

ITEM 1

PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT WOLLONGONG LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

Council is required to prepare a Local Strategic Planning Statement to provide a 20-year land use planning vision for the City. A draft Statement has been prepared which details many of Council's adopted supporting documents and policy directions and identifies future actions. It is recommended that Council endorse the draft Statement for a minimum 28-day exhibition period.

RECOMMENDATION

The draft Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement be publicly exhibited for a minimum period of 28 days.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Chris Stewart, Manager City Strategy

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

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement

BACKGROUND

In March 2018, amendments to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* introduced a new requirement for Council to prepare and make Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPS). Council is required to have its LSPS in place by 30 June 2020.

An adopted LSPS will set out:

- a 20-year vision for land use in the local area
- the special characteristics which contribute to local identity
- shared community values to be maintained and enhanced
- how growth and change will be managed into the future

In June 2018, the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) issued guidelines detailing how to prepare an LSPS.

Once the LSPS is in place, it will shape future reviews of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009, Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 and inform an ongoing program of land use planning projects and works. It will also inform the review of Council's Community Strategic Plan that is scheduled for 2021-22 (as part of the next Council term). It will also be used to test the strategic merit of Planning Proposal requests.

Council is required to load the adopted LSPS onto the DPIE portal by 30 June 2020.

Under legislation the adopted LSPS must be reviewed at least every 7 years. It is likely that the review of our adopted LSPS will occur sooner, as a new draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan is in preparation and Council will be reviewing the Community Strategic Plan during the next Council term.

Councillor Briefings occurred on 10 February 2020 and 14 April 2020 regarding preparation of the LSPS.

PROPOSAL

Council is fortunate to have adopted over 50 supporting documents that feed directly into the LSPS. For example the Economic Development Strategy, Heritage Strategy, Illawarra Escarpment Strategic Management Plan, Emission Reduction Target, Urban Greening Strategy, Creative Industries Strategy, Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program and various Town Centre Plans. Additional inputs include

draft documents that are currently being exhibited, such as the draft Wollongong City Centre – Planning Review and the draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper.

The LSPS draws on existing strategic priorities and programs to provide a single source document that sets out our approach to land use planning over the next 20 years, including the actions and outcomes we commit to. The Statement does not set any new strategic priorities for Council.

The draft LSPS (Attachment 1) has six LGA wide themes:

- 1 Jobs and Economic growth
- 2 Housing for all
- 3 Inclusive and connected communities
- 4 Climate action and Resilience
- 5 Protect the Natural Environment
- 6 Enabling Infrastructure and Transport

Jobs and Economic Growth

Consistent with the Economic Development Strategy (2019), we will generate 10,500 local jobs over the next decade and in doing so will increase median incomes and target sectors aligned with our talent pool.

We will also embrace opportunities presented by our City's cultural and creative landscape and develop the Wollongong CBD into a global city.

Our significant economic assets, including Port Kembla and the University of Wollongong will be supported and leveraged and our centres will function together to support economic growth within communities.

To support these outcomes the Statement commits to the following strategic land use initiatives, over a 10 year timeframe:

- Finalise and implement the Wollongong City Centre Planning Review
- Prepare and implement a Tourism Accommodation Review
- Prepare a new Wollongong LGA Retail Centre Study
- Continue the town centre planning program
- Prepare a new Wollongong Employment Land Strategy
- Develop a planning and policy framework to support the evening economy
- Continue to acknowledge the importance of Port Kembla, UoW, TAFE, Wollongong Hospital

Housing for All

Wollongong LGA is expected to have an additional 46,000 people living here by 2036 (from 2016) which will require 23,800 more houses.

As indicated in the draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper, Wollongong is well placed to provide sufficient detached dwellings through the West Dapto, Tallawarra and northern part of Calderwood Urban Release Areas. Medium and higher density dwellings are proposed to be provided in the Wollongong City Centre and other town centres.

Our additional focus needs to be targeted at providing smaller dwellings and medium density housing in locations that have the right characteristics to support modest growth. Locations that have good access to public transport, activity nodes, services and that are relatively unconstrained will be considered.

Housing affordability continues to be an area of concern across the LGA and Council is already working on a range of solutions that can be used as a foundation for new initiatives.

To address these priority areas, the Statement commits to the following strategic land use initiatives:

- Exhibit the draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper
- Prepare the draft Housing Strategy that will focus on:
 - Increasing the diversity of housing stock by reviewing the suitability of existing neighbourhoods for a range of housing outcomes including medium density
 - Plan for future housing growth including:
 - Continuing to facilitate the development of endorsed release areas
 - Higher densities in and around the City centre and town centres
 - Review planning controls for constrained sites and locations
 - Increase the supply of affordable rental housing stock including the preparation of an Affordable Contributions Housing Scheme and working with NSW Land and Housing Corporation and Community Housing providers.
- Preparing new Character statements for suburbs and key locations
- Ongoing monitoring and reporting.

Inclusive and Connected Communities

Over the next 20 years, Wollongong will have a higher proportion of older residents and households make up of only one or two persons.

A proportion of people also experience disadvantage as a result of unemployment, low incomes and other factors.

As Wollongong grows and changes over the next two decades, it will be important that we create high amenity places that encourage people to connect and be supported. This will include a range of inputs such as high quality public areas, transport infrastructure (including active transport) and community and recreation facilities.

Council already has an extensive range of strategies that focus on supporting healthy and connected communities including Creative Wollongong; Play Wollongong; Disability Inclusion Action Plan; Social Infrastructure Planning Framework; Heritage Strategy; Sportsground and Sporting facilities Strategy; Aging Plan; the Future of our Pools Strategy; Public Toilet Strategy; Public Art Strategy; and Town and Village Plans. These documents will continue to be monitored and revised as required.

The draft Statement references this extensive body of strategies and commits to:

- Continued allocation of Development Contribution funds to provide new and enhanced community infrastructure
- Progress the draft Planning Proposal for Heritage Review stage 1 – updating the descriptions of existing heritage items
- Progress the draft Planning Proposal for Heritage Review stage 2 – introduction of additional heritage items
- Deliver agreed new community and recreational infrastructure, such as the Cringila Hills Recreation Master Plan & new Community Centres and libraries

Climate Action and Resilience

Climate change is a global issue that requires action at every level including but local councils. Wollongong City Council is committed to doing its part to address climate change and has declared a State of Climate Emergency. It is also a signatory to the Global Covenant of Mayors and a member of the Cities Power Partnership.

In December 2019, Wollongong adopted emissions reductions targets:

- Net zero emissions by 2030 for Council operations
- Net zero emissions by 2050 for the city.

To achieve these targets, Council will review its Sustainability Strategy and develop a new Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Emissions Reduction (Mitigation) Plan to guide our priorities and initiatives in this area. These documents will ensure that Council takes a whole of business approach to sustainability.

The draft Statement supports climate action and resilience by recommitting to the following projects:

- Prepare the Sustainable Wollongong 2030 Strategy
- Prepare and exhibit Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Finalise and implement the Climate Change Mitigation Plan
- Establish a Sustainability Governance Framework to ensure all aspects council business deliver sustainability outcomes

Protect the Nature Environment

Wollongong City Council has long had a significant commitment to protecting the natural environment that provides much of its identity as a City.

The extensive range of existing strategies include Environment Sustainability Policy and Strategy; Illawarra Biodiversity Strategy; Urban Greening Strategy; flood studies and Floodplain Risk Management Plans; Riparian Corridor Management Study; Wollongong Coastal Zone Management Plan; and Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program.

Council also takes a responsible approach to the management of the Illawarra Escarpment and steep slopes and bush fire prone lands.

The draft Statement supports this continued commitment and references in particular the following projects:

- Finalise and implement the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program
- Prepare an updated Biodiversity Strategy
- Review the Wollongong Coastal Zone Management Plan
- Review the Riparian Corridor Management Study and policy approach
- Continue the preparation of updated Flood Studies and Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans, as scheduled.

Enabling Infrastructure and Transport

Wollongong needs a high quality transport network that connects us to Metro Sydney and international markets to fully realise our economic and employment potential. We need the State and Commonwealth Governments to invest appropriately in infrastructure that will support Wollongong's contribution not only to the local community but to the broader economic landscape at a national scale.

In addition to this broader context, Wollongong also needs to focus on local infrastructure that will deliver the outcomes discussed throughout the Statement. This encompasses everything from roads to community facilities to smart infrastructure that will position us to be competitive in the decades to come.

The draft Statement recognised this dual approach to infrastructure provision:

- Advocate for State and regional infrastructure that will be a catalyst for economic growth and success such as:
 - Connections to South West Sydney, including the South West Illawarra Rail Link (SWIRL)
 - Reduced travel times to Sydney
 - Regional standard multi-purpose events venue
 - Green Bus funding
 - Regional infrastructure to support our regional urban release areas
- Focus on the ongoing development and implementation of local infrastructure strategies and projects such as:
 - Preparation of draft Bike Plan 2020
 - Development of a City-wide Transport Strategy
 - Review the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy
 - Ongoing roll-out of infrastructure to support development of West Dapto

Wards

The draft LSPS also includes a chapter describing the key attributes of each Ward and key centres within the Wards. All suburbs within the Wollongong LGA are different and have their own environmental setting, history, character, constraints and opportunities. A one-size-fits-all approach is not appropriate. Many places have their own vision statement, strategies and action plans, prepared through the town and Village program. The LSPS draws this information together.

Ward 1 includes large areas of bushland conserved through Catchment Areas, National Parks and Conservation Areas.

The Ward extends from the urban centres of Fairy Meadow and Corrimal up to the more constrained communities dotted on along the narrow coastal strip north of Thirroul.

Planning in this area can be challenging as a result of the strong market demand for housing and development which may not be appropriate for some areas given congestion and capacity constraints. There is however, strong potential for growth and economic activity in the larger centres such as Corrimal and Fairy Meadow

Ward 2 is the focus for much of the City's economic potential being home to the University of Wollongong, Wollongong tertiary institutions, Wollongong Hospital and Wollongong City Centre.

This area will continue to experience significant growth and change over the coming decades through a transformed city centre and incremental development in areas close to shops, transport and activity nodes.

Other communities that are well serviced by suburban facilities including Figtree and Unanderra.

Ward 3 is located to the south of the City where the coastal plain is at its widest. It includes regionally important assets including West Lake Illawarra Release Areas, Lake Illawarra, the Port Kembla industrial complex and the port of Port Kembla. These assets will continue to be carefully planned for and managed to ensure the successful delivery of housing, economic growth and environmental health.

Communities that are well serviced with high quality centres include Dapto and Wollongong.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The development of the draft LSPS has relied on the extensive community engagement undertaken as part of the development of Council's supporting documents.

If endorsed, the draft LSPS will be publicly exhibited for a minimum period of 28 days, and the issues raised in submissions reported to Council for consideration in the final statement.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

The draft Local Strategic Planning Statement contributes to the delivery of all Our Wollongong 2028 Goals. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2018-2021	Operational Plan 2019-20
Strategy	3 Year Action	Operational Plan Actions
1.3.2 Manage visual and urban amenity resulting from urban development particularly in the CBD and areas with medium to high density	1.3.2.2 Mitigate the impact of development on the natural environment and visual amenity of our open spaces and urban areas	Prepare a Local Strategic Planning Statement for the Local Government Area

Through the LSPS, Council will show how our vision gives effect to the current Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan, based on local characteristics and opportunities and our Community Strategic Plan. It will shape how the Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan evolve over time and identify where further strategic planning efforts may be needed. The adopted LSPS will have relevance to all six of the Community Goals within the Community Strategic Plan.

The draft LSPS was drafted prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. COVID-19 has resulted in a changes to economic conditions, higher unemployment, closure of shops, increase demand on the health system, working from home and social distancing. It is hoped that the COVID-19 pandemic will be a short-term issue, although it may take a while for economic conditions to return to the pre-COVID-19 conditions. The final LSPS will be a 20 year plan, to be updated at least every 7 years, and can accommodate short-term disruptions.

CONCLUSION

The LSPS provides the opportunity for Council and the community to describe a 20-year land use planning vision for the City. It is recommended that the draft LSPS be publicly exhibited for a minimum period of 28-days to enable community input.

Draft Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020



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.

Executive Summary

In 2011 the community developed the vision included in the Community Strategic Plan *“From the mountains to the sea, we value and protect our natural environment and we will be leaders in building an educated, creative and connected community”*.

Located between the Illawarra Escarpment and the Tasman Sea, the City of Wollongong has a population of some 218,000 people, who live in 85,000 dwellings. The narrow coastal plain is also the location of a Regional City, a State Significant Port, an international University, Coal Mines, a Steelworks, tourism activities and many other facilities that contribute to a combined Gross Regional Product of \$12.15 billion. The setting also defines the City’s natural beauty.

Over the next 20 years, the NSW State Government estimates that the Wollongong population will grow by 47,000 persons, who will require an additional 23,800 dwellings. These are dwellings that will be occupied by our children, and grandchildren, and others moving to the area because of its employment and housing opportunities and the great natural landscape.

Wollongong is a Regional City in its own right, and is not part of Sydney, although has important links to Sydney, south-west Sydney and the future Western Sydney Aerotropolis.

Land Use Planning plays an important role in guiding land use and development in the City.

Council has prepared this Local Strategic Planning Statement to provide a 20 year land use planning vision for the City. It has drawn on the many existing strategies and plans developed, exhibited and adopted by Council. In many respects, Council and the LGA needs to continue on the current settings.

There will be growth and there will be change. There will also be opportunity to change and review the current settings.

The biggest challenges and opportunities addressed by the Statement are:

- Employment opportunities;
- Climate Change Resilience and meeting the Emissions Reduction Target;
- Housing the additional 47,000 people in appropriate locations;
- Creating great places;
- Supporting the population with culture, recreation and social activities;
- Enabling infrastructure and transport – both within Wollongong, and to the adjoining regions; and
- Protecting the environment, which is also the backdrop and the attraction of the area.

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1. Introduction

Wollongong City Council has prepared a draft Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement to set out the 20 year land use vision for the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). The vision is informed by the findings, recommendations and conclusions of the key studies undertaken by Council and guided by community consultation undertaken over many years.

The Statement is required to:

- Demonstrate how Council will continue to implement the actions contained in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan and other State Government policy documents;
- Detail the existing City-wide, local and place-based land use strategies that affect land use decisions;
- Identify future land use actions, studies and strategies to be undertaken by Council;
- Detail the land use narrative for the City;
- Be used as part of the assessment of Planning Proposals, to ensure they have strategic merit and are consistent with Council's vision for the LGA.

The Statement is required to be reviewed at least every 7 years and will be updated to reflect new State and Regional Planning policies and Council's Community Strategic Plan and strategies.

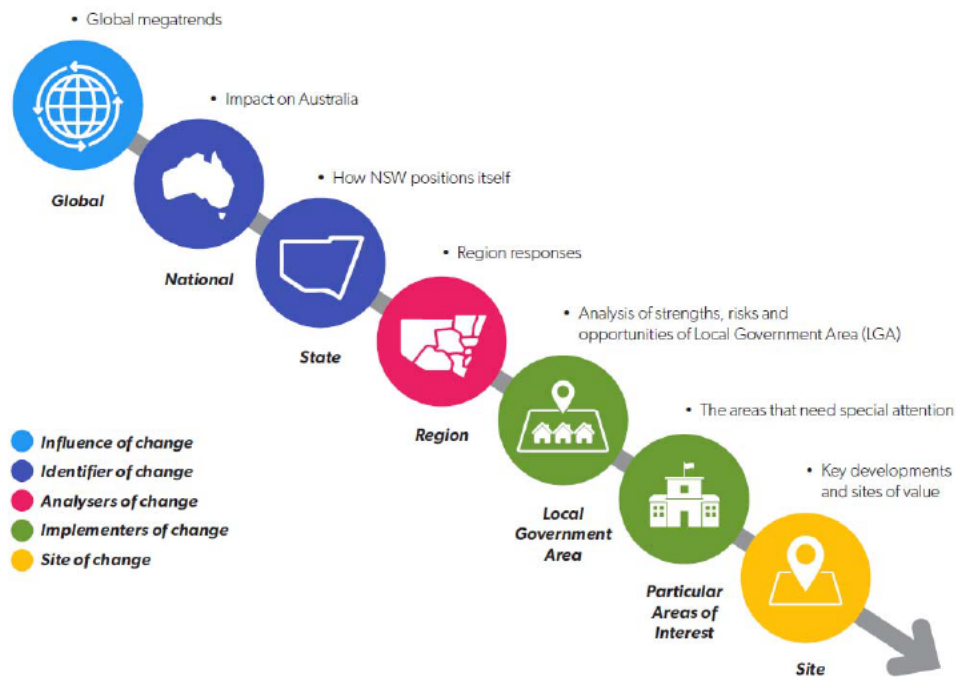
1.1 Purpose of Local Strategic Planning Statement?

A Local Strategic Planning Statement is required to set out:

- the 20-year vision for land use in the local area
- the shared community values to be maintained and enhanced
- how future growth and change will be managed
- the special characteristics which contribute to local identity

The Statement forms part of the line of sight on how global issues affect the Nation, State, Region, Local Government Area, locality and individual sites. For example, a development application for a dual occupancy development in a local street, has been influenced by requirements for Council to provide for more affordable housing to meet the region's State housing needs and the National Migration Program.

Figure 1.1 Line of sight



(Source DP&E 2018)

Preparing a Vision for the Wollongong Local Government Area is not a new initiative. In 2001, Council resolved to commence a community driven visioning exercise for the Local Government Area (LGA), including a review of planning controls and land use strategies. The “Wollongong Futures” project involved extensive community consultation and produced the following long-term strategic vision to describe how the Wollongong LGA should develop over the next 20 years:

In the year 2025, Wollongong will be a sustainable local government area, safeguarding the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of the present and future generations.

(Wollongong City Council 2005)

As we approach 2025 it is appropriate to reflect on this vision statement and determine whether it remains appropriate for the next 20 years.

As part of the Our Wollongong 2028: Community Strategic Plan (2019), Council has adopted the following overall Community Vision for the LGA:

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

Vision statements have been prepared with the community as part of recent town centre studies prepared by Council, eg the Warrawong, Figtree, Unanderra, Corrimall, Port Kembla,

Dapto town centres and the Wollongong City Centre all include specific visions. The vision statements for these centres and other places are included in the relevant sections of this report.

As a consequence of the local town centre studies, as well as LGA-wide projects (eg Economic Development Strategy), Council is well placed to prepare the Local Strategic Planning Statement. The Local Strategic Planning Statement brings together these strategies and details how Council has implemented the actions of the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Plan.

The Local Strategic Planning Statement will inform changes to the planning controls in the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2009 and Wollongong Development Control Plan (DCP) 2009 to achieve the priorities. The Local Strategic Planning Statement will also inform the land use planning work program in future Community Strategic Plans and Annual Delivery Plans.

1.2 Legislative context

The requirement for Council to prepare a Local Strategic Planning Statement was introduced into the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 in 2018.

Section 3.9 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 requires (summarised):

- 1 *Council to prepare and make a Local Strategic Planning Statement, and review the statement at least every 7 years*
- 2 *The Statement must include or identify:*
 - a. *The basis for strategic planning in the area, having regard to economic, social and environmental matters;*
 - b. *The planning priorities for the area that are consistent with the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2025 and the Council's Community Strategic Plan*
 - c. *The actions required for achieving those planning priorities*
 - d. *The basis on which Council will monitor and report on the implementation of those actions.*
- 3 *The statement for an LGA that is divided into Wards, may deal separately with each Ward*
- 4 *The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment may issue requirements with respect to the preparation and making of the Local Strategic Planning Statement*
- 5 *A Local Strategic Planning Statement must be published on the NSW Planning Portal.*

The timeframe for non-Sydney Metropolitan Councils, such as Wollongong, to submit its Local Strategic Planning Statement is by July 2020.

In 2018, the Department of Planning and Environment published guidelines for Council to follow in preparing the Statement and an example Local Strategic Planning Statement (2019).

1.3 LGA introduction

The City of Wollongong or the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA) has an area of 714 km², extending from Waterfall to Haywards Bay and Windang (Figure 1.2). The western half of the LGA is part of the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment Area and is covered in bushland.

The LGA has a population of 216,071 persons (id community profile 2018), the majority of which live on the coastal plain and the Illawarra Escarpment foothills.

The Wollongong LGA has many defining features and characteristics that set it apart from other places. The beautiful coastline, the substantial natural environment, the location of the City Centre adjacent the foreshore, the village urban settings and the history of the place all contribute to the distinctiveness and appeal of Wollongong.

Wollongong is one of Australia's most liveable cities. As the regional capital of the Illawarra, Wollongong plays an important role in providing employment opportunities for both Wollongong residents and the surrounding region.

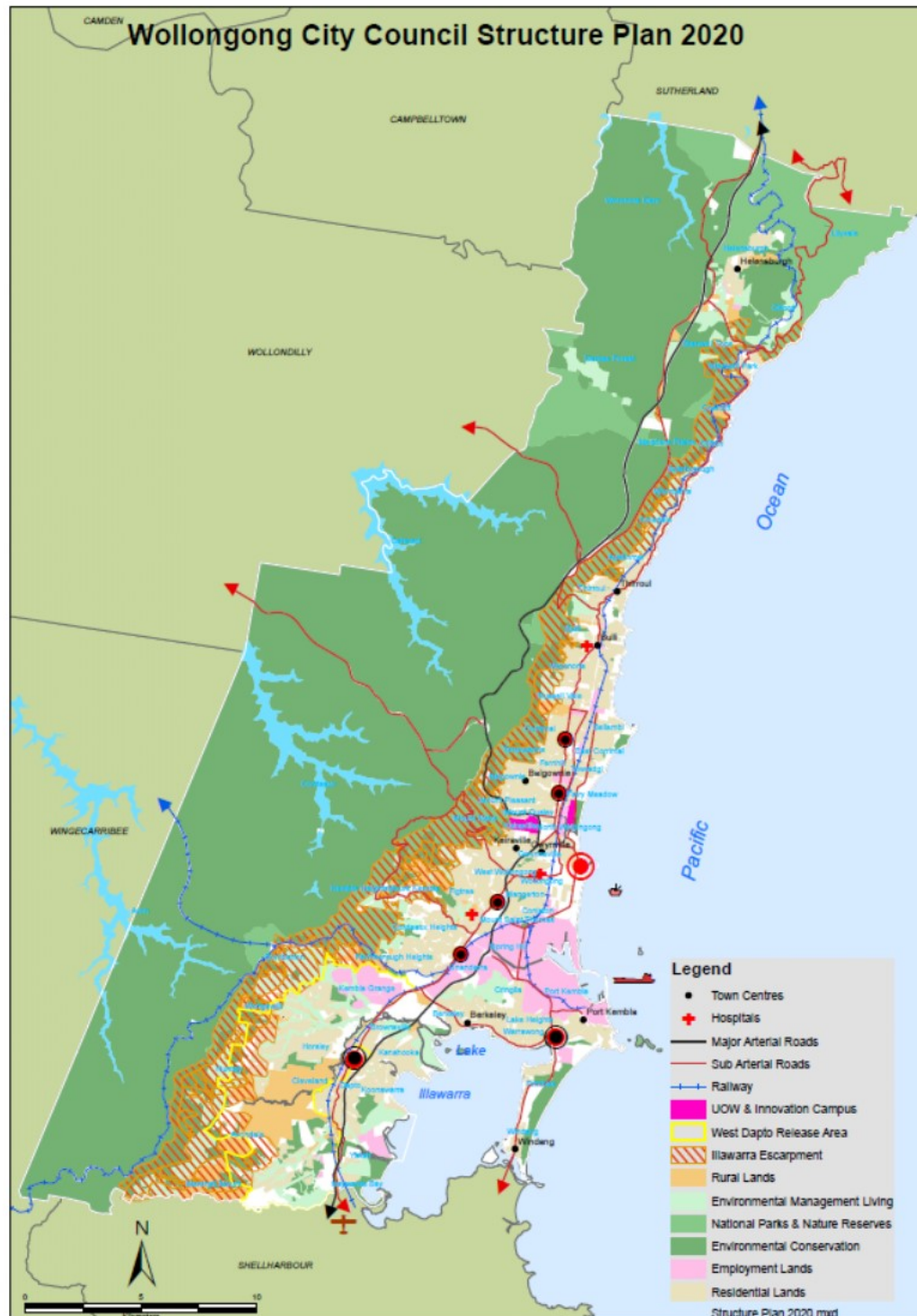
Wollongong is connected nationally and internationally. Wollongong is only 1 hour from Sydney International Airport and the soon to be established Western Sydney Aerotropolis. Wollongong is also only 2.5 hours from Canberra and has daily connections to Melbourne and Brisbane through the regional airport, located 20 minutes south of the Wollongong CBD. The international trade hub of Port Kembla provides global freight connections.

Wollongong is a vibrant coastal city, which offers a supportive business environment and an enhanced work-life balance. The City's key economic assets are the University of Wollongong and its Innovation Campus, the local TAFE NSW network, Port Kembla and the Wollongong CBD, which supports around a third of the total jobs in Wollongong.

The Wollongong CBD is a key employment hub for the region with around 26,000 jobs and having seen \$1.5B in predominately private investment since 2012. The CBD provides key civic and health services along with traditional retail and a growing cluster of professional services employment. Firms are attracted by lower operating costs, the level of amenity and lifestyle on offer in Wollongong and access to a large talent pool of high-quality staff.

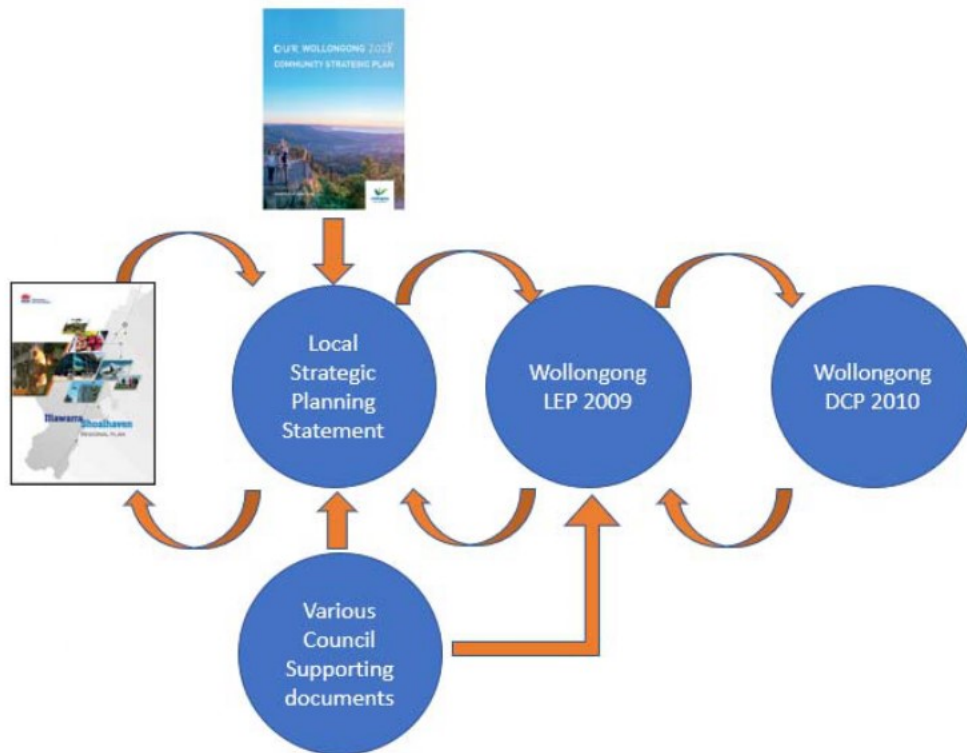
The CBD also has a fast-growing inner-city population supporting a cultural renaissance in recent years, with more than 110 new bars, cafes and restaurants opening since 2012. Wollongong's thriving arts and evening economy continues to attract people to visit, socialise, eat and listen to live music. All this activity takes place in a stunning coastal landscape, including 17 patrolled beaches, Lake Illawarra and the backdrop of the Illawarra Escarpment and the Royal National Park.

