

Neighbourhood Forum 5

Wollongong's Heartland

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



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

Agenda for meeting on 5th October 2022 by email

- | | | |
|---|------------------|--|
| 1 | Presentation | None possible |
| 2 | Apologies | None necessary |
| 3 | Minutes | of meeting of 7 th September and matters arising included in the agenda
see pp.14-19 |
| 4 | Comments | If you wish to comment on, or object to, any of the recommendations
in this agenda, please respond before the meeting date. |
| 5 | Responses | 5.1 Community Satisfaction Survey: see rec p.2
5.2 Social Impact Statements: see rec p.4
5.3 Manildra freight paths: see p.4. rec p.5 |
| 6 | Reports | 6.1 CCTV Code of Practice: rec p.5
6.2 Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy: see p. 5 rec p.6
6.3 Recognition: see p.6
6.4 Housing Strategy: see attachment and rec p. 6
6.5 Stuart Park Master Plan: see rec p.7
6.6 International Events: see p.6 rec p.7
6.7 Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute: see p.7
6.8 Citizens' Inquiry into Australia's Planning Laws: see p.8
6.9 Gipps Road Refuge Island near Foleys Road: see rec p.8
6.10 Bus Terminus in Market Square: see p.8, rec p.9 |
| 7 | Planning | 7.1 Planning see p.9
7.2-7 DAs: see recs pp 9-10
7.8 DA determinations: see pp.11,12 |
| 8 | General Business | see p.12 |
| 9 | Snippets | see p.13 |

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 421 households

5 Responses 5.1 Community Satisfaction Survey

We asked what Council was doing about the poor rating in the planning area and whether extra staff was needed.

“The 2021 results for planning are not dissimilar to previous survey Community Satisfaction results.

There is a combination of reasons:

- Council’s strategic planning policies can be seen as preventing residents / business owners from doing what they want on their land. The community often does not get involved in strategic policy work, as it does not affect them directly.
- Council’s Development Assessment process can be considered to be slow by applicants, and too quick by objectors
- A DA refusal will mean the applicant / owner may be not satisfied
- A DA approval will mean neighbours / objectors / submitters may be not satisfied
- Some people don’t like DAs being determined by Panels or under delegation by staff
- The community does not understand that Council does not have a role in Complying Development under the Code SEPP, which does not require exhibition, and the first time neighbours are aware is 2 days prior to commencement
- The community not understanding that State legislation and policies override local policies and decisions etc

Council allocates significant resources to both Development Assessment and City Strategy - Land Use Planning teams. Development Assessment and Land Use Planning are 2 of 32 services that Council provides, and need to operate within resource limits. The allocation of additional resources is unlikely to improve the community satisfaction result. Similarly, an advisory committee is unlikely to improve the community satisfaction result.

Land Use Planning Manager

Recommendation

That Council be thanked for the response and whilst much of it is valid, and to adopt a place-based approach w with plans developed with the community (as happened with the Keiraville-Gwynneville Community Plan or at Warringah Council) which is likely to provide far more understanding and acceptance of Council’s role

5.2 Social Impact Statements

We requested to amend the Development Control Plan to include the requirement for multi-dwelling and residential flat applications to include a Social Impact Statement.

“As indicated in the previous response, there is no requirement for social impact assessments to be prepared for multi-dwelling housing or residential flat buildings.

It is also considered that there is no need for such a policy requirement to be included in the Wollongong LEP or DCP. Standard residential development in zones that permit the use should not be causing social impacts.

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan indicates that an additional 28000 dwellings will be required in Wollongong by 2041. The population of Wollongong will continue to increase and more housing is required. The State does not prepare a Social Impact Assessment to consider the impact of its housing targets on the LGA.

However, Council does consider the future recreation needs, community infrastructure needs, infrastructure needs, transport needs etc of the growing population through various studies and strategies. Council also determines the locations where additional housing should occur and locations where it is not appropriate.

It is more appropriate to consider these issues strategically, rather than DA by DA.

