the infrastructure needed to support growth and employment lands within the West Dapto Urban Release Area. This will include coordinated planning for access improvements including new roads and bridges which are needed to support the additional 17,000 future housing lots and 8,500 jobs required over the next 30 years.

Project Sponsor: Director Planning and Environment
Project Manager: Urban Release Manager

Strategic Priority Progress



On Track

Program Achievements

During 2021-2022, Council continued planning, designing and constructing infrastructure for West Dapto with significant progress achieved on the Wongawilli Road upgrade project. The final application and supporting documentation toward Biodiversity Certification of the release area also made good progress this year with an expected lodgement with the Department of Planning and Environment and public exhibition during early 2022-2023. This is a large project that will be subject to Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) assessment and is due for completion in December 2023. The review is likely to be influenced by the NSW Government's proposed contributions reform. Staff continue to monitor the effects of reforms on local contributions planning. The State reforms are expected to be in place by 1 July 2022.

Council continued to work closely with the NSW Geographical Names Board (GNB) during the year and in this quarter to formally implement the 1 November 2021 Council Resolution to introduce a new suburb 'Stream Hill' to West Dapto. The GNB undertook their own exhibition of the proposed suburb between 27 April 2022 and 27 May 2022. Council staff are currently reviewing submissions received by GNB, with a Council Resolution expected during the September 2022 quarter. During the year, progress has been made on a draft West Dapto Open Space, Recreation, Community and Cultural Facilities Needs Assessment which will inform the next review of the West Dapto Contributions Plan.

Council continues to assess Planning Proposals, Neighbourhood Plans and Subdivision Development Applications to facilitate urban development. To date, Neighbourhood Plans have been adopted within Stages 1, 2, and part Stages 3 and 4 which will facilitate land for over 5,202 lots. Neighbourhood Plans to support a further 7,313 lots are currently being assessed. Council has granted Development Consent for 2,542 new lots.

In addition, during the June 2022 quarter, Council commenced the Green Network (Landscape) Masterplan project for the release area.

Strategic Priorities Progress Report

Active Transport and Connectivity

We are planning for, and progressively working towards, an integrated and active transport network with improved connectivity across the Local Government Area. A series of actions will be undertaken across this term of Council to facilitate the upgrade of our public transport, bicycle networks and pedestrian access. This renewed focus is complemented by a significant investment into footpaths and cycleways.

Project Sponsor: Director Infrastructure and Works
Project Manager: Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning

Strategic Priority Progress



On Track

Program Achievements

In 2021-2022 Council continues to invest in the delivery of key action items from Town Centre and Village Plans, Wollongong City Centre Access and Movement Strategy 2023, Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030 and Wollongong Pedestrian Plan through both the Infrastructure Delivery Program and Operational Plans.

Council continues to plan and build momentum towards the 2022 UCI Road World Championships to stimulate cycling related tourism, community participation in cycling and invest in legacy infrastructure to improve pedestrian and cyclist access at key locations across the city. The location of this prestige event in Wollongong was influenced not only by the beauty of the city and its ability to provide a challenging course, being nestled between the mountains and the sea, but also by the comprehensive Cycling Strategy being delivered.

Council will continue to seek Grant Funding through a range of NSW State and Commonwealth initiatives to support active transport and connectivity improvements. Council has engaged heavily with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to advocate and encourage improved public transport services in the form of both bus and heavy rail service improvements to enhance amenity and reduce congestion. Council has also actively participated in the planning of three local interchanges to ensure the provision of connected infrastructure and enhanced accessibility and mobility.

During the June 2022 quarter, the following actions were commenced or completed to support the Wollongong Pedestrian Plan and Wollongong Cycling Strategy including:

- New footpaths – eight construction projects completed and five projects have commenced;
- Footpath renewals – two construction renewals are underway;
- New shared paths – eight constructions completed and seven are underway;
- Pop-up cycleways were constructed across the Wollongong Central Business District, also in Port Kembla, Thirroul and Towradgi;
- Consultation for the location of Bike Racks were completed, with locations to be included in future online mapping tools;
- Commenced participation in a research project with the University of Wollongong (UoW), Wollongong 2022 and government agencies to develop an interactive planning tool to optimise cycling infrastructure;
- An application was submitted to Round eight of the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program seeking \$750,000 towards the construction of Lindsay Maynes Park Criterium Track Precinct Unanderra.

Strategic Priorities Progress Report

Active Transport and Connectivity Continued...

During 2021-2022, Council committed \$3.7M in new footpaths and \$4M worth of new cycleways. This level of spending is reflective of increased Commonwealth and NSW State grants funding and increased funding from Council to deliver the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030.

Council has recently appointed a Road Safety Officer to take the lead in delivering the *Safer Routes to Schools* Program. This Program will review the existing transport network and facilities in the vicinity of the schools and develop a vision for safe school frontage and access both to and from Schools. The program will also identify short, medium and long-term actions to realise this vision, including infrastructure investments. This program includes representation from the School's Parent and Citizens Association (P&C) members and School Principals.

Council has submitted nine grant applications totalling \$7.5M worth of funding to the NSW Government's *Get Active Program* seeking funding towards key footpath and cycle/shared path projects across the city.

Other active transport investments being constructed throughout the year include the Helensburgh Town Centre (Stage 2) and Fairy Creek Shared Path; Gilmore Street to Vickery St (West Wollongong and Gwynneville).

Strategic Priorities Progress Report

Business and Investment

We will continue to grow the Wollongong economy through attracting business, investment, major events and tourism to the region. We will continue to promote our local advantages, including our proximity to Sydney, supportive business environment, innovative ecosystem, vibrant CBD and superb liveability to attract businesses and encourage local jobs growth. We will work with key stakeholders, including State and Federal governments to further promote our city and attract greater investment in infrastructure and other key assets.

Project Sponsor: Director Community Services
Project Manager: Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development

Strategic Priority Progress



On Track

Program Achievements

During 2021-2022, business and investor enquiries remained strong with Council facilitating 81 enquiries throughout the year and 31 during the June 2022 quarter. Staff continue to facilitate several longer-term ongoing projects, via Council's Major Project process. These projects in total have a combined estimated jobs impact of several thousand roles/positions.

Council has continued to work with government and the business community to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic through the continuation of the 'buy local' awareness campaign *We Shop the Gong*. The campaign aims to drive spending at local businesses and support the local economy. Over the past 12 months, online spending and spending outside the Local Government Area by Wollongong residents totalled \$2.5B. A 10% change in Wollongong residents spending habits would see an extra \$250M enter our local economy, supporting 3,200 new local jobs. The campaign included a range of advertising materials, including a new webpage, dedicated social media campaign and a range of merchandise and marketing to support local businesses and encourage residents to *Shop the Gong*.

A 'Doing Business with Wollongong City Council' event was hosted in October 2021 to assist the local business community with understanding Council's procurement activities and processes. The event also raised awareness of the opportunities presented within Council's Infrastructure Delivery Program for local businesses. Over 80 local business representatives attended this session.

As part of the ongoing recovery program, COVID-Safe outdoor dining continued with 30 businesses being approved for outdoor dining options in the last six months. Council also continued its coordination of the post-COVID-19 Peak Bodies Taskforce, working together to address both the economic opportunities and challenges the region has faced in a post pandemic economy.

Council undertook a range of existing and new initiatives to support and attract business, and therefore grow jobs, in Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). Support for businesses within the LGA has included the *Thrive* and *Primed to Thrive* programs delivered by *Investible*. The programs attracted 171 Applications with 95 attendees in total, 60% of participants indicated they are looking to employ more staff over the next 12 months.

The *Investible* and *We Shop the Gong* initiatives, among others, were supported by new economic datasets acquired by Council including Spendmapp and Monitor CRMS, which allows Council to engage with targeted sectors and business types within the LGA via aggregated Australian Business Register data. Latest data shows positive signs of economic rebound from COVID-19 restrictions.

Strategic Priorities Progress Report

Business and Investment Continued...

The Invest Wollongong partnership continued its business attraction activities. Its integrated Marketing Strategy was anchored by digital advertising, positioning Wollongong as an alternative CBD location in a post-COVID-19 environment. Highlights of the completed digital campaign include over 330 downloads of the Wollongong Office Market Prospectus and over 53,000 clicks to the *Invest Wollongong* website.

Clean energy investment continues to maintain momentum with the Squadron Energy proposal on Port Kembla Power Station receiving Critical State Significant Infrastructure status by the NSW Government. Australian Industrial Power (AIP), part of Squadron Energy, are continuing to advance their proposal to develop a 635-megawatt (MW) capacity power station at Port Kembla, planned to be operational by 2024-2025 (subject to approval and final investment decision). The power plant will be dual-fuel capable from its first day of operation (50% green hydrogen/50% natural gas) and aims to be 100% green hydrogen fuelled by 2030.

A submission was provided to the inquiry into the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Bill 2021, welcoming the introduction of legislation and acknowledging the importance of offshore wind for Wollongong. Australian Industrial Energy announced in November 2021 the signing of a long-term Agreement with energy infrastructure and transport provider Höegh Galleon to supply the first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) to operate at the Port Kembla Energy Terminal. Under the agreement, the Höegh Galleon will serve the terminal which has commenced construction of its berth facilities at Port Kembla and is expected to be operational by mid-2023, making it the first project of its kind in Australia.

On 30 March, *Invest Wollongong* coordinated an event which saw over 80 Government and business leaders attend NSW Parliament House to hear about the 2022 UCI Road World Championships, the revised *Invest Wollongong* Office Market Prospectus, and Destination Wollongong's UCI Bike City business program.

Supporting our Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Significant challenges arising from the global health and economic challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic have continued throughout the 2021-2022 year. This impacted on what Council has been able to deliver and the way we serve and support our community. The application of a community-orientated, risk-based approach to the delivery of our services as well as responding to advice from government authorities, has meant some services and key facilities were temporarily altered or ceased. As always, our focus is on protecting vulnerable members of our community and protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and volunteers, their families and our community.

Council's workforce remains fully engaged during this time to support ongoing service requirements and deliver the Infrastructure Delivery Program as planned. Beyond the management of assets, Council's annual infrastructure investment is significant and will continue to support local contractors, businesses and suppliers. The organisation is also undertaking a review of how we deliver our services in line with the National Health Guidelines, of importance is how we can continue to effectively engage with our community during this time.

Council's online engagement opportunities remained open via the website and alternate engagement methods were developed. Council provided a COVID-19 Assistance Package in 2020-2021 to support our community and businesses. With the continued effect of the pandemic evident across our community, Council has adopted additional, comprehensive range of assistance measures for impacted ratepayers, businesses, community organisations, creative community and tenants of Council owned properties. Further details of these assistance measures and Council's progress with delivering this support is outlined below.

The following section outlines Council's progress with implementing community assistance packages previously adopted by Council.

Supporting our Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic

| Rates Relief; Deployment of Council's Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy | | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------|---|
| Initiative | Responsibility | Status | Progress Update |
| Rates Relief program: Freeze on interest and recovery action on overdue rates and charges that relate to the current year rates | Chief Financial Officer | Complete | This component of the rates assistance program was concluded at 30 November 2021 in accordance with planned action. |
| Requests for Deferred Payment Arrangements for all ratepayers experiencing financial difficulty due to COVID-19 impacts under its Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy for the 2021-2022 financial year | Chief Financial Officer | Complete | The extension of the Hardship Policy to all ratepayers including commercial properties applied to the financial year. There were three applications as a result of this policy. |
| Cease Legal Debt Recovery on 2021-2022 Rates otherwise required under Council's Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy until 30 November 2021 | Chief Financial Officer | Complete | This initiative has now concluded although a continuation of supportive application of Council's Recovery Policy will continue. |

Supporting our Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic

| Fees and Charges Relief 2021-2022 | | | |
|--|--|----------|---|
| Initiative | Responsibility | Status | Progress Update |
| Waiver of Casual Off-Street Parking Fees at targeted off-street parking locations until 31 December 2021 | Manager Property and Recreation | Complete | Action has been implemented for MacCabe Park Carpark and 2 hour free parking at Market Street Carpark. |
| Supporting our Local Sporting Groups - Waiver of Training and Competition Fees | Manager Property and Recreation | On-Track | The availability of the waiver on fees was distributed to sports clubs, interruptions to sport associated with NSW Public Health Orders saw only two requests received, Ultimate Frisbee and Touch Football these have yet to be progressed as invoices have not been raised as their summer sport continues. |
| Support for Fitness Trainers; Swim Schools and Surf Schools | Manager Property and Recreation | Complete | Action has been implemented and debtor accounts adjusted. |
| Supporting Hospitality Businesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiver of Outdoor Dining Fees [existing] Extension of Outdoor Dining Incentives to our Suburbs | Manager Community, Cultural and Economic Development | On-Track | <p>Waiver of Outdoor Dining Fees have been implemented.</p> <p>A number of additional Outdoor Dining Licences/extensions to Outdoor Dining space have progressed. Council staff are progressing a strategy around using road/road reserve to expand available Outdoor Dining Space to be implemented as soon as possible.</p> <p>Globe Lane, Crown Lane and The Hotel Illawarra have been some initial examples of additional outdoor expansion. A parklet at Port Kembla is also underway to be implemented mid-January.</p> |
| Supporting our Business Community - Food and Personal Grooming Inspection and Administration Fees Waiver | Manager Regulation and Enforcement | Complete | Fees for these premises have been waived for the full 2021-2022 year. Inspections of premises continue but were impacted at the end of this period by the increasing Omicron cases. Only 're-inspections' of premises will be invoiced this financial year. |

Supporting our Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic

| Supporting Community Service Providers and Facilities Licensees | | | |
|---|---|----------|---|
| Initiative | Responsibility | Status | Progress Update |
| Supporting Local Not-For-Profits: Emergency Food and Care Support for Residents | Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development | Complete | The COVID-19 Emergency Food and Care Package Grant program provided \$115,205 funding and delivered 1,689 food packages to the value of \$62,250 and 3641 care packages to the value of \$52,955 to our community during a time of need. The funding was provided across two rounds to 11 organisations including Green Connect Illawarra, Need a Feed Australia, Warrawong Residents Forum, CareWays Community, Unanderra Community Centre, Wollongong Emergency Family Housing, Good 360, Rapid Relief Team, Healthy Cities Illawarra, Wollongong homeless Hub and Women Illawarra. |
| Supporting Community Facilities: Financial Assistance for Essential Outgoings. | Manager Library and Community Services | On-Track | <p>15 applications from licensees received and approved for financial assistance with \$75,000 support provided to date in 2021-2022. The assistance has enabled licensees to cover expenses of the centres while in lockdown and during extended period of COVID-19 restrictions. These factors reduced licensee ability to generate income through facility hire.</p> <p>Risks still exist that some licensees may not be able to meet financial obligations due to slow reactivation of facility hire post lockdown.</p> <p>Council cleaners have been utilised to assist with cleaning licensed centres to reduce licensee costs and improve cleanliness of the centres. Additionally assistance has been provided with lawn and garden maintenance, minor property improvements and ongoing maintenance.</p> |

Supporting our Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic

| Supporting Our Local Economy – Deployment of a Buy Local Campaign | | | |
|--|------------------------------|----------|---|
| Initiative | Responsibility | Status | Progress Update |
| To support economic recovery and stimulate local economic activity, Council will fund the development of a 'buy local' campaign. | Economic Development Manager | On-Track | The 'buy local' awareness campaign, 'We Shop the Gong', continued with its rollout of collateral and advertising over the past quarter. There are 154 businesses participating across the LGA and results of advertising and toolkits over the last quarter have been positive. Using digital advertising, the campaign achieved 649,974 impressions and 4,245 clicks. Campaign videos received 8,436 YouTube views and the campaign website received 6,717 page views. Radio and Bus advertisements were successfully implemented, and 11,200 pieces of merchandise were distributed. Through business engagement there were 106 clicks to download graphics, 45 stories submitted and 1,230 uses of #weshopthegong. |

Supporting our Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic

| Supporting Our Local Economy – Enhanced City Centre Marketing and Activation | | | |
|--|--|----------|--|
| Initiative | Responsibility | Status | Progress Update |
| To support economic recovery and stimulate local economic activity, Council will increase our investment in city centre activation and marketing activities to support economic recovery of both the region and our local community. | Manager Community, Cultural and Economic Development | On-Track | <p>The Outdoor Dining Internal Working Group was successful in assisting with the activation of The Illawarra Hotel, Globe and Crown Lane outdoor dining areas in the CBD. The Crown Lane Road closure was piloted, and has been extended until end September, when further assessment will take place. Outdoor dining decks to minimise the steep grade in Crown Lane, to enable Outdoor Dining for adjacent businesses were installed in May 2022.</p> <p>Precinct-based business communication groups were established for both Globe and Crown Lanes, facilitating improved communication and support for new ideas generation for the CBD. At the same time, the Wollongong CBD business newsletter provided regular updates and information for businesses operating in the CBD. More than 60 x Live@Lunch concerts were held in Crown Street Mall in partnership with Wollongong's Conservatorium of Music and the Illawarra Folk Club, employing more than 50 local artists and contributing to a more vibrant and welcoming CBD. In addition, more than 20 local artists and music industry professionals were engaged for the Lovers Lane event and Laneway for Days DJ program across the year. Laneways Live held between 26 – 29 May 2022, focussed on three key interlinked areas – Globe Lane, Crown Lane and Upper Crown Street Mall Wollongong.</p> <p>The precinct-based approach, saw unique programming tailored to each area such as live performance (music, circus, roaming, dance), live art (murals, visual projections), lighting, and business engagement, with unique briefs for each of the precincts. Creative Central Business District (CBD) dressing and branding were used across all three precincts to create vibrancy in the CBD and create connectivity between the precincts. The event programme included live performances and art curated by a range of local companies and organisations including Yours and Owls, Illawarra Folk Club, Verb Syndicate, Circus Monoxide and Wollongong Conservatorium of Music, as well as markets and performances by a range of other</p> |

Supporting our Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | | | <p>professional and community entertainers. More than 100 music artists were engaged for the event including more than 50 local music artists. The event also delivered two new outdoor dining decks, four live mural artwork locations, one creative window and wayfinding sign display and new festoon and fairy lighting across Globe Lane, Crown Lane and Upper Crown St Mall.</p> <p>The Wollongong CBD Marketing Strategy had a two-pronged approach during 2021-2022. During COVID-19 restrictions, the primary focus was on supporting businesses and providing them with relevant business assistance information. Upon easing of COVID-19 restrictions, the focus was on inviting visitors and community to rediscover our CBD and explore the business offering including food, beverage, and entertainment. Marketing campaigns were developed to support and promote each of the Crown Street Mall activations. Key campaigns included Laneways Live, Wollongong Live, Christmas, exhibition projects, Winter in the CBD and the Showtime Carnival event. Overall social media followers and engagement have continued to grow with social content reaching at least 193,000 Facebook users, and 35,000 Instagram users. The CBD website traffic saw an increase in visitation to 100,000 users over the year and an approximate organic search rate of 74,000 searches. Our content resulted in over 10,000 instances of consumer interests and/or enquiries in relation to the CBD businesses.</p> |
|--|--|--|---|

Supporting our Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic

| Supporting Council's Tenants – Rent Waivers and Deferrals | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|----------|---|
| Initiative | Responsibility | Status | Progress Update |
| Provide support to Council's commercial Tenants by adhering to the Regulations introduced on 14 July 2021 and, in addition, providing rental waivers and deferrals to eligible Tenants for the period of 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021 | Manager Property and Recreation | On-Track | Rent waivers and deferrals underway. Online application process has been set up. Council has been requesting these be submitted quarterly and has already submitted and processed a number of these applications during this period. Correspondence has been sent to Council's commercial tenants outlining the process and providing guidance to apply and the website has been updated to reflect application process and eligibility criteria. |

Supporting our Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic

| Supporting our Local Creative Industries | | | |
|---|---|----------|--|
| Initiative | Responsibility | Status | Progress Update |
| <p>A program of support to our local creative industries to provide meaningful employment and/or business development. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick response grants (\$60,000) Events re-emergence (\$200,000) Arts professional mentorship program (\$60,000) Artist-in-residences (\$120,000) | Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development | On-Track | <p>Creative Wollongong -Quick Response Grants – were delivered in October-November 2021. \$76,328.00 in Grants were awarded to approx. 25 Applicants. Grants were made available for eligible individual artists or small arts organisations across all art forms, for costs associated with creative projects or to develop a suite of digital marketing assets. Over 50 Applications were received, with approximately one third from new Applicants, and half applying for the new category of 'digital marketing'. These grants have been awarded and projects are underway, with acquittals due in August 2022. Arts professional mentorship program comprised two discrete streams of activity. The <i>Artsellerate</i> program, delivered by Creative Business Plus, focused on arts business mentoring. The professional development bursary stream focused on professional training, conference fees and mentoring to assist with individual professional creative development. Both programs are currently underway.</p> <p>The Artist in Residence program known as ARTWARD: Art in Unexpected Places, brings 6 artists with diverse creative practices and disciplines to some of Council's facilities and unexpected spaces to develop a new creative work. The new works will be an expression of place, people, and/or spaces. Two residencies have been awarded in each Local Government Area (LGA) ward. One as a direct artist creative site-specific response and one community arts engagement project. Six sites across three Council Wards have been chosen for the artists including Helensburgh Cemetery, Dapto Ribbonwood Community Centre, Wollongong Lawn Cemetery, Bushcare sites and Corrimal Library and Community Centre.</p> |

Operational Plan 2021-2022 Progress

The following section provides an overview of Council's progress with delivering Our Wollongong 2028. It provides a summary of progress for 2021-2022 Annual Deliverables [Council's programs, projects and activities] and highlights significant progress with annual projects as outlined in Our Wollongong 2028 - Community Goals. This exception-based reporting provides an overview of achievements for the June 2022 Quarter. The organisation's performance is also reported by the Key Performance Indicators.

The Operational Plan 2021-2022 contains 340 annual deliverables across the six Community Goals. Table 1 below outlines how Council is tracking in the June 2022 Quarter to achieve the annual deliverables for each Community Goal.

1: Annual Deliverable Progress by Community Goal

| Goal | On track | Not Scheduled to Commence | Delayed | Deferred | Ongoing / Complete |
|---|--------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. We value and protect our natural environment | 97.26% | 0% | 1.37% | 1.37% | 0% |
| 2. We have an innovative and sustainable economy | 93.02% | 0% | 0% | 6.98% | 0% |
| 3. Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city | 89.66% | 0% | 3.45% | 6.9% | 0% |
| 4. We are a connected and engaged community | 88.89% | 0% | 1.85% | 0% | 9.26% |
| 5. We have a healthy community in a liveable city | 91.23% | 0% | 4.39% | 1.75% | 0.88% |
| 6. We have sustainable, affordable and accessible transport | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Total Annual Deliverable Progress | 93.0% | 0% | 2.5% | 2.5% | 2.0% |

Note: Each Goal does not have an equal number of annual deliverables; therefore, the Annual Deliverable progress has been rounded up to 100.

Operational Plan 2021-2022 Progress continued

Overall, 2.5% of Annual Deliverables were reported to be delayed and 2.5% were deferred. Table 2 below outlines all Annual Deliverables reported as delayed or deferred at the end of June 2022.

| Community Goal | Annual Deliverable | Delayed | Deferred | Comment |
|---|--|---------|----------|--|
| 1. We value and protect our natural environment | Prepare a new Local Strategic Planning Statement for the Local Government Area | | Y | <p>Under the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, the review of the Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) is required to be completed no later than 2027. However, LSPS's are able to be updated more regularly and Council had intended to review the Wollongong LSPS concurrently with and informed by the Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Community Strategic Plan.</p> <p>During the year, the State progressed a number of strategic reforms that have relevance for the review of our LSPS including in relation to Employment Zones, Design and Place and Planning Proposal processes. A range of new Regulations, State Environmental Planning Policies, Ministerial Directions and guidelines were also introduced during the year.</p> <p>In December 2021, the State announced the formation of the Greater Cities Commission to incorporate Illawarra Shoalhaven, Central Coast and Lower Hunter/Newcastle into the Commission. The new Greater Cities Commission came into effect in April 2022 and the Commission has commenced work on the new strategic settings for the expanded Greater Cities area with a discussion paper expended to be released early in 2022/23. This discussion paper will provide important context for the review of Wollongong LSPS.</p> <p>It was considered appropriate to defer the commencement of the review of the Wollongong LSPS to later in 2022/23 to provide the opportunity to understand implications from the new planning context for our local planning framework</p> |

Operational Plan 2021-2022 Progress continued

| <i>Community Goal</i> | <i>Annual Deliverable</i> | <i>Delayed</i> | <i>Deferred</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|--|---|----------------|-----------------|---|
| | Prepare a new Local Strategic Planning Statement for the Local Government Area (continued) | | Y | While the formal review of the Wollongong LSPS was not commenced last year, work progressed on important informing strategies such as the draft Housing Strategy, Retail and Business Centres Study, South Western Sydney Growth Impact Project and Industrial Lands Review. |
| 2. We have an innovative and sustainable economy | Undertake the City Centre Planning Review and Design Review arising from the Wollongong City Centre – Public Spaces Public Life Implementation Plan | | Y | In December 2020, Council deferred the draft City Centre Planning Strategy to enable a range of supporting studies to be completed. Those studies are still being undertaken. In particular, the LGA Retail and Business Centres Study is nearing completion and the integrated transport study is progressing. |
| 4. We are a connected and engaged community | Commence the review of the rating structure to align to legislative change | Y | | While legislative changes have been made, the necessary Regulation changes that will allow review of new categories and subcategories of rates is yet to be enacted. Progress for this task will require a clear understanding of the Regulations once approved to assess options and impacts. |

Operational Plan 2021-2022 Progress continued

| Community Goal | Annual Deliverable | Delayed | Deferred | Comment |
|---|---|---------|----------|---|
| 5. We have a healthy community in a liveable city | Reinstate Waterfall (Garrawarra) Cemetery | Y | | <p>Land surrounding Waterfall General Cemetery (Garrawarra) was formally transferred to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service this year with our current Licence over the land also being transferred. This Licence allows for access to the cemetery which is landlocked.</p> <p>A Development Application was required for the site due to the Heritage nature of the cemetery. Following a Pre-Lodgement meeting, further works were identified as being required prior to Development Application submission. These works have yet to progress due to discussions being held with Crown Lands regarding transferring the site to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Crown Land has advised an outcome will be provided once resolution of current Aboriginal Land Claims is decided. This is anticipated in the second quarter next year.</p> |
| | Develop a concept plan for the Beaton Park Regional Precinct | Y | | The concept plan for Beaton Park Regional Precinct is currently 80% complete after being placed on hold to prioritise work on the Regional Tennis Facility. The finalisation of the Precinct Plan will recommence once works on the tennis facility commence. |
| | Finalise the review of the Botanic Garden Plan of Management and Masterplan | Y | | The Masterplan is complete and awaiting Heritage NSW approval of the conservation management plan for Gleniffer Brae. Council will undertake consultation on the Masterplan amendments with identified major stakeholders prior to going back to Council. |

Operational Plan 2021-2022 Progress continued

| <i>Community Goal</i> | <i>Annual Deliverable</i> | <i>Delayed</i> | <i>Deferred</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---|---|----------------|-----------------|---|
| 5. We have a healthy community in a liveable city | Design and construct a boat storage shed for North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club | | Y | <p>During the year Council progressed the design of the boat storage shelter adjacent to the SES Building on Montague Street, Fairy Meadow. The design was further refined with stakeholder engagement during the year and construction drawings were completed.</p> <p>During the June quarter the project scope was further refined to unpack optional items to deliver the basic functional requirements of the storage shed for the Surf Club and the accompanying SES requirements.</p> <p>The project is currently under review.</p> |
| | Undertake programmed renewal works at Council's rock pools in accordance with the Infrastructure Delivery Program | Y | | <p>Council has an ongoing program of works to maintain our rock pools which are located in extremely aggressive environments. Construction opportunities are limited due to the impact of seas, tide and swells.</p> <p>The replacement of the intake pipeline and raising of the abutment at the eastern end of the Austinmer Pool were not completed during the reporting period due to unprecedented extreme weather events and unsuitable tides and swells. These works are now scheduled to commence in August subject to conditions permitting.</p> |

Operational Plan 2021-2022 Progress continued

| <i>Community Goal</i> | <i>Annual Deliverable</i> | <i>Delayed</i> | <i>Deferred</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---|---|----------------|-----------------|---|
| 5. We have a healthy community in a liveable city | Implement and design the North Wollongong Beach Seawall Renewal | Y | | <p>The North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) is located within the Coastal Erosion Impact Zone and will be protected from coastal wave erosion when the North Wollongong Beach Seawall project is complete. The design includes a series of bleachers to allow users to sit and overview the beach while also providing a boat ramp at the northern end. Stage 1 (immediately in front of the SLSC) has commenced while design is underway for the southern link to the existing seawall in front of the Bathers Pavilion.</p> <p>The construction of the North Beach Seawall has been delayed due to the need to carry out some additional piling works to meet specified requirements on this site. Further delays have also occurred due to supply chain disruptions, COVID-19 impacts, and unprecedented extreme weather events. These additional works are now underway.</p> |

Operational Plan 2021-2022 Progress continued

Delayed, deferred or cancelled due to COVID-19

The following Annual Deliverables were delayed, deferred or cancelled due to COVID-19 impacts:

Goal 1: We value and protect our natural environment

- Develop options for a Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) trial for multi-unit dwellings

Goal 2: We have an innovative and sustainable economy

- Provide funds to support Wollongong's ability to attract and retain a tourist ship visitor economy through on shore day visits;
- Support relevant agencies, business and industry to advocate for the establishment of a cruise ship terminal in the port of Port Kembla.

Goal 3: Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city

- Implement the 'Made in Wollongong' concept;
- Deliver the annual Viva La Gong Festival;
- Promote Heritage sites and Museums

Goal 5: We have a healthy community in a liveable city

- Design and construct the Longyan Friendship Garden

GOAL 1: WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Deliver priority actions from the Urban Greening Strategy Implementation Plan 2017-2021

Throughout the year The Urban Greening Program continued servicing street tree requests, coordinating with civil construction projects, playground installations, installing transition landscape to reduce mowing and planning for priority areas with lower tree canopy. Planter boxes were installed around Woonona and Windang as part of the rolling program of townscape beautification and the completion of one of our three - Tiny Forests at Harrigan Park, Tarrawanna.

During the quarter, the Tiny Forest trial commenced to make better use of some of our outdoor spaces. Students from Tarrawanna Public School were the first to take steps toward planting our Tiny Forest at Harrigan Park Tarrawanna.

There were 600 new trees and shrubs planted on grounds the size of half a tennis court, with 50 different plant species commonly found around Tarrawanna. This will create a diverse and dense mix of native plants, chosen to replicate the layers of a forest.

The climate action benefits from creating the tiny forest include more shade, cooler air, homes and food for wildlife, a buffer to reduce noise, restoration of local biodiversity, educational benefit to the children and a way to absorb harmful carbon emissions to create a more liveable future.

Preparation for each site includes using our own premium and nutrient boosted Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) compost. Our food waste turns into compost which was used to grow this tiny forest.

The next stop for our tiny forest will be Dimond Bros Park at Dapto and the Wollongong Botanic Garden.



[IMAGE: Tarrawanna Public School students at the Tiny Forest project at Harrigan Park]

GOAL 1: WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Coordinate community environmental programs, including Rise and Shine Program, Clean Up Australia Day, World Environment Day, National Recycling Week, International Composting Week and other sustainability and waste education activities

The June quarter saw our International Compost Week on 1 May through to 7 May 2022. A free event included workshops celebrating the Food Organic Garden Organic (FOGO). The events were held at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre where the community learned about worms and their important role within gardens. Free worm farms were also given away.

A compost inspired movie screening, home composting workshops and a FOGO school poster competition was held, enabling participants opportunities to get involved and learn something new. The prize winner received a visit to their school from Eton Gorge Theatre Company to present the environmental play, the *Fogone Conclusion*.