Figure 1.2 Wollongong LGA Structure Plan



1.4 Our Wollongong 2028: Community Strategic Plan (2019)

One of the inputs into the Local Strategic Planning Statement is Council's Community Strategic Plan.



The Our Wollongong 2028: Community Strategic Plan (2019), is a whole of community plan, in which all levels of government, business, educational institutions, community groups and individuals have an important role. The Community Strategic Plan outlines the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and includes strategies for how we will achieve them. While Council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing and maintaining the Community Strategic Plan on behalf of the Local Government Area, it is not wholly responsible for its implementation. Other partners, such as state agencies and community groups may also be engaged in delivering the long term objectives of the Community Strategic Plan.

The Plan includes the following overall Community Vision for the LGA:

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

The Plan indicates that to support the achievement of our community vision, collaborative efforts will focus on six interconnected goals:

1. *We value and protect our environment*
2. *We have an innovative and sustainable economy*
3. *We have a creative, vibrant city*
4. *We are a connected and engaged community*
5. *We have a healthy community in a liveable city*
6. *We have affordable and accessible transport*

Under each Goal, the Plan contains objectives, strategies and specific actions to be undertaken by Council, the State and community groups. Some of the actions relate to Land Use Planning and will be detailed later in this document.

The Community Strategic Plan also aligns with the United Nations General Assembly's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are a global strategy and form a blueprint to create a sustainable future for everyone. There are 17 interconnected goals for 2015-2030,



(Source Wollongong Community Strategic Plan)

Goals 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17 are particularly relevant to the LSPS.

Table 1.1 Alignment of goals

LSPS theme	Community Strategic Plan goals	Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan goals
Jobs and Economic Growth	2. We have an innovative and sustainable economy	1. A prosperous Illawarra-Shoalhaven
Housing for all	5. We are a healthy community in a liveable city	2. A variety of housing choices, with homes that meet needs and lifestyles
Inclusive and connected communities	3. Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city 4. We are a connected and engaged community 5. We are a healthy community in a liveable city	3. A region with communities that are strong, healthy and well-connected
Climate action and resilience	1. We value and protect our environment 2. We have an innovative and sustainable economy 6. We have sustainable, affordable and accessible transport	3. A region with communities that are strong, healthy and well-connected 4. A region that makes appropriate use of agricultural and resource lands 5. A region that protects and enhances the natural environment
Protect the natural environment	1. We value and protect the environment	4. A region that makes appropriate use of agricultural and resource lands 5. A region that protects and enhances the natural environment
Enabling Infrastructure and transport	6. We have sustainable, affordable and accessible transport	3. A region with communities that are strong, healthy and well-connected

1.4.1 COVID-19

During the preparation of draft Local Strategic Planning Statement the world has changed. Our community is faced with a global health challenge of Coronavirus or COVID-19. It is impacting both individuals and our City collectively.

In response to CoVID-19, the NSW State Government passed legislation to extend the term of the current elected Council for an additional year. In order to align with this change of term, Council has extended the Delivery Program for a further year into 2021/22.

While the existing Delivery Program already included projects and services for 2021/22, Council has shifted focus to consider the ongoing impact of COVID-19. While our focus is protecting our community's vulnerable members, as well as staff and volunteers and their families, we are continuing to undertake important projects.

The supporting documents referenced in the LSPS were prepared or adopted prior to COVID-19 pandemic. For example, the data and projections in the Economic Development Strategy, adopted in 2019, does not take into account the COVID-19 impacts which include higher unemployment, the closure of shops and businesses, working from home and social distancing.

It is hoped that the COVID-19 pandemic will be a short-term issue, although it may take a while for economic conditions to return to the pre-COVID-19 conditions.

The LSPS is a 20 year plan, to be updated at least every 7 years, and can accommodate short-term disruptions.

1.5 Regional context

There are a number of NSW regional planning documents that direct and influence land use decision in the Wollongong LGA.

1.5.1 Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan (2015)



The Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan is the overarching regional policy document guiding strategic land use planning in the region.

The Plan identifies that the population of the Wollongong LGA is expected to grow by some 33,000 persons by 2036 to 244,400 persons. An additional 14,600 dwellings will be required to house the population increase.

The Plan contains the following goals and directions are particularly relevant to Wollongong. Under each direction there are actions to be implemented by the State, Council and others.

Goal 1 – A prosperous Illawarra-Shoalhaven

- 1.1 *Grow the national competitiveness of Metro Wollongong to provide housing and jobs*
- 1.2 *Grow the capacity of the port of Port Kembla as an international trade gateway*
- 1.3 *Grow regional strategic assets to support economic growth across the region*

- 1.4 *Support new and expanded industrial activity by providing well-located and serviced supplies of industrial land*
- 1.5 *Strengthen the economic self-determination of Aboriginal communities*

Goal 2 – A variety of housing choices, with homes that meet needs and lifestyles

- 2.2 *Support housing opportunities close to existing services, jobs and infrastructure in the region's centres*
- 2.3 *Deliver housing in new release areas best suited to build new communities, provide housing choice and avoid environmental impact*
- 2.4 *Identify and conserve biodiversity values when planning new communities*
- 2.5 *Monitor the delivery of housing to match supply with demand*

Goal 3 – A region with communities that are strong, healthy and well-connected

- 3.2. *Enhance community access to jobs, goods and services by improving connections between centres and growth areas*
- 3.3 *Build socially inclusive, safe and healthy communities*
- 3.4 *Protect the region's cultural heritage*

Goal 4 – A region that makes appropriate use of agricultural and resource lands

- 4.2 *secure the productivity and capacity of resource lands*
- 4.3 *manage and protect the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment looks to protect water quality and quantity for the health and security of those communities whose water supply is sourced from the catchment.*

Goal 5 – A region that protects and enhances the natural environment

- 5.1 *Protect the region's environmental value by focusing development in locations with the capacity to absorb development*
- 5.2 *Build the Illawarra-Shoalhaven's resilience to natural hazards and climate change*
- 5.3 *Improve the environmental outcomes for waste management and air quality*
- 5.4 *Secure the health of coastal landscapes by managing land uses and water quality*

In late 2019, the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment issued updated population projections for the State.

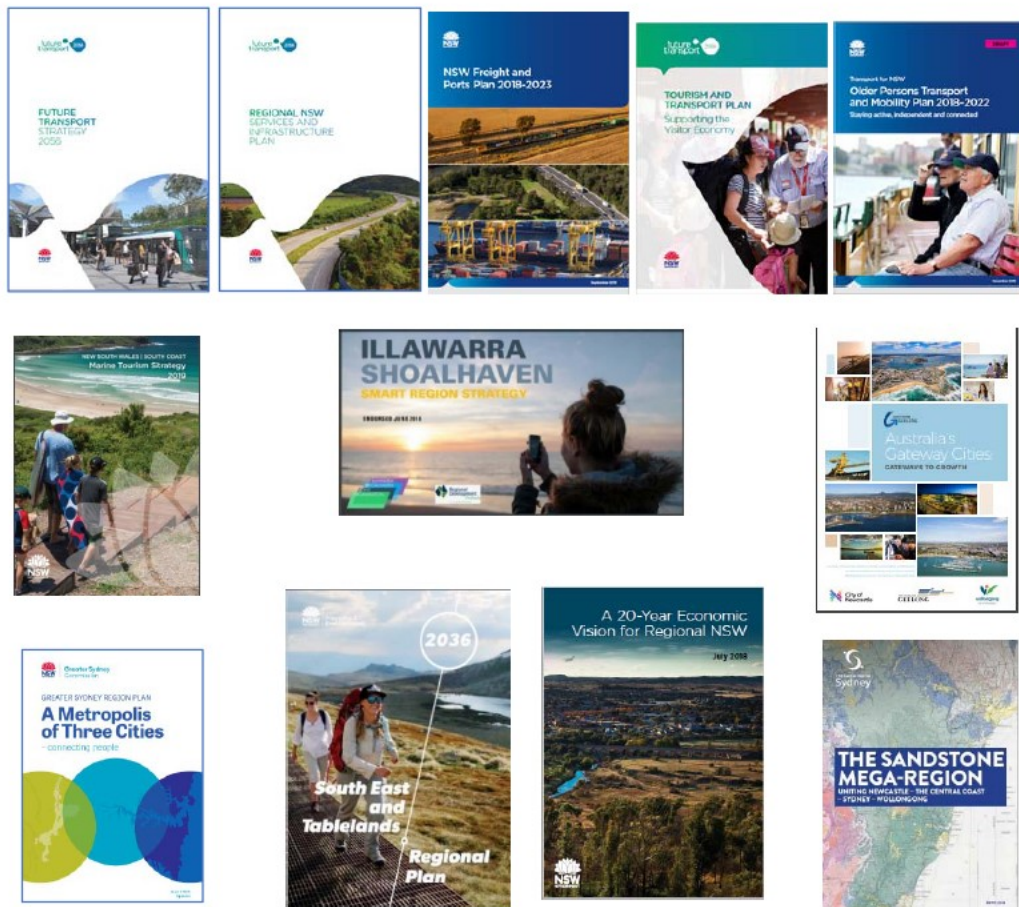
The Wollongong LGA is now expected to grow to a population of 257,450 by 2036 and 265,750 by 2041. This is an increase of 13,000 persons above the 2016 estimates contained in the Regional Plan for 2036. An additional 23,800 dwellings will be required to house the population increase.

1.5.2 Other regional plans

The following plans and reports have been reviewed as part of the preparation of this report.

- Illawarra Regional Transport Plan (2014) Transport for NSW

- Future Transport Strategy 2056 (2018) Transport for NSW
 - Regional Services and Infrastructure Plan
 - NSW Freight and Ports Plan 2018-2023
 - Tourism and Transport Plan
 - Older Person Transport and Mobility Plan
- NSW South Coast Marine Tourism Strategy (2019) State of NSW
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Smart Region Strategy (2018) Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation
- Australia's Gateway Cities – Gateways to Growth (2019) Committee for Geelong
- Greater Sydney Region Plan (2018) Greater Sydney Commission
- South East and Tablelands Regional Plan (Department of Planning and Environment 2017)
- A 20 year vision for Economic Vision for Regional NSW (2018) State of NSW
- The Sandstone Mega-Region (2018) The Committee for Sydney
- Adapt NSW – Shoalhaven & Illawarra Regional adaptation (2019) NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
- Adapt NSW - Illawarra Climate Change Snapshot (2019) NSW Office of Environment and Heritage



1.6 Mega trends

As part of the preparation of the Local Strategic Statement, the State Government has encouraged Council to consider any global trends that may influence Wollongong's future. There are a number of reports that discuss mega trends.



The CSIRO has published a report called *Our Future World* (2012) which highlights six interrelated global megatrends that will change the way we live. This report has been cited by the NSW Government Chief Planner as a context for Local Strategic Planning Statements – the Chief Planner included a 7th megatrend for consideration.

1. *More from less* - The earth has limited supplies of natural mineral, energy, water and food resources essential for human survival and maintaining lifestyles.
2. *Going, going ... gone?* - Many of the world's natural habitats, plant species and animal species are in decline or at risk of extinction.
3. *The silk highway* - Coming decades will see the world economy shift from west to east and north to south.
4. *Forever young* - The ageing population is an asset. Australia and many other countries that make up the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have an ageing population.
5. *Virtually here* - This megatrend explores what might happen in a world of increased connectivity where individuals, communities, governments and businesses are immersed into the virtual world to a much greater extent than ever before.
6. *Great expectations* - This is a consumer, societal, demographic and cultural megatrend. It explores the rising demand for experiences over products and the rising importance of social relationships.
7. *Porous boundaries* – technology and globalisation are changing global relationships

In 2015, the CSIRO reframed the second megatrend to “planetary pushback” and the fifth megatrend to “digital immersion” (CSIRO 2016).

In their 2017 report *Strategic Foresight for Regional Australia*, the CSIRO grouped the megatrends into five broad megatrends that will shape the development of regional Australia:

1. Defeating distance
2. Global exposure
3. Diverging places
4. New economies
5. Environment as risk

The Planning Institute on Australia (2016) identified 9 megatrends that they consider will shape and influence Australia's future as the population grows:

1. Increased urbanisation
2. Health and ageing
3. Resource dependency

4. Biodiversity
5. Climate change and disaster resilience
6. Global connectedness
7. Infrastructure
8. Smart settlements and new technology
9. Collaborative consumption and social change

The 20 years Vision for Regional NSW also indicates that the following 10 industry sectors will drive regional NSW economies over the next 20 years:

1. Agribusiness and forestry,
2. Resources and Mining,
3. Tourism,
4. Tertiary Education,
5. Health and Residential Care,
6. Freight and Logistics,
7. Defence,
8. Advance Manufacturing,
9. Renewable Energy,
10. Technology – enabled Primary Industries.

The global trends identified in each report are similar. These global trends will have an impact on the future of Wollongong, and we are able to respond to them through:

- Protecting high value environments
- Increasing use of renewable energy
- Exploring employment opportunities in clean technology
- Opportunities from new tourist markets
- Planning for our aging population
- Using technology to connect community and improve our services
- Being open to innovation – such as autonomous vehicles
- Stronger regional relationships that support service and policy efficiencies
- Planning for population growth and quality urban outcomes
- Planning for greater local resilience and diversification in food production and distribution.

1.7 Building the Statement

Council has adopted, or is preparing or updating, several strategies that guide land use planning decisions. The LSPS bring together the outcomes from a range of Council strategic plans and studies together in a single document, including:

- Economic Development Strategy (2019)
- Creative Wollongong 2019-2024 (2019)
- Wollongong City Centre Planning Review (draft 2020)
- Housing and Affordable Housing Study - Options paper (draft 2020)
- West Dapto Release Area Vision (2018) and supporting documents

- Illawarra Escarpment Strategic Management Plan (2015)
- Town Centre Plans for Warrawong, Unanderra, Figtree, Dapto, Corrimal, Helensburgh (draft)
- Wollongong Coastal Zone Management Plan (2017)
- Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program (2020)
- Flood studies and Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans for various catchments
- Heritage Strategy (2019)
- Cultural Plan (2014)
- Creative Wollongong (2019)
- Ageing Plan (2018)
- Sportsground and Sporting facilities Strategy 2017-2021 (2017)
- Play Wollongong Strategy (2014)
- Pools Strategy (2014)
- Public Toilet Strategy (2019)
- Public Art Strategy (2016)
- Social Infrastructure Planning Framework 2018-2028 (2018)
- Heritage Strategy (2019)
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2016)
- Environment Sustainability Strategy (2014)
- Illawarra Biodiversity Strategy (2011)
- Dune Management Strategy (2014)
- Urban Greening Strategy (2017)
- Pedestrian Plan 2017-2021 (2017)
- Wollongong Bike Plan 2014-2018 (2014)
- Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2022

The preparation of these documents and strategies included community and stakeholder consultation. Council has used this consultation to inform the preparation of the LSPS.

The following graphic shows Council's Strategic Planning Framework - how actions in the Community Strategic Plan result in the preparation of studies and strategies (informing and supporting documents – as listed above), that then guide Council's Delivery Program and then implementation.



The Wollongong LSPS has been divided into 6 key LGA wide themes:

1. Jobs and Economic growth
2. Housing for all
3. Inclusive and connected communities
4. Climate Action and Resilience
5. Protect the Natural Environment
6. Enabling Infrastructure and Transport

The Statement then considers the different characteristics of each of the 3 Wards and the key centres and activities in those Wards.

2. Jobs and Economic Growth

Wollongong is the regional capital of the Illawarra-Shoalhaven, producing \$12.2B (60%) of the region's \$20.4B Gross Regional Product (GRP). This represents 60% of the Illawarra Region and 2% of the NSW State Product (economy.id).

There are some 103,797 employed residents with 95,936 local jobs. Wollongong's diverse economy provides employment for 20,000 residents of surrounding LGAs, including 43% of employees from Shellharbour and 23% from Kiama.

The Wollongong LGA contains 95,936 jobs. Wollongong's largest employment sectors are Health Care and Social Assistance, Education and Training, Retail Trade and Construction, which predominately service the growing regional population. Beyond this, Wollongong continues to grow jobs in export-orientated sectors servicing national and international clients. These include Professional Services, Financial Services and a rapidly growing Tech sector. This complements a highly skilled Advanced Manufacturing workforce with 90-years of industrial expertise.

The Wollongong CBD, with around 26,000 jobs, is a key employment hub supporting around one third of all jobs in the Wollongong LGA. The CBD has seen \$1.5B in investment since 2012 and now employs more than 26,000 people. It continues to attract a range of firms from Accounting, Legal, Architectural, Engineering, Marketing, Business Consulting and Shared Services. These firms are driving demand for high quality A-grade office space. Over the next 24 months, Wollongong will see a 36% uplift in the stock of A-grade office space with 28,000 sqm under construction.

Alignment to key documents:

- Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan – Goal 1: A prosperous Illawarra-Shoalhaven
- Community Strategic Plan – Goal 2: We have an innovative and sustainable economy

Regional Plan Commitment	Council Response
Direction 1.1 Metro Wollongong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Wollongong City Centre Strategy • Monitor and review Innovation Campus master plan • Support for green bus • Member of Metro Wollongong Coordination Group
Direction 1.2 Grow Port Kembla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing advocacy for Maldon-Dombarton freight line, including SWIRL
Action 1.3.5 Marine Based Tourism Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in Wollongong Harbour master plan • Investing in coastal assets such as surf clubs?
Direction 1.4 Support Industrial Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned review of Industrial Lands Controls • Ongoing roll out of infrastructure and services to Kembla Grange as part of the West Dapto Release Area

2.1 Informing strategies

2.1.1 Economic Development Strategy



On 23 September 2019 Council adopted the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029. This is the key document that will drive a prosperous region.

The Strategy builds on the success and learnings of the 2013-23 Economic Development Strategy, recognising that Wollongong has successfully reinvented itself as a service-based economy.

The Economic Development Strategy has three key goals -

- 1 **Jobs target** – generate 10,500 new jobs in the next decade to reduce the jobs deficit. This will be more than double the 4,998 net new jobs created in the decade to 2018
- 2 **Lifting median incomes** – focus on generating new jobs in industries that are higher-paying, have a greater share of full-time jobs and are expected to grow in the future
- 3 **Targeted sectors align with talent pool** – align the target industries with Wollongong’s existing talent pool, in particular commuters and graduates of the University of Wollongong, to create more local job opportunities for residents.

The goals will be achieved via Council working with other stakeholders to deliver key ‘game-changing’ projects and by the implementation of an Action Plan.

The Strategy aims to grow jobs above and beyond those which will simply occur with increasing population levels. Around half of the 10,500 new jobs will come from targeted knowledge-intensive, high value and highly skilled sectors, not linked to population growth. These are export-orientated jobs that can service national and international clients and can hence grow the local economy and employment faster than population growth.

A key part of the overall strategy is the work of Invest Wollongong, a partnership between Wollongong City Council, the University of Wollongong and the NSW Government

Relevant land use planning actions include:

- Implement policies that support a mix of office development in the Wollongong city centre including new A-grade commercial buildings
- Implement policies (via town and village plans) that support appropriate jobs generation in other (non-city centre) employment areas across the LGA
- Develop a planning and policy framework to support the ongoing evolution of Wollongong’s evening economy
- Undertake a Tourism Lands Review in order to investigate the use of tourism-specific zoning on key coastal sites to ensure the provision of sufficient beds in Wollongong to support a growing visitor economy

2.1.2 Creative Wollongong 2019-2024



On 11 March 2019 Council adopted the Creative Wollongong Strategy for the LGA. The document provides a strategic framework in which to guide Council to effectively respond to the opportunities and challenges presented by our City's cultural and creative landscape. It details the actions Council will deliver and demonstrates a commitment to creative life in Wollongong.

Creative Wollongong has 92 actions that sit under four broad focus areas:

- 1 Creative Life
- 2 Creative Community
- 3 Creative Spaces and Places
- 4 Our City after Dark

Relevant land use planning actions include:

- 3.3.5 As part of the development of Town and Village Plans, including West Dapto, work with the community to capture the cultural and creative aspirations, unique identities and the needs of communities and include suggestions in concept plans
- 3.3.6 Undertake research and establish a working group to progress the integration of public art as a requirement of new developments consistent with recommendations in the Public Art Strategy 2016-2021
- 4.3.1 Develop a planning and policy framework to support the ongoing evolution of Wollongong's evening economy
- 4.3.2 Review hours of operation permitted for small bars and other licenced premises in the Wollongong City Centre, and investigate models for allowing extended late trading where appropriate
- 4.3.6 Increase the number of blanket DA's to include pre-approved event sites within identified suburbs

2.1.3 Wollongong City Centre Planning Review



In 2016, Council adopted the Wollongong City Centre – A City for People vision, which updated the 2007 State prepared Revitalising Wollongong City Centre vision. The vision presented in A City for People 2016 is about what Wollongong City Centre aspires to become. It is intended to set a clear direction to guide decision making and priorities in the City Centre over time.

In the 21st century Wollongong City Centre will be a people orientated, sustainable and liveable city.

Wollongong City Centre is a thriving and unique Regional City, delivering a diverse economy and offering a high quality lifestyle. The City Centre is nationally recognised as a liveable city and is the place where people want to live, learn, work and visit.

The Vision is underpinned by twelve aspirational goals for delivering the Wollongong City Centre of the future. These are themed as follows -

- Celebrate the uniqueness
- Develop a human scale City
- Grow a living City
- Create an accessible, pedestrian friendly City.

Subsequently, Council has been reviewing the planning controls for the Commercial precincts (the Business zoned land) within the City Centre. These precincts are important for retail and office jobs and are important for the jobs target. The review found that commercial floor space is being lost with the development of mixed-use developments, which can be characterised by residential apartment buildings above token retail space. While residential development is also important in the City Centre, the primary focus should be employment. There are extensive areas surrounding the City Core or CBD which permit high density residential development.

Key findings of the review include –

Land Use:

- Current land use controls could result in a City filled with residential development, compromising long term employment growth
- The retail core is spread out too far, which results in empty shopfronts and creates inactive streets
- The City's cultural identity is diversifying to support City life.

Built Form:

- General development controls don't respond to the character and historic qualities of places in the City
- The planning controls do not provide clear guidance for development to deliver the intended built outcomes for the city.
- The City's development controls do not promote development that defines a city skyline or enhances the unique natural setting
- Developments favour maximising building development controls over design quality, producing a less attractive City

Public Domain and Connections:

- The City lacks clear physical and visual connections to key places which makes wayfinding difficult and discourages walking.
- Arrival into the City Centre is confusing and provides an underwhelming first impression of Wollongong
- Public open spaces are valued but do not yet realise their full potential.
- Key public spaces are at risk of overshadowing by surrounding buildings
- Tree canopy cover in the City Centre is inadequate

The City Centre Planning Strategy aims to deliver -

- **Jobs** – Defining a CBD that prioritises jobs growth by safe-guarding appropriate land for commercial development; and defining key retail streets that support a range of uses both day and night
- **Housing** – Promoting a variety of housing types in the right locations to support the City Core and improve affordability
- **Lifestyle** - Strengthening the structure of the City through a permeable grid that prioritises pedestrians; Creating a green network of open spaces for a sustainable, healthy and attractive city; and Protecting sunlight to key public spaces
- **Planning Controls** – Undertaking the right analysis to inform how we strengthen and simplify planning controls to ensure they respond to precinct character and future desired built form outcomes; and Improve clarity processes give clear expectations to the development industry
- **Good Design** - Elevating our design culture and commitment to delivering good design outcomes in the built environment

On 24 February 2020 Council resolved to exhibit the draft documents for community input. Following the exhibition and consideration of issues raised in submissions, a draft Planning Proposal and draft DCP chapter will be prepared, reported to Council and if endorsed exhibited to implement the final strategy recommendations. The draft Planning Proposal will be reviewed by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and a Gateway Determination issued prior to exhibition.

2.1.4 NSW Ports Master Plan for Port Kembla

The Port of Kembla is a strategic economic asset which has the capacity to support regional economic growth through the export of bulk commodities, import of motor vehicles and support of steelmaking operations.

The Port is covered by its own planning rules, known as the Three Ports State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP), which also applies to Port Botany and Port Newcastle.



In 2015 NSW Ports released a masterplan for the Port which indicated that it will continue to be NSW's largest motor vehicle import hub and bulk grain export port while catering for a growing range of dry bulk, bulk liquid and general cargo. The report indicates that a container terminal would be established when capacity at Port Botany was reached.

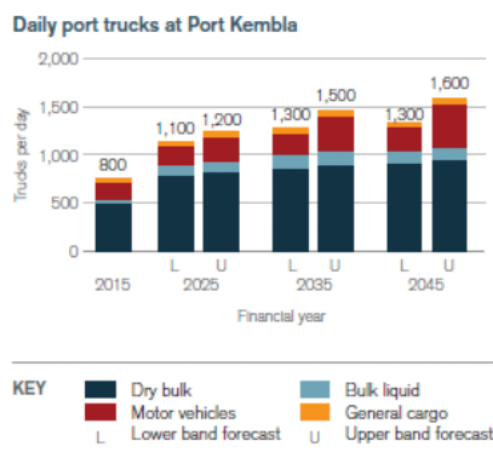
The report forecasts significant growth:

- motor vehicle and machinery imports are forecast to grow from 390,000 vehicles to between 540,000 and 850,000 vehicles per year by 2045.
- dry bulk trades (grain, coal) are forecast to grow from the current 20.3 million tonnes up to 30 million tonnes per year by 2045.
- bulk liquid is forecast to grow from 433,000 kilolitres per year to 2.6 million kilolitres per year by 2045.
- general cargo is anticipated to remain at about 1.5 million mass tonnes per year over the next 30 years.

The report was prepared prior to the first cruise ship arrival in 2016. The number of cruise ships stopping at Wollongong each year is growing. It is hoped that the facility will be expanded to enable passengers to board and disembark at the Port, rather than travelling to Sydney.

The Port and its growth has a number of land use planning implications including:

- Increased traffic volume - The Port currently receives an average 800 trucks per day. Subject to future trade volumes, port trucks are forecast to grow to between 1,300 and 1,600 trucks per day by 2045



(Source NSW Ports 2015)

- Rail movements – in 2015 about 12 trains arrive and depart from the Port each day. This is forecast to grow to about 17 trains a day based on the forecast trade growth of existing commodities. The use of the Illawarra Rail Line for freight is constrained by the passenger services. The Moss Vale-Unanderra Line is a dedicated rail freight line with capacity to accommodate additional trade movements, but requires upgrades. The Maldon-Dombarton Line could unlock the potential of Port Kembla and maximise rail transport of bulk products. It would free up capacity for commuter needs on the Illawarra Line while providing a more direct rail connection to the Sydney metropolitan freight network.
- Amenity – as well as noise from freight movements, the Port operations can impact on the amenity of surrounding residents. Port activities can generate traffic, noise, dust and aesthetic impacts on nearby areas. These impacts will increase as trade volumes grow and activities are intensified. NSW Ports has proposed a buffer between Port activities and any sensitive uses such as housing.

