

ITEM 2 POST EXHIBITION - WOLLONGONG LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

On 27 April 2020 Council endorsed the draft Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement for exhibition. The draft Statement was exhibited from 1 May 2020 to 29 May 2020 and 20 submissions were received. This report reviews the issues raised in submissions and proposes amendments to the draft Statement.

It is recommended that the Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement be endorsed and loaded on to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Planning Portal.

RECOMMENDATION

The Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement be endorsed and loaded on to the NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment Planning Portal.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Chris Stewart, Manager City Strategy

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

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Summary of Submissions
- 2 Final 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

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 be used to test the strategic merit of Planning Proposal requests.

A draft LSPS was prepared drawing from over 50 existing supporting documents 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 draft Statement did not set any new strategic priorities for Council.

The draft LSPS 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

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.

On 27 April 2020 Council considered the draft Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement and resolve that:

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

The draft Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement was exhibited from 1 May 2020 to 29 May 2020. The exhibition arrangements are discussed later in this report.

PROPOSAL

As a consequence of the exhibition, 20 submissions were received which are summarised in Attachment 1. Of the submissions:

- 11 were from State Agencies,
- 2 were from Non-Government Organisations
- 2 were from local Peak Development Organisations,
- 1 was from a Community Organisation (Neighbourhood Forum 5)
- 3 were from Companies, and
- there was 1 comment from a resident.

A number of the submissions from Statutory Authorities, and Non-Government Organisations highlighted the key issue relevant to their organisation, and suggested amendments to support their organisation's focus. Some acknowledged the existing supporting documents and the proposed actions. Many of the comments are not relevant to a broad land use planning vision for the LGA and are more appropriately considered as part of the preparation of supporting documents, Town and Village Plans, or used in the assessment of Planning Proposals requests and Development Applications.

Some of the key issues raised in submissions were:

- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Southern Region Team advised that from the perspective of the Regional team, we consider that the LSPS:
 - meets all relevant legislative requirements;
 - is not inconsistent with the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Plan;
 - is not inconsistent with any state policies and matters of state/regional significance; and
 - is a comprehensive, logical and well-presented strategic document.
- NSW Heritage and the DPIE – Environment Energy & Science Team, suggested a stronger focus on Aboriginal cultural heritage was required. Agreed – section 1.3 updated, housing action included, section 8.1.5 Sandon Point and McCauleys Beach Plan of Management included.
- DPIE - Resilience Planning Team suggested the need to consider more long-term resilience actions and evacuation routes for all natural hazards, not just bush fires. Section 6.1.4 Flooding has been updated.

- Transport for NSW noted that they were preparing a draft Regional Transport Plan, acknowledged the need to protect freight corridors and suggested various minor changes.
- Water NSW noted the need to protect the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment, located west of the Illawarra Escarpment, from inappropriate development. Section 8.4 Illawarra Escarpment and Drinking Water catchment has been divided into 2 sections, section 8.4 Illawarra Escarpment and section 8.5 Drinking Water catchment and expanded to recognise the importance of the catchment area.
- NSW Ports – acknowledged the recognition of Port Kembla and highlighted the need to protect the Port and freight routes from inappropriate development.
- The GPT Group submitted their submission to the draft Wollongong City Centre Planning Review, which objects to the proposed “commercial only” status of some of their land holdings. The submission will be addressed as part of the City Centre project.
- Ethos Urban on behalf of Churches of Christ – Fresh Hope proposed the rezoning of 25 O’Briens Road Figtree from RU2 to R3 to enable housing. Ethos Urban has been advised that the LSPP does not propose the rezoning of individual sites, and their submission will be considered as part of the draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper.

The following additional changes have also been made to the draft document (Attachment 1 - highlighted in yellow):

Chapter 1 – Introduction:

- To improve line of sight from State policies to local decisions:
 - section 1.6 Mega trends moved to 1.5,
 - new section 1.6 State context included, which includes reference to State legislation, Strategic documents, guidelines and policies
 - section 1.5 Regional context renumber to 1.7 and updated.

Chapter 2 – Jobs and Economic Growth:

- Draft Wollongong City Centre Planning Review has been exhibited
- new Section 2.1.8 included referencing the Western Sydney and Illawarra Shoalhaven Roadmap to Collaboration strategy

Chapter 3 Housing for all:

- The draft Housing Strategy – Discussion Paper released by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on 13 June 2020, mentioned in the introduction. The Discussion Paper discusses similar themes and issues to Council’s draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper, and will be a valuable resource in the preparation of Council’s draft Housing Strategy.
- Section 3.1.6 Mt Kembla – Farmborough Heights – table 3.1 listing historic Planning Proposals in this precinct removed, as it reflects past actions and not a strategic direction.
- Section 3.1.7 Planning Proposals – table 3.2 listing current Planning Proposals requests being assessed removed, as it reflects current actions and not a strategic direction.

Chapter 4 – Inclusive and connected communities:

- Section 4.1.3 Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2016) has been updated to refer to the new draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2020-2025), which is being considered by Council on 29 June 2020 for exhibition.
- Section 4.1.5 Heritage Strategy updated to refer to Council's resolution on 25 May 2020 to prepare a draft Planning Proposal to update the description of existing heritage items. The preparation of Stage 2 of the Heritage Review the listing on additional items has also been noted.
- New Section 4.1.13 Plans of Management included referencing the Plans of Management for Council land which guide land use decisions, and the requirement to prepare Plans of Management for Crown Land. The section notes that Council has prepared a draft Plan of Management for Stanwell Park Reserve and Bald Hill. Additional actions around the preparation of Plans of Management included.

Chapter 5 – Climate action and Resilience:

- Introduction reordered to note the projected climate changes for the region at the start of the chapter, prior to discussing the mitigation strategies. Reference to the NSW Government Net Zero Plan has also been included.
- Section 5.1.1 Environmental Sustainable Policy and Strategy (the existing strategy), the references to the draft Environmental Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy have been updated, to indicate that the draft Strategy is being considered by Council on 29 June 2020 for exhibition.
- Section 5.1.3 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2009) has been removed as the regional approach is now addressed through the Shoalhaven and Illawarra Enabling Regional Adaption report (SIERA), and Council is preparing a draft Adaptation Plan.
- Section 5.2.1 Climate Change Mitigation Plan has been updated to refer to the draft Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan, which is being considered by Council on 29 June 2020 for exhibition.
- Section 5.2.2 Environmental Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Healthy City Strategy has been updated to refer to the Draft Environmental Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy which is being considered by Council on 29 June 2020 for exhibition.

Chapter 6 – Protect the Natural Environment:

- Section 6.1.8 Wollongong Coastal Zone Management Plan, has been divided into 2 sections 6.1.8 Wollongong Coastal Zone Management Plan and 6.1.9 Wollongong Dune Management Strategy

Chapter 7 – Enabling Infrastructure and Transport:

- New Section 7.1.8 Stormwater Management included, which includes reference to Water Sensitive Urban Design and the ISJO Enabling Water Sensitive Communities project.
- New Section 7.1.9 Electricity supply included, noting the current supply arrangements, the Tallawarra Gas Fire Power Station and the increasing use of renewal energy sources.
- Section 7.2.1 Future Transport 2056 updated to indicate that Transport for NSW is preparing a draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan

- Section 7.2.2 Wollongong Bike Plan, has been replaced with the Draft Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030, being considered by Council on 29 June 2020 for exhibition
- Section 7.3 Actions updated to include Council advocating for upgrades to the regional road network, including Picton and Appin Roads, Bulli Pass, Mt Ousley Road. In terms of upgrades to Picton Road, Council is participating in the Picton Road Motorway Coalition which is advocating for a complete upgrade to Picton Road to Motorway standard by 2025.

Chapter 8 – Key localities:

- Ward 1:
 - Section 8.1.3 Helensburgh Town Centre updated as the draft Town Centre Plan has been exhibited
 - New section 8.1.5 Sandon Point and McCauleys Beach Plan of Management – included as a key place in Ward 1
- Ward 2:
 - New section 8.2.7 Mt Keira Plan of Management – included as a key place
 - New section 8.2.8 Draft Wollongong Botanic Garden Plan of Management – included as a key place
 - New section 8.2.9 Wollongong City Foreshore Plan of Management – included as a key place
- Ward 3:
 - Section 8.3.3 Port Kembla Town Centre updated to include reference to Port Kembla Community Infrastructure Fund.

Chapter 9 – Implementation:

- Section 9.1 Action summary – table 9.1 updated to reflect changes to actions throughout the document to ensure consistency.

In addition, minor edits to correct grammar and spelling have occurred throughout the document.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The draft Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement was exhibited from 1 May 2020 to 29 May 2020. The exhibition was notified via:

- Notice in the Illawarra Mercury
- Council's Have your say website
- Emails to Neighbourhood Forums, Peak Industry Groups – who then advised members
- Emails to State agencies
- Teleconference discussions with the UDIA Illawarra Committee, and State Agencies

Council's Have your say page received 468 visits and 218 copies of the document were downloaded. Only 1 comment was lodged on the website.

As a consequence of the exhibition, 19 submissions and the 1 website comment, were received which are summarised in Attachment 1. Of the submissions:

- 11 were from State Agencies,
- 2 were from local Peak Development Industry Groups,
- 2 were from Non-Government Organisations
- 1 was from a Community Organisation (Neighbourhood Forum 5)
- 3 were from Companies, and
- there was 1 comment from a resident.

The Covid-19 pandemic may have impacted upon the level of community response to the draft Statement, noting that the draft Statement reflects Council’s existing strategic directions, which have separately been prepared, exhibited and adopted, and it did not propose dramatic changes in policy direction.

Long term land use planning visions traditionally don’t generate the same level of community interest as nearby development applications.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report 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 inform and 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 and exhibited during the pandemic. 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 will 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. A review of the LSPS is proposed to occur as part of the preparation of the Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan in the next Council term.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* Council has prepared and exhibited a draft Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPS). As a consequence of the exhibition 20 submissions were received. The issues raised in the submissions have been considered and the draft Statement amended. It is recommended that the Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement be endorsed and loaded on to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Planning Portal.

It is proposed that the Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement be reviewed in the next term of Council as part of the preparation of the Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan.

Attachment 1 - Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement

Summary of Submissions

Organisation	Jobs & Economic Growth	Housing for all	Inclusive and connected communities	Climate action and Resilience	Protect the Natural Environment	Enabling Infrastructure and transport	Key Locations & Wards	Other
DPIE – Southern Region Team			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 					<p>We consider that the LSPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meets all relevant legislative requirements ; • is not inconsistent with the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Plan; • is not inconsistent with any state policies and matters of state/regional significance; and • is a comprehensive, logical

Organisation	Jobs & Economic Growth	Housing for all	Inclusive and connected communities	Climate action and Resilience	Protect the Natural Environment	Enabling Infrastructure and transport	Key Locations & Wards	Other
								<p>and well-presented strategic document.</p> <p>Council may wish to consider ways to reduce the length of the document to make it more user friendly.</p> <p>Council could consider expanding Chapter 9 Implementation.</p> <p>While this section neatly summarises all actions and correctly indicates that the LSPS and other strategic documents will require regular review, it does not specify how Council will monitor and report on actions.</p>

Organisation	Jobs & Economic Growth	Housing for all	Inclusive and connected communities	Climate action and Resilience	Protect the Natural Environment	Enabling Infrastructure and transport	Key Locations & Wards	Other
DPIE - Heritage NSW			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Heritage Strategy actions • Support additional heritage listings • Stronger focus on Aboriginal cultural heritage 					
DPIE – Environment Energy & Science		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider Biocertification feasibility as part of Planning Proposals • Minimise heat impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and celebration of Aboriginal heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Illawarra Biodiversity Strategy • Update Biodiversity mapping • Clarify Riparian Corridor Management Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add action to continue to review best available flood information • Prepare FRMP • Update LEPs, DCPs, planning certificates to consider flood risk and climate change 			

Organisation	Jobs & Economic Growth	Housing for all	Inclusive and connected communities	Climate action and Resilience	Protect the Natural Environment	Enabling Infrastructure and transport	Key Locations & Wards	Other
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal management suggestions 			
DPIE – Places Unit			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of public space Include public space definition Increase mapping of public spaces Promote access to quality public spaces Support implementation of Urban Greening Strategy Prepare an Open Space and Recreation Strategy – rather than individual 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Movement and Place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote access to quality public spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarise the status of supporting documents

Organisation	Jobs & Economic Growth	Housing for all	Inclusive and connected communities	Climate action and Resilience	Protect the Natural Environment	Enabling Infrastructure and transport	Key Locations & Wards	Other
			focus studies					
DPIE – Resilience Planning Team				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Adaptation Plan could include hazard planning and disaster resilience Include more long-term resilience actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand safe evacuation routes for bushfires to include floods and other hazards Actions that address recovery would help promote resilience building 			
Transport NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future Transport initiatives support the regional economy City centre & Employment Lands Study – consider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing near freight routes needs to consider impacts Housing in locations where infrastructure is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider referencing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wollongong Rapid Bus package Bus Headstart Hub and 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect freight corridors Include faster rail initiative Update references from F6 to M1 Update Express train stops 	Reference Movement and Place	TNSW land can support place making outcomes

