

## Neighbourhood Forum 5

## Wollongong's Heartland



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

### AGENDA for meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022 by email

- |    |                  |   |
|----|------------------|---|
| 1  | Presentation     | None possible   |
| 2  | Apologies        | None necessary  |
| 3  | Minutes          | meeting 6 July & matters arising included in the agenda: see pp.17-23   |
| 4  | Comments         | If you wish to comment on, or object to, any of the recommendations in this agenda, please respond before the meeting date.   |
| 5  | Responses        | 5.1 Freight Transportation: see p.2, <b>rec p.2</b><br>5.2 Crown Land 2031 Action Plan: see p.2, <b>rec p.3</b><br>5.3 UCI Event – City Circuit Loop: see p.3<br>5.4 Social Impact Statements: see p.3, <b>rec p.4</b><br>5.5 Maldon-Dombarton Rail Link: see p.4, <b>rec p.5</b><br>5.6 Responsible Cat Ownership: see p.5<br>5.7 Council Plans for 2022/23: see p.5 |
| 6  | Reports          | 6.1 Alcohol Free Zones Review: see p.6, <b>rec p.6</b><br>6.2 Notification of DAs: see p.7, <b>rec p.7</b><br>6.3 Connecting Neighbours Grants: see p.7<br>6.4 Port Kembla Manildra Ethanol facility: see p.7, <b>rec p.8</b><br>6.5 CBD Speed Limits: see p.8  |
| 7  | Priorities       | 7.1 Livability: see p.3, 5-8<br>7.2 City Centre: see p.3, 5-8<br>7.3 Active Transport: see p. 8   |
| 8  | Planning         | 8.1 Planning see p.9 to 12 for summaries, comment, and recommendations for 7 current Development Applications.<br>8.2 DA determinations: see p.14 & 15.   |
| 9  | General Business | see p.15  |
| 10 | Snippets         | see p.16  |

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**Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 411 households**

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## **5 Responses**

### **5.1 Freight Transportation**

Paul Scully MP has received a response from the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads regarding our suggestion of a Mode Shift Incentive Scheme.

“The NSW Government is currently developing a number of strategies and options about how best to achieve its freight objectives, including increasing the use of rail for freight movements. This work is on-going and will include consultation with stakeholders in the near future.”

#### Recommendation

Paul Scully MP be thanked for making representations, with a follow up letter noting, inter alia, that the Port of Fremantle also has a Mode Shift Incentive Scheme.

### **5.2 Crown Land 2031 Action Plan**

In May NF5 agree that Council and local members be requested to i) make strong submissions requesting the NSW government to demonstrate how they will protect Crown land throughout NSW from ever-increasing threats of sale and lease of public land for private profit; and ii) request the relevant Minister to advise the process and timing for replacement of a Crown Land Commissioner to provide independent advice and enable transparency and accountability in the anagement: of the precious, essential and irreplaceable NSW Crown Land estate.

Paul Scully MP has received a response from the Minister for Lands and Water: “The government understands that the people of NSW want to see Crown Land used to deliver public value and benefits to communities across NSW foe years to come. One of the principlesof Crown Land management is to ensure the occupation, use, sale, leasing or licencingof Crown Land is in the best interest of NSW. There are a varous mechanisms in place to ensure these decions are made in a careful and thoughtful way: The Community Engagement Strategy; Crown Land Act 2016; The Allocation of Crown Land Policy, 2020; A Public Value Framework.”

#### Comment

Unfortunately the Minister’s response does not allay well-founded community concerns over many years about the mis-management of Crown Land, the damning Auditor General’s report in 2016, subsequent experiences from community groups particularly in coastal areas of NSW, the government’s main focus of increasing privatisation and generate income to be spent on unrelated projects and services, nor address the lack of a Crown Land Commissioner to enable transparency and accountability.

## Recommendation

Paul Scully MP be thanked for making representations.

### **5.3 UCI Event – City Circuit Loop**

As previously noted the UCI event from 17 to 25 Sep is a great opportunity to showcase Wollongong to the world, and it is appreciated that organising the infrastructure, logistics and running the event is an enormous challenge for all involved. The UCI Community Engagement Manager's response 11 July to NF5 enquiry about the current situation re information to residents within the City Circuit loop who will be affected by restrictions and arrangements for various durations during the 9 days includes:

Re Traffic Mangement Plan:

W2022 is only days away from finalising the TMP and making it public.”

Re communications for residents located in and around the City Circuit Loop:

“W2022 & Wollongong City Council will be developing a targeted letter/flyer and hand delivering this communication piece to these residents in the first week of August. In addition, a joint letter will go out to all other Wollongong LGA residents that week. Further, a special Business Engagement communication piece is going out to all businesses by Council next week.“

Re a detailed road clsure schedule as indicated on W2022 website:

“Following the finalisation of the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) in the next week, the Road Closure content on the Wollongong 2022, Council and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) websites will be updated. Further, W2022 and TfNSW have developed detailed and interactive maps which will be live in the next fortnight both on the W2022 & TfNSW websites. These will highlight daily road closures as well as providing a valuable journey mapping tool for the public.”

