

**ITEM A LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

Wollongong City Council provides a range of services and infrastructure, such as skate parks and sports facilities, which are utilised by young people. Council's 2021-22 budget has an allocation of \$1.324 million for Youth Services which includes funding for the Youth Centre, located in the middle of the City and a range of other programs. We need greater assurance that what is being delivered is appropriate and that young people have opportunities for legitimate input into Council decision making.

It is time Council engaged more intentionally with people aged between 12 and 18 years old. We need to consider the concerns of these residents and understand the type of City and future they envisage, especially taking into account the pandemic, climate change and rapid changes in technology.

#### RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That Wollongong City Council explore options, including the establishment of a youth forum or reference committee, to target engagement with young people and ensure that Council's priority setting and expenditure is informed by residents aged between 12-18 years old.
- 2 A report or briefing on engagement options be brought back to Council by the middle of 2022.

#### ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.