

## ITEM 1 PUBLIC EXHIBITION - PLANNING PROPOSAL 190 MILITARY ROAD, PORT KEMBLA

On 12 February 2025, a Planning Proposal request was lodged for Lot 1 Section 5 DP 978082, 190 Military Road, Port Kembla seeking the additional use of “restaurant or café” on the property. Part of the property is occupied by a café trading as Cakes by Rach. The Planning Proposal request has received support through the preliminary notification process and advice from the Wollongong Local Planning Panel.

It is recommended that Council resolve to prepare a Planning Proposal to progress a site-specific amendment to the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 to permit the additional land use of “restaurant or café” on the property.

### RECOMMENDATION

- 1 A Planning Proposal be prepared for Lot 1 Section 5 DP 978082, 190 Military Road, Port Kembla to permit the additional land use of “restaurant or café” on the site, with a maximum gross floor area of 150m<sup>2</sup>, and submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for a Gateway Determination.
- 2 If a Gateway Determination is issued, the Planning Proposal be exhibited for a minimum period of 28 days.
- 3 The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure be advised that Council wishes to use its delegations to finalise the Planning Proposal.

### REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: David Green, Land Use Planning Manager  
 Authorised by: Chris Stewart, Manager City Strategy

### ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Site Location and Zoning
- 2 Context Map
- 3 Wollongong Local Planning Panel advice
- 4 Summary of Submissions

### ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT

Abbreviation	Meaning
LEP	Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009
LGA	Local Government Area
WLPP	Wollongong Local Planning Panel

### BACKGROUND

The subject site at 190 Military Road Port Kembla (Lot 1 Section 5 DP 978082) is located on the corner of Military Road and Gloucester Boulevard. The site has an area of approximately 752m<sup>2</sup> and is zoned R2 Low Density Residential (Attachment 1).

The site adjoins residential zoned land to the north and south. The Five Islands Secondary College on the eastern side of the site is also zoned R2 Low Density Residential. The site is opposite the King George V Oval. The Oval and much of the foreshore that wraps around the residential precinct is zoned RE1 Public Recreation. Military Road provides access to Port Kembla Town Centre and Hill 60. Gloucester Boulevard provides access to Fishermans Beach, MM Beach, Port Kembla Public School and Port Kembla Heritage Park. Olympic Boulevard and Cowper Street provides access to Port Kembla Pool, Beach and Surf Club (Attachment 2).

The subject site contains a dwelling and a café. The café use is approximately 140m<sup>2</sup> in floor area with an attached timber deck which is 62m<sup>2</sup> in area. There is one car parking space for the café, although at times it is occupied by tables and chairs.

The current business commenced operation in late-2022. At the time Council received concern from the community that the business use was unlawful in the residential zone and Council communicated this concern to the business operator and landowner. The enforcement of compliance action commenced by Council has been held in abeyance and the proponent given an opportunity to explore planning approval pathways.

**Table 1: Historical Business Operations and Land Use Approvals related to the site -**

Timeline	Comments
1965 - 2005	Development Consent DA-1965/116 was granted for a General Store with a floor area of 31.5m <sup>2</sup> .
1977	Development Consent DA-1977/154 was granted to enable the enlargement of the store to 140m <sup>2</sup> .
2005	Development Consent DA-2005/1442 was granted for a timber deck in front of the existing shop bringing the total site footprint to 202.7m <sup>2</sup> .
2008 - 2019	The site operated as a Spanish Restaurant
2022 - 2025	The site has operated as a café (Cakes by Rach)
2024	Development Application DA-2024/330 seeking approval for a food and drink premises (café) was refused.
2025	A determination review application DA-2024/330/A was not supported.
2025	A Planning Proposal request lodged seeking to amend the Wollongong LEP and add "restaurant or café" as a permissible land use on the subject site.

In terms of the recent Development Application and Review request, Council officers determined that the site is not able to rely upon existing use rights provisions to change the use to a food and drink premises. The General Store use was lawfully approved and remains permissible through the Neighbourhood Shop land use.

Preliminary notification of the Planning Proposal request was conducted from 11 March 2025 to 31 March 2025. The feedback received and Council staff response to the matters raised is discussed in the Consultation and Communication section of this report.

## PROPOSAL

This Planning Proposal request seeks to amend the Wollongong LEP 2009 by including the Additional Permitted Use of "restaurant or café" on the site.

The Planning Proposal request was supported by a Planning Consultant report and 25 attachments which can be viewed on-line on Council's engagement website: [Planning Proposal - Preliminary Notification - 190 Military Road, Port Kembla | Our Wollongong](#).

An additional use provision in Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Uses could read -

### **XX Use of certain land at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla**

- (1) *This clause applies to the following land at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla, being Lot 1 Section 5 DP 978082.*
- (2) *Development for the purposes of a restaurant or cafe of less than 150m<sup>2</sup> in gross floor area is permitted with development consent.*

Restaurant or café is a land use defined in the LEP as -

**restaurant or café** means a building or place the principal purpose of which is the preparation and serving, on a retail basis, of food and drink to people for consumption on the premises, whether or

*not liquor, take away meals and drinks or entertainment are also provided, but does not include the preparation and serving of food and drink to people that occurs as part of -*

- (a) an artisan food and drink industry, or*
- (b) farm gate premises.*

The intended outcome of the LEP amendment is to facilitate the on-going use of the current café. It is noted that an external deck would not be included as part of the gross floor areas limitation of 150m<sup>2</sup>. If the Planning Proposal is supported and LEP amendment finalised, a development application is required to be lodged, assessed and determined for the café use.

No change to the built form controls (height of buildings, floor space ratio etc) are proposed.

### **Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009**

The “restaurant or café” land use is currently permissible development in the following zones -

- Zone E1 Local Centre.
- Zone E2 Commercial Centre.
- Zone MU1 Mixed Use.
- Zone SP3 Tourist.
- Zone SP1 Special Activities (certain precincts only - the Innovation Campus and Wollongong Hospital).
- Zone RE1 Public Recreation.
- Zone RE2 Private Recreation.

From a spatial perspective the subject site is located approximately 840m from the E1 Local Centre zoned land at Port Kembla town centre. The RE1 Public Recreation zone which also permits “restaurant or café” use, is in much closer proximity to the site, including the King George V Oval and Port Kembla pool and beach.

Wollongong LEP 2009 also contains provisions relating to the appropriate gross floor area for land uses of a commercial or business nature. The restriction on floor area serves to protect the amenity of an area and ongoing viability of commercial centres.

Specifically, clause 5.4 of the Wollongong LEP restricts the floor area for Home Businesses (30m<sup>2</sup>), Home industries (50m<sup>2</sup>), and Neighbourhood shops (100m<sup>2</sup>) which are all permitted in R2 Low Density Residential zoned land.

Schedule 1 of the LEP also contains floor space restrictions for the former Corrimal Coke Works site including Neighbourhood shops (150m<sup>2</sup>), Food and drink premises (250m<sup>2</sup>) and Neighbourhood supermarket (500m<sup>2</sup>).

### **Wollongong Local Planning Panel**

On 12 May 2025, the Planning Proposal request was considered by the Wollongong Local Planning Panel (Attachment 3). The Panel advised -

- 1 *The Panel advises that the Planning Proposal request for an additional use provision for this site under the LEP is considered appropriate and is the most efficient mechanism to resolve this planning anomaly to enable the ongoing use as a café.*
- 2 *The Planning Proposal request has site specific merit. It should be progressed through the necessary planning processes.*
- 3 *The Panel notes the community support, through the public submissions, for the use as a café and the role the café has in the community. The Panel considers that the Planning Proposal request is in the public interest.*
- 4 *The Panel advises Council to implement appropriate mechanisms to expedite the process.*

- 5 *In general, the Panel considers that a café use should be permissible with consent in the R2 Low Density Residential zone. This anomaly may occur in other situations in the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA) and it may be appropriate for Council to consider a LGA-wide mechanism to avoid the need to review other anomalies.*

This report considers the site-specific proposal for 190 Military Road, Port Kembla (points 1-4 of the Panel's advice). Point 5 of the Panel's advice will be considered as part of the broader implementation of the Retail and Business Centres project.

## CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Following determination of the Development Application and Review request, the proponent initiated the preparation of a Planning Proposal request following the steps outlined in the NSW LEP Making Guideline 2023.

In accordance with the Guideline, the proponent submitted a Scoping Report in late 2024. On 4 December 2024, Council advised that a preliminary review of the provided documentation had been completed, and Council officers deemed it sufficient to proceed to lodgement of the Planning Proposal request.