Compost is a gift back to soil, where food scraps and garden waste are turned into a valuable natural fertiliser returning nitrogen and vital nutrients to the soil. Here in Wollongong, we can see this action as the food scraps and garden waste we put into our FOGO (green-lidded bins) turns into premium compost.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions placing some community environment programs put on hold, events which were conducted included cloth nappies workshops (four), worm farming (one), composting (one) and the Christmas all wrapped up event

In March 2022 Council's work to help keep Australia beautiful was recognised by the collection of four major Awards as part of the NSW Sustainable Communities – Tiny Towns Awards. The Awards recognise projects around litter, waste management, recycling, heritage, community spirit and other environment areas. Wollongong was the winner in four categories for populations over 23,000 taking out the 'Communication and Engagement Award' for *Operation Nappy* program focusing on renewable nappies; 'Response to Climate Change Award' for Council's work towards Net Zero; 'Community Spirit and Inclusion Award' which was awarded to Green Connect for their COVID-19 care packages and the 'overall population' winner for our category.

Some of the many programs Council is working on to create a sustainable environment include recommencements of online nappy workshops across early childhood centres (on 1 March), the ramping up FOGO education and promotions, and cross promotion with summer cleansing program when engaging with local residents. 'Clean up Australia Day' activities were held, although these were heavily impacted by severe weather.



[IMAGE: Council FOGO bin]

GOAL 1: WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Implement planning controls to mitigate the impact of development on the natural environment and visual amenity of our spaces and urban areas

A number of key reviews and plans were worked on throughout 2021-2022, including a review of the Development Control Plan (DCP) Chapter E23 Riparian Land Management.

During the June 2022 quarter, Council endorsed the Boarding House chapter and the Duck Creek-Marshall Vale Neighbourhood Plan to be exhibited and the chapters for Corrimal Coke Works.

To deliver Council's commitment to protecting our environment, a review of the Local Planning and Assessment Framework is being undertaken. With Council's target of a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 for the city and net-zero emissions for Council operations by 2030, it is important homes and infrastructure are built that are energy efficient and can withstand the challenges of climate change. A Climate Friendly Planning Framework Discussion Paper was drafted to present to the community, outlining ideas on how developments throughout the city can be more climate friendly. The Discussion Paper identifies five focus areas for potential changes to the Local Planning Framework:

- Landscaping and urban greening;
- Solar and energy efficiency;
- Materials, building form and waste;
- Transport and car parking;
- Policies and incentives.

Community consultation commenced in June 2022 with feedback being sought to inform the future Local Planning and Assessment Framework.



Wollongong City Council

Climate Friendly
Planning Framework
Review Discussion
Paper



[IMAGE: Climate Friendly Planning Framework Discussion Paper]

GOAL 1: WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Develop and implement the Floodplain Risk Management Plans

During the year, Council was awarded the 2022 Floodplain Management Award by Floodplain Management Australia. The Award recognised the work in planning for flooding and taking steps to reduce the impact on people, property and environment. Council has also been planning for the future as severe weather events increase.

During the June 2022 quarter, a review of the following Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans were underway:

- Allans Creek
- Collins Creek
- Fairy and Cabbage Tree Creeks
- Mullet Creek
- Wollongong City
- Towradgi Creek
- Hewitts Creek

It is anticipated the draft Hewitts and Towradgi Creek Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans will be placed on public exhibition and recommended for adoption by Council in the first half of 2022-2023.

During the year, Council received funding through the NSW Floodplain Management Grants for the following catchments:

- Brooks Creek
- Kully Bay, Minnegang and Hospital Creeks

Council is planning to partner with Shellharbour City Council and apply for joint funding to undertake the review of Lake Illawarra Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan as part of the next round of NSW Government funding (2022-2023).

Implementation of Floodplain Risk Management Plans also continued; the Debris Control Structure detailed signage has been completed and is ready for construction during 2022-2023 for four sites across the Local Government Area.

Other key designs currently progressing include:

- Ursula Road Flood Mitigation scheme – concept design
- McMahon Street Detention Basin – detailed design
- Bellambi Gully Flood Mitigation scheme – detailed design
- Uralba Street Channel Remediation – concept design

GOAL 1: WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Coordinate natural area restoration works at priority sites

Throughout the year, natural area management works continued at 159 sites across the Local Government Area. During the June 2022 quarter, 22 site inspections and 89 natural area maintenance requests were completed.

With recent wet weather and subsequent damage to waterways and natural areas, a significant increase in requests were received. Volunteer programs were heavily affected by COVID-19 restrictions throughout the year. A new tender panel has been approved for up to five years.



[IMAGE: Towradgi Creek]

Develop and implement proactive education program relating to the minimisation of air water and noise pollution

Council has engaged the services of an industry registered organisation to provide erosion and sediment control training for developers, builders, trades and Council staff to provide a presence in the efforts to continue to minimise and/or remove the result of pollution matters.

Council continues to work within the parameters of the *Get the Site Right* program as well as attending to the increased concerns raised by the community regarding water pollution matters which was manifested by the torrential rain events experienced during the June 2022 quarter. *Get the Site Right* is a campaign which targets erosion and sediment control on commercial and residential building sites across NSW, and also addresses compliance with conditions of consent with respect to noise and air pollution. *Get the Site Right* is a joint program between the Wollongong City Council, Parramatta River Catchment Group, Cooks River Alliance, Georges River Combined Councils Committee, Sydney Coastal Councils Group, Lake Macquarie Council, NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, and a growing number of local councils.

A Fact Sheet relating to the keeping of poultry at residential premises was produced during the June 2022 quarter to educate the community on the requirements to manage air, noise, and water pollution. Throughout the year, Council has expanded its capacity to proactively educate the community and development industry relating to air, noise and water pollution by participating in the *Get the Site Right* campaign to proactively investigate sites and educate industry to minimise pollution. Pollution matters are provided immediate attendance to minimise air, water and noise pollution.

GOAL 1: WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Implement and review annual water and energy saving actions

Council continues to integrate water and energy saving actions into projects as a matter of business as usual. A significant highlight of the year is the completion of Council's Administration Building solar car park structure. The structure is reducing the Administration Building's emissions footprint by approximately 25%. The structure will also demonstrate leadership and commitment to attaining the Net Zero operations target. Furthermore, the Sustainable Building Strategy has undergone a comprehensive review. It is proposed the strategy will be presented to Council in August 2022.

Council continued to provide technical support to lease and licence holders with regards to sustainability improvements including the installation of proposed photovoltaic system and value/performance, structural suitability/permissibly, life expectancy, electrical and mounting methodology. Council's engagement with industry leaders such as the Green Building Council of Australia and research institutions such as the University of Wollongong (UoW) allows for cross organisational knowledge sharing and capacity building. Council is also working with the UoW to support the delivery of the Integrated Design Studio subject.



[IMAGE: Council's Administration Car Park Solar Project, Stewart Street Wollongong]

GOAL 1: WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Performance Measures Q4 2021-2022

- Participation rate in environmental programs *[#] | 21, 526 (Q4 2020-2021 – 85,574¹)
- Number of volunteers for Environmental Programs - Greenhouse Park[#] | 276 (Q4 2020-2021 – 94)
- Plants Propagated[#] | 69,545 (Q4 2020-2021 – 70,735)
- Plants Distributed[#] | 46,772 (Q4 2020-2021 – 55,927)
- Tonnes of Rubbish collected from clean-up activities[#] | 60 (Q4 2020-2021 – 35)
- Number of volunteers worked at Bushcare and FIReady sites*[#] | 374 (Q4 2020-2021 – 1,655)

¹ 2020-2021 participation rate in environmental programs included 67, 953 who attended Sunset Cinema and Sculpture in the Garden at the Wollongong Botanic Garden

* Impacted by COVID-19 restrictions

[#] Figures (including comparatives) have been prepared on an accumulative, annual basis

GOAL 2: WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Work with other levels of government and the business community to respond to COVID-19 impacts on the economy

Throughout 2021-2022, Council worked in collaboration with other levels of government and the business community to respond to COVID-19 impacts. The start of the year saw Council roll deliver its business support program for local businesses, in partnership with *Investible*. This program was developed to empower local businesses by providing the education, support and tools they need to grow their business into the future, as an important element of Council's broader COVID-19 Community Assistance Program adopted at its meeting of 2 August 2021. Also at this meeting, Council endorsed a 'buy local' campaign for the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). The campaign aimed to drive spending at local businesses in lead up to festive season to support LGA economy and employment, as the community emerged from lockdown.

As part of the ongoing recovery program throughout the first half of the year, the promotion of outdoor dining continued. In total, 30 businesses were approved for outdoor dining in the last six months. Of these, 20 were new businesses seeking to start outdoor dining, and 10 were existing businesses seeking to renew or expand their existing outdoor dining footprint.

During the September 2021 quarter, Council rolled out its Business Support Program for local business, in partnership with *Investible*. The support programs included two separate ten-week programs, *Primed to Thrive* and *Thrive* both commenced in late September and ran through to the end of November 2021. The programs focused on empowering small business owners and providing them with the tools to remain competitive despite the COVID-19 restrictions and grow to take their business to the next level. *Primed to Thrive* and *Thrive* attracted 95 attendees and 171 applications. 60% of participants indicated they are looking to employ more staff over the next 12 months.

The buy local awareness campaign, *We Shop the Gong*, launched in December 2021 as part of Council's COVID-19 Assistance Program. 154 businesses participated across the LGA, and results of advertising and toolkits were positive. Using digital advertising, the campaign achieved 649,974 impressions and 4,245 clicks. Campaign videos received 8,436 YouTube views and the campaign website received 6,717 page views. Radio and bus advertisements were successfully endorsed, and 11,200 pieces of merchandise were distributed. Through business engagement there were 106 clicks to download graphics, 45 stories submitted and 1,230 uses of #weshopthegong.

In continuation of the campaign, *We Shop the Gong* also launched its new advertising campaign for June in alignment with the expiration of the NSW 'Dine and Discover Vouchers.' The advertising campaign included digital marketing, radio advertisements and a landing page on Council's website that provided information about how to use the Dine and Discover Vouchers in the local economy. The campaign achieved 209,480 impressions and 1,608 clicks through to the landing page. The campaign also received 109 reactions, 20 shares and 5 comments to social media posts, driving increased community engagement. According to Service NSW, during the June campaign voucher redemption increased 837% compared to the previous month.

In addition to these initiatives, Council has continued its coordination of the post-COVID Peak Bodies Taskforce to work together to address both the economic opportunities and challenges that the region has faced in a post pandemic economy. The Taskforce has identified six major themes that signify priority areas for economic recovery. These themes are skills; clean energy; investment attraction; cycling; affordable housing and transport connectivity.

GOAL 2: WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Investigate the development of Wollongong as a learning community, based on UNESCO framework and principles

The June 2022 quarter saw the launch of community engagement activities for the Learning City Project. Part of our community vision is for Wollongong to be a city where everyone has the opportunity to learn, to be creative and to become connected. That's why, by 2024 we are aiming to become a learning city. A community engagement plan for the Learning City Project was developed in consultation with approximately 40 lifelong learning stakeholders across city. These community engagement activities and tools were designed in consultation with community organisations and groups to increase access to participation for diverse members of the community. Engagement activity has included briefings, interviews, facilitated group discussions and focus groups.

During the year, Council demonstrated its commitment to becoming a UNESCO Learning City by retaining Goal 4 'We are connected and engaged community' in the new Community Strategic Plan 2032. Other highlights from the project included:

- All objectives in Phase 1 - Internal engagement, governance and commitment completed. Learning City Project Working Group and Project Control Group with 30 representatives from across Council;
- Mapping of Council's broad range of community education offerings were carried out;
- Development of a community education evaluation framework that measures the impact of our work in a coordinated way;
- Extended learning opportunities for the community through local and global learning festivals;
- Actively participated in local, national and international learning city and library networks including *GLAMawarra* (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums in the Illawarra), the Australian Learning Communities Network, the Australian Library and Information Association, Adult Learning Australia and UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning;
- Developed a community engagement plan which fosters a collective impact approach to the development of a learning city strategy/plan for Wollongong in Phase 2 of the Learning City Project;
- Developed an internal action plan to support the implementation of Phase 1 outcomes and establish a more coordinated, collaborative approach to community education across business units;
- Embedded learning city objectives into the Community Strategic Plan 2032 and Delivery Program 2022-2026.



[IMAGE: Calling for involvement to build Wollongong as a learning city]

GOAL 2: WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Implement the Economic Development Strategy 2021-2029

During the year, Council continued to work towards the goals of the Economic Development Strategy 2021-2029. The Strategy sets a jobs target of 10,500 new jobs by 2028. Through 2021-2022, according to the latest data from EconomyID, the Local Government Area (LGA) has grown 1,115 jobs. However, Wollongong is 578 jobs below our baseline set in 2017-2018. This indicates the local job market is continuing to recover but has not returned to pre-COVID-19 levels. Therefore, accelerating job growth has been a key focus this year across the organisation and the city.

Council facilitated 31 new enquiries during the June 2022 quarter, ranging from business support/information to facilitating larger projects through Invest Wollongong. This makes the total number of facilitated enquiries for the year 81. Council continues to facilitate many longer-term ongoing projects during the June quarter, via Council's Major Project process.

This year saw Council staff develop knowledge capabilities through the investment in innovative economic software. A key new tool is Spendmapp, which is used to analyse spending patterns in the LGA. In addition, Monitor CRMS was launched, which enables Council to engage with over 8,000 business and provides information on 15,000 business in the LGA. Property Daily is another service that has been acquired as part of our knowledge hub program. The platform assists staff to identify potential businesses that could be interested in relocating to Wollongong.

The 'Doing Business with Wollongong City Council' event has held in late October 2021 which raised understanding about the opportunities of being a supplier or contractor to Council's Infrastructure Delivery Program as well as Council's procurement processes. Over 80 local business representatives attended this session.

To help ignite new job growth, Council staff began mapping the innovation ecosystem to understand local performance and processes of commercialisation within the LGA. Mapping the ecosystem is a significant step in more robustly supporting the start-up community and tech sector within Wollongong.

Implement a range of pilot projects and activation strategies across the city centre precincts

Emerging from COVID-19 restrictions, the focus for the 2021-2022 year has been to create colourful creative places that create a cause to pause in the CBD alongside a program of activation, spearheaded by local live music. Various seasonal dressing has been applied to the CBD precincts, with a particular focus on Crown Street Mall and surrounds and live music programming from DJs to multi-person ensembles. Support was provided to Globe Lane's summer DJ music program and continued through Autumn 2022. *Live@Lunch* continued in Crown Street Mall twice weekly in partnership with Wollongong Conservatorium of Music and the Illawarra Folk Club. The outdoor dining working group continued to test a range of opportunities for CBD businesses for alfresco dining, with a particular focus on precinct planning for Globe and Crown Lanes. The Crown Lane temporary road closure has been extended until September 2022, following the success of the three-month pilot trial. New outdoor dining decks' have been provided to support alfresco dining in the Crown Lane precinct.

During the June 2022 quarter, *Laneways Live* festival returned to Crown Lane, Globe Lane and the Crown Street Mall Wollongong in late May. The free four-day event featured live music, live street art, live performances, live circus acts and a wide variety of food and drinks. As part of the festival, streets came to life with painted murals in both Crown Lane and Crown Street Mall by local artist and crated by Verb Syndicate of Wonderwalls fame. *Laneways Live* is an initiative to boost local businesses and give local performers a chance to showcase their talent. The event is funded by the NSW Government's CBDs Revitalisation Program and produced by Council.

GOAL 2: WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Vibrant and locally inspired nature artwork by artist Karla Hayes was also installed during the June 2022 quarter on the former Integral Building (corner of Church and Burelli Streets).

Planning continued throughout the June quarter for CBD activations to form part of the *Spinfest* cultural festival, coinciding with the 2022 UCI Road World Championships in September 2022. Council is also working to finalise design and progress fabrication for CBD creative wayfinding works in Globe Lane.



[IMAGE: Activation of Globe Lane, Wollongong]

Engage in a range of activities that provide opportunities and promote Wollongong City Council as an employer of choice including the Cadet, Apprentice and Trainee and Work Experience programs and in partnership with educational institutions

During 2021-2022, Council welcomed and inducted 18 new Cadets, Apprentices and Trainees in February and March 2022. Planning for the 2023 intake is currently underway with the view to initiate recruitment during the September 2022 quarter. Council is currently supporting 58 Cadets, Apprentices, Trainees and School-Based Trainees across the organisation. Seven civil engineering undergraduates interned at Council during summer 2021-2022.

Council reintroduced the School Work Experience and Vocational Education and Training (VET) Placement program in 2022 after being on hold due COVID-19 restrictions. 45 placements are on offer to Year 10, 11 and 12 Illawarra High School students across the organisation.

In Spring 2021, Council awarded the 'Work Integrated Learning Scholarship', in conjunction with the University of Wollongong, for the field of 'Visualising Science' derived emissions to support the achievement of towards net zero. Planning for the Spring 2022 Scholarship is currently underway.

GOAL 2: WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Seek out opportunities to incorporate green technology in Council's projects and contracts

During 2021-2022, Council delivered a range of projects incorporating green technology. A significant highlight was the construction of the Administration Building solar car park, generating up to 1.3 megawatt hours per day and has capacity to reduce the building's emissions footprint by approximately 25%. Other projects currently programmed or scoped include:

- High efficiency pool treatment and filtration plant upgrades;
- Several large air conditioning projects;
- Replacement of the Botanic Garden nursery heating system;
- Development of all electric tourist park cabin specifications and demand management battery systems;
- Several solar shade structures designed to offset pool energy consumption at public swimming pools;
- Comprehensive review of the Sustainable Building Strategy has been completed.

Contribute to the promotion of tourism in Wollongong through the management of Council's 3 tourist parks at Bulli, Corrimal and Windang

Despite being closed due to COVID-19 restrictions for over three months, the parks welcomed over 90 families who had no fixed address or required accommodation for essential purposes. The Tourist Parks have since recovered well following forced closure. A re-opening Marketing Plan was established and implemented focusing on local stays in a safe environment. Recovery of local Council's Tourist Parks continued during the June 2022 quarter with ongoing promotions targeting the use of the NSW Governments Stay and Parents NSW Vouchers. So far, \$140,000 of these have been redeemed across the three parks.

Performance Measures Q4 2021-2022

- Number of visitations to the tourism information centres*# | 23,045 (Q4 2020-2021 – 32,537)
- Tourist Park occupancy rate of cabins * | 68% (Q4 2020-2021 – 62%)
- Occupancy rates of paid on street parking* | 69% (Q4 2020-2021 – 77%)
- Tourist parks occupancy rate of unpowered sites* | 18% (Q4 2020-2021 – 29%)
- Tourist parks occupancy rate of powered sites* | 39% (Q4 2020-2021 – 42%)

* Impacted by COVID-19

Figures (including comparatives) have been prepared on an accumulative, annual basis

GOAL 3: WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Facilitate events occurring for NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week and Sorry Day

During the year, Council completed a range of projects promoting reconciliation and harmony. During the June 2022 quarter, the community was invited to help celebrate National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June) at the Wollongong Youth Centre. This event formally launched Council's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2021-2023. At the end of 2021, Council formalised our commitment to reconciliation with Council endorsing the RAP 2021-2023, which provides meaningful actions Council can take over the next two years that focus on relationships, respect, opportunities and governance. The day was filled with traditional performances, school workshops, weaving activities, poetry and storytelling, live music, DJ sets and food.

Council's vision for reconciliation is a shared future where Aboriginal culture is celebrated and thrives. Council acknowledges our past and recognises the deep connection the Traditional custodians of Dharawal Country with these lands and waters.

During the year, Council's NAIDOC week grants were advertised in February and closed in May 2022. These grants are available to community groups to assist with strengthening community wellbeing through participation in events/activities celebrating the achievements and cultures of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders community. Council hosted the NAIDOC Regional Awards Dinner in July 2022, which will include local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers.



[IMAGE: Acknowledgement of Country signage installed at Council-run facilities]

GOAL 3: WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Deliver the annual Comic Gong Festival

During the June 2022 quarter, Comic Gong was held on 14 May. The city came to life in the colourful celebration of everything comic for the annual Comic Gong Festival. The event attracted thousands, celebrating a shared love of comics, graphic novels and pop culture. This year's Comic Gong was particularly special, as the event has been unable to delivered for the past two years due to COVID-19 restrictions. To manage large crowds, the event was spread over five different locations for the first time: Wollongong Library, Wollongong Town Hall, Wollongong Art Gallery, the Arts Precinct and lower Crown Street Mall. The Crown Street Mall featured as a new location for the exhibitors. While this was due to social distancing requirements within Town Hall, it added another element to the festival. Local businesses welcomed the additional foot traffic in the area and new community members who happened to be in Crown Street Mall at the time were introduced to the Festival. A quiet space was also established under the Town Hall for those needing respite from the day, further enhancing the accessibility of the event.

The familiar cosplay competitions, face painters, arcade alley, board games, children's activities and local Lego robotics group, *Project Bucephalus*, were welcomed by Comic Gong regulars. A new legion of fans were entertained by the Superman Stunt show in the Arts Precinct, *Battle Cry* LARP (Live Action Role Playing) and later at the after party, the Steampunk Vagabonds with their pirate dancing. Over 12,000 people attended Comic Gong.



[IMAGE: Battle Cry Live Action Role Players demonstrate swordplay at Comic Gong 2022]

GOAL 3: WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Deliver the Public Art Strategy

Despite delays due to COVID-19 restrictions, 2021-2022 saw a number of new public art works installed throughout the year. Installations included: *Eye on the Horizon at Hill 60*, as part of the Ngaraba-aan Trail Port Kembla; the Bellambi entry statement; painted shared cycleway in MacCabe Park; a photographic exhibition celebrating the Country Women's Association centenary; and new art panels being renewed at Port Kembla Pool.

The renewed Public Art Strategy (2022-2032) is in draft and being prepared for public exhibition, providing an opportunity to strengthen Council's commitment to its public art collection. The Strategy provides a framework to support Council's commitment to public art, articulating why and how Council engages with public art in our city.

Highlights from the Public Art Maintenance Program included mosaic repair in Burelli Street, Belmore Basin and pavement art at Thirroul Library. An assessment has been made on Green Box Park in Bellambi with regards to repair of totem poles and graffiti removal. Cleaning and checking of artworks in Unanderra required a replacement art panel for the Sports Facility. Graffiti removal and new murals as part of Anti-Graffiti Program have been completed at sites in Wollongong, Fairy Meadow and Tarrawanna.

During the June 2022 quarter, there have been a number of programs and operations in the public art portfolio. These include a new heritage photographic exhibition celebrating the Country Women's Association centenary in the Bonacina Walkway Wollongong; new panels printed and ready for install at the Port Kembla Pool; Col Henry's work *Reflect*, is ready for installation at Moranga Park, Clifton and a new pilot project of a painted shared cycleway in MacCabe Park was completed.



[IMAGES: Mural painting on a traffic light signal box as part of an anti-graffiti program]

GOAL 3: WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Deliver key funded strategies from Creative Wollongong

The cultural development projects relating to Creative Wollongong continued to be rolled out throughout 2021–2022. Projects previously impacted by COVID-19 are now back on track for face-to-face delivery.

Viva Engine Room delivered three major projects in 2021–2022. A live community performance element of *Standing on the Ceiling* was showcased at the Council grant funded Port Kembla Festival, presented by Holy Pavlova on 23 April. The free festival took place across six venues in Port Kembla, requiring a RSVP only and included art exhibitions, light installations and featured over 20 artists.

A community film festival as the next iteration of the youth film festival held in 2021 was delivered at the Gala Cinema Warrawong in April 2022.

Upsurge, a visual arts event/exhibition, was cancelled due to weather impacts in May 2022 rescheduled to the Arts Precinct from 15 July, with 13 local Wollongong artists exhibiting and a range of workshops held.

Two new projects supported through Council's COVID-19 Community Assistance Program were implemented throughout the year: Artist Mentorship/professional development and Artist in Residence programs. These projects see Council engage with local creative business/artists to develop their creative and business skills.

ARTWARD: Art in Unexpected Places, brings artists working in diverse practices and disciplines to some of Council's facilities and unexpected spaces to develop a new creative work. The new works will be an expression of place, people, and/or spaces. Two residencies have been awarded in each Council Ward. One as a direct, creative artist site-specific response and one community arts engagement project.

Quick Response Grants with a new marketing support category were delivered in November 2021. *WEAVE* artist online network is continuing to build in partnership with Shellharbour, Kiama and Wingecarribee Councils. A Survey was developed and distributed to this network during the December 2021 quarter to gain feedback on *WEAVE*'s impact and future direction.

Council staff have also been involved in the preliminary needs assessment for cultural opportunities in West Dapto and worked to upgrade facilities for dance and circus at two Community Halls.



[IMAGE: Port Kembla Festival Promotion banner]

GOAL 3: WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Deliver library programs that recognise and reflect the cultural diversity of our community

During the June 2022 quarter, the library has fulfilled 25 requests for items in 15 different community languages through the State Library of NSW Multicultural Bulk Loans Service.

The June quarter also saw the celebration of Refugee Week (19-25 June 2022). The event was marked through a series of videos featuring interviews with former refugees, posted on social media and Council's website. This was a collaborative project with Council and Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families (SCARF) who assisted with recruitment of speakers. An interactive Refugee Week webpage was developed for the library's website featuring information, library resources and educational games. Links to this page were shared with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) organisations and multicultural communities. There was also a speaker event featuring a facilitated discussion with three former refugees was held in Wollongong library. This event was very popular with 42 people in attendance who were actively and empathically engaged. Food for the event was catered by individuals with a refugee background.

As part of Refugee Week, Wollongong library featured a thought-provoking display in the library posing the question "If you had to leave your home in 15 minutes what would you take with you in your backpack?" The display featured actual lists of what some refugees took with them as they fled their homes.

The Tech Savvy Elders pilot program commenced during the June quarter, with the first group training session at Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation. The program included five sessions were with a total of 26 people attending. The program was well received by the community who appreciated the opportunity to participate. Funding for this program was provided by NSW Seniors Card Training (Family and Community Services).

Other events from the 2021-2022 included Harmony Week (21-27 March 2022), celebrated with an animated video campaign on social media. A series of short, engaging videos featuring Library staff (and their children) demonstrating how to count from 1 to 10 in different community languages including Dutch, Sinhalese, German, Japanese, Farsi, Auslan, English, French, Italian and Turkish were created. These videos were posted on Facebook throughout Harmony Week.

Council celebrated Multicultural March with a speaker event called 'Insights into the Refugee Experience' featuring Sophie-May Kerr from SCARF and Elie Butoto, a former refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This event took the form of a question/answer style discussion. A display in partnership with Multicultural Communities Illawarra (MCCI) featuring a banner created by local women from different backgrounds uniting through knitting and crocheting was displayed as part of a MCCI wellbeing project. Council participated in the inaugural Aboriginal Art Trail as one of the eight venues to showcase artworks by local Aboriginal artists. The artworks were on display at Wollongong Library from 11-27 March 2022.



[IMAGE: Kholoud Sultan and (right) Elizabeth Boachie at the Refugee Week Morning Tea at Wollongong Town Hall]

GOAL 3: WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Deliver Council's Annual community events

Throughout 2021-2022 Council events were heavily impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and significant weather events. Despite these challenges, there were several community events delivered in various alternate modes. The Lord Mayor's Giving Tree and Biker's Toy Run events were delivered in an alternative format due to COVID-19 restrictions. New Year's Eve celebrations were delivered in a COVID-Safe format with 9pm Fireworks being held at Belmore Basin, activation of the accessible area and a photographic projection on Wollongong Flagstaff Hill Lighthouse from 8.30pm to 10.30pm for passers-by to enjoy. Australia Day 2022 was acknowledged, with the announcement of the Australia Day Award winners, Citizenship Ceremony and fireworks at Belmore Basin.

Council continued the coordination and planning for community events in the June Quarter with the Wollongong Seniors' Festival delivered in late March and early April 2022. A free community event, Pedal in the Park event was held on 10 April at Lang Park, Wollongong.

Planning for a Cultural Program to be delivered during the 2022 UCI Road World Championships in September 2022 progressed during the June 2022 quarter and is well underway.

Performance Measures Q4 2021-2022

- Library visitations^{*^#} | 947,207 (Q4 2020-2021 – 832,415)
- Library – total number of loans^{*#} | 744,327 (Q4 2020-2021 – 1,235,761)
- Library programs: number of programs^{*#} | 758 (Q4 2020-2021 – 714)
- Library programs: number of participants^{*^#} | 16,529 (Q4 2020-2021 – 34,401)

* Impacted by COVID-19

^ Includes online participants

Figures (including comparatives) have been prepared on an accumulative, annual basis

GOAL 4: WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Deliver the Volunteering Illawarra service

The June 2022 quarter showcased volunteering as the lifeblood to many important social, environment and community programs that take place across the city. The Volunteering Expo was held at Wollongong Town Hall on 19 May, bringing together a range of volunteering opportunities for the community to be part of. The event was hosted by Council's Volunteering Illawarra service which provides support, referral and training opportunities in the Wollongong, Shellharbour, and Kiama Local Government Areas. A wide variety of opportunities from delivering library books, planting trees, assisting students with homework and supporting community events, were showcased along with the UCI Road World Cycling Championships volunteer opportunities.

With Volunteering Illawarra operating within COVID-19 constraints throughout the first part of the year, many services were delivered online including volunteer interviews and referrals, interagency meetings and contact support.

The future of the Volunteering Illawarra service has been under review due to uncertainty of ongoing funding and support from the NSW and Commonwealth Governments. For some time, Council has covered funding shortfalls to support continuity of the service. Changes to the Commonwealth's funding and policy agenda for volunteering, has resulted in Council resolving to close the service by 26 August 2022.



[IMAGE: The Volunteering Expo at Wollongong Town Hall, May 2022]

GOAL 4: WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

In consultation with the community, develop a new a Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan

This year saw the update of the Community Strategic Plan, Resourcing Strategy, four year Delivery Program and a one year Operational Plan as part of the Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Integrated Planning and Reporting document suite. The Community Strategic Plan is a 10-year plan that identifies the community's vision, aspirations and goals for the future. The development of this key document, Our Wollongong Our Future 2032, was achieved through a three phased engagement approach.

Phase 1 of the Community Strategic Plan engagement ran from 12 July to 23 August and involved asking people to share what they love about Wollongong by submitting a photo or comment. The 'I Love Wollongong Because...' project received 155 submissions from community members.

Phase 2 then saw a focus on listening to the community with the following activities running from 6 September to 18 October including a representative Community Survey, Discussion Paper, Survey on Council's website, community circle kits and using our internal networks to reach key groups, Postcards to every household, Engagement through art, traditional methods, targeted workshops – online were all utilised to gather the community's input in to this important document.

Community feedback was collected and presented to the new Councillors in several workshops at the start of 2021. These workshops informed the development of the draft suite of plans which were presented to Council to be placed on exhibition in May 2022 for community feedback as part of Phase 3. The suite of documents were endorsed by Council to be exhibited for public exhibition, for 28 days from 4 May to 31 May 2022. During this time, Council received 356 submissions.

During the June 2022 quarter, finalisation of the Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Integrated Planning and Reporting document suite was completed and adopted by Council. This significant project included the development of a new Community Strategic Plan, four year Delivery Program 2022-2026 and one year Operational Plan 2022-2023 and the Resourcing Strategy.



IMAGE: Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Integrated Planning and Reporting Document Suite

GOAL 4: WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Develop alternate and new methods to engage and connect with our communities, considering limitations imposed on social interactions in response to COVID-19

Throughout the year, Council continued to use a range of methods to reach our diverse community. As Public Health Orders changed and COVID-19 restrictions eased, face-to-face methods of engagement were re-established.

For our online presence, Council's engagement team ran accessibility audits on Council's engagement website, Our Wollongong Our Future 2032, and other key engagement documents.

This has seen improvements in the accessibility of our public content over the year. A new online engagement platform was also introduced for young people. The site provides the opportunity for young people to share their ideas for events, programs and activities at any time as well as provide feedback about Council services.

For identified projects, including the Community Strategic Plan, Stuart Park Master Plan and Rock Fishing Safety initiative, information was translated into different community languages. This helps people from non-English speaking backgrounds to understand key information and be able to share their feedback and ideas.

Council developed an Easy English version of the Community Strategic Plan, which helps people with low-literacy levels understand key elements of the Plan. Across the year, Quick Response (QR) codes have been successfully deployed at project signage locations across the Wollongong Local Government Area to connect people to our engagement activities. These initiatives included a Pop-up Cycleway User Survey, where riders scanned the QR codes at stop signs and crossing points to share their feedback. The Hooka Creek Bridge project saw almost 50% of community responses come via the QR code from signage located on-site.

