


<p>Neighbourhood Forum 5</p> <p>Wollongong's Heartland</p> <p><i>Collaborating with Council on community aspirations, visions, needs & concerns.</i></p>		<p>Coniston, Figtree, Gwynneville, Keiraville, Mangerton, Mount Keira, Mount St Thomas, North Wollongong, West Wollongong, Wollongong City.</p>
--	--	---

**MINUTES of meeting WEDNESDAY 3rd September 2025 at 6.00
In the Library Theatre**

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Presentation Franca Facci was thanked for her talk on a Museum of People and Industry
- 3 Attendance 16 members including Clls Andrew Anthony and Kit Docker. Apologies were accepted
- 4 Minutes of meeting of 6th August were adopted with no matters arising.
- 5 Comments Noted
- 6 Caveats Noted
- 7 Responses
 - 7.1 Code of Council Meeting practice:**
It was agreed:
that NF 5
 - 1 welcomes the OLG confirmation of the Minister's position that was advised to Councils early in 2025, and states that pre-meeting briefing sessions are inconsistent with the principles of transparency, accountability and public participation and have the potential to undermine confidence in the proper and lawful decision-making processes of the council. Councils are required to implement changes to their Code of Meeting Practice which prohibits pre-meeting briefing sessions.
 - 2 looks forward to Council's advice on how its future meeting arrangements will be modified to be in accordance with the Minister for Local Government's determination that closed pre-briefing meetings should no longer occur prior to Council Committee or Full Council meetings.

11.1 Bus Shelter Noted

11.2 373 Crown Street – noted

7.2 Outstanding responses: noted

8 Reports

8.1 World Triathlon Championship Finals:

NF5 welcomes this event and the recent website link: <https://wollongongtriathlon.com/local-access/>) which includes an interactive map showing each street and road closure times. But there are major concerns about the lack of communications to date with residents who will be without car access during all day road closures from Thursday 16 to Sunday 19 October.

Significant impacts could include access for home care services and medical appointments, particularly in streets on the new bike route so not previously affected. The website shows bikes will start in Lang Park and proceed northbound on Cliff, Harbour, Smith, Wilson, Campbell, Corrimal streets, Georges Place onto Cliff Road then northwards to Pioneer Drive and Bellambi. This has recently been raised with a relevant manager and the event's Community Engagement Officer.

It was agreed

that Council be requested to urgently ensure comprehensive information is provided to affected residents, particularly for the bike route, including days & times, impacts on access, traffic & parking to residences, businesses & public places, for residents, visitors & services, for vehicles, walkers & cyclists, etc so they can plan and make suitable arrangements during this period.

8.2 Gwynneville Irvine St Precinct:

It was agreed that

- 1 Council be requested to adopt a consultation process similar to that used for the Mount Ouseley Interchange Project.
- 2 Members are encouraged to attend a public meeting is to be held in the Wollongong Seniors Centre, Gipps Road, at:

5.00pm on Wednesday 10th September

8.3 Mt Ousley Interchange Update:

It was agreed

that the report be noted and to thank the Hon Ryan Park MP and Alison Byrne MP for their very welcome and helpful letters of support for the Mt Ousley overpass and the communities' efforts to get it re-instated through the effective working group

8.4 Cinema:

It was agreed

that Council be requested, as a matter of priority and urgency, to make every effort to secure a cinema complex for the heart of the city provide an update on progress.

8.5 Metropolitan Mine: noted

8.6 Stuart Park:

It was agreed

to defer this to the next meeting.

8.7 Building Commission NSW: Noted

9 Planning

9.1 Planning: Noted

9.2 DA-2024/510 17-19 Gladstone Ave W’gong

It was agreed

that a submission of objection be lodged

9.3 DA-2025/594 Dual Occ 60 McKenzie Ave W’gong

It was agreed

that a submission of support be lodged.