In 2019, consultants for the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment prepared a study considering the buffers around the Port. The study has not been released, although Council has agreed to consider the recommendations and incorporate them as appropriate into its land use planning processes. Of particular

concern is the impact that 24/7 of noise generated by the Port could have on surrounding residential areas. This concern was highlighted by the Department not supporting the rezoning of the former Port Kembla School site (Military Road) to enable medium density development, as the future residents would overlook the Port and could complain and limit future port operations, especially if a container terminal is established.

2.1.5 University of Wollongong masterplan



The University of Wollongong has two campuses north of Wollongong.

The main campus located in Keiraville, adjacent to the Wollongong Botanic garden and M1 Motorway.

In 2016 the University of Wollongong published its masterplan for the main Wollongong Campus which indicates that the University will continue to expand from 17,080 students to 20,310 students by 2036. The University seeks to proportionally increase its student accommodation from 1,976 beds to 4,062 beds over the same period.

In 2017, the RMS has released a concept plan for an interchange on Mount Ousley Road which would facilitate northern access to the University campus. The Concept design and environmental impact assessment has been completed and work on the detailed design commencing.

The second campus, is the Innovation Campus on Squires Way, Fairy Meadow. The campus was established for research and development. The Wollongong DCP chapter D14 Wollongong Innovation Campus contains the masterplan for the site. A review of the Innovation Campus master plan is anticipated to commence in the near future.

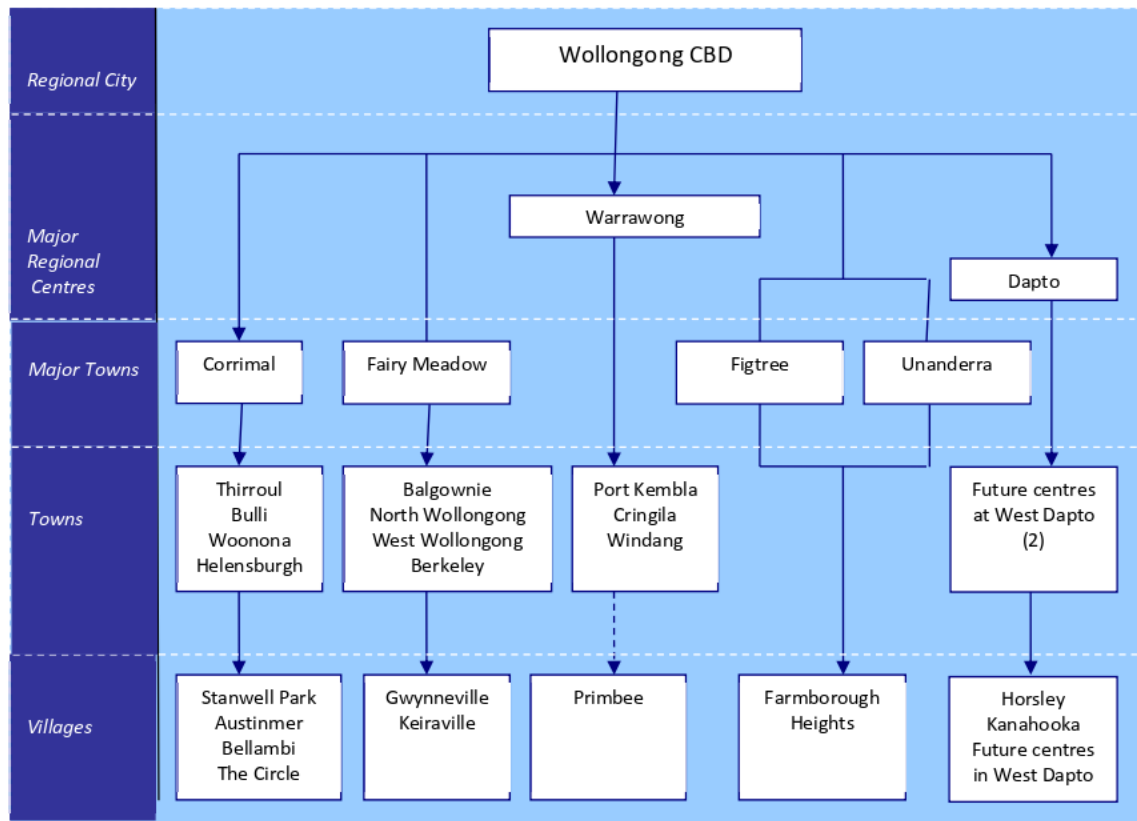
Both campuses provide significant education and employment opportunities for the LGA and region. The campuses also provide economic benefits to surrounding retailers and for landlords wishing to rent dwellings for student accommodation. Both campuses also impact on the surrounding area through increased traffic volumes and parking pressures.

2.1.6 Retail Centres Study

In 2004, consultant for Council prepared the Retail Centres Study (Hill PDA 2004). The study was used to inform the preparation of the draft Wollongong LEP 2009. At the time, retail trends included deregulation of shopping hours, the development of larger supermarkets, the emergence of smaller supermarket operators, the development of out of centre retailing complexes, the development of discount department stores, a diversification in the retail experience and the emergence of electronic retailing (Hill PDA 2004).

In response, Council adopted the following retail hierarchy. The hierarchy reaffirms and reinforces the importance of the Wollongong City Centre as the pre-eminent regional centre, and identifies Dapto and Warrawong as the Major Centres.

Figure 2.1 Retail Centres Hierarchy



Over the subsequent 16 year period, retail and consumer trends have continued to change, with the growth of on-line shopping, competition from other retail centres, the closing of some retailers, the emergence of other retail brands, residential development.

Retail centres remain important as the focus for local jobs, community facilities, social interactions as well as increased housing opportunities.

On 24 February 2020 Council resolved to consider the allocation of funds to prepare a new Retail Centres Study as part of the 2020-21 budget process.

2.1.7 Employment Lands Study

In 2006, consultants for Council prepared the Wollongong Employment Lands Strategy (HillPDA 2006) which examined Industrial zoned lands. The study was used to inform the preparation of the draft Wollongong LEP 2009.

The study recommended the protection of key employment precincts. The study also acknowledged that small isolated sites had little long term strategic employment value.

In the coming years, it will be necessary to prepare a new Employment Lands Study to ensure the industrial lands are continuing to meet the Economic Development Strategy goals and strategies.

2.2 Vision and key actions

Our aspirations for the next 20 years:

- the Wollongong City Centre will remain the Regional capital of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Region. The Centre will continue to grow and be important for retail trade, office and commercial employment, residential development, civic functions, recreation, tourism and entertainment.
- Trade though Port Kembla will continue to grow, providing employment opportunities. Buffer areas around the Port and freight corridors will need to be considered.
- The Maldon – Dombarton Freight Rail Line, or the South West Illawarra Rail Link (SWIRL – freight and passengers) will be constructed
- Employment lands at Port Kembla, Unanderra, West Dapto, south Wollongong, Fairy Meadow, West Dapto, Tallawarra; Helensburgh, Bellambi and other locations will be protected to provide local employment opportunities for the growing population.
- The University of Wollongong’s campuses will continue to expand providing educational, research and employment opportunities for the region. This will be monitored and the iC master plan will be reviewed when criteria are triggered.
- Investigate opportunities for jobs growth in the renewables and green technology industries

As indicated by the Economic Development Strategy the key economic strategies for the LGA are:

- 1 **Jobs target** – generate 10,500 new jobs in the next decade to reduce the jobs deficit.
- 2 **Lifting median incomes**
- 3 **Targeted sectors align with talent pool**

2.2.1 Tourism Accommodation Review

Council has commenced a project reviewing the SP3 Tourist zones, and planning controls for tourism accommodation. The Wollongong LEP 2009 already permits, a wide range of tourism accommodation forms including, camping, caravan parks, bed and breakfast accommodation, farm stay accommodation, backpackers, hotel and motel accommodation, serviced apartments, in a variety of zones.

Some tourism accommodation sites are under pressure for redevelopment into residential development due to high land values, and some motels / hotels have recently closed and are proposed to be redeveloped for residential apartments, as this residential development offers greater short-term financial return.

The review will be completed in the second half of 2020, reported to Council, exhibited and then finalised. Separate projects will then commence to implement the recommendations.

In 2022 Wollongong will host the UCI World Road Cycling Championships, which will focus the world's cycling community's eyes on Wollongong. This will be the biggest sporting event to be hosted in the City and will have important flow on effects for tourism, cycling and economic growth. It is important that Council offers a range of accommodation choices to the visitors to the City.

2.2.2 Draft Retail Centres Study

Council's current Retail Centres Review was prepared in 2004 and was used to inform the preparation of the Wollongong LEP 2009.

On 24 February 2020 Council resolved to consider the allocation of funds to prepare a new Retail Centres Study as part of the 2020-21 budget process.

The Retail Centres Study would examine the land use and built form in each of the LGAs 28 commercial centres (Figure 2.1). The study would draw on the recent reviews of the Wollongong City Centre, Helensburgh, Dapto, Corrimal, Warrawong, Figtree and Unanderra Town Centres.

The Study would consider the appropriate mix of retail, commercial and residential development in the centres.

The outcome from the Review would be recommendations about potential changes to zonings, land use tables, planning controls, built form, place making etc to better respond to development opportunities.

Implementation of any recommendations would be through a draft Planning Proposal and amendments to the Development Control Plan.

2.2.3 Draft Employment Lands Planning Control Review

It will be necessary to prepare a new Employment Lands Study to ensure the industrial lands are continuing to meet the Economic Development Strategy goals and strategies.

Council's current Employment Land Strategy was prepared in 2006 and was used to inform the preparation of the Wollongong LEP 2009. In 2008 the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment prepared Employment Land Guidelines for the Illawarra and in 2014 prepared strategic analysis of industrial lands at a regional scale.

The proposed Employment Lands Planning Controls Review would be a finer grain review of industrial lands in the Wollongong LGA. It would apply to the IN1 (General Industrial), IN2 (Light Industrial), IN3 (Heavy Industrial), and B6 (Enterprise Corridor) and SP1 (Infrastructure – Port) zones and include the following:

- site analysis of Precincts (such as subdivision pattern, lot size, take-up, vacancy rate)
- consideration of transport routes that connect Precincts to markets, suppliers, customers, export opportunities etc
- assess the performance of existing land use controls and policies to identify if they present a barrier to development
- infrastructure servicing constraints

- opportunities for better utilisation of surplus lands for other forms of employment.

The outcome from the Review would be recommendations about potential changes to zonings, land use tables, planning controls etc to better respond to development opportunities.

Implementation of any recommendations would be through a draft Planning Proposal and amendments to the Development Control Plan.

Action summary

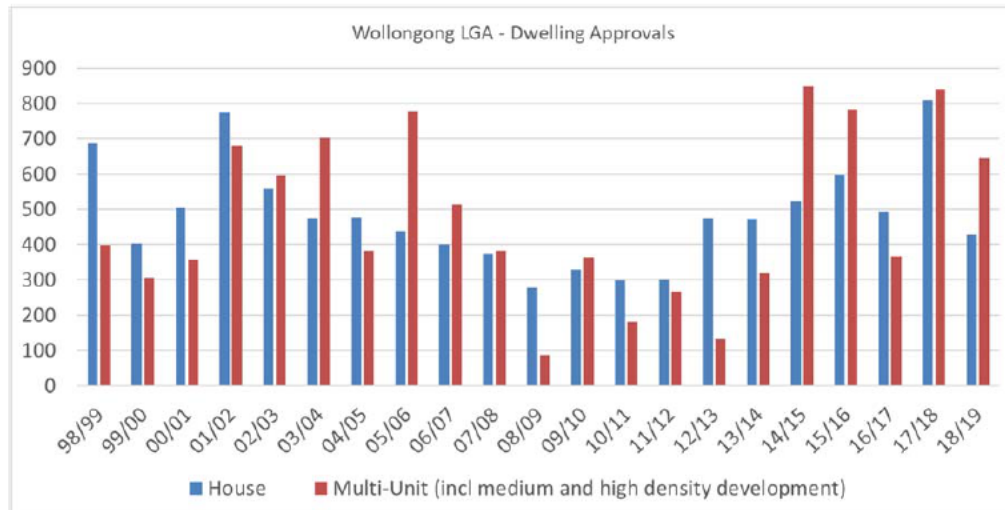
Project	Timeframe Short term = 1-3 years Medium term = 4-6 years Long term = 6-10 years
Implement the Economic Development Strategy	On-going
Implement the Creative Wollongong strategy	On-going
Monitor and commence review of Innovation Campus master plan when criteria triggered.	Short term
Exhibit the draft Wollongong City Centre Planning Review	Underway – March – April 2020
Prepare, exhibit and finalise a draft Planning Proposal and draft Development Control Plans amendments to implement the Wollongong City Centre Planning Review	Short term
Prepare and exhibit the Tourism Accommodation Review	Short term
Implement any recommendations from the Tourism Accommodation Review to amend planning controls	Short term
Prepare a new draft Wollongong Retail Centre Study	Short term
Prepare a new Wollongong Employment Planning Control Review	Short term

3. Housing for all

The Wollongong LGA has a population of 216,071 persons (id community profile 2018), who are housed in 83,913 dwellings (ABS 2016 census), which provides an occupancy rate of 2.57 persons per dwelling.

Data from the Illawarra Urban Development Program indicates that over the period 1998-2018, there were 18,939 dwellings approved in the Wollongong LGA, at an average of 952 dwellings per year. This makes up a significant portion of the new dwelling supply to the region. Almost half of the new dwellings were multi-unit housing (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1 Dwelling approvals 1998-2019



Source: Illawarra Urban Development Program (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment).

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan (2016) identifies that the population of the Wollongong LGA is expected to grow by some 33,000 persons by 2036 to 244,400 persons. An additional 14,600 dwellings will be required to house the population increase.

In late 2019, the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment issued updated population projections for the State. The Wollongong LGA is now expected to grow to a population of 257,450 by 2036 and 265,750 by 2041. This is an increase of 13,000 persons above the 2016 estimates contained in the Regional Plan for 2036. An additional 23,800 dwellings will be required to house the population increase.

How the LGA accommodates the forecast population growth is a key aspect for the LSPS.

Alignment to key documents:

- Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan – Goal 2: A variety of housing choices, with homes that meet needs and lifestyles
- Community Strategic Plan – Goal 5: We are a healthy community in a liveable city

Regional Plan Commitment	Council Response
Direction 2.1 Sufficient Housing Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate capacity available Continued commitment to West Dapto Housing and affordable housing options paper Proposed Housing Strategy
Direction 2.2 Housing Close to Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Wollongong City Centre Strategy LEP amendments to increased densities around major centres
Action 2.2.1 Greater Diversity in Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft City Centre Strategy 12 Town Centres Plan completed or in progress
Direction 2.3 Housing in New Release Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued commitment to roll out of West Dapto
Direction 2.4 Conserve Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Dapto Biodiversity Assessment complete
Direction 2.5 Monitor Housing Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Dapto Coordination Group Participation in Illawarra Shoalhaven Urban Development Program

3.1 Informing strategies

3.1.1 Housing Study

The Wollongong City Housing Study (SGS 2005) was prepared in 2005 and informed the preparation of the draft Wollongong LEP 2009. A review has been occurring for a number of years:

- 2013 – review of the implementation of the 2005 Housing Study
- 2013-14 – Review of development in the R3 Medium Density Residential precincts
- 2014 – Residential Density Study (Hames Sharley 2014)
- 2015-17 – preparation of Housing Our Community Discussion paper. On 17 July 2017 Council endorsed the exhibition of the Discussion Paper and supporting documents.
- 2018-2020 – preparation of the draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper.

On 16 March 2020 Council endorsed the exhibition of the draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper. The draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper presents a number of options for the community and development industry to consider, based around the following three planning priorities for housing:

1. Increase housing stock diversity

- Encourage the provision of more 1-2 bedroom dwellings
- Review the location and planning controls for the R3 Medium Density Residential Zone to improve feasibility and take-up.
- Change the dwelling mix in residential apartments, to increase the number of smaller dwellings from the current 10% requirement, this could include the introduction of incentive provisions, or the decoupling of car parking spaces from each unit.
- Consider new smaller housing products, such as 'Fonzie Flats'.

2. Plan for future housing growth

- Ongoing review and monitoring of housing supply, within greenfield development (eg West Dapto, Tallawarra), City Centre housing, town centres and around transport nodes
- Review the planning controls in the City Centre, around Town Centres and transport nodes to increase housing density
- Review the planning controls of constrained sites and locations

3. Increase supply of affordable rental housing stock

- This is the key priority issue found in the options paper, and Council has already commenced a number of initiatives
- An Affordable Housing Policy should be prepared, exhibited and adopted, and possibly an Affordable Rental Housing target be set
- The inclusion in SEPP 70 Affordable Housing should continue to be pursued, through the preparation of an Affordable Contributions Housing Scheme, as the next step in the process, this may require an Affordable Housing Contribution to be paid
- As part of residential up-zonings, an Affordable Housing Contribution will be expected, or a proportion of Affordable Rental dwellings to be provided on-site
- Council work with NSW Land and Housing Corporation and Community Housing Providers to increase the supply of Affordable Rental Housing.

Following the exhibition and consideration of submissions, a draft Housing Strategy will be prepared and exhibited. To implement the strategy, a draft Planning Proposal to amend the Wollongong LEP 2009 and draft amendments to the Wollongong DCP will be prepared and exhibited.

3.1.2 Wollongong City Centre

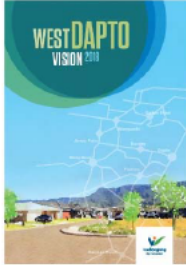


As noted by section 2.1.4 of this report, on 24 February 2020 Council resolved to exhibit the Wollongong City Centre Planning Review.

The Wollongong City Centre and its surrounds are a key location for higher density housing taller residential flat buildings. Over the last 10 years, over 3,200 dwellings have been approved in the City Centre, with some 1000 units currently under construction. It is anticipated that residential development will continue to occur as sites are amalgamated and become available for development.

Within the CBD or City Core, the development of retail and commercial office space will remain the key driver.

3.1.3 West Dapto Urban Release Area



The West Dapto Urban Release Area is the largest urban release area outside Sydney, and is forecast to produce some 19,500 dwellings over a 40-50 year period.

Horsley was the first stage, being rezoned in the 1980 and contains some 2,000 dwellings. In 2010, stages 1-2 Kembla Grange – Wongawilli – west Horsley were rezoned, and subsequently Stage 5 Yallah Marshall Mount and parts of stages 3 and 4 have been rezoned. The release area has an estimated zoned supply of some 12,000 lots. Of this amount development consent for some 1,840 lots have been approved, of which some 1,530 lots have been developed and new dwellings constructed.

The release area will remain a key housing supply area for many years.

Figure 3.2 West Dapto Development summary (2020)

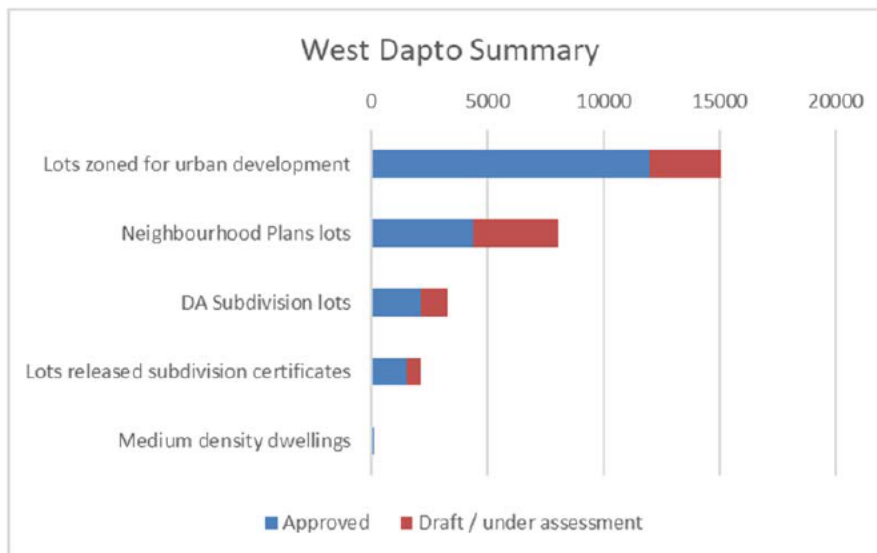
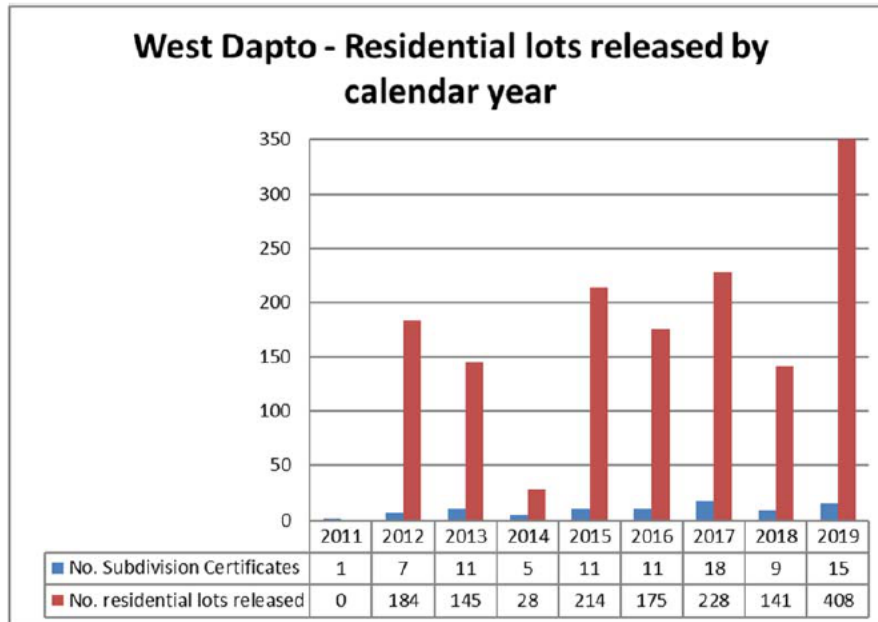


Figure 3.3 West Dapto lot production (2020)



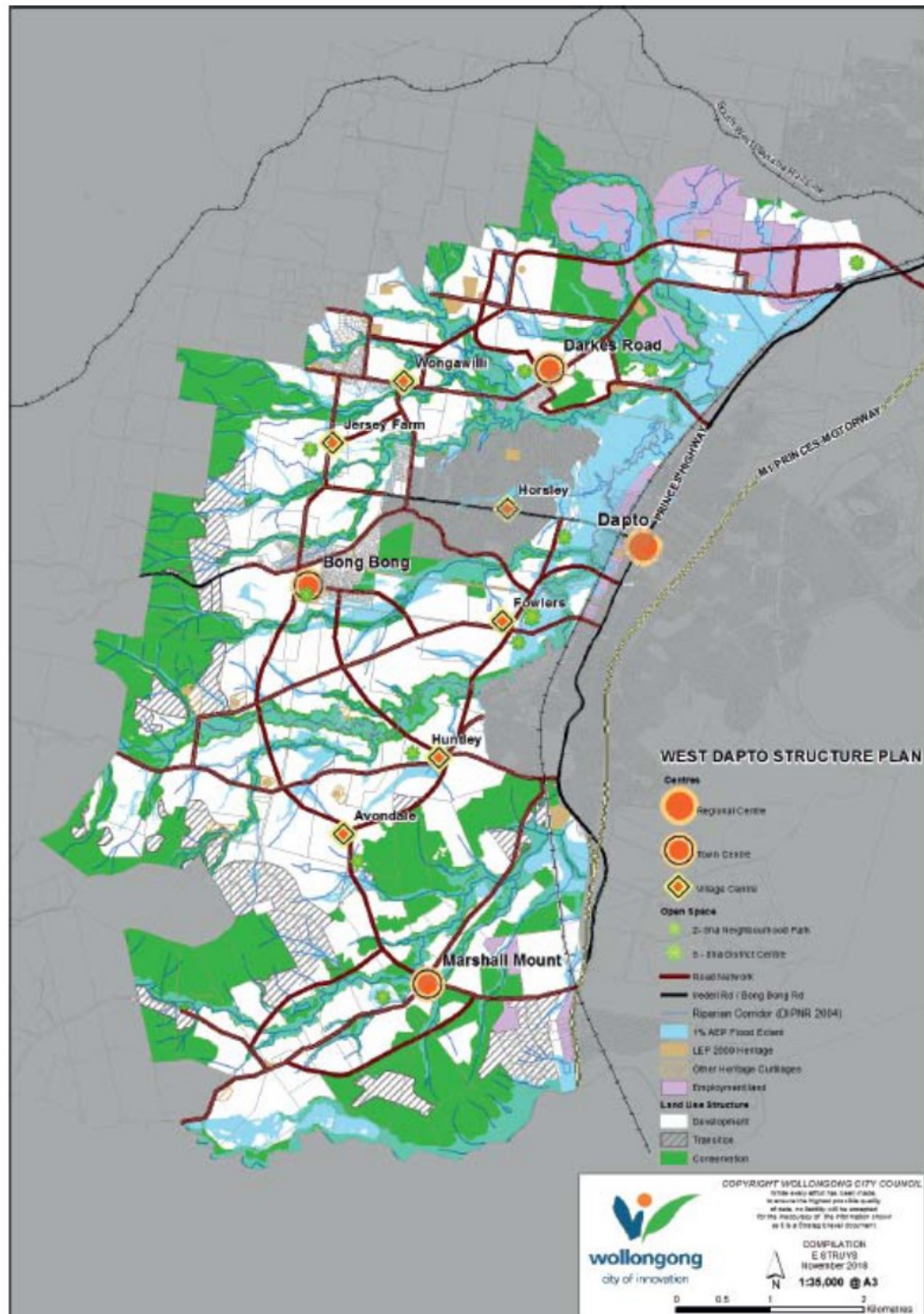
In 2018 Council adopted the updated West Dapto Vision.

West Dapto will grow and develop as a series of integrated and connected communities. Set against the spectacular Illawarra Escarpment and a landscape of riparian valleys, these communities will integrate the natural and cultural heritage of the area with the new urban form.

The communities will be healthy, sustainable and resilient with active and passive open space accessible by walkways, cycleways and public transport. To support these new communities, local centres will provide shopping services, community services and jobs while employment lands will facilitate further opportunities for the region.

West Dapto will be supported by a long-term strategy to oversee the timely implementation of infrastructure to deliver sustainable and high-quality suburbs with diverse housing choices.

Figure 3.4 West Dapto Release Area



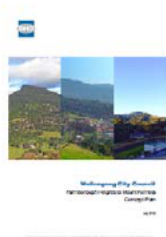
3.1.4 Calderwood Urban Release Area

The Calderwood Urban Release Area is largely within the Shellharbour LGA (593ha), with 100ha in the Wollongong LGA. The original Major Projects approval was for 4,800 dwellings to serve and estimated 12,500 residents. The majority of the precinct is being developed by Lend Lease. Lend Lease have submitted a modification to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to increase the dwelling yield in their holdings to 6,000 dwellings. The development of the 100 ha within the Wollongong LGA is a later stage of the release area and is anticipated to yield some 800 dwelling in the late 2020s.

3.1.5 Tallawarra

The Tallawarra precinct on the Lake Illawarra foreshore was rezoned in 2009 to permit an employment area around the Power Station, Environmental Precincts and three residential precincts for some 1,000 dwellings. The site has yet to be developed. The northern part of the site was sold and the current owner has been seeking a modification to the approval to increase the development yield. This application is being assessed by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. Council maintains its commitment to ensuring employment outcomes are supported in parallel with the delivery of residential outcomes.