Council also utilised Short Message Service (SMS) text-message updates for engagement projects for the first time this year, in the Stuart Park Master Plan and Emma McKeon Recognition Projects. This allowed people to text in their ideas and remain updated as projects progressed through Council's decision-making process.

During the June 2022 quarter, the Port Kembla temporary skate facility project saw Council deploying a diverse range of methods, including face-to-face discussions. In this project, Council sent letters to thousands of local residents, included large signage on-site with QR codes linking to people to the engagement website and on-site information sessions. There were over 230 submissions to the engagement and 40 attendees at the information sessions.



[IMAGE: Signage translated in multiple languages for the Stuart Park Master Plan engagement project]

GOAL 4: WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Identify additional opportunities for working in partnership with the local Aboriginal community

The June 2022 quarter saw a significant milestone reached in our commitment to working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to create an inclusive and connected Wollongong. On 3 June 2022 the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2023 (RAP) was launched. The RAP was endorsed by Reconciliation Australia and subsequently adopted by Council.

Throughout the June quarter, Council supported a Reconciliation Week walk event, led by CareWays in Koonawarra which had approximately 500 participants including school and community members. Council has been working with the local Aboriginal community to inform programming for *Spin Fest* a cultural program to be delivered alongside the 2022 UCI Road World Championship event. Including performances, ceremonies and children's activities run by various Aboriginal community members and organisations.

Throughout the year, the RAP Working Group met to discuss, share information, and receive an update on Council's progress on implementing the RAP. The group includes representatives from Illawarra Aboriginal Land Council, Illawarra Medical Services, Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation, and Council's Aboriginal Reference Group. Council worked with members of the Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation to develop artwork and the dreaming story for the book installation, ceramic coolamons and frog (concrete) at Cringila Hills Playground. The works were installed in December 2021 with stories showing the connection between the frog and coolamons in an illustrative and sensory way. The 'Aboriginal People, Places and Stories' video project is nearing completion. Videos are being developed to increase understanding, value and recognition of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, and peoples through cultural learning. The local Aboriginal community have been involved in the development of the video content and some will feature in the videos. The videos will be used as tool to build awareness and understanding with Council staff as well as be shown during Spin Fest and UCI events.



[IMAGE: Welcome to Country Smoking Ceremony at the Wollongong Youth Centre, as part of NAIDOC Week, 2022]

GOAL 4: WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Deliver a diverse range of community engagement opportunities to inform and guide development and delivery of council business

Throughout the year, Council have run a wide range of community engagement initiatives, sharing information with our community and listening to people's thoughts and ideas to inform decisions. To review and revise the Community Strategic Plan, Our Wollongong 2032, Council undertook a 12-month community engagement process across three phases.

A wide range of other engagement have been undertaken throughout the year, such as: Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy (Phase one); West Dapto Suburb Naming; Mobile Food Vending Policy; Pioneers Rest Park; Warrawong Community Centre and Library; Lindsay Maynes Park Criterium Track, Unanderra; Beaton Park Tennis Court upgrades, Retail and Business Centre Study (Phase one) and many others.

The three-phased approach was used for the Community Strategic Plan project provided the community a range of ways to share their ideas and ensure the final Plan reflected our community's vision, aspirations and goals. Through surveys, workshops, postcard responses and responses to previous relevant engagement activities, over 8,900 community voices contributed to the Plan, which was adopted by Council in June 2022.

The Stuart Park Master Plan engagement has been a collaborative process, as we work towards a draft plan to share for additional community feedback. In the first phase of engagement, we heard from 860 people ranging in age from early education and care services through to those in their 90's, and several organisations. Since then, we've been working closely with local Aboriginal communities to explore and understand the cultural significance of the area. The draft Master Plan will be shared for comment during the September 2022 quarter.

Council rolled out community engagement activities as part of the *Carve a New Trail* project in Bulli, Dapto and Fairy Meadow. We invited children, young people and families to share their feedback on the trail designs and sought community feedback on three locations in Bulli. Following community feedback, the trails were constructed, and ongoing improvements continue to be made across the sites to ensure the trails meet community needs.

Manage the Merrigong function agreement for IPAC and the Town Hall

Throughout 2021-2022 Merrigong faced challenges with COVID-19 restrictions in place. Service delivery was modified in response and delivery of a live streamed event, *Made from Scratch* occurred in September 2022. Hosted online, the event was a digital presentation of new and experimental performance works from local artists, as part of the *MERRIGONGX2021* program. Our *Made from Scratch* evenings continue, connecting local artists of comedy, music, theatre and dance with a supportive audience to test new materials and build connections.

As the restrictions eased, venues were made available to support a small number of local artists to continue development of new work, under strict COVID-19 protocols. This included filming of Ali Gordon's *The Clown is Sad*, presented in association with Riverside Theatres Spot on Children's Festival. Digital audience engagement also included social media content, blog posts and regular email updates. The lockdown period presented an opportunity for Merrigong to partner with a local not-for-profit social enterprise, Green Connect. The Merrigong's chef prepared healthy meals, which were donated to those in our community most in need and struggling to make ends meet, via the Green Connect *Give One, Get One* program. The IPAC team coordinated deliveries with a number of staff, including casuals, volunteering to deliver the meals to the most vulnerable in our community.

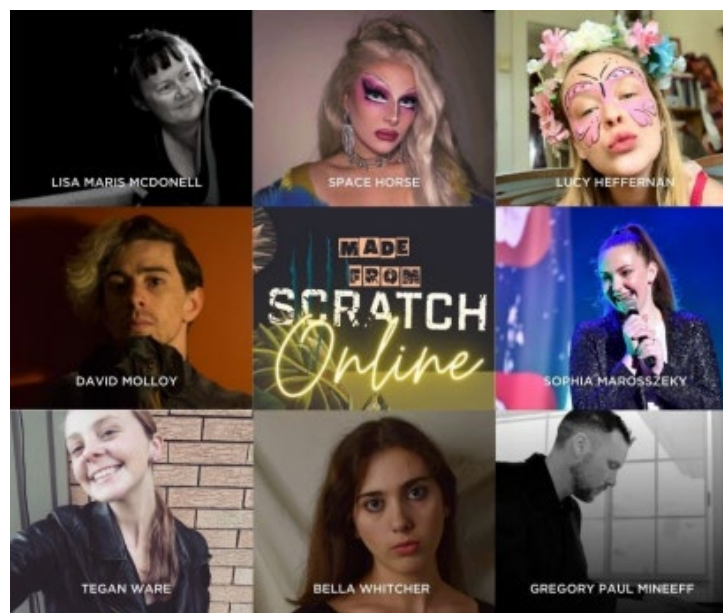
GOAL 4: WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Later in the year Merrigong's mainstage season continued some exciting productions: an international work from London's Donmar Warehouse, *Blindness*, was a new immersive theatre experience for our audiences delivered predominantly in darkness using audio technology. *Double Delicious*, a Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (CAAP) production featuring five of Australia's famous Asian-Australian names telling personal stories of food while the audience ate the very dishes which had inspired the performers. This provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships with and support local catering businesses.

The continuation of our program saw delivery four local artist fantastic shows. Each one unique and showcasing different artforms including circus, choreography and stop-motion animation.

During the year, The Music Lounge has been busy with a full program including local folk band *We Mavericks* (2 April 2022) programmed as part of Great Southern Nights, the ARIA, NSW Government and Destination NSW initiative to fund live music events in NSW. The Merrigong Strategic Plan has a strong focus on diversity, inclusion and improving our community engagement. Merrigong is working with Deakin University on a sector-wide research project 'Diversification of Audiences' which will explore how organisational systems and processes can be adapted and updated to encourage greater engagement with diverse communities.

Council is participating as pilot presenter partner for the *ENGAGE* program being administered by CAAP. We continue to build improved services for our audiences with disability; communication (access) boards were finalised in conjunction with Access Ability Australia and circulated to visitor departments. These boards are used as communications support in any interaction between staff and patrons if there are barriers to speech or understanding. We are also working with Council teams to develop training for staff to support an exceptional visitor experience for patrons with disability who enjoy engaging with the arts.



[IMAGE: 'Made From Scratch' Promotion]

GOAL 4: WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Deliver civic activities which recognise and celebrate the city's people

During 2021-2022 Council delivered a number of civic events which recognise the contribution of our community. One of our annual events held was The Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony. The Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony is the largest Ceremony on Wollongong's calendar, usually held at the Wollongong Town Hall and includes the ceremony, presentation of certificates and gifts for our new citizens, entertainment, speeches and a special acknowledgement of the Wollongong Australia Day Award winners.

This annual event highlights efforts in a range of categories including Citizen of the Year, Arts and Cultural, Sports, Innovation, Diversity and Inclusion among others. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the award ceremony was delivered as a hybrid online event. The ceremony was delivered with MC Jeremy Lasek and Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbery AM at the Music Lounge in Wollongong Town Hall and engaged a local TV production company to film and live stream the ceremony and announcement of the awards. At the event, Council acknowledged the outstanding achievements of local Olympic champion swimmer, Emma McKeon. The event saw 180 people in attendance online using streaming software. Attendees included the nominees, the Australia Day Committee, Council's senior management, Councillors, Members of Parliament and the Australia Day Ambassador, Brian Goorjian.

Council worked with Illawarra Academy of Sport in the delivery of the Illawarra Academy of Sport Scholarship Reception which was attended by 180 guests on 22 June 2022. After two years of hybrid events this reception was able to resume in a face-to-face format.



[IMAGE: 2022 Wollongong Citizen of the Year and Olympic Gold Medallist, Emma McKeon]

GOAL 4: WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Performance Measures Q4 2021-2022

- Sick Leave | 6.71 Days (Q4 2020-2021 -7.24 days)
- Carers Leave | 0.46 Days (Q4 2020-2021 – 0.57 days)
- Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate | 13.73 (Q4 2020-2021 – 14.68)
- Workers compensation costs as a percentage of payroll | 2% (Q4 2020-2021– 1.8%)
- Number of media releases issued | 300 (Q4 2020-2021– 288)
- Number of Council Facebook page 'likes' | 38,039 (Q4 2020-2021 – 2,836)
- Number of Twitter followers for Council | 7,060 (Q4 2020-2021 – 6,731)
- Telephone calls are answered within 30 seconds | 87% (Q4 2020-2021 – 93%)
- Enquiries made in person are welcomed and attended to within 5 minutes* | 90% (Q4 2020-2021 – 96%)

* Impacted by COVID-19

GOAL 5: WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Continue to work and support the investigation and business case development for formal sport, educational and recreational cycling facilities such as learn to ride facilities, pump tracks and BMX facilities

During the year and in accordance with the with the Cycling Strategy 2030, a number of major initiatives were delivered. The December 2021 quarter saw the completion of the Cringila Hills Mountain bike trail and construction plans for the Cringila pump cycling track finalised. Community consultation commenced on the Lyndsay Maynes Park, Unanderra Criterium Track with a detailed design phase. The project is anticipated to be complete during August 2022.

In October, the Cringila Hills Mountain Bike Trail opened. This was a major milestone in the implementation of the Cringila Hills Recreation Masterplan located within Cringila Community Park and is Council's first Mountain Bike Park. The Mountain Bike Park has an exciting mix of almost 12 kilometres of trails for riders to explore, catering to beginner and intermediate riders. The tracks have a mix of gradients, surfaces and obstacles.

The summer holiday period delivered fun for the kids with new bike tracks popping up across the Local Government Area as part of the *Carve a New Trail* project. Throughout the summer holidays and in partnership with companies like Dirt Art and Iconic Trails, Council developed and built a number of tracks near existing illegal bike trails, offering young riders the chance to improve their riding skills in their local community while preventing environmental damage. The tracks in Bulli, Fairy Meadow, West Wollongong and Horsley are designed to suit riders of different levels, with information on the track's skill requirements available on Council's website. Local trails and tracks are a key part of our cycling focus as a Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Bike City.

The June 2022 quarter saw the formal opening of the Cringila Hills Pump Track by NSW Minister for Planning and Homes Hon. Anthony Roberts MP and Wollongong Lord Mayor, Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM. The asphalt track is suitable for bicycles, skateboards, scooters, roller skates and blades and provides an opportunity to build skills and confidence. The approximately 225m-long looped track features rollers, doubles, dragon backs and berms that can be enjoyed by riders of all skill levels and is a welcome addition to the riding attractions at Cringila Hills. The new pump track will be joined shortly by a bike skills park, which remains under construction with an anticipated opening during the September 2022 quarter.



[Image: Opening of the Cringila Hills Pump Track, June 2022]

GOAL 5: WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Pursue Playground renewals in accordance with the Play Wollongong Strategy 2014-2024 and adopted Capital Works program

Throughout the year, Council continued to offer and maintain diverse and engaging play spaces across the city to create a healthy and safe living environment for the community. Playground renewals completed throughout the year include Cringila Hills Playground, Barina Park (Primbee), Wisemans Park Gwynneville and Central Park Reserve (Haywards Bay). The start of the year saw contracts for renewal works awarded for Rae Crescent (Balgownie), Bulli Beach Reserve, Rube Hargrave Park (Clifton), Guest Park (Fairy Meadow), Cawley Park (Russell Vale) and Wongawilli Playground.

These works are in line with Council's Infrastructure Delivery Program saw the investment of more than \$1M during the year to replace current playgrounds with contemporary play equipment including accessible soft fall surfacing. Upgrades to all playgrounds are part of our Strategy to make play a priority by investing in and upgrading our existing playgrounds.

During the June 2022 quarter, three playgrounds were opened at Bulli Beach Reserve, Rae Crescent Reserve, Balgownie and Rube Hargrave Park in Clifton. Work on a further two playgrounds in Cawley Park, Russell Vale and Wongawilli Community Hall are due for completion in July 2022.

Preparations and onsite works to renew these playgrounds commenced in April, and included \$450,000 of upgrades to the improve the play experience including:

- At Bulli Beach Reserve – a higher tower slide, accessible trampoline and mini bike path
- Rae Crescent Reserve, Balgownie – new play equipment featuring a climbing theme
- Rube Hargrave Park, Clifton – a variety of new equipment to cater for all ages.

People of all ages and abilities enjoy play and these spaces are valued by all members of our community, especially children.



[IMAGE: Bulli Beach Reserve Playground]

GOAL 5: WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Manage Council's commercial businesses to maximise return at Corrimal, Bulli and Windang Tourist parks, Beaton Park Leisure Centre and Wollongong Memorial Gardens

While the start of the year saw Council's Leisure Centres and Tourist Parks remain closed due COVID-19 restrictions, this time was well utilised to ensure winter maintenance tasks were completed, supported by the addition of re-deployed staff from other areas. Tourist Parks and Leisure Centres reopened to the public in October 2021, with increasing numbers across both services leading into the Christmas period.

Throughout the year, renewal of amenities at Corrimal Tourist Park was completed, new equipment purchases made for the Leisure Centres and the implementation of live streaming of Memorial Services commenced to adapt to COVID-19 restrictions.

Bringing people back to our businesses was focus during the June 2022 quarter, with a Parents and Stay NSW promotion vouchers within the Tourist Parks that has seen \$140,000 in vouchers redeemed. Within the Leisure Centres a *Bring a Friend* campaign attracted 110 new visitors.

The June quarter also saw Wollongong Memorial Gardens partner with four incredible guest speakers: Margaret Rice, author of *A Good Death* and convenor of Good Grief; Wollongong Memorial Gardens Operations Manager John Chilby; Bianka Eifler, Bereavement Coordinator/Counsellor; Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District Acting Manager Margot Kennedy and; NSW Trustee and Guardian Wollongong, Wills and Estate Planning on how to begin a conversation around death and dying with our loved ones. The speakers shared their stories, knowledge, and experience on legal considerations, roles and responsibilities, managing grief and bereavement, the benefits of memorialisation, and how to have these challenging conversations. This event was supported by Council staff who provided insight into why planning and talking to your family about your final wishes is so important.



[IMAGE: Council staff and guest speakers at Wollongong Memorial Garden's conversations about death event]

GOAL 5: WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

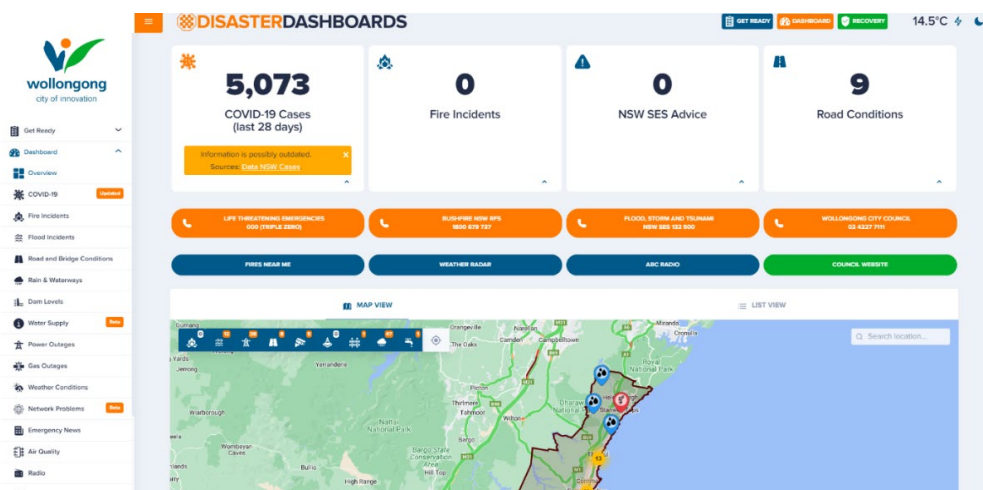
Meet obligations required under the Emergency Services interagency service level agreements

Council has Service Level Agreements with multiple agencies including the Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service (SES). These agencies liaise directly with the relevant Council staff to ensure service levels are maintained.

Wollongong Council's Emergency Management Officer (EMO) continues to provide executive support to the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC). In the June quarter, Council's EMO provided executive support for the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) which was activated twice to coordinate the response to the flood event of April 2022, and to coordinate response to a landslip impacting on Mount Ousley Road.

The 2021-22 year saw substantial emergency events unfold throughout the Wollongong Local Government Area. At the beginning of the year, an EOC was opened virtually to provide a coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Illawarra region. This EOC was open until March 2022 when restrictions and legislation within NSW eased. During February, March and April 2022 the EOC was activated in support of the SES for two East Coast Lows and severe storms which resulted in flash flooding events.

In April, Council launched the newly created Disaster Dashboard available on our website. The live tool contains content maintained by a variety of agencies and functional areas. It contains information about the latest COVID-19 case numbers, fires and floods, road conditions, school closures, beach conditions, all the necessary phone numbers for every kind of emergency. The dashboard is designed as a 'one stop shop' for all emergency management information to improve access to critical information to our community.



[IMAGE: The Disaster Dashboard on Council's Website]

GOAL 5: WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Support newly arrived and refugee communities through sector development and coordination, community awareness and education.

During the 2021–2022-year, Council partnered with Multicultural Health and community organisations to deliver key COVID-19 related health messages to the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community. Illawarra Refugee Issues Forum (IRIF) convened by Council met regularly and over the year has provided a regular focal point to discuss key issues and how to seek support, including vaccination promotion to refugee communities, housing advocacy and the resumption of refugee migration in 2022. We continue to welcome new staff members and organisations offering a way to meet others in the sector and build a profile.

This year the chairing of the meeting has been shared amongst different organisations to maintain a sense of collective ownership of the interagency. Council staff continue to be active in the NSW CALD Water Safety Committee. The Committee provides an important networking opportunity across NSW on beach and river safety and education.

Support was provided to the Illawarra Interfaith Women's Network to seek grant funding through the Multicultural NSW Event and Festival Grant program. Funding is being sought to run a 'Celebrating Resilience in Diversity' event in November 2022 to re-launch the Network after the disruption and difficulties of the past two years. As part of Refugee Week 2022 a celebration morning tea for 150 members of refugee background was held at the Wollongong Town Hall in partnership with SCARF and the Red Cross. The event included performers and MC's from refugee background and was catered for by refugee-led food businesses. A question and answers session was held at Wollongong Library with three former refugees sharing their settlement experiences. 35 people attended the event which included a shared afternoon tea. Local ABC radio interviewed two former refugees on their experiences as part of the event.

Specific highlights throughout the year include:

- Presentations provided by leading experts to Illawarra Refugee Issues Forum (IRIF) in August 2021 on the latest health advice, issues and engaging Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities;
- Daily sharing of key COVID-19 related messages, translations and resources for Illawarra Refugee Issues Forum members, multicultural services, community leaders and Council staff;
- Regular updates to the COVID-19 Multilingual Resources and Support Services Directory on Council's website;
- Discussions with key multicultural services and government agencies to identify issues, information gaps and strategies to engage newly arrived communities with key COVID-19 messaging and to debrief sector workers on exhaustion, frustration and despair related to demand on services and lack of support;
- Supporting the NSW Department of Education production of video messages for families in five languages. The messages clarify guidelines for school attendance, how to access devices and support home learning;
- Initiating a collaboration with NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service (MHCS), Local Health District and local multicultural service providers to film key messages regarding vaccines and lockdown information in Wollongong's two minority languages: Kinyamulenge and Karenni for adults and young people.
- Supporting Multicultural Health, Grand Pacific Health and Karenni community leaders to deliver an online community information session on vaccines and lockdown and safety information on 11 August.
- Promoting an online community session for Arabic speaking communities in September 2021.
- Assistance provided to Multicultural Health and local services to develop a strategy to target vaccine hesitancy in African communities;

GOAL 5: WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

- Supporting ongoing collaboration with TAFE, Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families (SCARF), Green Connect and Council to address lack of digital devices for adult learners.



[IMAGE: Refugee Week 2022 Promotion]

Deliver a range of youth development opportunities with a focus on engagement, capacity building, inclusion, belonging, sector development and support

During 2021-2022 Council delivered a range of youth development opportunities with a focus on engagement, capacity building, inclusion, belonging and support. Weekly programs and events at Wollongong Youth Centre included:

- Rainbow League*, a safe space for same sex attracted, gender diverse or questioning young people to make social connections and have access to information and support;
- Acting Up*, a theatre and performance program providing young people the opportunity to gain skills and confidence in the performing arts in a fun environment;
- Team Ignite*, a youth led event organising group, supported music events for young people as part of the 'On Stage' program including, live music, open mic nights and *ThursGAYS*;
- Painting and Planting*, a creative opportunity to revamp spaces at Wollongong Youth Centre with artwork and plants;
- Circus Series* was held in the Youth Centre forecourt and provided opportunities to learn circus skills;
- Youth in Fashion* allowed young people to design and create their own clothes;
- Create*, a program using arts-based methods exploring a range of mediums and creative activities for social wellbeing and connection.
- Hang Out* – a space for young people to meet, connect and socialise in a safe supervised environment;
- Illawarra Multicultural Youth Conference delivered online in partnership with Department of Education and Multicultural Communities Council Illawarra (MCCI).

GOAL 5: WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Throughout the year, weekly structured programs and events were also provided for young people across the Local Government Area in our suburbs. *Teenz Connect* was expanded to be delivered at both Warrawong and Corrimal Libraries. This program included interactive and skills-based activities providing a safe place for young people to build relationships and connection.

Bundaleer Connect and *2518 Connect* were delivered in Bundaleer Estate and Bellambi, providing a range of activities. *Dapto Youth Connect* was launched to provide a safe place for young people in Dapto to hang out and participate in activities at 'The Lair, Dapto Ribbonwood Centre.

Information and referrals has been a key program provided across Wollongong, with Council staff supporting young people in various aspects of their life and linking them to vital services within the community. This service has seen a significant increase in access both at Wollongong Youth Centre and online.

Wollongong Youth Services social media platforms have been used to provide young people with program and event information. Daily posts have featured service providers and details about programs offered by Council. The platforms have also promoted the information and referral service. A competition was held to increase followers on Instagram and Facebook. During the June 2022 quarter, 4414 young people participated in programs and services.



[IMAGE: Live Music at the Wollongong Youth Centre]

Implement the key recommendation of the Strategic Plan for Council's swimming pools in accordance with Council's capital program

Throughout the year, Council continues to plan key upgrades of facilities including investigations for the new filtration system for Helensburgh and Western Suburbs-Unanderra Pools.

In September 2021, the Port Kembla Pool and Beach adult change and lift facilities were commissioned and well received by the community.

During the June 2022 quarter the Tender of the new accessible water play area at Western Suburbs-Unanderra Pool was advertised with construction to be undertaken during 2022-2023.

GOAL 5: WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Performance Measures Q4 2021-2022

Community Transport trips*^ | 18,594 (Q4 2020-2021 – 23,041)

Direct-Run District Level Community Facilities visitation*^ | 124,753 (Q4 2020-2021 – 90,992)

Utilisation of Direct-Run District Level Community Facilities*^ | 22,332 Hours (Q4 2020-2021 – 21,029)

Social Support hours of service*^ | 11,853 Hours (Q4 2020-2021 – 10,170)

Total Visits commercial heated pools: Corrimal*^ | 101,299 (Q4 2020-2021 – 110,236)

Total Visits commercial heated pools: Dapto*^ | 47,924 (Q4 2020-2021 – 56,206)

Utilisation/visitation at pools*^ | 629,922 (Q4 2020-2021 – 423,964)

Utilisation/visitation at beaches^ | 1,132,293 (Q4 2020-2021 – 1,120,143)

* Impacted by COVID-19

^ Figures (including comparatives) have been prepared on an accumulative, annual basis.

GOAL 6: WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Develop and implement a best-practice active transport data collection and evaluation program

During the June 2022 quarter, an additional three permanent counters were installed at the pilot Pop-up Cycleway (Smith and Kembla Street's, Wollongong) and at key locations on the coastline cycleway. Counters will collect data which helps guide key priorities outlined in the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030. This data will also support the evaluation of performance against the Strategy. Key priorities for the Cycling Strategy include safety, convenient, planned, business, tourism, events and innovation.

The trial for an Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven video survey continued at the Blue Mile, Puckey's Reserve and foreshore area at Bulli. Data captured shows the number of walkers and bike riders, as well as the direction they're travelling in. This information will be used by Council to plan future improvements to our coastal pathways, without capture of personal information. Fixed counters were installed to measure the use of the trial Pop-up cycleways in Thirroul, Towradgi, Port Kembla and Wollongong. There are existing counters in Smith and Kembla Streets Wollongong, collecting the number of cycling trips, direction travelled and speeds. Recent data shows there were close to 250 trips a week along Kembla Street in the last two weeks of 2021 and the first week of 2022 and more than 600 trips a week on Smith Street in the same period.

Council has also deployed three smart Variable Message Sign (VMS) trailers to support the rollout of our VMS and tube count data collection program. The use of Mobile data technology to inform transport planning is actively being explored to support future service planning and delivery.



[IMAGE: Local Footpaths and Cycleways]

GOAL 6: WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Collaborate with partners to fund and deliver a suite of education, information and infrastructure programs that improve cycling participation through improvements to infrastructure, amenity and safety

During 2021-2022, Council has partnered with *Ride Nation* to undertake the delivery of cycling education programs and events. During the year, we have seen a significant increase in the investment for cycling and active transport infrastructure. With the support of the NSW State Government, Council has received \$800,000 under the NSW Active Transport Program towards the Grand Pacific Walk shared pathway at Clifton. In addition, Council has successfully delivered over \$540,000 of Commonwealth Local Road and Community Infrastructure (LCRI) program funded shared user path (SUP) projects at Ursula Road Bulli and Cordeaux Road Unanderra.

There has been \$1.2M of NSW Public Spaces grant assigned to the Fairy Creek Masterplans network.

Council also successfully secured Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) legacy grant funding for its wayfinding signage project. Council is partnering with the Illawarra Bicycle Users Groups (IBUG) to deliver this project prior to the UCI Road World Championships in September 2022. The Pop-up Cycleways program is nearing completion under respective grant programs.

Council is collaborating with the University of NSW (UNSW) 'City Futures - ARC Bikeability' project. The project will involve testing and simulations of bike infrastructure at locations across the Wollongong Local Government Area.

Council will also partner with the Ride to University of Wollongong project, which has received UCI legacy grant funding. The main objective for this project is to encourage more students to ride to university.

\$2M in NSW Government funding for the Princes Highway, Memorial Drive to Bourke Street, Fairy Meadow and similar *Share the Path* projects has been applied for. To support future funding applications, Council is developing a suite of ready to construct shared user paths in collaboration with Transport for NSW. Work will also commence on a review of the *Share the Path* user behaviour campaign, in collaboration with riding partners and Illawarra-Shoalhaven Councils.

GOAL 6: WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Promote access to Community Transport services to meet the needs of eligible consumers

Throughout the year, Community Transport (Wollongong – Shellharbour) has provided a range of services to support frail older people and those who are transport disadvantaged to continue living independent, active community members and to access essential services. The service used a marketing campaign developed by Transport for NSW to promote the service to the community through social media. A range of printed materials was also distributed for service providers to use.

The goal of this campaign was to increase our community's awareness about the programs on offer and to rebuild customer confidence in a COVID-19 normal environment. Throughout the COVID-19 restrictions, we continued to provide essential services to our vulnerable community who needed them most. Service demand has remained steady despite service modifications and reduced capacity due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The marketing approach was placed on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions, however the Community Transport website and Council's social media channels continued to be utilised. Community Transport has continued to explore options to identify ways to promote access to services. As COVID-19 restrictions eased, customer confidence in utilising the services on offer has continued to increase. During the June 2022 quarter, the service received 871 new referrals, with 457 deemed eligible.