Organisation	Jobs & Economic Growth	Housing for all	Inclusive and connected communities	Climate action and Resilience	Protect the Natural Environment	Enabling Infrastructure and transport	Key Locations & Wards	Other
	<p>local freight movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include faster rail initiative • Port Kembla buffer 	<p>available to support growth</p>	<p>Spoke network</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future transport commitments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wollongong Rapid Bus package ○ Maldon to Dombarton Freight Corridor ○ Outer Sydney Orbital ○ Appin / Picton Rds improvement ○ Faster Rail investigations • Map freight corridors 		
Sydney Water		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support development of urban renewal strategies 						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW preparing Illawarra Regional Master Plan • Consider appropriate zoning for water related

Organisation	Jobs & Economic Growth	Housing for all	Inclusive and connected communities	Climate action and Resilience	Protect the Natural Environment	Enabling Infrastructure and transport	Key Locations & Wards	Other
								operational infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare an implementation plan
Water NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider mining impacts on water catchment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support no housing in catchment area 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include reference to catchment area • Request consultation as part of preparation of Biodiversity Strategy • Consider riparian corridor mapping in catchment area • Little reference to Stormwater management or WSUD • ISJO current Enabling Water Sensitive Communities project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike Plan and Mountain Biking must avoid Special Areas (Drinking Catchments) • Unknown if future Regional road network will impact on catchment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Sydney Drinking Water Catchment Area summary and suggest additions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions for review of LEP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Riparian ○ Expand public utility protection to include stormwater ○ Stormwater management ○ Groundwater protection

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review water-related provisions of LEP and DCP 			
NSW Health – Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking supports local business Promote healthy food destinations Support agribusiness / tourism and innovative health food that reduces food miles Consider alcohol density limits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentivise adaptable housing Prioritise retrofitting of social housing stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support liveability components Support vibrant places Encourage use of public spaces for fresh food markets, verge gardening, community gardens 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support active transport Manage parking supply and consider other modes of transport Drinking fountains in all sporting grounds, parks and public spaces Safe walk to school paths Review bus stop locations to better suite users More cycleways and tree planting 		

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						along key transport links		
NSW Cancer Institute			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase shade to reduce skin cancer 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase shade to reduce skin cancer 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase shade to reduce skin cancer 	
Environment Protection Authority					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality Noise management – esp. Port Kembla and Airport Water quality & WSUD Contaminated Land Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste and Resource recovery 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise of various guidelines
Food Fairness Illawarra			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not address a sustainable local food system Support a fair, sustainable and healthy food system Allow urban agriculture 					

Organisation	Jobs & Economic Growth	Housing for all	Inclusive and connected communities	Climate action and Resilience	Protect the Natural Environment	Enabling Infrastructure and transport	Key Locations & Wards	Other
Shelter NSW		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose built housing for younger persons with a disability • Implement an Affordable Housing Scheme • Support Affordable rental housing target • Support working with LAHC • Support diversity in housing stock • Support aging in place 						

Organisation	Jobs & Economic Growth	Housing for all	Inclusive and connected communities	Climate action and Resilience	Protect the Natural Environment	Enabling Infrastructure and transport	Key Locations & Wards	Other
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about loss of affordable housing due to short-term visitor rental • Support working with Land Council to deliver housing 						
Property Council of Australia – Illawarra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support EDS City Centre – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support mix of office development ○ Reduce Commercial only core 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support progression of Housing Study • Acknowledge need for more social and affordable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review town centre strategies • Increase housing types and densities around town centres 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support upgrades to rail • Support Maldon-Dombarton / SWIRL • Suggest a Metro Wollongong Transport Strategy 		

Organisation	Jobs & Economic Growth	Housing for all	Inclusive and connected communities	Climate action and Resilience	Protect the Natural Environment	Enabling Infrastructure and transport	Key Locations & Wards	Other
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commercial only in lower Mall ○ Increase vibrancy in lower Mall ○ Support City for People vision ● Support protection of Port Kembla 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Housing options for seniors ● Provide for more Missing Middle product ● Support more housing in City Centre ● Encourage more students in City Centre 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● should be prepared ● Support Transit-Orientated Development (TOD) 		
Urban Development Institute of Australia - Illawarra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concerned about prohibitive zonings in City Centre ● Support Retail Centres study and review of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concerned that high developer charges will impact on West Dapto housing supply 						

Organisation	Jobs & Economic Growth	Housing for all	Inclusive and connected communities	Climate action and Resilience	Protect the Natural Environment	Enabling Infrastructure and transport	Key Locations & Wards	Other
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> town centres Support Employment Lands Study and protection of employment lands 							
NSW Ports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support recognition of Port Kembla Protect Port Kembla from encroachment and establish buffer 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent inappropriate development on freight routes Support construction of Maldon – Dombarton / SWIRL Support rail improvements Support road regional road upgrades Advocate for M6 extension from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Port Kembla Town character statement urban encroachment is a risk to operations of Port 	

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						Kogarah to Heathcote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for upgrades to Moss Vale - Unanderra Rail line 		
GPT Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Object to Commercial only zone in City Centre and impact on land in GPT ownership. Restriction on residential development will reduce land use flexibility Support protection of employment land 							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific comments on GPT site
Ethos Urban on behalf of Churches of								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rezoning of 25 O'Briens Road Figtree from RU2 to

Organisation	Jobs & Economic Growth	Housing for all	Inclusive and connected communities	Climate action and Resilience	Protect the Natural Environment	Enabling Infrastructure and transport	Key Locations & Wards	Other
Christ – Fresh Hope								R3 to enable housing
NF5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue raised in the draft Housing Options Paper which have been addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fails to recognise the need create and nurture local communities. There is a public toilet strategy but no mention of Neighbourhood Forums or other mechanisms to bring communities together, nor even of community engagement at all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not recognise that dispersing new houses into relative remote areas increases travel effort and hence contributes to global warming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentions the 1968 and 2001 unstoppable bushfires it relies entirely on the RFS Guidelines which do not claim to protect lives or property in these circumstances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delays a review of the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy for 4-6- years. Does not stress the urgency of a Bike Strategy now 2 years overdue; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pleasing to note recognition of the Keiraville Gwynneville Community Planning Project. Note that the review of planning controls in South Wollongong have been deferred pending the updated City Flood Study; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good comprehensive summary of the current situation, trends, opportunities and the desired future. there are 21 short-term (1-3 years) projects/reviews proposed excluding a number "on-going" such as "the Illawarra Escapment will be protected from inappropriate development" - it seems unlikely that these will be achieved with current staff resources
Resident Northern Suburbs						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic and development in the 		

Organisation	Jobs & Economic Growth	Housing for all	Inclusive and connected communities	Climate action and Resilience	Protect the Natural Environment	Enabling Infrastructure and transport	Key Locations & Wards	Other
						northern Illawarra are my main concerns		

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.

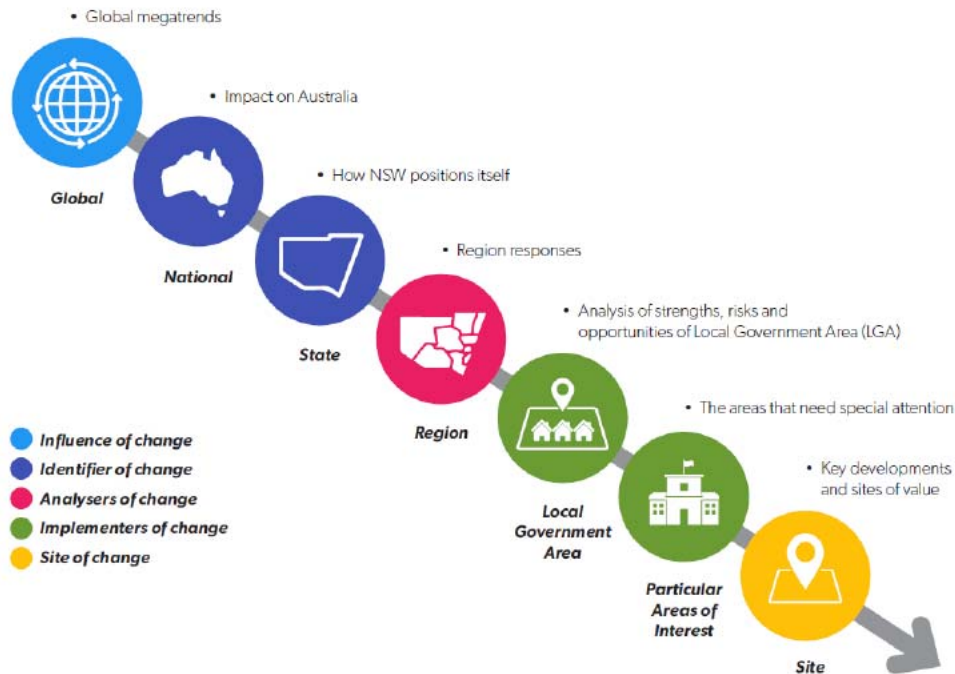
1.1 Purpose of Local Strategic Planning Statement?

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 Department of Planning and Environment 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, Corrimal, 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 2015 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 is on the traditional lands of the Dharawal people (also spelled Tarawal or Thuruwal), who managed and cared for the land for over 30,000 years. The name Wollongong is said to originate from the Aboriginal word *woolyungah*, meaning five islands.

The European settlement of the Illawarra has been destructive to Aboriginal culture, although Aboriginal people have endeavoured to maintain relationships with their country. It is likely that Dr Charles Thosby moved cattle into the area in 1815, via Bulli Pass. Official European settlement began in 1816 once a Government land survey had been conducted. The first five land grants were issued in 1817 (DEC 2005).

Today, 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.

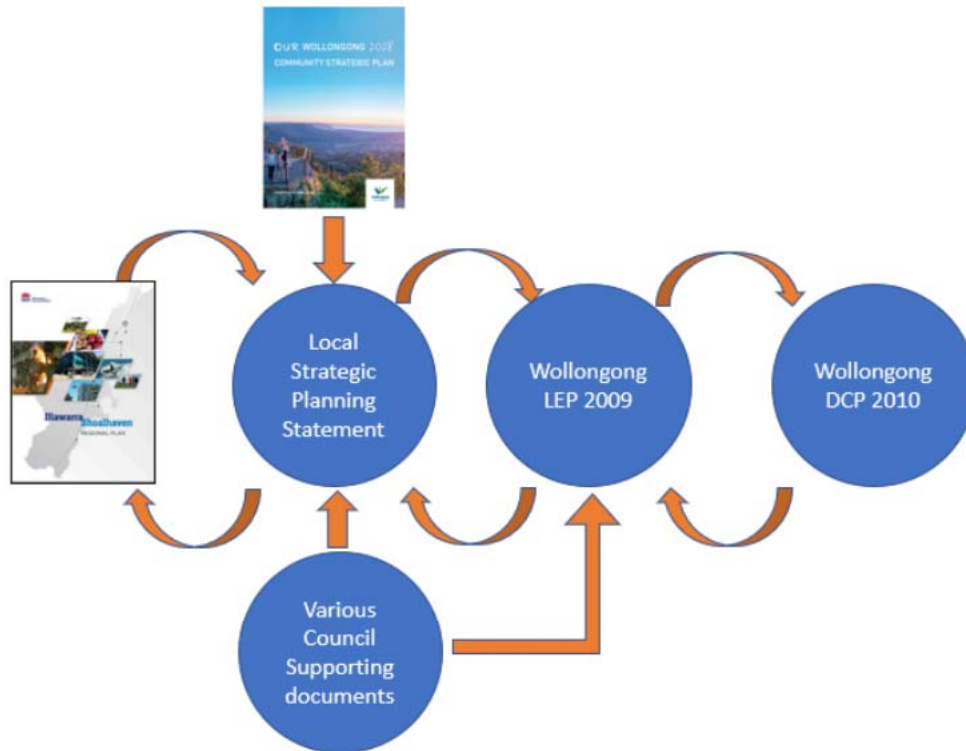
Wollongong's thriving arts and evening economy continues to attract people to visit, socialise, eat and listen to live music. All this activity takes place in a stunning coastal landscape, including 17 patrolled beaches, Lake Illawarra and the backdrop of the Illawarra Escarpment and the Royal National 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 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 NSW 2040 Economic Blueprint (2019) identifies the following 5 mega trends that will influence the State economy over the next 20 years:

1. Asia will be a much richer consumer with new tastes to which we can cater and new abilities as well.
2. Our previous development efforts have placed the natural environment under stress and we will need to respond.
3. Digital technologies, including new tools like artificial intelligence, will keep changing our lives and our work.
4. Patterns of migration will help determine how quickly the population of the state ages.
5. Rapid change risks bringing social problems that need to be addressed.

The 20 years Vision for Regional NSW (2018) identifies the following 4 mega trends that will affect regional NSW:

1. The rise of Asia
2. Rapid urbanisation
3. Demographic and social change
4. Digital disruption

The document indicates that the following 10 “engine 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.

1.6 State context

There is not a single document that provides the NSW's Land Use Planning Priorities.

The current NSW Government's key policy priorities, are listed as:

- a strong economy
- highest quality education
- well connected communities with quality local environments
- putting customer at the centre of everything we do
- breaking the cycle of disadvantage

The following Premier's priorities are relevant to Land Use Planning:

- **Reducing homelessness** – Reduce street homelessness across NSW by 50 per cent by 2025.
- **Greener public spaces** – Increase the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open and public space by 10 per cent by 2023.
- **Greening our city** – Increase the tree canopy and green cover across Greater Sydney by planting one million trees by 2022. (source: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities>)

The NSW Government implements its policies via legislation, strategies, policies and guidelines.