### **5.4 Social Impact Statements**

The Forum requested Council to introduce these for multi-dwelling and residential flat developments.

“There are no submission requirements for such assessments, although we often receive them for social housing projects, restricted premises, boarding houses and the like. Thanks for your suggestion.”

City Centre and Major Developments Manager

## Comment

It would seem the request was directed to the Development Assessment division rather than Strategic Planning as the whole reason for it was because there is no requirement.

## Recommendation

That Council be requested to amend the Development Control Plan to include the requirement for Multi-dwelling and residential flat applications to include a Social Impact Statement.

### **5.5 Maldon-Dombarton Rail Link**

At its May meeting, the Forum noted that the heavy rains in March and April 2022 led to impacts on the South Coast line, requiring to be closed to allow for essential maintenance whilst the Moss Vale Unanderra line was closed for routine maintenance for two days in January 2022, and was in need for further maintenance. The meeting noted that recent rains highlight the vulnerability of the South Coast and Moss Vale Unanderra lines and demonstrate the urgency of completing the Maldon Dombarton link not least to safeguard the capacity of local industries and the port to function effectively.

The Forum then agreed to request local members to seek from the NSW Government an undertaking that the 2014 Business case for completion of the Maldon Dombarton rail link be updated as a matter of urgency, and that the updated business case address the critical need of local industries and the port for the new link when the South Coast line and or the Moss Vale Unanderra line is closed due to weather or other events.

Advice as now been received from Minister Farraway (for Regional Transport and Roads) via Ryan Park MP, citing a 2012 business case stating that existing rail “infrastructure is sufficient to manage the short term and medium terms needs of the Illawarra Region” and the Maldon Dombarton remains as “as an initiative for investigation in the next 10-20 years...”.

It is as if the severe rain incidents in Autumn and the adverse impact on the Illawarra rail lines are of no consequence to TfNSW, as the Minister’s letter makes no reference to these.

An article “ ‘Antiquated’ rail links harm Kembla Illawarra Mercury Tuesday 12 July notes that after recent (the Autumn 2022) weather events, the Moss Vale-Unanderra line is out of action for as long as six months due to land slippage. The article notes the concern of Adam Zarth of Business Illawarra in that this line closure is impacting Bluescope and other industries at Port Kembla, putting more freight trains on the South Coast line, and also more large trucks onto our congested roads. In view of this, a better response from the NSW Government than recently provided about starting work on the Maldon Dombarton line is now needed.

## Recommendations

- i that the Forum write to Mr Park requesting a response from the NSW Government that will specifically address the impact of railway line closures to date, with contingency plans in case of further line closures, and to again request the NSW Government to update its 2014 Business case for completing the Maldon Dombarton rail link;
- ii that the Forum (again) seek the support of Wollongong City Council to seek from the NSW Government a new and updated Business case for completion of the Maldon Dombarton rail link;
- iii. that the Forum write to Ms Alison Byrnes, MHR for Cunningham, asking for federal assistance to complete this vital rail link (noting, inter alia, federal funding in 2012 for preconstruction work for Maldon Dombarton to a 'shovel ready' stage and Mr Albanese's Policy Launch on 1 May in Perth, as part of investing in infrastructure to boost productivity and create jobs "We'll invest in better rail for freight and for commuters").

### **5.6 Responsible Cat Ownership**

In July it was agreed to request Council to seek participation in the RSPCA program re responsible cat ownership. Council's response includes: "In March 2021 staff from Council's Regulation and Enforcement Division became aware of the RSPCA's Keeping Cats safe at Home program. Applications to participate in the program were open for all NSW Councils, with only 10 x Councils being successful in securing funding as part of the program. Staff from Regulation and Enforcement submitted an application to participate in the program, however unfortunately Wollongong City Council was unsuccessful on this occasion. Staff will continue to monitor the availability of appropriate programs & funding opportunities and will submit applications as appropriate

Compliance and Regulation Manager

### **5.7 Council Plans for 2022/23**

Council's response to NF5 submission on the draft Delivery Program 2022–2026 and Operational Plan 2022–2023 includes relevant extracts from the staff report to Council in June. Unfortunately as in previous years most requests for amendments have been unsuccessful.

## 6 Reports

### 6.1 Alcohol Free Zones Review

Council is considering the re-establishment of all Alcohol Free Zones (AFZs), which have a four-year term that will expire on 30 September 2022, and is seeking feedback to help determine whether they should be reimplemented or changed.