[IMAGE: A Community Transport volunteer bus driver]

Performance Measures Q4 2021-2022

- Delivery of Council's Capital Program | 94% (Q4 2020-2021 – 91%)

APPENDIX 1: Annual Deliverables Progress by 4 Year Action Delivery Program 2018-2022

| <i>Goal</i> | <i>On track</i> | <i>Not Scheduled to Commence</i> | <i>Delayed</i> | <i>Deferred</i> | <i>Ongoing / Complete</i> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1.1.1.1 Implement programs and events which facilitate community participation to improve natural areas | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 1.1.1.2 Projects and programs that achieve enhancement of the natural environment and escarpment are developed and implemented | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 1.1.2.1 Protect and conserve the health and biodiversity of our waterways and coast | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 1.1.2.2 The impacts of the increasing number of visitors to the coast and Lake Illawarra is managed effectively | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 1.1.3.1 Manage vegetation to reduce bushfire risk in Asset Protection Zones on natural areas under Council care and control | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 1.1.3.2 Establish effective urban stormwater and floodplain management programs | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 1.2.1.1 Develop and implement a range of programs that encourage community participation in reducing Wollongong's ecological footprint | 89% | 0% | 11% | 0% | 0% |
| 1.2.1.2 Promote and enforce compliance with litter reduction | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 1.2.1.3 Methods to reduce emissions are investigated and utilised | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

APPENDIX 1: Annual Deliverables Progress by 4 Year Action Delivery Program 2018-2022

| <i>Goal</i> | <i>On track</i> | <i>Not Scheduled to Commence</i> | <i>Delayed</i> | <i>Deferred</i> | <i>Ongoing / Complete</i> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1.2.2.1 Our community is proactively engaged in a range of initiatives that improve the sustainability of our environments | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 1.3.1.1 Impacts from development on the environment are assessed, monitored and mitigated | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 1.3.1.2 Develop planning controls and Town Centre and Neighbourhood Plans with regard to the economic, social and environmental impacts | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 1.3.2.1 Carry out best practise assessment for urban development proposals and applications | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 1.3.2.2 Mitigate the impact of development on the natural environment and visual amenity of our open spaces and urban areas | 50% | 0% | 0% | 50% | 0% |
| 1.4.1.1 Work in partnership with others to promote a diverse range of heritage education and promotion programs | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 1.4.2.1 Work with the local Aboriginal community in the management of Indigenous heritage | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 1.5.1.1 Set an emissions reduction target and carry out actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the Global Covenant of Mayors | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 2.1.1.1 Build on partnerships which enable the retention of local talent | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

APPENDIX 1: Annual Deliverables Progress by 4 Year Action Delivery Program 2018-2022

| <i>Goal</i> | <i>On track</i> | <i>Not Scheduled to Commence</i> | <i>Delayed</i> | <i>Deferred</i> | <i>Ongoing / Complete</i> |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 2.1.2.1 Ensure that Wollongong is attractive for business expansion, establishment and relocation. | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 2.1.2.2 Progress implementation of the City for People and its accompanying Implementation Plan | 67% | 0% | 0% | 33% | 0% |
| 2.1.3.1 Support regional activities and partnerships that promote business investment and jobs growth | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 2.1.4.1 Develop and maintain partnerships with the business sector to fund and contribute to a broader range of community projects and activities | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 2.1.5.1 In collaboration with key agencies, facilitate the West Dapto Taskforce to deliver the first stages of the West Dapto Urban Release Area | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 2.2.1.1 The development of renewable energy products and services is supported | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 2.2.1.2 Partnership opportunities in research and development are expanded | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 2.2.2.1 In conjunction with partner organisations support the development of innovative industries | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 2.2.3.1 Undertake major refurbishment works in the city centre | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

APPENDIX 1: Annual Deliverables Progress by 4 Year Action Delivery Program 2018-2022

| <i>Goal</i> | <i>On track</i> | <i>Not Scheduled to Commence</i> | <i>Delayed</i> | <i>Deferred</i> | <i>Ongoing / Complete</i> |
|--|-----------------|--|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 2.3.1.1 Pursue initiatives that promote the region as a place to holiday to domestic and international markets | 75% | 0% | 0% | 25% | 0% |
| 2.3.1.2 Support projects that investigate opportunities for the provision of tourism infrastructure | 75% | 0% | 0% | 25% | 0% |
| 2.3.2.1 Market and promote events in the city centre | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 2.3.2.3 Improve policies and systems to support the revitalisation of the city centre | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 2.3.3.1 Continue to grow Wollongong's attractiveness to attract signature events and festivals | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 2.4.1.1 Ensure Wollongong is attractive to research and development companies and organisations | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 2.4.1.2 Implement a range of programs that incorporate learning and development | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 2.4.2.1 Implement programs to ensure Wollongong becomes a Smart City | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 3.1.1.1 Promote Made in Wollongong to become a well-known brand | 0% | 0% | 0% | 100% | 0% |

APPENDIX 1: Annual Deliverables Progress by 4 Year Action Delivery Program 2018-2022

| <i>Goal</i> | <i>On track</i> | <i>Not Scheduled to Commence</i> | <i>Delayed</i> | <i>Deferred</i> | <i>Ongoing / Complete</i> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 3.1.1.2 The visibility of our cultural diversity is increased | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 3.1.1.3 Encourage the integration of urban design and public art | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 3.1.1.4 Deliver sustainable and successful events and festivals through Council investment and delivery of the Events Strategy | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 3.1.1.5 Encourage Sports Associations to conduct regional, state and national events in the city | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 3.1.2.1 Provide opportunities for local artists and performers to exhibit, promote and perform at Council venues and events | 80% | 0% | 0% | 20% | 0% |
| 3.2.1.1 Provide support to existing and emerging artists and performers | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 3.2.1.2 Seek funding for the promotion of heritage sites, museums and galleries to the community and visitors | 67% | 0% | 33% | 0% | 0% |
| 3.2.2.1 Coordinate an integrated approach to infrastructure improvement and service delivery in the Arts Precinct | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 3.2.3.1 Support the coordination of an externally funded calendar of activities delivered across the city | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

APPENDIX 1: Annual Deliverables Progress by 4 Year Action Delivery Program 2018-2022

| <i>Goal</i> | <i>On track</i> | <i>Not Scheduled to Commence</i> | <i>Delayed</i> | <i>Deferred</i> | <i>Ongoing / Complete</i> |
|--|-----------------|--|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 3.3.2.1 Deliver and support a range of projects and programs which build harmony, understanding and cultural awareness | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 4.1.1.1 Ensure an effective community engagement framework that connects the community to Council decision making | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 4.1.1.2 Improve community understanding and awareness of Council decisions | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 4.1.3.1 Council continue to partner with our local Aboriginal community | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 4.2.1.1 Increase opportunities for the community to connect with volunteering organisations | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 4.2.1.2 Support community participation in community activities | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 4.2.1.3 Build the capability of community based organisations in managing, developing and sustaining their volunteers | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 4.2.2.1 Continue to participate and contribute to an integrated community service network | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 4.2.3.1 Support a range of projects and programs in the city | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

APPENDIX 1: Annual Deliverables Progress by 4 Year Action Delivery Program 2018-2022

| <i>Goal</i> | <i>On track</i> | <i>Not Scheduled to Commence</i> | <i>Delayed</i> | <i>Deferred</i> | <i>Ongoing / Complete</i> |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 4.3.1.1 Ensure appropriate strategies and systems are in place that support good corporate governance | 87% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 13% |
| 4.3.1.2 Build a workplace culture that is safe, engaged, responsive and professional | 57% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 43% |
| 4.3.2.1 Effective and transparent financial management systems are in place | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 4.3.2.2 Continue to pursue alternative funding options to deliver financially sustainable services and facilities | 80% | 0% | 20% | 0% | 0% |
| 4.3.2.4 Deliver the Asset Management Strategy and Improvement Plan 2012-17 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 4.3.3.1 Coordinate a service review program with a focus on business development and improvement | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 4.3.3.2 Working together, levels of service are established and service continuously improve and offer best value for money | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.1.1.1 Partner with community based organisations in the provision of services | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.1.1.2 Continue to undertake social, land use and environmental planning activities that assists in service planning | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

APPENDIX 1: Annual Deliverables Progress by 4 Year Action Delivery Program 2018-2022

| <i>Goal</i> | <i>On track</i> | <i>Not Scheduled to Commence</i> | <i>Delayed</i> | <i>Deferred</i> | <i>Ongoing / Complete</i> |
|---|-----------------|--|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 5.1.2.1 Partner with agencies and health authorities to support improvements to the region's medical services | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.1.3.1 Deliver a diverse suite of projects to the community that foster and enhance community strengths and participation | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.1.3.2 Carry out commercial business management of Council's operational lands | 75% | 0% | 25% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.1.4.1 Provide an appropriate and sustainable range of quality passive and active open spaces and facilities | 94% | 0% | 6% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.1.4.2 Review planning controls for priority locations | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.1.4.3 Policies and plans are developed, reviewed and implemented to encourage physical activity | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.1.4.4 Develop and implement public health, amenity and safety regulatory programs and reviews that assist in improving compliance with legislative requirements | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.1.5.1 Increase opportunities to enhance library multimedia and online services | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

APPENDIX 1: Annual Deliverables Progress by 4 Year Action Delivery Program 2018-2022

| <i>Goal</i> | <i>On track</i> | <i>Not Scheduled to Commence</i> | <i>Delayed</i> | <i>Deferred</i> | <i>Ongoing / Complete</i> |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 5.1.5.2 Renew community facilities and consider rationalisation, replacement or refurbishment to achieve facilities that are strategically located, good quality and meet identified community need | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.2.1.1 Investigate provision of Leisure Services in the greater Dapto area, taking into account expansion of West Dapto, and determine Council's role in the market | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.2.1.2 Investigate the future provision of Aquatic Services across the local government area and implement improvements | 67% | 0% | 33% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.2.1.3 Use data to assess the current community infrastructure available, community demand and develop a strategic framework and policies to either rationalise, enhance or expand to meet community needs | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.2.1.4 Develop a Regional Botanic Garden of Excellence | 60% | 0% | 20% | 20% | 0% |
| 5.2.1.5 Provide statutory services to appropriately manage and maintain our public spaces | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.2.1.6 Implement Council's Planning, People, Places Strategy | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.2.2.1 Deliver a range of programs and recreational pursuits for older people | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

APPENDIX 1: Annual Deliverables Progress by 4 Year Action Delivery Program 2018-2022

| <i>Goal</i> | <i>On track</i> | <i>Not Scheduled to Commence</i> | <i>Delayed</i> | <i>Deferred</i> | <i>Ongoing / Complete</i> |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 5.3.1.1 Prepare a Housing Study and Strategy incorporating Affordable Housing Issues | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.3.2.1 In partnership with relevant agencies and networks lobby and advocate for improved service levels and quality enhanced access to services | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.4.1.1 Provide lifeguarding services at beaches (in partnership with Surf Life Saving Illawarra) and Council pools | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.4.1.2 Facilitate a range of partnerships and networks to develop community safety initiatives | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.4.2.1 Delivery projects and programs to reduce crime in the Wollongong Local Government Area | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.5.1.1 Well maintained assets are provided that meet the needs of the current and future communities | 75% | 0% | 8% | 8% | 9% |
| 5.5.1.2 Manage and maintain community infrastructure portfolio with a focus on asset renewal | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5.5.1.3 Coordinate an access improvement program through pre-planning and renewal activities | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 6.1.1.1 Support the delivery of the Gong Shuttle Bus as an affordable transport option | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

APPENDIX 1: Annual Deliverables Progress by 4 Year Action Delivery Program 2018-2022

| <i>Goal</i> | <i>On track</i> | <i>Not Scheduled to Commence</i> | <i>Delayed</i> | <i>Deferred</i> | <i>Ongoing / Complete</i> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 6.1.2.1 Implement a variety of projects and programs to encourage sustainable transport throughout the LGA | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 6.1.3.1 Plan and implement an integrated and sustainable transport network | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 6.1.4.1 Facilitate the integration of public amenities and transport with local communities | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 6.2.1.1 Work with partners to reduce travel time between Sydney and Western Sydney with Wollongong | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 6.3.1.1 Plan and implement projects to improve connectivity | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 6.3.2.1 Deliver sustainable transport asset renewal programs and projects | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 6.3.3.1 Investigate the option for disruptive transport technologies and the impact on the future transport network | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 6.3.4.1 Work with key agencies and partners to continue and improve late night transport options | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 6.3.5.1 Develop an alternative service delivery, governance model and auspice for Community Transport in response to the Federal Government's Aged Care reform legislation | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Total Annual Deliverable Progress | 93% | 0% | 2.5% | 2.5% | 2% |

ITEM 4 WEST DAPTO LANDS - 231 SHEAFFES ROAD, DOMBARTON

This report recommends the disposal of the parcel of operational land owned by Council known as 231 Sheaffes Road (Lot 23 DP 790915), Dombarton subject to the registration of a positive public covenant in relation to heritage considerations on the site.

The proposal to dispose of the Sheaffes Road land parcel will activate the development pipeline in West Dapto and contribute to housing supply in the area.

It is further proposed that the net proceeds of the sale be allocated to social, recreational and cultural amenities in the West Dapto release area.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Council resolves to dispose of the property known as 231 Sheaffes Road, Dombarton, being Lot 23 DP 790915 as proposed by this report.
- 2 Council register a positive public covenant on the property known as 231 Sheaffes Road, Dombarton, being Lot 23 DP 790915 prior to sale in relation to heritage obligations on the site.
- 3 The net proceeds of the sale be allocated to social, recreational and cultural amenities in the West Dapto release area.
- 4 Council resolves to rescind previous resolutions in relation to the property known as 231 Sheaffes Road, Dombarton to the extent that they have not been enacted.
- 5 The General Manager be authorised to appoint an independent (external) probity advisor to provide advice and oversight in relation to the sales process to ensure probity requirements are met.
- 6 The General Manager be authorised to approve the sales strategy, negotiations and final sale price relating to the disposal of the property known as 231 Sheaffes Road, Dombarton, being Lot 23 DP 790915.
- 7 A confidential briefing be provided to Councillors prior to exchanging contracts with a potential purchaser to provide an update on the sales campaign and proposed sale terms.
- 8 The General Manager be granted authority to sign any documentation to give effect to this resolution.
- 9 Council grant authority for the use of the Common Seal of Council on all documents relevant to this matter, should it be required to give effect to this resolution.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Lucielle Power, Manager Property + Recreation
Authorised by: Kerry Hunt, Director Community Services - Creative and Innovative City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

Acquisition and Classification

Council originally resolved to acquire Stream Hill on 28 October 1991 for the purpose of redevelopment and environmental protection. The 'redevelopment' component referred to the southern portion of the property and the 'environmental protection' component referred to the rainforest on the portion north of Sheaffes Road. Whilst the 'redevelopment' purpose was referred to in Council's original acquisition, there has been no development on site since Council acquired the property.

A further report was submitted to Council on 2 December 1991 due to a renegotiation of the purchase price. Council ultimately acquired the property on 6 April 1992 for \$575,000. At that time, the property was zoned 1 Non-Urban under the Wollongong LEP 1990.

On 23 May 1994, following the introduction of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), Council classified the property as operational.

Property Particulars

Stream Hill is 42.5 ha in size with 14.13 ha on the northern side of Sheaffes Road and 28.37 ha on the south-western side of the road.

Stream Hill is zoned part R2 Low Density Residential and part C3 Environmental Management as shown in Figure 1 and 2 below. The objectives of each zone, as stated in the Wollongong LEP 2009 are stated in the following table:

| Zone | Objectives |
|-----------------------------|--|
| R2 Low Density Residential | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide for the housing needs of the community within a low-density residential environment. To enable other land uses that provide facilities or services to meet the day to day needs of residents. |
| C3 Environmental Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect, manage and restore areas with special ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values. To provide for a limited range of development that does not have an adverse effect on those values. |

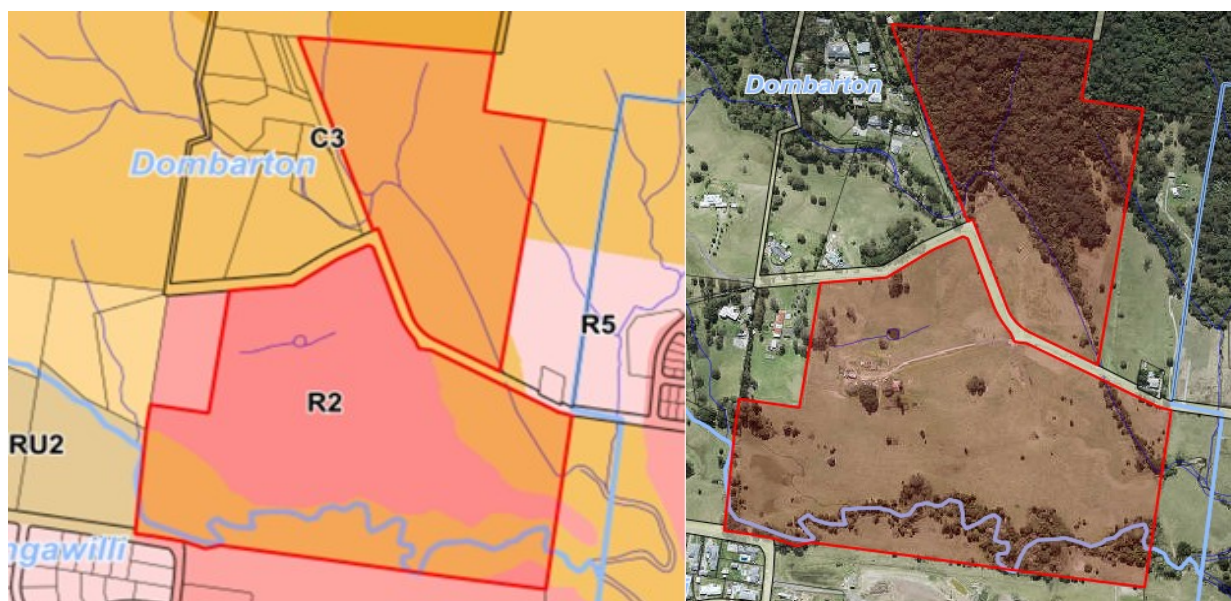


Figure 1 and 2: Aerial imagery of Stream Hill

When Council acquired Stream Hill, the property comprised of:

- Homestead cottage (circa 1840 - 1880)
- Second cottage (circa 1950 – 1960)
- Tool harness room
- Dairy
- Feed shed.

As stated above, Council originally acquired Stream Hill for redevelopment and environmental protection, with the environmental protection component relating to the portion of the property comprising existing rainforest, which at the time was a popular recreation area.

On 11 August 1993 Council resolved to include the heritage listing of the homestead and outbuildings as local heritage items in the Development Control Plan No.42 Heritage. On 7 January 2000 the heritage schedule was transferred from the DCP to the Wollongong LEP 1990 via Amendment No.142.

In May 2010, as part of the Wollongong (West Dapto) LEP 2010 Stream Hill was rezoned from Zone 1 Non-Urban to part R2 Residential and part E3 Environment Management (now C3 Environmental Management) to reflect this purpose. The portion of the site listed as a local heritage item was also expanded to include the curtilage around the homestead and outbuildings. On 6 June 2014 the Wollongong (West Dapto) LEP 2010 was merged into the Wollongong LEP 2009, with the zoning and heritage listing transferred into the City-wide instrument.

Since acquisition, the southern portion of Stream Hill (excluding the dwellings) has been licensed for agistment purposes. The dwellings on the site have not been occupied, except for the dairy which has been used to store materials and equipment from time to time.

Heritage Considerations

When Council acquired Stream Hill, the 1880s cottage had not been identified as a heritage item in the Wollongong LEP 1990 and as such, was not subject to any special development controls or protections. The report informing the Council resolution of 28 October 1991 recommended that the cottage be demolished.

On 1 July 1994, a Conservation Plan was commissioned by Council to evaluate the heritage significance of the cottage and provide recommendations for its future use. Subsequently, a further report was prepared by Design 5 Architects in September 1998, detailing the works required to be undertaken to repair the dwelling and restore it to a useable condition, with estimated costs in the sum of \$560,000 (excluding outbuildings). Noting the estimated costs to restore the cottage almost equalled the purchase price for Stream Hill, Council did not proceed with the works. Council did fence the cottage to protect the property from vandalism and/or arson.

On 31 July 1995 Council resolved to:

'create a separate land title for the Stream Hill homestead including the homestead and gardens, yards, outbuildings and parking area and sell it with a covenant ensuring that conservation work as detailed in the Design 5 Architects report is carried out within a reasonable time'.

This resolution was not acted upon due to the zoning of Stream Hill at the time being non-urban, and the fact that the proposed new lot did not satisfy the minimum lot size for a non-urban zone. Since then, and as stated above, Stream Hill has been rezoned R2 Residential which would facilitate the 1995 resolution of Council.

If Council supports the disposal of Stream Hill, it is recommended that the 1995 resolution be rescinded as part of any Council resolution. This will ensure there are no outstanding obligations with respect to Council's involvement in Stream Hill following its disposal.

Currently, the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 lists the Stream Hill cottage and outbuildings as items of local significance. Council's Heritage team have advised that a local heritage listing provides no surety of Council's ability to enforce that a developer maintain and restore the heritage asset. Noting this, the recommended approach is that Council also seeks to register a positive covenant on the site to assist with protection of the heritage items on top of the existing protections provided under the local heritage listing.

Licences Affecting the Property

At present, Stream Hill is subject to the licence agreements relating to agistment and a licence allowing access and works associated with a development approval connected with the land south of the creek at the southern end of the property closest to Smiths Lane.

Aerial images of the respective licence areas are shown below.



Figure 3: Aerial imagery of licence areas



The successful purchaser would need to progress a draft Neighbourhood Plan, Development Application and Subdivision Certificate to enable development on the site.

Probity advisor

It is proposed that an external Probity Advisor be engaged as included in the recommendations of this report.

The Probity Advisor will have the role of reviewing the matter and process prior to various decision points to ensure appropriate governance is in place for decision making. This will include but may not be limited to the tender process for the appointment of the agent, reviewing the recommended sales strategy, reviewing the records of any negotiations as well as the process undertaken to reach a position prior to sale.

Allocation of sales proceeds

It is proposed that the proceeds of the sale be allocated to the delivery of social, recreational and cultural amenities in the West Dapto release area. There are a number of future projects that have been identified to deliver on social, recreational and cultural objectives to meet current and future demand. These funds are proposed to assist with the delivery of these projects. All efforts will be made to ensure that these funds can be contributed towards these projects promptly noting current economic conditions.

Heritage Protection Mechanisms/Disposal Options

There are several options available to Council to ensure the heritage items on Stream Hill are protected, restored and maintained by any future purchasers of the property, such as the existing local heritage listing under the Wollongong LEP 1990 or a public positive covenant under the *Conveyancing Act 1919* (NSW).

These options range in both the level of protection, timing and also the potential impact on the sale itself (ie impact on sale price).

Noting the existing local heritage listing provides no surety of Council's ability to enforce that a developer maintain and restore the heritage asset, it is recommended that Council also consider the registration of a public positive covenant prior to disposal to reinforce the obligations of any future landowner with respect to dealing with the heritage items on Stream Hill. This would seek to enforce Council's expectation that best practice heritage outcomes are considered in terms of any future development of the site.

Sale Strategy

Noting the potential sale price from the disposal of Stream Hill, Council's Property Services team has mapped out the proposed sale process via the draft project plan included at Attachment 1. This process aligns with Council's Formal Quotation and Tendering Procedure.

A summary of the proposed acquisition steps is provided in the below table:

| | Task Description |
|---|---|
| 1 | Report to Council |
| 2 | Procure services of external probity advisor |
| 2 | Prepare and finalise EOI process for appointment of agent |
| 3 | Report to Council on outcome of EOI for appointment of agent |
| 4 | Prepare and finalise sales campaign including EOI process |
| 5 | Finalise outcome |
| 6 | Confidential briefing prior to exchange to inform Councillors of proposed transaction details |
| 7 | Progress with transaction |

Whilst Council officers will be managing the sale process, guidance will be taken from the appointed agent to ensure Council is in the best position to respond to the market. Ultimately, the approval by the General Manager will ensure the highest monetary value to Council, noting the preference for a quality and reputable developer who is willing to progress the development of Stream Hill, whilst also retaining an interest in the site on a medium to long term basis.

The following criteria is being considered in relation to the competitive process for sale, subject to input from the appointed agent:

1. Highest market value
2. Reputation of purchaser and nature of previous projects undertaken by the purchaser
3. Whether the purchaser seeks to introduce an invest and retain model
4. Plans to retain and incorporate the heritage buildings into the development (this would only assist with selection and would not technically bind the purchaser to deliver in line with these plans).

PROPOSAL

Council support the disposal of Stream Hill as outlined in this report subject to a positive public covenant.

The 1995 resolution with relation to the property at 231 Sheaffes Road, Dombarton (Lot 23 DP 790915) be rescinded.

It is also proposed that an independent probity advisor be appointed to ensure that all required probity requirements are considered and met throughout the process.

Net proceeds of sale be allocated to social, recreational and cultural facilities and amenities for West Dapto.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- Legal Services
- Urban Release
- Finance
- Environment Planning
- Land Use Planning, particularly Heritage.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 goal “We have a healthy community in a liveable city”.

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Property Services Service Plan 2020-21.

In addition, this report concurs with Council’s Land and Easement Acquisition and Disposal Policy and specifically, the part of the policy that relates to the disposal of land capable of being sold on the open market.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Council has considered a wide range of risks associated with the recommendations in this report. These range from reputational damage to liability and risk associated with the heritage items on the site.

The risks stated above can be minimised/avoided through the implementation of additional measures to protect the heritage item, such as the imposition of a public positive covenant.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As stated above, the disposal of Stream Hill is likely to create the following present and forecasted income streams to Council:

The potential disposal of Stream Hill subject to a public positive covenant is likely to affect the overall sale price, however this impact is currently unknown. If the sale price is heavily impacted by the existence of the public positive covenant and Council wishes to revisit its position, the public positive covenant can be removed.

That net proceeds of sale be allocated to social, recreational and cultural facilities and amenities for West Dapto.

CONCLUSION

In light of the reasons outlined in this report, it is recommended that Council resolve to proceed with the disposal of Stream Hill subject to a public positive covenant registered prior to sale.

ITEM 5

POLICY REVIEW - WOLLONGONG CITY TOURIST PARKS DISCOUNTING AND PROMOTIONS POLICY

The Wollongong City Tourist Parks' Discounting and Promotions Council Policy has been revised as part of the Council policy review process. The Policy has been amended to reflect administrative and operational changes and to align with Council's new Policy Framework.

The revised Wollongong City Council Tourist Parks Discounting and Promotions Policy is presented to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Council adopt the revised Wollongong City Council Tourist Parks Discounting and Promotions Policy.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Lucielle Power, Manager Property + Recreation

Authorised by: Kerry Hunt, Director Community Services - Creative and Innovative City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft Wollongong City Tourist Parks Discounting and Promotion Council Policy
- 2 Draft Wollongong City Tourist Discounting and Promotions Council Procedure

BACKGROUND

Council's Tourist Parks' Discounting and Promotions Council Policy was due for review in May 2020.

Council's Tourist Parks operate as commercial businesses within a competitive marketplace and provide a return to Council through its operations. A Market Pricing method is used to determine Tourist Parks' Fees and Charges. This method is based on analysis of competitor pricing and market fee structures. Within the industry, it is standard practice for businesses to participate in discounting and promotional activities to attract customers in quieter periods and remain competitive within the crowded marketplace.

The Wollongong City Tourist Parks Discounting and Promotions Policy provides Council with the ability to remain competitive within the market and quickly respond to changing market conditions and consumer demands. The provision of discounts and participation in promotional activities in lower occupancy periods have proven vital in attracting customers and enabling the businesses to achieve occupancy and revenue targets.

The Wollongong City Tourist Parks Discounting and Promotions Policy and associated procedures provides a consistent and transparent approach with respect to the provision of discounts and participation in promotional activities and robust administrative and reporting framework to manage compliance. The existing policy has been reviewed and amended to reflect administrative and operational changes and to align with Council's new Policy Framework.

The key changes are:

- 1 Removal of procedural components of the Policy and development of a stand alone Procedure.
- 2 Addition of Roles and Responsibilities associated with the Policy.

PROPOSAL

The reviewed Wollongong City Tourist Parks Discounting and Promotions Policy be adopted.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Consultation was undertaken with:

- 1 Property and Recreation Staff
- 2 Governance Staff

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 Goal 2 “We have an innovative and sustainable economy”. It specifically delivers on the following:

| Community Strategic Plan | Delivery Program 2022-2026 | Operational Plan 2022-23 |
|---|--|--|
| Strategy | 4 Year Action | Operational Plan Actions |
| 2.7 Promote the Wollongong Local Government Area as an event, conference and visitor destination. | 2.7.2 Operate an efficient, well managed business providing a return to Council. | Contribute to the promotion of tourism in the Wollongong Local Government Area through the management of Council's three tourist parks at Bulli, Corrimal and Windang. |

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk in relation to this Policy is considered low based on Council's risk matrix.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no proposed increase in the level of discounting provided under changes to this Policy. The continuation of existing provisions enables the Tourist Parks to remain competitive within the market and increase revenue potential during quieter periods.

CONCLUSION

The revised Wollongong City Tourist Parks Discounting and Promotions Policy provides Council with the ability to continually build on current occupancies and an effective framework for the management of discounting and promotional activities.



WOLLONGONG CITY TOURIST PARKS DISCOUNTING AND PROMOTIONS COUNCIL POLICY

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: : [TO BE COMPLETED BY GOVERNANCE]

PURPOSE

This policy sets out a consistent and transparent approach Council will take when considering discounts of fees and charges at Council's Tourist Parks. This policy also provides framework for participation in industry standard promotional activities to ensure alignment with industry norms and best practice for the commercially viable operation of the Tourist Parks.

POLICY INTENT

Council relies on Fees and Charges to fund services and facilities for our community. However, as the Tourist Parks operate as commercial businesses, Council acknowledges it is necessary to participate in industry standard promotional activity in order to ensure prominent market placement in a competitive marketplace.

The main objectives of this policy are to:

1. Establish consistency in the application of discounts at Council's Tourist Parks
2. Enable the Tourist Parks to participate in industry standard promotional activities.

WOLLONGONG 2028 OBJECTIVES

Promote the Wollongong local government area as an event, conference and visitor destination.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all adopted fees and charges for products and services provided to customers at Council's Tourist Parks.

POLICY

Discounting and Promotional Pricing

The maximum discount amount that can be applied to fees and charges at Council's Tourist Parks is 30%. This is included in the annual review of Fees and Charges adopted by Council.

Although Council's general policy is not to offer any discounts in relation to Tourist Park Fees and Charges, Council acknowledges that circumstances arise from time to time where it is appropriate to discount such Fees and Charges.

Such circumstances can include, but are not exclusive, to:

1. Customers that are part of the Tourist Parks' loyalty program
2. Customers that may book large group bookings
3. Customers that may book long stays
4. Customers that may wish to book up to 12 months in advance
5. Corporate, value adding, marketing packages
6. Low season/low demand periods.

WOLLONGONG CITY TOURIST PARKS DISCOUNTING AND PROMOTIONS

COUNCIL POLICY

The following factors will be considered when determining whether a discount should be provided and form the basis of the decision to discount:

1. Current or anticipated occupancy rates for the period compared to corporate targets (60% cabins and 50% sites)
2. Client booking history or forecast; and
3. Factors of cost, competitors and profit objectives.

Loyalty Member Discount

1. To encourage repeat visitation, all customers of Wollongong City Tourist Parks are able to join the Tourist Park Loyalty Program
2. Customers who sign up to the Tourist Park Loyalty Program may have access to specials and discounts up to 10% of the value of each booking after joining (excluding peak season)

Other Promotional Activities

Council acknowledges that it is necessary to compete in a commercial environment and undertake various promotional activities.

Such activities can include, but are not exclusive, to:

1. The payment of commissions to third party agents and websites from accommodation payments
2. The donation of accommodation nights for promotional or charitable events including free of charge (FOC) room nights for marketing or agent familiarisations.

Third party agents

1. Commissions payable to the third parties in this manner will be up to a maximum of 17% or market rate (whichever is higher)
2. The commission payable to the third party will be over and above any discount otherwise applied to the reservation as per the maximum 30% discount
3. Commercial arrangements that require commissions to be paid on invoice after guest departure will be paid as a fee from operational costs.

In Kind Promotions

1. A total of 30 accommodation nights per financial year at each site will be allocated for promotional use at the discretion of the Manager Property and Recreation
2. Each request will be assessed on its individual merit in each period and participation in a prior period does not guarantee participation in a future period
3. Requests may include accommodation nights for promotional activity. Examples include, in-house competitions, contra deals for professional services such as photography or advertising, compassionate donations to charitable causes or for any other purpose that promotes the Tourist Parks in a positive light and as the Manager Property and Recreation deems suitable.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

1. *Local Government Act 1993*
2. *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*
3. *Competition and Consumer Regulations 2010.*

WOLLONGONG CITY TOURIST PARKS DISCOUNTING AND PROMOTIONS

COUNCIL POLICY

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every two years from the date of each adoption of the policy, or more frequently as required.

REPORTING

Recording of Transactions

1. All transactions will be recorded in Council's financial system to recognise both income and expenditure and associated GST for each transaction
2. Discounting transactions will be recorded and available for auditing by Council's Commercial Business Manager to ensure all discounting transactions are applied correctly.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All Staff

1. Complying with the Wollongong City Tourist Parks Discounting and Promotions Policy and related procedures.

Tourist Park Supervisor

1. Reviewing, determining suitability of and authorising one off corporate discounts of up to 10%
2. Creating full and accurate records of approved discounts in the property management system
2. Extracting discount reports on a monthly basis to ensure compliance with Wollongong City Tourist Parks Discounting and Promotions Policy and related procedures
3. Reporting non-compliance with Wollongong City Tourist Parks Discounting and Promotions Policy and related procedures to the Operations Manager Tourist Parks.

Operations Manager - Tourist Parks

1. Reviewing, determining suitability of and authorising discounts of up to 30%.
2. Creating full and accurate records of approved discounts in the property management system.
3. Extracting discount reports on a quarterly basis to ensure compliance with Wollongong City Tourist Parks Discounting and Promotions Policy and related procedures.
4. Assist the Commercial Business Manager with investigating reports of non-compliance with Wollongong City Tourist Parks Discounting and Promotions Policy and related procedures and providing findings to Divisional Manager.
5. Assess suitability of and formalise proposals for promotional campaigns and entering into commercial arrangements with third party agents for review and approval by the Commercial Business Manager (up to 17%) or Divisional Manager (greater than 17%).
6. Assessing requests for complimentary nights or in-kind promotions and preparing recommendations to the Manager Property and Recreation.

Commercial Business Manager

1. Reviewing, determining suitability of and authorising discounts of up to 30%.
2. Undertaking regular sample audits of discounts to ensure compliance with Wollongong City Tourist Parks Discounting and Promotions Policy and related procedures.
3. Review and approve requests from Operations Manager - Tourist Parks for participation in promotional campaigns and entering into commercial arrangements with third party agents of up to 17%.