Council is subject to a range of State legislation, including:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Heritage Act 1977
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Crown Land Management Act 2016
- The Regulations that support the various Acts
- Numerous State Environmental Planning Policies

The State has published a number of strategies that are relevant to the region and the LGA, including:

- Building Momentum - NSW State Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2038 (Infrastructure NSW)
- NSW 2040 Economic Blueprint (NSW Treasury 2019)
- Future Transport 2056 (Transport for NSW 2018) and its sub-plans:
 - Regional Services and Infrastructure Plan
 - NSW Freight and Ports Plan 2018-2023
 - Tourism and Transport Plan
 - Older Person Transport and Mobility Plan
- Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018 – 2028 (Marine Estate Management Authority)
- NSW Climate Change policy framework (Office of Environment and Heritage 2016)
- NSW Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy (EPA 2014) and draft Waste Strategy issues paper (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020)

- Net zero plan stage 1 2020-2030 (Environment, Energy and Science - in Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020)
- NSW Ageing Strategy 2016-2020 (NSW Family and Community Services 2016)
- Future Directions in Social Housing (NSW Family and Community Services 2016)
- NSW Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023 (NSW Family and Community Services 2018)



The State Government Statutory Authorities have also published a range of policies and guidelines which guide Council in its plan-making and decision-making processes, including:

- NSW Wetlands policy (2010)
- Planning for Bush Fire Protection (RFS 2019)
- Development near rail corridors and busy roads – interim guidelines (EPA)
- Risk based framework for considering Waterway Health Outcomes in Strategic Land-use decisions (EPA)
- Guidance on Contaminated Land Management (EPA)
- Better Placed guidelines (Government Architects Office)

1.7 Regional context

The Wollongong LGA can be categorised as either Regional or Metropolitan, depending on the State program being implemented. In relation to strategic land use planning, the Wollongong LGA is part of Regional NSW. According to the State Government:

Regional NSW is the largest, most diverse regional economy in Australia. Rich with natural resources, regional NSW produces one-third of the total NSW gross state product, with thriving agricultural and mining industries and strong manufacturing, energy, tourism and service sectors.

Home to about 40 per cent of the state's population, regional NSW is diverse, with resilient and adaptive communities living in places of historical and cultural significance. (Source: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw>)

1.7.1 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*

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is preparing a new draft Regional Plan, which is expected to be exhibited in late 2020.

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.

1.7.2 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
- 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
- Shoalhaven and Illawarra Enabling Regional Adaptation Plan (2019) NSW Office of Environment and Heritage - Adapt NSW
- Illawarra Climate Change Snapshot (2019) NSW Office of Environment and Heritage - Adapt NSW
- Regional Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2017-21 (ISJO 2017)



1.8 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)
- Sustainable Wollongong Strategy (draft 2020)
- Climate Change Mitigation Plan (draft 2020)
- 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)
- 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 Cycling Strategy (draft 2020)
- 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. The draft Plan was exhibited from 25 February to 8 April 2020. Issues raised in submissions are being reviewed. Later in 2020 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.

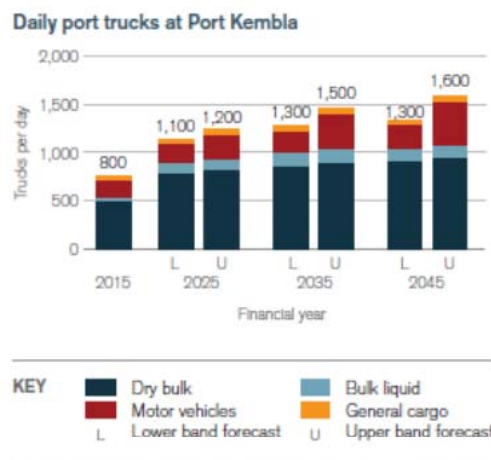
The report forecasts significant growth:

- 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, Industry 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.

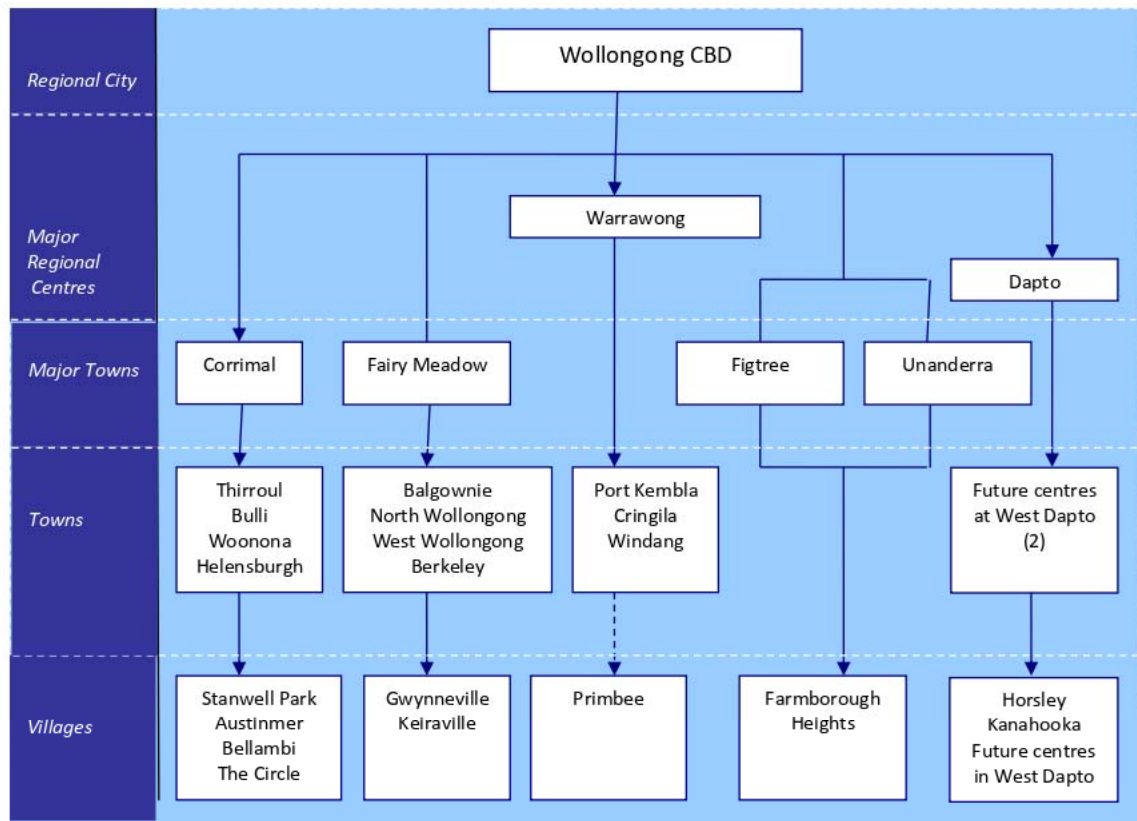
Both campuses provide significant education and employment opportunities for the LGA and region. The campuses also provide economic benefits to surrounding retailers and for landlords wishing to rent dwellings for student accommodation. Both campuses also impact on the surrounding area through increased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

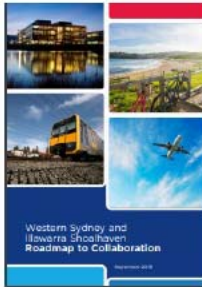
2.1.7 Employment Lands Study

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.

2.1.8 Western Sydney and Illawarra Shoalhaven Roadmap to Collaboration



In September 2019 the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO), in partnership with RDA Illawarra, University of Wollongong and the NSW Government launched the 'Western Sydney and Illawarra Shoalhaven Roadmap to Collaboration'.

The Roadmap demonstrates a collective commitment to working together to deliver stronger social, economic and employment outcomes for both regions. Both regions are enjoying sustained population and economic growth as they transition from a focus on traditional manufacturing and industry to new opportunities in ICT and knowledge services; aviation, defence and advanced manufacturing; education and tourism.

The Roadmap focuses on 6 key priority areas that benefit both regions: advanced manufacturing, education, freight and passenger transport, smart city technology, visitor economy and the Western Sydney Airport and Aerotropolis

Relevant Land Use Planning actions:

- 1.3 Consolidate industrial land-use mapping across the Illawarra Shoalhaven and Western Sydney to plan and accommodate for growth in each area.
- 3.3 Continue to support and advocate for the growth of the Port of Port Kembla as an international trade gateway, including through supporting the diversification and growth of Port uses (e.g. LNG, construction material imports, containers) and protecting the Port and its wider connections to Western Sydney from urban encroachment and other incompatible uses.

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

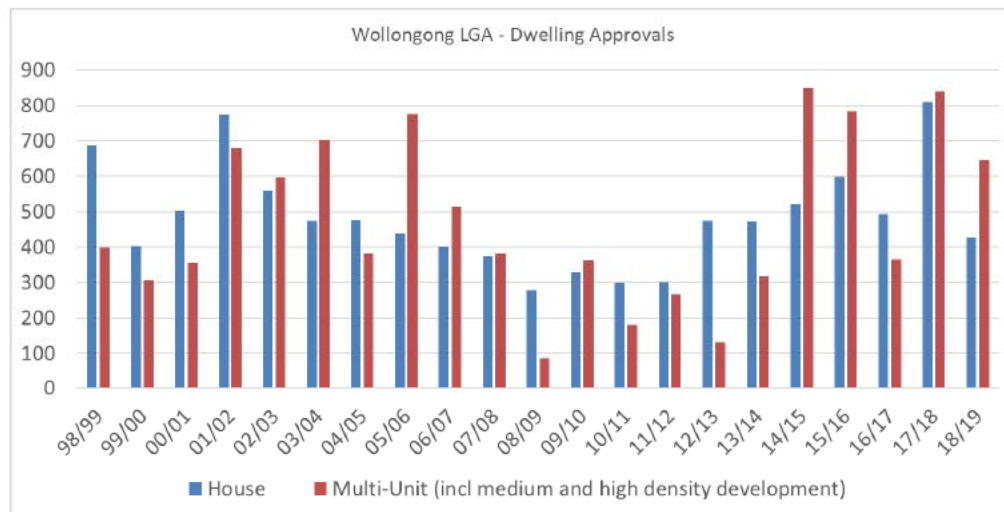
Monitor and commence review of Innovation Campus master plan when criteria triggered.	Short term
Exhibit the draft Wollongong City Centre Planning Review	Underway – March – April 2020
Prepare, exhibit and finalise a draft Planning Proposal and draft Development Control Plans amendments to implement the 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.

In June 2020 the NSW Government released A Housing Strategy for NSW – Discussion Paper (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020) as a step in the preparation of a Housing Strategy for the State. The discussion paper indicates that the future Housing Strategy will set an overarching 20-year vision for housing in NSW, providing an ‘end-to-end’

NSW Government position on all housing, from homelessness to home ownership. The Discussion paper and proposed Housing Strategy will be key documents in the preparation of Council's Housing Strategy.

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, Calderwood), 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

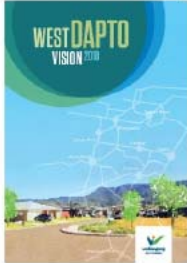


As noted by section 2.1.4 of this report, on 24 February 2020 Council resolved to exhibit the Wollongong City Centre Planning Review.

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 summary of production (April 2020)