On 12 February 2025, the Planning Proposal request was lodged, seeking the additional use of "restaurant or café" on the site.

A preliminary (non-statutory) notification of the Planning Proposal request was conducted from 11 March 2025 to 31 March 2025. The draft Planning Proposal request was notified on the Wollongong City Council engagement website and letters sent to adjoining and surrounding landowners.

**Table 2: Feedback Received Following Preliminary Notification Process**

	Support	Object	Comment	Total
<b>On-line comments</b>	114	5	1	<b>120</b>
<b>Emails / letters</b>	4	2	0	<b>6</b>
<b>Form letters</b>	259	0	0	<b>259</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>385</b>

An outline of the submissions received is provided in Attachment 4 of this report. A high-level summary of the key issues raised in submissions and staff response is provided in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Summary of key issues and staff responses**

Submission	Response
The LEP amendment will support a long-established local business site and café.	Noted.
The business provides a great service to the local community, vibrant local hub.	Noted. This sentiment is reflected in the 377 submissions in support.
The existing business should be allowed to continue to operate.	Noted.
Keep the R2 Low Density Residential zoning and allow the café.	The recommendation of this report seeks to maintain the current residential zone with an additional permitted use for the site.
The planning rules were known and ignored when the café use commenced.	The landowner and business operator have pursued available planning approval pathways to formalise the lawful use of the site.

Submission	Response
Out-of-town centre location has an impact on businesses within Port Kembla Town Centre.	Various businesses have operated at the property since 1965. The continued operation as a café is not expected to have a significant detrimental impact upon the Port Kembla town centre.
No parking on-site and use will increase parking problems on a busy intersection.	The provision of car parking spaces is a merit issue to be considered at Development Application stage. The application will need to address Chapter E3 of the Wollongong DCP 2009.
Some concerns about hours of operation. Any extension of the current hours would be damaging to the local residents.	The business operating hours is a merit issue to be considered at Development Application stage.

## PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Community Strategic Plan Objective 1 “We value and protect our environment”. It specifically delivers on the following -

Community Strategic Plan 2032	Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy	Service
1.5 Maintain the unique character of the Wollongong Local Government Area, whilst balancing development, population growth and housing needs.	Land Use Planning

The rezoning of the site is not specifically mentioned in any State, regional or local planning strategy.

The Planning Proposal request is generally consistent with the intent of -

- Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 - Wollongong Community Strategic Plan (2022).
- Economic Development Strategy (2019).
- Retail and Business Centres Strategy (2023) – The Strategy identifies several sites where the approved retail use and current zoning are misaligned and recommends that a Planning Proposal be prepared to consider the planning setting for these sites. The subject property is not one of the identified sites.

The Planning Proposal request is not inconsistent with -

- The Ministerial Directions under 9.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979)*.
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 (2021).
- Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement (2020).
- Council’s Planning Proposal Policy (2022) – Council’s preference is to review the planning controls for precincts, rather than site-by-site requests.

The Planning Proposal request has site-specific merit as the site has been used for retail purposes since 1965 and was approved as a general store. The nature of retail uses on-site and more broadly has changed over the years. Local shops have been replaced by larger centralised supermarkets (eg Warrawong Plaza). Coffee shops and cafes have established in town centres and out of centre locations.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Planning Proposal request if supported by Council will potentially result in a land use which contributes positively to the liveability of our city. The cafe provides a service for locals and persons attending the adjoining public school, sporting field, ocean pool and beach. It also has the potential to support active transport activities including cycling and walking.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

The proposed Planning Proposal request relates to the land use of a particular site. It is not expected to raise any significant risk management issues for Council.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Planning Proposal request has been lodged with the required assessment fee in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges. The request has been assessed predominantly by the Land Use Planning Team utilising Council's current resourcing budget.

## CONCLUSION

The Planning Proposal request has received strong support through the preliminary notification process and advice from the Wollongong Local Planning Panel.

It is recommended that Council resolve to prepare a Planning Proposal to progress a site-specific amendment to the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 to permit the additional land use of "restaurant or café" on the property.





**190 Military Rd  
Port Kembla**





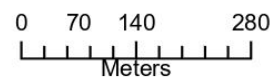


## 190 Military Rd Port Kembla



190 Military Rd Port Kembla

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Environmental Conservation | Medium Density Residential |
| Local Centre               | Public Recreation          |
| General Industrial         | Private Recreation         |
| Low Density Residential    | Infrastructure             |





## ADVICE AND STATEMENT OF REASONS

### WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL – WOLLONGONG LOCAL PLANNING PANEL (WLPP)

<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	12/5/25
<b>PANEL MEMBERS</b>	Julie Savet Ward (Chair), Tony Tribe (Expert Panel Member), Marjorie Ferguson (Expert Panel Member)

Meeting held at Wollongong City Council, 41 Burelli Street, Wollongong on 12/5/25 opened at 12.45pm and closed at 4pm.

#### MATTER DETERMINED

Item 2 - Planning Proposal – 190 Military Road, Port Kembla

#### PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

The Panel heard from:

- Manevski (owner)
- Rachel Weekes (café operator)
- Council officers



#### PANEL CONSIDERATION

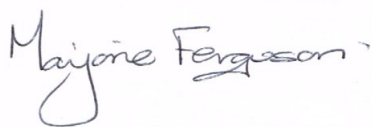
The Panel considered the Council officers' report, the site inspection, the planning proposal request and associated information, and the discussion with the owner and business operator at the meeting.

#### PANEL ADVICE

1. The Panel advises that the Planning Proposal request for an additional use provision for this site under the LEP is considered appropriate and is the most efficient mechanism to resolve this planning anomaly to enable the ongoing use as a café.
2. The Planning Proposal request has site specific merit. It should be progressed through the necessary planning processes.
3. The Panel notes the community support, through the public submissions, for the use as a café and the role the café has in the community. The Panel considers that the Planning Proposal request is in the public interest.
4. The Panel advises Council to implement appropriate mechanisms to expedite the process.
5. In general, the Panel considers that a café use should be permissible with consent in the R2 Low Density Residential zone. This anomaly may occur in other situations in the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA) and it may be appropriate for Council to consider a LGA-wide mechanism to avoid the need to review other anomalies.

The advice was unanimous.

PANEL MEMBERS	
 Julie Savet Ward (Chair)	 Tony Tribe

 Marjorie Ferguson	
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## Preliminary Notification Feedback – 190 Military Road, Port Kembla

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### Our Wollongong Comments

No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
1	I believe this planning proposal could set a precedent for other businesses to trade in this way and disregard the existing planning controls set in place to protect residential areas, and then work to become compliant. The cafe has done a great job assisting in the continued revitalisation of the eastern, residential and beach area of Port Kembla, however with its location away from the town centre of Port Kembla, I think it draws away opportunities away from Wentworth Street. If this planning proposal were to be accepted by Council, I think there would need to be consideration given to ensuring this wouldn't set a precedent and give rise to the possibility of this happening in other residential areas in the LGA.	1990-1999	PORT KEMBLA
2	Cakes by Rach is a cornerstone of Port Kembla. It provides a much needed space for community to meet and enjoy delicious drinks and beverages. There are limited food and drink options near the Port Kembla and MM beaches and Cakes by Rach provides a vital source of employment in the area. The community have already demonstrated their support as evidenced by the petition, so I hope Council give their approval to a much loved and well supported local business.	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA
3	Great to have businesses like this in Port! Lots of community engagement, productivity and effective use of the site. Hope there's no barriers to having Cakes by Rach continue to operate! We love them	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA
4	Fabulous idea to continue operating as Cakes By Rach in its current form. The venue is an asset to the region and should be encouraged to keep providing a great service as it has done for some years now.	1960-1969	PORT KEMBLA