WOLLONGONG CITY TOURIST PARKS DISCOUNTING AND PROMOTIONS

COUNCIL POLICY

4. Assessing requests for complimentary nights or in-kind promotions and preparing recommendations to the Manager Property and Recreation.

Divisional Manager

1. Reviewing and approving recommendations from Operations Manager - Tourist Parks and/or Commercial Business Manager for complimentary nights or in-kind promotions.
2. Reviewing and approving recommendations from Operations Manager - Tourist Parks for commercial arrangements with third party travel agents greater than 17%.
3. Review any outcomes of auditing process for further investigation.

RELATED PROCEDURES

1. Wollongong City Tourist Parks Discounting and Promotions Procedure.

WOLLONGONG CITY TOURIST PARKS DISCOUNTING AND PROMOTIONS

COUNCIL POLICY

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| APPROVAL AND REVIEW | | |
| Responsible Division | Property and Recreation | |
| Date/s adopted | <i>EMC</i> [updated by policy owner] | <i>Council</i> [To be inserted by Governance] |
| Date/s of previous adoptions | 29 May 2017; May 2012, May 2020 | |
| Date of next review | [Not more than two years from last adoption] | |



WOLLONGONG CITY TOURIST PARKS DISCOUNTING AND PROMOTIONS PROCEDURE

ADOPTED BY MANAGER [DIVISIONAL MANAGER] | DATE: [DATE]

CONTEXT

Council's general policy is not to offer any discounts in relation to Tourist Park Fees and Charges, however, circumstances arise from time to time where it is appropriate to discount such Fees and Charges as detailed in the Wollongong City Tourist Parks Discounting and Promotions Policy.

These Procedures are to be read in conjunction with the Wollongong City Tourist Parks Policy (the Parent Policy). The purpose of this procedure is to:

1. Detail the types of discounting permitted and establish clear and consistent criteria to be used when determining whether a discount may be provided
2. Outline the approval process for authorisation to provide discounts of Council's adopted fees and charges to customers of Wollongong City Tourist Parks
3. Detail the record keeping practices and reporting requirements required when a discount has been provided.

DEFINITIONS

Loyalty Member means the customer of Wollongong City Tourist Parks who is an active member of the Tourist Parks customer loyalty program.

One-off Corporate Discount is a corporate discount approved by the Park Supervisor (or higher) on an individual basis applicable to corporate/business clients of Wollongong City Tourist Parks with extended stay or multiple cabin/site bookings.

Recurring Corporate Discount is a corporate discount approved by the Park Supervisor (or higher) for a period of up to 12 months applicable to corporate/business clients of Wollongong City Tourist Parks with a recent history or expectation of frequent extended stays or multiple cabin/site bookings.

Group Discount is a discount applicable to medium to large group clients of Wollongong City Tourist Parks customers involving ten (10) or more simultaneous cabin/site bookings and approved by the Park Supervisor (or higher) on an individual basis.

Elevated Discount is a discount approved on an individual basis by the Operations Manager - Tourist Parks (or higher) based on merit and in line with operations and strategic objectives.

Promotional/Campaign Rates is a discount rate pre-approved by the Operations Manager - Tourist Parks (or higher) as part of a seasonal or targeted promotional/marketing campaign and added to the Tourist Parks property management software as an available rate or accessible using a campaign code.

Third Party Agents/Online Travel Agents are the online and physical third party travel agencies, engaged by the Tourist Parks

FOC/In Kind Promotions relates to the yearly discretionary allotment of complimentary accommodation nights, the Manager Property and Recreation may approve.

STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| WOLLONGONG CITY TOURIST PARKS DISCOUNTING AND PROMOTIONS PROCEDURE | PROCEDURE DOCUMENT |
|---|---------------------------|

Discount Types and Delegated Approvers

Table 1

| Discount Type | Discount Amount | Approval Required | Approving Officer |
|-------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Loyalty Member Rate | Maximum 10% Discount (Low and Shoulder Season Only) | No additional approvals if membership is verified | Not applicable |
| One-Off Corporate Discounts | Maximum 10% Discount | On each occasion | Park Supervisor level or higher |
| Recurring Corporate Discounts | Maximum 10% Discount | Recurring approval of up to 12 months possible | Operations Manager level or higher |
| Group Discounts | Maximum 10% Discount | On each occasion | Park Supervisor level or higher |
| Elevated Discounts | Maximum 30% Discount | On each occasion | Operations Manager level or higher |
| Promotional/Campaign Rates | Up to 30% | Pre-approved only and loaded in Newbook (eg Marketing or Seasonal Pricing Campaign). No additional approval is required | Operations Manager level or higher |

Discounts

Discount Requests

1. If a customer requests a discount, the Tourist Park employee handling the booking/enquiry will first review the reservation management system in order to confirm:
 - a. Whether there is an active promotion applicable to the booking, or
 - b. Whether a current recurring discount exists on the client account.
2. If one of the above conditions (1a-b) are met, the Tourist Park employee may apply the discount subject to applicable/noted conditions, without further approval.
3. If there is no active promotion or recurring discount the employee will assess the booking and reservation management system to determine whether:
 - a. The booking/s meets the criteria for discounting (eg group, corporate, compelling circumstances)
 - b. The booking stay falls in low or shoulder season
 - c. The booking is being made less than 21 days prior to arrival and occupancies are below the corporate target of 60% for cabin and 50% for sites.
4. Where the above conditions (3a-c) are all met, the employee will provide these details to the relevant approving officer in writing for advice/review and approval.

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| WOLLONGONG CITY TOURIST PARKS DISCOUNTING AND PROMOTIONS PROCEDURE | PROCEDURE DOCUMENT |
|---|---------------------------|

Discount Approvals

5. All discounts (other than Loyalty Member Rates) must be approved by a delegated Approving Officer as detailed in Table 1.
6. Discounts can be applied to the current Council endorsed fee or charge, up to the maximum limits outlined in Table 1.
7. Other than recurring discounts, approval must be obtained and provided for each stay.
8. When considering discounting, the Approving Officer will take into account all the following factors:
 - a Length and volume of stay
 - b Current or anticipated occupancy rates for the period compared to corporate targets (60% cabins and 50% sites)
 - c Client booking history or forecast
 - d Factors of cost, competitors, and profit objectives; and/or
 - e For elevated discounts (Operations Manager or higher) the basis of decision in line with operations and strategic objectives.
9. If a one-off discount is applicable, notes shall be entered into the Tourist Parks reservation management system directly by the Approving Officer. The notes are to be added to the applicable booking and include all the following:
 - a The discount amount approved
 - b Rationale for the discount being approved based on factors detailed in 8(a-e).
10. If a recurring discount is applicable, notes shall be entered into the Tourist Parks reservation management system directly by the Approving Officer. The notes are to be added to the applicable **corporate/guest account** and include all the following:
 - a The recurring discount amount approved
 - b The start and end date of the recurring discount (up to a maximum of 12 months)
 - c Rationale for the discount being approved based on factors detailed in 8(a-e).

Discount Processing

11. Once a discount has been approved by the delegated Approving Officer, the Tourist Park employee handling the booking/enquiry will:
 - a Confirm relevant notes relating to the discount have been the client/booking account
 - a Apply the discount to the relevant booking by either selecting the relevant discount type in the reservation management system or entering an applicable discount code (if provided).

Discount Reporting

12. At the conclusion of each month, Tourist Park Supervisors are to print, review and sign the discount report for the period. These are to be appropriately stored in the corporate records management for future auditing purposes.
13. Where non-compliance with this procedure has been identified, the Tourist Park Supervisor will provide a report to the Operations Manager - Tourist Parks on the identified issues and action taken to address identified issues.
14. At the conclusion of each quarter, the Operations Manager - Tourist Parks is to print, review and sign the discount report for the period. These are to be appropriately stored in the corporate records management for future auditing purposes.
15. Where serious or repeated non-compliance with this procedure has been identified, the Operations Manager - Tourist Parks will provide a report to the Commercial Business Manager on the identified issues and action taken to address identified issues or whether further investigation is required.

WOLLONGONG CITY TOURIST PARKS DISCOUNTING AND PROMOTIONS PROCEDURE

PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

Promotional Pricing

16. To achieve occupancy targets, remain competitive and ensure prominent market placement, it is necessary for the Tourist Parks to participate various marketing campaigns that involve promotional pricing and/or value adding. The types of promotional pricing and value adding may include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a Discounted mid-week stays during low occupancy periods (eg 20% off midweek)
 - b Stay and Save Deals (eg stay 7, pay 5 nights)
 - c Reduced rate for additional nights (eg Save 30% on third night)
 - d Complimentary late check-out.
17. Promotional pricing may be available to either all customers or only select audiences. Examples of this include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a As part of Local and/or Regional Tourism Board Campaigns
 - b As part of Online Travel Agency Campaigns
 - c As part of targeted marketing campaigns
 - d As part of a general pricing campaign in response to periods of low occupancy.
18. When considering whether to participate in promotional pricing or campaign pricing activities, the Operations Manager - Tourist Parks consider all the following factors:
 - a Activity alignment with the Tourist Parks Marketing Strategy
 - b Factors of cost, competitors, and profit objectives
 - c Current or anticipated occupancy rates for the period compared to corporate targets (60% cabins and 50% sites).
19. If the Operations Manager - Tourist Parks determines there to be benefit in promotional/campaign pricing activities, they will prepare a recommendation for the Commercial Business Manager to review and approve with rationale based on factors 18(a-c).
20. All Promotion/Campaign Pricing is to include all the following terms and conditions:
 - a Defined starting and ending dates in which bookings can be made and applicable stay dates and details and dates of any blackout or exclusion periods
 - b The types of accommodation the promotional pricing is applicable to
 - c Details of any minimum and maximum stays
 - d Whether or not the promotion can be combined with any other discount or promotion
 - e How many times the promotion may be used by one person/group
 - f How the promotion is applied or redeemed.
21. Where promotional pricing is available to all customers, details of the promotion will be published on the Wollongong City Tourist Parks website and the promotional rates added to the Tourist Parks property management system along with applicable terms and conditions.
22. The Operations Manager is to advise all relevant staff by email prior to the launch of any promotional/campaign pricing activity with all relevant details.

Promotion/Campaign Reporting

23. At the conclusion of promotional pricing activity, the Operations Manager - Tourist Parks is to extract a report from the Tourist Parks property management software on the take-up of promotion. This report is to be appropriately stored in the corporate records management for future auditing purposes.

Online and Third Party Agents

24. Commercial arrangements of up to 17% will be assessed and formalised by the Operations Manager Tourist Parks on approval by the Commercial Business Manager.
25. Commercial arrangements of more than 17% will be assessed and formalised by the Operations Manager Tourist Parks on approval by the Manager Property and Recreation.

WOLLONGONG CITY TOURIST PARKS DISCOUNTING AND PROMOTIONS PROCEDURE

PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

26. If commercial arrangements have been entered into with third parties that require payment of commissions direct from the customer to the third party prior to arrival, the customer will be charged the balance on arrival with the commission shown as a discount to the nightly tariff on the customer ledger.
27. The commission payable to the third party will be over and above any discount otherwise applied to the reservation as per the maximum 30% discount.
28. Commissions payable to the third parties in this manner will be up to a maximum of 17% or market rate (whichever is higher).
29. Commercial arrangements that require commissions to be paid on invoice after guest departure will be paid as a fee from operational costs.
30. Independent auditing will be carried out in line with Council's Revenue Policy.

In Kind Promotions

31. A total of 30 accommodation nights per financial year at each site will be allocated for promotional use at the discretion of the Manager Property and Recreation.
32. Any requests for complimentary accommodation nights or promotional opportunities for approval will be assessed by the Operations Manager Tourist Parks and/or Commercial Business Manager who will then a recommendation to the Manager Property and Recreation.
33. The Manager Property and Recreation will review prepared recommendations and give final approval.
34. Each request will be assessed on its individual merit in each period and participation in a prior period does not guarantee participation in a future period.
35. Requests may include accommodation nights for promotional activity for example in-house competitions, contra deals for professional services such as photography or advertising, compassionate donations to charitable causes or for any other purpose that promotes the Tourist Parks in a positive light and as the Manager Property and Recreation deems suitable.
36. Written advice will be supplied to the site for any complimentary accommodation nights that have been approved. This advice is to be printed, noted on the reservation and held on site for future auditing purposes.

REPORTING

Recording of Transactions

1. All transactions will be recorded in Council's financial system to recognise both income and expenditure and associated GST for each transaction.
2. Transactions will be reported monthly to Finances Tax and Finance Accountant and Budget and Reporting Coordinator to ensure all transactions are allocated correctly.

REVIEW

These Procedures will be reviewed every two years or in-line with the review of the parent policy (where applicable) and at other times as required. Changes to the Procedure that are consistent with the parent policy can be approved by the Manager Governance and Customer Service.

WOLLONGONG CITY TOURIST PARKS DISCOUNTING AND PROMOTIONS PROCEDURE

PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

| APPROVAL AND REVIEW | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Responsible Division | Property and Recreation |
| Date adopted | [Date Adopted] |
| Date of previous adoptions | [Previous adoption dates] |
| Date of next review | [Review Date] |
| Responsible Manager | Manager Property and Recreation |
| Parent Policy | Wollongong City Tourist Parks - Discounting and Promotions Policy |

ITEM 6

PUBLIC EXHIBITION - POLICY REVIEW: DRAFT CCTV CODE OF PRACTICE AND REGISTER

The CCTV Code of Practice together with the CCTV Register outline the principles that Council staff will consider when determining the establishment, operation and management of Council's Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Program. The CCTV Code of Practice and Register are supplemented by Council's CCTV Management Policy which provides direction on the capture, management and disposal of CCTV footage and the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which provides instruction on the day-to-day operation of the CCTV systems.

Council's CCTV Code of Practice was last updated and adopted on 10 December 2018. A review has been undertaken and improvements identified, and the draft CCTV Code of Practice and Register have been updated to reflect these changes.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Endorse the draft CCTV Code of Practice and CCTV Register for public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.
- 2 The draft CCTV Code of Practice and CCTV Register be reported back to Council following public exhibition.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Ingrid McAlpin, Chief Information Officer

Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 CCTV Code of Practice - Council Policy
- 2 CCTV Register

BACKGROUND

Council operates a CCTV network currently consisting of 470 cameras across 35 sites, including the Wollongong City Centre, Mall and adjacent streets. The main objective of operating CCTV is to assist in improving perceptions of safety, deterring antisocial and criminal behaviour, protecting assets and assisting in prosecution of offenders. Since January 2022, Council has received 158 requests from the NSW Police for access to Council's CCTV footage.

Council's CCTV Code of Practice was last updated and adopted on 10 December 2018. A review of the operation of CCTV has been undertaken and a range of improvements identified to the operation, maintenance and governance of the CCTV network.

There are a range of legislative requirements, as well as NSW government policy statements and guidelines that Council must comply with when operating a CCTV network, and these have been taken into consideration in the review of the Code of Practice. Given the operation of CCTV occurs across a number of different sites, a centralised Steering Committee has been established to standardise the approach and oversee implementation of the revised draft CCTV Code of Practice and use of the internal Standard Operating Procedure.

PROPOSAL

The revised draft Code of Practice has been simplified and updated to reflect the outcomes from the CCTV review and legislative requirements. In addition, the register of CCTV installations has been removed from the document and now resides in an electronic system, providing a single source of truth, in line with best practice. A dashboard has been created, drawing on the information in the electronic system which will be published on the Council's website. The advantage of this approach is that it will facilitate near real-time update of the register when any changes occur to the CCTV network. It also

provides a geographic interface allowing the community easy access to accurate and up-to-date information.

It is proposed that Council endorse the revised draft CCTV Code of Practice and CCTV Register for public exhibition which will provide the community with information on how Council manages its CCTV Program and provides an opportunity to provide feedback.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The revised draft Code of Practice has been reviewed and endorsed by relevant facility/site managers who operate CCTV. The Audit Risk and Improvement Committee has had oversight of the CCTV review and a Councillor Briefing was held on 16 June 2022. The revised draft CCTV Code of Practice and CCTV Register is now proposed for public exhibition to seek feedback from the community, before being endorsed by Council.

The CCTV Code of Practice requires the establishment of an evaluation framework for each public place where CCTV is established, to determine whether the CCTV is achieving its objectives. The newly established CCTV Steering Committee will coordinate the development of the framework and evaluation of CCTV in consultation with the Community Safety Interagency Group (which includes the NSW Police).

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This policy aligns to Goal 5 of our Community Strategic Plan, *"We have a healthy community in a liveable city"* and in particular the objective that suburbs and places are liveable and safe. This policy relates to Community Strategic Plan 5.2 Urban areas are created and maintained to provide a healthy and safe living environment for our community, 5.10, Partnerships continue to strengthen and achieve a safe accessible and resilient community and 5.11 Local crime continues to be prevented and levels of crime reduced.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Regular review and update of the CCTV Code of Practice addresses the potential risks associated with unclear lines of responsibility and oversight for the CCTV program and to ensure that Council continues to address relevant legislative requirements, including for Surveillance Devices in NSW.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional financial implications associated with the revision to the CCTV Code of Practice.

CONCLUSION

The CCTV Code of Practice and CCTV Register contain information and standards to guide the operation of Council's CCTV Program and is supplemented by Council's CCTV Management Policy and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which provides instruction on the day-to-day operation of the CCTV system specific to each CCTV site.

The CCTV Code of Practice and CCTV Register have been updated to address operational changes and takes advantage of Council's improved reporting capabilities.



CCTV CODE OF PRACTICE COUNCIL POLICY

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: : [TO BE COMPLETED BY GOVERNANCE]

PURPOSE

This Code of Practice (policy) outlines the principles that council staff will consider to determine the establishment, operation and management of CCTV in public places.

POLICY INTENT

The main objectives of this policy are to;

1. Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime
2. Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders;
3. Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or in progress;
4. Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders and;
5. Assist with crowd control for public events.

WOLLONGONG 2032 Objectives

This policy aligns to Goal 5 of our Community Strategic Plan, *"We have a healthy community in a liveable city"* and in particular the objective that suburbs and places are liveable and safe. This policy relates to Community Strategic Plan 5.2 Urban areas are created and maintained to provide a healthy and safe living environment for our community, 5.10, Partnerships continue to strengthen and achieve a safe accessible and resilient community and 5.11 Local crime continues to be prevented and levels of crime reduced.

1 INTRODUCTION

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) has increasingly featured in the community as a safety and crime prevention tool. CCTV can be effective in improving perceptions of safety, deterring antisocial and criminal behaviour, protecting assets and assisting in prosecution.

This CCTV Code of Practice (policy) is to be applied to the management of the CCTV system used across the entirety of the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). The CCTV system consists of cameras monitors, control panels, intelligent video software, video recording systems and supporting infrastructure.

Wollongong City Council's CCTV system is part of a layered security response that Council utilises with an aim to reduce crime. Other strategies include activating public space, appropriate lighting, natural surveillance, access control and signage.

Temporary CCTV cameras differ from Council's other CCTV cameras only in that they can be rapidly deployed to and from locations in order to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in public space. Temporary CCTV cameras are included in Council's CCTV Program and are covered by Council's CCTV Code of Practice.

It is acknowledged that CCTV cameras installed in public place locations and as part of Council infrastructure may also capture Council staff performing work tasks. The CCTV Program, the subject of this Code of Practice, is not designed to intentionally provide workplace surveillance. Where the purpose is to provide workplace surveillance and/or a record of accidents or other non-crime incidents, Council's Surveillance of Employees Policy must be complied with.

This Code applies to CCTV established, operated or managed by, or on behalf of Council with Council's express consent.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CODE OF PRACTICE

COUNCIL POLICY

This Code does not apply to:

- a) any CCTV installed by a third party, such as a tenant or licensee of Council land and/or facilities;
- b) mobile cameras including dash cams, safety cams (e.g. on community buses), web cams, drone footage and body worn video cameras that are primarily used for Council activities associated with enforcement by authorised officers of Council in their delegated tasks or for personal safety;
- c) Cameras capturing still images for the purposes of regulatory compliance e.g. on the weighbridge at Whyte's Gully;
- d) cameras attached to Council's garbage trucks for operational purposes
- e) where CCTV cameras are used for condition reporting for assets and;
- f) CCTV cameras operated for the purposes of Illegal Dumping Surveillance
- g) cameras used as smart sensors for the purpose of collecting data for business intelligence analytics e.g. for traffic flow monitoring or crowd density estimations etc.

Although CCTV systems installed by a community-based organisation who lease Council facilities are outside the scope of this Code, these systems will need approval from Council prior to installation. Council staff will consider how the proposed system aligns with the principles (below) prior to approving such a system. If approved, the system will be owned and operated by the organisation in accordance with appropriate legislation and guidelines.

Nothing in this policy authorises or permits in any way the use of facial recognition or any form of biometric technology. As a consequence, Council CCTV (or related technology) cannot incorporate or deploy such recognition or biometric technology.

2 KEY PRINCIPLES

Council staff will consider and determine the establishment, operation and management of CCTV in public places by Council, in accordance with applicable guiding principles as required, such as those outlined in the NSW Government CCTV Guidelines.

1. Council staff will ensure that where CCTV is established, operated and managed for crime prevention and community safety purposes, that the implementation of CCTV will be part of an integrated, multi-agency approach to crime control and community safety.

CCTV will only be considered as one part of a range of crime prevention measures, and not a stand-alone strategy, and that prior to installation, a safety and security audit will be completed. The audit will consider:

- Whether the problem is on-going or the result of a one-off event;
- Whether the perception of crime is supported by evidence and data;
- How the establishment, operation and management of CCTV fits within a broader crime prevention strategy;
- Evidence as to the effectiveness of CCTV in addressing the identified crime;
- The lawfulness of the collection of personal information via CCTV; and
- The costs associated with establishing, operating and managing the CCTV

2. Council staff will ensure that the ownership of public area CCTV system is clear and publicly known.

- Council staff will erect signs informing the public of the existence of CCTV in a public place and will take steps to ensure that the signs comply with relevant legislation such as the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPIP Act)*.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CODE OF PRACTICE

COUNCIL POLICY

Furthermore, Council staff will maintain a public register of all of its CCTV systems and their locations.

3. When considering establishing or significantly expanding a public area CCTV system, Council staff will ensure that the relevant concerns of all parties affected are considered through an effective consultation process. People or groups that may be affected by the proposal could include:
 - Residents;
 - Users of the public place;
 - Local businesses;
 - Police and other regulatory authorities; and
 - Council staff.

Information available through the consultation process will include the potential benefits of the system, possible costs involved, and privacy implications, including people's rights and Council's responsibilities. Consultation with Council staff will ensure compliance with the *Workplace Surveillance Act 2005* and ensure that staff are given due notice prior to the installation of a system.

4. Council staff will identify the purpose and will develop and document objectives for the establishment, operation and management of CCTV in a public place. CCTV will only be used in accordance with its established objectives and not for any other purpose. Objectives may include:
 - To assist in the investigation and/or prosecution of civil and criminal offences in relation to the security of public places and Council's facilities/assets, or crimes against the person;
 - Improving public confidence in the safety and security of public places;
 - To deter anti-social behaviours in high risk public places;
 - To assist with the safety of Council staff or authorised contractors within public places;
 - To assist with the management/operations or maintenance of public places, or monitoring their use; or
 - Identifying potential environmental safety risks.
5. Where CCTV is established in a public place for crime prevention purposes, Council staff will consult with NSW Police to ensure that the installation of CCTV fits within a broader crime prevention strategy and will meet its objectives. NSW Police have viewing access to Council's CCTV facilities under an agreed Memorandum of Understanding.
6. Council staff will ensure that its CCTV systems are open and accountable and operate with due regard for privacy and civil rights of individuals and the community, including that:
 - The recording and retention of images is undertaken lawfully;
 - The purpose for which the information is being obtained is known;
 - The information is not used for any purpose other than that stated;
 - People are made aware that they may be subject to CCTV surveillance; and
 - The owners of the system are known and accountable for its operation
7. Council staff will develop and implement an evaluation framework for each public place where CCTV is established to determine whether the CCTV is achieving its objectives.

The evaluation framework will provide guidance on appropriate mechanisms to enable Council staff to

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CODE OF PRACTICE

COUNCIL POLICY

assess whether the CCTV system is:

- Achieving its objectives (including an assessment of its impact upon crime and community safety, for those systems implemented for crime prevention or community safety purposes);
 - Being used in accordance with its established objectives, and not for any other purpose;
 - Impacting on any groups;
 - Providing an overall benefit (after consideration of the costs involved in operating the system); and
 - Requires changes to the extent or location of the cameras, or technology utilised.
8. Complaints in relation to Council's establishment, management or operation of CCTV may be made through Council's existing customer contact processes (in person at Council's Customer Service Centre, or via phone, letter or email).
- Complaints, except for those specified below, will be managed in accordance with Council's *Customer Feedback Handling Policy*.
- Complaints in relation to Council's handling of a person's personal information may be made and will be managed in accordance with Council's *Privacy Management Plan*.
- Complaints in relation to Council's handling of a person's personal information may also be made to the NSW Information and Privacy Commissioner.
9. Council staff will review its CCTV systems every two (2) years to assess compliance with this Code and any associated management policies and standard operating procedures. The review will examine such matters as:
- Assessment of the system and any technological problems;
 - Processes used to receive, access and process footage requests;
 - Complaints received and responses provided;
 - Compliance with relevant legislation, regulations and Australian Standards; and
 - Whether the systems and processes utilized remain good practice.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The policy reflects, relevant laws and standards including;

- *NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*
- *NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Regulation 2019*
- *NSW Workplace Surveillance Act 2005*
- *Security Industry Act 1997 No. 157 (NSW)*
- NSW Government policy statement and guidelines for the establishment and implementation of closed circuit television (CCTV) in public places Standards Australia (2006) Closed Circuit television (CCTV) Part 1 Management and operation (AS 4806.1 – 2006)
- Standards Australia (2006) Closed Circuit television (CCTV) Part 2 Application guidelines (AS 4806.2 – 2006)

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every four (4) years or more frequent if significant legislative changes occur, or upon any changes to the *NSW Government CCTV Guidelines*.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CODE OF PRACTICE

COUNCIL POLICY

The review will consider the results of the audits of Council's CCTV systems, to ensure that this Code is effective and has been implemented appropriately.

REPORTING

There are no reporting requirements under this Code of Practice.

RELATED PROCEDURES

Standard Operating Procedures

CCTV Management Policy

Privacy Management Plan

Customer Feedback Handling Policy

DEFINITIONS

Closed Circuit Television System (CCTV) - A private television system involving one or more cameras, used to transmit images to a specific limited number of monitors on the same network or circuit

Public Places - Land and/or facilities that are owned, operated, or in the care of Council and which are considered by Council to be freely accessible to members of the public. Such areas may be defined by relevant legislation. Examples of public places, for the purposes of this Code, include Council's Customer Service Centre, libraries, parks, playgrounds, community centres, sporting fields, swimming pools, streets, footpaths

| APPROVAL AND REVIEW | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Responsible Division | [Name of Division] | |
| Date/s adopted | <i>EMC</i> [updated by policy owner] | <i>Council</i> [To be inserted by Governance] |
| Date/s of previous adoptions | | |
| Date of next review | [Not more than two years from last adoption] | |

Location and Purpose of CCTV

Wollongong Memorial Gardens

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime Safe – Money Handling
- Staff Security – Risk Management
- Observing funeral services held on premises for operational purposes; that is, to assist in the safe and efficient management of casket entry, removal and related tasks

Warrawong Library

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime

Helensburgh Library

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime

Helensburgh Waste Disposal Depot

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Monitor traffic flow in and out of the site
- Assist operatives to validate the loads that are entering the site
- Assist operatives to ensure that there are no hazardous or prohibited material entering the site
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders Assist in the detection of offenders in illegal dumping Assist in identifying theft offenders

Whytes Gully Waste Disposal Depot

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Monitor traffic flow in and out of the site
- Assist operatives to validate the loads that are entering the site
- Assist operatives to ensure that there are no hazardous or prohibited material entering the site

- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders Assist in the detection of offenders in illegal dumping
- Assist in identifying theft offenders

Council Administration Building and Car Park

- Building and Car Park Asset Protection Crime Prevention
- Security Services Operational Quality Controls Safe – Money Handling
- Staff Security – Risk Management

Wollongong City Centre and Mall and Adjacent Streets

- Pedestrian Traffic – People Counting for marketing and display purposes Crime Prevention
- Crime Investigation and analysis
- Public Liability Claims – Proof of evidence. (Slips, Trips and Falls) Crowd Control – Public events (Australia Day, Viva La Gong) Asset Protection
- Maintain safe environment for the community

Central Store

- Observation of unauthorised access to stores area

Central Depot

- Building and Car Park Asset Protection Crime Prevention
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders

North Depot

- Building and Car Park Asset Protection Crime Prevention
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders

Southern Works Depot

- Building and Car Park Asset Protection Crime Prevention
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders

Dapto Ribbonwood Centre (excluding child care centre)

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders; Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations
- Where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime

Thirroul District Community Centre and Library

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime

- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime

Corrimal District Library and Community Centre

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime

Illawarra Performing Arts Centre

- Crime Prevention
- Security Services Operational Quality Controls Building Asset Protection
- Public Liability Controls – Trips, slips and falls

Integral Building – 81-83 Burelli Street

- Crime Prevention
- Staff Security – Risk Management Building Asset Protection

ihub – 93 Crown Street Wollongong

- Crime Prevention Customer Service Building Asset Protection

North Wollongong Beach

- Monitoring use of Puckeys Beach (Fairy Meadow creek entrance) (see also Bathers Pavilion below)

Wollongong Youth Centre

- Crime Prevention
- Staff Security – Risk Management Building Asset Protection

Wollongong Art Gallery

- Crime Prevention
- Security Services Operational Quality Controls Building Asset Protection
- Public Liability Controls – Trips, slips and falls

Bathers Pavilion

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Assist in water surveillance of Puckey's Beach near Fairy Creek
- Crowd Control – Public events (Australia Day, New Years' Eve)

Marine Drive

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Crowd Control – Public events (Australia Day, New Years' Eve)

Berkeley Pool

- Staff Security – Risk Management
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime

Mt Keira Summit Park – toilets, carpark, telecommunications tower and kiosk

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime level by deterring potential offenders. Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime.
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of crime is imminent or is in progress.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders.
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime.

Tramway (Blue Mile)

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of crime is imminent or is in progress.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders. Crowd Control – Public events.
- Asset protection.
- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime. Public liability controls.

Beaton Park Leisure Centre

- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of crime is imminent or is in progress.
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime.
- Safe money handling
- Staff Security – Risk Management

Lakeside Leisure Centre

- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of crime is imminent or is in progress.

- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime.
- Safe money handling
- Staff Security – Risk Management

Unanderra Library

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime

Bulli Beach Tourist Park

- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of crime is imminent or is in progress.
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime.
- Safe money handling
- Staff Security – Risk Management

Corrimal Beach Tourist Park

- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of crime is imminent or is in progress.
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime.
- Safe money handling
- Staff Security – Risk Management

Windang Beach Tourist Park

- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of crime is imminent or is in progress.
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime.
- Safe money handling
- Staff Security – Risk Management

Geotechnical Services Soils Lab

- Crime Prevention
- Staff Security – Risk Management Building Asset Protection

Kanahooka Point

- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders

Memorial Park Corrmal

- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders

Wollongong Town Hall

- Crime Prevention
- Security Services Operational Quality Controls Building Asset Protection
- Public Liability Controls – Trips, slips and falls

ITEM 7 POST EXHIBITION - REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Council's Compliance and Enforcement Policy has been updated and has been placed on public exhibition. The policy outlines the framework within which Council exercises its powers as an enforcement agency under a range of legislation. This report seeks Council's resolution to endorse the updated policy.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The Compliance and Enforcement Policy be adopted.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Corey Stoneham, Manager Regulation and Enforcement

Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Compliance and Enforcement Policy

BACKGROUND

The existing Compliance and Enforcement Policy was adopted by Council in mid-2018. The Policy outlines the overarching principles of how Council will exercise its legislative powers under a range of Acts in response to identified offences.

The Policy takes a risk based, escalating approach to compliance, and being modelled on the NSW Ombudsman's Enforcement Guidelines and Policy for Local Councils (Dec 2015), it is consistent with policies found across most NSW Councils.