10 Snippets

noted

**11 Late
Business**

11.5 Closure of Rubys at Mount Kembla.

Late last week social media reported the imminent closure of the iconic Ruby's Restaurant at Kembla Heights. Mining company GM3 decided to terminate the lease of the restaurant's owner, Scott Woods, after failing to reach a new tenancy agreement. Mr Woods said after lengthy negotiations, which he believed had been satisfactorily resolved, he was only given until the end of September to vacate, despite having dozens of weddings booked 18 months in advance.

Following intense media interest, on Friday afternoon, GM3 released a statement saying "we recognise that this decision has had a significant impact on the community and future customers of the restaurant and in view of this we have decided to suspend the decision at the current time."

While Mr Woods was relieved to have a reprieve, he fears it will only be temporary, and he is unable to guarantee future bookings. Mr Woods has told the media he hopes to meet with GM3 to find a satisfactory solution.

It was agreed

to write to GM3 as a priority asking them to support the continued use of the historic building for Ruby's Restaurant, noting the ongoing use and care of this building has enabled the retention and enjoyment of the building for many decades, in what is a small heritage listed community.

11.6 Closure of Glebe Island Bulk Goods Terminal

Following Item 8.3.4 in the agenda - Additional Trucks
Implications of the Imminent Closure of the Glebe Island Dry Bulk Solids Import Terminal:

It was agreed that,

in order to position long term freight movements from Port Kembla / Illawarra as first class world standard associated with maximal safety, minimal dust emissions and pollution otherwise associated with outdated intense heavy vehicle movements, local MPs Hon Ryan Park and Hon Paul Scully be requested to ensure that the Glebe Island Dry Bulk Solids Import Terminal not be closed until:

- 1 the Maldon Dombarton rail link is completed and operational for electrified rail freight movements;
- 2 facilities to store imported dry bulk solids discharged from ships berthed at #6 Port Kembla and subsequently covered belt conveyed to purpose built silos / sheds located west of Old Port Road adjacent to the existing Port Kembla freight rail loop are built and operational;
- 3 overhead rail loadout facilities to transfer the stored bulk into freight electric locomotive hauled train rakes on sidings adjacent to the existing Port Kembla freight loop are built and operational;
- 4 rail receipt to truck transfer stations are built and operational at say Maldon, Moorebank, Chullora and other existing Sydney rail freight terminals are built and operational (preferably these rail to road transfer stations should at the most distant location incorporate a freight rail loop for ease of redirection for the return trip);
- 5 the freight rail rakes leaving the Port Kembla terminal should carry multiple products including dry bulk (e.g. cement and gypsum), vehicles, bull dozers and graders, steel and access the Sydney region using the Maldon Dombarton line;
- 6 a Port Kembla proximity dedicated heavy vehicle rest area connecting directly to the M1 (both south and north) is built and operational;
- 7 all road transport companies hiring migrant drivers should be required to provide same with both employment and secure long term residential accommodation (so easing the existing housing shortage crisis);

- 8 truck transport of all commodities from ship to shore and from Illawarra to Sydney should only be used during conveyor / rail network maintenance or breakdown events.

11.7 Council Community Survey

Every two years, Council asks the community for feedback on their services and facilities. This helps them understand what residents value, want and need, and informs future plans. Consultants contact a representative sample of about 600 residents and provide a statistically reliable report, which includes valuable information and trends, and becomes publicly available. Separately in recent years Council has invited responses to online questions, which can provide random results. This closes on 21 Sep. Link is:

https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/council/alerts2/community-satisfaction-survey-now-open/?fbclid=IwZnRzaAMjBf9leHRuA2FibQlxMQABHvi893NJGyWfWtFfY113pklg2bpUEAQiig5wD4CtOM1FIA6-SZgqOD5QoKqa_aem_ofpzwPQolfpyzQbMTpPJjQ

11.8 Mount Ousley Traffic Volume Counts.

It was noted that the TfNSW traffic volume viewer (<https://maps.transport.nsw.gov.au/geomaps/traffic-volumes/index.html#>) used to give data on Mt Ousley traffic (number of vehicles and percentage of heavy vehicles) up to 2021 and then this was stopped.

It was agreed

that Ryan Park and Paul Scully, be requested to approach the relevant Minister seeking to have the data reinstated.