3.1.6 Farmborough Heights to Mt Kembla



On 9 December 2013 Council endorsed the Farmborough Height to Mt Kembla Concept Plan, for this precinct located in the foothills of the Illawarra Escarpment. The Farmborough Heights to Mt Kembla Concept Plan covers an area of 424.7 hectares across 54 individual land holdings.

The intent of developing a Concept Plan was to guide any future Planning Proposals for areas that are not suitable for development due to environmental or other constraints. The concept plan also identifies potential conservation activities, given that any Planning Proposal in this study area must demonstrate an improved environmental outcome.

In summary, the draft Concept Plan has identified:

- 213 hectares of proposed conservation areas;
- 100 hectares of potential development areas; and
- An estimated maximum additional development potential of:
 - 78 dwellings in Farmborough Heights;
 - 107 dwellings in Cordeaux Heights; and
 - 26 dwellings in Mt Kembla.

Subsequently, Council has assessed and approved 6 Planning Proposal requests for land within the study area.

Table 3.1 Farmborough Heights to Mt Kembla Planning Proposals

Location	Conservation Outcome	Additional development
PP-2015/1 220 (Lot 14 DP 261286) Waples Road Farmborough Heights Site Size: 3.23 hectares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hectare rezoned from E3 Environmental Management to E2 Environmental Conservation for ecological 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large lot residential development opportunity on land identified with little ecological value.

<p>Site Zoning: E3 Environmental Management</p>	<p>and conservation works (31% of the site).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Property Vegetation Plan for the riparian lands registered on land title and administered by the NSW Local Land Services. • Funding and active management underway prior to the issuing of a subdivision development approval. • Vegetation Management Plan details the management and restoration efforts for the areas designated as conservation zones to provide rehabilitation works – prepared between land owner and Local Land Services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx. 9 additional residential large lot subdivision (E4 Environmental Living zoning with minimum lot size 1,000-3,000m²)
<p>PP-2015/3 Lot 1 DP 534849 Staff Road Cordeaux Heights Site Size: 54.98 hectares Site Zoning: E3 Environmental Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17.3 hectares rezoned from E3 Environmental Management to E2 Environmental Conservation for ecological and conservation works. • BioBanking Agreement established between land owner and OEHL to revegetate and protect in perpetuity riparian corridor. • Vegetation Management Plan details the management and restoration efforts for the areas designated as conservation zones, identifying an amount of \$1.2m Total Fund Deposit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large lot residential development opportunity on land identified with little ecological value. • Approx. 90 additional residential large lot subdivision (E4 Environmental Living/E3 Environmental Management zoning with minimum lot size 1,000-5,000m²)
<p>PP-2015/4 Lot 101 DP 825516 Farmborough Road Farmborough Heights Site Size: 18.5ha Site Zoning: RU2 Rural Landscape</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.8 hectares rezoned from RU2 Rural Landscape to E2 Environmental Conservation for ecological and conservation works. • Dedication with funding to Council of land to be zoned E2 Environmental Conservation to protect in perpetuity the environmental qualities on site (VPA). • Vegetation Management Plan details the management and restoration efforts for the areas designated as conservation zones, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large lot residential development opportunity on land identified with little ecological value. • Approx. 30 additional residential large lot subdivision (E4 Environmental Living zoning with minimum lot size 2,000-5,000m²)

	identifying an amount of \$370,000 to provide rehabilitation works.	
PP-2017/2 Lot 100 DP 1207784 Cordeaux Road Mt Kembla Site Size: 9 hectares Site Zoning: E3 Environmental Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.61 hectares rezoned from E3 Environmental Management to E2 Environmental Conservation for ecological and conservation works. Conservation Agreement for the riparian lands registered on land title and administered by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. Funding and active management underway prior to the issuing of a subdivision development approval. Vegetation Management Plan details the management and restoration efforts for the areas designated as conservation zones, identifying an amount of \$100,878 to provide rehabilitation works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large lot residential development opportunity on land identified with little ecological value. 3 rural/residential large lot subdivision (E4 Environmental Living zoning with minimum lot size 5,999m²)
PP-2017/3 227 Cordeaux Road Mt Kembla Site Size: 5.8 hectares Site Zoning: E3 Environmental Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5 hectares rezoned from E3 Environmental Management to E2 Environmental Conservation for ecological and conservation works. Conservation Agreement for the riparian lands registered on land title and administered by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. Funding and active management underway prior to the issuing of a subdivision development approval. Vegetation Management Plan details the management and restoration efforts for the areas designated as conservation zones, identifying an amount of \$101,288 to provide rehabilitation works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large lot residential development opportunity on land identified with little ecological value. 2 additional rural/residential large lot subdivision (E4 Environmental Living zoning with minimum lot size 5,000m²)

It is anticipated that further Planning Proposal requests will be submitted in the future for other sites. These requests will similarly need to identified consistency with the Concept Plan and an improved conservation outcome.

3.1.7 Planning Proposal requests

The NSW planning system enables land owners to submit planning proposal requests (rezoning applications) to Council to rezone land. Council is required to balance a range of factors and issues in determining whether to support a request, including land constraints, desired future land use and community input.

Planning proposal requests for a number of sites seeking residential development are currently under assessment (Table 3.2). If these Planning Proposals progress, they will contribute to the future dwelling supply.

Table 3.2 Current Planning Proposal requests.

Location	Proposal	Possible yield	Status
PP-2013/3 Lady Carrington Estate, Helensburgh	To rezone land from E3 and E2 to R2, E4, RE1, E3 and E2 to permit urban development	300 low density dwellings	Lodged in 2013 and not supported by Council. NSW Department of Planning and Environment upheld Gateway appeal and required the proponent to undertake additional investigations. Preliminary consultation occurred in Dec 19-Jan 20. Assessment ongoing. No formal decision by Council
PP-2017/6 Former Corrimal Cokeworks, Corrimal	To rezoned from IN3 and RE2 to R3, E3, RE1 to permit medium density development	750 dwellings	3/4/18 Council resolved to prepare a Planning Proposal and seek a conditional Gateway determination. Additional studies have been undertaken by proponent to refine the proposal. Additional information to be assessed by Council and if supported, exhibited.
PP-2016/3 Former Port Kembla Public School, Port Kembla	To rezoned from B4 to R3 to permit medium density development	110 dwellings	28/5/18 Council resolved to prepare a Planning Proposal. Gateway determination not supported by NSW

			Department of Planning and Environment. Proponent reviewing proposal
PP-2018/9 – Cleveland Road north and south sides, West Dapto Release Area	To rezone from RU2 to R2, R3, E3, B2 to permit urban development	2000 dwellings	Lodged. Preliminary assessment by Council officers. No formal decision
PP-2019/8 – Cleveland Road west, West Dapto Release Area	To rezone from RU2 to R2, R3, E3, B2 to permit urban development	700 dwellings	Lodged. Preliminary assessment by Council officers. No formal decision by Council
PP-2019/3 – Former Bulli Bowling Club, Bulli	To rezoned from RE2 to R1 to permit a mixed use commercial and residential development	100 dwellings	Lodged. Preliminary assessment by Council officers. No formal decision by Council

Council has adopted a Planning Proposal Policy (2018) which states that applications to rezone land or change development standards or permitted uses are generally not encouraged by Council, and should only be submitted in the following circumstances:

- Where land cannot be reasonably developed or used under the existing zoning or controls;
- Where it is necessary to correct an error or anomaly (eg. mapping);
- Where there is a sound strategic argument for an amendment, based on consistency with Council's Community Strategic Plan, the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Strategy, or similar strategy or policy;
- Where the proposed amendment is considered to be minor in nature and has merit, and has been sufficiently justified;
- Where development of land in accordance with the existing zoning would not be in the public interest.

The Policy also indicates that following Planning Proposal requests will generally not be supported by Council:

- requests that are not supported by a strategy, plan or policy and are considered speculative;
- the rezoning of single properties to increase housing density;
- increasing housing in the Illawarra Escarpment, except where implementing an adopted strategy;
- permitting housing within E2 Environmental Conservation and E3 Environmental Management zoned land;

- increasing residential density in medium and high flood hazard areas (ie within the 1% AEP flood level);
- proposing the loss of employment land; and
- proposing the linear expansion of town centres.

It is necessary to prioritise the processing of planning proposal requests to ensure those providing the greatest public benefit are given preference over those serving individual interest or are of limited benefit to the greater Wollongong community. As a guide, the following would be given priority:

- Contributes to economic growth and promotes sustainable practice;
- Significant employment generating development;
- Provision of high quality, appropriately located housing accessible to the broader and lower income community;
- Education, medical or community facilities and services;
- Commercial or retail development in accordance with an adopted Council or State government strategy;
- Preservation and conservation of the environment;
- Reducing an identified conflict between incompatible land uses;
- Improving tourism opportunities; and
- Implementing endorsed Council Strategies or Concept Plans (eg West Dapto Amendments).

The Policy indicates the supporting information and studies required to be submitted with a Planning Proposal request.

3.2 Vision and key actions

Over the next 20 years, the population will continue to grow and there will be on-going demand for new dwellings. The new housing will be provided through a combination of low density housing in the West Dapto and other urban release areas, as well high density housing in the Wollongong City Centre and medium density housing in appropriate locations.

Council is currently exhibiting the Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper, which is the second stage in the preparation of a draft Housing Strategy. The preparation of the Housing Strategy is the key project to be completed to guide housing outcomes. The Housing Strategy will determine the future housing priorities and actions over the next 20 years.

3.2.1 Housing Strategy

The Housing Strategy will be prepared later in 2020 following feedback received on the draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper.

The following housing themes and priorities have been identified by the draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper:

1. **Increase housing stock diversity**
 - The number of smaller dwellings (studio, 1 bedroom) will increase as a percentage, to respond to the smaller household sizes.
 - The planning controls for the R3 Medium Density Residential zone will be reviewed to enable greater take-up and to provide for smaller dwellings.
2. **Plan for future housing growth**
 - The West Dapto Release Area will continue to provide low density housing, with pockets of medium density housing.
 - The Calderwood and Tallawarra Release Areas will be developed and provide low density housing opportunities.
 - The Wollongong City Centre and its surrounds will continue to provide for high density housing. Within the CBD or City Core, the development of retail and commercial office space will remain the key driver.
 - Residential outcomes in key centres and around key transport nodes will be investigated to increase the supply of housing.
 - Review housing controls to ensure growth is planned for in appropriate locations. Increase housing growth will not be supported on land or precincts with environmental or infrastructure constraints.
 - Plan for appropriate infrastructure and utility provision to reduce environmental impacts and provide healthy communities.
3. **Increase supply of affordable rental housing stock**
 - An Affordable Housing Policy and an Affordable Housing Contributions Scheme will be developed.
 - The number of available Affordable Rental Dwellings will increase
 - The number of social housing dwellings will increase to maintain the supply of 8% of dwellings being available for social housing tenants.

Table 3.3 Housing supply summary

Precinct	Supply	Built form	Timeframe
West Dapto	19,500	Low Density	2010-2050
Calderwood (within Wollongong LGA)	800	Low Density	2025-2030
Tallawarra	1,000	Low Density	2020-2030
Wollongong City Centre	3,000	Medium – High Density	On-going
Key town centres and transport nodes	To be investigated		
Infill development	On-going	Low Density	On-going

Rezoning proposals	To be determined, if supported	Low – Medium Density	On-going
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3.2.2 Character Statements

All suburbs within the Wollongong LGA are different and have their own environmental setting, history, character, constraints and opportunities. A one-size-fits-all approach is not appropriate. Some places have their own vision statement, strategies and action plans, prepared through the town and Village program.

The Wollongong DCP 2009 contains character statements for each suburb and village in the LGA. Many of the statements are similar, describe the existing built form and don't provide any guidance as to how the locations will grow and change.

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment have published the Local Character and Place Guidelines (2019) to guide the preparation of character statements.

New character statement should be prepared for each suburb and key locations that better describe the local character and desired future character of the location.

Action summary

Project	Timeframe Short term = 1-3 years Medium term =4-6 years Long term = 6-10 years
Continue to support and monitor the growth of the West Dapto Urban Release Area	On-going
Continue to monitor the growth and development of other release areas, including Tallawarra and Calderwood	On-going
Exhibit the Housing and Affordable Housing Options paper	Underway
Prepare, report a draft Housing Strategy, and if endorsed exhibit. Including amendments to the Wollongong LEP 2009 and Wollongong DCP 2009.	Short term
Prepare character statements for each suburb	Medium term
Continue to assess submitted planning proposal requests / rezoning proposals, in accordance with the Planning Proposal Policy. Progress proposals where there is strategic merit, adequate infrastructure and environmental capability	On-going

4. Inclusive and connected communities

In 2016, the population of Wollongong LGA was approximately 210,000 people, an increase of around 9,000 people, or 4.4%, since 2011. The population of Wollongong LGA is expected to increase by 18% over the next 20 years, to reach nearly 250,000 people by 2036.

The Wollongong community as a whole (compared to NSW as a whole) is characterised by:

- a high proportion of young adults (20-24 years) – reflecting the presence of the University of Wollongong campuses
- a high proportion of older people aged 70 years and above
- a degree of overall disadvantage with low to average household incomes and higher levels of unemployment. Reflected in the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) index score of 989, which indicates a decreasing level of disadvantage compared to 2011, when the score for Wollongong LGA was 979.6.
- a higher proportion of people needing assistance with core activities of daily living
- lower levels of car ownership
- lower levels of access to the internet at home
- high proportions of people living alone and also people sharing accommodation in group houses
- a high proportion of people living in medium and high density dwellings and a high proportion of people renting.

By 2036 there will be:

- more people aged 70 years and above, with that age group increasing from 12.6% of the population in 2016 to 14.8%. The representation of older people in the Wollongong community will continue to be higher than the average for NSW
- an increase in the number of couples without children, from 23.9% in 2016 to 27.6%, which is 2.5% higher than the average projected increase for NSW
- a small increase in the proportion of people living alone, increasing from 26% in 2016 to 26.1% of the population. This shows growth in this type of living arrangement, in contrast to the projected decrease for NSW from 27.5% in 2016 to 26% in 2036
- a continued slowing of the birth rate, with the number of 0 to 4 year olds projected to decline from 5.9% to 5.8% of the population
- a decline in the number of group households, from 4.3% to 3.9% of all households, though this continues to be slightly higher than the NSW average of 3.1%.

Alignment to key documents:

- Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan – Goal 2: A variety of housing choices, with homes that meet needs and lifestyles
- Community Strategic Plan:
 - Goal 3: Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city
 - Goal 4: We are a connected and engaged community
 - Goal 5: We are a healthy community in a liveable city

Regional Plan Commitment	Council Response
Direction 3.1 Growth Opportunities in Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 Town Centres Plan completed or in progress Proposed LGA wide Retail Centre Study
Direction 3.3 Build Inclusive Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Dapto DCP amendments completed Roll-out of Neighbourhood Plans
Action 3.3.2 Revitalisation of Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 Town Centres Plan completed or in progress Significant capital investment in town centre works
Action 3.3.3 Invest in Sport and Recreation Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Cringila Hills Mountain Bike facility Extensive capital investment in shared pathways
Action 3.4.1 Conserve Heritage Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage Strategy

4.1 Informing strategies

4.1.1 Creative Wollongong



On 11 March 2019 Council adopted the Creative Wollongong Strategy for the LGA. The document provides a strategic framework in which to guide Council to effectively respond to the opportunities and challenges presented by our City's cultural and creative landscape. It details the actions Council will deliver and demonstrates a commitment to creative life in Wollongong.

Creative Wollongong has 92 actions that sit under four broad focus areas:

- 1 Creative Life
- 2 Creative Community
- 3 Creative Spaces and Places
- 4 Our City after Dark

The key land use planning actions include:

- 3.3.5 As part of the development of Town and Village Plans, including West Dapto, work with the community to capture the cultural and creative aspirations, unique identities and the needs of communities and include suggestions in concept plans
- 3.3.6 Undertake research and establish a working group to progress the integration of public art as a requirement of new developments consistent with recommendations in the Public Art Strategy 2016-2021
- 3.4.1 Develop a new Heritage Strategy (completed)

4.1.2 Play Wollongong



In 2014 Council adopted the Play Wollongong Strategy to guide the future planning, development and management of children's play spaces across our city. The Play Wollongong Strategy focuses specifically on 0-12 year olds, however, it provides play opportunities for other age groups such as young people and older persons.

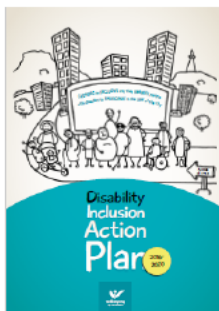
The strategy to play is based on the following six principles that will be implemented through a number of detailed strategies.

1. Quality play opportunities are equitably distributed across the city, including large regional play spaces and smaller local play spaces.
2. Play Spaces are easily accessed by walking and encourage healthy living and independent access by children.
3. Meaningful engagement is undertaken with the community including children, in relation to play space planning, provision and management.
4. Play spaces are well designed, inclusive of all ages and abilities and encourage participation in play
5. Informal play spaces and the provision of natural play elements is given priority, recognising the benefits of connecting with nature.
6. Play spaces will provide children with an appropriate level of risk and challenge while complying with relevant safety standards.

The key land use planning actions include:

- 1.1 Pursue additional play space opportunities where there is an under-supply, in areas where there are lots of children and/or where the community experiences disadvantage.
- 2.1 Locate play spaces where they can be easily accessed by walking and cycling.
- 2.4 Work with developers to ensure play spaces in new release areas are well located and designed, and offer a high level of play value.

4.1.3 Disability Inclusion Action Plan



About 4.4 million Australian's, or 1 in 5 people live with disability, meaning they need help with their day to day lives due to disability. Within Wollongong 6% or 13,090 people have a need for assistance. Other key statistics are:

- 28% of households with a need for assistance are low income (earn less than \$650/week) compared to 21% of all households.
- 14% of people with a need for assistance are unemployed compared to 7% of people without disability
- 16% of people with a need for assistance live in social housing compared to 7% of people without disability

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2016) details the strategies and actions that Council will deliver to enable people with disability to have greater access to Council information, services and facilities.

The Plan has four focus areas:

- Creating livable communities;
- Improving access to systems and processes;
- Promoting positive community attitude and behaviors;
- Supporting access to meaningful employment.

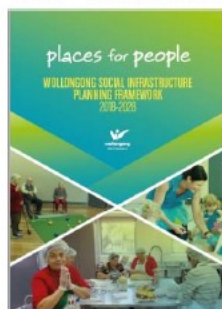
The key land use planning actions are:

- Consider the latest research around housing for people with disability and incorporate the recommendations in the development of Council's Housing Strategy

- Undertake access appraisals and consult with people with disability to incorporate access priorities as part of the development and implementation of town and village plans

The Plan is currently being reviewed, and a new draft Plan is in preparation.

4.1.4 Social Infrastructure Planning Framework



The Social Infrastructure Planning (SIP) Framework (2018) is a blueprint for long term strategic planning and management of Council's social infrastructure. It considers a broad range of factors that impact the provision and maintenance of social infrastructure. The SIP Framework enables Council to deliver high quality facilities that support service delivery and meet the needs and expectations of the Wollongong community, in a way that is both economically and ecologically sustainable.

ASSESSMENT OF FOUNDATION SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

POS Category	Details	Facilities		
		Issues Identified	Satisfactory	Total
Accessibility	Pathway access?	4	48	52
	Visitor parking on/close to facility?			
	Doorways and corridors adequate for disabled access?			
Compliance	At least 50% of building entries level/a ramp inserted	3	49	52
Safety and security	Is vandalism an issue?	1	50	51
	Are exterior pathways well lit?	6	40	46
Surrounds	Do external lights provide adequate lighting at night?	7	38	45
	Is there a perimeter fence?	28	20	48

TABLE 12

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION BY CATCHMENT AREA

Catchment Area	North	Central	South
Total 'foundation' GFA*	9,183m ²	12,897m ²	14,752m ²
Total number of 'foundation' facilities	15	11	19
Total 'supporting' GFA	14,482m ²	6,808m ²	11,113m ²
Total number of 'supporting' facilities	40	9	31
Total 'foundation' GFA / 1,000 (2016)	117m ²	301m ²	167m ²

*GFA = Gross Floor Area

Key Land Use Planning actions:

1. Wollongong's changing population will place new demands on the existing social infrastructure network and create increased demand for community services, groups and events, particularly felt in the Southern catchment or Planning 10 West Dapto).

Action: Additional community spaces and places ('hard' social infrastructure) to support those 'soft' social infrastructure activities.

2. A move away from isolated, single purpose facilities to co-located facilities (and the 'community hub' model) in central, easily accessed locations.
3. A move towards flexible, multipurpose spaces in community centres that can accommodate a broad range of activities so they can respond to changes in community interests and needs over time.
4. A new generation of libraries, incorporating a range of classes and programs in addition to their collections, with blurred lines between community centres and libraries. The co-location of libraries within Council's 'District' community centres reflects this model and opportunities exist to further integrate these functions.
5. A move away from facilities for single user groups (e.g. senior citizen's centres) to providing multipurpose facilities that cater to a broad range of age and interest groups.
6. Increasing or introducing the use of 'supporting' assets, such as sports club houses, surf lifesaving club facilities and scout and guide halls
7. A trend towards the incorporation of early childhood health centres within community centres. The Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District also identified a trend towards the co-location of early childhood health centres with other health services in community health service hubs.
8. The incorporation of 'hot' office/consulting room space within community centres for shared-use by service providers to deliver outreach services.

4.1.5 Heritage Strategy

Wollongong's heritage places include historic buildings, industrial infrastructure, cemeteries, ocean pools and memorials. But our heritage is much more than just architectural forms. Rural lands, mining sites and cultural and natural landscapes of importance to the Aboriginal community are all entwined to form our shared heritage. There are currently over 490 local heritage items and nine Heritage Conservation Areas identified in the Wollongong Local Government Area. Of these, 24 items and one Heritage Conservation Area are identified as being of State significance and are listed on the State Heritage Register.

Additionally, there are thousands of Aboriginal sites and cultural landscapes that are highly significant to the local Aboriginal Community. Iconic landscape features such as the Illawarra Escarpment, Mt Keira, Mt Kembla, the Five Islands and Hill 60 have stories associated with their creation.

Aboriginal sites, heritage items, heritage conservation areas and other significant buildings and cultural landscapes contribute to the character of the LGA. The conservation of Wollongong's heritage provides future generations with important linkages with the past. Our heritage should be conserved and celebrated.

On 28 October 2019, Council adopted an updated Heritage Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2022. The Strategy sets out 9 key Heritage Strategies and associated implementation actions.

Strategy 1: Actively involve the community in the management of Wollongong's heritage;

Strategy 2: Maintain an up to date list of heritage items;

Strategy 3: Employ and train staff to manage Wollongong's heritage and provide professional advice to the community;

Strategy 4: Develop and implement programs and projects that aim to achieve proactive heritage management;

Strategy 5: Provide funding for heritage projects and programs;

Strategy 6: Identify and manage key heritage precincts, streetscapes, cultural and natural landscapes;

Strategy 7: Implement heritage education and promotion programs;

Strategy 8: Implement best practice heritage asset management procedures as a positive example for the community; and

Strategy 9: Promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage management.

4.1.6 Sportsground and Sporting facilities Strategy



Council has 67 sportsgrounds consisting of 222 playing surfaces consuming 332.8 hectares which represents 13.2% of Council's open space. These are divided into a hierarchy system, namely regional, district and local sportsgrounds catering for 33,159 participants.

Sport is played all year round. The provision of quality sportsgrounds and sporting facilities is critical to the delivery of sport programs for the residents of Wollongong.

The effective use, management and development of sports grounds and facilities is one of the key drivers for increased participation of players and sustainability of these facilities. The increasing participation of juniors and females needs to be supported with adequate funding allocations.

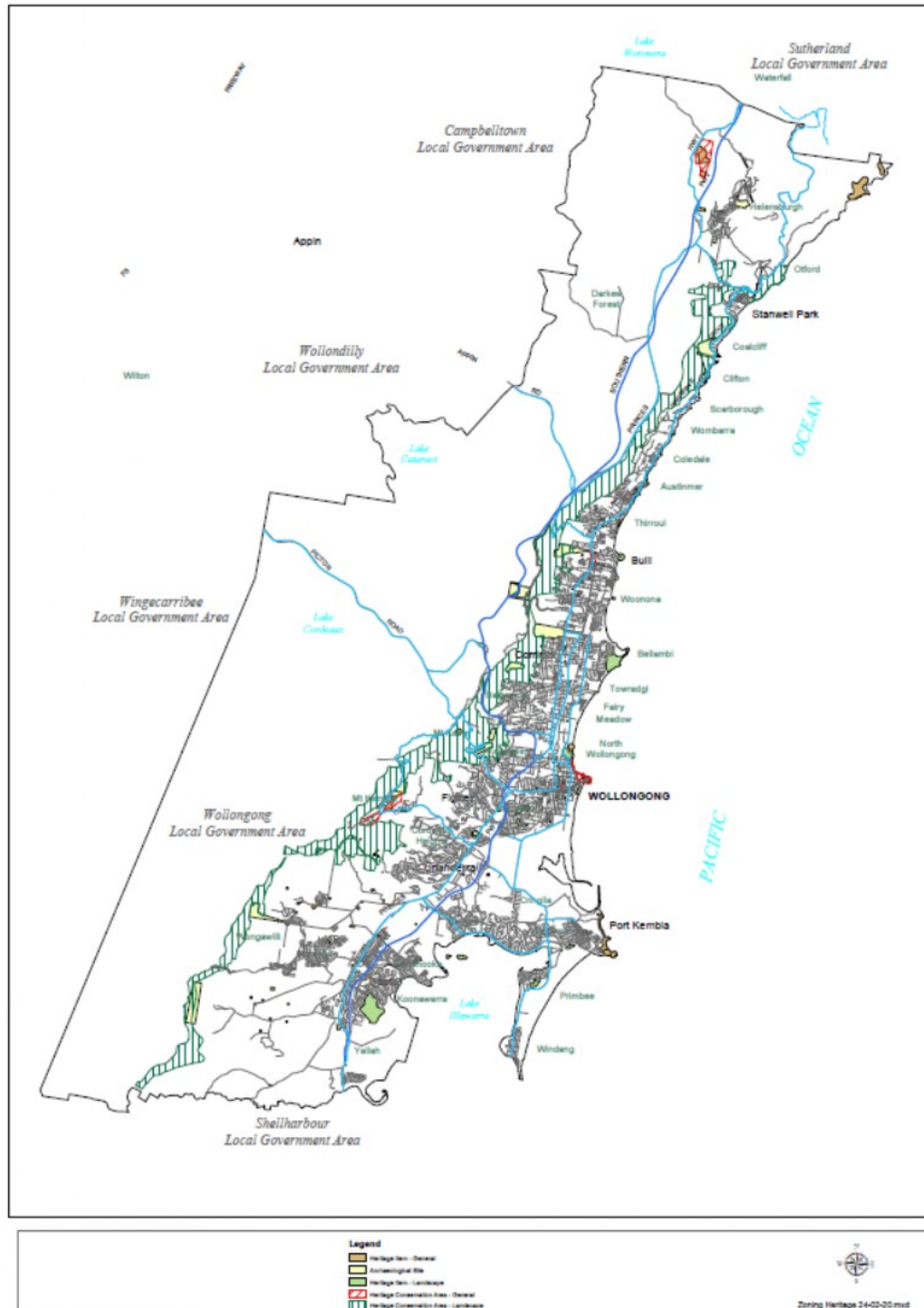
On 26 June 2017, Council adopted the Sportsground and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2017-2021. The strategy has the following key focus areas:

- Increased sportsground capacity
- Renew and enhance existing sports facility infrastructure with a focus on gender equity, accessibility and storage
- Secure ongoing funding for sports facility renewal and enhancement.
- Develop and implement policies that ensure compliance and safe participation.
- Pursue accountability in licensed and leased agreements
- Explore joint venture partnerships
- Invest in infrastructure to support and accommodate emerging sports and independent recreation pursuits

Key land use planning actions are:

- 1.1.1 Council to continue to work with the Sports & Facilities Reference Group in future ground provisions throughout the City and in particular the new release areas in West Dapto
- 1.5.2 Identify parcels of land for potential junior sports training only through reviewing the generic Plans of Management to accommodate use

Figure 4.1 Heritage items and Heritage Conservation Areas



4.1.7 Ageing Plan



The number of people living in Wollongong aged 65 years and over will increase from 35,934 (17.3% of the population) in 2016 to 50,753 people (19.9%) by 2036.

