

Neighbourhood Forum 5

Wollongong's Heartland

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



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

AGENDA meeting WEDNESDAY 2nd April 2025 at 6.30 In the Library Theatre

- 1 Presentation Jerah Fox on draft Infrastructure Delivery Program 2025-2029
- 2 Apologies Harold Hanson, Jeremy Lasek, Dorte Ekland,
- 3 Minutes of meeting of **5th March** and matters arising: see pp. 16-20
- 4 Comments If you wish to comment on, or object to, any of the recommendations in this agenda please respond before the meeting date.
- 5 Caveats **See p. 2.**
- 6 Responses
 - 6.1 Integrated Transport Interchange: see p.2
 - 6.2 Stormwater Infrastructure: see p.2
 - 6.3 Ken Ausburn Track see p.3
 - 6.4 issues awaiting response: see p.4
- 7 Reports
 - 7.1 Flood Plain Committees **see p.4**
 - 7.2 protection of Wiseman Park Playground: **see rec p. 5**
 - 7.3 Facilitator's report on City Foreshore Plan: see p. 5
 - 7.4 Wollongong Harbour Breakwater path: **see rec p. 6**
 - 7.5 Mount Ousley Interchange: see p.6
 - 7.6 Recycling of Packaging – progress: see p.7
 - 7.7 Irvine Street Gwynneville proposal: see p.8
 - 7.8 Robinson Park: see p.9
- 8 Planning
 - 8.1 Planning see p.9
 - 8.2-7 Development Applications: **see rec pp.9-11**
 8. DA determinations: see p.12
- 9 General Business 9.1 see p.14
- 10 Snippets see p.15

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 452 households

5 Caveats

Please note that whilst these reports and reviews, together with the recommendations and actions based on them, have been prepared with all due care and objectivity, no legal responsibility is accepted for errors, omissions or inadvertent misrepresentations, nor for any outcomes which might result from them.

6 Responses 6.1 Integrated Transport Interchange

Thank you very much for reaching out about plans to upgrade interchange facilities in the Wollongong Station area.

As you know, we are currently in the process of preparing a long-term vision for the station precinct, which will be available for community feedback in the near future.

I will add your email address to our stakeholder register so you receive direct correspondence about this project and can be incorporated in the process moving forward. We'll let you know as soon as the plan is available for feedback.

Transport for NSW

6.2 Stormwater Infrastructure:

“Point 1 - Council is currently updating our Asset Management Strategy Plan 2025-2035 which includes stormwater assets. This is currently in draft format, which is yet to be adopted by Council and not available for public access.

Point 2 –Council’s Stormwater objectives are in-line with your suggested core objectives. Details can be found in the [Community Strategic Plan](#) (1.2, 1.3, 5.2, pages 20-21) and [supporting documents](#).

Point 3 - Council is responsible for building, operating and managing over \$6.2 billion worth of infrastructure assets that support a variety of services for our community. The infrastructure delivery program is an investment plan in investigation and delivery of new, expanded, renewed and decommissioning of public infrastructure. Infrastructure assets managed by Council include Stormwater pipes and drains. One of the key infrastructure investment priorities include Infrastructure to manage flood risk and investment in the maintenance of Council’s existing stormwater network.

Stormwater Services manage and effectively improve the cleanliness, health, biodiversity of land and water including creeks, lakes, waterways and oceans, and increase resilience to natural disasters and a changing climate to protect life, property and the environment.

This service strategically plans for a coordinated approach to floodplain risk management and stormwater management including protection of waterways, beaches, lakes, lagoons and creeks. The service manages and maintains 835 kilometres of drainage and associated infrastructure assets across the city that aim to be safe, efficient, effective and sustainable. Total capital budget over 4 years | 2024-25 to 2027-28 is \$26,805,333. For further details on the Stormwater Services projects please refer [Attachment-2-Infrastructure-Delivery-Program-2024-2025-2027-2028.pdf](#)

Point 4 - For details about flood behaviour and flood risk mitigation measures please refer to the adopted [Fairy and Cabbage Tree Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan dated August 2024](#) and [Allans Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan dated August 2024](#) available on SES Flood data portal. For information about Floodplain Management activities please refer to [Attachment-2-Infrastructure-Delivery-Program-2024-2025-2027-2028.pdf](#)

Administration Support (Acting) – Floodplain + Stormwater

6.3 Ken Ausburn Track

“As you know the property has been subject to a recent NSW Land & Environment Court ruling where Council appeared as the Respondent to the proceedings. The Court’s decision to dismiss the Appeal facilitated finalisation of the Illawarra Escarpment Foothills Planning Proposal. On 8 November 2024, the land was rezoned under LEP Amendment No 9. The rezoning has the effect of limiting the development potential of the site in response to the constraints and sensitivities of the locality.