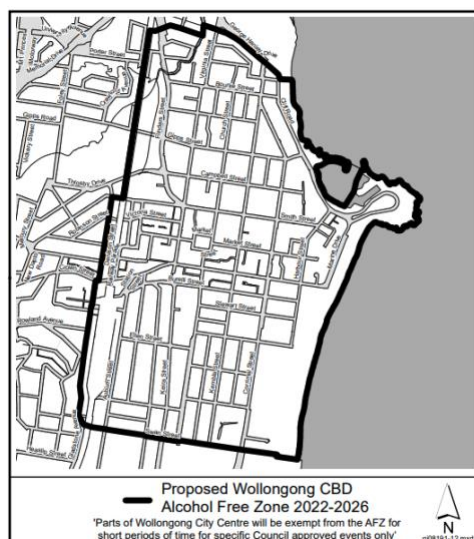
AFZs aim to improve community safety and prevent disorderly behaviour that can arise when people drink alcohol in a public place. They apply to road-related public areas including footpaths, roads and car parks and hold a four-year term, after which point they are reviewed and re-established if required.

AFZs exist as a partnership between Wollongong City Council and NSW Police. Council facilitates the community engagement process, review, and sign installation, while NSW Police Officers enforce the zone.

NSW Police powers enable officers to tip out or otherwise dispose of alcohol being consumed in an AFZ. The main focus is to deter irresponsible drinking without imposing fines on potentially disadvantaged people. NSW Police can also use 'move on' powers in any public place where they believe, on reasonable grounds, that the person's behaviour is in accordance with the rules associated with the 'move on direction'.

#### Recommendation

That members provide feedback to the acting Secretary (Philip Laird: [plaird10@gmail.com](mailto:plaird10@gmail.com)) by 2 August and/or direct to Council by 12 August.



## **6.2 Notification of DAs**

Council now, when notifying DAs, advise those notified to contact the local Neighbourhood Forum Convenor for further information.

### Recommendation

That Council be thanked for including reference to Neighbourhood Forums when notifying DAs.

## **6.3 Connecting Neighbours Grants**

This program provides small grants to community members and groups who want to make a positive impact in their local area. To support community involvement in the [2022 UCI Road World Championships](#) event, this round of Connecting Neighbours Grants will be focused on activities during or connected to the race, such as street parties, event screenings or dressing up your street.

Examples of past projects that have been funded through this program include planting gardens, working bees, art projects, street get-togethers, a bush dance, and a social outing for a group of isolated older neighbours. Applications for this program are open until 15 August 2022. Information is available at [Connecting Neighbours Grants](#).

## **6.4 Port Kembla Manildra Ethanol facility proposed**

In 2021, some details were released about a proposed development at Port Kembla to support the export of Ethanol that would be reliant on use of heavy trucks on public roads. At its meeting of 1 November 2021 Wollongong City Council meeting adopted, unanimously, a motion based on a Lord Mayoral Minute presented that in part resolved to:

1. Write to Minister for Planning and Public Spaces expressing concern that further intensification and concentration of the production, storage and transport of highly volatile products at Port Kembla, approved under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Three Ports), could have potential negative impacts on
  - a) The community with cumulative noise and pollution levels on adjoining access roads;
  - b) Council assets and local amenity especially trucking noise; and
  - c) The Port through increased risk of a chain reaction with cumulative hazardous operations.

The application was withdrawn by Manildra, and a new one has now been lodged with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, as State Significant Development with

submissions due by 15 August. As well as a Traffic Impact Report noting the option of the use of 23 metre B Doubles, it notes the option of the use of 35 metre long A Doubles.

The new application has been considered by Neighbourhood Forum 7 at their meeting of 26 July, who resolved to make a submission in part as follows.

1) Explore in detail with the applicant the extent to which it has considered the viability of using existing rail infrastructure as an alternate to road transport and why it has ruled out this possibility.

2) If existing rail infrastructure cannot be used: -

a) Specify the routes that trucks must use and specifically prohibit routes that would take trucks

i) over Downies Bridge on Old Port Road and or

ii) through the residential areas of Berkeley, Lake Heights, Warrawong and Windang i.e. the use of King Street and Northcliffe Drive are prohibited.

b) Apply a levy on the proponent for Council and State Road upgrades and repairs.

c) Require the applicant to undertake and transparently publish the results of traffic surveys at regular intervals with a view to confirming the traffic projections provided in the application.

d) Restrict the hours of operation to exclude Sundays, Public Holidays and between 9.00 pm and 7.00 am.

3) Require the applicant to provide the explosion and fire risks associated with the project and provide the measures it will take to mitigate these risks.

Neighbourhood Forum 7 has also requested the support of Neighbourhood Forum 5.

#### Recommendation

That Neighbourhood Forum 5 lodge a submission to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment that will address the concerns, as above, raised by Wollongong City Council and Neighbourhood Forum 7.