Land Use Planning Manager

Comment

Whilst an aim of the Planning Act includes “to facilitate...social considerations in decision making about...assessment” and an aim of the Wollongong Local Plan includes “to improve...social well being”, the Development Control Plan does not seem to mention “social” amongst the 33 items of documentation applying to various land uses. However, all development applications have to include a Statement of Environmental Effects.

Unfortunately nowhere does this seem to be legally defined although Council’s web page states “Every development application (DA) needs to include a Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE). This is a written report that describes the development, how it meets planning rules, and what impact it will have on the environment and surrounding areas.” The information to be included says nothing about social issues.

Recommendation

That Council be requested:

- I to advise where, apart from a passing reference to social wellbeing as an aim in the Act, is there a specific requirement to address social issues;
- ii in the event that there are no such references, to add to Table 1 of section 11.1.1 of Chapter A2 of the Development Control Plan a “social impact report” to be required for: Multi Dwelling Development; Residential Apartment Building; and Mixed Use Development if it includes a residential component.

5.3 Manildra freight paths

The Forum has received a letter from Paul Scully MP that includes a “Clarification” statement from Manildra that states that they already have 14 freight paths on the rail track to Bomaderry, that Sydney Trains has told them that they can have no more, and, they accordingly wish to use large 30 metre long trucks 24 hours a day seven days a week over a designated route.

Mr Scully has also sent a letter from the Forum to Minister Elliott with a covering letter seeking advice on the availability of additional rail paths for freight on the South Coast line. As noted in the minutes of the August meeting of the Forum, the assistant secretary was to contact Manildra. This was done, where their logistics manager confirmed the difficulty of obtaining more paths for rail, and how their present rail freight operations would be made easier by a minor track upgrade at Dunmore.

Since the August Forum meeting, the federal government has enacted Climate Change legislation requiring a 43 per cent reduction of carbon emissions by 2030 from 2005 levels, and for all sectors to contribute to this goal. For the transport sector, as rail is more energy efficient than road in moving freight (and passengers) this will require the transfer of some road freight to rail freight.

The reason for this is that for most freight tasks that can be done by rail, rail will produce one third of the emissions than road freight will. The NSW Government in 2021 by the former Premier, Deputy Premier and then Minister for Energy and Environment Matt Kean made the even more ambitious target of reducing emissions by 50 per cent by 2030 from 2005 levels, under their Net Zero Plan. This includes a NSW Electric Vehicle Strategy.

Recommendations

That the Forum, stressing the economic vulnerability of the city to its limited external access, write to

- i. Mr Scully, thanking him for the information provided and his writing to Mr Elliot, and that write again to Mr Elliot asking if the track at Dunmore can be upgraded to improve Manildra rail operations; and, that he also write on our behalf to the Hon James Griffin, Minister for Environment and Heritage and the Hon Matt Kean, Minister for Energy, requesting that the NSW Net Zero Plan extend to freight.
- ii. Ms Alison Byrnes, member for Cunningham, requesting the Climate Change Law extend to freight transport, and in any event, request the federal government to improve the South Coast line for rail freight in line with Mr Albanese's April 2022 policy launch re a commitment to improve rail for freight and commuters

6 Reports

6.1 CCTV Code of Practice

29th September

Council operates a CCTV network currently consisting of 470 cameras across 35 sites, including the Wollongong City Centre, Mall and adjacent streets. The main objective of operating CCTV is to assist in improving perceptions of safety, deterring antisocial and criminal behaviour, protecting assets and assisting in prosecution of offenders. Since January 2022, Council has received 158 requests from the NSW Police for access to Council's CCTV footage.

Council's CCTV Code of Practice was last updated and adopted on 10 December 2018. A review of the operation of CCTV has been undertaken and a range of improvements identified to the operation, maintenance and governance of the CCTV network. These seem to be reasonable.

Recommendation

That the submission in support, but stressing community concerns about the security of data and potential intrusion into privacy, be endorsed.

6.2 Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy

26th October

A draft Strategy has been put on exhibition. It is 50 pages with lovely pictures, good strategies, principles and listings of venues (67); current facilities (381) and users (26,000 – 36% being football players) across 16 sports.