The potential to utilise 14 Cosgrove Avenue to access the Ken Ausburn Track has been discussed with Ms Kathleen Packer, Executive Director Infrastructure and Property at the University of Wollongong. It was agreed that creating a new section of the track under a separate ownership arrangement is not ideal from an ongoing management and maintenance perspective.

It is understood that Neighbourhood Forum 5 meet with representatives for the University on a regular basis. Ms Packer has undertaken to raise the matter of track maintenance at the next scheduled catch – up with your group.”

Manager City Strategy

6.4 Issues awaiting responses

Partial responses/acknowledgements have been made to some of these items but substantial responses are still to come.

1	City Centre Movement and Place Plan	7/08/2024
2	Housing Mix –	9/10/2024
3	Parking for Carers & Service People –	9/10/2024
4	Corrimal Street Footpath	24/10/2024
5	Community use of Local Parks –	24/10/2024
6	Allotments and Community Gardens -	25/10/2024
7	Pedestrian crossing Cliff Road and GHD –	06/11/2024
8	Construction activities on Footpaths –	24/11/2024
9	Loss of CBD parking	7/2/2025
12	Pedestrian Safety in Keiraville	7/2/2025
13	Electric Scooters	7/2/2025
14	Acceptable Major Event locations	7/2/2025
15	Continental Pool opening hours	15/3/2025
16	Buses layovers	15/3/2025

7 Reports 7.1

Floodplain Committees

In July 2024 Council resolution 983 included:

“1. Council request a combined meeting of all Wollongong floodplain committees early in the new term of Council to receive an update following the April 2024 flood event, with the aim to inform –

- a Options to lessen the impacts of increasing high volume rainfall events.
- b Local emergency announcements to improve resident and business evacuation processes.
- c Early community announcements when high rainfall events are anticipated, to provide residents and businesses with the opportunity to shore up the homes or businesses.”

Council’ has 3 Floodplain Risk Management Committees - northern, central and southern areas, which consist of three councillors, staff from Council and relevant NSW Government departments & agencies, reps from industry, businesses, flood affected landholders, flood action groups or neighbourhood forums, environmental groups and guests as deemed necessary. During the term of the previous council there was an average of 1 meeting per year for each Floodplain Committee. In Nov 2024 this Council appointed 3 Councillors to each Floodplain Committee and nominated that meetings be held quarterly. It is not known whether advertisements for membership of Committees have occurred nor members appointed.

Hopefully the new Committees will be well represented and meet more regularly than in previous years, and that a combined meeting of all Committees will be held asap to receive an update following the April 2024 flood, in accordance with Council's resolution.

7.2 Protection of Wiseman Park Playground.

The children's playground at Wiseman Park is of concern to the cricket community and I'm sure to a number of local residents whose children use the playground. The playground was built too close to the ground. Whilst it is uncertain whether or not anyone has been hit by a ball yet, but it will happen one day.

A child could also be injured by a ball going through the open fence Council installed some years ago on the ground. The situation could be easily rectified by Council putting high posts and netting outside the ground to protect the playground. There is a good example of this Dalton Park at the northern end (which protects balls from being kicked into the creek behind the goals).

Recommendation

Council be requested to improve safety measures at the Wiseman Park Playground.

7.3 Facilitator's report on City Foreshore Plan

A public meeting was held managed by an independent facilitator. Based on the feedback she determined that the community members at the meeting made the following key requests:

- **Commercial Use at Stuart Park:**

Reassess the inclusion of commercial activities—especially skydiving—within areas dedicated to public recreation, with calls for prioritising community use.

- **Parking and Traffic Management:**

Implement a paid parking system (with concessions for local residents) and resolve the long-standing issue of temporary bus parking.

- **Clarity in the PoM:**

Revise the PoM to include clearer definitions of permissible activities. Consider developing area-specific plans or clearer sub-sections to improve understanding.