PROPOSAL

The Policy has been reviewed by staff and management within Regulation and Enforcement and Council's Legal Team. The changes are not wholesale but rather highlight the discretion Council has in investigating and responding to low risk or technical breaches, vexatious matters or complaints that are outside of the jurisdiction of Council.

Since 2016, customer requests received by Council relating to non-compliance with statutory requirements have increased significantly. Additionally, in this time local government has been required to implement several new compliance programs under state legislation.

The intent of the changes to the Policy (to clearly define Council's regulatory discretion) is to allow Council to better allocate resources on a risk basis and manage increasing workloads.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Consultation within Council's Regulation and Enforcement Division has occurred, and feedback has been received from staff and management.

The updated Compliance and Enforcement Policy has been placed on public exhibition for 28 days to allow for community feedback. During this time no submissions were made by the public however 13 residents downloaded the document and 48 visited the project page.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This proposed Policy is a direct contributor to the delivery of Wollongong 2028, Goal 1: "We value and protect our environment - 1.1.2 Impacts from development on the environment are assessed, monitored and mitigated" and Goal 5: "We are a healthy community in the liveable City" - 5.3.1 Promote and enforce compliance, develop and implement public health amenity and safety regulatory Programs and assist in improving compliance and legislative requirements.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Compliance and Enforcement Policy assists Council staff in prioritising its response to customer requests and in using its resources effectively and efficiently.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

CONCLUSION

Council's Compliance and Enforcement Policy has been reviewed. Changes are not wholesale but rather emphasise the discretion Council has in investigating and acting on non-compliance. The policy has been placed on public exhibition for 28 days with no submissions received.



COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL POLICY

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: : [TO BE COMPLETED BY GOVERNANCE]

PURPOSE

This Policy provides information for all internal and external stakeholders and interested parties about Council's position on compliance and enforcement matters in Wollongong City.

The purpose of this Policy is to provide structure for consistency and transparency in decision making, and to facilitate a proportional approach to compliance and enforcement. It is also intended to assist Council staff to act promptly, effectively and consistently in response to allegations of unlawful activity.

This Policy outlines matters to be considered at the various stages of the enforcement process from the receipt and investigation of reports alleging unlawful activity, through to what enforcement option Council will consider and whether to commence criminal or civil proceedings.

In certain circumstances Council will have shared enforcement responsibilities with other regulatory authorities. Advice and guidance is also provided on the role of Council in building and construction compliance matters where there is a Private Certifier, and the role of Councillors in enforcement.

Responsible Council staff are not limited by this Policy in their use of discretion and exercise of official functions. The full circumstances and facts of each case need to be considered and a decision made on the merits.

POLICY INTENT

This Policy applies to the investigation of complaints about unlawful activity or failure to comply with the terms or conditions of approvals, consents, notices or orders. It outlines how to assess whether complaints of unlawful activity require investigation, options for dealing with unlawful activities and regulatory breaches, matters for consideration and facilitates a proportional approach to compliance management.

It is based on the NSW Ombudsman "Enforcement Guidelines for Councils" and "Model Policy" (2015).

The objectives of this Policy are:

1. To establish clear guidelines and protocols for Council staff in the management of Council's regulatory activities.
2. To provide a framework to facilitate a responsive and risk-based approach to proactive and reactive compliance and enforcement matters.
3. To improve compliance management and reduce the impact of unlawful activity on the community and our environment.

The Policy also provides advice and guidance on the role of the Private Certifiers and the role of Councillors in enforcement.

WOLLONGONG 2028 OBJECTIVES

This Policy is a direct contributor to the delivery of Wollongong 2028, Goal 1: "We value and protect our environment – 1.1.2 Impacts from development on the environment are assessed, monitored and mitigated" and Goal 5: "We are a healthy community in the liveable City" – 5.3.1 Promote and enforce compliance, develop and implement public health amenity and safety regulatory Programs and assist in improving compliance and legislative requirements.



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POLICY

The Policy applies a risk-based approach to compliance management to ensure resources are focussed on those matters posing the biggest risk to the community and environment. This approach is applied to both proactive compliance activities and also in response to reports alleging unlawful activity (reactive compliance). Council will undertake enforcement action where appropriate in accordance with this Policy document.

1. Introduction

Council's regulatory responsibilities are applicable to threatened or *actual unlawful activity*, as well as a *failure to take action* (in order to be compliant with certain legal requirements). For simplicity, this Policy refers to both an act and/or an omission by an alleged offender as 'unlawful activity'.

2. Definitions

The following are the definitions of key terms in this Policy:

Enforcement

Actions taken in response to serious or deliberate contraventions of laws.

Regulation

Using a variety of tools and strategies to influence and change behaviour to achieve the objectives of an Act, Regulation or other statutory instrument administered by Council.

Report alleging unlawful activity

An expression of concern or a request for service in relation to alleged unlawful activity, where a response or resolution is explicitly or implicitly expected or legally required.

Unlawful activity

Any activity or work that has been or is being carried out contrary to the below and/or failure to take required action in order to be compliant with:

- terms or conditions of a development consent, approval, permit or licence
- an environmental planning instrument that regulates the activities or work that can be carried out on particular land
- a legislative provision regulating a particular activity or work
- a required development consent, approval, permission or licence.

3. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT PRINCIPLES

The following are the principles that underpin Council actions relating to compliance and enforcement.

| Principle | Action |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Accountable and transparent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting in the best interests of public health and safety and in the best interests of the environment • Ensuring accountability for decisions to take or not take action • Acting fairly and impartially and without bias or unlawful discrimination • Providing information about compliance and enforcement priorities and reasons for decisions to improve understanding and certainty and promote trust by the regulated community |

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| | |
|--------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring meaningful reasons for decisions are given to all relevant parties, particularly when there is a departure from this Policy |
| Consistent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring compliance and enforcement action is implemented consistently Encouraging customer reports about possible unlawful activity by acting reasonably in response to the circumstances and facts of each matter |
| Proportional | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the level of enforcement action is proportionate to the level of risk and seriousness of the breach Making cost effective decisions about enforcement action Taking action to address harm and deter future unlawful activity |
| Timely | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring responses to reports alleging unlawful activity and decision making in relation to those is timely. |

4. RISK BASED REGULATION

Our community has become more expectant of living in a healthy and liveable city where we value and protect our environment. It is understandable that a direct correlation of this expectation is that the number of laws and regulations have increased expanding the scope of necessary enforcement. From time to time reports alleging unlawful activity will exceed available resources.

Risk based regulation works on the basis that the type of compliance action chosen will be dependent on an evaluation of the degree of risk, and the impact of the non-compliance on Council's ability to achieve its objectives. It is a way to target resources where they are most needed and where they will produce the most effective impact.

Council is committed to developing and implementing both proactive and reactive strategies to achieve effective and efficient risk-based compliance enforcement programs. To this end, Council uses intelligence gained from its customer management systems to determine the most appropriate strategy.

Proactive compliance monitoring assists Council in meeting its statutory requirements, respond to common complaints and maintain a positive monitoring presence. The aim of proactive strategies is to reduce the amount of reactive incidents requiring a Council response.

Education and awareness raising activities are both proactive approaches to preventing breaches of the law and can be very cost effective in achieving compliance. Providing information to the public through media releases, Council's website, workshops with target groups and brochures together with incentives e.g. financial/awards, are all strategies Council will explore to determine the best fit for the areas of focus.

Reactive compliance enforcement incorporates a risk-based approach which categorises the request into low, medium and high having regard to Council's Risk Category Matrix. In that regard reference should be made to the Appendix 1 Risk Category Matrix.

Periodic reviews of Council's Risk Category Matrix will be undertaken using intelligence collated from its case management systems as well as other sources to ascertain whether systemic or more serious patterns are emerging which warrant re-categorising the risk levels of unlawful activities.

5. RESPONSIBILITY

Council receives information about alleged unlawful activity from members of the public, contact from other Government Agencies and information gathered by its Officers during proactive inspections.

Only Council staff with appropriate delegations from the General Manager can undertake investigations or compliance and enforcement action in relation to this Policy.

Council staff are required to:

- treat all relevant parties with courtesy and respect
- communicate with all relevant parties and provide feedback on the progress of an investigation and any reasons for delay without compromising the integrity of the investigation

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- make full and proper records in relation to the assessment and investigation of reports alleging unlawful activity, including reasons for any decisions
- inform all relevant parties of reasons for decisions
- provide as much information as possible to all relevant parties about the outcomes of investigations to show that adequate and appropriate action was taken and/or is proposed to be taken in response to a report of alleged unlawful activity
- provide information to all relevant parties about any avenues to seek an internal or external review of a decision

All reports alleging unlawful activity are to be entered into Council's customer request system and actioned within the appropriate risk-based time frame by the appropriate business unit.

6. SUBMITTING REPORTS OF UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY

Reports alleging unlawful activity will be recorded in Council's customer request systems and will be allocated a unique reference number. The report will be referred to the relevant Council Officer to commence any necessary action.

The name, address and contact details of the person submitting the report will also be recorded. This information is critical as Council may need to rely on evidence from the complainant to prove any alleged offence and commence enforcement action. Council will advise any complainants of the action, if any, taken or the reasons why no action was taken in the circumstances.

As outlined in Council's Customer Service Policy, Council generally seeks to keep confidential, personal information identifying a complainant. However, Council may be required to disclose this information in a variety of circumstances including the following:

- When access to the information is permitted under another Council Policy (consistent with legislation)
- Legal proceedings are commenced and the information is disclosed in evidence served
- When access to the information is permitted under Legislation, including the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 or the Local Government Act 1993.
- the disclosure is required to comply with the principles of procedural fairness
- the disclosure is necessary to investigate the matter.

Also, in some circumstances it may be possible to ascertain the identity of the person submitting the report by the nature of the allegation.

6.1 What Council expects from people who report allegations of unlawful activity

Council expects that people who report allegations of unlawful activity will cooperate and act in good faith in respect of any investigations conducted by Council. This includes:

- providing a clear description of the problem (and the resolution sought, if relevant)
- providing a clear description/account of the impact that the alleged activity is having
- giving all available and relevant information to Council, including any new information about the alleged activity that may become known to the person following the making of their report
- not giving any information that is intentionally misleading or wrong
- cooperating with Council's inquiries and giving timely responses to questions and requests for information
- treating Council's staff with courtesy and respect

6.2 Anonymous Reports

Anonymous reports will be recorded and assessed. However, because it is not possible to seek clarification or additional information about a matter, it is more difficult to evaluate the allegations and therefore only high-risk matters that are reported anonymously are likely to be tasked for investigation.

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7. RESPONDING TO CONCERNS ABOUT UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY

Council will record every report alleging unlawful activity.

Not all reports will, can or need to be investigated. A preliminary assessment of all matters will be made to determine the priority for a response, and whether investigation or other action is required.

An investigation of alleged unlawful activity may take a significant amount of time to complete, particularly where the issues are complex. If Council decides to investigate, staff will give the person who reported the alleged unlawful activity regular feedback on the progress of the investigation, and any reasons for delay. This does not mean that the individual can expect to be given details about every aspect of the investigation or information that would compromise the integrity of the investigation.

Decisions about what action should be taken by Council are made at the Council's discretion. This means the objective is that reports alleging unlawful activity will be resolved to the satisfaction of Council, not necessarily the person raising the matter. Council will generally try to resolve matters as quickly and informally as possible so as to avoid the need to take formal action.

Council staff will endeavour to manage the expectations of people who report alleged unlawful activity, and in particular explain that in the absence of sufficient evidence of unlawful activity, Council may be unable to take further action. Council does not have unlimited resources and powers to deal with reports alleging unlawful activity.

8. INVESTIGATING ALLEGED UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY

A preliminary assessment of all requests will be made to determine whether investigation or other action is required. Council will prioritise matters based on the Compliance and Enforcement Principles (Section 4).

If there is insufficient information in the report to undertake a preliminary assessment, the customer will be advised and the matter not tasked for investigation.

8.1 Circumstances where no regulatory action will be taken

Council will take no further action if, following a preliminary assessment, it is identified that:

- the report is not supported with evidence or appears to have no substance.
- Council does not have jurisdiction to investigate or is not the appropriate authority to take action on the issues raised. Where there is another appropriate authority or course of action, Council may bring the matter to the attention of the authority or provide information and contact details to the individual. For example NSW WorkCover for workplace safety matters, the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for possible environmental offences and Community Justice Centres NSW for personal disputes.
- the report relates substantially to a matter previously determined by Council and no new or compelling information is presented which would cause Council to change its earlier decision. In this case, staff will acknowledge the report and advise that no further action will be taken as no new information had been provided (other than where the person has previously been advised they would receive no further response).
- the allegations relate to a lawful activity (eg where there is an existing approval or the activity is permissible without Council approval or consent being required).
- The relevant Coordinator, Manager, Director, or General Manager may use discretion in determining that an investigation or further regulatory action isn't required in any of the following circumstances:
 - a) The investigation revealed that approval is likely to be achieved.
 - b) It is not a safety concern.
 - c) There is no amenity impact to the community.
 - d) The complaint is made anonymously, relates to low risk activity as defined by Councils 'Risk Category Matrix' and is without supporting evidence.
 - e) The complaint relates to a known neighbourhood dispute.
 - f) It is not in the public interest as the outcome will not justify the expenditure of resources.

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8.2 *Relevant factors guiding decisions as to whether to take regulatory action*

When deciding whether to investigate, Council will consider a range of factors including whether:

- the activity is having a significant detrimental effect on the environment or it constitutes a risk to public safety
- the report is premature as it relates to some unfinished aspect of work that is still in progress
- the activity or work is permissible with or without permission
- all conditions of consent are being complied with
- much time has elapsed since the events, the subject of the report, took place
- another body is a more appropriate agency to investigate and deal with the matter
- it appears there is a pattern of conduct or evidence of a possible wide spread problem
- the person or organisation reported has been the subject of previous reports
- the report raises matters of special significance in terms of the Council's existing priorities
- there are significant resource implications in relation to an investigation and any subsequent enforcement action
- it is in the public interest to investigate the report
- the activity is having an amenity impact to the community

The above are factors for Council to consider and weigh in making a determination. Council staff are not limited in their use of discretion by these considerations and may decide to investigate based on these and other factors.

The objective of the processes Council staff use when investigating incidents of alleged unlawful activity, is to:

- determine the cause of the incident
- determine if there has been a contravention of law, policy or standards
- gather evidence to the required standard to support any required enforcement action
- determine any necessary action to mitigate the possibility of reoccurrence of similar incident.

Any decision not to investigate an allegation of unlawful activity will be recorded and the reasons for that decision clearly stated.

9. DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO TAKE ENFORCEMENT ACTION?

When deciding whether to take enforcement action in relation to a confirmed case of unlawful activity, Council will consider the full circumstances and facts of the matter and the public interest. The following general considerations will assist Council staff in determining the most appropriate response in the public interest:

9.1 *Considerations about the alleged offence and impact*

- the nature, extent and severity of the unlawful activity, including whether the activity is continuing
- the harm or potential harm to the environment or public health, safety or amenity caused by the unlawful activity
- the seriousness of the breach, including whether the breach is merely technical, inconsequential or minor in nature
- the time period that has lapsed since the date of the unlawful activity.

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9.2 *Considerations about the alleged offender*

- any prior warnings, cautions, instructions, advice that was issued to the person or organisation reported or previous enforcement action taken against them
- whether the offence was committed with intent
- whether the person or organisation reported has been proactive in the resolution of the matter and assisted with any Council requirements and instructions
- any mitigating or aggravating circumstances demonstrated by the alleged offender
- any particular circumstances of hardship affecting the person or organisation reported.

9.3 *Considerations about the impact of any enforcement action:*

- the need to deter any future unlawful activity
- whether an educative approach would be more appropriate than a coercive approach in resolving the matter
- the prospect of success if the proposed enforcement action was challenged in Court
- the costs and benefits of taking formal enforcement action as opposed to taking informal or no action
- what action would be proportionate and reasonable in response to the unlawful activity
- whether Council is prevented from taking action based on earlier advice given, ie whether an estoppel situation has been created.

9.4 *Considerations about the potential for remedy:*

- whether the breach can be easily remedied
- whether it is likely consent would have been given for the activity if it had been sought
- whether there is a draft planning instrument on exhibition that would make the unauthorised use legal.

10. OPTIONS FOR DEALING WITH CONFIRMED CASES OF UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY

Council will use the most effective, informal option to deal with unlawful activity where ever possible unless there is little likelihood of compliance with such options. Council staff will use discretion to determine the most appropriate response to confirmed cases of unlawful activity and may take more than one approach.

Any enforcement action taken by Council will depend on the full circumstances and facts of each case, with any decision being made on the merits.

There are a range of enforcement actions available as shown below in Figure 1.

Enforcement options are not necessarily mutually exclusive: for example, in some circumstances it may be appropriate to simultaneously issue an Order and a Penalty Notice. It is also important to note that the following is a guide only and each case must be assessed on the particular facts.

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Figure 1: Enforcement actions available to Council



Note that it may be appropriate to use more than one enforcement option in some cases. If initial enforcement action does not achieve a satisfactory outcome, it may be necessary to proceed to a higher level of enforcement response. For example, if a warning letter or notice of intention does not achieve the desired response, it may be appropriate to give an Order; or if an Order is not complied with, it may be appropriate to bring enforcement or prosecution proceedings.

11. OFFENCES WHERE PENALTY NOTICE CAN BE ISSUED

For certain offences a penalty notice can be issued as the appropriate regulatory action, even for these certain offences, council officers have the authority to use discretion and issue a caution in place of a monetary fine. The circumstances for which a council officer may use discretion are clearly outlined as guidelines in section 19A (3) of the Fines Act 1996.

https://www.justice.nsw.gov.au/justicepolicy/Documents/caution_guidelines_under_the_fines_act_pdf.pdf

Following up enforcement action

All enforcement action will be reviewed and monitored to ensure compliance with any undertakings given by the subject of enforcement action or advice, directions or orders issued by Council. Reports alleging continuing unlawful activity will be assessed and further action taken if necessary. If the unlawful activity has ceased or the work has been rectified, the matter will be resubmitted for follow up action to ensure compliance

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outcomes are met. Should initial enforcement action be found to have been ineffective, Council staff will consider other enforcement options.

12. TAKING LEGAL ACTION

Council and delegated staff will be guided by legal advice in deciding whether to commence criminal or civil proceedings and will consider the following:

- whether there is sufficient evidence to establish a case to the required standard of proof,
- whether there is a reasonable prospect of success before a Court,
- whether the public interest warrants legal action being pursued.

Whether there is sufficient evidence to establish a case to the required standard of proof

Council considers the decision to take legal action a serious matter, and as such will only initiate and continue proceedings once it has been established that there is admissible, substantial and reliable evidence to the required standard of proof.

The basic requirement of any **criminal** prosecution is that the available evidence establishes a prima facie case. The prosecutor is required to prove the elements of the offence beyond reasonable doubt.

In **civil** enforcement proceedings, Council will require sufficient evidence to satisfy the Court that an actual or threatened breach has occurred on the balance of probabilities.

Whether there is a reasonable prospect of success before a Court

Given the expense of legal action Council will not take legal action unless there is a reasonable prospect of success before a Court. In making this assessment, Council staff will consider the availability, competence and credibility of witnesses, the admissibility of the evidence, all possible defences, and any other factors which could affect the likelihood of a successful outcome.

Whether the public interest requires legal action to be pursued

The principal consideration in deciding whether to commence legal proceedings is whether to do so is in the public interest. In making this determination, the same factors to be considered when taking enforcement action apply.

The following considerations relate more specifically to the decision to commence legal proceedings and will assist Council and its delegated staff in making this determination:

- the availability of any alternatives to legal action
- whether an urgent resolution is required (Court proceedings may take some time)
- the possible length and expense of Court proceedings
- any possible counter-productive outcomes of prosecution
- what the effective sentencing options are available to the Court in the event of conviction
- whether the proceedings or the consequences of any resulting conviction would be unduly harsh or oppressive.

Time within which to commence proceedings

Council staff must be aware of legislative time limits in which enforcement proceedings must be commenced. Sometimes legal action will be statute barred despite good evidence that unlawful activity has occurred.

13. SHARED ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Some reports will raise matters involving shared regulatory responsibilities between Council and other authorities including the Environment Protection Authority, NSW Police, NSW Liquor and Gaming, NSW Fair Trading, NSW Food Authority and Crown Lands.

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Council recognises that collaboration and cooperation between authorities to address issues of shared regulatory responsibility is the best approach. To this end, where there are shared legislative responsibilities, Council staff will work with relevant authorities to establish:

- which authority will take the leading role on any joint investigation
- which activities each authority will carry out
- responsibilities for updating an individual where relevant
- protocols for exchanging confidential information between the relevant authorities.

Council will reasonably endeavour to respond to requests for information or assistance on joint regulatory matters in a timely manner.

14. ROLE OF COUNCIL WHERE A PRIVATE CERTIFIER HAS BEEN NOMINATED AS THE PRINCIPAL CERTIFIER

Where the Private Certifier has been appointed as the Principal Certifier the Council recognises that the Private Certifier is the authority responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions of development consent.

Private Certifiers have limited enforcement powers. They can issue a notice of intention to issue an order to the owner or builder to comply with the conditions of consent or rectify any breaches. A copy of any Notice of Intention issued by a Private Certifier must be provided to Council for assessment as to whether Council will enforce the notice by issuing an Order.

Persons making complaints regarding a site where the PCA is private will be advised to contact the Private Certifier in the first instance. This will give the Private Certifier an opportunity to address the issues and take appropriate action.

Should the Private Certifier fail to use their enforcement powers to address the issue raised within a reasonable timeframe, Council will act to investigate the matter.

It must be noted that Council is not the regulator of Private Certifiers and any complaints about the conduct of Private Certifiers must be directed to the Building Professionals Board www.bpb.nsw.gov.au.

Council will endeavour to work with Private Certifiers to resolve any issues when they arise to achieve compliance with the development consent or complying development certificate. Council staff will take steps to ensure individuals are clear about which agency performs which role.

Refer to Council's Fact Sheet on Private Principal Certifiers for more information www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/.

15. REVIEW AND APPEAL PROCESSES

Any order issued by Council (as a proposed order) (unless issued in an emergency) will have a notice period allowing representations to be made (generally up to 28 days). Representations should be made in writing to the attention of the General Manager.

Fines issued by Council under a range of legislation have a review process that is managed by Revenue NSW. Information on how to request a review of a fine can be found at www.revenue.nsw.gov.au.

16. ROLE OF COUNCILLORS IN ENFORCEMENT

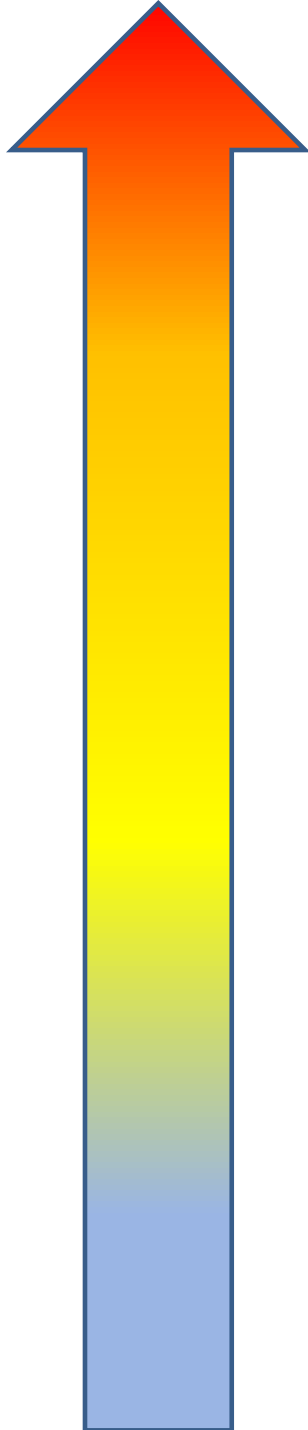
Compliance and enforcement matters are sensitive and easily susceptible to allegations of impropriety, bias or inconsistency. In order to manage those risks, and consistent with Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillors do not attend on-site meetings with Council staff, the complainants, or persons the subject of investigation or enforcement action, or direct staff in relation to particular outcomes relating to investigations or enforcement options or actions.

Councillors can help individuals who raise concerns with them by referring them to the Regulation and Enforcement Division for the appropriate action to take place as outlined in this Policy.

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APPENDIX 1



RISK CATEGORY MATRIX

High Risk

Including but not limited to:

- Large scale/significant pollution incidents
- Dog attacks, straying stock
- Large scale vegetation clearing
- Abandoned vehicles in unsafe locations
- Collapsed or unsafe building works adjacent to public areas
- Poor sediment control on building sites,

Medium Risk

Including but not limited to:

- Roaming dogs, dogs on beaches/ animal registration/general companion animal enquiries
- Abandoned motor vehicles
- Minor pollution incidents
- Breaches of tree preservation orders
- Swimming pool barrier fencing
- Domestic sewage surcharge
- Commercial & industrial air/noise complaints (criteria)
- Food premises complaints
- Public and environmental health premises complaints
- Significant unauthorised/non complying building works
- Building works where a Private Certifier appointed
- Land filling
- Rubbish dumping
- Parking
- Footpath obstructions
- Onsite sewage management systems
- Reserve encroachments
- Boarding houses

Low Risk

Including but not limited to:

- Barking dogs
- Domestic air noise complaints (power tools, air conditioners, pool pumps, amplified music)
- All other animal related enquiries
- Overgrown land (criteria)
- Home business/home occupation
- Minor unauthorised/non complying building works (criteria)
- Overland Stormwater flow (criteria)
- Smoke nuisance from domestic wood heaters, outdoor BBQ's, burning prohibited items
- Weed biosecurity
- Keeping of roosters, rooster noise, including poultry and fowl houses
- Unsightly premises
- Strata issues where Consumer's Tenancy & Trader's Tribunal is appropriate authority
- Dividing fences/boundary fence issues

The action undertaken by Council in response to a request will be proportionate the quantum of resources available at the time. For example, where the number of requests exceeds the amount of resources available, requests may be actioned using compliance through voluntary action (letters of cooperation). Conversely, when resources are available, more detailed investigations may be conducted.

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REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every two years from the date of each adoption of the policy, or more frequently as required.

| APPROVAL AND REVIEW | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Responsible Division | Regulation and Enforcement | |
| Date/s adopted | <i>EMC</i> [updated by policy owner] | <i>Council</i> [To be inserted by Governance] |
| Date/s of previous adoptions | [List previous adoption dates] | |
| Date of next review | [Not more than two years from last adoption] | |

ITEM 8 COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2023

Council meetings and Councillor Briefing Sessions have traditionally been held on a Monday on a three weekly meeting cycle, with Councillor Briefing Sessions being held on the second and third Monday of that cycle. This report recommends a continuation of that meeting cycle and proposes a set of meeting dates for the 2023 year for adoption by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Council adopt the Ordinary Council Meeting dates for 2023 as detailed in this report.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Governance + Customer Service

Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Proposed 2023 Council Meeting Cycle

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Council is required to meet at least ten times each financial year, each time in a different month. Council meetings have traditionally been held on a Monday with Ordinary Council meetings held on a three (3) weekly cycle on Mondays, commencing at 6.00 pm and no Council meetings held during school holiday period (government schools). In addition to Council meetings, Councillor briefings are held regularly throughout the year when Councillors are required to be briefed on significant matters prior to the reports coming before Council.

PROPOSAL

This report recommends adopting a set of meeting dates that in the main, are consistent with the current three-week cycle, noting that this cycle needs to be adjusted at times to allow for reporting requirements to Council for reports such as the Delivery Program and Budget and the Audited Financial Statements. Council may amend the meeting cycle at any time by future resolution.

The Following Council Meeting dates are recommended for adoption for the 2023 calendar year:

- Monday 06 February 2023
- Monday 27 February 2023
- Monday 20 March 2023
- Monday 03 April 2023
- Monday 08 May 2023
- Monday 29 May 2023
- Monday 26 June 2023
- Monday 31 July 2023
- Monday 28 August 2023
- Monday 18 September 2023
- Monday 09 October 2023
- Monday 30 October 2023
- Monday 20 November 2023
- Monday 11 December 2023

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 goal “We are a connected and engaged community”. It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Governance and Customer Service Business Plan 2022-2023.

CONCLUSION

The recommended set of meeting dates is consistent with the current three-week cycle and meets relevant requirements under the Local Government Act 1993.



2023 Wollongong City Council Meeting Dates

JANUARY

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |

FEBRUARY

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |

MARCH

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |

APRIL

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

MAY

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

JUNE

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |

JULY

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

AUGUST

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

SEPTEMBER

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

OCTOBER

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |

NOVEMBER

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

DECEMBER

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

Council Meeting

Public Holidays

School Holidays

ITEM 9

REPAIR OF FAILED ROAD EMBANKMENT AND ASSOCIATED WORKS AT HARRY GRAHAM DRIVE, MOUNT KEMBLA

Prolonged wet weather earlier this year resulted in significant embankment failures at two sites along Harry Graham Drive Mt Kembla leading to the closure of this road.

On 2 May 2022, Council resolved tenders not be invited due to extenuating circumstances and delegated to the General Manager, authority to undertake a formal quotation process in lieu of a tender to expedite urgent works. This report details the outcomes of the procurement process to engage a contractor to repair the two embankment failures along Harry Graham Drive, Mt Kembla. This report recommends Council receive the report on the procurement process undertaken and the outcome achieved.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Council receive the report on the procurement process followed and note the engagement of Abergeldie Complex Infrastructure in the sum of \$2,241,475.20 (Inc GST) for the repair of failed road embankment and associated works at Harry Graham Drive Mt Kembla.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Glenn Whittaker, Manager Project Delivery

Authorised by: Joanne Page, Director Infrastructure + Works - Connectivity Assets + Liveable City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

Prolonged wet weather earlier this year resulted in significant embankment failures at two sites along Harry Graham Drive. An expedited procurement process, and subsequent early commencement of works was requested of Council for the following reasons:

- To prevent the risk of further embankment loss or failures along the two sites
- To ensure the reopening of Harry Graham Drive ahead of the 2022/23 bushfire season. Harry Graham Drive being an alternative egress for the Mt Kembla village in the event of a major fire event.
- To aim for a potential reopening Harry Graham Drive ahead of the UCI Road World Cycling Championships in September 2022, that would allow elite events to traverse the Mt Keira Road / Harry Graham Drive loop showcasing the magnificent Illawarra escarpment

On 2 May 2022, Council resolved:

1. Pursuant to section 55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, tenders not be invited for the contract (or contracts) for the repair of the failed road embankment and associated works along Harry Graham Drive, Mt Kembla. This is due to extenuating circumstances, being the risk of further embankment failure causing further extended damage to the road embankment, the pending UCI Road World Championship cycling event planned for September 2022 and the potential restriction on access during the upcoming 2022/23 bushfire season should these works not be expedited.
2. Council delegate to the General Manager the authority to undertake and finalise a formal quotation process, in accordance with Council's procurement policies and procedures with available contractors with demonstrated experience and ability to undertake the works with a view to enter a contract (or contracts) for these works.

3. *Council delegate to the General Manager authority to enter a contract (or contracts) with the contractor or contractors selected following the process outlined at 2 above.*
4. *A report describing the outcome of the procurement process be submitted to the next available Council meeting following the successful engagement of contractor or contractors.*

Following the Council resolution, responses were requested for this project by the selective quotation method with a close of quotations of 10:00 am on 8 June 2022.

Two quotations were received by the close of quotations and all quotations were scrutinised and assessed by a Quotation Assessment Panel constituted in accordance with Council's Procurement Policies and Procedures and comprising representatives of the Project Delivery and Infrastructure, Strategy and Planning Divisions.

The Quotation Assessment Panel assessed all quotations in accordance with the following assessment criteria and weightings as set out in the formal quotation documents:

Mandatory Criteria

- 1 Financial assessment acceptable to Council which demonstrates the respondent's financial capacity to undertake the works

Assessable Criteria

- 1 Cost to Council – 40%
- 2 Appreciation of scope of works and construction methodology - 20%
- 3 Proposed sub-contractors - 10%
- 4 Project Schedule - 20%
- 5 Demonstrated Strengthening of Local Economic Capacity - 10%

The mandatory assessment criteria were met by the successful respondent.