No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
5	Approve. A cafe there serves the community and a "dead" area of the suburb without cafes or amenities (excluding the pool cafe which isn't always open). I would love to see this space remain open for commercial use and therefore community access.	1990-1999	PORT KEMBLA
6	Very much in support of this location remaining a cafe/ restaurant.	1990-1999	PORT KEMBLA
7	I support any changes that allow the current restaurant to remain. Cakes by Rach is a community asset and should be allowed to continue to operate.	1970-1979	PORT KEMBLA
8	Cakes by Rach is an excellent and much loved and needed small business of our beloved PK community! It is crazy planning to not allow them to stay and trade on such a perfect position for beach goers and those using the nearby ovals and park. We are so lucky to have Cakes By Rach operating in our neighbourhood and Council would be doing Port Kembla residents and visitors to our area a total disservice if this awesome cafe was forced to close.	1970-1979	PORT KEMBLA
9	I would like to support this business to stay open . It's the best thing that has come to that area for the community.	1970-1979	Warrawong
10	Completely agree. Cakes by Rach is one of the only cafes in port Kembla!! They need to stay! We regular attend here for work meetings and the staff and venue are amazing.	1990-1999	Oak Flats
11	Leave it there, the cafe brings life to the little village behind the steelworks. 100% support it from a local neighbour!	1970-1979	PORT KEMBLA
12	The Cafe is an asset to Port Kembla. It serves as a meeting place and fosters a sense of community.	1970-1979	WINDANG
13	100% Support this proposal. The cafe is a positive for the local area.	1970-1979	OAK FLATS
14	One of the best cafe shops in Port Kembla. Rachel serves nothing but the best service, support and guidance for the community and staff. It's in her nature to be generous, smart and capable, she is determined to make your. Community better and proud. Grant her the planning proposal because she is a fighter and cares about everyone and has maintained her professionalism throughout this process	1970-1979	BAULKHAM HILLS
15	Please keep it open Wollongong council	1960-1969	Lake Heights
16	I've visited Cakes by Rach Cafe on many occasions and coming from out of the area it is obvious to see it is a great community hub The support Rachel and her staff have	1970-1979	ALBION PARK

No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
	from the community should be obvious to any decision makers how valuable this business is to the area Please do the right thing and approve this planning proposal		
17	Please keep this wonderful cafe open. We love it!	1970-1979	PORT KEMBLA
18	This is a great cafe for the local area. Please allow them to trade as a fully fledged cafe!	1960-1969	PORT KEMBLA
19	100% in favour of the proposal. Great for the local community.	1970-1979	WINDANG
20	I support the use of this site as a cafe.	1990-1999	PORT KEMBLA
21	Let them be a cafe. They are a fantastic organisation and it's a beautiful little Cafe in the Illawarra. We live in Dapto but make the drive to Port Kembla to enjoy their coffee and food. I also work in Port Kembla and am thankful for a great coffee place to get me through my workday. They give back so much to our community and should be allowed to continue to operate a successful business.	1970-1979	DAPTO
22	Of course it should continue as Restaurant/Cafe. Ideal for a coffee break for parents after dropping kids off at school nearby or for lunch break after spending the morning at Port Kembla Beach. It's really convenient and they have a really helpful customer service ethic.	1950-1959	??
23	Fantastic for our local community. I fully support this change	1970-1979	PORT KEMBLA
24	Wholeheartedly support this change, allow Rach to continue providing a fantastic space for residents and visitors to Port Kembla to eat and gather.	1980-1989	MOUNT OUSLEY
25	This cafe should be allowed to continue trading. The cafe has been running for years now and has the support of the community. Wollongong Council should be supporting local business and employment instead of hiding behind old bureaucratic outdated policies to rob people of their livelihoods and a community of their beloved cafe.	1970-1979	FIGTREE
26	I think it's a great idea for a cafe to continue to trade there. Very convenient location and great for the local community.	1970-1979	FIGTREE
27	I fully support the proposal to keep this small business operational. It not only provides local jobs but also an inviting place for people to meet, enjoy good food and time together. If the cafe was forced to close it would leave a huge void in the community.	1970-1979	FIGTREE
28	Why close a good cafe that supports the community.	1970-1979	PRIMBEE

No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
29	The site has operated commercially for over 50 years, reflecting its role as a small-scale business hub within the residential area. The café has already been well-integrated into the community, demonstrating local support and demand for such an establishment. Allowing the café/restaurant use will formalise a long-standing practice rather than introducing an entirely new function to the area. Supporting local businesses like Cakes by Rach encourages economic growth, job creation, and entrepreneurship in Port Kembla. The café enhances neighbourhood vibrancy, serving as a community meeting point and attracting visitors to the area. The café has already been operating in a way that is respectful to its residential surroundings, with no significant complaints or disruptions reported. Encouraging walkable, community-oriented businesses aligns with urban sustainability principles and reduces car dependency. The proposal is consistent with the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan, which supports local economic diversification and small business development. Many councils are recognising the value of small-scale commercial activity within residential zones to enhance liveability and convenience.	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA
30	Cakes by Rach cafe is an icon in the community. Never have I seen so many people, not only locals but tourists as well at the cafe. It's one of the only cafes in the region and I rely on it for my coffee and other amazing items, and I'm sure others do as well.	1960-1969	PORT KEMBLA
31	Please keep our local cafe	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA
32	I believe planning should be changed to allow a cafe food and drink service to operate from this location	1960-1969	BRADBURY
33	I strongly support the planning proposal. I have witnessed over several years the positive contribution this business makes to the life of the local community. I believe the business itself, and importantly, the surrounding community are well served by allowing Cakes by Rach to continue to trade exactly where they are. The hours this business trades in have no adverse impact on surrounding residents, but the business does add significantly to the community by providing employment and a focal point for socialising and building community connection.	1960-1969	UNANDERRA
34	Fully supportive of this proposal	1970-1979	MOUNT WARRIGAL
35	100% Supportive	1960-1969	CLONTARF



No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
36	Great to see council working with the community to get the right outcome. I support this proposal. This is a great location for a cafe and the community gets a lot of value from having this here. It's a great meeting place, with good views over the park. It's always been used for commercial purposes and makes sense to keep it as such.	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA
37	Please allow cakes by Rach to stay open as it is a centrepiece for the community and the only cafe in the area so it's good for everybody.	1990-1999	PORT KEMBLA
38	The venue has been serving food for as long as I can remember. It's a part of Port Kembla and one that many people in Port Kembla will be angered if it isn't approved	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA
39	This Cafe is such a great thing for Port Kembla! It provides a place for the locals to eat, within walking distance to the beaches, parks etc. It has no negative impact on any of the surrounding houses or community members. It would be a real shame to see this Cafe be shut down, Port Kembla Beach area has no other options!	1980-1989	CORDEAUX HEIGHTS
40	The Council's decision to close Cake's By Rach is deeply disappointing and ignores the strong community support for this much-loved local business. The café is more than just a place to grab a coffee—it is a vital social hub where residents connect, support local suppliers, and contribute to the area's character. Its closure would impact the owners and staff and disrupt the sense of community it has.	2000-2009	MANGERTON
41	A wonderful meeting place and great food and service, there has been a business here for over 60 years, see no reason why they can't continue	1940-1949	PRIMBEE
42	I love this cafe. I think it is a great location to be able to provide food and drink (and yummy desserts) to locals and those visiting especially being close to the beach and pools it encourages spending as the Port Kembla beach is a great attraction and helps the community by providing amenities and encourage spending.	1980-1989	WOLLONGONG
43	This site has always been a store of some kind since I was a kid. Having a cafe/restaurant there greatly benefits the community and culture off the area. With the beach, pool and cricket field nearby there are no other real service options for visitors and the cafe is a great fit.	1970-1979	BARRACK HEIGHTS
44	Cakes by Rach is a wonderful business employing plenty of locals, giving local school kids their first jobs. It is wonderful meeting place for cyclists, mums dropping their kids at school, and out of towners like myself who come from Campbelltown to enjoy this wonderful spot	1960-1969	BRADBURY

No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
	for breakfast. I have spoken with locals and they have said how much Cakes by Rach mean to them- I mean look around there are not many places in the local go to. How does a council let someone spend money to set up a business, get a massive clientele, has wonderful food and coffee all served with a smile and then turn around and say oops sorry not zoned for a cafe when a restaurant was on the same location for over 2 years.		
45	Extremely supportive of this application as it has a significant lifestyle benefit and positive community impact. It would be a loss to the community and its revitalisation if this is rejected.	1990-1999	PORT KEMBLA
46	Its great cafe to have and it brings in more people to the area.	2000-2009	EAST CORRIMAL
47	The cafe is fantastic. It brings a community together and promotes an environment that everyone can enjoy. The cafe hasn't caused any harm, but has provided the people of Port Kembla great food, coffee and a wonderful place to soak in such a beautiful area.	2000-2009	MANGERTON
48	I am supportive of cafe Rachs Cakes" continuing to operate at this address	1970-1979	MOUNT SAINT THOMAS
49	I agree with the proposal and believe that this change will be a great benefit to our local community and surrounding communities.	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA
50	This business is a great asset to the local community. It supports the ideology of small independent businesses succeeding and putting value back into the local economy. Not to mention creating jobs and showcasing the beauty of the Port Kembla seaside area. I travel from another suburb to support this cafe and support local. It would also reflect positively on council to show that they can work in conjunction with small business to achieve their objectives. I fully support letting this cafe continue their operation in Port Kembla.	1970-1979	DAPTO
51	The cafe needs to stay. It is a vibrant community cafe that employs many local youth. When visiting the cafe, it is always full with customers and the sound of live music at times brings a lovely atmosphere to the weekend coffee stop.	1970-1979	WOLLONGONG
52	Port Kembla needs this cafe. Do not close it down. This site has always had a restaurant trading. Living in Port Kembla for over 60 years.	1960-1969	PORT KEMBLA