On 19 February 2018, Council adopted the Ageing Plan 2018 - 2022 to provide a strategic framework to guide Council in responding to the opportunities and challenges presented by Wollongong's increasing ageing population. The Plan details the strategies and actions Council will undertake to support older people to remain involved, connected and valued in their communities.

The Plan has 16 priorities that fall under the following five focus areas:

- 1 Create liveable communities.
- 2 Celebrate older people and promote positive community attitudes and behaviour.
- 3 Improve access to services and support.
- 4 Support use of technology and access to information.
- 5 Enable participation in community life.

Key land use planning actions are:

- 1.4.1 Review the number of adaptable housing units required in new residential development in line with the NSW Government Apartment Design Guide
- 1.4.3 Undertake a consultation with local community housing providers who provide accommodation to support older people at risk of becoming homeless or who are homeless to identify how Council may assist
- 1.4.4 Review the requirements for Section 94 / 94A development contributions and car parking requirements for developments that reduce homelessness amongst older people
- 1.4.5 Continue the preparation of the Housing Study
- 1.5.1 Increase housing density around town centres, to support older people to live close to public transport and services
- 1.5.2 Update the Wollongong Development Control Plan to include links and references to age and dementia friendly planning guidelines

4.1.8 The future of our Pools Strategy



Council owns and manages 18 public swimming pools (9 supervised public swimming pools and 9 unsupervised tidal ocean rock pools). The provision of public swimming pools and tidal rock pools is based on facility and service provision approaches which were common throughout the 1950s-60s.

The design of our pools largely determines function. At present, the pools primarily cater for lap swimmers and do not offer the range of contemporary 'wet' and 'dry' elements that appeal to a broader market segment (e.g. leisure water, health and fitness facilities, programming spaces, learn-to-swim, high standard of amenities/ café/ retail areas etc).

The Future of our Pools strategy (2014) was developed to ensure that our future provision of pools and the services offered within our aquatic facilities address current and future unmet aquatic recreational needs as well as continue to meet the demands for recreational and lap swimmers. The pools should be attractive and well utilised recreation destinations.

The plan includes the following six principles:

1. Diversity: A diverse range of aquatic recreation opportunities are available for all to enjoy, assisting in promoting healthy living.
2. Engagement: Our community is involved in the planning, use and renewal of our aquatic facilities.
3. Promotion: Our community and visitors have access to current information on our city's aquatic recreation opportunities.
4. Sustainability: A sustainable based approach is undertaken in the planning and management of our current and future aquatic facilities.
5. Effective management: Our pools are effectively managed with a strong focus on the customer's experience and public safety.
6. Partnerships: We are open to exploring partnerships which value-add to our aquatic recreation opportunities.

Key land use planning actions are:

- 1.2 Undertake recreation planning to facilitate aquatic/ leisure facility development at West Dapto.

4.1.9 Public Toilet Strategy



Adopted on 16 May 2019, the Public Toilet Strategy (2019) provides a strategic framework in the provision of public toilets across the Council area and assists with delivering effective and co-ordinated public toilet provision for the next 10 years.

Council owns 104 public toilet facilities, managed by either Council or a third party. Of the toilets:

- 79% are located within parks, tourist destinations, foreshore reserve areas, town centres, near rock pools, tennis courts, community halls, boat ramps and adjacent or within our Surf Life Saving Clubs.
- 21% are located in our community facilities such as libraries, swimming pools and leisure centres.

Key land use planning actions:

- Review public toilet need at locations that have multiple location attractors i.e. playgrounds and beach activities.
- Consider public toilet provision in proposed open spaces and emerging retail centres in the West Dapto Release Area.
- Apply Crime Prevention through Urban Design (CPTED), and Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) principles and guidelines of Council's Sustainable Building Strategy to the public toilet work.

- Consider a hierarchical approach to public toilet provision in the preparation of open space and town centre masterplans and concept plans.
- Continue to renew, install and upgrade accessible public toilets at locations experiencing increase use.
- Install adult lift and change tables and design accessible toilets to accommodate amphibious wheelchair use in line with the Beach Access Strategy at Austinmer Beach and Port Kembla Surf Lifesaving Club (Lower Boat Shed).
- Provide a continuous path of travel and accessible parking when upgrading or building new accessible toilets in high use locations.

4.1.10 Public Art Strategy



The role of public art is to establish a dialogue, mediated by an artist, between a community and its environment. As the most visible and accessible art form, public art plays a role of unprecedented importance in contributing to the poetic dimension of the city. Thriving art and culture are the great indicators of a city's pulse and should have a palpable presence throughout the city.

Public art has the intrinsic ability to embrace both these physical and the social/cultural dimensions by encouraging people to engage in these spaces and extend their knowledge and familiarity with their locality. It is about making the connections between people and places, between public and private space, between the natural and built environment, between pedestrian movement and urban form, and between the social and economic purposes for which urban space is used.

Wollongong is an inherently creative city based on its history, community and environment. Art and artists are a significant part of the region's creativity and vitality. The Public Art Strategy 2016-2021 and guidelines acknowledge Wollongong's unique heritage in this respect and also provide a new and robust rationale for the private sector to contribute to this valuable arts and cultural legacy.

The Public Art Strategy was prepared to provide a framework for Council's planning and decision making in relation to the commissioning and acquisition of public art, as well as its ongoing care and maintenance. The Public Art Strategy works in conjunction with a suite of strategic and operational documents that guide both the direction and the implementation of public art within the city.

The Public Art Strategy reflects key themes, which are central to the future direction for not only arts but social, economic and environmental development across Wollongong and the Illawarra.

Key Land Use Planning actions are:

5 year action	Action
Ensure DCP controls for High Quality public art in New Developments	Review DCP and write appropriate controls for adoption Include controls into West Dapto

	Progress the adoption of Public Art Guidelines for new development
Prioritisation of Public Art Projects for Council's 5 year Capital Works Program	Include Public Art into City for People 6 key projects
Use urban spaces or temporary art installations and in doing so create room to present ideas and provoke thought, dialogue and discussion	Develop public art engagement plan in line with Council's major precinct planning, neighbourhood regeneration projects and other strategic conversations
Creating stronger dialogue, social enquiry & civic engagement in Wollongong	Engage in Wollongong City Centre Improvements and Town Centre, and Precinct Plans including the Cultural precinct masterplan, and new community strategic plan
Creating A Stronger Identity for Wollongong City and its villages /neighbourhoods	Undertake public artworks as a key part of CBD public domain works and Village/Town Centre Upgrades including West Dapto Release area.

4.1.11 Town and Village Plans

Over the past 14 years, Council has been preparing Town and Village Plans for various centres and locations across the City. The Plans provide a vision and strategy for the location to guide growth and any planning changes. The Plans localise the strategies and actions of the various over-arching documents for the particular place.

Plans have been adopted for:

- Thirroul Town Centre Study (2006)
- Warrawong Town Centre Study (2013)
- Figtree Town Centre Study (2013)
- Unanderra Town Centre Study (2013)
- Corrimal Town Centre Study (2015)
- Keiraville Gwynneville Village Study (2015)
- Wollongong City Centre – A City for People (2016)
- Dapto Town Centre Study (2017)
- Port Kembla PK2505 Study (2018)
- West Dapto Vision (2018)
- Helensburgh Town Centre Study (draft) (2020)
- Wollongong City Centre – Urban Design Framework (draft) (2020)

More detail on each strategy is contained in chapter 8 of this Statement.

4.1.12 Cringila Hills Recreation Master Plan

On 16 March 2020 Council endorsed the Cringila Hills Recreation Master Plan with the intention of creating enhanced recreational opportunities including mountain biking along with expanded play opportunities, walking trails, and complimentary cycling infrastructure including pump track and bike skills park and more contemporary toilets and amenities.

The facilities will be developed over the coming years as funding permits.

4.2 Vision and key actions

Guided by the strategies, Council will continue to invest in community and recreational facilities, social infrastructure, the arts, and the public domain. This will create vibrant places and communities where residents and visitors want to gather for work, shopping or recreation, both during the day and in the evening.

Action summary

Project	Timeframe Short term = 1-3 years Medium term = 4-6 years Long term = 6-10 years
Continue to implement the actions listed in the strategies	On-going
Continue the allocation of Development Contribution funds to support the provision of new community infrastructure	On-going
Progress the draft Planning Proposal for Heritage Review stage 1 – updating the descriptions of existing heritage items	Short term
Progress the draft Planning Proposal for Heritage Review stage 2 – introduction of additional heritage items	Medium term
Implement the Cringila Hills Recreation Master Plan	On-going

5. Climate Action and Resilience

Climate change is a global issue that requires action at the every level. Actions to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change impacts require leadership by all levels of government, businesses, industry and our community. Council is committed to working in partnership with other local councils, government, businesses and our community to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

In August 2019 Council declared a State of Climate Emergency, and is one of almost 100 Australian Councils that have made such as declaration.

In 2017, Council became a signatory to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), which commits Council to a series of activities to achieve a resilient and low-emission society. These actions include adopting an emissions reduction target and developing a Climate Change Mitigation Plan and a Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

On 9 December 2019 Council set emissions reduction targets to help drive emissions reduction for Council operations and the city, as follows:

- Net zero emissions by 2030 for Council operations
- Net zero emissions by 2050 for the city.

The 2050 community target equates to a linear reduction of approximately 2.7% or 74,251 tonnes per year.

The majority of Wollongong's emissions (78%) are from the stationary energy sector, which is mainly electricity consumed by residential, commercial and institutional facilities and manufacturing and construction activities. Transportation is the next largest sector at 19%.

Figure 5.1 Wollongong emissions by source

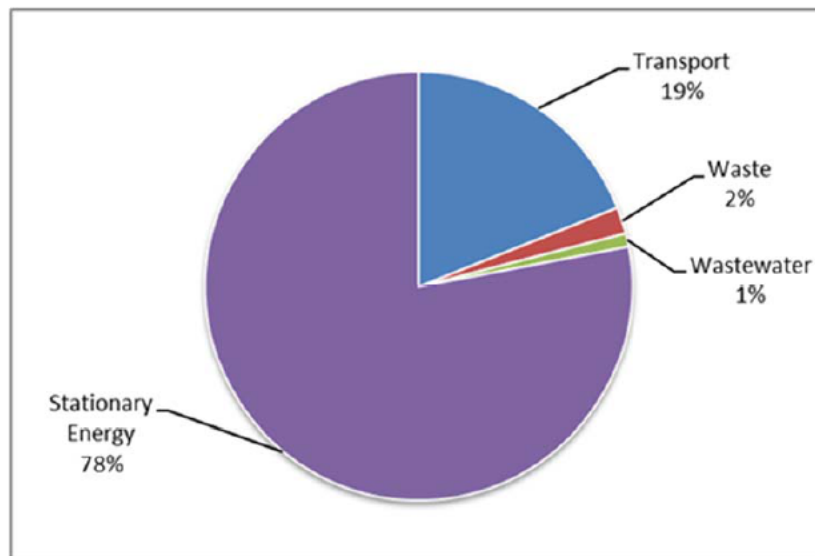
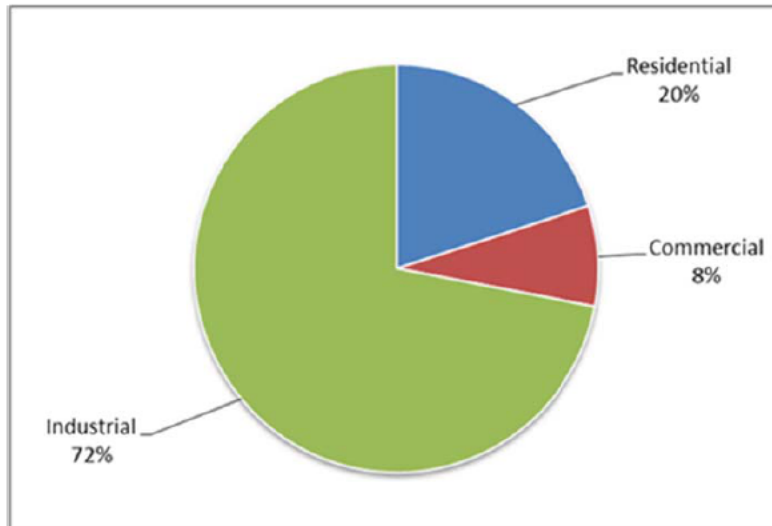


Figure 5.2 Wollongong emissions by sector



In 2020, Council joined the Cities Power Partnership (CPP) Program joining 122 other Council's committed to driving climate action and the move towards clean energy through membership. On 16 March 2020, Council resolved to commit to the following five key pledges under the CPP program:

1. Renewable Energy - Install renewable energy (solar PV) on Council buildings.
2. Renewable Energy - Implement landfill gas methane flaring or capture for electricity generation.
3. Sustainable Transport - Encourage sustainable transport use such as public transport, walking and cycling through Council transport planning and design.
4. Work Together and Influence - Set city-level renewable energy or emissions reduction targets.
5. Energy Efficiency - Adopt best practice energy efficiency measures across Council buildings, and support community facilities to adopt these measures.

It is likely that additional pledges will be pursued and addressed through development of Council's Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Plan and draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy.

Alignment to key documents:

- Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan:
 - Goal 3: A region with communities that are strong, healthy and well-connected
 - Goal 4: A region that makes appropriate use of agricultural and resource lands
 - Goal 5: A region that protects and enhances the natural environment
- Community Strategic Plan:
 - Goal 1: We value and protect our environment
 - Goal 2: We have an innovative and sustainable economy
 - Goal 6: We have sustainable, affordable and accessible transport

Regional Plan Commitment	Council Response
Direction 5.2 Resilience and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority alone priority for Council • Climate emergency declared and emissions reduction targets established • Program of strategies and plans commenced

5.1 Informing Strategies

5.1.1 Environmental Sustainability Policy and Strategy

In July 2014 Council adopted the Environmental Sustainability Policy. The Policy is supported by the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014 – 2022 (supporting document) and the Environmental Sustainability Plan 2013 - 2017 (Implementation Plan).



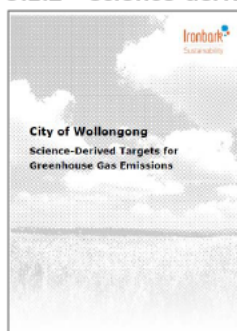
The strategy details five focus areas that Council will address to improve Wollongong's environmental sustainability.

- 1 Protecting our natural assets
- 2 Reducing our ecological footprint
- 3 Improving our urban environment
- 4 Creating a healthy future
- 5 Showing leadership and sustainable governance

Focus areas 3 and 4 aim to create sustainable urban centres and improve the quality of life for the people of Wollongong through reviewing the sustainability provisions in the DCP and incorporating sustainability provisions into town centre and village plans. They also aimed to improve the amenity of streetscapes and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists through design and planning controls. Allowing public spaces to be utilised for food production was another aim of the strategy.

The Policy is currently being reviewed, and a revised draft policy will be reported to Council later this year and exhibited for community input.

5.1.2 Science-derived targets for Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Prepared by Ironbark Sustainability this report which details the Greenhouse Gas emissions for the LGA and Council operations and nominated the science derived target of net zero emissions by 2050.

Ironbark estimated the remaining carbon budget for Wollongong to be 49,185 kt CO₂-e (based on the IPCC global carbon budget), which would last 18.2 years without change (table 5.1). Wollongong's emissions need to reduce by 74 kt CO₂-e (2.7%) per year until 2050.

Table 5.1 Scaled science-derived target for Wollongong

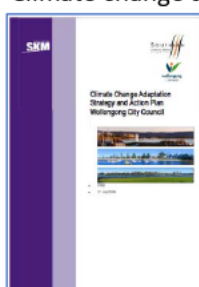
Remaining budget for Wollongong (kt CO ₂ -e)	49,185
Remaining years without change (years)	18.2
Required linear annual reduction (t CO ₂ -e)	74,251
Required linear rate of reduction (p.a.)	2.7%

(Source: Ironbark Sustainability 2019)

The report outlines how to use science derived targets, how to monitor progress towards achieving the targets and action planning for community mitigation. The report analyses city-wide emissions sources and identifies opportunities and pathways to reduce emissions across those sources.

5.1.3 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

Climate change adaptation is defined as:



“the adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climate changes or their effects; which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities”.

The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (SKM 2009) was prepared to provide a coordinated and regional approach to tackling the challenges which climate change will present. The Plan provides guidance to Council on how to respond and adapt to climate change risks.

The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy aims to:

“protect the diversity of the Illawarra region by taking a proactive approach in adapting to climate change; one which seeks to minimise climate change risks and capitalise on opportunities raised, by promoting an integrated response from all levels of Government, businesses and the local community to safeguard the economic, environmental and social sustainability of the region.”

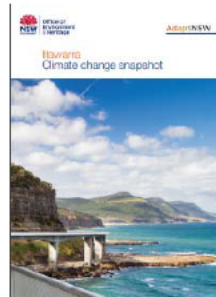
Planning and development actions are detailed in the following table:

Table 5.2 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy – planning actions

Identified Risk	Adaptation Tool	Adaptation Action	Priority
Increased Risk of Blackouts	Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update the current building design standards. Include provision for climate change impacts in DCP and LEP. 	H
	Engage & Facilitate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate options for alternative energy supply. Coordinate with Integral Energy to find out current procedures for managing blackouts. 	M
Damage to existing and future development and infrastructure from flooding	Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare remaining flood risk mapping for the LGA to inform which areas are at risk from flooding. Include climate change allowance in all technical studies. Review maintenance programs. Review and update LEP/DCP following advice from technical studies. 	H
	Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update existing flood information available to the local community via the Council website. 	H
Sea level rise impacting coastal areas	Engage & Facilitate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with DECC to gain agreement on sea level rise parameters to adopt. 	H
	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to State and Australian Government to legislate sea level rise policy for inclusion in Council planning documents. 	H
	Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for the undertaking of Coastal Hazard Assessment Studies. 	M
Increased costs of construction Climate impacts on housing and building design (existing and future)	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek financial assistance from State and Australian Government to support capital works. 	L
	Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to Australian Building Codes Board for higher standards for design of housing and buildings. 	M

An updated Climate Change Adaptation Plan and Risk Assessment will be prepared in 2020-22, which analyses current vulnerabilities and their risks and provides contemporary measures for adaptation.






5.1.4 Illawarra Climate Change Snapshot



Prepared by the Office of Environment and Heritage (2019) the report provides a snapshot of projected climate change.

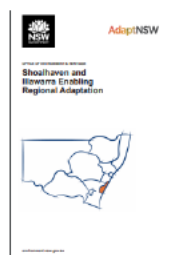
The report notes that based on long-term (1910–2011) observations, temperatures in the Illawarra Region have been increasing since about 1960, with higher temperatures experienced in recent decades. The report indicates that the region is projected to continue to warm in the near future (2020–2039) and far future (2060–2079), compared to recent years (1990–2009). The warming is projected to be on average about 0.6°C in the near future, increasing to about 1.9°C in the far future. The number of hot days is projected to increase, with fewer potential frost risk days anticipated in parts of the region.

Table 5.3 Projected climate changes

Projected temperature changes	
 Maximum temperatures are projected to increase in the near future by 0.4 – 0.9°C	Maximum temperatures are projected to increase in the far future by 1.6 – 2.3°C
 Minimum temperatures are projected to increase in the near future by 0.4 – 0.7°C	Minimum temperatures are projected to increase in the far future by 1.5 – 2.4°C
 The number of hot days will increase	The number of cold nights will decrease
Projected rainfall changes	
 Rainfall is projected to decrease in winter	Rainfall is projected to increase in summer and autumn
Projected Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) changes	
 Average fire weather is projected to increase in spring	Severe fire weather is projected to increase in summer and spring in the far future

(Source: Office of Environment and Heritage 2019)

5.1.5 Shoalhaven and Illawarra enabling Regional adaptation



Prepared by the Office of Environment and Heritage (2019) the report presents an understanding of the likely vulnerability to climate change of the Shoalhaven Illawarra region and aims to stimulate action to plan adaptation.

The report proposes that to address the region's vulnerability to climate change, Council, businesses and communities can begin by pursuing the following opportunities to:

- Understand regional vulnerability
- Understand the flow-on impacts of climate shocks and stressors across the community
- Assess the progress of climate change adaptation in the region
- Embed the transition models into regional and local strategic plans
- Seek funding to activate transition pathways
- Communicate the expected physical changes
- Leverage existing cross-jurisdictional leadership
- Participate in High priority pilot project

Collaboration between all stakeholders is the key to minimising the impacts of climate change on the natural environment, people, infrastructure and economy of the region. The report is designed to enable regional communities to transition to becoming more resilient and adapt to a changing climate.

The report identified, seven regional systems as particularly vulnerable and in need of change to ensure effective ongoing government service planning and delivery:

- Satellite settlements – isolation and limited road access
- Transport –growing regional population and geographical constraints
- Emergency management – increased demand and declining volunteer base

- Energy – centralised system vulnerable to network failure from extreme climate events
- Food –changing rainfall and temperature patterns and increased development
- Industrial transformation –rising energy costs, international markets and the need to reduce environmental impacts
- Water –climatic changes, population growth, increased development and seasonal demand variability

A change model has been developed for each of the key systems which outlines:

- The regional system (or sets boundaries)
- The most important drivers currently acting on the system
- Business-as-usual (BAU) or the current way of operating
- A series of transition pathways that emerge from BAU in response to the need for change
- A desirable future system, transformed through following the transition pathways

The SIERA report identifies a number of vulnerabilities for the region that identify both constraints and opportunities around the ability of government to service its community. Climate change is likely to amplify these vulnerabilities. The LEP and DCP will need to ensure that there is adequate protection of employment lands, opportunities for active and sustainable transport and the provision of sustainable, affordable housing.

5.2 Vision and key actions

On 9 December 2019, Council resolved to set the following emission reductions targets:

- Net zero emissions by 2050 for the Wollongong Community
- Net zero emissions by 2030 for Council operations

5.2.1 Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan (draft)

The community of Wollongong have provided feedback to Council that it supports setting the emissions reduction targets and wants Council to demonstrate leadership on climate change. The community desires a move towards renewable energy sources, making transport more sustainable, planting more trees and reducing waste to landfill.

A Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan is now being prepared to guide how the targets are going to be achieved. It will set out a range of actions for Council to reduce its emissions and to support the community and businesses to reduce their emissions, including actions to improve sustainability outcomes of development. This will include reviewing DCP Chapter A2 – Ecologically Sustainable Development to ensure alignment of with the Climate Emergency commitment and net zero emissions targets, and investigation into how to encourage sustainable development outcomes, including but not limited to community education, broad ranging incentives, and property marketing tools.

5.2.2 Environmental Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy (draft)

A revised and updated Environmental Sustainability Strategy is currently being prepared and will be exhibited later this year.

Our Wollongong community have told us that they are concerned about climate change and are supportive of Council being a leader and an advocate for, and working with, all areas of our community to reduce emissions and waste, improve climate resilience and create a sustainable Wollongong.

The draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy and outlines our commitment to environmental sustainability for both Council operations and our community. This draft Strategy identifies pathways to create a sustainable, greener, healthier, cooler and more liveable city. Implementing actions and following these pathways will also make our city more resilient to the impacts of Climate Change.

This draft Strategy outlines our key environmental sustainability priority areas and goals over the next ten years Relevant to this theme are the following key priority areas and goals under the preliminary draft strategy:

Table 5.4 Environmental Sustainability Strategy Priority and goals

Priority Area:	Goal:
A city whose Council shows leadership	We demonstrate environmental and climate leadership in all Council decision making and service delivery and inspire the same in others
A city that works together	We work with our community to protect our environment, reduce emissions and increase resilience to climate change
A low emissions city	To achieve our emissions reduction targets of: net zero emissions by 2050 for the city of Wollongong and net zero emissions by 2030 for Council operations
A healthy, liveable city	To create a city that is resilient to a changing climate; is healthy, liveable and connected to nature
A low waste city	To create a city where people only take what they need, reuse and recycle what they can and have an understanding of the resources that they consume
A climate and water resilient city	To create a city whose infrastructure and community are able to cope with the impacts of a changing climate and water is valued as a vital natural resource

One of the key challenges faced by Council is planning for and accommodating a growing population and evolving city whilst balancing environmental factors. The draft Strategy outlines high-level pathways to strengthen and implement planning mechanisms to protect

and enhance our environmental assets and reduce the impacts of development. This includes encouraging the inclusion of green technologies, renewable energy production and sustainable design features through planning controls, policies and guidelines for developments in all sectors of our community.

The way that a city, its suburbs, its buildings and transport are designed, built and managed can have a large impact on long-term environmental sustainability, how its inhabitants live, work, commute, participate in recreational activities and their overall quality of life. In developing and delivering on a revised Sustainability Strategy we will work to strengthen and implement planning mechanisms to protect and enhance our environmental assets and reduce the impact of development in a variety of ways, focusing on design, materials, transport systems and utility and infrastructure provision.

Action summary

Project	Timeframe Short term = 1-3 years Medium term =4-6 years Long term = 6-10 years
Prepare and exhibit Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan	Short term
Commence Climate Action Governance framework	Short term
Adopt the Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy	Short term
Exhibit and finalise the Climate Change Mitigation Plan	Short term

6. Protect the Natural Environment

From our beautiful beaches and wetlands, through to the striking escarpment, Wollongong is a city with unique and diverse natural environments which is an attractive destination to residents and visitors alike. Wollongong is home to many unique natural ecosystems, threatened species and ecological communities, as well as over 200,000 residents. As our population grows we will need to balance the social, economic and environmental needs of our city in order to create a Sustainable, healthy and biodiverse Wollongong.

Healthy and resilient ecosystems are vital for the wellbeing of our community and for the future sustainability of our city. Biodiversity is essential to the environmental services that provide us with clean water, clean air, food to eat, and a range of resources to use in our daily lives. Protecting and enhancing our terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in a changing climate is also important to ensure that the environment in general and high conservation value biodiversity are protected and have the best ability to adapt to climate change. We have many beautiful parks, coastal and bushland areas and a world class Botanic Garden which are community natural assets and green corridors providing habitat and pathways of structural and functional ecological connectivity from the sandstone plateaus of the drinking water catchments, through the Illawarra Escarpment foothills and on to the coast. .

Development and inappropriate land use are identified as key threats to local biodiversity and its ecosystem services, with the potential to impact on public health and amenity. For this reason it is critical that we act to protect and enhance our natural environment for current and future generations, in part, through effective and informed strategic land use planning; balancing social, economic and environmental needs and aspirations.

Council has prepared many strategies that are aimed at protecting the environment and managing the natural hazards.