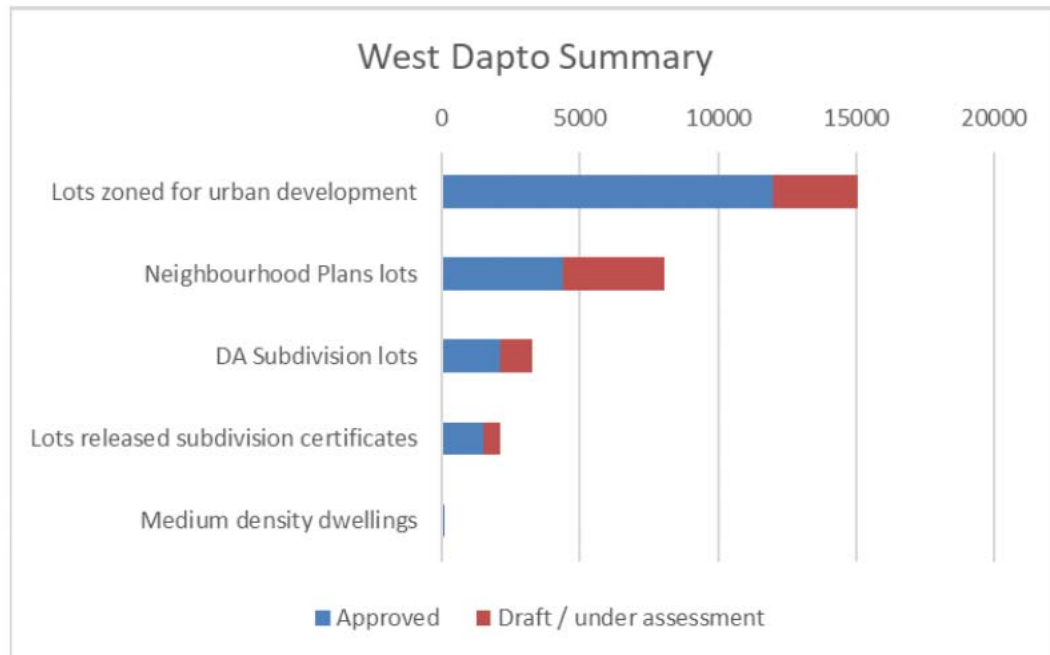
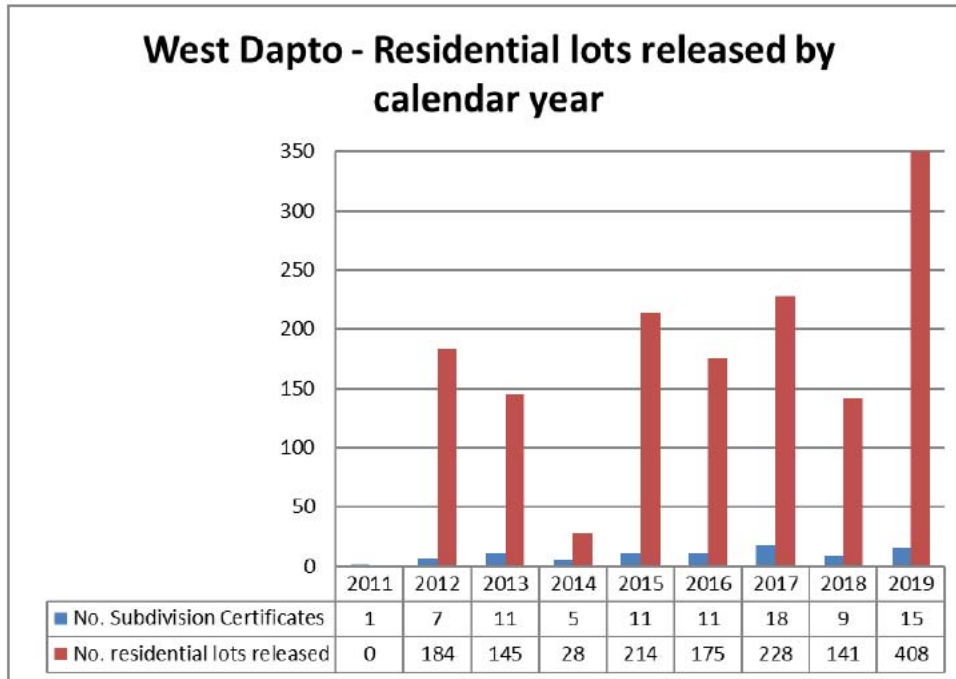


Figure 3.3 West Dapto annual lot production (2011-2020)



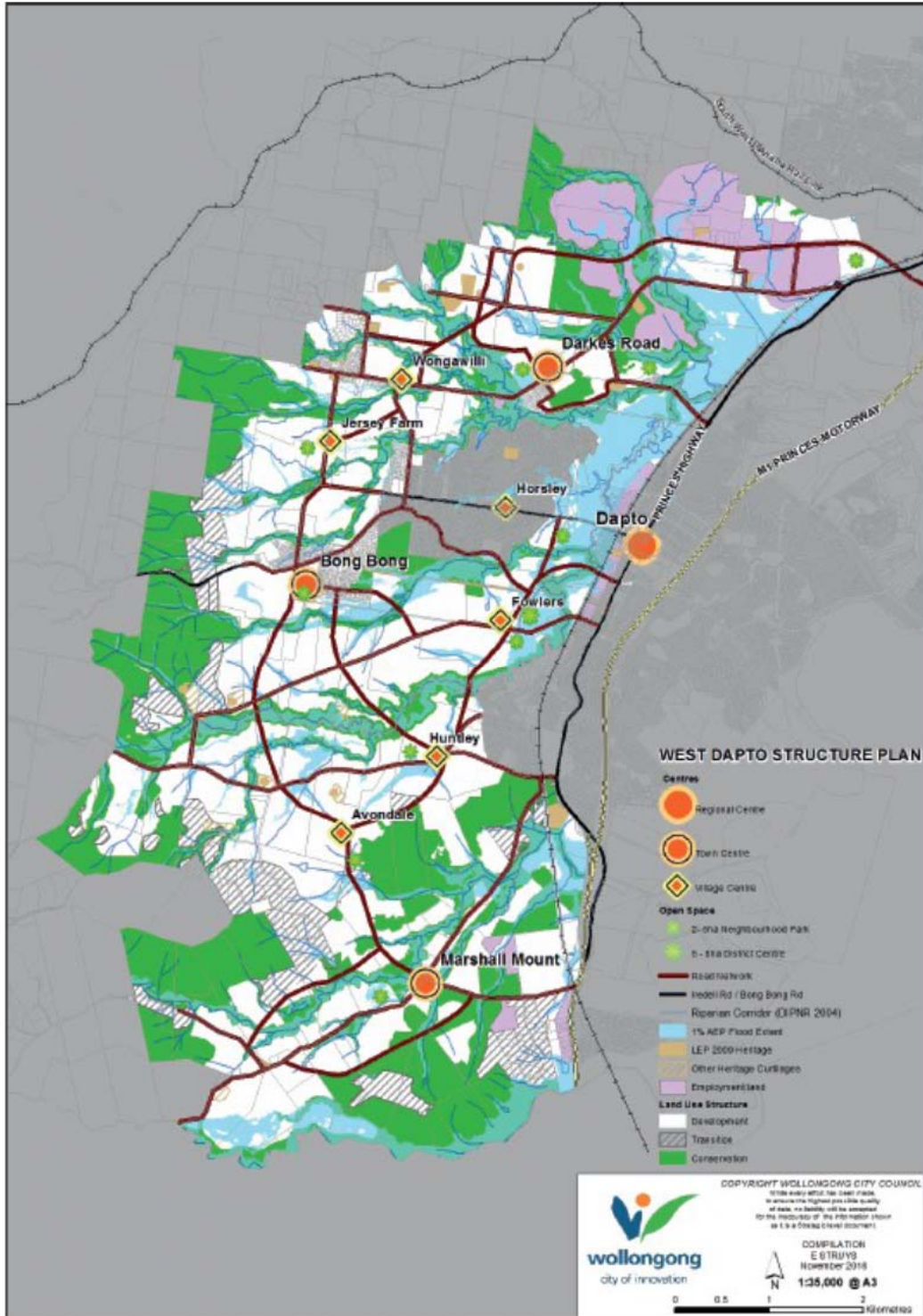
In 2018 Council adopted the updated West Dapto Vision.

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.

To-date, Council has assessed and approved 6 Planning Proposal requests for land within the study area, which has enabled about 130 lots to be developed.

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. If these Planning Proposals progress, they will contribute to the future dwelling supply.

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 the 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 required 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 3.1 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	2022-2030
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
Farmborough Height to Mt Kembla	Est. 77 (remaining)	Low Density	On-going
Rezoning proposals	To be determined, if supported	Low – Medium Density	On-going

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
Review the submissions received during the exhibition of 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
Work with the NSW Land and Housing Commission to renew social housing provision in Wollongong LGA.	On-going
Work with the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Lands Council (ILALC) to assist their proposals for the conservation or development of their land holdings	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:

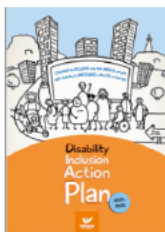
- 1.1 Pursue additional play space opportunities where there is an under-supply, in areas where there are lots of children and/or where the community experiences disadvantage.
- 2.1 Locate play spaces where they can be easily accessed by walking and cycling.
- 2.4 Work with developers to ensure play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



On 29 June 2020 Council endorsed the Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020-2025 for exhibition. The draft Plan will replace the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2016). The Plan 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:

- Include the needs of people with disability in the development of our town centre plans, master plans and precinct plans.
- Develop and implement an inclusive and accessible public domain policy and guidelines.

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

PQS 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

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 area 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.

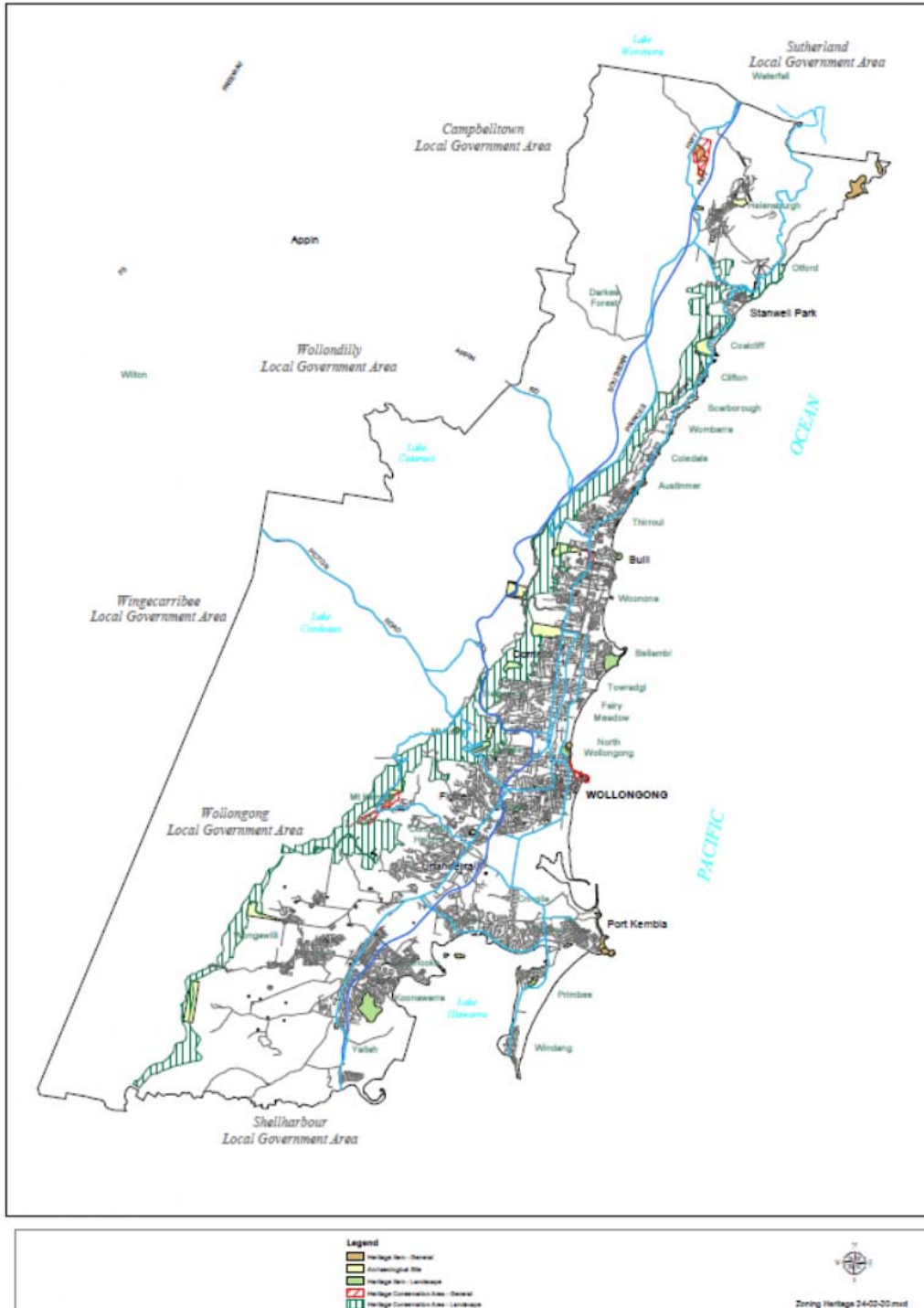
Key Land Use Planning actions:

- 2.1 Finalise the review of the Wollongong Heritage Schedule and update the State Heritage Inventory Database accordingly.
- 2.3 Undertake annual reviews to monitor and maintain the schedule of heritage items listed in Wollongong’s planning instruments.
- 4.1 Undertake a review of Wollongong DCP 2009 - Chapter E11 Heritage Conservation.
- 4.3 Undertake a review of Wollongong DCP 2009 – Chapter E10 Aboriginal Heritage
- 6.1 Consider additional listing of Heritage Conservation Areas and key cultural, rural, industrial and natural landscapes as part of the Heritage Review.
- 6.2 Explore funding opportunities to develop an Archaeological Zoning Plan for the Wollongong City Centre
- 6.3 Explore funding opportunities to develop an Industrial Heritage Study to identify key industrial sites

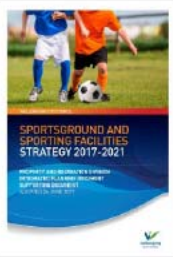
On 25 May 2020 Council endorsed the preparation of a draft Planning Proposal for Stage 1 of the Heritage Review which is to update the location and description of existing heritage items. The draft Planning Proposal will be exhibited later in 2020.

Council is also preparing Stage 2 of the Heritage Review which will nominate additional items for listing as heritage items in the Wollongong LEP 2009. Stage 2 is anticipated to be reported to Council in late 2020. If progressed this project will increase the number of heritage listed sites and items to be conserved.

Figure 4.1 Heritage items and Heritage Conservation Areas



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

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 7.11/7.12 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

<p>Creating stronger dialogue, social enquiry & civic engagement in Wollongong</p>	<p>Engage in Wollongong City Centre Improvements and Town Centre, and Precinct Plans including the Cultural precinct masterplan, and new community strategic plan</p>
<p>Creating A Stronger Identity for Wollongong City and its villages /neighbourhoods</p>	<p>Undertake public artworks as a key part of CBD public domain works and Village/Town Centre Upgrades including West Dapto Release area.</p>

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.