No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
53	I give my full support to the continued operation of cakes by Rach at 190 Military Road. It is a fantastic business that provides a place for the local and wider community to gather.	1990-1999	Stream Hill
54	Nice to have a cafe in the area. Was always needed and keeps the community together	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA
55	Great cafe and beneficial for the community	1980-1989	FARMBOROUGH HEIGHTS
56	The planning proposal for cakes by Rach premises SHOULD be approved.	1960-1969	PRIMBEE
57	Fully support the planning proposal to allow the cafe to keep operating.	1970-1979	BERKELEY
58	Go for it. Sensible density near a large employer	1990-1999	NORTH WOLLONGONG
59	I totally agree with the proposed planning proposal for 190 Military Rd, Port Kembla.	1950-1959	??
60	Fully in support. The changes are key to the future of Illawarra and homes for all. Looking forward to the revitalisation of the area	1980-1989	GWYNNEVILLE
61	I think the planned proposal should be approved I have lived in the Port Kembla area majority of my life having only spent 8 years outside the area, in that time this site has always operated as a food outlet in some form or another, I still regularly travel to Port Kembla to spend time with my elderly father who lives there and we often will have a coffee from cakes by Rach. I think it is utter stupidity on councils part to deny the right for this facility to operate under zoning restrictions when this same council has been collecting Food Safety certificate fees for this site for many years and allowing other businesses to operate out of it doing the same thing, as a matter of fact it may be considered corrupt conduct to collect fees knowing the site was not zoned for it. However the difference this facility has made to the community is astounding, it has brought people from all political background on to the same side, it has provided the young people of port Kembla a place to obtain work, it sponsors local sporting associations and has a serviceable crowd in which to provide its trade, I have seen people lined out the door for a chance to use be a client of cakes by each, yet our council still considers to be not necessary and not beneficial to the community. This proposal needs to be approved and supported it is the will of the people of Port Kembla that this shop	1980-1989	MOUNT SAINT THOMAS



No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
	continues to operate as it provides a vital service to our community. Failure for this proposal to be approved would constitute a failing to represent the constituents of Port Kembla.		
62	Please adopt the proposal. There has been an eatery on that site for decades. It is a wonderful member of the Port Kembla community.	1950-1959	??
63	The Cafe has been an amazing addition to the community. It has become a meeting point for locals and tourists and offers a great variety of foods and drinks. It's the perfect spot to sit outside and enjoy a coffee or meal on the weekends where a lot of other cafes in port Kembla are closed (on Sundays). Parking is easy (compared to Wentworth st) and it's also in walking distance from many homes. It provides a great employment opportunity for local youths as well. We need to support local entrepreneurs that want to open or invest in local businesses instead of big international franchises. I used to live on Reservoir St right behind the cafe and I never had any issues with noise or unruly patrons. The cafe must stay in place!	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA
64	I support the Planning Proposal that seeks to retain the existing R2 Low Density Residential zone and permit the additional use of 'Restaurant or Café' on the site. Cakes By Rach bring so much to the local community. It serves as a meeting point for friends and families who want to grab a bite to eat before/after the beach - and it's so nice walking or driving past and seeing the area buzzing with happy people. Connection is incredibly important for mental health and we should be championing a local business that fosters connection. The staff are always so kind and lovely. Most of them are young, hard-working teenagers and I strongly support them keeping their jobs, especially in the midst of a cost of living crisis.	1990-1999	PORT KEMBLA
65	As a worker in the area and a frequent user of the cafe I am supporting the application	1960-1969	FARMBOROUGH HEIGHTS
66	I support the planning proposal as it has already demonstrated via its operation over the past 2 years, that the cafe is a wonderful addition to the local Port Kembla community - bringing people together, providing a much needed space for gathering over food and coffee in this side of Port Kembla, and providing the young locals employment opportunities.	1960-1969	PORT KEMBLA
67	I support the proposal to allow this site to be used for cafe/restaurant operations. It provides another option for residents and visitors close to the beach and has been used as such for a long time already.	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA

No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
68	We always knew it as a restaurant and food service, the cafe hires many people, brings others to enjoy our area and in the absence of a place to bring community together such as a club for locals to meet along their morning walk I can't fathom any independent reason for closing it. Let's be clear, this adds to Port Kembla, they support local groups, run a highly desired destination business and those immediately near them aren't complaining? I am in full support and ask that the neighbors underlining reasoning be considered. If it is due to conflicts of interest they should be dismissed. In Australia we should support hard work, not tear it down. As small businesses employ more people collectively than big corporations, yet more and more are falling insolvent putting employment at risk, I also question how on earth can the council reject this proposal to keep a successful small business in operation, that benefits the community far and wide. I recall a time when I did some work with Destination Wollongong and the question was asked - how do we get people to visit our beach areas outside summer periods? Cakes by Rach gain visitors year round and bring people during off season and shoulder seasons. The Google reviews and people signing petitions show this further to be true. Just give the landlords, and the business the right to trade with the correct rezoning or planning. You could also review how another business was allowed to trade there for so long? This news of not being correctly zoned was a surprise to every local that valued that location as a commercial one.	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA
69	I support permitting the additional use of 'Restaurant or Café' on the site	1950-1959	THIRROUL
70	I would like to see this proceed as it is a much utilised business in the community. The location is great and if it closed would leave all year service gap in the community. I use the cafe once a week.	1950-1959	LAKE HEIGHTS
71	Some concerns about hours of operation - Whilst the current daytime cafe operating hours in a residential neighbourhood are acceptable, any extension of this would be damaging to the local residents. Traffic congestion and parking can also be a minor concern in the busy summer months and would recommend council and transport for NSW complete a review to ensure ongoing safety for residents and patrons.	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA

No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
72	Question: Did the owner of Cakes by Rach investigate the type of Approval required before commencing their current trade? Yes - then they acted without permission and should not be allowed to proceed. No - then the responsibility is on the owner to fully understand their position before commencing trade. Therefore, they are at fault. Were the owners advised by the property owner they could operate as they currently are? Then they are both at fault. Approval should not be given If approval is given, what of all the previous business in the area who have had applications refused or denied? Will they all be reviewed, or will this only gain approval because Rach was able to stir up a media frenzy?	1970-1979	PORT KEMBLA
73	I support this application. Working in Port Kembla I have seen 1st hand that this venue provides a much needed affordable and quality service to the area. Cakes by Rach actively supports the local community with sponsorship of local teams.	1960-1969	AUSTINMER
74	Allow to continue use as a Cafe/Restaurant	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA
75	Cakes by Rach has been aggressively preaching local planning controls since 2022 by operating a cafe at this location when it is clearly not permitted. Council should reject this application to send a strong message that law breakers will not be tolerated.	2000-2009	DAPTO
76	We support amending existing planning controls to permit the operation of a café/ restaurant at the site of 190 Military Road, Port Kembla. The cafe/restaurant is well placed as a social connector providing strong social value to people that live in the community as well as visitors. Additionally the cafe provides jobs for young people in the area. There are many social and economic reasons the cafe should stay. It would be a loss for not only the business owner but the community and visitors to the area more broadly.	1990-1999	WINDANG
77	As a Port Kembla resident the use of this property as a cafe is needed for the area as there is have limited options for food and drinks near the beach. There is plenty of parking near the cafe that does not effect near by neighbours. The cafe capacity is not excessive and noise is at a respectful level. This property has mostly been used as a business is some form. Rezone it and let move on.	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA

No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
78	This cafe brings joy to many. I went and sat just outside the cafe to see what impact removing it would be. I witnessed many families walking and stopping at the cafe to either have breakfast or a coffee. This small establishment is bringing locals in the community together. Many elderly people were also visiting which is great to see. If this establishment was moved these people would have to go elsewhere which would incorporate getting in the car and driving to another shop for there get together. A lot of locals also met up here. Being as far out of portable Main Street. This area needs this type of establishment so enable the local community get together.	1970-1979	PRIMBEE
79	I attend the cafe regularly. It is also a stop on the way home from picking up my school age so. I am in full support of approving this amendment	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA
80	This needs to be changed so that the integral part of our community can continue to operate and bring joy(coffee) to everyone that visits. Cakes by Rach has only been opened for a few years and is already a Port institution, a very clean and welcoming business which is what Port Kembla needs more of.	1980-1989	LAKE HEIGHTS
81	Let them continue business! This is the best thing in a long time for Port Kembla. You're only hurting the community by removing this awesome business.	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA
82	I cannot see why this proposal is such an issue. The building has been used as some sort of commercial enterprise for so many years, and now there is a successful business in its place that has brought life to that area of the community and is a place to congregate and enjoy the atmosphere that Port Kembla has to offer. I'm all for allowing the business to continue to trade and have the correct planning permission. So long as all other requirements have been satisfied such as grease traps, venting, etc, there is no reason in my opinion to disallow.	1970-1979	PORT KEMBLA
83	Should have been approved years ago. Brings great growth to the area and WCC have shown shocking form on there response and have shown how out of touch they are.	1990-1999	PORT KEMBLA
84	The proposal should go forth. The community engagement and belonging this business and any business in the future on this property provides has been	1980-1989	BERKELEY



No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
	clearly demonstrated. It would be a loss to the local area to not approve this proposal. It is wonderful to have this business in that location as it draws people to the area and invites them to connect with each other and explore the area. If council is so concerned about the area they should be looking to put funding and work with the other businesses in Wentworth Street. Also having investigating council members regarding conflict of interest (Port Kembla business owners) who although state they have no input are social media vocal about this business should be a concern.		
85	<p>I am writing to express my strong support for the approval of the Development Application (DA) submitted by Cakes By Rach for the continued operation of their café at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla. This establishment has been an integral part of our community, contributing positively both economically and socially. Historical Commercial Use: The premises at 190 Military Road have a longstanding history of commercial use, operating as a café under various names for over two decades. Cakes By Rach began its operations in June 2021, continuing this tradition of service to the Port Kembla community. <a href="http://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au">our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au</a> Community and Economic Impact: Cakes By Rach has become a cherished local business, providing a welcoming space for residents and visitors alike. The café not only offers quality food and beverages but also fosters social interaction and community engagement. Its presence supports local employment and contributes to the vibrancy of the Port Kembla area. Regulatory Compliance and Safety: The operators of Cakes By Rach have demonstrated a commitment to adhering to regulatory standards, including food business licensing and registration. Their proactive approach to compliance underscores their dedication to maintaining a safe and reputable establishment. Addressing the Complaint: While it is understood that a complaint has been lodged regarding the operation of the café, it is important to consider the broader context. The longstanding commercial use of this property and the significant benefits it brings to the community suggest that the continuation of the café is in the public interest. Conclusion: In light of the property's extensive history of commercial activity, the positive impact of Cakes By Rach on the community, and the operators' commitment to compliance and safety, I respectfully urge the Council to approve the Development Application. Supporting this application will not only preserve a valued local business but also</p>	1970-1979	WARRAWONG

No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
	uphold the vitality and character of the Port Kembla community.		
86	This is absolutely disgusting behaviour by Wollongong Council. It should have been highlighted when the cakes by Rach began trading. Just another government money spinner and wasting of funds that could be used to many other improvements in our area This business is very sort after in the area, and very well supported	1950-1959	WONGAWILLI
87	Fully support the proposal. It's great for the area, community, jobs etc.	1990-1999	PORT KEMBLA
88	This is an excellent addition to the Port community and provides such a valuable space for members of the community to connect and gather in our wonderful part of the world. As a Port local I'm very supportive of this proposal.	1990-1999	PORT KEMBLA, NSW
89	It should be used as a restaurant and cafe!	1990-1999	PORT KEMBLA, NSW
90	As a Port Kembla resident for the past 8 years I value the great cafe service and location that Cakes by Rach brings to our local community. I have grown up in Wollongong and feel that this is in line with long term use of this site and enhances the amenity of the area. I wholeheartedly support this proposed change to allow this cafe to continue to operate	1960-1969	PORT KEMBLA, NSW
91	Would love to see the cafe stay open. My friends and I visit there 2 or 3 times a week after our walk. It is always busy and employees a number of locals.	1950-1959	PORT KEMBLA, NSW
92	The thousands of locals who have rallied to support Cakes by Rach can't be wrong. There is no other business as strategically located in Port, being opposite the college and the cricket and soccer grounds, within 200 metres of 3 beaches, and just down the hill from the new Hill 60 lookout. No one wants to drive to the dying Warrawong shopping centre for a coffee, or to Wentworth Street to stare at the sad street. I was born and raised in Port, and I know that his cafe site has been commercial since the 1960's: corner store cafe, Portside Milk Bar, Spanish restaurant. Rachel and her amazing team have embraced the Port community. They provide a beautiful friendly relaxed place for locals and visitors to the Illawarra they and generously support local sporting teams and charities. Wollongong City Council needs to listen to the community and to grant the zoning changes required to allow Cakes by Rach to stay, so that they can continue to be a vital member of the Port Kembla community.	1950-1959	PORT KEMBLA, NSW

No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
93	<p>The thousands of locals have rallied to support Cakes by Rach. There is no other business as strategically located in Port, being opposite the college and the cricket and soccer grounds, within 200 metres of 3 beaches, and just down the hill from the new Hill 60 lookout. No one wants to drive to the dying Warrawong shopping centre for a coffee, or to Wentworth Street to stare at the sad street. I was born and raised in Port, and I know that this cafe site has been commercial since the 1960's: corner store cafe, Portside Milk Bar, Spanish restaurant. Rachel and her amazing team have embraced the Port community. They provide a beautiful friendly relaxed place for locals and visitors to the Illawarra they and generously support local sporting teams and charities. Wollongong City Council needs to listen to the community and to grant the zoning changes required to allow Cakes by Rach to stay, so that they can continue to be a vital member of the Port Kembla community.</p>	1950-1959	PORT KEMBLA, NSW
94	<p>Cakes by Rach is a popular hub for the community. It provides a place where the community can get together all year round and is pivotal for the great community spirit that exists. I fully support for this business and its' location.</p> <p>After reading all the documentation supplied, this DA should be approved. By precedent, the council have acknowledged for their approval by way of charging commercial council rates for many years, and for allowing this property to be utilised as a commercial business since 2011.</p> <p>The negative views of a very few do not support the larger majority's positive views for this business to remain, and in its' current location.</p>	1960-1969	HORSLEY, NSW
95	<p>Cakes by Rach has become a wonderful addition to the local community. It is a great meeting place to socialise and enjoy the pleasant vibes and food, as well as the friendly staff and atmosphere. It would be a huge loss to not only the local community, but also the broader community if Cakes by Rach were forced to close their doors.</p>	1940-1949	PRIMBEE, NSW
96	<p>I wholeheartedly approve of the Cafe operating in this space. It employs local people and gives the community a place to gather and eat food and coffee. It is frustrating that this is even an issue as there has always been food places here.</p> <p>I vote to rezone the area and keep the current Cafe Cakes by Rach operating.</p>	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA, NSW

No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
97	<p>I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Development Application (DA) by Cakes By Rach. As a resident of Port Kembla, I recognise the importance of enhancing our local amenities and believe that this business does and will significantly contribute to our community's vibrancy and accessibility.</p> <p>Cakes By Rach aims to provide a welcoming space for residents and visitors alike. In an area where public amenities are limited, this proposal is a much-needed addition that will foster community engagement and provide a gathering spot for families, friends, and individuals. Continuing a local venue that encourages social interaction is essential for the overall well-being of our community.</p> <p>Furthermore, I would like to emphasise that the proposed development aims to minimise its impact on the surrounding area. I am sure that business operations will adhere to all regulatory requirements, ensuring that noise, traffic, and any potential disruptions are kept to a minimum. Cakes By Rach has a proven track record of operating responsibly, and I am confident that they will continue to prioritise the needs and comfort of our community.</p> <p>In conclusion, I urge the Wollongong City Council to approve the DA for Cakes By Rach. This development represents an opportunity to enhance our community's public amenity, support local business, and create a space that brings people together. Let us invest in the future of Wollongong by supporting initiatives that enrich our lives and strengthen our community ties.</p>	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA, NSW
98	I support the proposal to allow Cakes by Rach to trade from these premises. Lots of local support and obviously treasured by the community	1960-1969	PORT KEMBLA, NSW
99	I am very keen for the planning proposal to go ahead so Cakes by Rach can continue trading. The cafe is a wonderful asset to our community & great meeting point for so many, it would be such a shame to close.	1960-1969	PORT KEMBLA, NSW
100	I agree with the proposal put forth by Cakes By Rach. I frequent this lovely cafe and would be quite put out if my local council were to hinder the efforts of an individual wanting to make a living. I can only hope that council will see reason and afford this enterprise the ability to continue to provide a very good service to the local community and beyond.	1960-1969	WARRAWONG, NSW
101	As a local resident I fully support that Cakes By Rach should continue to trade at the current premises.	1960-1969	PORT KEMBLA, NSW