#### **6.5 CBD Speed Limits**

In Dec 2021 NF5 Agenda included a report advising Council's response to a NF5 request to negotiate with TfNSW to implement reducing the speed limit in the one-way Smith St between Keira and Harbour Streets to 30km/h to improve safety, and to implement intersection upgrades to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists as soon as possible. The then Manager IS&P response included that "Council will liaise with the forum and the broader community as soon as we have an indication that this option could be supported by TfNSW and further progressed. Council and TfNSW have recently re-established a working group between the two organisations, we



have been working collaboratively on a number of projects which will help support the progression of items of interest to NF5”

Council’s Traffic & Transport Unit Leader’s recent response includes: “We are reviewing options for reduced speed limits within the CBD and foreshore areas not only our pop-up cycleway streets. We will not be waiting until the completion of the Wollongong City Centre Movement and Place Plan (Wollongong Access and Movement Review) although this will detail and support specific recommendations for a safer speed environment. Unfortunately, with current commitments to support September (ie UCI event) we are unable to progress this further until later in the year. We are programming data collection (vehicle, cyclist and pedestrian counts) in our foreshore areas along with the pop-up cycleway to support a holistic speed review with Transport for NSW.”

- 7 Priorities**
  - 7.1 Liveability** See 6.1 and 6.2
  - 7.2 City Centre** See 6.1.
  - 7.3 Active Transport.** See 6.1

- 8 Planning**
  - 8.1** Please note that whilst this review, and the recommendation based on it has been prepared with all due care and objectivity, no legal responsibility is accepted for errors, omissions or inadvertent misrepresentations, nor for any outcomes which might result from the assessments. As this review has only been made with the information available, members are encouraged to make their own submissions and/or with any additional comments to the acting Secretary (Philip Laird: [plaird10@gmail.com](mailto:plaird10@gmail.com)) of NF5 well before the closing date.

**8.2. DA.2022/604 6 dwellings 26-28 Figtree Crescent, Figtree** 20<sup>th</sup> July

This is a proposal for 6 two storey town houses in two buildings on a steepish lot. It seems to comply with all Council requirements. However, it is tantamount to two storey dwellings on battleaxe lots. The other side of the street, which is within a transition area in our Locality Plan for Figtree has a mixture of housing types, mostly single storey.



Recommendation

That the decision not to make a submission be endorsed

**8.3. DA.2022/571 7 stories, 18 units 58 Smith St, Wollongong**

20<sup>th</sup> July

This is a proposal for a 7 storey building with 18 units in an area surrounded by flat developments. It seems to comply with all Council requirements.



Recommendation

That the submission of support be endorsed.

**8.4 DA.2022/607 Dual Occ 7 William St Keiraville**

20<sup>th</sup> July

This is a proposal for an attached dual occupancy virtually surrounded by medium density development near the Keiraville village centre. It seems to comply with all Council requirements and our Locality Plan for Keiraville.



Recommendation

That the submission of support be endorsed.

**8.5 DA.2022/683 dual occupancy, 191 Church St Wollongong**

28<sup>h</sup> July

This is a proposal for the construction of an attached dual occupancy in area with a mixture of housing types, most being single storey houses. It does not comply with the minimum site width nor with the maximum garage width, but seems to comply with all Council requirements,



Recommendation

That the submission of objection be endorsed

**8.6 DA.2021/957 WIN mixed development Keira St W'gong**

5<sup>th</sup> August

This is a revised proposal for the construction of a mixed-use development at the street block bound by Crown, Keira, Burelli and Atchison Streets, comprising three (3) residential towers (shop top housing), one (1) commercial building, retail shops, entertainment facilities (cinema, exhibition/performance space) and a wellness centre (pool, gym, and health services).



### Comment

In September 2021 the Forum strongly supported this proposal in principle but requested Council to review in detail the proposed provision of car parking including opportunities for any deficiency to be provided off-site. The Forum also noted that the proposal will have significant implications for the structure of the city centre and requested that Council take urgent action to review them.

In particular it will:

- i downgrade the mall to secondary retail/services;
- ii dilute the entertainment precinct focussed on the performing arts centre;
- iii reinforce the need for a public transport spine through the centre from the hospitals in the west to the foreshore;
- iv complicate the Crown/Keira Streets intersection;
- v highlight the need for upgrading the streetscape and reinforce the need to declassify the Princes Highway through the city centre;
- vi require a review of the traffic arrangements in the surrounding streets within a clear strategic road structure;
- vii prompt the development and implementation of a Masterplan for MacCabe Park;
- viii provide an opportunity for Council to review its plans for the city centre, including reducing building heights, and to respond to the implications of the proposal.

Apparently there have been a whole series of meetings between Council and the applicant which seem to have concentrated on the juxtaposition of buildings and uses on the site, which indeed have resulted in an improvement. However, there seems little evidence that Council has begun to take any action on the issues the Forum raised nearly a year ago.