- **Heritage Picnic Hut and Public Access:**

Enhance the management of heritage picnic structure located between Marine Drive and Parkside Avenue with improved lighting and maintenance, ensuring these culturally significant assets remain accessible and safe.

- **Transparent Future Process:**

Clearly communicate how community feedback will influence the final PoM, particularly regarding Ministerial approval and future leasing/licence arrangements.

7.4 Wollongong Harbour Breakwater pathway

Due to lack of maintenance over many years the surface of this pathway has continued to deteriorate to the point where rocks and stones litter the surface. These are picked up by hooligans who hurl them against boats, and occasionally their occupants, representing a significant safety issue as well as causing damage to craft.

Recommendations

- 1 the Department of Transport be requested to ensure that, for the safety of users and protection of vehicles, the Wollongong Harbour breakwater pathway is surfaced with concrete or bitumen as a matter of urgency;
- 2 Wollongong City Council be requested to make a similar request;
- 3 Paul Scully MP be requested to do likewise.

7.5 Mt Ousley Intersection Update

NF5 Agendas since Feb 2024 have included updates, after announcement of a contract for \$390 M with 80% funding by the Australian and 20% by NSW governments, for a reduced scope of works to meet budget requirements. This raised concerns by residents about loss of an active transport link bridge across Mt Ousley Road and traffic safety aspects. A community Working Group was formed in May 2024, and it is greatly appreciated that MP Alison Byrnes has arranged many meetings with local MPs and representatives of TfNSW, Council and the Working Group.

In November 2024 TfNSW Executive Director Cities & Active Transport attended an onsite meeting, which emphasised the Secretary's directive in Feb 2021 that "provision for walking and cycling must be delivered from the outset of every transport project". Also it reinforced TfNSW Road User Space Allocation Policy July 2024 which includes a principle of "allocating road user space based on the network vision and road functions, considering all road users in order of: Walking; 2. Cycling; 3. Public transport; 4. Freight & servicing; 5. Point to point transport; 6. General traffic and on-street parking for private motorised vehicles." The most recent working group meeting was in Feb 2025 when a draft plan for a bridge (subject to funding) was presented, and will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Safety concerns raised early were detailed at NF5 meeting in Oct 2024, and representatives of NF5 and TfNSW met in Dec and discussed TfNSW response to nine potential safety issues. TfNSW confirmation of NF5 notes, progress with action items and advice re Council's traffic modelling is awaited.

Also there has been considerable concern from affected residents about extensive tree clearing and the need to review landscaping, revegetation and maintenance responsibilities and proposals. In March 2025 a separate group met with reps of TfNSW and the contractor and discussions included the use of suitable local species and ongoing community involvement, including with Landcare. Also recently an onsite meeting with residents was arranged by the contractor to discuss impending clearing works west of the M1.

7.6 Recycling of Packaging – progress

A recent Report on Australian Consumption and Recovery data, reported in Inside Waste publication, demonstrates the lack of positive progress on recycling of packaging. This is most disappointing because in June 2023 Ministers of the Australian and State Governments promised:

1. Mandatory packaging design standards;
2. Bans on harmful chemicals;
3. Making companies responsible for their packaging waste.

This raised the expectation that actions would occur to reduce the impact of packaging on the environment. However the Dec 2024 data includes:

- a) Packaging onto Market per year: Total ~7 MT, of which Cardboard 4 MT (57%), Plastic, 1 MT (15%), Glass 1 MT (15%), Wood & Metal 0.5 MT (7%), other (6%);
- b) Total Recycling Rate is 56%, with Glass 69%, Cardboard 65%, but plastic only 19% (v plastic target 70%);
- c) Average Recycled content used in packaging has slightly improved to 44% (v target 50%), but plastic has only increased from 2% to 8%;
- d) Problematic and unnecessary single use packing was to be phased out, but whilst state initiatives to ban retail shopping bags have occurred, bans at Federal level are awaited.

Positives include some Federal/State grant funding for new processing facilities, some companies are innovating, and States and Councils have introduced CDS collections (despite contentious costs v benefits). However the results of Report to Dec 2024 emphasises that system-wide regulatory reform is essential

Recommendation

Council be asked to make representations through local Federal and State MP to request relevant Ministers expedite system-wide regulatory reforms to address the generation, consumption and recycling of packing.