No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
	<p>It is a local meeting place for a lot of residents and tourists alike.</p> <p>As there is nothing else in the immediate area to go to, especially in the winter months when the Port Kembla Beach Canteen is closed, it will cause local residents to travel to Warrawong or Wollongong, just to meet up, going to other places would not have the same atmosphere provided at the cafe.</p> <p>The cafe is an asset for tourists and other Wollongong Residents heading to the beaches or Hill 60</p>		
102	We love cakes by Rach and visit a couple times a month. Don't close it down	1970-1979	PORT KEMBLA, NSW
103	<p>Cakes by Rach opened up after a different cafe couldn't be opened due to these restrictions.</p> <p>Even after instructed by council not to open, CBR opened anyway.</p> <p>The sheer arrogance of CBR and willingness to operate without a permit is just pathetic.</p> <p>Instead of going down the right paths, CBR has opted with a sob story and pressure campaign to guilt WC on backing down.</p> <p>I think it's a great spot for a cafe, although zoning regulations exist for a reason.</p> <p>CBR have actively and knowingly did the wrong thing from the beginning, which makes it even more disappointing, especially to other businesses around the area.</p> <p>If this does get through, I could only hope that a business with integrity and respect of rules and regulations would take over the premises.</p>	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA, NSW
104	<p>Objection to Continued Operation of "Cakes by Rach" at Military Road, Port Kembla - Zoning Violation.</p> <p>I am writing to formally object to the proposition to allow the continued operation of the cafe "Cakes by Rach" at Military road, which is also the street I reside on. My primary concern stems from the fact that this establishment is operating within a residential area and does not meet the necessary zoning requirements for a commercial business.</p> <p>It is my understanding that "Cakes by Rach" knowingly commenced operations despite these zoning restrictions, a fact underscored by the previous inability of another cafe to open at this same location due to these very regulations. Furthermore, I am aware that Council instructed "Cakes by Rach" not to open, yet the business proceeded to do so regardless.</p>	1980-1989	PORT KEMBLA, NSW



No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
	<p>This blatant disregard for established planning regulations is deeply concerning. Allowing this operation to continue would set a detrimental precedent, potentially signalling that businesses can disregard zoning laws and subsequently pressure the Council into acquiescence. This undermines the integrity of our planning processes and could lead to a situation where any business feels entitled to operate in any location, simply by challenging the Council's decisions. Beyond the immediate zoning violation, I am also concerned about the potential impact on our community and the broader economic goals for Port Kembla. The Wollongong City Council has invested significant resources in revitalizing the central business district of Port Kembla. Allowing a commercial operation to flourish outside of this designated area directly undermines these efforts and could detract from the vibrancy and economic activity within the intended business precinct.</p> <p>The decision by "Cakes by Rach" to proceed without the necessary permits and then resort to what I perceive as a pressure campaign and "sob story" to sway the Council is disappointing. While the location may be suitable for a cafe, zoning regulations exist for a reason, and it is imperative that all businesses, regardless of perceived merit, adhere to these rules.</p> <p>The actions of "Cakes by Rach" are particularly disheartening for other businesses in the area who diligently comply with regulations and have invested in operating within appropriate zones. Allowing this breach of regulations to be condoned would be unfair to those businesses that have followed the correct procedures. In conclusion, I urge the Wollongong City Council to uphold its zoning regulations and reject the proposition to allow "Cakes by Rach" to continue operating at its current location. It is crucial to protect the integrity of our planning system, support the investment in Port Kembla's central business district, and ensure fairness for all businesses within our community.</p> <p>Post script/ I should also note that parking and noise are a concern to many residents along military road since cakes by each started trading but am sure someone else has elaborated on that already.</p>		
105	I think this block is an excellent location for a cafe and provides a cozy, coastal, community feel to the area.	1990-1999	BERKELEY, NSW
106	Definitely keep zoning but allow cafe or restaurant	1960-1969	FIGTREE, NSW
107	I strongly support Council approval of this proposal. Cakes by Rach has proven to be a popular, well run and	1940-1949	TOWRADGI, NSW

No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
	much needed cafe in the area. Other cafes in the vicinity are either seasonal or are not open every day of the week. It's a vital drawcard not only for local residents, but visitors to the area including and especially the many cyclists, walkers and sightseers who drop in for coffee and something to eat. The cafe is ideally located on the north-south shared path and close to Hill 60. The staff are always friendly and are particularly welcoming to cyclists.		
108	I strongly support the proposal. This location offers great support to our community and offers a place to see community grow. Rejecting this proposal would be extremely harmful to the port kembla community.	1990-1999	PORT KEMBLA, NSW
109	This cafe is crucial in providing a great place to meet, chat and grow with the wider community. Often supports upcoming artists and local sports groups. Please ensure this continues. I strongly support the proposal to keep Cakes by Rach running	1980-1989	WARRAWONG, NSW
110	I believe the cakes by Rach cafe at 190 Military Road in Port Kembla is a great addition to the community and should remain open and trading. Since the cafe has opened it and traded it has filled a much needed role in the Port Kembla community. Bringing people together and creating a great vibe for all. If the cafe was to close majority of the people would move back to Wollongong for their morning coffees and walks etc as that is the next closest cafe close to the beach and the shops at Port Kembla close by aren't the same community vibe. This cafe gives people of Port Kembla and surrounding areas a want to get outdoors and live a healthy active lifestyle when planning to build community in a town I think this is just as important as street lighting at night for safety on walks etc. Please approve the development and keep them trading.	1990-1999	WARRAWONG, NSW
111	The cafe at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla provides a much sought after service to the local community, schools and tourists within the area.	1970-1979	SHELLHARBOUR, NSW
112	Raches cafe must stay.	1950-1959	WARRAWONG, NSW
113	I strongly support this proposal. I have been to the cafe many times on my way to the beach, it is a good place, and convenient to meet friends. The council should also waive their fees - more businesses should be encouraged or at least permitted to establish organically to respond to demand just like Cakes By Rach. The council cant always get their zoning right. It is an outrage this expensive and risky planning proposal needs to be imposed on our struggling businesses.	1990-1999	WOONONA EAST, NSW

No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
114	I grew up in Port Kembla & went to the High School across the road from Cakes by Rachel's. More recently have visited Rachel's many times with y NDIS clients. Rachel's is by far the best business at the location - it's a wonderful cafe with delicious food & coffee but their team is building a friendly community spirit. The next nearest cafe is the ordinary one at Port Kembla pool or Lo Stretto at Port Boat ramp. Please do your best to support this local employer to remain open.	1960-1969	MANGERTON, NSW
115	Port Kembla is one of the most beautiful places on the coast. Its engaged community is very proud of its piece of paradise with pristine beaches & a strong community vibe. Locals enjoy daily active lifestyles where it is common to grab a coffee or a bite to eat, after a beach walk, surf or run & then unwind and gather at the local Cafe. This is actually typical of many towns coastal or not. Gorgeous local Cafes where you're greeted by a familiar face, you grab a coffee & a treat & get on with your day. It's great to see this at Port Kembla & why not? A hub activated with families, kids & pets in toe, enjoying a chat & hanging out just like any other innovative, progressive town seems like a fabulous scenario. It is very evident that this Cafe serves a significant role in this location by connecting & enriching the lives of the Port Kembla community, especially residents local to the Cafe. It is a destination that the community has rallied to save with petitions & heartfelt support because they have a sense of belonging & need for such a Cafe to exist. I believe that not approving the proposal would be punishing a community for no reason at all. The space has for many years brought people together over food & hasn't caused any harm. In my eyes the planning is a simple yes for approval. Whilst Port Kembla is made up of another integral hub it is important to recognize that a little cafe is not detrimental to any other business. It is the very opposite. Critical mass creates destinations and offers choice for all parts of the day & for Port Kembla to thrive overall. Locals will eat, drink & play in their backyard and tourism will see a town that offers breakfast, day & evening options & a fabulous destination that has a bit of everything. I do support yes for the usage to be approved. It would be a huge loss to loose the usage.	1970-1979	WARRAWONG, NSW
116	I support the planning proposal to add the additional permitted use as a cafe, this cafe has provided this side of Port Kembla with a space of good vibes, food and community. and the opportunity for further employment of the local youth within Port Kembla.	2000-2009	PORT KEMBLA, NSW