### Recommendations

That Council :

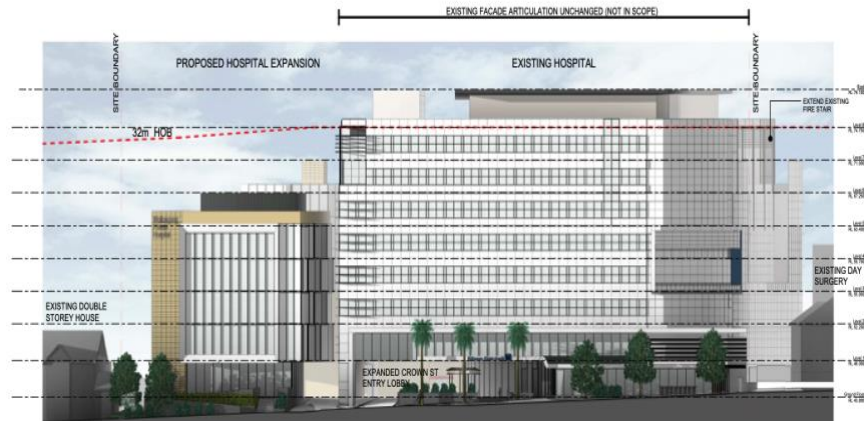
- 1 be advised of support for the proposal;
- 2 be requested to advise of any action taken in response to the wider issues previously raised by the Forum and the timing of any future action.

### 8.7 Private Hospital extension Crown St and Urunga Pde

As noted in the Illawarra Mercury on 27 July, an application for a State Significant Development (SSD-30240120) to build a \$162.8 million extension adjoining Wollongong Private Hospital is on exhibition, with submissions due 18 August to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, website [pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au](http://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au). The article includes that the new application comes five years after the Land and Environment Court approved an application on appeal for a 6 storey extension, but the development did not go ahead. The proposed Level 7 Lift Motor room exceeds a 32m height limit by 9%, similar to the adjacent existing hospital.

It is a significant concern that the NSW DoPE system seems to require the community to rely on local media to find out about exhibition periods for applications classified as State Significant Developments, whereas perhaps Council should assist?





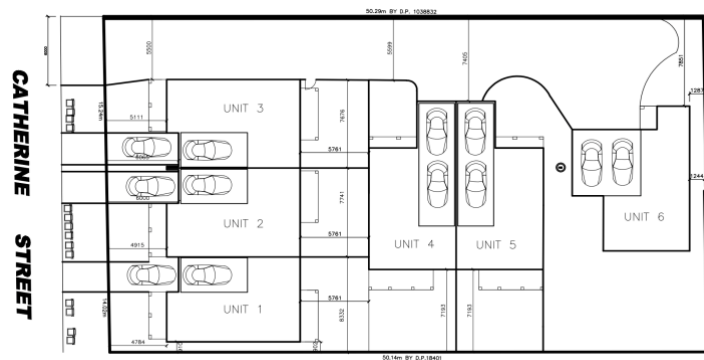
South Elevation: Expansion is left (west) of Existing Hospital

### Recommendation

That members provide feedback to the acting Secretary (Philip Laird: [plaird10@gmail.com](mailto:plaird10@gmail.com)) by 10<sup>th</sup> August and/or direct to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website by 18<sup>th</sup> August.

### 8.8 DA.2022/796 17 Catherine St Gwynneville

A DA has been lodged for demolition of 2 houses and construction of 6 two storey units on about 1,471sqm of land. The site is near the Gwynneville shopping area. Minimal information is available on WCC website at 27 July, which indicates “awaiting payment”. Hopefully adequate information will be available before NF5 meeting on 3 August to enable consideration.



## 8.2 DA Determinations

DA no. 20../....	Suburb	Address	Proposal	Forum Rec	Result Authority
20/677	W'gong	30 Ellen St	17 storeys, 272 units	Support	Appealing refusal RP
21/58	W'gong	130 Church St	Mixed Development	Object	Approved
21/890	W'gong	245 Gladstone Ave	9 storey, 94 dw	Support	Approved
21/858	W'gong	19 Northcote St	Dual Occ	Object	Approved
21/705	Gwynnevl	32 Foleys St	Homeless hsg	Support	Approved
21/615	Mangertn	23 Kirala St	Dual Occ	Support	Withdrawn
21/1218	Figtree	107 Walang Ave	Dual Occ	Object	Refused
21/890	W'gong	7-15 Gladstone Ave	9 stories 94 units	Support	Refused Appealing
21/845	Keiraville	42 Robsons Rd.	Dual Occ	Object	Withdrawn
21/1059	Figtree	5-7 Trusscott	4 Town houses	Object	Withdrawn
21/1405	W'gong	10 Gilmore St	Dual Occ	Support	Approved
19/980	W'gong	82A Cliff Rd.	4 storey dual occ	Object	Approved Court
21/1273	Keiraville	12 Dallas St	4 dwellings	Object	Approved
21/1309	Keiraville	3 Keira Mine Road	4 dwellings	Object	Approved
21/615	Mangertn	23 Kiralo St	Dual Occ	Support	Approved
21/1397	Figtree	115 Waling Ave	First floor pool	Object	Approved
21/1508	Figtree	111 Bellevue Rd	Dual Occ	Object	Approved
21/1426	Gwn'ville	12 Berkeley Rd	Dual Occ	Support	Withdrawn
22/245	Figtree	54 Lewis Drive	Dual Occ	Object	Withdrawn
21/1310	Gwn'ville	14-16 Acacia Ave	8 dwellings.	Object	Approved Panel
21/1510	W. 'gong	55 Eureka St	Dual Occ	Object	Approved
21/1037	Keiraville	12-14 Gipps	10 stories, 11 dw	Support	Approved

