

Minutes of NF8 Meeting held in Scribbly Gum Room

@ Ribbonwood Centre (also on Teams - Link:)

7pm Wednesday 13th AUGUST 2025

1. Acknowledgement of Country – Ron Cooper

We acknowledge the First Peoples who have been traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live, the Dharawal people of the Wadi Wadi Nation. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Islander people who have cared for these lands.

2. Apologies: Heather Boardman, Gail Whatman,

3. Attending: Ron Cooper, Ian Fitzgibbon, Dennis Couley, Martin Whatman, Peter Small, Cathy Small, Cr. Deidre Stuart, Cr. Ann Martin, Steve O'Neill, Geoff Cooper, Steve McGartland, Warren Southwell, Heather Hopkinson, Arlo Jones

5. Councillors Report

A. West Dapto Rd issues abound. The community have certainly voiced their opinions regarding the whole project.

B. Stormwater network is being rolled out, please advise if any problems.

C. Rushton Dr, Kanahooka issue has been actioned. See attached letter from Council.

D. Wollongong Council Sports Grants are open.

E. Residents can bulk buy solar and batteries on Wollongong Council website. Information will be forwarded to be included in the minutes.

6. Convenors Report:

A. West Dapto Rd Closure Updates - plan now available. The Director Infrastructure has advised that letters, cards were sent out to the community, traffic monitors are at Dapto Public School.

B. Shone Ave corner – this will commence after the West Dapto Rd project is completed.

C. Bus Stop Dapto CBD – different information, is to happen in the 25 – 26 financial year, which could be this week.

D. Wongawilli Hall – has been delayed, will be undertaken in the 25/26 and 26/27 with new kitchen, new floor, no firm commencement date.

E. State Govt Update – not much to advise as Rob Cummins has resigned from Anna Watson's office, a new staff member is to be appointed, update on freeway exit ramps due December 25.

- F. **Draft Infrastructure proposal update –**
a) pedestrian crossing at Integral Energy Park, why has it not been completed yet??

(b) Wongawilli monies which are held by Wollongong Council for a local project, community want it used for local amenity in the Wongawilli area.
- G. **Botanic Gardens** – information on the Wollongong Council website. Friends of the Botanic Garden information available.
- H. **Smart Water WCC** – updated information on Wollongong Council website.
- I. **ICAC - Coming to Wollongong on 21/08/2025 7.30am.** If you would like to attend you need to register and then you will be advised of the location.
- J. **NF7** – complained about lack of information from Wollongong Council, all Neighbourhood Forums will now be advised directly so they are aware of what is happening in their area. .
- K. **Neighbourhood Hub** – this will now be kept up to date, new section in Wollongong Council is organized. d WCC
- L. **Long School Bus Trips due to West Dapto Road Closure** - community concern, see general business paragraph B.
- M. **Changes to traffic lights at Bong Bong Rd** have been made to improve the traffic flow in peak periods.
- N. **Traffic lights at Kembla Grange/Princes Hwy intersection** need reassessing regard the changed traffic flow due to West Dapto Rd closures. It is recommended that the lights at Northcliffe Dr/Princes Hwy also need to be included in this reassessment.
- O. **It is recognized that the Northcliffe Drive extension** will be the major project that will alleviate the issues at these intersections.
- P. **Suggestion that the hours that the clearway operates on the Princes Hwy be reassessed** given the large issues and changes brought about by the West Dapto Rd closure.
- Q. **It is understood that McDonalds will commence construction at Wongawilli shortly** as their Development Application will expire, however they need West Dapto Rd completed to open their site.

7. General Business

A. Romeo email – same issues as raised many times previously. The garbage trucks have cameras on them to advise regarding potholes etc and provide information to Wollongong Council to enable action as required.

B. Heather Hopkinson - Stream Hill issues for school children who need to catch a bus now that West Dapto Rd closed. Has increased time by 15 mins minimum each way, concerns for children, some have missed connecting buses parents have to go and find them. Given it will be at least 12 months before West Dapto Rd is open again, it is absolutely urgent that this be addressed. A detailed email will be sent to Wollongong Council. This is a NSW Education Dept and Transport for NSW issue, NF 8 will send correspondence to all relevant departments about the issue.

C. Geoff Cooper – Newcastle City Council has purchased commercial property in the Illawarra region, what is Wollongong Council's approach to all this. Ward Councillors advise that Wollongong Council have a broad financial services department which focuses on what is the best approach for the organisation based on many factors. Council has a Future Fund in place and look at the sale of large parcels of land which they own to assist with both housing supply and provide income as well.

D. Election of Office Bearers – several discussions took place regarding the positions and who would occupy them for the next 12 months.

Motion was put forward that we postpone the elections to the September meeting as some existing office bearers were absent.

Moved:- Martin Whatman

Seconded:- Dennis Couley

Passed

Meeting Closed 8.35pm

NEXT NF8 MEETING

TO BE HELD

7PM WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2025

SCRIBBLY GUM ROOM

RIBBONWOOD CENTRE