Whilst it sets out criteria for matching need against facilities, it does not actually apply this to determine priorities. As a result, most the hard work in suggesting priorities for specific proposals to which the community can respond seems to be left to a Reference Committee, at least 2/3rds of whom are nominated by sporting associations.

Recommendation

Members respond to the secretary by 19th August with specific suggestions to assist in developing a submission.

6.3 Recognition

The secretary has received a nice certificate of recognition from the Lord Mayor for commitment and contribution to the community through work with Neighbourhood Forum 5 which the executive endorsed. However the secretary is only the mouthpiece for many others, and for the Forum members as a whole, so recognition is clearly for all of us. Congratulations.

An addendum acknowledgement from the Convenor/chairman on behalf of the Executive as follows :

“The Executive and members are very fortunate indeed and even more so the community generally to have received the benefit of the commitment, experience and expertise of the Neighbourhood Forum 5 Secretary, David Winterbottom, acknowledged recently by the Wollongong City Council. David’s work in producing a monthly detailed agenda, providing expert guidance and attending to a multitude of tasks on behalf of the community over many years, has been and is extraordinary.

We, as the other Executive members of NF5 endorse sincerely the action taken by Council, and congratulate David on his very well- deserved recognition.

Harold Hanson, John Riggall, Philip Laird”

6.4 Housing Strategy

The Strategy is likely to be on exhibition from 10th October until 3rd December. It is all very complicated but a draft discussion paper (attached) has been developed to inform submissions by both NF 5 and the Forums Alliance.

Recommendation

Members advise the secretary of comments or issues by 24th October to inform a submission, based on the discussion paper, that can be included in the agenda for the 2nd November meeting.

6.5 Stuart Park Plan of Management

Council has just put this on exhibition until 2nd November. It addresses many of the concerns and suggested improvements in the NF 5 submission of November 2021, but needs further consideration particularly re Commercial Opportunities, Access and Parking, Management and Maintenance. Unfortunately our request for a working party, like the successful one for the development of the statutory 2000 Plan of Management including community representatives has been rejected. A draft submission will be included in the November agenda.

Recommendation

That members advise the secretary of concerns about the proposals by 24th October to assist in developing a submission.

6.6 International Events

There is no doubt that the UCI road race made a huge contribution towards changing the perception of the city by Australians and impressing all those international viewers. A tremendous amount of work was accomplished by Council in preparation for the race, and it is to be hoped that the financial outcome is as profitable to the Illawarra as was anticipated. Wollongong has proved beyond doubt that in terms of managing a world-class event it has succeeded and is now on the world map, so it should attract future events.

However these international events, should not have unfortunate environmental and access impacts on the community, nor adverse financial consequences for some businesses.

Recommendation

That Council be requested to instigate a comprehensive debriefing of the impact of the event to include the community, businesses affected (well and badly) and the tourism industry.

6.7 Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute (IHMRI)

Following a review, the IHMRI Board has announced it will adopt a revised operating model for the Institute. The new focus creates an opportunity for IHMRI to collaborate with founding partners, the University of Wollongong and the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, on targeted health and medical research outcomes that will benefit the community.

Moving forward, IHMRI will focus on clinical trials and translational research – progressing scientific discoveries from the laboratory benchtop into medical practise – targeting the key health issues affecting the Illawarra-Shoalhaven. They remain committed to continuing health and medical research in the Illawarra-Shoalhaven region, and to improving health outcomes in the communities that they serve.

They will remain an independent not-for-profit and will continue to focus on philanthropy to support research. They will begin working closely with stakeholders to develop a new strategy and implement the revised operating model.

6.8 Citizens' Inquiry into Australia's Planning Laws

The initiative is a Citizen's inquiry into Australia's planning laws, and it will examine if Australia's planning laws are fit for purpose in the 21st century, given our communities and ecosystems face severe, detrimental impacts due to climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

The inquiry will gather testimonies and evidence from all interested people including Indigenous and non-indigenous community members, civil society groups and Australian planning law experts. You can read more here, and see the draft terms of reference for the inquiry.