No.	Comment	Age Range	Suburb
117	very good customer service and make a really good coffee and it's a very convenient spot for a cafe	2000-2009	PORT KEMBLA, NSW
118	best cafe ever!!	2000-2009	LAKE HEIGHTS, NSW
119	Cakes by Rach is located in such a great location, it brings the community together. great customer service!	2000-2009	PORT KEMBLA, NSW
120	Great memories of having a family owned corner shop near by. Corporation s and shopping centres have taken over. Quality of life includes being able to have lunch or dinner in your neighbourhood. I strongly support having cakes by Rachel operate in Port Kembla.	1960-1969	WEST WOLLONGONG, NSW
121	<p>I am writing to express my strong support for Planning Proposal PP-2025/1 – 190 Military Road, Port Kembla, which is currently under preliminary exhibition notification.</p> <p>This proposal is an important step in preserving the long-standing cafe at the site that has served the community for decades. The site serves as a key venue and meeting place for the local Port Kembla and broader Wollongong community.</p> <p>By allowing for appropriate additional permitted use as a cafe, this proposal will reinforce this vibrant local hub, and ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy its value as a community essential food service and focal point.</p> <p>I encourage Wollongong City Council to approve this amendment to the Wollongong LEP 2009 and recognise the continued benefits it will bring in fostering a strong sense of community and respecting the historical importance of this location delivering food options for the community.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my submission. I look forward to a positive outcome that supports Port Kembla and Wollongong more broadly.</p>	2000-2009	PORT KEMBLA, NSW

(Note: some submissions did not include a comment)

**Suburb Summary Table**

Row Labels	Count of What Suburb do you live in?
ALBION PARK	1
AUSTINMER	1
BARRACK HEIGHTS	3
BAULKHAM HILLS	1
BELLAMBI	1
BERKELEY	4
BRADBURY	2
CLONTARF	1
CORDEAUX HEIGHTS	1
CORRIMAL	2
CRINGILA	1
DAPTO	3
EAST CORRIMAL	1
FARMBOROUGH HEIGHTS	3
FIGTREE	6
HORSLEY	2
LAKE HEIGHTS	4
MANGERTON	3
MOUNT KEIRA	1
MOUNT OUSLEY	1
MOUNT SAINT THOMAS	2
MOUNT WARRIGAL	1
OAK FLATS	2
PORT KEMBLA	64
PRIMBEE	5
SHELLHARBOUR	1
STREAM HILL	1
THIRROUL	1
TOWRADGI	1
TULLIMBAR	1
UNANDERRA	1
WARRAWONG	8
WEST WOLLONGONG	1
WINDANG	4
WOLLONGONG WEST	1
WOLLONGONG	2
WONGAWILLI	1
WOONONA EAST	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>

(Note: some submissions did not include a suburb)



### Age Range Summary

Row Labels	Count of In which year range were you born?
1940-1949	3
1950-1959	16
1960-1969	28
1970-1979	33
1980-1989	31
1990-1999	21
2000-2009	13
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>145</b>

(Note: some submissions did not include a age range)

### Letter and Emails

No.	Name	Comment
122	Resident	<p>I am writing to express my strong support for Planning Proposal PP-202511 — 190 Military Road, Port Kembla, which is currently under preliminary exhibition notification.</p> <p>This proposal is an important step in preserving the long-standing cafe at the site that has served the community for decades. The site serves as a key venue and meeting place for the local Port Kembla and broader Wollongong community.</p> <p>I live in Dapto, work in Warrawong and surf and walk regularly at Port Kembla and MM Beaches. Cakes by Rache has been a favourite venue of mine since opening. They serve great food including healthy options and cater to customers with dietary restrictions. It has been a place to build and maintain friendships and is one of the few places in the Illawarra where I experience a genuine sense of community and belonging. It is also a place I bring my clients to (who are experiencing mental health challenges). It is a safe, pleasant, neutral meeting place. My grandkids also love it here after our visits to the beach or pool.</p> <p>By allowing for appropriate additional permitted use as a cafe, this proposal will reinforce this vibrant local hub, and ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy its value as a community essential food service and focal point.</p> <p>I encourage Wollongong City Council to approve this amendment to the Wollongong LEP 2009 and recognise the continued benefits it will bring in fostering a strong sense of community and respecting the historical importance of this location delivering food options for the community.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my submission. I look forward to a positive outcome that supports Port Kembla and Wollongong more broadly.</p>

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123	Resident	<p>The cafe/restaurant on 190 Military rd. Port Kembla.</p> <p>It has been a blessing for the locals and tourists.</p> <p>This are is like a village most of us know each other.</p> <p>Cafe is like our local meeting spot.</p> <p>Parking is never a problem and there is lots of room for cyclists to rest their bikes.</p> <p>It's always busy and a great spot to invite friends to Port Kembla.</p> <p>My neighbours and I would be very disappointed if it was shut down.</p>
124	Resident	<p>I am writing to formally object to the ongoing operation of Cakes by Rach at 190 Military Rd, specifically regarding the significant traffic safety concerns arising from the obstruction of vision at the busy intersection of Olympic Blvd, Military Rd, and Gloucester Blvd.</p> <p>The primary issue pertains to the parked vehicles of patrons frequenting the cafe, which regularly block the line of sight for both motorists and pedestrians at this already hazardous location. Given the high volume of traffic at this intersection, the inability of drivers to clearly see oncoming vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians significantly increases the risk of accidents.</p> <p>The obstruction is particularly problematic during peak hours (especially summer), when multiple vehicles are parked along the roadside opposite the café, on Military Road blocks the view of traffic heading north along Olympic Blvd, making a right hand turn to head up Military Rd, their vision is obscured by vehicles, especially SUV's, they cannot see what is coming southeast down Military Rd.</p> <p>The second area of concern is parked vehicles on Gloucester Blvd impede the view of drivers heading south down Gloucester Blvd and making a right hand turn onto Military Rd, this condition is exacerbated when the café is receiving a delivery of goods and the Pantech truck/van parks across the pathway (the driveway leading up the side of the café) and completely obscures the drivers view of Military Rd.</p> <p>Note most of the patrons are not locals and drive to the venue.</p> <p>This situation not only affects private vehicles but also poses a danger to emergency services and public transport (school buses), which rely on clear visibility to navigate safely through the intersection.</p> <p>I urge the council to review the impact of this cafe's operations on road safety and consider measures such as -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conducting a traffic safety assessment, at peak times.</li> <li>➤ Restricting parking in the immediate vicinity of the café, areas A and B, that is no parking; (possibly not feasible as parking is a premium, especially summer).</li> <li>➤ Constructing a roundabout at the intersection to give better flow control of traffic and a safer method for pedestrians to cross the road.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Imposing conditions on the cafe's operation to mitigate traffic hazards, limit numbers, possibly difficult to enforce.</li> <li>➤ Providing a mobile arrangement/café/caravan (council or vendor) up on the top of Hill 60 where there is ample parking, out of the way and pleasant views for the patrons. If council provides it should be at a reasonable rent, no extra cost burden on rate payers.</li> </ul> <p>I trust that the council will take this matter seriously and prioritise the safety of all road users.</p>
125	Resident	<p>I am writing to express my strong support for the planning proposal (PP-2025/1) seeking to amend planning controls to enable 190 Military Road, Port Kembla, to continue operating as a café/restaurant. The current business, Cakes by Rach, has become a valued part of our community, contributing significantly to both the local economy and social cohesion.</p> <p>Cakes by Rach has provided a welcoming space where people from all walks of life can come together, strengthening the sense of community in Port Kembla. Whether it's friends catching up over coffee, families enjoying a meal, or local businesses holding informal meetings, the café has created a hub for connection and belonging.</p> <p>Beyond its role as a gathering place, this café has also generated local job opportunities, supporting employment within our area. Small businesses like this are essential in providing work for residents, particularly young people and those looking for flexible employment. Keeping it operational will help sustain these opportunities and contribute to Port Kembla's economic growth.</p> <p>Furthermore, Rachel, the proprietor, is well known for her generosity and commitment to giving back. She has supported numerous charities, community events, and fundraisers, offering donations, sponsorships, and her time to help those in need. This level of community engagement is rare and invaluable, making a meaningful difference in many people's lives.</p> <p>Given the site's long history of commercial use and the significant positive impact this café has had on our community, I strongly urge the Council to approve the planning proposal. Allowing Cakes by Rach to continue operating legally will ensure that Port Kembla retains a thriving, inclusive, and generous local business that benefits us all.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my support for this proposal. I look forward to seeing our community continue to flourish with the presence of this wonderful café.</p>
126	Illawarra Ramblers Inc Resident	<p>On behalf of the Illawarra Ramblers, a leisure focussed organisation of 250 members mainly resident within Wollongong &amp; Shellharbour local government areas.</p> <p>We are responding to support the planning proposal which includes retention of 'Restaurant or Cafe' at 190 Military Road Port Kembla.</p>