4.1.13 Plan of Managements

The Local Government Act 1993 requires all Council owned land to be classified as Community or Operational Land. Community land is further categorised based on its use and purpose. Council is also required to prepare a Plan of Management for Community Land that guides permitted uses, leases and licences. The Plan of Management provide an additional layer of land use control that does not apply to private land.

Council has adopted a Generic Plan of Management (2018) that covers the majority of Council owned land. Council has adopted site specific Plans of Management for the following key reserves:

- Stanwell Park Reserve and Bald Hill Lookout Plan of Management (adopted August 2009, currently being revised)
- Judbooley Parade, Windang Plan of Management (adopted June 2008)
- Wollongong City Foreshore Plan of Management (adopted January 2008) (Covers the Blue Mile Master plan area, Stuart Park to City Beach)
- Botanic Gardens Including Gleniffer Brae Plan of Management (adopted December 2006, currently being revised)
- Coedale Beach Plan of Management (adopted June 2004, amended 28 May 2012)
- Andrew Lysaght Park Plan of Management (adopted December 2002)
- Beaton Park Plan of Management (adopted December 1999, amended June 2007 and 2018)
- Sandon Point and McCauleys Beach Plan of Management (adopted 2015).
- Mt Keira Summit Park Plan of Management (adopted 2019)

Some of the site specific Plans of Management are discussed in chapter 8 of this report.

The Crown Lands Management Act 2016 commenced in 2018, and required Council to classify 51 Crown Reserves that Council manages as either Community or Operational Land. The State agreed that 46 of the Crown Reserves should be classified as Community Land. Council has also resolved an initial category for each reserve based on its historic reserve purpose, to which the State has agreed. Council is now required to prepare a Plan of Management for the reserve. Similar to the Council owned land, it is proposed that a Generic Plan of Management be prepared to apply to the majority of the Crown Reserves and site specific Plans of Management be prepared for key reserves, such as the Wollongong Foreshore and Stuart Park.



On 16 March 2020 Council endorsed the draft Stanwell Park Reserve and Bald Hill Plan of Management for exhibition. The draft Plan applies to both Crown Reserves and Council land. The draft Plan is being reviewed by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands for approval to exhibit.

4.2 Vision and key actions

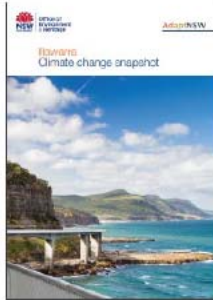
Guided by the strategies, Council will continue to invest in community and recreational facilities, social infrastructure, the arts, and the public domain. This will create vibrant places and communities where residents and visitors want to gather for work, shopping or recreation, both during the day 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. 25/5/20 – Council resolved to prepare a draft Planning Proposal
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
Exhibit and finalise the draft Stanwell Park Reserve and Bald Hill Plan of Management for Council and Crown Reserves	Short term
Review the Generic Plan of Management for Council land	Medium term
Prepare a Plan of Management for Crown Reserves	Medium term
Prepare site specific Plans of Management for key Crown Reserves	Medium Term

5. Climate Action and Resilience






Climate change is a global issue that requires action at 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.



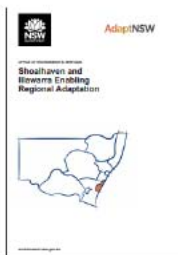
The Illawarra Climate Change Snapshot (Office of Environment and Heritage 2019) provides a snapshot of projected climate change.

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 5.1 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)



The Shoalhaven and Illawarra enabling regional adaptation report (SIERA) (Office of Environment and Heritage 2019) 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.

In 2020 the NSW Government set a goal of net zero emissions by 2050, and have released Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020–2030 to fast-track emissions reduction over the next decade (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020). The Plan has four priority areas for action:

1. Drive uptake of proven emissions reduction technologies that grow the economy, create new jobs or reduce the cost of living
2. Empower consumers and businesses to make sustainable choices

3. Invest in the next wave of emissions reduction innovation to ensure economic prosperity from decarbonisation beyond 2030
4. Ensure the NSW Government leads by example

5.1 Informing Strategies

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.

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

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

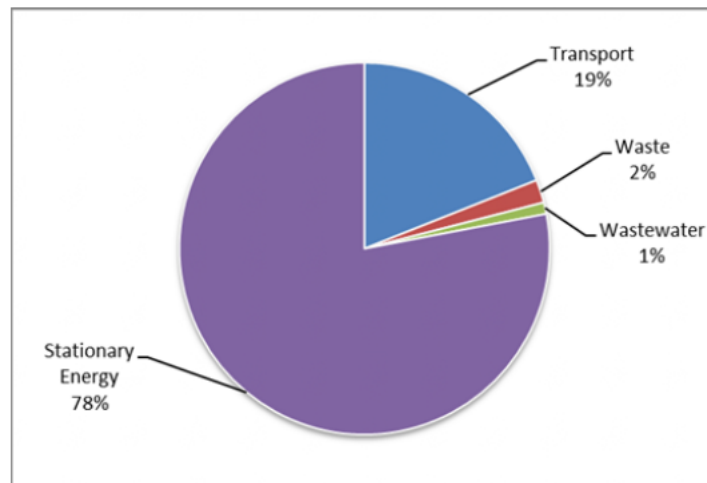
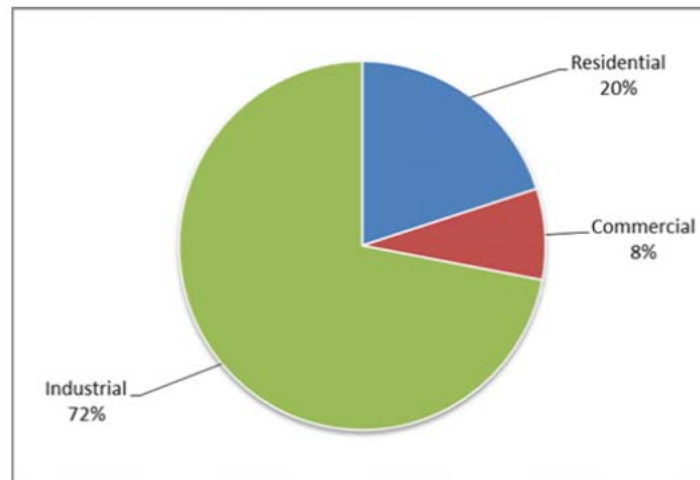


Figure 5.2 Wollongong emissions by sector



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 for Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate emergency declared and emissions reduction targets established • Program of strategies and plans commenced
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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.

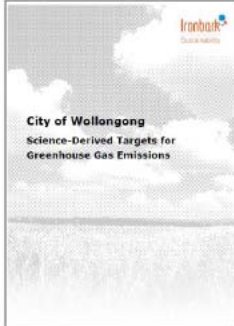
- 1 Protecting our natural assets
- 2 Reducing our ecological footprint
- 3 Improving our urban environment
- 4 Creating a healthy future
- 5 Showing leadership and sustainable governance

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 2014 Strategy guided the development and delivery of various plans, strategies and programs, to promote the environmental sustainability of Council’s operations and the City. Over 82% of scheduled short-medium term and 43% of long-term actions, contained in the 2014 Strategy, were completed or progressed. Notable achievements include; the development and implementation of the Urban Greening Strategy, installation of 327kW of solar panels on Council facilities and joining the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

The Policy is currently being reviewed, and on 29 June 2020 Council endorsed the draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy for public exhibition (see section 5.2.1).

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 5.2 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.

5.2 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.



On 29 June 2020 Council endorsed the draft Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan for exhibition.

The draft Plan proposes 92 actions for Council for the next two years to reduce its emissions and to support the community to reduce their emissions. The draft plan proposes actions to establish partnerships with government, business, industry and community groups and undertake research and pilot projects within our community, all of which will help to inform actions in subsequent plans. The draft Plan also includes the roll out some key projects to reduce emissions of Council's own operations.

The draft Plan prescribes actions under six themes as follow -

- 1 **Climate change leadership and planning:** actions for Council to demonstrate leadership in considering climate change in all areas of operations and service, advocate to other levels of Government for our community, foster innovation, collaborate regionally and monitor our performance.
- 2 **Energy efficiency and renewable energy:** including energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for buildings, facilities and streetlights.
- 3 **Transport:** addressing options for lowering emissions from Council fleet, supporting the uptake of electric vehicles and public and active transport.
- 4 **Waste:** including capture of landfill gas, rolling out Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) across the city, additional recycling services, waste wise events and expanding educational programs to further address food waste.
- 5 **Trees and vegetation:** covering biodiversity conservation projects and urban greening to cool our city.
- 6 **Working with our community:** actions to partner with business and industry to promote their emissions reduction successes and encourage and support more sustainable practices, engage with and educate our community to support emissions reduction.

The actions proposed in the draft Plan are classified as either -

- Action to directly reduce emissions (e.g. installing solar panels, diverting organic waste from landfill), or
- Enabling actions, such as implementing strategies, policy change, collaboration or education, to provide support and frameworks for Council and the community to reduce emissions.

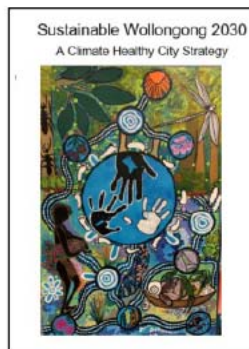
In accordance with the GCoM requirements, Council will undertake a new inventory of emissions for the Wollongong LGA every two years. A new plan will be prepared for the period 2022-26 and will be informed by the updated emissions profiles, project status, the availability and feasibility of new technologies, any new opportunities or threats, and ongoing collaboration with the community of Wollongong.

Land Use Planning actions 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)

The 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.



On 29 June 2020 Council endorse the Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy for exhibition. A comprehensive community engagement process was used to inform the preparation of the draft strategy. Key issues and aspirations raised by the community and other stakeholders, during this process, included:

- Council demonstrating environmental leadership
- Council working in partnership with community
- Climate change mitigation
- Increasing renewable energy
- Improving resilience to climate change
- Moving towards zero waste
- More green space, green corridors and trees
- Improved water quality and water resilience
- Increased sustainability requirements for all new developments
- Improved active transport opportunities in the City
- Improved public transport systems and car/ride share schemes.

The Wollongong Aboriginal community provided insight into connection to country and traditional living practices, and the ethos of leaving only footprints is inherent in creating a sustainable Wollongong.

The draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy 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.

The vision for the draft Strategy is:

'Together, we're creating a healthy and sustainable future for all. Wollongong is a thriving, low waste, low emissions city which is resilient, liveable and has high biodiversity values.'

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
Commence Climate Action Governance framework	Short term
Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy – exhibit and adopt	Short term
Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan – exhibit and adopt	Short term
Climate Change Adaption Plan – prepare, exhibit and adopt	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

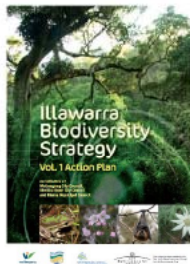
As noted in section 5.1.1, in July 2014 Council adopted the Environmental Sustainability Policy. The Policy is supported by the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014 – 2022 and the Environmental Sustainability Plan 2013 - 2017.

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

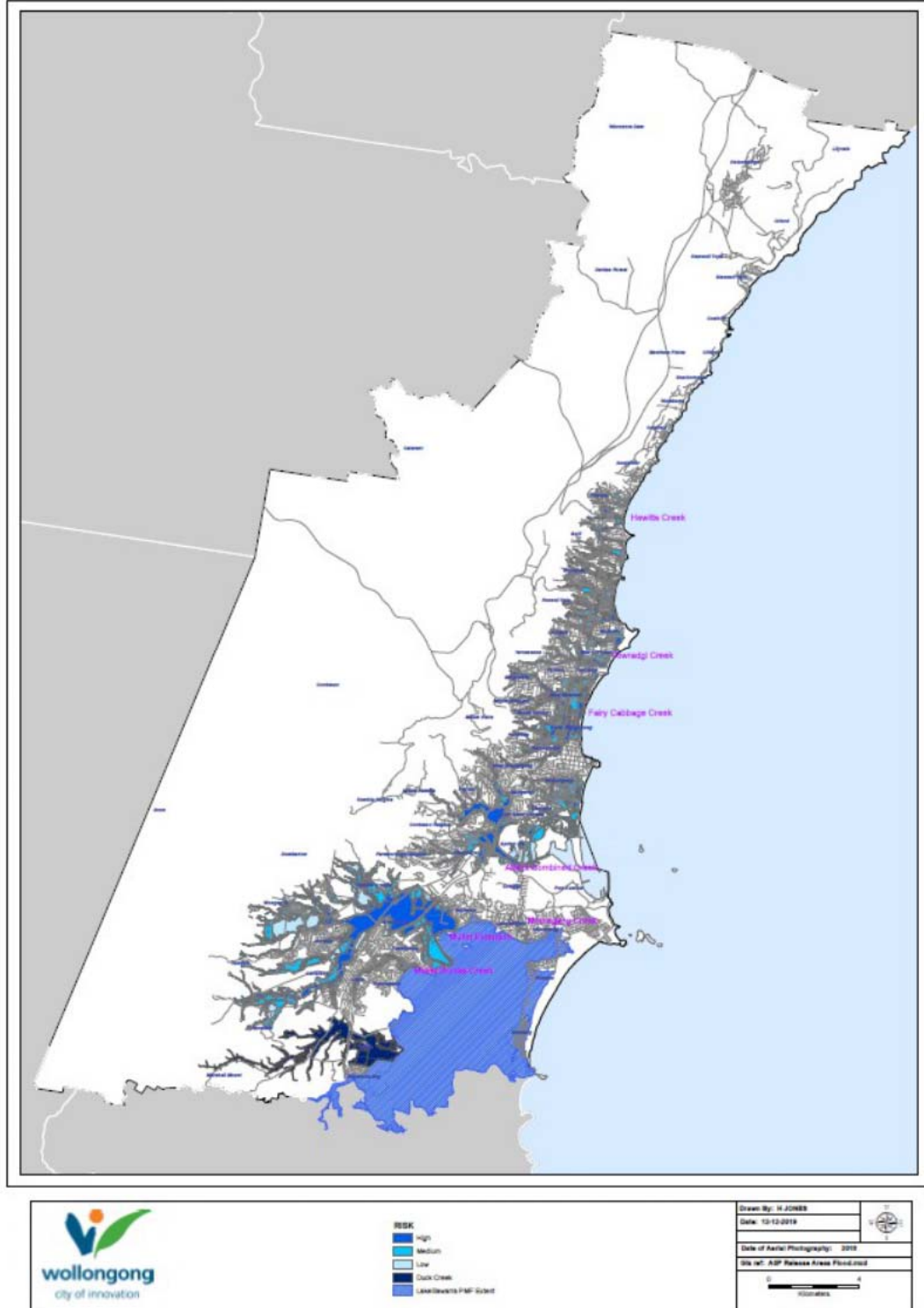
Allans Creek	2006	2006	2019	2021-22
Southern catchments				
Mullet Creek	2010,2011	2010	2018	In preparation
Brooks Creek	2010	2010	2018	2021-22
Kully Bay	NA	NA	2019	2021-22
Lake Illawarra	2001	2001,2012		
Macquarie Rivulet	2016	2016		
Duck Creek	2012	2013	2019	2021-22
Minnegang Creek	2002	2004	2019	2021-22