<https://tribunal.org.au/sessions/planning-inquiry/>

The inquiry is being led by the Australian People's Tribunal for Community and Nature's Rights, and hosted at the Australian Earth Laws Alliance.

6.9 Gipps Road Refuge Island near Foleys Road

This was removed for the UCI event although its removal was raised by the community at the KeG Precinct workshop in 2013. Council have advised they are proposing a replacement refuge to the west. However they have replaced the old one and advise that no new replacement is planned at this stage.

Recommendation

That Council be requested to replace the Gipps/Foleys refuge island in 2023/4 following consultation, prior to design, with the community, businesses and patrons, as committed to NF 5 and UoW nearly 10 years ago.

6.10 Bus Terminus in Market Square

Concerns have been raised that there may be under consideration making permanent the temporary (it is a 9 month trial) use of heritage Market Square (after all this is where Wollongong started) as a terminus for buses.

This use has been a disaster for residents and school children in terms of pollution from unhealthy fumes, excessive noise and traffic congestion. Bus drivers have to circulate to find a stopping point (causing traffic congestion), need to keep their diesel engines running (causing pollution) and have no nearby toilet facilities (causing late timetables).

Community feedback suggests there would be vehement opposition to such a proposal if it were suggested. However, a foreshore location should not be restored.

Recommendation

Council be requested to advise the process and timing for developing options and the selection of a permanent location for the termination of buses (eg at JJ Kelly Park area) and request the inclusion of community representatives.

7 Planning

- 7.1 Please note that whilst this review, and the recommendation based on it has been prepared with all due care and objectivity, no legal responsibility is accepted for errors, omissions or inadvertent misrepresentations, nor for any outcomes which might result from the assessments. As this review has only been made with the information available, members are encouraged to make their own submissions with any additional comments to the Secretary well before the closing date.

7.2 DA.2022/938 21 stories, 91 units 379-383 Crown St W'gong 20th Sept

This is a proposal for 91 units over 4 stories of commercial and 5 of car parking in a 21 storey tower facing Crown St. and a 4 storey commercial building over parking to the rear facing Parkinson St. It seems to comply with all Council requirements save some commercial setbacks, which are treasonable, and some residential on the south-west corner which should be reviewed.



Recommendation

That the submission of no objection, subject to resolution of overlooking from the south-west corner of the residential tower, be endorsed.

7.2 DA.2022/320 9 stories, 35 units 17-19 Gladstone Ave W’gong

20th Sept

This is a revised proposal which is now for 35 units in 9 stories on a site between Gladstone Ave and the railway opposite TAFE. It seems to comply with most Council requirements but has a major deficiency (65%) in setbacks to the north.



Recommendation

That the submission of objection be endorsed.

7.3 DA.2022/952 54 Grey St .Dual Occupancy, Keiraville

26th Sept

This is a proposal for a pair of semi-detached houses very close to the Keiraville shopping centre. It seems to comply with all Council requirements as well as our Locality Plan for Keiraville.,



Recommendation

That the submission of support be endorsed.

7.4 DA.2022/960 116 Corrimal St Wollongong

5th October

This is a proposal for 83 units in 10 stories over 2 stories of commercial in the Commercial Core zone. It is way over the height limit and does not comply with: building separation; setbacks; street frontage height; building floor plate; flexible building layout; energy efficiency; number of lifts or deep soil requirements.



Recommendation

That a submission of objection be lodged.

7.5 Art Gallery and Town Hall, 46 Burelli St Wollongong

11th October

This proposal involves upgrading the existing air conditioning system in both buildings and the fire sprinkler system in the Art Gallery building. The buildings are of significant heritage importance and a balanced solution, which incorporates respect for the heritage values of the buildings whilst delivering fit for purpose, fully functional upgrades.



Recommendation

That a submission of support be lodged.