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		<p>Our club activities are Walking, Paddling and Cycling taking place 5 or 6 days per week usually within the above local government boundaries. Almost all our activities have a coffee/refreshment component.</p> <p>Cakes by Rach has become a landmark in the Port Kembla/Warrawong areas for walkers and cyclists and on rarer occasions, our paddlers. The premises can accommodate our largish groups, indoors or out, sun or shade, can provide safe areas for bicycle parking and provide plenty of parking for our cars when laden with kayaks. The refreshment experience within is always well above average. Loss of this facility would harm our planning of events within the local area.</p> <p>Please tick the box confirming our support for the planning proposal request (PP-2025/1). This, we hope will allow us to continue enjoying the valuable service, this establishment provides.</p>
127	Port Kembla Pollution Committee (PKPC)	<p>The Port Kembla Pollution Committee (PKPC) would like to lodge a firm objection to the Planning Proposal Request referred to as PP-2025/1.</p> <p>The PKPC firmly object to <b>ANY</b> alteration of <b>ANY</b> current zoning particularly when it involves residential R2, Low Density Residential zoning.</p> <p>Our primary concerns are -</p> <p><b>1 Illegal Past Operations -</b></p> <p>The past operations on the proposed site as a cafe were conducted illegally and should have been shut down as soon as council became aware of the illegal operations.</p> <p>Permitting the continued illegal operations to be conducted sends a message to the community that illegal operations are permitted provided council is comfortable with the operation.</p> <p>Furthermore, because council failed to recognise that the prior illegal operations of Spanish restaurant and general store were being conducted, does not indicate that the operations were acceptable. It means council failed in their duty to the community to enforce the law.</p> <p>Previous compliance failures should not be considered a precedent for rezoning.</p> <p>Legal compliance is a fundamental requirement of any development application and past illegal activities should not influence current planning decisions or provide support for the promotion of any argument that suggests otherwise.</p> <p>The seriousness of the illegality of the current operation is abjectly displayed by -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a The illegal parking around the café.</li> <li>b The congestion of what should be residential streets.</li> <li>c The dangerous situations pedestrians are confronted with when using the crossing.</li> </ul>

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		<p>d The illegal U Turns by patrons wanting a particular parking space.</p> <p>e The danger to cyclists by car doors being flung open.</p> <p>f The illegal deck out the front.</p> <p>g The probably lack of complying fire protection for patrons sitting inside the café.</p> <p>h If the owner was serious about operating legally she would have previously submitted the business to complying food, health and safety inspections by relevant authorities. This has probably not occurred. If this is the case it speaks volumes about the integrity of the operator.</p> <p>i The probable lack of most compliance instructions that apply to any other restaurant/cafe that is operating legally in Wollongong or Wentworth Street Port Kembla.</p> <p>The most glaring affront to any attempt to permit additional use (rezone) the property is the fact that the owner knew fully well that she was operating illegally from the very day she commenced trading. This is evidenced by the fact that other potential operators withdrew their interest after discovering that the residence could not be used as a cafe.</p> <p>The fact the cafe/restaurant has operated illegally for four years makes a complete mockery of Wollongong City Council, zoning restrictions and regulation compliance.</p> <p><b>2 Community sentiment and current success -</b></p> <p>While there may be community sentiment and current success associated with the cafe, these factors do not outweigh and override the current zoning regulations. Community wants and the success of illegal operations do not justify a change in zoning laws.</p> <p>To extend this concept; imagine if someone commenced illegally selling home brew beer from their front veranda and it became very popular. Would community sentiment and apparent success be enough to permit an alteration to use or rezoning.</p> <p>Furthermore, we note that most of the community support for the cafe has come from people who do not live in Port Kembla. This proposal predominantly affects Port Kembla residents and as such support from anyone outside the 2505 post code should be discarded.</p> <p><b>3 Comparative rezoning -</b></p> <p>Other rezoning in Port Kembla such as the Old Port Kembla Public School site (rezoned as a result of a suspicious fire) and the suspected towers in Quarry Street Port Kembla are false precedents and should not be used as justification for the alteration of zoning or rezoning of this site or any part of this proposal or in fact any proposal in Port Kembla.</p>



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		<p>Each case should be evaluated on its merit or lack of merit and past poor rezoning decisions should not set a precedent for further spot rezoning.</p> <p>To use these rezoning failures as a precedent fully illustrates the argument that this proposal <b>should be rejected</b> because it opens the door to any other obnoxious proposal that might not “fit” in Port Kembla.</p> <p><b>4 Parking Issues -</b></p> <p>The introduction of a cafe/restaurant in residential Port Kembla will exacerbate parking problems. The current infrastructure is not equipped to handle the increased traffic and parking demands that a commercial establishment would bring.</p> <p>This is currently evidenced by the chaos and near misses demonstrated on the adjacent intersection on any current busy day.</p> <p>The proposal would fail the basic parking requirement for a cafe given the dangerous intersection it is located on and the bus stop and pedestrian crossing located outside the front door.</p> <p><b>5 Rubbish on Streets -</b></p> <p>The operation of a cafe will lead to an increase in rubbish on the streets around the cafe. This is already problematic for local residents who have to continually clean the streets of used nappies, coffee cups and plastic lids, food containers etc.</p> <p>This has already negatively impacted the cleanliness and aesthetic appeal of the residential area.</p> <p><b>6 Potential for further “spot” rezoning -</b></p> <p>Approving this alteration of activities or rezoning proposal will set a dangerous precedent for further spot rezoning throughout Port Kembla.</p> <p>This “thin edge of the wedge” approach will lead to a gradual erosion of residential zoning protections, resulting in a patchwork of commercial and residential areas that disrupts community cohesion and planning integrity.</p> <p>If this proposal is permitted; it is not a giant leap to imagine brothels or needle exchange houses or micro pubs or any other non residential operation to take up roots amongst homes.</p> <p>People have bought into a residential area not a semi commercial area that has grown out of Wollongong Councils ineptitude to regulate illegally operating businesses.</p> <p>There are families that have been in Port Kembla for 80 years or more who did not choose to live in a semi commercial area. Theirs were houses away from the industry that offered sanctuary from the commercial aspect of the town.</p> <p><b>7 WCC’s letter states the operation is NOT PERMISSIBLE -</b></p> <p>WCC has openly admitted in their letter to residents that “Despite the sites history, the current cafe is not permissible”</p>

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		<p>The residents therefore have a right to ask “Why is this even a proposal that warrants consideration and response by the public?”.</p> <p>If WCC are fully aware that the operation is not permissible why is the cafe still operating.</p> <p>The fact that the cafe continues to operate fully sanctioned by WCC sends a very dangerous message to the public.</p> <p><b>8 The alteration to the Zoning is not permitted under NSW legislation -</b></p> <p>The NSW legislation that deals with zoning regulations - particularly R2 - does not permit a restaurant of cafe. The extract from NSW legislation (below) explicitly excludes restaurants and cafes.</p> <p>This request for an alteration to R2 zoning will have implications that extend to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and infrastructure planning rules and regulations and subsequently NSW legislation.</p> <p>Wollongong City Council will be asking the NSW Government to set a precedent that will change statewide planning rules and developments.</p> <p>All this as a result of an illegal operation.</p> <p>We strongly urge the planning committee to reject this alteration/ addition/ rezoning proposal.</p> <p>The integrity of our residential zoning laws must be upheld to ensure the long term well being and orderly development of our residential community.</p>
128	Resident	<p>Email objecting to the submission from Port Kembla Pollution Committee claiming that the use of the Committee letterhead is misleading, and the submission has bypassed past active committee members. The Committee was formed over 30 ago to battle for clean air – not to battle against a much loved café.</p>
129	260 Form letters	<p>I am writing to express my strong support for Planning Proposal PP-2025/1 - 190 Military Road, Port Kembla, which is currently under preliminary exhibition notification.</p> <p>This proposal is an important step in preserving the long-standing cafe at the site that has served the community for decades. The site serves as a key venue and meeting place for the local Port Kembla and broader Wollongong community.</p> <p>By allowing for appropriate additional permitted use as a cafe, this proposal will reinforce this vibrant local hub, and ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy its value as a community essential food service and focal point.</p> <p>I encourage Wollongong City Council to approve this amendment to the Wollongong LEP 2009 and recognise the continued benefits it will bring in fostering a strong sense of community and respecting</p>

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