## Not yet determined

21/1060	W'gong	2, Lexton Ave	Dual Occ	Object	
21/1000	W'gong	23-43 Flinders	9 stories, 201 dw	Support	
21/957	W'gong	WIN	Mixed	Support	
21/1231	W'gong	3-5 Ocean St	10 stories, 9 dw	Object	
21/1312	W'gong	300-2 Crown St	11 stories, 48 dw	Support	
21/1345	W'gong	11 Northcote St	Dual Occ	Support	
19/284	Keiraville	58-60 Murphys Ave	9 town houses	Object	
21/344	Keiraville	328 Gipps Rd	3 townhouses	Object	
21/1346	N W'gong	10 Lysant St	Dual Occ	Object	
21/1342	W'gong	46 Flinders St	9 stories, 47 dw	Support	
21/1343	W'gong	68, Gladstone Ave	Dual Occ	Object	
21/1375	W'gong	43 Kembla St	5 stories, 7 dw	Object	
21/1508	Figtree	111 Bellevue Rd	Dual Occ	Object	
21/1511	Figtree	54 Cordeaux Rd	Dual Occ	Object	
22/61	Figtree	1 Malangong Close	Dual Occ	Support	
21/101	N W'gong	3, Squires Way	UoW Health complex	Support	
21/1492	W. 'gong	111 Robsons Rd	Dual Occ	Object	
21/1344	W. 'gong	44 Euroka St	Dual Occ	Object	
21/1467	W'gong	81-85 Keira St	7 stories, 43 dw	Object	
22/10	W'gong	487-491 Crown St	Medical Centre	Support	
22/14	W'gong	24-30 Kenny St	18 stories, 68 dw	Support	
22/20	W. 'gong	38 Abercrombie St	Dual occ	None	
22/146	W'gong	21 Jutland Ave	Dual occ	Object	
22/123	Figtree	253 Mt Keira Rd,	Dual Occ	Object	
22/221	W'gong	4 Auburn St,	24 stories, hotel 59 dw	Support	
22/169	W'gong	36 Flinders St	9 stories, 119 units	Support	
22/250	Gwynville	14A Foley St	4 dwellings,	Support	
22/254	W'gong	2A Denison St	Dual Occ	Object	
22/311	W. 'gong	1 Sheppard St	Dual Occ	Support	
22/512	W. 'gong	13 Rosemont St	Dual Occ	Object	
22/561	W. 'gong	15 Gundaren St	Dual Occ	Object	
22/542	W'gong	5 Greenacre Rd	Dual Occ	Support	

## 9 General Business

**Date of next meeting**  
**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Please Note:**

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

## 10 Snippets

### Community Engagement

There is clearly renewed interest from the UK government in the idea that neighbourhoods should play a more active part in shaping local priorities. It is well established in the academic literature that the neighbourhood concept does important work in creating spatially-bounded units and mobilising ‘active citizens’ who are supposedly ripe for partnership within the complex world of policy and place governance. This scale is also a convenient, if romanticised, one through which to play on a sense of local identity and bridge the problematic gap between state and community.

We need better evidence on what communities strive for when engaging in community-led planning. Clearly more research is needed to provide a detailed account of just what makes it into community plans, why, and to what effect. The resilience of neighbourhoods needs to be accompanied by improved understanding, objectives, resources, and support, too.

Gavin Parker, John Sturzaker and Matthew Wargent





**Neighbourhood  
Forum 5**

**Wollongong's  
Heartland**



**Coniston, Figtree,  
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Wollongong City.**

**MINUTES of meeting on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 by email**

- 1 Presentation None possible
- 2 Apologies None necessary
- 3 Minutes of meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> June were adopted.
- 4 Comments received have been incorporated into these minutes,
- 5 Responses
  - 5.1 **Coastal Management Program:** noted.
  - 5.2 **Changes to Bus Layover Parking:**

It was agreed that that Council be advised of the Forum's support for initiatives to relocate bus layover locations, and request urgent action to relocate the two temporary bus spaces causing problems for residents in Lower Crown Street between Corrimal St and Queens Parade.
  - 5.3 **Flooding in Keiraville:**

It was agreed that Council be advised that the review of the Floodplain Risk Management Plan is welcome but urgent action is required to ensure recent, and apparently anticipated, flooding does not re-occur, before waiting for the delayed community engagement process for revised Risk Management planning and actions, especially given yet another downpour this week.
  - 5.4 **MacCabe Park Master Plan:**

That Council be requested to advise:

    - What criteria are used to determine priorities for preparing Master Plans?
    - What is the scoring system?
    - How did MacCabe score against the others mentioned?
    - Who has the final say in adopting priorities Council officers or Councillors?