Some Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans have recommended the purchase of private properties that are at extreme flood risk. Since 2002, Council has acquired some 22 properties through a Voluntary Purchase Scheme, with funding assistance from the NSW Government.

The Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans also consider whether access and evacuation routes are available during major floods. These considerations also occur as part of the assessment of draft Planning Proposals and Development Applications.

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%

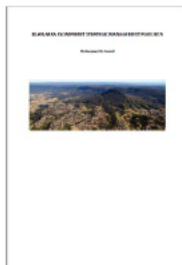
There are many lots zoned R2 Low Density Residential from Stanwell Park to Farmborough Heights that are located on the Escarpment and its foothills, but are located outside the Escarpment Strategic Management Plan study area.

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 landslip, 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

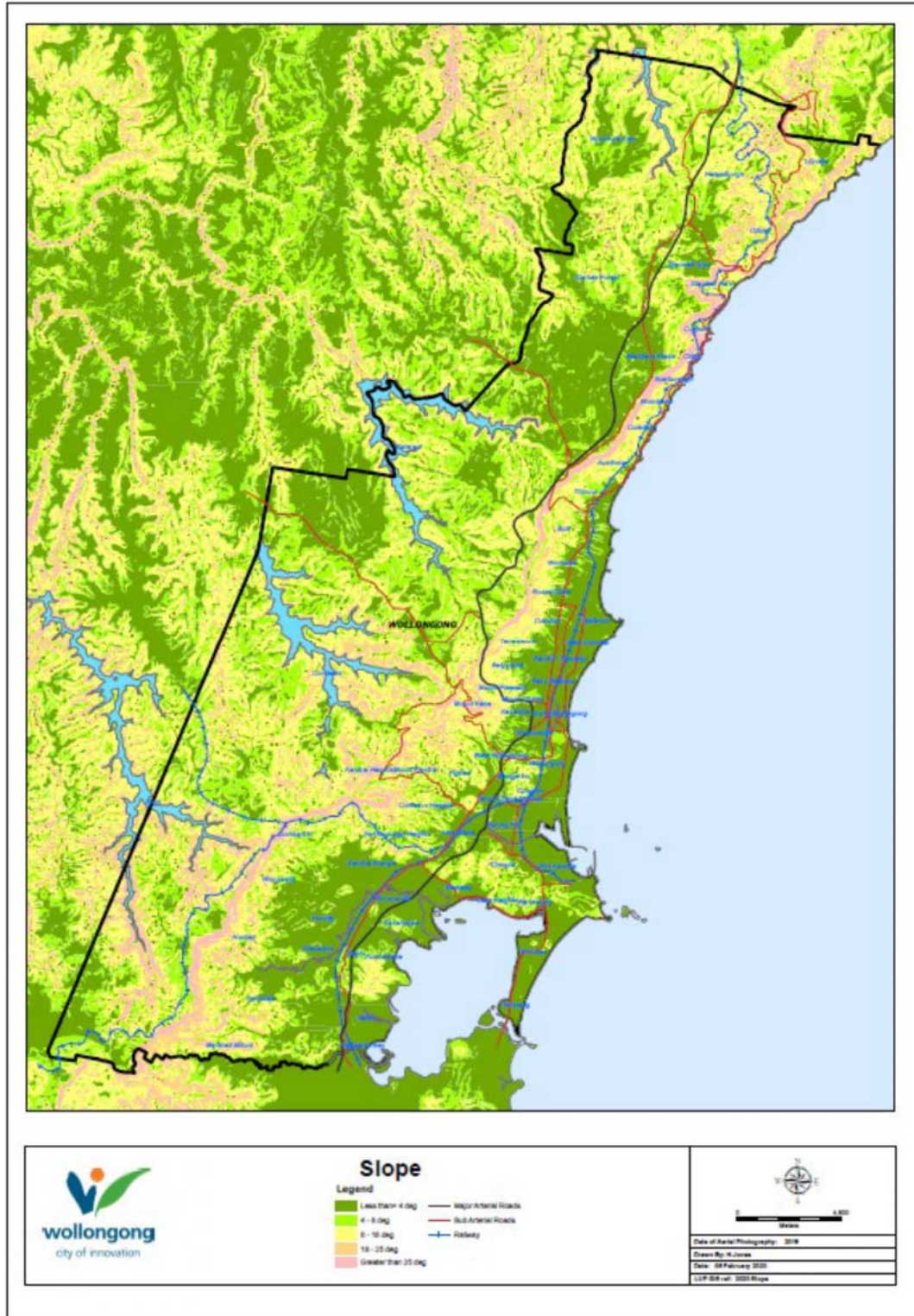
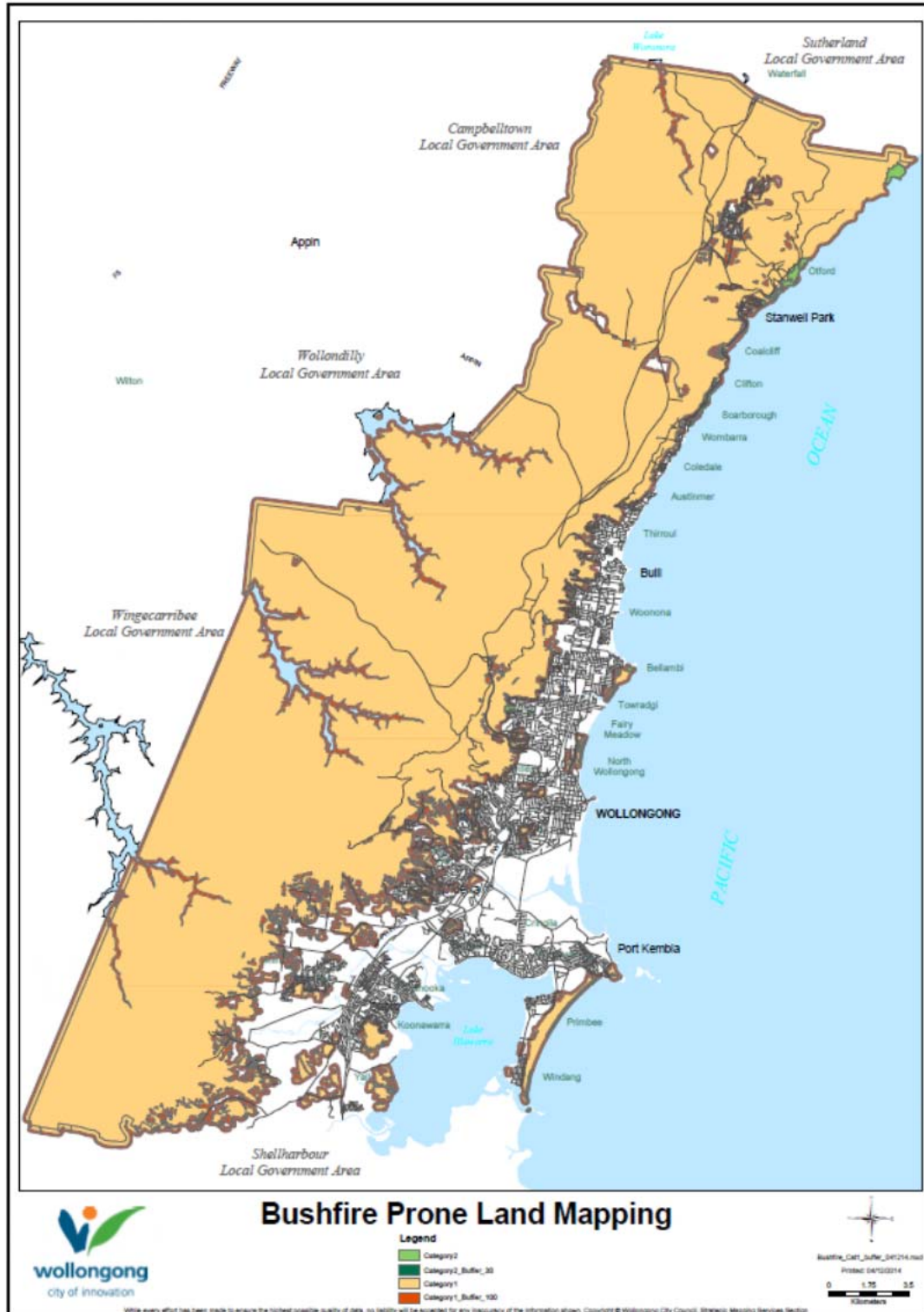
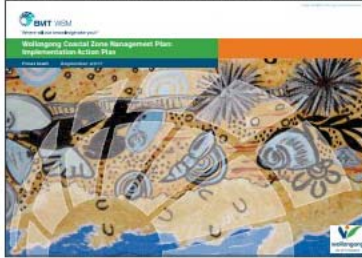


Figure 6.5 Bush fire prone lands



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.

6.1.9 Wollongong Dune Management Strategy



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.

6.1.10 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, and it waiting on State Government certification.

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/M1 and the major external access points of Macquarie Pass, Mount Ousley Road, Bulli Pass, Shellharbour Road, and the Royal National Park which connect the region to Sydney and the South Coast, and the Southern Highlands. This level of vehicle movement, 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 suburban, interurban (Sydney) and freight rail services. Reports indicate that the rail line is at or near capacity, in terms of service provision. 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 Dapto, Unanderra, Coniston, Wollongong, North Wollongong, Thirroul and 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 Waterfall 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.

Increased 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 reasonable well served by bus routes, however the frequency of services is variable. The Wollongong Free Gong Shuttle provides a frequent and well utilised 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 Drinking 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 State Government is considering the construction of a second de-salination plan in NSW and one location being considered is Port Kembla. A de-salination plant would increase water security for the region.

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.

7.1.8 Stormwater Management

Council manages the stormwater network, including drains and stormwater pits to keep water moving in rain or floods. Council builds, upgrades and maintains stormwater structures like channels, detention basins and debris control structures to reduce the risk of blockage and floods.

Traditionally the management of stormwater (urban runoff) has focused on the management of the quantity, and has consisted predominately of pits and pipes that facilitated the efficient removal of water from urbanized areas, along with detention and storage systems to manage the impacts of flooding during large rain events. More recently, however, there has been a trend towards also managing the quality of urban runoff before it is released to local waterways. This area of stormwater management, generally referred to as Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), normally involves the design and construction of stormwater “treatment trains” that are integrated into stormwater networks. Treatment trains may consist of a number of in-line or staged treatment measures that target specific pollutants, reducing the content of pollutants in urban runoff before release to a nearby waterway. A simple example is the installation of a gross pollutant trap upstream of a sedimentation basin, followed by a constructed wetland which, in order, removes rubbish (bottles, cans, etc), suspended solids, and then nutrients.

As part of the assessment of Development Applications, Wollongong DCP 2009 chapters E14 Stormwater Management and E15 Water Sensitive Urban Design need to be considered.

In late 2019, the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO) was successful in securing a grant of \$204,000 to implement a 2 year regional program titled "Enabling Water Sensitive Communities". The Enabling Water Sensitive Communities Program aims to increase the uptake and success of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) systems commissioned across the rapidly urbanising areas of the Illawarra Shoalhaven region. In turn, this will reduce the pressure development places on the regions catchments, streams and coastal lagoons.

7.1.9 Electricity supply

The bulk of electricity used in Wollongong is generated at coal powered power stations located in other parts of the State. The electricity is transported at high voltages to bulk supply points over the transmission line network system operated by TransGrid.