7.6 DA Determinations

DA no. 20../....	Suburb	Address	Proposal	Forum Rec	Result Authority
21/890	W'gong	245 Gladstone Ave	9 storey, 94 dw	Support	Approved Court
21/1218	Figtree	107 Walang Ave	Dual Occ	Object	Refused
21/1059	Figtree	5-7 Trusscott	4 Town houses	Object	Withdrawn
21/1405	W'gong	10 Gilmore St	Dual Occ	Support	Approved
21/1273	Keiraville	12 Dallas St	4 dwellings	Object	Approved
21/1309	Keiraville	3 Keira Mine Road	4 dwellings	Object	Approved
21/1397	Figtree	115 Waling Ave	First floor pool	Object	Approved
21/1508	Figtree	111 Bellevue Rd	Dual Occ	Object	Approved
21/1426	Gwn'ville	12 Berkeley Rd	Dual Occ	Support	Withdrawn
21/1310	Gwn'ville	14-16 Acacia Ave	8 dwellings.	Object	Approved Panel
21/1510	W. 'gong	55 Euroka St	Dual Occ	Object	Approved
21/1344	W. 'gong	44 Euroka St	Dual Occ	Object	Withdrawn
21/1231	W'gong	3-5 Ocean St	10 stories, 9 dw	Object	Approved Panel
22/417	Figtree	138 Jacaranda Ave	Dual Occ	Object	Approved
21/1037	Keiraville	12-14 Gipps	10 stories, 11 dw	Support	Approved
21/1511	Figtree	54 Cordeaux Rd	Dual Occ	Object	Approved
22/10	W'gong	487-491 Crown St	Medical Centre	Support	Approved
22/311	W.'gong	1 Sheppard St	Dual Occ	Support	Approved
21/1000	W'gong	23-43 Flinders	9 stories, 201 dw	Support	Refused
19/284	Keiraville	58-60 Murphys Ave	9 town houses	Object	Approved
22/250	Gwynville	14A Foley St	4 dwellings,	Support	Approved

Not yet determined

21/1060	W'gong	2, Lexton Ave	Dual Occ	Object	
21/957	W'gong	WIN	Mixed	Support	
21/1312	W'gong	300-2 Crown St	11 stories, 48 dw	Support	
21/1345	W'gong	11 Northcote St	Dual Occ	Support	
21/344	Keiraville	328 Gipps Rd	3 townhouses	Object	
21/1346	N W'gong	10 Lysant St	Dual Occ	Object	
21/1342	W'gong	46 Flinders St	9 stories, 47 dw	Support	
21/1343	W'gong	68, Gladstone Ave	Dual Occ	Object	
21/1375	W'gong	43 Kembla St	5 stories, 7 dw	Object	
21/1508	Figtree	111 Bellevue Rd	Dual Occ	Object	
22/61	Figtree	1 Malangong Close	Dual Occ	Support	
21/101	N W'gong	3, Squires Way	UoW Health complex	Support	
21/1492	W. 'gong	111 Robsons Rd	Dual Occ	Object	
21/1344	W. 'gong	44 Euroka St	Dual Occ	Object	
21/1467	W'gong	81-85 Keira St	7 stories, 43 dw	Object	
22/14	W'gong	24-30 Kenny St	18 stories, 68 dw	Support	
22/20	W. 'gong	38 Abercrombie St	Dual occ	None	
22/146	W'gong	21 Jutland Ave	Dual occ	Object	
22/123	Figtree	253 Mt Keira Rd,	Dual Occ	Object	
22/221	W'gong	4 Auburn St,	24 stories, hotel 59 dw	Support	
22/169	W'gong	36 Flinders St	9 stories, 119 units	Support	
22/254	W'gong	2A Denison St	Dual Occ	Object	
22/512	W. 'gong	13 Rosemont St	Dual Occ	Object	
22/561	W. 'gong	15 Gundaren St	Dual Occ	Object	
22/542	W'gong	5 Greenacre Rd	Dual Occ	Support	
22/938	W'gong	379-383 Crown St	21 stories, 91 units	Support	
22/320	W'gong	17-19 Gladstone Ave	9 stories, 35 units	Object	
22/952	Keiraville	54 Grey St	Dual Occ	Support	

8 General Business

Date of next meeting
Wednesday 7th November 2022

Please Note:

Due to continuing high levels of covid infections in Wollongong this meeting will be via e-mail.