7.7 Irvine Street Gwynneville proposal

In July 2024 Homes NSW submitted a Planning Proposal request for the precinct opposite Wollongong University and south of Northfields Avenue to amend planning controls and enable Homes NSW to create 1,250 dwellings with 50% “social and affordable homes” and 50% “market housing, ” subject to funding, over the current 134 lots owned privately and by Homes NSW. This means almost 10 times existing dwellings in a relatively compact area, adjacent the Botanic Gardens & close to the M1, with existing problems including traffic, parking, and flooding concerns, and the need to ensure appropriate built form, character, tree canopy, sustainability and ESD factors..

At its meeting on 5th August 2024 the Forum resolved that, whilst welcoming the potential increase in affordable housing, Council be requested not to proceed with re-zoning until:

- a the implications of development as it proceeds on the adjacent sites are set out, not least what to do when residents or land owners do not wish to participate
- b arrangements for re-housing displaced residents are set out;
- c why some areas are proposed 4 stories and others for 6 stories;
- d how binding is the Master Plan;
- e funds are allocated funds for upgrading the shareway between the city centre and the university, specifically to include a bridge over Northfields Avenue (Paulsgrove Ave -Madoline St - Unicentre).
- f there is a review of parking arrangements and proposals for share car/bikes;
- g there is a review of flood mitigation proposals ensured proper maintenance in perpetuity;
- h traffic implications are reviewed particularly in the light of the Mount Ousley interchange proposals.

On 25 November 2024 Council considered a supplementary package by Homes NSW including an updated concept plan, and resolved to adopt a very detailed process including preparing a Planning Proposal to rezone the precinct from R2 low density to R4 High Density Residential development up to six storeys high, seek NSW Planning's Gateway determination, consider Traffic and Flooding Plans and a comprehensive Community Engagement Strategy by Homes NSW. Then public exhibition for minimum six weeks, a report on submissions and Council finalise the Planning Proposal under delegation. Homes NSW and Council would then develop a DCP chapter, a Planning Agreement and a Contributions Plan for exhibition, reporting and determination.

Council is managing the "community engagement process" rather than Homes NSW, and has placed multiple large documents on Council website inviting written/electronic feedback by closing date 28 April:
<https://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/planning-proposal-irvine-street-gwynneville-precinct>.

It has been pointed out that Council and Homes NSW have not presented an independent consultant's "comprehensive Community Engagement Strategy", as recommended by the Wollongong Local Planning Panel and in Council's report. Also they have not provided residents and the surrounding community with a formal presentation of the revised planning proposal before putting it on public exhibition.

There have been some marginal changes and a Public Meeting will be held next. Tuesday 1 st April at the Senior Citizens Centre 192 Gipps Road Gwynneville.

Homes NSW agreed to attend the Public meeting subject to Council attending also, but on Monday Council advised they would not be represented. Subsequently there have been discussions with the Lord Mayor to provide updates, and are ongoing.

7.7 Robinson Park:

NF5 meeting 5 March considered a delegation of Gwynneville residents opposed to Council's proposed imminent demolition of Robinson Park amenities block, and requested Council representatives meet onsite to discuss with the group "Save Our Robinson Park Toilets".

On March 12 On-site there were constructive discussions, with Lord Mayor, Councillors Anthony & Docker, and WCC staff, sharing of information , and how to move forward in the community's best interests.

Council is considering the new community perspectives that residents in the area. In particular that the soccer club who regularly use the park take over the occupation and management of the block and that nearby residents continue with bushcare and improvement activities, It is understood the Robinson Park Toilet Block will remain in the meantime

Recommendation

NF5 thanks Lord Mayor Tania Brown, Councillors Anthony and Docker, and Council staff who attended the recent Robinson Park onsite meeting at short notice, for their prompt response.

8 Planning

8.1 As this review has only been made with the information available, members are encouraged to make their own submissions with any additional comments to the Secretary before the closing date.

8.2 DA-2025/139, Extra 6 units, 2 stories 15 Marr St, W'gong 25th March

This is a proposal to add 6 affordable units and 2 extra stories to an approved but not yet built 7 storey development which we originally supported. It seems to meet the requirements of the amended State Environmental Policy (Housing) which varied standards if Affordable Housing Units were included. Whilst there are some concerns about setbacks and design, the impact does not seem to very different from the proposal we supported.