A gas-fired power station is located at Tallawarra which supplies electricity to the grid during periods of high demand. A second power station (Stage B) has been approved by the NSW Government on an adjacent site at Tallawarra, but it has not been constructed.

Wollongong is supplied by electricity by Endeavour Energy who obtain the electricity from the high voltage transmission lines operated by Trans Grid. Endeavour Energy operate zone substations, which usually service entire suburbs, and transform electricity to mid voltage levels (11,000 volts). From Zone substation, electricity is carried to distribution substations which further transform the electricity to 415 or 240 volts. Powerlines then carry this low voltage electricity to consumers for their home, office and factory use.

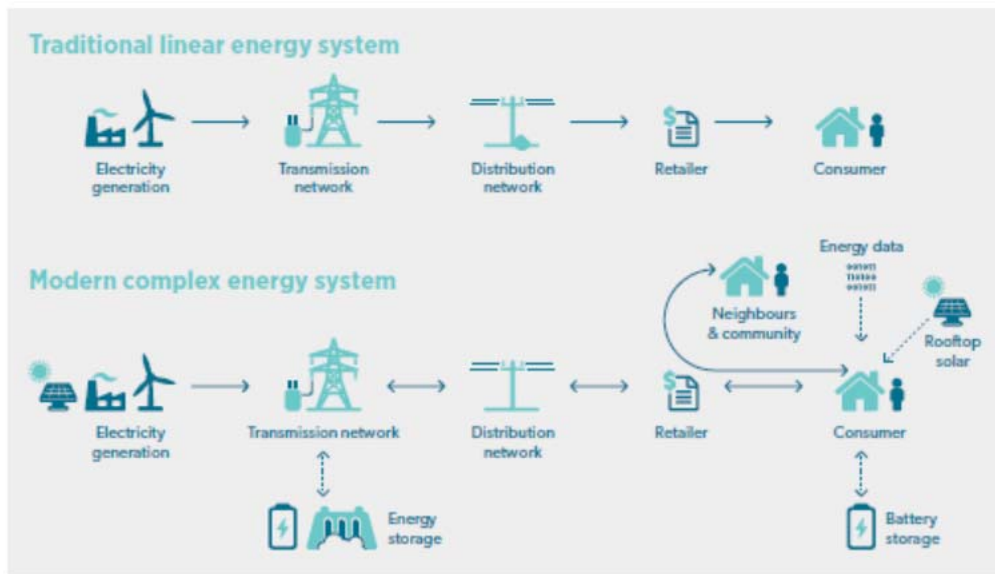
Endeavour Energy is trialling a battery storage system at Kembla Grange, that will assist in times of peak demand.

Other sources of electricity have been considered or proposed, including:

- the Wave generating trial plant that was moored at Port Kembla

- hydro-electricity generation of water being supplied from Avon dam down the escarpment
- wind generation, although Wollongong does not have consistently high average wind speeds like other parts of NSW
- solar generation. Many residential, commercial, industrial and community buildings now generate electricity for internal use and sale to the grid.

As the following infographic indicates, the electricity network is changing, with increased use of renewal energy sources and battery storage.

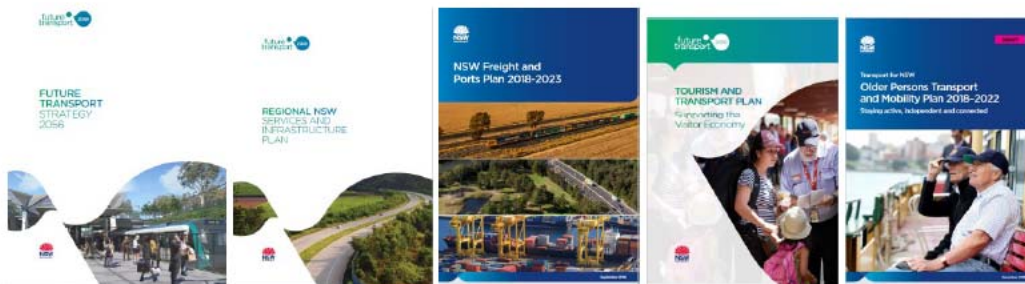


(source: NSW Electricity Strategy overview 2019)

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.

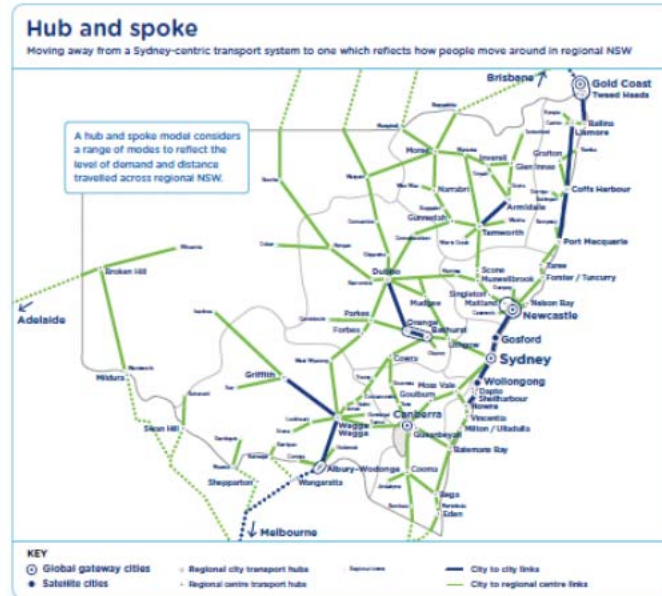


Figure 16: Links to regional transport hubs

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.

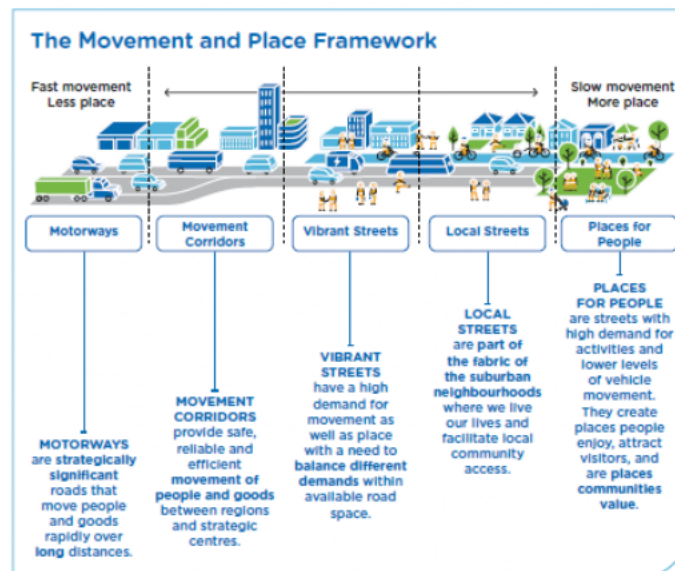


Figure 36: Movement and place framework

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.

Transport for NSW is preparing a draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan.

7.2.2 Wollongong Cycling Strategy

On 29 June 2020, Council endorsed the draft Cycling Strategy 2030 for exhibition. The draft Strategy outlines the community and Council's vision to improve cycling participation in Wollongong in line with the vision of becoming the place to ride, and the actions Council will pursue to deliver this vision over the next ten (10) years.

The draft Strategy will replace the Bike Plan 2014-2018. Under the Bike Plan, Council has delivered a range of cycling related programs, improving and raising the standard of cycling across Wollongong.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has seen a dramatic increase in cycling participation rates with large sales of bikes being recorded and our cycling network inundated by keen riders. Further, Wollongong is set to host the Union Cycliste Internationale Road World Cycling Championships in 2022. This presents a large opportunity for our community and has further built upon the local and external interest in Wollongong being the place to ride.

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

7.2.3 Pedestrian Plan



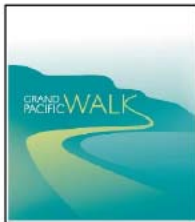
The Pedestrian Plan (2017) sets out Council's vision for walking and recommends a range of strategies to address key walking issues facing the city

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’, Warrawang 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 and along riparian corridors
- Within the West Dapto Release Area, the provision of paths on the edge of development areas
- The allocation of Development Contributions to footpaths.

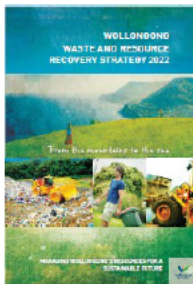
7.2.4 Grand Pacific Walk



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 and the Aerotropolis
- Upgrades to Picton Road – in June 2020 Council joined the Picton Road Motorway Coalition which is advocating for the complete upgrade to Picton Road to Motorway standard by 2025
- Upgrades to Appin Road
- Improvements to Memorial Drive / Northern Distributor
- Improvements to Mt Ousley Road, including the UoW interchange
- Improvements to Bulli Pass
- Port Kembla freight movement
- Maldon Dombarton / SWIRL
- Utilities and services
- 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 Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2039 – exhibit and adopt	Short term
LGA Transport Plan will be prepared	Medium term
Review the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy	Medium term
Implement the findings of the ISJO Enabling Water Sensitive Communities project	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.

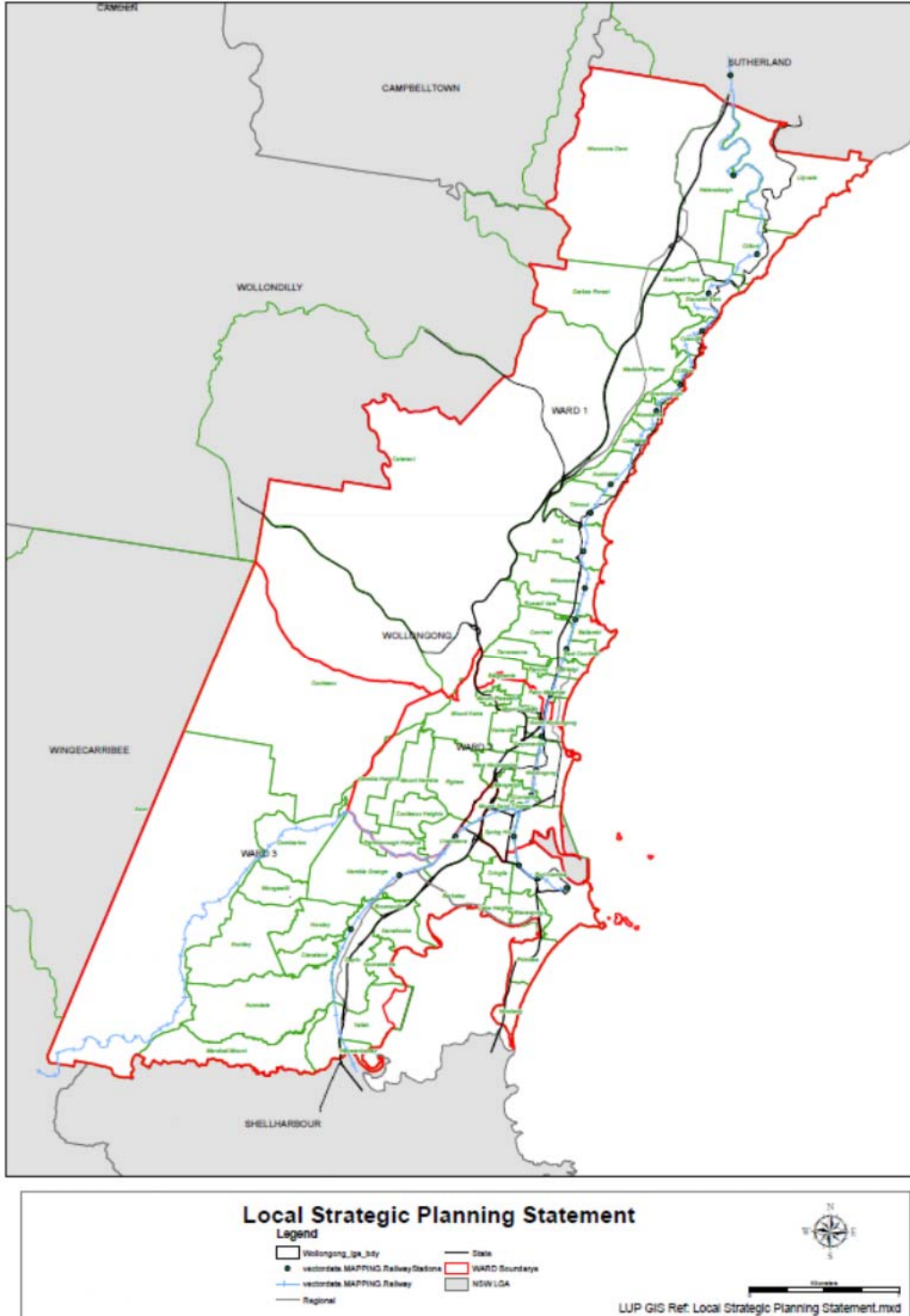
The LGA can be divided into districts, suburbs, localities and precincts by many different methodologies. Administrative boundaries include Ward boundaries, suburb boundaries, postcodes or census small area boundaries. Natural boundaries include catchment, topographical or landscape features. Economic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

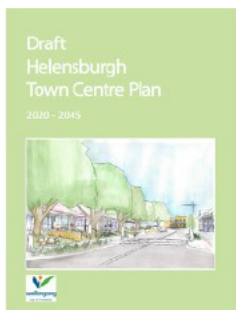
Thirroul has significant road infrastructure constraints, with the Lawrence Hargrave Drive 2 lane rail bridge providing the only road link between north and south Thirroul. The lack of an alternate road route means all traffic crosses the bridge.