Alignment to key documents:

- Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan:
 - Goal 5: A region that protects and enhances the natural environment
 - Goal 6: A region that makes appropriate use of agricultural and resource lands
- Community Strategic Plan: Goal 1: We value and protect our environment

Regional Plan Commitment	Council Response
Action 5.1.1 Avoid, Minimise and Mitigate impact on environmental assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Dapto Biodiversity Assessment complete • Illawarra Escarpment Strategic Management Plan
Direction 5.2 Resilience to Natural Hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floodplain Risk Management Plans progressed
Action 5.4 Protect Estuaries and Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program endorsed • Risk-based decision-making framework used to integrate water quality objectives into planning and development at West Dapto

6.1 Informing strategies

6.1.1 Environment Sustainability Policy and Strategy

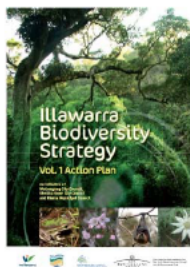
As noted in section 5.1.1, in July 2014 Council adopted the Environmental Sustainability Policy. The Policy is supported by the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014 – 2022 and the Environmental Sustainability Plan 2013 - 2017.

A revised and updated Environmental Sustainability Strategy is currently being prepared and will be exhibited later this year.

6.1.2 Illawarra Biodiversity Strategy

Biodiversity conservation and management is important for a number of reasons. Biodiversity is essential to the environmental services that provide us with clean water, clean air, food to eat, and a range of resources to use in our daily lives.

Some 51,310 hectares (72%) of the Wollongong LGA is covered in natural bushland. Of this area, some 33,257ha (47%) is located in the Water Catchment Area and 6,037ha (8.5%) in National Parks and 1,020 ha (1.4%) is owned by Council, the remainder being on private property or Crown land.



The Illawarra Biodiversity Strategy (WCC 2011) noted that there were 19 Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs) (17 occur within the Wollongong LGA), 3 Endangered populations, 69 threatened fauna species, and 31 threatened flora species listed under the (then) NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) or the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) in the Illawarra. Most of the vegetation on the coastal plain is listed as an EEC. Other EECs also occur on the Illawarra Escarpment, and the Woronora Plateau.

Plateau.

The key changes since publication of the Strategy are:

- Coastal Upland Swamp was in 2011 considered to only equate to the EPBC Act listed 'Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone' it is now separately recognised by *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) determinations as 'Coastal Upland Swamp in the Sydney Basin Bioregion'.
- Some of the previous Threatened Species Conservation TSC Act / Biodiversity Conservation BC Act listed Threatened Ecological Communities have been elevated to EPBC Act listings from 2011 onwards.

It is important to manage and conserve remnants of all these EECs, however a number of the remnants are critically important to the Illawarra as most of their distribution and therefore management responsibility occurs solely within this region. Based on the Strategy, the Council has adopted the following approach:

1. Retain – conserving existing natural areas
2. Regenerate – bushland that has been degraded or disturbed
3. Replant – only after a site's natural ability to regenerate has been assessed as poor.

The identification and analysis of biodiversity assets in the strategy is used to assist in developing policy, inform strategic planning and to guide on-ground works for the Illawarra Councils. As mentioned above it is intended that the strategy will be updated in the next 18 months to ensure it addresses current environmental issues and concerns in alignment with current legislation and policy

6.1.3 Urban Greening Strategy



In 2018 Council adopted the Urban Greening Strategy. The strategy seeks to increase the quality and quantity of all vegetation and open green space on all land types in an urban setting. Wollongong's average urban tree canopy cover is well below the national average of 39% (ISF Benchmarking report). Optimal urban canopy cover for amenity and wellbeing is estimated at 35- 40%. Some suburbs in Wollongong have canopy cover as low as 3%. New urban release areas will need to be planned to establish a tree canopy from scratch.

Wollongong's low baseline canopy cover highlights the importance of protecting and maintaining existing tree canopy cover on all land types. The majority of the LGA's existing tree canopy cover is on private land. The trend towards smaller lot sizes and increasing housing sizes presents a significant challenge to maintaining this important existing tree canopy. Planning and policy must focus on ensuring the retention of high quality canopy on private land, and ensuring adequate space for tree planting both in individual lots, in streets, and public open spaces in all new development.

Canopy cover is not evenly distributed across the LGA, and priority must be given in public tree programs to protecting the most vulnerable by increasing canopy cover where it is needed most. Council's investment will focus on providing high quality shade where people are most active by targeting town centres, streets and active transport routes, and parks. Planting in natural areas will continue to support local ecosystems, and provide areas of respite and connection.

The trend towards smaller residential lot sizes and larger houses has reduced the amount of space that is available for tree planting on individual lots. Consequently, street trees, parks, and natural areas are increasing important for:

- Shade and cooling
- Storing and sequestering carbon
- Reduced sun exposure
- Increased sense of local identity
- Encouraging outdoor activity
- Reconnecting people with nature
- Reduced infrastructure costs
- Increased property values
- Attracting investment

The Urban Greening Strategy presents a vision for a coordinated approach to managing urban vegetation and outlines the steps required to implement a program of planning and targeted

investment in public urban greening. It is a strategic document that will be used to shape the future of urban greening in Wollongong over the next 20 years.

Strategies for all stakeholders managing trees and vegetation across the LGA must be aligned, coordinated and consistent in order to achieve a contiguous healthy urban forest for the benefit of all.

6.1.4 Flood studies and Floodplain Risk Management Plans

The urban area of Wollongong is located on a coastal plain, bounded by the ocean and Illawarra Escarpment. Due to the steep escarpment slopes, narrow coastal plain and orographic rainfall patterns, the Wollongong LGA is prone to flash flooding. The historic development patterns means that many developed areas can be affected.

Following a review of the culvert blockage policy in 2016, Council has completed recent flood studies for 10 catchments, and is preparing a draft study for another catchment (Table 6.1). Figure 6.1 shows the extent of flood prone lands based on the completed Flood Studies. Some more minor catchments have not been studied, and may also contain flood prone land.

Council is now preparing draft Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans for 3 catchments and will be preparing draft studies for the other catchments over the coming years (table 6.1). The Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans consider future development scenarios, climate change, mitigation measures and guide management actions, which may include land use planning responses.

Table 6.1 Review of Flood Studies and Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans

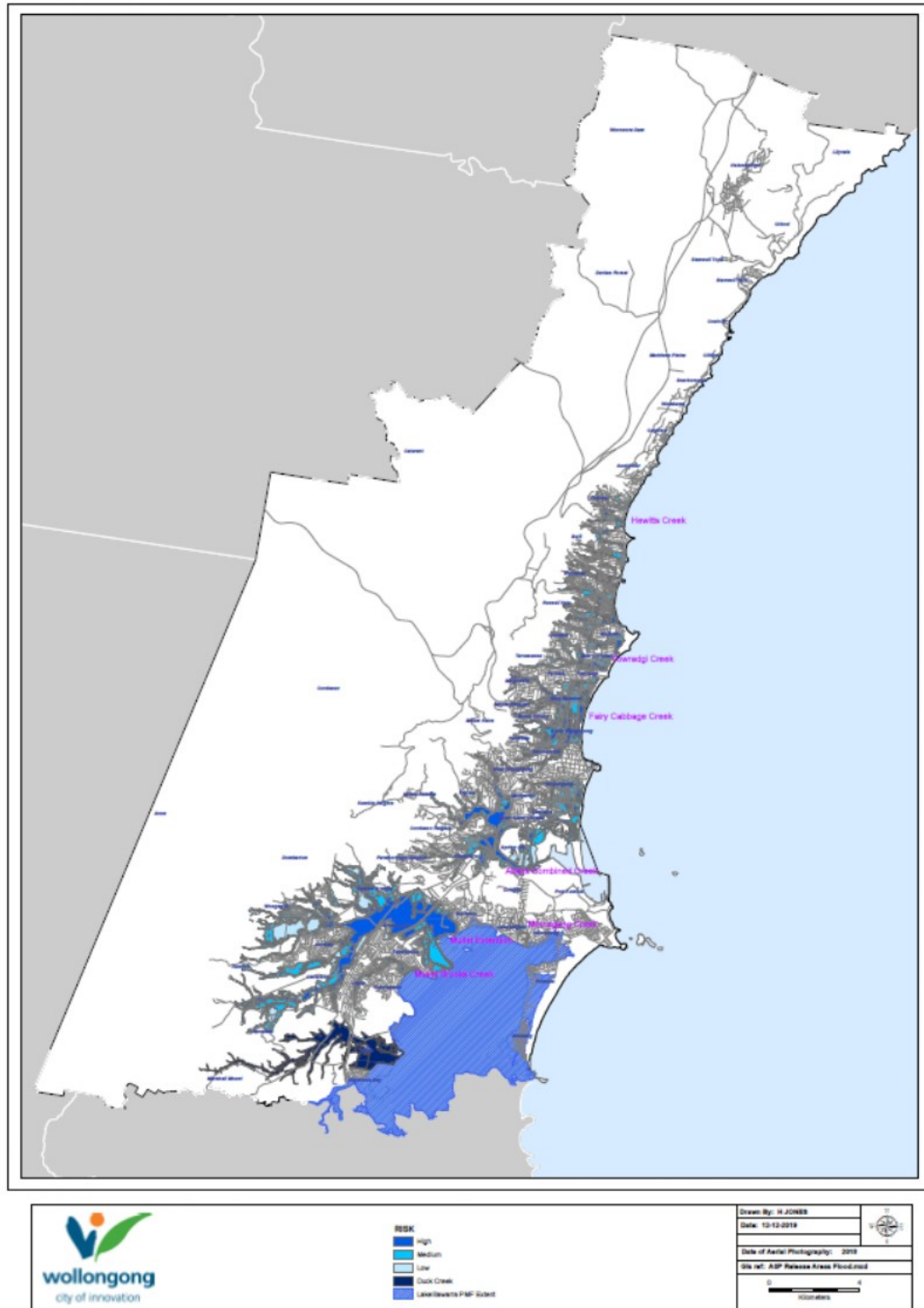
Catchment	Previous Flood Study	Previous Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plan	Revised Flood Study adopted (post 2016)	Revised Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plan (post 2016) – indicative timing
Northern catchments				
Hewitts, Slacky, Tramway, Woodlands and Thomas Gibson Creeks	2002, 2015	2002	2019	In preparation
Collins Creek	2011	2014	2019	2021-22
Towradgi Creek	2003, 2015	2003	2019	In preparation
Central catchments				
Fairy & Cabbage Tree Creeks	2010	2010	Draft 2020	2021-22
Wollongong City Creek	2013	2015	2019	2021-22

Allans Creek	2006	2006	2019	2021-22
Southern catchments				
Mullet Creek	2010,2011	2010	2019	In preparation
Brooks Creek	2010	2010	2018	2021-22
Kully Bay	NA	NA	2019	2021-22
Lake Illawarra	2001	2001,2012		
Macquarie Rivulet	2016	2016		
Duck Creek	2012	2013	2019	2021-22
Minnegang Creek	2002	2004	2019	2021-22

Some Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans have recommended the purchase of private properties that are at extreme flood risk. Council has acquire some 22 properties through a Voluntary Purchase Scheme, with funding assistance from the NSW Government.

The Lake Illawarra Floodplain Risk Management Study (2012) included the recommendation to rezone Windang to E4 Environmental Living to reduce intensification of residential development in a community that could be isolated in a major flood event.

Figure 6.1 Flood prone lands



6.1.5 Riparian Corridor Management Study

Riparian lands form the transition between terrestrial and aquatic environments, i.e. land adjacent to watercourses.. Riparian land is generally the most fertile and productive part of the landscape in terms of primary production and ecosystems, it often supports a higher diversity of native flora and fauna species than non-riparian land.



In 2004, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) prepared the Riparian Corridor Management Study (RCMS) to guide the strategic consideration of riparian corridors and protect riparian areas from encroachment and degradation from urban development. Council endorsed the RCMS and utilised its recommendations in developing the Illawarra Escarpment Strategic Plan, Riparian Development Control Plan, and West Dapto Urban Release Rezoning.

The approach to riparian corridor management, established in the RCMS then endorsed by Council, is to prioritise riparian areas based on their ecological function. Category 1 corridors provide biodiversity linkages. Ideally between one key destination to another, for example, the coast and the escarpment, or large nodes of vegetation. Category 2 corridors provide basic habitat and preserve the natural features of a watercourse, not necessarily linking key destinations. Category 3 corridors have limited, if any, habitat value, but contribute to the overall basic health of a catchment.

Council's approach to riparian corridor management differs from the NSW Government Guidelines for riparian corridors on waterfront land (2012) which applies buffers to riparian areas based on their stream order (Strahler System), with watercourses being afforded larger buffers depending on their level of connection to other watercourses.

6.1.6 Illawarra Escarpment and Steep Slopes

The Illawarra Escarpment forms a natural boundary and scenic backdrop to the Wollongong coastal plain. It is one of the most important landscape and cultural features of the Illawarra region and has high aesthetic value to the local community. The Illawarra Escarpment has elevations in the order of 450 to 500 mAHD, elevations and the slopes drop away steeply toward the east and south, with elevations of around 50 mAHD reached within one to two kilometres.

The escarpment study area covers an area of approximately 9,570ha. In the north, the escarpment joins the coast. Further south, as the coastal plain widens, the escarpment retreats westward following the cliff line and foothills. In the south, the coastal plain broadens to the west of Lake Illawarra. The escarpment and foothills create a dominant landscape unique to the Illawarra.

The Illawarra Escarpment contains approximately 2000 parcels of land in approximately 1300 separate ownerships. The majority of the area is in private ownership, with 40.5% in public ownership. The National Parks and Wildlife Service account for almost 29% of the escarpment area, with all other public land owners combined making up the remaining 11%. (WCC 2015). Table 6.2 summarises the zoning of land within the Illawarra Escarpment Strategic

Management Plan area. The Escarpment Plan did not include land zoned for Residential development

Table 6.2 Zones within the Illawarra Escarpment area.

Zone	Area (ha)	Percentage
E1 National Parks and Nature Reserves	2768	27%
E2 Environmental Conservation	3976	39%
E3 Environmental Management	1836	18%
E4 Environmental Living	244	2%
RE1 Public Recreation	52	1%
RE2 Private Recreation	80	1%
RU1 Primary Production	154	2%
RU2 Rural Landscape	638	6%
SP2 Infrastructure	346	4%

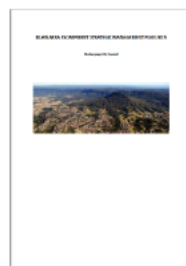
There are many lots zoned R2 Low Density Residential from Stanwell Park to Farmborough Heights that are located on the Escarpment and its foothills, but are located outside the Escarpment Strategic Management Plan study area.

The steep slopes and lush vegetation of the Illawarra Escarpment and its foothills create an attractive environment to live. However, the steep slopes, vegetation cover, bush fire risk, geotechnical risk and flood risk constrains urban development.

In terms of steep slopes, land with a slope of more than 11 degrees (20 percent) is considered to be unsuitable for urban development, while slopes of 8 – 11 degrees (15-20 percent) is marginal for urban development (Department of Planning 1988).

Steep slopes across the Wollongong LGA and the underlying soils and geology create land stability and/or geotechnical risks. The Illawarra Escarpment contains many known areas of landslide, rockfall (such as the bare cliff faces), as well as areas of landslide and mass movement. Sections of the South Coast Rail line are regularly closed, or train speeds reduced, after periods of heavy rain due to the risk of land slip. At Coledale, the Sea Cliff bridge has replaced a section of Lawrence Hargrave Drive which was periodically closed due to rockfall.

Much of the Illawarra Escarpment and its foothills has been mapped as being subject to known or likely geotechnical risk (Figure 6.2)



Illawarra Escarpment Strategic Management Plan (2015) provides Council with long-term guidance for the management of the Escarpment. The Plan replaced a 2006 version of the Plan that was prepared following the Illawarra Escarpment Commission of Inquiry (1999).

The Illawarra Escarpment Strategic Management Plan 2015 is founded on the vision that:

The Illawarra Escarpment is an outstanding feature of the Illawarra region providing a natural backdrop to the city as well as encompassing areas of high conservation value

and rich cultural heritage. The long term vision for this area is for these values to be preserved and enhanced through public reserve or private stewardship.

Land Use Planning plays an important role in managing the values and future of the Escarpment. Land use planning on the Illawarra Escarpment is focused on achieving the ongoing conservation and enhancement of the Illawarra Escarpment. The Illawarra Escarpment is not seen as an area appropriate for meeting demands for urban growth. Any Planning Proposal on the Escarpment needs to focus on the conservation outcome proposed for the Escarpment and demonstrate how changes will provide an overall improvement to the environmental and cultural values of the Illawarra Escarpment.

The Illawarra Escarpment Strategic Management Plan includes character statements and desired future outcomes for the lands zoned E2 Environmental Conservation, E3 Environmental Management and E4 Environmental Living.

6.1.7 Bush fire prone lands

The steep slopes, water catchment area and forested nature of the LGA means that many properties have a bush fire risk. Some residents remember the 1968 bush fires along the Illawarra Escarpment, and in 2001 bush fires destroyed buildings in Helensburgh.

Council is required to map the bush fire hazard based on the Planning for Bush Fire Protection Guidelines (RFS 2019). The current bush fire prone lands map is shown in Figure 6.5. As well as forests, pastures also have a bush fire risk and are required to be mapped. .

As well properties affected by bush fire risk, another important consideration is evacuation routes. Planning for Bush Fire Protection Guidelines requires 2 access routes for new residential development. Many older residential precincts and subdivisions may only have one route of access, and are difficult to retrofit or improve access options.

Figure 6.2 Illawarra Escarpment



Figure 6.3 Slope class

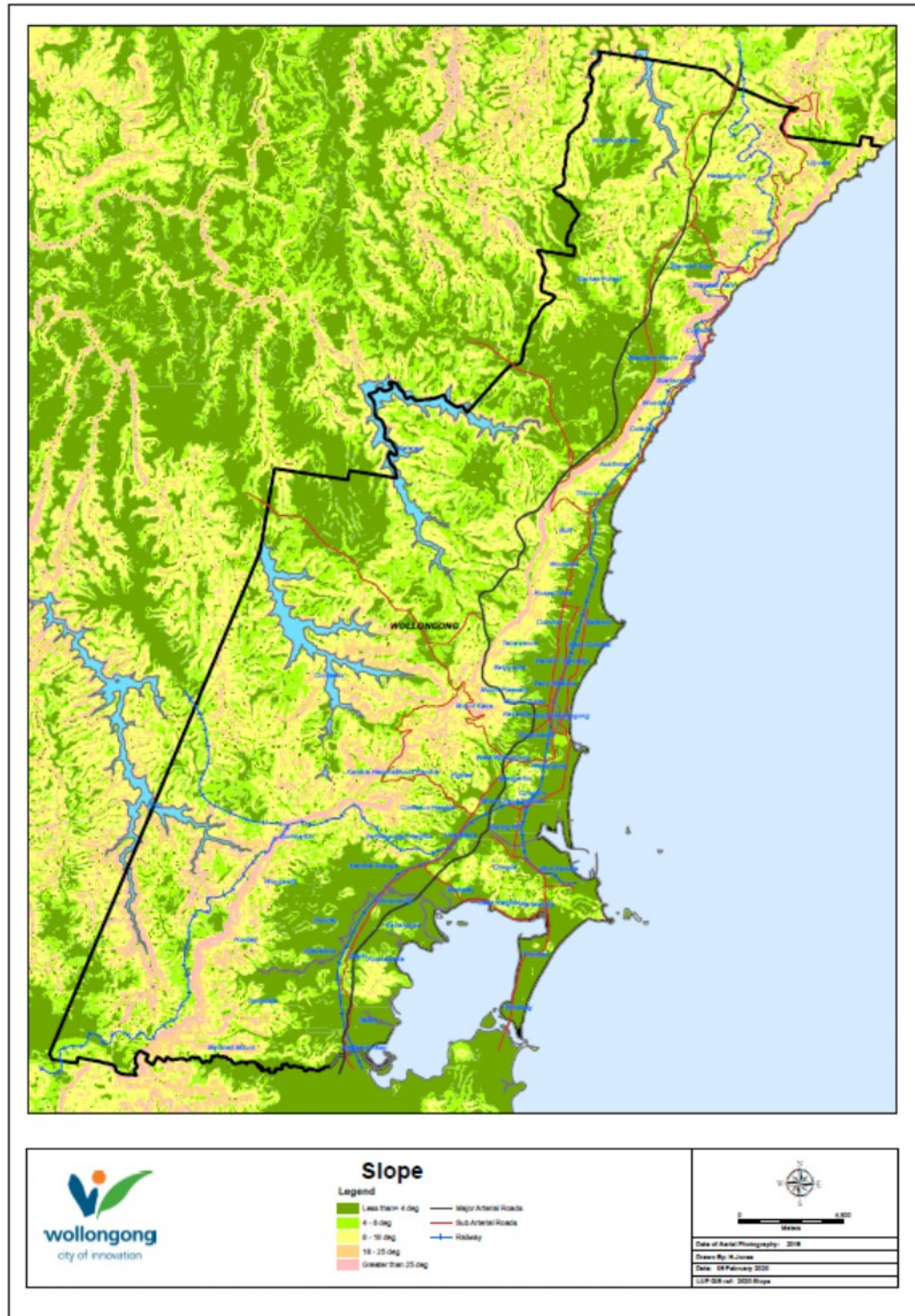


Figure 6.4 Landslip risk

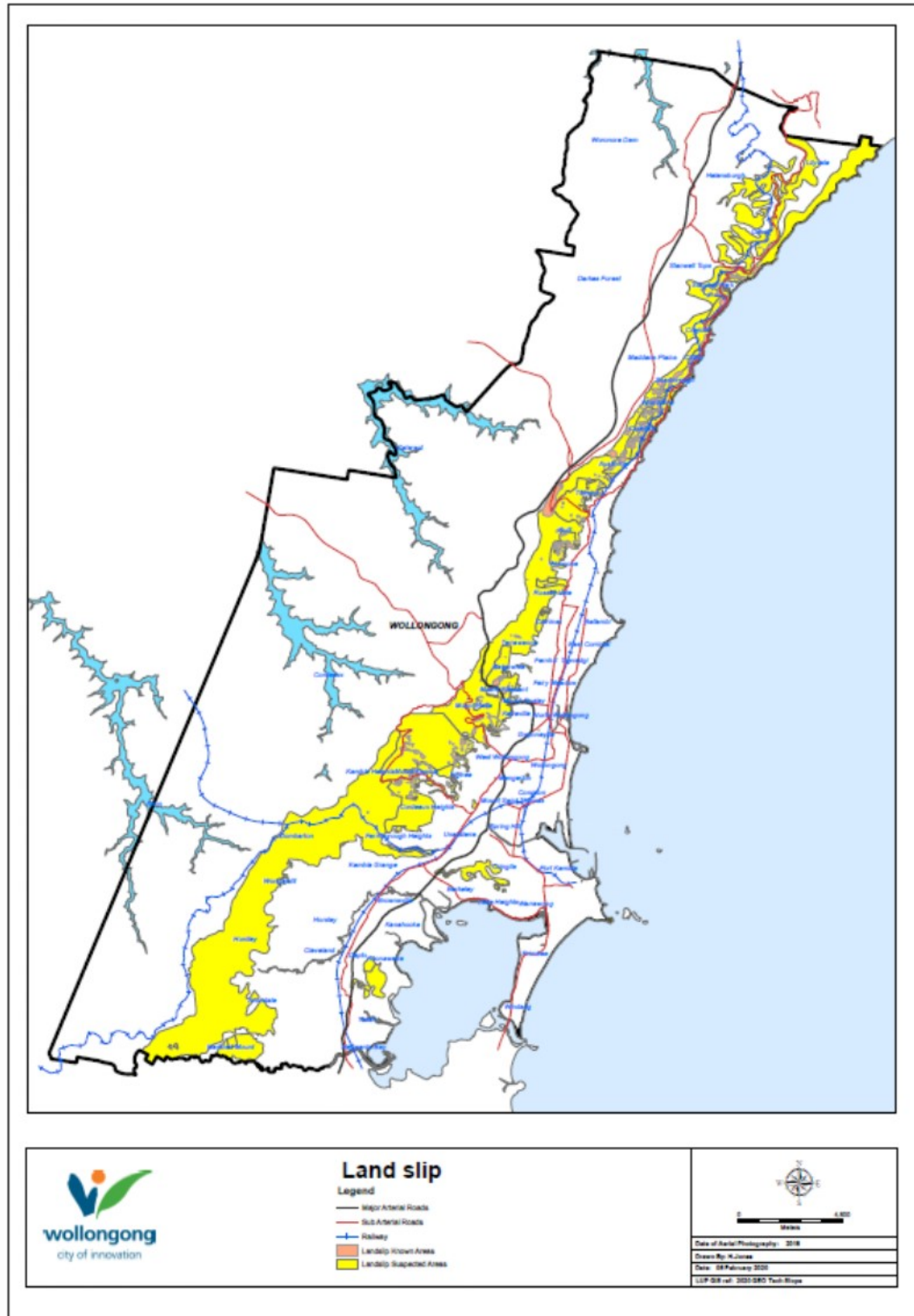
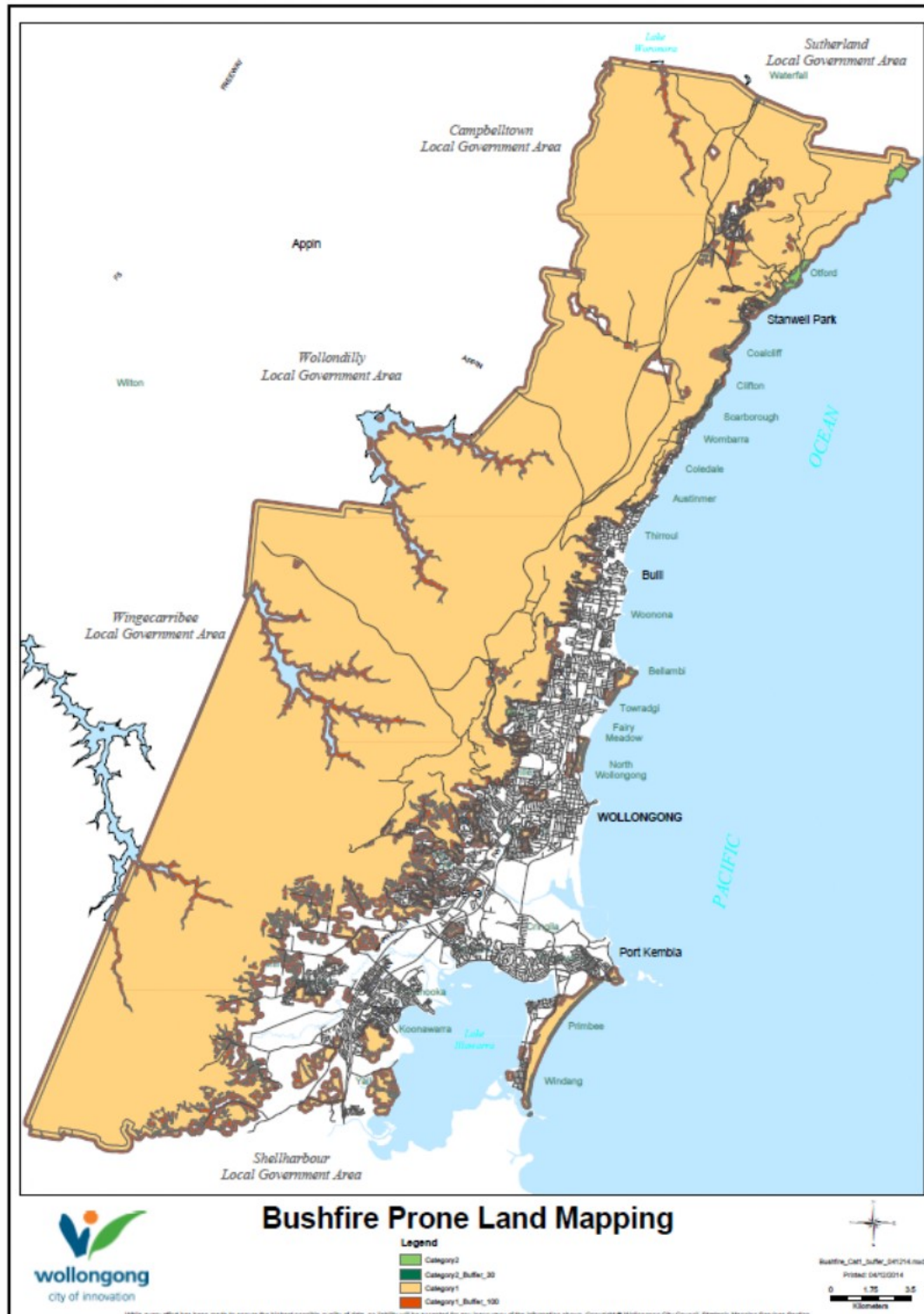


Figure 6.5 Bush fire prone lands



6.1.8 Wollongong Coastal Zone Management Plan



The Wollongong Coastal Zone Management Plan (BMT WBM Pty Ltd 2017) noted that the Wollongong Coastline is characterised by a series of mostly small pocket beaches north of Port Kembla, and the larger sweeping sandy Perkins Beach extending south from Port Kembla to the Lake Illawarra entrance. The northern section of the Wollongong LGA coastline comprises long sections of headlands and cliffs, with occasional pocket beaches.