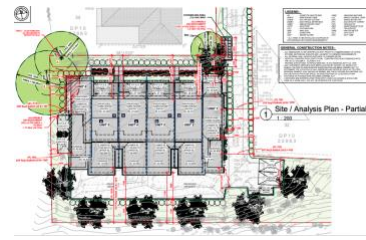
Recommendation

That the submission of support be endorsed.

8.3 DA-2025/175 6 townhouses, 39 Sorensen Dr, Figtree

28th March

This is a proposal for six town houses on a very irregular battleaxe lot in an area of detached house relatively remote from services. It is a density marginally greater than our Locality Plan for Figtree allows. It has marginal non-compliance with one setback, part of a driveway width; boundary landscape widths; and the height of a couple of retaining walls. It is downhill of, and does not appear to adversely impact adjoining development.



Recommendation:

That the submission of support be endorsed.

8.4 DA-2025/122, Extra 14 units, 2 stories 81-85 Keira St Wg.

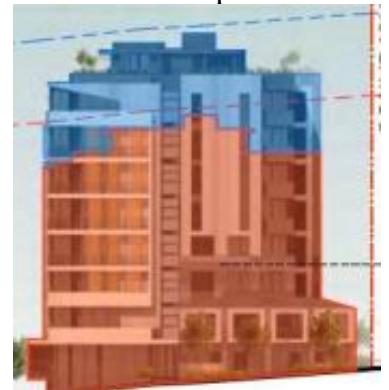
9th April

This is a proposal to add 14 affordable units and two extra stories to a Land and Environment Court approved but not yet built 8 storey development on the NE corner of Smith and Keira Streets.

We objected to the original proposal on the grounds of Heritage impact, and infringements of height, setback, streetscape, building separation, overshadowing and solar access.

Council refused but the Court approved.

The amendments will doubtless make the impact even worse.



Comment

This was already a hugely bulky building without the proposed additions. We should oppose and also note that the design features no real landscaping to soften the visual impact of the building or ameliorate the heat that will be trapped by the building and surrounding pavements. If the building is approved there should be quality landscaping of trees and ground covers to soften the visual impact and provide shade to occupants and users of the public realm.

Recommendation

That a submission of objection be lodged

8.5 DA-2025/131 Dual Occ, 89 Evens St Wollongong

21st March

This is a proposal for an attached dual occupancy in a stretch of the street exclusively of single storey dwellings but with a sprinkling of development similar to that proposed 150 metres further north. It seems to conform to all Council requirements but is clearly totally out of character with this part of the street.,



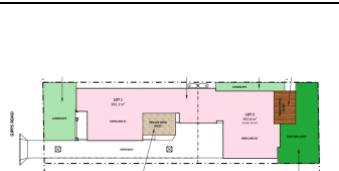
Recommendation

That the submission lodged be endorsed which noted that the proposal was completely out character with the streetscape but, despite this, should Council be minded to approve the proposal, it should be conditioned on the landscaping be revised to be in scale with the building.

8.6 DA-2025/162 Dual Occ, 222 Gipps Road, Gwynneville

26th March

This a proposal for an attached dwelling behind an existing house to form a dual occupancy. It seems to com poly with all Council requirements and our Locality Plan for Keiraville.



Recommendation

That the submission of support be endorsed.

