

Minutes of NF8 Meeting held in Scribbly Gum Room@ Ribbonwood Centre

also on Teams

7pm Wednesday 10th JUNE 2026

TEAMS LINK:

1. Acknowledgement of Country – Ron Cooper

We acknowledge the First Peoples who have been traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live, the Dharawal people of the Wadi Wadi Nation. We celebrate the the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Islander people who have cared for these lands.

2. Apologies: Heather Boardman, Gail Whatman, Ann Martin

3. Attending: Ron Cooper, Ian Fitzgibbon, Dennis Couley, Martin Whatman, Geoff Cooper, Warren Southwell, Steve McGartland, Sal Selvi, Liz Webster, Steven O'Neill, Peter and Cathy Small, Ross Davies, Cr Linda Campbell (via Teams), Cr Ann Martin (via Teams), Cr Deidre Stuart, Jo Page, Wollongong Council, Jeremey Morgan, Wollongong Council.

Wollongong Council Presentation

WEST DAPTO ROAD UPDATE

Jo Page – Director, Infrastructure, Planning and Works

Jeremey Morgan – Senior Projects Delivery Manager

Jeremey provided an update on the situation including an audiovisual display and both he and Jo Page provided comments and took questions during and after the presentation.

The presentation and associated discussion were lengthy and involved with many community members voicing their concerns regarding the project. Below is a summary of the discussion.

1. The West Dapto Rd project is a major project for Council. The staff involved with the

project are all aware of the issues surrounding the closing of the road and resultant issues which that creates for the community. The proposed reopening was to be mid year 2026, however that has been delayed due to the circumstances mentioned below.

2. There will be traffic lights installed at the intersection of West Dapto Rd, Shone Ave and Wongawilli Rd. This will also allow access in and out of the new McDonalds site which is to be built as Council must do so. It also allows for the reopening of the train line should it occur in the future, it may not, however Council must make allowances in the planning.

3. There will be traffic lights installed at the intersection of West Dapto Rd and Rainbird Dr and West Dapto Rd and Yard St to cater for future traffic flows in the area and pedestrian access from the shared pathway which will be from Wongawilli Rd to Yard St initially.

4. The ground soil quality throughout the site has created issues. During ground testing, it was revealed that the soil had poor strength quality and also with the water table being higher than anticipated, they have had to provide shoring up of the majority of the service trenches which have been dug, to allow the underground power, water, gas and NBN to be installed. This has created delays in that major infrastructure work.

5. Council are required to work with State Govt departments and as such things can be changed causing delays. Both Endeavour Energy and Sydney Water have a major involvement with the critical infrastructure required. Unfortunately, there have been issues surrounding major work being arranged and booked in, then the utility companies cancel the work, sometimes on the day. Council then have to rebook the work which may take weeks to co ordinate again.

6. Whilst delays do happen, the project has been structured so that work can continue around the site using resources available to allow smaller but relevant work to be completed.

7. The latest major issue has been the discovery of a micro bats colony on the site. They are a protected species, so Council has had a Bat Management Plan prepared, which is required by the State Govt, with a view to removing the bats as

and when appropriate. They may be breeding soon so their removal will depend on that situation and will be monitored and reviewed as required.

8. All the information regarding the project is available on the Council website so that all community members can view it. They have also used the media to advise when issues arise such as the micro bats situation.

9. It was explained that when there are changes to the project eg electricity installation delays, the micro bats, Council needs to discuss it all with the contractor, Abergeldie, who are doing the work. There is a contract in place, however variations and changes need to be considered on both sides as they work together to find the best outcome of what has now been created due to other factors.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS - summarised

1. The major concern from the many community members present was regarding the communication and/or lack of it, surrounding the whole project. They understand that issues can arise in developments of this size, however, they are not kept up to date with changes and delays and feel that they are not being considered.

2. They want Council to be upfront when there are issues and be honest with them regarding the time frames and/or delays and feel that they can then make plans with some degree of certainty, rather than the lack of information they are experiencing now.

3. Many spoke about the absolute frustration they are experiencing due to the road closure and the impact it has had on their daily lives. Getting to work, schools, sports, etc etc continues to be a nightmare.

4. They were very vocal and united that they need constant communication from Council on a regular basis which to date has not been there.

PLEASE NOTE:- Jo Page has agreed to have an update provided to the community on a fortnightly basis so they are kept informed about the project.

5. Concerns raised that if there is a major emergency in the Stream Hill, the emergency services vehicles will not be able to get through due to roads situation. Jo Page advised that there is an overall emergency plan in place with all local emergency services aware of what is required and all in agreement with the plan.

8. General Business

A. It was raised that there is a serious pothole issue on Shone Ave and it needs to be addressed as it is a danger to drivers as people need to go onto the wrong side of the road to avoid them. Jo Page said she would follow up Abergeldie about the issue.

B. Question about was there any program for deer culling in the area as they are causing problems. Jo Page advised that the responsibility for this is State Govt which operate throughout the whole Local Govt Area. They arrange and co ordinate any action to be taken.

Meeting Closed 8.50pm

NEXT NF8 MEETING

TO BE HELD

7PM WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY 2026

SCRIBBLY GU

M ROOM

RIBBONWOOD CENTRE