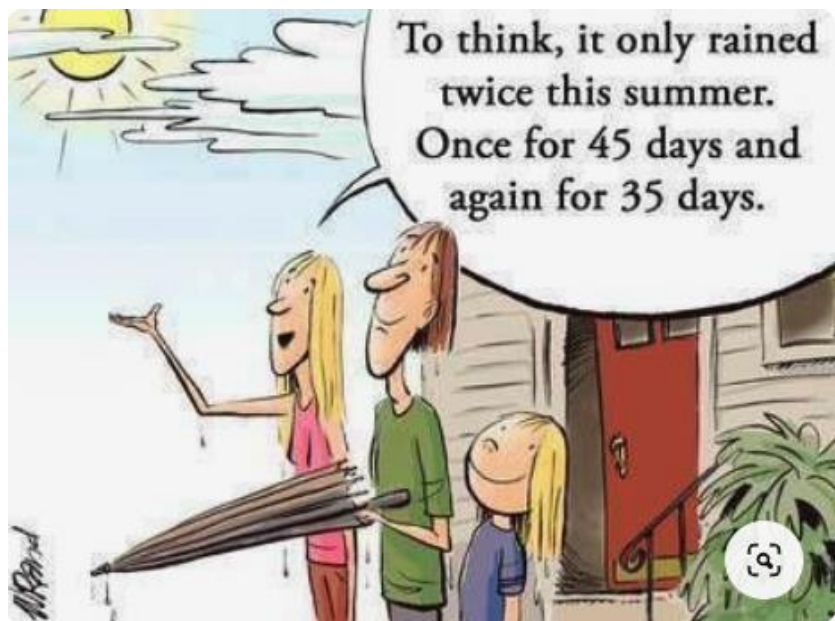
9 Snippets

Shaping rainfall

One of the most unlikely research results that I have come across recently suggests that the shape of a city affects the amount of rainfall it receives. Carried out at the University of Texas, the research suggests that roughly circular cities such as London and Dallas have higher rainfall than more triangular cities such as Chicago and Los Angeles.

Recognising that the design of the city can impact flood risk, the team combined simulations of air turbulence and a weather forecasting model to simulate rainfall. They found that circular cities receive 22% more rainfall and at much greater intensity than triangular cities. 'A circular city allows air masses coming from all directions to converge at the centre, creating an intense mixing zone and leading to convection and rain.'

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<p>Neighbourhood Forum 5</p> <p>Wollongong's Heartland</p> <p><i>Collaborating with Council on community aspirations, visions, needs & concerns</i></p>		<p>Coniston, Figtree, Gwynneville, Keiraville, Mangerton, Mount Keira, Mount St Thomas, North Wollongong, West Wollongong, Wollongong City.</p>
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Minutes of meeting on 7th September 2022 by email

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|---|--------------|--|
| 1 | Presentation | None possible |
| 2 | Apologies | None necessary |
| 3 | Minutes | of meeting of 3 rd August were adopted with matters arising included. |
| 4 | Comments | received have been noted and included in these minutes where appropriate. |
| 5 | Responses | <p>5.1 Notices on sites with DAs:
It was agreed that representations be made to the General Manager requesting Council staff expedite review of the CPP to include notices on sites for DAs for Dual Occupancy and Medium Density Housing</p> <p>5.2 Woodfire Heaters: noted</p> <p>5.3 Maldon Dombarton:
It was agreed that the Forum write to NSW Ports CEO Ms Marika Calfas thanking her for the support of NSW Ports for completion of the Maldon Dombarton link, and to inquire if this support could extend to NSW Ports assisting in the funding of the completion of this link.</p> |
| 6 | Reports | <p>6.1 Beaton Park Tennis Courts:
It was agreed that the submission in support be endorsed subject to Council advising their management of matters affecting the adjacent Scout Hall site (Lot A DP160926) preferably by Council purchasing it as an addition to Beaton Park.</p> |

6.2 Housing Strategy:

It was agreed that a discussion paper be prepared and circulated to members and the other Neighbourhood Forums for comment so that a draft submission can be considered at the October meeting.