8.7 DA Determinations

23/587 complies	W'gong	5 Greenacre Rd	Dual Occ	Object	Approved
23/759 complies	W'gong	45-49 Flinders St	MacDonalds	Support	Approved Panel
23/768 faulty	W'gong	205 Church St	Dual Occ	Object	Refused
23/962 complies	W. W'gong	Edmund Rice College	2 storey building	Support	Approved
23/975 complies	Gwynnvil	19 Paulsgrove	boarding house	Support	Approved
23/1008 faulty	Keiraville	8 Burradool St	Dual Occ	Object	Approved Panel
24/1 complies	W'gong	15-19 Marr St	7 storeys, 24 units	Support	Approved Panel
24/2 faulty	Gwynnvil le	13 Francis St	Dual Occ	Object	Approved
24/11 complies	W'gong	106,120,122 Smith St, 3A Charlotte St	8 lot subd.	Support	Approved
24/23 faulty	Mangertn	51 Byrarong St	Dual Occ	Object	Refused
24/24 faulty	Mangertn	7 & 9 Woodlawn Ave	2 x Dual Occs	Support	Refused
24/26 faulty	W'gong	23-27 Auburn St	16 stories, 61 units	Support	Deemed refusal
24/96 complies	Keiraville	74 Grey St.	Dual Occ	Support	Withdrawn
24/100 faulty	Figtree	4A Arter Ave.	13 dwellings	Object	Withdrawn
24/162 complies	W. W'gong	473 Crown St	7 affordable units + facility	Support	Approved
24/181 complies	Mt Keira	Mt Keira Road	Archery clubhouse	Support	Approved
24/207 faulty	N. W'gong	26-30 Ajax Ave	12 houses	Support	Refused
24/290 complies	W'gong	2 Auburn St	Dog day care	Support	Approved
24/476 faulty	W'gong	264-6 Kenny St	19 stories, 113 units	Object	Deemed refusal
24/477 faulty	W. W'gong	33 Parsons St.	3 houses	Object	Refused
24/608 faulty	W'gong	Keira and Kenny Sts	14 stories, 116 units	Object	Withdrawn
24/860 faulty	Keiraville	13 Braeside Ave	Dual Occ	Support	Withdrawn
24/722 faulty	W'gong	49 Mangerton Rd	Dual Occ	Not to object	Approved

Not yet determined

23/156 faulty	W'gong	c/o Crown/Gladstone	22 stories 288 units	Object
23/765 faulty	W'gong	1-3 Stewart St	13 stories, 27 units	Object
23/945 complies	W'gong	98-104 Gipps St	5 storey commercial	Support
24/87 complies	N.W'gong	39-41 Montague St	16 warehouse units	Support
24/210 faulty	W'gong	41-47 Denison St	17 stories, 75 units	Support
24/477 faulty	W. W'gong	33 Parsons St.	3 houses	Object
24/538 complies	W'gong	65 Gladstone Ave	Dual Occ	Support
24/574 complies	Coniston	47 Robertson St	Dual Occ	Support
24/599 faulty	W'gong	109-115 Church St	9 stories, 45 units	Object
24/608 faulty	W'gong	Keira and Kenny Sts	14 stories, 116 units	Object
24/708 faulty	W.W'gong	93 Robsons Rd	10 Co-living rooms	Object
24/776 faulty	W'gong	14 Finlayson St	Dual Occ	Support
24/788 faulty	Keiraville	19 Rose St	Dual Occ	Object
24/796 faulty	Figtree	14 Mallangong Close	Dual Occ	Support
24/803 faulty	W'gong	34 Evans St	Dual Occ	Support
24/812 faulty	Gwynneville	26 Crawford Ave	Dual Occ	Support
25/79 complies	Keiraville	35 Bulwarra St	Dual Occ	Support

General Business

Next Meeting

6.30pm Wednesday 7th May 2025

Library Theatrette

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 452 households

Snippets

UNSW City Futures Research Centre

The Centre have undertaken major social surveys of residents in two redevelopment sites in inner Sydney – Ashmore (mostly 3-5 stories) and Green Square (mostly 8-10 stories) in the years 2017,2020 and 2023.

Strongly agree	Ashmore		Green Square	
	2017	2023	2017	2023
A good place to live	49%	40%	29%	30%
A good place to raise children (have children)	43%	30%	19%	21%
A good place to retire (50+)	32%	28%	19%	22%
A senses of attachment	14%	17%	6%	8%
A desire for more interaction	55%	68%	69%	74%
Interaction at entrance or near building	56%	59%	50%	54%
Interaction in local park	65%	57%	47%	52%

Whilst many respondents probably did not have a free choice as to the type of accommodation they ended up in, there are some interesting differences of satisfaction:

- significantly more respondents prefer medium to high density living;
- as expected medium density is better for children;
- unexpectedly it was also preferred by retirees;
- it seems very few feel attachment to high density homes;
- worryingly a high proportion of people desire more social interaction;
- the design of entrances is very important;
- the availability of local parks is very important.



“Does ‘high-rise’ refer to the building or the budget?”

LATE BUSINESS

9.1 Submission on draft DCP Access and Parking

The Forum is concerned about the strategy of reducing parking standards as a means of reducing car traffic, which may be relevant for Sydney and major suburban CBDs well serviced by public transport, which Wollongong lacks. This has inevitable consequences in terms of on-street parking congestion, trade moving to centres where parking is easier, and destruction of streetscapes.