The interaction of natural coastal processes and the built environment results in hazards and associated risks along the Wollongong coastline. The Wollongong Coastal Zone Study (Cardno, 2010) identified the coastal hazards and the areas potentially impacted by climate change between 2010 and 2100. Identified coastal hazards included storm-based beach erosion, longer-term shoreline recession, backwater inundation and overtopping due to elevated sea levels and waves during storms, and instability of cliffs and coastal headlands. Overprinted on these hazards are the potential impacts of future climate change, particularly sea level rise.

Cardno (2010) produced coastal hazard lines (representing the combined effects of erosion, recession and sea level rise) for the years 2010 (immediate timeframe), 2050 and 2100. The hazard assessment adopted the NSW Government's standard sea level rise projections of 0.06m by 2010, 0.4m by 2050 and 0.9m by 2100 above 1990 mean sea level. Although the NSW standard sea level rise benchmarks are now revoked, on 26 August 2013, Wollongong City Council resolved to continue to use the same benchmarks for its planning and development decisions.

The Wollongong Coastal Zone Management Plan used the hazards assessment to identify and evaluate the risks to the Wollongong community associated with on-going coastal processes, for immediate, 2050 and 2100 timeframes, and has developed a series of management strategies to manage and treat these risks to an acceptable level.

The Plan identified that there are many private properties along the Wollongong Coastline that are potentially affected by existing and future coastal risks. Coastal inundation was considered to be a relatively low risk, as it is temporary and usually does not occur with destructive impacts.

Storm erosion on the other hand is of much greater consequence, as loss of land or foundation capacity can completely destroy buildings and other assets located within the impact zone.

Redevelopment of coastal land offers an opportunity to avoid or accommodate existing and future coastal risks through the application of development controls, expected to last for the life of the development. The types of controls may relate to aspects such as foundation capacity, structural design, minimum floor levels, development setbacks or distance based approvals.



During the exhibition of the draft Wollongong Coastal Zone Management Plan, in 2012, strong community concerns were raised about coastal dune management with particular reference to excessive dune heights and the occurrence of dune scarping after storms, as well as the type, height and the seaward extent of vegetation occurring on the dunes. In response Council prepared the Wollongong Dune Management Strategy for the Patrolled Areas of 17 beaches (with a focus on the high usage areas in the vicinity of the Surf Life Saving Clubs).

On 24 March 2014 Council adopted the strategy and endorsed an implementation plan for the 17 beaches, which includes vegetation management, dune reshaping, life guard towers and other measures. The report does not include any Land Use Planning actions.

6.1.9 Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program



Lake Illawarra is a large, shallow coastal lake, and is classified as a wave dominated barrier estuary system. Lake Illawarra has an area of 35 km² and an average water depth of 2.1m and maximum water depth of 3.2m.

Lake Illawarra is highly valued from an ecological, cultural, social and economic perspective. It is likely the most complex estuary system on the NSW south coast in terms of balancing the existing modified environment with the community's aspirations for use and enjoyment of the lake, past and present industrial uses in the catchment, and increasing residential development pressures. The Lake foreshore is jointly managed by Wollongong City and Shellharbour City Councils.

The CMP aims to provide the strategic direction and specific actions to address threats to the Lake to maintain and improve its ecological, social and economic value with the view to achieve ecological sustainability for Lake Illawarra over the long term. It is a program of physical works, monitoring and investigations, and planning and education initiatives that target the threats to the Lake's ecological and cultural values and includes actions directly aimed at improving recreational opportunities for the public.

The Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Plan was exhibited in 2019 and the post exhibition report was adopted by Wollongong City Council on 6 April 2020.

Key Land Use Planning actions are:

- WQ1: Introduce a Risk-Based Stormwater Management Framework to manage water quality and waterway health outcomes for Lake Illawarra.
- WQ5: Reduce sediment load to the Lake by improving compliance with erosion & sediment controls for development sites.
- PM1: Commence integration of key objectives and strategies from the CMP into relevant planning and policy documents of both Councils,

- RA3: Investigate the opportunities of public access along the foreshore and amend the acquisition layers of the relevant Council Local Environmental Plans if applicable.
- CH1: Protect and promote cultural heritage in and around the Lake and its catchment.
- IR3: Incorporate tidal inundation mapping into strategic land use planning documents

6.2 Vision and key actions

Conserve the High value biodiversity of the escarpment lands, connectivity of high conservation vegetation and riparian, coastal wetlands, coastline.

Hazards are managed including flooding, bushfire and coastal processes.

6.2.1 Illawarra Regional Biodiversity Strategy

The Strategy was developed in 2011 and aims to guide a program for biodiversity management for the three Illawarra Councils. Since its development it has been used to assist in developing policy, inform strategic planning and to guide onground works for the Illawarra Councils.

a revised and updated Biodiversity Strategy is anticipated to be developed over the next 18 months to ensure it addresses current environmental issues and concerns in alignment with current legislation and policy. The Strategy will continue to guide strategic land use planning decisions and development applications. It is further anticipated that the strategy will facilitate the development of policy and practice to protect and enhance Wollongong's biodiversity and associated ecosystems in order to promote public and environmental health and address key threats including development and inappropriate land use.

Climate change brings new and significant pressures to biodiversity as a result of a range of physical changes to the environment, including changes to average temperatures, rainfall, rising sea levels, increased incidence of storm events, and bushfire. It is well recognised that areas of high biodiversity, with more resilient ecosystems are better able to adapt and respond to change and disturbance.

Given the timeframe since the Strategy's development it is currently being reviewed and is intended to be updated in the next 18 months to ensure it addresses current environmental issues and concerns in alignment with current legislation and policy.

Action summary

Project	Timeframe
	Short term = 1-3 years Medium term =4-6 years Long term = 6-10 years
Finalise the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program	Short term
Implement the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program	Short – Long term
Implement the actions identified in the various Plans and Strategies, as resources permit	On-going

Prepare and exhibit an updated draft Biodiversity Strategy	Medium term
Adopt the Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy	Short term
Review the Wollongong Coastal Zone Management Plan with reference to the current NSW Coastal Management Framework	Short term
Review Riparian Corridor Management Study and policy approach	Short term
Continue the preparation of updated Flood Studies and Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans	Short-Medium term
Update the Bush Fire Prone Lands mapping	Short

7. Enabling Infrastructure and Transport

The Illawarra region is serviced by an extensive road network, which includes the north-south corridor of the Princes Highway/F6 and the major external access points of Macquarie Pass, Mount Ousley Road and Bulli Pass which connect the region to Sydney and the South Coast, and the Southern Highlands. This level of vehicle movements, together with the anticipated population and housing growth within the region, places high demands on existing infrastructure at both a regional and local level. The South Coast rail line services the LGA from Helensburgh to Dapto and Port Kembla.

The Regional strategies discussed in section 1.5 of this report highlighted the importance of transport linkages to Sydney, South-west Sydney and the Western Sydney Aerotropolis.

The Wollongong LEP 2009, in conjunction with the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan, seeks to protect existing transport corridors leading into and out of the region and to ensure that infrastructure is provided to protect and enhance the employment opportunities within the region, including the Maldon-Dombarton Rail Corridor (or South West Illawarra Rail Link – SWIRL).

Alignment to key documents:

- Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan – Goal 6: We have sustainable, affordable and accessible transport
- Goal 3: A region with communities that are strong, healthy and well-connected

Regional Plan Commitment	Council Response
Goal 1 Prosperous Illawarra Shoalhaven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wollongong Economic Development Strategy • Advocate for investment in State and regional infrastructure
Action 5.4.1 Waste Management Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy

7.1 Key infrastructure

7.1.1 Rail transport

The South Coast rail line caters for suburb, interurban (Sydney) and freight rail services. Reports indicate that the rail line is at or near capacity, in terms of the number of trains. The sections of single line track between Clifton and Stanwell Park, and south of Unanderra is a significant limitation on service operations.

The land around the stations provides an opportunity for increased residential development and the encouragement to use the rail service for commuter trips to southern Sydney or Wollongong. However, the timetabling and infrequent services discourage the use of the rail network. Express services to Sydney, typically stop at Wollongong, North Wollongong, Thirroul, Helensburgh. There is a greater commuter parking demand at these stations. The all stations service shuttles between Port Kembla and Waterfall.

The construction of the proposed Maldon – Dombarton freight line, or the South West Illawarra Rail Link (SWIRL) (freight and passenger services) would provide an alternate freight

line, free up some capacity on the South Coast line and provide a rail connection to South-West Sydney.

7.1.2 Regional Road network

The M1 Motorway traverses the length of the LGA from Waterway to Haywards Bay. The Princes Highway, Appin Road, Picton Road, Lawrence Hargrave Drive and Shellharbour Road provide main road connections to the surrounding LGAs. Bulli Pass, Mt Ousley Road and Lawrence Hargrave Drive between Bald Hill and Stanwell Park, provide the only links from the coast to the top of the Illawarra Escarpment. All three links have geotechnical constraints. Any closure due to accidents or road maintenance causes significant disruptions.

The road network is significantly constrained north of Thirroul. Lawrence Hargrave Drive is highly used by residents and visitors, and in a number of locations the only route choice. An accident or road works can cause major disruptions. For example, the Thirroul rail bridge is the only connection between north and south Thirroul. The planned closure of Lawrence Hargrave Drive between Bald Hill and Stanwell Park for 9 weeks (June – August 2020) to enable road works will cause significant disruption to residents, but will reduce visitor traffic.

Increase residential development in the northern suburbs will increase traffic volumes and place additional pressure on Lawrence Hargrave Drive.

7.1.3 Bus Services

The main roads and collector roads provide the opportunity for bus services, and the LGA is well served by bus routes. The Wollongong Free Gong Shuttle provides a frequent bus connection service between the City, Hospital, University and Foreshore. Anecdotally, land and unit prices are higher in locations close to the bus stops. Additionally, persons working in Wollongong are parking near the bus stops and using the bus to access Wollongong.

7.1.4 Shellharbour City Airport

Shellharbour City Airport is located in Albion Park Rail adjacent to the southern boundary of the Wollongong LGA. The airport is important for:

- Domestic passenger flights to Melbourne and Brisbane
- Tourism services – such as Skydive the Beach operations and Touchdown Helicopters
- Tourism at the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society (HARS) facility, which includes a Boeing 747-400, Lockheed Super Constellation “Connie”, F-111C supersonic Fighter Bomber, Douglas DC3 and DC4 and many other aircraft.
- Emergency Services including Toll Rescue Helicopters which operate the Air Ambulance
- Flight training
- Aircraft maintenance services

The proximity of the airport does require some building design considerations in the southern part of the City, due to aircraft noise. Residential development is prohibited on land where the Aircraft Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) contour exceeds 25. The 20-25 ANEF contours affects the Yallah industrial area, the M1 Princes Motorway and some residential properties at Haywards Bay and Yallah. The airport was a consideration in the planning of the West Dapto Release Area and the Tallawarra precinct.

7.1.5 Water and Sewer

The majority of existing residential properties are connected to Sydney Water's water and sewerage networks. The systems have expanded to meet the expanding urban footprint. Sydney Water have a Project Approval to provide services to the West Dapto Release Area. The Illawarra is supplied with water from Water NSW Avon Dam, which is treated at Kembla Grange and distributed around the LGA.

The majority of sewerage effluent is treated at the Wollongong Sewerage Treatment Plant, and the recycled water used by Bluescope in the steel making process. The suburbs of Coledale, Stanwell Park, Stanwell Tops, Otford and Helensburgh are connected to the Cronulla Sewerage Treatment Plant. There are some locations which have service constraints, partially due to the flat coastal plain limiting flow.

7.1.6 Health Services

NSW Health through the Illawarra Shoalhaven Health District manage public health services in the LGA.

The principal public health facility is Wollongong Hospital. It is anticipated that Wollongong Hospital will continue to grow, however its expansion has been constrained by adjoining residential development. The draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper identified that the SP1 Hospital zone, introduced in 2007 by the State to support the Hospital and medical uses, has favoured residential development. The Options Paper proposes a review of the zone, to ensure land is available for hospital and medical uses.

Council will continue to support NSW Health and the Illawarra Shoalhaven Health District plans to support residents.

7.1.7 Emergency Services

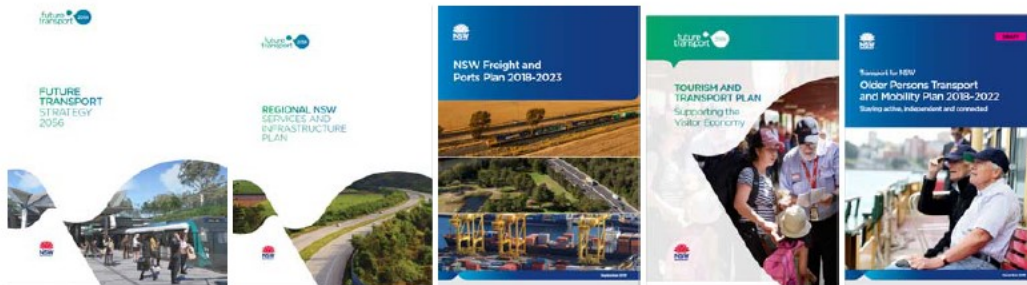
The Wollongong LGA is well serviced by NSW Police, NSW Fire and Rescue, NSW Ambulance, NSW Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service. Many Wollongong residents support the volunteer based organisations. Council provides land for the local NSW Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service stations, and other support.

As the population grows, the demands on the emergency services will increase. Council will continue to support the various services.

7.2 Informing strategies

7.2.1 Future Transport 2056

In 2018, Transport for NSW released Future Transport Strategy 2056 a series of transport strategy documents, the most relevant for Wollongong being the Regional NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan and NSW Freight and Ports Plan 2018-2023.



The documents show the relationship between the 3 Sydney Cities, and Wollongong and the Central Coast. Wollongong is identified as a Satellite City. The documents also highlight moving away from a Sydney-centric transport model, placing increasing emphasis on regional Cities and Centres. A Hub and Spoke transport model is proposed, with each centre being a focus.

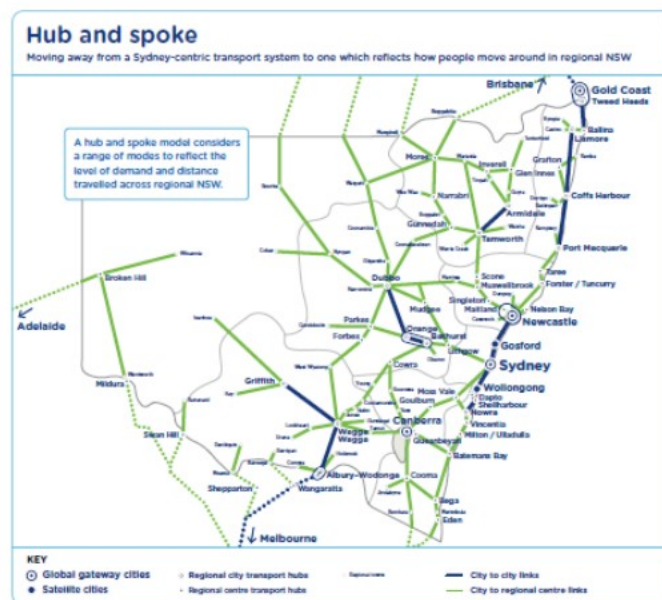


Figure 16: Links to regional transport hubs

Source: Transport for NSW

The reports also promote the Movement and Place transport framework to help describe streets and places. The M1 Motorway has a different form, function and feel to Crown Street Mall. This framework has been used for the Wollongong City Centre planning.

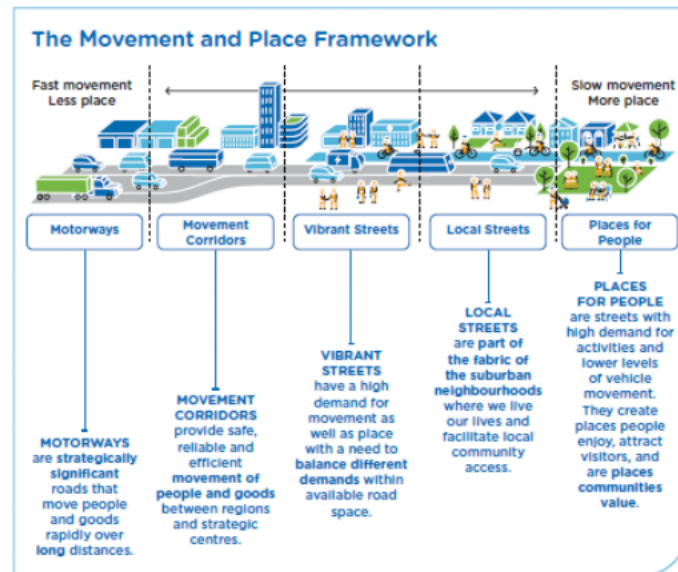
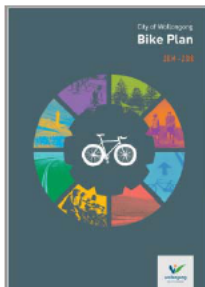


Figure 36: Movement and place framework

Source: Transport for NSW

The NSW Freight and Ports Plan highlights the importance of Port Kembla and the movement of freight by rail and road to/from the Port.

7.2.2 Wollongong Bike Plan



The key objectives of the Wollongong Bike Plan (2014) are to:

- Increase participation in all forms of cycling
- Develop a safe, connected network of bicycle routes
- Facilitate growth in bicycle tourism
- Undertake promotion and education campaigns that will improve cycling awareness, safety and proficiency

The Plan aims to increase commuter cyclists and decrease bicycle crashes.

Land Use Planning is used to assist the provision of bike facilities, including:

- Within the West Dapto Release Area, the locational planning of the key attractors along cycle routes – including public transport, school, shops, recreational facilities
- Within the West Dapto Release Area, the provision of cycle paths on the edge of development areas
- The allocation of Development Contributions to cycle paths
- The Wollongong DCP 2009 requires the design of roads that include cycle lanes or share footpaths.
- The Wollongong DCP 2009 requires the provision of End of trip facilities (showers, lockers, bike parking) in larger commercial buildings

The Plan is currently being reviewed, and a new draft Plan being prepared.

7.2.3 Pedestrian Plan



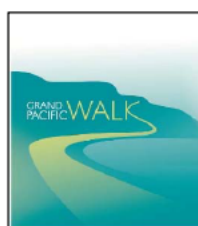
The Pedestrian Plan (2017) sets out Council's vision for walking and recommends a range of strategies to address key walking issues facing the city

Pedestrian friendly places provide an interesting and varied environment for walkers. Pedestrian friendly places also need to be designed, built and maintained in ways that enable walking by the people with a wide range of mobility needs such as children, pram users, those in a wheelchair and mobility scooter users.

Land Use Planning is used to encourage walking by:

- Town and Village Plans, such as the Wollongong City Centre Planning Policy 'A City for People', Warrawong Town Centre, Corrimal Town Centre, emphasise these aspects and include proposals that aims to create vibrant places that are best enjoyed as a pedestrian.
- Within the West Dapto Release Area, the locational planning of the key attractors along pedestrian routes – including public transport, school, shops, recreational facilities
- Within the West Dapto Release Area, the provision of paths on the edge of development areas
- The allocation of Development Contributions to footpaths.

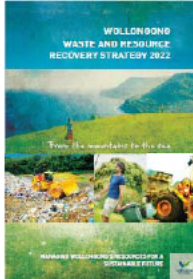
7.2.4 Grand Pacific Walk



The vision of this major project is to create a pathway along our coastline, from the Royal National Park to Lake Illawarra. The Walk incorporates existing paths, such as the Blue Mile at Wollongong and the northern and southern cycleways.

Stage One is under construction and will establish a 3km walking and cycling connection between Coalcliff and Stanwell Park. This section has a high priority, as there are no existing pathways for much of this section and it has steep and sometimes unstable land, narrow roads and a lack of provisions for pedestrians and cyclists.

7.2.5 Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy



The Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2022 (2012). The report notes that at the time Council managed over 150,000 tonnes of waste at a cost of over \$40 million dollars each year.

The waste management environment is rapidly changing as it is impacted by many environmental influences including:

- Increasingly stringent Federal, State and local legislation
- Increased community expectation with regard to sustainable practices
- Diminishing availability of landfill space in urban environments
- Increasing awareness and responsibility to manage climate change
- Rapidly increasing costs for waste management and disposal
- Rapidly advancing technology, driven by environmental forces.

Figure 7.1 Waste hierarchy goals



Source: Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy

Council has commenced a trial Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection to remove food waste from the garbage stream. It is anticipated that the collection system will be extended across the City.

7.3 Vision and key actions

As the population of the City grows, so will the demand on infrastructure. It is important that infrastructure is available to serve the population. Residents in some parts of the City already consider the infrastructure to be inadequate to serve the existing population.

The linkages and connections between Wollongong and adjoining regions are important for the movement of people and freight, employment opportunities and recreation. Council will continue to advocate for State and Commonwealth investment into regional infrastructure that will catalyse growth opportunities:

- Connections with South West Sydney (aerotropolis)
- Port Kembla freight movement
- Maldon Dombarton / SWIRL
- Utilities and services
- Regional transport infrastructure (Mt Ousley UOW interchange)
- Free city green buses

Council will continue to provide local infrastructure that supports economic growth and healthy lifestyle opportunities:

- Town centre public domain improvements
- Bike and pedestrian paths
- Community services (e.g. libraries)
- Recreational facilities (e.g. Cringila Hills Mountain Bike facility)
- Smart technology solutions
- Traffic management

Action summary

Project	Timeframe Short term = 1-3 years Medium term = 4-6 years Long term = 6-10 years
The Maldon – Dombarton Freight Rail Line, or the South West Illawarra Rail Link (SWIRL – freight and passengers) will be constructed	Long term
Continue to advocate for improvements to the South Coast Rail Line – track duplication, improved travel times, more services	On-going
Continue to advocate for upgrades to the regional road network including: Picton Rd, Appin Rd, Bulli Pass, Mt Ousley Rd, Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Princes Hwy, M1 Figtree – Unanderra	On-going
Continue to advocate for improved local bus services	On-going
Continue the investigation into a Wollongong South Shuttle Bus Service	Medium term
Draft Bike Plan 2020 – prepare and exhibit	Short term
LGA Transport Plan will be prepared	Medium term
Review the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy	Medium term

8. Key Localities – local strategies, character and visions

The Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA) is defined by discrete localities, which all have a unique character and function in the City's overall mosaic. This section describes the special features of these localities and describes a vision for each.

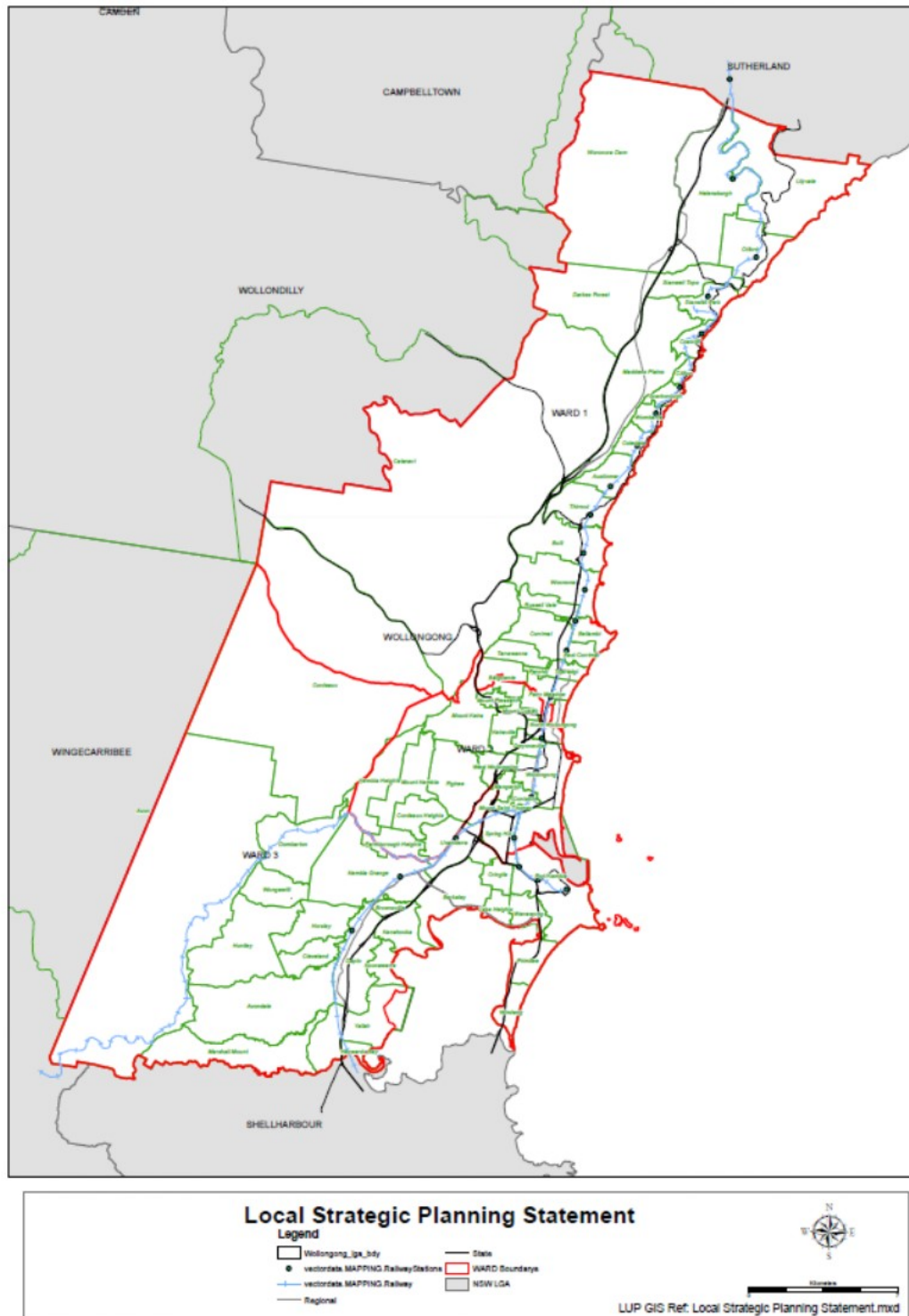
The LGA can be divided into districts, suburbs, localities and precincts by many different methodologies. Administrative boundaries include Ward boundaries, suburb boundaries, postcodes or census small area boundaries. Natural boundaries include catchment, topographical or landscape features. Economic boundaries include retail catchment areas or employment area. Social boundaries include catchment areas for social or recreation infrastructure.