6 Reports

**6.1 Climate Friendly Planning Framework:**

It was agreed that the the submission based on the report in the agenda be endorsed.

**6.2 University Liaison:** noted

**6.3 Social Impact Statements:**

It was agreed to make a submission based on the report in the agenda.

**6.4 City Centre Community & Cultural facilities:**

It was agreed that the submission based on comments in the agenda, and those received from members, be endorsed.

**6.5 Wood-fired Heaters:**

It was agreed that Council be requested to review, with community input, procedures for responding to complaints about pollution from wood-fired heaters, for advice offered to the community on the issue, and to seek changes or additions to State legislation or incentives to assist in combating both health issues and climate change.

**6.6 Bluescope Steel Surplus Land Masterplan:**

It was agreed that Bluescope be advised of our strong support for the development of the Masterplan and that the Forum would be delighted to be involved.

**6.7 Rock Fishing Safety:**

It was agreed that Council's proposal on rock fishing safety be supported and be requested open additional access to the northern breakwater

**6.8 Faster Rail to Sydney:**

It was agreed that the Forum:

- i a. thank Mr Scully for approaching the NSW Government as to the prospect of more trains and faster trains on the South Coast line;
- b. ask him to make representations to seek the release of the report completed in March 2021 on improving South Coast travel times;
- c. also to ask for off-peak trains to Sydney every half hour (like Newcastle has had for years) rather than every hour, prior to the international cycle event in September 2022.
- d. and to enquire if there any plans to increase the capacity of the rail system from Hurstville to Sutherland;

- ii similar representations be made to Mr Ryan Park, requesting a statement from either the Leader of the Opposition or the Shadow Minister for Regional Transport, as to how a NSW ALP government may provide for faster South Coast trains.
  
- 7      Priorities      **7.1      Livability:** noted
- 7.2      City Centre:** noted
- 7.3      Active Transport:** noted
  
- 8      Planning      **8.1      Planning** noted
- 8.2      DA.2022/512 dual occupancy 13 Rosemont St W. W’gong**  
It was agreed that the submission of objection be endorsed.
- 8.3      DA.2019/980 dual occupancy, 82A Cliff Road, Wollongong**  
It was agreed that Council be requested to advise how it proposes to deal with future applications elsewhere given the precedent to which it appears to have conceded.
- 8.4      DA.2022/469 42 dwellings, 14 Cosgrove Avenue, Keiraville**  
It was agreed that a strong objection be lodged and that Council again be requested to re-zone the land to make clear that such proposals are unacceptable and contrary to all Council and State Government Strategies and policies.
- 8.5      DA determinations:** noted
  
- 9      General Business      **9.1      Cat Registration and Containment**  
The Forum recently became aware (via NF 7) that 10 NSW Councils are participating in a NSW RSPCA \$2.5M funded program over 4 years to improve care for pet cats through responsible cat ownership and to protect Wildlife from cat predation. In addition newly passed ACT Government legislation which is intended to help Canberra’s cats live longer and healthier lives while better protecting native wildlife. Further information is available at  
- <https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/domestic-animals/cats/cat-containment>  
  
It was agreed to request Council to seek participation in the RSPCA program.

## **9.2 Stuart Park Master Plan**

The Forum requested Council to initiate a working party with key stakeholders to assist in developing the master plan.

Council have responded:

“Council has considered your idea and is planning to undertake a workshop late August/ September on the draft master plan where NF5 members will be invited to share feedback as part of this process.”

It was agreed to thank Council for the offer.

## **9.3 Public Tree Management Policy**

NF 7 recently asked Council about the impending review of this policy. Council responded: “I can advise that while we have been delayed on the early 2022 policy review, we have done a lot of work in this space, and it has expanded beyond a review of the Public Tree Management Policy. We are finalising the draft in the coming weeks and our work has captured a consolidation of a number of tree policies that ensures more consistency in our decision making, something the community is very keen to see.

We are trying to form a policy that covers a range of topics including consistent reasons for tree removal and consistent response to tree vandalism on public and private land, and managing tree conflicts including views. Apologies for the delay on this, I’ll have a better understanding of timing shortly, but when the policy goes on exhibition I would be happy to workshop this.”

It was agreed to request the Manager Open Space + Environmental Services to include the Forum in this workshop.