Far more effective is to increase the cost of using cars by taxing vehicles entering congested areas, as is successful in Singapore and elsewhere. Also, by providing parking stations on the periphery of the city centre (2 hours for free?). linked to it by public park-and-ride free busses, and by radically improving cycle and pedestrian access. Wollongong CBD revitalisation in the 1980s provided peripheral parking stations for use by owners, workers, servicing and visitors. Now Council needs to develop strategies to increase the availability of accessible, affordable parking facilities and ensure funding is available for staged implementation to ensure timely availability, particularly for the needs of rapidly increasing numbers of high density residential dwellings.

Moreover, reducing parking standards for new commercial development means that existing businesses, not Council, are in practice subsidising them.

The change to reduce the provision in dual occupancies to one space per unit in High Density zones might make the sale of a unit which has no parking difficult, and inevitably will lead to more on-street congestion which will make it harder to introduce bikeways. Moreover some people in dual occupancies are likely to need parking for have boats, trailers, campers etc.

Many people who live in high density units near to the city centre now walk rather than face the difficulty of parking there, but still need a car for other journeys. Many residents in Wollongong CBD units have moved from suburban dwellings, and as they “age in the home” they use daily visiting care services, which need parking spaces that are not available in areas where CBD workers park all day, thus preventing turnover of spaces. Also as EV numbers expand, availability of adequate off- and on-street spaces for charging is essential.

Recommendation

A submission to Council be made along the lines of this report

9.2 Wollongong Botanic Gardens Master Plan Update

On 6 Dec 2023 NF5 considered a report which included that following NF5 request in October 2023 it was greatly appreciated that Council's Manager of Environment and Conservation Services recently provided NF5 representatives with a presentation on the draft Master Plan (MP) updated since the 2018 draft, including taking into account NF5 submission then. Apparently the MP had been delayed awaiting Heritage NSW approval of the revised Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

The main issues discussed included the need to:

- i seek Council's adoption of the CMP to enable urgent maintenance work to proceed;
- ii develop a comprehensive MP document with similar structure, level of detail and updates for 2023 proposals;
- iii review the process for reporting to Council and subsequent exhibition of the draft MP enabling community feedback,
- iv provide flexibility in seeking optional locations for a proposed restaurant;
- v remediate the duck pond including dredging silt;
- vi advance restoration works for the Japanese sister-city bridge;
- vii consider functional design and location for a facility combining visitors information, gift shop, kiosk/café, public toilets and work spaces.

It is now almost 7 years since the 2018 draft MP was developed,

Recommendation

Council be requested to provide an update on matters above as raised by NF5 in Dec 2023 and expedite exhibition of the revised draft WBG MP.

9.3 Fairy and Cabbage Tree creeks catchment flooding

“For details about Floodplain Risk Management Committee, please refer to the charter available in the below link. Council is currently in the process of inviting nominations for Floodplain Committee members from our community which will require interested applicants undergoing a selection process. Once ready it will be advertised on Council website.

https://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0023/35744/Charter-Floodplain-Risk-Management-Committees-Southern-Central-and-Northern-Areas.pdf

Regarding the flood event of 6 April 2024, please refer to the below document from Council meeting dated 27 May 2024.

https://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0037/237898/Item-1-6-April-Natural-Disaster-Event-Recovery-Update.pdf

Following the flood event, Council also provided a number of updated on the event including damages, cleanup and recovery. Please refer to news section (in below link) of Council website to search further details of the flood event.

<https://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/council/news>

Floodplain Management Engineer

9.4 Wollongong Tourist Office

It's hard to understand how Council thought closing its tourist info office in the heart of the city and moving it into no man's land was a bright idea. We now have a tourist centre that no one goes to and an empty building in the heart of the city gathering dust!

We have been persisting Council for a long time to bring the Tourist Office back to Wollongong where it belongs and where it had been located originally. It included a tourist shop which was at no cost to Council. Lots of people have supported the change again with no response. It would be interesting to query what the Tourist Office costs,

Recommendation

Council be requested to review the effectiveness of the Tourist Office in its current location together with opportunities to relocate it back into the Town Hall complex or even a new location such as adjacent to Wollongong Harbour.