The Quotation Assessment Panel utilised a weighted scoring method for the assessment of respondents which allocates a numerical score out of 5 in relation to the level of compliance offered by the respondents to each of the assessment criteria as specified in the quotation documentation. The method then takes into account pre-determined weightings for each of the assessment criteria which provides for a total score out of 5 to be calculated for each quotation. The respondent with the highest total score is considered to be the quotation that best meets the requirements of the quotation documentation in providing best value to Council. Table 1 below summarises the results of the quotation assessment and the ranking of responses.

TABLE 1 – SUMMARY OF QUOTATION ASSESSMENT

| Name of Respondent | Ranking |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Abergeldie Complex Infrastructure | 1 |
| Dynamic Civil | 2 |

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 1 Members of the Quotation Assessment Panel
- 2 Officers from Governance and Customer Service and Legal Services Divisions

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 goal 5 “We are a healthy community in a liveable city”. It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Infrastructure Delivery Program in FY2022 and FY2023.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk of the project works is considered high. Some of the key risks to the project are listed below:

- The short construction window available.
- The risk of further embankment failure or continuing heavy rainfall events may render the site unsafe for construction activities. Risk mitigation measures have been implemented by the contractor to reduce risk following rainfall events.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The following sustainability implications have been considered:

- Durable products incorporated in the design to ensure long-term integrity of the assets.
- Sustainable procurement by providing local companies the opportunity to submit quotations for the work.
- Quotation assessment incorporated weightings to support the ongoing economic development of the region including the sourcing and supply of local labour and materials.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the total project be funded from the following source/s as identified in the Annual Plan –

2021/22 and 2022/23 Capital Budgets

Council will seek financial assistance for these works under the NSW Government Disaster Relief Program.

CONCLUSION

Abergeldie Complex Infrastructure were appointed on 15 June 2022 and commenced site works on 4 July 2022. At the time of preparing this report significant progress has been made towards repair of the failed embankments.

Council should endorse the recommendation to receive the report on the procurement process followed and note the outcomes achieved.

ITEM 10

TENDER T1000056 - SECURITY AND AFTER-HOURS SUPPORT SERVICES AT COUNCIL'S TOURIST PARKS

This report recommends acceptance of a tender for the provision of security and after-hours support services at Council's tourist parks in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 In accordance with Section 178(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Council accept the tender of Insight Security Australia Pty Ltd for the provision of security and after-hours support services at Council's tourist parks.
- 2 Award the contract for an initial term of three years with one three-year optional extension, exercisable solely at the discretion of Council for a maximum term of six (6) years.
- 3 Council delegate to the General Manager the authority to finalise and execute the contract and any other documentation required to give effect to this resolution.
- 4 Council grant authority for the use of the Common Seal of Council on the contract and any other documentation, should it be required, to give effect to this resolution.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Lucielle Power, Manager Property + Recreation

Authorised by: Kerry Hunt, Director Community Services - Creative and Innovative City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

BACKGROUND

Wollongong Council operates three tourist parks located at Bulli, Windang and Corrimal. The tourist parks operate 24 hours a day, year-round, with staffed office hours varying based on occupancy and seasonality. Outside of staffed hours, the tourist parks rely upon contracted security and after-hours support service providers to maintain safety and service reliability across the parks.

This contract generally involves the provision of onsite security guards on weekend evenings and during higher occupancy periods, ad hoc, on-call response and scheduled patrol services. As part of this service, the contractor is required to provide a higher level of support and customer service than traditional security with duties include basic maintenance and troubleshooting, emergency response and assisting with cleaning and other general duties.

Council last went to market for the provision of this service in 2018 and the contract period for this service has expired. The current contract is holding over pending Council finalising this procurement process.

Tenders were invited for this contract by the open tender method with a close of tenders of 10.00am on 30 June 2022. The contract is for a three year period with an option to extend for a further three year period that may be exercised at the discretion of Council.

Six tenders were received by the close of tenders and the tenders have been scrutinised and assessed by a Tender Assessment Panel constituted in accordance with Council's Procurement Policies and Procedures and comprising representatives of the Property and Recreation, Community Services, Information Management & Technology, Governance and Customer Service divisions.

The Tender Assessment Panel assessed the tender in accordance with the following assessment criteria and weightings as set out in the formal tender documents:

Mandatory Criteria

- 1 Provision of satisfactory references from referees for previous projects of similar size and scope
- 2 Consent to independent financial capacity assessment
- 3 Master Security License.

Assessable Criteria

- 1 Cost to Council (Schedule of Rates) - 30%
- 2 Demonstrated experience and satisfactory performance in provision of service of similar size, scope and environment - 20%
- 3 Service scheduling / Methodology for delivery of services - 15%
- 4 Staff qualifications and experience - 15%
- 5 Demonstrated strengthening of local economic capacity - 10%
- 6 Workplace health and safety management system - 10%.

The mandatory assessment criteria have been met by the recommended tenderer.

The Tender Assessment Panel utilised a weighted scoring method for the assessment of tenders which allocates a numerical score out of five in relation to the level of compliance offered by the tenders to each of the assessment criteria as specified in the tender documentation.

The method then considers pre-determined weightings for each of the assessment criteria which provides for a total score out of five to be calculated for each tender. The tender with the highest total score is considered to be the tender that best meets the requirements of the tender documentation in providing best value to Council. Table 1 below summarises the results of the tender assessment and the ranking of tenders.

TABLE 1 – SUMMARY OF TENDER ASSESSMENT

| Name of Tenderer | Ranking |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Insight Security Australia Pty Ltd | 1 |
| Vibrant Services Pty Ltd | 2 |
| All Round Services Pty Ltd | 3 |
| Superior One Services Pty Ltd | 4 |
| Akbar Enterprises Pty Ltd | 5 |
| WCG Group Pty Ltd | 6 |

PROPOSAL

Council authorise the engagement of Insight Security Australia Pty Ltd for the services in accordance with the scope of works and technical specifications developed for the contract.

The recommended tenderer has satisfied the Tender Assessment Panel that it is capable of undertaking the works to Council's standards and in accordance with the technical specification.

Referees nominated by the recommended tenderer have been contacted by the Tender Assessment Panel and expressed satisfaction with the standard of work and methods of operation undertaken on their behalf.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

1 Members of the Tender Assessment Panel

2 Nominated Referees.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 Goal 2 “We have an innovative and sustainable economy”. It specifically delivers on the following:

| Community Strategic Plan | Delivery Program 2022-2026 | Operational Plan 2022-23 |
|---|--|--|
| Strategy | 4 Year Action | Operational Plan Actions |
| 2.7 Promote the Wollongong Local Government Area as an event, conference and visitor destination. | 2.7.2 Operate an efficient, well managed business providing a return to Council. | Contribute to the promotion of tourism in the Wollongong Local Government Area through the management of Council's three tourist parks at Bulli, Corrimal and Windang. |

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk in accepting the recommendation of this report is considered low on the basis that the tender process has fully complied with Council's Procurement Policies and Procedures and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The risk in relation to the contracted services is considered low based upon Council's risk assessment matrix as the recommended tenderer is the current provider of this service at Council's tourist parks

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with this contract will be funded from the current operating budget for the tourist parks.

CONCLUSION

The recommended tenderer has submitted an acceptable tender for this contract and Council should endorse the recommendations of this report.

ITEM 11 PRELIMINARY AND PRE-AUDIT FINANCIALS - 30 JUNE 2022

This report presents the preliminary pre-audit financial results for the year ended 30 June 2022. This result will change for the external valuation of CivicRisk and has the potential to change through the external audit process. Revaluation of asset classes that did not have comprehensive revaluation during the period is still being considered and is likely to be required due to significant price variation. Council's largest asset classes, Transport and Stormwater, were revalued on 31 March 2022 so should not require further consideration. Any revaluation on 31 July 2022, for other asset classes, will not impact the Income Statement.

The preliminary Financial Statements show a surplus Operating Result [pre capital] of \$15M, a surplus Operating Result of \$60.4M and a favourable Funds Result of \$9.1M.

The financial results for June 2022 compared to budget vary significantly across the three budget key performance indicators. The Operating Result [pre-capital] is a favourable variance of \$23.3M, the Funds Available from Operations is unfavourable by \$2.2M and the Funds Result is favourable by \$2.6M.

The Statement of Financial Position at the end of the period indicates that there is enough cash to support external restrictions.

The capital expenditure of \$89.7M is lower than the revised annual Capital Works Program of \$97.5M (\$7.8M favourable). This variance reflects the result after \$2.0M was transferred from capital to operating as some works did not meet Council's accounting practice for capitalisation. Inclusive of the works transferred to operational expenditure the overall capital works expenditure was \$91.7M or 94% of budget.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The pre-audit financials be received and noted.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Brian Jenkins, Chief Financial Officer

Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Financial Statements – June 2022
- 2 Capital Project Report - June 2022

BACKGROUND

This report presents the Financial Performance of the organisation for June 2022. The below table provides a summary of the organisation's overall financial results for the year.

| FORECAST POSITION | Original Budget | Revised Budget | YTD Forecast | YTD Actual | Variation |
|--|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| | \$M | \$M | \$M | \$M | \$M |
| KEY MOVEMENTS | 1-Jul | 30-Jun | 30-Jun | 30-Jun | |
| Operating Revenue | 281.9 | 293.4 | 293.4 | 300.7 | 7.3 |
| Operating Costs | (291.1) | (301.7) | (301.7) | (285.7) | 16.0 |
| Operating Result [Pre Capital] | (9.2) | (8.3) | (8.3) | 15.0 | 23.3 |
| Capital Grants & Contributions | 32.1 | 38.4 | 38.4 | 45.4 | 7.0 |
| Operating Result | 22.9 | 30.1 | 30.1 | 60.4 | 30.3 |
| Funds Available from Operations | 59.1 | 71.4 | 71.4 | 69.2 | (2.2) |
| Capital Works | 107.1 | 97.5 | 97.5 | 89.7 | 7.8 |
| Contributed Assets | 8.4 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 14.9 | (6.5) |
| Transfer to Restricted Cash | 1.9 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | - |
| Borrowings Repaid | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | (0.0) |
| Funded from: | | | | | |
| - Operational Funds | 59.1 | 71.4 | 71.4 | 69.2 | (2.2) |
| - Other Funding | 54.6 | 49.2 | 49.2 | 52.8 | 3.6 |
| Total Funds Surplus/(Deficit) | (9.1) | 6.4 | 6.4 | 9.1 | 2.6 |

BUDGET PERFORMANCE

The June 2022 Operating Result [pre-capital] surplus of \$15.0M is a favourable variance of \$23.3M compared to the budget deficit of \$8.3M. The preliminary pre-audit financial results have been impacted by several year-end variations relating to valuation and reclassification that do not impact Council's funds, including:

- Revaluation of waste facility provision \$11.6M (F)
- Revaluation of employee entitlements \$6.8M (F)
- Revaluation of Kembla Terraces \$0.8M (F)
- Revaluation of worker's compensation provision \$2.3M (U)
- Reclassification of prior year works in progress to operational \$0.7M (U)

The Operating Result of \$60.4M is a favourable variance of \$30.3M compared to budget. This includes the net variation in the Operating Result plus a higher level of contributed assets (\$5.3M) and other capital grants and contributions (\$1.7M).

The Funds Available from Operations indicates an unfavourable variation of \$2.2M. This result reflects the net expenditure of Council's operational funds by excluding non-cash variations and transfers to and from Restricted Assets and adding in the cash payment of Employee Entitlements that had an unfavourable variation of \$0.7M. This result best represents the operational budget variations that impact our funding position and current financial capacity.

At the end of June \$91.7M was expended through the Capital Works Program compared to a budget of \$97.5M. \$2M of that expenditure was transferred to Operating costs at the end of the year as it did not meet Council's accounting practice for capitalisation. The \$7.8M variance in expenditure included \$3.0M of funded projects that will be completed in 2022-2023, resulting in a net Capital Budget positive impact on Council's Funds Result of \$4.8M.

The Total Funds result for the year ended 30 June 2022 was \$2.6M favourable, reflecting the favourable \$4.8M Capital Budget result offset by an unfavourable Funds from Operations of \$2.2M.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Cash, Investments & Available Funds

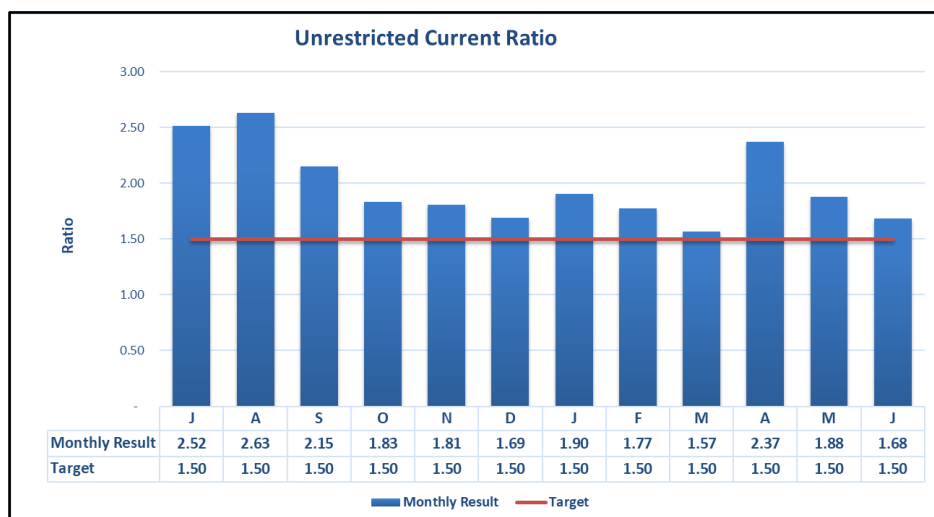
Council's cash and investments decreased during June 2022 to holdings of \$162.7M compared to \$179.9M at the end of May 2022. A significant portion of these funds are subject to restriction meaning they can only be utilised for specific purposes. As a result, Council's true available cash position is more accurately depicted by considering available funds that are uncommitted and not subject to restriction.

| CASH, INVESTMENTS & AVAILABLE FUNDS | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| | Actual 2020/21 | Original Budget 2021/22 | Mar QR 2021/22 | Actuals YTD June 2022 |
| | \$M | \$M | \$M | \$M |
| Total Cash and Investments | 170.9 | 105.4 | 147.8 | 162.7 |
| Less Restrictions: | | | | |
| External | 78.1 | 59.9 | 72.2 | 75.3 |
| Internal | 70.7 | 41.7 | 53.8 | 62.9 |
| CivicRisk Investment | 3.2 | | | 3.2 |
| Total Restrictions | 152.0 | 101.6 | 126.0 | 141.4 |
| Available Cash | 18.9 | 3.8 | 21.8 | 21.2 |
| Adjusted for : | | | | |
| Payables | (26.6) | (26.2) | (27.1) | (27.4) |
| Receivables | 21.9 | 24.5 | 25.8 | 24.7 |
| Other | 9.3 | 10.9 | 6.8 | 13.7 |
| Net Payables & Receivables | 4.5 | 9.2 | 5.5 | 11.0 |
| Available Funds | 23.4 | 13.0 | 27.3 | 32.3 |

External restrictions are funds that must be spent for a specific purpose and cannot be used by Council for general operations. Internal restrictions are funds that Council has determined will be used for a specific future purpose, although Council may vary that use by resolution of Council. Further details on the internal and external restrictions can be found in the Cash Flow Statement (Attachment 1).

The level of cash and investments in Council's available funds position is above the Financial Strategy target range of 3.5% to 5.5% of operational revenue (pre-capital). The increase in cash and investments is in line with anticipated cash flows.

The Unrestricted Current Ratio measures the Council's liquidity position or ability to meet short term obligations as they fall due. The below graph reflects Council's performance against the Local Government benchmark of greater than 1.5 times.



Prior months have been adjusted in the above table to reflect variation in the treatment of prepaid rates.

Borrowings

Council continues to have financial strength in its low level of borrowing. Council's Financial Strategy includes provision for additional borrowing in the future and Council will consider borrowing opportunities from time to time to bring forward the completion of capital projects where immediate funding is not available.

The Debt Service Cover Ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. Council's Debt Service Cover Ratio as at 30 June exceeds the Local Government benchmark of greater than two times.

Provisions

Provisions represent the Council's obligation to make future payments as a result of past events. Provisions are revalued each financial year with any movements recognised through profit and loss. The value of provisions has reduced from \$98.7M in 2020-2021 to \$84.3M in 2021-2022. This movement predominately relates to the revaluation of the waste facility provisions and employee leave entitlements.

The provision for the remediation of Council's waste facility is calculated based on the forecast costs to rehabilitate the site. The reduction in the provision of \$11.6M reflects the increase of average discount rates from 0.85% in 2020-2021 to 3.32% in 2021-2022.

Employee leave entitlements reflect the current value of the future payments, which are discounted based on published long term government bond rates. The overall decrease in the provision of \$5.2M is impacted by valuation changes including discount rates (-\$7.2M), offset by the impact of movement in the leave balances of employees (+\$1.8M) and an increase in the superannuation contribution percentage from 10% to 10.5% (+\$0.2M). As a result of these factors, the movement within the provision was \$6.8M lower than anticipated.

The workers' compensation provision is valued by an external actuary. As at 30 June 2022, the value of the provision increased by \$2.6M. The main increase relates to the claims in the accident year ending June 2018 and also the accident year ending June 2021. The 2020-2021 accident year, in particular, is showing payments to date that are steeper than for previous accident years and so indicates 2021 could be a relatively heavy cost accident year.

Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

The Statement of Financial Position shows that \$3.24B of assets (written down value) are controlled and managed by Council for the community as at 30 June 2022. This reflects council's recent comprehensive revaluation on transport and stormwater assets which led to an increase in carrying values of these asset classes by \$208M and \$317M respectively.

Asset contributions of \$14.9M were recognised during 2021-2022. These contributed assets are mainly the result of development activities.

Valuation for Council's investment property as at 30 June 2022 increased by \$1.0M.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report relates to the commitments of Council as contained within the Strategic Management Plans.

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Goal 4 "We are a connected and engaged community". It specifically delivers on the following:

| Community Strategic Plan 2032 | Delivery Program 2022-2026 | Operational Plan 2022-2023 |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| Strategy | Service | Operational Plan Actions |
| 4.8 Council's resources are managed effectively to ensure long term financial sustainability. | Financial Services | Review Financial Strategy to include goals and actions aimed to improve financial capacity to respond to increased service demands. |

CONCLUSION

The financial results for June 2022 compared to budget vary across the three budget key performance indicators.

| WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 July 2021 to 30/06/2022 | | | | | |
| | Original Budget \$'000 | Current Budget \$'000 | YTD Budget \$'000 | Actual YTD \$'000 | Variance \$'000 |
| Income Statement | | | | | |
| Income From Continuing Operations | | | | | |
| Revenue: | | | | | |
| Rates and Annual Charges | 215,858 | 216,932 | 216,932 | 216,919 | (13) |
| User Charges and Fees | 31,493 | 27,683 | 27,683 | 29,517 | 1,834 |
| Interest and Investment Revenues | 3,167 | 1,205 | 1,205 | 264 | (941) |
| Other Revenues | 5,737 | 5,010 | 5,010 | 6,169 | 1,159 |
| Rental Income | 6,326 | 5,639 | 5,639 | 5,447 | (192) |
| Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes | 19,325 | 36,073 | 36,073 | 41,824 | 5,751 |
| Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes | 32,091 | 38,424 | 38,424 | 45,403 | 6,978 |
| Profit/Loss on Disposal of Assets | 0 | 878 | 878 | 573 | (305) |
| Total Income from Continuing Operations | 313,998 | 331,845 | 331,845 | 346,117 | 14,272 |
| Expenses From Continuing Operations | | | | | |
| Employee Costs | 144,255 | 146,262 | 146,262 | 142,048 | 4,214 |
| Borrowing Costs | 1,954 | 432 | 432 | 437 | (5) |
| Materials & Services | 83,426 | 92,315 | 92,315 | 74,730 | 17,586 |
| Other Expenses | 18,447 | 20,116 | 20,116 | 20,988 | (872) |
| Depreciation, Amortisation + Impairment | 64,652 | 64,021 | 64,021 | 65,330 | (1,309) |
| Labour Internal Charges | (19,309) | (19,083) | (19,083) | (15,972) | (3,110) |
| Non-Labour Internal Charges | (2,339) | (2,339) | (2,339) | (1,831) | (508) |
| Total Expenses From Continuing Operations | 291,087 | 301,724 | 301,724 | 285,729 | 15,995 |
| Operating Result | 22,911 | 30,121 | 30,121 | 60,388 | 30,267 |
| Operating Result [pre capital] | (9,180) | (8,304) | (8,304) | 14,985 | 23,289 |
| Funding Statement | | | | | |
| Net Operating Result for the Year | 22,911 | 30,121 | 30,121 | 60,388 | 30,267 |
| Add back : | | | | | |
| - Non-cash Operating Transactions | 82,509 | 79,972 | 79,972 | 64,930 | (15,042) |
| - Restricted cash used for operations | 15,807 | 30,669 | 30,669 | 25,165 | (5,504) |
| - Income transferred to Restricted Cash | (48,130) | (54,837) | (54,837) | (66,017) | (11,180) |
| - Payment of Right of Use Leases | 0 | (399) | (399) | (427) | (28) |
| - Payment of Accrued Leave Entitlements | (14,018) | (14,099) | (14,099) | (14,822) | (723) |
| Funds Available from Operations | 59,079 | 71,426 | 71,426 | 69,217 | (2,209) |
| Advances (made by) / repaid to Council | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Borrowings repaid | (5,482) | (5,482) | (5,482) | (5,497) | (15) |
| Operational Funds Available for Capital Budget | 53,597 | 65,944 | 65,944 | 63,720 | (2,224) |
| CAPITAL BUDGET | | | | | |
| Assets Acquired | (107,093) | (97,523) | (97,523) | (89,734) | 7,789 |
| Contributed Assets | (8,358) | (8,358) | (8,358) | (14,883) | (6,525) |
| Transfers to Restricted Cash | (1,854) | (2,779) | (2,779) | (2,779) | 0 |
| Funded From :- | | | | | |
| - Operational Funds | 53,597 | 65,944 | 65,944 | 63,720 | (2,224) |
| - Sale of Assets | 1,854 | 2,779 | 2,779 | 2,161 | (618) |
| - Internally Restricted Cash | 8,675 | 5,285 | 5,285 | 5,359 | 73 |
| - Borrowings | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| - Capital Grants | 20,069 | 17,717 | 17,717 | 16,292 | (1,425) |
| - Developer Contributions (Section 94) | 13,035 | 12,671 | 12,671 | 12,236 | (435) |
| - Other Externally Restricted Cash | 0 | 0 | 0 | 335 | 335 |
| - Other Capital Contributions | 10,958 | 10,698 | 10,698 | 16,377 | 5,678 |
| TOTAL FUNDS SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) | (9,118) | 6,435 | 6,435 | 9,083 | 2,648 |

| WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| as at 30/06/2022 | | |
| | YTD Actual 2021/22 \$'000 | Actual 2020/21 \$'000 |
| Statement of Financial Position | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash Assets | 34,118 | 52,320 |
| Investment Securities | 88,158 | 103,334 |
| Receivables | 24,656 | 21,859 |
| Inventories | 461 | 463 |
| Current Contract Assets | 9,711 | 4,707 |
| Other | 6,881 | 6,682 |
| Assets classified as held for sale | 65 | 111 |
| Total Current Assets | 164,050 | 189,477 |
| Non-Current Assets | | |
| Non Current Cash Assets | 37,200 | 12,000 |
| Non Current Investment Securities | 3,199 | 3,199 |
| Non-Current Inventories | 5,972 | 5,972 |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 3,240,444 | 2,665,790 |
| Investment Properties | 5,600 | 4,600 |
| Intangible Assets | 76 | 152 |
| Right-Of-Use Assets | 1,094 | 1,471 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | 3,293,585 | 2,693,184 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 3,457,634 | 2,882,661 |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Current Payables | 27,377 | 26,627 |
| Current Contract Liabilities | 5,204 | 8,177 |
| Current Lease Liabilities | 403 | 377 |
| Current Provisions payable < 12 months | 16,005 | 14,015 |
| Current Provisions payable > 12 months | 39,591 | 45,373 |
| Current Interest Bearing Liabilities | 3,569 | 5,497 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 92,150 | 100,067 |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | |
| Non Current Payables | 0 | 0 |
| Non Current Interest Bearing Liabilities | 3,374 | 6,942 |
| N/C Lease Liabilities | 788 | 1,194 |
| Non Current Provisions | 28,671 | 39,314 |
| Total Non-Current Liabilities | 32,832 | 47,451 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 124,982 | 147,518 |
| NET ASSETS | 3,332,652 | 2,735,143 |
| Equity | | |
| Accumulated Surplus | 1,441,624 | 1,375,293 |
| Asset Revaluation Reserve | 1,754,826 | 1,216,676 |
| Restricted Assets | 136,203 | 143,174 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | 3,332,652 | 2,735,143 |

| WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL | | |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| CASH FLOW STATEMENT | | |
| as at 30/06/2022 | | |
| | YTD Actual 2021/22 \$ '000 | Actual 2020/21 \$ '000 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Receipts: | | |
| Rates & Annual Charges | 228,434 | 214,468 |
| User Charges & Fees | 32,212 | 30,198 |
| Interest & Interest Received | (1,299) | 2,269 |
| Grants & Contributions | 80,157 | 58,978 |
| Bonds, deposits and retention amounts received | 446 | 755 |
| Other | 10,213 | 24,061 |
| Payments: | | |
| Employee Benefits & On-costs | (131,494) | (125,163) |
| Materials & Contracts | (87,034) | (87,653) |
| Borrowing Costs | (442) | (691) |
| Bonds, deposits and retention amounts refunded | - | (2,637) |
| Other | (14,892) | (20,275) |
| Net Cash provided (or used in) Operating Activities | 116,301 | 94,309 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Receipts: | | |
| Sale of Investments | 54,491 | 56,040 |
| Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment | 2,161 | 1,531 |
| Payments: | | |
| Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment | (120,183) | (78,658) |
| Net Cash provided (or used in) Investing Activities | (128,622) | (90,832) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Payments: | | |
| Repayment of Borrowings & Advances | (5,497) | (5,260) |
| Repayment of Finance Lease Liabilities | (379) | (348) |
| Net Cash Flow provided (used in) Financing Activities | (5,876) | (5,608) |
| Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents | (18,196) | (2,131) |
| plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents - beginning of year | 52,320 | 56,051 |
| plus: Investments on hand - end of year | 128,557 | 118,533 |
| Cash & Cash Equivalents and Investments - year to date | 162,676 | 172,453 |

| WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL | | |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| CASH FLOW STATEMENT | | |
| as at 30/06/2022 | | |
| | YTD Actual 2021/22 \$ '000 | Actual 2020/21 \$ '000 |
| Total Cash & Cash Equivalents and Investments - year to date | 162,676 | 172,453 |
| Attributable to: | | |
| External Restrictions (refer below) | 75,565 | 78,088 |
| Internal Restrictions (refer below) | 63,340 | 70,676 |
| Unrestricted | 23,771 | 23,689 |
| | 162,676 | 172,453 |
| External Restrictions | | |
| Developer Contributions | 40,067 | 38,719 |
| RMS Contributions | 205 | 115 |
| Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants | 8,578 | 9,687 |
| Special Rates Levy Wollongong Mall | 407 | 282 |
| Special Rates Levy Wollongong City Centre | 88 | 59 |
| Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme | - | 277 |
| Unexpended Loans | 907 | 965 |
| Domestic Waste Management | 7,604 | 10,746 |
| Private Subsidies | 5,727 | 5,420 |
| Housing Affordability | 9,604 | 9,640 |
| Stormwater Management Service Charge | 2,378 | 2,178 |
| Total External Restrictions | 75,565 | 78,088 |
| Internal Restrictions | | |
| Property Investment Fund | 9,388 | 9,388 |
| Strategic Projects | 35,416 | 46,558 |
| Sports Priority Program | 671 | 943 |
| Car Parking Strategy | 1,189 | 1,051 |
| MacCabe Park Development | 1,740 | 1,590 |
| Darcy Wentworth Park | 171 | 171 |
| Garbage Disposal Facility | 5,831 | 3,415 |
| West Dapto Development Additional Rates | 8,281 | 6,951 |
| Southern Phone Natural Areas | 173 | 173 |
| Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Fund | 480 | 436 |
| Total Internal Restrictions | 63,340 | 70,676 |

Manager Project Delivery Division

Commentary on 2021-2022 End of Financial Year Capital Budget Report

On 28 June 2021, Council approved a Capital budget for 2021-2022 of \$107.093M which is adjusted each month to reflect progress across the various programs. By the end of June 2022, the approved Capital Budget has been decreased to \$97.523M as a result of multiple funding and council revenue budget adjustments throughout the year which have been reported in prior months. Council achieved expenditure at the end of June 2022 of \$91.515M which was 94% of the final adjusted budget.