## **9.4 Escarpment Mountain Bike Project**

The NPWS have produced a draft review of the environmental factors for this project. The project proposes a spaghetti of trails mostly towards the top of the escarpment each catering to different skill levels – Advanced, Intermediate, Beginner, Intermediate to Advanced – together with various two way and fire access trails. An example is attached.

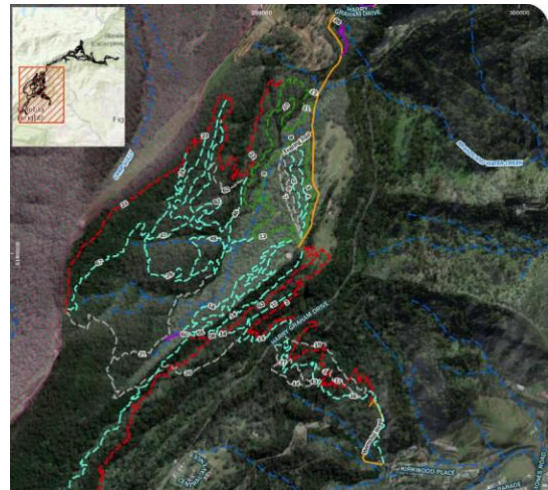
This expands the existing bike path from 1 to 50 kilometres and doubles the length of the existing, mostly unsanctioned, trails. Most trails will be 0.9m wide with locally used rock or imported sandstone used as a base. There will be no trails in the network on Mount Keita or Mount Kembla.

However, the proposed tracks run through every patch of Illawarra Subtropical Rainforest recorded in the study area and this is an ecological community that is critically endangered under federal environment law. Not only is vegetation severely affected but also up to 15 threatened bird species will be impacted as well as Koalas.

Moreover, no methods or resources are suggested for closing or policing current or future illegal tracks, funding for on-going maintenance is uncertain as is the impact of Aboriginal heritage or residents near access points.

It was agreed to:

- i welcome the rationalisation, control and upgrading of mountain bike trails on the escarpment;
- ii express total opposition to the multiplicity and extent of the proposed network which will adversely impact on endangered vegetation and fauna on the escarpment;
- iii call for a far more modest proposal to include all environmental impacts and details for on-going policing and maintenance;
- iv distribute the comments by the Illawarra Escarpment Alliance and make a submission taking these into account;
- v encourage members to make their own submissions.



**9.5 DA.2022/561 dual occupancy, 15 Gundaren St, W. W’gong**  
14<sup>3h</sup> July

This is a proposal for the demolition of an existing house and the construction of a detached dual occupancy on corner lot with a dwelling facing each street. It does not comply with front setback not number of stories from rear setback .It seems to comply with all other Council requirements. It is in a relatively remote location and does not comply with our Locality Plan for Figtree.



It was agreed to object the proposal.

#### **9.6. DA.2022/542 dual occupancy, 5 Greenacre Rd Wollongong**

14<sup>th</sup> July

This is a proposal for the demolition of an existing house and the construction of an attached dual occupancy in area with a mixture of housing types. It seems to comply with all Council requirements, and with the transition area of our Locality Plan for Fairy Creek.



It was agreed to support the proposal.

#### **9.7 City Centre Community & Cultural facilities**

Following the submission made in item **6.4** above a response has been received from Council:

“This has been an area of continued interest for Wollongong City Council over many years. While not all aspects of this proposition have yet been realised and implemented, Council has taken various steps since it was first discussed to better understand and deliver on the idea of an active cultural hub in this city. To this end six resident artist studios situated in the lower Town Hall and catering to artists working across various media and practices have been made available to local artists for several years. Cultural Development who manages these spaces provides a series of grants to local artists and creatives to assist and support them with both their professional development and cultural production, providing an important cultural outcome for the community.

The Resident artist studios are adjacent to the Arts Precinct situated between the Art Gallery and IPAC, which has been a venue and hub for cultural activity, including live music lunchtime performances, outdoor cinema, the Spiegel tent and

coming in July, Upsurge a three-day art market event featuring the work of 16 local artists and creatives. The Arts Precinct has also been the venue for various other cultural community events among them Comic Gong.

While a singular Cultural Precinct master plan has not yet been implemented, the idea of a city centre cultural centre continues to underpin much of the community cultural activity developed under Council's auspice. This will expand and build until the time when funding and opportunity will allow for a comprehensive and fully formed plan to be executed through a broad and rigorous community consultative process.

Meanwhile many of the notions important to the establishment of a Cultural Centre in the city continue to be explored, developed, and implemented across the city and the current Arts Precinct. Thank you once again for your thoughtful letter and important reminder of Council's commitment to establishing a vigorous Arts Hub that will benefit both artists and creatives as well as the rest of the community.

City Culture & Activation Manager

It was agreed to thank Council for the response and request them to advise what steps are going to be made in the immediate future, that is this year or next year and point out that at present the CBD badly needs some attention.

10 Snippets noted with appreciation.

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**Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 419 households**

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