6.3 PK. Manildra Ethanol Facility:

It was agreed that the Forum:

- a. write a follow up letter to Paul Scully requesting Minister Faraway to direct that Sydney trains reexamine the question of train paths;
- b. write to NSW Ports CEO Ms Marika Calfas expressing disappointment in NSW Ports support (to NSW Planning) of Manildra using trucks when Port Kembla already has a high number of heavy trucks, and requesting the NSW Ports set up a “Port and Rail” group with community representation to try and get more freight on rail;
- c. request the assistant secretary to directly contact Manildra’s logistics manager to try to find more paths for freight trains.
- d. thank Council for its submission..

6.4 Dendrobium coal mine: noted

6.5 Uni Liaison Meeting: noted

6.6 UCI Bike Event: noted

6.7 Wollongong Conservatorium of Music: noted

7 Planning

7.1 Planning noted

7.2 DA.2022/571 7 stories, 18 units 58/60 Smith St Wollongong

It was agreed that the submission of no objection, subject to resolution of deep planting, drainage and overlooking issues, be endorsed.

7.3 DA.2022/796 6 dwellings 17-19 Catherine St Gwynneville

It was agreed that the submission in support be endorsed.

7.4 DA.2022/796 Dual Occupancy 56 Grey St Keiraville

It was agreed that the submission in support be endorsed.

7.5 DA.2022/796 Dual Occupancy 22 Mercury St Wollongong

It was agreed that a submission of objection be lodged.

7.6 Private Hospital extension, Crown St and Urunga Pde
: noted

7.7 DA 2022/797 Use of JJ Kelly Park for Camping
It was agreed that the submission be endorsed.

7.8 DA determinations: noted

8 General
Business

8.1 Traffic on Mount Ouesley Road

For some years RMS, now TfNSW released traffic volume data for a site on the Mt Ousley Road. This showed up 2019, traffic increasing on the Mt Ousley road to reach an average of over 55,000 vehicles (including about 7700 truck movements) then falling for 2020 and 2021. However, the traffic volume site at <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/> does not have Mt Ousley data for 2022 when other sites (but not Memorial Drive) are shown.

For some years, Mt Ousley had an operational noise camera for heavy trucks. Truck noise continues. In addition, construction work is yet to start on the Mount Ousley interchange.

It was agreed that :

the Forum seek information as to :

- a Traffic Volumes in 2022 for Mt Ousley and for Memorial Drive (former operative sites);
- b The status of the former noise camera at Mt Ousley; and,
- c When construction work is likely to start on the Mount Ousley interchange.

8.2 Domestic Waste Management (DWM)

Recent advice from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is that, after considering submissions on their review of DWM annual charges (including from NF5 in Sep 2020 and April 2021, after checking with WCC), Sydney Councils are particularly susceptible to uncontrolled price increases by the very limited number of contractors providing services for landfill disposal, recyclables processing and greenwaste facilities, whereas Wollongong has it's own landfill and a local greenwaste facility, but are exposed to recyclables price increases

IPART advise that at this time it is not in the best interests of ratepayers and councils to implement a waste peg, and agrees with the NSW Office of Local Government's (OLG) recommended regulatory approach to ensure the appropriate levying of DWM annual charges by Councils, and it recognises it is OLG's role to address many of the issues identified during the review.

It is understood that OLG will update its Rating and Revenue Raising Manual for Councils' DWM and can work with the NSW Audit Office to initiate performance audits on council/s seen to be imposing unjustifiably high DWM service charges. IPART will not be holding a further public hearing, and their Final Report is expected to be available in October 2022.