The major reasons for reduction in the size of the budget and related capital expenditure have been documented in prior monthly financial reports to Council but can be summarised as follows:

- Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the availability and capacity of:
 - Council staff to scope, design, procure and construct capital projects due to enforced lockdowns, work from home, isolations and other COVID-19 restrictions.
 - Professional consultancies and construction contractors to carry out work for Council to assist with capital projects.
 - Various Government Authorities and Utilities to review and approve various aspects of capital project design approvals.
 - Various suppliers of construction materials to supply required materials, fleet, plant and equipment for capital projects.
- Record levels of rainfall in the Illawarra since November 2021 severely interrupting and delaying construction projects.
- Higher than normal levels of vacancies amongst professional staff (engineers, designers, asset managers etc) due to record low levels of unemployment and external competition for experienced professional staff to deliver stimulus funded projects nationally.

| Program | Final Expenditure vs Budget - Commentary on Significant Variations |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Traffic Facilities | The supply of equipment for the Cordeaux Road speed humps project was delivered ahead of schedule resulting in over expenditure against phased budget. Stage 3 of the Corrimal CBD streetscape upgrade signals installation exceeded budget due to a number of reasons including night work to reduce impacts on businesses, COVID-19 impacts on crew availability, weather delays and delays due to external contractors. |
| Public transport Facilities | Two new bus stop projects rephased in previous months based on advice from Contractors were able to complete by end of June resulting in expenditure exceeding the rephased budget. |
| Roadworks | Out of a large program, several major road pavement reconstruction and road resurfacing projects were not fully completed by June 30 due to a combination of wet weather and COVID-19 restrictions. |
| Bridges, Boardwalks and Jetties | Fisherman's Beach access ramp project was delayed allowing access for commercial fishermen until May, then the successful contractor was unable to commence work until July 2022 due to competing projects resulting in underspend for this project by 30 June. |
| West Dapto Infrastructure Expansion | Wongawilli Road upgrade project programs was adversely affected by wet weather, COVID-19 and contractor availability during the last quarter of 2021-2022. |
| Footpaths | The Cringila Community Park footpath reconstruction and upgrade was accelerated from 2023-2024 to enhance access and safety for the operations of the Mountain Bike trails. Stage 1 of this project was commenced in June and will be completed in July 2022. Out of the remaining large program of works, several footpath projects were completed over the estimated budget due to significant impacts of wet weather. |

| Program | Final Expenditure vs Budget - Commentary on Significant Variations |
|--|---|
| Cycle/Shared Paths | One project which was in the original program which had been rephased to 2022-2023 due to prolonged wet weather in January – May was completed in late June after several weeks of dry weather. Out of a large program, several shareway projects were completed over the estimated budget due to significant impacts of wet weather during construction. |
| Commercial Upgrades | Work on the project in lower Crown Street was delayed due to additional underground services/utilities issues along with additional measures undertaken to minimise impacts on business affected by the work, leading to a rephasing of expenditure across two financial years. Two jobs in Market Street were delayed due to unavailability of the paving contractor. |
| Car Parks New | The Cringila Hills Community Park Car Park - Stage 2 was introduced during 2021-2022 due to an increase in grant funding available to accelerate implementation of the master plan due to increased visitor numbers to this facility. This project was partially constructed during 2021-2022 and should be completed during 1 st quarter 2022-2023. |
| Car Parks Renew | Several carpark resurface/upgrade projects were not fully completed by 30 June due to delays associated with weather and contractor (asphalt and line marking) availability in late June. It is expected these will be completed in August 2022. |
| Floodplain Management | Several flood debris control project outsourced designs ran behind the project schedule resulting in lower expenditure when compared to allocated budget. The availability of specialised floodplain design resources in the market was limited due to the allocation of resources to the Northern NSW flood emergency in early 2022. |
| Stormwater Management | A large program of pipe relining projects was completed but several projects could not be completed by 30 June due to combination of wet weather and contractor availability. The emergency pipe culvert reconstruction project at Keira Mine Road (near Edmund Rice College) was not fully completed by June 30 due to wet weather resulting in underspend against allocated budget. Although significant work was completed on the Fraternity Club creek bank stabilisation, works were not fully expended by end of June due to wet weather in the months prior. |
| Cultural Centres (IPAC, Gallery, townhall) | A project for specialised storage of art works at Wollongong Town Hall was identified as capital in June resulting in an overspend against phased budget. An additional design cost for the IPAC fire safety upgrade were incurred in June causing an overspend against phased budget. |
| Administration Buildings | The unscheduled replacement of part of the HVAC system for the Council building at 81-83 Burelli Street (Corner Church and Burelli Streets) exceeded phased budget. |
| Community Buildings | Several construction projects were completed for less than the final budget and a number of projects were delayed resulting in an underspend against phased budget in this program area. |
| Tourist Park – Upgrade and Renewal | Project for supply and installation of three new tourist park cabins at Windang Tourist Park was not completed by 30 June due to delays (COVID-19 related) in supply of cabins from TAFE NSW. |
| Play Facilities | Three of the ten playground projects were not fully completed by 30 June due to wet weather delays and availability of playground materials and equipment resulting in under expenditure against phased budget. |

| Program | Final Expenditure vs Budget - Commentary on Significant Variations |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Recreation Facilities | <p>An increased cost of the new Criterium Track at Lindsay Mayne Park, Unanderra, occurred arising from excavation and replacement of unsuitable subgrade material under the new road pavement during a period of extended wet weather.</p> <p>Underspend of the phased project budget for the Cringila Hills Mountain Bike Skills Park due to impacts of wet weather.</p> |
| Sporting Facilities | <p>Project for upgrade of Fred Finch Park netball courts upgrades was significantly impacted by prolonged wet weather throughout Jan to May resulting in a reduction of the phased budget. However, four weeks of improved weather in June enabled better than expected progress which resulted in costs above the adjusted 2021-2022 budget.</p> |
| Whytes Gully new cells | <p>Delays in completing design and approvals for several related projects to develop future landfill cell capacity resulted in an underspend against phased budget.</p> |
| Motor Vehicles | <p>Delays in overseas suppliers delivering replacement vehicles due the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on vehicle imports resulted in an underspend against phased budget.</p> |
| Major Plant (trucks, backhoes etc) | <p>Delays in suppliers delivering replacement items of major plant due the impact of COVID-19 on imports resulted in an underspend against phased budget.</p> |
| Contingency | <p>Funds remained in the Capital Budget Contingency on 30 June due to reduction in budgets from several Capital Budget Programs in preceding months due to combined impacts of COVID-19 and wet weather.</p> |

CAPITAL PROJECT REPORT

as at the period ended 30 June 2022

| ASSET CLASS PROGRAMME | \$'000 | | \$'000 | | \$'000 | |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | CURRENT BUDGET | | ACTUALS | | VARIATION | |
| | EXPENDITURE | OTHER FUNDING | EXPENDITURE | OTHER FUNDING | EXPENDITURE | OTHER FUNDING |
| Roads And Related Assets | | | | | | |
| Traffic Facilities | 2,116 | (941) | 2,325 | (848) | 209 | 92 |
| Public Transport Facilities | 155 | 0 | 230 | 0 | 75 | 0 |
| Roadworks | 20,125 | (5,410) | 17,670 | (4,283) | (2,455) | 1,127 |
| Bridges, Boardwalks and Jetties | 1,072 | (117) | 961 | (77) | (111) | 40 |
| TOTAL Roads And Related Assets | 23,468 | (6,468) | 21,186 | (5,208) | (2,282) | 1,259 |
| West Dapto | | | | | | |
| West Dapto Infrastructure Expansion | 6,939 | (6,939) | 6,881 | (6,739) | (57) | 200 |
| TOTAL West Dapto | 6,939 | (6,939) | 6,881 | (6,739) | (57) | 200 |
| Footpaths And Cycleways | | | | | | |
| Footpaths | 7,810 | (3,123) | 8,128 | (3,141) | 318 | (18) |
| Cycle/Shared Paths | 4,389 | (2,599) | 4,563 | (2,625) | 174 | (26) |
| Commercial Centre Upgrades - Footpaths and Cycleways | 4,959 | (879) | 4,735 | (812) | (224) | 67 |
| TOTAL Footpaths And Cycleways | 17,159 | (6,601) | 17,426 | (6,578) | 267 | 23 |
| Carparks | | | | | | |
| Carpark Construction/Formalising | 685 | (450) | 696 | 139 | 11 | 589 |
| Carpark Reconstruction or Upgrading | 1,762 | (187) | 1,718 | (212) | (44) | (25) |
| TOTAL Carparks | 2,447 | (637) | 2,414 | (73) | (33) | 564 |
| Stormwater And Floodplain Management | | | | | | |
| Floodplain Management | 375 | (40) | 305 | (89) | (70) | (49) |
| Stormwater Management | 5,693 | 0 | 5,234 | 0 | (459) | 0 |
| Stormwater Treatment Devices | 11 | 0 | 10 | 0 | (1) | 0 |
| TOTAL Stormwater And Floodplain Management | 6,079 | (40) | 5,549 | (89) | (530) | (49) |
| Buildings | | | | | | |
| Cultural Centres (IPAC, Gallery, Townhall) | 800 | 0 | 938 | 0 | 138 | 0 |
| Administration Buildings | 1,145 | 0 | 1,376 | 0 | 231 | 0 |
| Community Buildings | 9,595 | (1,932) | 9,409 | (2,117) | (186) | (185) |
| Public Facilities (Shelters, Toilets etc.) | 590 | (30) | 577 | (30) | (13) | 0 |
| TOTAL Buildings | 12,130 | (1,962) | 12,300 | (2,147) | 170 | (185) |
| Commercial Operations | | | | | | |
| Tourist Park - Upgrades and Renewal | 799 | 0 | 683 | 0 | (116) | 0 |
| Crematorium/Cemetery - Upgrades and Renewal | 136 | 0 | 124 | 0 | (11) | 0 |
| Leisure Centres & RVGC | 180 | 0 | 178 | 0 | (2) | 0 |
| TOTAL Commercial Operations | 1,115 | 0 | 985 | 0 | (130) | 0 |
| Parks Gardens And Sportfields | | | | | | |
| Play Facilities | 1,345 | (140) | 1,266 | (177) | (79) | (37) |
| Recreation Facilities | 4,595 | (3,442) | 5,083 | (3,399) | 489 | 43 |
| Sporting Facilities | 3,628 | (2,356) | 3,997 | (2,316) | 369 | 40 |
| TOTAL Parks Gardens And Sportfields | 9,568 | (5,938) | 10,346 | (5,893) | 779 | 46 |

CAPITAL PROJECT REPORT

as at the period ended 30 June 2022

| ASSET CLASS PROGRAMME | \$'000 | | \$'000 | | \$'000 | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | CURRENT BUDGET | | ACTUALS | | VARIATION | |
| | EXPENDITURE | OTHER FUNDING | EXPENDITURE | OTHER FUNDING | EXPENDITURE | OTHER FUNDING |
| Beaches And Pools | | | | | | |
| Beach Facilities | 60 | 0 | 54 | 0 | (6) | (0) |
| Rock/Tidal Pools | 150 | 0 | 142 | 0 | (8) | 0 |
| Treated Water Pools | 752 | (32) | 739 | (32) | (13) | 0 |
| TOTAL Beaches And Pools | 962 | (32) | 935 | (32) | (27) | (0) |
| Natural Areas | | | | | | |
| Natural Area Management and Rehabilitation | (0) | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL Natural Areas | (0) | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Waste Facilities | | | | | | |
| Whytes Gully New Cells | 1,215 | (1,215) | 1,186 | (1,166) | (29) | 49 |
| TOTAL Waste Facilities | 1,215 | (1,215) | 1,186 | (1,166) | (29) | 49 |
| Fleet | | | | | | |
| Motor Vehicles | 1,830 | (979) | 939 | 0 | (891) | 979 |
| TOTAL Fleet | 1,830 | (979) | 939 | 0 | (891) | 979 |
| Plant And Equipment | | | | | | |
| Mobile Plant (trucks, backhoes etc.) | 4,200 | (905) | 3,455 | 0 | (745) | 905 |
| TOTAL Plant And Equipment | 4,200 | (905) | 3,455 | 0 | (745) | 905 |
| Information Technology | | | | | | |
| Information Technology | 735 | 0 | 723 | 0 | (12) | 0 |
| TOTAL Information Technology | 735 | 0 | 723 | 0 | (12) | 0 |
| Library Books | | | | | | |
| Library Books | 1,283 | 0 | 1,289 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| TOTAL Library Books | 1,283 | 0 | 1,289 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Public Art | | | | | | |
| Art Gallery Acquisitions | 137 | 0 | 141 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| TOTAL Public Art | 137 | 0 | 141 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Land Acquisitions | | | | | | |
| Land Acquisitions | 5,874 | (5,764) | 5,758 | (5,672) | (115) | 91 |
| TOTAL Land Acquisitions | 5,874 | (5,764) | 5,758 | (5,672) | (115) | 91 |
| Non-Project Allocations | | | | | | |
| Capital Project Contingency | 2,384 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (2,384) | 0 |
| Capital Project Plan | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| TOTAL Non-Project Allocations | 2,384 | 0 | 1 | 0 | (2,382) | 0 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 97,523 | (37,480) | 91,515 | (33,597) | (6,008) | 3,882 |

ITEM 12 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT - JUNE 2022

This report provides an overview of Council's investment portfolio performance for the month of June 2022.

Council had an average weighted return for June 2022 of -0.09% which was below the benchmark return of 0.05%. This result was primarily due to negative valuations of the consolidated Floating Rate Notes and the NSW TCorp Growth funds reflecting the continuing volatility in the market. These valuations have impacted unfavourably on the phased investment income to budget between the months of January and June. However, both growth funds are expected to achieve their long term return objectives over time. The remainder of Council's portfolio continues to provide a high degree of credit quality and liquidity, but historically low interest returns.

RECOMMENDATION

Council receive the Statement of Investment for June 2022.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Brian Jenkins, Chief Financial Officer

Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Statement of Investment - June 2022
- 2 Investment Income Compared to Budget 2021-2022

BACKGROUND

Council is required to invest its surplus funds in accordance with the Ministerial Investment Order and Office of Local Government guidelines. The Order reflects a conservative approach and restricts the investment types available to Council. In compliance with the Order and Office of Local Government guidelines, Council adopted an Investment Policy on 10 December 2018. The Investment Policy provides a framework for the credit quality, institutional diversification and maturity constraints Council's portfolio can be exposed to. Council's investment portfolio was controlled by Council's Finance Division during the period to ensure compliance with the Investment Policy. Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee's (ARIC) role of overseer provides for the review of Council's Investment Policy and the Management Investment Strategy.

Council's Responsible Accounting Officer is required to sign the complying Statement of Investment contained within the report, certifying that all investments were made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government Regulation 2005.

Council's investment holdings as at 30 June 2022 were \$162,627,549 (Statement of Investment attached) [30 June 2021 \$170,236,877]. These figures include Council's interest in CivicRisk Mutual Ltd recognised at fair value as at 30 June 2021.

Council had an average weighted return for June 2022 of -0.09% which was below the benchmark return of 0.05%. This result was primarily due to negative valuations of the consolidated Floating Rate Notes and the NSW TCorp Growth funds reflecting the continuing volatility in the market. The remainder of Council's portfolio continues to provide a high degree of credit quality and liquidity, but historically low interest returns. The global markets are still experiencing unprecedented turmoil and volatility in the wake of COVID-19 and may still provide uncertainty for the foreseeable future.

At 30 June 2022, year to date interest and investment revenue of -\$266,285 was recognised compared to the year to date budget of \$684,908, with a high level of volatility and valuations up and down during the year.

Council's 17 floating rate notes had a net decrease in value of \$76,258 for June 2022.

Council holds two Mortgaged Backed Securities (MBS) that recorded a net increase in value of \$9,654 for June 2022. The coupon margins on these investments reflect pre-Global Financial Crisis (GFC) pricing. For example, the Emerald A is paying 45 basis points over the BBSW where a comparative investment is now paying 100 basis points over the BBSW. This is reflected in the coupon rates on both investments. While the maturity dates are outside Council's control, the investment advisors had previously indicated capital is not at risk at that stage and recommended a hold strategy due to the illiquid nature of the investment.

Council has three investment holdings under the NSW TCorp Hour Glass Facility: the Long-Term Growth Fund; the Medium-Term Growth Fund and the Cash Fund. The Long-Term Growth recorded a net decrease in value of \$148,343; the Medium-Term Growth Fund recorded a net decrease in value of \$138,031 and the Cash Fund recorded a net decrease in value of \$90 in June 2022. The fluctuations in both the Long-Term Growth and Medium-Term Growth Funds are a reflection of the current share market volatility both domestically and internationally and is diversified across a number of different asset classes that have differing risk and return characteristics.

Negative valuations between the months of January and June have impacted unfavourably on Council's phased investment income to budget. However, both growth funds are expected to achieve their long-term return objectives over time. The Medium-Term Fund has returned -7.73% over the past 12 months and the Long-Term Fund -7.84%. As a result of NSW TCorp recent notification to all investors of the upcoming closure of the TCorp Cash Fund on 31 October 2022, due to the continued client decline and insufficient demand to keep the fund open, Council completed a full unit redemption from the NSW TCorp Cash Fund, effective 1 June 2022.

At their July 2022 meeting, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) decided to increase the cash rate target by 50 basis points from 0.85% to 1.35%. The increase in interest rates is a further step in the withdrawal of the extraordinary monetary support that was put in place to help the Australian economy during the pandemic. The resilience of the economy and the higher inflation means that extraordinary support is no longer needed. The RBA will continue to assess the outlook and adjust policy as needed to ensure inflation returns to target over time and continue to monitor information and evolving balance of risks and determine the timing and extent of future interest rate increases.

The current Investment Policy sets a 40% maximum exposure limit to individual institutions within the AAA category. This limit is currently considered to include funds held within the NAB (Council's banker) savings account that is used daily to hold cash. Through the banking services contract with the NAB, that includes a fixed margin over the current cash rate, this account is providing a better return than alternate short to medium term investments available to Council. At the end of June 2022, the exposure to NAB was 24.31%, which was just below the 25% target set in the Investment Strategy. The NAB savings account is currently the best option available for surplus cash, however this will be continually monitored to ensure best value.

The current investment portfolio complies with Council's Investment Policy which was endorsed by Council on 10 December 2018. Council's Responsible Accounting Officer has signed the Statement of Investment contained within the report, certifying all investments were made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government Regulation 2005.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report relates to the commitments of Council as contained within the Strategic Management Plans.

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Goal 4 "We are a connected and engaged community". It specifically delivers on the following:

| Community Strategic Plan 2032 | | Delivery Program 2022-2026 | Operational Plan 2022-23 |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Strategy | | Service | Operational Plan Actions |
| 4.8 | Council's resources are managed effectively to ensure long term financial sustainability. | Financial Services | Review Financial Strategy to include goals and actions aimed to improve financial capacity to respond to increased service demands. |

CONCLUSION

The investments for June 2022 recorded an average weighted return below the annualised Bloomberg Bank Bill Index Benchmark and performed unfavourably when compared to the year-to-date budget.

| WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT 30 June 2022 | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|
| DIRECT INVESTMENTS | | | | | | | |
| Investment Body | Rating | Purchase Price \$ | Fair Value of Holding \$ | Security | Purchase Date | Maturity Date | Interest / Coupon Rate |
| NAB General Fund | A1+ | - | 341,934 | General A/c | 30/06/2022 | 30/06/2022 | |
| NAB Professional Maximiser | A1+ | - | 33,702,347 | Prof Fund A/c | 30/06/2022 | 30/06/2022 | 1.25% |
| Bank of Queensland Ltd | Moodys ST P-2 | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | T/Deposit | 16/05/2022 | 16/08/2022 | 1.25% |
| Illawarra Credit Union Ltd | Unrated ST UR | 250,000 | 250,000 | T/Deposit | 25/05/2022 | 23/08/2022 | 1.65% |
| Coastline Credit Union Ltd | Unrated ST UR | 250,000 | 250,000 | T/Deposit | 8/03/2022 | 5/09/2022 | 0.90% |
| Southern Cross CU | Unrated ST UR | 250,000 | 250,000 | T/Deposit | 7/06/2022 | 5/09/2022 | 1.85% |
| BNK Banking Corporation Ltd t/as Goldfields Mon | Unrated ST UR | 250,000 | 250,000 | T/Deposit | 16/03/2022 | 14/09/2022 | 0.80% |
| Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd | S&P ST A1+ | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | T/Deposit | 16/05/2022 | 16/09/2022 | 1.66% |
| Members Equity Bank Ltd | Moodys ST P-2 | 4,000,000 | 4,000,000 | T/Deposit | 30/06/2022 | 28/10/2022 | 2.56% |
| Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd | S&P ST A1+ | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | T/Deposit | 16/05/2022 | 16/11/2022 | 2.14% |
| Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd | S&P AA- | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 | T/Deposit | 26/11/2020 | 25/11/2022 | 0.56% |
| Members Equity Bank Ltd | Moodys ST P-2 | 4,000,000 | 4,000,000 | T/Deposit | 2/12/2021 | 2/12/2022 | 0.70% |
| Australian Unity Bank | S&P ST A2 | 750,000 | 750,000 | T/Deposit | 7/06/2022 | 5/12/2022 | 2.65% |
| Members Equity Bank Ltd | Moodys ST P-2 | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | T/Deposit | 16/05/2022 | 12/12/2022 | 2.35% |
| Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd | S&P AA- | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | T/Deposit | 23/12/2020 | 23/12/2022 | 0.52% |
| Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd | S&P ST A1+ | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | T/Deposit | 25/02/2022 | 25/01/2023 | 0.82% |
| Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd | S&P ST A1+ | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 | T/Deposit | 18/02/2022 | 13/02/2023 | 0.80% |
| Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd | S&P ST A1+ | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | T/Deposit | 16/05/2022 | 13/04/2023 | 2.65% |
| Bank of Queensland Ltd | Moodys ST P-2 | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | T/Deposit | 16/05/2022 | 16/05/2023 | 3.00% |
| Judo Bank | S&P BBB- | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | T/Deposit | 17/09/2021 | 18/09/2023 | 0.95% |
| Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd | S&P AA- | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 | T/Deposit | 20/10/2021 | 20/10/2023 | 0.87% |
| Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd | S&P AA- | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 | T/Deposit | 20/10/2021 | 20/10/2023 | 0.84% |
| Bank of Queensland Ltd | Moodys A3 | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | T/Deposit | 25/11/2021 | 27/11/2023 | 1.15% |
| Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd | S&P AA- | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 | T/Deposit | 2/12/2021 | 4/12/2023 | 1.21% |
| Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd | S&P AA- | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 | T/Deposit | 23/12/2020 | 22/12/2023 | 0.60% |
| Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd | S&P AA- | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | T/Deposit | 6/03/2019 | 6/03/2024 | 2.24% |
| Judo Bank | S&P BBB- | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | T/Deposit | 17/09/2021 | 17/09/2024 | 1.20% |
| Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd | S&P AA- | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | T/Deposit | 2/12/2021 | 2/12/2024 | 1.63% |
| Judo Bank | S&P BBB- | 2,200,000 | 2,200,000 | T/Deposit | 7/03/2022 | 11/03/2025 | 2.30% |
| Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd | S&P AA- | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 | T/Deposit | 7/03/2022 | 13/03/2025 | 2.03% |
| Total | | | 104,994,282 | | | | |

| WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT 30 June 2022 continued | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Bond and Floating Rate Note Securities | | | | | | | |
| DIRECT INVESTMENTS | | | | | | | |
| Investment Body | Rating | Purchase Price \$ | Fair Value of Holding \$ | Security | Purchase Date | Maturity Date | Interest / Coupon Rate |
| Suncorp-Metway Ltd | S&P AA- | 1,500,000 | 1,503,885 | FRN | 30/08/2017 | 16/08/2022 | 1.97% |
| Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd | Moodys A3 | 3,000,000 | 3,005,610 | FRN | 12/12/2019 | 12/09/2022 | 2.47% |
| Bank Australia Limited | S&P BBB | 4,000,000 | 4,011,760 | FRN | 2/12/2019 | 2/12/2022 | 2.12% |
| ANZ Banking Group Ltd | S&P AA- | 1,000,000 | 1,005,570 | FRN | 9/05/2018 | 9/05/2023 | 1.84% |
| National Australia Bank Ltd | S&P AA- | 3,000,000 | 3,013,320 | FRN | 26/09/2018 | 26/09/2023 | 2.70% |
| Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd | S&P AA- | 1,500,000 | 1,509,960 | FRN | 16/11/2018 | 16/11/2023 | 1.95% |
| ANZ Banking Group Ltd | S&P AA- | 2,000,000 | 2,013,140 | FRN | 6/12/2018 | 6/12/2023 | 2.27% |
| National Australia Bank Ltd | S&P AA- | 2,000,000 | 2,008,860 | FRN | 19/06/2019 | 19/06/2024 | 2.76% |
| Macquarie Bank | S&P A+ | 2,000,000 | 1,995,760 | FRN | 12/02/2020 | 12/02/2025 | 1.82% |
| Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd | Moodys A3 | 1,700,000 | 1,665,949 | FRN | 2/12/2020 | 2/12/2025 | 1.74% |
| Macquarie Bank | Moodys A2 | 6,500,000 | 6,369,805 | FRN | 11/03/2022 | 9/12/2025 | 1.96% |
| Suncorp-Metway Ltd | S&P AA- | 2,100,000 | 2,051,637 | FRN | 24/02/2021 | 24/02/2026 | 1.52% |
| Newcastle Permanent Building Society Ltd | S&P BBB | 5,000,000 | 4,875,850 | FRN | 4/03/2021 | 4/03/2026 | 1.87% |
| Teachers Mutual Bank Ltd | Moodys Baa1 | 1,100,000 | 1,065,141 | FRN | 16/06/2021 | 16/06/2026 | 2.42% |
| Suncorp-Metway Ltd | S&P AA- | 3,750,000 | 3,649,988 | FRN | 15/09/2021 | 15/09/2026 | 2.19% |
| Suncorp-Metway Ltd | Fitch A+ | 1,500,000 | 1,471,920 | FRN | 11/03/2022 | 25/01/2027 | 1.31% |
| ANZ Banking Group Ltd | Moodys Aa3 | 3,500,000 | 3,501,785 | FRN | 12/05/2022 | 12/05/2027 | 1.95% |
| Emerald Reverse Mortgage Trust | Unrated UR | 475,141 | 380,859 | MBS | 17/07/2006 | 21/08/2051 | 1.50% |
| Emerald Reverse Mortgage Trust | Unrated UR | 2,000,000 | 1,303,760 | MBS | 17/07/2006 | 21/08/2056 | 1.80% |
| Total | | | 46,404,558 | | | | |

Managed Funds & Other

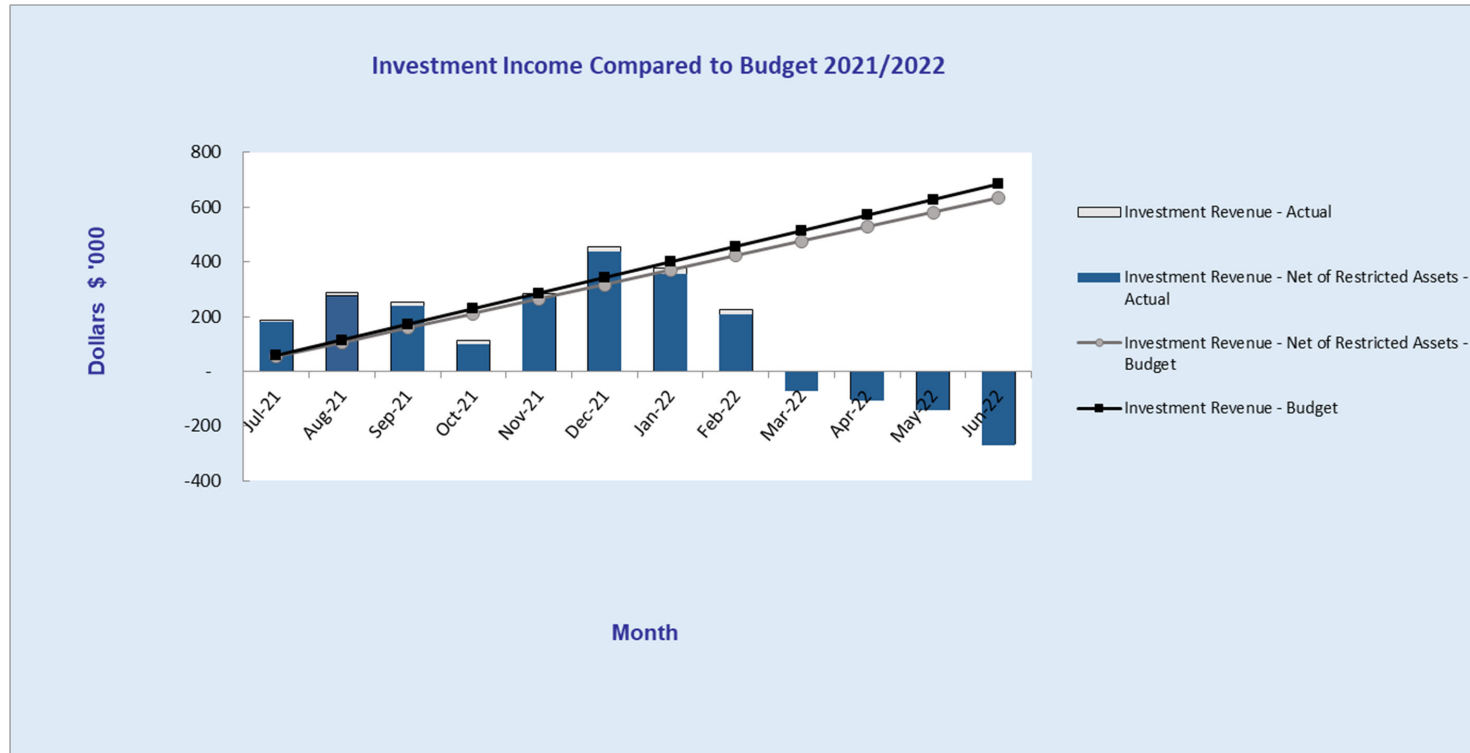
| MANAGED FUNDS | | | | | | |
|--|--------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| Investment Body | Rating | Purchase Price \$ | Fair Value of Holding \$ | Purchase Date | Monthly | FYTD (Actual) |
| Tcorp Long Term Growth Facility Fund | N/A | | 3,416,311 | 13/06/2007 | -4.17% | -7.84% |
| Tcorp Medium Term Growth Facility Fund | N/A | | 4,613,397 | 14/06/2007 | -2.51% | -7.73% |
| Total | | | 8,029,709 | | | |

| Membership interest in Investment Body | | Fair Value of Holding \$ | |
|--|-----|--------------------------|-----------|
| CivicRisk Mutual Limited | N/A | | 3,199,000 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS | | \$ 162,627,549 | |

* The maturity date provided is the weighted-average life of the security. This is the average amount of time that will elapse from the date of security's issuance until each dollar is repaid based on an actuarial assessment. Assessments are carried out on a regular basis which can potentially extend the life of the investment. Current assessments anticipate an extension of life of the investment.

This is to certify that all of the above investments have been placed in accordance with the Act, the regulations and Council's Investment Policies.

Brian Jenkins
RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER



ITEM 13 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR TANIA BROWN - ELECTRIC VEHICLE FLEET

Councillor Tania Brown has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“Recognising that within the adopted Climate Change Mitigation Plan, council committed to upgrading the fleet of vehicles to hybrid and electric cars, and to pursue the installation of public electric vehicle charging stations across the city, I formally move that –

- 1 An update by way of an Information Note be provided by 1 November, on progress in implementing upgrades to Council’s vehicular fleet on installation and plans for additional public electric vehicle charging stations.
- 2 The Information Note to include -
 - a advice on progress to include Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) in the design brief for all new significant Council buildings, and
 - b following close of feedback (1 July) on the Climate Friendly Planning Framework Discussion Paper, whether consideration was given to updating planning controls to include EVCI in significant retail, commercial, industrial, and high-density housing projects.”

Background provided by Councillor Tania Brown:

Council committed to Net Zero by 2030, and to achieve this we need to take practical steps toward this target. Supporting the take up of electric vehicles both within council and the broader community is a sensible step toward driving down emissions.

As Wollongong LGA has reportedly seen a 50% increase in electric and hydrogen-powered vehicle ownership, it is incumbent on us to ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place across the city to meet this need.

Consultation has concluded on the **Climate Friendly Planning Framework** discussion paper which looked at how we can make developments in our city more climate friendly. This feedback will inform a review of the Local Planning and Assessment Framework.

ITEM 14 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR CATH BLAKEY - WOLLONGONG BUSHCARE

Councillor Cath Blakey has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that Council –

- 1 Note that Bushcare, Dunecare, Landcare and Fire Ready volunteers make an important contribution within the community and to our environment.
- 2 Recognise that the Wollongong Local Government Area includes over 60 Bushcare and Dunecare group, 8 Fire Ready groups and 8 Landcare groups. The number of volunteer Bushcare and Dunecare groups supported by Council has recently been capped, with any new enquiries being directed to existing groups.
- 3 Congratulate Growing Illawarra Natives on their new WEA course “Wollongong's Wonderful Plants!”.
- 4 Write to the new federal Environment Minister noting the decline in funding to Landcare Illawarra and advocating for a resolution of funding for Landcare and other practical ecological restoration works.”

Background provided by Councillor Cath Blakey:

Wollongong Council's Bushcare program has been operating for over 30 years ago as a practical means for residents to be involved with weed reduction, planting trees, shrubs, grasses and herbs, maintaining track access and clearing litter on public land. The aim is to restore our natural areas as wildlife corridors and conserve native vegetation. Dunecare and Fire Ready programs have also developed, with the later encouraging residents to help reduce the risk of bush fires by removing weeds and maintain buffer zones. Locations include creeks and wetlands, rainforests, the escarpment, coastal dunes and headlands. During 2019-2020 there was a total of 7616 volunteer hours worked on the Wollongong City Council Bushcare, Dunecare and Fire-ready sites valued at \$228,510. The value of this contribution is leveraged by Council in grant applications as 'in-kind' contributions. Over the last few years, the size of natural areas under council management has grown as subdivisions proceed in West Dapto.

Wollongong's Wonderful Plants! is an initiative of the Growing Illawarra Natives volunteer group. The Growing Illawarra Natives website promotes the cultivation and use of plants native to the Illawarra region. It catalogues hundreds of local species with a searchable function by site exposure level, plant type, ecological zone, wildlife habitat and uses. The website is 100% developed and maintained by volunteers. It was launched in March 2020, after five years of preparation. The Wollongong Botanic Garden utilises the Growing Illawarra Natives plant database in their Greenplan sale plant list. The website can be viewed at <http://blog.growingillawarranatives.org/>.

Landcare is identified as one of Australia's longest running environmental movements, unifying landowners, farmers and the community for practical environmental benefits. Landcare Australia reported in May 2022 that annual federal funding for Landcare has fallen to below the 1997 level. In the Illawarra this has resulted in a reduction to the Landcare Illawarra staffing and resources. Nevertheless, Landcare Illawarra's website is host to the Illawarra Remnant Bushland Database that was previously hosted on the Southern Council's website.

Doug Humann, chairman of Landcare Australia, has reported that

“Not only do Landcare partnerships improve environmental health, but the report addresses at length the benefits Landcare provides for our personal and collective wellbeing.

A KPMG survey of more than 1,000 Landcare volunteers and coordinators from Landcare groups found that involvement in Landcare lead to approximate savings from avoided healthcare costs of \$403 per individual per year.”