All suburbs within the Wollongong LGA are different and have their own environmental setting, history, character, constraints and opportunities. A one-size-fits-all approach is not appropriate. Some places have their own vision statement, strategies and action plans, prepared through the town and Village program.

This part of the document has been divided into the three Wards and describes key local strategies within each. In the coming years additional supporting documents and visions will be prepared, which will be added to this section of the LSPS.

The Illawarra Escarpment and the coastline connect all Wards. A separate section on the Illawarra Escarpment has been included to reflect the management of the Escarpment through the Illawarra Escarpment Strategic Management Plan (2015).

Figure 8.1 Wards and suburbs



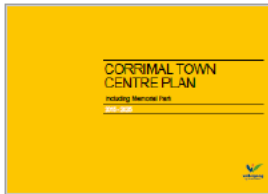
8.1 Ward 1

Ward 1 is the northern and largest Ward and covering an area of 484 km². Ward 1 extends from Fairy Meadow to Helensburgh. The Ward includes a large areas of bushland contained in the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment Area and parts of the Royal National Park, Garrawarra State Conservation Area and Dharawal National Park. Topographically, the distance between the Tasman Sea and the Illawarra Escarpment narrows in the northern part of the Ward which restricts development, has created a series of villages, and constrains infrastructure provision.

In 2016, Ward 1 had a population of 67,681 persons, living in 27,770 dwellings with an average household size of 2.55. In 2018 the population was estimated to be 71,082 persons.

The Corrimal Town Centre is the main northern shopping centre, followed by the towns of Thirroul, Fairy Meadow, Bulli and Helensburgh.

8.1.1 Corrimal Town Centre



Corrimal is the main shopping and commercial precinct for the northern suburbs, containing a range of retail, commercial and community services. The Corrimal commercial centre is classified as a district centre and is surrounded by a range of residential housing types and a variety of light industries.

In 2016 Council completed the Corrimal Town Centre Study which included the following vision for the Centre:

In the future Corrimal Town Centre will have:

- A Distinct Identity
- A Thriving Community Heart
- Strong Connections
- Smart Growth
- Pride in Quality Spaces

In 2019, the Corrimal Chamber of Commerce celebrated Corrimal being the first Autism friendly community in Australia.

Council has been investing in improving the look and feel of the Centre through footpath and laneway upgrades, urban greening, Luke's Place playground at Memorial Park.

8.1.2 Thirroul

Thirroul is the gateway to the northern villages and is the southern gateway to the Grand Pacific Drive, a popular tourist route which links the northern villages. Thirroul's village centre is the core focal point for retail and community services within the suburb. Thirroul is a thriving centre for culture and the arts, with a relaxed beachside lifestyle.

Thirroul's Village Centre is separated into two distinct areas by the South Coast Railway line. The northern side of the village is the core focal point for retail and community services. The southern side comprises of a small mix of retail and community services with a more village, compact character, highlighted by its close proximity to the Thirroul Railway Station. The two

sides of the Village Centre are unique and offer a variety of services and facilities that promote and improve the quality of life of all residents.

In 2005 Council prepared the Thirroul Town Centre study and adopted the Thirroul Town Centre DCP.

Most trains stop at Thirroul station, making it popular with commuters. The State Government has built an additional car park to the north of the Station to cater for the increased demand. Commuters drive from other suburbs to catch the express train services.

Thirroul has significant road infrastructure constraints, with the Lawrence Hargrave Drive 2 lane rail bridge providing the only road link between north and south Thirroul. The lack of an alternate road route means all traffic crosses the bridge.

8.1.3 Helensburgh

Helensburgh is a small town, with the feel of a village, surrounded by bushland. The town and Lawrence Hargrave Drive provide the gateway to the northern beaches and Royal National Park. Helensburgh was developed around the Metropolitan Colliery (1888), which still operates today as the oldest still-operating mine. Helensburgh is the location of popular destinations of Symbio Wildlife Park and the Sri Venkateswara Hindu Temple, both located at the southern end of the town.

The future growth potential of Helensburgh has been debated since the 1980s. Between 2006 and 2013 Council undertook the Review of former lands zoned 7(d) at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops, and exhibited a draft Planning Proposal. As a result, the bushland surrounding Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops has been zoned E2 Environmental Conservation or E3 Environmental Management to protect the bushland, headwaters of the Hacking River and the Royal National Park. The Planning Proposal did rezone some cleared and developed land to more appropriate zonings.

Council is assessing one Planning Proposal seeking urban development of the Lady Carrington Estate South (Otford Rd). In 2013 Council resolved to oppose the rezoning, but following an appeal it was supported by the State Government to be further assessed. This assessment is on-going and will be reported to Council in 2020.

The Helensburgh Town Centre Study was prepared in 2019 and will be exhibited in 2020. The Study focuses on improvements to the Town Centre and includes a master plan to guide infrastructure improvements. Council was successful in obtaining State Government grant of \$1.6 million to partially fund some of the road and footpath improvements.

A new Helensburgh Community Centre and Library is being planned.

Council has also been successful in receiving a \$1.6m Resources for Regions grant for road improvements in the town centre.

8.1.4 Bulli

This historic township is set between the Illawarra Escarpment and the ocean, where the coastal plain widens to the south of Thirroul. Bulli is another mining community and is located

at the bottom of the famous Bulli Pass. This suburb has a supermarket and a small shopping strip along the Princes Highway, serving mainly local needs and contains a variety of housing forms, changing to meet the needs of the diverse population. Bulli has a number of older industrial/mining sites which have been subject to redevelopment pressures in recent years.

Council is commencing the Bulli Town Centre study 2020 which will guide future town centre development. The town centre is proposed to be by-passed by the extension of the Northern Distributor. The timing of the roadworks by the State Government is unknown. Until it occurs large traffic volumes will continue along Lawrence Hargrave Drive through the town centre.

Council is also preparing a master plan for Bulli Showground.

8.2 Ward 2

Ward 2 is the central and smallest Ward and covers an area of 51 km². Ward 2 includes the Wollongong City Centre, as well as the centres of Figtree and Unanderra, the University of Wollongong's Main Campus, Wollongong TAFE and Wollongong Botanic Garden.

In 2016, Ward 2 had a population of 73,592 persons, living in 30,961 dwellings with an average household size of 2.45. In 2018 the population was estimated to be 78,959 persons.

8.2.1 Wollongong City Centre

Wollongong City Centre is the business and cultural hub of the local government area. This precinct contains the Wollongong CBD, which is the major commercial centre for the LGA and the region.

The commercial core provides for a wide range of retail, business, office, civic and cultural, entertainment and community uses, including tourism and leisure, and residential uses within mixed use developments. The focus is on high quality buildings, streetscapes, public art and attractive public spaces.

The Wollongong City Centre – Public Spaces Public Life (2016) report includes the following vision statement:

In the 21st century Wollongong City Centre will be a people orientated, sustainable and liveable city.

On 24 February 2020 Council resolved to exhibit the draft Wollongong City Centre Planning Review for community input. The draft Strategy aims to deliver -

- **Jobs** – Defining a CBD that prioritises jobs growth by safe-guarding appropriate land for commercial development; and defining key retail streets that support a range of uses both day and night
- **Housing** – Promoting a variety of housing types in the right locations to support the City Core and improve affordability

- **Lifestyle** - Strengthening the structure of the City through a permeable grid that prioritises pedestrians; Creating a green network of open spaces for a sustainable, healthy and attractive city; and Protecting sunlight to key public spaces
- **Planning Controls** – Undertaking the right analysis to inform how we strengthen and simplify planning controls to ensure they respond to precinct character and future desired built form outcomes; and Improve clarity processes give clear expectations to the development industry
- **Good Design** - Elevating our design culture and commitment to delivering good design outcomes in the built environment

Following the exhibition and consideration of issues raised in submissions, a draft Planning Proposal and draft DCP chapter will be finalised, reported to Council and if endorsed exhibited to implement the final strategy recommendations. The draft Planning Proposal will be reviewed by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and a Gateway Determination issued prior to exhibition.

8.2.2 Unanderra Town Centre



The Unanderra Town Centre is located on the Princes Highway between Nudja Road and Victoria Street, Unanderra. In 2013 Council prepared the Unanderra Town Centre Master Plan and Implementation Strategy to provide a strategic framework for Council, the community and investors, to respond to the opportunities of revitalising the Unanderra Town Centre.

The following eight (8) key principles and strategies were identified to make a 'vital town centre':

Key Principles	Strategies
Unique Identity	Build upon the central spine key move for the town centre from Country Grocer café to Central Road and across to the train station. This pedestrian connection aims to connect key destinations, new community spaces and local heritage items.
Street Vibrancy	Create a vibrant Unanderra Town Centre through a range of uses and activities along a central spine.
Urban Composition	Look at building heights and massing to ensure appropriate building requirements.
Community Heart	Create focal points for social gathering including an outdoor space near Country Grocer and long term option of the old public school building.
Accessible and well connected	A new pedestrian laneway called the central spine will form a key access point through the town centre as well as improvements to the existing bus network and cycle network. A range of car parking options is also considered.

A Balanced Environment	A variety of open spaces with the central spine defined by trees and planting and further landscaping in the town centre.
Policy and Governance	Policy and governance will be guided by community feedback, Council staff and Councillors which will guide delivery of the Plan.
Community Ownership	The community were given the opportunity to comment on the draft Master Plan and provide input.

8.2.3 Figtree Town Centre

The Figtree Town Centre is divided into 3 areas, the main Figtree Grove shopping centre, the Bellevue Road shops and the northern retail precinct. Figtree Town Centre is well served by the regional bus network with connections available to Wollongong City Centre, University of Wollongong, Mt Keira, Mangerton, Unanderra, Kembla Heights and Dapto.



In 2013, Council prepared the Figtree Town Centre Study. The study found that the vast amounts of high to medium risk flood prone land within and around the town centre, constrain the potential to develop within Figtree Town Centre.

The study concluded that the future success of Figtree Town Centre relied on ensuring a focus on the community and improving the recreational opportunities within the centre. Figtree Town Centre offers a unique environment that provides the community with a series of natural assets that separate it from the Illawarra region's neighbouring centres.

These assets are Figtree Oval and Allans Creek, which if revitalised offer the potential to enhance Figtree Town Centre's identity and establish a community heart. Figtree Oval has the potential to improve the recreational offering within the Town Centre establishing a destination for organised sports groups, improving passive surveillance within the open space. Allans Creek provides an opportunity to link the open spaces within the locality together through a riparian greenway, re-associating the Figtree community with a natural asset that can be enjoyed and used.

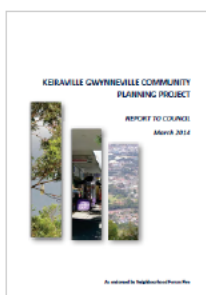
Council subsequently prepared the Figtree Oval Recreation Master Plan.

8.2.4 University of Wollongong & Innovation Campus

As noted in section 2.1.4, the University of Wollongong's Main Campus and Innovation Campus are key education and economic drivers of the LGA and region.

8.2.5 Gwynneville Keiraville

The suburbs of Gwynneville and Keiraville are located between the Wollongong City Centre and Illawarra Escarpment and contain the University of Wollongong Main Campus, Wollongong TAFE and the Wollongong Botanic Garden, and are near the Wollongong Hospital.



In 2014, Neighbourhood Forum 5, with the input from the community, University of Wollongong, Councillors and Council officers developed the “Keiraville Gwynneville Community Planning Project Report”. The report indicates that the community expects development to be based on principles of sustainability, and that the local character of the area is conserved. It wants the right type of development in the right place. The community is also vocal in its concerns about traffic and parking. Residents want to move around our area safely, and have reasonable access to amenities.

On 28 April 2014, Council endorse the following vision statements prepared for the area:

- 4.1 Keiraville and Gwynneville are villages;
- 4.2 Viable shopping centres;
- 4.3 Building styles to reflect village character;
- 4.4 Managing traffic for safety and access;
- 4.5 Managing parking pressures;
- 4.6 A mix of people;
- 4.7 A connected community;
- 4.8 Valuing the University while retaining our character;
- 4.9 Protecting green spaces; and
- 4.10 Protecting heritage.

8.2.6 South Wollongong



South Wollongong is located to the south of the Wollongong City Centre and is bordered by the Tasman Sea to the east, the Port Kembla State Environmental Planning Policy area to the south, the railway line to the west and Stewart Street to the north.

South Wollongong study area contains a mix of commercial, residential and industrial zones with a range of permitted land uses, height limits, floor space ratios and minimum lot sizes.

The precinct is low lying established to the north of Tom Thumb Lagoon. The majority of the precinct is mapped as medium flood risk, with areas toward the south and east identified as having a high risk of flooding.

The South Wollongong Future Strategy was prepared in 2017 and incorporated the following principles:

- *Keep the retail and commercial focus on the Wollongong City Centre.*
- *Maintain the diverse land use mix, encouraging employment opportunities that are difficult to locate in the city centre, but could leverage off facilities and services.*
- *Protecting peoples' lives, property and wellbeing is a key priority – restrict land uses in flood areas, planning for rising sea levels and heavier rainfall events.*

- *Promote increase in residential capacity in suitable locations – Council’s vision to create a living city.*
- *Increase opportunities for pedestrian movement across/along Corrimal Street.*
- *Create on street amenity – maintain moderate scale at pedestrian interface.*
- *Promote increased residential densities on green space edges.*
- *Encourage flood resilient design outcomes.*
- *Promote through site permeability in future designs/redevelopments.*
- *Recognise the contribution public transport can play in changing the area.*
- *Promote a tapering of height, scaling buildings down from the railway and CBD.*
- *Maintain the green belt towards the Port of Port Kembla.*

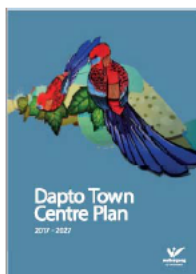
Due to the medium-high flood risk, Council deferred the proposed review of planning controls for the South Wollongong precinct until the completion of the revised Wollongong City Flood Plain Risk Management Study and Plan. The revised Wollongong City Flood Study has been completed and work has commenced on the updated Wollongong City Flood Plain Risk Management Study and Plan, which is expected to be completed in 2022.

8.3 Ward 3

Ward 3 is the southern Ward and covers an area of 176 km². The coastal plain is at its widest, with Lake Illawarra separating coastal settlements from the western towns and villages. The Ward contains the regional significant Port of Port Kembla, as well as the adjoining industrial areas that extend to Unanderra. The Ward includes the Warrawong and Dapto district town Centres and Port Kembla Town Centre. The Ward is also contains the fast growing West Dapto Urban Release Area, and part of the Calderwood Urban Release Area and Tallawarra.

In 2016, Ward 3 had a population of 62,385 persons, living in 25,351 dwellings with an average household size of 2.55. In 2018 the population was estimated to be 66,053 persons. The population of Ward 3 is expected to continue to grow with the development of the West Dapto, Calderwood and Tallawarra Urban Release Areas.

8.3.1 Dapto Town Centre



Located on the Princes Highway, the Dapto Town Centre is focused on the triangle area formed by Dapto Mall, the Dapto Station and Dapto District Library. Dapto Square has the potential to be the centre of Dapto’s social and community life. The Centre currently provides a wide range of retail, commercial and social services, and is a main shopping destination for the region.

Dapto is currently a district commercial centre that will expand to a sub-regional centre to serve the future West Dapto community as well as the existing residents. The town centre currently services the needs of the local community, providing retail and commercial, cultural and recreational services. Dapto’s commercial/retail

precinct acts as a buffer zone between the mainly low to medium density residential and industrial zones. The Dapto Town Centre Study was undertaken in 2017 to enhance Dapto's role as a major retail and commercial area, and to clarify Dapto's relationship with the urban development in the West Dapto release area.

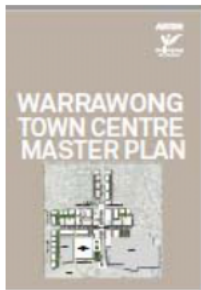
The 2017 study includes the following vision for the Centre:

In the future, Dapto Town Centre will be a friendly, inclusive and healthy place that has pride in its history and embraces a growing population.

The Vision is broken down into three vision statements aiming to inform and prioritise change in Dapto Town Centre:

- **Our unique and welcoming place** - In the future, open spaces and recreation areas in Dapto Town Centre provide meeting places that are lively with a variety of activities taking place. Dapto's history and heritage is visible and shared, and along with its natural setting, contributes to Dapto's unique identity.
- **A pedestrian friendly centre** - In the future, Dapto will be a people - prioritised town centre, with slower vehicle speeds and fewer barriers to people walking. Dapto will offer a choice of accessible, safe and inviting walking routes that connect key destinations providing health and environmental benefits.
- **An attractive and vibrant centre** - In the future, Dapto will attract a mix of people by providing opportunities for residential, commercial and employment growth. The Town Centre will be beautified, with wider footpaths, street trees and quality buildings that provide many interesting shopfronts.

8.3.2 Warrawong Town Centre



Warrawong is the LGA's second largest commercial centre, serving as a regional centre. Located on the north-east corner of Lake Illawarra, the focal centre of this suburb is the large subregional shopping centre, with an associated peripheral bulky goods retailing area to the south of the main centre. The commercial centre is located on main transport routes linking Wollongong to the north, Shellharbour in the south and the Southern Freeway/Princes Highway (via Lake Heights and Berkeley). The surrounding urban development is predominantly older single and two storey detached dwellings. The suburb is close to the industry surrounding the port of Port Kembla, Lake Illawarra and the ocean.

In 2013 Council prepared the Warrawong Town Centre Master Plan which includes the following vision for the centre:

Warrawong Town Centre will be a key cultural destination. Its location, retail offer and unique character provide the opportunity to bring people together by creating comfortable public places, attractive destinations catering to the daily needs of its culturally rich community.

There is the opportunity to consider additional residential development around the Centre to support retail activities, having regard to flooding and other constraints.

Council has commenced buying land for the construction of a new library adjacent to the Warrawong Community centre site in Greene Street. The due facility is due for completion in 2025.

8.3.3 Port Kembla Town Centre

The northern section of the suburb is dominated by development associated with the steelworks and Port uses. Heavy industrial land is predominantly located within Port Kembla, Spring Hill and Unanderra.



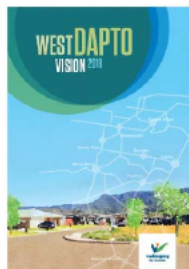
Port Kembla's retail and commercial shopping strip is located along Wentworth Street and currently comprises limited local services. There is an identified need to revitalise the commercial centre of Port Kembla

In the southern section of the suburb, residential development consisting of older single detached dwellings and some newer medium density development occupies the area between the industrial development, Windang, and the ocean. The beaches of the area and Hill 60 are of archaeological significance.

In 2018 Council prepared the Port Kembla PK2505 Revitalisation Study for the suburb (excluding the Port lands) which includes the following vision:

Port Kembla is a product of its unique people and exceptional natural surroundings. Its rich cultural history and diverse population contribute to a lively and active place that is inclusive and attractive for residents and visitors.

8.3.4 West Dapto Release Area



As noted in section 3.1.3, West Dapto is planned to provide some 19,500 dwellings over 40-50 years.

In 2018 Council endorsed the following vision:

West Dapto will grow and develop as a series of integrated and connected communities. Set against the spectacular Illawarra Escarpment and a landscape of riparian valleys, these communities will integrate the natural and cultural heritage of the area with the new urban form.

The communities will be healthy, sustainable and resilient with active and passive open space accessible by walkways, cycleways and public transport. To support these new communities, local centres will provide shopping services, community services and jobs while employment lands will facilitate further opportunities for the region.

West Dapto will be supported by a long-term strategy to oversee the timely implementation of infrastructure to deliver sustainable and high-quality suburbs with diverse housing choices.

8.4 Illawarra Escarpment and Drinking Water Catchment



The Illawarra Escarpment divides the Wollongong LGA in two along a north-east/south-west axis. The escarpment is a striking natural feature of the Illawarra region and highly valued for its visual and environmental qualities. The escarpment is crossed by a limited number of access points, the main road access being via passes at Mount Ousley and Bulli, with secondary passes near Stanwell Park and Mount Kembla.

Illawarra Escarpment Strategic Management Plan (2015) includes the following vision:

The Illawarra Escarpment is an outstanding feature of the Illawarra region providing a natural backdrop to the city as well as encompassing areas of high conservation value and rich cultural heritage. The long term vision for this area is for these values to be preserved and enhanced through public reserve or private stewardship.

The Illawarra Escarpment has a conservation focus and is not part of Council's housing strategy. As required by the Illawarra Escarpment Strategic Management Plan (2015) any rezoning proposals will have to demonstrate improved conservation outcomes.

To the west of the Illawarra Escarpment is the western plateau, this area being largely occupied by the headwaters and catchments for the Upper Nepean Dams. In the northern section, there are small rural developments at Maddens Plains and Darkes Forest, with the catchment for Woronora Dam in the northernmost section of the LGA. Due to the sensitive nature of the catchments, much of the area has little potential for further development, other than road/rail links and bush trails. The catchment area is zoned E2 Environmental Conservation under the Wollongong LEP 2009, covered by the SEPP Sydney Drinking Water Catchment 2011 and managed by Water NSW.

8.5 Vision and key actions

Over the next 20 years:

Action summary

Project	Timeframe
	Short term = 1-3 years Medium term = 4-6 years Long term = 6-10 years
The Illawarra Escarpment will be protected from inappropriate development	On-going
The infrastructure, servicing and environmental constraints of the northern villages will be reviewed, to determine the capacity of the area to support additional development.	Short term

West Dapto Urban Release Area will continued to be developed, including the provision of community and recreational facilities	On-going
Review the planning controls for South Wollongong following the completion of the Wollongong City Flood Plain Risk Management Study and Plan	Medium term
Prepare character statements for each suburb	Medium term

9. Implementation

The LSPS details many existing strategies and actions relevant to Land Use Planning, as well as identifying new projects and actions to occur over the coming years.

The LSPS is a 20 year plan, and actions will occur over short, medium and longer term timeframes. The timing of existing and future projects will be linked to Council's Delivery Program and budget allocations. The timings in the action summary are indicative and will be subject to the allocation of resources.

9.1 Action summary

Table 9.1 Summary of actions

Project	Timeframe Short term = 1-3 years Medium term =4-6 years Long term = 6-10 years
Jobs and economic growth:	
Implement the Economic Development Strategy	On-going
Implement the Creative Wollongong strategy	On-going
Monitor and commence review of Innovation Campus master plan when criteria triggered.	Short term
Exhibit the draft Wollongong City Centre Planning Review	Underway – March – April 2020
Prepare, exhibit and finalise a draft Planning Proposal and draft Development Control Plans amendments to implement the Wollongong City Centre Planning Review	Short term
Prepare and exhibit the Tourism Accommodation Review	Short term
Implement any recommendations from the Tourism Accommodation Review to amend planning controls	Short term
Prepare a new draft Wollongong Retail Centre Study	Short term
Prepare a new Wollongong Employment Planning Control Review	Short term
Housing for all:	
Continue to support and monitor the growth of the West Dapto Urban Release Area	On-going
Continue to monitor the growth and development of other release areas, including Tallawarra and Calderwood	On-going
Exhibit the Housing and Affordable Housing Options paper	Underway
Prepare, report a draft Housing Strategy, and if endorsed exhibit. Including amendments to the Wollongong LEP 2009 and Wollongong DCP 2009.	Short term
Prepare character statements for each suburb	Medium term

Project	Timeframe Short term = 1-3 years Medium term =4-6 years Long term = 6-10 years
Continue to assess submitted planning proposal requests / rezoning proposals, in accordance with the Planning Proposal Policy. Progress proposals where there is strategic merit, adequate infrastructure and environmental capability	On-going
Inclusive and Connected communities:	
Continue to implement the actions listed in the strategies	On-going
Continue the allocation of Development Contribution funds to support the provision of new community infrastructure	On-going
Progress the draft Planning Proposal for Heritage Review stage 1 – updating the descriptions of existing heritage items	Short term
Progress the draft Planning Proposal for Heritage Review stage 2 – introduction of additional heritage items	Medium term
Implement the Cringila Hills Recreation Master Plan	On-going
Climate Action and Resilience:	
Prepare and exhibit Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan	Short term
Commence Climate Action Governance framework	Short term
Adopt the Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy	Short term
Exhibit and finalise the Climate Change Mitigation Plan	Short term
Protect the Natural Environment:	
Finalise the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program	Short term
Implement the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program	Short – Long term
Implement the actions identified in the various Plans and Strategies, as resources permit	On-going
Prepare and exhibit an updated draft Biodiversity Strategy	Medium term
Adopt the Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy	Short term
Review the Wollongong Coastal Zone Management Plan with reference to the current NSW Coastal Management Framework	Short term
Review Riparian Corridor Management Study and policy approach	Short term
Continue the preparation of updated Flood Studies and Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans	Short-Medium term
Update the Bush Fire Prone Lands mapping	Short

Project	Timeframe Short term = 1-3 years Medium term =4-6 years Long term = 6-10 years
Enabling Infrastructure and Transport:	
The Maldon – Dombarton Freight Rail Line, or the South West Illawarra Rail Link (SWIRL – freight and passengers) will be constructed	Long term
Continue to advocate for improvements to the South Coast Rail Line – track duplication, improved travel times, more services	On-going
Continue to advocate for upgrades to the regional road network including: Picton Rd, Appin Rd, Bulli Pass, Mt Ousley Rd, Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Princes Hwy, M1 Figtree – Unanderra	On-going
Continue to advocate for improved local bus services	On-going
Continue the investigation into a Wollongong South Shuttle Bus Service	Medium term
Draft Bike Plan 2020 – prepare and exhibit	Short term
LGA Transport Plan will be prepared	Medium term
Review the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy	Medium term
Wards:	
The Illawarra Escarpment will be protected from inappropriate development	On-going
The infrastructure, servicing and environmental constraints of the northern villages will be reviewed, to determine the capacity of the area to support additional development.	Short term
West Dapto Urban Release Area will continued to be developed, including the provision of community and recreational facilities	On-going
Review the planning controls for South Wollongong following the completion of the Wollongong City Flood Plain Risk Management Study and Plan	Medium term

9.2 Monitoring and Review

Council will direct and monitor the progress of the actions detailed in the Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement to ensure the plan is meeting community, strategic, and sustainability goals.

Many of the actions will require amendments to the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 and Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009, which will include consultation processes.

The NSW Government requires Council to completely review the Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement at least every 7 years.

Following the Council election in September 2021 (rescheduled from 2020), the new Council is required to prepare a new Community Strategic Plan which may have implications for the LSPS.

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is preparing a new draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan. This new plan may have different directions, strategies and actions to the current 2015 Regional Plan, upon which this LSPS is based.

The revised Community Strategic Plan and new Regional Plan may require the review of the LSPS within a shorter timeframe.

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