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.

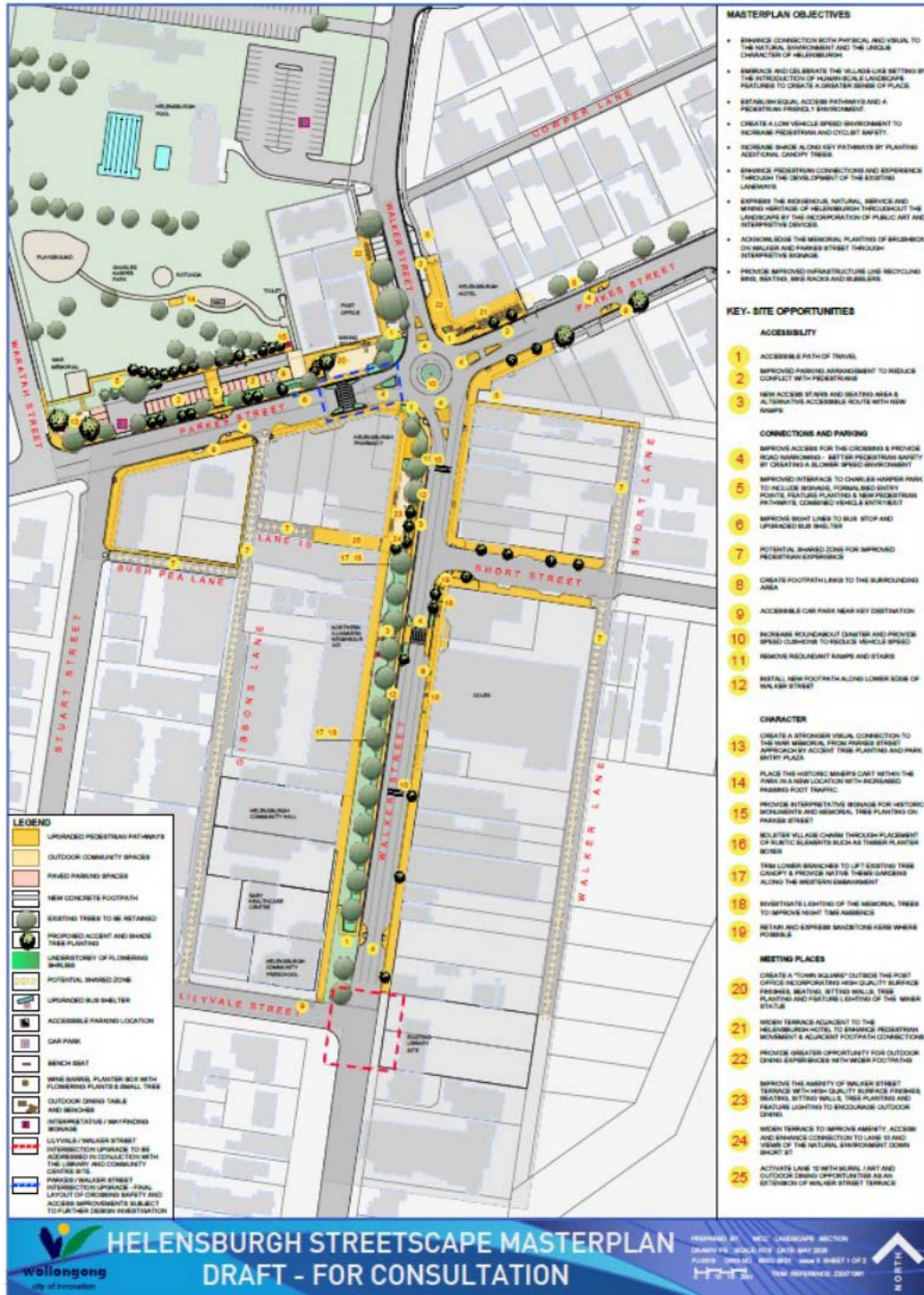
The future growth potential of Helensburgh has been debated since the 1980s. Between 2006 and 2013 Council undertook the Review of former lands zoned 7(d) at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops, and exhibited a draft Planning Proposal. As a result, the bushland surrounding Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell 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 exhibited in 2020. The Study focuses on improvements to the Town Centre and includes a main street master plan to guide infrastructure improvements. A new Helensburgh Community Centre and Library is being planned. Council was successful in obtaining State Government grant of \$1.6 million to partially fund some of the road and footpath improvements.

Figure 8.2 Draft Helensburgh Main Street Master Plan



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.

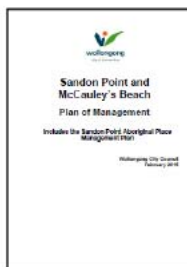
Council is also preparing a draft master plan for Bulli Showground.

8.1.5 Sandon Point and McCauleys Beach Plan of Management

Sandon Point and McCauleys Beach at Bulli – Thirroul is a significant heritage and cultural site. In 2007 Sandon Point and McCauleys Beach was declared an Aboriginal Place under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. Council works with local Aboriginal communities to make sure this place continues to be valued and protected.

The purpose of an Aboriginal Place declaration is to conserve the declared values of the place. OEH defined the values of the Sandon Point Aboriginal Place as follows:

“The values of the Aboriginal place include a meeting place for Aboriginal groups; a ‘chiefs’ meeting place, a midden, and burials of Aboriginal people.” “It is a place that has a history reflecting a resource rich environment where Aboriginal groups traditionally gathered for meetings, ceremonies and other activities, including camping and fishing. The whole of Sandon Point area is considered a significant meeting place, and a story site located on the Sandon Point headland was a place where two leaders of two Aboriginal groups met. Further, the McCauley’s Beach midden is the surviving remnant of an extensive coastal midden, which includes an Aboriginal burial and re-burial site. The declaration of the Sandon Point Aboriginal Place acknowledges these values.”



In 2015 Council adopted the Sandon Point and McCauley’s Beach Plan of Management to guide future activities at this important site. The Plan of Management was prepared in consultation with the local community and Aboriginal Groups. The Plan of Management, with its emphasis on the Sandon Point Aboriginal Place Values, shows support of Aboriginal Heritage and Culture.

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.

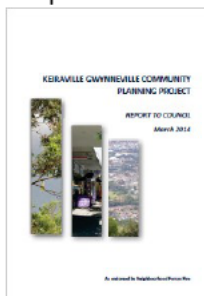
Council subsequently prepared the Figtree Oval Recreation Master Plan.

8.2.4 University of Wollongong & Innovation Campus

As noted in section 2.1.5, 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.

8.2.7 Mt Keira Summit Park Plan of Management

Mt Keira is a prominent scenic landmark which, at 464 metres above sea level, provides a unique visual backdrop to the west of the City of Wollongong. Mt Keira is very significant to the Aboriginal community and is known as Djera and remains in active use for cultural purposes.

The Mt Keira Summit Park occupies 9.4 hectares of relatively flat land on the top of Mt Keira. The Mt Keira Summit Park is owned and managed by Council and is a natural area annex of Wollongong Botanic Garden. The Park forms a small and discrete part of Mt Keira, with the surrounding steep bushland being part of the Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area, managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

The Summit Park lookouts are a popular destination for tourists and residents, to enjoy the views and scenery and to picnic and bushwalk. The Summit is also a destination for road cycling and has featured several regional recreational and sporting events. In 2015, the former restaurant/function centre /caretakers cottage was demolished and was replaced in 2016 with a container kiosk and associated upgraded amenities to improve safety, visitor experience and accessibility.

On 27 June 2016, Council endorsed the following vision for Mt Keira Summit Park:

A trip to Mt Keira Summit Park will change the way people see and experience Wollongong. It will be a place to enjoy the beautiful views of the city, mountains and the sea and to appreciate the cultural and environmental landscape of the Illawarra Escarpment through a range of exceptional visitor experiences



On 9 December 2019 Council adopted the Mt Keira Summit Park Plan of Management. The Plan of Management details the permissible activities in different part of the Summit Park.

8.2.8 Wollongong Botanic Garden Plan of Management

The Wollongong Botanic Garden is located in Keiraville and includes heritage listed Gleniffer Brae, the Kooloobong Sporting Oval and the Sydney Church of England Girls Grammar School (SCEGGS) buildings now occupied by the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music. The Botanic Garden has an area of 27 hectares and was officially opened in 1971.

A Plan of Management for the Garden was adopted by Council in 2006. On 10 October 2016 Council resolved to exhibit a new the draft Wollongong Botanic Garden Plan of Management (2017), draft Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan and a draft Planning Proposal to enable functions to occur in Gleniffer Brae. The draft Plans were exhibited from 26 October 2016 to 9 December 2016.

On 23 July 2018, Council resolved to exhibit the draft Wollongong Botanic Garden Master Plan. The draft Master Plan was exhibited from 6 August to 3 September 2018.

Council is waiting on endorsement of the draft Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan by NSW Heritage to enable the Plan of Management, Master Plan and Planning Proposal to be progressed. Once the documents are able to be adopted they will guide the future use and improvements to the Garden.

8.2.9 Wollongong Foreshore Plan of Management



On 29 January 2008 Council adopted the Wollongong Foreshore Plan of Management which applies to Council and Crown land along the Wollongong Foreshore from Wollongong Golf Club to Stuart Park, and includes Lang Park, City Beach, Flagstaff Hill, Belmore Basin and North Beach.

The Plan of Management is divided into 7 precincts and guides how Council uses the community land along the foreshore.

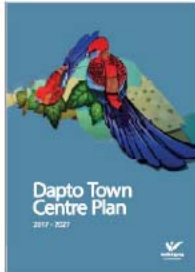
As a consequence of the Crown Land Management Act 2016, the Plan of Management is required to be reviewed and updated to comply with the new legislation. This review is scheduled to occur in 2021-22.

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.

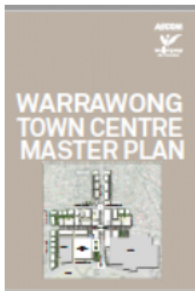
The 2017 study includes the following vision for the Centre:

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 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.

The long-term lease of Port Kembla Harbour to NSW Ports has enabled the State Government to establish the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund. The fund is allocated to community projects in the Port Kembla 2505 postcode area, and is designed to achieve:

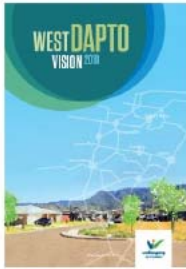
- increased economic activity
- enhanced activation and connectivity of public infrastructure, precincts and community spaces
- improved environmental air, land and waterway quality
- projects funded under the fund must positively contribute to one or more of these desired outcomes.

To-date there have been 3 funding rounds:

- Round 1 (2017) funded 11 projects with a value of \$1,997,487
- Round 2 (2017) funded 11 projects with a value of \$1,030,815
- Round 3 (2019) funded 17 projects with a value of \$2,903,057

(Source: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/port-kembla-community-investment-fund>)

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.

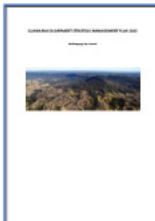
In 2018 Council endorsed the following vision:

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



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.

8.5 Drinking Water Catchment

To the west of the Illawarra Escarpment is the western plateau, this area being largely occupied by the headwaters of the Metropolitan dams, including Cordeaux and Cataract

Dams, the Upper Nepean Dams and the catchment of the Woronora Dam. The majority of Sydney Drinking Water Catchment lands in Wollongong LGA are declared Special Area (Schedule 1) lands under the Water NSW Act 2014 and associated Regulation where public access is prohibited.

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. The Sydney Drinking Water Catchment SEPP requires new development to have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality.

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. Although mining activities are permitted to occur within and under the catchment area by the Government.

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. These areas are unsewered and the assessment of water quality forms an important aspect of development assessment to reduce risks to water quality.

8.6 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 and Sydney Drinking Water Catchment 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 continue 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
Prepare site specific Plans of Management for key Crown Reserves	Short 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
Work with the NSW Land and Housing Commission to renew social housing provision in Wollongong LGA.	On-going
Work with the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Lands Council (ILALC) to assist their proposals for the conservation or development of their land holdings	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
Exhibit and finalise the draft Stanwell Park Reserve and Bald Hill Plan of Management for Council and Crown Reserves	Short term
Review the Generic Plan of Management for Council land	Medium term
Prepare a Plan of Management for Crown Reserves	Medium term
Prepare site specific Plans of Management for key Crown Reserves	Medium Term
Climate Action and Resilience:	
Commence Climate Action Governance framework	Short term
Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy – exhibit and adopt	Short term
Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan – exhibit and adopt	Short term
Climate Change Adaption Plan – prepare, exhibit and adopt	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

Project	Timeframe Short term = 1-3 years Medium term =4-6 years Long term = 6-10 years
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
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 Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2039 – exhibit and adopt	Short term
LGA Transport Plan will be prepared	Medium term
Review the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy	Medium term
Implement the findings of the ISJO Enabling Water Sensitive Communities project	Medium term
Wards:	
The Illawarra Escarpment and Sydney Drinking Water Catchment 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

Project	Timeframe Short term = 1-3 years Medium term =4-6 years Long term = 6-10 years
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. It is proposed that the LSPS be reviewed with the Community Strategic Plan to ensure consistency.

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is preparing a new draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan which is expected to be exhibited in late 2020. 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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