On the separate controversial issue of the long-time annual process of pegging for the General Rate, which significantly constrains income for Councils and affects funding for increased demand for services, IPART recently advised that "in response to a request from the NSW Government we have recommended a methodology that enables councils to maintain per capita general income over time as their populations grow. Maintaining per capita general income will help councils to maintain existing service levels and provide the services their growing communities expect." Whether this will be adequate for WCC remains to be seen.

Noted.

8.3 Stuart Park Master Plan (SP MP)

A report to Council meeting 12 Sep recommends placing the draft SP MP on public exhibition from 28 Sep to 2 Nov 2022, then reporting for Council's consideration. The draft MP has been prepared after community consultation in November 2021 for which NF5 made a detailed submission.

The Report includes that it "focuses on enhancing and improving community access to the park and proposes a range of improvements. Key features include incorporation of the planned all abilities/all ages playground, new boardwalk and footpaths, new yarning circle and upgraded public amenities."

After adoption it is understood that the SP MP will replace the section re the Stuart Park Precinct in the 2007 Blue Mile (BM) Master Plan that staff developed, after a recommendation in the only statutory SP Plan of Management (POM) adopted in 2000 by the relevant Minister, to prepare a MP for the SP area. SP is Crown Land which must have a new POM adopted under the 2016 Crown Land Management Act, which Council staff advise will be prepared in due course.

The 2007 Blue Mile Master Plan is for a greatly extended area through to WIN stadium, Council adopted a 5 year implementation target, but there were many projects in the Stuart Park area which have not been carried out, including George Hanley Drive carparks, its realignment & a multi-deck public carpark, connection between Squires Way & Princes Highway via Ajax Ave, a chain of ponds and a water park. These are not included in the current SP MP. The continued use of significant sections of the park for commercial purposes remains an issue.

It was agreed that the draft Stuart Park Mangement Plan is most welcome.

Residents should make submissions during the exhibition period and send a copy to the secretary to inform the Forum's submission.

8.4 Information for Strata Owners

The Owners Corporation Network (OCN) is a Not for Profit organisation operating for 20 years, whose purpose is to be the independent voice of residential strata title ownership, and it liaises with the NSW Government departments and various Sydney Councils about a range of related issues. OCN has prepared an application for funding through NSW Gov Better Regulation Division (aka Fair Trading) closing 9 Sep.

The proposed project is about "*improving consumer protection in Regional strata*", and is in 4 parts, ie:

- 1 understand the key drivers of consumer complaints in regional areas;
2. develop and recommending proactive and preventative solutions;
- 3 develop and deliver interactive education trials in two key regional LGAs; and
4. preparing a sustainable education program for rollout across the remaining regional LGA.

The outcomes from the proposed project are expected to be particularly useful for many strat owners, given that website data shows that 85% of dwellings in the Wollongong CBD area are High or Medium Density, and the average annual increase in High Density dwellings here for that the past 5 years has accelerated to 3 times the rate for the previous 15 years. Also the CBD population increased at about 4 times the average annual increase for the rest of Wollongong LGA . This seems obvious by looking at the skyline.

It was agreed that the NSW Gov Better Regulation Division be advised of the situation in Wollongong and of support for a project to improve consumer protection in strata developments in regional areas.

8.5 **Wollongong Heritage Reference Group**

30th September

Calling for Applications for Wollongong Heritage Reference Group. Wollongong City Council is seeking applications for membership of the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group. The Reference Group provides advice to Council on policy matters relating to the conservation and promotion of Wollongong's natural and cultural heritage. Individual residents with an interest, expertise, knowledge or background in Wollongong's Heritage are invited to express an interest in joining the committee.

Members will be required to attend quarterly meetings. The following meeting dates for 2022/23 have been scheduled:

20th October 2022
1st December 2022
16th February 2023
18th May 2023

For more information:

<https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/your-council/committees-and-groups/wollongong-heritage-reference-group>

9 Snippets noted

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 427 households

Date of next meeting
Wednesday 5th October 2022

Please Note:

As high levels of covid infections continue in Wollongong this meeting will be via e-mail.