

## Neighbourhood Forum 5

### Wollongong's Heartland

*Collaborating with Council on community aspirations, visions, needs & concerns*



Coniston,  
Figtree,  
Gwynneville,  
Keiraville,  
Mangerton,  
Mount Keira,  
Mount St Thomas,  
North Wollongong,  
West Wollongong,  
Wollongong City.

#### Minutes of meeting 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 at 7pm by open ZOOM Link:

- 1 Presentation noted
- 2 Apologies Deputy Lord Mayor Tania Brown, Harold Hanson, Philip Laird, .Jenny Bayly. Attendees included Councillors John Dorahy and Cath Blakey.
- 3 Minutes of meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> April and matters arising were adopted.
- 4 Comments have incorporated into these minutes
5. Caveats noted
- 6 Responses **6.1 NF 5 Meeting Venue:**  
It was noted that a response 1 May from Director Community Services includes: “It is my view the Conditions of Use has no detrimental impact nor prevents the Neighbourhood Forum from meeting.... This matter is now deemed closed”
- 7 Reports **7.1 Meeting venue and the AGM:**  
It was agreed that Members endorse the decision by NF5 Executive that the AGM be deferred until at least 3 July, by which time it is hoped that suitable meeting arrangements have been made.  
**7.2 Draft-Delivery-Program-2022-2026 and Operational-Plan-2024-2025.**  
It was agreed that:
  - 1 Council be advised that the Forum supports the general direction of priorities in the documents but seeks greater emphasis on:
    - i. improving the flood prevention and drainage infrastructure;
    - ii. safety issues and suitable treatments where sharedpaths cross access roads

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Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 431 households

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- 2 Council be requested to include in the documentation current achievements wherever targets/desired outcomes are set out;
- 3 The Director of Infrastructure and Works be thanked for providing details of works affecting the NF 5 area.

### **7.3 Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Regulations:**

It was noted there are diverse views on the contentious issue of a proposed offshore wind area for the Illawarra. It is understood future processes will depend on the decision of the Minister for Climate Change and Energy re public submissions received last year. The relevant Government website link is:  
<https://consult.dccew.gov.au/oei-illawarranoted>

### **7.4 Future Projects**

It was agreed that:

- 1 stormwater and flood avoidance and management improvement issues be added to the list of potential projects;
- 2 members wishing to participate in any future projects advise the secretary of any they are interested in;
- 3 in the hopeful event that there are many projects, the relevant Council Director be approached to advise on which projects would be of most help to Council.

### **7.5 Mobile Food Truck Trial**

It was agreed that whilst the trials have shown hits and misses, they can be worthwhile by providing useful information. If Council decides not to continue with the mobile food truck trialled in the Wollongong area consideration be given to alternative locations such as JJ Kelly Park at Swan St. and ensuring that seating and refuse bins are available nearby.

### **7.6 Mount Ousley Interchange:**

the background information was noted and further information is in General Business item 9.2

### **7.7 Integrated Transport Strategy:**

Noted, see General Business item 9.1

## **8 Planning**

### **8.1 Planning:** noted

### **8.2 DA-2024/207 12 houses 26-30 Ajax Ave N. W'gong**

It was agreed that the submission of support be endorsed.

### **8.3 DA-2024/210 17 stories, 75 units 41-47 Denison St W'gong**

It was agreed that a submission of support be lodged.

- 9      General Business
- 8.4      DA determinations:** noted
- 9.1      Integrated Transport Strategy - Community feedback**  
 Since NF5 Agenda was issued with item 7.7 re the ITS, Council has advised they are now seeking community feedback on the draft strategy **by Monday 27 May**, to inform the final version,. Residents are invited to attend a Community Drop-in Info Session, any time between 3 - 6pm at the following location:
- Wollongong on Thursday 16 May 2024 - Wollongong Library Theatre, Ground Floor, 41 Burelli St, Wollongong
- For more information on how to provide feedback and to access the draft strategy visit Council's website at:  
[our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/draft-wollongong-integrated-transport-strategy](http://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/draft-wollongong-integrated-transport-strategy)
- 9.2      Mount Ousley Interchange**  
 NF5 representatives appreciated the opportunity for helpful discussions with representatives of TfNSW and Contractor Fulton Hogan FH on 30 April, clarifying re circumstances leading to 2023 changes in designs. It was explained that whilst the preferred option and project cost was decided in 2016, the tenders received 7 years later in 2023 unsurprisingly exceeded the total \$390m funding allocations of \$240m by Aust Gov and \$150m by NSW Gov, and apparently no additional funding is proposed. Then cost cutting negotiations with contractors have resulted in reductions of the scope of work to fit the initial funding allocations.
- This has impacted on some objectives such as to enhance accessibility from the M1 Motorway (eg vehicles exiting east to Mt Ousley Road, then south or north, will have to navigate a signalised intersection, instead of none now,  
 This has replaced the roundabout shown in the November 2022 project update (available to view on the project website: [nswroads.work/MountOusley](http://nswroads.work/MountOusley))
- The objective about connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists has been restricted by removing the proposed narrow bridge across Mt Ousley Road, so that crossing at grade is now proposed near the existing roundabout at Gaynor Ave, which prompts safety concerns.  
 It is understood TfNSW will be discussing with Council about safe options for pedestrian and cyclists routes across Mt Ousley Road.

Also it was requested that TfNSW advise re proposed routes for over-height heavy vehicles northbound to Mt Ousley from Port Kembla, given known constraints on the height of bridges on the Motorway, and what impacts, if any, are planned on CBD residential areas. Work is also progressing on the project's Urban Design and Landscape Strategy Report, which will be ready for public display in the coming months.

It is most welcome that the project is proceeding and hopefully there will be opportunities for community involvement in future discussions with representatives of TfNSW, the contractor and NF5, and even collaboration in relevant instances, before changes have been decided and announced.

A most encouraging reply from MP Ryan Park following NF5 representations to retain the foot and bike bridge across Mt Ousley Road includes that he will be meeting with key stakeholders to effectively communicate the concerns of the local community.

### **9.3 Health Precinct Strategy**

On 7 Feb 2024 NF5 considered a report on the Department of Planning discussion paper on Shaping the Wollongong Health Precinct Strategy. Submissions closed in Feb and it was stated that feedback received will inform the preparation of the place-based strategy which will also be exhibited for public comment in mid- late 2024.

### **9.4 Future of Neighbourhood Forums**

The current lack of support for the Forums, several of which have failed not least because of the apparent lack of value given to them by Council, is a matter for concern as it severely restricts an important mechanism of feedback to Council on community issues.

It was agreed to request Council to review the situation, and the Neighbourhood Forum Charter, to consider ways means and processes to strengthen Forums so that Council gets the benefit of an improved the level of community feedback and exploits the considerable expertise and experience available to it from Forum members, their families and broad networks.

This should be prepared in time to enable early consideration by the new council after the September elections to assist when considering options for the future of committees, reference groups and forums.

10 Snippets noted

**Next meeting 7pm Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

**Venue to be advised, and time confirmed**